



# **DISCRETE MATHEMATICS IN COMPUTER SCIENCE**

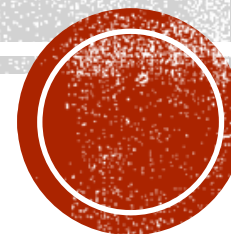
**HSIEN-CHIH CHANG  
JANUARY 12, 2022**

# LOGISTICS

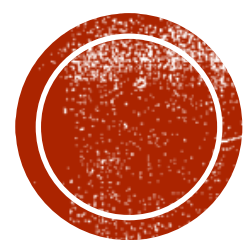
- Homework 1 due this Friday
- No work session next Monday (MLK day)



**STOP ME IF YOU ARE LOST**







**LOGIC**



# Jargon

proposition

all Boolean operators

implies

if and only if

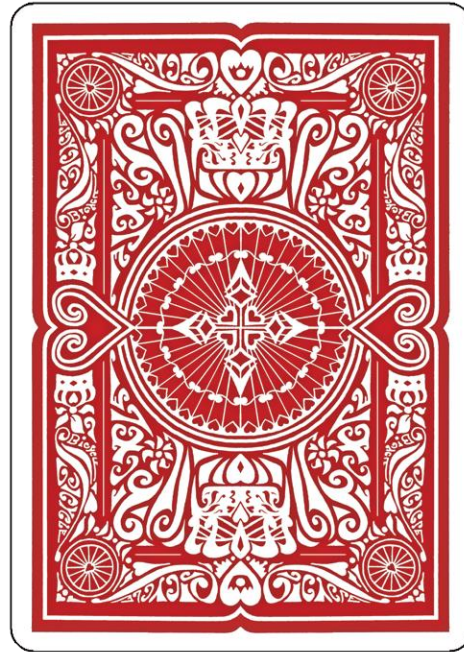
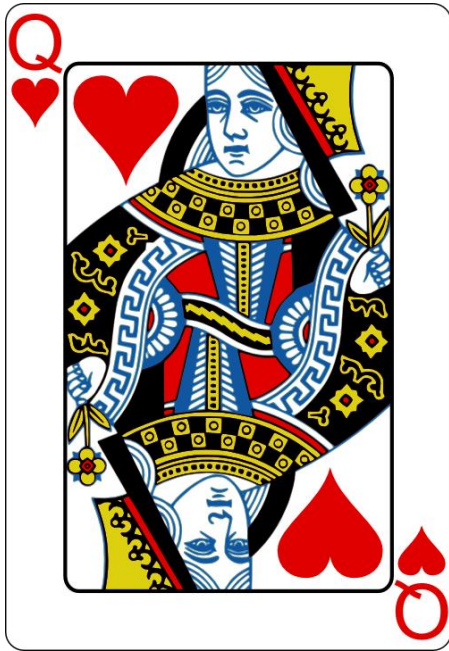
predicate

for all / exists

negation of quantifiers



# POKER CARDS



# “IMPLICATION” PARADOX

- If [good thing] had happened, I would be happy.
- If [bad thing] had happened, I would be happy.
- This is useful when “for all” quantifier presents
  - For all even number  $n$ ,  $n^2$  is also an even number





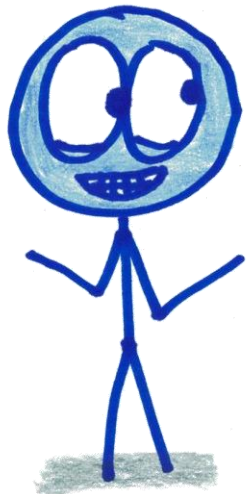
suppose  $f(x) = y$

INVERSE FUNCTION:  $g(y) = x$

CONVERSE FUNCTION:  $f(y) = x$

CONTRAPOSITIVE FUNCTION:  
 $g(\text{not } y) = \text{not } x$

That's not how this works.  
That's... that's not how any  
of this works.

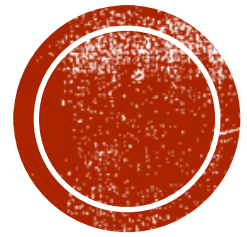


# CONTRAPOSITIVES

**P** implies **Q**  
is equivalent to  
not **Q** implies not **P**







# PROOF BY CONTRADICTION

*Assuming what you said is false, then ...*

# PROOF BY CONTRADICTION

To prove **P** implies **Q**:

Assume **P** is TRUE but **Q** is FALSE,  
and derive a contradiction.

(**P** and not **Q**) implies FALSE



Reductio ad absurdum, John Pettie, 1884



**IF A SEQUENCE OF PARENTHESES IS BALANCED,  
THEN IT MUST START WITH '('.**

**EXERCISE**





**IF REAL NUMBER  $x$  IS NOT A FRACTION,  
THEN  $\sqrt{x}$  IS NOT A FRACTION.**

**EXERCISE**



**THERE ARE INFINITELY MANY PRIMES.**

**EXERCISE**

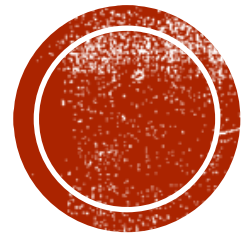


**THERE IS NO SMALLEST POSITIVE FRACTION.**

**EXERCISE**



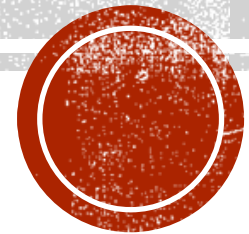




# **APPLICATION: LIMITATION OF COMPUTERS**



**ARE THERE PROBLEMS THAT  
COMPUTERS CANNOT SOLVE?**



# HALTING PROBLEM

- INPUT: source-code  $\langle C \rangle$  and test-input  $x$
- OUTPUT: YES if  $C(x)$  halts; NO if  $C(x)$  runs forever







**A CHESS PLAYER MAY OFFER THE SACRIFICE OF  
A PAWN OR EVEN A PIECE,  
BUT A MATHEMATICIAN OFFERS THE GAME.**

**— G. H. Hardy, “A Mathematician's Apology”, 1940**

**NEXT TIME.  
MORE PROOF TECHNIQUES.**

