

**Lassonde Faculty of Engineering**  
**EECS**  
**MATH1090A. Problem Set No. 3 —Solutions**  
**Posted: Nov. 24, 2025**

A brief but full justification of each proof step is required!

**Do all the following problems; (5 Points Each).**



**Important Notes; Read First!**

“**Show that —or prove that—  $\Gamma \vdash A$** ” means “write a  $\Gamma$ -proof that establishes  $A$ ”. The proof can be Equational or Hilbert-style. Equational is rather easier in Boolean Logic. But it is your choice, unless a problem explicitly asks for a particular proof style.

“**Required Method**” means that any other method will get a 0-grade.

It is all right to use the Cut Rule in each problem, unless specified otherwise!

Post’s Theorem is NOT allowed in Problems 1–4.



1. Show that  $A \equiv B \equiv C \vdash A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C$

**Required Method:** Use a **Hilbert style** proof and the Deduction Theorem.

**Proof.** By DThm (twice in a row) it suffices to prove

$$A \equiv B \equiv C, A, B \vdash C$$

instead.

- |    |                       |                                      |
|----|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1) | $A \equiv B \equiv C$ | $\langle \text{hyp} \rangle$         |
| 2) | $A$                   | $\langle \text{hyp} \rangle$         |
| 3) | $B$                   | $\langle \text{hyp} \rangle$         |
| 4) | $B \equiv C$          | $\langle 1 + 2 + \text{Eqn} \rangle$ |
| 5) | $C$                   | $\langle 3 + 4 + \text{Eqn} \rangle$ |

□

2. Prove **Equationally** that  $\vdash (A \wedge B) \wedge C \equiv A \wedge (B \wedge C)$ .

**Proof.**

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (A \wedge B) \wedge C \\
 \iff & \langle \text{GR} \rangle \\
 & (A \wedge B) \vee C \equiv C \equiv (A \wedge B) \\
 \iff & \langle \text{GR+Leib; Denom: } \mathbf{p} \vee C \equiv C \equiv \mathbf{p} \rangle \\
 & (A \vee B \equiv A \equiv B) \vee C \equiv C \equiv (A \vee B \equiv A \equiv B) \\
 \iff & \langle \vee \equiv + \text{ Leib; Denom: } \mathbf{p} \equiv C \equiv A \vee B \equiv A \equiv B \rangle \\
 & \textcolor{red}{A \vee B \vee C \equiv A \vee C \equiv B \vee C \equiv C \equiv A \vee B \equiv A \equiv B}
 \end{aligned}$$

*Also*

$$\begin{aligned}
 & A \wedge (B \wedge C) \\
 \iff & \langle \text{GR} \rangle \\
 & A \vee (B \wedge C) \equiv A \equiv (B \wedge C) \\
 \iff & \langle \text{GR+Leib; Denom: } A \vee \mathbf{p} \equiv A \equiv \mathbf{p} \rangle \\
 & A \vee (B \vee C \equiv B \equiv C) \equiv A \equiv (B \vee C \equiv B \equiv C) \\
 \iff & \langle \vee \equiv + \text{ Leib; Denom: } \mathbf{p} \equiv A \equiv B \vee C \equiv B \equiv C \rangle \\
 & \textcolor{red}{A \vee B \vee C \equiv A \vee B \equiv A \vee C \equiv A \equiv B \vee C \equiv B \equiv C}
 \end{aligned}$$

The two red  $\equiv$ -chains are provably equivalent (being permutations of each other) and thus so are the beginnings (tops) of the two equational segments.  $\square$

3. For any formulas  $A, B$  and  $C$ , prove that

$$\vdash (A \rightarrow B) \rightarrow (B \rightarrow C) \rightarrow (A \rightarrow C)$$

**Required Method:** Use a **Hilbert style** proof and the **Deduction Theorem**.

**Proof.** By DThm applied three consecutive times it suffices to prove

$$A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C, A \vdash C$$

instead.

- 1)  $A \rightarrow B$      $\langle \text{hyp} \rangle$
- 2)  $B \rightarrow C$      $\langle \text{hyp} \rangle$
- 3)  $A$              $\langle \text{hyp} \rangle$
- 4)  $B$              $\langle 1 + 3 + \text{MP} \rangle$
- 5)  $C$              $\langle 2 + 4 + \text{MP} \rangle$

□

4. For any formulas  $A, B$  and  $C$ , prove **again** that

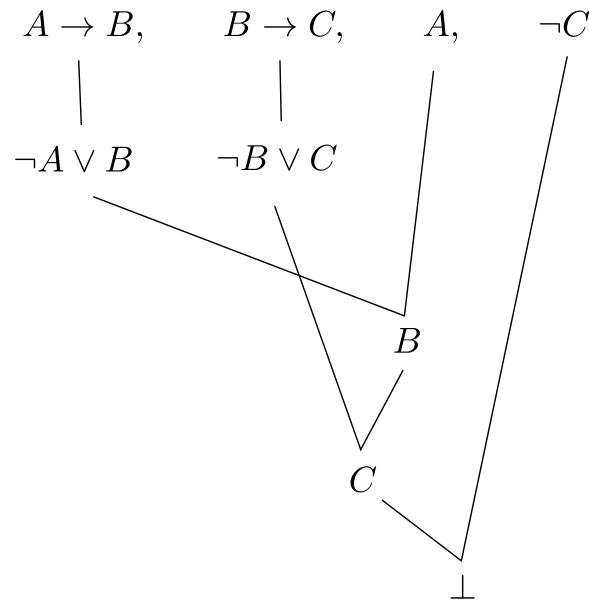
$$\vdash (A \rightarrow B) \rightarrow (B \rightarrow C) \rightarrow (A \rightarrow C)$$

**Required Method:** Use a **Resolution** proof.

**Proof.** By DThm applied three consecutive times followed by proof by contradiction it suffices to prove

$$A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C, A, \neg C \vdash \perp$$

instead. We do Resolution BELOW:



5. For any formulas  $A$  and  $B$  prove **two things**:

$$\vdash (\forall \mathbf{x})A \wedge (\forall \mathbf{y})B \rightarrow (\forall \mathbf{x})A$$

**Proof:** The above is a tautology of the form  $X \wedge Y \rightarrow X$ . All tautologies are 1st-order theorems.  $\square$

and

$$\vdash (\forall \mathbf{x})(\forall \mathbf{y})(\forall \mathbf{z})\left(A \rightarrow A \vee B\right)$$

**Proof:** The above is an axiom since  $A \rightarrow A \vee B$  is a tautology.  $\square$

6. Let  $A, B$  be any formulas, and  $\mathbf{x}$  a variable that is not free in  $B$ .

Prove in **Hilbert-style** that

$$(\forall \mathbf{x})(A \rightarrow B), \neg B \vdash (\forall \mathbf{x})\neg A$$

**Proof.**

- 1)  $(\forall \mathbf{x})(A \rightarrow B)$   $\langle \text{hyp} \rangle$
- 2)  $\neg B$   $\langle \text{hyp} \rangle$
- 3)  $A \rightarrow B$   $\langle 1 + \text{Spec} \rangle$
- 4)  $\neg B \rightarrow \neg A$   $\langle 3 + \text{Post} \rangle$
- 5)  $\neg A$   $\langle 4 + 2 + \text{MP} \rangle$
- 6)  $(\forall \mathbf{x})\neg A$   $\langle 5 + \text{Gen; OK, as no free } \mathbf{x} \text{ in lines 1, 2} \rangle$

□

7. Use an **Equational Proof**, and the **result** from class/NOTEs that

$$\vdash (\forall \mathbf{x})(\forall \mathbf{y})A \equiv (\forall \mathbf{y})(\forall \mathbf{x})A \quad (1)$$

and *this time show*

$$\vdash (\exists \mathbf{x})(\exists \mathbf{y})A \equiv (\exists \mathbf{y})(\exists \mathbf{x})A \quad (2)$$

**Proof.**

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (\exists \mathbf{x})(\exists \mathbf{y})A \\
 \iff & \langle \text{remove \u0022abbreviation\u0022 \u0022}\exists\u0022; \textit{this does NOT need Leib to do so!!} \rangle \\
 & \underbrace{\neg(\forall \mathbf{x})\neg}_{1st \ \exists \mathbf{x}} \underbrace{\neg(\forall \mathbf{y})\neg}_{2nd \ \exists \mathbf{y}} A \\
 \iff & \langle \text{double neg and WL; Denom: } \neg(\forall \mathbf{x})\mathbf{p}; \text{ WL OK: its hyp is \u0022}\neg\neg\u0022\text{--absolute thm} \rangle \\
 & \neg(\forall \mathbf{x})(\forall \mathbf{y})\neg A \\
 \iff & \langle (1) \text{ and WL; Denom: } \neg\mathbf{p}; \text{ WL OK: its hyp (1) is an absolute thm} \rangle \\
 & \neg(\forall \mathbf{y})(\forall \mathbf{x})\neg A \\
 \iff & \langle \text{double-neg inserted via WL; Denom: } \neg(\forall \mathbf{y})\mathbf{p}; \text{ WL OK; see 2nd } \Leftrightarrow \text{ reason} \rangle \\
 & \underbrace{\neg(\forall \mathbf{y})\neg}_{\exists \mathbf{y}} \underbrace{\neg(\forall \mathbf{x})\neg}_{\exists \mathbf{x}} A \\
 \iff & \langle \text{using \u0022}\exists\u0022\text{--abbreviation \u0022twice\u0022} \rangle \\
 & (\exists \mathbf{y})(\exists \mathbf{x})A
 \end{aligned}$$

□

8. Use a **Hilbert-style proof** to show

$$\vdash (\forall \mathbf{x})(A \rightarrow C) \wedge (\forall \mathbf{x})(B \rightarrow C) \rightarrow (\forall \mathbf{x})(A \vee B \rightarrow C)$$

**Proof.** By DThm, I prove instead

$$(\forall \mathbf{x})(A \rightarrow C) \wedge (\forall \mathbf{x})(B \rightarrow C) \vdash (\forall \mathbf{x})(A \vee B \rightarrow C)$$

- |    |  |   |
|----|--|---|
| 1) | $(\forall \mathbf{x})(A \rightarrow C) \wedge (\forall \mathbf{x})(B \rightarrow C)$ | $\langle \text{hyp} \rangle$  |
| 2) | $(\forall \mathbf{x})(A \rightarrow C)$  | $\langle 1 + \text{Post} \rangle$   |
| 3) | $(\forall \mathbf{x})(B \rightarrow C)$  | $\langle 1 + \text{Post} \rangle$   |
| 4) | $A \rightarrow C$  | $\langle 2 + \text{Spec} \rangle$   |
| 5) | $B \rightarrow C$  | $\langle 3 + \text{Spec} \rangle$   |
| 6) | $A \vee B \rightarrow C$   | $\langle 4 + 5 + \text{Post} \rangle$   |
| 7) | $(\forall \mathbf{x})(A \vee B \rightarrow C)$                                       | $\langle 6 + \text{Gen}; \text{OK, no free } \mathbf{x} \text{ in line 1.} \rangle$ |

□