

MAS114: Lecture 5

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2020–2021

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You're welcome to call me James! (Dr Cranch is also fine, but it's rather formal).

Implication

We were discussing the concept of **implication**: writing $A \Rightarrow B$ to mean “if A , then B ”.

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Definition

Consider a statement of the form $A \Rightarrow B$. Then the *converse* of that statement is the statement $B \Rightarrow A$.

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Yes, it is.

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Let C be the statement “Y is English”, and let D be the statement “Y lives in Sheffield”.

Is the statement $C \Rightarrow D$ always true?

No. (Y could live in New York.)

Is the converse always true?

No. (Y could be German.)

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Sometimes people shorten “if and only if” to “iff”.

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Note that double negation doesn’t do anything: the statement $\neg(\neg P)$ is equivalent to P . Since statements are either true or false, if it’s not “not true”, it’s true.

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Definition

Consider a statement of the form $P \Rightarrow Q$. Its *contrapositive* is the statement $(\neg Q) \Rightarrow (\neg P)$.

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But

here’s a formal statement and proof, anyway.

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Proof.

I'll prove this using a truth table, showing what happens in all possibilities:

P	Q	$P \Rightarrow Q$	$\neg Q$	$\neg P$	$(\neg Q) \Rightarrow (\neg P)$
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You see from this that $(\neg Q) \Rightarrow (\neg P)$ is true exactly when $P \Rightarrow Q$ is, and this proves that they're equivalent.



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you can have your pie with chips or with mashed potatoes is

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While you're all used to these words from everyday life, there can be vagueness about how “or” is used in English.

For example,

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probably intended to mean “but not both”. In mathematical argument when we use “or” and mean “but not both”, we have to say so explicitly.

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The only way that the first statement can be false is if P is true and Q is false. But that's also the only way that the second statement can be false, so they're equivalent. □

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Note that that shows another style of proof of logical statements: by analysis rather than the “case bash” used in truth tables.

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\exists for “there exists”;

s.t. for “such that”.

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And

$$\exists x \in \mathbb{R} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad x^2 - 3x - 12 = 0$$

is to be read as

“There exists a real number x such that $x^2 - 3x - 12 = 0$.”

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For example, the statement

$$\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, \exists x \in \mathbb{R} \text{ s.t. } x^2 = n$$

says that every natural number n has a square root x .

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This says that there's a particular number x which has the property that x is the square root of *every natural number*. And that's nonsense.

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Similarly, the negation of “there exists a dolphin who likes Beethoven” is “there does not exist a dolphin who likes Beethoven”, and that’s equivalent to “all dolphins do not like Beethoven”.

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Perhaps you may want to remember that “negation swaps \forall and \exists .” But being able to *do it correctly by remembering what’s going on* is much more important than remembering a slogan. After a while it should come to seem natural.

Proofs and counterexamples

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- ▶ *true*, in which case you need to prove it in general (that's a statement with a “ \forall ” in);
- ▶ *false*, in which case you need to find a counterexample (that's a statement with a “ \exists ” in).