

## Quine-McCluskey Tableaux Reduction Rule

**Definition 1**

Two rows  $a$  and  $b$  of a reduced prime table, which cover the same minterms are said to be **interchangeable**.

**Definition 2**

Given two rows  $a$  and  $b$  in a reduced prime implicant table, row  $a$  is said to **dominate** row  $b$  if row  $a$  has checks in all the columns in which row  $b$  has checks and rows  $a$  and  $b$  are not interchangeable.

**Definition 3**

Two columns  $c$  and  $d$  of a reduced prime table, which are covered by the same prime implicants are said to be **interchangeable**.

**Definition 4**

Given two columns  $c$  and  $d$  in a reduced prime implicant table, column  $c$  is said to **dominate** column  $d$  if column  $c$  has checks in all the rows in which column  $d$  has checks and column  $c$  and  $d$  are not interchangeable.

**Theorem 1**

Let  $a$  and  $b$  be rows of a reduced prime implicant table. If  $a$  dominates  $b$  or  $a$  and  $b$  are interchangeable, there exists a minimal sum of products that does not include  $b$ .

**Theorem 2**

Let  $c$  and  $d$  be columns of a reduced prime implicant table. If  $c$  is dominated by  $d$  or  $c$  and  $d$  are interchangeable, there exists a minimal sum of products that does not include  $d$ .

**Example**

Determine the minimal sum-of-products form for

$$F(A,B,C,D,E) = \Sigma(1,2,3,5,9,10,11,18,19,20,21,23,25,26,27)$$

**Step 1:**

Using **tabulation method**, generating all the **prime implicants** and construct a prime implicant table, as shown in Table 1.

Name	Expression	1	2	3	5	9	10	11	18	19	20	21	23	25	26	27
P <sub>1</sub>	C'D		X	X			X	X	X	X					X	X
P <sub>2</sub>	BC'E					X		X						X		X
P <sub>3</sub>	A'C'D	X		X		X		X								
P <sub>4</sub>	A'B'D'E	X			X											
P <sub>5</sub>	B'CD'E				X							X				
P <sub>6</sub>	AB'CD'										X	X				
P <sub>7</sub>	AB'DE									X			X			
P <sub>8</sub>	AB'CE											X	X			

Table 1

**Step 2:**

Based on the information in Table 1, select all the **essential prime implicants**. As shown in Table 2, the EPIs (marked by a preceding \*) are

C'D (P<sub>1</sub>), BC'E (P<sub>2</sub>), AB'CD' (P<sub>6</sub>)

Name	Expression	1	2	3	5	9	10	11	18	19	20	21	23	25	26	27
*P <sub>1</sub>	C'D		X	X			X	X	X	X					X	X
*P <sub>2</sub>	BC'E					X		X						X		X
P <sub>3</sub>	A'C'D	X		X		X		X								
P <sub>4</sub>	A'B'D'E	X			X											
P <sub>5</sub>	B'CD'E				X							X				
*P <sub>6</sub>	AB'CD'										X	X				
P <sub>7</sub>	AB'DE									X			X			
P <sub>8</sub>	AB'CE											X	X			

Table 2

**Step 3:**

Reduce the prime implicant table by crossing out the minterms already covered by the implicants selected (applying **Theorem 2**). As shown in Table 3, besides m<sub>2</sub>, m<sub>10</sub>, m<sub>18</sub>, m<sub>25</sub> and m<sub>26</sub>, the minterm m<sub>3</sub>, m<sub>9</sub>, m<sub>11</sub>, m<sub>19</sub>, m<sub>21</sub>, and m<sub>27</sub> are also be covered by the P<sub>1</sub>, P<sub>2</sub> or P<sub>3</sub>. Therefore they are crossed out.

Name	Expression	1	2	3	5	9	10	11	18	19	20	21	23	25	26	27
*P <sub>1</sub>	C'D		X	X			X	X	X	X					X	X
*P <sub>2</sub>	BC'E					X		X						X		X
P <sub>3</sub>	A'C'D	X		X		X		X								
P <sub>4</sub>	A'B'D'E	X			X											
P <sub>5</sub>	B'CD'E				X							X				
*P <sub>6</sub>	AB'CD'										X	X				
P <sub>7</sub>	AB'DE									X			X			
P <sub>8</sub>	AB'CE											X	X			

Table 3

**Step 4:**

In the reduced prime table,  $P_4$  dominates  $P_3$  and  $P_5$ ,  $P_7$  and  $P_8$  are interchangeable. Therefore, there is a minimal cover which does not include  $P_3$ ,  $P_5$  and  $P_8$ , as in Table 4 (applying **Theorem 1**).

Name	Expression	1	2	3	5	9	10	11	18	19	20	21	23	25	26	27
* $P_1$	$C'D$		X	X			X	X	X	X					X	X
* $P_2$	$BC'E$					X		X						X		X
$P_3$	$A'C'D$	X		X		X		X								
$P_4$	$A'B'D'E$	X			X											
$P_5$	$B'CD'E$				X							X				
* $P_6$	$AB'CD'$										X	X				
$P_7$	$AB'DE$									X			X			
$P_8$	$AB'CE$											X	X			

Table 4

Finally the minimal cover is:

$$F = C'D + BC'E + A'B'D'E + AB'DE$$

or  $F = C'D + BC'E + A'B'D'E + AB'CE$