

COMP425 Computational Logic (2016)

Proof of a key result

This note discusses how we might prove the following result, which is required for A2:

$$(\forall i. 1 \leq i \leq k \Rightarrow P(i)) \wedge P(k+1) \Rightarrow (\forall i. 1 \leq i \leq k+1 \Rightarrow P(i))$$

I would write a pen and paper proof of this as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (\forall i. 1 \leq i \leq k \Rightarrow P(i)) \wedge P(k+1) \\
 \Rightarrow & (\forall i. 1 \leq i \leq k \Rightarrow P(i)) \wedge (\forall i. i = k+1 \Rightarrow P(i)) \\
 \Rightarrow & (\forall i. (1 \leq i \leq k \Rightarrow P(i)) \wedge (i = k+1 \Rightarrow P(k+1))) \\
 \Rightarrow & (\forall i. 1 \leq i \leq k \vee i = k+1 \Rightarrow P(i)) \\
 \Rightarrow & (\forall i. 1 \leq i \leq k+1 \Rightarrow P(i))
 \end{aligned}$$

These steps are justified as follows:

1. One-point rule for universal quantification: $(\forall x. x = t \Rightarrow p) \equiv p[t/x]$, where $p[t/x]$ is p with t substituted for x .
There is a similar rule for existential quantification.
2. Merge quantifiers: $(\forall i. P) \wedge (\forall i. Q) \equiv (\forall i. P \wedge Q)$.
3. Distribute \wedge over \Rightarrow (or perhaps the other way around): $(P \Rightarrow R) \wedge (Q \Rightarrow R) \equiv P \vee Q \Rightarrow R$.
4. Extend range: $1 \leq i \leq k \vee i = k+1 \equiv 1 \leq i \leq k+1$. I haven't worked out exactly how to justify this step yet. Any thoughts?