

## 2.1 Logical Equivalence and Truth Tables

# Statement (propositional) forms

## Definition

- A statement form (or propositional form) is an expression made up of statement variables (such as  $p, q$ , and  $r$ ) and logical connectives (such as  $\sim$ ,  $\wedge$ , and  $\vee$ ) that becomes a statement when actual statements are substituted for the component statement variables.

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- The truth table for a given statement form displays the truth values that correspond to all possible combinations of truth values for its component statement variables.

# Truth Tables for statement forms

## Examples

Find the truth tables for the following statement forms:

①  $p \vee \sim q$

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Find the truth tables for the following statement forms:

①  $p \vee \sim q$

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②  $p \vee (q \wedge r)$

③  $(p \vee q) \wedge (p \vee r)$

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- The logical equivalence of statement forms  $P$  and  $Q$  is denoted by writing  $P \equiv Q$ .
- Two statements are called logically equivalent if, and only if, they have logically equivalent forms when identical component statement variables are used to replace identical component statements.

# Examples

## Examples (de Morgan's Laws)

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- 2 Show that  $\sim (p \vee q) \equiv \sim p \wedge \sim q$ .

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- ① We have seen that  $\sim (p \wedge q)$  and  $\sim p \vee \sim q$  are logically equivalent.
- ② Show that  $\sim (p \vee q) \equiv \sim p \wedge \sim q$ .
- ③ Show that  $\sim (p \wedge q)$  and  $\sim p \wedge \sim q$  are **not** logically equivalent.

# Tautologies and Contradictions

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- A tautology is a statement form that is always true regardless of the truth values of the individual statements substituted for its statement variables.
- A contradiction is a statement form that is always false regardless of the truth values of the individual statements substituted for its statement variables.

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- Example:  $p \wedge \sim p$ .

# Logical Equivalence

## Theorem 2.1.1 Logical Equivalences

Given any statement variables  $p, q$ , and  $r$ , a tautology  $\mathbf{t}$  and a contradiction  $\mathbf{c}$ , the following logical equivalences hold.

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| 1. <i>Commutative laws:</i>  | $p \wedge q \equiv$                          | $p \vee q \equiv$                            |
| 2. <i>Associative laws:</i>  | $(p \wedge q) \wedge r \equiv$               | $(p \vee q) \vee r \equiv$                   |
| 3. <i>Distributive laws:</i>   | $p \wedge (q \vee r) \equiv$                 | $p \vee (q \wedge r) \equiv$                 |
| 4. <i>Identity laws:</i>   | $p \wedge \mathbf{t} \equiv$                 | $p \vee \mathbf{c} \equiv$                   |
| 5. <i>Negation laws:</i>   | $p \vee \sim p \equiv \mathbf{t}$            | $p \wedge \sim p \equiv \mathbf{c}$          |
| 6. <i>Double negative law:</i>   | $\sim(\sim p) \equiv p$                      |  |
| 7. <i>Idempotent laws:</i>   | $p \wedge p \equiv p$                        | $p \vee p \equiv p$                          |
| 8. <i>Universal bound laws:</i>  | $p \vee \mathbf{t} \equiv \mathbf{t}$        | $p \wedge \mathbf{c} \equiv \mathbf{c}$      |
| 9. <i>De Morgan's laws:</i>  | $\sim(p \wedge q) \equiv \sim p \vee \sim q$ | $\sim(p \vee q) \equiv \sim p \wedge \sim q$ |
| 10. <i>Absorption laws:</i>  | $p \vee (p \wedge q) \equiv p$               | $p \wedge (p \vee q) \equiv p$               |
| 11. <i>Negations of <math>\mathbf{t}</math> and <math>\mathbf{c}</math>:</i> | $\sim \mathbf{t} \equiv \mathbf{c}$          | $\sim \mathbf{c} \equiv \mathbf{t}$          |



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| 1. <i>Commutative laws:</i>  | $p \wedge q \equiv q \wedge p$                              | $p \vee q \equiv q \vee p$                                |
| 2. <i>Associative laws:</i>  | $(p \wedge q) \wedge r \equiv p \wedge (q \wedge r)$        | $(p \vee q) \vee r \equiv p \vee (q \vee r)$              |
| 3. <i>Distributive laws:</i>   | $p \wedge (q \vee r) \equiv (p \wedge q) \vee (p \wedge r)$ | $p \vee (q \wedge r) \equiv (p \vee q) \wedge (p \vee r)$ |
| 4. <i>Identity laws:</i>   | $p \wedge \mathbf{t} \equiv p$                              | $p \vee \mathbf{c} \equiv p$                              |
| 5. <i>Negation laws:</i>   | $p \vee \sim p \equiv \mathbf{t}$                           | $p \wedge \sim p \equiv \mathbf{c}$                       |
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| 8. <i>Universal bound laws:</i>  | $p \vee \mathbf{t} \equiv \mathbf{t}$                       | $p \wedge \mathbf{c} \equiv \mathbf{c}$                   |
| 9. <i>De Morgan's laws:</i>  | $\sim(p \wedge q) \equiv \sim p \vee \sim q$                | $\sim(p \vee q) \equiv \sim p \wedge \sim q$              |
| 10. <i>Absorption laws:</i>  | $p \vee (p \wedge q) \equiv p$                              | $p \wedge (p \vee q) \equiv p$                            |
| 11. <i>Negations of <math>\mathbf{t}</math> and <math>\mathbf{c}</math>:</i> | $\sim \mathbf{t} \equiv \mathbf{c}$                         | $\sim \mathbf{c} \equiv \mathbf{t}$                       |

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Use the logical equivalence of Theorem 2.1.1 to prove that the following are logical equivalences:

①  $(\sim p \vee q) \wedge (\sim q) \equiv \sim (p \vee q).$

②  $(p \wedge \sim q) \vee (\sim p \vee q) \equiv \mathbf{t}.$