

Foundations of Mathematical Logic

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Introduction

Logic is the base of any scientific theory or law. Mathematics, too, has very strong roots in reasoning. In these handouts, we will be exploring about how things are established in mathematics on the basis of logic and reasoning. We will start from the foundations.

1 Propositions

A declarative sentence which is either true or false, is called a proposition. A proposition is a sentence about which we can decide if it is true or false. For example:

- i. Karachi is the capital of Pakistan.
- ii. Cat is a mammal.
- iii. I have not visited Norway.
- iv. $2 + 3 = 5$
- v. $17 > 60$

In the above sentences, you can see that (i) and (v) are false whereas, (ii) and (iv) are true. So these are propositions. What about (iii)? How can we know whether it is true or false? In fact, at the time this statement is made, we will know about its being true or false. If a person has visited Norway and he makes this statement, we will know that this statement is false. In the other case, if the person to say this never visited Norway, this sentence will be true.

The following sentences are not proposition.

- i. Where are you going?
- ii. Please, do not go to Harry's saloon.
- iii. Read this document carefully.
- iv. $x \neq 9$

Sentence (i) is a question. So, it is not about being true or false. Sentences (ii) and (iii) are instructions. Sentence (iv) is also not proposition as we do not know the value of x , even at the time of making this statement. We cannot decide about it unless we know the value of x . However, we can change it into a proposition by replacing x with some number. For example, if we replace x with 6, then this sentence will be false.

1.1 Truth Value of A Propostion

Consider these two propositions.

- i. Canada is an Asian country.
- ii. $5 + 8 > 10$

As expected, one of them, (ii), is true and the other, (i), is fasle. *Being true or false of a proposition is called its truth value.* A propositon which is true has the truth value *true*, and *false* otherwise. Th truth values *true* and *false* are represented by T and F , respectively. In the above sentences, the truth value of (i) is *false* or F , and truth value of (ii) is *true* or T .