

113 Let all variables range over the reals. Prove
 $n=m \iff \forall k (k \leq n \iff k \leq m)$

After trying the question, scroll down to the solution.

§ The easiest proof uses the Connection Law twice. Starting with the left side,

$$\begin{aligned}
& n=m && \text{generic antisymmetry} \\
= & n \leq m \wedge m \leq n && \text{Connection Law twice} \\
= & (\forall k \cdot k \leq n \Rightarrow k \leq m) \wedge (\forall k \cdot k \leq m \Rightarrow k \leq n) && \text{Splitting Law} \\
= & \forall k \cdot (k \leq n \Rightarrow k \leq m) \wedge (k \leq m \Rightarrow k \leq n) && \text{antisymmetry (double implication)} \\
= & \forall k \cdot (k \leq n) = (k \leq m)
\end{aligned}$$

Another proof, without the Connection Law, goes like this. Starting with the right side,

$$\begin{aligned}
& \forall k \cdot (k \leq n) = (k \leq m) && \text{idempotence} \\
= & (\forall k \cdot (k \leq n) = (k \leq m)) \wedge (\forall k \cdot (k \leq n) = (k \leq m)) && \text{specialize the left conjunct with } n \\
& \text{and specialize the right conjunct with } m \\
\Rightarrow & (n \leq n) = (n \leq m) \wedge (m \leq n) = (m \leq m) && \text{generic reflexive law twice} \\
= & \top = (n \leq m) \wedge (m \leq n) = \top && \text{identity law twice} \\
= & n \leq m \wedge m \leq n && \text{generic antisymmetry} \\
= & n = m
\end{aligned}$$

That proves $n = m \Leftarrow \forall k \cdot (k \leq n) = (k \leq m)$. Now we need the other direction.

$$\begin{aligned}
& n = m \Rightarrow \forall k \cdot (k \leq n) = (k \leq m) && \text{context} \\
= & n = m \Rightarrow \forall k \cdot (k \leq n) = (k \leq n) && \text{reflexive} \\
= & n = m \Rightarrow \forall k \cdot \top && \text{identity} \\
= & n = m \Rightarrow \top && \text{base} \\
= & \top
\end{aligned}$$

Now antisymmetry (double implication) gives us the desired result.