

derived Boolean operations

Recall that a [Boolean algebra](#) is an [algebraic system](#)  $\mathcal{A}$  consisting of five [operations](#):

- 1. two [binary operations](#): the meet  $\wedge$  and the join  $\vee$ ,
- 2. one unary operation: the [complementation](#)  $'$ , and
- 3. two nullary operations ([constants](#)): 0 and 1.

From these operations, define the following “derived” operations (on  $\mathcal{A}$ ): for  $a, b \in \mathcal{A}$

- 1. ([subtraction](#))  $a - b := a \wedge b'$ ,
- 2. ([symmetric difference](#) or [addition](#))  $a \Delta b$  (or  $a + b$ )  $:= (a - b) \vee (b - a)$ ,
- 3. ([conditional](#))  $a \rightarrow b := (a - b)'$ ,
- 4. ([biconditional](#))  $a \leftrightarrow b := (a \rightarrow b) \wedge (b \rightarrow a)$ , and
- 5. ([Sheffer stroke](#))  $a|b := a' \wedge b'$ .

Notice that the [operators](#)  $\rightarrow$  and  $\leftrightarrow$  are dual of  $-$  and  $\Delta$  respectively.

It is evident that these derived operations (and indeed the entire theory of Boolean algebras) owe their [existence](#) to those operations and [connectives](#) that are found in logic and [set theory](#), as the following table illustrates:

symbol \ operation	<a href="#">Boolean</a>	Logic	Set
$\vee$ or $\cup$	join	<a href="#">logical or</a>	union
$\wedge$ or $\cap$	meet	<a href="#">logical and</a>	<a href="#">intersection</a>
$'$ or $\neg$ or $\complement$	<a href="#">complement</a>	<a href="#">logical not</a>	complement
0	bottom <a href="#">element</a>	falsity	<a href="#">empty set</a>
1	top element	truth	<a href="#">universe</a>
$-$ or $\setminus$	subtraction		<a href="#">set difference</a>
$\Delta$ or $+$	symmetric difference		symmetric difference ( <a href="http://planetmath.org/SymmetricDifference">http://planetmath.org/SymmetricDifference</a> )
$\rightarrow$	conditional	<a href="#">implication</a>	
$\leftrightarrow$	biconditional	<a href="#">logical equivalence</a>	
$ $	Sheffer stroke	Sheffer stroke	