

Discrete Mathematics

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September 30, 2020

Chapter 1

Introduction

Propositional logic

Propositional logic (and mathematics, in general) studies propositions: **declarative sentences** (a sentence that declares a fact) that is either true or false, but not both.

Example 1.1. Propositions:

1. Toronto is the capital of Canada (false but a declarative sentence nonetheless)
2. $1+1=2$
3. $2+2=3$
4. 3 is a prime number

The following are not propositions:

Not declarative:

1. What time is it?
2. Read this carefully.

Neither true or false:

1. $x + 1 - 2$
2. $x + y - z$

We use letters to denote propositions: **p, q, r, ...** Now propositions (called compound propositions) are constructed by combining one or more propositions using logical operators.

Negation (NOT)

If p is a proposition, its negation is denoted by $\neg p$.

"It's not the case that p ". "The negation of p ".

Example 1.2. p : "My PC runs Linux"

$\neg p$: "It's not the case that my PC runs Linux" \Rightarrow "My PC doesn't run Linux"

Example 1.3. p : $1 + 1 = 2$ $\neg p$: $1 + 1 \neq 2$

$\Rightarrow \neg p$ is true iff (if and only if) p is false.

Conjunction (AND)

Let p, q be two propositions $\Rightarrow p \wedge q$ "p and q".

$p \wedge q$ is true iff p and q are true.

Remark. Sometimes the word "but" is used instead of "and". For example: 2 is even but 3 is odd.

Disjunction (OR)

Let p, q be two propositions $\Rightarrow p \vee q$ "p or q".

$p \vee q$ is true iff p is true, q is true or both are.

This corresponds to the **inclusive or** in English.

Remark. The **exclusive or**, it is not possible to have both propositions. For example: soup or salad comes as an entrée, it most certainly means that the customer cannot have both soup or salad.

Conditional statement / Implication

Let p, q be two propositions $\Rightarrow p \rightarrow q$ "if p , then q ".

Because of its essential role in mathematical reasoning, a variety of terminology is used to express $p \rightarrow q$:

- if p and then q
- if $p, q \rightarrow p$ implies q
- q if $p \rightarrow p$ only if q
- q when p
- if p, q

$p \rightarrow q$ is false when p (the hypothesis / antecedent) is true and q (the consequence / conclusion) is false; otherwise, it is true.

Useful way to understand its truth value: A pledge many politicians make when running for office: "If I'm elected, I will lower taxes". It is only when the politician is elected that (..) not lower taxes that it can be said he has broken his pledge.

Remark. Note that this definition is more general than the meaning attached to such statements in English: there needs to be no relationship between p and q : "If the Moon is made of cheese, then $2+3=4$ ".

Biconditional statement / Bi-implication

$p \leftrightarrow q$. It's equivalent to $(p \rightarrow q) \wedge (q \rightarrow p)$. It's True iff the truth values of p and q are the same.

The main advantage of logical language over natural ones is that it removes ???.

Predicate logic or first-order logic

Statements such as: $x > 3$ or $x + 1 = y$ are often found in mathematical assertions. They are neither true or false (when the value of the variables are not specified) and have fall outside of the scope of propositional logic.

In " $x > 3$ " there are two parts:

- the variable x .
- the predicate "is greater than 3".

By denoting the predicate with P , the statement can be represented as $P(x)$.

Example 1.4. • If $P(x)$ is " $x > 3$ " then $P(4)$ is True, $P(2)$ is False, $P(y)$ is undefined.

- $Q(x, y)$ is " $x = y + 2$ ": $Q(3, 1)$ is True.

Quantifiers

In addition to assigning values to variables, there is another way to get truth values from predicate statements. For that, it is necessary to assume a domain or universe of discover???

Universal quantification

$$P(x) \rightarrow \forall x, P(x) : P(x) \text{ for all values of } x \text{ in the domain.}$$

$$\forall x, P(x) \text{ is true iff } P(a) \text{ is true for all elements } a \text{ in the universe}$$

Example 1.5. 1. $\forall x, x + 1 > x$ is true in \mathbb{R} and \mathbb{N} .

2. $\forall x, x \geq 0$ is true in \mathbb{N} but not in \mathbb{R} . Alternative, mathematical notation:

- $\forall x \in \mathbb{N}, x \geq 0$
- $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}, x \geq 0$

3. $U = \{0, 1, 2, 3\}, \forall x, x^2 < 10$ is true.

4. $\forall x, \forall y, x + y > x$ is true in \mathbb{N} , false in \mathbb{R} .

5. $\forall x, \forall y, x \cdot y > x + y$ is false in \mathbb{N} and in \mathbb{R}

Existencial quantification

$$P(x) \rightarrow \exists x, P(x) : \text{"There exists an element } x \text{ in the domain such that } P(x)\text{"}$$

$$\exists x, P(x) \text{ is true iff } P(a) \text{ is true for some } a \text{ in the universe}$$

Example 1.6. 1. $\exists x, x < 0$ is true in \mathbb{R} but not in \mathbb{N} .

2. $\forall x, \exists y, x + y = 0$ is True in \mathbb{R} and False in \mathbb{N} .

3. $\exists y, \forall x, x + y = 0$ is False in \mathbb{R} and True in \mathbb{N} .

Remark. The order of the quantifiers matters.

Remark. What if the universe is empty (there are no elements)?

$\forall x, P(x)$ is trivially true

$\exists x, P(x)$ is false

Proof techniques

Direct proofs

$p \rightarrow q$ can be proved by showing that if p is True then q must be also True.

Example 1.7.

Proof by contraposition

To prove $p \rightarrow q$ is equivalent to showing its contrapositive: $\neg q \rightarrow \neg p$.

False iff $\neg q$ is True, $\neg p$ is False.

$\Leftrightarrow q$ is False, p is True.

$\Leftrightarrow p \rightarrow q$ is False.

Example 1.8. If $3n + 2$ is odd, then n is odd. ***

Vacuous and trivial proofs

$p \rightarrow q$ is True if the hypothesis is False.

$p \rightarrow q$ is True if so is q .

Example 1.9. If n^2 is odd then n is odd (contrapositive: start with a draft proof)

Proofs by contradiction

To show that q is True it is enough to show that $\neg p$ leads to a contradiction.

Example 1.10. Out of 22 weekdays, at least 4 must fall on the same day of the week.

Counterexample

To show that $\forall x, P(x)$ is False, we need to only find a value such that $P(a)$ is False.

Example 1.11. Every positive integer is the sum of the squares of two integers:

$$6 = 1^2 + 2^2 + 1^2 \text{ but } 7 = \dots!$$