

## Logic

- A *proposition* is a statement that is either *true* or *false*, but not both.
- Example propositions:
  - $\sqrt{2}$  is an irrational number.
  - $1 < 1$ .
  - Some integers  $x, y, z$  satisfy  $x^3 + y^3 = z^3$ .
  - There are no positive integers  $x, y, z$  such that  $x^4 + y^4 = z^4$ .
- Example non-propositions:
  - What do you mean by that?
  - How pretty!
  - Please give me a call.
  - Barack Obama is an honest president.
  - 23 is an interesting number.
  - $x^2 + 3x - 4 = 0$ .
  - This statement is false.

- A *compound proposition* can be constructed from any propositions  $p, q$  using the *logical connectives*  $\wedge, \vee, \neg, \implies, \iff$ .

Compound Proposition	Formal Sentence	Meaning
conjunction	$p \wedge q$	$p$ and $q$
disjunction	$p \vee q$	$p$ or $q$
negation	$\neg p$	not $p$
implication	$p \implies q$	$p$ implies $q$
biconditional	$p \iff q$	$p$ if and only if $q$

- In the implication  $p \implies q$ , the proposition  $p$  is called *premise* or *hypothesis* or *antecedent*, and the proposition  $q$  is called *conclusion* or *consequence* or *consequent*.
- Truth Tables

...

- These are some of the ways to express the implication " $p \implies q$ " in English.

**if  $p$  then  $q$**

**$p$  implies  $q$**

**$q$  is implied by  $p$**

**$p$  only if  $q$**

**$q$  if  $p$**

**$p$  is sufficient for  $q$**

**$q$  is necessary for  $p$**

**$q$  whenever  $p$**

- These are some of the ways to express the biconditional " $p \iff q$ " in English.

**$p$  if and only if  $q$**

**$p$  is necessary and sufficient for  $q$**

**$q$  is necessary and sufficient for  $p$**

**$p$  implies  $q$  and vice versa**

**if  $p$  then  $q$  and vice versa**

...

- Definitions:
  - An implication is said to be *trivially true* when its conclusion is true.
  - An implication is said to be *vacuously true* when its hypothesis is false.
  - The *converse* of “ $p \implies q$ ” is “ $q \implies p$ .”
  - The *contrapositive* of “ $p \implies q$ ” is “ $\neg q \implies \neg p$ .”
  - Two propositions are *logically equivalent* when they have the same truth value for all possible combinations of the truth values of their constituent propositions.
  - A *tautology* is a proposition that’s always true, eg, “ $p \vee \neg p$ .”
  - A *contradiction* is a proposition that’s always false, eg, “ $p \wedge \neg p$ .”
  - A *contingency* is proposition that’s sometimes true and sometimes false, eg, “ $p \vee p$ .”
- Question: which of these are tautology? contradiction? contingency?

$$p \implies p$$

$$(\neg p) \implies p$$

$$[(p \implies q) \wedge p] \wedge (\neg q)$$

$$[p \vee (p \wedge q)] \implies p$$

$$[p \wedge (p \vee q)] \iff \neg p$$

- Some important logical equivalences

$$p \wedge (q \vee r) \equiv (p \wedge q) \vee (p \wedge r)$$

$$p \vee (q \wedge r) \equiv (p \vee q) \wedge (p \vee r)$$

$$p \wedge T \equiv p$$

$$p \vee F \equiv p$$

$$p \wedge F \equiv F$$

$$p \vee T \equiv T$$

$$\neg(p \wedge q) \equiv (\neg p) \vee (\neg q)$$

$$\neg(p \vee q) \equiv (\neg p) \wedge (\neg q)$$

$$\neg(\neg p) \equiv p$$

$$p \iff q \equiv q \iff p$$

$$p \wedge q \equiv q \wedge p$$

$$p \vee q \equiv q \vee p$$

$$p \implies q \equiv (\neg q) \implies (\neg p)$$

$$p \implies q \equiv (\neg p) \vee q$$

$$\neg(p \implies q) \equiv p \wedge (\neg q)$$

$$(\neg p) \implies F \equiv p$$

$$p \iff q \equiv (p \implies q) \wedge (q \implies p)$$

$$p \iff q \equiv (p \wedge q) \vee (\neg p \wedge \neg q)$$

$$(p \vee q) \implies r \equiv (p \implies r) \wedge (q \implies r)$$

- Non-proposition statements containing variables, the so-called *open sentences*, can be turned into propositions by quantifying the variables.
- The *existential quantifier*  $\exists$  means “at least one.” In English, we can express it like  
there is ... there exists ... some ... for some ...
- The *universal quantifier*  $\forall$  means “all.” Some ways to say it in English are  
all ... for all ... every ... for every ...  
each ... for each ... any ... for any ...
- Question: What do the following English sentences mean?
  - There is a male student in the MCS-236 class.
  - There is a female student in the MCS-236 class.
  - A rational number is not integral.
  - Odd integers are multiples of 3.
  - Some schiffs are fibs.
  - All fibs are fobs.
  - $a + b = b + a$ .
- Exercise: Rewrite all ambiguous sentences above to disambiguate them.

- Here are two common conventions in mathematics writing.
  - Universal quantifiers are routinely omitted when possible.
  - In definition, the word ‘if’ actually means ‘if and only if.’
- Beware of the following.
  - Depending on context, the word ‘one’ could mean ‘at least one’ or ‘exactly one.’ Similarly for ‘two’, ‘there’, . . . , etc.
  - Oftentimes the word ‘a’ should be replaced by ‘any.’

- To negate quantified propositions, use the logical equivalence

$$\neg[\forall x.\varphi(x)] \equiv \exists x.\neg\varphi(x)$$

or the logical equivalence

$$\neg[\exists x.\varphi(x)] \equiv \forall x.\neg\varphi(x)$$

- A sentence of the form  $\forall x \in X.\varphi(x)$  is short for  $\forall x[x \in X \implies \varphi(x)]$ .
- A sentence of the form  $\exists x \in X.\varphi(x)$  is short for  $\exists x[x \in X \wedge \varphi(x)]$ .
- A sentence of the form, “For every element of the nonempty set . . . blah . . .” is always true.
- A sentence of the form, “There exists some element in the nonempty set such that . . . blah . . .” is always false.
- The term *unique* in mathematical writing means “exactly one.”
- The term *distinct* in mathematical writing means “different.”
- The term *write* in mathematical writing often means “let.”
- The phrase *without loss of generality* in mathematical writing has many meanings, as will be demonstrated throughout this course!