

1 Propositional logic

These are the operators of *classical propositional logic*:

1. \wedge means “and” (e.g., $a \wedge b$ is “a and b are both true”)
2. \vee means “or” ($a \vee b$ is “a or b is true”, i.e., “at least one of a or b is true”)
3. \neg means “not” ($\neg a$ is “a is not true”)
4. $p \rightarrow q$ means “if p, then q”, equivalently, “either p is false or q is true”, equivalently $\neg p \vee q$

Exercises:

1. Assume the sky is blue and the moon is made of rocks. Is the sentence “if the sky is green, then the moon is made of blue cheese” true or false?
2. If $p \rightarrow q$ is true, is $q \rightarrow p$ (the *converse*) always true?
3. If $p \rightarrow q$ is true, is $\neg q \rightarrow \neg p$ (the *contrapositive*) always true?
4. Express $a \vee b$ using only \wedge and \neg . (This is called *De Morgan’s law*. It shows that \wedge and \neg are sufficient to express all of propositional logic.)
5. The operator \uparrow has these semantics: $a \uparrow b$ means “either a is false or b is false”. Express all the other operators using \uparrow . (This operator is called *NAND* or the *Sheffer stroke*.)

2 First-order logic

Read \forall as “for every” and \exists as “there exists”.

Example: let $H(x, y)$ denote “x cuts y’s hair”. Then we can write “there is someone who cuts everyone’s hair” as:

$$\exists x \forall y H(x, y)$$

and “everyone has someone who cuts their hair” as:

$$\forall x \exists y H(y, x)$$

Notice that $\exists x \varphi(x)$ is equivalent to $\neg \forall x \neg \varphi(x)$. (This relies on the assumption that at least one thing exists.)

Exercises:

1. Which one of these sentences implies the other? Are they equivalent?
2. Write the negations of both sentences.
3. Write the definition of limit using logical symbols. Then write its negation.