### How to teach Mathematics to students of CS

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We give some general remarks.

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Logic

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- Logic
- Sets

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- Logic
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# Algebra for Informaticians

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- Algebraic structures
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- Polynomials

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# Algebra for Informaticians

- Algebraic structures
- Numbers
- Polynomials
- Systems of linear equations; determinants, matrices

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- Math courses thought by teachers from the Math Department.

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- Math students are supposed to deepen and develop the basic knowledge through advanced courses, therefore they will remember the basic topics and get familiar with them.
- On the other hand, CS students are supposed to apply and use these topics; they may forget some (or many) definitions, theorems and proofs from these basic courses.

However, what does matter is the *rigor*, *strictness* they learned that is supposed to help their careers and to last a lifetime.

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Therefore, they learn both, semantics and syntax; hence they have *propositional and predicate calculi* as formal theories.

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If a student is confused about the difference between *necessary and sufficient conditions* he/she is likely to misunderstand an *if* ... *then* statement in a program.

A student who is not able to write a one-page proof of a theorem, could hardly pass trough, analyze and debug huge programs, having millions of lines.

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Some experiences

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Examples

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• Switch problem.

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Indexed families of sets  $\longrightarrow$  direct product of a family  $\longrightarrow$  (multi dimensional) sequences  $\longrightarrow$  storing data, tables, matrices etc.

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- What is essentially a complex number (in particular the number i)?
- If practically never we get an irrational number among some data, then why do we need these numbers?
- So you have proved that this is true, but is there also a proof that it is not?
- How could  $0.\overline{99}$  be equal 1, since it is obviously less.

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By recalling knowledge from secondary school (through examples).

By claiming that this will not be difficult.

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- If the theorem has to be proved, first illustrate the proof throughout an example.
- Then present the correct proof.
- Then again the above example.
- Avoid philosophical discussions, relay to practical explanations.

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- Encourage students to **understand** topics, formulations, theorems...
- At the oral exam, do not insist (to much) on formal proofs, require understanding.
- Have permanent contact with colleagues teaching CS subjects.

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### Thank you, that was all!

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