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Assignment 11

9.4 For each pair of atomic sentences, give the most general unifier if it exists:

a. $P(A,B,B)$, $P(x,y,z)$.

Answer:

$\{x / A, y / B, z / B\}$ (or some permutation of this).

b. $Q(y,G(A,B))$, $Q(G(x,x),y)$.

Answer:

No unifier (x cannot bind to both A and B).

c. $Older(Father(y),y)$, $Older(Father(x),John)$.

Answer:

$\{y/John, x/John\}$.

d. $Knows(Father(y),y)$, $Knows(x,x)$.

Answer:

No unifier (because the occurs-check prevents unification of y with Father(y)).

9.6 Write down logical representations for the following sentences, suitable for use with Generalized Modus Ponens:

a. Horses, cows, and pigs are mammals.

Answer:

$Horse(x) \Rightarrow Mammal(x)$

$Cow(x) \Rightarrow Mammal(x)$

$Pig(x) \Rightarrow Mammal(x)$.

b. An offspring of a horse is a horse.

Answer:

$Offspring(x, y) \wedge Horse(y) \Rightarrow Horse(x)$.

c. Bluebeard is a horse.

Answer:

Horse(Bluebeard).

d. Bluebeard is Charlie's parent.

Answer:

Parent (Bluebeard,Charlie).

e. Offspring and parent are inverse relations.

Answer:

$\text{Offspring}(x, y) \Rightarrow \text{Parent}(y, x)$

$\text{Parent}(x, y) \Rightarrow \text{Offspring}(y, x).$

(Note we couldn't do $\text{Offspring}(x, y) \Leftrightarrow \text{Parent}(y, x)$ because that is not in the form expected by Generalized Modus Ponens.)

f. Every mammal has a parent.

Answer:

$\text{Mammal}(x) \Rightarrow \text{Parent}(G(x),x)$ (here G is a Skolem function).