

Section 1.3, selected answers
Math 114 Discrete Mathematics
D Joyce, Spring 2018

2. Let $P(x)$ be the statement “the word x contains the letter a .” What are the truth values?

a. $P(\text{orange})$. That’s the statement “the word orange contains the letter a .” A logician might quibble that orange is not a word but a fruit, so the statement is false; the logician would say ‘orange’ is the word. Let’s not worry about that. Since the word ‘orange’ has an ‘a’ as its third letter, the statement is true.

Parts **b** and **c** are false since the words ‘lemon’ and ‘true’ don’t have ‘a’s in them, but **d** is true since the word ‘false’ does have an ‘a’.

6. Let $N(X)$ be “ x has visited North Dakota,” where the domain includes all the students in your school. Express these quantifications in English.

a. $\exists x N(x)$. Someone in the school has visited North Dakota.

b. $\forall x N(x)$. Everyone in the school has visited North Dakota.

c. $\neg \exists x N(x)$. No one in the school has visited North Dakota.

d. $\exists x \neg N(x)$. There is someone in the school who hasn’t visited North Dakota.

e. $\neg \forall x N(x)$. Not everyone in the school has visited north Dakota. (Note that this is logically equivalent to **d** but it’s expressed differently.)

f. $\forall x \neg N(x)$. Everyone in the school has not visited North Dakota. (Note that this is logically equivalent to **c** but it’s expressed differently.)

10. Let $C(x)$ be the statement “ x has a cat,” let $D(x)$ be the statement “ x has a dog,” let $F(x)$ be the statement “ x has a ferret.” Let the domain consist of all students in your class. Express the following statements in terms of C, D, F , quantifiers, and logical connectives.

Let’s write Cx rather than $C(x)$ so that we don’t have as many parentheses.

a. A student in your class has a cat, a dog, and a ferret. $\exists x (Cx \wedge Dx \wedge Fx)$.

b. All students in your class have a cat, a dog, and a ferret. $\forall x (Cx \wedge Dx \wedge Fx)$.

c. Some student in your class has a cat and a ferret, but not a dog. $\exists x (Cx \wedge Fx \wedge \neg Dx)$.

d. No student in your class has a cat, a dog, and a ferret. $\neg \exists x (Cx \wedge Dx \wedge Fx)$.

e. For each of the three animals, cats, dogs, and ferrets, there is a student in your class who has one of these animals as a pet. One expression that works is $\exists x Cx \wedge \exists y Dy \wedge \exists z Fz$. When you write it that way, it’s easy to see that there can be three different pet owners in the class. But usually you’ll see

$\exists x Cx \wedge \exists x Dx \wedge \exists x Fx$. The three x s can refer to different people.

15. Determine the truth value. The universe of discourse is the set of integers. Think of these as questions.

a. $\forall n (n^2 \geq 0)$. Is the square of any integer greater or equal to 0? Yes. No square is negative.

b. $\exists n (n^2 = 2)$. Is there an integer whose square is 2? No. The solutions $n = \pm\sqrt{2}$ are not integers.

c. $\forall n (n^2 \geq n)$. Is the square of every integer greater than or equal to the integer itself? It is if the number is an integer.

d. $\exists n (n^2 < 0)$. Is there any integer whose square is negative? No. See part a above.

16. Determine the truth value. The universe of discourse is the set of real numbers. Think of these as questions.

a. $\exists x (x^2 = 2)$. Is there a number whose square is 2? Yes, in fact, two of them $\pm\sqrt{2}$.

b. $\exists x (x^2 = -1)$. Are there real numbers whose square is -1 ? No, only complex ones, $\pm i$.

c. $\forall x (x^2 + 2 \geq 1)$. If you take any number x , square it, and add 2, do you get a number that is at least 1? Yes, since after you square it, it’s at least 0, so adding 2 makes it at least 2, which is bigger than 1.

d. $\forall x (x^2 \neq x)$. Can you ever square a number and get that very number? Yes, that happens when you start with either 0 or 1. So the statement $\forall x (x^2 \neq x)$ is false.

36. Find a counterexample, if possible, to these universally quantified statements, where the universe of discourse is the set of all real numbers.

a. $\forall x (x^2 \neq x)$. Are there any real numbers whose squares are equal to themselves? Yes, both 0 and 1. So there are counterexamples to this statement.

b. $\forall x (x^2 \neq 2)$. Counterexamples are $\pm\sqrt{2}$.

c. $\forall x (|x| > 0)$. Is the absolute value of every real number a positive number? Almost every real number, but 0^2 is not positive. So a counterexample for part c is $x = 0$.

52. If the universe of discourse is the set of integers, which of the following are true?

a. $\exists! x (x > 1)$. False. There’s more than one integer larger than 1.

b. $\exists! x (x^2 = 1)$. False. There are two square roots of 1, namely +1 and -1 .

c. $\exists! x (x + 3 = 2x)$. True. The unique solution is $x = 3$.

d. $\exists! x (x = x + 1)$. False. There are no solutions to this equation.

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