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Faculty of Philosophy

# Formal Logic

Lectures 12–13

Peter Smith

- Single-signed trees
- Unsigned trees
- Extending trees to cover conditionals
- Finally, the rules for biconditionals

## Summary so far

To operate the 'working backwards' method for seeing whether an inference is tautologically valid we . . .

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4. If **all branches eventually get closed off** with an absurdity marker, then the assumption that the inference is invalid has led to unavoidable absurdity and the inference is **valid**.
5. If a **branch remains left open** when we have unpacked the implications of every assignment of values to wffs other than atoms and their negations (so there is no more information to be used) then no contradiction has emerged, and the argument is indeed **invalid**.

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- ▶ So, for example, to test an inference, we now start by assuming that the premisses are true and the **negation** of the conclusion is true too.
- ▶ Why? Because if every wff on a tree is marked ‘T’, we eventually needn’t bother to keep writing down those explicit assignments.

## The unpacking rules – 1

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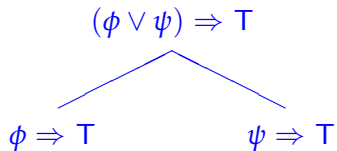
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$$|$$

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## The unpacking rules – 2

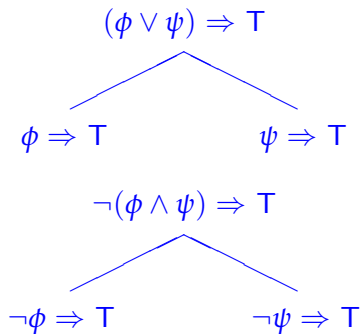
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Heuristic tip: apply straight rules first when we can!

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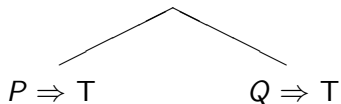
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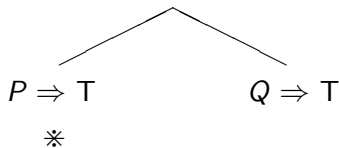
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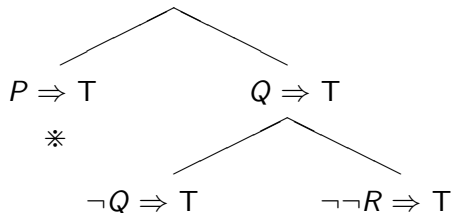
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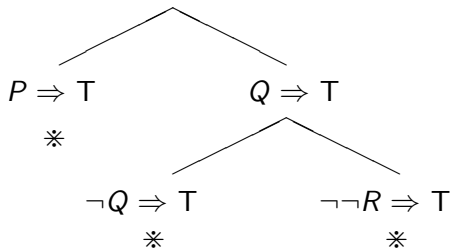
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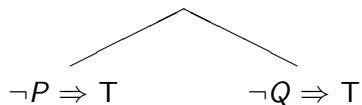
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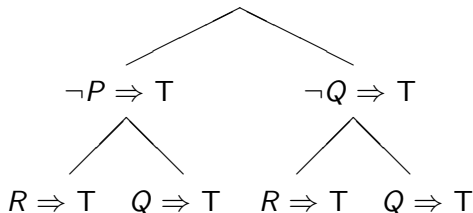
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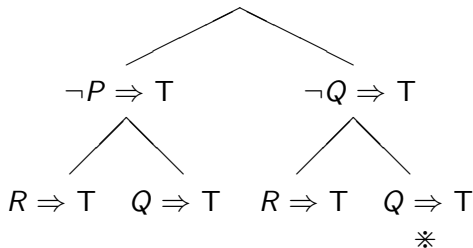
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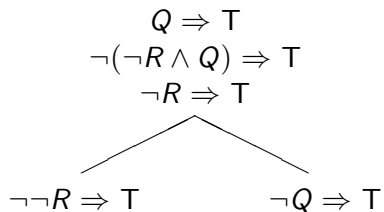
$Q, \neg(\neg R \wedge Q), \text{ So } R$



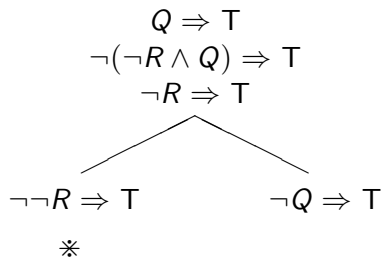
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$$\begin{array}{l} Q \Rightarrow T \\ \neg(\neg R \wedge Q) \Rightarrow T \\ \neg R \Rightarrow T \end{array}$$

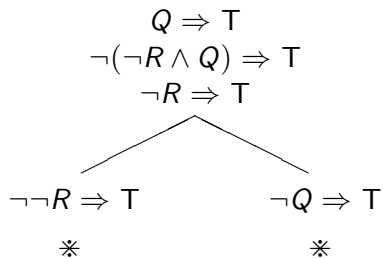
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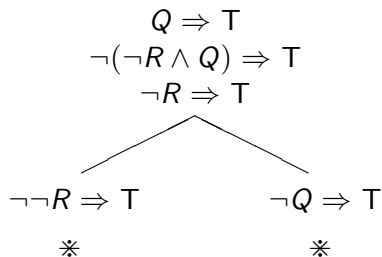
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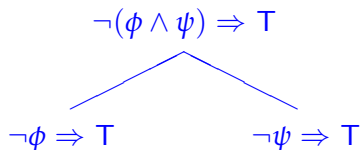
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NB: Why does the double negation appear on the left? Because the rule for unpacking negated conjunctions always introduces new negation signs:



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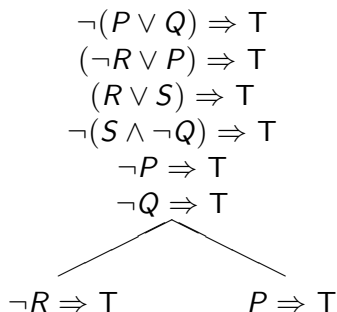
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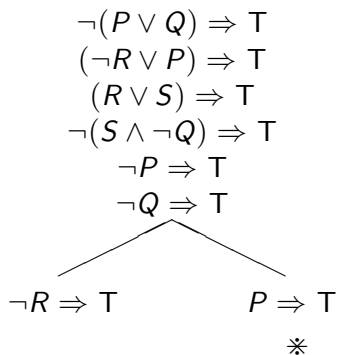
$$\begin{aligned}\neg(P \vee Q) &\Rightarrow T \\ (\neg R \vee P) &\Rightarrow T \\ (R \vee S) &\Rightarrow T \\ \neg(S \wedge \neg Q) &\Rightarrow T \\ \quad \neg P &\Rightarrow T \\ \quad \neg Q &\Rightarrow T\end{aligned}$$



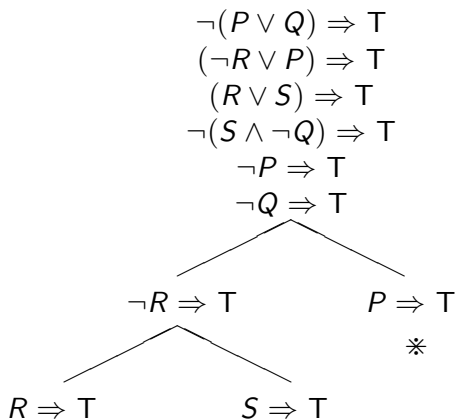
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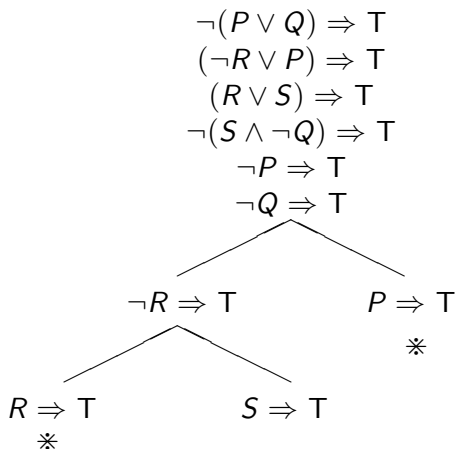
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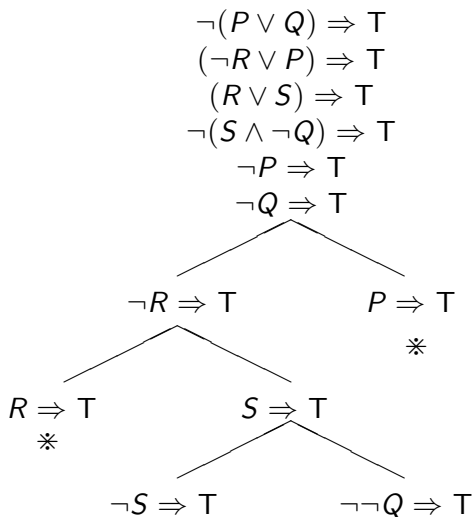
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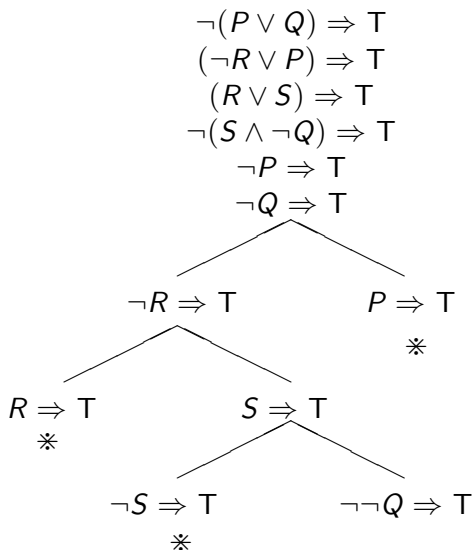
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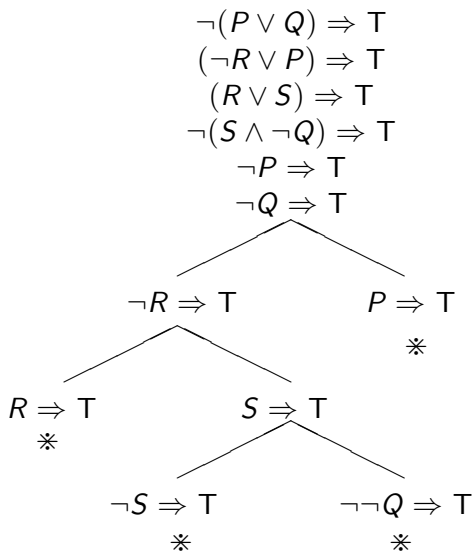
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- Unsigned trees
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- Finally, the rules for biconditionals



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- ▶ Since on our official signed trees the assignments of truth-value are always assignments of the value True, **we can henceforth simply suppress those explicit assignments.**

## The unpacking rules again – 1

The straight rules are, schematically, as follows:

$$(\phi \wedge \psi)$$

$$|$$

$$\phi$$

$$\psi$$

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$$|$$

$$\neg\phi$$

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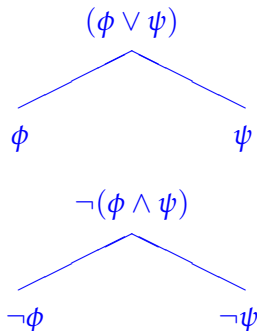
$$|$$

$$\phi$$

The rules tell you what else must be true, given a complex wff assumed true.

## The unpacking rules again – 2

The branching rules are, schematically, as follows:



The rules present alternatives, one of which must be true, give a complex wff assumed true.

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- ▶ Close a branch with the absurdity marker if it contains some wff  $\varphi$  and also its  $\neg\varphi$  negation.

If every branch of the tree closes the argument is valid. Otherwise, if a branch stays open even when every complex wff is unpacked, the argument is invalid.

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- ▶ But obviously a good tactic is to apply 'straight' rules first when you can, to avoid sprawling trees as far as you can.
- ▶ Another good tactic is, when you have the choice, apply branching rule which more quickly closes off a branch.

## A first example

$P, \neg(P \wedge \neg Q), (Q \vee R)$  So  $R$

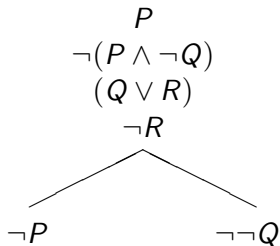
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$$\begin{array}{c} P \\ \neg(P \wedge \neg Q) \\ (Q \vee R) \\ \neg R \end{array}$$

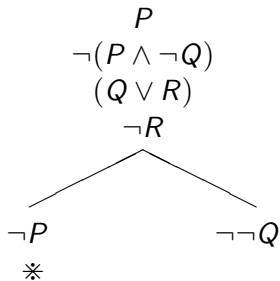
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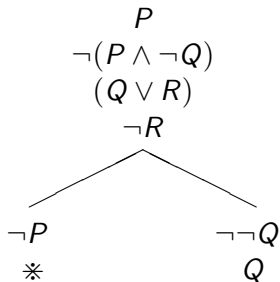
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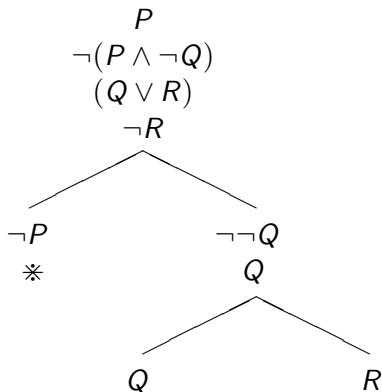
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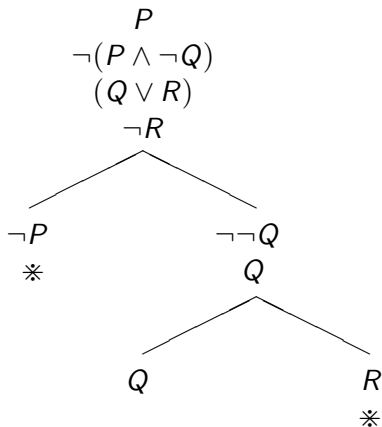
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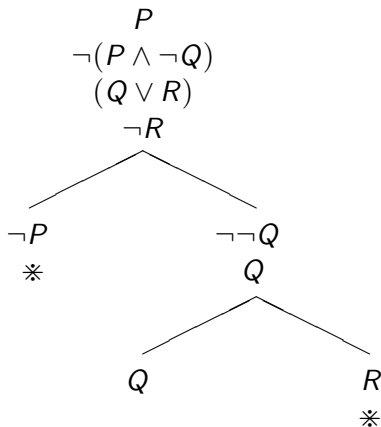
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NB we can read off from the open branch that to make the premisses and negated conclusion true it suffices to make  $P$ ,  $Q$  and  $\neg R$  all true.

## Another example

$$\neg(P \wedge \neg Q), (\neg Q \vee R) \text{ So } (R \vee \neg P)$$

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$\neg(P \wedge \neg Q), (\neg Q \vee R)$  So  $(R \vee \neg P)$

$\neg(P \wedge \neg Q)$

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$\neg P$

$\neg\neg Q$

\*



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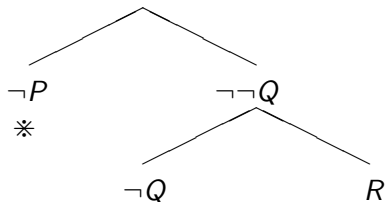
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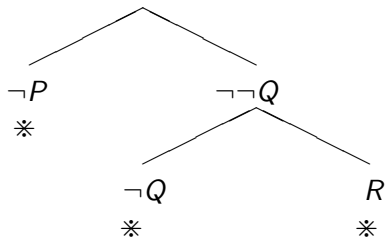
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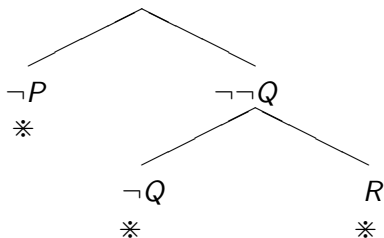
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$\neg(R \vee \neg P)$

$\neg R$

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NB: even in this case (with just three atoms in play) you will have finished the tree and decided the inference is valid before you'd even have completed writing out the frame of truth table (the list of possible assignments down the side and the premisses and conclusion along the top)!

## A further example to try

$$\neg(P \vee Q), (\neg R \vee P), (R \vee S) \text{ So } (S \wedge \neg Q)$$

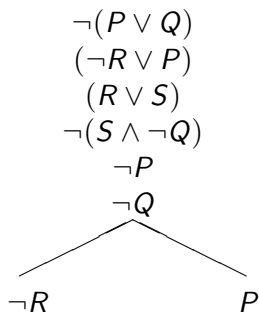
## A further example to try

$$\begin{aligned} &\neg(P \vee Q) \\ &(\neg R \vee P) \\ &(R \vee S) \\ &\neg(S \wedge \neg Q) \end{aligned}$$

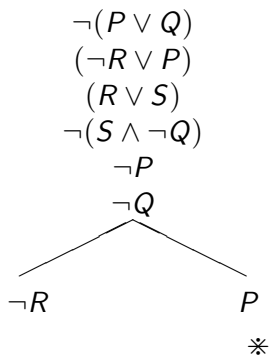
## A further example to try

$$\begin{array}{l} \neg(P \vee Q) \\ (\neg R \vee P) \\ (R \vee S) \\ \neg(S \wedge \neg Q) \\ \neg P \\ \neg Q \end{array}$$

## A further example to try

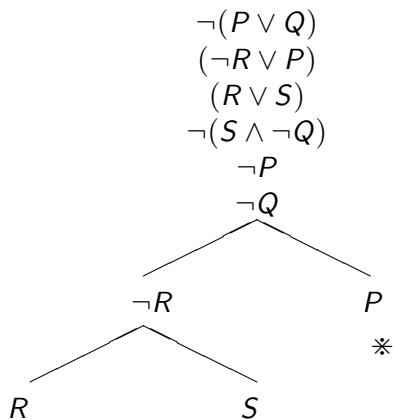


## A further example to try

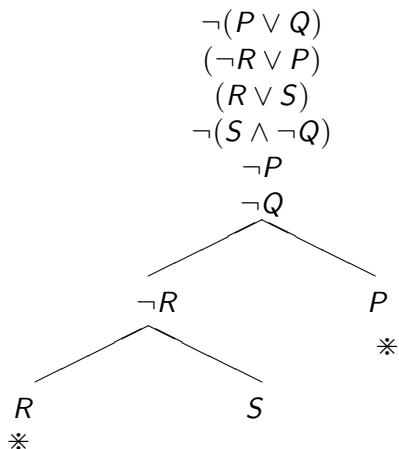




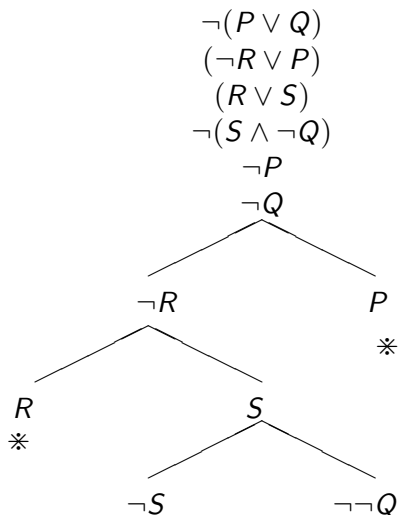
## A further example to try



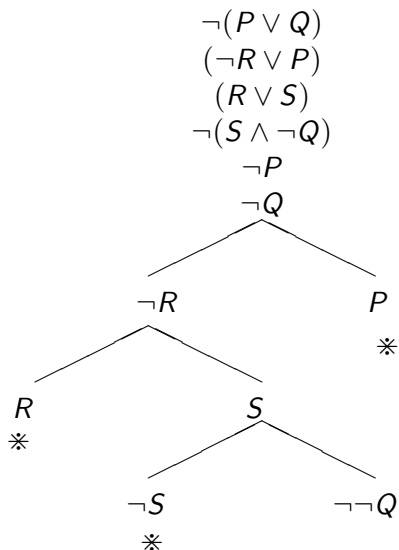
## A further example to try



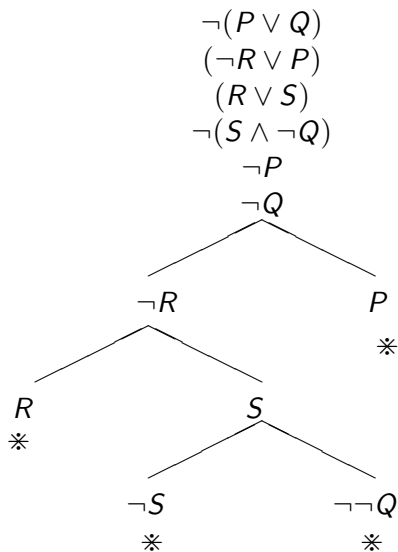
## A further example to try



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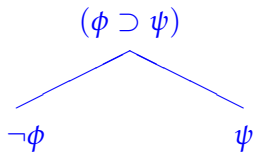


## A further example to try

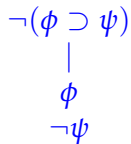
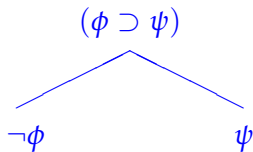


- Single-signed trees
- Unsigned trees
- Extending trees to cover conditionals
- Finally, the rules for biconditionals

## The unpacking rules for the conditional



## The unpacking rules for the conditional





## A first example of a tree using conditionals

$(P \supset (Q \supset R)) \text{ So } (Q \supset (P \supset R))$

## A first example of a tree using conditionals

$$(P \supset (Q \supset R)) \text{ So } (Q \supset (P \supset R))$$
$$(P \supset (Q \supset R))$$
$$\neg(Q \supset (P \supset R))$$

## A first example of a tree using conditionals

$$(P \supset (Q \supset R)) \text{ So } (Q \supset (P \supset R))$$

$$\begin{array}{c} (P \supset (Q \supset R)) \\ \neg(Q \supset (P \supset R)) \\ Q \\ \neg(P \supset R) \end{array}$$

## A first example of a tree using conditionals

$$(P \supset (Q \supset R)) \text{ So } (Q \supset (P \supset R))$$

$$(P \supset (Q \supset R))$$

$$\neg(Q \supset (P \supset R))$$

$$Q$$

$$\neg(P \supset R)$$

$$P$$

$$\neg R$$

$$\neg P$$

$$(Q \supset R)$$

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$$(P \supset (Q \supset R)) \text{ So } (Q \supset (P \supset R))$$

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$$\neg(Q \supset (P \supset R))$$

$$Q$$

$$\neg(P \supset R)$$

$$P$$

$$\neg R$$

$$\neg P$$

$$*$$

$$(Q \supset R)$$

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$$Q$$

$$\neg(P \supset R)$$

$$P$$

$$\neg R$$

$$\neg P$$

$$*$$

$$(Q \supset R)$$

$$\neg Q$$

$$R$$

## A first example of a tree using conditionals

$$(P \supset (Q \supset R)) \text{ So } (Q \supset (P \supset R))$$

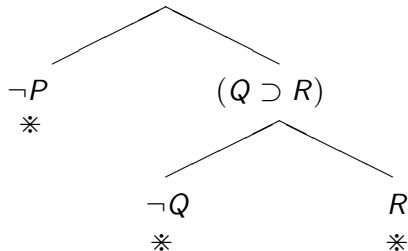
$$(P \supset (Q \supset R))$$

$$\neg(Q \supset (P \supset R))$$

$$Q$$

$$\neg(P \supset R)$$

$$P$$

$$\neg R$$


## Another example of a tree using conditionals

$(P \vee Q), (P \supset R), (Q \supset S), \text{ So } (R \vee S)$



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$(P \vee Q), (P \supset R), (Q \supset S), \text{So } (R \vee S)$

$(P \vee Q)$

$(P \supset R)$

$(Q \supset S)$

$\neg(R \vee S)$

## Another example of a tree using conditionals

$(P \vee Q), (P \supset R), (Q \supset S), \text{So } (R \vee S)$

$(P \vee Q)$

$(P \supset R)$

$(Q \supset S)$

$\neg(R \vee S)$

$\neg R$

$\neg S$

## Another example of a tree using conditionals

$(P \vee Q), (P \supset R), (Q \supset S), \text{ So } (R \vee S)$

$(P \vee Q)$

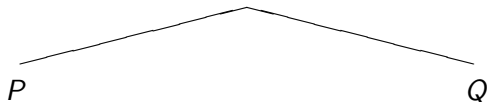
$(P \supset R)$

$(Q \supset S)$

$\neg(R \vee S)$

$\neg R$

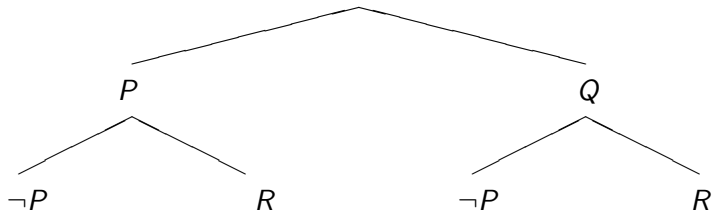
$\neg S$



## Another example of a tree using conditionals

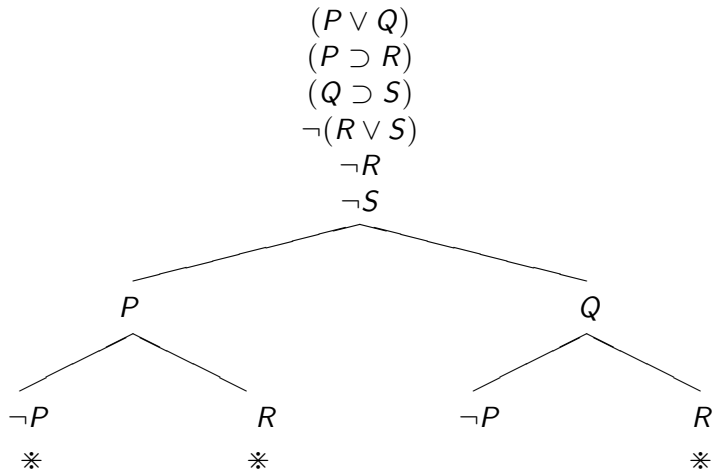
$(P \vee Q), (P \supset R), (Q \supset S), \text{ So } (R \vee S)$

$(P \vee Q)$   
 $(P \supset R)$   
 $(Q \supset S)$   
 $\neg(R \vee S)$   
 $\neg R$   
 $\neg S$



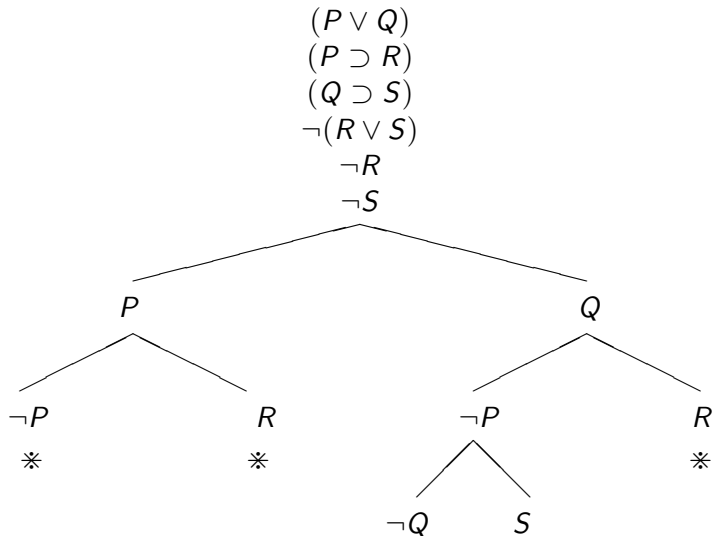
## Another example of a tree using conditionals

$(P \vee Q), (P \supset R), (Q \supset S), \text{So } (R \vee S)$



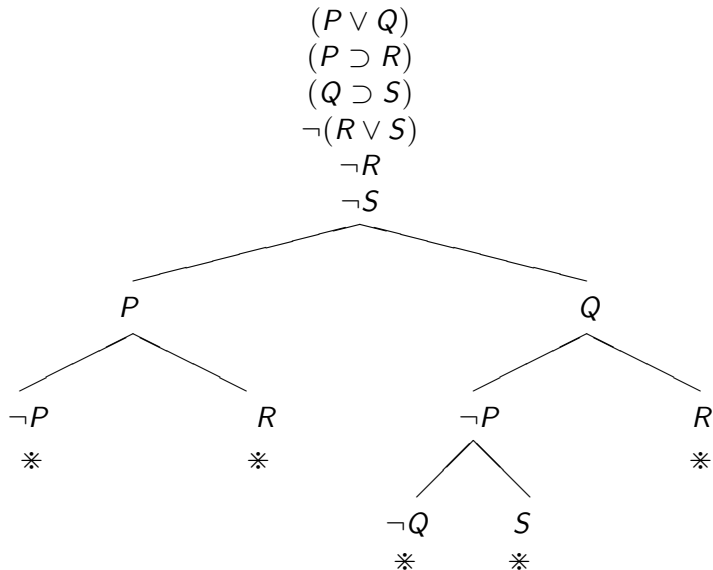
## Another example of a tree using conditionals

$(P \vee Q), (P \supset R), (Q \supset S), \text{So } (R \vee S)$



## Another example of a tree using conditionals

$(P \vee Q), (P \supset R), (Q \supset S), \text{So } (R \vee S)$



## Alternative tree for same inference

$(P \vee Q), (P \supset R), (Q \supset S), \text{ So } (R \vee S)$



## Alternative tree for same inference

$(P \vee Q), (P \supset R), (Q \supset S), \text{ So } (R \vee S)$

$(P \vee Q)$

$(P \supset R)$

$(Q \supset S)$

$\neg(R \vee S)$

## Alternative tree for same inference

$(P \vee Q), (P \supset R), (Q \supset S), \text{ So } (R \vee S)$

$(P \vee Q)$

$(P \supset R)$

$(Q \supset S)$

$\neg(R \vee S)$

$\neg R$

$\neg S$

## Alternative tree for same inference

$(P \vee Q), (P \supset R), (Q \supset S), \text{ So } (R \vee S)$

$(P \vee Q)$

$(P \supset R)$

$(Q \supset S)$

$\neg(R \vee S)$

$\neg R$

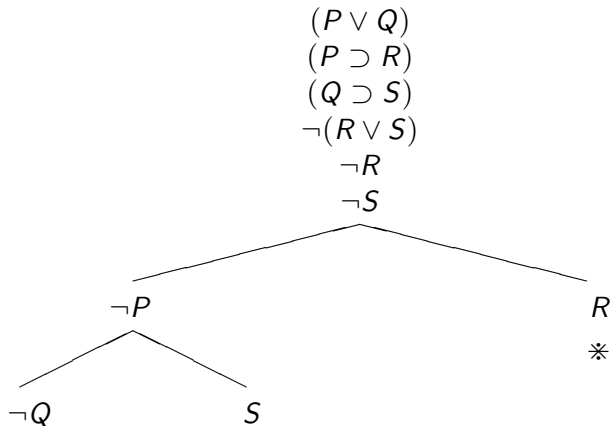
$\neg S$

$\neg P$

$R$

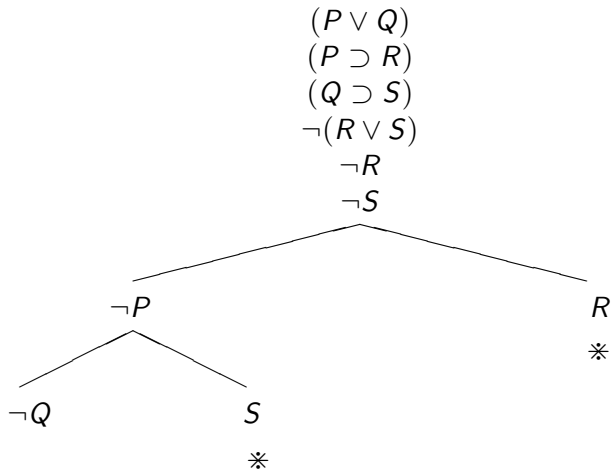
## Alternative tree for same inference

$(P \vee Q), (P \supset R), (Q \supset S), \text{ So } (R \vee S)$



## Alternative tree for same inference

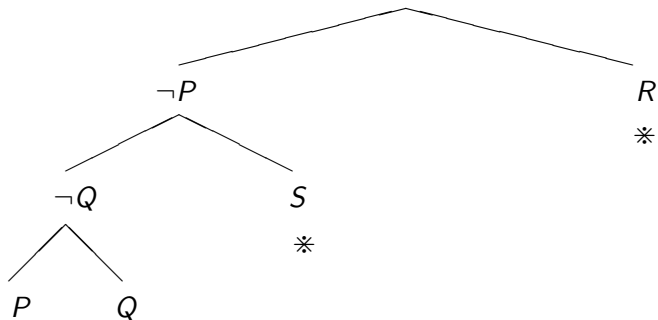
$(P \vee Q), (P \supset R), (Q \supset S), \text{ So } (R \vee S)$



## Alternative tree for same inference

$(P \vee Q), (P \supset R), (Q \supset S), \text{ So } (R \vee S)$

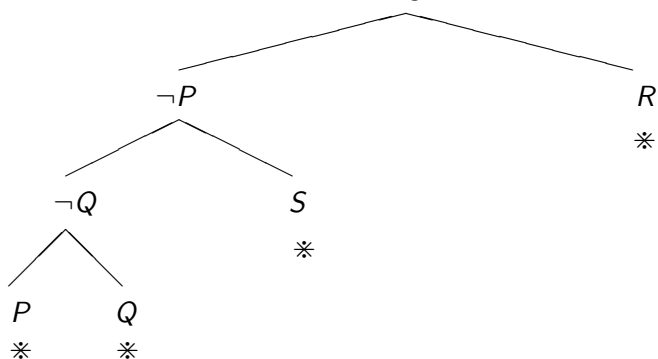
$(P \vee Q)$   
 $(P \supset R)$   
 $(Q \supset S)$   
 $\neg(R \vee S)$   
 $\neg R$   
 $\neg S$



## Alternative tree for same inference

$(P \vee Q), (P \supset R), (Q \supset S), \text{ So } (R \vee S)$

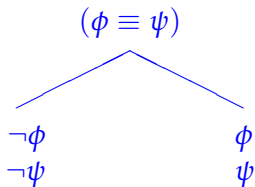
$(P \vee Q)$   
 $(P \supset R)$   
 $(Q \supset S)$   
 $\neg(R \vee S)$   
 $\neg R$   
 $\neg S$



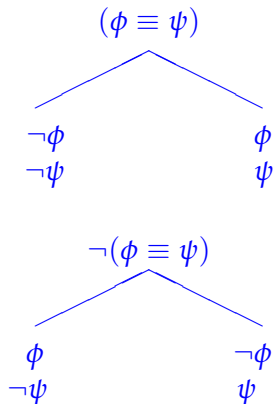
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## The unpacking rules for the biconditional



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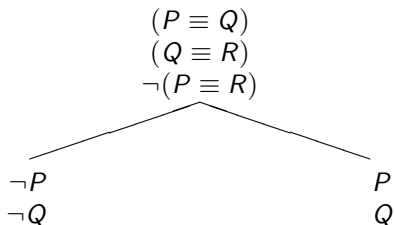
## An example

$(P \equiv Q), (Q \equiv R) \text{ So } (P \equiv R)$

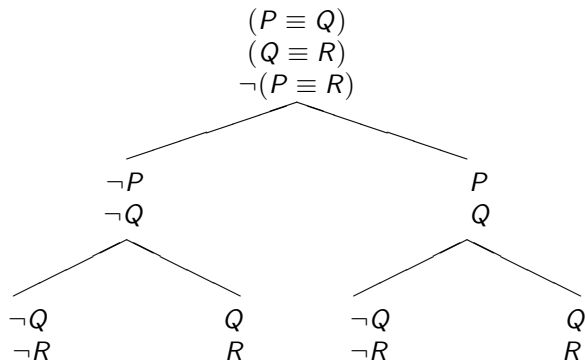
## An example

$$\begin{aligned} &(P \equiv Q) \\ &(Q \equiv R) \\ &\neg(P \equiv R) \end{aligned}$$

## An example

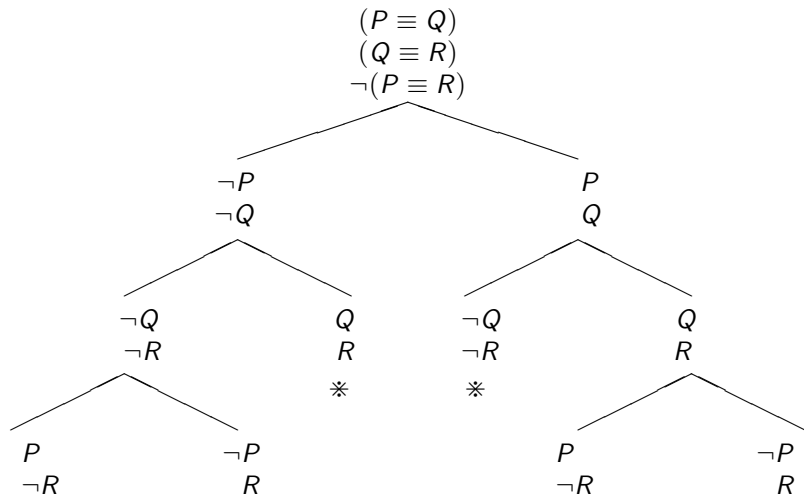


## An example



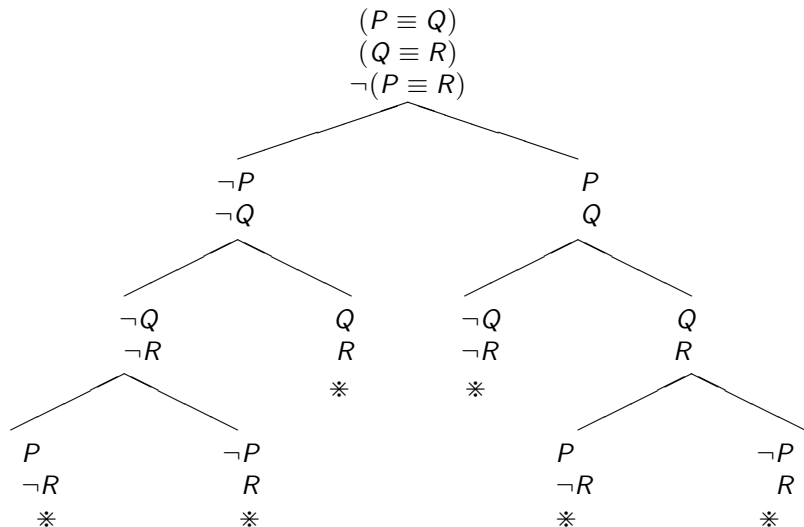


## An example





## An example



## Two comments

- ▶ We can use trees to deal with arguments involving other truth-functional connectives too, like the exclusive disjunction (which we haven't added to our official language). What the rules for that would can be left as a mini-exercise to explore.

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- ▶ We can use trees to deal with arguments involving other truth-functional connectives too, like the exclusive disjunction (which we haven't added to our official language). What the rules for that would can be left as a mini-exercise to explore.
- ▶ But for now two general comments on trees, one related to the **P vs NP problem**, one related to so-called '**natural deduction**'.