MATH 251 Notes Propositions

Propositions

Identify those statements which are crafted to have an inherent, ascertainable truth value, either True or False.

- 1. 1 The house at 351 Riverside is burning.
- 2. $\mathbf{F} 2x + 5 = 11$.
- 3. **1** The cat is sleeping and the toddler is reaching for her tail.
- 4. £ Put that down!
- 5. **I** Parking on the south side of the street is allowed only on even-numbered dates.
- 6. F This sentence is a lie.

Compound Propositions

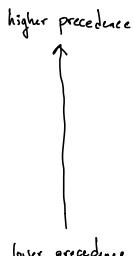
All three of the statements

- *p*: I write programs in C++.
- *q*: I write programs in Python.
- *r*: I write programs in C++ or in Python.

are propositions. Propositions p and q seem more *atomic* than Proposition r; indeed, r is built out of these simpler ones, and is equivalent to p OR q. The making of a **compound proposition** out of two simpler ones joined by the word OR is called a **disjunction**.

The OR is a logical operator. There are others:

Name	Keyword	Symbol	Priority
negation	NOT		1
disjunction	OR	V	2
conjunction	AND	^	2
	NAND?		
	NOR?		
exclusive or	XOR	\oplus	
conditional	IF THEN	\rightarrow	3
biconditional	IF AND ONLY IF	\leftrightarrow	3



Translating to symbols

Define propositional variables p, q, (r, ...) and rewrite

1. Jenn is healthy, wealthy, but not wise.

Take p: Jenn is healthy
q: Jenn is wealthy
Jenn r: Jenn is wise

Translation:

proposition:

proposition of operations

means no parentheses

are required

2. John is neither healthy, wealthy, nor wise.

Translations: ¬p A ¬q A ¬r

also (through DeMorgans Lave) ¬ (p V q V r)

3. In order to rain, it must be cloudy.

Take p: It rains
7: It is alondy

Translation:

If p then g also $p \rightarrow g$

4. I eat only when I am hungry.

p: I est q: I am hungry

Translate as p -> g again

5. It is not true that I am old and gray.

p: I am old g: I am gray Translate as

- (p N g)

also (vin DeMorgan) - p V - g

Truth values of compound statements from those of the atoms

Compound	Proposition
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