

Universal Existential Paths

by Sven Nilsen, 2017

An existential path^[1] is a total function^[2] that determines the truth value of whether there exists some input to a function that returns some output:

$$\therefore \quad \exists f := \lambda(x') = \exists x \{ f(x) = x' \}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \quad & x' = f(x) \\ \therefore \quad & f : X \rightarrow X \end{aligned}$$

This can be generalized using domain constraint notation^[3]:

$$\therefore \quad \exists f\{T_x\} := \lambda(x') = \exists x : T_x \{ f(x) = x' \}$$

In domain constraint notation you can create the universal $\forall\{\}$ ^[3], so one can also create a universal existential path:

$$\therefore \quad \exists f\{\} := \lambda(T_x) = \lambda(x') = \exists x : T_x \{ f(x) = x' \}$$

All universal existential paths are reducible to normal existential paths using true_1 :

$$\therefore \quad \exists f\{[\text{true}_1] \text{ true}\} \iff \exists f\{\text{true}_1\} \iff \exists f$$

$$\therefore \quad \text{true}_1 := \lambda(_) = \text{true}$$

A sub-existential path is when you pass any other function than true_1 to a universal existential path:

$$\therefore \quad (\exists f\{\})([g(c)] \text{ true}) \iff \exists f\{[g(c)] \text{ true}\} \iff \exists f\{g(c)\}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \quad & \exists f\{g(c)\} : B \rightarrow \text{bool} \\ \therefore \quad & f : A \rightarrow B \\ \therefore \quad & g : C \rightarrow A \rightarrow \text{bool} \end{aligned}$$

When one passes a function of more than one argument to a universal existential path, one creates a higher order existential path:

$$\exists f\{g\} : C \rightarrow B \rightarrow \text{bool}$$

Name	Notation	Type
Sub-existential path	$\exists f\{g(c)\}$	$B \rightarrow \text{bool}$
Higher order existential path	$\exists f\{g\}$	$C \rightarrow B \rightarrow \text{bool}$
Universal existential path	$\exists f\{\}$	$T_c \rightarrow B \rightarrow \text{bool}$

References:

- [1] “Existential Paths”
Sven Nilsen, 2017
https://github.com/advancedresearch/path_semantics/blob/master/papers-wip/existential-paths.pdf

- [2] “Partial function”
Wikipedia
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Partial_function

- [3] “Domain Constraint Notation”
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https://github.com/advancedresearch/path_semantics/blob/master/papers-wip/domain-constraint-notation.pdf