

84 There are four binary two-operand associative symmetric operators with an identity. We used two of them to define quantifiers. What happened to the other two?

After trying the question, scroll down to the solution.

§ The four binary two-operand associative symmetric operators with an identity are \wedge \vee $=$ \neq $.$ Since $=$ and \neq are not idempotent, we should define their quantifiers \mathcal{E} and \mathcal{O} as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{E}v: \text{null} \cdot b &= \top \\ \mathcal{E}v: x \cdot b &= \langle v: x \cdot b \rangle x \\ (\mathcal{E}v: A, B \cdot b) &= (\mathcal{E}v: A \cdot B \cdot b) = (\mathcal{E}v: A \cdot b) = (\mathcal{E}v: B \cdot b) \\ \mathcal{E}v: (\S v: D \cdot b) \cdot c &= \mathcal{E}v: D \cdot b \Rightarrow c \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{O}v: \text{null} \cdot b &= \perp \\ \mathcal{O}v: x \cdot b &= \langle v: x \cdot b \rangle x \\ (\mathcal{O}v: A, B \cdot b) &\neq (\mathcal{O}v: A \cdot B \cdot b) = (\mathcal{O}v: A \cdot b) \neq (\mathcal{O}v: B \cdot b) \\ \mathcal{O}v: (\S v: D \cdot b) \cdot c &= \mathcal{O}v: D \cdot b \wedge c \end{aligned}$$

According to these definitions, $\mathcal{E}p$ says “there is an even number of elements in the domain of p for which the result is \perp ”, and $\mathcal{O}p$ says “there is an odd number of elements in the domain of p for which the result is \top ”. These quantifiers are known as “parity” functions, and are useful for memory error detection and correction circuits.