

# Lecture 2 Predicates & Quantifiers

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**Ref.: K. H. Rosen, Section 1.3**



# Predicate: Definition

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Let  $H(x,y)$  mean that  $x$  is taller than  $y$ ,

i.e.  $H(x,y)$  is true iff  $x$  is taller than  $y$ .

If we know who  $x$  and  $y$  are, we know whether  $H(x,y)$  is true or not.

E. g.,  $H(\text{Tom}, \text{John}) = \mathbf{T}$ .

$H$  is called a propositional function (predicate)

--  $H$  assigns to every pair  $x,y$  a truth value.

# Definition

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$H(\text{Tom}, \text{John}) = \mathbf{T}$  .

**Subject:**

Is the element of the proposition that determines its value.

A **variable** is a “place holder” for a subject.  
It is called a *free variable* unless otherwise specified.

$H(x, y)$

# Propositional Function

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“ $x > 3$ ” can be expressed by function  $P(x)$   
 $> 3$  is represented by  $P$

$P$  is the **predicate**

$x$  is the **variable**

When a value is assigned to each variable of a propositional function, the predicate receives a truth value and thus turns into a proposition.

# Examples

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Let  $P(x)$  denote “ $x > 3$ ”

Let  $x = 4$ ,  $P(4)$ .

$4 > 3$ , therefore  $P(4)$  is TRUE

Let  $Q(x,y,z)$  denote “ $x + y = z$ ”

Let  $x = 2$ ,  $y = 3$ ,  $z = 6$ ,  $Q(2, 3, 6)$

$2 + 3 = 6$  is false, therefore  $Q(2,3,6)$  is FALSE



# Universal Quantification

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- “There is a person who is taller than 6 feet”.
- “All of us are taller than 4 feet”.

When we make such statements we have in mind a universe (e.g., the students in this room?).

These statements have a truth value and thus are propositions.

These statements are about properties of the universe.

# Universal Quantification



## Definition:

The *universal quantification* of  $P(x)$  is the proposition “ $P(x)$  is true for all values of  $x$  in the universe of discourse”.

Written as:  $\forall x P(x)$

or For all  $x$ ,  $P(x)$

or For every  $x$ ,  $P(x)$

# Examples

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“Everyone in this room can see me”

can be represented as a universal quantification.

Let  $P(x)$  denote: “Person  $x$  can see me”

Let  $R(x)$  denote: “Person  $x$  is in this room”

$$\forall x(R(x) \rightarrow P(x))$$

Universe of discourse: All people



# Examples

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“ $\forall x P(x)$  with  $P(x)$  being  $x^2 < 10$ ”

Universe of discourse:  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$

$\forall x P(x)$  is the same as  $P(1) \wedge P(2) \wedge P(3) \wedge P(4)$

$\forall x P(x)$  is false as  $P(4)$  is false.

# Existential Quantification



## Definition:

The *existential quantification* of  $P(x)$  is the proposition “There exists an element  $x$  in the universe of discourse such that  $P(x)$  is true”

Written as:  $\exists x P(x)$

“There is an  $x$  such that  $P(x)$ ”

or “For some  $x$   $P(x)$ ”

or “There is at least one  $x$  such that  $P(x)$ ”

# Examples



“I can be seen”

Let  $P(x)$  denote: “Person  $x$  can see me”

$\exists x P(x)$

Universe of discourse: All people

“ $\exists x P(x)$  with  $P(x)$  being  $x^2 < 10$ ”

Universe of discourse:  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$

$\exists x P(x)$  is the same as  $P(1) \vee P(2) \vee P(3) \vee P(4)$

$\exists x P(x)$  is true as  $P(1)$  is true.

# $\forall$ and $\exists$



Statement	When True?	When False?
$\forall x P(x)$	$P(x)$ is true for every $x$ .	There is an $x$ for which $P(x)$ is false.
$\exists x P(x)$	There is an $x$ for which $P(x)$ is true.	$P(x)$ is false for every $x$ .

# Example

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Take the English sentence :

“All lions are fierce”

Let  $P(x)$  denote the statement “ $x$  is a lion”

Let  $Q(x)$  denote the statement “ $x$  is fierce”

$\forall x \in L, Q(x)$  where  $L$  is the set of lions

or  $\forall x (P(x) \rightarrow Q(x))$

# Example

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“Some programs are object-oriented.”

$\exists x \in P$ ,  $x$  is object-oriented where  $P$  is the set of programs.

or  $\exists x (x \text{ is a program} \wedge x \text{ is object-oriented})$

# Example

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“Every human being needs air.”

$\forall x \in H$ ,  $x$  needs air where  $H$  is the set of human beings.

or  ~~$\forall x (x \text{ is a human being} \wedge x \text{ needs air})$~~  ?

$\forall x (x \text{ is a human being} \rightarrow x \text{ needs air})$  ✓

# Example

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“All even numbers are divisible by 2.”

$\forall x \in E$ ,  $x$  is divisible by 2 where  $E$  is the set of even numbers.

or  ~~$\forall x$  ( $x$  is a even number  
 $\wedge x$  is divisible by 2)~~ ?

or  $\forall x$  ( $x$  is a even number  
 $\rightarrow x$  is divisible by 2)



# Example

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“Some fish can climb trees.”

$\exists x \in F$ ,  $x$  can climb trees where  $F$  is the set of fish.

or  ~~$\exists x (x \text{ is a fish} \rightarrow x \text{ can climb trees})$~~  ?

or  $\exists x (x \text{ is a fish} \wedge x \text{ can climb trees})$

# Example

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“Some CS students are babies.”

$\exists x \in S$ ,  $x$  is a baby where  $S$  is the set of CS students.

or  ~~$\exists x (x \text{ is a CS student} \Rightarrow x \text{ is a baby})$~~  ?

or  $\exists x (x \text{ is a CS student} \wedge x \text{ is a baby})$

# Example

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“Every basketball player is tall”

$\forall x$  (x is a basketball player  $\rightarrow$  x is tall)

# Example

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“No dogs have wings.”

$\forall x (x \text{ is a dog} \rightarrow x \text{ has no wings})$

# Example

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“Some CS students are hardworking.”

$\exists x (x \text{ is a CS students} \wedge x \text{ is hardwoking})$

# Example

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“If a number is an integer, then it is a rational number.”

$\forall x$  (x is an integer  
→ x is a rational number)

# Negations



“Every student has seen me”  $\forall x P(x)$

“Not every student has seen me”  $\neg \forall x P(x)$

~~$\neg \forall x P(x) \Leftrightarrow \forall x \neg P(x)$~~  ?

$$\neg \forall x P(x) \Leftrightarrow \exists x \neg P(x)$$

# Negations



“Somebody in this room are hardworking”

$$\exists x P(x)$$

“It’s not the case that somebody in this room are hardworking”

$$\neg \exists x P(x)$$

~~$$\neg \exists x P(x) \Leftrightarrow \exists x \neg P(x)$$~~ ?

$$\neg \exists x P(x) \Leftrightarrow \forall x \neg P(x)$$



# Negations



Negation	Equivalent	When True?	When False?
$\neg \exists x P(x)$	$\forall x \neg P(x)$	$P(x)$ is false for every $x$ .	There is an $x$ for which $P(x)$ is true.
$\neg \forall x P(x)$	$\exists x \neg P(x)$	There is an $x$ for which $P(x)$ is false.	$P(x)$ is true for every $x$ .

# Example

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$\forall x > 0, \exists y > 0$  such that  $y < x$

- “For each positive number, there is another positive number smaller than it”
- “Given any positive number, we can find a smaller positive number”
- “There is no smallest positive number”

# Example

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“Someone is loved by someone”

$\equiv \exists \text{a person } x, \exists \text{a person } y \text{ such that } y \text{ loves } x$

“Everyone is loved by everyone”

$\equiv \forall \text{people } x, \forall \text{people } y, y \text{ loves } x$

“Everyone is loved by someone”

$\equiv \forall \text{people } x, \exists \text{a person } y \text{ such that } y \text{ loves } x$

“Someone is loved by everyone”

$\equiv \exists \text{a person } x \text{ such that } \forall \text{people } y, y \text{ loves } x$

“Everyone loves someone”

$\equiv \forall \text{people } y, \exists \text{a person } x \text{ such that } y \text{ loves } x$

# Example

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Translate the statement into English:

$$\forall x ( C(x) \vee \exists y (C(y) \wedge F(x,y)) )$$

$C(x)$  is “has a computer”

$F(x,y)$  is “x and y are friends”

Universe of discourse: All students of Curtin.

Every student in Curtin has a computer  
or has a friend who has a computer.

# Example

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Translate the statement into English:

$$\exists x \forall y \forall z (((F(x,y) \wedge F(x,z) \wedge y \neq z)) \rightarrow \neg F(y,z))$$

$F(x,y)$  is “x and y are friends”

Universe of discourse: All students.

There is a student none of whose friends are also friends with each other.

# Example

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Translate the English sentence :

“Everybody has exactly one best friend”

Let  $B(x,y)$  denote the statement “x and y are best friends”

Let the universe of discourse be the set of all people.

$\forall x \exists y B(x,y)$  is “everybody has a best friend”.

$$\forall x \exists y \forall z (B(x,y) \wedge ((z \neq y) \rightarrow \neg B(x,z)))$$

# Summary: $\forall$ and $\exists$ for $x,y$

Statement	When True?	When False?
$\forall x \forall y P(x,y)$ $\forall y \forall x P(x,y)$	$P(x,y)$ is true for every pair $x,y$ .	There is a pair $x,y$ for which $P(x,y)$ is false.
$\forall x \exists y P(x,y)$	For every $x$ there is a $y$ for which $P(x,y)$ is true.	There is an $x$ such that $P(x,y)$ is false for every $y$ .
$\exists x \forall y P(x,y)$	There is an $x$ such that $P(x,y)$ is true for every $y$ .	For every $x$ there is a $y$ for which $P(x,y)$ is false.
$\exists x \exists y P(x,y)$ $\exists y \exists x P(x,y)$	There is a pair $x,y$ for which $P(x,y)$ is true.	$P(x,y)$ is false for every pair $x,y$ .

# Order

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- Quantifiers of the same sort can be placed in any order without changing meaning:

$$\forall x, \forall y[x \text{ is mother of } y \rightarrow x \text{ is a parent of } y] \\ \equiv \forall y, \forall x[x \text{ is mother of } y \rightarrow x \text{ is a parent of } y]$$



# Order

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- Quantifiers of different sorts, if placed in different order change the meaning of the sentence

$\forall x \in \text{people} \exists \text{ a person } y \text{ s.t. } [y \text{ is the mother of } x]$   
 $\equiv$  “everyone has a mother”

$\exists \text{ a person } y \text{ s.t. } \forall x \in \text{people} [y \text{ is the mother of } x]$   
 $\equiv$  “someone is everyone's mother”

# Truth Value\*

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- $\forall x \exists y [P(x) \rightarrow Q(x,y)]$  is true **iff**  
 $\exists y [P(x) \rightarrow Q(x,y)]$  is true for each possible value of  $x$   
 $\exists y [P(x) \rightarrow Q(x,y)]$  is true **iff** for any ( $\geq 1$ ) value of  $y$ ,  $P(x) \rightarrow Q(x,y)$  is true.

E.g.  $\forall x \in R \exists y \in R \text{ s.t. } (x \geq 0 \rightarrow y = \sqrt{x})$  is true

$\therefore$  For any  $x \in R$ :

when  $x \geq 0$ :  $\exists y \in R [x \geq 0 \rightarrow y = \sqrt{x}]$  is true

\*when  $x < 0$ :  $\exists y \in R [x \geq 0 \rightarrow y = \sqrt{x}]$  is vacuously true

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# Truth Value

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- $\exists x \forall y [P(x) \rightarrow Q(x,y)]$  is true **iff**  
 $\forall y [P(x) \rightarrow Q(x,y)]$  is true for any value ( $\geq 1$ )  
of  $x$ .  
 $\forall y [P(x) \rightarrow Q(x,y)]$  is true **iff**  
for all value of  $y$ ,  $P(x) \rightarrow Q(x,y)$  is true.

# Truth Value: An Example

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E.g. Given choices on 4 tables:

salads : { green salad, fruit salad };

main course: { spaghetti, fish };

dessert : { pie, cake };

beverage: { milk, soda, coffee }

Guests' choices:

**Joko:** green salad, spaghetti, pie, milk

**Sidek:** fruit salad, fish, pie, cake, milk, coffee

**Zhao:** spaghetti, fish, pie, soda

# Truth Value: An Example (con.)

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$\exists$  a guests  $g$  s.t.  $\forall$  table  $t$ ,  $\exists$  an item  $i$  on  $t$   
s.t.  $g$  chose  $i$

$\equiv$  “ $\geq 1$  guest who chose  $\geq 1$  item from every table”:

**true; Joko and Sidek**

$\forall$  guests  $g$  and  $\forall$  table  $t$ ,  $\exists$  an item  $i$  on  $t$   
s.t.  $g$  chose  $i$

$\equiv$  “every guest chose  $\geq 1$  item from every table”;

**false; Zhao did not**

# Truth Value: A Example (con.)

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$\exists$  an item  $i$  s.t.  $\forall$  guests  $g$ ,  $g$  chose  $i$

$\equiv$  “there is at least 1 item that’s chosen by all guests”;

true; e.g. pie

$\exists$  a guests  $g$  s.t.  $\forall$  item  $i$ ,  $g$  chose  $i$

$\equiv$  “there is a guest who chose every available item”

false, none

# Negation of multiple quantifiers

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**Z: Prime Numbers**

$$\neg(\forall x \in Z, \exists y \in Z [(x/y) \in Z \wedge y \neq 1 \wedge y \neq x]) \equiv ?$$

$$\equiv \exists x \in Z, \text{ s.t. } \neg(\exists y \in Z [(x/y) \in Z \wedge y \neq 1 \wedge y \neq x])$$

$$\equiv \exists x \in Z, \text{ s.t. } \forall y \in Z \{ \neg[(x/y) \in Z \wedge y \neq 1 \wedge y \neq x] \}$$

$$\equiv \exists x \in Z, \text{ s.t. } \forall y \in Z [(x/y) \notin Z \vee y = 1 \vee y = x]$$

# Negation of multiple quantifiers

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In general, negation is:

$$\neg (\forall x \exists y \text{ s.t. } [P(x,y)]) \equiv \exists x \text{ s.t. } \forall y [\neg P(x,y)]$$

$$\neg (\exists x \text{ s.t. } \forall y [P(x,y)]) \equiv \forall x \exists y \text{ s.t. } [\neg P(x,y)]$$

E.g.  $\neg (\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}, \exists k \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ s.t. } [n=2k])$

Not all integers are even

$$\equiv \exists n \in \mathbb{Z}, \text{ s.t. } \forall k \in \mathbb{Z} [n \neq 2k]$$

There is at least one non-even integer



# Negation of multiple quantifiers

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E.g.  $\neg(\exists \text{ person } x \text{ s.t. } \forall \text{ people } y [x \text{ loves } y])$

Negate “someone loves everyone”

$\equiv \forall \text{ people } x \exists \text{ person } y \text{ s.t. } [x \text{ does not loves } y]$

Nobody loves everybody

**Note: negation of  $\forall$  and  $\exists$ : generalized DeMorgans's theorem**

# Other Extension

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- **Consider**  $\forall x \in D [P(x) \rightarrow Q(x)]$ 
  - **Contrapositive:**  $\forall x \in D [\neg Q(x) \rightarrow \neg P(x)]$   
 $\equiv \forall x \in D [P(x) \rightarrow Q(x)]$
  - **Converse:**  $\forall x \in D [Q(x) \rightarrow P(x)]$   
 ~~$\equiv \forall x \in D [P(x) \rightarrow Q(x)]$~~
  - **Inverse:**  $\forall x \in D [\neg P(x) \rightarrow \neg Q(x)]$   
 ~~$\equiv \forall x \in D [P(x) \rightarrow Q(x)]$~~

# Other Extension

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- $\forall x, R(x)$  is a **sufficient condition** for  $S(x)$   
 $\equiv \forall x [ R(x) \rightarrow S(x) ]$
- $\forall x, R(x)$  is a **necessary condition** for  $S(x)$   
 $\equiv \forall x [\neg R(x) \rightarrow \neg S(x)] \equiv \forall x [S(x) \rightarrow R(x)]$
- $\forall x, R(x)$  **only if**  $S(x)$   
 $\equiv \forall x [\neg S(x) \rightarrow \neg R(x)] \equiv \forall x [ R(x) \rightarrow S(x) ]$

# English — Predicate Logic Translation

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With the knowledge you have learnt, you will now be able to translate English sentences to logical expressions.

This will :

- Eliminate ambiguity.
- Enable reasoning.

# English — Predicate Logic Translation

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- “All tourists need visas to come into Australia”  
 $\equiv \forall x \in \text{tourists of Australia}$   
     $[x \text{ needs a visa to come into Australia}]$   
 $\equiv \forall x \in \text{tourists of Australia} [\textit{NeedVisa}(x)]$   
 $\equiv \forall x \in \text{people} [\textit{AustraliaTourist}(x) \rightarrow \textit{NeedVisa}(x)]$
  - “Some tourists need visas to come into Australia”  
 $\equiv \exists x \in \text{tourists of Australia s.t.}$   
     $[x \text{ needs a visa to come into Australia}]$   
 $\equiv \exists x \in \text{people} [\textit{AustraliaTourist}(x) \wedge \textit{NeedVisa}(x)]$
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# English — Predicate Logic Translation

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- “Mary likes everyone who likes cats”

$\equiv \forall x \in \text{people who likes cats} [ \text{Mary likes } x ]$

$\equiv \forall x \in \text{people} [ \text{Likes}(x, \text{cat}) \rightarrow \text{Likes}(\text{Mary}, x) ]$

Various predicate symbols must be appropriately pre-defined, Such as  
*Likes* (*x*, *y*)  $\equiv$  *x* likes *y*.

The pre-definition is omitted for many examples here.

# English — Predicate Logic Translation

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- “A program is correct if it terminates for all suitable inputs and delivers an output which is always in the required relation  $S$  to the input”

$\equiv \forall p \in \text{programs}$

$\forall i \in \text{suitable input } [p \text{ terminates} \wedge (p$   
 $\text{delivers an output } o \text{ s.t. } S(i,o) )]$

$\rightarrow p \text{ is correct } ]$

# English — Predicate Logic Translation

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$\equiv \forall p \in \text{programs}$   
 $[\forall i \in \text{suitable input } \{ \textit{Terminates}(p, i)$   
 $\wedge (\exists \text{output } o \text{ s.t. } [\textit{Delivers}(p, o) \wedge S(i, o)]) \}$   
 $\rightarrow \textit{Correct}(p) ]$

$\equiv \forall p \in \text{programs}$   
 $[\forall i \{ \textit{SuitableInput}(i) \rightarrow$   
 $\textit{Terminates}(p, i) \wedge (\exists \text{output } o \text{ s.t.}$   
 $[\textit{Delivers}(p, o) \wedge S(i, o) ] ) \} \rightarrow \textit{Correct}(p) ]$



# English — Predicate Logic Translation

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- “An integer  $x$  is smaller than an integer  $y$  if ( $x+1=y$ ) or  $x$  is smaller than a third integer  $z$  and  $z$  is smaller than  $y$ ”

$$\equiv \forall x \in \mathbb{Z} \forall y \in \mathbb{Z} [(x+1=y) \vee \exists z \in \mathbb{Z} [Smaller(x,z) \wedge Smaller(z,y)] \rightarrow Smaller(x,y)]$$

A recursive relationship and the expression itself define the predicate  $Smaller(x,y)$

# English — Predicate Logic Translation

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- “A positive integer  $x$  is a multiple of 5 if  $x=5$  or  $(x-5=y)$  and  $y$  is a multiple of 5”

$$\equiv \forall x \in \mathbb{Z}^+ \{ (x=5) \vee \exists y[(x-5=y) \wedge \textit{Multiple}(y,5)] \rightarrow \textit{Multiple}(x,5) \}$$

# English — Predicate Logic Translation

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- It is reasonably easy to recognize a correctly formed sentence in predicate logic. It is a little harder to translate such a sentence into English given the informal meaning of  $\forall$  and  $\exists$ .
- It is even harder to translate English into predicate logic. Some useful rules of thumb are provided here to aid the process of translation.

# Some useful rules

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- **Get the structure correct, as regards the use of quantifiers and Boolean connectives; the latter include, "only-if", "sufficient/necessary condition for", "unless", "if and only if" etc.**

# Some useful rules

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- If the sentence has a universal quantifier governing some part(s) of it, it is quite likely that the variable needs qualifying; if so, it is done by an implication.

E.g.

$\forall x \in \text{people} [\text{AustraliaTourist}(x) \rightarrow \text{NeedVisa}(x)]$

$\forall x \in \text{people} [\text{Likes}(x, \text{cat}) \rightarrow \text{Likes}(\text{Mary}, x)]$

# Some useful rules

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- If a sentence is existentially quantified, then there is likely to be a conjunction to link the main part with the qualifying part.

E.g.

$\exists x \in \text{people} [AustraliaTourist(x) \wedge NeedVisa(x)]$

Some CS students like FCS152

$\equiv \exists x \in \text{students} [CS(x) \wedge Likes(x, FCS152)]$

# Summary

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- Definition of Predicates
- Universal Quantifiers
- Existential Quantifiers
- Translation to logical forms
- Negation of Quantifiers
- Order of multiple quantifiers
- Truth Value

# Summary (cont.)

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- Negation of multiple quantifiers
- English-predicate logic translation