

Q1:

Use a truth table to decide whether this argument is valid.

$p \vee \neg q$  premise 1

$p \wedge \neg r$  premise 2

$\therefore r \rightarrow q$  conclusion

**SOLUTION: Valid.**

| $p$ | $q$ | $r$ | $\neg q$ | $\overbrace{p \vee \neg q}^{\text{prem 1}}$ | $\neg r$ | $\overbrace{p \wedge \neg r}^{\text{prem 2}}$ | $\overbrace{r \rightarrow q}^{\text{conclu}}$ |
|-----|-----|-----|----------|---|----------|---|---|
| $T$ | $T$ | $T$ | $F$      | $T$   | $F$      | $F$   |   |
| $T$ | $T$ | $F$ | $F$      | $T$   | $T$      | $T$   | $T^*$   |
| $T$ | $F$ | $T$ | $T$      | $T$   | $F$      | $F$   |   |
| $T$ | $F$ | $F$ | $T$      | $T$   | $T$      | $T$   | $T^*$   |
| $F$ | $T$ | $T$ | $F$      | $F$   | $F$      | $F$   |   |
| $F$ | $T$ | $F$ | $F$      | $F$   | $T$      | $F$   |   |
| $F$ | $F$ | $T$ | $T$      | $T$   | $F$      | $F$   |   |
| $F$ | $F$ | $F$ | $T$      | $T$   | $T$      | $F$   |   |

Q2:

Use a truth table to decide whether this argument is valid.

$p \vee q$  premise 1

$q \vee r$  premise 2

$\therefore p \vee r$  conclusion

SOLUTION: NOT valid.

| $p$ | $q$ | $r$ | $\overbrace{p \vee q}^{\text{prem 1}}$ | $\overbrace{q \vee r}^{\text{prem 2}}$ | * | $\overbrace{p \vee r}^{\text{conclu}}$ |
|-----|-----|-----|--|--|---|--|
| $T$ | $T$ | $T$ | $T$                                    | $T$                                    | * | $T$                                    |
| $T$ | $T$ | $F$ | $T$                                    | $T$                                    | * | $T$                                    |
| $T$ | $F$ | $T$ | $T$                                    | $T$                                    | * | $T$                                    |
| $T$ | $F$ | $F$ | $T$                                    | $F$                                    |   |  |
| $F$ | $T$ | $T$ | $T$                                    | $T$                                    | * | $T$                                    |
| $F$ | $T$ | $F$ | $T$                                    | $T$                                    | * | $\boxed{F}$                            |
| $F$ | $F$ | $T$ | $F$                                    | $T$                                    |   |  |
| $F$ | $F$ | $F$ | $F$                                    | $F$                                    |   |  |

Q3: Test the validity of the following argument:

If two sides of a triangle are equal, then the opposite angles are equal.  
Two sides of a triangle are not equal.  
The opposite angles are not equal.

**Answer: this argument is a fallacy.**

Q4: Test the validity of the following argument:

If I study, then I will not fail mathematics.  
If I do not play basketball, then I will study.  
But I failed mathematics.  
Therefore I must have played basketball.

Answer:

Let  $p$  be "I study,"

$q$  be "I failed mathematics," and

$r$  be "I play basketball."

The argument has the form:

$p \rightarrow \neg q$ ,

$\neg r \rightarrow p$ ,

$q$

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$r$

**Valid**

| $p$ | $q$         | $r$ | $\neg q$ | $p \rightarrow \neg q$ | $\neg r$ | $\neg r \rightarrow p$ |
|-----|-------------|-----|----------|------------------------|----------|------------------------|
| T   | T           | T   | F        | F                      | F        | T                      |
| T   | T           | F   | F        | F                      | T        | T                      |
| T   | F           | T   | T        | T                      | F        | T                      |
| T   | F           | F   | T        | T                      | T        | T                      |
| F   | $\boxed{T}$ | T   | F        | $\boxed{T}$            | F        | $\boxed{T}$            |
| F   | T           | F   | F        | T                      | T        | F                      |
| F   | F           | T   | T        | T                      | F        | T                      |
| F   | F           | F   | T        | T                      | T        | F                      |

1.  $q$
  2.  $p \rightarrow \neg q$
  3.  $\neg p$  [modus tollens]
  4.  $\neg r \rightarrow p$
  5.  $\neg p \rightarrow r$  [ $\neg r \rightarrow p \equiv \neg p \rightarrow r$ ]
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- $r$  [modus ponens on step 3 and 5]

Q: Construct an argument using rules of inference to show that the hypotheses

- All humans are mortal,
- All philosophers are humans, and
- Socrates is a Greek philosopher

imply the conclusion that

- Socrates is mortal.

### Solution:

Predicates:  $H(x)$ ,  $M(x)$ ,  $P(x)$ , and  $G(x)$ , for  $x$  is a human,  $x$  is mortal,  $x$  is a philosopher, and  $x$  is Greek, respectively.

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|---|-----------------------------------|
| Step 1: " $\forall x(H(x) \rightarrow M(x))$ "              | hypothesis                        |
| Step 2: " $\forall x(P(x) \rightarrow H(x))$ "              | hypothesis                        |
| Step 3: $G(\text{Socrates}) \wedge P(\text{Socrates})$      | hypothesis                        |
| Step 4: $P(\text{Socrates})$                                | simplification on Step 3          |
| Step 5: $P(\text{Socrates}) \rightarrow H(\text{Socrates})$ | universal instantiation on Step 2 |
| Step 6: $H(\text{Socrates})$                                | modus ponens on Steps 4 & 5       |
| Step 7: $H(\text{Socrates}) \rightarrow M(\text{Socrates})$ | universal instantiation on Step 1 |
| Step 8: $M(\text{Socrates})$                                | Modus ponens on Steps 6 & 7       |