

# Tautologies

- A **tautology** is a sentence whose truth table contains nothing but T's in the column under the main connective.

# Logical truth

- A sentence is **logically true** or **logically necessary** if it *must* be true (as a matter of logic); i.e. if it's true in all possible circumstances.
  - Any argument whose conclusion is logically true is valid.
  - Even an argument with *no premises at all*.
  - Conversely: any sentence that follows from the null set of premises is a logical truth.

# Tautology and logical truth

- All tautologies are logical truths.
- Not all logical truths are tautologies.
  - SameRow(a, a)
  - $b = b$
  - $\neg$ Between(a, b, b)
  - $\neg$ (Large(a)  $\wedge$  Small(a))

# TT-possibility

- A sentence is TT-possible if its truth table contains at least one T under the main connective.
- What is the relation between the following claims:
  1. P is TT-possible
  2.  $\neg P$  is TT-possible
  3. P is a tautology
  4.  $\neg P$  is a tautology
- Answer: P is TT-possible if and only if  $\neg P$  is not a tautology;  $\neg P$  is TT-possible if and only if P is not a tautology.

# Logical possibility and TT-possibility

- A sentence is logically possible if it *might* (as far as logic is concerned) be true; if it is true in *some* possible circumstance.
  - P is logically possible if and only if  $\neg P$  is not logically necessary.
- All logically possible sentences are TT-possible, but not all TT-possible sentences are logically possible.

# For next week:

- Read: 4.1; optionally, 4.2-4.4
  - Do the 'You try it' exercises.
  - If you've never done so, you might also try getting the hang of the 'Boolean search' mechanism of some Internet search engine - see exercise \*\*\*.
- Do exercises 3.21 (48%), 4.2 (24%), 4.4-4.7 (7% each).