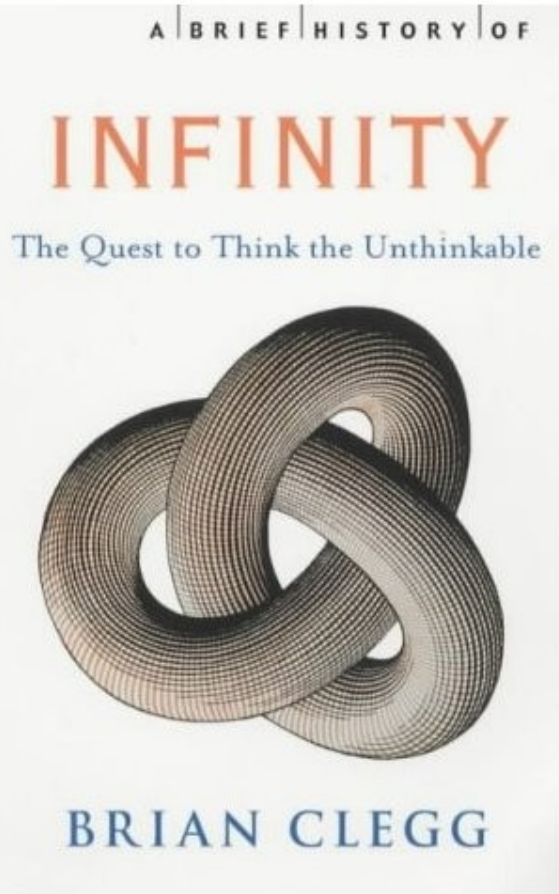
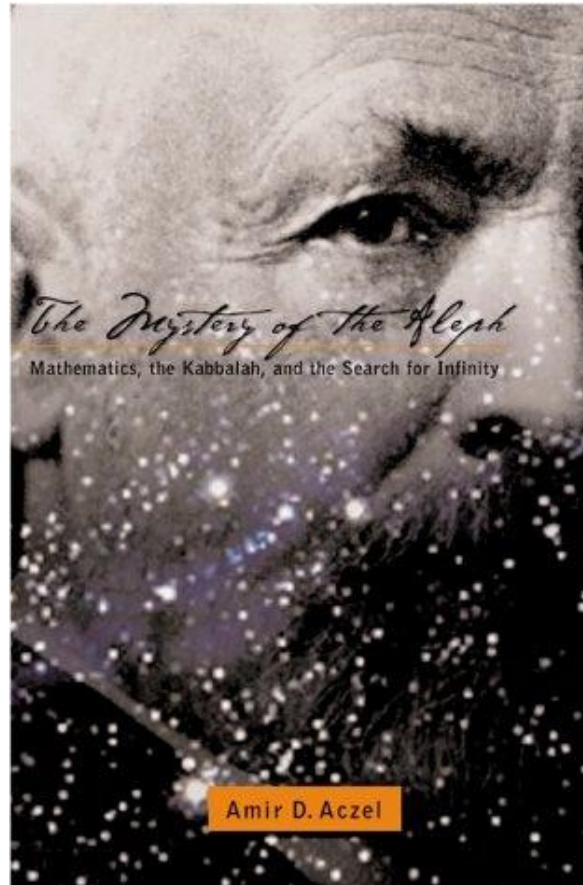


# Direct Proofs

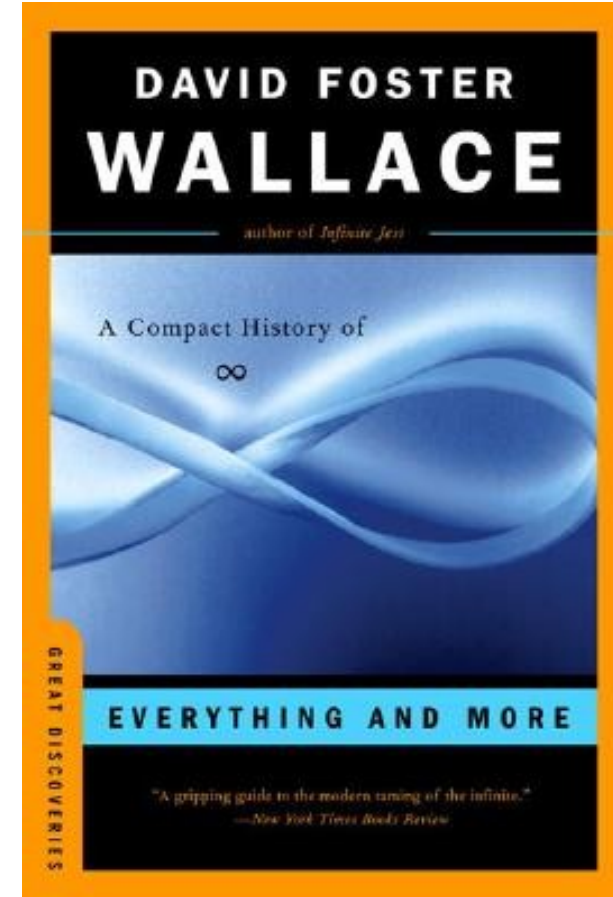
# Recommended Reading



*A Brief History of Infinity*



*The Mystery of the Aleph*



*Everything and More*

# Recommended Courses

Math 161: Set Theory

What is a Proof?

# Induction and Deduction

- In the sciences, much reasoning is done **inductively**.
  - Conduct a series of experiments and find a rule that explains all the results.
  - Conclude that there is a general principle explaining the results.
  - Even if all data are correct, the conclusion might be incorrect.
- In mathematics, reasoning is done **deductively**.
  - Begin with a series of statements assumed to be true.
  - Apply logical reasoning to show that some conclusion necessarily follows.
  - If all the starting assumptions are correct, the conclusion necessarily must be correct.

# Structure of a Mathematical Proof

- Begin with a set of initial assumptions.
  - Some will be explicitly stated, others assumed as background knowledge.
- Apply logical reasoning to derive the final result from those initial assumptions.
- Assuming all intermediary steps follow sound logical reasoning, the final result necessarily follows from the assumptions.
- It is a secondary question whether the initial assumptions are correct; that's the domain of the *philosophy of mathematics*.

# Direct Proofs

# Direct Proofs

- A **direct proof** is the simplest type of proof.
- Starting with an initial set of assumptions, apply simple logical steps to derive the result.
  - *Directly* prove that the result is true.
- Contrasts with **indirect proofs**, which we'll see on Friday.



# Two Quick Definitions

- An integer  $n$  is **even** if there is some integer  $k$  such that  $n = 2k$ .
  - This means that 0 is even.
- An integer  $n$  is **odd** if there is some integer  $k$  such that  $n = 2k + 1$ .
- We'll assume the following for now:
  - Every integer is either even or odd.
  - No integer is both even and odd.

# A Simple Direct Proof

*Theorem:* If  $n$  is an even integer, then  $n^2$  is even.

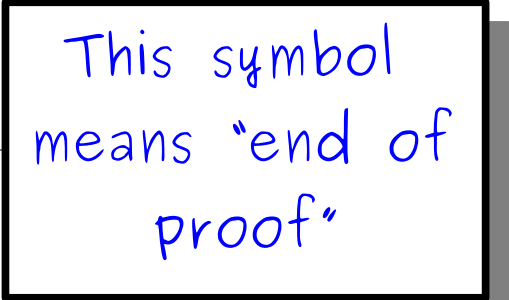
*Proof:* Let  $n$  be an even integer.

Since  $n$  is even, there is some integer  $k$  such that  $n = 2k$ .

This means that  $n^2 = (2k)^2 = 4k^2 = 2(2k^2)$ .

Since  $2k^2$  is an integer, this means that there is some integer  $m$  (namely,  $2k^2$ ) such that  $n^2 = 2m$ .

Thus  $n^2$  is even. 



This symbol means "end of proof"

# A Simple Direct Proof

*Theorem:* If  $n$  is an even integer, then  $n^2$  is even.

*Proof:* **Let  $n$  be an even integer.**

Since  $n$  is even, there is some integer  $k$  such that

This means

Since  $2k$

there is

that  $n^2 =$

Thus  $n^2$  is

To prove a statement of the form

**“If  $P$ , then  $Q$ ”**

Assume that  **$P$**  is true, then show that  **$Q$**  must be true as well.

# A Simple Direct Proof

*Theorem:* If  $n$  is an even integer, then  $n^2$  is even.

*Proof:* Let  $n$  be an even integer.

Since  $n$  is even, there is some integer  $k$  such that  $n = 2k$ .

This means that  $n^2 = (2k)^2 = 4k^2 = 2(2k^2)$ .

Since  $2k^2$  is an even integer, there is some integer  $m$  such that  $n^2 = 2m$ .

Thus  $n^2$  is even.

This is the definition of an even integer. When writing a mathematical proof, it's common to call back to the definitions.

# A Simple Direct Proof

*Theorem:* If  $n$  is an even integer, then  $n^2$  is even.

*Proof:* Let  $n$  be an even integer.

Since  $n$  is even, there is some integer  $k$  such that  $n = 2k$ .

This means that  $n^2 = (2k)^2 = 4k^2 = 2(2k^2)$ .

Since  $2k^2$  there is so that  $n^2 =$   
Thus  $n^2$  is

Notice how we use the value of  $k$  that we obtained above. Giving names to quantities, even if we aren't fully sure what they are, allows us to manipulate them. This is similar to variables in programs.

# A Simple Direct Proof

*Theorem:* If  $n$  is even, then  $n^2$  is even.  
*Proof:* Let  $n$  be an even integer. Then there exists an integer  $k$  such that  $n = 2k$ .  
Since  $n = 2k$ , we have  $n^2 = (2k)^2 = 4k^2 = 2(2k^2)$ .  
This means  $n^2$  is even. 1.

Our ultimate goal is to prove that  $n^2$  is even. This means that we need to find some  $m$  such that  $n^2 = 2m$ . Here, we're explicitly showing how we can do that. 2).

Since  $2k^2$  is an integer, this means that there is some integer  $m$  (namely,  $2k^2$ ) such that  $n^2 = 2m$ .

Thus  $n^2$  is even. ■

# A Simple Direct Proof

*Theorem:* If  $n$  is an even integer, then  $n^2$  is even.

*Proof:* Let  $n$  be an even integer.

Since  $n$  is even, there is some integer  $k$  such that  $n = 2k$ .

This means

Since  $2k$   
there is  
that  $n^2 =$

Hey, that's what we were trying to show! We're done now.

Thus  $n^2$  is even. ■

# An Important Result

- Set equality is defined as follows

**$A = B$  precisely when every element of  $A$  belongs to  $B$  and vice-versa**

- This definition makes it a bit tricky to prove that two sets are equal.
- It's often easier to use the following result to show that two sets are equal:

**For any sets  $A$  and  $B$ ,  
if  $A \subseteq B$  and  $B \subseteq A$ , then  $A = B$ .**



*Theorem:* For any sets  $A$  and  $B$ , if  $A \subseteq B$  and  $B \subseteq A$ ,  
then  $A = B$ .

How do we prove  
that this is true for  
*any* choice of sets?

# Proving Something Always Holds

- Many statements have the form

**For any  $X$ ,  $P(X)$  is true.**

- Examples:

For all integers  $n$ , if  $n$  is even,  $n^2$  is even.

For any sets  $A$  and  $B$ , if  $A \subseteq B$  and  $B \subseteq A$ , then  $A = B$ .

For all sets  $S$ ,  $|S| < |\wp(S)|$ .

Everybody's looking forward to the weekend, weekend.

- How do we prove these statements when there are (potentially) infinitely many cases to check?

# Arbitrary Choices

- To prove that  $P(x)$  is true for all possible  $x$ , show that no matter what choice of  $x$  you make,  $P(x)$  must be true.
- Start the proof by making an **arbitrary choice** of  $x$ :
  - “Let  $x$  be chosen arbitrarily.”
  - “Let  $x$  be an arbitrary even integer.”
  - “Let  $x$  be an arbitrary set containing 137.”
  - “Consider any  $x$ .”
- Demonstrate that  $P(x)$  holds true for this choice of  $x$ .

*Theorem:* For any sets  $A$  and  $B$ , if  $A \subseteq B$  and  $B \subseteq A$ , then  $A = B$ .

*Proof:* Let  $A$  and  $B$  be arbitrary sets such that  $A \subseteq B$  and  $B \subseteq A$ .

We're showing here that regardless of what  $A$  and  $B$  you pick, the result will still be true.

*Theorem:* For any sets  $A$  and  $B$ , if  $A \subseteq B$  and  $B \subseteq A$ , then  $A = B$ .

*Proof:* Let  $A$  and  $B$  be arbitrary sets such that  $A \subseteq B$  and  $B \subseteq A$ .

To prove a statement of the form

**“If  $P$ , then  $Q$ ”**

Assume that  **$P$**  is true, then show that  **$Q$**  must be true as well.

*Theorem:* For any sets  $A$  and  $B$ , if  $A \subseteq B$  and  $B \subseteq A$ , then  $A = B$ .

*Proof:* Let  $A$  and  $B$  be arbitrary sets such that  $A \subseteq B$  and  $B \subseteq A$ .

By definition,  $A \subseteq B$  means that for all  $x \in A$ , we have  $x \in B$ .

By definition,  $B \subseteq A$  means that for all  $x \in B$ , we have  $x \in A$ .

Thus whenever  $x \in A$  we have  $x \in B$  and whenever  $x \in B$  we have  $x \in A$ .

Consequently,  $A = B$ . ■

# An Incorrect Proof

*Theorem:* For any natural number  $n$ , the sum of all the positive divisors of  $n$  is always no greater than  $2n$ .

*Proof:* Consider an arbitrary natural number, say, 16. 16 has positive divisors 1, 2, 4, 8, and 16. Note that  $1 + 2 + 4 + 8 + 16 = 31 \leq 2 \cdot 16$ . Since our choice of  $n$  was arbitrary, we see that for an arbitrary natural number  $n$ , the sum of all the divisors of  $n$  is no greater than  $2n$ . ■

# ar·bi·trar·y

adjective /'ärbi,trerē/

Not this  
one!

1. Based on random choice or personal whim, rather than any reason or system - *“his mealtimes were entirely arbitrary”*

2. *(of power or a ruling body)* Unrestrained and autocratic in the use of authority - *“arbitrary rule by King and bishops has been made impossible”*

3. *(of a constant or other quantity)* Of unspecified value

Use this  
definition



To prove something is true for all  $x$ ,  
don't choose an  $x$  and base the proof  
off of your choice.

Instead, leave  $x$  unspecified  
and show that no matter what  $x$  is,  
the specified property must hold.

# Another Incorrect Proof

*Theorem:* For any sets  $A$  and  $B$ ,  $A \subseteq A \cap B$ .

*Proof:* We need to show that if  $x \in A$ , then  $x \in A \cap B$  as well.

Consider any arbitrary  $x \in A \cap B$ . This means that  $x \in A$  and  $x \in B$ , so  $x \in A$  as required. ■

If you want to prove that  $P$  implies  $Q$ ,  
assume  $P$  and prove  $Q$ .

***Don't*** assume  $Q$  and then prove  $P$ !

# An Entirely Different Proof

*Theorem:* **There exists** a natural number  $n > 0$  **such that** the sum of all natural numbers less than  $n$  is equal to  $n$ .

This is a fundamentally different type of proof that what we've done before. Instead of showing that every object has some property, we want to show that some object has a given property.

# Universal vs. Existential Statements

- A **universal statement** is a statement of the form  
**For all  $x$ ,  $P(x)$  is true.**
- We've seen how to prove these statements.
- An **existential statement** is a statement of the form  
**There exists an  $x$  for which  $P(x)$  is true.**
- How do you prove an existential statement?

# Proving an Existential Statement

- We will see several different ways to prove “there is some  $x$  for which  $P(x)$  is true.”
- Simple approach: Just go and find some  $x$  for which  $P(x)$  is true!
  - In our case, we need to find a positive natural number  $n$  such that that sum of all smaller natural numbers is equal to  $n$ .
  - Can we find one?

# An Entirely Different Proof

*Theorem:* There exists a natural number  $n > 0$  such that the sum of all natural numbers less than  $n$  is equal to  $n$ .

*Proof:* Take  $n = 3$ .

There are three natural numbers smaller than 3: 0, 1, and 2.

We have  $0 + 1 + 2 = 3$ .

Thus 3 is a natural number greater than zero equal to the sum of all smaller natural numbers. ■

Extended Example: **XOR**



# Logical Operators

- A **bit** is a value that is either 0 or 1.
- The set  $\mathbb{B} = \{0, 1\}$  is the set of all bits.
- A **logical operator** is an operator that takes in some number of bits and produces a new bit as output.
- Example: Logical NOT, denoted  $\neg x$ :

$$\neg 0 = 1$$

$$\neg 1 = 0$$

# Logical XOR

- The **exclusive OR** operator (**XOR**) operates on two bits and produces 0 if the bits are the same and 1 if they are different.
  - Since XOR operates on two values, it is called a **binary operator**.
- We denote the XOR of  $a$  and  $b$  by  $a \oplus b$ .
- Formally, XOR is defined as follows:

$$0 \oplus 0 = 0$$

$$0 \oplus 1 = 1$$

$$1 \oplus 0 = 1$$

$$1 \oplus 1 = 0$$

# Fun with XOR

- The XOR operator has numerous uses throughout computer science.
  - Applications in cryptography, data structures, error-correcting codes, networking, machine learning, etc.
- XOR is useful because of four key properties:
  - XOR has an **identity element**.
  - XOR is **self-inverting**.
  - XOR is **associative**.
  - XOR is **commutative**.

# Identity Elements

An **identity element** for a binary operator  $\star$  is some value  $z$  such that **for any  $a$** :

$$a \star z = z \star a = a$$

In math-speak, the term  
“**for any  $a$** ” is synonymous  
with “for every  $a$ ” or  
“**for every possibly choice of  $a$ .**”  
It does not mean  
“**for some specific choice of  $a$ .**”

# Identity Elements

- An **identity element** for a binary operator  $\star$  is some value  $z$  such that for any  $a$ :

$$a \star z = z \star a = a$$

- Example: 0 is an identity element for +:

$$a + 0 = 0 + a = a$$

- Example: 1 is an identity element for  $\times$ :

$$a \times 1 = 1 \times a = a$$

*Theorem:* 0 is an identity element for  $\oplus$ .

*Proof:* We will prove that for any  $b \in \mathbb{B}$  that  $b \oplus 0 = b$  and that  $0 \oplus b = b$ . To do this, consider an arbitrary  $b \in \mathbb{B}$ . We consider two cases:

*Case 1:*  $b = 0$ .

*Case 2:*  $b = 1$ .

This is called a **proof by cases** (alternatively, a **proof by exhaustion**) and works by showing that the theorem is true regardless of what specific outcome arises.

*Theorem:* 0 is an identity element for  $\oplus$ .

*Proof:* We will prove that for any  $b \in \mathbb{B}$  that  $b \oplus 0 = b$  and that  $0 \oplus b = b$ . To do this, consider an arbitrary  $b \in \mathbb{B}$ . We consider two cases:

*Case 1:*  $b = 0$ . Then we have

$$b \oplus 0 = 0 \oplus 0 = 0 \oplus b = 0 \oplus 0$$

In a proof by cases, after demonstrating each case, you should summarize the cases afterwards to make your point clearer.

*Case 2:*

$$b \oplus 0$$

$$= b$$

$$= b$$

In both cases, we find  $b \oplus 0 = 0 \oplus b = b$ .

*Theorem:* 0 is an identity element for  $\oplus$ .

*Proof:* We will prove that for any  $b \in \mathbb{B}$  that  $b \oplus 0 = b$  and that  $0 \oplus b = b$ . To do this, consider an arbitrary  $b \in \mathbb{B}$ . We consider two cases:

*Case 1:*  $b = 0$ . Then we have

$$\begin{array}{ll} b \oplus 0 = 0 \oplus 0 & 0 \oplus b = 0 \oplus 0 \\ = 0 & = 0 \\ = b & = b \end{array}$$

*Case 2:*  $b = 1$ . Then we have

$$\begin{array}{ll} b \oplus 0 = 1 \oplus 0 & 0 \oplus b = 0 \oplus 1 \\ = 1 & = 1 \\ = b & = b \end{array}$$

In both cases, we find  $b \oplus 0 = 0 \oplus b = b$ . Thus 0 is an identity element for  $\oplus$ . ■



# Self-Inverting Operators

- A binary operator  $\star$  with identity element  $z$  is called **self-inverting** when for any  $a$ , we have

$$a \star a = z$$

- Is  $+$  self-inverting?
- Is  $-$  self-inverting?

# XOR is Self-Inverting

*Theorem:*  $\oplus$  is self-inverting.

*Proof:* Since  $\oplus$  has identity element 0, we will prove for any  $b \in \mathbb{B}$  that  $b \oplus b = 0$ . To do this, consider any  $b \in \mathbb{B}$ . We consider two cases:

*Case 1:*  $b = 0$ . Then  $b \oplus b = 0 \oplus 0 = 0$ .

*Case 2:*  $b = 1$ . Then  $b \oplus b = 1 \oplus 1 = 0$ .

In both cases we have  $b \oplus b = 0$ , so  $\oplus$  is self-inverting. ■

# Associative Operators

- A binary operator  $\star$  is called **associative** when for any  $a$ ,  $b$  and  $c$ , we have

$$a \star (b \star c) = (a \star b) \star c$$

- Is  $+$  associative?
- Is  $-$  associative?
- Is  $\times$  associative?

*Theorem:*  $\oplus$  is associative.

*Proof:* Consider any  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{B}$ . We will prove that  $a \oplus (b \oplus c) = (a \oplus b) \oplus c$ . To do this, we consider two cases:

*Case 1:*  $c = 0$ . Then we have that

$$\begin{aligned} a \oplus (b \oplus c) &= a \oplus (b \oplus 0) \\ &= a \oplus b && \text{(since 0 is an identity)} \\ &= (a \oplus b) \oplus 0 && \text{(since 0 is an identity)} \\ &= (a \oplus b) \oplus c \end{aligned}$$

*Case 2:*  $c = 1$ . Then we have that

$$\begin{aligned} a \oplus (b \oplus c) &= a \oplus (b \oplus 1) \\ &= ? \end{aligned}$$

# When You Get Stuck

- When writing proofs, you are bound to get stuck at some point.
- When this happens, it can mean multiple things:
  - What you're proving is incorrect.
  - You are on the wrong track.
  - You're on the right tack, but you need to prove an additional result to get to your goal.
- Unfortunately, there is no general way to determine which case you are in.
- You'll build this intuition through experience.

# Where We're Stuck

- Right now, we have the expression

$$a \oplus (b \oplus 1)$$

and we don't know how to simplify it.

- Let's focus on the  $(b \oplus 1)$  part and see what we find:
  - $0 \oplus 1 = 1$
  - $1 \oplus 1 = 0$
- It seems like  $b \oplus 1 = \neg b$ . Could we prove it?

# Relations Between Proofs

- Proofs often build off of one another: large results are almost often accomplished by building off of previous work.
  - Like writing a large program – split the work into smaller methods, across different classes, etc. instead of putting the whole thing into **main**.
- A result that is proven specifically as a stepping stone toward a larger result is called a **lemma**.
- Our result that  $b \oplus 1 = \neg b$  serves as a lemma in our larger proof that  $\oplus$  is associative.

*Lemma:* For any  $b \in \mathbb{B}$ , we have  $b \oplus 1 = \neg b$ .

*Proof:* Consider any  $b \in \mathbb{B}$ . We consider two cases:

*Case 1:*  $b = 0$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} b \oplus 1 &= 0 \oplus 1 \\ &= 1 \\ &= \neg 0 \\ &= \neg b. \end{aligned}$$

*Case 2:*  $b = 1$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} b \oplus 1 &= 1 \oplus 1 \\ &= 0 \\ &= \neg 1 \\ &= \neg b. \end{aligned}$$

In both cases, we find that  $b \oplus 1 = \neg b$ , which is what we needed to show. ■



*Theorem:*  $\oplus$  is associative.

*Proof:* Consider any  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{B}$ . We will prove that  $a \oplus (b \oplus c) = (a \oplus b) \oplus c$ . To do this, we consider two cases:

*Case 1:*  $c = 0$ . Then we have that

$$\begin{aligned} a \oplus (b \oplus c) &= a \oplus (b \oplus 0) \\ &= a \oplus b && \text{(since } 0 \text{ is an identity)} \\ &= (a \oplus b) \oplus 0 && \text{(since } 0 \text{ is an identity)} \\ &= (a \oplus b) \oplus c \end{aligned}$$

*Case 2:*  $c = 1$ . Then we have that

$$\begin{aligned} a \oplus (b \oplus c) &= a \oplus (b \oplus 1) \\ &= a \oplus \neg b && \text{(using our lemma)} \\ &= ?? \end{aligned}$$

*Lemma 2:* For any  $a, b \in \mathbb{B}$ , we have  $a \oplus \neg b = \neg(a \oplus b)$ .

*Proof:* Consider any  $a, b \in \mathbb{B}$ . We consider two cases:

*Case 1:*  $b = 0$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} a \oplus \neg b &= a \oplus \neg 0 \\ &= a \oplus 1 \\ &= \neg a && \text{(using our first lemma)} \\ &= \neg(a \oplus 0) && \text{(since 0 is an identity)} \\ &= \neg(a \oplus b) \end{aligned}$$

*Case 2:*  $b = 1$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} a \oplus \neg b &= a \oplus \neg 1 \\ &= a \oplus 0 \\ &= a && \text{(since 0 is an identity)} \\ &= \neg(\neg a) \\ &= \neg(a \oplus 1) && \text{(using our first lemma)} \\ &= \neg(a \oplus b) \end{aligned}$$

In both cases, we find that  $a \oplus \neg b = \neg(a \oplus b)$ , as required. ■

*Theorem:*  $\oplus$  is associative.

*Proof:* Consider any  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{B}$ . We will prove that  $a \oplus (b \oplus c) = (a \oplus b) \oplus c$ . We consider two cases:

*Case 1:*  $c = 0$ . Then we have that

$$\begin{aligned} a \oplus (b \oplus c) &= a \oplus (b \oplus 0) \\ &= a \oplus b && \text{(since 0 is an identity)} \\ &= (a \oplus b) \oplus 0 && \text{(since 0 is an identity)} \\ &= (a \oplus b) \oplus c \end{aligned}$$

*Case 2:*  $c = 1$ . Then we have that

$$\begin{aligned} a \oplus (b \oplus c) &= a \oplus (b \oplus 1) \\ &= a \oplus \neg b && \text{(using lemma 1)} \\ &= \neg(a \oplus b) && \text{(using lemma 2)} \\ &= (a \oplus b) \oplus 1 && \text{(using lemma 1)} \\ &= (a \oplus b) \oplus c \end{aligned}$$

In both cases we have  $a \oplus (b \oplus c) = (a \oplus b) \oplus c$ , and therefore  $\oplus$  is associative. ■

# Commutative Operators

- A binary operator  $\star$  is called **commutative** when the following is always true:

$$a \star b = b \star a$$

- Is  $+$  commutative?
- Is  $-$  commutative?

*Theorem:*  $\oplus$  is commutative.

*Proof:* Consider any  $a, b \in \mathbb{B}$ . We will prove  $a \oplus b = b \oplus a$ .

To do this, let  $x = a \oplus b$ . Then

$$x = a \oplus b$$

$$x \oplus b = (a \oplus b) \oplus b$$

$$x \oplus b = a \oplus (b \oplus b) \quad (\text{since } \oplus \text{ is associative})$$

$$x \oplus b = a \oplus 0 \quad (\text{since } \oplus \text{ is self-inverting})$$

$$x \oplus b = a \quad (\text{since } 0 \text{ is an identity of } \oplus)$$

$$x \oplus (x \oplus b) = x \oplus a$$

$$(x \oplus x) \oplus b = x \oplus a \quad (\text{since } \oplus \text{ is associative})$$

$$0 \oplus b = x \oplus a \quad (\text{since } \oplus \text{ is self-inverting})$$

$$b = x \oplus a \quad (\text{since } 0 \text{ is an identity of } \oplus)$$

$$b \oplus a = (x \oplus a) \oplus a$$

$$b \oplus a = x \oplus (a \oplus a) \quad (\text{since } \oplus \text{ is associative})$$

$$b \oplus a = x \oplus 0 \quad (\text{since } \oplus \text{ is self-inverting})$$

$$b \oplus a = x \quad (\text{since } 0 \text{ is an identity of } \oplus)$$

This means that  $a \oplus b = x = b \oplus a$ . Therefore,  $\oplus$  is commutative. ■

*Theorem:*  $\oplus$  is commutative.

*Proof:* Consider any  $a, b \in \mathbb{B}$ . We will prove  $a \oplus b = b \oplus a$ .

To do this, let  $x = a \oplus b$ . Then

$$x = a \oplus b$$

$$x \oplus b = (a \oplus b) \oplus b$$

$$x \oplus b = a \oplus (b \oplus b)$$

$$x \oplus b = a \oplus 0$$

$$x \oplus b = a$$

$$x \oplus (x \oplus b) = x \oplus a$$

$$(x \oplus x) \oplus b = x \oplus a$$

$$0 \oplus b = x \oplus a$$

$$b = x \oplus a$$

$$b \oplus a = (x \oplus a) \oplus a$$

$$b \oplus a = x \oplus (a \oplus a)$$

$$b \oplus a = x \oplus 0$$

$$b \oplus a = x$$

The only properties of  $\oplus$  that we used here are that it is associative, has an identity, and is self-inverting. This same proof works for any operator with these three properties!

Binary operators that have this property give rise to **boolean groups** (but you don't need to know that for this class).

This means that  $a \oplus b = x$  and  $b \oplus a = x$ . Therefore,  $\oplus$  is commutative. ■

Application: **Encryption**

# Bitstrings

- A **bitstring** is a finite sequence of 0s and 1s.
- Internally, computers represent all data as bitstrings.
  - For details on how, take CS107 or CS143.



# Bitstrings and $\oplus$

- We can generalize the  $\oplus$  operator from working on individual bits to working on bitstrings.
- If  $A$  and  $B$  are bitstrings of length  $n$ , then we'll define  $A \oplus B$  to be the bitstring of length  $n$  formed by applying  $\oplus$  to the corresponding bits of  $A$  and  $B$ .
- For example:

$$\begin{array}{r} 110110 \\ \oplus 011010 \\ \hline 101100 \end{array}$$

# Encryption

- Suppose that you want to send me a secret bitstring  $M$  of length  $n$ .
- You should be able to read the message, but anyone who intercepts the secret message should not be able to read it.
- How might we accomplish this?

# $\oplus$ and Encryption

- In advance, you and I share a randomly-chosen bitstring  $K$  of length  $n$  (called the **key**) and keep it secret.
- To send me message  $M$  secretly, you send me the string  $C = M \oplus K$ .
  - $C$  is called the **ciphertext**.
- To decrypt the ciphertext  $C$ , I compute the string  $C \oplus K$ . This is

$$\begin{aligned} C \oplus K &= (M \oplus K) \oplus K \\ &= M \oplus (K \oplus K) \\ &= M \end{aligned}$$

# $\oplus$ and Encryption

- Suppose that you don't have the key and get the message  $M \oplus K$ .
- If  $K$  is chosen to be truly random, then every bit in  $M \oplus K$  appears to be truly random.
- Intuition: Let  $b$  be a original bit from the message and  $k$  be the corresponding bit in the key.
  - If  $k = 0$ , then  $b \oplus k = b \oplus 0 = b$ .
  - If  $k = 1$ , then  $b \oplus k = b \oplus 1 = \neg b$ .
- Since the key bit is truly random, the bits in the original string are flipped totally randomly.
- Can formalize the math; take CS109 for details!

# An Example

## PUPPIES

M	01010000010101010101000001010000010010010100010101010011
K	11011100101110111100010011010101111001101111011111000010
C	10001100111011101001010010000101101011111011001010010001

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# An Example

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C	10001100111011101001010010000101101011111011001010010001
K	11011100101110111100010011010101111001101111011111000010
M	01010000010101010101000001010000010010010100010101010011

PUPPIES

# An Example

€î”...©² ‘

C	10001100111011101001010010000101101011111011001010010001
K?	01011100010101010101000001010000010010010100010101010011
M?	01001100010011110100110001000110010000010100100101001100

**LOLFAIL**

# Some Caveats

- This scheme is **very insecure** if you encrypt multiple messages using the same key.
  - Good exercise: Figure out why this is!
- This scheme guarantees security if the key is random, but it isn't tamperproof.
  - You'll see why this is on the problem set.
- General good advice: ***never implement your own cryptography!***
- Take CS255 for more details!



# Next Time

- **Indirect Proofs**
  - Proof by contradiction.
  - Proof by contrapositive.