

MC4010 - Discrete Mathematics

The Foundations: Logic and Proofs

T. Mayooran

Department of Inter Disciplinary Studies, Faculty of Engineering, University of Jaffna

2023-02-27

All contents of these slides are agglomerated from recommended reference textbook of this course and the previous year's lecture slides (Which were prepared by Dr P. Kathirgamanathan).

Slides are prepared through [RMarkdown](#) Beamer presentation option and executed via [RStudio](#).

Introduction

- The rules of logic give precise meaning to mathematical statements. These rules are used to distinguish between valid and invalid mathematical arguments.
- Besides the importance of logic in understanding mathematical reasoning, logic has numerous applications to computer science.
- These rules are used in the design of computer circuits, the construction of computer programs, the verification of the correctness of programs, and in many other ways. Furthermore, software systems have been developed for constructing some, but not all, types of proofs automatically.

Proposition

Our discussion begins with an introduction to the basic building blocks of logic—propositions. A proposition is a declarative sentence (that is, a sentence that declares a fact) that is either true or false, but not both.

Examples: All the following declarative sentences are propositions.

- ① Colombo is the capital of the Sri Lanka.
- ② Toronto is the capital of Canada.
- ③ $1 + 1 = 2$.
- ④ $2 + 2 = 3$.

Propositions 1 and 3 are true, whereas 2 and 4 are false.

Proposition

Example: Consider the following sentences.

- ① What time is it?
- ② Read this carefully.
- ③ $x + 1 = 2$.
- ④ $x + y = z$.

Sentences 1 and 2 are not propositions because they are not declarative sentences. Sentences 3 and 4 are not propositions because they are neither true nor false.

Note that each of sentences 3 and 4 can be turned into a proposition if we assign values to the variables.

- We use letters to denote propositional variables (or statement variables), that is, variables that represent propositions, just as letters are used to denote numerical variables.
- The conventional letters used for propositional variables are p, q, r, s, \dots .
- The truth value of a proposition is true, denoted by T , if it is a true proposition, and the truth value of a proposition is false, denoted by F , if it is a false proposition.
- The area of logic that deals with propositions is called the propositional calculus or propositional logic. It was first developed systematically by the Greek philosopher Aristotle more than 2300 years ago.
- Many mathematical statements are constructed by combining one or more propositions. New propositions, called compound propositions, are formed from existing propositions using logical operators.

Definition: 1 (negation)

Let p be a proposition. The negation of p , denoted by $\neg p$ (also denoted by \bar{p}), is the statement “It is not the case that p .” The proposition $\neg p$ is read “not p .” The truth value of the negation of p , $\neg p$, is the opposite of the truth value of p .

Example: Find the negation of the proposition “Michael’s PC runs Linux” and express this in simple English.

Solution: The negation is “It is not the case that Michael’s PC runs Linux.” This negation can be more simply expressed as “Michael’s PC does not run Linux.”

p	$\neg p$
T	F
F	T

Table 1: Truth table for the negation of a proposition p

Table 1 displays the truth table for the negation of a proposition p . This table has a row for each of the two possible truth values of a proposition p . Each row shows the truth value of $\neg p$ corresponding to the truth value of p for this row.

Definition: 2 (conjunction)

Let p and q be propositions. The conjunction of p and q , denoted by $p \wedge q$, is the proposition “ p and q .” The conjunction $p \wedge q$ is true when both p and q are true and is false otherwise.

Table 2 displays the truth table of $p \wedge q$. This table has a row for each of the four possible combinations of truth values of p and q . The four rows correspond to the pairs of truth values TT , TF , FT , and FF , where the first truth value in the pair is the truth value of p and the second truth value is the truth value of q .

Example: Find the conjunction of the propositions p and q where p is the proposition “Rebecca’s PC has more than 16 GB free hard disk space” and q is the proposition “The processor in Rebecca’s PC runs faster than 1 GHz.”

Solution: The conjunction of these propositions, $p \wedge q$, is the proposition “Rebecca’s PC has more than 16 GB free hard disk space, and the processor in Rebecca’s PC runs faster than 1 GHz.” This conjunction can be expressed more simply as “Rebecca’s PC has more than 16 GB free hard disk space, and its processor runs faster than 1 GHz.” For this conjunction to be true, both conditions given must be true. It is false, when one or both of these conditions are false.

p	q	$p \wedge q$
T	T	T
T	F	F
F	T	F
F	F	F

Table 2: The Truth Table for the Conjunction of Two Propositions.

Definition: 3 (disjunction)

Let p and q be propositions. The disjunction of p and q , denoted by $p \vee q$, is the proposition “ p or q .” The disjunction $p \vee q$ is false when both p and q are false and is true otherwise.

Example: What is the disjunction of the propositions p and q where p and q are the same propositions as in Example 5?

Solution: The disjunction of p and q , $p \vee q$, is the proposition “Rebecca’s PC has at least 16 GB free hard disk space, or the processor in Rebecca’s PC runs faster than 1 GHz.” This proposition is true when Rebecca’s PC has at least 16 GB free hard disk space, when the PC’s processor runs faster than 1 GHz, and when both conditions are true.

It is false when both of these conditions are false, that is, when Rebecca’s PC has less than 16 GB free hard disk space and the processor in her PC runs at 1 GHz or slower.

p	q	$p \vee q$
T	T	T
T	F	T
F	T	T
F	F	F

Table 3: The Truth Table for the Disjunction of Two Propositions.

Definition: 4 (exclusive or)

Let p and q be propositions. The exclusive or of p and q , denoted by $p \oplus q$, is the proposition that is true when exactly one of p and q is true and is false otherwise.

The truth table for the exclusive or of two propositions is displayed in Table 4.

p	q	$p \oplus q$
T	T	F
T	F	T
F	T	T
F	F	F

Table 4: The Truth Table for the Exclusive Or of Two Propositions.

Conditional Statements

Definition: 5 (conditional statement) Let p and q be propositions. The conditional statement $p \rightarrow q$ is the proposition “if p , then q .” The conditional statement $p \rightarrow q$ is false when p is true and q is false, and true otherwise. In the conditional statement $p \rightarrow q$, p is called the hypothesis (or antecedent or premise) and q is called the conclusion (or consequence).

The statement $p \rightarrow q$ is called a conditional statement because $p \rightarrow q$ asserts that q is true on the condition that p holds. A conditional statement is also called an implication.

The truth table for the conditional statement $p \rightarrow q$ is shown in Table 5. Note that the statement $p \rightarrow q$ is true when both p and q are true and when p is false (no matter what truth value q has).

p	q	$p \rightarrow q$
T	T	T
T	F	F
F	T	T
F	F	T

Table 5: The Truth Table for the Conditional Statement $p \rightarrow q$.

A useful way to understand the truth value of a conditional statement is to think of an obligation or a contract.

For example, the pledge many politicians make when running for office is "If I am elected, then I will lower taxes."

If the politician is elected, voters would expect this politician to lower taxes. Furthermore, if the politician is not elected, then voters will not have any expectation that this person will lower taxes, although the person may have sufficient influence to cause those in power to lower taxes.

It is only when the politician is elected but does not lower taxes that voters can say that the politician has broken the campaign pledge. This last scenario corresponds to the case when p is true but q is false in $p \rightarrow q$.

Example: Let p be the statement “Maria learns discrete mathematics” and q the statement “Maria will find a good job.” Express the statement $p \rightarrow q$ as a statement in English.

Solution: From the definition of conditional statements, we see that when p is the statement “Maria learns discrete mathematics” and q is the statement “Maria will find a good job,” $p \rightarrow q$ represents the statement

“If Maria learns discrete mathematics, then she will find a good job.”

There are many other ways to express this conditional statement in English. Among the most natural of these are:

- “Maria will find a good job when she learns discrete mathematics.”
- “For Maria to get a good job, it is sufficient for her to learn discrete mathematics.”
- “Maria will find a good job unless she does not learn discrete mathematics.”

Definition: 6 (biconditional statement) Let p and q be propositions. The biconditional statement $p \leftrightarrow q$ is the proposition “ p if and only if q .” The biconditional statement $p \leftrightarrow q$ is true when p and q have the same truth values, and is false otherwise. Biconditional statements are also called bi-implications.

The truth table for $p \leftrightarrow q$ is shown in Table 6. Note that the statement $p \leftrightarrow q$ is true when both the conditional statements $p \rightarrow q$ and $q \rightarrow p$ are true and is false otherwise. That is why we use the words “if and only if” to express this logical connective and why it is symbolically written by combining the symbols \rightarrow and \leftarrow . There are some other common ways to express $p \leftrightarrow q$:

- “ p is necessary and sufficient for q ”
- “if p then q , and conversely”
- “ p iff q .”

The last way of expressing the biconditional statement $p \leftrightarrow q$ uses the abbreviation “iff” for “if and only if.” Note that $p \leftrightarrow q$ has exactly the same truth value as $(p \rightarrow q) \wedge (q \rightarrow p)$.

Compound Propositions

We have now introduced four important logical connectives—conjunctions, disjunctions, conditional statements, and biconditional statements—as well as negations.

We can use these connectives to build up complicated compound propositions involving any number of propositional variables. We can use truth tables to determine the truth values of these compound propositions

We use a separate column to find the truth value of each compound expression that occurs in the compound proposition as it is built up.

The truth values of the compound proposition for each combination of truth values of the propositional variables in it is found in the final column of the table.

Example

Construct the truth table of the compound proposition $(p \vee \neg q) \rightarrow (p \wedge q)$.

Example

Consider the following propositions:

p : Mathematicians are generous.

q : Spiders hate algebra.

Write the compound propositions symbolized by:

① $p \vee \neg q$

② $\neg(q \wedge p)$

③ $\neg p \rightarrow q$

④ $\neg p \leftrightarrow \neg q$

Solutions

- ① Mathematicians are generous or spiders don't hate algebra (or both)
- ② It is not the case that spiders hate algebra and mathematicians are generous.
- ③ If mathematicians are not generous then spiders hate algebra.
- ④ Mathematicians are not generous if and only if spiders don't hate algebra.

Example

Let p be the proposition “Today is Monday” and q be “I will go to London”. Write the following propositions symbolically.

- ① If today is Monday then I won't go to London.
- ② Today is Monday or I will go to London, but not both.
- ③ I will go to London and today is not Monday.
- ④ If and only if today is not Monday then I will go to London.

Solutions

① $p \rightarrow \neg q$

② $p \oplus q$

③ $q \wedge \neg p$

④ $\neg p \leftrightarrow q$

Exercise

Construct truth tables for the following compound propositions.

① $\neg p \vee q$

② $\neg p \wedge \neg q$

③ $\neg q \rightarrow p$

④ $\neg p \leftrightarrow \neg q$

⑤ $(p \vee q) \rightarrow (p \wedge q)$

⑥ $(p \rightarrow q) \oplus \neg q$

⑦ $\neg p \leftrightarrow (p \wedge q)$

Will be updated soon

Don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about this course's teaching contents.

Also don't forget to check out the course page and Microsoft Team folder,

- course page <https://mayooran1987.github.io/MC4010/>
- Microsoft Team folder [link](#)

