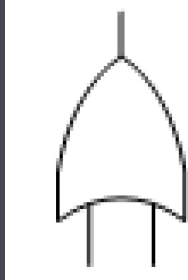




# Introduction to Mathematics for Computing

Logic I

# Logic I



Introduction  
Mathematical Statements  
Logic Operations and Truth Tables  
Summary

# Introduction

- ▶ Syllogism
- ▶ Let's consider some statements

**All NCI students are human**

**All humans are mortal**

**Can we reach a conclusion  
regarding the mortality of  
NCI students?**



Aristotle (384BC – 322BC)

Aristotle defines the **syllogism** as, "...a discourse in which certain (specific) things having been supposed, something different from the things supposed results of necessity because these things are so."  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syllogism>

# Introduction

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- ▶ Syllogism

- ▶ We are given two statements which we refer to as **premises**

**All NCI students are human**

*Premise*

**All humans are mortal**

*Premise*

**All NCI students are mortal**

*Conclusion*

# Introduction

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- ▶ Syllogism

- ▶ Consider the following premises

**All elephants are yellow**

*Premise*

**All yellow objects are  
capable of flying**

*Premise*

**All elephants are capable of  
flying**

*Conclusion*

# Introduction

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- ▶ Syllogism
- ▶ Consider the following premises

<b>Some elephants are grey</b>	<i>Premise</i>
<b>Some grey objects are capable of flying</b>	<i>Premise</i>
<b>Some elephants are capable of flying</b>	<i>Conclusion</i>

# Mathematical Statements

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- ▶ Propositional Logic
  - ▶ A lot of mathematics involves formulating statements about mathematical objects (numbers, lines, sets, relations functions etc.) and then determining whether or not those statements are **true** or **false**.
  - ▶ So it is important that we have some idea of what constitutes a mathematical statement ...

We will begin by considering the idea of a **proposition**

# Mathematical Statements

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- ▶ Propositional Logic
  - ▶ We can think of a **proposition** as being a statement which is either true or false (but not both)
  - ▶ Propositions are the fundamental objects in propositional logic

**Definition:** A *proposition* is a sentence that is either true or false but not both. The *truth value* is the value of the proposition (i.e., whichever of these is the case – either true or false).



# Mathematical Statements

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- Propositional Logic

- Consider the following:

- i)  $4 + 5 = 9$

- ii)  $8 + 5 = 56$

- iii) Today is Monday

- iv) Dublin is the capital city of Norway

- v) 29 is a prime number

- vi) Every integer greater than 2 may be written as the sum of two prime numbers

- vii)  $n$  is a prime number

- viii)  $\pi$  is a strange number

See Wikipedia entry on the [Goldbach Conjecture](#)



# Logical Operations and Truth Tables

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## ► Logical Operations

- We will typically encounter mathematical statements that are built up out of simpler statements
- The simpler statements are joined together using ***logical operators***
- The truth or falsehood of a mathematical statement will be dependent on the truth or falsehood of the component statements and the way in which the component statements are joined together using the logical operators

**Note:** logical operators are also referred to as ***logical connectives***

# Logical Operations and Truth Tables

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- ▶ Logical Operators
- ▶ We will consider 3 logical operators

**AND**

**OR**

**NOT**



Boole, G., 1854, *An Investigation of the Laws of Thought on Which are Founded the Mathematical Theories of Logic and Probabilities.*

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boole>

# Logical Operations and Truth Tables

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- ▶ An *Algebra of Logic*
- ▶ In mathematics we typically use the letters  $x, y, z$  to denote variables that can be replaced by real numbers. These variables can be combined using the operators  $+$ ,  $-$ ,  $\times$ ,  $\div$ ,  $=$ .
- ▶ In logic, we call a sentence a proposition if it is unambiguously true or false. A propositional variable is simply a variable name that stands for a proposition. The letters  $p, q, r$  are typically used to denote propositional variables.

**Definition:** Any propositional variable alone is a *formal proposition*.

# Logical Operations and Truth Tables

- ▶ An *Algebra of Logic*

- ▶ Example:

Let  $p$  denote the statement “Today is Monday”.

Let  $q$  denote the statement “It is raining”.

Both  $p$  and  $q$  are formal propositions.

They can be combined using *logical connectives* to form compound statements.

We write propositions as follows:

$p$ :      Today is Monday

$q$ :      It is raining

# Logical Operations and Truth Tables

- ▶ AND
- ▶ We use the **and** logical connective when we want to assert that two statements are both true
- ▶ Example:

We assert that  
or in symbols  
then this means that

*The value of  $\pi$  is between 3 and 4*

$3 < \pi < 4$

$\pi > 3$  **and**  $\pi < 4$

This is called the *conjunction* of the two statements " $\pi > 3$ " and " $\pi < 4$ "

# Logical Operations and Truth Tables

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- ▶ AND
- ▶ We use the symbol  $\wedge$  for the **and** logical connective

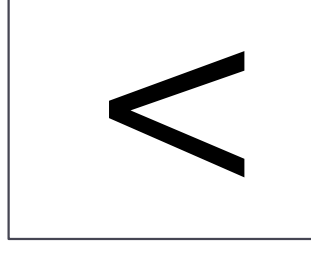
**Definition:** Given formal propositions  $p$  and  $q$ , the compound statement  $p \wedge q$  is a formal proposition known as the *conjunction* and is read as “***p* and *q***”.

$\wedge$

# Logical Operations and Truth Tables

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- ▶ Truth Table for AND
  - ▶ Given any two propositions  $p$  and  $q$  each has two possible truth values
  - ▶ Taken together there are then 4 possible combinations of truth values for  $p$  and  $q$
  - ▶ For each specific combination of truth values for  $p$  and  $q$  we can specify the truth value associated with  $p \wedge q$
  - ▶ We can create a **truth table** specifying the 4 combinations of truth values for  $p$  and  $q$  and the associated truth value for  $p \wedge q$





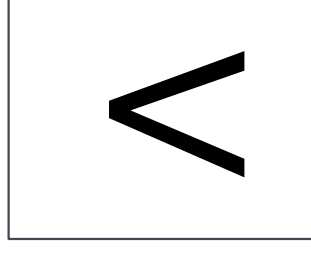
# Logical Operations and Truth Tables

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- ▶ Truth Table for AND

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

Truth Table for Conjunction



# Logical Operations and Truth Tables

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## ► OR

- We use the **or** logical connective when we want to assert either of two statements are true or both statements are true. This is called the **inclusive** use of ‘or’.

## ► Example:

Consider the statement      $a = 0$  **or**  $b = 0$

Then the statement is true if  $a = 0$  (regardless of the value of  $b$ ) and is also true if  $b = 0$  (regardless of the value of  $a$ ).

The statement is also true if both  $a = 0$  and  $b = 0$  are true.

This is called the **disjunction** of the two statements “ $a = 0$ ” and “ $b = 0$ ”

# Logical Operations and Truth Tables

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- ▶ OR
- ▶ We use the symbol  $\vee$  for the **or** logical connective

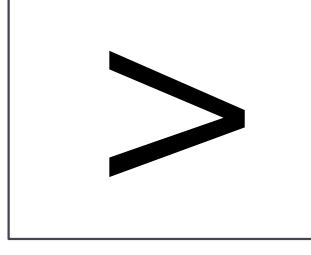
**Definition:** Given formal propositions  $p$  and  $q$ , the compound statement  $p \vee q$  is a formal proposition known as the *disjunction* and is read as “ $p$  or  $q$ ”.

$\vee$

# Logical Operations and Truth Tables

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- ▶ Truth Table for OR
- ▶ We can create a **truth table** specifying the 4 combinations of truth values for  $p$  and  $q$  and the associated truth value for  $p \vee q$

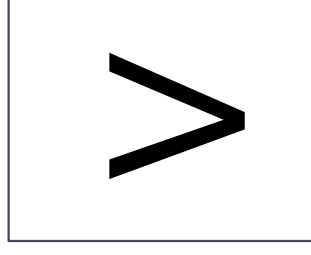


# Logical Operations and Truth Tables

- ▶ Truth Table for OR

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

Truth Table for Disjunction



# Logical Operations and Truth Tables

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## ► NOT

- The **not** logical connective is used when we wish to **negate** a proposition.
- The negation of a proposition is true when the original proposition is false and it is false when the original proposition is true.

## ► Example:

Consider the statement       $a \neq 0$

Then the statement is true if  $a = 0$  is false.

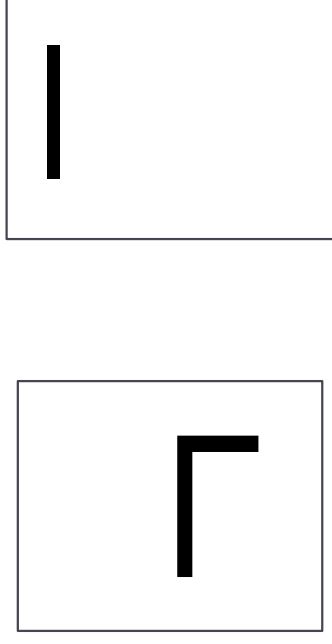
This is called the **negation** of the statement “ $a = 0$ ”

# Logical Operations and Truth Tables

## ► NOT

- We use either the symbol  $\neg$  or the over-bar symbol  $\bar{\phantom{x}}$  for the **not** logical connective



**Definition:** Given the formal proposition  $p$ , the compound statement  $\bar{p}$  is a formal proposition known as the *negation* of  $p$  and is read as “*not p*”.



# Logical Operations and Truth Tables

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- ▶ Truth Table for NOT
- ▶ We can create a **truth table** specifying the truth values for  $p$  and the associated truth value for  $\bar{p}$

	
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# Logical Operations and Truth Tables

- ▶ Truth Table for NOT

$p$	$\bar{p}$
<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>

Truth Table for Negation



# Summary

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- ▶ Logic
- ▶ Mathematical Statements
- ▶ Logical Connectives
- ▶ Truth Tables



## Bonus Example

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- ▶ The following example is an application of propositional logic (via Boolean Satisfiability) to a real-world problem.
- ▶ This will NOT be on the exam.

# Boolean Satisfiability (SAT)

- ▶ [Video: Boolean Satisfiability Problem](#)
- ▶ ALL variables are binary – TRUE or FALSE
- ▶  $x_i \in \{True, False\}$   
Three operators – NOT (negation  $\neg$ ), AND (or conjunction  $\wedge$ ), OR (or disjunction  $\vee$ )  
$$\neg x_1$$
$$x_1 \wedge x_2$$
$$x_1 \vee x_2$$
- ▶ A clause is a combination of variables with operators:  
$$(\neg x_1 \wedge x_2) \vee (x_1 \wedge \neg x_2)$$

We need an assignment to the variables that satisfies this clause:

# SAT Example – Class Scheduling

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We need to schedule three classes...:

Maths (M), English (E), and Science (S)

...into two available time slots:

Morning (AM) and Afternoon (PM).

## Define 3 Boolean variables:

- *M*: Maths is scheduled in the morning (**true**) or afternoon (**false**)
- *E*: English is scheduled in the morning (**true**) or afternoon (**false**)
- *S*: Science is scheduled in the morning (**true**) or afternoon (**false**)

# SAT Example – Class Scheduling

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## Constraints:

1. Only two classes can be in the morning, (i.e. at least one class must be in the afternoon):

$$\neg M \vee \neg E \vee \neg S$$

2. Maths and English cannot be at the same time.  
 $(M \vee E) \wedge (\neg M \vee \neg E)$

3. Science must be in the morning.  $S$

**Solving using a SAT solver or algorithm gives the possible solution:**

- ▶  $M = \text{True}$  (morning)
- ▶  $E = \text{False}$  (afternoon)
- ▶  $S = \text{True}$  (morning)

Class	Morning	Afternoon
Maths	X	
English		X
Science	X	

- This assignment satisfies all constraints.

# SAT Applications

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1. Cryptography:
  - ▶ Used to analyze and break cryptographic algorithms by encoding them as SAT problems.
  - ▶ Helps in detecting weaknesses in hash functions and ciphers.
2. Artificial Intelligence & Planning
  - ▶ Solves planning problems by encoding action sequences as logic constraints.
  - ▶ Used in automated reasoning and knowledge representation.
3. Hardware & Software Verification
  - ▶ Checks circuit correctness by verifying logic gates and states.
  - ▶ Finds software bugs through symbolic execution and constraint checking.
4. Scheduling & Timetabling
  - ▶ Assigns tasks to time slots/resources under constraints (e.g., exams, jobs).
  - ▶ Ensures feasible, conflict-free schedules using logical constraints.