Applications of Propositional Logic

Section 1.2

Applications of Propositional Logic: Summary

- Translating English to Propositional Logic
- System Specifications
- Boolean Searching
- Logic Puzzles
- Logic Circuits

Translating English Sentences

- Steps to convert an English sentence to a statement in propositional logic
  - Identify atomic propositions and represent using propositional variables.
  - Determine appropriate logical connectives
- "If I go to Harry's or to the country, I will not go shopping."
  - *p*: I go to Harry's
  - q: I go to the country.
  - *r*: I will go shopping.

If *p* or *q* then not *r*.

$$(p \vee q) \rightarrow \neg r$$

Example

Problem: Translate the following sentence into propositional logic:

"You can access the Internet from campus only if you are a computer science major or you are not a freshman."

One Solution: Let *a*, *c*, and *f* represent respectively "You can access the internet from campus," "You are a computer science major," and "You are a freshman."

$$a \rightarrow (c \vee \neg f)$$

System Specifications

- System and Software engineers take requirements in English and express them in a precise specification language based on logic.

Example: Express in propositional logic:

"The automated reply cannot be sent when the file system is full"

Solution: One possible solution: Let p denote "The automated reply can be sent" and q denote "The file system is full."

$$q \rightarrow \neg p$$

Consistent System Specifications

Definition: A list of propositions is *consistent* if it is possible to assign truth values to the proposition variables so that each proposition is true.

Exercise: Are these specifications consistent?

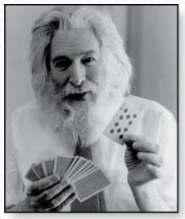
- "The diagnostic message is stored in the buffer or it is retransmitted."
- "The diagnostic message is not stored in the buffer."
- "If the diagnostic message is stored in the buffer, then it is retransmitted."

Solution: Let p denote "The diagnostic message is not stored in the buffer." Let q denote "The diagnostic message is retransmitted" The specification can be written as: $p \vee q$, $p \rightarrow q$, $\neg p$. When p is false and q is true all three statements are true. So the specification is consistent.

- What if "The diagnostic message is not retransmitted" is added.

  Solution: Now we are adding $\neg q$ and there is no satisfying assignment. So the specification is not consistent.

Logic Puzzles



Raymond Smullyan (Born 1919)

- An island has two kinds of inhabitants, *knights*, who always tell the truth, and *knaves*, who always lie.
- You go to the island and meet A and B.
  - A says "B is a knight."
  - B says "The two of us are of opposite types."

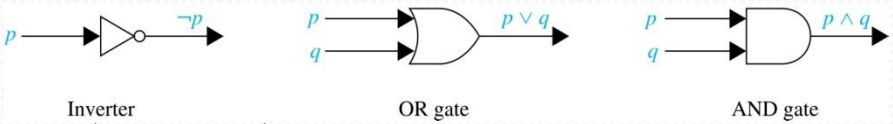
Example: What are the types of A and B?

Solution: Let p and q be the statements that A is a knight and B is a knight, respectively. So, then $\neg p$ represents the proposition that A is a knave and $\neg q$ that B is a knave.

- If A is a knight, then p is true. Since knights tell the truth, q must also be true. Then $(p \wedge \neg q) \vee (\neg p \wedge q)$ would have to be true, but it is not. So, A is not a knight and therefore $\neg p$ must be true.
- If A is a knave, then B must not be a knight since knaves always lie. So, then both $\neg p$ and $\neg q$ hold since both are knaves.

Logic Circuits (Studied in depth in Chapter 12)

- Electronic circuits; each input/output signal can be viewed as a 0 or 1.
  - 0 represents **False**
  - 1 represents **True**
- Complicated circuits are constructed from three basic circuits called gates.



  - The inverter (**NOT gate**)takes an input bit and produces the negation of that bit.
  - The **OR gate** takes two input bits and produces the value equivalent to the disjunction of the two bits.
  - The **AND gate** takes two input bits and produces the value equivalent to the conjunction of the two bits.
- More complicated digital circuits can be constructed by combining these basic circuits to produce the desired output given the input signals by building a circuit for each piece of the output expression and then combining them. For example: