

4. Truth Trees

1. Truth Trees

1.1 Why Trees?

1.2 Tree Rules (trees rule!)

1.3 Grow your own Trees!

1.4 Using Trees

1.5 Topical Topiary Tips

1.6 Practice with Proofs

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a. Why Trees?

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- ▶ We would like a more streamlined method for checking INconsistency (i.e. UNsatisfiability) and validity
- ▶ Trees are often faster and have less 'irrelevant' information

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 - Showing this formally would require a 32 row truth table...
 - But the answer is clear from reasoning about truth conditions

Where Partial Truth Tables shine

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- ▶ But for validity, inconsistency, and logical equivalence, we really get something new:
- ▶ Trees formalize our ‘shortcut’ arguments without needing to consider every TVA to the relevant atomic sentences
- ▶ (Although to be fair, the rigor of this ‘shortcut’ is beholden to our soundness result. But that’s work you do once and then have FOREVER—much like a diploma!)

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 - (Means: we wrote down *enough* rules!)

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b. Tree Rules (trees rule!)

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- ▶ As a proof system, it is *purely syntactic*: it is defined entirely in terms of legal rules, with no explicit mention of truth or falsity

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- ▶ If you think about what it means for a formula to be true, you can always derive the rules

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- ▶ Atomic formulae and their negations can't be further resolved

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 - (Perhaps put a colon ':' before each justification, in order to get used to what *Carnap* requires for natural deduction, e.g. :3 &)

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 - Motivation: $A \& B$ branch or $\sim A \& \sim B$ branch

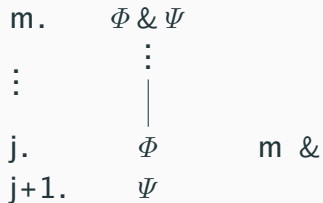
Double Negation

Double Negation (\sim)

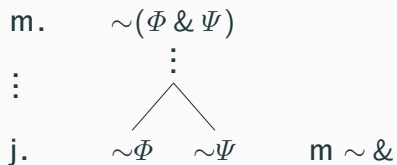
m.	$\sim\sim\Phi$	
\vdots	\vdots	
j.	Φ	m \sim

Conjunction and Negated Conjunction

Conjunction (&)

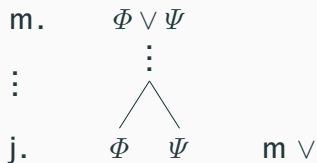


Negated Conjunction (\sim &)

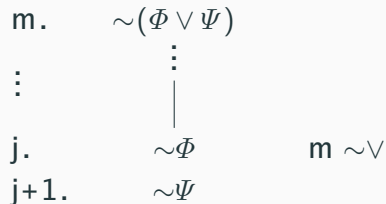


Disjunction and Negated Disjunction

Disjunction (\vee)

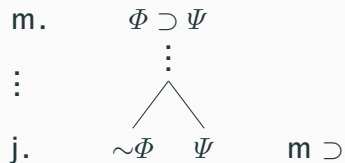


Negated Disjunction ($\sim\vee$)

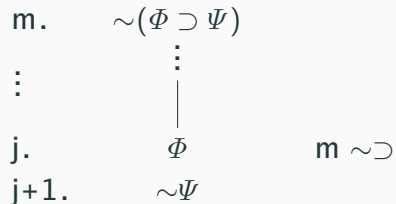


Conditional and Negated Conditional

Conditional (\supset)

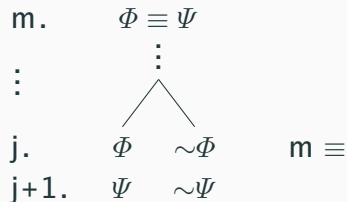


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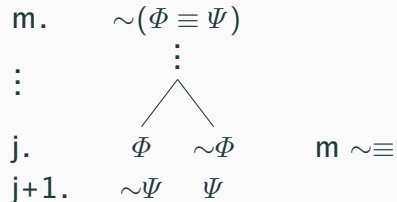


Biconditional and Negated Biconditional

Biconditional (\equiv)



Negated Biconditional ($\sim\equiv$)



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c. Grow your own Trees!

Planting Trees

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- ▶ Introduce a new line number for every new (row of) sentence(s)
(line numbers correspond to (rows of) sentence(s), NOT nodes)

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- ▶ Until we hit rock bottom! i.e. atomic formulae or their negations
- ▶ (Sometimes you can stop before resolving all sentences)

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 - We are particularly interested in branches that *remain open* even after every formula has been resolved

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 - Closure results from ANY wff and its negation (not just atomic)
- ▶ Otherwise, a branch is **open**
 - As you grow your tree, any branch that is not closed is open
 - We are particularly interested in branches that *remain open* even after every formula has been resolved
 - These branches are **complete** and **open**

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 - **We write an** '↑' beneath each complete open branch
- ▶ *Psssst, semantic point!:* a complete open branch indicates a TVA that makes each of the sentences in the root true

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- ▶ Question (for later): can we reinterpret this second result as a valid argument? What are the premises? What is the conclusion?

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- ▶ In particular, STD itself knows nothing about logical equivalence
- ▶ So you CANNOT replace a sentence willy-nilly with a logically equivalent one, unless this is sanctioned by one of our rules
- ▶ Likewise, you can close a branch only if some wff ϕ and its negation $\sim\phi$ appear in the branch

4. Truth Trees

d. Using Trees

Syntactic equivalents of our Semantic Notions

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- ▶ For each semantic notion, there is a corresponding syntactic property of a tree
 - (Although one has to prove this correspondence exists)

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- ▶ Obviously, if system STD is any good, this won’t be possible! But we’ll need to prove this (perhaps on PS 5)!
- ▶ Taking for granted that system STD is ‘good’, any tree-contradiction is a contradiction, and any tree-tautology is a tautology

Tree-consistency

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- ▶ (Pssst semantic aside: the complete open branch indicates a truth value assignment that makes each sentence in Γ true)

Connections between consistency and validity

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- ▶ These connections motivate our definitions of tree-validity and tree-invalidity

Tree-valid vs. Tree-invalid

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 - In this case, we write $\Gamma \not\vdash_{STD} \Phi$
(at least, we can write this once we've shown STD is sound)

Using trees to check for Validity

Since most homework problems follow this pattern, let's make it really explicit!

1. Add each premise to the root (number each line)

Don't forget to **justify each new node** by citing the line you are resolving and the rule you are applying

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Remember that a branch closes whenever a sentence and its negation appear in its nodes (these need not be atomic sentences)

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(semantic aside: it's impossible to make the sentence false)
 - You have **a complete open branch**, in which case the sentence is NOT a tautology
(semantic aside: it is possible to satisfy the sentence's negation, so it's possible to make the sentence in question false)

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These justifications go in the 'rightmost column'

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- ▶ Example: consider a root with $A \vee B$ and $P \& Q$. Check what happens when you resolve ' $A \vee B$ ' first, followed by ' $P \& Q$ '
- ▶ If a branch is already closed, you don't have to worry about it

4. Truth Trees

e. Topical Topiary Tips

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- ▶ But some resolution orders will be faster/easier/more convenient than others (they'll at least involve 'less ink', and someone is paying for that ink!)
- ▶ Corporate America and BigPharma want you to SAVE INK!

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 - Otherwise, you can end up with a lot of branches!

⇒ and that’s bad topiary!

An Example to Work Through

Let us illustrate these morals, since one burnt by the flame fears fire for life:

- Is the argument from $C \supset P$, $P \vee D$, $\sim(Q \equiv C)$ to D valid?

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- ▶ In the best tree, resolve $P \vee D$, then $C \supset P$, and then $\sim(Q \equiv C)$

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- ▶ In the best tree, resolve $P \vee D$, then $C \supset P$, and then $\sim(Q \equiv C)$
- ▶ Often we should take the road most traveled, and that will make all the difference

Our Running Example

Sarah lives in Chicago or Erie.

Amir lives in Chicago unless he enjoys hiking.

If Amir lives in Chicago, Sarah doesn't.

Neither Sarah nor Amir enjoy hiking.

∴ Sarah lives in Erie.

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Let us tree!

Our Running Example (simplified)

Recall that to handle this with a truth-table, we simplified the last premise (to eliminate 'S' and avoid a 32 row truth table):

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A	C	E	M	$C \vee E$	$A \vee M$	$A \supset \sim C$	$\sim M$	E
T	T	T	T					
T	T	T	F					
T	T	F	T					
T	T	F	F					
T	F	T	T					
T	F	T	F					
T	F	F	T					
T	F	F	F					
F	T	T	T					
F	T	T	F					
F	T	F	T					
F	T	F	F					
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F	F	F	T					
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A	C	E	M	$C \vee E$		$A \vee M$		$A \supset \sim C$		$\sim M$	E
T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
T	T	T	F	T	T	T	F	T	T	F	T
T	T	F	T	T	F	T	T	T	T	T	F
T	T	F	F	T	F	T	F	T	T	F	F
T	F	T	T	F	T	T	T	T	F	T	T
T	F	T	F	F	T	T	F	T	F	F	T
T	F	F	T	F	F	T	T	T	F	T	F
T	F	F	F	F	F	T	F	T	F	F	F
F	T	T	T	T	T	F	T	F	T	T	T
F	T	T	F	T	T	F	F	F	T	F	T
F	T	F	T	T	F	F	T	F	T	T	F
F	T	F	F	T	F	F	F	F	T	F	F
F	F	T	T	F	T	F	T	F	F	T	T
F	F	T	F	F	T	F	F	F	F	F	T
F	F	F	T	F	F	F	T	F	F	T	F
F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F

A	C	E	M	$C \vee E$	$A \vee M$	$A \supset \sim C$	$\sim M$	E
T	T	T	T	T	T	F	F	T
T	T	T	F	T	T	F	T	T
T	T	F	T	T	T	F	F	F
T	T	F	F	T	T	F	T	F
T	F	T	T	F	T	T	F	T
T	F	T	F	F	T	T	T	T
T	F	F	T	F	T	T	F	F
T	F	F	F	F	T	T	T	F
F	T	T	T	T	F	T	F	T
F	T	T	F	T	F	T	T	T
F	T	F	T	T	F	T	F	F
F	T	F	F	T	F	T	T	F
F	F	T	T	F	T	T	F	T
F	F	T	F	F	T	T	T	T
F	F	F	T	F	T	T	F	F
F	F	F	F	F	F	T	T	F

A	C	E	M	$C \vee E$	$A \vee M$	$A \supset \sim C$	$\sim M$	E
T	T	T	T	T	T	F	F	T
T	T	T	F	T	T	F	T	T
T	T	F	T	T	T	F	F	F
T	T	F	F	T	T	F	T	F
T	F	T	T	F	T	T	F	T
T	F	T	F	F	T	T	T	T
T	F	F	T	F	T	T	F	F
T	F	F	F	F	T	T	T	F
F	T	T	T	T	F	T	F	T
F	T	T	F	T	F	T	T	T
F	T	F	T	T	F	T	F	F
F	T	F	F	T	F	T	T	F
F	F	T	T	F	T	T	F	T
F	F	T	F	F	F	T	T	T
F	F	F	T	F	T	T	F	F
F	F	F	F	F	F	T	T	F

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

Every valuation makes at least one premise false, or makes the conclusion true: 4.e.6
the argument is valid.

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- ▶ (where this represents $(x + y) + (x \cdot y)$ in our Boolean algebra)

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- ▶ So make a tree whose root is the negation of this biconditional
- ▶ If all branches close, then this negation is unsatisfiable, i.e. is a contradiction. In which case the biconditional is a tautology. In which case the two wffs are logically equivalent.

4. Truth Trees

f. Practice with Proofs

Two Questions about (semantic) Entailment

Two questions we never got around to answering:

Recall: ' $\Gamma \not\models \psi$ ' means that the (set of) sentence(s) Γ does not semantically entail ψ , i.e. an argument from Γ to ψ is invalid.

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1. True or False? If $\Phi \models \Psi$, then $\sim\Phi \not\models \Psi$
2. True or False? If $\Gamma \models \Phi$ and $\Delta, \Phi \models \Psi$, then $\Gamma, \Delta \models \Psi$?

And now with trees!

Let's answer syntactic analogs of these questions in system STD:

Recall: ' $\Gamma \not\vdash_{STD} \Psi$ ' means that arguing from Γ to Ψ is NOT tree-valid (and with soundness, this means it is tree-invalid)

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3. True or False? If $\Gamma \vdash_{STD} \Phi$ and $\Delta, \Phi \vdash_{STD} \Psi$, then $\Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{STD} \Psi$?

An Induction example because...why not?

Gotta stay sharp!

Prove the following by induction. Don't forget to explicitly state the base case and the induction step!

3. If a wff doesn't contain any binary connectives, then it is contingent.

(hint: say that a wff is *baller* if it either contains a binary connective or is contingent. Use induction to show that every wff is baller.)