

Mathematical and Logical Foundations of Computer Science

Lecture 7 - Propositional Logic (Semantics)

Vincent Rahli

(some slides were adapted from Rajesh Chitnis' slides)

University of Birmingham

Where are we?

- ▶ Symbolic logic
- ▶ **Propositional logic**
- ▶ Predicate logic
- ▶ Constructive vs. Classical logic
- ▶ Type theory

Today

- ▶ semantics of propositional logic
- ▶ satisfiability & validity
- ▶ truth tables
- ▶ soundness & completeness

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Further reading:

- ▶ Chapter 6 of
http://leanprover.github.io/logic_and_proof/

Recap: Propositional logic syntax

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$$P ::= a \mid P \wedge P \mid P \vee P \mid P \rightarrow P \mid \neg P$$

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- ▶ $\neg P$: stands for $P \rightarrow \perp$

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Syntax and Semantics for the English language?

- ▶ Syntax: alphabet and grammar
- ▶ Semantics: meanings for words

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We will see others towards the end of the module.

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Conventions:

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- ▶ The atoms \top, \perp have the interpretations \mathbf{T}, \mathbf{F} respectively
- ▶ $\phi(\top) = \mathbf{T}$ and $\phi(\perp) = \mathbf{F}$

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For example given a conjunction $A \wedge B$, we first have to evaluate the truth-values of A and B to compute the truth-value of $A \wedge B$.

I.e., $\phi(A \wedge B) = \mathbf{T}$ iff both $\phi(A) = \mathbf{T}$ and $\phi(B) = \mathbf{T}$.

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- ▶ $\phi(A \rightarrow B) = \mathbf{T}$ iff $\phi(B) = \mathbf{T}$ whenever $\phi(A) = \mathbf{T}$
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we don't know: it depends on $\phi(x > 1)$ and $\phi(3 > x)$

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$\phi(x > 1 \vee 2 > x) = \mathbf{T}$ for all combinations

only 2 possible combinations (the atoms are interdependent):

$\phi(x > 1) = \mathbf{T}, \phi(2 > x) = \mathbf{F}$ and $\phi(x > 1) = \mathbf{F}, \phi(2 > x) = \mathbf{T}$

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What is $\phi(2 > 0 \rightarrow 0 > 1)$?

$\phi(2 > 0 \rightarrow 0 > 1) = \mathbf{F}$ because $\phi(0 > 1) = \mathbf{F}$ while $\phi(2 > 0) = \mathbf{T}$

What is $\phi(0 > 2 \rightarrow 0 > 1)$?

$\phi(0 > 2 \rightarrow 0 > 1) = \mathbf{T}$ because $\phi(0 > 2) = \mathbf{F}$

What is $\phi(x > 2 \rightarrow x > 1)$? it depends on $\phi(x > 2)$ and $\phi(x > 1)$

$\phi(x > 2 \rightarrow x > 1) = \mathbf{T}$ for all possible combinations (the atoms are interdependent): $\phi(x > 2) = \mathbf{T}, \phi(x > 1) = \mathbf{T}$ and

$\phi(x > 2) = \mathbf{F}, \phi(x > 1) = \mathbf{T}$ and $\phi(x > 2) = \mathbf{F}, \phi(x > 1) = \mathbf{F}$

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A method to check satisfiability and validity: **truth tables**

Truth tables

Semantics for “or”

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T	T	T
T	F	T
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- ▶ One row for each valuation
- ▶ Last column has the truth value for the corresponding valuation

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- ▶ 2 atoms, and hence $2^2 = 4$ rows (one per interpretation)
- ▶ Use intermediate columns to evaluate sub-formulas
- ▶ 2 atoms and 3 connectives hence $2 + 3 = 5$ columns
- ▶ Rightmost column gives values of the formula

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example: $p \vee \neg p$ (tautology)

Validity of arguments using semantics

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- ▶ Bonus: yields counterexample if argument is invalid

Checking (semantic) validity

Is $P \rightarrow Q, \neg Q \models \neg P$ (semantically) valid?

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Argument is valid: any row where conclusion is **F** then at least one of the premises is also **F**

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Note that checking $P_1, \dots, P_n \models C$ is equivalent to checking the validity of $P_1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow P_n \rightarrow C$

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i.e., that the cells of the rightmost column of the truth table for $P_1 \rightarrow \dots P_n \rightarrow C$ all contain **T**

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T	T	F	F	T	T	F
T	F	F	T	T	F	F
F	T	T	F	F	T	T
F	F	T	T	T	F	T

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Argument is invalid

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Argument is invalid

- Look at the first row

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T	F	F	T	T	F	F
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Argument is invalid

- ▶ Look at the first row
- ▶ Conclusion is **F**, but both premises are **T**

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Argument is invalid

- ▶ Look at the first row
- ▶ Conclusion is **F**, but both premises are **T**
- ▶ Can we add a premise to make the argument valid?

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Argument is invalid

- ▶ Look at the first row
- ▶ Conclusion is **F**, but both premises are **T**
- ▶ Can we add a premise to make the argument valid?
 - ▶ Yes, we can add $\neg R$, which would be **F** in the first row

Proving anything using contradictions!

Is $P, \neg P \models C$ is (semantically) valid?

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P	C	$\neg P$	C
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Argument is (trivially) valid:

- ▶ Look at any row (we only have to look at rows where the conclusion is **F**)
- ▶ One of P and $\neg P$ is **F**

Truth Tables vs. Natural Deduction

Pros and cons of two ways of checking validity

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simple, easy to automate	

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We will not prove them here

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What did we cover today?

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Next time?

- ▶ equivalences
- ▶ normal forms