NAIL062 P&P Logic: Worksheet 4 – The tableau method

Teaching goals: After completing, the student

- knows terminology of tableau method (entry, tableau, tableau proof/refutation, finished/contradictory branch, canonical model), can define them formally, give examples
- knows atomic tableaux, can create suitable atomic tableaux for any logical connective
- can construct finished tableau for given proposition from given (even infinite) theory
- can describe the canonical model for a given finished noncontradictory branch of a tableau
- can apply the tableau method to solve a given problem (word problem, etc.)
- knows the compactness theorem and can apply it

In-class problems

Problem 1. Aladdin found two chests in a cave, A and B. He knows that each chest contains either a treasure or a deadly trap. The chests have the following inscriptions:

- On chest A: *"At least one of these two chests contains a treasure."*
- On chest B: *"Chest A contains a deadly trap."*

Aladdin knows that either both inscriptions are true, or both are false.

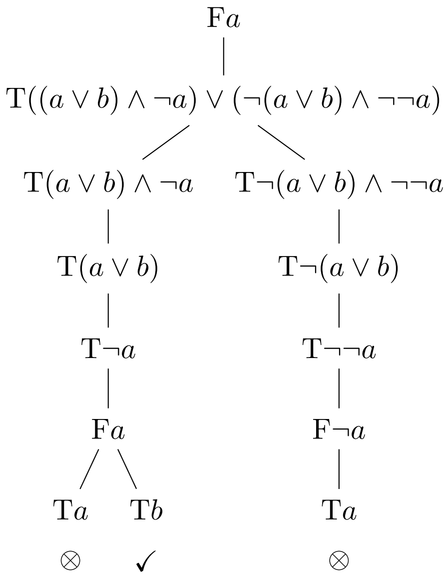
(a) Express Aladdin's information as a theory T over a suitably chosen set of propositional variables $\mathbb{P}$. (Explain the meaning of each propositional variable in $\mathbb{P}$.)
(b) Try to construct tableau proofs from the theory T for the propositions "The treasure is in chest A" and "The treasure is in chest B".
(c) If any of these finished tableaux is noncontradictory, construct the canonical model for one of its noncontradictory branches.
(d) What conclusion can we draw from this?

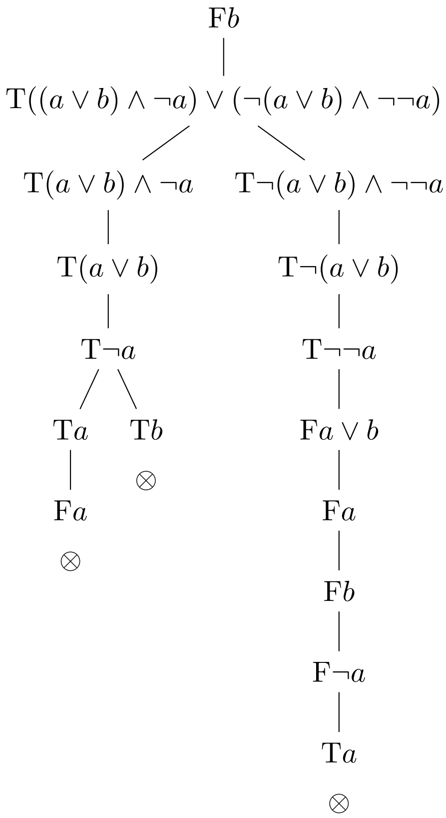
Solution. *(a) From the context, we recognize that 'either...or' is exclusive (a chest cannot contain both a treasure and a deadly trap). We choose the language $\mathbb{P} = \{a, b\}$, where a means 'chest A contains a treasure', and similarly for b. The inscriptions on the chests are formalized as the propositions $a \vee b$ and $\neg a$. The theory T expresses that both are true or both are false:*

$$T = \{((a \vee b) \wedge \neg a) \vee (\neg(a \vee b) \wedge \neg\neg a)\}$$

(Alternatively, we could formalize it as $T = \{(a \vee b) \leftrightarrow \neg a\}$, i.e., noticing that "both true or both false" means equivalence. The tableau would be slightly smaller but otherwise similar—try it!)

(b) The tableaux have at their root the entries Fa *and* Fb *(we prove by contradiction):*





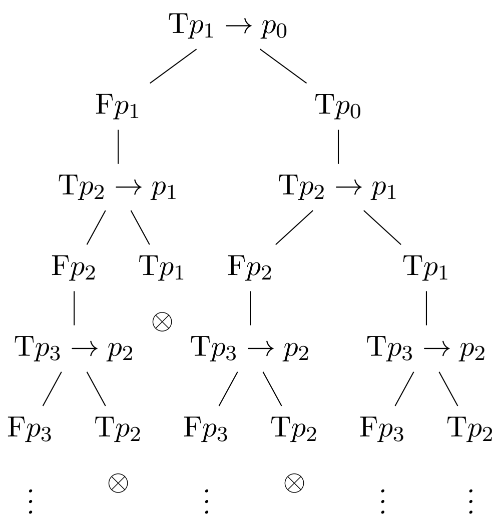
(c) The first tableau is finished but noncontradictory. The noncontradictory branch contains the entries Fa, Tb, *and the canonical model for this branch is* $v = (0, 1)$. *It is a model of the theory* T, *in which chest* A *does not contain a treasure, providing a counterexample to the statement that chest* A *contains a treasure.*

(d) *The second tableau is contradictory, so it is a tableau proof and we know that chest B contains the treasure.*

Problem 2. Consider the infinite propositional theory (a) $T = \{p_{i+1} \to p_i \mid i \in \mathbb{N}\}$ (b) $T = \{p_i \to p_{i+1} \mid i \in \mathbb{N}\}$. Using the tableau method, find all models of T. Is every model of T a canonical model for some branch of this tableau?

Solution. *Construct a tableau from the theory T, placing the entry $\mathrm{T}\alpha_0$ at the root, where α_0 is the first axiom of T. We only show the beginning of the construction; if you need to, construct more.*

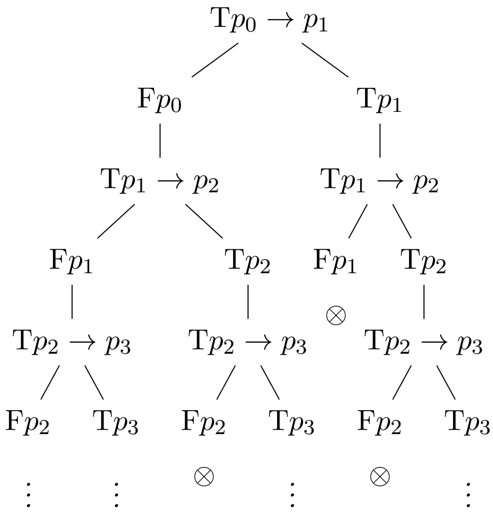
First, let us solve (a):



Each model of T agrees with some (noncontradictory) branch of this (finished) tableau. (Here, in fact, every model of T is a canonical *model for some branch. In general, this does not necessarily hold.) The models are:* $\mathrm{M}(T) = \{v_{<k} \mid k \in \mathbb{N}\} \cup \{v_{all}\}$, *where* $v_{all}(p_i) = 1$ *for all* $i \in \mathbb{N}$, *and*

$$v_{<k}(p_i) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i < k, \\ 0 & \text{if } i \geq k. \end{cases}$$

Now (b):

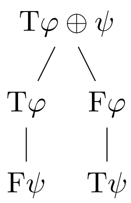


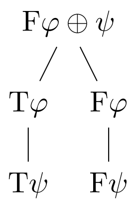
Again, it is not hard to see that each model agrees with some branch. We have $\mathrm{M}(T) = \{v_{none}\} \cup \{v_{\geq k} \mid k \in \mathbb{N}\}$*, where* $v_{none}(p_i) = 0$ *for all* $i \in \mathbb{N}$*, and*

$$v_{\geq k}(p_i) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i < k, \\ 1 & \text{if } i \geq k. \end{cases}$$

Problem 3. Design suitable atomic tableaux for the logical connective $\oplus$ (XOR) and show that if a model satisfies the root of your atomic tableau, it also satisfies some branch.

Solution. *We need two atomic tableaux, for entries of the form* $\mathrm{T}\varphi \oplus \psi$ *and* $\mathrm{F}\varphi \oplus \psi$*. They can look, for example, as follows; verify the condition yourself (easily semantically):*





Problem 4. Using the compactness theorem, show that every countable partial order can be extended to a total (linear) order.

Solution. *For finite partial orders, this can be easily proven (similarly to a topological ordering of an acyclic directed graph).*

Let $\langle X; \leq^X \rangle$ *be a countably infinite partially ordered set. Construct a propositional theory* T *such that its models describe linear orders on* X *extending* $\leq^X$*. It will consist of the following sets of propositions:*

- p_{xx} *for all* $x \in X$ *(reflexivity)*
- $p_{xy} \to \neg p_{yx}$ *for all* $x \neq y \in X$ *(antisymmetry)*
- $p_{xy} \wedge p_{yz} \to p_{xz}$ *for all* $x, y, z \in X$ *(transitivity)*
- $p_{xy} \vee p_{yx}$ *for all* $x, y \in X$ *(linearity)*
- p_{xy} *for all* x, y *such that* $x \leq^X y$ *(ensures extension of* $\leq^X$*)*

(Reflexivity can be omitted, as it already follows from the fact that it extends the reflexive relation $\leq^X$.)

Proof: *$\langle X; \leq^X \rangle$ has a linear extension if and only if T has a model, which by the compactness theorem holds if and only if every finite subset of T has a model. Take any finite $T' \subseteq T$. It is sufficient to show that T' has a model. Let X' be the set of all $x \in X$* mentioned in *T', i.e.:*

$$X' = \{x \in X \mid p_{xy} \in \mathrm{Var}(T') \textit{ or } p_{yx} \in \mathrm{Var}(T') \textit{ for some } y \in X\}$$

Since T' is finite, X' is finite. Let $\leq^{X'}$ be the restriction of $\leq^X$ to X', i.e., $\leq^{X'} = \leq^X \cap (X' \times X')$. This finite partial order can be extended to a linear order $\leq_L^{X'}$, which gives us a model of the theory T' (where $v(p_{xy}) = 1$ if and only if $x \leq_L^{X'} y$).

Extra practice

Problem 5. During the interrogation of Alice, Bob, and Charlie, it was established that:

(i) *At least one of them tells the truth, and at least one lies.*
(ii) *Alice says:* “Bob or Charlie lie.”
(iii) *Bob says:* “Charlie lies.”
(iv) *Charlie says:* “Alice or Bob lie.”

(a) Express statements (i)–(iv) as propositions φ_1–φ_4 over the set of propositional variables $\mathbb{P} = \{a, b, c\}$, where a, b, c respectively mean *“Alice/Bob/Charlie tells the truth”*.
(b) Using the tableau method, prove that $T = \{\varphi_1, \ldots, \varphi_4\}$ implies that Alice tells the truth.
(c) Is the theory T equivalent to the theory $T' = \{\varphi_2, \varphi_3, \varphi_4\}$? Justify your answer.

Problem 6. Using the tableau method, prove that the following propositions are tautologies:

(a) $(p \to (q \to q))$
(b) $p \leftrightarrow \neg\neg p$
(c) $\neg(p \lor q) \leftrightarrow (\neg p \land \neg q)$
(d) $(p \to q) \leftrightarrow (\neg q \to \neg p)$

Problem 7. Using the tableau method, either prove or find a counterexample in the form of a *canonical* model for a noncontradictory branch.

(a) $\{\neg q,\ p \lor q\} \models p$
(b) $\{q \to p,\ r \to q,\ (r \to p) \to s\} \models s$
(c) $\{p \to r,\ p \lor q,\ \neg s \to \neg q\} \models r \to s$

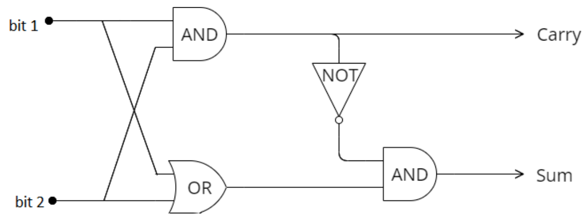
Problem 8. Using the tableau method, determine all models of the following theories:

(a) $\{(\neg p \lor q) \to (\neg q \land r)\}$
(b) $\{\neg q \to (\neg p \lor q),\ \neg p \to q,\ r \to q\}$
(c) $\{q \to p,\ r \to q,\ (r \to p) \to s\}$

Problem 9. Design suitable atomic tableaux and show that if a model satisfies the root of your atomic tableaux, it also satisfies some branch:

- for Peirce’s connective $\downarrow$ (NOR),
- for Sheffer’s connective $\uparrow$ (NAND),
- for the ternary operator “if p then q else r” (IFTE).

Problem 10. A *half-adder circuit* is a logic circuit with two input bits (bit 1, bit 2) and two output bits (carry, sum) illustrated in the following diagram:



(a) Formalize this circuit in propositional logic. Specifically, express it as a theory $T = \{c \leftrightarrow \varphi,\ s \leftrightarrow \psi\}$ in the language $\mathbb{P} = \{b_1, b_2, c, s\}$, where the propositional variables mean "bit 1", "bit 2", "carry", and "sum", and the propositions φ, ψ do not contain the variables c, s.

(b) Using the tableau method, prove that $T \models c \to \neg s$.

Problem 11. Using the compactness theorem, prove that every countable planar graph is four-colorable. You may use the Four Color Theorem (for finite graphs).

For further thought

Problem 12. Prove directly (by transforming tableaux) the *deduction theorem*, i.e., that for any theory T and propositions φ, ψ, we have:

$$T \vdash \varphi \to \psi \quad \text{if and only if} \quad T, \varphi \vdash \psi$$

Problem 13. Let A and B be two non-empty theories in the same language. Suppose that every model of theory A satisfies at least one axiom of theory B. Show that there exist finite sets of axioms $\{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k\} \subseteq A$ and $\{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_n\} \subseteq B$ such that $\alpha_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \alpha_k \ \to\ \beta_1 \vee \dots \vee \beta_n$ is a tautology.