Computer Systems and Networks

ECPE 170 – Jeff Shafer – University of the Pacific

Boolean Algebra

Objectives

- **Chapter 3** in textbook
- Understand the relationship between **Boolean logic** and **digital computer circuits**
- Design simple logic circuits
- Understand how simple digital circuits are combined to form complex computer systems
- **Essential concepts only** – There's a whole course (ECPE 71) devoted to this topic!

Survey

- **How many people are in ECPE 71 (Digital Design) this semester?**
- **How many people have taken ECPE 71 in past semesters?**

Origin of Boolean Algebra

- "The Laws of Thought" written by George Boole in 1854
  - Invented symbol or Boolean logic
  - Goal: Represent logical thought through mathematical equations
- Computers today essentially implement Boole's *Laws of Thought*
  - John Atanasoff and Claude Shannon were among the first to see this connection

Boolean Algebra

- Boolean algebra is a mathematical system for the manipulation of variables that can have one of two values
  - Formal logic:
    - Values of “true” and “false”
  - Digital systems:
    - Values of “on”/“off”, 1 / 0, “high”/ “low”
- **Boolean expressions** are created by performing operations on Boolean variables
  - Common Boolean operators: AND, OR, NOT

AND Truth Table

Truth Table: shows **all possible inputs and outputs**

x	y	xy
0	0	**0**
0	1	**0**
1	0	**0**
1	1	**1**

AND: Referred to as “Boolean **Product**”

OR Truth Table

x	**y**	**x+y**
0	0	**0**
0	1	**1**
1	0	**1**
1	1	**1**

OR: Referred to as “Boolean **Sum**”

NOT Truth Table

Overbar symbol means “not”

x	$\overline{x}$
0	**1**
1	**0**

Boolean Algebra

- A Boolean function has:
  - At least one Boolean variable,
  - At least one Boolean operator, and
  - At least one input from the set {0,1}
- It produces an output that is also a member of the set {0,1}

Boolean Algebra

- Example truth table for function

$$F(x,y,z) = x\bar{z}+y$$

- The shaded column in the middle is optional
  - Make evaluation of subparts easier

$$F(x,y,z) = x\bar{z}+y$$

x	y	z	$\bar{z}$	$x\bar{z}$	$x\bar{z}+y$
0	0	0	1	0	0
0	0	1	0	0	0
0	1	0	1	0	1
0	1	1	0	0	1
1	0	0	1	1	1
1	0	1	0	0	0
1	1	0	1	1	1
1	1	1	0	0	1

Function Inputs

Function Output

Order of Operations

- High to low priority
  - NOT operator
  - AND operator
  - OR operator
- This is how we chose the (shaded) function subparts in our table.

$F(x,y,z) = x\bar{z}+y$

x	y	z	$\bar{z}$	$x\bar{z}$	$x\bar{z}+y$
0	0	0	1	0	0
0	0	1	0	0	0
0	1	0	1	0	1
0	1	1	0	0	1
1	0	0	1	1	1
1	0	1	0	0	0
1	1	0	1	1	1
1	1	1	0	0	1

Simplification

- Digital computers implement Boolean functions in hardware
- The simpler the Boolean function, the smaller the circuit that implements it
  - Simpler circuits are **cheaper to build**, consume **less power**, and **run faster** than complex circuits
- Goal: reducing Boolean functions to their simplest form

Boolean Identities

- Most Boolean identities have an AND (product) form as well as an OR (sum) form
- These are intuitive in both forms

Identity Name	AND Form	OR Form
Identity Law	$1x = x$	$0 + x = x$
Null Law	$0x = 0$	$1 + x = 1$
Idempotent Law	$xx = x$	$x + x = x$
Inverse Law	$x\overline{x} = 0$	$x + \overline{x} = 1$

More Boolean Identities

- Are these familiar from algebra?

Identity Name	AND Form	OR Form
Commutative Law	$xy = yx$	$x+y = y+x$
Associative Law	$(xy)z = x(yz)$	$(x+y)+z = x + (y+z)$
Distributive Law	$x+yz = (x+y)(x+z)$	$x(y+z) = xy+xz$

Even More Boolean Identities

- Familiar from a formal logic class?
- These are very useful!

Identity Name	AND Form	OR Form
Absorption Law	$x(x+y) = x$	$x + xy = x$
DeMorgan's Law	$\overline{(xy)} = \overline{x} + \overline{y}$	$\overline{(x+y)} = \overline{x}\,\overline{y}$
Double Complement Law	$\overline{(\overline{x})} = x$	

DeMorgan's Law

- Sometimes it is more economical to build a circuit using the complement of a function (and complementing its result) than it is to implement the function directly
  - DeMorgan's law make finding the complement easy
- DeMorgan's law:

$$\overline{(xy)} = \overline{x} + \overline{y} \quad \text{and} \quad \overline{(x+y)} = \overline{x}\,\overline{y}$$

DeMorgan's Law

- Easy to extend DeMorgan's law to any number of variables
  - Replace each variable by its complement
  - Change all ANDs to ORs and ORs to ANDs
- Example: $F(X,Y,Z) = (XY) + (\overline{X}Y) + (X\overline{Z})$

$$\overline{F}(X,Y,Z) = \overline{(XY) + (\overline{X}Z) + (Y\overline{Z})}$$

$$= \overline{(XY)}\,\overline{(\overline{X}Z)}\,\overline{(Y\overline{Z})}$$

$$= (\overline{X}+\overline{Y})(X+\overline{Z})(\overline{Y}+Z)$$

Boolean Algebra

- Example: Use Boolean identities to simplify

$$F(X,Y,Z) = (X+Y)(X+\overline{Y})(\overline{X\overline{Z}})$$

Boolean Algebra

- Simplified: $F(X,Y,Z) = (X+Y)\,(X+\overline{Y})\,(\overline{X\overline{Z}})$

$(X + Y)(X + \overline{Y})(\overline{X\overline{Z}})$	
$(X + Y)(X + \overline{Y})(\overline{X} + Z)$	DeMorgan's Law
	Double complement Law
$(XX + X\overline{Y} + YX + Y\overline{Y})(\overline{X} + Z)$	Distributive Law
$((X + Y\overline{Y}) + X(Y + \overline{Y}))(\overline{X} + Z)$	Commutative and Distributive Laws
$((X + 0) + X(1))(\overline{X} + Z)$	Inverse Law
$X(\overline{X} + Z)$	Idempotent and Identity Laws
$X\overline{X} + XZ$	Distributive Law
$0 + XZ$	Inverse Law
XZ	Identity Law

Boolean Algebra

- Simplify

$$F(x,y) = \overline{x}(x+y) + (y+x)(x+\overline{y})$$

Canonical Forms

- Numerous ways to state the same Boolean expression
  - "Synonymous" forms are logically equivalent (have identical truth tables)
- Challenge: Confusing!
- Solution: Designers express Boolean functions in standardized or canonical form
  - Simplifies construction of circuit

Canonical Forms

- There are two canonical forms for Boolean expressions: **sum-of-products** and **product-of-sums**
  - Boolean product is the AND operation
  - Boolean sum is the OR operation.
- In the sum-of-products form, ANDed variables are ORed together

$$F(x,y,z) = xy + xz + yz$$

- In the product-of-sums form, ORed variables are ANDed together:

$$F(x,y,z) = (x+y)(x+z)(y+z)$$

Canonical Forms

- Sum-of-Products form: Easy to read off of a truth table
- Look for lines where the function is true (=1).
  - List the input values
  - OR each group of variables together

$$F(x,y,z) = x\bar{z}+y$$

x	y	z	$x\bar{z}+y$
0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0
0	1	0	1
0	1	1	1
1	0	0	1
1	0	1	0
1	1	0	1
1	1	1	1

Canonical Forms

- Sum-of-Products form

$$F(x,y,z) = (\bar{x}y\bar{z}) + (\bar{x}yz) + (x\bar{y}\bar{z}) + (xy\bar{z}) + (xyz)$$

This is *not* in simplest terms, but it *is* in canonical sum-of-products form

$$F(x,y,z) = x\bar{z}+y$$

x	y	z	$x\bar{z}+y$
0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0
0	1	0	1
0	1	1	1
1	0	0	1
1	0	1	0
1	1	0	1
1	1	1	1