

Diskrete Mathematik HS2026 — Prof. Dennis HOFHEINZ

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Exercise sheet 1

This is the exercise sheet number 1. There is no bonus exercise. Exceptionally, some of the exercises of this exercise sheet require knowledge of content that will be covered next week. Also, on this sheet there is no exercise taken from an old exam yet.

Exercise 1.1 The Punctured Chessboard (★)

In the lecture (see also Example 1.1 in the lecture notes) we considered a $k \times k$ chessboard with one of the squares punctured. We also defined the predicate $P(k)$ to be equal to 1 whenever the following statement is true:

No matter which of the squares is punctured, the remaining area of the chessboard (consisting of $k^2 - 1$ squares) can be covered completely with (non-overlapping) L-shaped pieces of paper consisting of three squares.

Prove that $P(7) = 1$. How many different cases does your proof consider?

Exercise 1.2 A False Proof (★ ★)

Find the mistake in the following proof.

Claim: 1 is the largest natural number.

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} & n \text{ is the largest natural number} \\ \implies & n^2 \leq n \\ \implies & n(n-1) = n^2 - n \leq 0 \\ \implies & 0 \leq n \leq 1 \\ \implies & n = 1 \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 1.3 Interpreting Propositional Formulas in Natural Language

Let A be the proposition “Bob forgot to pay his rent” and let B be the proposition “Bob is getting evicted”.

1. (★) How would you interpret the following formulas?

$$\textbf{i)} F_1 = \neg B \rightarrow \neg A \quad \textbf{ii)} F_2 = (A \wedge B) \vee (\neg A \wedge \neg B)$$

2. (★) Using only the propositions A, B and logical operators, write down formulas corresponding to the following sentences:
 - i) F_3 : “Bob neither forgot to pay his rent nor is he getting evicted.”
 - ii) F_4 : “Bob either forgot to pay his rent or he is getting evicted, but not both.”
3. (★ ★) For both formulas F_3, F_4 , write down their negations both as sentences and formally as formulas.

Exercise 1.4 Logical Equivalence via Function Tables

1. (★) Compute the function table for the following formula:

$$(B \rightarrow C) \rightarrow (\neg(A \rightarrow C) \wedge \neg(A \vee B)).$$

2. (★ ★) Give another formula that is equivalent to the formula from Subtask a), but in which each of the propositional symbols appears at most once.

Exercise 1.5 Two New Logical Operators

We define two binary logical operators $\heartsuit$ and $\diamond$ as follows:

A	B	$A \heartsuit B$	A	B	$A \diamond B$
0	0	1	0	0	0
0	1	1	0	1	1
1	0	0	1	0	1
1	1	1	1	1	0

1. (★) Are $\heartsuit$ and $\diamond$ commutative, i.e. does it hold

$$A \heartsuit B \equiv B \heartsuit A \quad \text{and} \quad A \diamond B \equiv B \diamond A?$$

Argue by comparing function tables.

2. (★) Prove or disprove that

$$(\neg A \heartsuit B) \diamond (B \heartsuit C) \equiv \neg(A \diamond B) \heartsuit \neg(A \diamond C)$$

by computing and comparing the function tables of the left-hand-side and the right-hand-side formulas.

Exercise 1.6 Simplifying a Formula (★)

Consider the propositional formula

$$F = \left((\neg A \vee \neg B) \wedge \neg A \right) \wedge \left((\neg B \wedge \neg A) \vee C \right).$$

Give a formula G that is equivalent to F , but in which each atomic formula A , B , and C appears at most once. **Prove** that $F \equiv G$ by providing a sequence of equivalence transformations with **at most** 6 steps.

Expectation. Your proof should be in the form of a sequence of steps, where each step consists of applying the definition of $\rightarrow$ (that is $F \rightarrow G \equiv \neg F \vee G$), one of the rules given in Lemma 2.1 of the lecture notes, or one of the following rules: $F \wedge \neg F \equiv \perp$, $F \wedge \perp \equiv \perp$, $F \vee \perp \equiv F$, $F \vee \neg F \equiv \top$, $F \wedge \top \equiv F$, and $F \vee \top \equiv \top$. Lemma 2.1 states rules involving propositional symbols, but you may apply those rules at the level of formulas (see Section 2.3.5 of the lecture notes). For this exercise, associativity is to be applied as in Lemma 2.1 3). Each step of your proof should apply a **single** rule **once** and state **which** rule was applied.