Philosophy 200

Truth Tables for SL

Building Reference Columns

- Every horizontal line (row) of a truth table represents the way that the world could be.
- The reference columns collectively represent the totality of ways that the world could be with respect to the sentences of SL under scrutiny.
- So total truth conditions of a sentence whose only atomic component is P can be described by a truth table with only two rows:



Building Reference Columns

Adding one more atomic sentence requires doubling the number of rows because Q could be true or false while P is true, and Q can be true or false while P false.

| Р | Q |
|---|---|
| Т | Т |
| Т | F |
| F | Т |
| F | F |

Building Reference Columns

Since each atomic sentence can have only one of two truth-value assignments (namely T and F), the number of total truth value permutations (and thus the number of rows of a truth table) is equal to 2ⁿ, where n is the number of atomic sentences under scrutiny.

Building Content Columns

In addition to the reference columns there should be one vertical line (column) of the truth-table for each truthfunctional operator in the sentence(s) of SL under scrutiny.

- How many reference columns will the following sentence of SL require in a truth-table?
- $(A \cdot D) \vee (\sim Q \equiv A)$

- How many reference columns will the following sentence of SL require in a truth-table? 3, one each for A, D and Q
- $(A \cdot D) \vee (\sim Q \equiv A)$

- How many rows will the following sentence of SL require in a truth-table?
- $(A \cdot D) \vee (\sim Q \equiv A)$

- How many rows will the following sentence of SL require in a truth-table? 8: 2 x 2 x 2 = 8
- $(A \cdot D) \vee (\sim Q \equiv A)$

- How many content columns will the following sentence of SL require in a truth-table?
- $(A \cdot D) \vee (\sim Q \equiv A)$

How many content columns will the following sentence of SL require in a truth-table? 5, one for each truthfunctional operator

 $(A \cdot D) \vee (\sim Q \equiv A)$

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| Refe | Reference Columns | | | The Sentence(s) Under Scrutiny | | | | |
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| Reference Columns | | | The Sentence(s) Under Scrutiny | | | | | |
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