

# Propositional logic<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Slides mainly borrowed from Richard Mayr

# Propositions

## Definition

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The Sun is a star

The Moon is a star

$$1 + 2 = 3$$

$$1 + 2 = 5$$

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The Moon is a star

$$1 + 2 = 3$$

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## Counter-examples

Hello!

What time is it?

$$x + 2 = 3$$

# Axioms

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## Examples

(Euclidean geometry) Given a line  $L$  and a point  $p$ , there exists exactly one line passing through  $p$  and parallel to  $L$

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- Conjunction:  $\wedge$
- Disjunction:  $\vee$
- Implication:  $\rightarrow$
- Biconditional:  $\leftrightarrow$



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The logical connectives can be defined using *truth tables*

# Negation

Let  $P$  denote an arbitrary proposition, the negation “not  $P$ ”, denoted  $\neg P$ , is defined by the following truth table

$P$	$\neg P$
T	F
F	T

# Conjunction

Let  $P$  and  $Q$  denote two arbitrary propositions, the conjunction “ $P$  and  $Q$ ”, denoted  $P \wedge Q$ , is defined by the following truth table

$P$	$Q$	$P \wedge Q$
T	T	T
T	F	F
F	T	F
F	F	F

$P \wedge Q$  is true only when both  $P$  and  $Q$  are true

# Disjunction

Let  $P$  and  $Q$  denote two arbitrary propositions, the disjunction “ $P$  or  $Q$ ”, denoted  $P \vee Q$ , is defined by the following truth table

$P$	$Q$	$P \vee Q$
T	T	T
T	F	T
F	T	T
F	F	F

$P \vee Q$  is false only when both  $P$  and  $Q$  are false

# Implication

Let  $P$  and  $Q$  denote two arbitrary propositions, the implication “ $P$  implies  $Q$ ”, denoted  $P \rightarrow Q$ , is defined by the following truth table

$P$	$Q$	$P \rightarrow Q$
T	T	T
T	F	F
F	T	T
F	F	T

$P \rightarrow Q$  is true when either  $P$  is false or  $Q$  are true

# Implication - examples

$P$	$Q$	$P \rightarrow Q$	
T	T	T	←
T	F	F	
F	T	T	←
F	F	T	

If  $P \neq NP$  then  $\sqrt{2}$  is irrational

# Implication - examples

$P$	$Q$	$P \rightarrow Q$	
T	T	T	
T	F	F	
F	T	T	←
F	F	T	←

If  $\sqrt{2}$  is rational then  $P \neq NP$



# Implication - examples

$P$	$Q$	$P \rightarrow Q$
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F	T	T
F	F	T

←

If  $\sqrt{2}$  is irrational then the moon is a star

# Implication - examples

$P$	$Q$	$P \rightarrow Q$
T	T	T
T	F	F
F	T	T
F	F	T

←

If  $\sqrt{2}$  is rational then the moon is a star

# Biconditional

Let  $P$  and  $Q$  denote two arbitrary propositions, the biconditional “ $P$  if and only if  $Q$ ”, denoted  $P \leftrightarrow Q$ , is defined by the following truth table

$P$	$Q$	$P \leftrightarrow Q$
T	T	T
T	F	F
F	T	F
F	F	T

$P \leftrightarrow Q$  is true when either both  $P$  and  $Q$  are true, or they are both false

# Satisfiability

## Definition

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Example  $P \wedge Q$  is satisfiable

$P$	$Q$	$P \wedge Q$
T	T	T
T	F	F
F	T	F
F	F	F

# Tautology

## Definition

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Example  $P \vee (\neg P)$  is a tautology

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# Contingency

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Example  $P \wedge Q$  is a contingency

$P$	$Q$	$P \wedge Q$
T	T	T
T	F	F
F	T	F
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Two propositions  $P$  and  $Q$  are **logically equivalent**, denote  $P \equiv Q$ , if  $P \leftrightarrow Q$  is a tautology

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$P$		
T		
F		

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T	F	T
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Example:  $P \rightarrow Q \equiv (\neg P) \vee Q$

$P$	$Q$		
T	T		
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T	T	T	F
T	F	F	F
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$P$	$Q$	$P \rightarrow Q$	$\neg P$	$(\neg P) \vee Q$
T	T	T	F	T
T	F	F	F	F
F	F	T	T	T
F	T	T	T	T

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$P$	$Q$	$P \rightarrow Q$	$\neg P$
T	T	T	F
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T	T	T	F	F	T
T	F	F	F	T	F
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$P$	$Q$	$P \rightarrow Q$	$Q \rightarrow P$
T	T	T	T
T	F	F	T
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# More logical equivalences

Domination laws

$$P \vee \mathbf{T} \equiv \mathbf{T}, P \wedge \mathbf{F} \equiv \mathbf{F}$$

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Domination laws       $P \vee \mathbf{T} \equiv \mathbf{T}, P \wedge \mathbf{F} \equiv \mathbf{F}$

Identity laws         $P \wedge \mathbf{T} \equiv P, P \vee \mathbf{F} \equiv P$

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Idempotent laws      $P \wedge P \equiv P, P \vee P \equiv P$



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Commutative laws  $P \vee Q \equiv Q \vee P, P \wedge Q \equiv Q \wedge P$

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Commutative laws  $P \vee Q \equiv Q \vee P, P \wedge Q \equiv Q \wedge P$

Associative laws  $(P \vee Q) \vee R \equiv P \vee (Q \vee R),$   
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 $(P \wedge Q) \wedge R \equiv P \wedge (Q \wedge R)$

Distributive laws  $P \vee (Q \wedge R) \equiv (P \vee Q) \wedge (P \vee R),$   
 $P \wedge (Q \vee R) \equiv (P \wedge Q) \vee (P \wedge R),$

DeMorgan laws  $\neg(P \wedge Q) \equiv (\neg P) \vee (\neg Q)$   
 $\neg(P \vee Q) \equiv (\neg P) \wedge (\neg Q)$

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Similarly, one defines formulas in **disjunctive normal form** (DNF) by swapping the words 'conjunction' and 'disjunction' in the definitions above.

Example:  $((\neg P) \wedge Q \wedge R) \vee ((\neg Q) \wedge (\neg R) \vee (P \wedge R))$

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For every propositional formula one can construct a logically equivalent one in conjunctive normal form.

1. Express all other operators by conjunction, disjunction and negation
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3. Use the commutative, associative and distributive laws to obtain the correct form
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(A similar construction can be done to transform formulas into disjunctive normal form.)



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3. Convert to CNF by associative and distributive laws

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3. Convert to CNF by associative and distributive laws

$$(P \vee ((\neg R) \vee P)) \wedge ((\neg Q) \vee ((\neg R) \vee P))$$

4. Optionally simplify by commutative and idempotent laws

$$(P \vee (\neg R)) \wedge ((\neg Q) \vee ((\neg R) \vee P))$$

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$$(\neg((\neg P) \vee Q)) \vee ((\neg R) \vee P)$$

2. Push negation inwards by De Morgan's laws and double negation

$$(P \wedge (\neg Q)) \vee ((\neg R) \vee P)$$

3. Convert to CNF by associative and distributive laws

$$(P \vee ((\neg R) \vee P)) \wedge ((\neg Q) \vee ((\neg R) \vee P))$$

4. Optionally simplify by commutative and idempotent laws

$$(P \vee (\neg R)) \wedge ((\neg Q) \vee ((\neg R) \vee P))$$

and by commutative and absorption laws

$$(P \vee (\neg R))$$