

Assignment 2  
due Feb 3, 2014

**Exercise 1** (50 points).

Recall that a set  $S$  of logical operators is called a *functionally complete set* if every compound proposition is logically equivalent to a compound proposition that

- involves only logical operators from  $S$ , propositional variables, and parentheses
- and uses none of the constants **true** or **false**.

Consider the boolean operator NOR that has the following truth table.

$p$	$q$	$p \text{ NOR } q$
$T$	$T$	$F$
$T$	$F$	$F$
$F$	$T$	$F$
$F$	$F$	$T$

Prove that NOR is functionally complete on its own, i.e., the set  $S$  that contains only the single logical operator NOR is a functionally complete set.

The following exercises in section 1.3 of the textbook can guide you: 42, 43, 45, 48, 49, 50.

**Solution to Exercise 1.**

Since the collection  $\{\vee, \wedge, \neg\}$  is functionally complete it suffices to express these three operators in terms of NOR. This can be done as follows:  $\neg p \equiv p \text{ NOR } p$ , which can be readily checked with a truth table.  $p \vee q \equiv \neg(p \text{ NOR } q)$ , and we already know that we can replace every  $\neg$  with a NOR-construction, so this implies that we can also replace every  $\vee$  with a NOR-construction as well. We can get rid of  $\wedge$  in our formulas using De Morgan as follows:  $p \wedge q \equiv \neg(\neg p \vee \neg q)$  and we are done.

---

**Exercise 2** (25 points).

The situation is as in the previous exercise, but we use  $\vee$  (“OR”) instead of NOR. Prove that  $\vee$  is not functionally complete on its own.

**Solution to Exercise 2.**

Since  $\vee$  is associative, all formulas you can build using  $\vee$  and parentheses are large disjunctions. Hence for every formula, at least half of the entries of its truth table have truth value T. In particular,  $p \wedge q$  (which has only a single truth value T) cannot be formed using only  $\vee$  and parentheses.

---

**Exercise 3** (25 points).

The compound proposition

$$\neg((p \vee \neg s) \wedge (q \vee \neg r \vee \neg s) \wedge \neg(t \wedge s)) \wedge (p \vee \neg p)$$

can be thought of as a list of 33 characters from the following table.

$\neg$	$\vee$	$\wedge$	$p$	$q$	$r$	$s$	$t$	$($	$)$
--------	--------	----------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Write down a logically equivalent compound proposition using at most 14 characters of this table and prove the equivalence.

Operator precedence is important for this exercise. Note that by operator precedence we have  $p \vee q \wedge r \equiv p \vee (q \wedge r)$ , where the left hand side has 5 characters and the right hand side has 7.

**Solution to Exercise 3.**

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 & \neg((p \vee \neg s) \wedge (q \vee \neg r \vee \neg s) \wedge \neg(t \wedge s)) \wedge (p \vee \neg p) \\
 (p \vee \neg p \equiv T) & \equiv \neg((p \vee \neg s) \wedge (q \vee \neg r \vee \neg s) \wedge \neg(t \wedge s)) \wedge T \\
 (A \wedge T \equiv A) & \equiv \neg((p \vee \neg s) \wedge (q \vee \neg r \vee \neg s) \wedge \neg(t \wedge s)) \\
 \text{De Morgan} & \equiv \neg(p \vee \neg s) \vee \neg(q \vee \neg r \vee \neg s) \vee (t \wedge s) \\
 \text{De Morgan} & \equiv (\neg p \wedge s) \vee (\neg q \wedge r \wedge s) \vee (t \wedge s) \\
 \text{Distr.} & \equiv (\neg p \vee (\neg q \wedge r) \vee t) \wedge s \\
 \text{Op. precedence} & \equiv (\neg p \vee \neg q \wedge r \vee t) \wedge s
 \end{array}$$


---