

- The symbol for “for all” is  $\forall$  and the symbol for “there exists” is  $\exists$ .
- The negation of “For all  $x \in S$ ,  $P$ ” is “There exists  $x \in S$  such that not  $P$ ”.
- The negation of “There exists  $x \in S$  such that  $P$ ” is “For all  $x \in S$ , not  $P$ ”.

### Making sense of quantifier statements.

- (1) Rewrite the following symbolic statements in sentences:
  
- (2) A prankster has spraypainted the real number line red and blue, so every real number is red or blue (but not both).
  - (a) Match each<sup>1</sup> informal description (i)–(vi) below with the precise quantifier statement (A)–(D).
 

Informal stories:

    - (i) Every number past some point is red.
    - (ii) Not every positive number is blue.
    - (iii) There are arbitrarily large red numbers.
    - (iv) Every positive number is red.
    - (v) You never get to a point where past that point every number is blue.
    - (vi) There are positive red number(s).

Precise statements:

    - (A) For every  $y > 0$ ,  $y$  is red.
    - (B) There exists  $y > 0$  such that  $y$  is red.
    - (C) For every  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , there is some  $y > x$  such that  $y$  is red.
    - (D) There exists  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  such that for every  $y > x$ ,  $y$  is red.
    - (b) Does (A) imply (B)? Does (B) imply (A)?
    - (c) Draw a picture where (A) is false and (B) is true.
    - (d) Does (C) imply (D)? Does (D) imply (C)?
    - (e) Draw a picture where (C) is true and (D) is false.
  
- (3) Rewrite each statement with symbols in place of quantifiers, and write its negation. Is the original statement true or false? Discuss why (but don’t prove them).
  - (a) There exists  $x \in \mathbb{Q}$  such that  $x^2 = 2$ .
  - (b) For all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $x^2 > 0$ .
  - (c) For all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  such that<sup>2</sup>  $x \neq 0$ ,  $x^2 > 0$ .
  - (d) For all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , there exists  $y \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $x < y$ .
  - (e) There exists  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  such that for all  $y \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $x < y$ .

<sup>1</sup>Note: some precise statements correspond to multiple informal stories.

<sup>2</sup>In a statement of the form “For all  $x \in S$  such that  $Q$ ,  $P$ ”, the “such that  $Q$ ” part is part of the hypothesis: it is restricting the set  $S$  that we are “all over” over.

## Proving quantifier statements and using the axioms of $\mathbb{R}$ .

- The general outline of a proof of “For all  $x \in S$ ,  $P$ ” goes
  - (1) Let  $x \in S$  be arbitrary.
  - (2) Do some stuff.
  - (3) Conclude that  $P$  holds for  $x$ .
- To prove a there exists statement, you just need to give an example. To prove “There exists  $x \in S$  such that  $P$ ” directly:
  - (1) Consider<sup>2</sup>  $x$  = [some specific element of  $S$ ].
  - (2) Do some stuff.
  - (3) Conclude that  $P$  holds for  $x$ .

Note: explaining *how* you found your example “ $x$ ” is *not* a logically necessary part of the proof.

- (4) Circle the correct answer in each of the blanks below:
- To prove a “for all” statement, you need to give a GENERAL ARGUMENT / SPECIFIC EXAMPLE.
  - To *disprove* a “for all” statement, you need to give a GENERAL ARGUMENT / SPECIFIC EXAMPLE.
  - To prove a “there exists” statement, you need to give a GENERAL ARGUMENT / SPECIFIC EXAMPLE.
  - To *disprove* a “there exists” statement, you need to give a GENERAL ARGUMENT / SPECIFIC EXAMPLE.
- (5) Prove or disprove each of the statements in 3 using the axioms of  $\mathbb{R}$  and facts we have already proven.
- (6) Prove that there exists some  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $2x + 5 = 3$ .
- (7) Prove that there exists some  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  such that for every  $y \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $xy = x$ .
- (8) Let  $x$  be a real number. Use the axioms of  $\mathbb{R}$  and facts we have already proven to show that if there exists a real number  $y$  such that  $xy = 1$ , then  $x \neq 0$ .
- (9) Prove that<sup>3</sup> for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $x \neq 0$ , we have  $x^2 \neq 0$ .
- (10) Let  $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  be a set of real numbers. Apply your results above to prove that if for every  $x \in S$ ,  $x^2$  is irrational, then for every  $y \in S$ ,  $y$  is irrational.

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<sup>3</sup>Hint: Use (7).