

# Propositional Logic: Semantics (3/3)

CS402, Spring 2016

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## Questions that haunt us from our last lecture:

- In Def. 2.30, is it okay to write  $\nu(A_1) \wedge \dots \wedge \nu(A_n) = T$  instead of  $\nu(A_1) = \dots = \nu(A_n) = T$ ?

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  - The logic behind the question: if we assume that formulas are finite strings as well as that the set  $U$  in Def. 2.30 can be infinite, we end up in a contradiction where the conjunctive form of the satisfiability condition becomes an infinite formula (string), whereas the enumeration of individual satisfiability conditions results in an *infinite number of finite formulas*.

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  - The logic behind the question: if we assume that formulas are finite strings as well as that the set  $U$  in Def. 2.30 can be infinite, we end up in a contradiction where the conjunctive form of the satisfiability condition becomes an infinite formula (string), whereas the enumeration of individual satisfiability conditions results in an *infinite number of finite formulas*.
  - Good point! We don't deal with infinity *directly* in this course, it is a whole different can of worms. Let us accept that formulas are finite,  $U$  can be infinite, and the enumerative form of satisfiability condition is sufficient :)



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  - The critical part was the meaning of entailment: there are no such things as direct entailment and secondary or thirdly entailment.
  - That is, if  $U \models A$  and  $A \models B$ , then  $U \models B$ . The confusion was resolved when it became clear that it is not necessary to show that  $B$  in our example belongs to  $\mathcal{T}(U)$ , as it is obviously implied by the definition of  $\mathcal{T}(U)$ .



## Overview

- Semantic Tableaux
- Soundness and completeness

**Semantic tableaux:** a relatively efficient algorithm for deciding satisfiability in the propositional calculus.

- Search systematically for a model.
- If one is found, the formula is satisfiable; otherwise, it is unsatisfiable.

This method is the main tool for proving general theorems about the calculus.

## Definition 1 (2.43)

A *literal* is an atom or a negation of an atom. An atom is a positive literal and the negation of an atom is a negative literal. For any atom  $p$ ,  $\{p, \neg p\}$  is a *complementary pair* of literals. For any formula  $A$ ,  $\{A, \neg A\}$  is a *complementary pair* of formulas.  $A$  is the complement of  $\neg A$  and  $\neg A$  is the complement of  $A$ .

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**Important observation:** a set of literals is *satisfiable* if and only if it does **not** contain a *complementary* pair of literals.

# Semantic tableaux

Analyze the satisfiability of  $A = p \wedge (\neg q \vee \neg p)$ .

$\nu(A) = T$  iff both  $\nu(p) = T$  and  $\nu(\neg q \vee \neg p) = T$ .

Hence,  $\nu(A) = T$  if and only if either:

①  $\nu(p) = T$  and  $\nu(\neg q) = T$  or

②  $\nu(p) = T$  and  $\nu(\neg p) = T$

$\therefore \{p, \neg p\}$  or  $\{p, \neg q\}$ .

In other words, the process is to reduce the question from one about the satisfiability of a formula to one about the satisfiability of sets of *literals*.

Since any formula contains *finite* atoms, there are at most *finite* number of sets of literals. Then the decision on satisfiability becomes trivial.

Formula  $B = (p \vee q) \wedge (\neg p \wedge \neg q)$ .

$\nu(B) = T$  iff  $\nu(p \vee q) = T$  and  $\nu(\neg p \wedge \neg q) = T$ .

Hence,  $\nu(B) = T$  iff  $\nu(p \vee q) = \nu(\neg p) = \nu(\neg q) = T$ .

Hence,  $\nu(B) = T$  iff either:

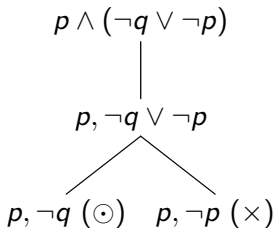
- ①  $\nu(p) = \nu(\neg p) = \nu(\neg q) = T$ , or
- ②  $\nu(q) = \nu(\neg p) = \nu(\neg q) = T$ .

Since both  $\{p, \neg p, \neg q\}$  and  $\{q, \neg p, \neg q\}$  contain complementary pairs,  $B$  is unsatisfiable.

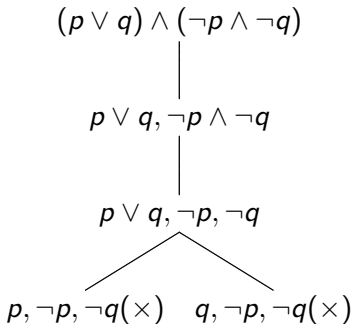
- This systematic search becomes easier if we use a suitable data structure to keep track of the assignments that must be made to subformulas.
- In semantic tableaux, trees are used.
- A leaf containing a complementary set of literals will be marked with a  $\times$  symbol, while a leaf containing a satisfiable set of literals will be marked with a  $\odot$  symbol.

# Semantic tableaux

Is  $p \wedge (\neg q \vee \neg p)$  satisfiable?

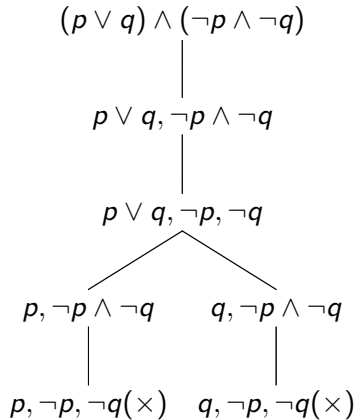
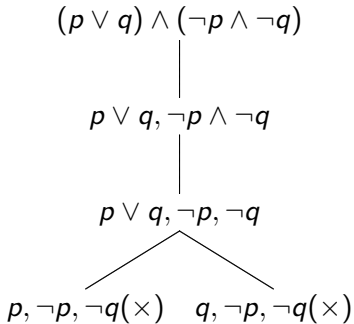


Is  $(p \vee q) \wedge (\neg p \wedge \neg q)$  satisfiable?





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$\alpha$ -formulas are conjunctive and are satisfiable only if both subformulas,  $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$ , are satisfied.

- $\beta$ -formulas are disjunctive and are satisfied if at least one of the subformulas,  $\beta_1$  or  $\beta_2$ , is satisfiable.

$\alpha$	$\alpha_1$	$\alpha_2$
$\neg\neg A_1$	$A_1$	
$A_1 \wedge A_2$	$A_1$	$A_2$
$\neg(A_1 \vee A_2)$	$\neg A_1$	$\neg A_2$
$\neg(A_1 \rightarrow A_2)$	$A_1$	$\neg A_2$
$\neg(A_1 \uparrow A_2)$	$A_1$	$A_2$
$A_1 \downarrow A_2$	$\neg A_1$	$\neg A_2$
$A_1 \leftrightarrow A_2$	$A_1 \rightarrow A_2$	$A_2 \rightarrow A_1$
$\neg(A_1 \oplus A_2)$	$A_1 \rightarrow A_2$	$A_2 \rightarrow A_1$

$\beta$	$\beta_1$	$\beta_2$
$\neg(B_1 \wedge B_2)$	$\neg B_1$	$\neg B_2$
$B_1 \vee B_2$	$B_1$	$B_2$
$B_1 \rightarrow B_2$	$\neg B_1$	$B_2$
$B_1 \uparrow B_2$	$\neg B_1$	$\neg B_2$
$\neg(B_1 \downarrow B_2)$	$B_1$	$B_2$
$\neg(B_1 \leftrightarrow B_2)$	$\neg(B_1 \rightarrow B_2)$	$\neg(B_2 \rightarrow B_1)$
$B_1 \oplus B_2$	$\neg(B_1 \rightarrow B_2)$	$\neg(B_2 \rightarrow B_1)$

# Semantic tableaux

Let  $\mathcal{T}$  for a propositional formula  $A$  be a tree, whose nodes are all labeled with a set of formulas. Let  $U(I)$  be the set of formulas of leaf  $I$ .

CONSTRUCTION OF SEM. TAB. (Algorithm 2.46)

**Input:** A propositional formula  $A$

**Output:** A semantic tableaux  $\mathcal{T}$  for  $A$  with marked leaves

- (1)  $\mathcal{T} \leftarrow$  a tree with a single node labeled  $A$
- (2) **while** there exists an unmarked leaf
- (3)     **foreach** unmarked leaf  $I$
- (4)         **if**  $U(I)$  is a set of lit.
- (5)             **if** a compl. lit. pair  $\in U(I)$  **then** Mark  $I$  as  $\times$
- (6)                             **else** Mark  $I$  as  $\oplus$
- (7)         **else**
- (8)             Choose  $A \in U(I)$
- (9)             **if**  $A == \alpha$  **then** Add  $I'$  to  $I$  s.t.  $U(I') \leftarrow (U(I) - \{\alpha\}) \cup \{\alpha_1, \alpha_2\}$
- (10)            **if**  $A == \beta$  **then** Add  $I', I''$  to  $I$  s.t.  $U(I') \leftarrow (U(I) - \{\beta\}) \cup \{\beta_1\}$ ,  $U(I'') \leftarrow (U(I) - \{\beta\}) \cup \{\beta_2\}$

## Definition 2 (2.47)

- A tableau whose construction has terminated is called a *completed tableau*.
- A completed tableau is *closed* if all leaves are marked closed (i.e.  $\times$ ); otherwise, it is *open*.

## Theorem 1 (2.48)

*The construction of a semantic tableau terminates.*

# Soundness and Completeness



- A tool is **sound** if whenever the tool says that a formula  $\phi$  is valid (validity, not satisfiability),  $\phi$  is really valid. That is,  $\vdash \phi$  implies  $\models \phi$ .
- A tool is **complete** if whenever  $\phi$  is valid, the tool does say that  $\phi$  is valid. That is,  $\models \phi$  implies  $\vdash \phi$ .
  - Writing in a contra-positive way: a tool (or method) is complete if whenever the tool says that  $\phi$  is not valid, then  $\phi$  is really not valid.
- Therefore, if a tool is sound and complete, then the tool says that  $\phi$  is valid iff  $\phi$  is really valid.

Note that:

- If a dumb tool always says that  $\phi$  is not valid, then that tool is still sound.
- If a dumb tool always says that  $\phi$  is valid, then that tool is still complete.

# Soundness and Completeness

## Theorem 2 (2.49)

*Let  $\mathcal{T}$  be a completed tableau for a formula  $A$ .  $A$  is unsatisfiable if and only if  $\mathcal{T}$  is closed.*

## Corollary 1 (2.50)

*$A$  is satisfiable if and only if  $\mathcal{T}$  is open.*

## Corollary 2 (2.51)

*$A$  is valid if and only if the tableau for  $\neg A$  is closed.*

## Corollary 3 (2.52)

*The method of semantic tableaux is a decision procedure for validity in the propositional calculus.*

Proof of soundness:

- If the tableau  $\mathcal{T}$  for a formula  $A$  closes, then  $A$  is unsatisfiable.
- If a subtree rooted at node  $n$  of  $\mathcal{T}$  closes, then the set of formulas  $U(n)$  labeling  $n$  is unsatisfiable. Let  $h$  be the height of the node  $n$  in  $\mathcal{T}$ .
  - If  $h = 0$ ,  $n$  is a leaf. Since  $\mathcal{T}$  closes,  $U(n)$  contains a complementary set of literals. Hence  $U(n)$  is unsatisfiable.

- If  $h > 0$ , either  $\alpha$ - or  $\beta$ - rule was used in creating the child(ren) of  $n$ :
  - Case 1:  $\alpha$ -rule.  $U(n) = \{A_1 \wedge A_2\} \cup U_0$  and  $U(n') = \{A_1, A_2\} \cup U_0$  for some set of formulas  $U_0$ .
  - The height of  $n'$  is  $h - 1$ ; by induction,  $U(n')$  is unsatisfiable since the subtree rooted at  $n'$  closes.
  - Let  $\nu$  be an arbitrary interpretation. Since  $U(n')$  is unsatisfiable,  $\nu(A') = F$  for some  $A' \in U(n')$ . There are three possibilities:
    - For some  $A_0 \in U_0$ ,  $\nu(A_0) = F$ . But  $A_0 \in U_0 \subseteq U(n)$ .
    - $\nu(A_1) = F$ ,  $\nu(A_1 \wedge A_2) = F$ . And  $A_1 \wedge A_2 \in U(n)$ .
    - $\nu(A_2) = F$ ,  $\nu(A_1 \wedge A_2) = F$ . And  $A_1 \wedge A_2 \in U(n)$ .

In all three cases,  $\nu(A) = F$  for some  $A \in U(n)$ . Therefore,  $U(n)$  is unsatisfiable.



- If  $h > 0$ , either  $\alpha$ - or  $\beta$ - rule was used in creating the child(ren) of  $n$ :
  - Case 2:  $\beta$ -rule.  $U(n) = \{B_1 \vee B_2\} \cup U_0$ ,  $U(n) = \{B_1\} \cup U_0$  and  $U(n'') = \{B_2\} \cup U_0$  for some set of formulas  $U_0$ .
  - By induction, both  $U(n')$  and  $U(n'')$  are unsatisfiable, since the subtrees rooted at  $n'$  and  $n''$  close.
  - Let  $\nu$  be an arbitrary interpretation. There are three possibilities:
    - $U(n')$  and  $U(n'')$  are unsatisfiable, because  $\nu(B_0) = F$  for some  $B_0 \in U_0$ . But  $B_0 \in U_0 \subseteq U(n)$ .
    - Otherwise,  $\nu(B_0) = T$  for all  $B_0 \in U_0$ . Since both  $U(n')$  and  $U(n'')$  are unsatisfiable,  $\nu(B_1) = \nu(B_2) = F$ . By definition of  $\nu$  on  $\vee$ ,  $\nu(B_1 \vee B_2) = F$ , and  $B_1 \vee B_2 \in U(n)$ .

Therefore  $\nu(B) = F$  for some  $B \in U(n)$ ; since  $\nu$  was arbitrary,  $U(n)$  is unsatisfiable.

Proof of completeness:

- If  $A$  is unsatisfiable, then every tableau for  $A$  closes.
- Contrapositive statement (Cor 2.50): if some tableau for  $A$  is open (i.e., if some tableau for  $A$  has an open branch), then the formula  $A$  is satisfiable.

## Definition 3 (2.57)

Let  $U$  be a set of formulas.  $U$  is a **Hintikka**<sup>a</sup> set iff:

- ① For all atoms  $p$  appearing in a formula of  $U$ , either  $p \notin U$  or  $\neg p \notin U$ .
- ② If  $\alpha \in U$  is an  $\alpha$ -formula, then  $\alpha_1 \in U$  and  $\alpha_2 \in U$ .
- ③ If  $\beta \in U$  is an  $\beta$ -formula, then either  $\beta_1 \in U$  or  $\beta_2 \in U$ .

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<sup>a</sup>Named after Finnish logician Jaakko Hintikka (1929-2015).

## Theorem 3 (2.59)

*Let  $l$  be an open leaf in a completed tableau  $\mathcal{T}$ . Let  $U = \bigcup_i U(i)$ , where  $i$  runs over the set of nodes on the branch from the root to  $l$ . Then  $U$  is a Hintikka set.*

## Theorem 4 (2.60)

**Hintikka's Lemma:** Let  $U$  be a Hintikka set. Then  $U$  is satisfiable.

## Proof.

Let  $\mathcal{T}$  be a completed *open* tableau for  $A$ . Then  $U$ , the union of the labels of the nodes on *an open branch*, is a Hintikka set by Theorem 2.59, and a model can be found for  $U$  by Theorem 2.60. Since  $A$  is the formula labeling the root,  $A \in U$ , so the interpretation is a model of  $A$ . □