

Equivalence using quantifiers.

1.4 #43 : Are

$$\forall x(P(x) \rightarrow Q(x)) \text{ and } \forall xP(x) \rightarrow \forall xQ(x)$$

logically equivalent? Obviously not. Let  $P(x)$  stand for "x is German" and  $Q(x)$  stand for "x likes Sauerkraut" then

$$\forall x(P(x) \rightarrow Q(x)) \text{ stands for "all Germans like Sauerkraut"}$$

while

$$\forall xP(x) \rightarrow \forall xQ(x) \text{ stands for "if everybody is German then everybody likes Sauerkraut"}$$

The book gives as answer for this problem: Let  $P(x)$  be any propositional function that is sometimes true and sometimes false and let  $Q(x)$  be any propositional function that is always false. Then  $\forall x(P(x) \rightarrow Q(x))$  is false, namely where  $P(x)$  is true, but  $\forall xP(x) \rightarrow \forall xQ(x)$  is true, because  $\forall xP(x)$  is false.

To be concrete, let  $D = \{a, b\}$  and let  $a$  be German and  $b$  not German. Both don't like Sauerkraut. Then  $\forall x(P(x) \rightarrow Q(x))$  is false, at  $a$ , but  $\forall xP(x) \rightarrow \forall xQ(x)$  is true. In order to make  $\forall x(P(x) \rightarrow Q(x))$  false, we only need that  $Q(a)$  is false.

For a more mathematical example, we could chose  $D = \mathbb{N} =$  natural numbers,  $P(x) = x$  is prime,  $Q(x) = x < 0$ . Then  $\forall xP(x) \rightarrow \forall xQ(x)$  is true, because not every number  $x$  is prime, and  $\forall x(P(x) \rightarrow Q(x))$  is false, where  $x$  is prime.

If we have that  $P(x)$  is always true then  $\forall x(P(x) \rightarrow Q(x))$  is true in case that  $Q(x)$  is true for all  $x$ . Then  $\forall x(P(x) \rightarrow Q(x))$  and  $\forall xP(x) \rightarrow \forall xQ(x)$  are equivalent, namely to  $\forall xQ(x)$ . In our German example, being German would be equivalent to liking sauerkraut.

1.4 #45 states that  $\exists x(P(x) \vee Q(x))$  and  $\exists xP(x) \vee \exists xQ(x)$  are equivalent:  $\exists x(P(x) \vee Q(x))$  is true iff for some  $x = c$  we have that  $P(c)$  or  $Q(c)$  is true iff  $\exists xP(x)$  or  $\exists xQ(x)$  hold.

Are  $\exists x(P(x) \wedge Q(x))$  and  $\exists xP(x) \wedge \exists xQ(x)$  equivalent. Obviously not. Let  $D = \mathbb{N} =$  natural numbers and  $P(x) =$  "x is even",  $Q(x) =$  "x is odd". Then  $\exists xP(x) \wedge \exists xQ(x)$  is true but  $\exists x(P(x) \wedge Q(x))$  is never true.

Propositional equivalences can always be determined by setting up truth tables. A propositional function  $f(p_1, \dots, p_n)$  which is always true, like  $f(p) = p \vee \neg p$ , is called a tautology. Setting up a truth table for  $f(p_1, \dots, p_n)$  decides whether  $f(p_1, \dots, p_n)$  is a tautology or not. This is the only general method to decide whether a given propositional function is a tautology. If you already know that  $f(p_1, \dots, p_n)$  is a tautology then making  $f(p_1, \dots, p_n) = F$  may quickly yield a contradiction.