

**CAS 701**  
**Logic and Discrete Mathematics**  
**Fall 2017**

# **3 Propositional Logic**

William M. Farmer

Department of Computing and Software  
McMaster University

October 16, 2017



# What is Logic?

1. The study of the principles underlying sound reasoning.
  - ▶ Central idea: **logical consequence**.
2. The branch of mathematics underlying mathematical reasoning and computation.

# Fundamental Distinctions

Logic makes several fundamental distinctions:

- Syntax vs. semantics.
- Language vs. metalanguage.
- Theory vs. model.
- Truth vs. proof.

# What is a Logic?

- Informally, a logic is a system of reasoning.
- Formally, a **logic** is a family of **formal languages** with:
  1. A **common syntax**.
  2. A **common semantics**.
  3. A notion of **logical consequence**.
- A logic may include one or more **proof systems** for mechanically deriving that a given formula is a logical consequence of a given set of formulas.
- **Examples:**
  - ▶ Propositional logic.
  - ▶ First-order logic.
  - ▶ Simple type theory (higher-order logic).

# What is Propositional Logic?

- Propositional logic is the study of the truth or falsehood of propositional formulas (or propositions) formed using propositional connectives.
  - ▶ Also called sentential logic.
  - ▶ Began with the work of the Stoic philosophers, particularly Chrysippus, in the late 3rd century BCE.
- Most other logics are extensions of propositional logic.
- Main applications:
  - ▶ Basic logical reasoning.
  - ▶ Design of logical circuits.
  - ▶ Solving problems by encoding them as satisfiability (SAT) or tautology (TAUT) problems.
- We will develop propositional logic following Chapter 3 of J. H. Gallier, *Logic for Computer Science*, Dover, 2015.

# Syntax

- Let  $\mathbf{PS} = \{P_1, P_2, \dots\}$  be a countable set of symbols called **propositional symbols**.
  - ▶ These are also called **propositional variables** or **propositional letters**.
- Let  $\perp$  and  $\top$  be **propositional constants**.
- Let  $\neg$ ,  $\wedge$ ,  $\vee$ , and  $\supset$  be **propositional connectives**.
- The set PROP of **propositional formulas** is the set of strings defined inductively by:
  1. Each  $P_i \in \mathbf{PS}$  is in PROP.
  2.  $\perp$  and  $\top$  are in PROP.
  3. If  $A$  and  $B$  are in PROP, then  $\neg A$ ,  $(A \wedge B)$ ,  $(A \vee B)$ , and  $(A \supset B)$  are also in PROP.
- PROP is defined by a more formal **inductive closure** (i.e., **inductive type**) in Gallier 2015.

# Semantics [1/3]

- Let  $\text{BOOL} = \{\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{F}\}$  be the set of standard truth values.
- The propositional constants  $\perp$  and  $\top$  are interpreted by  $\mathbf{F}$  and  $\mathbf{T}$ , respectively.
- Each propositional connective  $X$  is interpreted as a function  $H_X$  on  $\text{BOOL}$  as shown by the following truth table:

$P$	$Q$	$H_{\neg}(P)$	$H_{\wedge}(P, Q)$	$H_{\vee}(P, Q)$	$H_{\supset}(P, Q)$
$\mathbf{T}$	$\mathbf{T}$	$\mathbf{F}$	$\mathbf{T}$	$\mathbf{T}$	$\mathbf{T}$
$\mathbf{T}$	$\mathbf{F}$	$\mathbf{F}$	$\mathbf{F}$	$\mathbf{T}$	$\mathbf{F}$
$\mathbf{F}$	$\mathbf{T}$	$\mathbf{T}$	$\mathbf{F}$	$\mathbf{T}$	$\mathbf{T}$
$\mathbf{F}$	$\mathbf{F}$	$\mathbf{T}$	$\mathbf{F}$	$\mathbf{F}$	$\mathbf{T}$

## Semantics [2/3]

- A **truth assignment** or **valuation** is a total function  $v : \mathbf{PS} \rightarrow \text{BOOL}$ .
- Every valuation  $v$  uniquely extends to a total function  $\hat{v} : \text{PROP} \rightarrow \text{BOOL}$  that satisfies the following conditions for all  $A, B \in \text{PROP}$ :
  1.  $\hat{v}(\perp) = \mathbf{F}$ .
  2.  $\hat{v}(\top) = \mathbf{T}$ .
  3.  $\hat{v}(P) = v(P)$  for all  $P \in \mathbf{PS}$ .
  4.  $\hat{v}(\neg A) = H_{\neg}(\hat{v}(A))$ .
  5.  $\hat{v}(A \wedge B) = H_{\wedge}(\hat{v}(A), \hat{v}(B))$ .
  6.  $\hat{v}(A \vee B) = H_{\vee}(\hat{v}(A), \hat{v}(B))$ .
  7.  $\hat{v}(A \supset B) = H_{\supset}(\hat{v}(A), \hat{v}(B))$ .



# Semantics [3/3]

- Let  $v$  be a valuation,  $A \in \text{PROP}$ , and  $\Gamma \subseteq \text{PROP}$ .
- $v$  **satisfies**  $A$ , written  $v \models A$ , if  $\hat{v}(A) = \mathbf{T}$ .
- $v$  **satisfies**  $\Gamma$  if  $v \models B$  for all  $B \in \Gamma$ .
- $A$  is **satisfiable** if  $v \models A$  for **some** valuation  $v$ .
- $A$  is **valid**, written  $\models A$ , if  $v \models A$  for **all** valuations  $v$ .
  - ▶ A valid propositional formula is called a **tautology**.
- **Lemmas**.  $A$  is valid iff  $\neg A$  is unsatisfiable.
- Truth tables can be used to decide whether  $A$  is satisfiable, unsatisfiable, valid, or invalid (falsifiable).
- $A$  is a **semantic consequence** of  $\Gamma$ , written  $\Gamma \models A$ , if, for all valuations  $v$ ,  $v \models \Gamma$  implies  $v \models A$ .
  - ▶ Semantic consequence is a form of **logical consequence**.

# Complete Sets of Propositional Connectives

- A set  $\mathcal{C}$  of propositional connectives is **complete** if every truth function can be represented by a propositional formula formed using only members of  $\mathcal{C}$ .
- Examples of complete sets of propositional connectives:
  - ▶  $\{\neg, \wedge\}$ .
  - ▶  $\{\neg, \vee\}$ .
  - ▶  $\{\neg, \supset\}$ .
  - ▶  $\{\text{nand}\}$  (nand is known as **the Sheffer stroke**).
  - ▶  $\{\text{nor}\}$  (nor is known as **the Peirce arrow**).

# Sequents

- A **sequent** is an ordered pair  $\{\Gamma, \Delta\}$  where  $\Gamma = A_1, \dots, A_m$  and  $\Delta = B_1, \dots, B_n$  are finite (possibly empty) sequences of propositional formulas in PROP.
  - ▶  $\Gamma$  is called the **antecedent** and  $\Delta$  the **succedent**.
- A sequent  $\{\Gamma, \Delta\}$  is written as  $\Gamma \rightarrow \Delta$ .
- A valuation  $v$  **satisfies** a sequent

$$A_1, \dots, A_m \rightarrow B_1, \dots, B_n$$

if

$$v \models (A_1 \wedge \dots \wedge A_m) \supset (B_1 \vee \dots \vee B_n).$$

- A sequent  $\Gamma \rightarrow \Delta$  is **satisfiable** [**valid**] if  $v \models \Gamma \rightarrow \Delta$  for some [all] valuations  $v$ .

# Gentzen System $G'$

The **Gentzen system  $G'$**  is a proof system whose formulas are sequents where:

1. The **axioms** of  $G'$  are sequents  $\Gamma \rightarrow \Delta$  such that  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  contain a common propositional formula.
2.  $G'$  has the following **rules of inference**:

$$\frac{\Gamma, A, B, \Delta \rightarrow \Lambda}{\Gamma, A \wedge B, \Delta \rightarrow \Lambda} (\wedge : \text{left}) \quad \frac{\Gamma \rightarrow \Delta, A, \Lambda \quad \Gamma \rightarrow \Delta, B, \Lambda}{\Gamma \rightarrow \Delta, A \wedge B, \Lambda} (\wedge : \text{right})$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, A, \Delta \rightarrow \Lambda \quad \Gamma, B, \Delta \rightarrow \Lambda}{\Gamma, A \vee B, \Delta \rightarrow \Lambda} (\vee : \text{left}) \quad \frac{\Gamma \rightarrow \Delta, A, B, \Lambda}{\Gamma \rightarrow \Delta, A \vee B, \Lambda} (\vee : \text{right})$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, \Delta \rightarrow A, \Lambda \quad B, \Gamma, \Delta \rightarrow \Lambda}{\Gamma, A \supset B, \Delta \rightarrow \Lambda} (\supset : \text{left}) \quad \frac{A, \Gamma \rightarrow B, \Delta, \Lambda}{\Gamma \rightarrow \Delta, A \supset B, \Lambda} (\supset : \text{right})$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, \Delta \rightarrow A, \Lambda}{\Gamma, \neg A, \Delta \rightarrow \Lambda} (\neg : \text{left}) \quad \frac{A, \Gamma \rightarrow \Delta, \Lambda}{\Gamma \rightarrow \Delta, \neg A, \Lambda} (\neg : \text{right})$$

# Proofs and Counterexamples

- The set of **deduction trees** of  $G'$  is the least set of trees containing all one-node trees labeled by sequents and closed under the rules of inference of  $G'$ .
- The **conclusion** of a deduction tree is the sequent that labels the root of the tree.
- A deduction tree of  $G'$  is a **proof tree** if all the leaves of the tree are labeled by an axiom of  $G'$ .
- A deduction tree of  $G'$  is a **counterexample tree** if some leaf of the tree is labeled by a sequent  $\Gamma \rightarrow \Delta$  where  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  are disjoint sequences of propositional symbols.
- A sequent  $\Gamma \rightarrow \Delta$  is **provable** in  $G'$ , written  $\vdash \Gamma \rightarrow \Delta$ , if there is a proof tree whose conclusion is  $\Gamma \rightarrow \Delta$ .

# Metatheorems about $G'$

- **Theorem (Soundness).**  $\vdash \Gamma \rightarrow \Delta$  implies  $\models \Gamma \rightarrow \Delta$ .
- **Theorem (Search Procedure).** There is a procedure that terminates on every input sequent  $\Gamma \rightarrow \Delta$ . If  $\Gamma \rightarrow \Delta$  is valid, the procedure produces a proof tree for  $\Gamma \rightarrow \Delta$ . If  $\Gamma \rightarrow \Delta$  is invalid, it produces a counterexample tree that encodes all falsifying valuations for  $\Gamma \rightarrow \Delta$ .
- **Corollary (Completeness).**  $\models \Gamma \rightarrow \Delta$  implies  $\vdash \Gamma \rightarrow \Delta$ .
- **Corollary (Decidability).** The satisfiability and tautology problems for PROP are decidable.
  - ▶ The satisfiability and tautology problems for PROP are **NP-complete**.