

Chapter 1. The Foundations: Logic and Proofs

1.4 Logical Equivalences

1.5 Laws of Propositional Logic

An important step used in a mathematical argument is the replacement of a statement with another statement with the same truth value.

tautology is a compound proposition that is always true, no matter what the truth values of the propositions that occur in it.

contradiction is a compound proposition that always false.

contingency is a compound statement that is neither a tautology nor a contradiction.

An important step used in a mathematical argument is the replacement of a statement with another statement with the same truth value.

tautology is a compound proposition that is always true, no matter what the truth values of the propositions that occur in it.

example: $\neg p \vee p$

p	$\neg p$	$\neg p \vee p$
0	1	1
1	0	1

contradiction is a compound proposition that always false.

example: $\neg p \wedge p$

p	$\neg p$	$\neg p \wedge p$
0	1	0
1	0	0

contingency is a compound statement that is neither a tautology nor a contradiction.

example: $p \rightarrow q \vee \neg p$

Two compound propositions, \mathbf{p} and \mathbf{q} , are *logically equivalent* if $p \leftrightarrow q$ is a tautology.

We'll write $\mathbf{p} \equiv \mathbf{q}$ or $\mathbf{p} \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{q}$

Ways to determine whether two compound proposition are equivalent:

- truth tables (columns giving their truth values agree)
- use laws

Example 1: proof by truth tables that $\mathbf{p} \rightarrow \mathbf{q}$ and $\neg \mathbf{p} \vee \mathbf{q}$ are logically equivalent.

p	q	$\neg p$	$p \rightarrow q$	$\neg p \vee q$
T	T	F		
T	F	F		
F	T	T		
F	F	T		

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Reading of both compound propositions:

Let p : “the weather is good” and q : “we'll go swimming” Then,

$p \rightarrow q$: “If the weather is good, we'll go swimming”; and

$\neg p \vee q$: “the weather is not good or we'll go swimming”

Laws of Propositional Logic

Here is a list of some important equalities:

$\neg(p \vee q) \equiv \neg p \wedge \neg q$ $\neg(p \wedge q) \equiv \neg p \vee \neg q$	De Morgan's Laws (1)	$p \vee p \equiv p$ $p \wedge p \equiv p$	Idempotent laws (5)
$\neg(\neg p) \equiv p$	Double negation law (2)	$p \vee \mathbf{T} \equiv \mathbf{T}$ $p \wedge \mathbf{F} \equiv \mathbf{F}$	Domination laws (6)
$p \wedge q \equiv q \wedge p$ $p \vee q \equiv q \vee p$	Commutative laws (3)	$p \wedge \mathbf{T} \equiv p$ $p \vee \mathbf{F} \equiv p$	Identity laws (7)
$p \vee (p \wedge q) \equiv p$ $p \wedge (p \vee q) \equiv p$	Absorption laws (4)	$p \vee \neg p \equiv \mathbf{T}$ $p \wedge \neg p \equiv \mathbf{F}$	Negation laws (8)
$(p \vee q) \vee r \equiv p \vee (q \vee r)$ $(p \wedge q) \wedge r \equiv p \wedge (q \wedge r)$			Associative laws (9)
$p \vee (q \wedge r) \equiv (p \vee q) \wedge (p \vee r)$ $p \wedge (q \vee r) \equiv (p \wedge q) \vee (p \wedge r)$			Distributive laws (10)

Laws of Propositional Logic

Here is more of important equalities:

$p \rightarrow q \equiv \neg p \vee q$	(11)	$p \leftrightarrow q \equiv (p \rightarrow q) \wedge (q \rightarrow p)$	(12)
$p \rightarrow q \equiv \neg q \rightarrow \neg p$	(13)	$p \leftrightarrow q \equiv \neg p \leftrightarrow \neg q$	(14)
$p \vee q \equiv \neg p \rightarrow q$	(15)	$p \leftrightarrow q \equiv (p \wedge q) \vee (\neg p \wedge \neg q)$	(16)
$p \wedge q \equiv \neg(p \rightarrow \neg q)$	(17)	$\neg(p \leftrightarrow q) \equiv p \leftrightarrow \neg q$	(18)
$\neg(p \rightarrow q) \equiv p \wedge \neg q$	(19)		
$(p \rightarrow q) \wedge (p \rightarrow r) \equiv p \rightarrow (q \wedge r)$	(20)		
$(p \rightarrow q) \vee (p \rightarrow r) \equiv p \rightarrow (q \vee r)$	(21)		
$(p \rightarrow r) \wedge (q \rightarrow r) \equiv (p \vee q) \rightarrow r$	(22)		
$(p \rightarrow r) \vee (q \rightarrow r) \equiv (p \wedge q) \rightarrow r$	(23)		

Example 2: Show that $p \rightarrow q$ and $\neg q \rightarrow \neg p$ are logically equivalent using the above laws.

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$$\neg q \rightarrow \neg p \equiv \neg\neg q \vee \neg p \quad \text{by (11)}$$

$$p \rightarrow q \equiv \neg p \vee q$$

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$$\begin{aligned}\neg q \rightarrow \neg p &\equiv \neg\neg q \vee \neg p \\ &\equiv q \vee \neg p\end{aligned}$$

by (11)

by double negation law (2)

$$\neg(\neg p) \equiv p$$

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by (11)

by double negation law (2)

by commutative laws (3)

$$p \vee q \equiv q \vee p$$

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$$\begin{aligned}\neg q \rightarrow \neg p &\equiv \neg\neg q \vee \neg p && \text{by (11)} \\ &\equiv q \vee \neg p && \text{by double negation law (2)} \\ &\equiv \neg p \vee q && \text{by commutative laws (3)} \\ &\equiv p \rightarrow q && \text{by (11) } p \rightarrow q \equiv \neg p \vee q\end{aligned}$$

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$$\neg(p \leftrightarrow q) \equiv \qquad p \leftrightarrow \neg q \equiv$$

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Example 3: Show that $\neg(p \leftrightarrow q)$ and $p \leftrightarrow \neg q$ are logically equivalent.

$$\begin{aligned}\neg(p \leftrightarrow q) &\equiv \neg((p \rightarrow q) \wedge (q \rightarrow p)) && \text{by (12)} \\ p \leftrightarrow \neg q &\equiv (p \rightarrow \neg q) \wedge (\neg q \rightarrow p) && \text{by (12)}\end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}\neg(p \leftrightarrow q) &\equiv && p \leftrightarrow \neg q \equiv \\ &\equiv \neg((p \rightarrow q) \wedge (q \rightarrow p)) && \text{by (12)} && \equiv (p \rightarrow \neg q) \wedge (\neg q \rightarrow p) && \text{by (12)} \\ &\equiv \neg(p \rightarrow q) \vee \neg(q \rightarrow p) && \text{by (1)} \\ &\equiv \neg(\neg p \vee q) \vee \neg(\neg q \vee p) && \text{by (11)} \\ &\equiv (\neg\neg p \wedge \neg q) \vee (\neg\neg q \wedge \neg p) && (1) \\ &\equiv (p \wedge \neg q) \vee (q \wedge \neg p) && \text{by (2)}\end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \neg(p \leftrightarrow q) &\equiv \\ &\equiv \neg((p \rightarrow q) \wedge (q \rightarrow p)) && \text{by (12)} \\ &\equiv \neg(p \rightarrow q) \vee \neg(q \rightarrow p) && \text{by (1)} \\ &\equiv \neg(\neg p \vee q) \vee \neg(\neg q \vee p) && \text{by (11)} \\ &\equiv (\neg\neg p \wedge \neg q) \vee (\neg\neg q \wedge \neg p) && \text{(1)} \\ &\equiv (p \wedge \neg q) \vee (q \wedge \neg p) && \text{by (2)} \\ p \leftrightarrow \neg q &\equiv \\ &\equiv (p \rightarrow \neg q) \wedge (\neg q \rightarrow p) && \text{by (12)} \\ &\equiv (\neg p \vee \neg q) \wedge (\neg\neg q \vee p) && \text{by (11)} \\ &\equiv (\neg p \vee \neg q) \wedge (q \vee p) && \text{by (2)} \\ &\equiv ((\neg p \vee \neg q) \wedge q) \vee ((\neg p \vee \neg q) \wedge p) && \text{by (10)} \\ &\equiv (\neg p \wedge q) \vee (\neg q \wedge q) \vee (\neg p \wedge p) \vee (\neg q \wedge p) \\ &\equiv (\neg p \wedge q) \vee \mathbf{F} \vee \mathbf{F} \vee (\neg q \wedge p) && \text{by (8)} \\ &\equiv (\neg p \wedge q) \vee (\neg q \wedge p) && \text{by (7)} \end{aligned}$$

Example 4: Show that $((p \rightarrow q) \wedge (q \rightarrow r)) \rightarrow (p \rightarrow r)$ is a tautology without using truth tables.

Let's prove by contrapositive (see lecture 1 slides, slide 12)
(having $p \rightarrow q$, $\neg q \rightarrow \neg p$)

$$\begin{aligned}
 \neg(p \rightarrow r) \rightarrow \neg((p \rightarrow q) \wedge (q \rightarrow r)) &\equiv \neg\neg(p \rightarrow r) \vee \neg((p \rightarrow q) \wedge (q \rightarrow r)) \text{ by (11)} \\
 &\equiv (p \rightarrow r) \vee (\neg(p \rightarrow q) \vee \neg(q \rightarrow r)) \text{ by double negation law (2)} \\
 &\equiv (p \rightarrow r) \vee (\neg(p \rightarrow q) \vee \neg(q \rightarrow r)) \text{ by (1)} \\
 &\equiv (\neg p \vee r) \vee (\neg(\neg p \vee q) \vee \neg(\neg q \vee r)) \text{ by (11) three times} \\
 &\equiv (\neg p \vee r) \vee ((\neg\neg p \wedge \neg q) \vee (\neg\neg q \wedge \neg r)) \text{ by (1) twice} \\
 &\equiv (\neg p \vee r) \vee ((p \wedge \neg q) \vee (q \wedge \neg r)) \text{ by double negation law (2) twice} \\
 &\equiv \neg p \vee r \vee (p \wedge \neg q) \vee (q \wedge \neg r) \text{ re-writing} \\
 &\equiv (\neg p \vee (p \wedge \neg q)) \vee (r \vee (q \wedge \neg r)) \text{ re-grouping by (3)} \\
 &\equiv ((\neg p \vee p) \wedge (\neg p \vee \neg q)) \vee ((r \vee q) \wedge (r \vee \neg r)) \text{ by (10)} \\
 &\equiv (\mathbf{T} \wedge (\neg p \vee \neg q)) \vee ((r \vee q) \wedge \mathbf{T}) \text{ by (8) twice} \\
 &\equiv (\neg p \vee \neg q) \vee (r \vee q) \text{ by (7) twice} \\
 &\equiv \neg p \vee \neg q \vee r \vee q \equiv \neg p \vee r \vee \mathbf{T} \text{ by (8)} \\
 &\equiv \mathbf{T} \text{ by (6)}
 \end{aligned}$$