

Predicate logic and Quantifiers

Understand enough predicate logic to make sense of quantified statements.

In predicate logic, propositions depend on variable x, y, z , so their truth value may change depending on which values they take.

Introduce quantifiers \exists existential quantifier

$\exists x P(x)$

$\exists x P(x)$ is true if $P(x)$ is true for some value of x ; it is false otherwise.

\forall universal quantifier

$\forall x P(x)$

$\forall x P(x)$ is true if $P(x)$ is true for all allowable values of x . It is false otherwise.

$\exists!$ for one and only one: Uniqueness Quantifier

$\exists! x P(x) \text{ or } \exists_1$

$\exists! x P(x)$ is true if $P(x)$ is true for exactly one value of x and false for all other values of x ; otherwise, $\exists! x P(x)$ is false.

Alternation of Quantifiers: Nested Quantifiers $\forall x \exists y \forall z P(x, y, z)$

NB: The order cannot be exchanged as it might modify the truth values of the statement (think of examples with two variables).

domain: real numbers, $P(x, y) := x + y = y + x$

$\forall x \forall y P(x, y) \equiv \forall y \forall x P(x, y)$

Negation of Quantifiers $\neg(\exists x P(x)) \leftrightarrow \forall x \neg P(x)$ $\neg(\forall x P(x)) \leftrightarrow \exists x \neg P(x)$ Precedence of Quantifiers The quantifiers \forall and \exists have higher precedence than \neg .

When the domain of a quantifier is finite, quantified statements can be expressed using propositional logic. Binding variables.

A quantifier is used on a variable x , which we say x is **bound**.

No quantifier or set bounds a variable, which we say x is **free**.

The part of a logical expression a quantifier is applied to, which we say the part is the **scope** of the quantifier.

The same letter is often used to represent variables bound by different quantifiers with scopes that do **not overlap**.

Substitution: $\exists(P(x) \wedge Q(x)) \vee \forall y R(y) \xrightarrow{y \rightarrow x} \exists(P(x) \wedge Q(x)) \vee \forall x R(x)$ Logical Equivalences Involving Quantifiers

$\forall x(P(x) \wedge Q(x)) \equiv \forall x P(x) \wedge \forall x Q(x)$

$\exists x(P(x) \vee Q(x)) \equiv \exists x P(x) \vee \exists x Q(x)$