

Using a partial truth table I will find out whether

$$(P \rightarrow (Q \rightarrow R)) \rightarrow (P \wedge Q \rightarrow R)$$

is a tautology. A sentence of the language of propositional logic is a tautology (logically true) if and only if the main column has T in every line of the truth value (that is, if and only if the sentence is true in any  $\mathcal{L}_1$ -structure).

As it stands, the sentence

$$(P \rightarrow (Q \rightarrow R)) \rightarrow (P \wedge Q \rightarrow R)$$

is merely in abbreviated form. Before drawing a truth table one should know how the sentence has been built up. The sentence with all its brackets in place reads as follows:

$$((P \rightarrow (Q \rightarrow R)) \rightarrow ((P \wedge Q) \rightarrow R))$$

One doesn't have to add the brackets. But they may help to understand the structure of the sentence when one is calculating truth values in the table. In the truth table I have dropped the outer brackets.

I assume that there is a line in which the sentence comes out false. So I write an F in the main column.

$P$	$Q$	$R$	$\parallel$	$(P \rightarrow (Q \rightarrow R)) \rightarrow ((P \wedge Q) \rightarrow R)$
<hr/>				F

The truth table for  $\rightarrow$  is:

$\phi$	$\psi$	$(\phi \rightarrow \psi)$
T	T	T
T	F	F
F	T	T
F	F	T

So  $\phi \rightarrow \psi$  is false only if  $\phi$  is true and  $\psi$  is false. So the sentence in front of  $\rightarrow$  must be true...

$P$	$Q$	$R$	$(P \rightarrow (Q \rightarrow R))$	$((P \wedge Q) \rightarrow R)$
			$T_1$	F

and the sentence following the arrow must be false.

$P$	$Q$	$R$	$\parallel$	$(P \rightarrow (Q \rightarrow R))$	$\rightarrow$	$((P \wedge Q) \rightarrow R)$
<hr/>				$T_1$	$F$	$F_2$

The sentence with T under it could be true for three reasons: there are three lines in the table of  $\rightarrow$  that have a T. If I continued here I would have to distinguish three cases (This wouldn't lead to an incorrect result; it would just make the calculations more awkward). I better turn to the other sentence. It's again a sentence with  $\rightarrow$ . It's false and it can be false only if the sentence in front of  $\rightarrow$  is true...

$P$	$Q$	$R$	$\parallel$	$(P \rightarrow (Q \rightarrow R))$	$\rightarrow$	$((P \wedge Q) \rightarrow R)$
				$T_1$	$F$	$T_3$ $F_2$

and the following sentence is false.

$P$	$Q$	$R$	$\parallel$	$(P \rightarrow (Q \rightarrow R))$	$\rightarrow$	$((P \wedge Q) \rightarrow R)$	
<hr/>				$T_1$	$F$	$T_3$	$F_2 F_4$

Now I have a T for  $P \wedge Q$ . The truth table for  $\wedge$  is

$\phi$	$\psi$	$(\phi \wedge \psi)$
T	T	T
T	F	F
F	T	F
F	F	F

So for a sentence  $\phi \wedge \psi$  there is only one way to be true:  $\phi$  and  $\psi$  must both be true. Therefore I write T under  $P$  and...

$P$	$Q$	$R$	$(P \rightarrow (Q \rightarrow R))$	$\rightarrow$	$((P \wedge Q) \rightarrow R)$
			T <sub>1</sub>	F	T <sub>5</sub> T <sub>3</sub>
					F <sub>2</sub> F <sub>4</sub>



T under Q

$P$	$Q$	$R$	$\parallel$	$(P \rightarrow (Q \rightarrow R))$	$\rightarrow$	$((P \wedge Q) \rightarrow R)$
<hr/>				$T_1$	$F$	$T_5 T_3 T_6 F_2 F_4$

So  $P$  gets truth value T,

$P$	$Q$	$R$	$(P \rightarrow (Q \rightarrow R))$	$\rightarrow$	$((P \wedge Q) \rightarrow R)$
T	T	T	F	T	T
T	T	F	T	F	T
T	F	T	T	T	F
T	F	F	T	T	F

Q receives T

$$\frac{P \quad Q \quad R \quad || \quad (P \rightarrow (Q \rightarrow R)) \rightarrow ((P \wedge Q) \rightarrow R)}{T_7 \quad T_1 \quad T_8 \quad \quad \quad F \quad T_5 \quad T_3 \quad T_6 \quad F_2 \quad F_4}$$

and  $R$  gets F.

$P$	$Q$	$R$	$\parallel (P \rightarrow (Q \rightarrow R)) \rightarrow ((P \wedge Q) \rightarrow R)$									
<hr/>			$T_7$	$T_1$	$T_8$	$F_9$	$F$	$T_5$	$T_3$	$T_6$	$F_2$	$F_4$

So  $Q \rightarrow R$  must be false; but that cannot be because  $P \rightarrow (Q \rightarrow R)$  and  $P$  are true, and, thus,  $Q \rightarrow R$  must be true. So I can't complete this line in the truth table. Therefore there cannot be a line in the full truth table with an F in the main column. So there are only T in the main column and the sentence  $(P \rightarrow (Q \rightarrow R)) \rightarrow (P \wedge Q \rightarrow R)$  is a tautology.

$P$	$Q$	$R$	$(P \rightarrow (Q \rightarrow R))$	$(P \wedge Q)$	$(P \wedge Q \rightarrow R)$	$(P \rightarrow (Q \rightarrow R)) \rightarrow ((P \wedge Q) \rightarrow R)$
T	T	T	T	T	T	T
T	T	F	F	T	F	T
T	F	T	T	F	T	T
T	F	F	T	F	T	T
F	T	T	T	F	T	T
F	T	F	T	F	T	T
F	F	T	T	F	T	T
F	F	F	T	F	T	T