

# ITB8832 Mathematics for Computer Science

## Lecture 3 – 13 September 2021

### Chapter Three

Equivalence and Validity

The Algebra of Propositions

The SAT problem

Predicate Formulas

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- 2 The Algebra of Propositions
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- 4 Predicate Logic

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# Contrapositives

## Definition

The *contrapositive* of the formula  $P$  implies  $Q$  is the formula  $\text{not}(Q)$  implies  $\text{not}(P)$ .

Contrapositives are equivalent to each other.

$P$	$Q$	$P$ implies $Q$	$\text{not}(Q)$	implies	$\text{not}(P)$
T	T	T	F	T	F
T	F	F	T	F	F
F	T	T	F	T	T
F	F	T	T	T	T

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The *contrapositive* of the formula  $P$  implies  $Q$  is the formula **not**( $Q$ ) **implies not**( $P$ ).

Contrapositives are equivalent to each other.

For example,

If I am hungry, then I am grumpy

is equivalent to

If I am not grumpy, then I am not hungry

# Converses

## Definition

The *converse* of the formula  $P$  **implies**  $Q$  is the formula  $Q$  **implies**  $P$ .

Converses *are not* equivalent to each other!

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

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However, *conjunction of converses is equivalent to iff*.

$P$	$Q$	$P$ <b>implies</b> $Q$	<b>and</b>	$Q$ <b>implies</b> $P$	$P$ <b>iff</b> $Q$
T	T	T	T	T	T
T	F	F	F	T	F
F	T	T	F	F	F
F	F	T	T	T	T



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However, *conjunction of converses is equivalent to iff*.

For example,

If I am hungry, then I am grumpy, and if I am grumpy, then I am hungry

is equivalent to

I am grumpy if and only if I am hungry

# Validity

## Definition

A propositional formula is *valid* if it is true for *every* assignment of truth values to its variables.

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Examples:

- **not**( $P$  and **not**( $P$ )) *law of non-contradiction*
- $P$  or **not**( $P$ ) *law of excluded middle*
- $P$  iff **not**(**not**( $P$ )) *double negation*
- $P$  **implies** ( $Q$  **implies**  $P$ ) *weakening*
- $(P \rightarrow (Q \rightarrow R)) \rightarrow ((P \rightarrow Q) \rightarrow (P \rightarrow R))$  *conditional modus ponens*

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- $(P \rightarrow (Q \rightarrow R)) \rightarrow ((P \rightarrow Q) \rightarrow (P \rightarrow R))$  *conditional modus ponens*

Non-example:

- $P$ , where  $P$  is any propositional variable.

# Satisfiability

## Definition

A propositional formula is *satisfiable* if it is true for *some* assignment of truth values to its variables.

We say that such assignment *satisfies* the formula.

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- $P$ , where  $P$  is a propositional variable.  
That is: every atomic formula is satisfiable.
- $P \otimes Q$ , where  $P$  and  $Q$  are variables and  $\otimes$  is any of the binary connectives **and**, **or**, **implies**, **iff**, and **xor**.

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Non-example:

- $A \text{ and } \text{not}(A)$ , where  $A$  is any formula.

# Validity, satisfiability, and equivalence

Let  $P$  and  $Q$  be formulas.

## Theorem

$P$  is valid if and only if  $\mathbf{not}(P)$  is unsatisfiable.

$P$  is satisfiable if and only if  $\mathbf{not}(P)$  is not valid.

## Theorem

$P$  and  $Q$  are equivalent if and only if  $P \mathbf{iff} Q$  is valid.



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# Disjunctive normal forms: An example

Let  $\phi ::= A \text{ and } (B \text{ or } C)$ . Consider its truth table:

$A$	$B$	$C$	$\phi$
T	T	T	T
T	T	F	T
T	F	T	T
T	F	F	F
F	T	T	F
F	T	F	F
F	F	T	F
F	F	F	F

The assignments of  $(A, B, C)$  which make  $\phi$  true are  $(T, T, T)$ ,  $(T, T, F)$ , and  $(T, F, T)$ . These are the same assignments that make the following formula true:

$$(A \text{ and } B \text{ and } C) \text{ or } (A \text{ and } B \text{ and } \bar{C}) \text{ or } (A \text{ and } \bar{B} \text{ and } C)$$

# Formulas in disjunctive normal form

## Definition

- A *literal* is a symbol of the form  $A$  or  $\bar{A}$  where  $A$  is a propositional variable.
- An *and-clause* is a conjunction of literals where each variable appears at most once, either as itself or as its negation.
- A formula  $\psi$  in  $n$  variables  $P_1, \dots, P_n$  is in *disjunctive normal form (DNF)* if it is written as a disjunction of *and*-clauses.
- If every variable appears in every conjunction (either as itself or its negation) the DNF is said to be *full*.

For example, this formula is in DNF:

$$(A \text{ and } B \text{ and } C) \text{ or } (A \text{ and } B \text{ and } \bar{C}) \text{ or } (A \text{ and } \bar{B} \text{ and } C)$$

and so is this one:

$$(A \text{ and } B) \text{ or } (A \text{ and } \bar{B} \text{ and } C)$$

but these ones are not:

$$A \text{ and } (B \text{ or } C); A \text{ and } B \text{ and } C \text{ and } A; A \text{ and } \bar{A}$$

# Disjunctive normal form(s) of a formula

## Definition

A *disjunctive normal form* of a formula  $\phi$  is a formula  $\psi$  in DNF which is equivalent to  $\phi$ .

For example,

$$(A \text{ and } B \text{ and } C) \text{ or } (A \text{ and } B \text{ and } \bar{C}) \text{ or } (A \text{ and } \bar{B} \text{ and } C)$$

is a disjunctive normal form of

$$A \text{ and } (B \text{ or } C)$$

# Existence of the DNF

## Theorem

Every *satisfiable* propositional formula has a DNF.

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Every *satisfiable* propositional formula has a DNF.

Proof:

- Let  $P_1, \dots, P_n$  be the variables of the formula  $\phi$ .
- Construct the truth table of  $\phi$ .
- For each row where  $\phi$  has value **T**, construct a conjunction ( $A_1$  **and** ... **and**  $A_n$ ) where:
  - $A_i = P_i$  if  $P_i = \mathbf{T}$  on the row;
  - $A_i = \mathbf{not}(P_i)$  if  $P_i = \mathbf{F}$  on the row.
- The disjunction of all these conjunctions is a DNF for  $\phi$ .

# Satisfiability and DNF

The procedure in the previous slide constructs a DNF from the rows of the truth table where the formula is true.

- This presumes that there is at least one such row.
- But what if there is none?<sup>1</sup>

A possible way out is to use the following convention:

The DNF of an unsatisfiable formula is empty.

This is a patch rather than a fix, because we did not define propositional formulas so that they could be empty.

---

<sup>1</sup>Remarkably, the textbook says nothing about this.

# Conjunctive normal forms

“Dually” to DNF, we have:

## Definition

- An **or-clause** is a disjunction of literals where each variable appears at most once, either as itself or as its negation.
- A formula  $\psi$  in  $n$  variables  $P_1, \dots, P_n$  is in **conjunctive normal form (CNF)** if it is written as a conjunction of **or**-clauses.
- If every variable appears in every conjunction (either as itself or its negation) the CNF is said to be **full**.
- A **conjunctive normal form** of a formula  $\phi$  is a formula  $\psi$  in CNF which is equivalent to  $\phi$ .

## Theorem

Every **non-valid** propositional formula has a CNF.

**Exercise:** Modify the algorithm to derive the full DNF of a satisfiable formula to obtain an algorithm that derives the full CNF of a non-valid formula.



# An algebra for propositional calculus

*George Boole* (1815-1864) defined a set of rules for manipulating propositional formula, which are now known as *Boolean algebra*.

- These rules are given as equivalence between propositional formulas constructed via the connectives  $\wedge$ ,  $\vee$ , and  $\neg$ .
- The reason is that  $\wedge$ ,  $\vee$ , and  $\neg$  form a *basis of connectives*: Every propositional formula is equivalent to a formula where the only connectives are  $\wedge$ ,  $\vee$ , and  $\neg$ . (For example: a DNF if it is satisfiable, or a CNF if it is not valid.)

The first axiom is the *law of double negation*:

$$\neg(\neg A) \longleftrightarrow A$$

# An algebra for the propositional calculus: **and**

The following formulas are all valid:

$A \wedge B$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$B \wedge A$	commutativity
$(A \wedge B) \wedge C$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$A \wedge (B \wedge C)$	associativity
$A \wedge A$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$A$	idempotence
$A \wedge \mathbf{T}$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$A$	identity
$A \wedge \mathbf{F}$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$\mathbf{F}$	zero
$A \wedge \bar{A}$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$\mathbf{F}$	noncontradiction
$A \wedge (B \vee C)$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$(A \wedge B) \vee (A \wedge C)$	distributivity
$A \wedge (B \vee A)$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$A$	absorption
$\neg(A \wedge B)$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$\bar{A} \vee \bar{B}$	de Morgan's law

# An algebra for the propositional calculus: **or**

The following formulas are all valid:

$A \vee B$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$B \vee A$	commutativity
$(A \vee B) \vee C$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$A \vee (B \vee C)$	associativity
$A \vee A$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$A$	idempotence
$A \vee \mathbf{F}$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$A$	identity
$A \vee \mathbf{T}$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$\mathbf{T}$	unit
$A \vee \bar{A}$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$\mathbf{T}$	excluded middle
$A \vee (B \wedge C)$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$(A \vee B) \wedge (A \vee C)$	distributivity
$A \vee (B \wedge A)$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$A$	absorption
$\neg(A \vee B)$	$\longleftrightarrow$	$\bar{A} \wedge \bar{B}$	de Morgan's law

# Duality

If we compare the previous slides, we see that they are “substantially” equal, except that:

- conjunction and disjunction are *swapped*;
- and so are the values **T** and **F**.

## Dual formula

Let  $\gamma$  be a propositional formula. The *dual*  $\gamma'$  of  $\gamma$  is the formula obtained from  $\gamma$  by replacing everywhere:

- **and** with **or** ;
- **or** with **and** ;
- **T** with **F**; and
- **F** with **T**.

## The Duality Principle

A propositional formula is valid if and only if its dual is valid.

# A strategy for DNF

Let  $\phi$  be an arbitrary propositional formula.

- 1 Apply *de Morgan's laws* until  $\neg$  is only applied to single variables.
- 2 Apply *distributivity* to obtain a disjunction of conjunctions.
- 3 Apply *idempotence* to remove multiple instances of variables within conjunctions.
- 4 Apply *associativity* to remove unnecessary parentheses.
- 5 Complete each conjunction so that, for each variable  $P$ , exactly one between  $P$  and  $\overline{P}$  appears in it.  
To do this, exploit that  $A \leftrightarrow A \wedge (B \vee \overline{B})$  is a valid formula, following from  $A \wedge \mathbf{T} \leftrightarrow A$  and  $B \vee \overline{B} \leftrightarrow \mathbf{T}$ .
- 6 Simplify the formula by using distributivity, commutativity, and absorption.

# Completeness of propositional calculus

## Theorem

Two propositional formulas *are* equivalent *if and only if* they *can be proved* to be equivalent via the axioms of Boolean algebra.

Proof: (sketch)

- *Simple*: As all the axioms of Boolean algebra are equivalences, so must be any proposition proved starting from them.
- *Complicated*: The axioms of Boolean algebra allow conversion to disjunctive normal form, and two formulas are equivalent iff they have the same DNF (up to commutativity).

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# The Satisfiability problem

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Given an arbitrary Boolean formula  $\phi$ ,  
determine if  $\phi$  is satisfiable.



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How difficult can this be?

Conceptually: not much

- 1 Put  $\phi$  in disjunctive normal form.
- 2 Use truth tables to determine if  $\phi$  is true for some assignment of variables.

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- 1 Put  $\phi$  in disjunctive normal form.
- 2 Use truth tables to determine if  $\phi$  is true for some assignment of variables.

Computationally: A LOT

- Suppose  $\phi$  depends on  $n$  Boolean variables.
- If  $\phi$  is not satisfiable, we need to test *each of the  $2^n$  truth assignments* to prove so.
- For  $n = 50$  variables, with a computer capable of 1 million such tests per second, this takes *more than thirty-five years*.

# Big-O notation

## Definition

Given two functions  $f, g : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$  we say that  $f(n)$  is *big-O of  $g(n)$* , and write  $f(n) = O(g(n))$ , if there exist  $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $C > 0$  such that

$$f(n) \leq C \cdot g(n) \quad \forall n \geq n_0.$$

If  $T(n)$  is the maximum time required to solve SAT for a given formula, then  $T(n) = O(2^n)$ .

Problems only solvable in exponential or larger time are considered to be *intractable*.

# Polynomial time algorithms

## Definition

An algorithm runs in *polynomial time*  $T(n)$  in the size  $n$  of its input if  $T(n) = O(n^k)$  for some  $k \geq 1$ .

The class of polynomial-time algorithms has some “good” features:

- Polynomials “do not grow too fast”.
- A *composition* of polynomials is still a polynomial:  
If  $p(x)$  and  $q(x)$  are polynomials, then so is  $p(q(x))$ , what you obtain if you replace every occurrence of  $x$  with  $q(x)$  in the expression of  $p(x)$ .
- Hence, a composition of polynomial time algorithms is still a polynomial time algorithm.

# P versus NP

## Definition: P

The class P is the class of the problems that have a *solution algorithm* which runs in polynomial time in the size of the input.

That is: problem  $X$  is in class P if and only if there is a polynomial  $p(t)$  such that, given an instance  $I$  of size  $n$  of  $X$ , we can find a solution in time at most  $p(n)$ .

## Definition: NP

The class NP is the class of the problems that have a *verification algorithm* which runs in polynomial time in the size of the input.

That is: problem  $X$  is in class NP if and only if there is a polynomial  $p(t)$  such that, given an instance  $I$  of size  $n$  of  $X$  *and a potential solution  $S$* , we can determine if  $S$  is really a solution of  $I$  in time at most  $p(n)$ .

# P versus NP

## Definition: P

The class P is the class of the problems that have a *solution algorithm* which runs in polynomial time in the size of the input.

## Definition: NP

The class NP is the class of the problems that have a *verification algorithm* which runs in polynomial time in the size of the input.

The following happens:

- 1 SAT belongs to NP.
- 2 For every problem  $X$  in NP there exists an algorithm that turns any instance of  $X$  into an instance of SAT in time polynomial in the size of the input.

Consequently:

If  $\text{SAT} \in \text{P}$  then  $\text{P} = \text{NP}$ .

# What if $P = NP$ ?

The good:

- We can efficiently *design circuits*.
- We get efficient algorithms for *scheduling*.
- We can efficiently *distribute resources*.

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The good:

- We can efficiently *design circuits*.
- We get efficient algorithms for *scheduling*.
- We can efficiently *distribute resources*.

The bad:

- Modern cryptography becomes *insecure*.



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# SAT solvers

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## Question

Doesn't this presume that  $\text{SAT} \in \text{P}$ ?

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## Question

Doesn't this presume that  $\text{SAT} \in \text{P}$ ?

Answer: *no*, because

- even if *the problem as a whole* is not efficiently solvable,
- it might still be that *some well defined subclasses of cases* are.

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# Truth for predicates

Consider a predicate of the form:  $x^2 \geq 0$ .

- This is always true if  $x$  is a *real* number.
- But if  $x$  is a *complex* number, it might be false:
- For example,  $i^2 = -1 < 0$ .
- Worse still,  $\left(\frac{1}{2} + i\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right)^2 = -\frac{1}{2} + i\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$  is not even a real number, and cannot be said to be “smaller” or “larger” than zero.

How can we specify *when* a predicate is true?

# Universal quantifier

Let  $P(x)$  be a predicate depending on a variable  $x$  which takes values in a set  $S$  (the *type* of the variable).

## Definition

The formula:

$$\forall x \in S. P(x)$$

is true if and only if  $P(x)$  is true for *every*  $x \in S$ .

The formula can be read as follows:

- For every  $x$  in  $S$ ,  $P(x)$ .
- $P(x)$  is true for every  $x$  in  $S$ .

For example, the following formulas are true:

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{R}. x^2 \geq 0 ; \forall n \in \mathbb{N}. \text{if } n \text{ is prime then } \sqrt{n} \text{ is irrational}$$

but the following ones are false:

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{C}. x^2 \geq 0 ; \forall n \in \mathbb{N}. \sqrt{n} \text{ is irrational}$$

# Existential quantifier

Let  $P(x)$  be a predicate depending on a variable  $x$  which takes values in a set  $S$  (the *type* of the variable).

## Definition

The formula:

$$\exists x \in S. P(x)$$

is true if and only if  $P(x)$  is true for *at least one*  $x \in S$ .

The formula can be read as follows:

- There exists  $x$  in  $S$  such that  $P(x)$ .
- $P(x)$  is true for some  $x$  in  $S$ .

For example, the following formulas are true:

$$\exists x \in \mathbb{R}. 5x^2 = 7; \exists n \in \mathbb{N}. n^2 = 16$$

but the following ones are false:

$$\exists x \in \mathbb{R}. 5x^2 = -7; \exists n \in \mathbb{N}. n^2 = 17$$

# Precedence of quantifiers

Quantifiers have a *stronger* binding than propositional connectives:

$\forall x. P(x)$  **implies**  $Q$  stands for  $(\forall x. P(x))$  **implies**  $Q$ .

However, some textbooks (including ours) seem to *also* use the following convention:

A quantifier using a variable  $x$  binds as many instances of  $x$  as possible before encountering another quantifier.

Example from the textbook (page 67, formula (3.27))

- Textbook:  $\exists x. \forall y. P(x, y)$  **implies**  $\forall x. \exists y. P(x, y)$ .
- Meaning:  $(\exists x. \forall y. P(x, y))$  **implies**  $(\forall x. \exists y. P(x, y))$ .

Again: When in doubt, use parentheses.



# If you can solve any exercise, then you will pass the test

Let  $\text{solve}(x)$  be a predicate meaning that you solve exercise  $x$ .  
Let  $\text{pass}$  be a proposition meaning that you pass the test.

You can pass the test by solving only one exercise

$(\exists x \in \text{Exercises} . \text{solve}(x)) \rightarrow \text{pass}$

You can pass the test by solving one specific exercise

$\exists x \in \text{Exercises} . (\text{solve}(x) \rightarrow \text{pass})$

You need to solve every single exercise to pass the test

$\text{pass} \rightarrow \forall x \in \text{Exercises} . \text{solve}(x)$

# Mixing quantifiers

Many mathematical statements involve more than one quantifier:

## Goldbach's Conjecture

Every even integer larger than 2 is a sum of two primes.

If we define  $S$  as the set of the even integers larger than 2, Goldbach's conjecture can be expressed by the formula:

$$\forall n \in S. \exists p \in \text{Primes}. \exists q \in \text{Primes}. p + q = n$$

As  $p$  and  $q$  vary in the same set Primes, we can also use the more compact writing:

$$\forall n \in S. \exists p, q \in \text{Primes}. p + q = n$$

# Everyone has a dream

Let  $\text{dreams}(p, d)$  mean that person  $p$  has dream  $d$ .

Every single person has some dream

$$\forall p \in \text{Persons} . \exists d \in \text{Dreams} . \text{dreams}(p, d)$$

There is a single dream everyone has

$$\exists d \in \text{Dreams} . \forall p \in \text{Persons} . \text{dreams}(p, d)$$

# De Morgan's laws for quantifiers

When the operator **not**( $\cdot$ ) is applied to a predicate starting with a quantifier, the following happen:

**not**( $\forall x. P(x)$ ) is equivalent to  $\exists x. \mathbf{not}(P(x))$

**not**( $\exists x. P(x)$ ) is equivalent to  $\forall x. \mathbf{not}(P(x))$

# Validity for predicate formulas

Intuitively, a predicate formula is valid if it is evaluated as true:

- no matter what the *domain* of the discourse is,
- no matter what the *type* of the variables are, and
- no matter what *interpretation* of its predicates is given.

This is *much harder* to formalize, and to verify, than validity of propositional formulas.

# A valid predicate formula

## Theorem

The following predicate formula is valid:

$$(\exists x. \forall y. P(x, y)) \text{ implies } (\forall y. \exists x. P(x, y))$$

Proof:

- If  $x$  varies in  $D$  and  $y$  varies in  $H$ , the formula becomes:

$$(\exists x \in D. \forall y \in H. P(x, y)) \text{ implies } (\forall y \in H. \exists x \in D. P(x, y))$$

- Suppose  $\exists x \in D. \forall y \in H. P(x, y)$  is true: we want to show that so is  $\forall y \in H. \exists x \in D. P(x, y)$ .
- Take  $x_0 \in D$  such that  $\forall y \in H. P(x_0, y)$  is true.
- If we are given  $y \in H$ , we can always find  $x \in D$  such that  $P(x, y)$  is true, simply by putting  $x = x_0$ .
- Then  $\forall y \in H. \exists x \in D. P(x, y)$  is true, as we wanted.
- As the argument does not depend on the domain, types, and interpretation, the argument always works, and the predicate formula is valid.

# Counter-models

## Definition

Let  $\phi(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  be a predicative formula depending on the  $n$  variables  $x_i$ .

A *counter-model* for  $\phi$  is a choice of:

- a domain  $D$ ,
- types  $S_i$  for the variables  $x_i$ , and
- interpretations in  $D$  for the predicates occurring in  $\phi$

that make  $\phi$  *false*.

# Counter-models

## Definition

Let  $\phi(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  be a predicative formula depending on the  $n$  variables  $x_i$ .

A *counter-model* for  $\phi$  is a choice of:

- a domain  $D$ ,
- types  $S_i$  for the variables  $x_i$ , and
- interpretations in  $D$  for the predicates occurring in  $\phi$

that make  $\phi$  *false*.

Counter-models are at least as important as models, if not more:

- Counter-models allow to *disprove implications*.
- Let  $P$  and  $Q$  be predicate formulas.
- Suppose that you want to prove that the predicate  $P$  **implies**  $Q$  is not valid.
- You can do so by choosing a domain, types for the variables, and interpretations which make  $P$  true and  $Q$  false.



# A predicate formula with a counter-model

The following predicate formula is obtained from the one of two slides ago, swapping antecedent with consequent:

$$(\forall y. \exists x. P(x, y)) \text{ implies } (\exists x. \forall y. P(x, y))$$

The following is a counter-model for the formula above:

- Domain: the natural numbers.
- Type of the variables: natural numbers.
- Interpretation of  $P(x, y)$ :  $x > y$ .

In this counter-model, the formula means:

“if for every natural number there is a larger natural number,  
then there is a natural number which is larger than every natural number”

which is clearly false.

# A counter-model from Euclidean geometry

Consider the predicate formula:

$$\forall vxyz. (T(v,x) \wedge T(v,y) \wedge T(v,z) \longrightarrow E(x,y) \vee E(x,z) \vee E(y,z))$$

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We construct a counter-model as follows:

- As our domain, we choose Euclidean plane geometry.
- As types for variables, we make  $v$  be a straight line, and  $x, y, z$  be points.
- As interpretation for the predicates, we read  $T(v,x)$  as “the straight line  $v$  goes *through* point  $x$ ”, and  $E(x,y)$  as “points  $x$  and  $y$  are *equal*”.

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Then the formula above is interpreted as:

“if a line of the Euclidean plane goes through three points,  
then two of those three points coincide”

which is false.

...and a model too!

Consider again the predicate formula:

$$\forall vxyz. (T(v,x) \wedge T(v,y) \wedge T(v,z) \longrightarrow E(x,y) \vee E(x,z) \vee E(y,z))$$

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We construct a model as follows:

- Domain: a *cube*.
- Variable types:  $v$  is an edge, and  $x,y,z$  are vertices.
- Interpretation: we read  $T(v,x)$  as “the edge  $v$  has *terminal vertex*  $x$ ”, and  $E(x,y)$  as “vertices  $x$  and  $y$  are *equal*”.

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Then the formula above is interpreted as:

“if an edge of a cube has three terminal vertices,  
then two of those three terminal vertices coincide”

which is true.