

Reflection on *Boolean Algebra as a Proof Paradigm*.

Two Reasons Lawrence Sher asserts that Boolean Algebra is a perfect starting point for Mathematics

Lawrence Sher actually lists five benefits of boolean algebra but the most relevant to why it is a good starting point for students is likely:

- It provides practice in algebraic manipulation
- It touches on proofs that are complicated enough to encourage thinking about mathematics but not so complicated that they would be too difficult for a first year student

What I found interesting from Sher's article and do I think he did a good job at teaching other teachers how to deliver the subject to students?

I found Sher's article to be very easy to read through and that it conveyed its message efficiently. Despite being several pages, its message is clear and is very informative for a short read. Not only were concepts explained in a way that frankly felt human but several helpful examples were provided to help re-enforce the information. Overall, I think he did an excellent job at delivering the information and gave a great model for how to teach it to students. Something I found interesting from his paper is how he presented his proofs and how easy they were to follow.

Proof that $A \cup [B \cup (A' \cap B')] = I$

Statements :

1. $A \cup [B \cup (A' \cap B')]$
2. $A \cup [(B \cup A') \cap (B \cup B')]$
3. $A \cup [(B \cup A') \cap I]$
4. $A \cup [(B \cap I) \cup (A' \cap I)]$
5. $A \cup [B \cup (A' \cap I)]$
6. $A \cup [B \cup A']$
7. $(A \cup A') \cup B$
8. $I \cup B$
9. I

Reason(s) :

1. **Given.**
2. **Distributive.**
3. **Inverse.**
4. **Distributive.**
5. **Identity.**
6. **Identity.**
7. **Associative.**
8. **Inverse.**
9. **Theorem:** $A \cup [B \cup (A' \cap B')] = I$