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An Investigation of the Laws of Thought: Foundation for Theories of Logic and Probabilities

By George Boole LL D

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*****.The Laws of Thought, more precisely, An Investigation of

the Laws of Thought on Which are Founded the Mathematical

Theories of Logic and Probabilities, was an influential 19th

century book by George Boole, the second of his two

monographs on algebraic logic. It was published in 1854. Boole

was Professor of Mathematics of then Queen s College, Cork in

Ireland. Boole s work founded the discipline of algebraic logic.

It is often, but mistakenly, credited as being the source of what

we know today as Boolean algebra. In fact, however, Boole s

algebra differs from modern Boolean algebra: in Boole s

algebra $A+B$ cannot be interpreted by set union, due to the

permissibility of uninterpretable terms in Boole s calculus.

Therefore algebras on Boole s account cannot be interpreted

by sets under the operations of union, intersection and

complement, as is the case with modern Boolean algebra. The

task of developing the modern account of Boolean algebra fell

to Boole s successors in the tradition of algebraic logic (Jevons

1869, Peirce 1880, Jevons 1890, Schroder...



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Reviews

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