

# Logic (PHIL2080, COMP2620, COMP6262)

## *Chapter:* Introduction to Logic

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## Motivation

## Making good Arguments: What is Logic?

- Logic is the **science of reasoning**, i.e., making arguments.
  - Correct reasoning vs. wrong reasoning
  - Making (and reasoning about) valid arguments
- ⇒ See (famous) Monty Python sketch “argument clinic”  
(e.g., <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x2hwqn9>)
- There are separates slides in keynote (which I will talk about if time permits)

## Propositional Logic

## Basic Definitions: Generators of Formulae

the simplest elements of the logical language and represent statements that can be either true or false, without any further analysis of their internal structure.

**Atoms** (generators of logical formulae) are:

- **truth** (denoted by  $\top$ ,  $T$ , or 1)
- **false** (denoted by  $\perp$ ,  $F$ , or 0)
- **propositional variables** (denoted by  $p, q, r, \dots$ )  
 $p, q, r$  are variables that can be T/F

Atoms are **bases** or **generators** for more complex propositions with various connectives.

## Basic Definitions: Syntax of Connectives

Which **logical connectives** exist in propositional logic?

- ... and ...:  $\wedge$  **conjunction** e.g.,  $(p \wedge \top)$  or  $(p \wedge (q \wedge r))$
- ... or ...:  $\vee$  **disjunction** e.g.,  $(\perp \vee \top)$  or  $(p \vee (q \wedge r))$
- if ..., then ...:  $\rightarrow$  **implication** e.g.,  $(p \rightarrow q)$  or  $((p \wedge q) \rightarrow (p \vee q))$   
also: ... implies ...
- ... if and only if ...:  $\leftrightarrow$  **biconditional,  $\equiv$**  e.g.,  $(p \leftrightarrow q)$  or  $((p \wedge q) \leftrightarrow (q \wedge p))$
- not ...:  $\neg$  **negation** e.g.,  $((\neg p) \rightarrow q)$  or  $\neg(p \rightarrow q)$

A **formula** (other than atoms) is generated using atoms and logical connectives. **formula = atoms + connectives**

the symbol of equivalence ( $\equiv$ ) denotes logical equivalence, indicating that two statements have the same truth value under certain conditions;

the symbol of equality ( $=$ ) denotes numerical or qualitative equality, indicating that two quantities or objects are identical in value or characteristics.

## Basic Definitions: Semantics of Connectives

What do these connectives *mean*?

- The **semantics** is defined in terms of **truth tables**.
- A **truth table** for a formula tells us for each interpretation of the propositional variables whether the formula is true or false.
- Examples:
  - $(\neg p)$  inverts  $p$ 's truth value:  $\top$  is switched to  $\perp$ , and vice versa.
  - $(p \wedge q)$  is true if and only if both  $p$  and  $q$  are true.
  - $(p \vee q)$  is true if and only if at least one of  $p$  and  $q$  is true.

$p$	$q$	$F^0$	NOR <sup>1</sup>	$\neg^2$	$\neg p^3$	NIMPLY <sup>4</sup>	$\neg q^5$	XOR <sup>6</sup>	NAND <sup>7</sup>	AND <sup>8</sup>	XNOR <sup>9</sup>	$q^{10}$	IMPLY <sup>11</sup>	$p^{12}$	$\leftrightarrow^{13}$	OR <sup>14</sup>	$T^{15}$
T	T	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
T	F	F	F	F	T	T	T	T	F	F	F	F	F	T	T	T	T
F	T	F	F	T	T	F	F	T	T	F	F	T	T	F	F	T	T
F	F	F	T	F	T	F	T	F	T	F	T	F	T	F	T	F	T
Com		✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓
Assoc		✓						✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
Adj		$F^0$	NOR <sup>1</sup>	$\neg^4$	$\neg q^5$	NIMPLY <sup>2</sup>	$\neg p^3$	XOR <sup>6</sup>	NAND <sup>7</sup>	AND <sup>8</sup>	XNOR <sup>9</sup>	$p^{12}$	IMPLY <sup>13</sup>	$q^{10}$	$\rightarrow^{11}$	OR <sup>14</sup>	$T^{15}$
Neg		$T^{15}$	OR <sup>14</sup>	$\leftrightarrow^{13}$	$p^{12}$	IMPLY <sup>11</sup>	$q^{10}$	XNOR <sup>9</sup>	AND <sup>8</sup>	NAND <sup>7</sup>	XOR <sup>6</sup>	$\neg q^5$	NIMPLY <sup>4</sup>	$\neg p^3$	$\neg^2$	NOR <sup>1</sup>	$F^0$
Dual		$T^{15}$	NAND <sup>7</sup>	$\rightarrow^{11}$	$\neg p^3$	$\leftrightarrow^{13}$	$\neg q^5$	XNOR <sup>9</sup>	NOR <sup>1</sup>	OR <sup>14</sup>	XOR <sup>6</sup>	$q^{10}$	$\neg^2$	$p^{12}$	$\neg^4$	AND <sup>8</sup>	$F^0$
L id				F				F		T	T	T,F	T			F	
R id						F		F		T	T			T,F	T	F	

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Truth\\_table](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Truth_table)

## Basic Definitions: Semantics of Connectives

What do these connectives *mean*?

- The semantics is defined in terms of truth tables.
- A truth table for a formula tells us for each interpretation of the propositional variables whether the formula is true or false.
- Examples: (expressed as *truth tables*)

$p$	$\neg$	$p$	$q$	$\wedge$	$p$	$q$	$\vee$
$\perp$	$\top$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$
$\perp$	$\top$	$\perp$	$\top$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\top$	$\top$
$\top$	$\perp$	$\top$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\top$	$\perp$	$\top$
		$\top$	$\top$	$\top$	$\top$	$\top$	$\top$



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- Examples: (expressed as *truth tables*)

$p$	$\neg$	$p$	$q$	$\wedge$	$p$	$q$	$\vee$
0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
		1	0	0	1	0	1
		1	1	1	1	1	1

We will henceforth use 0/1 because its readability is so much improved!

Semantics: Semantics of  $\neg$ ,  $\wedge$ ,  $\vee$ ,  $\rightarrow$ 

- The semantics of propositional logic is given by truth tables.  
(Which you already saw.)
- Truth tables:

$p$	$\neg$	$p$	$q$	$\wedge$	$p$	$q$	$\vee$	$p$	$q$	$\rightarrow$
		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

- Example implication: If the light is red ( $p$ ), you must stop ( $q$ ).

Semantics: Semantics of  $\neg$ ,  $\wedge$ ,  $\vee$ ,  $\rightarrow$ 

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(Which you already saw.)
- Truth tables:

$p$	$\neg$	$p$	$q$	$\wedge$	$p$	$q$	$\vee$	$p$	$q$	$\rightarrow$
		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

- Example implication: If the light is red ( $p$ ), you must stop ( $q$ ).

Semantics: Semantics of  $\leftarrow$ ,  $\leftrightarrow$ 

- Some “additional” truth tables:  $p \rightarrow q \leftrightarrow \neg p \vee q$

$p$	$q$	$\rightarrow$	$p$	$q$	$\leftarrow$	$p$	$q$	$\leftrightarrow$
0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

- We will not need them since we restrict to the **standard connectives**:  $\neg$ ,  $\wedge$ ,  $\vee$ ,  $\rightarrow$ .

$\rightarrow$ : logical implication if  $p$  then  $q$ ;  $\Rightarrow$ : material conditional  $p$  implies  $q$

In summary,  $\Rightarrow$  is often preferred in formal contexts, such as formal logic and proof theory, to denote logical entailment or consequence, whereas  $\rightarrow$  is more commonly used in introductory logic and informal discourse to represent conditional implication.

## Semantics: Expressing Arbitrary Formulae with Truth Tables

Truth tables can be used to express arbitrary formulae, e.g.,

$$p \wedge \neg q$$

$p$	$q$	$\neg q$	$\wedge$
0	0	1	0
0	1	0	0
1	0	1	1
1	1	0	0

$$\neg p \vee q \quad \text{that's} \quad p \rightarrow q !$$

$p$	$q$	$\neg p$	$\neg p \vee q$
0	0	1	1
0	1	1	1
1	0	0	0
1	1	0	1

$$p \rightarrow (q \rightarrow p)$$

$p$	$q$	$q \rightarrow p$	$p \rightarrow (q \rightarrow p)$
0	0	1	1
0	1	0	1
1	0	1	1
1	1	1	1

Such a formula, which always evaluates to true is called a **tautology**.

## Semantics: Interpretations and Properties of Formulae

**Definition:**

An **interpretation** of a formula  $\phi$ , defined over a set  $P$  of propositional variables is an assignment of truth values to variables in  $P$ .

**Example:**

- Let  $p = \text{LogicIsInteresting}$
- Let  $q = \text{PascalsSlidesAreWellDesigned}$
- Let  $r = \text{studentsUnderstandContent}$
- Now consider  $(p \wedge q) \rightarrow r$

$p$	$q$	$r$	$(p \wedge q) \rightarrow r$
0	0	0	1
0	0	1	1
0	1	0	1
0	1	1	1
1	0	0	1
1	0	1	1
1	1	0	0
1	1	1	1

Here, an interpretation could be:

$I(p) = 1, I(q) = 1, I(r) = 0$

This interpretation does not make the formula true!

(Interpretations can be thought of as rows in the table)

## Semantics: Interpretations and Properties of Formulae, cont'd

- A formula  $\phi$  is a **tautology** (or true) if: all true  
 $\phi$  is true under every interpretation.
- A formula  $\phi$  is **satisfiable** if: any true  
There exists an interpretation that makes  $\phi$  true.
- A formula  $\phi$  is **unsatisfiable** if: all false  
There does not exist an interpretation that makes  $\phi$  true.  
*Or equivalently:* If  $\phi$  is false under every interpretation.

## Summary



## Content of this Lecture

- Organizational Matters
  - Introduction to *Propositional Logic*
    - **Syntax**: formulae = atoms bound together by logical connectives
    - **Semantics**: truth tables and interpretations; specify the notion of truth
- Logic Notes sections:
- Complete 1. *Introduction except Inference in the abstract*
  - 3. *More about propositional logic: Truth tables.*
  - Study the following slides by the next lecture.

## Syntax Simplifications: Precedence of Connectives

Our connectives use some **precedence**, which we exploit to eliminate parentheses! Connectives, ordered by precedence:

- Highest:  $\neg$  e.g.,  $\neg p \rightarrow q \equiv (\neg p) \rightarrow q$
- Second-highest:  $\wedge$  e.g.,  $p \wedge q \vee r \equiv (p \wedge q) \vee r$
- Mid:  $\vee$  e.g.,  $p \rightarrow q \vee r \equiv p \rightarrow (q \vee r)$
- Second-Lowest:  $\rightarrow$  e.g.,  $p \rightarrow \neg q \leftrightarrow r \equiv (p \rightarrow (\neg q)) \leftrightarrow r$
- Lowest:  $\leftrightarrow$  e.g.,  $\neg p \vee q \leftrightarrow q \wedge r \equiv ((\neg p) \vee q) \leftrightarrow (q \wedge r)$

We reduce parentheses to simplify and avoid confusion by exploiting:

- **precedence**, e.g., we write:  $\neg p \rightarrow q$  instead of  $((\neg p) \rightarrow q)$
- **associativity**, e.g., we write:
  - $p \wedge q \wedge r$  instead of  $(p \wedge (q \wedge r))$
  - $(p \wedge \neg q \wedge r) \rightarrow (p \vee \neg q \vee r)$  instead of  $((p \wedge (\neg q)) \wedge r) \rightarrow (p \vee ((\neg q) \vee r))$

## Connective Scopes and Main Connective: Connective Scopes

- Every connective has a *scope*.
- “[The scope of a connective] is defined to be the *shortest formula or subformula* in which that occurrence lies.” (Logic Notes)
- Examples: In the formula  $\neg(p \wedge q) \rightarrow ((p \vee r) \rightarrow \neg s)$ 
  - ... the scope of its first  $\neg$  is  $(p \wedge q)$
  - ... the scope of its second  $\neg$  is  $s$

## Connective Scopes and Main Connective: Main Connective

- Every formula has a **main connective**:
- “[T]he main connective of any formula [...] is the one which is not inside the scope of any other. [...] The scope of the main connective is the whole formula.” (Logic Notes)
- Examples: The main connective of . . .
  - $\neg(p \wedge q) \rightarrow ((p \vee r) \rightarrow \neg s)$  is: the first  $\rightarrow$
  - $(p \wedge q) \vee r$  is:  $\vee$
  - What’s the main connective of  $(p \wedge q) \vee r \vee (q \rightarrow r)$ ?  
Recall that “ $(p \wedge q) \vee r \vee (q \rightarrow r)$ ” is only syntactic sugar!
    - ▶ It was either  $((p \wedge q) \vee r) \vee (q \rightarrow r)$  [then, it’s the right  $\vee$ ],
    - ▶ or it was  $(p \wedge q) \vee (r \vee (q \rightarrow r))$  [then, it’s the left  $\vee$ ] $\rightarrow$  Formally, associativity defines *uniquely* what a formula with missing parentheses defines. (But that’s not important for this course.)
- Why is it important to identify the main connective?  
Because the main connective defines the **“type” of the formula**,  
which defines what we are allowed to do in our proofs.

## Connective Scopes and Main Connective: Type of Formula

The main connective dictates the type of a formula:

- if main connective is  $\neg$ , formula is a *negation*
- ...  $\wedge$ , ... *conjunction*
- ...  $\vee$ , ... *disjunction*
- ...  $\rightarrow$ , ... *implication*
- ...  $\leftrightarrow$ , ... *double-implication*

## Substitution: Substitutions of Formulae

replace each occurrence of the variable with a corresponding new variable

What is a substitution?

- “Formula A is a substitution instance of formula B if and only if A results from B by substitution of formulas for sentence letters.”  
(Logic Notes) – (Definition is specific to *propositional* logic.)

Example:

- “Original” formula:  $q \vee p$
- One of its substitution instances is  $(p \wedge q) \vee \neg r$ , because:
  - $q$  got substituted by  $(p \wedge q)$
  - $p$  got substituted by  $\neg r$

Non-Example:

- “Original” formula:  $q \vee q$
- The formula  $(p \wedge q) \vee \neg r$  is *not* a substitution instance of it  
(because the left part had to be the same as the right)