

Below are some false universal assertions. Find counterexamples to each one. For each one, formulate a modified universal assertion that is true.

- *For all choices of four real numbers  $a, b, c, d$ , if  $a > b$  and  $c > d$  then  $ab > cd$*   
Let  $a = 10, b = 1, c = 1000, d = 100$ . While  $a > b, c > d$ , the assertion that  $10 > 100000$  is clearly false. A correct assertion would be if  $a > b$  and  $c > d$  then  $ac > bd$ .
- *For any set  $\mathcal{C}$  of intervals of  $\mathbb{R}$ , if no interval in  $\mathcal{C}$  is disjoint from all of the other intervals of  $\mathcal{C}$  then the union of the intervals in  $\mathcal{C}$  is an interval*  
Let  $\mathcal{C} = \{A, B, C, D\}$ ,  $A \cap B \neq \emptyset, C \cap D \neq \emptyset, (A \cup B) \cap (C \cup D) = \emptyset$ . By this construction every set in  $\mathcal{C}$  isn't disjoint to every other set, however their union does not form as a set as the two pairs of sets above form "islands", which is non-continuous if their union is taken. To correct this, have the requirement that every interval in  $\mathcal{C}$  not be disjoint to every other interval in the set.  
(note: this one stumped me just by misreading the quantifiers, I thought you were specifying the correction I made to the rule, and with this frustration I went to the group chat, where the hints I received were "this doesn't involve the empty set" and that "the minimum number of sets required for the counter-example was four", all else is my work.)
- *For all lists  $(a_1, \dots, a_k)$  of real numbers the average of the squares of the numbers is greater than the square of the average.*  
Let  $a = (1, 1, 1)$ . Therefore,

$$\frac{1^2 + 1^2 + 1^2}{3} > \left(\frac{1 + 1 + 1}{3}\right)^2$$

$$1 > 1.$$

This is a contradiction, as 1 is not greater than 1. This statement would be true if you changed the greater than sign to a greater than or equal to sign.