



- •Interesting, proof procedures work by simply manipulating formulas. They do not know or care anything about interpretations.
- •Nevertheless they respect the semantics of interpretations!
- •We will develop a proof procedure for firstorder logic called resolution.
 - Resolution is the mechanism used by PROLOG

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Properties of Proof Procedures

•Before presenting the details of resolution, we want to look at properties we would like to have in a (any) proof procedure.

•We write $KB \vdash f$ to indicate that f can be proved from KB (the proof procedure used is implicit).



Resolution

•Clausal form.

- Resolution works with formulas expressed in clausal form.
- A literal is an atomic formula or the negation of an atomic formula. dog(fido), ¬cat(fido)
- A clause is a disjunction of literals:
- ¬owns(fido,fred) ∨ ¬dog(fido) ∨ person(fred)
- We write (¬owns(fido,fred), ¬dog(fido), person(fred))

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A clausal theory is a conjunction of clauses.



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C-T-C-F: Skolemization continue

Now consider $\forall X\exists Y$. loves(X,Y).

- This formula claims that for every X there is some Y that X loves (perhaps a different Y for each X).
- Replacing the existential by a new constant won't work
 VX.loves(X.a).

Because this asserts that there is a **particular** individual "a" loved by every X.

• To properly convert existential quantifiers scoped by universal quantifiers we must use **functions** not just constants.

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C-T-C-F: Skolemization continue

•We must use a function that mentions every universally quantified variable <u>that scopes the existential</u>.

• In this case X scopes Y so we must replace the existential Y by a function of X

$\forall X. loves(X,g(X)).$

where g is a **new** function symbol.

• This formula asserts that for every X there is some individual (given by g(X)) that X loves. g(X) can be different for each different binding of X.





C-T-C-F: Conjunctions over disjunctions $\begin{array}{l} \forall X \forall Y. \neg p(X) \\ & (\neg p(Y) \lor p(f(X,Y)) \\ & \Lambda q(X, g(X)) \lor \neg p(g(X)) \end{array} \end{array}$ 6. Conjunctions over disjunctions $A \lor (B \land C) \twoheadrightarrow (A \lor B) \land (A \lor C)$ $\begin{array}{l} \forall XY. \neg p(X) \lor \neg p(Y) \lor p(f(X,Y)) \\ & \Lambda \neg p(X) \lor q(X, g(X)) \lor \neg p(g(X)) \end{array}$











Substitutions. • We can compose two substitutions. θ and σ to obtain a new substition $\theta\sigma$. Let $\theta = \{X_1 = s_1, X_2 = s_2, ..., X_m = s_m\}$ $\sigma = \{Y_1 = t_1, Y_2 = t_2, ..., Y_k = s_k\}$ To compute $\theta\sigma$ 1. $S = \{X_1 = s_1\sigma, X_2 = s_2\sigma, ..., X_m = s_m\sigma, Y_1 = t_1, Y_2 = t_2, ..., Y_k = s_k\}$ we apply σ to each RHS of θ and then add all of the equations of σ .

Substitutions.

1.
$$S = \{X_1 = s_1\sigma, X_2 = s_2\sigma, ..., X_m = s_m\sigma, Y_1 = t_1, Y_2 = t_2, ..., Y_k = s_k\}$$

- 2. Delete any identities, i.e., equations of the form V=V.
- Delete any equation Y_i=s_i where Y_i is equal to one of the X_i in θ.

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The final set S is the composition $\theta\sigma$.









MGU.

- The MGU is the "least specialized" way of making clauses with universal variables match.
- We can compute MGUs.
- Intuitively we line up the two formulas and find the first sub-expression where they disagree. The pair of subexpressions where they first disagree is called the disagreement set.
- The algorithm works by successively fixing disagreement sets until the two formulas become syntactically identical.

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MGU.

To find the MGU of two formulas f and g.

1.
$$k = 0; \sigma_0 = \{\}; S_0 = \{f,g\}$$

- 2. If S_k contains an identical pair of formulas stop, and return σ_k as the MGU of f and g.
- **3**. Else find the disagreement set $D_k = \{e_1, e_2\}$ of S_k
- 4. If e₁ = V a variable, and e₂ = t a term not containing V (or vice-versa) then let σ_{k+1} = σ_k {V=t} (Compose the additional substitution) S_{k+1} = S_k{V=t} (Apply the additional substitution) k = k+1 GOTO 2
 5. Else stop, f and g cannot be unified.

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F2.

3. Therefore no doctor is a quack. Query.

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| Resolution Proof Example | Resolution Proof Example |
|---|---|
| Resolution Proof Step 3. | Resolution Proof Step 4. |
| Convert to Clausal form. | Resolution Proof from the Clauses. |
| | 1. p(a) |
| F1. | 2. $(\neg d(Y), I(a,Y))$ |
| | 3. $(\neg p(Z), \neg q(R), \neg I(Z,R))$ |
| F2. | 4. d(b) |
| | 5. q(b) |
| Negation of Query. | |
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