

Propositions

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

1. T The house at 351 Riverside is burning.
2. F $2x + 5 = 11$.
3. T The cat is sleeping and the toddler is reaching for her tail.
4. F Put that down!
5. T 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	\neg	1
disjunction	OR	\vee	2
conjunction	AND	\wedge	2
	NAND?		
	NOR?		
exclusive or	XOR	\oplus	
conditional	IF ... THEN ...	\rightarrow	3
biconditional	IF AND ONLY IF	\leftrightarrow	3

higher precedence



lower precedence

Translating to symbols

Define propositional variables $p, q, (r, \dots)$ and rewrite

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

Translation:

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

$p \wedge q \wedge \neg r$ (precedence of operators means no parentheses are required)

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

Translations: $\neg p \wedge \neg q \wedge \neg r$

also (through DeMorgan's Laws) $\neg (p \vee q \vee r)$

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

Take p : It rains
 q : It is cloudy

Translation:

If p then q

also $p \rightarrow q$

4. I eat only when I am hungry.

p : I eat
 q : I am hungry

Translate as $p \rightarrow q$ again

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

p : I am old
 q : I am gray

Translate as

$\neg (p \wedge q)$

also (via DeMorgan) $\neg p \vee \neg q$

~~Truth values of compound statements from those of the atoms~~

