IN3060/4060 – Semantic Technologies – Spring 2021 Lecture 5: Mathematical Foundations

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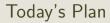




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Mandatory exercises

- Remember: Hand-in Oblig 3 by Sunday .
- Oblig 4 published after next lecture.



- 1 Repetition: SPARQL
- 2 Basic Set Algebra
- Pairs and Relations
- Propositional Logic

Outline



- 2 Basic Set Algebra
- 3 Pairs and Relations
- Propositional Logic

SPARQL

- SPARQL Protocol And RDF Query Language
- Standard language to query graph data represented by RDF
 - SPARQL 1.0: W3C Recommendation 15 January 2008
 - SPARQL 1.1: W3C Recommendation 21 March 2013

SPARQL – Example

- DBpedia information about actors, movies, etc. https://dbpedia.org/
- Web interface for SPARQL writing: http://dbpedia.org/sparql

People called "Johnny Depp"

Answer:

?jd <http://dbpedia.org/resource/Johnny_Depp>

Components of an SPARQL query

Prologue: prefix definitions Results form specification: (1) variable list, (2) type of query (SELECT, ASK, CONSTRUCT, DESCRIBE), (3) remove duplicates (DISTINCT, REDUCED) Dataset specification Query pattern: graph pattern to be matched Solution modifiers: ORDER BY, LIMIT, OFFSET

```
PREFIX foaf: <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/>
PREFIX dbo: <http://dbpedia.org/ontology/>
SELECT DISTINCT ?collab
FROM <http://dbpedia_dataset>
WHERE {
   ?jd foaf:name "Johnny Depp"@en .
   ?pub dbo:starring ?jd .
   ?pub dbo:starring ?other .
   ?other foaf:name ?collab .
   FILTER (STR(?collab)!="Johnny Depp"@en)
```

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1 Repetition: SPARQL

- 2 Basic Set Algebra
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Motivation

- The great thing about Semantic Technologies is...
- ... Semantics!
- "The study of meaning"
- RDF has a precisely defined semantics (=meaning)
- Mathematics is best at precise definitions
- RDF has a mathematically defined semantics



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Sets: Cantor's Definition

• From the inventor of Set Theory, Georg Cantor (1845–1918):

Unter einer "Menge" verstehen wir jede Zusammenfassung M von bestimmten wohlunterschiedenen Objekten m unserer Anschauung oder unseres Denkens (welche die "Elemente" von M genannt werden) zu einem Ganzen.

• Translated:

A 'set' is any collection M of definite, distinguishable objects m of our intuition or intellect (called the 'elements' of M) to be conceived as a whole.

• There are some problems with this, but it's good enough for us!

Sets

- A set is a mathematical object like a number, a function, etc.
- Knowing a set is
 - knowing what is in it
 - knowing what is not
- Need to know whether elements are equal or not!
- There is no order between elements
- Nothing can be in a set several times
- Two sets A and B are equal if they contain the same elements
 - everything that is in A is also in B
 - everything that is in B is also in A

Elements, Set Equality

• Notation for finite sets:

$$\{ extsf{`a'}, 1, riangle\}$$

- \bullet Contains 'a', 1, and \triangle , and nothing else.
- There is no order between elements

$$\{1, \bigtriangleup\} = \{\bigtriangleup, 1\}$$

• Nothing can be in a set several times

$$\{1, riangle, riangle\} = \{1, riangle\}$$

• Sets with different elements are different:

$$\{1,2\} \neq \{2,3\}$$

Basic Set Algebra

Element of-relation

 \bullet We use \in to say that something is element of a set:

$$1\in\{ ext{`a'},1, riangle\}$$

`b' $ot\in\{ ext{`a'},1, riangle\}$

 \leftarrow

- $\{3, 7, 12\}$: a set of numbers
 - $3 \in \{3, 7, 12\}$, $0 \notin \{3, 7, 12\}$
- {'a', 'b', ..., 'z'}: a set of letters
 - 'y' \in {'a', 'b', \ldots , 'z'}, 'æ' $\not\in$ {'a', 'b', \ldots , 'z'},
- $\mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, 3, \ldots\}$: the set of all natural numbers
 - $3060 \in \mathbb{N}, \pi \notin \mathbb{N}$.
- $\mathbb{P} = \{2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, \ldots\}$: the set of all prime numbers
 - 257 \in \mathbb{P} , 91 $ot\in$ \mathbb{P} .
- The set P_{3060} of people in the zoom meeting right now
 - Jieying $\in P_{3060}$, Georg Cantor $\notin P_{3060}$.

Sets as Properties

- Sets are used a lot in mathematical notation
- Often, just as a short way of writing things
- More specifically, that something has a property
- E.g. "*n* is a prime number."
- In mathematics: $n \in \mathbb{P}$
- E.g. "Jieying is a human being."
- In mathematics, $o \in H$, where
 - *H* is the set of all human beings
 - *o* is Jieying
- One could define Prime(n), Human(m), etc. but that is not usual
- Instead of writing "x has property XYZ" or "XYZ(x)",
 - let P be the set of all objects with property XYZ
 - write $x \in P$.

The Empty Set

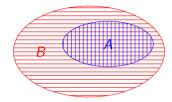
- Sometimes, you need a set that has no elements.
- This is called the *empty set*
- Notation: \emptyset or $\{\}$
- $x \notin \emptyset$, whatever x is!

Subsets

- Let A and B be sets
- *if* every element of A is also in B
- then A is called a subset of B
- This is written

$$A \subseteq B$$

- Examples
 - $\{1\} \subseteq \{1, \mathsf{`a'}, \triangle\}$ vs. $1 \in \{1, \mathsf{`a'}, \triangle\}$
 - $\{1,3\} \not\subseteq \{1,2\}$
 - $\mathbb{P} \subseteq \mathbb{N}$
 - $\emptyset \subseteq A$ for any set A
- A = B if and only if $A \subseteq B$ and $B \subseteq A$



 \subseteq

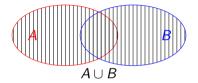
Basic Set Algebra

Set Union

- The union of A and B contains
 - all elements of A
 - $\bullet\,$ all elements of B
 - also those in both A and B
 - and nothing more.
- It is written

$A \cup B$

- (A cup which you pour everything into)
- Examples
 - $\{1,2\}\cup\{2,3\}=\{1,2,3\}$
 - $\{1,3,5,7,9,\ldots\} \cup \{2,4,6,8,10,\ldots\} = \mathbb{N}$
 - $\emptyset \cup \{1,2\} = \{1,2\}$



Set Intersection

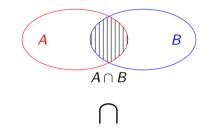
- The *intersection* of A and B contains
 - those elements of A
 - $\bullet\,$ that are also in B
 - and nothing more.
- It is written

 $A \cap B$



•
$$\{1,2\} \cap \{2,3\} = \{2\}$$

- $\mathbb{P} \cap \{2, 4, 6, 8, 10, \ldots\} = \{2\}$
- $\emptyset \cap \{1,2\} = \emptyset$



Basic Set Algebra

Set Difference

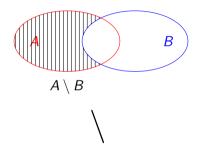
- The set difference of A and B contains
 - those elements of A
 - that are *not* in B
 - and nothing more.
- It is written



• Examples

•
$$\{1,2\} \setminus \{2,3\} = \{1\}$$

• $\mathbb{N} \setminus \mathbb{P} = \{1,4,6,8,9,10,12,\ldots\}$
• $\emptyset \setminus \{1,2\} = \emptyset$
• $\{1,2\} \setminus \emptyset = \{1,2\}$



Set Comprehensions

- Sometimes enumerating all elements is not good enough
- E.g. there are infinitely many, and "..." is too vague
- Special notation:

 $\{x \in A \mid x \text{ has some property}\}$

- The set of those elements of A which have the property.
- Examples:
 - $\{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid n = 2k \text{ for some } k \in \mathbb{N}\}$: the even numbers
 - $\{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid n < 5\} = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$
 - $\{x \in A \mid x \notin B\} = A \setminus B$



Question

The symmetric difference $A \bigtriangleup B$ of two sets contains

- All elements that are in A or B...
- ... but not in both.

Can you write $A \bigtriangleup B$ using \cap, \cup, \setminus ?

$$A \bigtriangleup B = (A \cup B) \setminus (A \cap B)$$

Or:

$$A \bigtriangleup B = (A \setminus B) \cup (B \setminus A)$$

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Motivation

- RDF is all about
 - Resources (objects)
 - Their properties (rdf:type)
 - Their relations amongst each other
- Sets are good to group objects with some properties!
- How do we talk about relations between objects?

Pairs

- A pair is an ordered collection of two objects
- Written

$$\langle x, y \rangle$$
 $\langle \cdot \cdot \cdot \rangle$

.

•

• Equal if components are equal:

$$\langle a,b
angle = \langle x,y
angle$$
 if and only if $a = x$ and $b = y$

• Order matters:

$$\langle 1, \texttt{`a'} \rangle \neq \langle \texttt{`a'}, 1 \rangle$$

• An object can be twice in a pair:

$$\langle 1,1
angle$$

• $\langle x, y \rangle$ is a pair, no matter if x = y or not.

The Cross Product

- Let A and B be sets.
- Construct the set of all pairs $\langle a, b \rangle$ with $a \in A$ and $b \in B$.
- This is called the cross product of A and B, written

$$A \times B$$
 X

- Example:
 - $A = \{1, 2, 3\}, B = \{\text{'a'}, \text{'b'}\}.$ • $A \times B = \{ \begin{array}{cc} \langle 1, \text{'a'} \rangle, & \langle 2, \text{'a'} \rangle, & \langle 3, \text{'a'} \rangle, \\ & \langle 1, \text{'b'} \rangle, & \langle 2, \text{'b'} \rangle, & \langle 3, \text{'b'} \rangle \end{array} \}$
- Why bother?
- Instead of " $\langle a, b \rangle$ is a pair of a natural number and a person in this zoom meeting"...
- $\ldots \langle a, b \rangle \in \mathbb{N} \times P_{3060}$
- But most of all, there are subsets of cross products...

Relations

- A relation R between two sets A and B is...
- ... a set of pairs $\langle a, b \rangle \in A imes B$

$$R \subseteq A \times B$$

- We often write aRb to say that $\langle a,b
 angle\in R$
- Example:
 - Let $L = \{ 'a', 'b', \dots, 'z' \}$
 - Let \triangleright relate each number between 1 and 26 to the corresponding letter in the alphabet:

$$1 \triangleright a'$$
 $2 \triangleright b'$... $26 \triangleright z'$

• Then $\triangleright \subseteq \mathbb{N} \times L$:

$$\triangleright = \left\{ \left< 1, \mathsf{`a'} \right>, \left< 2, \mathsf{`b'} \right>, \dots, \left< 26, \mathsf{`z'} \right> \right\}$$

• And we can write:

$$\langle 1, \mathsf{`a'} \rangle \in \triangleright \qquad \langle 2, \mathsf{`b'} \rangle \in \triangleright \quad \dots \quad \langle 26, \mathsf{`z'} \rangle \in \triangleright$$

Pairs and Relations

More Relations

• A relation *R* on some set *A* is a relation between *A* and *A*:

$$R \subseteq A \times A = A^2$$

• Example: <

• Consider the < order on natural numbers:

•
$$< \subseteq \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$$
:
• $< \subseteq \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$:
 $< = \left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} \langle 1, 2 \rangle, & \langle 1, 3 \rangle, & \langle 1, 4 \rangle, & \dots \\ & \langle 2, 3 \rangle, & \langle 2, 4 \rangle, & \dots \\ & & \langle 3, 4 \rangle, & \dots \end{array} \right\}$

• $< = \{ \langle x, y \rangle \in \mathbb{N}^2 \mid x \text{ is less than } y \}$

Pairs and Relations

Family Relations

- Consider the set $S = \{\text{Homer}, \text{Marge}, \text{Bart}, \text{Lisa}, \text{Maggie}\}.$
- Define a relation P on S such that

x P y iff x is parent of y

• For instance:

Homer *P* Bart Marge *P* Maggie



• As a set of pairs:

 $\begin{array}{ll} P = & \{ & \langle \mathsf{Homer}, \mathsf{Bart} \rangle \,, & \langle \mathsf{Homer}, \mathsf{Lisa} \rangle \,, & \langle \mathsf{Homer}, \mathsf{Maggie} \rangle \,, \\ & & \langle \mathsf{Marge}, \mathsf{Bart} \rangle \,, & \langle \mathsf{Marge}, \mathsf{Lisa} \rangle \,, & \langle \mathsf{Marge}, \mathsf{Maggie} \rangle \, \end{array} \} \subseteq S^2 \end{array}$

• For instance:

 $\langle \mathsf{Homer}, \mathsf{Bart} \rangle \in P \qquad \langle \mathsf{Marge}, \mathsf{Maggie} \rangle \in P$

Set operations on relations

- Since relations are just sets of pairs, we can use set operations and relations on them.
- We say that R is a subrelation P if $R \subseteq P$.
- E.g.: if F is the father-of-relation,

 $F = \{ \langle \mathsf{Homer}, \mathsf{Bart} \rangle, \langle \mathsf{Homer}, \mathsf{Lisa} \rangle, \langle \mathsf{Homer}, \mathsf{Maggie} \rangle \}$

then $F \subseteq P$.

• If *M* is the mother-of-relation,

 $M = \{ \langle \mathsf{Marge}, \mathsf{Bart} \rangle, \langle \mathsf{Marge}, \mathsf{Lisa} \rangle, \langle \mathsf{Marge}, \mathsf{Maggie} \rangle \}$

then $F \cup M = P$.

Special Kinds of Relations

- Certain properties of relations occur in many applications
- Therefore, they are given names
- $R \subseteq A^2$ is reflexive
 - x R x for all $x \in A$.
 - \bullet E.g. "=", "≤" and "≥" in mathematics, "has same color as", etc.
- $R \subseteq A^2$ is symmetric
 - If x R y then y R x.
 - E.g. "=" in mathematics, friendship in facebook, connected by rail, etc.
- $R \subseteq A^2$ is transitive
 - If x R y and y R z, then x R z
 - $\bullet\,$ E.g. "=", " \leq ", "<" in mathematics, "is ancestor of", etc.





Question

Let $A = \{1, 2\}$, a set of two elements. How many different relations on A are there?

 $A \times A = \{\langle 1, 1 \rangle, \langle 1, 2 \rangle, \langle 2, 1 \rangle, \langle 2, 2 \rangle\}$

A relation on A is a subset of $A \times A$. So how many subsets are there?

 $\{\}, \quad \{\langle 1,1\rangle\}, \quad \{\langle 1,2\rangle\}, \quad \{\langle 1,1\rangle, \langle 1,2\rangle\}, \ldots$

16 relations on A. Generally: $2^{(|A|^2)}$

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Propositional Logic

Many Kinds of Logic

- In mathematical logic, many kinds of logic are considered
 - propositional logic (and, or, not)
 - description logic (a mother is a person who is female and has a child)
 - modal logic (Alice knows that Bob didn't know yesterday that...)
 - first-order logic (For all..., for some...)
- All of them formalizing different aspects of reasoning
- All of them defined mathematically
 - Syntax (\approx grammar. What is a formula?)
 - Semantics (What is the meaning?)
 - proof theory: what is legal reasoning?
 - model semantics: declarative using set theory.
- For semantic technologies, description logic (DL) is most interesting
 - talks about sets and relations
- Basic concepts can be explained using predicate logic

Propositional Logic: Formulas

- Formulas are defined "by induction" or "recursively":
- 1 Any letter p, q, r, \ldots is a formula
- 2 if A and B are formulas, then
 - $(A \wedge B)$ is also a formula (read: "A and B")
 - $(A \lor B)$ is also a formula (read: "A or B")
 - $(A \rightarrow B)$ is also a formula (read "A implies B")
 - $\neg A$ is also a formula (read: "not A")
- Nothing else is. Only what rules [1] and [2] say is a formula.
- Examples of formulae:

$$p \quad (p \wedge \neg q) \quad (q \wedge q) \quad (\neg p o q) \quad ((p \vee \neg q) \wedge (\neg p o q))$$

• Examples of non-formulas:

$$pqr p \neg q \land (p$$

$\wedge \vee \to \neg$

Propositional Formulas, Using Sets

- $\bullet\,$ The set of all formulas Φ is the least set such that
- 1 All letters $p, q, r, \ldots \in \Phi$
- 2 if $A, B \in \Phi$, then
 - $(A \wedge B) \in \Phi$
 - $(A \lor B) \in \Phi$
 - $(A \rightarrow B) \in \Phi$
 - $\neg A \in \Phi$
- Formulas are just a kind of strings until now:
 - no meaning
 - but every formula can be "parsed" uniquely.

Terminology

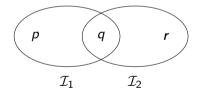
- $\neg, \land, \lor, \rightarrow$ are called *connectives*.
- A formula $(A \land B)$ is called a *conjunction*.
- A formula $(A \lor B)$ is called a *disjunction*.
- A formula $(A \rightarrow B)$ is calles an *implication*.
- A formula $\neg A$ is called a *negation*.

Truth

- Logic is about things being true or false, right?
- Is $(p \land q)$ true?
- That depends on whether p and q are true!
- If p is true, and q is true, then $(p \land q)$ is true
- Otherwise, $(p \land q)$ is false.
- So truth of a formula depends on the truth of the letters
- We also say the "interpretation" of the letters
- In other words, in general, truth depends on the context
- Let's formalize this context, a.k.a. interpretation, a.k.a. model

Interpretations

- Idea: put all letters that are "true" into a set!
- \bullet Define: An *interpretation* $\mathcal I$ is a set of letters.
- Letter p is true in interpretation \mathcal{I} if $p \in \mathcal{I}$.
- E.g., in $\mathcal{I}_1 = \{p, q\}$, p is true, but r is false.
- But in $\mathcal{I}_2 = \{q, r\}$, p is false, but r is true.



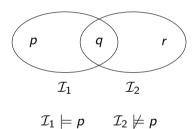
Propositional Logic

Semantic Validity \models

• To say that p is true in \mathcal{I} , write

$$\mathcal{I}\models p$$

• For instance

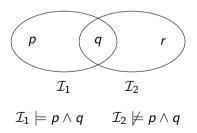


• In other words, for all letters *p*:

$$\mathcal{I} \models p$$
 if and only if $p \in \mathcal{I}$

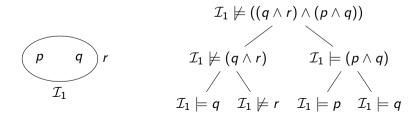
Validity of Compound Formulas

- So, is $(p \land q)$ true?
- That depends on whether p and q are true!
- And that depends on the interpretation.
- All right then, given some \mathcal{I} , is $(p \land q)$ true?
- Yes, if $\mathcal{I} \models p$ and $\mathcal{I} \models q$
- No, otherwise
- For instance



Validity of Compound Formulas, cont.

- That was easy, p and q are only letters...
- ... so, is $((q \land r) \land (p \land q))$ true in \mathcal{I} ?
- Idea: apply our rule recursively
- For any formulas A and B,...
- \bullet ...and any interpretation \mathcal{I},\ldots
- $\ldots \mathcal{I} \models A \land B$ if and only if $\mathcal{I} \models A$ and $\mathcal{I} \models B$
- For instance, if $\mathcal{I}_1 = \{p, q\}$:



Semantics for $\neg,$ \rightarrow and \lor

- The complete definition of \models is as follows:
- For any interpretation \mathcal{I} , letter p, formulas A, B:

•
$$\mathcal{I} \models p \text{ iff } p \in \mathcal{I}$$

• $\mathcal{I} \models \neg A \text{ iff } \mathcal{I} \not\models A$
• $\mathcal{I} \models (A \land B) \text{ iff } \mathcal{I} \models A \text{ and } \mathcal{I} \models B$
• $\mathcal{I} \models (A \lor B) \text{ iff } \mathcal{I} \models A \text{ or } \mathcal{I} \models B \text{ (or both)}$
• $\mathcal{I} \models (A \to B) \text{ iff } \mathcal{I} \models A \text{ implies } \mathcal{I} \models B$

• Semantics of \neg , \land , \lor , \rightarrow often given as *truth table*:

Α	В	$\neg A$			A ightarrow B
f	f	t	f	f	t
f	t	t	f	t	t
t	f	f	f	t	f
t	t	t t f f	t	t	t

Some Formulas Are Truer Than Others

- Is $(p \lor \neg p)$ true?
- Only two interesting interpretations:

$$\mathcal{I}_1 = \emptyset$$
 $\mathcal{I}_2 = \{p\}$

• Recursive Evaluation:

• $(p \lor \neg p)$ is true in *all* interpretations!

Propositional Logic

Tautologies

- A formula A that is true in all interpretations is called a tautology
- also logically valid
- also a *theorem* (of propositional logic)
- written:

$\models A$

- $(p \lor \neg p)$ is a tautology
- True whatever *p* means:
 - The sky is blue or the sky is not blue.
 - Lucas B. will win the race or Lucas B. will not win the race.
 - The slithy toves gyre or the slithy toves do not gyre.
- Possible to derive true statements mechanically...
- ... without understanding their meaning!

Checking Tautologies

- Checking whether $\models A$ is the task of SAT-solving
- (co-)NP-complete in general (i.e. in practice exponential time)
- Small instances can be checked with a truth table:

$$\models (\neg p \lor (\neg q \lor (p \land q)))$$
 ?

р	q	$\neg p$	$\neg q$	$(p \wedge q)$	$(\neg q \lor (p \land q))$	$(\neg p \lor (\neg q \lor (p \land q)))$
f	f	t	t	f	t	t
f	t	t	f	f	f	t
t	f	f	t	f	t	t
t	t	f	f	t	t	t

• Therefore: $(\neg p \lor (\neg q \lor (p \land q)))$ is a tautology!

Entailment

- Tautologies are true in all interpretations
- Some Formulas are true only under certain assumptions
- A entails B, written $A \models B$ if

 $\mathcal{I} \models B$ for all interpretations \mathcal{I} with $\mathcal{I} \models A$

- Also: "B is a logical consequence of A"
- Whenever A holds, also B holds
- For instance:

$$p \land q \models p$$

- Independent of meaning of p and q:
 - If it rains and the sky is blue, then it rains
 - If L.B. wins the race and the world ends, then L.B. wins the race
 - If 'tis brillig and the slythy toves do gyre, then 'tis brillig

Checking Entailment

• SAT solvers can be used to check entailment:

$$A \models B$$
 if and only if $\models (A \rightarrow B)$

• We can check simple cases with a truth table:

 $(p \wedge \neg q) \models \neg (\neg p \lor q)$?

р	q	$\neg p$	eg q	$(p \wedge \neg q)$	$(\neg p \lor q)$	$\neg(\neg p \lor q)$
f	f	t	t	f	t	f
f	t	t	f	f	t	f
t	f	f	t	t	f	t
t	t	f	f	f	t	f

• So
$$(p \land \neg q) \models \neg (\neg p \lor q)$$

• And $\neg(\neg p \lor q) \models (p \land \neg q)$

Equivalent formulas and redundant connectives

- In other words, $(p \land \neg q)$ and $\neg(\neg p \lor q)$ always have the same truth value, no matter the interpretation.
- We say that A and B are *equivalent* if A and B always have the same truth value.
- $\bullet\,$ For this we often introduce another connective, $\leftrightarrow.$

•
$$\mathcal{I} \models (A \leftrightarrow B)$$
 iff $\mathcal{I} \models A$ if and only if $\mathcal{I} \models B$.

- To express that two formulas A, B are equivalent, we can write $\models (A \leftrightarrow B)$.
- We actually only need a subset of the connectives:
- E.g.:

•
$$\models ((A \lor B) \leftrightarrow \neg (\neg A \land \neg B)).$$

•
$$\models ((A \rightarrow B) \leftrightarrow (\neg A \lor B)).$$

•
$$\models ((A \leftrightarrow B) \leftrightarrow ((A \rightarrow B) \land (B \rightarrow A))).$$

- \bullet So we actually only need \neg and \wedge to express any formula!
- \bullet Any formula is equivalent to a formula containing only the connectives \neg and $\wedge.$

Recap

- Sets
 - are collections of objects without order or multiplicity
 - often used to gather objects which have some property
 - can be combined using \cap,\cup,\setminus
- Relations
 - are sets of pairs (subset of cross product $A \times B$)
 - x R y is the same as $\langle x, y \rangle \in R$
 - can use set operations on relations, e.g. $F \subseteq P$.
- Predicate Logic
 - has formulas built from letters, \land , \lor , \rightarrow , \neg (syntax)
 - which can be evaluated in an *interpretation (semantics)*
 - interpretations are sets of letters
 - $\bullet\,$ recursive definition for semantics of $\wedge,\,\vee,\,\rightarrow,\,\neg$
 - $\models A \text{ if } \mathcal{I} \models A \text{ for all } \mathcal{I} \text{ (tautology)}$
 - $A \models B$ if $\mathcal{I} \models B$ for all \mathcal{I} with $\mathcal{I} \models A$ (entailment)
 - truth tables can be used for checking validity and etailment.