

# Math Reasoning Notes

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## Contents

1	Number Sets	1
2	Definitions	1
3	September 23, 2025	2
3.1	Quantification . . . . .	2
4	9/26	3
4.1	The Natural Numbers . . . . .	3

## 1 Number Sets

A few famous sets are:

- $\emptyset$ : the *empty set* containing no elements;
- $\mathbb{N}$ : the set of *natural numbers* (that is, nonnegative integers);
- $\mathbb{Z}$ : the set of *integers*;
- $\mathbb{Q}$ : the set of *rational numbers*;
- $\mathbb{R}$ : the set of *real numbers*;
- $\mathbb{C}$ : the set of *complex numbers*.

## 2 Definitions

- Given universal set  $U$  and proposition schema  $P(x)$ 
  - $\neg(\forall x \in U, P(x)) = \exists x \in U, \neg P(x)$
  - $\neg(\exists x \in U, P(x)) = \forall x \in U, \neg P(x)$
- A **relation** from set  $X$  to set  $Y$  is a subset  $R \subseteq X \times Y$ .
- A **function** with domain  $X$  and codomain  $Y$  is a relation such that:
  - $\forall x \in X, \exists y \in Y$
- A **Model of the second-order formulation of peano arithmetic** is a 3-tuple  $(N, O, S)$  where  $N$  is a set,  $O \in N$ , and  $S : N \rightarrow N$  which all satisfy the second-order peano axioms. All models like this are isomorphic.

## 3 September 23, 2025

### 3.1 Quantification

Notation: Given some schema  $P(x)$ ,  $U$  a universal set, then we universally quantify  $P(x)$  by forming the prop: "for all  $x \in U$ ,  $P(x)$  is true" and write  $\forall x \in U, P(x)$  or  $\forall x \in U : P(x)$ .

Similarly, we existentially quantify  $P(x)$  by forming the proposition: "there exists an  $x \in U$  such that  $P(x)$  is true" and write  $\exists x \in U, P(x)$  or  $\exists x \in U : P(x)$ .

**Note 1.** *The name of a free variable is irrelevant. For example,  $\forall x \in U, P(x)$  and  $\forall y \in U, P(y)$  are the same proposition.*

**Proposition 1.** *Let  $U$  be a universal set, and let  $P(x)$  be a schema with free variable  $x$ , then:*

- $\neg(\forall x \in U, P(x)) \equiv \exists x \in U, \neg P(x)$
- $\neg(\exists x \in U, P(x)) \equiv \forall x \in U, \neg P(x)$

*Proof.* Let us assume  $(\forall x \in U, P(x))$  is true, then for any  $x \in U$ ,  $P(x)$  is true. Thus, there does not exist an  $x \in U$  such that  $P(x)$  is false, i.e.  $\neg P(x)$  is true. Thus,  $\exists x \in U, \neg P(x)$  is false.

Conversely, if we assume  $\exists x \in U, \neg P(x)$  is true, then there exists an  $x \in U$  such that  $P(x)$  is false. Combining these two paragraphs, we have shown that  $\exists x \in U, \neg P(x)$  is true if and only if  $\forall x \in U, P(x)$  is false. Thus,  $\neg(\forall x \in U, P(x)) \equiv \exists x \in U, \neg P(x)$ . ■

**Example 1.** *Negate  $\forall x[(x \in A) \implies (x \in B)]$*

$$\neg(\forall x[(x \in A) \implies (x \in B)]) \equiv \exists x \neg[(x \in A) \implies (x \in B)] \equiv \exists x[(x \in A) \wedge \neg(x \in B)] \equiv \exists x[(x \in A) \wedge (x \notin B)]$$

*In english: "There is an element of  $A$  which is not an element in  $B$ ". i.e.  $A \not\subseteq B$ .*

**Example 2.**  $U = \mathbb{Z}$  and consider the propositions:  $[\forall a \in U, \exists b \in U, a + b = 1]$  and  $[\exists a \in U, \forall b \in U, a + b \neq 1]$ .

*The first proposition is true, since for any integer  $a$ , we can choose  $b = 1 - a$ , which is also an integer, and  $a + b = 1$ .*

*The second proposition is false, since for any integer  $a$ , we can choose  $b = 1 - a$ , and  $a + b = 1$ .*

*Note that the order of quantifiers matters!*

**Proposition 2.** *Let  $U$  be a universal set, and let  $P(x)$  and  $Q(x)$  be schemas with free variable  $x$ , then:*

- $\forall x \in U, [P(x) \wedge Q(x)] \implies [\forall x \in U, P(x)] \wedge [\forall x \in U, Q(x)]$
- $\exists x \in U, [P(x) \vee Q(x)] \implies [\exists x \in U, P(x)] \vee [\exists x \in U, Q(x)]$
- $\forall x \in U, [P(x) \vee Q(x)] \implies [(\forall x \in U, P(x)) \vee (\forall x \in U, Q(x))]$
- $\exists x \in U, [P(x) \wedge Q(x)] \implies [(\exists x \in U, P(x)) \wedge (\exists x \in U, Q(x))]$

## 4 9/26

### 4.1 The Natural Numbers

**Definition 1.** A relation  $R$  from a set  $A$  to a set  $B$  is a subset of  $A \times B$ .

**Definition 2.** A function  $f$  with domain  $X$  and codomain  $Y$  is a relation  $f \subseteq X \times Y$  such that  $\forall x \in X, \exists y \in Y, (x, y) \in f$   
And  $((x, y) \in f) \wedge ((x, z) \in f) \implies (y = z)$  We write  $f : A \rightarrow B$  and  $f(a) = b$ .

The Peano Axioms:

1.  $0 \in \mathbb{N}$
2.  $\forall x \in \mathbb{N}, x = x$
3.  $\forall x \in \mathbb{N}, \forall y \in \mathbb{N}, (x = y) \implies (y = x)$
4.  $\forall x \in \mathbb{N}, \forall y \in \mathbb{N}, \forall z \in \mathbb{N}, [(x = y) \wedge (y = z)] \implies (x = z)$
5.  $\forall a, \forall b, [(b \in \mathbb{N}) \wedge (a = b)] \implies (a \in \mathbb{N})$
6.  $\exists S \subseteq \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$  called the successor function, such that  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, S(n) \in \mathbb{N}$
7.  $\forall x \in \mathbb{N}, \forall y \in \mathbb{N}, [S(x) = S(y)] \implies (x = y)$  (i.e.  $S$  is injective)
8.  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, S(n) \neq 0$
9. (Axiom of Induction) If  $k$  is a set such that:

- (a)  $0 \in k$
- (b)  $\forall x \in \mathbb{N}, (x \in k) \implies (S(n) \in k)$

Then  $\mathbb{N} \subseteq k$ .

Axiom 9': If  $P(x)$  is a proposition schema with one free variable  $x$  such that:

1.  $P(0)$  is true
2.  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, (P(n)) \implies (P(S(n)))$

Then  $P(n)$  is true for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Using these axioms, we can define addition and multiplication recursively for all  $a, b \in \mathbb{N}$ :

- $a + 0 = a$
- $a + S(b) = S(a + b)$
- $a \cdot 0 = 0$
- $a \cdot S(b) = a \cdot b + a$

**Theorem 1.** *Addition is associative:  $\forall a, b, c \in \mathbb{N}, (a + b) + c = a + (b + c)$*

*Proof.* Fix  $a, b \in \mathbb{N}$  and let  $P(c)$  be the proposition  $(a + b) + c = a + (b + c)$ . We will prove that  $P(c)$  is true for all  $c \in \mathbb{N}$  using Axiom 9'.

Base Case:  $P(0)$  is true since  $(a + b) + 0 = a + b$  and  $a + (b + 0) = a + b$ .

Inductive Step: Assume  $P(c)$  is true for some  $c \in \mathbb{N}$ , i.e.  $(a + b) + c = a + (b + c)$ . We want to show that  $P(S(c))$  is true, i.e.  $(a + b) + S(c) = a + (b + S(c))$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 (a + b) + S(c) &= S((a + b) + c) && \text{(by definition of addition)} \\
 &= S(a + (b + c)) && \text{(by inductive hypothesis)} \\
 &= a + S(b + c) && \text{(by definition of addition)} \\
 &= a + (b + S(c)) && \text{(by definition of addition)}
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, by Axiom 9',  $P(c)$  is true for all  $c \in \mathbb{N}$ . ■

**Definition 3.** Inequality on  $\mathbb{N}$ : For  $a, b \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $a \leq b \iff \exists c \in \mathbb{N}, a + c = b$ .

We say  $a < b \iff a \leq b$  and  $a \neq b$ .

Using  $\leq$ , we can restate Axiom 9' as follows:

Axiom 9'' (the strong induction axiom): If  $P(x)$  is a proposition with one free variable and  $P(0)$  is true, for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  if  $P(k)$  is true for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  where  $k \leq n$ ,  $P(n)$  is true.

All axioms 1-8 are phrased in first-order logic, which is what have called predicate logic with quantification of elements of universal sets. Axioms 9, 9' and 9'' all require second-order logic where we are allowed to quantify over proposition schemata.