

Mustafa Jarrar: Lecture Notes in Discrete Mathematics.  
Birzeit University, Palestine, 2017

# Propositional Logic



## 2.1. Introduction and Basics

## 2.2 Conditional Statements

## 2.3 Inferencing



miarrar©2015

1

1

**Watch this lecture  
and download the slides**



Course Page: <http://www.jarrar.info/courses/DMath/>  
More Online Courses at: <http://www.jarrar.info>

**Acknowledgement:**

This lecture is based on (but not limited to) to chapter 2 in “Discrete Mathematics with Applications by Susanna S. Epp (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition)”.

2

2

## Proposition

- Definition

A **statement** (or **proposition**) is a sentence that is true or false but not both.

3

3

## Negation

- Definition

If  $p$  is a statement variable, the **negation** of  $p$  is “not  $p$ ” or “It is not the case that  $p$ ” and is denoted  $\sim p$ . It has opposite truth value from  $p$ : if  $p$  is true,  $\sim p$  is false; if  $p$  is false,  $\sim p$  is true.

$p$	$\sim p$
T	F
F	T

4

4

## Conjunction

### • Definition

If  $p$  and  $q$  are statement variables, the **conjunction** of  $p$  and  $q$  is “ $p$  and  $q$ ,” denoted  $p \wedge q$ . It is true when, and only when, both  $p$  and  $q$  are true. If either  $p$  or  $q$  is false, or if both are false,  $p \wedge q$  is false.

$p$	$q$	$p \wedge q$
T	T	T
T	F	F
F	T	F
F	F	F

5

5

## Disjunction

### • Definition

If  $p$  and  $q$  are statement variables, the **disjunction** of  $p$  and  $q$  is “ $p$  or  $q$ ,” denoted  $p \vee q$ . It is true when either  $p$  is true, or  $q$  is true, or both  $p$  and  $q$  are true; it is false only when both  $p$  and  $q$  are false.

$p$	$q$	$p \vee q$
T	T	T
T	F	T
F	T	T
F	F	F

6

6



### Logical Equivalence

$p$	$\sim p$	$\sim(\sim p)$
T	F	T
F	T	F



$p$  and  $\sim(\sim p)$  always have the same truth values, so they are logically equivalent

$p$	$q$	$\sim p$	$\sim q$	$p \wedge q$	$\sim(p \wedge q)$	$\sim p \wedge \sim q$
T	T	F	F	T	F	F
T	F	F	T	F	T	F
F	T	T	F	F	T	F
F	F	T	T	F	T	T



$\sim(p \wedge q)$  and  $\sim p \wedge \sim q$  have different truth values in rows 2 and 3, so they are not logically equivalent

9

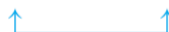
9

### Negations of And and Or: De Morgan's Laws

$$\sim(p \wedge q) \equiv \sim p \vee \sim q.$$

$$\sim(p \vee q) \equiv \sim p \wedge \sim q.$$

$p$	$q$	$\sim p$	$\sim q$	$p \wedge q$	$\sim(p \wedge q)$	$\sim p \vee \sim q$
T	T	F	F	T	F	F
T	F	F	T	F	T	T
F	T	T	F	F	T	T
F	F	T	T	F	T	T



$\sim(p \wedge q)$  and  $\sim p \vee \sim q$  always have the same truth values, so they are logically equivalent

10

10

## Tautologies and Contradictions

• **Definition**

A **tautology** is a statement form that is always true regardless of the truth values of the individual statements substituted for its statement variables. A statement whose form is a tautology is a **tautological statement**.

A **contradiction** is a statement form that is always false regardless of the truth values of the individual statements substituted for its statement variables. A statement whose form is a contradiction is a **contradictory statement**.

$p$	$t$	$p \wedge t$
T	T	T
F	T	F

$p$	$c$	$p \wedge c$
T	F	F
F	F	F

$\uparrow$                        $\uparrow$   
 same truth values, so  $p \wedge t \equiv p$       same truth values, so  $p \wedge c \equiv c$

$p$	$\sim p$	$p \vee \sim p$	$p \wedge \sim p$
T	F	T	F
F	T	T	F

$\uparrow$                        $\uparrow$   
 all T's so  $p \vee \sim p$  is a tautology      all F's so  $p \wedge \sim p$  is a contradiction

11

11

## Summary of Logical Equivalences

**Theorem 2.1.1 Logical Equivalences**

Given any statement variables  $p, q,$  and  $r,$  a tautology  $t$  and a contradiction  $c,$  the following logical equivalences hold.

1. <i>Commutative laws:</i>	$p \wedge q \equiv q \wedge p$	$p \vee q \equiv q \vee p$
2. <i>Associative laws:</i>	$(p \wedge q) \wedge r \equiv p \wedge (q \wedge r)$	$(p \vee q) \vee r \equiv p \vee (q \vee r)$
3. <i>Distributive laws:</i>	$p \wedge (q \vee r) \equiv (p \wedge q) \vee (p \wedge r)$	$p \vee (q \wedge r) \equiv (p \vee q) \wedge (p \vee r)$
4. <i>Identity laws:</i>	$p \wedge t \equiv p$	$p \vee c \equiv p$
5. <i>Negation laws:</i>	$p \vee \sim p \equiv t$	$p \wedge \sim p \equiv c$
6. <i>Double negative law:</i>	$\sim(\sim p) \equiv p$	
7. <i>Idempotent laws:</i>	$p \wedge p \equiv p$	$p \vee p \equiv p$
8. <i>Universal bound laws:</i>	$p \vee t \equiv t$	$p \wedge c \equiv c$
9. <i>De Morgan's laws:</i>	$\sim(p \wedge q) \equiv \sim p \vee \sim q$	$\sim(p \vee q) \equiv \sim p \wedge \sim q$
10. <i>Absorption laws:</i>	$p \vee (p \wedge q) \equiv p$	$p \wedge (p \vee q) \equiv p$
11. <i>Negations of t and c:</i>	$\sim t \equiv c$	$\sim c \equiv t$

12

12

## Simplifying Statement Forms

$$\sim(\sim p \wedge q) \wedge (p \vee q) \equiv p$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sim(\sim p \wedge q) \wedge (p \vee q) &\equiv (\sim(\sim p) \vee \sim q) \wedge (p \vee q) && \text{by De Morgan's laws} \\ &\equiv (p \vee \sim q) \wedge (p \vee q) && \text{by the double negative law} \\ &\equiv p \vee (\sim q \wedge q) && \text{by the distributive law} \\ &\equiv p \vee (q \wedge \sim q) && \text{by the commutative law for } \wedge \\ &\equiv p \vee \mathbf{c} && \text{by the negation law} \\ &\equiv p && \text{by the identity law.} \end{aligned}$$

13