

Warm-Up: For each sentence, draw a number line and indicate all x -values making the sentence true.

(a) $(x > 2) \wedge (x^2 > 4)$

(b) $(x > 2) \vee (x^2 > 4)$

(c) $(x > 2) \Rightarrow (x^2 > 4)$

(d) $(x > 2) \Leftrightarrow (x^2 > 4)$

Quantifiers

The universal quantifier is \forall , which means "for all".

If $P(x)$ is a sentence involving the variable x , then $(\forall x) P(x)$ is the sentence

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

also read

"For each x , $P(x)$ "

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

"For any x , $P(x)$ "

The existential quantifier is \exists , which means "there exists".

$(\exists x) P(x)$ is the sentence

"there exists x such that $P(x)$ "

also read

"for at least one x , $P(x)$ "

"for some x , $P(x)$ "

Ex: Which statements are true?

① $(\exists x \in \mathbb{R}) (x + 4 = 9)$

True, $x=5$

② $(\exists x \in \mathbb{R}) [(x + 4 = 9) \wedge (x \neq 5)]$

False, $x + 4 = 9 \Rightarrow x = 9 - 4 = 5$

③ $(\forall x \in \mathbb{R}) (x + 4 = 9)$

False, try $x=0$ or...

$$(4) (\exists x \in \mathbb{R}) (x^2 + 6x + 8 \geq 0)$$

True, try $x=0$.

$$(5) (\forall x \in \mathbb{R}) (x^2 + 6x + 8 \geq 0)$$

Can guess and check, or complete the square:

$$\begin{aligned} x^2 + 6x + 8 &= x^2 + 6x + 9 - 1 \\ &= (x+3)^2 - 1 \end{aligned}$$

False, try $x = -3$

$$(6) (\forall x \in \mathbb{R}) (x^2 + 6x + 10 \geq 0)$$

True, since $x^2 + 6x + 10 = (x+3)^2 + 1 \geq 1 > 0$.

Observation:

- A single example proves a \exists statement
- A single counterexample disproves a \forall statement
- To prove a \forall statement or disprove a \exists statement, we need an argument that applies to all cases.