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logical language

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In its most general form, a *logical language* is a set of rules for constructing *formulas* for some logic, which can then be assigned truth values based on the rules of that logic.

A logical language \mathcal{L} consists of:

- A set F of function symbols (common examples include $+$ and \cdot)
- A set R of relation symbols (common examples include $=$ and $<$)
- A set C of logical connectives (usually \neg , \wedge , \vee , \rightarrow and \leftrightarrow)
- A set Q of quantifiers (usually \forall and \exists)
- A set V of variables

Every function symbol, relation symbol, and connective is associated with an arity (the set of n -ary function symbols is denoted F_n , and similarly for relation symbols and connectives). Each quantifier is a generalized quantifier associated with a quantifier type $\langle n_1, \dots, n_n \rangle$.

The underlying logic has a (possibly empty) set of types T . There is a function $\text{Type} : F \cup V \rightarrow T$ which assigns a type to each function and variable. For each arity n is a function $\text{Inputs}_n : F_n \cup R_n \rightarrow T^n$ which gives the types of each of the arguments to a function symbol or relation. In addition, for each quantifier type $\langle n_1, \dots, n_n \rangle$ there is a function $\text{Inputs}_{\langle n_1, \dots, n_n \rangle}$ defined on $Q_{\langle n_1, \dots, n_n \rangle}$ (the set of quantifiers of that type) which gives an n -tuple of n_i -tuples of types of the arguments taken by formulas the quantifier applies to.

The *terms* of \mathcal{L} of type $t \in T$ are built as follows:

1. If v is a variable such that $\text{Type}(v) = t$ then v is a term of type t
2. If f is an n -ary function symbol such that $\text{Type}(f) = t$ and t_1, \dots, t_n are terms such that for each $i < n$ $\text{Type}(t_i) = (\text{Inputs}_n(f))_i$ then ft_1, \dots, t_n is a term of type t

The *formulas* of \mathcal{L} are built as follows:

1. If r is an n -ary relation symbol and t_1, \dots, t_n are terms such that $\text{Type}(t_i) = (\text{Inputs}_n(r))_i$ then rt_1, \dots, t_n is a formula

2. If c is an n -ary connective and f_1, \dots, f_n are formulas then cf_1, \dots, f_n is a formula
3. If q is a quantifier of type $\langle n_1, \dots, n_n \rangle$, $v_{1,1}, \dots, v_{1,n_1}, v_{2,1}, \dots, v_{n,1}, \dots, v_{n,n_n}$ are a sequence of variables such that $\text{Type}(v_{i,j}) = ((\text{Inputs}_{\langle n_1, \dots, n_n \rangle}(q))_j)_i$ and f_1, \dots, f_n are formulas then $qv_{1,1}, \dots, v_{1,n_1}, v_{2,1}, \dots, v_{n,1}, \dots, v_{n,n_n} f_1, \dots, f_n$ is a formula

Generally the connectives, quantifiers, and variables are specified by the appropriate logic, while the function and relation symbols are specified for particular languages. Note that 0-ary functions are usually called *constants*.

If there is only one type which is equated directly with truth values then this is essentially a propositional logic. If the standard quantifiers and connectives are used, there is only one type, and one of the relations is $=$ (with its usual semantics), this produces first order logic. If the standard quantifiers and connectives are used, there are two types, and the relations include $=$ and \in with appropriate semantics, this is second order logic (a slightly different formulation replaces \in with a 2-ary function which represents function application; this views second order objects as functions rather than sets).

Note that often connectives are written with infix notation with parentheses used to control order of operations.