

Course Notes for Math 320:  
Fundamentals of Mathematics  
Chapter 1: Generalities on proofs.

September 2, 2005

## 1 Propositions, Truth

**Definition 1.1** A **proposition** is a sentence that is either true or false.

**Example 1.2** Which one is a proposition?

1. This summer I spent a month in Cortina, Italy.
2. Are Nilla wafers your favorite cookie?.
3. Nilla wafers are the best cookies.
4.  $5^2 + 3^2 = 34$ .
5.  $5^2 + 3^2 = 35$ .
6.  $5^2 + 3^2 < 35$ .
7.  $x + 3$ .
8.  $x + 3 > 5$ .
9. If \_\_\_\_\_ is registered for math 320 then \_\_\_\_\_ must have received a C or better in math 150B (or its equivalent).

Making new propositions out of old ones: Negation, conjunction (and), disjunction (or), implication (if, then).

**Definition 1.3** Given a proposition  $P$ , the further proposition that  $P$  is false is called the **negation** of  $P$  (or  $\text{Not}P$ ).

**Example 1.4** Negate the following:

1. This summer I spent a month in Cortina, Italy.

2.  $5^2 + 3^2 = 34$ .
3.  $5^2 + 3^2 = 35$ .
4.  $5^2 + 3^2 < 35$ .
5. If Sam is registered for math 320 then he must have received a C or better in math 150B (or its equivalent).

Notice that if the statement  $P$  is true, then the statement  $\text{Not}P$  is false and if the statement  $P$  is false then the statement  $\text{Not}P$  is true. We summarize this in a “Truth Table:”

$P$	$\text{Not } P$
T	F
F	T

**Definition 1.5** A proposition of the form “ $P$  and  $Q$ ” for two proposition  $P$  and  $Q$  is called the **conjunction** of  $P$  and  $Q$ . Notation:  $P \cap Q$ .

**Definition 1.6** A proposition of the form “ $P$  or  $Q$ ” for two proposition  $P$  and  $Q$  is called the **disjunction** of  $P$  and  $Q$ . Notation:  $P \cup Q$ .

**Example 1.7** Which of the following are true?

1. This summer I spent a month in Cortina, Italy and  $5^2 + 3^2 = 34$ .
2. This summer I spent a month in Cortina, Italy and  $5^2 + 3^2 = 35$ .
3.  $5^2 + 3^2 = 35$  and  $5^2 + 3^2 = 34$ .
4.  $5^2 + 3^2 = 35$  and  $5^2 + 3^2 > 35$ .

**Example 1.8** Which of the following are true?

1. This summer I spent a month in Cortina, Italy or  $5^2 + 3^2 = 34$ .
2. This summer I spent a month in Cortina, Italy or  $5^2 + 3^2 = 35$ .
3.  $5^2 + 3^2 = 35$  or  $5^2 + 3^2 = 34$ .
4.  $5^2 + 3^2 = 35$  or  $5^2 + 3^2 > 35$ .

So “ $P$  and  $Q$ ” is true only when both  $P$  and  $Q$  are true, and “ $P$  or  $Q$ ” is true when either  $P$  or  $Q$  is true. Again this can be summarized a truth table.

$P$	$Q$	$P$ and $Q$	$P$ or $Q$
T	T	T	
T	F		T
F	T		T
F	F	F	

**Definition 1.9** Given two propositions  $P$  and  $Q$ , the proposition “ $P$  implies  $Q$ ” is called a **conditional proposition**. Notation  $P \Rightarrow Q$ .

**Example 1.10** 1. If Giuseppe is nice to Matteo then he will have an icecream.

2. Giuseppe is in his carseat implies he is dressed.

Or equivalently, if Giuseppe is in his carseat then he is dressed.

3. If Giuseppe is dressed then he is in his carseat.

4. If Sam is allowed to register for math 320 then he received a C or better in math 150B (or its equivalent).

Thus the truth or falsehood of the expression “ $P$  implies  $Q$ ” is defined by the following truth table.

$P$	$Q$	$P$ implies $Q$
T	T	T
T	F	F
F	T	T
F	F	T

In this case  $P$  is called the **hypothesis** and  $Q$  is called the **conclusion**. See page 5 of text for various other equivalent expressions: e.g. “If  $P$ , then  $Q$ ” or “ $Q$  is true whenever  $P$  is true.”

**Example 1.11** Which of the following are true?

1. If I spent a month in Cortina, Italy this summer, then  $5^2 + 3^2 = 34$ .

2. If I spent a month in Cortina, Italy this summer, then  $5^2 + 3^2 = 35$ .

3. If  $5^2 + 3^2 = 35$ , then  $5^2 + 3^2 = 34$ .

4. If  $5 + 3 = 7$ , then  $5^2 + 3^2 > 35$ .

**Example 1.12** Mount Holyoke College (MHC) is a women's college. Assume Mary is a woman and a student at MHC. Assume also that Sam is not a student at MHC and that Sam is a man.

1. If Mary is a student at MHC then Mary is a woman.
2. If Sam is a student at MHC then Sam is a man.
3. If a student is a woman, then the student attends MHC.

**Definition 1.13** Given two propositions  $P$  and  $Q$ , the **converse** to the proposition " $P$  implies  $Q$ " is " $Q$  implies  $P$ ."

**Example 1.14** Write the converse to the following. Which do your intuition tell you are true?

1. If Giuseppe is in his carseat then he is dressed.
2. To register for math 320, it is necessary that a student received a C or better in math 150B (or its equivalent).
3. If you are over 21 years old you may legally drink alcohol.

Thus the truth or falsehood of the converse to the expression " $P$  implies  $Q$ " is defined by the following truth table.

$P$	$Q$	$P$ implies $Q$	$Q$ implies $P$
T	T	T	
T	F	F	
F	T	T	
F	F	T	

**Definition 1.15** Given two propositions  $P$  and  $Q$ , the proposition " $P$  if and only if  $Q$ " is true when both " $P$  implies  $Q$ " and " $Q$  implies  $P$ " are true. Notation  $P \Leftrightarrow Q$ .

**Example 1.16** Which do your intuition tell you are true?

1. Giuseppe is in his carseat  $\Leftrightarrow$  he is dressed.

2. A student takes math 320 if and only if the student received a C or better in math 150B (or its equivalent).
3. You may legally drink alcohol if and only if you are over 21 years old.

**Example 1.17** Which of the following are true?

1. I spent a month in Cortina, Italy this summer  $\Leftrightarrow 5^2 + 3^2 = 34$ .
2. I spent a month in Cortina, Italy this summer if and only if  $5^2 + 3^2 = 35$ .
3.  $5^2 + 3^2 = 35$  if and only if  $5^2 + 3^2 = 34$ .
4.  $5 + 3 = 7$  if and only if  $5^2 + 3^2 > 35$ .

**Definition 1.18** Given two propositions  $P$  and  $Q$ , the **contrapositive** to “ $P$  implies  $Q$ ” is the proposition “NOT $Q$  implies NOT $P$ .”

**Example 1.19** Find the contrapositive for each of the following. Which are true?

1. If Giuseppe is in his carseat then he is dressed.
2. If Sam is allowed to register for math 320 then he received a C or better in math 150B (or its equivalent).
3. If I spent a month in Cortina, Italy this summer, then  $5^2 + 3^2 = 34$ .
4. If I spent a month in Cortina, Italy this summer, then  $5^2 + 3^2 = 35$ .
5. If  $5^2 + 3^2 = 35$ , then  $5^2 + 3^2 = 34$ .
6. If  $5 + 3 = 7$ , then  $5^2 + 3^2 > 35$ .

$P$	$Q$	$P$ implies $Q$	Not $Q$	Not $P$	$(\text{Not } Q \Rightarrow \text{Not } P)$	$(P \Rightarrow Q) \Leftrightarrow (\text{Not } Q \Rightarrow \text{Not } P)$
T	T	T	F			
T	F	F	T			
F	T	T	F			
F	F	T	T			

**Definition 1.20** A propositional expression is called a **tautology** if it yeilds a true proposition regardless of what propositions replace its variable expressions.  
 A propositional expression is called a **contradiction** if it yeilds a false proposition regardless of what propositions replace its variable expressions.

**Example 1.21**  $(P \Rightarrow Q) \Leftrightarrow (\text{Not } Q \Rightarrow \text{Not } P)$ . We say that these expressions are logically equivalent.

This can be useful when proving an if and only if statement, like

**Example 1.22** “You may legally drink if and only if you are over 21 years old.”

1.  $(Q \Rightarrow P)$

2.  $(\text{Not } Q \Rightarrow \text{Not } P)$ ;

Sometimes rephrasing things makes the truth or falsity of a statement jumps out. A few more useful logical equivalences (or tautologies) are De Morgan’s Laws.

**Proposition 1.23** Each of the following propositional expressions is a tautology.

1.  $\text{Not}(P \Rightarrow Q) \Leftrightarrow P \cap \text{Not } Q$ .

2.  $\text{Not}(P \cup Q) \Leftrightarrow \text{Not } P \cap \text{Not } Q$ .

3.  $\text{Not}(P \cap Q) \Leftrightarrow \text{Not } P \cup \text{Not } Q$ .

4.  $\text{Not}(\text{Not } P) \Leftrightarrow P$ .

5.  $(P \cup Q) \Leftrightarrow (\text{NOT } P \Rightarrow Q)$ .

These are mostly of use in negating complicated expressions.

**Example 1.24** Negate the following:

1. If Giuseppe is in his carseat then he is dressed.

2. If  $5 + 3 = 8$  then  $f(5) + f(3) = f(8)$ .

3. If  $ab = 0$  then  $a = 0$  or  $b = 0$ .

## 2 Constants, Variables, and Quantifiers

Two types of objects: **constants** and **variables**.

Both live in some **universe**... that will have to be defined in each situation.

**Example 2.1**  $x + 3 > 5$

*This is not a proposition.*

*Here 3 and 5 are constants,  $x$  is a variable.*

*Where does  $x$  come from? Which “universe” of numbers? Real numbers ( $\mathbf{R}$ ), the rational numbers ( $\mathbf{Q}$ ) or just integers ( $\mathbf{Z}$ ).*

**Example 2.2**  $x + 3 > 5$  for some real number  $x$ . Is this a proposition? Is it true?

**Definition 2.3** Given a universe and a variable  $x$ , a **Propositional function**  $P(x)$  in the variable  $x$  is a sentence such that for each value of  $x$  taken in the universe we obtain a proposition. The **truth set** of  $P(x)$  is the set of all values  $x$  in the given universe such that  $P(x)$  is a true proposition.

**Example 2.4** Find the truth set of each of the following propositional functions. Assume that all variables and constants are real number unless otherwise stated.

1.  $x + 3 > 5$
2.  $x^2 + y^2 = 4$
3.  $x^3 + y^3 = z^3$  where none of  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $z$  are zero.
4. Let the universe be the set of all CSUN. Let  $X$  be one such student,  $X$  got a C or better in math 150B.

Notation:

**Quantifiers to Propositional functions:**

**Example 2.5** Are the following **Propositions** true or false?

1. **There exist** real numbers  $x$  such that  $x + 3 > 5$
2. **For all** pairs of real number  $(x, y)$ ,  $x^2 + y^2 = 4$ .

3. **There are no** integer solutions to  $x^3 + y^3 = z^3$  where none of  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $z$  are zero.
4. Let the universe be the set of all CSUN. **There exists**  $X$  who got a C or better in math 150B.

Caution: What is the difference between “there exists” and “for all?”

**Example 2.6** What are the differences between the following propositions?

1. All students in math 320 get an A.
2. There exists a student in math 320 who gets an A.
3. For all real numbers  $x$ ,  $x^2 > 0$ .
4. There exists a real number  $x$ , such that  $x^2 > 0$ .

For 5-8, recall that a prime number is a positive integer  $p > 1$  such that the only positive integers that divide it are 1 and  $p$ . For example 2, 3, 5, 7 and 11 are primes, but  $9 = (3)(3)$  is not.

5. For any prime numbers  $p$ ,  $p + 2$  is a prime number.
6. For some prime numbers  $p$ ,  $p + 2$  is a prime number.
7. There exists a prime number  $p$  such that  $p + 1$  is prime.
8. There exists an odd prime number  $p$  such that  $p + 1$  is prime.

**Definition 2.7** *Quantifiers*

1. In a proposition any expression that indicates the existence of at least one element lying in the truth set of a propositional function is called an **existential quantifier** and it can be represented by  $\exists$ . (**Rmk:**  $\exists x \in U$  is always followed by the expression (maybe just implied) “such that”.)
2. Any expression that indicates that all elements in the given universe lie in the truth set of a propositional function is called a **universal quantifier** and can be represented by  $\forall$ .

**Example 2.8** Translate either into the  $\forall$  or  $\exists$  notation or out of it. Which are true? For those that are false state the negation.

1.  $\forall x \in \mathbf{R}, x^4 > x$ .
2. Let  $\mathbf{P}$  be the set of all prime numbers.  $\forall p \in \mathbf{P}, p + 2 \in \mathbf{P}$ .

3. For some prime numbers  $p$ ,  $p + 2$  is a prime number.
4. There exists a prime number  $p$  such that  $p + 1$  is prime.

**Example 2.9** The quantifiers may be hidden and these propositions can be more complicated. Two of the statements below are false... which ones, and can you prove it?

1. If  $x$  is a real number then  $e^x > x$ .
2. For a positive integer to be prime it is sufficient that it is odd.
3. Some Mammals can fly.
4. Some mammals have gills.
5. (Continuity of the function  $e^x$  at  $x = 2$ .)  $\forall \epsilon > 0, \exists \delta > 0$ , such that if  $|x - 2| < \delta$  then  $|e^x - e^2| < \epsilon$ .
6. Given a set of linearly independent vectors  $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_n \in \mathbf{R}^n$ .  $\forall \vec{v} \in \text{Span}(\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_n)$ ,  $\exists$  unique  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathbf{R}$  such that  $\vec{v} = a_1\vec{v}_1 + a_2\vec{v}_2 + \dots + a_n\vec{v}_n$ .

**Proposition 2.10** If  $P(x)$  is a propositional function with variable  $x$ , then the following indicates how to negate an  $\forall$  or  $\exists$  expression.

1.  $\text{Not}((\forall x)P(x)) \Leftrightarrow (\exists x)(\text{Not}P(x))$  (counter-example);
2.  $\text{Not}((\exists x)P(x)) \Leftrightarrow (\forall x)(\text{Not}P(x))$ .

**Example 2.11** Negate the following:

1. For some prime numbers  $p$ ,  $p + 2$  is a prime number.
2. Let  $\mathbf{P}$  be the set of all prime numbers.  $\forall p \in \mathbf{P}, p + 2 \in \mathbf{P}$ .

### Quantifiers and Definitions.

Recall (?) the following definitions:

**Def:** A function  $f$  is said to be continuous at a value  $x = x_0$  if  $\forall \epsilon > 0, \exists \delta > 0$ , such that if  $|x - x_0| < \delta$  then  $|f(x) - f(x_0)| < \epsilon$ .

**Def:** Given a set of vectors  $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_n \in \mathbf{R}^n$ , another vector  $\vec{v}$  lies in  $\text{Span}(\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_n)$  if there exist  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in \mathbf{R}$  such that  $\vec{v} = a_1\vec{v}_1 + a_2\vec{v}_2 + \dots + a_n\vec{v}_n$ .

**Example 2.12** *How propositions and definitions interact.*

1. What would you have to show in order to say that a function  $g(x)$  is continuous at a point  $x_0$ ?
2. What would you have to show in order to say that a vector  $\vec{v}$  lies in the  $\text{Span}(\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_n)$ ?
3. State what it would mean for a function  $g(x)$  to fail to be continuous at a point  $x_0$ .
4. State what it would mean a vector  $\vec{v}$  to fail to lie in the  $\text{Span}(\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \dots, \vec{v}_n)$ ?

### 3 Direct, Contrapositive, Contradiction Proofs

Direct Proof of $(P \Rightarrow Q)$	Contrapositive Proof $(P \Rightarrow Q)$	Contradiction Proof $(P \Rightarrow Q)$
Assume $P$	Assume <i>Not</i> $Q$	Assume $P$ and <i>Not</i> $Q$
Logical sequence of steps	Logical sequence of steps	Logical sequence of steps
Conclude $Q$ .	Conclude <i>Not</i> $P$	Conclude Propositions $R$ and <i>Not</i> $R$

**Theorem 3.1** *An integer is even if and only if  $n^2$  is even.*

### 4 Group Work:

**Definition 4.1** *Let  $a$  and  $b$  be integers.*

1. We say that  $a$  divides  $b$  if  $b = ac$  for some positive integer  $c$ . We sometimes denote this by  $a|b$ .
2. We say that  $b$  is even if there is an integer  $k$  such that  $b = 2k$  (i.e. 2 divides  $b$ ).
3. We say that  $b$  is odd if there is an integer  $k$  such that  $b = 2k + 1$ .

From lecture and book:

**Theorem 4.2** *An integer is even if and only if  $n^2$  is even.*

**Warm-up: Prove the following:**

1. Lemma 1: Let  $m$  and  $n$  be odd integers, then  $mn$  is an odd integer.  
Hint: write  $m$  and  $n$  out as odd integers using the definition above.
2. Lemma 2: If  $b$  is odd then  $b^3$  is odd.
3. Lemma 3: If  $b^3$  is even then  $b$  is even.

**Group Exercise:**

1. (FP 1.74) In this exercise we give both a “proof” and a “counterexample” to the conjecture: If  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  are natural numbers such that  $xz$  divides  $yz$ , then  $x$  divides  $y$ . Is the “proof” correct? If not, why not? Is the “counter-example correct? If not, why not?

“Proof:” Suppose  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  are natural number such that  $xz$  divides  $yz$  but  $x$  does not divide  $y$ . Then  $y$  divides  $x$ , so there is an integer  $p$  such that  $x = py$ . Thus



## 5 Projects for presentation for this Chapter

There will be three presentations on the third Friday of the term. Each will be 15 minutes long. Here are some suggestions: Fletcher & Patty Chapter 1, # 60, 67, 73(a) and/or (b) and/or (c) and (d), 86, 90. Section 5. Exercise 86, Exercise 90 (a) or (b), and Exercise 91 (a) or (b).