

Re: Question: Given $|X|>0$ and $|Y|>0$, can $X \times Y$ be empty?

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- *From:* george <greeneg@xxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 09 Aug 2007 08:29:13 -0700
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On Aug 8, 8:08 pm, G. Frege <nomail@invalid> wrote:

On Wed, 08 Aug 2007 23:54:28 -0000, Scott <ToaTe...@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

I told you 5 times already to STOP writing (Ex)(whatever)
and START
writing [what HE -george- prefers].

Franz, seriously, if you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem. The issue here is pedagogical. The student has revealed that he is prone to confusion. One of the first steps in attacking that is to decrease OPPORTUNITIES for confusion and one of the first paths to that is to reduce AMBIGUITY AND OVERLOADING. If the same symbol is interpretable in more than 1 way then it greatly increases the probability that the student will pick the wrong way. You will recall that when I asked Scott to interpret $\text{Ex}[\text{exists}(x)]$, he said it was the same as $(\text{Ex})(\text{Ex})(x)$. UNDER HIS NOTATION, THE (Ex) IN THE MIDDLE IS AMBIGUOUS, and the string as a whole doesn't even parse. It was ONLY because he was TRYING to go into a notation that IS FLAWED in that it OVERLOADS parentheses unreasonably, that that lesson went untaught. *I* am teaching here; this is MY class; you can be SUPPORTIVE or you can GET OUT.

[You see, the only CORRECT notation is the one HE uses, of course.] :-)

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That is NOT funny.

THERE OBVIOUSLY IS A GOOD REASON for preferring THIS notation in THIS context. EVERYbody who knows how this stuff works knows that ANY notation

whatsoever is "correct" as long as you USE it correctly and consistently!

I myself make that point every time anyone is fool enough to talk about "the language

of arithmetic" or to insist on an "interpreted theory" in a context where it is in fact

the LANGUAGE AND NOT the theory that is getting interpreted and where that interpretation

WAS IN FACT IRRELEVANT, since ANY interpretation that SATISFIED the theory would

do.

(Sometimes discussions with GG are rather cumbersome.)

And sometimes YOU are a complete jerk. What's new?

But $(\exists x)(\text{whatever})$ *is* correct notation.

Sure.

Wrong.

See: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quantification#Notation_for_quantifiers

That is DEscriptive, NOT PREscriptive, idiot.

The brute weight of usage may suffice to make something tolerable but it cannot make it reasonable.

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