

# First-Order Logic Part3

---

Dr. Igor Ivkovic

iivkovic@uwaterloo.ca

[with material from “Mathematical Logic for Computer Science”, by Zhongwan, published by World Scientific]

# Objectives

---

- Conversions to Conjunctive Normal Form, Prenex Normal Form, and Clausal Form
- Propositional Logic Formula Resolution
- First-Order Logic Formula Resolution

# Normal Forms /1

---

- **Recall these definitions from earlier in the course...**
- **Definition 2.10 Literals and Clauses:** (Definition 2.7.1)
  - Atoms and their negations are called literals
  - Disjunctions (conjunctions) with literals as disjuncts (conjuncts) are called disjunctive (conjunctive) clauses
- **Definition 2.11 Normal Forms:** (Definition 2.7.2)
  - A disjunction with conjunctive clauses as its disjuncts is called a disjunctive normal form
  - A conjunction with disjunctive clauses as its conjuncts is called a conjunctive normal form
- **Theorem 2.4:** (Theorem 2.7.3)
  - Any  $A \in \text{Form}(L^P)$  is logically equivalent to some disjunctive normal form
- **Theorem 2.5:** (Theorem 2.7.4)
  - Any  $A \in \text{Form}(L^P)$  is logically equivalent to some conjunctive normal form

# Normal Forms /2

---

- **Two literals are said to be complements/clashing if one is the negation of the other (e.g.,  $p$  and  $\neg p$ )**
- Also recall these logical equivalences:
  - $A \rightarrow B \equiv \neg A \vee B$
  - $A \vee B \equiv \neg A \rightarrow B$
  - $A \leftrightarrow B \equiv (A \rightarrow B) \wedge (B \rightarrow A)$
  - $A \vee (B \wedge C) \equiv (A \vee B) \wedge (A \vee C)$
  - $A \wedge (B \vee C) \equiv (A \wedge B) \vee (A \wedge C)$
  - $\neg(A \vee B) \equiv \neg A \wedge \neg B$
  - $\neg(A \wedge B) \equiv \neg A \vee \neg B$

# Normal Forms /3

---

- Let us convert the following formulas into CNF:

- $(p \wedge q) \vee r$  in CNF is  $(p \vee r) \wedge (q \vee r)$
- $\neg(p \vee q)$  in CNF is  $\neg p \wedge \neg q$
- $p \rightarrow q$  in CNF is  $\neg p \vee q$

- **Conversion to CNF:**

- **Step 1. Eliminate all connectors but negation  $\neg$ , conjunction  $\wedge$ , and disjunction  $\vee$**
- **Step 2. Push negation inwards using De Morgan's Laws,  $\neg(A \vee B) \equiv \neg A \wedge \neg B$  and  $\neg(A \wedge B) \equiv \neg A \vee \neg B$**
- **Step 3. Eliminate sequences of negations by deleting double negations with  $\neg\neg A \equiv A$**
- **Step 4. Distribute  $\wedge$  over  $\vee$  with distributive laws, such as  $A \vee (B \wedge C) \equiv (A \vee B) \wedge (A \vee C)$**

# Normal Forms /4

---

## ■ Conversion to CNF Example:

- $(\neg p \rightarrow \neg q) \rightarrow (p \rightarrow q)$

- Step 1. Eliminate all connectors but  $\neg$ ,  $\wedge$ , and  $\vee$

$$\equiv \neg(\neg\neg p \vee \neg q) \vee (\neg p \vee q)$$

- Step 2. Push negation inwards

$$\equiv (\neg\neg\neg p \wedge \neg\neg q) \vee (\neg p \vee q)$$

- Step 3. Eliminate sequences of negations

$$\equiv (\neg p \wedge q) \vee (\neg p \vee q)$$

- Step 4. Distribute  $\wedge$  over  $\vee$  with distributive laws

$$\equiv (\neg p \vee (\neg p \vee q)) \wedge (q \vee (\neg p \vee q))$$

$$\equiv (\neg p \vee \neg p \vee q) \wedge (q \vee \neg p \vee q) \text{ (by associative laws)}$$

# Clausal Form /1

---

## ■ Recall:

- Atoms and their negations are called literals
- Disjunctions with literals as disjuncts are called disjunctive clauses
- A conjunction with disjunctive clauses as its conjuncts is called a conjunctive normal form

## ■ Clausal form is based on the CNF:

- A unit clause is a clause consisting of exactly one literal
- Each clause in clausal form is implicitly a disjunction of its literals (i.e., each clause is a disjunctive clause)
- The empty set of literals is the empty clause, denoted  $\square$
- **A formula in the clausal form is a set of disjunctive clauses; a formula is considered to be an implicit conjunction of its clauses**

# Clausal Form /2

---

- Each  $\varphi \in \text{Form}(L^p)$  can be transformed into a logically equivalent formula in clausal form
  - **For the formula  $(\neg p \vee \neg p \vee q) \wedge (q \vee \neg p \vee q)$ , its equivalent clausal form is  $\{\{\neg p, \neg p, q\}, \{q, \neg p, q\}\}$**
  - Duplicate literals can be removed with the idempotent laws,  $A \vee A \equiv A$  and  $A \wedge A \equiv A$ ; Revised clausal form for above:  $\{\{\neg p, q\}\}$
- **Trivial Clause:**
  - Contains a pair of clashing literals, such as  $p$  and  $\neg p$
  - Removing a trivial clause from the clausal form of a formula does not change its truth value (trivial clauses are always true)
  - **If after removing all of the trivial clauses the clausal form is an empty set  $\emptyset$  then the given formula is valid**
  - **Note that this is different from the empty clause  $\square$ , which instead indicates that the clausal form is unsatisfiable**



# Formula Resolution /1

---

## ■ Resolution Rule:

$$\frac{\{p_1, \dots, p_i, \dots, p_n\}, \{q_1, \dots, q_j, \dots, q_m\}}{\{p_1, \dots, p_{i-1}, p_{i+1}, \dots, p_n, q_1, \dots, q_{j-1}, q_{j+1}, \dots, q_m\}}$$

- $p_1, \dots, p_n, q_1, \dots, q_m$  are literals
- **$p_i$  and  $q_j$  are the clashing literals**
- The clause computed by the resolution rule is called the resolvent of the clashing (input) clauses

## ■ Example:

$$\frac{\{\neg p, q\}, \{p\}}{\{q\}}$$

Does this look familiar?  
What rule is it? 😊

## ■ Resolvent Theorem:

- The resolvent is satisfiable iff its parent clauses are also satisfiable (for both propositional and first-order logic)

# Formula Resolution /2

---

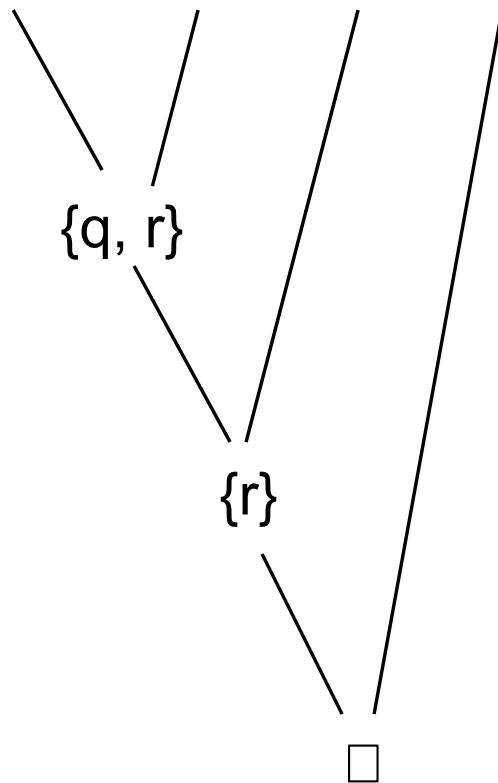
- **Formula resolution for a set of clauses S:**
  - **Goal: To determine if S is satisfiable or unsatisfiable**
    - Also called resolution refutation of S
  - Step 1. Select two clashing clauses  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  which are in S but that have not been selected before
  - Step 2. Compute the resolvent C for  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  according to the resolution rule defined previously
  - Step 3. If C is not a trivial clause, add C to S; otherwise, ignore C and continue
  - Step 4. Terminate if C is  $\square$  (S is unsatisfiable), or if all pairs of clashing clauses have been resolved but C is not an empty clause (S is satisfiable); otherwise, go to Step1
- **The formula resolution is both sound and complete**

# Formula Resolution /3

---

- **Formula resolution example (shown as a graph):**

- $\{\neg p, q\}, \{p, r\}, \{\neg q\}, \{\neg r\}$



- Hence, the given set of clauses is unsatisfiable

# Formula Resolution /4

---

## ■ **Formula Resolution for First-Order Logic:**

- Before we can apply the formula resolutions to first-order logic formulas, let us convert them into a special normal form called **Prenex Normal Form**
- $\varphi \in \text{WFF}$  of first-order logic is in Prenex Normal Form if all its quantifiers are to the left of the expression
- That is, a formula  $\varphi$  is in **Prenex Normal Form (PNF)** if it is of the following form:  $Q_1 x_1 \cdot \dots \cdot Q_n x_n \cdot M$ , where  $Q_i$ 's are the quantifiers,  $x_i$ 's are the variables, and  $M$  is a WFF (called the matrix) that is free of quantifiers
- $\varphi \in \text{WFF}$  is in **Prenex Conjunctive Normal Form (PCNF)** iff  $\varphi$  is in PNF and  $M$  is in CNF

# Formula Resolution /5

---

## ■ **Conversion to PCNF:**

- **Step 1. Rename bound variables so that no variable appears in two quantifiers**
- **Step 2. Eliminate all connectors but  $\neg$ ,  $\wedge$ , and  $\vee$**
- **Step 3. Push negation inwards**
- **Step 4. Eliminate sequences of negations**
- **Step 5. Extract quantifiers from the matrix using quantifier extraction rules**
- **Step 6. Distribute  $\wedge$  over  $\vee$  with distributive laws**
- **Step 7. Replace every existential quantifier  $\exists x$  with a function  $f(y_1, \dots, y_n)$  where  $y_1, \dots, y_n$  are universally bound variables (e.g.,  $\forall y_1$ ) appearing before  $\exists x$** 
  - The functions  $f$  are called **Skolem functions**, and the process of replacing existential quantifiers with the Skolem functions is called **Skolemization**

# Formula Resolution /6

---

## ■ Quantifier Extraction Rules:

### ■ Negation Rules:

$$\neg \forall x A(x) \equiv \exists x \neg A(x)$$

$$\neg \exists x A(x) \equiv \forall x \neg A(x)$$

### ■ Disjunction Rules:

(x does not appear in C)

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

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

### ■ Conjunction Rules:

(x does not appear in C)

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

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

### ■ Implication Rules:

(x does not appear in C)

$$C \rightarrow \forall x A(x) \equiv \forall x (C \rightarrow A(x))$$

$$C \rightarrow \exists x A(x) \equiv \exists x (C \rightarrow A(x))$$

$$\forall x A(x) \rightarrow C \equiv \exists x (A(x) \rightarrow C)$$

$$\exists x A(x) \rightarrow C \equiv \forall x (A(x) \rightarrow C)$$

# Formula Resolution /7

---

## ■ Conversion to PCNF Example:

- $\exists x \forall y A(x, y) \rightarrow \forall y \exists x A(x, y)$
- Step 1. Rename bound variables  
 $\equiv \exists x \forall y A(x, y) \rightarrow \forall w \exists z A(z, w)$
- Step 2. Eliminate all connectors but  $\neg$ ,  $\wedge$ , and  $\vee$   
 $\equiv \neg \exists x \forall y A(x, y) \vee \forall w \exists z A(z, w)$
- Step 3. Push negation inwards  
 $\equiv \forall x \exists y \neg A(x, y) \vee \forall w \exists z A(z, w)$ 
  - Step 4 skipped since nothing to do
- Step 5. Extract quantifiers from the matrix  
 $\equiv \forall x \exists y \forall w \exists z (\neg A(x, y) \vee A(z, w))$ 
  - Step 6 skipped since nothing to do
- Step 7. Apply Skolemization  
 $\equiv \forall x \forall w (\neg A(x, f(x)) \vee A(g(x, w), w))$

# Formula Resolution /8

---

## ■ What is left to do before resolution?

- Drop the universal quantifiers and write the formula in the clausal form
- $\exists x \forall y A(x, y) \rightarrow \forall y \exists x A(x, y)$  (*original formula*)
- $\forall x \forall w (\neg A(x, f(x)) \vee A(g(x, w), w))$  (*PCNF formula*)
- $\{\{\neg A(x, f(x)), A(g(x, w), w)\}\}$  (*clausal form*)

## ■ Ground Clause:

- A clause of a formula with no quantifiers and no variables
- For instance,  $p(a, b)$  would be a ground clause for  $p(x, y)$  obtained by substituting  $a$  for  $x$  and  $b$  for  $y$

## ■ Ground Formula Resolution:

- Converts all clauses into ground clauses and then applies the resolution rule

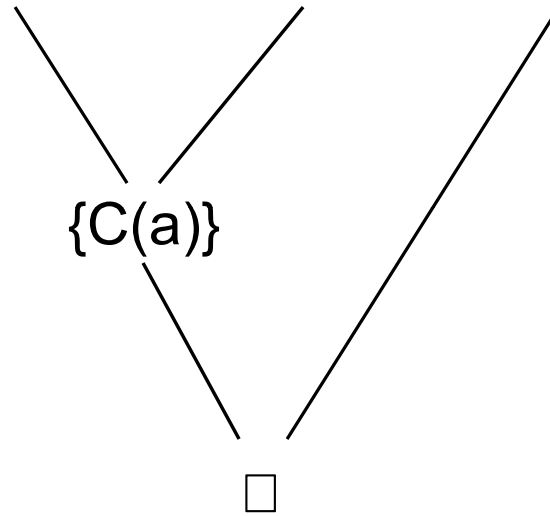


# Formula Resolution /9

---

- **Ground resolution example (shown as a graph):**

- $\{B(f(b)), C(a)\}, \{\neg B(f(b))\}, \{\neg C(a)\}$



- Hence, the given set of clauses is unsatisfiable

# Formula Resolution /10

---

- **What else can we prove with this method?**
  - We can prove that a formula is valid (or not valid)
  - We can prove that  $\Sigma$  satisfies  $\varphi$  (also that  $\Sigma \vdash \varphi$  holds)
- **To prove that  $\varphi \in \text{WFF}$  is valid:**
  - Step1. Convert  $\neg\varphi$  into the clausal form
  - Step2. Apply ground resolution and check if the derived set of clauses is unsatisfiable
  - Step3. If  $\neg\varphi$  is unsatisfiable then  $\varphi$  is valid
- **To prove that  $\Sigma$  satisfies  $\varphi$ :**
  - Step1. Convert  $\Sigma$  and  $\neg\varphi$  into the clausal form
  - Step2. Apply ground resolution and check if the clauses of  $\Sigma \cup \{\neg\varphi\}$  are unsatisfiable
  - Step3. If  $\Sigma \cup \{\neg\varphi\}$  is unsatisfiable then  $\Sigma$  satisfies  $\varphi$

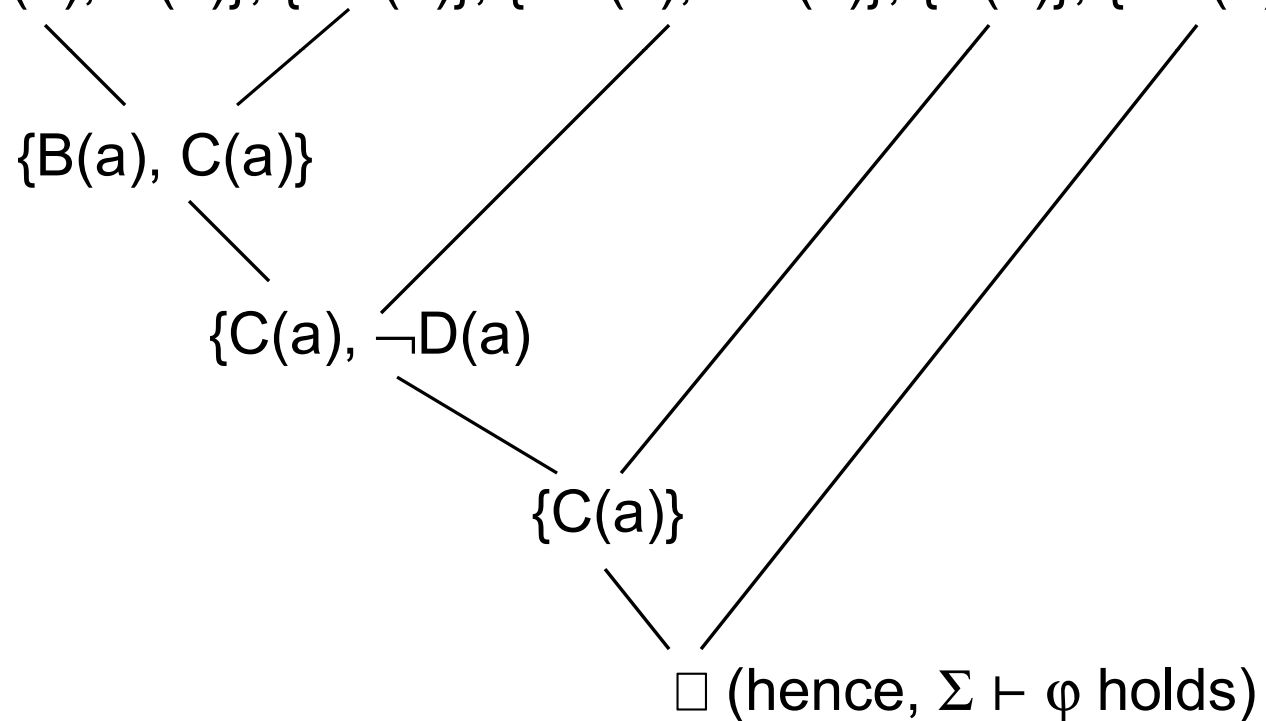
# Formula Resolution /11

## ■ Ground resolution example (shown as a graph):

■  $\Sigma = \{\{A(x), B(x), C(x)\}, \{\neg A(a)\}, \{\neg B(x), \neg D(x)\}, \{D(a)\}\}$

■  $\varphi = C(a)$

■  $\{A(a), B(a), C(a)\}, \{\neg A(a)\}, \{\neg B(a), \neg D(a)\}, \{D(a)\}, \{\neg C(a)\}$



# Formula Resolution /12

---

## ■ **Additional Notes:**

- **Unification** – Apply the substitution to the input clauses to make the otherwise diverse clauses match
- **Unifier** – A substitution  $\theta$  is a unifier for two terms  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  that do not share any variables if  $\theta(t_1) = \theta(t_2)$
- For instance,  $A(x, f(y))$  and  $A(f(x), f(z))$  can be unified using  $\theta(x/f(x), y/z)$  into  $A(f(x), f(z))$

## ■ **Programs Defined as Formulas:**

$\forall x \text{ PLUS}(0, x, x)$

$\forall x \forall y \forall z (\text{PLUS}(x, y, z) \rightarrow \text{PLUS}(s(x), y, s(z)))$

# Food for Thought

---

- **Read:**

- Chapter 3, Section 3.6 from Zhongwan
- Chapter 6, Section 6.3 from Zhongwan
  - Read the material discussed in class in more detail
  - Cursory reading of the material not emphasized in class

- **Answer Assignment #5 questions**

- Assignment #5 includes several practice exercises related to Formula Resolutions