Quiz 3 - Math 374, Frank Thorne (thorne@math.sc.edu)

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(1) Use appropriate predicate symbols and quantifiers to write the following English statement as a predicate wff.

Action movies are better than dramas.

Let the domain be the set of all movies, and write A(x) for the predicate 'x is an action movie', D(x) for 'x is a drama', and B(x, y) for 'x is better than y'.

Then, the statement may be written in the form

$$\forall x \Big[A(x) \to (\forall y (D(y) \to B(x, y)) \Big].$$

Alternatively, it may be written in the form

$$\forall x \forall y \Big(A(x) \land D(y) \to B(x,y) \Big).$$

(2) Find an interpretation in which the following wff is true, and another one in which it is false.

$$\exists x [A(x) \land (\forall y) B(x, y)]$$

All sorts of examples are possible. One such:

• The domain is the set of positive integers; A(x) is the predicate 'x is odd', and B(x, y) is ' $x \leq y$. Then the statement is true. If A(x) instead stands for 'x is even', then the statement is false.