MATH 8
ASSIGNMENT 10: QUANTIFIERS

NOV 23, 2025

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Existential quantifier

To write statements of the form *"There exists an x such that ..."*, we use the existential quantifier $\exists$. For example, let $P(x)$ be some statement depending on x, and B be the statement

$$\exists x \in A : P(x)$$

Here A is some set of values of x. We say that statement B is true if one can *select a value from A which makes the statement $P(x)$ true.*

Note that following the quantifier, you must have a *statement*, i.e. something that can be true or false. Usually it is some equality or inequality. Writing $\exists x \in \mathbb{R} : x^2 + 1$ makes no sense.

Example: $\exists x \in \mathbb{R} : x^2 = 4$.

Indeed, $x = 2$ is a value for which the statement is true ; so is $x = -2$, but you only need one!

Universal quantifier

To write statements of the form *"For all values of x we have..."*, use the universal quantifier $\forall$. For example, consider the statement C

$$\forall x \in A : P(x)$$

where, as before, $P(x)$ is some statement involving x, and A is a set of possible values of variable x. We say that C is true if *for all values of x in A, the statement $P(x)$ is true.*

Example: $\forall x \in \mathbb{R} : x^2 \geq 0$.

Indeed, a square of any real number cannot be negative. However, there are so-called complex numbers for which it is not true!

Logic proofs involving quantifiers

To prove a statement $\exists x \in A : P(x)$, it suffices to give one example of x for which the statement $P(x)$ is true. It is sufficient to verify that the statement is true *just for that value x*, but it is not necessary to explain how you found this value, nor is it necessary to find how many such values there are.

Example: to prove $\exists x \in \mathbb{R} : x^2 = 9$, take $x = 3$; then $x^2 = 9$.

To prove a statement $\forall x \in A : Q(x)$, you need to give an argument which shows that *for any $x \in A$*, the statement $Q(x)$ is true. *Considering one, two, or one thousand examples is not enough!!!*

Example: to prove $\forall x \in \mathbb{R} : x^2 + 2x + 4 > 0$, we could argue as follows. Let x be an arbitrary real number. Then $x^2 + 2x + 4 = (x + 1)^2 + 3$. Since a square of a real number is always non-negative, $(x + 1)^2 \geq 0$, so $x^2 + 2x + 4 = (x + 1)^2 + 3 \geq 0 + 3 > 0$.

Note that this argument works for any x; it uses no special properties of x except that x is a real number.

De Morgan laws for quantifiers

(Assuming that A is a nonempty set).

$$\neg\Big(\forall x \in A : P(x)\Big) \iff \Big(\exists x \in A : \neg P(x)\Big)$$

$$\neg\Big(\exists x \in A : P(x)\Big) \iff \Big(\forall x \in A : \neg P(x)\Big)$$

For example, negation of the statement "All flowers are white" is "There exists a flower which is not white", or in more human language, "Some flowers are not white".

Homework

1. Write the following statements using quantifiers: (You can use letter B for the set of all birds, and notation $F(x)$ for statement "x can fly" and $L(x)$ for "x is large".)

(a) All birds can fly
(b) Not all birds can fly
(c) Some birds can fly
(d) All large birds can fly
(e) Only large birds can fly
(f) No large bird can fly

2. Here is another one of Lewis Carroll's puzzles. As before, (a) write the obvious conclusion from given statements; and (b) justify the conclusion, by writing a chain of arguments which leads to it.

- No one subscribes to the *Times*, unless he is well educated.
- No hedgehogs can read.
- Those who cannot read are not well educated.

It may be helpful to write each of these as a statement about some particular being X, e.g. "If X is a hedgehog, then X can't read."

3. Write the following statements using logic operations and quantifiers:
(a) All mathematicians love music
(b) Some mathematicians don't like music
(c) No one but a mathematician likes music
(d) No one would go to John's party unless he loves music or is a mathematician

Please use the following notation:
P – set of all people
$M(x)$ — x is a mathematician
$L(x)$ — x loves music
$J(x)$ — x goes to John's party

4. Write each of the following statements using only quantifiers, arithmetic operations, equalities and inequalities. In all problems, letters x, y, z stand for a variables that takes real values, and letters $m, n, k, \dots$ stand for variables that take integer values.

(a) Equation $x^2 + x - 1$ has a solution
(b) Inequality $y^3 + 3y + 1 < 0$ has a solution
(c) Inequality $y^3 + 3y + 1 < 0$ has a positive real solution
(d) Number 100 is even.
(e) Number 100 is odd
(f) For any integer number, if it is even, then its square is also even.

5. Prove that for any integer number n, the number $n(n+1)(2n+1)$ is divisible by 3. Is it true that such a number must also be divisible by 6?
You can use without proof the fact that any integer can be written in one of the forms $n = 3k$ or $n = 3k + 1$ or $n = 3k + 2$, for some integer k.

6. You are given the following statements:

$$A \wedge B \implies C$$
$$B \vee D$$
$$C \vee \neg D$$

Using this, prove $A \implies C$.

7. A function $f(x)$ is called *monotonic* if $(x_1 < x_2) \implies (f(x_1) < f(x_2))$. Prove that a monotonic function can't have more than one root. *[Hint: use assume that it has two distinct roots and derive a contradiction.]*

8. Can you find a statement $P(x, y)$ about real numbers x, y such that

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{R} : (\exists y \in \mathbb{R} : P(x, y))$$

is true, but

$$\exists y \in \mathbb{R} : (\forall x \in \mathbb{R} : P(x, y))$$

is false?