

Quick Review of Sets, Functions, Quantifiers, and Logic

Andrew L. Mackey
Department of Computer Science and Engineering
University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
Fort Smith, Arkansas

Sets

A **set** is an unordered collection of objects. Let X represent a set of numbers.

$$X = \{1, 2, 3, 5, 8\}$$

Each element in a set is assumed to be distinct. The number of distinct elements in a set is called the **cardinality** of the set, denoted as $|X|$. For example, the the cardinality of X is $|X| = 5$. If you have repeated elements in a set, each element is counted only once. For example, consider the following and observe how duplicate elements do not change the set:

$$X = \{1, 2, 3, 5, 8\} = \{1, 1, 1, 2, 2, 2, 3, 5, 5, 8\}$$
$$|X| = |\{1, 2, 3, 5, 8\}| = |\{1, 1, 1, 2, 2, 2, 3, 5, 5, 8\}| = 5$$

Sets can be *finite*, containing a fixed number of elements, or *infinite*. The following are useful sets to know:

Symbol	Set	Example Members
\mathbb{N}	Natural Numbers	1, 2, 3, 4, \dots
\mathbb{Z}	Integers	$\dots, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, \dots$
\mathbb{R}	Real Numbers	-2.92, 0.731, 1, π

Set-builder Notation

Set-builder notation is a mathematical notation that we often use to describe a set. We enumerate each of the elements or state the exact properties members in the set must utilize. For example, consider the following:

$$Y = \{x \mid x \text{ is natural number between 5 and 10, inclusively} \}$$

This implies that $Y = \{5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10\}$. Suppose that we wanted to create a new set Z that includes all even elements of Y :

$$Z = \{x \mid x \in Y \text{ and } x \bmod 2 = 0\}$$

The notation $x \in Y$ represents a locally-scoped variable x for a member that is in the set Y ($x = 5$, $x = 6$, $x = 7$, ...). This would be similar to x in the for-each loop syntax `for (int x : A)`.

Functions

Let function f be defined with the sets X and Y , where X is the set corresponding to the domain and Y is the set corresponding to the codomain:

$$f : X \rightarrow Y$$

The codomain is the set of possible values that a function f may output. The actual values that a set outputs is referred to as the range. For example, consider the function g as defined below:

$$g : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \quad \text{such that} \quad g(n) = -1$$

This states the function g accepts a parameter from the domain of natural numbers and outputs a result from the codomain of integers. We can see that $g(0) = -1$ for $n = 0$, $g(1) = -1$ for $n = 1$, and $g(1000) = -1$ for $n = 1000$. Since the function only outputs -1 , the set representing the range is $range = \{-1\}$. It is important to observe that $range \subseteq codomain$.

A function f is **injective** (or **one-to-one**) if there exists exactly one $x \in X$ such that $f(x) = y$ where $y \in Y$. If $f(x_1) = y$ and $f(x_2) = y$ for some $x_1, x_2 \in X$, then the function f would not be injective. This simply means that we can only have a single domain value that maps to a value in the range.

A function f is **surjective** (or **onto**) if for every value $y \in Y$, where Y is the set representing the codomain of the function, there exists $x \in X$, where X is the set representing the domain, such that $f(x) = y$. Another way to view this is a function f is surjective when the range is equal to the codomain of the function.

A function f is **bijective** (or **correspondence**) when a function is both *injective* (*one-to-one*) and *surjective* (*onto*). Each element of X is paired with exactly one element from Y . Similarly,

each element from Y is paired with exactly one element from X . There exists no unpaired elements.

A function f that is bijective from set X to set Y , then $\{(y, x) \mid (x, y) \in f\}$ is an *injective* (*one-to-one*) and *surjective* (*onto*) function from Y to X representing the **inverse function** f^{-1} . Thus, every bijective function will have an inverse function.

$$f(x) = y \qquad f^{-1}(y) = x$$

Consider the following properties for the bijective function $f : X \rightarrow Y$:

1. Each element of set X is paired with exactly one element of set Y .
2. Each element of set Y must be paired with at least one element of set X (“onto Y ”).
3. No element of set Y may be paired with more than one element of set X (“one-to-one”).

Conditional Propositions

Propositions

A statement with a Boolean outcome (true or false) is a **proposition**. These statements are either *true* or *false*. For example, consider the following statements:

$$\begin{aligned} p &= \text{The course number for Data Structures is 2003} \\ q &= \text{UAFS is located in Fort Smith, Arkansas} \\ r &= x \geq 10 \text{ when } x = 35 \end{aligned}$$

The **conjunction** of two propositions p and q is the proposition:

$$p \wedge q \quad \equiv \quad p \text{ and } q$$

The **disjunction** of two propositions p and q is the proposition:

$$p \vee q \quad \equiv \quad p \text{ or } q$$

Let r be some new proposition such that $r = p \wedge q$. Since r is also a proposition, it will represent a result of either *true* or *false*. For example, if $r = p \wedge q$ and $s = p \vee q$, then we can define t by combining r and s as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} t &= r \wedge s \\ &= (p \wedge q) \wedge (p \vee q) \end{aligned}$$

Conditional

Let p and q be propositions. A **conditional proposition** is defined as

$$p \Rightarrow q$$

Converse

If $p \Rightarrow q$ is a conditional proposition, the **converse** of the proposition is defined as:

$$q \Rightarrow p$$

Contrapositive

If $p \Rightarrow q$ is a conditional proposition, the **contrapositive** (or transposition) of the proposition is defined as:

$$\neg q \Rightarrow \neg p$$

Biconditional

Let p and q be propositions. A **biconditional proposition** is defined as

$$p \iff q$$

It can also be read as *p if and only if q*, sometimes denoted as *p iff q*.

Quantifiers

Let S be some set. Let $P(x)$ be some *propositional function* regarding variable x , where some statement is made about x that is either true or false. Consider the following statement for $P(x)$:

$$P(x) : x \text{ is greater than } 3$$

The set S is the *domain of discourse* which specifies the allowable values of x in $P(x)$. For our example, we will let $S = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$. For each value in S , the statement $P(x)$ will return either true or false. For example, consider the following outcomes:

$$P(1) = \text{false} \quad P(2) = \text{false} \quad P(3) = \text{false} \quad P(4) = \text{true} \quad P(5) = \text{true}$$

Universal Quantifier

A universally quantified statement is a *statement* where every element in the set share some common characteristic. Let P be some propositional function with a domain of discourse S . The following statement is a universally quantified:

$$\text{for every } x, P(x) \quad \equiv \quad \forall x P(x)$$

The symbol \forall represent the universal quantifier. For our example, we will let our domain of discourse A be the set $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$. We will use the proposition function $P(x)$ that returns true or false for the statement x is greater than 3. Since a statement is either true or false, consider the following quantified statement and determine its outcome:

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

This statement should return false since there exists some x in A where $x \leq 3$. Another way to consider the statement $\forall x \in A, P(x)$ is to consider the following as a larger statement involving conjunction:

$$\bigwedge_{x \in A} P(x) = P(1) \wedge P(2) \wedge P(3) \wedge P(4) \wedge P(5)$$

Existential Quantifier

An existentially quantified statement is a *statement* where there exists at least one element in the set where some property holds. Let P be some propositional function with a domain of discourse S . The following statement is a existentially quantified:

$$\text{there exists } x, P(x) \quad \equiv \quad \exists x P(x)$$

The symbol \exists represent the universal quantifier. For our example, we will let our domain of discourse B be the set $B = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$. We will use the proposition function $P(x)$ that returns true or false for the statement x is greater than 3. Since a statement is either true or false, consider the following quantified statement and determine its outcome:

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

This statement should return true since there exists at least one x in B where $x \leq 3$. Another way to consider the statement $\exists x \in B, P(x)$ is to consider the following as a larger statement involving disjunction:

$$\bigvee_{x \in A} P(x) = P(1) \vee P(2) \vee P(3) \vee P(4) \vee P(5)$$

Propositional Logic

Propositions p and q are **logically equivalent** when the both p and q are either both true or both false.

Logical Equivalence

1. $p \Rightarrow q \quad \equiv \quad p \wedge \neg q$
2. $p \Leftrightarrow q \quad \equiv \quad (p \Rightarrow q) \wedge (q \Rightarrow p)$

De Morgan's Laws for Logic

1. $\neg(p \vee q) \iff \neg p \wedge \neg q$

2. $\neg(p \wedge q) \iff \neg p \vee \neg q$

3. $\neg(p \Rightarrow q) \iff p \wedge \neg q$

4. $\neg(\forall x P(x)) \iff \exists x \neg P(x)$

5. $\neg(\exists x P(x)) \iff \forall x \neg P(x)$