

Exercise 9 in *Natural Logic*, on p.186.

Prove, or construct a counterexample to, each of the following arguments:

$$\frac{\forall x \exists y Rxy \quad \exists y \forall z Ryz}{\forall x \forall z Rxz}$$

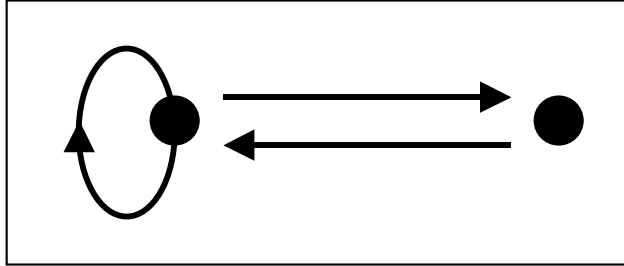
$$\frac{\forall x \neg Rxx \quad \forall x \forall y (Rxy \rightarrow \neg Ryx)}{\forall x \forall y \forall z ((Rxy \wedge Ryz) \rightarrow Rxz)}$$

$$\frac{\forall x \exists y Rxy \quad \forall x \exists y Sxy}{\forall x \exists y (Rxy \wedge Sxy)}$$

$$\frac{\forall x \forall y \forall z ((Rxy \wedge Ryz) \rightarrow Rxz) \quad \forall x \neg Rxx}{\forall x \forall y (Rxy \rightarrow \neg Ryx)}$$

$$\frac{\forall x \exists y Rxy \quad \exists y \forall z Ryz}{\forall x \forall z Rxz}$$

This argument is invalid. A *finite* counterexample is as follows:



A simple *infinite* counterexample can be obtained by interpreting Rxy as $x \leq y$ on all positive integers (including 0). We have

$\forall x \exists y Rxy$ is true,

since every integer is less than or equal to itself;

$\exists y \forall z Ryz$ is true,

since 0 is less than or equal to each positive integer;

but

$\forall x \forall z Rxz$ is false,

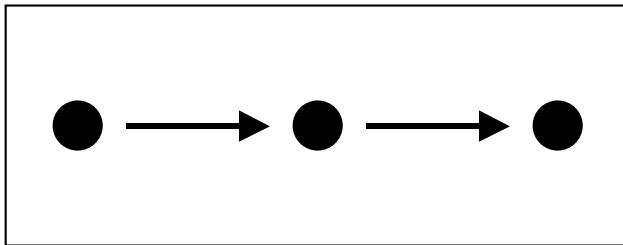
since (for example) it is false that $1 \leq 0$.

$$\frac{\forall x \neg Rxx \quad \forall x \forall y (Rxy \rightarrow \neg Ryx)}{\forall x \forall y \forall z ((Rxy \wedge Ryz) \rightarrow Rxz)}$$

The first premise follows logically from the second premise. So the problem reduces to that of assessing the validity of the argument

$$\frac{\forall x \forall y (Rxy \rightarrow \neg Ryx)}{\forall x \forall y \forall z ((Rxy \wedge Ryz) \rightarrow Rxz)}$$

The argument is invalid. A simple counterexample is

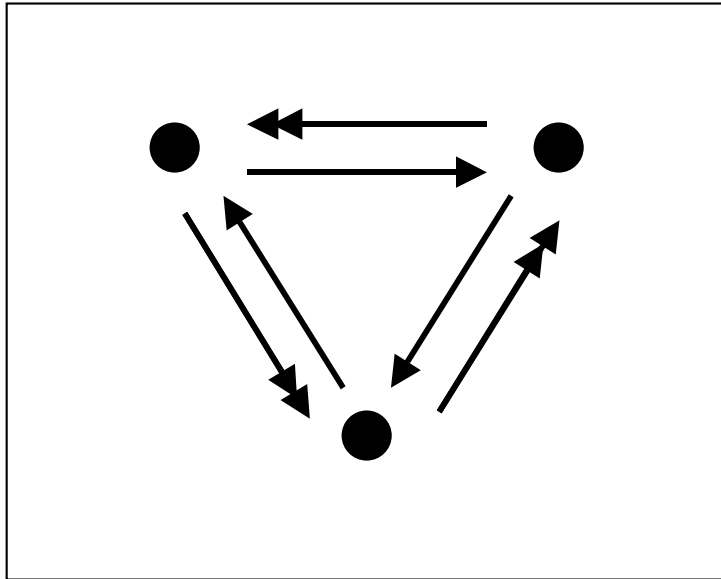


The premise $\forall x \forall y (Rxy \rightarrow \neg Ryx)$ is true, since the arrows are one-way.

The conclusion is falsified by taking the dots from left to right for x , y , z respectively.

$$\frac{\forall x \exists y Rxy \quad \forall x \exists y Sxy}{\forall x \exists y (Rxy \wedge Sxy)}$$

The argument is invalid. A simple counterexample is



with R and S interpreted by single- and double-headed arrows respectively.

$$\frac{\forall x \forall y \forall z ((Rxy \wedge Ryz) \rightarrow Rxz) \quad \forall x \neg Rxx}{\forall x \forall y (Rxy \rightarrow \neg Ryx)}$$

The argument is valid. Here is a proof:

$$\begin{array}{l} \frac{\forall x \forall y \forall z ((Rxy \wedge Ryz) \rightarrow Rxz)}{\forall y \forall z ((Ray \wedge Ryz) \rightarrow Raz)} \\ \frac{\forall z ((Rab \wedge Rbz) \rightarrow Raz)}{(Rab \wedge Rba) \rightarrow Raa} \\ \frac{Raa}{\perp} \quad (1) \\ \frac{\perp}{\neg Rba} \quad (2) \\ \frac{\neg Rba}{Rab \rightarrow \neg Rba} \\ \frac{Rab \rightarrow \neg Rba}{\forall y (Ray \rightarrow \neg Rya)} \\ \frac{\forall y (Ray \rightarrow \neg Rya)}{\forall x \forall y (Rxy \rightarrow \neg Ryx)} \end{array}$$