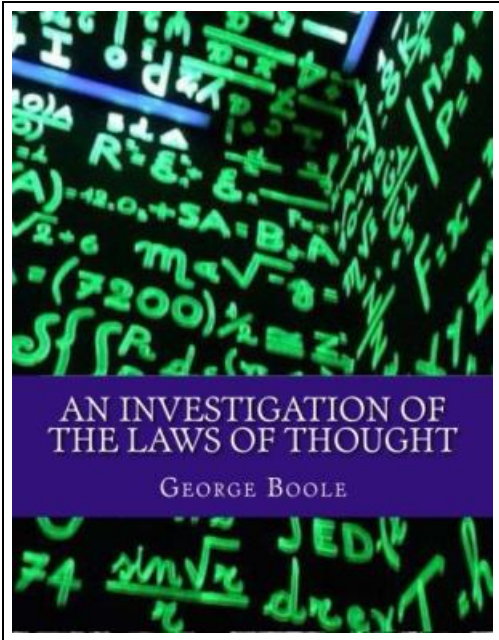# An Investigation of the Laws of Thought: Foundation for Theories of Logic and Probabilities

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AN INVESTIGATION OF THE LAWS OF THOUGHT: FOUNDATION FOR THEORIES OF LOGIC AND PROBABILITIES

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Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 279 x 216 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.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 1890, Huntingdon 1904). In Boole s account of his algebra, terms are reasoned about equationally, without a systematic interpretation being assigned to them. In places, Boole talks of terms being interpreted by sets, but he also recognises terms that cannot always be so interpreted, such as the term 2AB, which arises in equational manipulations. Such terms he classes uninterpretable terms; although elsewhere he has some instances of such terms being interpreted by integers. The coherences of the whole enterprise is justified by Boole in what Stanley Burris has later called the rule of 0s and 1s, which justifies the claim...

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