

# First-order logic

## Syntax and semantics

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## 1 Motivation

- Why more than propositional logic?
- Intuition

## 2 Syntax

- Terms
- Formulas

## 3 Semantics

- Structures
- Valuation

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- Socrates is a human
- Humans are mortal

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## In propositional logic

- Variable  $SH$  for “Socrates is a human”
- Variable  $HM$  for “Humans are mortal”
- Variable  $SM$  for “Socrates is mortal”

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Where is  $HM$ ?!?

This is not what we wanted to express!

“Humans are mortal” is not an atom!

- Mario is a human
- Humans are mortal

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- Mario is a human
- Humans are mortal
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- Mario is a human
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- Mario is mortal
  
- We talk about **objects**, not about propositions!

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- Mario is a human
- Humans are mortal
- Mario is mortal
  
- We talk about **objects**, not about propositions!

But...

There is no concept of object in propositional logic

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- Start from propositional logic

# Towards first-order logic

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## Example

- Socrates is a term
- Mortal is a predicate

## Socrates' father

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- **Function symbols** map some **objects** to other **objects**

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- We need a **variable** ranging over objects
  - **Note:** Such variables are completely different from propositional variables!
  - Think about them as **object variables**



## Humans are mortal

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- **Quantifiers** express
    - for all objects, or
    - some object exists

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- *father* (arity 1)
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- *father* (arity 1)
- *firstSonOf* (arity 2)
- *supercalifragilistichepsidalidoso287* (arity 6)

- Let  $\mathcal{V}$  be a countable set of (object) **variables**
- **Note:**  $\mathcal{V}$  and  $\mathcal{F}$  are disjoint!

## Examples

- $x, y, z$
- *\_human*
- *\_xiknve*

Build **terms** from function symbols and variables,  
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### Terms: Inductive definition

- If  $v$  is a variable symbol then  $v$  is a term
- If  $f$  is a function symbol of arity 0 then  $f$  is a term
- If  $f$  is a function symbol of arity  $n > 0$ , and  $t_1, \dots, t_n$  are terms, then  $f(t_1, \dots, t_n)$  is a term



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### Ground terms

Terms not containing any variable!

## Examples

- *socrates*

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socrates,\_xiknve,x)*

Intuitively, each term represents an **object**

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- *Yggdrasil* (arity 18)

## Atomic formula, or atom

A structure of the form  $P(t_1, \dots, t_n)$ , where

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Predicates with arity 0 are like propositional variables!

Similar to propositional logic with different atoms!

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$\phi$  is a wff if and only if

- $\phi$  is an atomic formula, or
- $\phi = \top$ , or
- $\phi = \perp$ , or
- $\phi = (\neg\psi)$  where  $\psi$  is a formula, or
- $\phi = (\psi \wedge \psi')$  where  $\psi, \psi'$  are formulas, or
- $\phi = (\psi \vee \psi')$  where  $\psi, \psi'$  are formulas, or
- $\phi = (\psi \rightarrow \psi')$  where  $\psi, \psi'$  are formulas, or
- $\phi = (\psi \leftrightarrow \psi')$  where  $\psi, \psi'$  are formulas, or

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- $\phi = (\psi \leftrightarrow \psi')$  where  $\psi, \psi'$  are formulas, or
- $\phi = (\forall x \psi)$  where  $x$  is a variable and  $\psi$  is a formula, or
- $\phi = (\exists x \psi)$  where  $x$  is a variable and  $\psi$  is a formula

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- Variables which are not bound in a formula are **free**
- Formulas without free variables are closed, also called sentences



# Binding strength

As for propositional logic, we usually minimize parentheses

- $\forall$ ,  $\exists$ , and  $\neg$  have the same binding strength
- Then come  $\wedge$ ,  $\vee$ ,  $\rightarrow$ , and  $\leftrightarrow$ , in this order

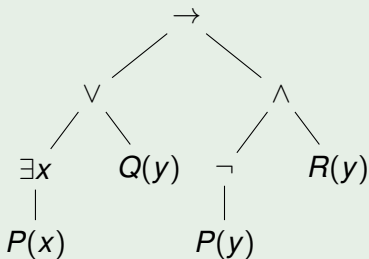
## Examples

- $Human(socrates)$
- $Mortal(socrates)$
- $(\forall x (Human(x) \rightarrow Mortal(x)))$
- $(\forall x (Human(firstSonOf(socrates, x)) \rightarrow Married(socrates, x)))$
- $(\forall x ((\exists y Human(firstSonOf(x, y))) \rightarrow (\exists z Married(x, z))))$
- $((\exists y Human(firstSonOf(x, y))) \rightarrow (\exists z Married(x, z)))$

# Formulas as trees

Every formula can be written as a **formula tree**

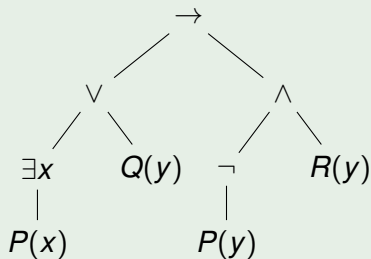
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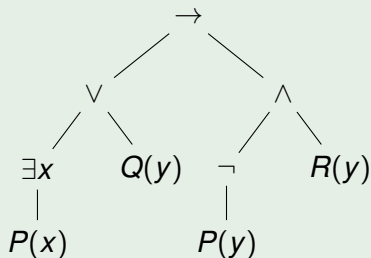


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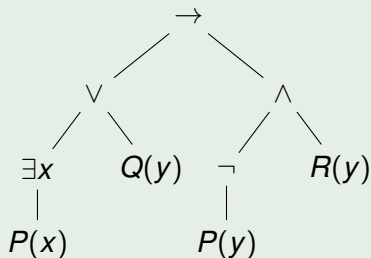
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Similarly, we can define (immediate) subformulas

- How to determine the scope of a variable?
- How to determine bound variables?

## Example 1

1  $N(o)$

2  $\forall x (N(x) \rightarrow N(s(x)))$

3  $\forall x \forall y (\neg E(x, y) \rightarrow \neg E(s(x), s(y)))$

4  $\forall x \neg E(s(x), o)$

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## Example 2

- 1  $\forall x \neg E(s(x), o)$
- 2  $\forall x \forall y (E(s(x), s(y)) \rightarrow E(x, y))$
- 3  $\forall x E(a(x, o), x)$
- 4  $\forall x \forall y E(a(x, s(y)), s(a(x, y)))$
- 5  $\forall x E(m(x, o), o)$
- 6  $\forall x \forall y E(m(x, s(y)), a(m(x, y), x))$

- Given a term  $t$ , the set  $free(t)$  of its free variables is defined as:
  - $free(t) = \{x\}$  if  $t$  is a variable  $x$
  - $free(t) = \emptyset$  if  $t$  is a constant
  - $free(t) = \bigcup_{i=1}^n free(t_i)$  if  $t$  is  $f(t_1, \dots, t_n)$



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- Given a formula  $\phi$ , the set  $free(\phi)$  of its free variables is defined as:
  - $free(\phi) = \bigcup_{i=1}^n free(t_i)$  if  $\phi$  is an atom  $P(t_1, \dots, t_n)$
  - $free(\phi) = \emptyset$  if  $\phi$  is  $\top$  or  $\perp$
  - $free(\phi) = free(\psi)$  if  $\phi$  is  $\neg\psi$
  - $free(\phi) = free(\psi) \cup free(\psi')$  if  $\phi$  is  $\psi \odot \psi'$  for  $\odot \in \{\wedge, \vee, \rightarrow, \leftrightarrow\}$
  - $free(\phi) = free(\psi) \setminus \{x\}$  if  $\phi$  is  $\forall x \psi$  or  $\exists x \psi$

Substitute variable  $x$  by term  $t$  in term  $s$ , denoted  $s[t/x]$ :

- $s[t/x] = t$  if  $s$  is a variable and  $s = x$
- $s[t/x] = s$  if  $s$  is a variable and  $s \neq x$
- $s[t/x] = f(t_1[t/x], \dots, t_n[t/x])$  if  $s = f(t_1, \dots, t_n)$

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Substitute variable  $x$  by term  $t$  in a formula  $\phi$ , denoted  $\phi[t/x]$ :

- $\phi[t/x] = \phi$  if  $\phi$  is  $\top$  or  $\perp$
- $\phi[t/x] = P(t_1[t/x], \dots, t_n[t/x])$  if  $\phi$  is an atom  $P(t_1, \dots, t_n)$
- $\phi[t/x] = \neg\psi[t/x]$  if  $\phi = \neg\psi$
- $\phi[t/x] = \psi[t/x] \odot \psi'[t/x]$  if  $\phi = \psi \odot \psi'$  for  $\odot \in \{\wedge, \vee, \rightarrow, \leftrightarrow\}$
- if  $\phi = Qy \psi$  for  $Q \in \{\forall, \exists\}$  then
  - $\phi[t/x] = Qy \psi[t/x]$  if  $x \neq y$  and  $y \notin \text{free}(t)$
  - $\phi[t/x] = Qz \psi[z/y][t/x]$  if  $x \neq y$  and  $y \in \text{free}(t)$ , where  $z$  is a variable not occurring in  $\psi$  and  $t$
  - $\phi[t/x] = Qy \psi$  if  $x = y$

- $t[t_1/x_1, \dots, t_n/x_n]$  denotes the simultaneous substitution of  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  by  $t_1, \dots, t_n$  in the term  $t$
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## Example

Compare the followings:

- 1  $A(x, y)[y/x, x/y]$
- 2  $A(x, y)[y/x][x/y]$
- 3  $A(x, y)[x/y][y/x]$

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## Definition

For wffs  $\gamma, \phi$  and atom  $A$ , let  $\gamma[\phi/A]$  denote the formula in which  $\phi$  replaces all occurrences of  $A$

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- We need an interpretation function for this purpose

## Definition

A structure is a pair  $\mathcal{A} = (D_{\mathcal{A}}, I_{\mathcal{A}})$ , where

- $D_{\mathcal{A}}$  is a nonempty set, called **domain**
- $I_{\mathcal{A}}$  is an **interpretation function**, i.e., a function associating
  - each constant symbol  $c$  with an object  $I_{\mathcal{A}}(c) \in D_{\mathcal{A}}$
  - each function symbol  $f$  of arity  $n$  with a function

$$I_{\mathcal{A}}(f) : D_{\mathcal{A}}^n \rightarrow D_{\mathcal{A}}$$

- each predicate symbol  $P$  of arity  $n$  with a relation

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**Notation.** We will usually write  $c^{\mathcal{A}}$ ,  $f^{\mathcal{A}}$  and  $P^{\mathcal{A}}$  instead of  $I_{\mathcal{A}}(c)$ ,  $I_{\mathcal{A}}(f)$  and  $I_{\mathcal{A}}(P)$ , respectively

## Definition

A structure is a pair  $\mathcal{A} = (D_{\mathcal{A}}, I_{\mathcal{A}})$ , where

- $D_{\mathcal{A}}$  is a nonempty set, called **domain**
- $I_{\mathcal{A}}$  is an **interpretation function**, i.e., a function associating
  - each constant symbol  $c$  with an object  $I_{\mathcal{A}}(c) \in D_{\mathcal{A}}$
  - each function symbol  $f$  of arity  $n$  with a function

$$I_{\mathcal{A}}(f) : D_{\mathcal{A}}^n \rightarrow D_{\mathcal{A}}$$

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**Observation.** Constants are actually associated with functions of arity 0

# Variable assignments

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A variable assignment  $\xi^{\mathcal{A}}$  for a structure  $\mathcal{A}$  is a function from the set of variables to the domain, i.e.,

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## Notation

We extend substitutions to variable assignments.

Let  $\xi^{\mathcal{A}}$  be a variable assignment,  $x$  be a variable and  $d$  be an object in  $D_{\mathcal{A}}$ .

- $\xi^{\mathcal{A}}[d/x]$  is the variable assignment such that
  - $\xi^{\mathcal{A}}[d/x](y) = d$  if  $y = x$
  - $\xi^{\mathcal{A}}[d/x](y) = \xi^{\mathcal{A}}(y)$  if  $y \neq x$

## 1 Motivation

- Why more than propositional logic?
- Intuition

## 2 Syntax

- Terms
- Formulas

## 3 Semantics

- Structures
- Valuation

## Interpretation

An interpretation for a first-order language is a pair  $(\mathcal{A}, \xi^{\mathcal{A}})$ , where

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  - $\nu^{(\mathcal{A}, \xi^{\mathcal{A}})}(t) = f^{\mathcal{A}}(\nu^{(\mathcal{A}, \xi^{\mathcal{A}})}(t_1), \dots, \nu^{(\mathcal{A}, \xi^{\mathcal{A}})}(t_n))$  if  $t$  is  $f(t_1, \dots, t_n)$

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  - The valuation of formulas is also defined inductively
    - $\nu^{(\mathcal{A}, \xi^{\mathcal{A}})}(\top) = 1$  and  $\nu^{(\mathcal{A}, \xi^{\mathcal{A}})}(\perp) = 0$
    - $\nu^{(\mathcal{A}, \xi^{\mathcal{A}})}(P(t_1, \dots, t_n)) = P^{\mathcal{A}}(\nu^{(\mathcal{A}, \xi^{\mathcal{A}})}(t_1), \dots, \nu^{(\mathcal{A}, \xi^{\mathcal{A}})}(t_n))$
    - $\nu^{(\mathcal{A}, \xi^{\mathcal{A}})}(\neg\phi) = \neg\nu^{(\mathcal{A}, \xi^{\mathcal{A}})}(\phi)$  using propositional logic
    - $\nu^{(\mathcal{A}, \xi^{\mathcal{A}})}(\phi \odot \psi) = \nu^{(\mathcal{A}, \xi^{\mathcal{A}})}(\phi) \odot \nu^{(\mathcal{A}, \xi^{\mathcal{A}})}(\psi)$  using propositional logic, for  $\odot \in \{\wedge, \vee, \rightarrow, \leftrightarrow\}$
    - $\nu^{(\mathcal{A}, \xi^{\mathcal{A}})}(\forall x \phi) = 1$  iff  $\nu^{(\mathcal{A}, \xi^{\mathcal{A}}[d/x])}(\phi) = 1$  for **all**  $d \in D_{\mathcal{A}}$
    - $\nu^{(\mathcal{A}, \xi^{\mathcal{A}})}(\exists x \phi) = 1$  iff  $\nu^{(\mathcal{A}, \xi^{\mathcal{A}}[d/x])}(\phi) = 1$  for **some**  $d \in D_{\mathcal{A}}$

## Example 1

- 1  $N(o)$
  - 2  $\forall x (N(x) \rightarrow N(s(x)))$
  - 3  $\forall x \forall y (\neg E(x, y) \rightarrow \neg E(s(x), s(y)))$
  - 4  $\forall x \neg E(s(x), o)$
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# Socrates example

1  $Human(socrates)$

2  $\forall x (Human(x) \rightarrow Mortal(x))$

3  $Mortal(socrates)$

- Can we conclude 3 from 1 and 2?

# Socrates example

1 *Human(socrates)*

2  $\forall x (Human(x) \rightarrow Mortal(x))$

3 *Mortal(socrates)*

- Can we conclude 3 from 1 and 2?
- Not yet! We must still define the notions of model and entailment

# Peano (first-order) axioms

- 1  $N(0)$
- 2  $\forall x E(x, x)$
- 3  $\forall x \forall y (E(x, y) \rightarrow E(y, x))$
- 4  $\forall x \forall y \forall z (E(x, y) \wedge E(y, z) \rightarrow E(x, z))$
- 5  $\forall x \forall y (N(x) \wedge E(x, y) \rightarrow N(y))$
- 6  $\forall x (N(x) \rightarrow N(s(x)))$
- 7  $\forall x \neg E(s(x), 0)$
- 8  $\forall x \forall y (E(s(x), s(y)) \rightarrow E(x, y))$
- 9 If  $P$  is a predicate of arity 1 then
  - $(P(0) \wedge \forall x (P(x) \rightarrow P(s(x)))) \rightarrow \forall x P(x)$

## Lemma

Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a structure, and  $\xi_1^{\mathcal{A}}, \xi_2^{\mathcal{A}}$  be variable assignments such that  $\xi_1^{\mathcal{A}}(x_i) = \xi_2^{\mathcal{A}}(x_i)$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ .

- If  $t$  is a term such that  $free(t) = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$   
then  $\nu^{(\mathcal{A}, \xi_1^{\mathcal{A}})}(t) = \nu^{(\mathcal{A}, \xi_2^{\mathcal{A}})}(t)$
- If  $\phi$  is a formula such that  $free(\phi) = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$   
then  $\nu^{(\mathcal{A}, \xi_1^{\mathcal{A}})}(\phi) = \nu^{(\mathcal{A}, \xi_2^{\mathcal{A}})}(\phi)$

1 Find the free variables in the following wffs

1  $\forall y \exists x A(x, y) \rightarrow B(x, y)$

2  $\exists x \exists y (A(x, y) \rightarrow B(x, y))$

3  $\neg \forall y \exists x A(y) \rightarrow (B(x, y) \wedge \forall z C(x, z))$

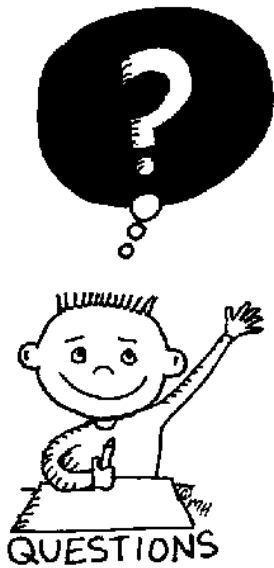
4  $\exists x \exists y (A(x, y) \rightarrow B(x)) \rightarrow \forall z C(z) \vee D(z)$

2 For each formula  $\phi$  above

1 find an interpretation valuating  $\phi$  as 0

2 find an interpretation valuating  $\phi$  as 1

3 find a structure  $\mathcal{A}$  such that  $\nu^{(\mathcal{A}, \xi^{\mathcal{A}})}(\phi) = 1$  for every  $\xi^{\mathcal{A}}$



END OF THE  
LECTURE