

Boolean algebra laws

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<http://nayuki.eigenstate.org/page/boolean-algebra-laws>

0 Notation

The following notation is used for Boolean algebra on this page, which is the electrical engineering notation:

False 0
True 1
NOT x \bar{x}
 x AND y $x \cdot y$
 x OR y $x + y$
 x XOR y $x \oplus y$

The precedence is

AND (high), XOR (medium), OR (low).

Examples:

$x + y \cdot z$ means $x + (y \cdot z)$
 $x \oplus y \cdot z$ means $x \oplus (y \cdot z)$
 $x + y \oplus z$ means $x + (y \oplus z)$

1 Basic laws

1.0 Constants

NOT:	AND:	OR:	XOR:
$\bar{0} = 1$	$0 \cdot 0 = 0$	$0 + 0 = 0$	$0 \oplus 0 = 0$
$\bar{1} = 0$	$0 \cdot 1 = 0$	$0 + 1 = 1$	$0 \oplus 1 = 1$
	$1 \cdot 0 = 0$	$1 + 0 = 1$	$1 \oplus 0 = 1$
	$1 \cdot 1 = 1$	$1 + 1 = 1$	$1 \oplus 1 = 0$

1.1 Constant and variable

NOT:	AND:	OR:	XOR:
(None)	$0 \cdot x = 0$	$0 + x = x$	$0 \oplus x = x$
	$1 \cdot x = x$	$1 + x = 1$	$1 \oplus x = \bar{x}$

1.2 One variable

NOT:

$$\overline{\overline{x}} = x$$

AND:

$$x \cdot x = x$$

$$x \cdot \overline{x} = 0$$

OR:

$$x + x = x$$

$$x + \overline{x} = 1$$

XOR:

$$x \oplus x = 0$$

$$x \oplus \overline{x} = 1$$

1.3 XOR

XOR can be defined in terms of AND, OR, NOT:

$$x \oplus y = (x \cdot \overline{y}) + (\overline{x} \cdot y)$$

$$x \oplus y = (x + y) \cdot (\overline{x} + \overline{y})$$

$$x \oplus y = (x + y) \cdot \overline{(x \cdot y)}$$

1.4 Various

Commutativity

$$x \cdot y = y \cdot x$$

Associativity

$$(x \cdot y) \cdot z = x \cdot (y \cdot z)$$

Distributivity

$$x \cdot (y + z) = (x \cdot y) + (x \cdot z)$$

AND

$$x + y = y + x$$

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

$$x + (y \cdot z) = (x + y) \cdot (x + z)$$

OR

XOR

$$x \oplus y = y \oplus x$$

$$(x \oplus y) \oplus z = x \oplus (y \oplus z)$$

$$x \cdot (y \oplus z) = (x \cdot y) \oplus (x \cdot z)$$

1.5 De Morgan's laws

$$\text{NAND} \quad \overline{x \cdot y} = \overline{x} + \overline{y}$$

$$\text{NOR} \quad \overline{x + y} = \overline{x} \cdot \overline{y}$$

2 Redundancy laws

The following laws will be proved with the basic laws.

Counterintuitively, it is sometimes necessary to complicate the formula before simplifying it.

2.0 Absorption

$$x + x \cdot y = x \qquad x \cdot (x + y) = x$$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} x + x \cdot y &= x \cdot 1 + x \cdot y \\ &= x \cdot (1 + y) \\ &= x \cdot 1 \\ &= x \end{aligned}$$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} x \cdot (x + y) &= (x + 0) \cdot (x + y) \\ &= x + (0 \cdot y) \\ &= x + 0 \\ &= x \end{aligned}$$

2.1 (No name)

$$x + \bar{x} \cdot y = x + y \qquad x \cdot (\bar{x} + y) = x \cdot y \qquad x \cdot y + x \cdot \bar{y} = x \qquad (x + y) \cdot (x + \bar{y}) = x$$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} x + \bar{x} \cdot y &= (x + \bar{x}) \cdot (x + y) \\ &= 1 \cdot (x + y) \\ &= x + y \end{aligned}$$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} x \cdot (\bar{x} + y) &= x \cdot \bar{x} + x \cdot y \\ &= 0 + x \cdot y \\ &= x \cdot y \end{aligned}$$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} x \cdot y + x \cdot \bar{y} &= x \cdot (y + \bar{y}) \\ &= x \cdot 1 \\ &= x \end{aligned}$$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} (x + y) \cdot (x + \bar{y}) &= x + (y \cdot \bar{y}) \\ &= x + 0 \\ &= x \end{aligned}$$

2.2 Consensus

$$x \cdot y + \bar{x} \cdot z + y \cdot z = x \cdot y + \bar{x} \cdot z$$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} x \cdot y + \bar{x} \cdot z + y \cdot z &= x \cdot y + \bar{x} \cdot z + 1 \cdot y \cdot z \\ &= x \cdot y + \bar{x} \cdot z + (x + \bar{x}) \cdot y \cdot z \\ &= x \cdot y + \bar{x} \cdot z + x \cdot y \cdot z + \bar{x} \cdot y \cdot z \\ &= x \cdot y + x \cdot y \cdot z + \bar{x} \cdot z + \bar{x} \cdot y \cdot z \\ &= x \cdot y \cdot 1 + x \cdot y \cdot z + \bar{x} \cdot 1 \cdot z + \bar{x} \cdot y \cdot z \\ &= x \cdot y \cdot (1 + z) + \bar{x} \cdot z \cdot (1 + y) \\ &= x \cdot y \cdot 1 + \bar{x} \cdot z \cdot 1 \\ &= x \cdot y + \bar{x} \cdot z \end{aligned}$$

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

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} (x + y) \cdot (\bar{x} + z) \cdot (y + z) &= (x + y) \cdot (\bar{x} + z) \cdot (0 + y + z) \\ &= (x + y) \cdot (\bar{x} + z) \cdot (x \cdot \bar{x} + y + z) \\ &= (x + y) \cdot (\bar{x} + z) \cdot (x + y + z) \cdot (\bar{x} + y + z) \\ &= (x + y) \cdot (x + y + z) \cdot (\bar{x} + z) \cdot (\bar{x} + y + z) \\ &= (x + y + 0) \cdot (x + y + z) \cdot (\bar{x} + 0 + z) \cdot (\bar{x} + y + z) \\ &= (x + y + 0 \cdot z) \cdot (\bar{x} + z + 0 \cdot y) \\ &= (x + y + 0) \cdot (\bar{x} + z + 0) \\ &= (x + y) \cdot (\bar{x} + z) \end{aligned}$$