

# Predicates and Quantification

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## Predicates

- statement involving one or more variables,
- e.g.:  $x-3 > 5$ .
- Let us call this propositional function  $P(x)$ , where  $P$  is the predicate and  $x$  is the variable.

What is the truth value of  $P(2)$  ?    false

What is the truth value of  $P(8)$  ?    false

What is the truth value of  $P(9)$  ?    true

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## Predicates

- Let us consider the propositional function  $Q(x, y, z)$  defined as:

- $x + y = z$ .

- Here,  $Q$  is the predicate and  $x, y$ , and  $z$  are the variables.

What is the truth value of  $Q(2, 3, 5)$  ?    true

What is the truth value of  $Q(0, 1, 2)$  ?    false

What is the truth value of  $Q(9, -9, 0)$  ?    true

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## Predicates

- Let  $Q(x, y)$  denote the statement " $x = y + 3$ ." What are the truth values of the propositions

- $Q(1, 2)$  and  $Q(3, 0)$  defined as:

- Here,  $Q$  is the predicate and  $x, y$  are the variables.

What is the truth value of  $Q(3, 0)$  ?    true

What is the truth value of  $Q(1, 2)$  ?    false

What is the truth value of  $Q(5, 2)$  ?    true

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## Quantifiers

- **Quantification** is important way to create a proposition from a propositional function.
- Quantification expresses the extent to which a predicate is true over a range of elements.
- In English, the words *all*, *some*, *many*, *none*, and *few* are used in quantifications.
- We will focus on two types of quantification here:
  - universal quantification, which tells us that a predicate is true for every element under consideration, and
  - existential quantification, which tells us that there is one or more element under consideration for which the predicate is true.
- The area of logic that deals with predicates and quantifiers is called the **predicate calculus**.

## Universal Quantification

- Let  $P(x)$  be a propositional function.
- **Universally quantified sentence:**
- For all  $x$  in the universe of discourse  $P(x)$  is true.
- Using the universal quantifier  $\forall$ :
- $\forall x P(x)$  “for all  $x P(x)$ ” or “for every  $x P(x)$ ”
- (Note:  $\forall x P(x)$  is either true or false, so it is a proposition, not a propositional function.)

## Universal Quantification

### Definition

The *universal quantification* of  $P(x)$  is the statement

“ $P(x)$  for all values of  $x$  in the domain.”

The notation  $\forall x P(x)$  denotes the universal quantification of  $P(x)$ . Here  $\forall$  is called the **universal quantifier**. We read  $\forall x P(x)$  as “for all  $x P(x)$ ” or “for every  $x P(x)$ .” An element for which  $P(x)$  is false is called a **counterexample** of  $\forall x P(x)$ .

## Universal Quantification

- Example:
- $S(x)$ :  $x$  is a UMBC student.
- $G(x)$ :  $x$  is a genius.
- What does  $\forall x (S(x) \rightarrow G(x))$  mean ?
- “If  $x$  is a UMBC student, then  $x$  is a genius.”
- or
- “All UMBC students are geniuses.”

**Example**

Let  $Q(x)$  be the statement " $x < 2$ ." What is the truth value of the quantification  $\forall x Q(x)$ , where the domain consists of all real numbers?

**Solution:**  $Q(x)$  is not true for every real number  $x$ , because, for instance,  $Q(3)$  is false. That is,  $x = 3$  is a counterexample for the statement  $\forall x Q(x)$ . Thus

$$\forall x Q(x)$$

is false.

**Example**

What is the truth value of  $\forall x P(x)$ , where  $P(x)$  is the statement " $x^2 < 10$ " and the domain consists of the positive integers not exceeding 4?

**Solution:** The statement  $\forall x P(x)$  is the same as the conjunction

$$P(1) \wedge P(2) \wedge P(3) \wedge P(4),$$

because the domain consists of the integers 1, 2, 3, and 4. Because  $P(4)$ , which is the statement " $4^2 < 10$ ," is false, it follows that  $\forall x P(x)$  is false.

**Example**

What is the truth value of  $\forall x (x^2 \geq x)$  if the domain consists of all real numbers? What is the truth value of this statement if the domain consists of all integers?

**Solution:** The universal quantification  $\forall x (x^2 \geq x)$ , where the domain consists of all real numbers, is false. For example,  $(\frac{1}{2})^2 \not\geq \frac{1}{2}$ . Note that  $x^2 \geq x$  if and only if  $x^2 - x = x(x - 1) \geq 0$ . Consequently,  $x^2 \geq x$  if and only if  $x \leq 0$  or  $x \geq 1$ . It follows that  $\forall x (x^2 \geq x)$  is false if the domain consists of all real numbers (because the inequality is false for all real numbers  $x$  with  $0 < x < 1$ ). However, if the domain consists of the integers,  $\forall x (x^2 \geq x)$  is true, because there are no integers  $x$  with  $0 < x < 1$ .

## Existential Quantification

### •Existentially quantified sentence:

•There exists an  $x$  in the universe of discourse for which  $P(x)$  is true.

•Using the existential quantifier  $\exists$ :

• $\exists x P(x)$  "There is an  $x$  such that  $P(x)$ ."

• "There is at least one  $x$  such that  $P(x)$ ."

•(Note:  $\exists x P(x)$  is either true or false, so it is a proposition, but no propositional function.)

## Existential Quantification

### Definition

The *existential quantification* of  $P(x)$  is the proposition

"There exists an element  $x$  in the domain such that  $P(x)$ ."

We use the notation  $\exists x P(x)$  for the existential quantification of  $P(x)$ . Here  $\exists$  is called the *existential quantifier*.

## Existential Quantification

•Example:

• $P(x)$ :  $x$  is a UMBC professor.

• $G(x)$ :  $x$  is a genius.

•What does  $\exists x (P(x) \wedge G(x))$  mean ?

•“There is an  $x$  such that  $x$  is a UMBC professor and  $x$  is a genius.”

•or

•“At least one UMBC professor is a genius.”

**TABLE 1** Quantifiers.


Statement	When True?	When False?
$\forall x P(x)$	$P(x)$ is true for every $x$ .	There is an $x$ for which $P(x)$ is false.
$\exists x P(x)$	There is an $x$ for which $P(x)$ is true.	$P(x)$ is false for every $x$ .

### Example

What is the truth value of  $\exists x P(x)$ , where  $P(x)$  is the statement “ $x^2 > 10$ ” and the universe of discourse consists of the positive integers not exceeding 4?


*Solution:* Because the domain is  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ , the proposition  $\exists x P(x)$  is the same as the disjunction

$$P(1) \vee P(2) \vee P(3) \vee P(4).$$

Because  $P(4)$ , which is the statement “ $4^2 > 10$ ,” is true, it follows that  $\exists x P(x)$  is true. 

### Example

Let  $Q(x)$  denote the statement “ $x = x + 1$ .” What is the truth value of the quantification  $\exists x Q(x)$ , where the domain consists of all real numbers?

*Solution:* Because  $Q(x)$  is false for every real number  $x$ , the existential quantification of  $Q(x)$ , which is  $\exists x Q(x)$ , is false. 

## Disproof by Counterexample

•A counterexample to  $\forall x P(x)$  is an object  $c$  so that  $P(c)$  is false.

•Statements such as  $\forall x (P(x) \rightarrow Q(x))$  can be disproved by simply providing a counterexample.

Statement: “All birds can fly.”

Disproved by counterexample: Penguin.

## Negation

- $\neg(\forall x P(x))$  is logically equivalent to  $\exists x (\neg P(x))$ .
- $\neg(\exists x P(x))$  is logically equivalent to  $\forall x (\neg P(x))$ .

**TABLE 2** De Morgan's Laws for Quantifiers.

Negation	Equivalent Statement	When Is Negation True?	When False?
$\neg\exists x P(x)$	$\forall x \neg P(x)$	For every $x$ , $P(x)$ is false.	There is an $x$ for which $P(x)$ is true.
$\neg\forall x P(x)$	$\exists x \neg P(x)$	There is an $x$ for which $P(x)$ is false.	$P(x)$ is true for every $x$ .

What are the negations of the statements  $\forall x (x^2 > x)$  and  $\exists x (x^2 = 2)$ ?

**Solution:** The negation of  $\forall x (x^2 > x)$  is the statement  $\neg\forall x (x^2 > x)$ , which is equivalent to  $\exists x \neg(x^2 > x)$ . This can be rewritten as  $\exists x (x^2 \leq x)$ . The negation of  $\exists x (x^2 = 2)$  is the statement  $\neg\exists x (x^2 = 2)$ , which is equivalent to  $\forall x \neg(x^2 = 2)$ . This can be rewritten as  $\forall x (x^2 \neq 2)$ . The truth values of these statements depend on the domain. ◀

## Nested Quantifiers

- Let the universe of discourse be the real numbers.
- What does  $\forall x \exists y (x + y = 320)$  mean?
- “For every  $x$  there exists a  $y$  so that  $x + y = 320$ .”

Is it true? yes

Is it true for the natural numbers? no

## Nested Quantifiers

**TABLE 1** Quantifications of Two Variables.

Statement	When True?	When False?
$\forall x \forall y P(x, y)$ $\forall y \forall x P(x, y)$	$P(x, y)$ is true for every pair $x, y$ .	There is a pair $x, y$ for which $P(x, y)$ is false.
$\forall x \exists y P(x, y)$	For every $x$ there is a $y$ for which $P(x, y)$ is true.	There is an $x$ such that $P(x, y)$ is false for every $y$ .
$\exists x \forall y P(x, y)$	There is an $x$ for which $P(x, y)$ is true for every $y$ .	For every $x$ there is a $y$ for which $P(x, y)$ is false.
$\exists x \exists y P(x, y)$ $\exists y \exists x P(x, y)$	There is a pair $x, y$ for which $P(x, y)$ is true.	$P(x, y)$ is false for every pair $x, y$ .

## Proof Methods For Implications

- for proving implication  $p \rightarrow q$ , we have :
  1. Direct Proof: Assume  $P$  is true and proof  $q$
  2. Indirect proof: Assume  $\neg q$  and proof  $\neg p$ . it is called proof by **Contraposition**

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## Basic Number Theory Definitions

from Chapters 1.6, 2

- $\mathbb{Z}$  = Set of all Integers
- $\mathbb{Z}^+$  = Set of all Positive Integers
- $\mathbb{N}$  = Set of Natural Numbers ( $\mathbb{Z}^+$  and Zero)
- $\mathbb{R}$  = Set of Real Numbers
- Addition and multiplication on integers produce integers.  $(a, b \in \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow [(a+b) \in \mathbb{Z}] \wedge [(ab) \in \mathbb{Z}]$

## Direct Proof Example

- **Definition:** An integer  $n$  is called *odd* if and only if  $n=2k+1$  for some integer  $k$ ;  $n$  is *even* if and only if  $n=2k$  for some  $k$ .
- **Theorem:** (For all numbers  $n$ ) If  $n$  is an odd integer, then  $n^2$  is an odd integer.
- **Proof:** If  $n$  is odd, then  $n = 2k+1$  for some integer  $k$ . Thus,  $n^2 = (2k+1)^2 = 4k^2 + 4k + 1 = 2(2k^2 + 2k) + 1$ . Therefore  $n^2$  is of the form  $2j+1$  (with  $j$  the integer  $2k^2 + 2k$ ), thus  $n^2$  is odd.  $\square$

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## Indirect Proof Example

- **Theorem:** (For all integers  $n$ )  
If  $3n+2$  is odd, then  $n$  is odd.
- **Proof:** Suppose that the conclusion is false, *i.e.*, that  $n$  is even. Then  $n=2k$  for some integer  $k$ . Then  $3n+2 = 3(2k)+2 = 6k+2 = 2(3k+1)$ . Thus  $3n+2$  is even, because it equals  $2j$  for integer  $j = 3k+1$ . So  $3n+2$  is not odd. We have shown that  $\neg(n \text{ is odd}) \rightarrow \neg(3n+2 \text{ is odd})$ , thus its contra-positive  $(3n+2 \text{ is odd}) \rightarrow (n \text{ is odd})$  is also true.  $\square$

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## Example

Prove that if  $n = ab$ , where  $a$  and  $b$  are positive integers, then  $a \leq \sqrt{n}$  or  $b \leq \sqrt{n}$ .

*Solution:* Because there is no obvious way of showing that  $a \leq \sqrt{n}$  or  $b \leq \sqrt{n}$  directly from the equation  $n = ab$ , where  $a$  and  $b$  are positive integers, we attempt a proof by contraposition.

The first step in a proof by contraposition is to assume that the conclusion of the conditional statement “If  $n = ab$ , where  $a$  and  $b$  are positive integers, then  $a \leq \sqrt{n}$  or  $b \leq \sqrt{n}$ ” is false. That is, we assume that the statement  $(a \leq \sqrt{n}) \vee (b \leq \sqrt{n})$  is false. Using the meaning of disjunction together with De Morgan’s law, we see that this implies that both  $a > \sqrt{n}$  and  $b > \sqrt{n}$  are false. This implies that  $a > \sqrt{n}$  and  $b > \sqrt{n}$ . We can multiply these inequalities together (using the fact that if  $0 < s < t$  and  $0 < u < v$ , then  $su < tv$ ) to obtain  $ab > \sqrt{n} \cdot \sqrt{n} = n$ . This shows that  $ab \neq n$ , which contradicts the statement  $n = ab$ .

Because the negation of the conclusion of the conditional statement implies that the hypothesis is false, the original conditional statement is true. Our proof by contraposition succeeded; we have proved that if  $n = ab$ , where  $a$  and  $b$  are positive integers, then  $a \leq \sqrt{n}$  or  $b \leq \sqrt{n}$ . ◀