Mathematical and Logical Foundations of Computer Science

Lecture 7 - Propositional Logic (Semantics)

Vincent Rahli

(some slides were adapted from Rajesh Chitnis' slides)

University of Birmingham

Where are we?

- Symbolic logic
- **Propositional logic**
- Predicate logic

Today

- semantics of propositional logic
- satisfiability & validity
- truth tables
- soundness & completeness

Further reading:

- Chapter 6 of
  http://leanprover.github.io/logic_and_proof/

Recap: Propositional logic syntax

Syntax:

$$P ::= a \mid P \wedge P \mid P \vee P \mid P \rightarrow P \mid \neg P$$

Two special atoms:

- $\top$ which stands for True
- $\perp$ which stands for False

We also introduced four connectives:

- $P \wedge Q$: we have a proof of both P and Q
- $P \vee Q$: we have a proof of at least one of P and Q
- $P \rightarrow Q$: if we have a proof of P then we have a proof of Q
- $\neg P$: stands for $P \rightarrow \perp$

Syntax vs. Semantics

Syntax

- Rules for allowable formulas in the language
- Syntax for propositional logic:

$$P ::= a \mid P \wedge P \mid P \vee P \mid P \rightarrow P \mid \neg P$$

Semantics

- Assigning meaning/interpretations with formulas
- Semantics for propositional logic: This lecture!

Syntax and Semantics for the English language?

- Syntax: alphabet and grammar
- Semantics: meanings for words

Semantics for Propositional Logic

Semantics assigns **meanings/interpretrations** with **formulas**

The basic notion we use is **"truth value"**

The two standard truth values are "true" and "false"

We use the symbols **T** and **F** respectively

This is a **classical** notion of truth

- i.e., interpretation of each proposition is either true or false
- **Excluded Middle**: for each A we have $A \vee \neg A$
- Here it means for each A, we have that A is either true or false.

WARNING: This is just one possible way to assign meanings!

Semantics for Propositional Logic (continued)

Truth assignment

- Function assigning a truth value for each atomic proposition
- E.g., given 2 atomic propositions p, q, if the formula is $p \vee q$
- then one truth assignment ϕ is $\phi(p) = \mathbf{T}$ and $\phi(q) = \mathbf{F}$
- Also called an "interpretation" or a "valuation"

How many truth valuations do we need to consider for $p \vee q$?

- $2^2 = 4$
- $\phi(p) = \mathbf{T}, \phi(q) = \mathbf{T}$ and $\phi(p) = \mathbf{T}, \phi(q) = \mathbf{F}$ and $\phi(p) = \mathbf{F}, \phi(q) = \mathbf{T}$ and $\phi(p) = \mathbf{F}, \phi(q) = \mathbf{F}$

Conventions:

- The atoms $\top, \bot$ have the interpretations $\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{F}$ respectively
- $\phi(\top) = \mathbf{T}$ and $\phi(\bot) = \mathbf{F}$

Semantics of logical connectives

How to extend the notion of semantics to **compound formulas**?

Define semantics for the four logical connectives: $\vee, \wedge, \rightarrow, \neg$

This is done **recursively bottom-up** over the structure of propositions.

For example given a conjunction $A \wedge B$, we first have to evaluate the truth-values of A and B to compute the truth-value of $A \wedge B$.

I.e., $\phi(A \wedge B) = \mathbf{T}$ iff both $\phi(A) = \mathbf{T}$ and $\phi(B) = \mathbf{T}$.

Semantics of logical connectives

The **extended valuation function** is recursively defined as follows:

- $\phi(\top) = \mathbf{T}$
- $\phi(\bot) = \mathbf{F}$
- $\phi(A \vee B) = \mathbf{T}$ iff either $\phi(A) = \mathbf{T}$ or $\phi(B) = \mathbf{T}$
- $\phi(A \wedge B) = \mathbf{T}$ iff both $\phi(A) = \mathbf{T}$ and $\phi(B) = \mathbf{T}$
- $\phi(A \rightarrow B) = \mathbf{T}$ iff $\phi(B) = \mathbf{T}$ whenever $\phi(A) = \mathbf{T}$
- $\phi(\neg A) = \mathbf{T}$ iff $\phi(A) = \mathbf{F}$

Semantics of logical connectives

What is $\phi(2 > 1 \wedge 1 > 0)$? (inequalities are atomic propositions)

$\phi(2 > 1 \wedge 1 > 0) = \mathbf{T}$ because $\phi(2 > 1) = \mathbf{T}$ and $\phi(1 > 0) = \mathbf{T}$

What is $\phi(2 > 1 \wedge 0 > 1)$?

$\phi(2 > 1 \wedge 0 > 1) = \mathbf{F}$ because $\phi(0 > 1) = \mathbf{F}$

What is $\phi(x > 1 \wedge 3 > x)$?

we don't know: it depends on $\phi(x > 1)$ and $\phi(3 > x)$

What is $\phi(x > 1 \vee 2 > x)$?

it depends on $\phi(x > 1)$ and $\phi(2 > x)$

$\phi(x > 1 \vee 2 > x) = \mathbf{T}$ for all combinations

only 2 possible combinations (the atoms are interdependent):
$\phi(x > 1) = \mathbf{T}, \phi(2 > x) = \mathbf{F}$ and $\phi(x > 1) = \mathbf{F}, \phi(2 > x) = \mathbf{T}$

Semantics of logical connectives

What is $\phi(2 > 0 \rightarrow 1 > 0)$? (inequalities are atomic propositions)

$\phi(2 > 0 \rightarrow 1 > 0) = \mathbf{T}$ because $\phi(1 > 0) = \mathbf{T}$

What is $\phi(0 > 2 \rightarrow 1 > 0)$?

still $\phi(0 > 2 \rightarrow 1 > 0) = \mathbf{T}$ because $\phi(1 > 0) = \mathbf{T}$

What is $\phi(2 > 0 \rightarrow 0 > 1)$?

$\phi(2 > 0 \rightarrow 0 > 1) = \mathbf{F}$ because $\phi(0 > 1) = \mathbf{F}$ while $\phi(2 > 0) = \mathbf{T}$

What is $\phi(0 > 2 \rightarrow 0 > 1)$?

$\phi(0 > 2 \rightarrow 0 > 1) = \mathbf{T}$ because $\phi(0 > 2) = \mathbf{F}$

What is $\phi(x > 2 \rightarrow x > 1)$? it depends on $\phi(x > 2)$ and $\phi(x > 1)$

$\phi(x > 2 \rightarrow x > 1) = \mathbf{T}$ for all possible combinations (the atoms are interdependent): $\phi(x > 2) = \mathbf{T}, \phi(x > 1) = \mathbf{T}$ and $\phi(x > 2) = \mathbf{F}, \phi(x > 1) = \mathbf{T}$ and $\phi(x > 2) = \mathbf{F}, \phi(x > 1) = \mathbf{F}$

Satisfiability & Validity

The above technique allows answering the following question:

What is the truth value of a formula w.r.t. a given valuation of its atoms?

To analyze the meaning of a formula, we also want to analyze its truth value w.r.t. **all possible combinations** of assignments of truth values with its atoms.

Satisfaction & validity

- Given a valuation ϕ on all atomic propositions, we say that ϕ **satisfies** A if $\phi(A) = \mathbf{T}$.
- A is **satisfiable** if there exists a valuation ϕ on atomic propositions such that $\phi(A) = \mathbf{T}$.
- A is **valid** if $\phi(A) = \mathbf{T}$ for all possible valuations ϕ.

A method to check satisfiability and validity: **truth tables**

Truth tables

Semantics for "or"

$$\phi(A \vee B) = \mathbf{T} \text{ iff either } \phi(A) = \mathbf{T} \text{ or } \phi(B) = \mathbf{T}$$

Truth table for "or"

A	B	$A \vee B$
T	**T**	**T**
T	**F**	**T**
F	**T**	**T**
F	**F**	**F**

- One row for each valuation
- Last column has the truth value for the corresponding valuation

Truth tables

Semantics for "and"

$$\phi(A \wedge B) = \textbf{T} \text{ iff both } \phi(A) = \textbf{T} \text{ and } \phi(B) = \textbf{T}$$

Truth table for "and"

A	B	$A \wedge B$
T	**T**	**T**
T	**F**	**F**
F	**T**	**F**
F	**F**	**F**

Truth tables

Semantics for "implies"

$$\phi(A \to B) = \textbf{T} \text{ iff } \phi(B) = \textbf{T} \text{ whenever } \phi(A) = \textbf{T}$$

Truth table for "implies"

A	B	$A \to B$
T	**T**	**T**
T	**F**	**F**
F	**T**	**T**
F	**F**	**T**

Truth tables

Semantics for "not"

$$\phi(\neg A) = \textbf{T} \text{ iff } \phi(A) = \textbf{F}$$

Truth table for "not"

A	$\neg A$
T	**F**
F	**T**

Semantics for compound formulas

We can now construct a truth table for any propositional formula

- consider all possible truth assignments for the atoms
- then use truth tables for each connective recursively

What is the truth table for $(p \to q) \land \neg q$?

p	q	$p \to q$	$\neg q$	$(p \to q) \land \neg q$
T	**T**	**T**	**F**	**F**
T	**F**	**F**	**T**	**F**
F	**T**	**T**	**F**	**F**
F	**F**	**T**	**T**	**T**

- 2 atoms, and hence $2^2 = 4$ rows (one per interpretation)
- Use intermediate columns to evaluate sub-formulas
- 2 atoms and 3 connectives hence $2 + 3 = 5$ columns
- Rightmost column gives values of the formula

Satisfiability & validity

A formula is **satisfiable** iff there is a valuation that satisfies it

i.e., if there is a **T** in the rightmost column of its truth table

example: $p \wedge q$ because of the valuation $\phi(p) = \mathbf{T}, \phi(q) = \mathbf{T}$

A formula is **falsifiable** iff there is a valuation that makes it false

i.e., if there is a **F** in the rightmost column of its truth table

example: $p \wedge q$ because of the valuation $\phi(p) = \mathbf{F}, \phi(q) = \mathbf{T}$

A formula is **unsatisfiable** iff no valuation satisfies it

i.e., the cells of the rightmost column of its truth table all contain **F**

example: $p \wedge \neg p$ **(contradiction)**

A formula is **valid** iff every valuation satisfies it

i.e., the cells of the rightmost column of its truth table all contain **T**

example: $p \vee \neg p$ **(tautology)**

Validity of arguments using semantics

Validity of an argument

- **syntactically:** we can derive the conclusion from the premises
- **semantically:** the conclusion is true whenever the premises are

Formally, we write

$$P_1, \dots, P_n \models C$$

if the corresponding argument is **semantically valid**

i.e., every valuation that evaluates each of the premises $P_1, \dots, P_n$ to **T** also evaluates the conclusion C to **T**

Checking validity

- Already seen how to do this using "natural deduction"
- Truth tables is yet another way
- Bonus: yields counterexample if argument is invalid

Checking (semantic) validity

Is $P \to Q, \neg Q \models \neg P$ (semantically) valid?

P	Q	$P \to Q$	$\neg Q$	$\neg P$
T	**T**	**T**	**F**	**F**
T	**F**	**F**	**T**	**F**
F	**T**	**T**	**F**	**T**
F	**F**	**T**	**T**	**T**

Argument is valid: any row where conclusion is **F** then at least one of the premises is also **F**

Note that checking $P_1, \ldots, P_n \models C$ is equivalent to checking the validity of $P_1 \to \cdots P_n \to C$

i.e., that the cells of the rightmost column of the truth table for $P_1 \to \cdots P_n \to C$ all contain **T**

Checking (semantic) validity

Is $\neg P \to \neg R, R \models \neg P$ (semantically) valid?

P	R	$\neg P$	$\neg R$	$\neg P \to \neg R$	R	$\neg P$
T	**T**	**F**	**F**	**T**	**T**	**F**
T	**F**	**F**	**T**	**T**	**F**	**F**
F	**T**	**T**	**F**	**F**	**T**	**T**
F	**F**	**T**	**T**	**T**	**F**	**T**

Argument is invalid

- Look at the first row
- Conclusion is **F**, but both premises are **T**
- Can we add a premise to make the argument valid?
    - Yes, we can add $\neg R$, which would be **F** in the first row

Proving anything using contradictions!

Is $P, \neg P \models C$ is (semantically) valid?

P	C	$\neg P$	C
T	**T**	**F**	**T**
T	**F**	**F**	**F**
F	**T**	**T**	**T**
F	**F**	**T**	**F**

Argument is (trivially) valid:

- Look at any row (we only have to look at rows where the conclusion is **F**)
- One of P and $\neg P$ is **F**

Truth Tables vs. Natural Deduction

Pros and cons of two ways of checking validity

Truth tables	Natural deduction
shows validity in a restricted setting (Boolean truth values)	checks validity in general setting (by an actual proof!)
simple, easy to automate	more difficult to automate
size of truth table is huge: exponential in number of atoms	typically scales better than brute force search
generates counterexamples if invalid	no easy way to check validity (other than actually proving)

Soundness & Completeness

Given a deduction system such as Natural deduction, a formula is said to be **provable** if there is a proof of it in that deduction system

- This is a **syntactic** notion
- it asserts the existence of a syntactic object: a proof
- typically written $\vdash A$

A formula A is **valid** if $\phi(A) = \mathbf{T}$ for all possible valuations ϕ

- it is a **semantic** notion
- it is checked w.r.t. valuations that give meaning to formulas

Soundness: a deduction system is sound w.r.t. a semantics if every provable formula is valid

- i.e., if $\vdash A$ then $\models A$

Completeness: a deduction system is complete w.r.t. a semantics if every valid formula is provable

- i.e., if $\models A$ then $\vdash A$

Soundness & Completeness

Classical Natural Deduction is

- **sound** and
- **complete**

w.r.t. the **truth table semantics**

Proving those properties is done within the **metatheory**

- Soundness is easy. It requires proving that each rule is valid. For example:

$$\frac{A \quad B}{A \wedge B}\ [\wedge I]$$

  is valid because $A, B \models A \wedge B$
- Completeness is harder

We will not prove them here

Conclusion

What did we cover today?

- semantics of propositional logic
- satisfiability & validity
- truth tables
- soundness & completeness

Further reading

- Chapter 6 of `http://leanprover.github.io/logic_and_proof/`

Next time?

- equivalences
- normal forms