

Assigning Probabilities to Logical Quantifiers

by Sven Nilsen, 2017

Using the technique for assigning probabilities to boolean functions, I proved the probabilities for `and` and `or`:

$$P(\text{and}(x_0, x_1)) = P(x_0) \cdot P(x_1)$$

$$P(\text{or}(x_0, x_1)) = 1 - (1 - P(x_0)) \cdot (1 - P(x_1))$$

This is used to generalize the notion of `and` and `or` to the logical quantifiers “for all” (using the symbol \forall) and “there exists” (using the symbol \exists).

$$P(\forall i \{ x_i \}) = \prod i \{ P(x_i) \}$$

$$P(\exists i \{ x_i \}) = 1 - \prod i \{ 1 - P(x_i) \}$$