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1 Review of Propositional Logic

Task: Recall enough propositional logic to see how it matches up with set theory.

Definition: A proposition is any declarative sentence that is either true or false.

1.1 Connectives

	Connectives		Notation in Maths
and	$\wedge$		
or	$\vee$	"Inclusive or"	
not	$\neg$	Sometimes denoted $\sim$	
implies	$\rightarrow$	if/then; called implication	$\Rightarrow$
if and only if	$\leftrightarrow$	Called equivalence	$\Leftrightarrow$

1.1.1 Truth Table of the Connectives

Let P, Q be propositions:

P	Q	P$\wedge$Q
F	F	F
F	T	F
T	F	F
T	T	T

P	Q	P$\vee$Q
F	F	F
F	T	T
T	F	T
T	T	T

P	$\neg$P
F	T
T	F

NB In some textbooks, T is denoted by 1, and F is denoted by 0.

P	Q	P$\rightarrow$Q
F	F	T
F	T	T
T	F	F
T	T	T

NB Note that the only instance when an implication (if/then statement) denoted by $P \rightarrow Q$ is false is when the hypothesis (P) is true, but the conclusion (Q) is false.

P	Q	P$\leftrightarrow$Q
F	F	T
F	T	F
T	F	F
T	T	T

NB The truth table for the equivalence says that both P and Q must have the same truth value, i.e. both be true or both be false for the equivalence to be true.

Priority of the Connectives

Highest to Lowest: $\neg, \wedge, \vee, \rightarrow, \leftrightarrow$

1.2 Important Tautologies

$$\begin{array}{rcl} (P \rightarrow Q) & \leftrightarrow & (\neg P \vee Q) \\ (P \leftrightarrow Q) & \leftrightarrow & [(P \rightarrow Q) \wedge (Q \rightarrow P)] \\ \neg(P \wedge Q) & \leftrightarrow & (\neg P \vee \neg Q) \\ \neg(P \vee Q) & \leftrightarrow & (\neg P \wedge \neg Q) \end{array}$$

} De Morgan Laws (these have parallels in in set theory)

As a result, $\neg$ and $\vee$ together can be used to represent all of $\neg, \wedge, \vee, \rightarrow, \leftrightarrow$.

Less obvious: One connective called the Sheffer stroke P|Q (which stands for "not both P and Q" or "P nand Q") can be used to represent all of ¬, ∧, ∨, →, ↔ since ¬P ↔ P|P and P ∨ Q ↔ (P|P) | (Q|Q).

Recall that if P→Q is a given implication, then Q→P is called the <u>converse</u> of P→Q, while ¬Q → ¬P is called the <u>contrapositive</u> of P → Q.

1.3 Indirect Arguments/Proofs by Contradiction/Reductio ad absurdum

Based on the tautology (P→Q) ↔ (¬Q → ¬P)

Example: Famous argument that $\sqrt{2}$ is irrational.

Proof:

Suppose $\sqrt{2}$ is rational, then it can be expressed in fraction form as $\frac{a}{b}$ with a and b integers, $b \neq 0$. Let us **assume** that our fraction is reduced, **i.e.** the only common divisor of the numerator a and denominator b is 1.

Then,

$$\sqrt{2} = \frac{a}{b}$$

Squaring both sides, we have

$$2 = \frac{a^2}{b^2}$$

Multiplying both sides by b^2 yields

$$2b^2 = a^2$$

Therefore, 2 divides a^2, i.e. a^2 is even. If a^2 is even, then a is also even, namely $a = 2k$ for some integer k.

Substituting the value of $2k$ for a, we have $2b^2 = (2k)^2$ which means that $2b^2 = 4k^2$. Dividing both sides by 2, we have $b^2 = 2k^2$. That means 2 divides b^2, so b is even.

This implies that both a and b are even, which means that both the numerator and the denominator of our fraction are divisible by 2. This contradicts our **assumption** that the numerator a and the denominator b have no common divisor except 1. Since we found a contradiction, our assumption that $\sqrt{2}$ is rational must be false. Hence the theorem is true.

qed