

Validity and Soundness Handout

Directions: Determine the validity and soundness of the arguments below.

Steps:

(1) Start by just assuming that the premises are true. Then, ask yourself: “Would the truth of these premises guarantee the truth of this conclusion?”

If they do, the argument is valid -- if they don't, the argument is invalid.

(2) Next, if the argument is valid, check the soundness by determining whether or not the premises *really* are true. (For some arguments you may be uncertain about the truth or falsity of the premises. In such cases you can't determine the soundness of the argument.)

P1: Every painting ever made is in The Matrix.

P2: “La Persistencia de la Memoria” is a painting by Salvador Dalí.

Therefore “La Persistencia de la Memoria” is in The Matrix.

P1: If Neo is The One, then he is destined to fall in love with Trinity.

P2: Neo is The One.

Therefore Neo is destined to fall in love with Trinity.

P1: All agents are programs.

P2: Some programs are not agents.

Therefore some agents are not programs.

P1: All the humans in The Matrix Trilogy are either pod-born or natural-born.

P2: Morpheus is a human in The Matrix Trilogy.

Therefore Morpheus is either pod-born or natural-born.

P1: Some programs are mean spirited.

P2: All agents are mean spirited.

Therefore some agents are programs.

P1: If Neo is The One, then Cypher could not have killed him.

P2: Cypher could not have killed Neo.

Therefore Neo is The One.

P1: If Tank took the red pill, he knows Morpheus.

P2: Tank knows Morpheus.

Therefore Tank took the red pill.

P1: All the sentinels carry weapons.

P2: Squiddy is a sentinel.

Therefore Squiddy carries weapons.

P1: All sentient programs like The Oracle's cookies.

P2: The Oracle is a sentient program.

Therefore The Oracle likes her own cookies.

Make the arguments below valid by adding the necessary conclusion.

P1: If you take the red pill, you will free your mind.

P2: Neo took the red pill.

Therefore...

P1: Either Neo is The One or he is a ham sandwich.

P2: Neo is not The One.

Therefore...

P1: You are in The Matrix only if Professor García came to class.

P2: Professor García came to class.

Therefore...

P1: Some agents like humans.

P2: Some humans like agents.

Therefore....

Turn the "argument" below into a valid argument by adding the missing premise or assumptions. (Hint: It should be a Modus Ponens.)

We must be in the Matrix, because I just had déjà vu.

P1:

P2: _____

Therefore, we must be in the Matrix.