

On equality of propositions.

After the observation that equality of propositions seems to be underused in mathematical reasoning, I discovered that I myself was - perhaps not surprisingly - only vaguely familiar with all sorts of equalities. This note - which is not deep at all - is written to remedy that situation. I shall not repeat that \wedge and \vee are symmetric, associative and mutually distributive; neither shall I repeat de Morgan's Laws.

The following expressions (E0.i) are all equal.

(E0.0)	P
(E0.1)	$\neg\neg P$
(E0.2)	$P \vee P$
(E0.3)	$P \wedge P$
(E0.4)	$P \vee F$
(E0.5)	$P \wedge T$
(E0.6)	$P \vee (P \wedge Q)$
(E0.7)	$P \wedge (P \vee Q)$

With the possible exception of the last two, (the so-called "Laws of Absorption") this is very familiar ground. Also expressions (E1.i) are all equal.

In the following, $=$ has the lowest binding power

- (E1.0) $P = Q$
 (E1.1) $\neg P = \neg Q$
 (E1.2) $(P \vee \neg Q) \wedge (\neg P \vee Q)$
 (E1.3) $(P \wedge Q) \vee (\neg P \wedge \neg Q)$

Also expressions (E2.i) are all equal; since (E2.0) is symmetric, they occur in pairs.

- (E2.0) $P \vee Q$
 (E2.1) $P \vee \neg Q = P$
 (E2.2) $\neg P \vee Q = Q$
 (E2.3) $P \wedge \neg Q = \neg Q$
 (E2.4) $\neg P \wedge Q = \neg P$
 (E2.5) $P \wedge (R \vee \neg Q) = (P \wedge R) \vee \neg Q$
 (E2.6) $(\neg P \vee R) \wedge Q = \neg P \vee (R \wedge Q)$

The last two were absolutely new for me; their discovery - in a completely different context - provided the incentive to write this note.

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