

# Automated reasoning for first-order logic Theory, Practice and Challenges

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Part I

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- ► Harald Ganzinger
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- ▶ Renate Schmidt
- ► Christoph Sticksel
- Andrei Voronkov
- ▶ ...

## Logic and Automated Reasoning

### Applications:

- software and hardware verification: Intel, Microsoft
- information management:
   biomedical ontologies, semantic
   Web. databases
- combinatorial reasoning:
   constraint satisfaction,
   planning, scheduling
- ▶ Internet security
- theorem proving in mathematics

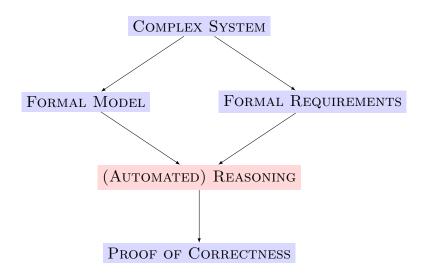


John McCarthy

"It is reasonable to hope that the relationship between computation and mathematical logic will be as fruitful in the next century as that between analysis and physics in the past."

McCarthy, 1963.

## Formalising Complex Systems



### Automated Reasoning

The complexity of current engineering systems is enormous:

▶ Intel Microprocessor: 2 billion transistors

Microsoft Windows: 50 million lines of code

### Complexity is rapidly growing!

Automated reasoning methods are crucial

In this lectures we will focus on efficient automated reasoning for first-order logic.

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In this lectures we will focus on efficient automated reasoning for first-order logic.

#### ► Theory:

- resolution, superposition, instantiation
- completeness, redundancy elimination, decision procedures

#### Applications

- software/hardware verification
- semantic Web, security, multi-agent systems, bio-health

#### ► Reasoning systems for FOL:

- Resolution/superposition-based:
   Vampire, E, SPASS, Prover9, Metis, Waldmeister
- iProver. Darwin. Equinox
- Tableaux, connection, geometric, natural deduction leanCoP, Princess, GEO, Muscadet
- ► CASC The World Championship for Automated Theorem Proving

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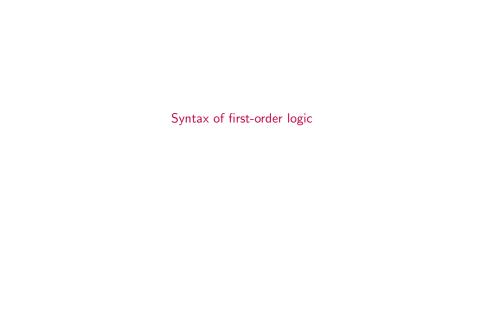
### These lectures

### Reasoning for first-Order logic

- ► First-order logic
- Resolution-based methods
- Instantiation-based methods
- ► Effectively propositional fragment (EPR)
- ► Applications: bounded model checking and finite model finding
- Implementation techniques: proof search, indexing, redundancy elimination

## Why first-order logic?

- expressive: quantifiers are needed in many applications
- expressivity comes at a price: first-order logic is semi-decidable
- reasoning can be done at a higher level and can gain in efficiency
- has efficient reasoning methods



$$\forall x \forall i \forall z \quad (same\_content(store(x, i, e), z) \rightarrow \\ [out\_of\_bounds(x, i) \lor \exists j(select(z, j) \simeq e)])$$

- ▶ Signature  $\Sigma = (\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{P})$ 
  - function symbols with arities: \( \mathcal{F} = \{ store/3, select/2 \} \)
    constants are function symbols of arity 0,
  - predicate symbols with arities:

$$\mathcal{P} = \{ extstyle{same\_content/2}, extstyle{out\_of\_bounds/2}, \simeq /2 \}$$

- ▶ Variables:  $\mathcal{X} = \{x, y, z, i, j, ...\}$  infinitely countable set
- ▶ Terms:
  - ▶ variable terms: x where  $x \in \mathcal{X}$
  - ▶ function terms:  $f(t_1, ..., t_n)$ , where  $f \in \mathcal{F}$  and  $t_i$  are terms
- A term is ground if it does not contain variables
- $ightharpoonup T(\Sigma, \mathcal{X})$  the set of all terms over signature  $\Sigma$  and variables  $\mathcal{X}$
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\forall x, i, z \quad (same\_content(store(x, i, e), z) \rightarrow \\ [out\_of\_bounds(x, i) \lor \exists j(select(z, j) \simeq e)])
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#### Formulas:

- ▶ atomic formulas:  $p(t_1, ..., t_n)$ , where p is a predicate symbol
- ▶ Boolean combinations:  $\neg F$ ,  $F_1 \land F_2$ ,  $F_1 \lor F_2$ ,  $F_1 \to F_2$ ,  $F_1 \leftrightarrow F_2$
- ▶ quantifier applications:  $\forall \bar{x} F(\bar{x}), \ \exists \bar{x} F(\bar{x})$

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$$F(y) = \forall x (p(x, y) \rightarrow \exists y q(y, x))$$

- A variable occurrence is **bound** if it is under the scope of a quantifier
- ▶ A variable occurrence is free if it is not bound
- A formula is closed, also called a sentence if it does not contain free variables

Note: the same variable can have both free and bound occurrences.

#### Rectified formula:

- no variable occur both free and bound
- a variable is quantified only once

Rectifying a formula: rename quantified variables

$$F'(y) = \forall x(p(x, y) \rightarrow \exists y_1 q(y_1, x))$$

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### Substitutions

A substitution: is a mapping  $\sigma: X \mapsto \mathcal{T}(\Sigma, X)$  such that  $\sigma(x) \neq x$  is finite.

### Example:

$$\sigma = \{x \mapsto a, y \mapsto f(x, g(z))\}\$$

where  $\sigma$  is assumed to be identity for all variables different from x, y. The domain of  $\sigma$ :

$$dom(\sigma) = \{x \mid x \in X, \sigma(x) \neq x\}$$

Notation:

$$\sigma = \{x_1 \mapsto t_1, \dots, x_n \mapsto t_n\}$$
  
$$\sigma = \{t_1/x_1, \dots, t_n/x_n\}$$

Application of a substitution to a term/formula: – simultaneous replacement of variables by terms.

$$(p(f(x,x),y) \vee q(g(y)))\sigma = p(f(a,a),f(x,g(z))) \vee q(g(f(x,g(z))))$$

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### First-order interpretation

Consider a signature  $\Sigma = (\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{P})$ .

A first-order  $\Sigma$ -structure is a triple:

$$\mathcal{A} = (A, \mathcal{F}^{\mathcal{A}}, \mathcal{P}^{\mathcal{A}})$$

#### where

- ▶  $\mathcal{F}^{\mathcal{A}}$  is a collection of functions  $\{f_{\mathcal{A}}: A^n \mapsto A \mid f/n \in \mathcal{F}\}$
- ▶  $\mathcal{P}^{\mathcal{A}}$  is a collection of relations  $\{p_{\mathcal{A}} \subseteq A^n \mid p/n \in \mathcal{P}\}$

Examples: Let  $\Sigma = (\{+/2, */2, 0\}, \{ \le /2 \})$ .

#### Σ-structures

- $\mathbb{N} = (N, \{+_{\mathbb{N}}, *_{\mathbb{N}}, 0_{\mathbb{N}}\}, \{\leq_{\mathbb{N}}\})$  natural numbers
- $ightharpoonup \mathbb{R} = (R, \{+_{\mathbb{R}}, *_{\mathbb{R}}, 0_{\mathbb{R}}\}, \{\leq_{\mathbb{R}}\})$  reals
- ▶  $\mathbb{L} = (\mathcal{P}(N), \{+_{\mathbb{L}}, *_{\mathbb{L}}, 0_{\mathbb{L}}\}, \{\leq_{\mathbb{L}}\})$  lattice over the power set of N where  $+_{\mathbb{L}}$  is union of sets,  $*_{\mathbb{L}}$  is intersection of sets,  $\leq_{\mathbb{L}}$  is subset relation.

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# Semantics of first-order logic

Consider a structure  $\mathcal{A} = (A, \mathcal{F}^{\mathcal{A}}, \mathcal{P}^{\mathcal{A}})$ .

A variable assignment:  $\gamma: \mathcal{X} \mapsto A$ 

An interpretation is a pair:  $\mathcal{I} = (\mathcal{A}, \gamma)$ 

For every therm t define value  $\mathcal{I}(t)$  of t under  $\mathcal{I}$  as follows:

- ▶  $\mathcal{I}(t) = \gamma(t)$  if t is a variable
- $\blacktriangleright \mathcal{I}(f(t_1,\ldots,t_n)) = f_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{I}(t_1),\ldots,\mathcal{I}(t_n))$

Note that  $\mathcal{I}(t) \in A$ .

Example: Consider  $\mathbb{N} = (N, \{+/2, */2\}, \{\le/2, \simeq/2\})$ ,

 $\gamma = \{x \mapsto 0, y \mapsto 1\}$  and  $\mathcal{I} = (\mathbb{N}, \gamma)$ . Then

►  $\mathcal{I}(x + (y + y) * (y + y)) = 4$ 

Notation:  $\gamma_X^a$  is a variable assignment coinciding with  $\gamma$  on all variables except x where it is equal to a.

A formula  $F(\bar{x})$  is true in an interpretation  $\mathcal{I} = (\mathcal{A}, \gamma)$ , denoted as  $\mathcal{I} \models F(\bar{x})$  if the following holds:

- ▶ atomic formulas:  $\mathcal{I} \models p(t_1, ..., t_n)$  iff  $(\mathcal{I}(t_1), ..., \mathcal{I}(t_n)) \in p^{\mathcal{A}}$ .
- Boolean combinations:
  - $ightharpoonup \mathcal{I} \models \neg F(\bar{x}) \text{ iff } \mathcal{I} \models F(\bar{x}) \text{ does not hold}$
  - $ightharpoonup \mathcal{I} \models F_1(\bar{x}) \land F_2(\bar{x}) ext{ iff } \mathcal{I} \models F_1(\bar{x}) ext{ and } \mathcal{I} \models F_2(\bar{x})$
  - $ightharpoonup \mathcal{I} \models F_1(\bar{x}) \vee F_2(\bar{x}) \text{ iff } \mathcal{I} \models F_1(\bar{x}) \text{ or } \mathcal{I} \models F_2(\bar{x})$
  - $\blacktriangleright \ \mathcal{I} \models F_1(\bar{x}) \to F_2(\bar{x}) \text{ iff } \mathcal{I} \not\models F_1(\bar{x}) \text{ or } \mathcal{I} \models F_2(\bar{x})$
  - $ightharpoonup \mathcal{I} \models F_1(\bar{x}) \leftrightarrow F_2(\bar{x}) \text{ iff } \mathcal{I} \models F_1(\bar{x}) \text{ if and only if } \mathcal{I} \models F_2(\bar{x})$
- quantified formulas:
  - $ightharpoonup \mathcal{I} \models \forall x F(\bar{x}) \text{ iff for every } a \in A, (A, \gamma_x^a) \models F(\bar{x}),$
  - ▶  $\mathcal{I} \models \exists x F(\bar{x})$  iff there exists  $a \in A$  such that  $(A, \gamma_x^a) \models F(\bar{x})$

Example: Consider  $\mathbb{N}=(N,\{+,*\},\{\leq,\simeq\})$ ,  $\gamma=\{x\mapsto 2,y\mapsto 1\}$  and  $\mathcal{I}=(\mathbb{N},\gamma)$ . Then

- ▶  $\mathcal{I} \models \forall z \exists u (z \leq u)$
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#### A (closed) formula *F* is

- ▶ satisfiable if there is a  $\Sigma$ -structure A which is a model for F,  $A \models F$
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#### Deduction

Semantic arguments are usually as hoc, complicated and applicable only to narrow cases.

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In reasoning methods we study, the validity problem is reformulated in terms of unsatisfiability. Proof by contradiction.

A is valid iff  $\neg A$  is unsatisfiable.

In other words:

$$\models A \text{ iff } \neg A \models \bot$$

Example. The are an infinite number of prime numbers.

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- ► The complementary literal to L

$$\overline{L} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \neg p(\overline{t}), & \text{if } L \text{ has the form } p(\overline{t}); \\ p(\overline{t}), & \text{if } L \text{ has the form } \neg p(\overline{t}) \end{array} \right.$$

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$$L_1 \vee \ldots \vee L_n, \quad n \geq 0.$$

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Notation: a set of clauses

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#### Main steps in the basic CNF transformation:

1. Prenex normal form – moving all quantifiers up-front

$$\forall y \ [\forall x \ [p(f(x), y)] \to \forall v \exists z \ [q(f(z)) \land p(v, z)]] \Rightarrow \\ \forall y \exists x \forall v \exists z \ [p(f(x), y) \to (q(f(z)) \land p(v, z))]$$

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\neg(\forall xF) & \Rightarrow_{\mathrm{PNF}} & \exists x \neg F \\
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#### Example

$$\forall y \ [\forall x \ [p(f(x), y)] \to \forall v \exists z \ [q(f(z)) \land p(v, z)]] \Rightarrow_{\text{PNI}}^* \\ \forall y \exists x \forall v \exists z \ [p(f(x), y) \to (q(f(z)) \land p(v, z))]$$

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#### Skolemization

Skolemization – eliminating existential quantifiers.

$$F = \forall \bar{x} \exists y \ F'(\bar{x}, y)$$

#### Informally:

- ▶ F states that for each value of  $\bar{x}$  we can choose a value for y such that  $F'(\bar{x}, y)$  holds.
- ▶ We can represent this choice by a Skolem function  $sk_{F'}(\bar{x})$ .
- $\blacktriangleright \ \forall \bar{x} \exists y \ F'(\bar{x}, y)$  is equi-satisfiable with  $\forall \bar{x} \ F'(\bar{x}, sk_{F'}(\bar{x}))$ .

#### Example

```
\forall y \exists x \forall v \exists z \ [p(f(x), y) \to (q(f(z)) \land p(v, z))] \Rightarrow_{SK} \forall y \forall v \ [p(f(sk_1(y)), y) \to (q(f(sk_2(y, v))) \land p(v, sk_2(y, v)))]
```

#### Skolemization

Skolemization – eliminating existential quantifiers.

$$F = \forall \bar{x} \exists y \ F'(\bar{x}, y)$$

#### Informally:

- ▶ F states that for each value of  $\bar{x}$  we can choose a value for y such that  $F'(\bar{x}, y)$  holds.
- ▶ We can represent this choice by a Skolem function  $sk_{F'}(\bar{x})$ .
- $\blacktriangleright \ \forall \bar{x} \exists y \ F'(\bar{x}, y)$  is equi-satisfiable with  $\forall \bar{x} \ F'(\bar{x}, sk_{F'}(\bar{x}))$ .

#### Example:

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#### CNF transformation

#### CNF transformation of the quantifier-fee part:

$$F \leftrightarrow G \quad \Rightarrow_{\text{CNF}} \quad (F \to G) \land (G \to F)$$

$$F \to G \quad \Rightarrow_{\text{CNF}} \quad (\neg F \lor G)$$

$$\neg (F \lor G) \quad \Rightarrow_{\text{CNF}} \quad (\neg F \land \neg G)$$

$$\neg (F \land G) \quad \Rightarrow_{\text{CNF}} \quad (\neg F \lor \neg G)$$

$$\neg \neg F \quad \Rightarrow_{\text{CNF}} \quad F$$

$$(F \land G) \lor H \quad \Rightarrow_{\text{CNF}} \quad (F \lor H) \land (G \lor H)$$

#### Clausal normal form

$$F \Rightarrow_{\text{PNF}}^{*} \exists \forall x_{1} \dots \exists \forall x_{n} \ F'$$

$$\Rightarrow_{\text{SK}}^{*} \forall \bar{x} \ F''$$

$$\Rightarrow_{\text{CNF}}^{*} \forall \bar{x} \ [\bigwedge_{i} (\bigvee_{j} L_{i,j})]$$

$$\Rightarrow \{C_{1}, \dots, C_{n}\}$$

Note: all variables in  $C_1, \ldots, C_n$  are implicitly universally quantified.

#### Problems with the basic transformation:

- exponential in size
- ▶ the structure of the formula can be lost
- Skolem functions can include many irrelevant arguments

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#### Optimized: do the opposite to the basic transformation.

- ▶ structural transformation: introduce names for complex sub-formulas
  - $F[G(\bar{x})]$  equi-satisfiable with  $F[p_G(\bar{x})] \wedge V\bar{x}(p_G(\bar{x}) \leftrightarrow G(\bar{x}))$  where w is a fresh predicate name
  - using naming we can obtain a linear-size CNF
- structural transformation: optimizations
  - if  $G(\widehat{x})$  occurs only positively then we need only one side of the definition:  $\forall \widehat{x}(p_{\widehat{x}}(\widehat{x}) \to G(\widehat{x}))$  (similar for negatively)
  - reuse names, combine with preprocessing
- miniscoping: push quantifiers inwards

Reduces arguments of Skolem functions:  $\forall x, y \exists z (p(z) \lor q(x, y))$ 

basic:  $p(sk(x,y)) \lor q(x,y)$  non-EPF miniscoping:  $p(sk) \lor q(x,y)$  EPR

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▶ F[G(\bar{x})] equi-satisfiable with F[p_G(\bar{x})] \land \forall \bar{x}(p_G(\bar{x}) \leftrightarrow G(\bar{x})) where p_G is a fresh predicate name.
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Basic idea: In order to check of satisfiability of (universal) formulas it is sufficient to consider only specific class of interpretations called Herbrand interpretations.

Consider a signature  $\Sigma = (\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{P})$ , we assume that  $\mathcal{F}$  contains at least one constant in  $\mathcal{F}$ .

Key ingredient - ground terms.

Ground terms – terms without occurrences of variables e.g. f(f(a,b),a). The set of ground terms is  $T(\Sigma,\emptyset)$ 

Ground atoms, clauses are ... without occurrences of variables

Grounding substitution is a substitution with the range in ground terms.

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A Herbrand  $\Sigma$ -interpretation  $\mathcal{H}=(H,\mathcal{F}^{\mathcal{H}},\mathcal{P}^{\mathcal{H}})$  is a  $\Sigma$ -structure such that

- ▶  $H = T(\Sigma, \emptyset)$  —the domain is the set of all ground terms
- lacksquare  $f^{\mathcal{H}}(t_1,\ldots,t_n)=f(t_1,\ldots,t_n)$  terms are interpreted by themselves

Note: the domain and the interpretation of functions are fixed, only interpretations of predicates can vary.

Example: Consider  $\Sigma = (\{s/1,0/0\},\{p/2\})$  possible Herbrand

 $\Sigma$ -interpretations  $\mathcal{H}_1, \mathcal{H}_2$ :

▶ 
$$0 \in p^{\mathcal{H}_1}, s(s(0)) \in p^{\mathcal{H}_1}, \dots, s^{2n}(0) \in p^{\mathcal{H}_1}, \dots$$

$$\triangleright p^{\mathcal{H}_2} = \emptyset$$

Q: How many Herbrand interpretations over  $\Sigma$  exist?

Notation: 
$$\mathcal{H}_1 = \{p(0), p(s(s(0))), \dots, p(s^{2n}(0)), \dots\}.$$

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Theorem. Consider a universally quantified formula F over  $\Sigma$ . Then F is satisfiable if and only if F has a Herbrand model.

Proof. ←) Obvious.

 $\Rightarrow$ ) Let  $F = \forall x_1, \dots, x_n F'(\bar{x})$  where  $F'(\bar{x})$  is quantifier-free.

Consider A such that  $A \models \forall x_1, \dots, x_n F'(\bar{x})$ .

Then for any  $t_1, \dots, t_n \in T(\Sigma, \emptyset)$  we have

Define a Herbrand interpretation % as follows

The domain of  $\mathcal{H}$  is  $T(\Sigma, \emptyset)$ , hence to show that

 $\mathbb{N} \models \mathbb{V}_{n_1, \dots, n_r} \mathbb{N}'(\mathbb{R})$  it is suffices to show that for any terms

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F A = F/Infance of by construction.

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Define a Herbrand interpretation  ${\cal H}$  as follows

$$\mathcal{H} = \{ p(\bar{t}) \mid \mathcal{A} \models p[\bar{t}^{\mathcal{A}}], \text{ where } p \in \mathcal{P}, \bar{t} \in \mathcal{T}(\Sigma, \emptyset) \}$$

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### Grounding

Consider a universally quantified formula:

 $F = \forall x_1, \dots, x_n F'(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  where  $F'(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  is quantifier-free.

A ground instance of F' (ambiguously also of F) is a ground formula  $F'\sigma$  where  $\sigma$  is a grounding substitution.

Denote the set of all ground instances of F' as

$$Gr(F') = \{F'\sigma \mid \sigma \text{ is a grounding substitution}\}\$$

For a set of formulas  $\Phi$ ,  $Gr(\Phi) = \{Gr(F) \mid F \in \Phi\}$ 

For clauses and set of clauses definitions of ground instances are similar.

Example: Consider a signature  $\Sigma = (\{f/1, a/0\}, \{p/1\}).$ 

Ground instances of  $p(x) \vee \neg p(f(x))$  consist of

$$p(a) \vee \neg p(f(a)), \quad p(f(a)) \vee \neg p(f(f(a))), \dots, p(f^n(a)) \vee \neg p(f^{n+1}(a))), \dots$$

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### Reduction of first-order to ground

Theorem. A set of first-order universal formulas  $\Phi$  is satisfiable if and only the set of its ground instances  $Gr(\Phi)$  is satisfiable.

```
Proof. \Rightarrow) is trivial.

\Leftarrow) Assume Gr(\Phi) is satisfiable. Then there is a Herbrand model \mathcal{H} \models Gr(\Phi). Since the domain of \mathcal{H} is exactly all ground terms, \mathcal{H} \models \Phi.
```

### Reduction of first-order to ground

Theorem. A set of first-order universal formulas  $\Phi$  is satisfiable if and only the set of its ground instances  $Gr(\Phi)$  is satisfiable.

Proof.  $\Rightarrow$ ) is trivial.

 $\Leftarrow$ ) Assume  $Gr(\Phi)$  is satisfiable. Then there is a Herbrand model

 $\mathcal{H} \models Gr(\Phi)$ . Since the domain of  $\mathcal{H}$  is exactly all ground terms,  $\mathcal{H} \models \Phi$ .

## Reduction first-order to propositional

#### Ground formulas can be seen as propositional formulas as follows:

Consider a ground formula F.

- $\triangleright$  With each ground atom A in F associate a propositional variable  $x_A$ .
- ▶ Let Prop(F) be a propositional formula obtained from F by replacing all atoms by the corresponding propositional variables.
- F is satisfiable if and only if Prop(F) is satisfiable.

#### Example:

$$F = \{p(f(a)) \lor \neg p(a), p(a) \lor \neg p(f(a))\}$$
  
$$Prop(F) = \{x_{p(f(a))} \lor \neg x_{p(a)}, x_{p(a)} \lor \neg x_{p(f(a))}\}$$

Corollary. A set of first-order universal formulas  $\Phi$  is satisfiable if and only the set of propositional formulas  $Prop(Gr(\Phi))$  is satisfiable

We will not distinguish between ground atoms and their propositional encodings.

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Example: Consider a signature  $\Sigma = (\{a/0, b/0\}, \{p/1, q/2\})$  and a set of clauses  $S = \{\neg p(x) \lor q(x, a), \neg q(x, x) \lor p(x)\}$ . Is S satisfiable?.

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Apply any propositional method to check whether Gr(S) is satisfiable.

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$$p(a) \vee \neg p(f(a)), \quad p(f(a)) \vee \neg p(f(f(a))), \dots, p(f^n(a)) \vee \neg p(f^{n+1}(a))), \dots$$
  
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### Deduction, Inference Systems

An inference has the form:

$$\frac{F_1}{G}$$
 ...  $F_n$ 

where  $n \geq 0$ ,  $F_1, \ldots, F_n$ , G are formulas.

- $ightharpoonup F_1 \dots F_n$  are called premises.
- ▶ G is called conclusion.

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# Derivation, proofs

- ▶ A derivation tree in I is a tree built from inferences.
- ▶ A proof of F (in  $\mathbb{I}$ ) from  $F_1, \ldots, F_n$  is a tree with leaves in  $F_1, \ldots, F_n$  and the root F.
- ▶ A refutation proof is a proof of □.
- ▶ F is derivable, (or provable) in  $\mathbb{I}$  from a set of formulas S, denoted  $S \vdash_{\mathbb{I}} F$ , if there is a proof of F from formulas in S.

# Soundness/Completeness

#### Soundness.

- ▶ An inference is sound if the conclusion of this inference logically follows from the premises (⊨).
- ▶ An inference rule is sound if all its inferences are sound.
- ▶ An inference system is sound if all its inference rules are sound.

Lemma. If an inference system  $\mathbb{I}$  is sound then for any set of formulas S:

$$S \vdash_{\mathbb{I}} \square$$
 implies  $S \models \bot$ 

Completeness. An inference system  $\mathbb{I}$  is refutationally complete if for any set of formulas S we have:

$$S\models\bot$$
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# Proofs and reasoning methods

#### Formal Proofs:

- each step of a proof is easy to check
- proofs certificates of correctness
- independent proof checking

#### Reasoning methods based on inference systems:

- efficient proof search
- restrictions on applicability of inference rules
- proof search strategies

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## Propositional Resolution

Propositional Resolution inference system BR, consists of the following inference rules:

▶ Binary resolution rule (BR):

$$\frac{C \vee p \qquad \neg p \vee D}{C \vee D} (BR)$$

Binary positive factoring rule (BF):

$$\frac{C \vee p \vee p}{C \vee p} (BF)$$

where p is an atom.

Given: 
$$S = \{q \lor \neg p, p \lor q, \neg q\}$$

A proof in resolution calculus:

$$\frac{q \vee \neg p \qquad p \vee q}{q \qquad \text{(BF)}}$$

$$\frac{q \vee \neg p \qquad \neg q}{\frac{\neg p}{q}} \xrightarrow{\text{(as)}} \frac{p \vee q}{q} \xrightarrow{\text{(as)}} \frac{\neg q}{q} \xrightarrow{\text{(as)}}$$

Given: 
$$S = \{q \lor \neg p, p \lor q, \neg q\}$$

A proof in resolution calculus:

$$\frac{q \lor \neg p \qquad p \lor q}{q \lor q}_{(BF)}$$
(BR)

$$\frac{q \vee \neg p \qquad \neg q}{\frac{\neg p}{q}} \iff p \vee q \qquad \text{(89)}$$

Given: 
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A proof in resolution calculus:

$$\frac{q \lor \neg p \qquad p \lor q}{q \qquad \text{(BF)}} = \frac{q \lor q}{q} \qquad \text{(BR)}$$

$$\frac{q \vee \neg p \qquad \neg q}{p}$$

Given: 
$$S = \{q \lor \neg p, p \lor q, \neg q\}$$

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$$\frac{q \lor \neg p \qquad p \lor q}{q \qquad \text{\tiny (BF)}} \xrightarrow{\text{\tiny (BR)}} \neg q \qquad \text{\tiny (BR)}$$

$$\frac{q \vee \neg p \qquad \neg q}{p \vee q} \text{ (as)}$$

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### Linear Proofs

#### Tree Proof:

### Linear Proof:

- 1.  $q \vee \neg p$  input
- 2.  $p \lor q$  input
- 3.  $\neg q$  input
- 4.  $q \lor q$  BR (1,2)
- 5. **q** BF (4)
- 6. BR (3,5)

### Soundness of resolution

Theorem. [Soundness] The resolution inference system  $\mathbb{BR}$  is sound.

Proof. Conclusions of BR and BF are logically implied by the premises.

- $\blacktriangleright \{C \lor p, \neg p \lor D\} \models C \lor D$
- $\blacktriangleright \{C \lor L \lor L\} \models C \lor L$

Theorem. [Completeness] The resolution inference system  $\mathbb{BR}$  is refutationally complete.

We need to show that for any set of clauses 5:

$$S \models \square$$
 implies  $S \vdash_{\mathbb{RR}} \square$ .

or equivalently:

$$S \not\vdash_{\mathbb{BR}} \square$$
 implies  $S$  is satisfiable

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#### Basic Idea. A Saturation Process:

Given set of clauses S we exhaustively apply all inference rules adding the conclusions to this set until the contradiction  $(\Box)$  is derived.

$$S_0 \Rightarrow S_1 \Rightarrow \dots S_n \Rightarrow \dots$$

More formally: define one-step resolution expansion

$$Res(S) = \{C \mid C \text{ is a conclusion of } \mathbb{BR} \text{ applied to clauses in } S\}$$

Define

$$S_0 = S, S_1 = Res(S_0), \dots, S_n = Res(S_{n-1}), \dots$$

is called the basic saturation process.

The limit of the basic saturation process is  $Res^*(S) = \bigcup_{0 \le i < \omega} S_i$ Lemma. A clause C is derivable from S using  $\mathbb{BR}$  if and only if  $C \in Res^*(S)$ .

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## Saturated sets and completeness

A set of clauses S is saturated if  $Res(S) \subseteq S$ .

Note: The limit of any basic saturation process is a saturated set.

Completeness of the resolution calculus  $\mathbb{BR}$  can be reformulated as follows. For any saturated set of clauses S:

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### Main idea

Consider a saturated set of clauses S such that  $\square \notin S$ .

How we can show that S is satisfiable?

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Model construction:

Build a "candidate" Herbrand model 4 with the goal to satisfy clauses in 5. The model is built inductively based on a well-founded order on clauses.

Show that if 5 is saturated then 1 is indeed a model of 5.
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Clause representation: multi-sets of literals.

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### Multi-Sets

Clauses will be represented as multi-sets of literals.

▶ Multi-sets are "sets which allow repetition".

Example: 
$$\{a, a, b\}, \{a, b, a\}, \{a, b\}$$

► Formally, let X be a set.

A multi-set S over X is a mapping  $S: X \to \mathbb{N}$ .

- ▶ Intuitively, S(x) specifies the number of occurrences of the element x (of the base set X) within S.
- Example:  $S = \{a, a, a, b, b\}$  is a multi-set over  $\{a, b, c\}$ , where S(a) = 3, S(b) = 2, S(c) = 0.
- ▶ We say that x is an element of S, if S(x) > 0.

# Multi-Sets (cont'd)

▶ We use set notation ( $\in$ ,  $\subset$ ,  $\subseteq$ ,  $\cup$ ,  $\cap$ , etc.) with analogous meaning also for multi-sets, e.g.,

$$(S_1 \cup S_2)(x) = S_1(x) + S_2(x)$$
  
 $(S_1 \cap S_2)(x) = \min\{S_1(x), S_2(x)\}$   
 $(S_1 \setminus S_2)(x) = S_1(x) - S_2(x)$ 

▶ A multi-set *S* over *X* is called finite, if

$$|\{x \in X | S(x) > 0\}| < \infty.$$

From now on we consider finite multi-sets only.

# *Multi-Set Orderings* $\succ_{\text{mul}}$

#### Definition

Let  $(X, \succ)$  be a (strict) ordering. The multi-set extension  $\succ_{\text{mul}}$  of  $\succ$  to (finite) multi-sets over X is defined by

$$S_1 \succ_{\mathrm{mul}} S_2 \iff S_1 \neq S_2 \text{ and}$$
 
$$\forall x \in S_2 \backslash S_1. \ \exists y \in S_1 \backslash S_2. \ y \succ x$$

- 1. Remove common occurrences of elements from  $S_1$  and  $S_2$ . Assume this gives  $S_1' \neq S_2'$ .
- 2. Then check that for every element x in  $S_2'$  there is an element  $y \in S_1'$  that is greater than x. Then  $S_1 \succ_{\text{mul}} S_2$ .

### Example $\{5, 5, 4, 3, 2\} \succ_{\text{mul}} \{5, 4, 4, 3, 3, 2\}$

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# *Multi-Set Orderings* $\succ_{\text{mul}}$

#### Definition

Let  $(X, \succ)$  be a (strict) ordering. The multi-set extension  $\succ_{\text{mul}}$  of  $\succ$  to (finite) multi-sets over X is defined by

$$S_1 \succ_{\mathrm{mul}} S_2 \iff S_1 \neq S_2 \text{ and}$$
 
$$\forall x \in S_2 \backslash S_1. \ \exists y \in S_1 \backslash S_2. \ y \succ x$$

- 1. Remove common occurrences of elements from  $S_1$  and  $S_2$ . Assume this gives  $S_1' \neq S_2'$ .
- 2. Then check that for every element x in  $S_2'$  there is an element  $y \in S_1'$  that is greater than x. Then  $S_1 \succ_{\text{mul}} S_2$ .

### Example $\{5, 5, 4, 3, 2\} \succ_{\text{mul}} \{5, 4, 4, 3, 3, 2\}$

An ordering over X is well-founded if if there is no infinite decreasing chain  $x_0 \succ x_1 \succ x_2 \succ \dots$  of elements  $x_i \in X$ .

#### Lemma

 $(X,\succ)$  is well-founded iff every non-empty subset Y of X has a minimal element.

#### Theorem

Let > be an ordering. Then

- 1. ≻<sub>mul</sub> is an ordering
- 2. if  $\succ$  well-founded then  $\succ_{mul}$  well-founded.
- 3. if  $\succ$  total then  $\succ_{mul}$  total
- Q: How many multi-sets less than {3} ?

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Consider a set of ground atoms  $\mathcal{P}$ .

Let  $\succ$  be any well-founded, total order on  $\mathcal{P}$ .

- ► Extend > to a total well-founded order on literals as follows:
  - if  $A \succ B$  then  $(\neg)A \succ (\neg)B$ , and
  - $\triangleright \neg A \succ A$
- ▶ Extend > to a total well-founded order on ground clauses as follows

$$L_1 \lor \ldots \lor L_n \succ M_1 \lor \ldots \lor M_k$$
 iff  $\{L_1, \ldots, L_n\} \succ_{\text{mul}} \{M_1, \ldots, M_k\}.$ 

Clauses are considered as multi-sets of literals

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Q: What is the smallest clause ?

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Consider 5 is a set of clauses.

Construct a Herbrand interpretation  $l_s$  aiming at satisfying clauses in s.

- ► consider clauses in the order > from small to large
- satisfy the next clause A ∨ C by adding A to I<sub>S</sub>
   provided certain conditions are met.

More formally: Goal construct  $I_S$  such that  $I_S \models S$  if S is saturated.

Consider a clause  $C \in S$  that we would like to satisfy.

By induction assume that for all smaller clauses  $D \prec C$  we constructed:

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  $\epsilon_D=\left\{egin{array}{l} \{A\}, ext{ such that } A\in D, ext{ or } \ \emptyset \end{array}
ight.$ 

Define: interpretation up-to C as  $I_C = \bigcup_{D \prec C} \epsilon_D$ .

Define: satisfying atom  $\epsilon_C$  for C as

- ▶  $\epsilon_C = \{A\}$  (in this case C is called productive) if
  - ightharpoonup C is false in  $I_C$ :  $I_C \not\models C$ , and
  - $ightharpoonup C = A \lor C'$  and A is maximal:  $\{A\} \succ C'$ .
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Candidate model: 
$$I_S = \bigcup_{C \in S} I^C = \bigcup_{C \in S} \epsilon_C$$
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Define: interpretation at C to be  $I^C = I_C \cup \epsilon_C$ .

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#### Lemma Model construction is monotone:

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If I^C \models C then for all D \succeq C: I^D \models C and I_S \models C.
If I^C \not\models C then for all D \succeq C: I^D \not\models C and I_S \not\models C.
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Theorem. If S is saturated and  $\square \notin S$  then  $I_S \models S$ .

Poof. (Main ideas) Assume S is saturated and  $I_S \not\models S$ .

- ▶ The smallest counter-example: there is the smallest clause  $C \in S$  such  $I_S \not\models C$ . (Because  $\succ$  is well-founded).
- ▶ Inference by  $\mathbb{BR}$  is applicable to C in S with the conclusion G s.t.
  - $\triangleright$   $G \prec C$ , and
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### Unrestricted resolution is a very prolific inference system.

Use selection function to restrict applicability of rules to selected literals.

Selection function: selects a subset of literals in a clause  $sel(C) \subseteq C$ .

Informally: only selected literals are eligible for inferences.

A selection function sel is admissible if

- sel(C) = ∅ only when C is the empty clause.
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### Ordered resolution with selection

Let *sel* be a selection function.

Ordered resolution with selection function *sel*, denoted BRS, consists of the following inference rules:

▶ Resolution with selection rule (BRS):

$$\frac{C \vee \underline{p} \qquad \underline{\neg p} \vee D}{C \vee D} (BR)$$

Ordered factoring with selection rule (BFS):

$$\frac{C \vee \underline{p} \vee \underline{p}}{C \vee p} (BF)$$

Applications of the inference rules are restricted to selected literals only.

Theorem. BRS with any admissible selection functions is complete.

Exercise Resolution with arbitrary selection is incomplete.

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## Redundancy elimination

#### Abstract notion of redundancy.

A clause C is redundant in S if there exists  $\{C_1, \ldots, C_n\} \subseteq S$  such that

- $\blacktriangleright \{C_1,\ldots,C_n\} \models C$
- $ightharpoonup C_1 \prec C, \ldots, C_n \prec C$

We can remove redundant clauses from the search space!

#### Practical redundancies:

- ▶ tautology elimination: p ∨ ¬p ∨ C can be eliminated indeed: |= p ∨ ¬p ∨ C
- ▶ subsumption elimination: if  $C \subset D$ , D can be eliminated indeed:  $C \models D$  and  $C \prec D$ .

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- subsumption elimination: if C ⊂ D, D can be eliminated indeed: C ⊨ D and C ≺ D.

- A non-ground clause can be seen as representation of a (possibly infinite) set of its ground instances.
- ► Consider  $q(x, a) \lor \underline{p(x)}$  and  $q(y, z) \lor \neg \underline{p(f(y))}$ . A common instance to which ground resolution is applicable:  $q(f(a), a) \lor \underline{p(f(a))}$  and  $q(a, a) \lor \neg \underline{p(f(a))}$
- ▶ There are other ground instances e.g.:  $q(f(f(a)), a) \lor p(f(f(a)))$  and  $q(f(a), f(f(f(a))) \lor \neg p(f(f(a)))$
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Theorem [Robinson 1965] For any unifiable system of equations  $E = \{s_1 \doteq t_1, \dots, s_n \doteq t_n\}$  there is the most general unifier  $\operatorname{mgu}(E)$ , which is unique up to renaming.

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## Unification algorithm:

Apply unification transformation rules to E to obtain mgu(E).

- ▶ Orientation:  $t \doteq x, E \Rightarrow_U x \doteq t, E \text{ if } t \notin \mathcal{X}$
- ▶ Trivial:  $t \doteq t, E \Rightarrow_U E$
- ▶ Clash:  $f(...) \doteq g(...), E \Rightarrow_U \bot$
- ► Decomposition:

$$f(s_1,\ldots,s_n) \doteq f(t_1,\ldots,t_n), E \Rightarrow_U s_1 \doteq t_1,\ldots,s_n \doteq t_n, E$$

- ► Occur-check:  $x \doteq t, E \Rightarrow_U \bot$ if  $x \in var(t), x \neq t$
- ► Substitution:  $x \doteq t, E \Rightarrow_U x \doteq t, E\{t \mapsto x\}$  if  $x \in var(E), x \notin var(t)$

### General resolution with selection:

Resolution rule (BRS):

$$\frac{C \vee p \qquad \neg p' \vee D}{(C \vee D)\sigma} (BR)$$

where  $\sigma = \text{mgu}(p, p')$ 

Binary positive factoring (BFS):

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Ordered resolution with selection:

Extend  $\succ$  from order on ground atoms to any order  $\succ'$  on (non-ground) atoms:

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Theorem.  $\mathbb{BRS}$  with any admissible selection functions is complete for general first-order clauses.

Proof. Consider a set of first-order clauses *S*.

Need to show: If S is saturated and  $\square \notin S$  then S is satisfiable.

Lifting argument: Gr(S) is also saturated and does not contain  $\square$ . Indeed for any inference by ground resolution in Gr(S) there is more general non-ground inference in S.

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### Resolution as a decision procedure

Consider a fair saturation process by a sound and complete calculi  ${\mathcal C}$ 

$$S_0 \Rightarrow S_1 \Rightarrow \dots S_n \Rightarrow \dots$$

#### There are three possible outcomes:

- 1.  $\square$  is derived ( $\square \in S_n$  for some n), then S is unsatisfiable (soundness);
- 2. no new clauses can be derived from  $S_i$ , i. e.  $Res(S_i) \subseteq S_i$ , for some  $0 \le i < \omega$  and  $\square \not\in S$ , then S is satisfiable (completeness);
- 3. *S* grows ad infinitum, the process does not terminate, in this case *S* is satisfiable (completeness).

In cases 1) and 2) the procedure terminates

A sound and complete calculus  $\mathcal C$  together with a fair saturation strategy is a decision procedure for a fragment  $\Phi$  if the saturation process terminates for any clause set in  $\Phi$ .

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