

Weekly Homework 5

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Introduction to Abstract Math

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Exercise 3.50. Rewrite the following statements in words and determine whether each is true or false. Make sure you justify your answer

1. $(\forall n \in \mathbb{N})(n^2 \geq 5)$
2. $(\exists n \in \mathbb{N})(n^2 - 1 = 0)$
3. $(\exists N \in \mathbb{N})(\forall n > N)(\frac{1}{n} < 0.01)$
4. $(\forall m, n \in \mathbb{Z})(2|m \wedge 2|n \implies 2|(m + n))$
5. $(\forall x \in \mathbb{N})(\exists y \in \mathbb{N})(x - 2y = 0)$
6. $(\exists x \in \mathbb{N})(\forall y \in \mathbb{N})(y \leq x)$

Solution.

1. For all n in the Natural numbers, $n^2 \geq 5$.
This is false, 1 is a natural number and $1^2 = 1$, which is less than 5.
2. For some n in the Natural numbers, $(n^2 - 1) = 0$. This is true, 1 is a natural number and $1^2 = 1$, so $1^2 - 1 = 0$.
3. For some N in the natural numbers, for all n greater than N , $\frac{1}{n}$ is less than 0.01. This is true because N can take on a value of 100 or greater.
4. For all m and n in the Integers, if 2 divides m and 2 divides n , then 2 divides $m + n$. This is true by Theorem 2.19.
5. For all natural numbers x , there exists a natural number y such that $x - 2y = 0$.
This is false. If we add $2y$ to both sides of the equation we get $x = 2y$. By definition 2.1, x must be an even number in order for $x - 2y = 0$ to be true. However, not all natural numbers are even.
6. For some natural number x , every natural number y is less than or equal to x . This is false, if we take any natural number x we can say y is defined as $x + 1$ and then $y \not\leq x$.

□

Theorem 3.53. Let $P(x)$ be a predicate. Then

1. $\neg(\forall x)P(x)$ is equivalent to $(\exists x)(\neg P(x))$
2. $\neg(\exists x)P(x)$ is equivalent to $(\forall x)(\neg P(x))$

Proof.

1. We will prove this by contradiction. We assume that not all x are such that $P(x)$ and that there is not an x such that $\neg P(x)$. If there is not an x such that $\neg P(x)$, then all x must be such that $P(x)$. However, this contradicts our assumption that not all x are such that $P(x)$. Therefore $\neg(\forall x)P(x) \implies (\exists x)(\neg P(x))$.

Conversely, we use contradiction the other direction. We assume that there exists some x such that $\neg P(x)$ and that for all x , $P(x)$. If there is some x for which $P(x)$ is not true, then not all x can satisfy $P(x)$. So, this contradicts our assumption that all values of x satisfy $P(x)$. Therefore $(\exists x)(\neg P(x)) \implies \neg(\forall x)(P(x))$.

By definition 3.3, $\neg(\forall x)P(x) \iff (\exists x)(\neg P(x))$.

2. We proceed with proof by contradiction. So we assume that there does not exist an x such that $P(x)$ and not all x are such that, $\neg P(x)$. If not all x are such that $\neg P(x)$, then there is at least one x that satisfies $P(x)$ which contradicts our assumption that there does not exist an x such that $P(x)$. Therefore $\neg(\exists x)P(x) \implies (\forall x)(\neg P(x))$.

Conversely, we proceed with contradiction the other direction, assuming that all x are such that $\neg P(x)$ and that it is false that there does not exist an x such that $P(x)$. If it is false that there does not exist an x such that $P(x)$, then there must exist an x such that $P(x)$ which is a contradiction with our assumption that all x are such that $\neg P(x)$. Therefore $(\forall x)(\neg P(x)) \implies \neg(\exists x)P(x)$. By Definition 3.3, $\neg(\exists x)P(x) \iff (\forall x)(\neg P(x))$.

□