

Propositional Logic

Boolean values — True/False.

Def'n A proposition is a declarative statement that can be true or false.

eg. "Washington, DC is the capital of the U.S." (true)

"Toronto is the capital of Canada." (false)

"10 is even." (true).

non-examples:

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"Please hold this."

We will typically use $P, Q, R, S, \bar{P}, \bar{Q}, \bar{R}, \bar{S}$ to stand for arbitrary propositions.

Negation

Def'n Let P be a proposition. The negation of P is written $\neg P$ or \bar{P} and pronounced "not P ", or "It is not the case that P ".

We can make a truth table showing the value of $\neg P$ for each possible value of P :

P	$\neg P$
T	F
F	T

Conjunction (AND)

\wedge looks like A which stands for AND.

Defn The conjunction of two propositions P, Q is written $P \wedge Q$ and pronounced "P and Q".

It is true when both P and Q are true.

P	Q	$P \wedge Q$
T	T	T
T	F	F
F	T	F
F	F	F

eg. Make a truth table for $(P \wedge Q) \wedge (\neg R)$.

P	Q	R	$P \wedge Q$	$\neg R$	$(P \wedge Q) \wedge (\neg R)$
T	T	T	T	F	F
T	T	F	T	T	T
T	F	T	F	F	F
T	F	F	F	T	F
F	T	T	F	F	F
F	T	F	F	T	F
F	F	T	F	F	F
F	F	F	F	T	F

Disjunction (OR)

looks like V for "Vote" which is choosing one thing OR other.

Def'n The disjunction of propositions p, q is written

$p \vee q$ and pronounced "p or q". It is false when both p and q are false, and true otherwise.

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

← Inclusive OR -
OK for both to be true.

(Exclusive OR - exactly one has to be true).

Note:

$\neg a \wedge b$ means $(\neg a) \wedge b$

$\neg(a \wedge b)$ requires parentheses.