

52 The compound axiom says

$$x:A, B = x:A \vee x:B$$

There are 16 two-operand binary operators that could sit where  $\vee$  sits in this axiom if we just replace bunch union ( $\vee$ ) by a corresponding bunch operator. Which of the 16 two-operand binary operators correspond to useful bunch operators?

After trying the question, scroll down to the solution.

§ What is “useful”? It's not a well-defined question. I suppose any non-degenerate operator is useful (which means it uses both its operands; on the theorem table below, if the comment to the right mentions both  $A$  and  $B$  then the operator is not degenerate). One could argue that the degenerate operators are useful for throwing away information, or that they aren't useful because there is a perfectly good zero-operand or one-operand operator that could be used in their place.

Let  $\neg A$  be the complement of bunch  $A$  (those elements that are not in  $A$ ,  $\neg$  has precedence 2), defined formally by

$$x: \neg A = \neg x: A$$

	TT	T⊥	⊥T	⊥⊥	
	T	T	T	T	$\neg null$ (universal bunch)
∨	T	T	T	⊥	$A, B$
⇐	T	T	⊥	T	$A, \neg B$
	T	T	⊥	⊥	$A$
⇒	T	⊥	T	T	$\neg A, B$
	T	⊥	T	⊥	$B$
=	T	⊥	⊥	T	$A \setminus B, \neg A \setminus B$
∧	T	⊥	⊥	⊥	$A \setminus B$
	⊥	T	T	T	$\neg A, \neg B$
≠	⊥	T	T	⊥	$A \setminus B, \neg A \setminus B$
	⊥	T	⊥	T	$\neg B$
	⊥	T	⊥	⊥	$A \setminus \neg B$
	⊥	⊥	T	T	$\neg A$
	⊥	⊥	T	⊥	$\neg A \setminus B$
	⊥	⊥	⊥	T	$\neg A \setminus \neg B$
	⊥	⊥	⊥	⊥	$null$