

Predicates

- Property of Subject
- Expression that contains variables
- Denoted as P(variables), e.g. P(x)
- Propositional Function

Let P(x) denote the statement "x > 3." What are the truth values of P(4) and P(2)?

Solution: We obtain the statement P(4) by setting x = 4 in the statement "x > 3." Hence, P(4), which is the statement "4 > 3," is true. However, P(2), which is the statement "2 > 3," is false.

Let A(x) denote the statement "Computer x is under attack by an intruder." Suppose that of the computers on campus, only CS2 and MATH1 are currently under attack by intruders. What are truth values of A(CS1), A(CS2), and A(MATH1)?

Solution: We obtain the statement A(CS1) by setting x = CS1 in the statement "Computer x is under attack by an intruder." Because CS1 is not on the list of computers currently under attack, we conclude that A(CS1) is false. Similarly, because CS2 and MATH1 are on the list of computers under attack, we know that A(CS2) and A(MATH1) are true.

Let Q(x, y) denote the statement "x = y + 3." What are the truth values of the propositions Q(1, 2) and Q(3, 0)?

Solution: To obtain Q(1, 2), set x = 1 and y = 2 in the statement Q(x, y). Hence, Q(1, 2) is the statement "1 = 2 + 3," which is false. The statement Q(3, 0) is the proposition "3 = 0 + 3," which is true.

Similarly, we can let R(x, y, z) denote the statement "x + y = z." When values are assigned to the variables x, y, and z, this statement has a truth value.

What are the truth values of the propositions R(1, 2, 3) and R(0, 0, 1)?

Solution: The proposition R(1, 2, 3) is obtained by setting x = 1, y = 2, and z = 3 in the statement R(x, y, z). We see that R(1, 2, 3) is the statement "1 + 2 = 3," which is true. Also note that R(0, 0, 1), which is the statement "0 + 0 = 1," is false.