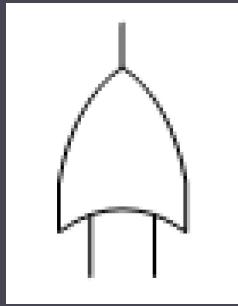


Introduction to Mathematics for Computing



Logic I

Logic I



- Introduction
- Mathematical Statements
- Logic Operations and Truth Tables
- Summary

Introduction

► Sylllogism

- 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

► Sylllogism

- 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

► Sylllogism

► 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

► Sylllogism

► Consider the following premises

Some elephants are grey

Premise

**Some grey objects are
capable of flying**

Premise

**Some elephants are capable
of flying**

Conclusion

Mathematical Statements

▶ 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

- ▶ 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

► 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) π is a strange number

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

Logical Operations and Truth Tables

► 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

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



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>

AND

OR

NOT

Logical Operations and Truth Tables

► 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

The value of π is between 3 and 4

or in symbols
 $3 < \pi < 4$

then this means that
 $\pi > 3$ and $\pi < 4$

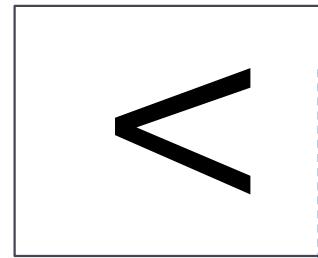
This is called the *conjunction* of the two statements “ $\pi > 3$ ” and “ $\pi < 4$ ”

Logical Operations and Truth Tables

► AND

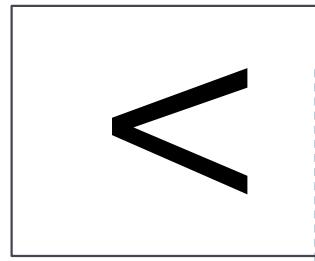
- We use the symbol \wedge for the **and** logical connective

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 ”.



Logical Operations and Truth Tables

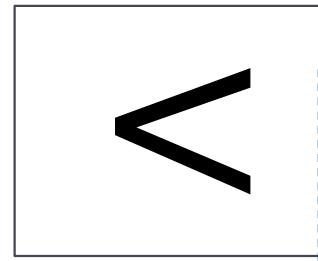
- ▶ Truth Table for AND
- ▶ Given any two propositions p and q each has two possible truth values
- ▶ Taken together there are then 4 possible combinations of truth values for p and q
- ▶ For each specific combination of truth values for p and q we can specify the truth value associated with $p \wedge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

► 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

- ▶ 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 $a = 0 \text{ or } b = 0$

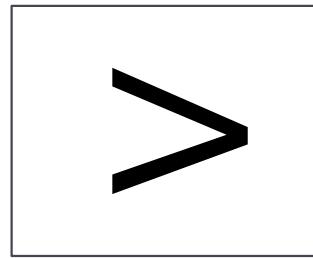
Then the statement is true if $a = 0$ (regardless of the value of b) and is also true if $b = 0$ (regardless of the value of a).

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

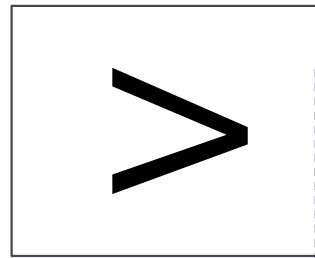
- ▶ OR
- ▶ We use the symbol \vee for the **or** logical connective

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 ”.



Logical Operations and Truth Tables

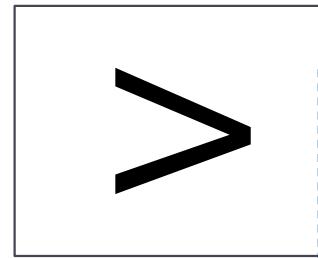
- ▶ Truth Table for OR
 - ▶ We can create a **truth table** specifying the 4 combinations of truth values for p and q and the associated truth value for $p \vee q$



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

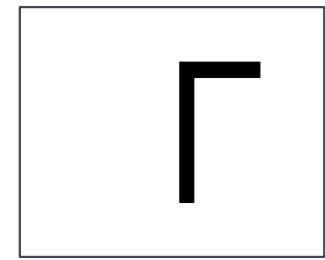
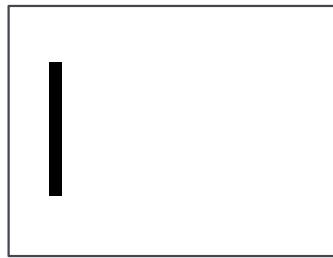
Logical Operations and Truth Tables

- ▶ 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

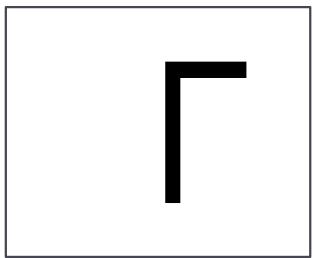
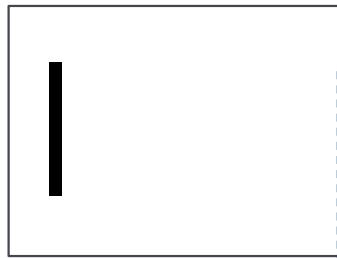
- ▶ NOT
 - ▶ We use either the symbol \neg or the over-bar symbol $\bar{}$ for the **not** logical connective

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

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

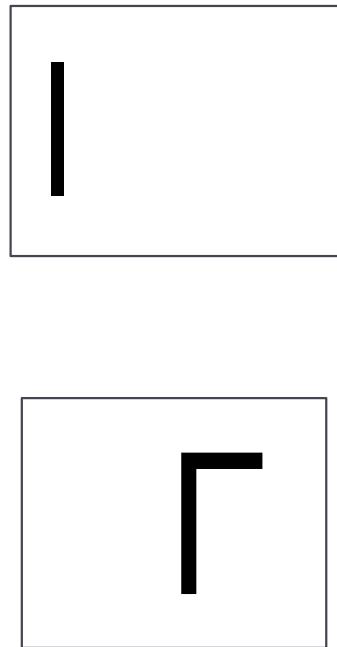


Logical Operations and Truth Tables

- ▶ Truth Table for NOT

p	\bar{p}
T	F
F	T

Truth Table for Negation



Summary

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



Bonus Example

- ▶ 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

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

Constraints:

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

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

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

- Science must be in the morning.

S

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

- $M = True$ (morning)
- $E = False$ (afternoon)
- $S = True$ (morning)

Class	Morning	Afternoon
Maths	X	
English		X
Science	X	

- ▶ This assignment satisfies all constraints.

SAT Applications

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.