



# Discrete Mathematics

## Topic 01 — Logic

### Lecture 01 — Introduction to Propositional Logic

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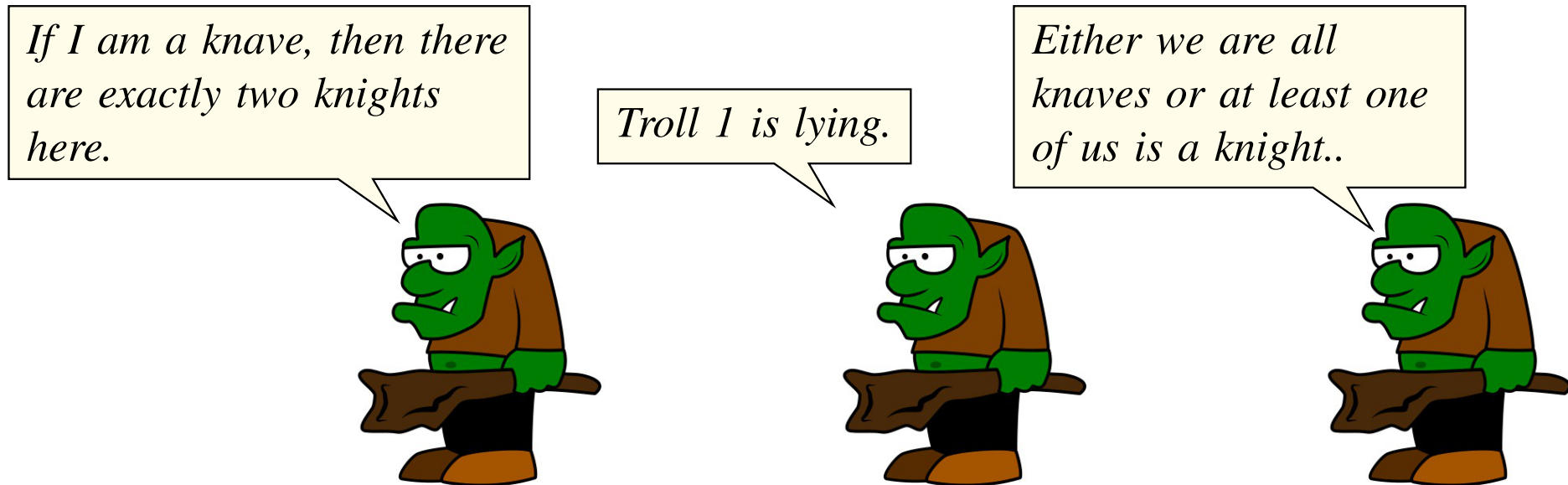
Autumn Semester, 2022

#### Outline

- Propositions and fundamental logical operators (AND, OR and NOT).
- Evaluating logical expression using truth tables.
- Satisfiability, Tautologies and Contradictions.

## Thought for the day ...

While walking through a fictional forest, you encounter three identical trolls guarding a bridge. Each troll is either a knight, who always tells the truth, or a knave, who always lies. The trolls will not let you pass until you correctly identify each as either a knight or a knave. Each troll makes a single statement:



Which troll are knights? and which are knaves?

# Outline

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1. Introduction 3
  - Propositional logic is concerned with analysing propositions (true or false statements).
  - A proposition may be atomic or compound (build up using logical connectives).
  - Constructing compound propositions using *And*, *Or* and *Not*.
2. Truth tables 13
  - Evaluating an expression for all possible input combinations.
3. Tautologies and Contradictions 21
  - Statements that are always true or always false.

# Logic

Logic is “science of reasoning”

- Allows us to represent knowledge in precise, unambiguous way.
- Allows us to make valid inferences using a set of consistent rules.
- Roots of logic date back to the ancient Greeks, e.g., Aristotle.
- Greeks were interested in valid logical inference rules, such as syllogisms:

*“All men are mortal.*

*Socrates is a man.*

*Therefore, Socrates is mortal.”*



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*The Partially Examined Life* podcast: [www.partiallyexaminedlife.com](http://www.partiallyexaminedlife.com)

*The Fallacy-a-Day Podcast*: <http://fallacyaday.com>

# Propositional Logic

## I

- The building blocks of propositional logic are propositions

## Definition 1 (Proposition)

A **proposition** (**statement**) is a sentence that is either **True** or **False**.

- Examples:

*“Java is a programming language.”*

**True**

*“Cork is the capital of Ireland.”*

**False**

*“ $1 + 2 = 3$ ”*

**True**

*“Today is Tuesday.”*

depends

*“The universe is fine-tuned.”*

unknown (at present)

- Examples of sentences that are not propositions/statements:

- *“How are you?”* — A question cannot be assign a **True/False** value.
- *“Stop sleeping in class!”* — An order cannot be assign a **True/False** value.
- *“Correct horse battery staple.”* — Not a sentence.
- *“This sentence is false.”* — Pathological example.

# Propositional Variables, Truth Value

Given a proposition we are interested in knowing its **truth value**.

## Definition 2 (Truth Value)

The **truth value** of a proposition identifies whether a proposition is true (written **True** or **T** or 1) or false (written **False** or **F** or 0)

### Question

What is truth value of “*Tuesday in the day after Sunday*” ?

**F**

### Notation

- Variables that represent propositions are called propositional variables.
- Denote propositional variables using lower-case letters, such as  $p$ ,  $p_1$ ,  $p_2$ ,  $q$ ,  $r$ ,  $s$ ,  $\dots$
- Truth value of a propositional variable is either **T** or **F**.

# Compound vs Atomic Propositions

- Propositional logic allows constructing more complex propositions from atomic ones.
- More complex propositions formed using **logical connectives** (also called **boolean connectives** or **logical operators**).
- The three basic logical connectives:

Connective	Symbol	Python
conjunction (AND)	$\wedge$	<b>and</b>
disjunction (OR)	$\vee$	<b>or</b>
negation (NOT)	$\neg$	<b>not</b>

- Propositions formed using these logical connectives called **compound propositions**; otherwise called **atomic propositions**.

Today is wet and I am hungry

atomic                      atomic

compound

# Exercise

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Classify each of the sentences below as an atomic statement, a compound statement, or not a statement at all.

- ① The sum of the first 100 odd positive integers.
- ② Everybody needs somebody sometime.
- ③ Waterford will win the All-Ireland or I'll eat my hat.
- ④ Go to your room!
- ⑤ Every natural number greater than 1 is either prime or composite.
- ⑥ This sentence is false.



# Negation (NOT)

- **Negation** of a proposition,  $p$ , written,  $\neg p$ , represents the proposition:  
*“It is not the case that  $p$ .”*

- What is the relationship between the truth value of  $p$  and  $\neg p$ ?

If  $p$  is **T**, then  $\neg p$  is **F** and vice versa.

- In simple English, what is  $\neg p$  if  $p$  stands for ...

$p$	$\neg p$
$\frac{p}{\text{“Today is Tuesday.”}}$ $\text{“}1 + 1 = 2\text{”}$	$\frac{\neg p}{\text{“Today is not Tuesday.”}}$ $\text{“}1 + 1 \neq 2\text{”}$

- Properties of NOT

- $\neg \neg p = p$

# Conjunction (AND)

- **Conjunction** of two propositions,  $p$  and  $q$ , written as  $p \wedge q$ , is the proposition:

“ $p$  and  $q$ ”

- What is the relationship between the truth value of  $p$  and of  $q$  and the truth value of  $p \wedge q$ ?

$$p \wedge q = \begin{cases} \mathbf{T} & \text{if both } p \text{ is } \mathbf{T} \text{ and } q \text{ is } \mathbf{T} \\ \mathbf{F} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

## Example

What is the conjunction and the truth value of  $p \wedge q$  for ...

- $p = \text{“It is a autumn semester”}$ ,  $q = \text{“Today is Thursday”}$
- $p = \text{“It is Tuesday”}$ ,  $q = \text{“It is morning”}$

# Disjunction (OR)

- **Disjunction** of two propositions,  $p$  and  $q$ , written as  $p \vee q$ , is the proposition

“ $p$  or  $q$ ”

- What is the relationship between the truth value of  $p$  and of  $q$  and the truth value of  $p \vee q$ ?

$$p \vee q = \begin{cases} \mathbf{T} & \text{if either } p \text{ is } \mathbf{T} \text{ or } q \text{ is } \mathbf{T}, \text{ or both are } \mathbf{T} \\ \mathbf{F} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

## Example

What is the disjunction and the truth value of  $p \vee q$  for ...

- $p = \text{“It is a autumn semester”}$ ,  $q = \text{“Today is Thursday”}$
- $p = \text{“It is Friday”}$ ,  $q = \text{“It is morning”}$

# Python Implementation

# I

Python supports the fundamental logical connectives (programmers call them “logical operators”)

Logical Connective	Math	Python Operator
conjunction (AND)	$\wedge$	<b>and</b>
disjunction (OR)	$\vee$	<b>or</b>
negation (NOT)	$\neg$	<b>not</b>

# Outline

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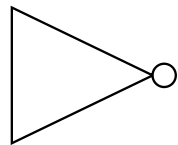
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# Propositional Formulas and Truth Tables

- A **propositional formula** is logical expression constructed from atomic and compound propositions and logical connectives.
- A **truth table** for a propositional formula,  $A$ , shows the truth value of  $A$  for every possible value of its constituent atomic propositions.

Negation

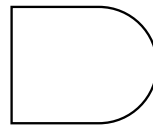
$p$	$\neg p$
<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>



NOT

Conjunction

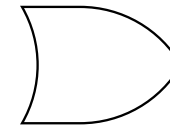
$p$	$q$	$p \wedge q$
<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>



AND

Disjunction

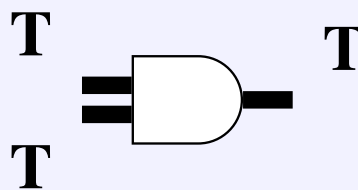
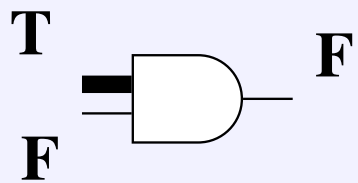
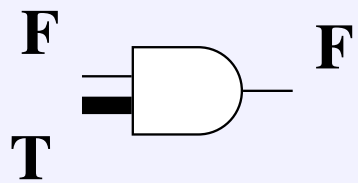
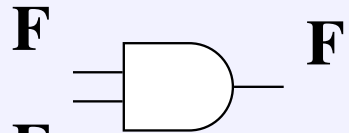
$p$	$q$	$p \vee q$
<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>



OR

# Truth tables and Logic Gates

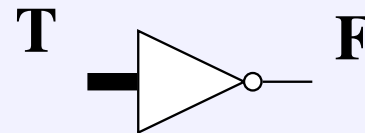
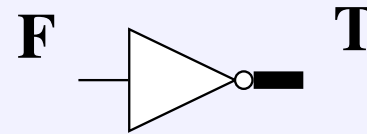
## AND



$p$	$\neg p$
<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>

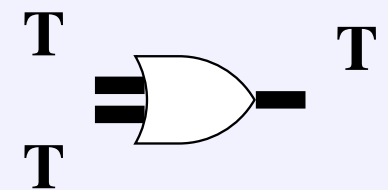
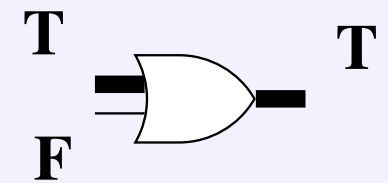
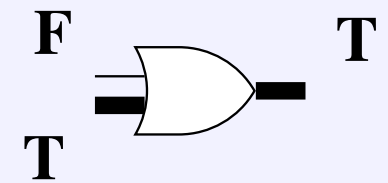
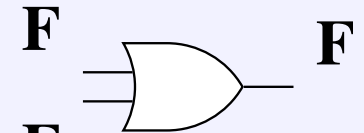
$p$	$q$	$p \wedge q$
<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>

## NOT



$p$	$q$	$p \vee q$
<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>

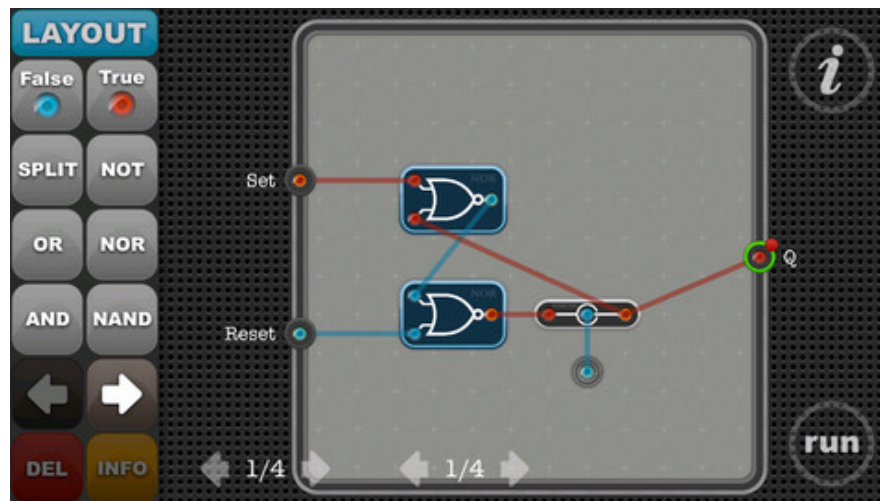
## OR



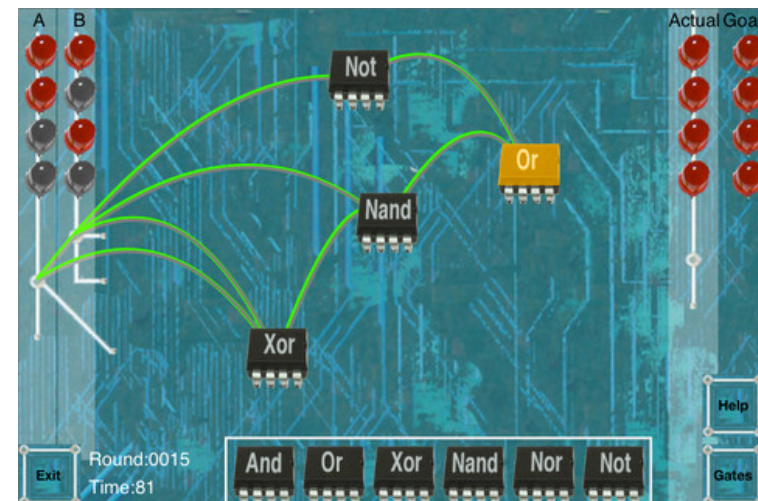
# Other Resources

iPad/iPhone Apps (assume similar on Android)

Circuit Coder



Boolean Master



## Videos

- <https://class.coursera.org/cs101/lecture/17>  
Part of the Computer Science 101 by Nick Parlante on coursera.



# Constructing Truth Tables

Useful strategy for constructing truth tables for a formula:

- STEP 1** Identify the constituent atomic propositions of the formula.
- STEP 2** Identify compound propositions in within the formula in increasing order of complexity, including the formula itself.
- STEP 3** Construct a table enumerating all combinations of truth values for atomic propositions.
- STEP 4** Fill in values of compound propositions for each row.

## Examples

Construct truth tables for the following formulas:

- 1  $(p \vee q) \wedge \neg p$
- 2  $(p \wedge q) \vee (\neg p \wedge \neg q)$
- 3  $(p \vee q \vee \neg r) \wedge r$

# Example 1: $(p \vee q) \wedge \neg p$

- STEP 1** Identify the constituent atomic propositions ...  $p$  and  $q$
- STEP 2** Identify compound propositions ...
- STEP 3** Enumerate all combinations of truth values for atomic propositions ...
- STEP 4** Fill in values of compound propositions for each row ...

$p$	$q$	$p \vee q$	$\neg p$	$(p \vee q) \wedge \neg p$
<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>

## Example 2: $(p \wedge q) \vee (\neg p \wedge \neg q)$

- STEP 1** Identify the constituent atomic propositions ...  $p$  and  $q$
- STEP 2** Identify compound propositions ...
- STEP 3** Enumerate all combinations of truth values for atomic propositions ...
- STEP 4** Fill in values of compound propositions for each row ...

$p$	$q$	$(p \wedge q)$	$\neg p$	$\neg q$	$(\neg p \wedge \neg q)$	$(p \wedge q) \vee (\neg p \wedge \neg q)$
<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>

### Example 3: $(p \vee q \vee \neg r) \wedge r$

- STEP 1** Identify the constituent atomic propositions ...  $p$ ,  $q$ , and  $r$
- STEP 2** Identify compound propositions ...
- STEP 3** Enumerate all combinations of truth values for atomic propositions ...
- STEP 4** Fill in values of compound propositions for each row ...

$p$	$q$	$r$	$\neg r$	$(p \vee q \vee \neg r)$	$(p \vee q \vee \neg r) \wedge r$
<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>

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# Introduction to Propositional Logic — Summary

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- |   |    |
|---|----|
| 1. Introduction   | 3  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Propositional logic is concerned with analysing propositions (true or false statements).</li><li>• A proposition may be atomic or compound (build up using logical connectives).</li><li>• Constructing compound propositions using <i>And</i>, <i>Or</i> and <i>Not</i>.</li></ul> |    |
| 2. Truth tables   | 13 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evaluating an expression for all possible input combinations.</li></ul>   |    |
| 3. Tautologies and Contradictions   | 21 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Statements that are always true or always false.</li></ul>  |    |

# Satisfiable, Tautologies and Contradictions

## Satisfiable

A proposition is **satisfiable** if it is **True** for at least one set of inputs (case).

## Tautology

A **tautology** is an expression involving logical variables that is **True** in all cases.

- Examples

- $p \vee \neg p$

*“Tomorrow, I will be dead or I will be alive”*

- $(p \wedge q) \vee (p \wedge \neg q) \vee \neg p$

## Contradiction

A **contradiction** is an expression involving logical variables that is **False** in all cases.

- Examples

- $p \wedge \neg p$

*“On Friday, I will win the lottery and not win the lottery.”*