Cheatsheet - Propositional Logic

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1. Intro

A proposition is a statement that can be either *true* or *false*. It must be one or the other, and it cannot be both.

2. Syntax

Propositions are denoted by capital letters, such as $P, Q, \ldots$. General statements are denoted by lowercase letters, such as $p, q, \ldots$

3. Connectives

Logical NOT: $\neg p$ is true if and only if p is false (also called *negation*).

Logical OR: $p \vee q$ is true if and only if at least one of p or q is true or if both p and q are true (also called *disjunction*).

Logical AND: $p \wedge q$ is true if and only if both p and q are true (also called *conjunction*).

Logical IF...THEN: $p \rightarrow q$ is true if and only if either p is false or q is true (also called *conditional* or *implication*). p is the premise, q is the conclusion.

Logical IF and only IF: $p \leftrightarrow q$ is true if and only if both p and q are true (also called *bi-conditional*).

Exclusive OR: XOR: $p \oplus q$ is true if p or q is true but not both.

3.1. Translation to Connectives

As an example, lets consider the propositions:

- $P = \text{I study 20 hours a week}$
- $R = \text{I will pass the exam}$
- $S = \text{I will be happy}$
- $Q = \text{I attend all the lectures}$

And the following connectives:

$$(P \vee Q) \rightarrow (R \wedge S)$$

which is a translation of: "**If** I study 20 hours a week **or** attend all the lectures, **then** I will pass the exam **and** I will be happy."

4. Truth Tables

4.1. Negation: $\neg$

$$true = \neg false$$
$$false = \neg true$$

4.2. Conjunction: $\wedge$

$$true \wedge true = true$$
$$true \wedge false = false$$
$$false \wedge true = false$$
$$false \wedge false = false$$

4.3. Disjunction: $\vee$

$$true \vee true = true$$
$$true \vee false = true$$
$$false \vee true = true$$
$$false \vee false = false$$

4.4. Implication: $\rightarrow$

$$true \rightarrow true = true$$
$$true \rightarrow false = false$$
$$false \rightarrow true = true$$

$$false \to false = true$$

NOTE

This can seem weird at first, this answer helps: https://math.stackexchange.com/a/100288

> *If you start out with a false premise, then, as far as implication is concerned, you are free to conclude anything. (This corresponds to the fact that, when p is false, the implication $p \to q$ is true no matter what q is.)*

> *If you start out with a true premise, then the implication should be true only when the conclusion is also true. (This corresponds to the fact that, when p is true, the truth of the implication is the same as the truth of q.)*

4.5. Bi-conditional: $\leftrightarrow$

$$1 \leftrightarrow 1 = 1$$
$$1 \leftrightarrow 0 = 0$$
$$0 \leftrightarrow 1 = 0$$
$$0 \leftrightarrow 0 = 1$$

4.6. Exclusive or: XOR, $\oplus$

$$1 \oplus 1 = 0$$
$$1 \oplus 0 = 1$$
$$0 \oplus 1 = 1$$
$$0 \oplus 0 = 0$$

5. Operator Precedence

Operators are applied in the following order (ascending):

1. $\neg$
2. $\wedge$
3. $\vee$
4. $\to$
5. $\leftrightarrow$

For example:

$$p \to p \wedge \neg q \vee s \equiv (p \to ((p \wedge (\neg q)) \vee s))$$

6. Descriptors

A formula that's always true is called a **tautology**. A formula that is true for at least one scenario is **consistent**. A formula that's never true is **inconsistent**. A formula can also result in a **contradiction**.

7. Equivalances

Formulas are equivalanent if they result in the same logical outcomes.

For example (*De Morgan's Laws*):

$$\neg(p \wedge q) \equiv \neg p \vee \neg q$$
$$\neg(p \vee q) \equiv \neg p \wedge \neg q$$

By using the first formula, we can see:

$$\neg(true \wedge true) = \neg true = false$$
$$\neg true \vee \neg true = false \vee false = false$$

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