

Definitions

A literal is an atomic formula or the negation of an atomic formula.

A formula is in **negation normal form (NNF)** if its only negations are on its atomic parts.

A formula is in **disjunctive normal form (DNF)** if it is a disjunction of conjunctions of literals.

A formula is in **conjunctive normal form (CNF)** if it is a conjunction of disjunctions of literals.

Negation Normal Form

Drive \neg inside (from larger parts to smaller) by Demorgan's Laws:

Rewrite $\neg(P \wedge Q)$ as $\neg P \vee \neg Q$

Rewrite $\neg(P \vee Q)$ as $\neg P \wedge \neg Q$

Rewrite $\neg(P \rightarrow Q)$ as $P \wedge \neg Q$

Rewrite $\neg(P \leftrightarrow Q)$ as $(P \wedge \neg Q) \vee (Q \wedge \neg P)$

Algorithm for DNF

1. Eliminate all occurrences of \leftrightarrow :
Rewrite all parts from larger to smaller that are $P \leftrightarrow Q$ as $(P \rightarrow Q) \wedge (Q \rightarrow P)$.
2. Eliminate all occurrences of \rightarrow :
Rewrite all parts from larger to smaller that are $P \rightarrow Q$ as $\neg P \vee Q$.
3. Drive \neg inside (from larger parts to smaller) by Demorgan's Laws:
Rewrite $\neg(P \wedge Q)$ as $\neg P \vee \neg Q$
Rewrite $\neg(P \vee Q)$ as $\neg P \wedge \neg Q$
4. Drive \wedge inside by Distribution:
Rewrite all conjunctions from larger to smaller
that are $P \wedge (Q \vee R)$ as $(P \wedge Q) \vee (P \wedge R)$, and
that are $(Q \vee R) \wedge P$ as $(Q \wedge P) \vee (R \wedge P)$.

Theorems

Any formula P has at least one negation, conjunctive and disjunctive normal form.

Any formula and its normal form (of any of the three sorts) are tautologically equivalent.