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A Tutorial Exposition of the Analysis of Synchronous Boolean Networks via Semi-Tensor Products

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ABSTRACT. This paper is a detailed tutorial exposition of the analysis of synchronous Boolean networks via a particular matrix product called the Semi-Tensor Product (STP) of matrices, which multiplies two matrices A_{mn} and B_{pq} in which the column dimension n of the first matrix is not necessarily equal to the row dimension p of the second matrix, but is possibly a multiple or divisor of it. The state space of a Boolean network of n nodes is denoted herein by a vector of 2^n states in natural order obtained as the STP of n 2-element vectors representing the network variables. A notable contribution of the paper is that its matrix expression of logic follows the conventional truth-table order, and not the reverse unfamiliar order followed so far by the STP community. We reproduce the STP analysis of a classical example network. We include minute details that make the STP manipulations easily accessible to and more understandable by their potential users. Our analysis points to more efficient implementations of the STP solution in which the *OR* and *XOR* binary operations do not inflict a cost more than they really deserve.

Keywords: Synchronous Boolean networks, Semi-tensor products, Quasi-commutativity, Size reduction, Transition matrix.

1. Introduction

A synchronous Boolean network model is the simplest possible conceptual model that mimics or captures the essential features of many biological systems. Hence, this model became a powerful tool for describing, analyzing, and simulating these systems. The model consists of a set of n nodes, each of which is either in state 1 (On) or state 0 (Off) at any given time; t. Each node is updated at time (t + 1) by inputs from any fixed subset of the set of nodes according to any desired logical rule [1-7].

Recently, the dynamics of synchronous Boolean networks have been extensively studied by a novel matrix method utilizing a new matrix product, called the Semi-Tensor Product (STP) of matrices [8-18]. Based on the STP paradigm, a certain matrix expression of logic is used for the numerical derivation of the transition matrix [T] of the Boolean network, which is called the structure matrix in [11]. This matrix is then analyzed to deduce full information about the transient and cyclic behavior of the network.

Despite the great success of the STP methodology, and despite the availability of many reviews on it [11, 19-22], it does not seem to be assimilated rapidly or fully enough by the scientific community, possibly due to its intrinsic difficulty. Since the usefulness of the STP methodology definitely outweighs its difficulty, no effort should be spared to make it easily accessible to researchers who need to utilize it. It is in this spirit that we have written our extensive survey [22], and that we write this current paper to popularize this long-awaited novel methodology.

While our earlier paper [22] is a tutorial exposition of the STP methodology with a stress on its somewhat *dubious* general representation of Boolean functions, this current paper deals with the *definitely successful* application of the STP methodology to synchronous Boolean networks. In fact, it is a detailed tutorial exposition of the analysis of synchronous Boolean networks via the STP methodology. We employ a particular semi-tensor product of matrices, which multiplies two matrices A_{mn} and B_{pq} in which the column dimension n of the first matrix is a multiple or divisor of the row dimension p of the second matrix. This means that we do not require the STP methodology in full (we do not demand that nbe totally unrelated to p), but we utilize a simple special-case that represents a minimal departure from the conventional wisdom. We review basic definitions and operations of this particular STP, which particular emphasis on its use in swapping vectors or matrices and in reducing the size of a matrix. We represent a switching variable as a column vector of two elements, namely the complement of variable and the variable itself. This representation is in contrast to the one common in STP literature in which the order of these two elements is reversed. The state space of a Boolean network of n nodes, therefore, is a vector of 2^n states in *natural* order obtained as the STP of the n 2-element vectors representing the network variables. We reproduce the STP analysis of a classical example network, making sure to explain every minute detail and to expose every partial result. Through this detailed example, we hope to have made the STP manipulations easily accessible to and more understandable by a larger group of readers. We hope also to circumvent serious reservations against the STP application to problems involving Boolean functions. One reservation is that an STP representation of a Boolean function keeps records of both the function and its complement, and hence involves *unnecessary duplication* [22]. While this reservation is applicable in general logic problems, it vanishes in the case of the study of the state space of a Boolean network. In fact, the 2^n states for *n* variables reduce to 2 states for a single variable, and representing a variable by a 2-element vector becomes acceptable (even a necessity) in this case. Another reservation is that the STP solution uses the very general and *costly operation* of real multiplication to implement binary operations on 1-bit operands, such as the *OR* and *XOR* operations of Boolean algebra [22]. Our analysis herein points to *more efficient* implementations of the STP solution in which these binary operations do not inflict a cost more than they really deserve.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 reviews and explains the basic definitions of the tensor product [22-25], the semi-tensor product [11, 19-22], the swap matrix [11, 19], matrix expression of logic [11, 22, 26-30], and the power reducing matrix [11]. A novel contribution of the paper is that its matrix expression of logic follows the *conventional truth-table order*, and not the reverse order followed so far by the STP community. Section 3 presents a detailed STP solution of a small synchronous Boolean network, which culminates in the production of the correct transition matrix of the network. Section 4 concludes the paper.

2. Basic Definitions

2.1 The Kronecker (Tensor) product (KP):

The Kronecker (tensor) product is defined for any two matrices regardless of their dimensions [22-25]. Let $A_{m \times n} = \{a_{ij}\}$, $(1 \le i \le m, 1 \le j \le n)$ be a matrix of m rows and *n* columns and $B_{p \times q}$ be a matrix of *p* rows and *q* columns. The Kronecker product (KP) of *A* and *B* is denoted by the operator " \otimes ", and is defined as the matrix $(A \otimes B) = \{a_{ij}B\}$ obtained by multiplying each element of *A* by the matrix *B*, namely

$$(\mathbf{A} \otimes \mathbf{B})_{mp \times nq} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11}\mathbf{B} & a_{12}\mathbf{B} & \dots & a_{1n}\mathbf{B} \\ a_{21}\mathbf{B} & a_{22}\mathbf{B} & \dots & a_{2n}\mathbf{B} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ a_{m1}\mathbf{B} & a_{m2}\mathbf{B} & \dots & a_{mn}\mathbf{B} \end{bmatrix}.$$

2.2 The Semi-Tensor Product (STP)

The left STP of two general matrices (usually called STP) is denoted by the $' \ltimes '$ operator, and given by the conventional matrix product of the Kronecker products of the respective matrices by appropriate unit matrices, namely

$$\boldsymbol{S}_{m_{\overline{n}} \times q_{\overline{p}}^{c}} = \boldsymbol{A}_{m \times n} \ltimes \boldsymbol{B}_{p \times q} = (\boldsymbol{A}_{m \times n} \otimes \boldsymbol{I}_{\overline{n}}^{c})_{m_{\overline{n}}^{c} \times c} (\boldsymbol{B}_{p \times q} \otimes \boldsymbol{I}_{\overline{p}}^{c})_{c \times q_{\overline{p}}^{c}}$$
(1)

where the integer c is the least common multiple (*lcm*) of the (totally unrelated) integers n and p, while I_k is the $k \times k$ unit (identity) matrix. The STP inherits many properties of the conventional matrix product, and reduces to it when n = p. In particular, the STP is *associative*, i.e.

$$\boldsymbol{A} \ltimes (\boldsymbol{B} \ltimes \boldsymbol{C}) = (\boldsymbol{A} \ltimes \boldsymbol{B}) \ltimes \boldsymbol{C}$$
(2)

The STP of two column vectors $A_{m\times 1}$ and $B_{p\times 1}$ is the column vector $S_{mp\times 1}$ given by

$$\boldsymbol{A}_{m\times 1} \ltimes \boldsymbol{B}_{p\times 1} = (\boldsymbol{A}_{m\times 1} \otimes \boldsymbol{I}_{p})(\boldsymbol{B}_{p\times 1} \otimes \boldsymbol{I}_{1}) = (\boldsymbol{A}_{m\times 1} \otimes \boldsymbol{I}_{p})\boldsymbol{B}_{p\times 1} = \boldsymbol{A}_{m\times 1} \otimes \boldsymbol{B}_{p\times 1} \quad (3)$$
$$= [\boldsymbol{a}_{1}\boldsymbol{b}_{1} \ \boldsymbol{a}_{1}\boldsymbol{b}_{2} \ \cdots \ \boldsymbol{a}_{1}\boldsymbol{b}_{p} \ \boldsymbol{a}_{2}\boldsymbol{b}_{1} \ \boldsymbol{a}_{2}\boldsymbol{b}_{2} \ \cdots \ \boldsymbol{a}_{2}\boldsymbol{b}_{p} \ \cdots \ \boldsymbol{a}_{m}\boldsymbol{b}_{1} \ \boldsymbol{a}_{m}\boldsymbol{b}_{2} \ \cdots \ \boldsymbol{a}_{m}\boldsymbol{b}_{p}]^{\mathrm{T}}.$$

Important special cases of (1) are obtained when *n* is a multiple of $p(n = \ell p)$ or a divisor of it $(p = \ell n)$. For the case $n = \ell p$, equation (1) reduces to

$$\boldsymbol{S}_{\mathbf{m}\times\boldsymbol{\ell}\mathbf{q}} = \boldsymbol{A}_{\mathbf{m}\times\mathbf{n}} \ \left(\boldsymbol{B}_{\mathbf{p}\times\mathbf{q}} \otimes \boldsymbol{I}_{\boldsymbol{\ell}} \right), \tag{4}$$

while for the case $p = \ell n$, equation (1) reduces to

$$\boldsymbol{S}_{\ell m \times q} = (\boldsymbol{A}_{m \times n} \otimes \boldsymbol{I}_{\ell}) \boldsymbol{B}_{p \times q}.$$
 (5)

2.3 The Swap Matrix

Conventional matrix multiplication (and consequently STP) is *not* commutative in general. However, STP acquires some quasi-commutative properties with the aid of auxiliary tools called swap matrices [11]. We restrict our attention here to a particular square swap matrix $W_{[m,p]}$ of dimensions $mp \times mp$ that enforces the quasi commutative relation

$$\boldsymbol{B}_{p\times 1} \ltimes \boldsymbol{A}_{m\times 1} = \boldsymbol{W}_{[m\times p]} \boldsymbol{A}_{m\times 1} \ltimes \boldsymbol{B}_{p\times 1}, \tag{6}$$

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where $(\mathbf{A}_{m \times 1} \ltimes \mathbf{B}_{p \times 1})$ is given by (3), while $(\mathbf{B}_{p \times 1} \ltimes \mathbf{A}_{m \times 1})$ is given by

$$\boldsymbol{B}_{p\times 1} \ltimes \boldsymbol{A}_{m\times 1} = \boldsymbol{B}_{p\times 1} \otimes \boldsymbol{A}_{m\times 1}$$

$$= [b_1a_1 \ b_1a_2 \ \cdots \ b_1a_m \ b_2a_1 \ b_2a_2 \ \cdots \ b_2a_m \ \cdots \ b_pa_1 \ b_pa_2 \ \cdots \ b_pa_m]^T.$$

$$(7)$$

For the case m = p = 2, we have

$$\boldsymbol{B}_{2\times1} \ltimes \boldsymbol{A}_{2\times1} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 a_1 \\ b_1 a_2 \\ b_2 a_1 \\ b_2 a_2 \end{bmatrix} = \boldsymbol{W}_{[2,2]} \boldsymbol{A}_{2\times1} \ltimes \boldsymbol{B}_{2\times1} = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 b_1 & a_1 b_2 & a_2 b_1 & a_2 b_2 \end{bmatrix}$$
(8)
$$\begin{bmatrix} a_1 b_1 & a_1 b_2 & a_2 b_1 & a_2 b_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 b_1 & a_1 b_2 & a_2 b_1 & a_2 b_2 \end{bmatrix}$$
(8)

For convenience, the vector $(A_{2\times 1} \ltimes B_{2\times 1})$ is not placed to the right of $W_{[2,2]}$, but instead, its transpose is placed above it. This is a well-known trick used frequently to enhance the readability of conventional matrix multiplication [31].

For the case m = 2, and p = 4, we have

	$[a_1b_1$	a_1b_2	a_1b_3	a_1b_4	a_2b_1	a_2b_2	a_2b_3	$a_{2}b_{4}]$	
$B_{4\times1} \ltimes A_{2\times1} \\ = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 a_1 \\ b_1 a_2 \\ b_2 a_1 \\ b_2 a_2 \\ b_3 a_1 \\ b_3 a_2 \\ b_4 a_1 \\ b_4 a_2 \end{bmatrix}$	1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 1 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0	0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 1 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 1 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1	(9)
$= W_{[2,4]} A_{2\times 1}$									
$K B_{4\times 1} =$									

2.4 Matrix Expression of Logic in Conventional Order

A logic variable (A switching variable or a two-valued Boolean variable) is represented in the STP literature (see, e.g., [11, 22, 26-30]) as a 2 × 1 matrix of components x_i and \overline{x}_i , respectively. We will reverse these two components herein, to have

$$x_i \sim \boldsymbol{x}_i = \begin{bmatrix} \overline{x}_i \\ x_i \end{bmatrix}. \tag{10}$$

Corresponding to the definition (10), the Boolean constants 0 and 1 are given by

$$0 \sim \boldsymbol{\delta}_2^1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1\\ 0 \end{bmatrix},\tag{11}$$

$$1 \sim \boldsymbol{\delta}_2^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0\\1 \end{bmatrix}. \tag{12}$$

Here, the notation δ_n^j denotes the jth column of the $n \times n$ identity matrix I_n . Boolean operators are defined as matrices, called structure matrices. The unary NOT operation (\neg) is expressed as

$$\boldsymbol{M}_{\neg} = \boldsymbol{\delta}_{2} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \tag{13}$$

so that

$$\boldsymbol{M}_{\neg} \ltimes \boldsymbol{x}_{i} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \ltimes \begin{bmatrix} \overline{x}_{i} \\ x_{i} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \overline{x}_{i} \\ x_{i} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_{i} \\ \overline{x}_{i} \end{bmatrix} = \overline{\boldsymbol{x}}_{i}.$$
(14)

Before introducing binary operators, we must see first how a set X of two variables x_1 and x_2 are expressed:

$$\boldsymbol{X} = \begin{bmatrix} \overline{x}_1 \\ x_1 \end{bmatrix} \ltimes \begin{bmatrix} \overline{x}_2 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \left(\begin{bmatrix} \overline{x}_1 \\ x_1 \end{bmatrix} \otimes \boldsymbol{I}_2 \right) \left(\begin{bmatrix} \overline{x}_2 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} \otimes \boldsymbol{I}_1 \right) = \begin{bmatrix} \overline{x}_1 \boldsymbol{I}_2 \\ x_1 \boldsymbol{I}_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \overline{x}_2 \boldsymbol{I}_1 \\ x_2 \boldsymbol{I}_1 \end{bmatrix} =$$
(15)
$$\begin{bmatrix} \overline{x}_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \overline{x}_1 \\ x_1 & 0 \\ 0 & x_1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \overline{x}_2 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \overline{x}_1 \overline{x}_2 \\ \overline{x}_1 \overline{x}_2 \\ x_1 \overline{x}_2 \\ x_1 x_2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The vector X constitutes the basis on which binary operators are constructed. As a result of the choice made in (10), it appears in the same order of what is used conventionally in truth tables in classical textbooks on logic design or Boolean algebra (see, e.g, [32]). The STP community typically produce X in an *unconventional reversed* order.

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Table (1) summarizes (conventional-order) matrix representations of the six commutative binary Boolean operators in addition to the IMPLY operator. The (+) sign in Table (1) denotes the standard operation of real addition, but can be safely understood herein to express the *XOR* or even the *OR* Boolean operation. The STP representation of a n-variable switching function f takes the form of a 2 × 1 matrix of the form

$$\boldsymbol{M}_{f} \ltimes \boldsymbol{X} = \boldsymbol{M}_{f} \ltimes \boldsymbol{x}_{1} \ltimes \boldsymbol{x}_{2} \ltimes \cdots \ltimes \boldsymbol{x}_{n} = \boldsymbol{M}_{f} \boldsymbol{X} = \boldsymbol{M}_{f} (\boldsymbol{x}_{1} \ltimes \boldsymbol{x}_{2} \ltimes \cdots \ltimes \boldsymbol{x}_{n}), \quad (16)$$

where M_f is a 2×2^n binary matrix whose rows are the truth tables of \overline{f} and f, respectively, and X is a $2^n \times 1$ vector of the minterms over the variables x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n . For example, for n = 3, the vector X is given by

$$\boldsymbol{X} = \boldsymbol{x}_1 \ltimes \boldsymbol{x}_2 \ltimes \boldsymbol{x}_3 = [\overline{x}_1 \overline{x}_2 \overline{x}_3 \ \overline{x}_1 \overline{x}_2 \overline{x}_3 \ \overline{x}_1 x_2 \overline{x}_3 \ \overline{x}_1 x_2 x_3 \ \overline{x}_1 \overline{x}_2 \overline{x}_3 \ \overline{x}_1 \overline{x}_2 \overline{x$$

2.5 The power reducing matrix

The power reducing matrix M_r [11, p. 56-57] is a tool to invoke the idempotency of the AND operator $(x \land x = x)$, via

$$\boldsymbol{x} \ltimes \boldsymbol{x} = M_r \, \boldsymbol{x},\tag{18}$$

$$\boldsymbol{M}_{r} = \boldsymbol{\delta}_{4} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{1} \end{bmatrix},$$
(19)

where both sides of (18) are equal to $[\overline{x} \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad x]^T$.

3. A detailed Example

We give herein a detailed explanation of example 5.7 in p.118 of [11]. This example deals with a 3-node synchronous Boolean network that has been analyzed also in [2, 5], and is governed by the equations:

$$x_1(t+1) = x_2(t) \land x_3(t),$$
(20a)

$$x_2(t+1) = 1 \oplus x_1(t),$$
 (20b)

$$x_3(t+1) = x_2(t).$$
 (20c)

In matrix form, these equations take the form

$$\boldsymbol{x}_1(t+1) = \boldsymbol{M}_{\boldsymbol{\lambda}} \ltimes \boldsymbol{x}_2(t) \ltimes \boldsymbol{x}_3(t), \quad (21a)$$

$$\boldsymbol{x}_2(t+1) = \boldsymbol{M}_{\oplus} \ltimes \boldsymbol{\delta}_2^2 \ltimes \boldsymbol{x}_1(t) = \boldsymbol{M}_{\neg} \ltimes \boldsymbol{x}_1(t), \quad (21b)$$

$$x_3(t+1) = x_2(t),$$
 (21c)

where M_{λ} , M_{\oplus} , M_{\neg} are the structure matrices of the AND, XOR and NOT operators, respectively.

We want to use (21) to deduce an equation of the form

$$\boldsymbol{X}(t+1) = \boldsymbol{T} \boldsymbol{X}(t), \tag{22}$$

where

$$X(t+1) = x_1(t+1) \ltimes x_2(t+1) \ltimes x_3(t+1),$$
(23)

$$\boldsymbol{X}(t) = \boldsymbol{x}_1(t) \ltimes \boldsymbol{x}_2(t) \ltimes \boldsymbol{x}_3(t).$$
⁽²⁴⁾

Are the exact state vectors [3, 6] taking the form (17). The matrix T is the *transition matrix* of the Boolean network [3, 6]. This matrix is named L and called the *structure matrix* by the STP community [11]. It can be used to construct the *full state transition diagram* of the network, and to make subtle predications of both the *transient* behavior and *cyclic* behavior of the network.

We now reproduce a derivation of X(t + 1) in terms of X(t) from [11, p. 118], but with the several not-so-obvious gaps therein being filled with clarifying details.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{X}(t+1) &= \mathbf{x}_1(t+1) \ltimes \mathbf{x}_2(t+1) \ltimes \mathbf{x}_3(t+1) \\ &= \left(\mathbf{M}_{\wedge} \ltimes \mathbf{x}_2(t) \ltimes \mathbf{x}_3(t) \right) \ltimes \left(\mathbf{M}_{\neg} \ltimes \mathbf{x}_1(t) \right) \ltimes \mathbf{x}_2(t) \\ &= \mathbf{M}_{\wedge} \ltimes \left(\left(\mathbf{x}_2(t) \ltimes \mathbf{x}_3(t) \right) \ltimes \mathbf{M}_{\neg} \right) \ltimes \mathbf{x}_1(t) \ltimes \mathbf{x}_2(t) \\ &= \mathbf{M}_{\wedge} \ltimes \left((\mathbf{I}_4 \otimes \mathbf{M}_{\neg}) \ltimes \left(\mathbf{x}_2(t) \ltimes \mathbf{x}_3(t) \right) \ltimes \mathbf{x}_1(t) \ltimes \mathbf{x}_2(t). \end{aligned}$$

Now

$$\begin{aligned} (x_{2}(t) \ltimes x_{3}(t)) \ltimes x_{1}(t) \ltimes x_{2}(t) \\ &= W_{[2,4]} \ltimes x_{1}(t) \ltimes (x_{2}(t) \ltimes x_{3}(t)) \ltimes x_{2}(t) \\ &= W_{[2,4]} \ltimes x_{1}(t) \ltimes x_{2}(t) \ltimes (x_{3}(t) \ltimes x_{2}(t)) \\ &= W_{[2,4]} \ltimes x_{1}(t) \ltimes x_{2}(t) \ltimes W_{[2,2]} \ltimes x_{2}(t) \ltimes x_{3}(t) \\ &= W_{[2,4]} \ltimes (I_{4} \otimes W_{[2,2]}) \ltimes (x_{1}(t) \ltimes x_{2}(t)) \ltimes (x_{2}(t) \ltimes x_{3}(t)) \\ &= W_{[2,4]} \ltimes (I_{4} \otimes W_{[2,2]}) \ltimes x_{1} \ltimes (x_{2}(t) \ltimes x_{2}(t)) \ltimes x_{3}(t) \\ &= W_{[2,4]} \ltimes (I_{4} \otimes W_{[2,2]}) \ltimes x_{1}(t) \ltimes (M_{r} \ltimes x_{2}(t)) \ltimes x_{3}(t) \\ &= W_{[2,4]} \ltimes (I_{4} \otimes W_{[2,2]}) \ltimes (I_{2} \otimes M_{r}) \ltimes x_{1}(t) \ltimes x_{2}(t) \ltimes x_{3}(t) \\ &= W_{[2,4]} \ltimes (I_{4} \otimes W_{[2,2]}) \ltimes (I_{2} \otimes M_{r}) \ltimes x_{1}(t) \ltimes x_{2}(t) \ltimes x_{3}(t) \\ &= W_{[2,4]} \ltimes (I_{4} \otimes W_{[2,2]}) \ltimes (I_{2} \otimes M_{r}) \ltimes X(t) \\ X(t+1) &= M_{\lambda} \ltimes (I_{4} \otimes M_{\neg}) \ltimes W_{[2,4]} \ltimes (I_{4} \otimes W_{[2,2]}) \ltimes (I_{2} \otimes M_{r}) \ltimes X(t)$$

The transition matrix of the network is given by

$$T = M_{\lambda_{2\times 4}} \ltimes (I_4 \otimes M_{\neg})_{8\times 8} \ltimes W_{[2,4]_{8\times 8}} \ltimes (I_4 \otimes [W_{[2,2]}])_{16\times 16} \ltimes (I_2 \otimes M_r)_{8\times 4} (25)$$

where

Operator	Symbol (0)	Abbreviated structure matrix	Expande $[\overline{x}_1 \overline{x}_2]$	ed struc the b $\overline{x_1}x_2$	ture matrix basis: $x_1 \overline{x}_2 \rightarrow x_1 \overline{x}_2$	ttrix for $(x_1 x_2)^T$	$x_1 0 x_2$
AND	٨	$\delta_2[1, 1, 1, 2]$	[1 0	1 0	1 0	0 1	$\begin{bmatrix} \overline{x}_1 \overline{x}_2 + \overline{x}_1 x_2 + x_1 \overline{x}_2 \\ x_1 x_2 \end{bmatrix}$
OR	v	$\delta_2[1, 2, 2, 2]$	[<mark>1</mark> 0	0 1	0 1	0 1	$\begin{bmatrix} \bar{x}_1 \bar{x}_2 \\ \overline{x}_1 x_2 + x_1 \bar{x}_2 + x_1 x_2 \end{bmatrix}$
NAND	1	$\delta_2[2, 2, 2, 1]$	$[^{0}_{1}$	0 1	0 1	1 0	$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 x_2 \\ \overline{x}_1 \overline{x}_2 + \overline{x}_1 x_2 + x_1 \overline{x}_2 \end{bmatrix}$
NOR	Ļ	$\delta_2[2, 1, 1, 1]$	[0 1	1 0	1 0	1 0	$\begin{bmatrix} \overline{x}_1 x_2 + x_1 \overline{x}_2 + x_1 x_2 \\ \overline{x}_1 \overline{x}_2 \end{bmatrix}$
XOR	\oplus	$\delta_2[1, 2, 2, 1]$	[<mark>1</mark> 0	0 1	0 1	1 0	$\begin{bmatrix} \overline{x}_1 \overline{x}_2 + x_1 x_2 \\ \overline{x}_1 x_2 + x_1 \overline{x}_2 \end{bmatrix}$
XNOR	\odot						
Equivalence	≡	$\boldsymbol{\delta}_{2}\left[2,1,1,2\right]$	[0 1	1 0	1 0	0 1	$\begin{bmatrix} \overline{x}_1 x_2 + x_1 \overline{x}_2 \\ \overline{x} \overline{x}_1 + x_1 \overline{x}_2 \end{bmatrix}$
Bi- implication	\leftrightarrow						$[\lambda_1\lambda_2 + \lambda_1\lambda_2]$
Implication	\rightarrow	$\delta_2[2, 2, 1, 2]$	$[{0 \atop 1}$	0 1	1 0	0 1	$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \overline{x}_2 \\ \overline{x}_1 \overline{x}_2 + \overline{x}_1 x_2 + x_1 x_2 \end{bmatrix}$

Table (1). Structure matrices of seven binary Boolean operators for conventional truth-table order.

$$\boldsymbol{C}_{8\times4} = (\boldsymbol{I}_2 \otimes \boldsymbol{M}_{\mathrm{r}}) = \left(\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1} & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{1} \end{bmatrix} \otimes \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{1} \end{bmatrix} \right) = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1} & 0 & \vdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \vdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{1} & \vdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \vdots & \mathbf{1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \vdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \vdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \vdots & 0 & \mathbf{1} \end{bmatrix}_{8\times4}$$

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D ₁	6×16	= (1	I₄⊗[W [2,	2])	=	1 0 0 0	0 (0 1 (0 0 1 0 (0) 0) 0 L 0) 1	⊗	1 0 0	0 0 1 0	0 (0 1 (0 0 (0 0 1							
	۲ 1	0	0	0	÷	0	0	0	0	:	0	0	0	0	÷	0	0	0	ך 0	
	0	0	1	0	÷	0	0	0	0	÷	0	0	0	0	÷	0	0	0	0	
	0	1	0	0	÷	0	0	0	0	÷	0	0	0	0	÷	0	0	0	0	
	0	0	0	1	÷	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	÷	0	0	0	0	
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	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	÷	0	0	0	0	
	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	÷	0	0	0	0	
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	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	:	0	0	0	0	
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	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	÷	0	0	0	0	
	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	÷	0	0	0	0	
					•••										•••					
	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0		1	0	0	0	
	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	÷	0	0	1	0	
	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	÷	0	1	0	0	
	0	0	0	0	÷	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	÷	0	0	0	1	
	L	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••			•••		•••	•••	•••	J _{16×16}	5





where $(W_{[2,4]} \otimes I_2)$ is given by

A Tutorial Exposition of the Analysis of Synchronous Boolean Networks...

1 0	 0 1	 : :	0 0	0 0	• • •	0 0	0 0	:	0 0	0 0	···· : :	0 0	0 0	···· : :	0 0	0 0	 : :	0 0	 0 0	••••	 0 0	0 0
0 0	0 0	:	0 0	0 0	:	0 0	0 0	:	0 0	0 0	:	1 0	0 1	:	0 0	0 0	:	0 0	0 0	:	0 0	0 0
0 0	0 0	:	1 0	0 1	:	0 0	0 0	:	0 0	0 0	:	0 0	0 0	:	0 0	0 0	:	0 0	0 0	:	0 0	0 0
0 0	0 0	:	0 0	0 0	:	0 0	0 0	:	0 0	0 0	:	0 0	0 0	:	1 0	0 1	::	0 0	0 0	:	0 0	0 0
0 0	0 0	:	0 0	0 0	:	1 0	0 1	::	0 0	0 0	::	0 0	0 0	::	0 0	0 0	 : :	0 0	0 0	:	0 0	0 0
0 0	0 0	::	0 0	0 0	:	0 0	0 0	::	0 0	0 0	::	0 0	0 0	::	0 0	0 0	::	1 0	0 1	::	0 0	0 0
0 0	0 0	:	0 0	0 0	••••	0 0	0 0	::	1 0	0 1	::	0 0	0 0	:	0 0	0 0	::	0 0	0 0	:	0 0	0 0
0 0	0 0	:	0 0	0 0	:	0 0	0 0	:	0 0	0 0	::	0 0	0 0	::	0 0	0 0	::	0 0	0 0	:	1 0	0 1
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L				F ₁₆ >	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~		$\begin{bmatrix} 1\\ 0\\\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\$	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0		0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0		0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0		0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0-0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0					

55

	гO	1	÷	0	0	÷	0	0	÷	0	0
	1	0	÷	0	0	÷	0	0	÷	0	0
	0 0	0 0	•••• : :	0 1	1 0	:::	0 0	0 0	:	0 0	0 0
$(I_4 \otimes M_{\neg}) =$	0 0	0 0	::	0 0	0 0	•••• ፤	0 1	1 0	:::	0 0	0 0
	 0 0	0 0	::	0 0	0 0	::	0 0	0 0	 : :	0 1	1 0
	L	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••] ^{8×8}

$$\boldsymbol{G}_{16\times8} = (\boldsymbol{I}_4 \otimes \boldsymbol{M}_{\neg})_{8\times8} \ltimes \boldsymbol{F}_{16\times8} = \left((\boldsymbol{I}_4 \otimes \boldsymbol{M}_{\neg}) \otimes \boldsymbol{I}_2 \right)_{16\times16} \boldsymbol{F}_{16\times8}$$
(27)

where $(I_4 \otimes M_{\neg}) \otimes I_2$ is given by

÷ 0 0 0 0 0 0 ... 0 0 0 ... 0 0 0 1 0 0 ... 0 0 : 0 0 ... 0 0 : 0 0 0 1 ... 0 0 0 ÷ 0 0 0 0 : 1 0 0 0 00 00 1 0 : 0 0 :... ... 0 0 0 0 ... 0 0 ... 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 ... 0 0 0 : 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 :: 0 0 0 0 ... 0 0 1 0 ... : : 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 ... 0 0 0 ... 0 0 ... 0 0 ... 0 0 0 ... 0 0 0 ... 0 0 0 ... 0 ... 0 0 1 ... 0 0 0 0 0 0 : 0 : 0 ... 0 0 :... 0 ... 1 0 ...J_{16×16}

	г	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	···- ₁
	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	:	1	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0
	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0
		•••	•••		•••		•••		•••	•••		•••	•••	•••	
	1	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0
	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0
				•••	•••					•••			•••		
	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	1	÷	0	÷	0
	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0
		•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	
	0	÷	1	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0
	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0
$G_{16\times 8} =$				•••	•••					•••			•••		
	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0
	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	1	÷	0
		•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	
	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0
	0	÷	0	÷	1	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0
		•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	
	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0
	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	1
		•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	
	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0
	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	1	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0	÷	0
	L		•••	•••	•••		•••		•••	•••			•••	•••	J _{16×8}

$$\boldsymbol{T}_{8\times8} = (\boldsymbol{M}_{\lambda})_{2\times4} \ltimes G_{16\times8} = ((\boldsymbol{M}_{\lambda})_{2\times4} \otimes \boldsymbol{I}_{4})_{8\times16} \boldsymbol{G}_{16\times8}$$

where $(\mathbf{M}_{\lambda})_{2\times 4} \otimes \mathbf{I}_4$ is given by

1٦	0	0	0	:	1	0	0	0	:	1	0	0	0	÷	0	0	0	01
0	1	0	0	÷	0	1	0	0	÷	0	1	0	0	÷	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0	÷	0	0	1	0	:	0	0	1	0	÷	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	1	÷	0	0	0	1	÷	0	0	0	1	÷	0	0	0	0
	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••		•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	
0	0	0	0	÷	0	0	0	0	÷	0	0	0	0	÷	1	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	÷	0	0	0	0	÷	0	0	0	0	÷	0	1	0	0
0	0	0	0	÷	0	0	0	0	÷	0	0	0	0	÷	0	0	1	0
0	0	0	0	÷	0	0	0	0	:	0	0	0	0	÷	0	0	0	1
L		•••													•••			$\dots J_{8 \times 16}$

	٢0	0	÷	0	0	÷	1	1	:	0	ך 0
	0	0	÷	0	0	÷	0	0	÷	1	0
			•••			•••			••••		
	11	1	:	0	0	:	0	0	:	0	0
	0	0	÷	1	0	÷	0	0	÷	0	0
т —		•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	
1 –	0	0	÷	0	0	÷	0	0	÷	0	0
	0	0	÷	0	0	:	0	0	÷	0	1
		•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	
	0	0	÷	0	0	÷	0	0	÷	0	0
	0	0	÷	0	1	÷	0	0	÷	0	0
	L	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	J

Equation (26) expresses the transition matrix T when both its rows and columns are referenced in the basis vector (17) of conventional order, which corresponds to a state vector of the form

$\begin{bmatrix} 000 & 001 & 010 & 011 & 100 & 101 & 110 & 111 \end{bmatrix}^T$.

The matrix T can be used to construct the network state diagram shown in Fig. (1). Our matrix T is equivalent to the structure matrix L in [11, p. 118]. However, L has both its rows and columns referenced in a basis vector that is equivalent to the one in (17) but in reverse order.



Fig. (1). The state diagram or map of all possible trajectories of the states $x_1(t)x_2(t)x_3(t)$.

4. Conclusions

Despite the extensive computational successes of the STP approach, it is still very slowly being accepted and assimilated by the scientific community. In particular, the STP concepts, techniques, and applications have not found their way yet to popular textbooks, though they are definitely expected and needed to do so sooner or later.

This paper is an attempt to popularize the STP approach by offering a detailed lengthy example of one of its prominent and most successful applications, namely, that of the analysis of synchronous Boolean networks. Besides overcoming

the barrier against learning and utilizing STP concepts, the current exposition paves the way towards an efficient implementation for the STP methodology when handling binary matrices. Though the STP methodology is originally intended to handle data over the real and complex fields, the current exposition clearly indicates that the STP methodology can be directly tailored to efficiently handle the binary OR and XOR operations in Boolean algebras. Such operations intrinsically demand the use of single logic gates and should not be implemented as real addition demanding the use of an array of full adders.

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شرح تعليمي لتحليل الشبكات البولانية المتزامنة باستخدام المضروبات شبه المنظومية

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ملخص المحث. تمثّل ورقة البحث هذه شرحا تعليميا مفصلا لتحليل الشبكات البولانية المتزامنة باستخدام نوع جديد من مضروبات المصفوفات يسمى المضروب شبه المنظومي (ض ش ن). يقوم هذا المضروب بإيجاد حاصل لضرب مصفوفتين أمن و بن في فيهما عدد وإنما قد يكون مضاعفا له أو قد يكون قاسما له إن فضاء الحالات لشبكة بولانية مؤلفة من n من الرؤوس يمثل هذا بمتجه يحوي عدد 2 من الحالات لشبكة بولانية مؤلفة من n من الرؤوس يمثل هذا بمتجه يحوي عدد 2 من الحالات مرتبة ترتيبا طبيعيا يتم إيجاده مضروب شبه المنفومي المعددون مضاعفا له أو قد يكون قاسما له إن فضاء الحالات لشبكة بولانية مؤلفة من n من الرؤوس يمثل هذا بمتجه يحوي عدد 2 من الحالات مرتبة ترتيبا طبيعيا يتم إيجادها أحد الإسهامات الملحوظة لورقة البحث هذه هو تعبيرها المصفوفي عن المنطق بالترتيب المعكوس المستغرب الذي دأب الاصطلاحي المألوف في جداول الصدق وليس بالترتيب المعكوس المستغرب الذي دأب الباحثون في المصلاحي المألوف في حدايل الصدق وليس بالترتيب المعكوس المستغرب الذي دأب المصلاحي المألوف في جداول الصدق وليس بالترتيب المعكوس المستغرب الذي دأب المحلون في المضروبات شبه المنظومية على استخدامه. يقوم هذا بإعادة إنتاج الترتيب المعدون المنطق بالترتيب المعلاحي المالوف في جداول الصدق وليس بالترتيب المعكوس المستغرب الذي دأب المصلاحي المألوف في جداول الصدق وليس بالترتيب المعكوس المستغرب الذي دأب المصروبات شبه المنظومية على استخدامه. يقوم هنا بإعادة إنتاج التحليل المحروبات شبه المنظومية على استخدامه. يقوم هنا بإعادة إنتاج التحليل بالمحروبات شبه المنظومية للا مطيا تقليديا. يشتمل تحليلنا على تصيلات الباحثرون في المصروبات شبه المنظومية المي أحد مثالا ملول تقليدا. يشمل وأون في تعاميلات الباحثون في المحروبات شبه المنظومية المعادوبات شبه المنظومية المعاروبات شبه المنظومية المرائق أكثر كفاية وأفضل سراد والمستنيد المستنيد الموثر الوالمستنيد الم