

## Inconsistent notation

Some of you think that math is written in such a way that it is unambiguous. I feel an urge to prove you wrong.

I don't include the ambiguity of specific symbols for variables / constants, like the symbol  $i$  as an imaginary unit versus the symbol  $i$  as a variable (typically used in sums), because we cannot avoid them when using our finite alphabet.

- $9 : 3(2 + 1)$   
Is it equal to 1?  
Is it equal to 9?
- $a(b + c)$   
either function  $a$  applied to the sum of values  $b$  and  $c$   
or product  $a \cdot (b + c)$
- $T^n$   
either  $T^{1 \times n}$   
or  $T^{n \times 1}$
- $a_1^2$   
either  $a_1 \cdot a_1$   
or  $a_{1,2}$
- $a_{ij}$   
either  $a_{i,j}$   
or  $a_k$  where  $k = i \cdot j$
- $\rho, \hat{\rho}$   
either two different functions, each of them to be defined separately  
or  $\hat{\rho}$  is some kind of modification of  $\rho$  that does not have to be defined explicitly, thus the “hat” itself is a higher order function
- $v, \bar{v}$   
either symbol  $v$  and its value assigned by some labeling  
(e.g. a propositional variable and its value in a chosen model)  
or a propositional variable (or a boolean vector)  $v$  and its negation  
or two independent variables  
or a function and its upper bound

- $(\sum_{i=1}^3 a_i + b)$   
either  $a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + b$   
or  $a_1 + b + a_2 + b + a_3 + b$
- $f^2(x)$   
either  $(f(x))^2$   
or  $f(f(x))$   
or  $\frac{f(x_1)+f(x_2)}{2}$
- $f[g, h]$   
either an element of matrix  $F$  in the  $g$ -th row,  $h$ -th column:  $f_{g,h}$   
or a superposition of functions  $g, h$  (unary) and  $f$  (binary):  $\lambda x. f(g(x), h(x))$