

Commutativity

by Sven Nilsen, 2017

A commutative operator `g` for function `f` has the following property:

$$f[\text{swap} \rightarrow \text{id}] \Leftrightarrow f[g]$$

For example, multiplication of natural numbers has `id` as commutative operator:

$$\text{mul}[\text{swap} \rightarrow \text{id}] \Leftrightarrow \text{mul}[\text{id}]$$

Multiplication of non-zero real numbers has another commutative operator `inv`. This is an example of a “fake” commutative operator, since it also has `id` as commutative operator:

$$b \cdot a = 1/(1/a \cdot 1/b)$$

$$\text{mul}[\text{swap} \rightarrow \text{id}] \Leftrightarrow \text{mul}[\text{inv}]$$

Multiplication of square matrices has a commutative operator `transpose`:

$$BA = (A^T B^T)^T$$

$$\text{mul}[\text{swap} \rightarrow \text{id}] \Leftrightarrow \text{mul}[\text{transpose}]$$

Multiplication of invertible square matrices has also a commutative operator `inverse`. Notice that `id` is not a commutative operator here:

$$BA = (A^{-1} B^{-1})^{-1}$$

$$\text{mul}[\text{swap} \rightarrow \text{id}] \Leftrightarrow \text{mul}[\text{inverse}]$$

Anti-commutative multiplication has `neg`:

$$b \cdot a = -a \cdot b$$

$$\text{mul}[\text{swap} \rightarrow \text{id}] \Leftrightarrow \text{mul}[\text{neg}]$$