

# Resolution in predicate Logic

- ***Normal forms of predicate (first-order) formulas***
  - **prenex, Skolem, clausal normal forms**
- ***Substitutions and unifiers***
- ***Resolution formal system***
- ***Refinements of predicate resolution***

# Prenex normal form

## Definition

A predicate formula  $U$  is in ***prenex normal form*** if it has the form:  $(Q_1x_1)...(Q_nx_n)M$ , where  $Q_i, i=1,...,n$  are quantifiers, and  $M$  is quantifier-free. The sequence  $(Q_1x_1)...(Q_nx_n)$  is called the ***prefix of the formula***  $U$ , and  $M$  is called the ***matrix of the formula***  $U$ . A predicate formula is in ***conjunctive prenex normal form*** if it is in prenex normal form and the matrix is in CNF.

## Theorem:

A predicate formula admits a logical equivalent conjunctive prenex normal form.

The ***prenex normal form*** is obtained by applying transformations which preserve the logical equivalence, according to the following steps:

**Step 1:** The connectives ' $\rightarrow$ ' and ' $\leftrightarrow$ ' are replaced using the connectives:  $\neg, \wedge, \vee$

**Step 2:** The bound variables are renamed such that they will be distinct.

**Step 3:** Application of infinitary DeMorgan's laws.

**Step 4:** The extraction of quantifiers in front of the formula.

**Step 5:** The matrix is transformed into CNF using DeMorgan's laws and the distributive laws.

## Extraction of quantifiers in front of the formula

$$A \vee (\exists x)B(x) \equiv (\exists x)(A \vee B(x))$$

$$A \vee (\forall x)B(x) \equiv (\forall x)(A \vee B(x))$$

$$A \wedge (\exists x)B(x) \equiv (\exists x)(A \wedge B(x))$$

$$A \wedge (\forall x)B(x) \equiv (\forall x)(A \wedge B(x))$$

where  $A$  does not contain  $x$  as a free variable.

$$(\exists x)A(x) \vee B \equiv (\exists x)(A(x) \vee B)$$

$$(\forall x)A(x) \vee B \equiv (\forall x)(A(x) \vee B)$$

$$(\exists x)A(x) \wedge B \equiv (\exists x)(A(x) \wedge B)$$

$$(\forall x)A(x) \wedge B \equiv (\forall x)(A(x) \wedge B)$$

where  $B$  does not contain  $x$  as a free variable.

# Skolem and clausal normal forms

## Definitions:

Let  $U$  be a first-order formula, and  $U^P = (Q_1x_1)...(Q_nx_n)M$  be one of its conjunctive prenex normal form. A formula in *Skolem normal form*, denoted by  $U^S$  corresponds to  $U$  and it is obtained as follows:

- For each existential quantifier  $Q_r$  from the prefix we apply the transformation:
  - if on the left side of  $Q_r$  there are no universal quantifiers, then we introduce a new constant  $a$ , and we replace in  $M$  all the occurrences of  $x_r$  by  $a$ .  $(Q_rx_r)$  is deleted from the prefix.
  - if  $Q_{s_1}, ..., Q_{s_m}, 1 \leq s_1 < ... < s_m < r$ , are all the universal quantifiers on the left side of  $Q_r$  in the prefix, then we introduce a new  $m$ -place function symbol,  $f$ , and we replace in  $M$  all the occurrences of  $x_r$  by  $f(x_{s_1}, ..., x_{s_m})$ .  $(Q_rx_r)$  is deleted from the prefix.
- The constants and functions used to replace the existentially quantified variables are called *Skolem constants* and *Skolem functions*. The prefix of the formula  $U^S$  contains only universal quantifiers, and the matrix is in conjunctive normal form.

A formula in *clausal normal form* denoted by  $U^c$  is obtained by deleting the prefix of  $U^S$ .

# Theoretical results

## Remarks:

- In **Step 4** we begin with the innermost quantifiers and we extract them in front of the corresponding parent subformulas, paying attention to the scope of each quantifier and we continue in this manner to the outside of the formula.  
If the obtained formula contains  $n$  distinct and independent groups of quantifiers, these groups can be extracted in an arbitrary order, therefore **there exist  $n!$  prenex normal forms, logically equivalent to the initial formula.**
- The **transformations** used in the Skolemization process **do not preserve the logical equivalence** but they **preserve the inconsistency** according to the next theorem.

## Theorem:

Let  $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_n, V$  be first-order formulas.

1.  $V$  is inconsistent *if and only if*  
 $V^P$  is inconsistent *if and only if*  
 $V^S$  is inconsistent, *if and only if*  
 $V^c$  is inconsistent.

2. The set  $\{U_1, U_2, \dots, U_n\}$  is inconsistent  
*if and only if*  
the set  $\{U_1^c, U_2^c, \dots, U_n^c\}$  is inconsistent.

## Example 1 Transform into normal forms the formula:

$$U = \neg((\forall x)(P(x) \rightarrow Q(x)) \rightarrow ((\forall x)P(x) \rightarrow (\forall x)Q(x)))$$

$$U = \neg((\overset{1}{\forall x})(\overset{2}{P(x) \rightarrow Q(x)}) \rightarrow (\overset{3}{(\forall x)P(x) \rightarrow (\forall x)Q(x)}))$$

replace ' $\rightarrow$ ' connectives, denoted by 1 and 3

$$U \equiv \neg((\forall x)(\neg P(x) \vee Q(x)) \rightarrow (\neg(\forall x)P(x) \vee (\forall x)Q(x)))$$

replace ' $\rightarrow$ ' connective

$$U \equiv \neg(\neg(\forall x)(\neg P(x) \vee Q(x)) \vee (\neg(\forall x)P(x) \vee (\forall x)Q(x)))$$

rename the bound variables

$$U \equiv \neg(\neg(\forall x)(\neg P(x) \vee Q(x)) \vee \neg(\forall y)P(y) \vee (\forall z)Q(z))$$

apply DeMorgan's laws

$$U \equiv (\forall x)(\neg P(x) \vee Q(x)) \wedge (\forall y)P(y) \wedge (\exists z)\neg Q(z)$$

extract the quantifiers in front of the formula

From all 6 **prenex forms** we choose 3:

$$U \equiv (\exists z)(\forall x)(\forall y)((\neg P(x) \vee Q(x)) \wedge P(y) \wedge \neg Q(z)) = U_1^P$$

$$U \equiv (\forall x)(\exists z)(\forall y)((\neg P(x) \vee Q(x)) \wedge P(y) \wedge \neg Q(z)) = U_2^P$$

$$U \equiv (\forall x)(\forall y)(\exists z)((\neg P(x) \vee Q(x)) \wedge P(y) \wedge \neg Q(z)) = U_3^P$$

**Skolemization process** applied to the formulas

$$U_1^P, U_2^P, U_3^P \Rightarrow \text{Skolem forms}$$

$$U_1^S = (\forall x)(\forall y)((\neg P(x) \vee Q(x)) \wedge P(y) \wedge \neg Q(a)),$$

$[z \leftarrow a]$ ,  $a$  is Skolem constant

$$U_2^S = (\forall x)(\forall y)((\neg P(x) \vee Q(x)) \wedge P(y) \wedge \neg Q(f(x)))$$

$[z \leftarrow f(x)]$ ,  $f$  is a unary Skolem function

$$U_3^S = (\forall x)(\forall y)((\neg P(x) \vee Q(x)) \wedge P(y) \wedge \neg Q(g(x, y)))$$

$[z \leftarrow g(x, y)]$ ,  $g$  is a binary Skolem function

**Clausal forms:**

$$U_1^C = (\neg P(x) \vee Q(x)) \wedge P(y) \wedge \neg Q(a)$$

$$U_2^C = (\neg P(x) \vee Q(x)) \wedge P(y) \wedge \neg Q(f(x))$$

$$U_3^C = (\neg P(x) \vee Q(x)) \wedge P(y) \wedge \neg Q(g(x, y))$$

## Example 2

Transform into clausal normal form the formula:

$$U = (\exists x)(\forall y)P(x, y) \vee (\exists z)(\neg Q(z) \vee (\forall u)(\exists t)R(z, u, t))$$

We extract first the group of quantifiers  $(\forall u)(\exists t)$  in front of its parent subformula, after  $(\exists z)$  to keep the scope of each of the three quantifiers:

$$U \equiv (\exists x)(\forall y)P(x, y) \vee (\exists z)(\forall u)(\exists t)(\neg Q(z) \vee R(z, u, t))$$

Now there are two groups of distinct and independent quantifiers:

$(\exists x)(\forall y)$  and  $(\exists z)(\forall u)(\exists t)$  and they can be extracted in two different ways.

To be noted that the order of the quantifiers inside a group cannot be changed.

We choose:

$$U^P = (\exists x)(\forall y)(\exists z)(\forall u)(\exists t)(P(x, y) \vee \neg Q(z) \vee R(z, u, t))$$

$$U^S = (\forall y)(\forall u)(P(a, y) \vee \neg Q(f(y)) \vee R(f(y), u, g(y, u))),$$

$[x \leftarrow a], [z \leftarrow f(y)], [t \leftarrow g(y, u)], a$  - Skolem constant,  $f, g$  - Skolem functions

$$U^c = P(a, y) \vee \neg Q(f(y)) \vee R(f(y), u, g(y, u))$$



# Substitutions

## Definition:

A *substitution* is a mapping from the set of variables *Var* into the set of terms: *TERMS*.

We denote by  $\theta = [x_1 \leftarrow t_1, \dots, x_k \leftarrow t_k]$ , a substitution, representing a finite set of replacements of variables, where  $x_1, \dots, x_k$  are distinct variables,  $t_1, \dots, t_k$  are terms, such that  $\forall i = 1, \dots, k : t_i \neq x_i$  and  $x_i$  is not a subterm of  $t_i$ .  $dom(\theta) = \{x_1, \dots, x_k\}$  is called the *domain* of  $\theta$ .

## Definition:

The result of applying the substitution  $\theta = [x_1 \leftarrow t_1, \dots, x_k \leftarrow t_k]$  to a formula is defined recursively as follows:

$\theta(x_i) = t_i, x_i \in dom(\theta);$	$\theta(f(t_1, \dots, t_n)) = f(\theta(t_1), \dots, \theta(t_n)), f \in F_n$
$\theta(x) = x, x \notin dom(\theta);$	$\theta(p(t_1, \dots, t_n)) = p(\theta(t_1), \dots, \theta(t_n)), p \in P_n$
$\theta(c) = c, c - \text{constant}$	$\theta(\neg U) = \neg \theta(U)$
	$\theta(U \circ V) = \theta(U) \circ \theta(V), \circ \in \{\vee, \wedge, \rightarrow, \leftrightarrow\}$
An instance $\theta(U)$ of $U$ is obtained by replacing simultaneously each occurrence of $x_i$ in $U$ by $t_i$ .	



# Substitutions and unifiers

## Definition:

The *composition* of two substitutions:

$\theta_1 = [x_1 \leftarrow t_1, \dots, x_k \leftarrow t_k]$  and  $\theta_2 = [y_1 \leftarrow s_1, \dots, y_n \leftarrow s_n]$  is defined as:

$$\theta = \theta_1 \theta_2 = [x_i \leftarrow \theta_2(t_i) \mid x_i \in \text{dom}(\theta_1), x_i \neq \theta_2(t_i)] \cup [y_j \leftarrow s_j \mid y_j \in \text{dom}(\theta_2) \setminus \text{dom}(\theta_1)]$$

**Properties:** Let  $\theta, \theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3$  be substitutions.

- $\varepsilon \theta = \theta \varepsilon = \theta$ ;  $\varepsilon$  - *empty substitution*;
- $\theta_1(\theta_2 \theta_3) = (\theta_1 \theta_2) \theta_3$ , *associativity property*;
- $\theta_1 \theta_2 \neq \theta_2 \theta_1$ , the *composition* of two substitutions *is not commutative* in general.

## Definition:

- A substitution  $\theta$  is a *unifier* of the terms  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  if  $\theta(t_1) = \theta(t_2)$ .  
The term  $\theta(t_1)$  is called the *common instance* of the unified terms.
- A *unifier of a set*  $\{U_1, \dots, U_n\}$  of formulas is a substitution  $\theta$  such that  $\theta(U_1) = \dots = \theta(U_n)$ .
- The *most general unifier* (*mgu*) is a unifier  $\mu$  such that any other unifier  $\theta$  can be obtained from  $\mu$  by a further substitution  $\lambda$ ,  $\theta = \mu \lambda$ .

## Example 3

Let  $\theta_1 = [x \leftarrow f(y), y \leftarrow f(a), z \leftarrow u]$  and

$\theta_2 = [y \leftarrow g(a), u \leftarrow z, v \leftarrow f(f(a))]$  be two substitutions.

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda_1 &= \theta_1 \theta_2 = [x \leftarrow \theta_2(f(y)), y \leftarrow \theta_2(f(a)), z \leftarrow \theta_2(u)] \cup [u \leftarrow z, v \leftarrow f(f(a))] = \\ &= [x \leftarrow f(g(a)), y \leftarrow f(a), z \leftarrow z, u \leftarrow z, v \leftarrow f(f(a))] = \\ &= [x \leftarrow f(g(a)), y \leftarrow f(a), u \leftarrow z, v \leftarrow f(f(a))]\end{aligned}$$

$$\lambda_2 = \theta_2 \theta_1 = [y \leftarrow g(a), v \leftarrow f(f(a)), x \leftarrow f(y), z \leftarrow u]$$

$\lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2$ , so the composition of two substitutions is not commutative in general.

## Algorithm for computing the mgu of two literals

**input:**  $l_1 = P_1(t_{1_1}, t_{1_2}, \dots, t_{1_n})$  and  $l_2 = P_2(t_{2_1}, t_{2_2}, \dots, t_{2_k})$  two literals

**output:**  $mgu(l_1, l_2)$  or the message “ $l_1, l_2$  are not unifiable”

**begin**

**if** ( $P_1 \neq P_2$ ) **then** write “ $l_1, l_2$  are not unifiable”; **exit**; **end\_if**

**if** ( $n \neq k$ ) **then** write “ $l_1, l_2$  are not unifiable”; **exit**; **end\_if**

$\theta := \varepsilon$ ; // initialization with empty substitution

**while** ( $\theta(l_1) \neq \theta(l_2)$ )

find in  $\theta(l_1), \theta(l_2)$  the terms corresponding to the outermost function symbols  
or variables that are different and denote them by  $t_1$  and  $t_2$ .

**if** (neither one of  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  is a variable or one is a subterm of the other one)

**then** write “ $l_1$  and  $l_2$  are not unifiable”; **exit**; **end\_if**

**if** ( $t_1$  is a variable) //  $\lambda$  is the unifier of the terms  $t_1, t_2$  in the current iteration

**then**  $\lambda := [t_1 \leftarrow t_2]$ ; **else**  $\lambda := [t_2 \leftarrow t_1]$ ; **end\_if**

$\theta := \theta\lambda$ ;

**if** ( $\theta$  is not a substitution) **then** write “ $l_1$  and  $l_2$  are not unifiable”; **exit**; **end\_if**

**end\_while**

write “ $l_1$  and  $l_2$  are unifiable and  $\theta$  is  $mgu(l_1, l_2)$ ”

**end**

# Example 4

1

Find the **most general unifier (mgu)** of the literals  $l_1 = P(a, x, f(g(y)))$  and  $l_2 = P(y, f(z), f(z))$ , where  $x, y, z \in Var$ ,  $a \in Const$ ,  $f, g \in F_1$ ,  $P \in P_3$ .

$\theta := \varepsilon$ $\theta(l_1) = P(a, x, f(g(y)))$ , $\theta(l_2) = P(y, f(z), f(z))$	<b>second iteration:</b> $\lambda := [x \leftarrow f(z)]$ ; unifier of $x$ and $f(z)$ ; $\theta := \theta\lambda = [y \leftarrow a][x \leftarrow f(z)] = [y \leftarrow a, x \leftarrow f(z)]$ ; $\theta(l_1) = P(a, f(z), f(g(a)))$ , $\theta(l_2) = P(a, f(z), f(z))$
<b>first iteration:</b> $\lambda := [y \leftarrow a]$ ; unifier of the terms $y$ and $a$ $\theta := \theta\lambda = [y \leftarrow a]$ ; $\theta(l_1) = P(a, x, f(g(a)))$ , $\theta(l_2) = P(a, f(z), f(z))$	<b>third iteration:</b> $\lambda := [z \leftarrow g(a)]$ ; unifier of the terms $z$ and $g(a)$ $\theta := \theta\lambda =$ $= [y \leftarrow a, x \leftarrow f(z)][z \leftarrow g(a)] =$ $[y \leftarrow a, x \leftarrow f(g(a)), z \leftarrow g(a)] = mgu(l_1, l_2)$ $\theta(l_1) = \theta(l_2) = P(a, f(g(a)), f(g(a)))$ is the common instance of $l_1$ and $l_2$

## Example 5

Check whether the literals  $l_1 = Q(x, a, f(x, y))$  and  $l_2 = Q(b, y, f(z, c))$ , are unifiable or not, where  $x, y, z \in Var$ ,  $a, b, c \in Const$ ,  $f \in F_2$ ,  $Q \in P_3$ .

$\theta := \varepsilon$ ;

$\theta(l_1) = Q(x, a, f(x, y))$

$\theta(l_2) = Q(b, y, f(z, c))$ ;

**second iteration:**

$\lambda := [y \leftarrow a]$ , unifier of the terms  $y$  and  $a$

$\theta := \theta\lambda$

$\theta := [x \leftarrow b][y \leftarrow a] = [x \leftarrow b, y \leftarrow a]$ ,

$\theta(l_1) = Q(b, a, f(b, a))$ ,  $\theta(l_2) = Q(b, a, f(z, c))$ ;

**first iteration:**

$\lambda := [x \leftarrow b]$ , unifier of the terms  $x$  and  $b$

$\theta := \theta\lambda = [x \leftarrow b]$ ;

$\theta(l_1) = Q(b, a, f(b, y))$ ,  $\theta(l_2) = Q(b, y, f(z, c))$ ;

**third iteration:**

$\lambda := [z \leftarrow b]$ , unifier of the terms  $z$  and  $b$

$\theta := \theta\lambda$

$\theta := [x \leftarrow b, y \leftarrow a][z \leftarrow b] = [x \leftarrow b, y \leftarrow a, z \leftarrow b]$

$\theta(l_1) = Q(b, a, f(b, a))$ ,  $\theta(l_2) = Q(b, a, f(b, c))$ ;

**fourth iteration:**

The terms  $a$  and  $c$ , which are distinct constants, are not unifiable, so the terms  $f(b, a)$  and  $f(z, c)$  are not unifiable and we conclude that the *literals*  $l_1$  and  $l_2$  are not unifiable.

# Predicate resolution

## - formal (axiomatic system) -

$\text{Res}^{\text{Pr}} = (\Sigma_{\text{Res}}^{\text{Pr}}, F_{\text{Res}}^{\text{Pr}}, A_{\text{Res}}^{\text{Pr}}, R_{\text{Res}}^{\text{Pr}})$ , where:

- $\Sigma_{\text{Res}}^{\text{Pr}} = \Sigma_{\text{Pr}} - \{\rightarrow, \leftrightarrow, \wedge, \exists, \forall\}$  is the *alphabet*;
- $F_{\text{Res}}^{\text{Pr}} \cup \{\square\}$  is the set of *well-formed formulas*;
  - $F_{\text{Res}}^{\text{Pr}}$  is the set of all clauses built using the alphabet  $\Sigma_{\text{Res}}^{\text{Pr}}$ ;
  - $\square$  is *empty clause*;
- $A_{\text{Res}}^{\text{Pr}} = \emptyset$  is the *set of axioms*;
- $R_{\text{Res}}^{\text{Pr}} = \{res^{\text{Pr}}, fact\}$  is the *set of inference rules* containing the *resolution rule* ( $res^{\text{Pr}}$ ) and the *factoring rule* ( $fact$ ).

$f \vee l_1, g \vee \neg l_2 \vdash_{res^{\text{Pr}}} \lambda(f) \vee \lambda(g)$ , where  $\lambda = mgu(l_1, l_2)$ ,  $f, g \in F_{\text{Res}}^{\text{Pr}}$ .

$l_1 \vee l_2 \vee \dots \vee l_k \vee l_{k+1} \vee \dots \vee l_n \vdash_{fact} \lambda(l_1 \vee l_{k+1} \vee \dots \vee l_n)$  where  $\lambda = mgu(l_1, l_2, \dots, l_k)$

# Definitions

## Definition:

- The predicate clauses  $C_1 = f \vee l_1$  and  $C_2 = g \vee \neg l_2$ , without common free variables, are called *clashing clauses* if the literals  $l_1$  and  $l_2$  are unifiable: there exists  $\lambda = mgu(l_1, l_2)$ .
- The *binary resolvent* of  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  is  $C = \text{Res}_\lambda^{\text{Pr}}(C_1, C_2) = \lambda(f) \vee \lambda(g)$ .
- If  $C = l_1 \vee l_2 \vee \dots \vee l_k \vee l_{k+1} \vee \dots \vee l_n$ ;  $l_1, l_2, \dots, l_n$  - literals and  $\lambda = mgu(l_1, l_2, \dots, l_k)$ ,  $\text{Fact}(C) = \lambda(l_1) \vee \lambda(l_{k+1}) \vee \dots \vee \lambda(l_n)$  is called a *factor* of  $C$ .

## Definition:

The *predicate resolvent* of two parent clauses  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  is one of the following:

1. the binary resolvent of  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ ;
2. the binary resolvent of  $C_1$  and a factor of  $C_2$ ;
3. the binary resolvent of a factor of  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ ;
4. the binary resolvent of a factor of  $C_1$  and a factor of  $C_2$ .



## Algorithm: Predicate Resolution

**input:**  $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_n, V$  - first-order formulas.

**output:** message: " $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_n \vdash V$ " or " $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_n \not\vdash V$ " or  
 "we cannot decide if  $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_n \vdash V$  or  $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_n \not\vdash V$ "

**begin**

build the set of clauses:  $S := \{U_1^c, U_2^c, \dots, U_n^c, (\neg V)^c\};$

**do**{

select  $l_1, l_2, C_1, C_2$  such that:

$C_1, C_2$  are clauses or factors of clauses of  $S$ ;

$l_1, l_2$  are literals,  $l_1 \in C_1$ , and  $\neg l_2 \in C_2$ ;

**if** ( $l_1$  and  $l_2$  are unifiable with  $\theta := mgu(l_1, l_2)$ ) **then**

$C := \text{Res}_{\theta}^{\text{Pr}}(C_1, C_2);$

**if** ( $C = \square$ ) **then** write " $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_n \vdash V$ "; **exit**;

**else**  $S := S \cup \{C\};$

**end\_if**

**end\_if**

**until** (no new resolvents can be derived **or**

a predefined quantity of effort was done)

**if** (no new resolvents can be derived) **then** write " $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_n \not\vdash V$ ";

**else** write "we cannot decide:  $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_n \vdash V$  or  $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_n \not\vdash V$ "

**end\_if**

**end**

# Theoretical results

## Theorem (*soundness and completeness of predicate resolution*)

A set  $S$  of predicate (first-order) clauses is **inconsistent** if and only if  $S \vdash_{\text{Res}}^{\text{Pr}} \square$ .

## Theorem (*resolution – a refutation proof method*)

Let  $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_n, V$  be first-order formulas.

➤  $\vdash V$  ( $\models V$ ) if and only if  $(\neg V)^c \vdash_{\text{Res}}^{\text{Pr}} \square$ .

➤  $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_n \vdash V$  if and only if  $\{U_1^c, U_2^c, \dots, U_n^c, (\neg V)^c\} \vdash_{\text{Res}}^{\text{Pr}} \square$ .

## Remarks:

- All the refinements and strategies of propositional resolution can be used in predicate logic.
- The resolution algorithm for predicate logic is a *semi-decision procedure*.

## Example 6

Check the **inconsistency** of the set  $S$  of clauses using **lock resolution**.

$$S = \{\neg P(x) \vee Q(x) \vee R(x), \neg Q(y) \vee R(y), P(a), \neg R(a)\}$$

The literals are indexed as follows:

$$C_1 = {}_{(3)}\neg P(x) \vee {}_{(2)}Q(x) \vee {}_{(1)}R(x) \qquad C_2 = {}_{(5)}\neg Q(y) \vee {}_{(4)}R(y)$$

$$C_3 = {}_{(6)}P(a), \qquad C_4 = {}_{(7)}\neg R(a)$$

The following resolvents are obtained:

$$C_5 = \text{Res}_{\theta_1=[x \leftarrow a]}^{\text{Pr}}(C_1, C_4) = {}_{(3)}\neg P(a) \vee {}_{(2)}Q(a)$$

$$C_6 = \text{Res}_{\theta_2=[y \leftarrow a]}^{\text{Pr}}(C_2, C_4) = {}_{(5)}\neg Q(a)$$

$$C_7 = \text{Res}^{\text{Pr}}(C_5, C_6) = {}_{(3)}\neg P(a)$$

$$C_8 = \text{Res}^{\text{Pr}}(C_3, C_7) = \square$$

$S \vdash_{\text{Res}}^{\text{lock, Pr}} \square$  and thus  $S$  is **inconsistent**.

## Example 7

Using **linear resolution** prove that  $S = \{C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4\}$  is an *inconsistent* set of clauses:

$$C_1 = P(x, f(x), e),$$

$$C_2 = \neg R(x) \vee \neg R(y) \vee \neg P(x, f(y), z) \vee R(z),$$

$$C_3 = R(a),$$

$$C_4 = \neg R(e)$$

Constants:  $a, e$ , function symbols:  $f$ , predicate symbols:  $P, R$

For linear resolution we choose the *top clause*:  $C_4$

$$C_2 \vdash_{fact}^{[y \leftarrow x]} C_5 = \neg R(x) \vee \neg P(x, f(x), z) \vee R(z),$$

$C_5$  is a factor of  $C_2$

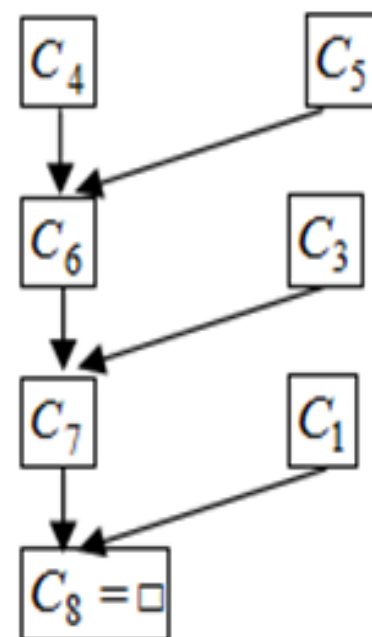
$$C_4, C_5 \vdash_{res}^{[z \leftarrow e]} C_6 = \neg R(x) \vee \neg P(x, f(x), e), \text{ central clause}$$

$$C_6, C_3 \vdash_{res}^{[x \leftarrow a]} C_7 = \neg P(a, f(a), e), \text{ central clause}$$

$$C_7, C_1 \vdash_{res}^{[x \leftarrow a]} C_8 = \square$$

*side clauses*:  $C_5, C_3, C_1$ .

From the set  $S$  we derived the empty clause,  
therefore  $S$  is *inconsistent*.



## Example 8

Prove the **semidistributivity** of ‘ $\forall$ ’ over ‘ $\rightarrow$ ’ :

$$\vdash (\forall x)(P(x) \rightarrow Q(x)) \rightarrow ((\forall x)P(x) \rightarrow (\forall x)Q(x)) \text{ and}$$

$$\not\vdash ((\forall x)P(x) \rightarrow (\forall x)Q(x)) \rightarrow (\forall x)(P(x) \rightarrow Q(x))$$

by applying predicate resolution.

We consider the predicate formulas.

$$U_1 = (\forall x)(P(x) \rightarrow Q(x)) \rightarrow ((\forall x)P(x) \rightarrow (\forall x)Q(x)) \text{ and}$$

$$U_2 = ((\forall x)P(x) \rightarrow (\forall x)Q(x)) \rightarrow (\forall x)(P(x) \rightarrow Q(x))$$

We apply the theoretical results:

- $\vdash U_1$  if and only if  $(\neg U_1)^c \vdash_{\text{Res}}^{\text{Pr}} \square$  and
- $\not\vdash U_2$  if and only if  $(\neg U_2)^c \not\vdash_{\text{Res}}^{\text{Pr}} \square$ .

# Example 8 (contd.)

Normal forms	Resolution process
$\neg U_1 = \neg((\forall x)(P(x) \rightarrow Q(x)) \rightarrow ((\forall x)P(x) \rightarrow (\forall x)Q(x)))$ replace ' $\rightarrow$ ': $\equiv (\forall x)(P(x) \rightarrow Q(x)) \wedge \neg((\forall x)P(x) \rightarrow (\forall x)Q(x)) \equiv$ $\equiv (\forall x)(P(x) \rightarrow Q(x)) \wedge (\forall x)P(x) \wedge \neg(\forall x)Q(x) \equiv$ $\equiv (\forall x)(\neg P(x) \vee Q(x)) \wedge (\forall x)P(x) \wedge \neg(\forall x)Q(x)$ infinitary DeMorgan's law is applied $\equiv (\forall x)(\neg P(x) \vee Q(x)) \wedge (\forall x)P(x) \wedge (\exists x)\neg Q(x)$ rename the bound variables $\equiv (\forall x)(\neg P(x) \vee Q(x)) \wedge (\forall y)P(y) \wedge (\exists z)\neg Q(z)$ extraction of the quantifiers, ' $\exists$ ' the first one extracted $(\neg U_1)^P = (\exists z)(\forall x)(\forall y)((\neg P(x) \vee Q(x)) \wedge P(y) \wedge \neg Q(z))$ <b>prenex form</b> $[z \leftarrow a], a$ - Skolem constant $(\neg U_1)^S = (\forall x)(\forall y)((\neg P(x) \vee Q(x)) \wedge P(y) \wedge \neg Q(a))$ <b>Skolem form</b> $(\neg U_1)^c = (\neg P(x) \vee Q(x)) \wedge P(y) \wedge \neg Q(a)$ - <b>clausal normal form</b>	The set of clauses: $S_1 = \{C_1 = \neg P(x) \vee Q(x),$ $C_2 = P(y),$ $C_3 = \neg Q(a)\}$  The <b>resolvents</b> : $C_4 = \text{Res}_{[x \leftarrow a]}^{\text{Pr}}(C_1, C_3) = \neg P(a)$ $C_5 = \text{Res}_{[y \leftarrow a]}^{\text{Pr}}(C_2, C_4) = \square$  We proved: $(\neg U_1)^c \vdash_{\text{Res}}^{\text{Pr}} \square,$ Therefore: $\vdash U_1$

## Example 8(contd.)

Normal forms	Resolution process
$\neg U_2 = \neg(((\forall x)P(x) \rightarrow (\forall x)Q(x)) \rightarrow (\forall x)(P(x) \rightarrow Q(x)))$ replace ' $\rightarrow$ ' and apply infinitary DeMorgan's law $\equiv ((\forall x)P(x) \rightarrow (\forall x)Q(x)) \wedge \neg(\forall x)(P(x) \rightarrow Q(x))$ $\equiv (\neg(\forall x)P(x) \vee (\forall x)Q(x)) \wedge (\exists x)(P(x) \wedge \neg Q(x))$ $\equiv ((\exists x)\neg P(x) \vee (\forall x)Q(x)) \wedge (\exists x)(P(x) \wedge \neg Q(x))$ rename the bound variables $\equiv ((\exists x)\neg P(x) \vee (\forall y)Q(y)) \wedge (\exists z)(P(z) \wedge \neg Q(z))$ extraction of the quantifiers, ' $\exists$ 's extracted first $(\neg U_2)^P = (\exists z)(\exists x)(\forall y)((\neg P(x) \vee Q(y)) \wedge P(z) \wedge \neg Q(z))$ <b>prenex form</b> $[z \leftarrow a, x \leftarrow b], a, b$ - Skolem constants $(\neg U_2)^S = (\forall y)((\neg P(b) \vee Q(y)) \wedge P(a) \wedge \neg Q(a))$ <b>Skolem form</b> $(\neg U_2)^c = (\neg P(b) \vee Q(y)) \wedge P(a) \wedge \neg Q(a)$ - <b>clausal normal form</b>	The set of clauses: $S_2 = \{C_1' = \neg P(b) \vee Q(y),$ $C_2' = P(a),$ $C_3' = \neg Q(a)\}$ The only <b>resolvent</b> is: $C_4' = \text{Res}_{[y \leftarrow a]}^{\text{Pr}}(C_1', C_3') = \neg P(b)$ $P(a), P(b)$ are not unifiable because $a, b$ are distinct constants, so the clauses $C_2' = P(a), C_4' = \neg P(b)$ do not resolve. $(\neg U_2)^c \not\models_{\text{Res}}^{\text{Pr}} \square$ , so $\not\models U_2$ .
$\vdash U_1$ and $\not\models U_2$ , ' $\forall$ ' is not distributive over the connective ' $\rightarrow$ ', it is only semi-distributive.	