

“If $2 + 2 = 5$, then New York is a big city.”

—Alfred Tarski

The Trivial Notions Seminar Proudly Announces

IF

A talk by
Maxim Jeffs

Q: Which of the following are valid deductions?

- a) It is not the case that if there is a God the prayers of evil people will be answered. Hence God exists.
- b) If John is in Paris then he is in France, and if John is in London then he is in England. Hence it is the case that either, if John is in Paris he is in England, or if John is in London he is in France.
- c) If it doesn't rain tonight, then we will go to the cricket tomorrow. Therefore, if it doesn't rain tonight and I die in a car accident tonight, then we will go to the cricket tomorrow.

A: All of them!

Abstract

The kind of implication used in classical propositional logic is called the *material conditional*, and it's perfectly suited to reasoning about mathematical statements. The aim of this talk will be to convince you that the material conditional is actually *really weird* and give an informal introduction to some other notions of implication defined by logicians in the 20th century. Debate will be thoroughly encouraged!

Friday, October 16th, at 12 noon