



Propositional Logic

Homework 4

Tautology Equivalence

- By Deepak Poonia (IISc Bangalore)



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GATE CSE AIR 53; AIR 67; AIR 206; AIR 256;

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Detailed Solutions of this Homework

Will be discussed in the “Live Doubts Session-5” of

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1. [30pts] Which of the following compound propositions are a tautology? You may use a truth table, but are not required to. To prove a proposition is NOT a tautology you need just give one setting for p and q for which the compound proposition is false.

(a) $\neg\neg p \leftrightarrow p$

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

(c) $p \rightarrow q \leftrightarrow \neg p \vee q$

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

(e) $((p \rightarrow q) \wedge (q \rightarrow r)) \rightarrow (p \rightarrow r)$

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



2 Logical equivalence

a) Use a truth table to demonstrate that $p \wedge (q \vee r) \equiv (p \wedge q) \vee (p \wedge r)$. (1 mark)

b) Use a truth table to demonstrate that $p \wedge q \equiv \neg(\neg p \vee \neg q)$. (1 mark)

c) Use substitutions and the transitive property of logical equivalence to show that

$$p \rightarrow q \equiv \neg(p \wedge \neg q).$$

Provide a justification for each step (i.e. substitution or transitivity, and what logical equivalences you are using.) (1 mark)

d) Use substitutions and the transitive property of logical equivalence to show that

$$p \leftrightarrow q \equiv (\neg p \vee q) \wedge (\neg q \vee p).$$

Provide a justification for each step (i.e. substitution or transitivity, and what logical equivalences you are using.) (1 mark)



3. Proof using propositional logic properties

Using propositional logic properties and other logical equivalences (not truth tables), prove the following statements:

1. $(p \vee q) \vee (p \vee \neg q)$ is a tautology
2. $((p \rightarrow r) \wedge (q \rightarrow r) \wedge (p \vee q)) \rightarrow r$ is a tautology
3. $(p \vee q) \wedge (\neg p \wedge \neg q)$ is a contradiction
4. $\neg(q \rightarrow p) \wedge (p \wedge q \wedge s \rightarrow r) \wedge p$ is a contradiction
5. $(p \rightarrow q) \wedge (p \rightarrow r) \equiv p \rightarrow (q \wedge r)$



2. (4 points) Use propositional logic to prove the validity of the *disjunctive syllogism* rule, which is written as (note: don't use disjunctive syllogism in its own proof!):

$$(P \vee Q) \wedge P' \rightarrow Q$$

3. (4 points each) Prove the validity of each of the following arguments using propositional logic:

(a) $(A' \rightarrow B') \wedge B \wedge (A \rightarrow C) \rightarrow C$

(b) $(A \vee B) \wedge (A \rightarrow C) \wedge (B \rightarrow C) \rightarrow C$

(c) $(Y \rightarrow Z') \wedge (X' \rightarrow Y) \wedge (Y \rightarrow (X \rightarrow W)) \wedge (Y \rightarrow Z) \rightarrow (Y \rightarrow W)$



3. Proof using properties

(a) Use propositional logic properties to prove that the following propositions are tautologies (without using truth tables):

1. $(p \vee q) \vee (p \vee \neg q)$

2. $(\neg(\neg x)) \leftrightarrow x$

3. $((p \rightarrow q) \wedge (q \rightarrow r)) \rightarrow (p \rightarrow r)$

(b) Use propositional logic properties to prove that the following propositions are contradictions (without using truth tables):

1. $(p \vee q) \wedge (\neg p \wedge \neg q)$

2. $\neg((p \rightarrow \text{False}) \rightarrow \neg p)$

3. $\neg(q \rightarrow p) \wedge (p \wedge q \wedge s \rightarrow r) \wedge p$