

## REVIEW OF LAST CLASSES:

\* Propositions

\* Logical operators:

- not(P),  $\bar{P}$

- P AND Q,  $P \wedge Q$

- P OR Q,  $P \vee Q$

-  $P \Rightarrow Q$

-  $P \Leftrightarrow Q$

VACUOUS TRUTH

"Every dog in this room is red!"

"The sun is blue  $\Rightarrow$  2 is prime" is TRUE.

We had just defined:

## \* LOGICAL EQUIVALENCE:

$P \Leftrightarrow Q$ , or  $P \equiv Q$   
by the truth table:

P	Q	$P \Leftrightarrow Q$
T	T	T
T	F	F
F	T	F
F	F	T

- In practice, two propositions are logically equivalent if they have the same columns in a truth table.

- EXAMPLE: let us show that

$$(P \Rightarrow Q) \iff (\text{not } Q \Rightarrow \text{not } P)$$

P	Q	not P	not Q	$P \Rightarrow Q$	$\text{not } Q \Rightarrow \text{not } P$
T	T	F	F	T	T
T	F	F	T	F	F
F	T	T	F	T	T
F	F	T	T	T	T

- $(\text{not } Q) \Rightarrow (\text{not } P)$  is called the contrapositive of  $P \Rightarrow Q$

## \* DE MORGAN'S LAWS:

$$(i) \quad (\text{not}(P \wedge Q)) \equiv (\text{not} P \vee \text{not} Q)$$

$$(ii) \quad (\text{not}(P \vee Q)) \equiv (\text{not} P \wedge \text{not} Q)$$

proof of (i):

P	Q	not P	not Q	$P \wedge Q$	$\text{not}(P \wedge Q)$	$\text{not} P \vee \text{not} Q$
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

proof of (ii): as exercise.

## \* LOGICALLY TRUE PROPOSITION:

- Sometimes the truth value of a proposition may depend on a variable.

Example:

- "Today it rains"

- "n is a prime number"

## \* LOGICALLY TRUE PROPOSITION

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- A proposition that is true in every possible case is said to be logically true.

Example:

$P \vee \text{not } P$

is logically true.

P	not P	$P \vee \text{not } P$
T	F	T
F	T	T
T	F	T
F	T	T

- We can still afford to call these propositions true. We've already encountered logically true propositions before in the class. (Like De Morgan's laws).

## \* PROVING AN IMPLICATION IN PRACTICE

- For two given propositions  $P$  and  $Q$ , we will often want to prove that  $P \Rightarrow Q$  is logically true.

- Why? | Then we know that if  $P$  is true, then  $Q$  is true.

Three strategies:

### ① DIRECT ARGUMENT.

Assume that  $P$  is true, show that  $Q$  is true.

Example: For  $n$  an integer,  
 $n$  is ~~odd~~ even  $\Rightarrow n^2$  is even.

Suppose we can write  $m = 2k$   
 for some integer  $k$ .

then  $m^2 = (2k)^2 = 4k^2 = 2(2k^2)$   
 is even.  $\square$

## ② CONTRAPOSITIVE ARGUMENT.

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Assume that  $Q$  is false, show that  $P$  is false.

Recall:  $(P \Rightarrow Q) \equiv (\text{not } Q \Rightarrow \text{not } P)$

Example:  $m^2 \text{ even} \Rightarrow m \text{ even}$ .

Contrapositive:  $m \text{ odd} \Rightarrow m^2 \text{ odd}$ .

Assume  $m = 2k+1$  for some integer  $k$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{then } m^2 &= (2k+1)^2 = 4k^2 + 2(2k) + 1^2 \\ &= 2(2k^2 + 2k) + 1 \end{aligned}$$

and  $m^2$  is odd.  $\square$

## ③ PROOF BY CONTRADICTION.

- Assume  $P$  is true and  $Q$  is false, derive a contradiction.

• ?

## PROOF BY CONTRADICTION:

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• We've already said that for a proposition  $P$ ,  $P$  is \*either\* TRUE or FALSE

• To prove  $P$  using a proof by contradiction,

we assume  $P$  is FALSE,

and deduce  $\text{not}(Q)$  for a proposition  $Q$  we know is true.

since  $\text{not}(Q)$  and  $Q$  CANNOT be both TRUE, we have a CONTRADICTION

we deduce that  $P$  is FALSE

~~EXAMPLE:~~

~~To prove that  $\sqrt{2}$  is an irrational number (i.e. that it cannot be written as a quotient of integers),~~

~~we assume  $\sqrt{2} = \frac{p}{q}$  and show~~

## EXAMPLE: INFINITY OF PRIME NUMBERS

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Assume there is a finite list

$p_1, \dots, p_m$  of prime numbers.

Consider  $N = p_1 \cdot p_2 \cdot \dots \cdot p_m + 1$ .

- $N$  is not divisible by any of the  $p_i$ , since it will leave a remainder of one upon division.
- either  $N$  is prime, and we have a contradiction
- either  $N$  is divisible by a prime number that is not in our list, and we have a contradiction.

→ SEE ALSO THE CLASSIC PROOF OF THE IRRATIONALITY OF  $\sqrt{2}$  IF YOU ARE CURIOUS.



## \* PROOF BY INDUCTION:

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- Sometimes we consider propositions which truth value depends on a variable.

examples: "x is positive"

"it rains on day d"

- In particular we may consider  $P(n)$ , where  $n$  is a natural integer.

- We often use a proof by induction to show that:

For EVERY  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $P(n)$  is true.

EXAMPLE: For every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$1 + 2 + \dots + n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

In order to do that we:

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• INITIALISE: Show that  $P(1)$  is TRUE.

• PROVE THE INDUCTION STEP:

Show that

$P(n)$  true for  
SOME  $n \in \mathbb{N}$

$\implies$

$P(n+1)$   
TRUE.

REMARK : We assume  $P(n)$

is true for some  $n$  and not

for every  $n$

(that would be what we want to prove!)