



Math for the people, by the people.

truth table

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A *truth table* is a tabular listing of all possible input value combinations for a logical function and their corresponding output values. Similarly, the truth table of a logical proposition is the truth table of the corresponding logical function.

For instance, the truth table of the connective “or” is as follows:

| a | b | $a \vee b$ |
|-----|-----|------------|
| F | F | F |
| F | T | T |
| T | F | T |
| T | T | T |

For n input variables, there will always be 2^n rows in the truth table. A sample truth table for “ $(a \wedge b) \rightarrow c$ ” would be

| a | b | c | $(a \wedge b) \rightarrow c$ |
|-----|-----|-----|------------------------------|
| F | F | F | T |
| F | F | T | F |
| F | T | F | T |
| F | T | T | F |
| T | F | F | T |
| T | F | T | F |
| T | T | F | T |
| T | T | T | T |

(Note that \wedge represents logical and, while \rightarrow represents the conditional truth function).

To compute truth tables of expressions, one often proceeds in steps. for instance, to compute a truth table for “ $\neg p \vee (p \wedge q)$ ”, one might proceed as follows:

| p | q | $\neg p$ | $(p \wedge q)$ | $\neg p \vee (p \wedge q)$ |
|-----|-----|----------|----------------|----------------------------|
| F | F | T | F | T |
| F | T | T | F | T |
| T | F | F | F | F |
| T | T | F | T | T |

For reference, here is a truth table of some popular connectives:

| p | q | $p \vee q$ | $p \wedge q$ | $p \underline{\vee} q$ | $p \rightarrow q$ | $p \leftrightarrow q$ |
|-----|-----|------------|--------------|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| F | F | F | F | F | T | T |
| F | T | T | F | T | T | F |
| T | F | T | F | T | F | F |
| T | T | T | T | F | T | T |

For completeness, here are the remaining connectives, excluding trivial connectives which depend on only one or none of their arguments:

| p | q | $p \not\vee q$ | $p \not\wedge q$ | $p \leftarrow q$ | $p \not\rightarrow q$ | $p \not\leftrightarrow q$ |
|-----|-----|----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| F | F | T | T | T | F | F |
| F | T | T | F | F | F | T |
| T | F | T | F | T | T | F |
| T | T | F | F | T | F | F |