

# Concordia University Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering

SOEN 331 Section S: Formal Methods  
for Software Engineering

## Assignment 1

Mohammad Ali Zahir - 40077619

Marwa Khalid - 40155098

October 1, 2022

Date of Submission: October 10, 2022

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# 1 Problem 1: Predicate Logic 1 (10 pts)

## 1.1 Description:

In the domain of all people in the room, consider the predicate  $received\_request(a,b)$  that is interpreted as

*"[person] a has received a request from [person] b to connect on some social platform"*

1. How are the following two expressions translated into plain English? Are the two expressions logically equivalent?

- $\forall a \exists b received\_request(a, b).$
- $\exists b \forall a received\_request(a, b).$

Solution:

The first statement  $\forall a \exists b received\_request(a, b).$  reads that every person a has received a request from one person b.

The second statement  $\exists b \forall a received\_request(a, b).$  reads that there exists a person b which has a received a request from all people a.

In terms of logical equivalency, we would need to determine if the truth values for both of these statements are the same. For the first statement, while it is possible that every person a has received a request for one person b, it is highly unlikely that in the second statement, that one person b has received a request from every person from a. Hence, both of these statement are NOT logically equivalent.

2. Discuss in detail whether we can we claim the following:

$$\forall a \exists b received\_request(a, b) \rightarrow \exists b \forall a received\_request(a, b).$$