

Formalization of AMR Inference via Hybrid Logic Tableaux

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Abstract

AMR and its extensions have become popular in semantic representation due to their ease of annotation by non-experts, attention to the predicative core of sentences, and abstraction away from various syntactic matter. An area where AMR and its extensions warrant improvement is formalization and suitability for inference, where it is lacking compared to other semantic representations, such as description logics, episodic logic, and discourse representation theory. This thesis presents a formalization of inference over a merging of Donatelli et al.'s (2018) AMR extension for tense and aspect and with Pustejovsky et al.'s (2019) AMR extension for quantification and scope. Inference is modeled with a merging of Hansen's (2007) tableau method for first-order hybrid logic with varying domain semantics (*FHL*) and Blackburn and Jørgensen's (2012) tableau method for basic hybrid tense logic (*BHTL*). We motivate the merging of these AMR variants, present their interpretation and inference in the combination of *FHL* and *BHTL*, which we will call *FHTL* (first-order hybrid tense logic), and demonstrate *FHTL*'s soundness, completeness, and decidability.

1 Merging Quantified Hybrid Logic and Indexical Hybrid Tense Logic

1.1 Background

1.2 First-order Hybrid Logic

Hansen (2007)

from

Blackburn and Marx (2002)

1.3 Basic Hybrid Tense Logic

Blackburn and Jørgensen (2012)

2 First-order Hybrid Tense Logic - Syntax and Semantics

The syntax of *FHTL* is identical to *FHL* as given in Hansen (2007) except uses of \downarrow as in $\downarrow w.\varphi$ are omitted along with \Box and \Diamond as in $\Box\varphi$ and $\Diamond\varphi$. \Box and \Diamond are replaced by their semantic equivalents F and G and their temporal duals P and H are added.

Atomic formulae are the same as in *FHL*, symbols in *NOM* and *SVAR* together with first-order atomic formulae generated from the predicate symbols and equality over the terms. Thus complex formulae are generated from the atomic formulae according to the following rules:

$$\neg\varphi \mid \varphi \wedge \psi \mid \varphi \vee \psi \mid \varphi \rightarrow \psi \mid \exists x\varphi \mid \forall x\varphi \mid F\varphi \mid G\varphi \mid P\varphi \mid H\varphi \mid @_n\varphi$$

Since we want the domain of quantification to be indexed over the collection of nominals/times, we look to Fitting and Mendelsohn's (1998) treatment of first-order modal logic with varying domain semantics and use it to alter the *FHL* model definition to the following:

$$(T, R, D_t, I_{nom}, I_t)_{t \in T}$$

Thus with varying domain semantics a *FHTL* model is identical to the definition for a *FHL* model in that:

- (T, R) is a modal frame.

- I_{nom} is a function assigning members of T to nominals.

The differences manifest on the level of the model and interpretation. Namely, where $D = \cup_{t \in T} D_t$, (D, I_t) is a first-order model where:

- $I_t(q) \in D$ where q is a unary function symbol.
- $I_t(P) \in D^k$ where P is a k -ary predicate symbol.

Notice we've relaxed the requirement that $I_t(c) = I_{t'}(c)$ for c a constant and $t, t' \in T$, since the interpretation of the constant need not exist at both times. This permits us to distinguish between the domain of a frame and the domain of a time/world, in a way that prevents a variable x from failing to refer at a given time/world, even if it has no interpretation at that time. Intuitively this permits *FHTL* to handle interpretation of entities in natural language utterances, which while reasonable to refer to do not exist at a current time, e.g. previous and future presidents.

Free variables are handled similarly as in *FHL*. Where again $D = \cup_{t \in T} D_t$, a *FHTL* assignment is a function:

$$g: \text{SVAR} \cup \text{FVAR} \rightarrow T \cup D$$

Where state variables are sent to times/worlds and first-order variables are sent to D , the domain of the frame. Thus given a model and an assignment g , the interpretation of terms t denoted by \bar{t} is defined as:

- $\bar{x} = g(x)$ for x a variable.
- $\bar{c} = I_t(c)$ for c a constant and some $t \in T$.
- For q a unary function symbol:

- For n a nominal:

$$\overline{@_n q} = I_{I_{nom}(n)}(q)$$

- For n a state variable:

$$\overline{@_n q} = I_{g(n)}(q)$$

Finally we say an assignment g' is an x -variant of g if g' and g on all variables except possibly x . In particular, we say g' is an x -variant of g at t , a time, if g' and g on all variables except possibly x and $g'(x) \in D_t$. We omit definitions for \wedge , \rightarrow , H , G , and \forall , since they can be defined in terms of the other rules. Given a model \mathfrak{M} , a variable assignment g , and a state s , the inductive definition of $\mathfrak{M}, s \models_g \varphi$ is:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{M}, s \models_g P(t_1, \dots, t_n) &\iff \langle \bar{t}_1, \dots, \bar{t}_n \rangle \in I_s(P) \\ \mathfrak{M}, s \models_g t_i = t_j &\iff \bar{t}_i = \bar{t}_j \\ \mathfrak{M}, s \models_g n &\iff I_{nom}(n) = s, \text{ for } n \text{ a nominal} \\ \mathfrak{M}, s \models_g w &\iff g(w) = s, \text{ for } w \text{ a state variable} \\ \mathfrak{M}, s \models_g \neg \varphi &\iff \mathfrak{M}, s \not\models_g \varphi \\ \mathfrak{M}, s \models_g \varphi \vee \psi &\iff \mathfrak{M}, s \models_g \varphi \text{ or } \mathfrak{M}, s \models_g \psi \\ \mathfrak{M}, s \models_g \exists x \varphi &\iff \mathfrak{M}, s \models_{g'} \varphi \text{ for some } x\text{-variant } g' \text{ of } g \text{ at } s \\ \mathfrak{M}, s \models_g F\varphi &\iff \mathfrak{M}, t \models_g \varphi \text{ for some } t \in T \text{ such that } Rst \\ \mathfrak{M}, s \models_g P\varphi &\iff \mathfrak{M}, t \models_g \varphi \text{ for some } t \in T \text{ such that } Rts \\ \mathfrak{M}, s \models_g @_n \varphi &\iff \mathfrak{M}, I_{nom}(n) \models_g \varphi \text{ for } n \text{ a nominal} \\ \mathfrak{M}, s \models_g @w \varphi &\iff \mathfrak{M}, g(w) \models_g \varphi \text{ for } w \text{ a state variable} \end{aligned}$$

2.1 The Tableau Calculus

For **Nom** we have the constraint that if the premise $@_t\varphi$ are of the form $@_tXc$ where $X \in \{F, P, \neg G, \neg H\}$ and c is a nominal or state variable, then $@_t\varphi$ is a root subformula. Similarly for **Nom**⁻¹ and the premise $@_s\varphi$.

In all rules in ??, the nominal a is new to the branch. We have the additional constraint that if φ in the premise is a nominal or state variable, then the premise must be a root subformula in order for the rule to be applicable.

Following Fitting and Mendelsohn (1998) we assume for each nominal or state variable s , there is an infinite list of parameters, where parameters are free variables which are never quantified over, arranged in such a way that different nominals/state variables never share the same parameter. Informally we write p_s to indicate a parameter is associated with a nominal/state variable s .

We also introduce the notion of a grounded term. A grounded term is either a first-order constant, a parameter, or a grounded definite description, i.e. a term of the form $@_nq$ for n a nominal and q a unary function symbol.

In (\exists) , $s:p$ is a parameter associated with the nominal s , with the requirement that it is new to the branch. Since parameters are never quantified over, $s:p$ is free in $\varphi[s:p/x]$ but refers the same way as a constant. In $(\neg\exists)$, t is any parameter or term without variables which exists at s . Following Fitting (1988) to ensure termination of tableau construction we borrow the notion of quantifier depth

2.2 Soundness and completeness

The proof of soundness and completeness of *FHL* in Hansen (2007) uses the notions of \Diamond -completeness and \exists -completeness. As a result we substitute \Diamond -completeness with the equivalent notion *F-completeness* and add the notion of *P-completeness* where the \exists -completeness stays the same as before. Thus set of @-formulae (formulae in the extended language (including parameters) of the form $@_i\varphi$) is *F-complete* if:

$$@_iF\varphi \in S \implies @_iFj \text{ or } @_jPi, @_j\varphi \in S, \text{ for some nominal } j$$

A set of @-formulae is *P-complete* if:

$$@_iP\varphi \in S \implies @_iPj \text{ or } @_jFi, @_j\varphi \in S, \text{ for some nominal } j$$

Soundness and completeness for *FHTL* follows straightforward modification of Hansen's proof of soundness and completeness for *FHL* in a way that reflects the new formulae of the form $@_iP\varphi$.

2.3 Tableau Construction

Definition 2.1 (Closed and open). If a tableau branch contains a formula $@_s\varphi$ and its negation $@_s\neg\varphi$ we say the branch is *closed*. If every branch of the tableau is closed we say the tableau itself is closed. If a tableau or branch is not closed we say it is *open*.

A closed tableau is a proof of the unsatisfiability of the tableau's root formula, i.e. there is no model or assignment of variables in which it holds. The question of when a tableau indicates satisfiability of the root formula leads us to our next definition.

Definition 2.2 (Saturation). A tableau branch is *saturated* if no more rules can be applied to the branch in a way that satisfies their constraints. If every branch of the tableau is saturated we say the tableau is saturated.

For the unconstrained tableau rules, completeness gives us that an open saturated tableau is satisfiable. Since the constrained rules only guarantee termination in the case of finite models, we are not compromising completeness for termination we have the same guarantee for open saturated tableaux. As a result, given termination of the tableaux and finite models, we can use the tableaux to check whether the root formula is satisfied in the model, in particular the process is decidable.

The proof of termination for every tableau construction is adapted from the proof given in Bolander and Blackburn (2009) for the termination of the tableau construction algorithm for $\mathcal{H}(@)$.

Definition 2.3. When a formula $@_s\varphi$ occurs in a tableau branch Θ we will write $@_s\varphi \in \Theta$, and say φ is true at s on Θ or s makes φ true on Θ .

Propositional rules:

$$\frac{@_s(\varphi \vee \psi)}{@_s\varphi \mid @_s\psi} (\vee)$$

$$\frac{@_s\neg(\varphi \vee \psi)}{@_s\neg\varphi \quad @_s\neg\psi} (\neg\vee)$$

$$\frac{@_s\neg\neg\varphi}{@_s\varphi} (\neg\neg)$$

Modal rules:

$$\frac{@_sF\varphi}{@_sFa} (F)^a$$

$$\frac{@_sP\varphi}{@_sPa} (P)^a$$

$$\frac{@_s\neg P\varphi \quad @_sPt}{@_t\neg\varphi} (\neg P)$$

$$\frac{@_s\neg F\varphi \quad @_sFt}{@_t\neg\varphi} (\neg F)$$

Quantifier rules:

$$\frac{@_s\exists x\varphi}{@_s\varphi[s:p/x]} (\exists)^b$$

$$\frac{@_s\neg\exists x\varphi}{@_s\neg\varphi[t/x]} (\neg\exists)^c$$

Equality rules:

$$\frac{}{@_i j:t = j:t} (\text{ref})^d$$

$$\frac{@_i j:t = k:s \quad @_i\varphi}{@_i\varphi[j:t//k:s]} (\text{sub})^e$$

@ rules:

$$\frac{@_s @_t\varphi}{@_t\varphi} (@)$$

$$\frac{@_s\neg @_t\varphi}{@_t\neg\varphi} (\neg @)$$

$$\frac{@_s t \quad @_s\varphi}{@_t\varphi} (\text{nom})$$

$$\frac{[i \text{ on the branch}]}{@_i i} (\text{nom ref})$$

$$\frac{@_s Pt}{@_t Fs} (P\text{-trans})$$

$$\frac{@_s Ft}{@_t Ps} (F\text{-trans})$$

$$\frac{@_s Pt \quad @_t u}{@_s Pu} (P\text{-bridge})$$

$$\frac{@_s Ft \quad @_t u}{@_s Fu} (F\text{-bridge})$$

FHTL term rules:

$$\frac{@_i k_1:t = k_2:s}{@_i k_1:t = k_2:s} (:1)$$

$$\frac{@_i j}{@_k i:t = j:t} (:2)^d$$

$$\frac{}{@_i k:j:t = j:t} (:3)^d$$

$$\frac{@_i R(t_1, \dots, t_n)}{@_i R(i:t_1, \dots, i:t_n)} (: \text{fix } 1)$$

$$\frac{@_i \neg R(t_1, \dots, t_n)}{@_i \neg R(i:t_1, \dots, i:t_n)} (: \text{fix } 2)$$

$$\frac{@_i t = s}{@_i i:t = i:s} (: \text{fix } 3)$$

$$\frac{@_i \neg t = s}{@_i \neg i:t = i:s} (: \text{fix } 4)$$

$$\frac{}{@_i f(t_1, \dots, t_n) = f(i:t_1, \dots, i:t_n)} (: \text{func})^f$$

^aThe nominal a is new to the branch.

^b $s:p$ is new to the branch.

^c p is any ground term or parameter which exists at s .

^dWhere t is a closed term.

^e $\varphi[j:t//k:s]$ is φ where some occurrences of $j:t$ have been replaced by $k:s$.

^f f is an n -ary function symbol and t_1, \dots, t_n are closed terms.

Definition 2.4. Given a tableau branch Θ and a nominal s the *set of true formulae* at s on Θ , is written $T^\Theta(s)$ and defined as follows:

$$T^\Theta(s) = \{\varphi \mid @_s\varphi \in \Theta\}$$

Definition 2.5 (Quasi-subformula). A formula φ is a *quasi-subformula* of a formula ψ if one of the the following is the case:

1. φ is a subformula of ψ modulo substitution of free variables in φ for grounded terms.
2. φ is of the form $\neg\chi$ where χ modulo substitution of free variables in χ for grounded terms.

Altering the definition to allow grounded terms being substituted for free variables ensures compatibility of the following proofs with the quantifier and term rules.

Definition 2.6 (Accessibility formula). A formula of the form $@_s Ft$ or $@_s Pt$ on Θ is called an *accessibility formula* if it is the first conclusion of an application of F or P .

Definition 2.7 (Term equality formula). A formula of the form $@_i t = s$ where s and t are extended terms is called a term equality formula if it is an immediate conclusion of **(ref)**, **(:3)**, or **(:func)**, or is generated from such a formula by one or more applications of **(:1)**, **(:2)**, **(:fix 3)**, or **(:fix 4)**.

Definition 2.8 (Nominal equality formula). A formula of the form $@_s t$ where s and t are nominals is a nominal equality formula if it is an immediate conclusion of **(:nom ref)** or has such a formula as an ancestor on the branch while being an immediate conclusion of **(:nom)**.

Definition 2.9 (Root-subformula). Where the root formula of a tableau Θ is written $root_\Theta$, a formula $@_s \varphi$ occurring on a tableau Θ is called a *root-subformula* on Θ if it is a quasi-subformula of $root_\Theta$.

Lemma 2.1 (Subformula Property). Where Θ is a tableau branch in the FHTL calculus, any formula $@_s \varphi$ occurring on Θ is either a root-subformula, accessibility formula, nominal equality formula, or term equality formula.

Proof. This is verified by checking the tableau rules. We observe the propositional, quantifier, and $@$ rules, along with **(:fix 1)**, **(:fix 2)**, and **(:fix 4)** can only take root-subformulae as premises and yield root-subformulae as conclusions. Definitionally **(ref)**, **(:3)**, and **(:func)** generate only term equality formulae and **(nom ref)** generates only nominal equality formulae. Whether the premise of **(:2)** is a nominal equality or root-subformula, the conclusion is a term equality. **(:1)** and **(:fix 3)** both preserve the “type” of their premise, since **(:1)**’s conclusion only changes the nominal prefix and if **(:fix 3)**’s premise is a root-subformula then its conclusion with its changed terms is still a quasi-subformula of the premise by definition. This

leaves us with (F/P) , $(\neg F/\neg P)$, $(F/P\text{-bridge})$, **(sub)**, and **(nom)**. The premise of (F/P) must be either an accessibility formula or a root subformula, in the first case the second conclusion is a nominal equality, and in the second case the second conclusion is a root subformula, in either case the first conclusion is an accessibility formula. In the case of $(\neg F/\neg P)$, the first premise can only be a root subformula since there’s no way to introduce a negation, as a result the conclusion must be a root subformula. In the case of $(F/P\text{-bridge})$, the second premise is either an accessibility formula or a root subformula, and since the definition of quasi-subformula allows for substitution of (equivalent) nominals, the conclusion is the same kind of formula as the second premise. Likewise **(sub)**’s conclusion will be of the same type as its second premise since the definition of quasi-subformula allows for substitution of (equivalent) terms. And finally **(nom)**’s conclusion will be of the same type as its second premise since the definition of quasi-subformula allows for change of prefix nominals. \square

Definition 2.10 (\prec_Θ). Where Θ is a tableau branch in the FHTL calculus, if a nominal a is introduced to the branch by application of F or P to a premise $@_s \varphi$, we say a is *generated* by s on Θ and write $s \prec_\Theta a$. We write \prec_Θ^* to denote the reflexive and transitive closure of \prec_Θ .

Definition 2.11 (Nom_Θ). The set of nominals and state variables which occur on Θ is written Nom_Θ .

Lemma 2.2. Where Θ is a tableau branch in the FHTL calculus, the graph $G = (Nom_\Theta, \prec_\Theta)$ is a wellfounded finitely branching tree.

Proof. Each aspect is proved below:

- *Wellfoundedness of trees in G*

We have that if $a \prec_\Theta b$ then the first occurrence of a on Θ is before the first occurrence of b , thus by induction any subset of Nom_Θ under the relation \prec_Θ has a least element and each tree in G is wellfounded.

- *G is a tree*

Every nominal in Nom_Θ can be generated by at most one other nominal, and every nominal in Nom_Θ must have one of the finitely many nominals in the root formula as an ancestor.

- G is finitely branching

We show G is finitely branching by showing that given a nominal a , there can only be finitely many distinct nominals b such that $a \prec_{\Theta} b$. Each nominal b such that $a \prec_{\Theta} b$ is generated by applying one of the F , P , $\neg H$, $\neg G$ rules to a premise of the form $@_i F\varphi$, $@_i P\varphi$, $@_i \neg H\varphi$, or $@_i \neg G\varphi$ respectively, where by our restrictions, either φ is not a nominal, or the entire premise is a root subformula. Since there can only be finitely many root subformulae of the form of one of the possible premises, where i is the prefix nominal in each case, only finitely many new nominals have been generated from i . Thus G is finitely branching. □

Lemma 2.3. *Where Θ is a tableau branch in the FHTL calculus, Θ is infinite if and only if there exists an infinite chain of nominals and state variables $a_1 \prec_{\Theta} a_2 \prec_{\Theta} \dots \prec_{\Theta} a_n \prec_{\Theta} \dots$*

Proof. Since the structure of the formulae and tableau rules are not involved in the proof from Bolander and Blackburn (2009) holds here as well. □

Lemma 2.4 (Decreasing length). *Let Θ be a FHTL tableau branch, and s and t are nominals occurring on Θ . If $s \prec_{\Theta} t$ then $m_{\Theta}(s) > m_{\Theta}(t)$.*

Proof. Where φ is a formula of maximal length true at t on Θ , we need to show $m_{\Theta}(s) > |\varphi|$. Since $s \prec_{\Theta} t$ then φ must have been introduced to the branch by application of some *FHTL rule*. However it cannot have been introduced to the branch by any of the propositional rules, quantifier rules, @ rules, term rules, $\neg P$ or $\neg F$ since that would contradict the formula's maximality. □

Lemma 2.5 (Tableau construction termination). *Any tableau in the FHTL calculus is finite.*

Theorem 2.6. *The satisfiability of a finite set of FHTL sentences in a FHTL model is decidable.*

2.4 Decidability

For our task of AMR inference, we are not concerned with the determining the general satisfiability or validity of an AMR formula translated into *FHTL*, but rather whether it holds in the smallest model consistent with an established set of *FHTL* translations of AMR sentences. This model will necessarily be finite, since across any finite number of AMR sentences only a finite number of times and entities can be referenced. In particular, we have a case of a local model-checking problem where given formula φ , a finite *FHTL* model structure \mathfrak{M} , a time t in \mathfrak{M} , and a variable assignment g , we need to determine whether $\mathfrak{M}, t \models_g \varphi$ (Müller-Olm et al., 1999).

Consequently our use of tableaux for *FHTL* formulae will provide a decision procedure for their satisfiability within a finite model generated by some set of AMR sentences, rather than their general validity or invalidity, as is usually the case with tableaux methods. We develop an approach to using tableaux as a means of model checking for *FHTL* based on the approaches in Bhat (1998) and Bohn et al. (1998).

3 AMR Interpretation in FHTL

3.1 Examples

- (1) a. Carl filled out the forms and everyone will submit them tomorrow.

b.

```
(a / and
  :op1 (s / scope
    :pred (f / fill-out-03 :ongoing - :complete + :time (b / before :op1 (n / now))
    :ARG0 (p / person
      :name (n2 / name
        :op "Carl"))
    :ARG1 (f2 / form))
  :ARG0 p
  :ARG1 f2)
:op2 (s2 / scope
  :pred (m / submit-01 :ongoing - :complete + :time (a2 / after :op1 n))
```

```

      :ARG0 (p2 / person
      :mod (a3 / all))
      :ARG1 f2)
    :ARG0 f2
    :ARG1 p2))
c. Technically correct:
@now∃x[form(x) ∧ Pfill-out-03(Carl, x)] ∧ @now∃x[form(x) ∧ ∀y[person(y) → Fsubmit-01(y, x)]]
d. Correct wrt plurality:
@now∀x[form(x) ∧ Pfill-out-03(Carl, x)] ∧ @now∀x[form(x) ∧ ∀y[person(y) → Fsubmit-01(y, x)]]
e. Correct wrt reentrance (but not plurality) (maybe requires the passive for singular case?):
@now∃x[form(x) ∧ Pfill-out-03(Carl, x) ∧ ∀y[person(y) → Fsubmit-01(y, x)]]

```

(2) a. It was impossible not to notice the car.

b.

```

(s / scope
  :pred (p / possible-01
    :ARG0 (n / notice-01 :ongoing - :complete + :time (b / before :op1 (n2 / now))
    :polarity (n3 / not)
    :ARG1 (c / car)
    :polarity (n4 / not))
  :ARG0 n4
  :ARG1 p))

```

c. Incorrect:

@_{now}¬F∃x[car(x) ∧ ¬P_{notice-01}(x)]

d. Technically correct:

@_{now}¬F∃x[car(x) ∧ ¬∀y[person(y) → P_{notice-01}(x, y)]]

e. Correct wrt particularity of the car:

@_{now}¬F¬∀x[person(y) → P_{notice-01}(car, y)]]

NB: Will complete these translations in full.

3.2 Extraction Steps

With the chosen annotation, the root node can consist of either a logical connective (and, or, or cond) linking two AMR graphs, or a scope node with its following predicate and arguments.

3.3 General Extraction Algorithm

Algorithm 1: Basic transformation into *FHTL* clauses and connectives.

Input: AMR sentence
Output: *FHTL* formula

Def InterpretEntry (*AMR*) :

```

  root = Root(AMR)
  now = current date/time
  if root ∈ {and, or, cond} then
    connective = filter(root, {∧, ∨, →})
    clauses = []
    for op ∈ Children(root) do
      append(clauses, InterpretClause (op))
    end
    return @now join(connective, clauses)
  end
  return @now InterpretClause (root)

```

Def InterpretClause (*AMR*) :

```

  time = Time (AMR)
  nominal = Reference (time)
  tense = Tense (time)
  pred = Pred (AMR)(tense)
  Arg0, Arg1 = GetArgs (AMR)
  return @nominal Apply (Arg0, Apply (Arg0, pred))

```

Algorithm 2: Supporting definitions.

Input: AMR sentence
Output: *FHTL* formula

Def Apply (*pred*₁, *pred*₂) :

```

  return λφ.pred1(λψ.pred2(λγ.φ(ψ(γ))))

```

Def InterpretPred (*UnaryPred*) :

```

  if hasMods(UnaryPred) then
    mods = [name(UnaryPred)]
    for mod ∈ Children(UnaryPred) do
      append(mods, name(mod)(x))
    end
    FinalPred = λx. join(mods, ∧)
  end
  else
    FinalPred = λx.name(UnaryPred)(x)
  end
  if Quant(UnaryPred) == :all then
    return λk.∀x[FinalPred(x) → k(x)]
  end
  else
    return λk.∃x[FinalPred(x) ∧ k(x)]
  end
end

```

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