

■ Johnny is at least 5 inches taller than Debbie.

Q: What universes of discourse are involved?

A: Again, many correct answers. The most obvious answers are:

■ For “Johnny is taller than Debbie” the universe of discourse of **both** variables is all people in the universe

■ For “17 is greater than one of 12, 45” the universe of discourse of all three variables is **Z** (the set of integers)

■ For “Johnny is at least 5 inches taller than Debbie” the first and last variable have people as their universe of discourse, while the second variable has **R** (the set of real numbers).

Multivariable Propositional Functions

The multivariable predicates, together with their variables create **multivariable propositional functions**. In the above examples, we have the following generalizations:

■ x is taller than y

■ a is greater than one of b, c

■ x is at least n inches taller than y

Quantifiers

There are two quantifiers

◆ Existential Quantifier

“ $\exists$ ” reads “there exists”

Existential quantifiers synonyms:

“some x ”; “there is an x ”; “there is at least x ”; “for some x ”

◆ Universal Quantifier

“ $\forall$ ” reads “for all”

Universal quantifiers synonyms:

“for every x ”; “all of x ”; “for each x ”; “given any x ”; “for arbitrary x ”

Each is placed in front of a propositional function and **binds** it to obtain a proposition with semantic value.

Existential Quantifier

■ “ $\exists x P(x)$ ” is true when *an* instance can be found which when plugged in for x makes $P(x)$ true

■ Like disjunction over entire universe $\exists x P(x) \Leftrightarrow P(x_1) \vee P(x_2) \vee P(x_3) \vee \dots$

Existential Quantifier. Example

Consider a universe consisting of

◆ Leo: a lion

◆ Jan: an octopus with all 8 tentacles

◆ Bill: an octopus with only 7 tentacles

And recall the propositional functions

■ $P(x)$ = “ x is an octopus”

■ $Q(x)$ = “ x has 8 limbs”

$\exists x (P(x) \rightarrow Q(x))$

Q: Is the proposition true or false?

A: True. Proposition is equivalent to

$(P(\text{Leo}) \rightarrow Q(\text{Leo})) \vee (P(\text{Jan}) \rightarrow Q(\text{Jan})) \vee (P(\text{Bill}) \rightarrow Q(\text{Bill}))$

$P(\text{Leo})$ is false because Leo is a Lion, not an octopus, therefore the conditional

$P(\text{Leo}) \rightarrow Q(\text{Leo})$ is true, and the disjunction is true.

Leo is called a *positive example*.

The Universal Quantifier

■ “ $\forall x P(x)$ ” true when *every* instance of x makes $P(x)$ true when plugged in

■ Like conjunction over entire universe $\forall x P(x) \Leftrightarrow P(x_1) \wedge P(x_2) \wedge P(x_3) \wedge \dots$

Example: Consider the same universe and propositional functions as before.

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

Q: Is the proposition true or false?

A: False. The proposition is equivalent to

$(P(\text{Leo}) \rightarrow Q(\text{Leo})) \wedge (P(\text{Jan}) \rightarrow Q(\text{Jan})) \wedge (P(\text{Bill}) \rightarrow Q(\text{Bill}))$

Bill is the **counter-example**, i.e. a value making an instance –and therefore the whole universal quantification– false.

$P(\text{Bill})$ is true because Bill is an octopus, while $Q(\text{Bill})$ is false because Bill only has 7 tentacles, not 8. Thus the conditional $P(\text{Bill}) \rightarrow Q(\text{Bill})$ is false since $T \rightarrow F$ gives F , and the conjunction is false.

Illegal Quantifications