

# Math 310: Foundations for Higher Mathematics

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# 1 The Foundations: Logic and Proofs

Consider the following argument:

i eat chocolate if i am depressed  
 i am not depressed  
 therefore i am not eating chocolate

Obviously, the logic is flawed... but how do we write this in a more formal way?

## 1.1 Propositional Logic

A *statement* is a sentence or mathematical expression that is either *true* or *false*—e.g.

- $P$  : The number 3 is odd
- $Q$  : The number 6 is even
- $R$  : The number 4 is odd

### Not a statement

- $x > 2$  (the true value depends on  $x$ )
- $x = 2, t + 4q = 17$

### Combining statements

Given statements  $P$  and  $Q$ :

- “ $P$  and  $Q$ ” is a statement ( $P \wedge Q$ )
- “ $P$  or  $Q$ ” is a statement ( $P \vee Q$ )

We can construct a truth table to represent the truth values of  $P \wedge Q$  and  $P \vee Q$ :

$P$	$Q$	$P \wedge Q$	$P$	$Q$	$P \vee Q$
T	T	T	T	T	T
T	F	F	T	F	T
F	T	F	F	T	T
F	F	F	F	F	F

Table 1: Truth tables for conjunction ( $\wedge$ ) and disjunction ( $\vee$ )

### Conditional Statements

The expression:

If  $P$ , then  $Q$  (or  $P \Rightarrow Q$ )

is a *conditional statement*.

$P$	$Q$	$P \Rightarrow Q$
T	T	T
T	F	F
F	T	T
F	F	T

Table 2: Truth table for conditional statements

**Example:** $P(n)$ : The integer  $n$  is odd $Q(n)$ : The integer  $n^2$  is odd

$P(n)$  and  $Q(n)$  are not statements, but they are *predicates* (statements once  $n$  is determined). So the conditional statement is

 $P(n) \Rightarrow Q(n)$ : If the integer  $n$  is odd, then the integer  $n^2$  is odd**Proving a statement of the form  $P \Rightarrow Q$** 

1. Direct proof: Assume  $P$  is true and “prove” that  $Q$  is also true

Example: Let's construct a truth table for  $(P \vee Q) \Rightarrow R$

$P$	$Q$	$R$	$P \vee Q$	$(P \vee Q) \Rightarrow R$
T	T	T	T	T
T	F	T	T	T
T	F	F	T	F
F	T	T	T	T
F	F	T	F	T
F	F	F	F	T

Table 3: Truth table for  $(P \vee Q) \Rightarrow R$

Where we want to prove

If  $n$  is odd, then  $n^2$  is odd.

The first proposition is symbolically  $O(n) : n$  is odd, and the conditional statement is

$$O(n) \Rightarrow O(n^2)$$

**Def** First we define an integer  $n$  odd if  $n = 2k + 1$  for some integer  $k$ . An integer is even if  $n = 2k$  for some integer  $k$ .

**Remark**

**Remark.** The set of integers

$$\mathbb{Z} = \{\dots, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$$

where  $k$  is an integer is denoted as  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

**Proof** Suppose  $n$  is odd. So by definition,  $n = 2k + 1$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

$$\Rightarrow n^2 = (2k + 1)(2k + 1) = 4k^2 + 4k + 1 = 2(2k^2 + 2k) + 1$$

Since  $2k^2 + 2k$  is an integer, we have that  $n^2$  is in fact odd.  $\square$

**Another Example** (Because students love examples) Suppose  $x$  and  $y$  are positive numbers. Prove that if  $x < y$  then  $x^2 < y^2$ .

**Sol** Suppose  $x$  and  $y$  are positive real numbers and further suppose that  $x < y$ . A fundamental property of  $<$  on the real numbers is that if  $a < b$  and  $c > 0$ , then  $a \cdot c < b \cdot c$  since if

$$a < b \implies 0 < b - a$$

and the product of the two positive numbers is positive, i.e.

$$0 < c(b - a) = cb - ca$$

Which now implies  $ca < cb$ . In this case, if  $a = x, b = y, c = x$ , then

$$x^2 = x \cdot x < x \cdot y$$

Now if we swap and use  $c = y$ , we have

$$x \cdot y < y \cdot y = y^2$$

Concatenating the two inequalities, we find that

$$x^2 = x \cdot x < x \cdot y < y \cdot y = y^2$$

Because  $x$  and  $y$  were arbitrary positive numbers, the conclusion holds.  $\square$

## 1.2 Logical Equivalence

Two statements are *logically equivalent* if they have the same truth value, e.g.  $x$  &  $y$  are real numbers

$$P : x \cdot y = 0$$

$$Q : x = 0 \text{ or } y = 0$$

are equivalence since they are either both T or both F.

If  $P$  and  $Q$  are equivalent we say  $P$  if and only if  $Q$  and we write

$$P \iff Q \quad \text{or} \quad P \equiv Q$$

which is a *biconditional statement*. Note that  $P$  &  $Q$  are predicates but  $P \iff Q$  is a statement.

**Example**  $P, Q$ , and  $R$  are statements

$$((P \vee Q) \Rightarrow R) \iff ((P \Rightarrow R) \wedge (Q \Rightarrow R))$$

$P$	$Q$	$R$	$P \vee Q$	$P \Rightarrow R$	$Q \Rightarrow R$	$(P \vee Q) \Rightarrow R$	$(P \Rightarrow R) \wedge (Q \Rightarrow R)$
T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
T	T	F	T	F	F	F	F
T	F	T	T	T	T	T	T
T	F	F	T	F	T	F	F

Table 4: Truth table

**Contrapositive** The *contrapositive* state is

If not  $Q$ , then not  $P$

**Claim** The statement  $P \Rightarrow Q$  and its contrapositive  $\neg Q \Rightarrow \neg P$  are logically equivalent.

**Proof** For fun watch the YouTube video [Not Knot](#)

$P$	$Q$	$P \Rightarrow Q$	$\neg Q$	$\neg P$	$\neg Q \Rightarrow \neg P$
T	T	T	F	F	T
T	F	F	T	F	F
F	T	T	F	T	T
F	F	T	T	T	T

Table 5: Truth table proof

**Remark** A proof of a condition statement by proving the contrapositive is called a *contrapositive proof*.

**Example** Let's prove the statement

Suppose  $x$  is a real number. If  $x^2 + 5x < 0$ , then  $x < 0$

using a contrapositive proof.

**Proof**

$$P : x^2 + 5x < 0$$

$$Q : x < 0$$

So  $\neg Q \Rightarrow \neg P$  is

$$\text{If } x \geq 0, \text{ then } x^2 + 5x \geq 0$$

Suppose  $x$  is a real number satisfying  $x \geq 0$ . Then  $5x \geq 0$  &  $x^2 \geq 0$ . Thus

$$x^2 + 5x \geq 0$$

Because  $x \geq 0$  was arbitrary, we have  $\neg Q \Rightarrow \neg P$ .

**Converse**  $Q \Rightarrow P$  is called the *converse* of  $P \Rightarrow Q$ .

**Example**

$P$ :  $f$  is differentiable at  $x = 0$

$Q$ :  $f$  is continuous at  $x = 0$

As an example,  $f = |x|$  is continuous at  $x = 0$  but not differentiable at  $x = 0$ —so here

$P \Rightarrow Q$  is true, but

$Q \Rightarrow P$  is false

Another example is

$P$ :  $A$  is an invertible  $2 \times 2$  matrix

$Q$ :  $\det A \neq 0$

Negation & Quantifiers

**Example** Let  $m$  and  $n$  be integers. If 4 divides the product  $mn$  (results in an integer), then 4 divides  $m$  or 4 divides  $n$ .

- Converse: If 4 divides  $m$  or 4 divides  $n$ , then 4 divides  $mn$
- Contrapositive: If 4 does not divide  $m$  and 4 does not divide  $n$ , then 4 does not divide  $mn$

This statement is False!

**Proof** If  $m = n = 2$ , then 4 divides  $mn = 4$ . But 4 does *not* divide  $m$  or  $n$ , thus the statement is F.  $\square$

The *negation* of a statement  $P$  is the statement whose truth values are opposite for those of  $P$  and is denoted as  $\neg P$ .

**Claim** Let  $P$  and  $Q$  be statements.

The negation of the conditional statement  $P \Rightarrow Q$  is  $P \wedge (\neg Q)$ .

**Proof** We check that  $\neg(P \Rightarrow Q)$  and  $P \wedge (\neg Q)$  are logically equivalent with a truth table.

$P$	$Q$	$P \Rightarrow Q$	$\neg(P \Rightarrow Q)$	$\neg Q$	$P \wedge (\neg Q)$
T	T	T	F	F	F
T	F	F	T	T	T
F	T	T	F	F	F
F	F	T	F	T	F

Table 6: Truth table for negation of a conditional statement

**Discussion** Let  $P$  and  $Q$  be statements and negate  $P \vee Q$ , and find what it is equivalent to.

$P$	$Q$	$P \vee Q$	$\neg(P \vee Q)$	$\neg P \wedge \neg Q$
T	T	T	F	F
T	F	T	F	F
F	T	T	F	F
F	F	F	T	T

Table 7: Truth table for negation of a disjunction

So the two statements are logically equivalent  $\neg(P \vee Q) \iff \neg P \wedge \neg Q$ . This is one of De Morgan's Laws:

$$\begin{aligned}\neg(P \vee Q) &\iff \neg P \wedge \neg Q \\ \neg(P \wedge Q) &\iff \neg P \vee \neg Q\end{aligned}$$

Table 8: De Morgan's Laws

**Example** Every nonempty subset of  $\mathbb{N}$  has a smallest element.

**Notation**  $\mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$  is the set of natural numbers.

**Definition** The symbols  $\forall$  and  $\exists$  are called *quantifiers*.

- $\forall$  stands for “for all” or “for every”
- $\exists$  stands for “there exists” or “there is”

thus we write the above statement as logical mathematical symbols is

$$\forall X \subset \mathbb{N} \text{ with } X \neq \phi, \exists x_0 \in X \text{ such that } x_0 \leq x \quad \forall x \in X$$



## HW NOTES

$$(P \Leftrightarrow Q) \equiv [(P \Rightarrow Q) \wedge (Q \Rightarrow P)]$$

Show both  $P \Rightarrow Q$  and  $Q \Rightarrow P$  are true.

**Example** Negate the statement:

The integers 5 and 9 are both odd.

Using De Morgan's Laws  $\neg(P \wedge Q) \equiv \neg P \vee \neg Q$  we can rewrite the statement as

Either 5 is even or 9 is even.

Let  $A$  be a set and  $a \in A$ .

- $\forall a \in A, P(a)$ : means  $P(a)$  is true for every element of set  $A$ .
- $\exists a \in A, P(a)$ : means  $P(a)$  is true for some element of set  $A$ .
- $\neg(\forall a \in A, P(a)) \equiv \exists a \in A, \neg P(a)$
- $\neg(\exists a \in A, P(a)) \equiv \forall a \in A, \neg P(a)$

**WARNING** :

- $\neg(a \in A) \equiv a \notin A$  is not the same as
- $\neg(\forall a \in A) \equiv \exists a \in A$

**Example** Let  $C(x)$ :  $x$  has taken calculus ( $x$  is a 310 student).

$$G(x, y) : x > y \quad (x, y \in \mathbb{R})$$

$$P(x) : x \text{ is prime} \quad (x \in \mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\})$$

1.  $\forall x, C(x)$  as a statement: Every 310 student has taken calculus  
Negation: There is some 310 student who has not taken calculus, or
2.  $\exists x, C(x)$
3. Negate  $\forall x \in \mathbb{N}, \neg P(x)$

Statement: Every natural number is not prime.

Negation:  $\exists x \in \mathbb{N}, P(x)$ —There exist a natural number that is prime.

4. Negate  $\exists x \in \mathbb{R}, G(x, 2)$

Statement: There exists a real number greater than 2.

Negation:  $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}, \neg G(x, 2)$ —Every real number is less than or equal to 2.  $\iff$

**Example** Negate the following statements:

1. For all  $X \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ , there exists an integer  $n$  such that  $|X| = n$ .

Symbolically:  $\forall X \subseteq \mathbb{N} \quad \exists n \in \mathbb{Z}, \quad |X| = n$ . Where  $|X|$  is “the number of elements in the set  $X$ , cardinality of  $X$ ”.

e.g.

- $X = \{1, 2, 3\}$  then  $|X| = 3$
- All even natural numbers  $X = \{0, 2, 4, 6, 8, \dots\}$   
then  $|X| = \infty$ , so  $\nexists$  an integer  $n$  such that  $|X| = n$ .

Thus the negation  $\exists X \subseteq \mathbb{N} \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}, \quad |X| \neq n$  shows that the statement is false.

2. There exists  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $x \neq n + 2$ .

Symbolically:  $\exists x \in \mathbb{Z} \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}, \quad x \neq n + 2$ .

Negation:  $\forall x \in \mathbb{Z} \quad \exists n \in \mathbb{Z}, \quad x = n + 2$ .

which is true.

3. For all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , there exists  $y \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $y^3 = x$ .

... this is true

4. There exists  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $x \neq n + 2$ .

... this is false.

**Example** True or False; Negate

1. For all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , there exists  $y \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $y^2 = x$

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{R} \exists y \in \mathbb{R}, y^2 = x$$

Negation:  $\exists x \in \mathbb{R} \forall y \in \mathbb{R}, y^2 \neq x$

There exists  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  so that for all  $y \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $y^2 \neq x$

The original statement is false:

Let  $x = -1$ . Then  $y^2 \neq -1 \forall y \in \mathbb{R}$

2. For all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , there exists  $y \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $y^3 = x$ .

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{R} \exists y \in \mathbb{R}, y^3 = x$$

Negation:  $\exists x \in \mathbb{R} \forall y \in \mathbb{R}, y^3 \neq x$

The original statement is true because every real number has a cube root.

**Definition** A *set* is a collection of objects.

The objects in a set are called *elements*.

**Definition** The unique set containing no elements is called the *empty set*, denoted by  $\emptyset$  or  $\varnothing$ .

**Example**  $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, \{6, 7\}\}$

(a)  $1 \in A$  (1 is an element of  $A$ ) T

(b)  $\{1\} \in A$  F

(c)  $1 \subseteq A$  F

(d)  $\{1\} \subseteq A$  F

(e)  $\{6, 7\} \subseteq A$  F

(e)'  $\{\{6, 7\}\} \subseteq A$  T

(f)  $\{4, 5\} \subseteq A$  T

(g)  $|A| = 6$  T

(h)  $\emptyset \in A$  F

**Set-builder notation** used to describe sets when its difficult to list all elements.

**Example** Even integers  $\{\dots, -4, -2, 0, 2, 4, \dots\}$

$$= \{2k \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\} = \{2k : k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

**Example** The set of rational numbers

$$\mathbb{Q} := \left\{ \frac{p}{q} \mid p, q \in \mathbb{Z}, q \neq 0 \right\}$$

The set of *irrational numbers* is set of all real numbers that are not rational.

**Remark**  $\mathbb{N} \subsetneq \mathbb{Z} \subsetneq \mathbb{Q} \subsetneq \mathbb{R}$

**Example** Write in set-builder notation:

1.  $\{\dots, \frac{1}{27}, \frac{1}{9}, 1, 3, 9, 27 \dots\}$

$$= \{3^k \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

2. The set of odd integers

$$\{2k + 1 \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

3.  $(-\infty, 3] = \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid x \leq 3\}$

**Definition** Let  $A$  and  $B$  be sets.

- *Union*:  $A \cup B := \{x \mid x \in A \vee x \in B\}$

- *Intersection*:  $A \cap B := \{x \mid x \in A \wedge x \in B\}$

Definition: The sets  $A$  and  $B$  are *disjoint* if  $A \cap B = \emptyset$ .  $\emptyset$

- *Set-difference*:  $A - B = A \setminus B := \{x \in A \mid x \notin B\}$

- The *complement* of  $A$  in a set  $U$  is  $A^c = \overline{A} := \{x \in U \mid x \notin A\}$

- *Cartesian product*:

$$A \times B := \{(a, b) \mid a \in A, b \in B\}$$

(e.g.  $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} = \mathbb{R}^2$ )

**T/F**

1.  $A \times B = B \times A$

F:  $A = \{1\}$ ,  $B = \{2\}$ , so  $A \times B = \{(1, 2)\}$  but  $B \times A = \{(2, 1)\}$

2. If  $|A| = 2$  and  $|B| = 3$ , then  $|A \times B| = 6$       T

3.  $\mathbb{R} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$       F

4'.  $\mathbb{R} \times \{O\} = \mathbb{R}^2$       T

**Example** Write out the sets by listing all elements:

$$1. \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid \cos(x) = 0, 0 \leq x \leq 2\pi\}$$

$$= \left\{ \frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{3\pi}{2} \right\}$$

$$2. \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid \sin(x) = 0, 0 \leq x \leq 2\pi\}$$

$$= \{0, \pi, 2\pi\}$$

$$3. \{m \mid m \in \mathbb{N}, m^2 < 10\}$$

$$= \{1, 2, 3, 0\}$$

**Example** Compute the following sets:

$$1. \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \left[ \frac{1}{n+1}, n+1 \right] = (0, \infty)$$

Looking at a few of our favorite natural numbers...

- $n = 4$ :  $\left[ \frac{1}{5}, 5 \right]$
- $n = 0$ :  $[1, 1] = \{1\}$
- $n = 2$ :  $\left[ \frac{1}{3}, 3 \right]$

So the union of all these sets is  $(0, \infty)$ .

$$2. \bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \left[ \frac{1}{n+1}, n+1 \right] = \{1\}$$

The intersection of all these sets is when  $n = 0$  because that is when the two values are equal to each other.

**Claim** Let  $A, B$ , and  $C$  be sets.

If  $B \subseteq C$ , then  $A \times B \subseteq A \times C$ .

*Proof.* Let  $(a, b) \in A \times B$ . By definition of the Cartesian product,  $a \in A$  and  $b \in B$ . Since  $B \subseteq C$ ,  $b \in C$ . Thus,  $(a, b) \in A \times C$ .  $\square$