


Modern Birkhäuser Classics

Logic for Computer Scientists  
Uwe Schöningh


Prolog Programming for Artificial Intelligence  
Horst R. Hell

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# First Order Logic (II)


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## Equivalences in FOL



- The concept of (semantic) **equivalence** can be translated into **FOL** in the obvious way:
  - two formulas  $F$  and  $G$  of **FOL** are equivalent (symbolically  $F \equiv G$ ) if for all structures  $\mathcal{A}$  which are suitable for both  $F$  and  $G$ ,
 
$$\mathcal{A}(F) = \mathcal{A}(G)$$
- Also we observe that all equivalences which have been proved for formulas in propositional logic still hold in predicate logic, e.g. deMorgan's law:
 
$$\neg(F \wedge G) \equiv (\neg F \vee \neg G)$$
- For the purpose of manipulating formulas of FOL, to convert them to certain normal forms etc., we need equivalences which also **include quantifiers**.

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## Equivalences in FOL



### Theorem:

- Let  $F$  and  $G$  be arbitrary formulas:
  1.  $\neg\forall x F \equiv \exists x \neg F$   
 $\neg\exists x F \equiv \forall x \neg F$
  2. If  $x$  does not occur free in  $G$ , then
    - $(\forall x F \wedge G) \equiv \forall x (F \wedge G)$
    - $(\forall x F \vee G) \equiv \forall x (F \vee G)$
    - $(\exists x F \wedge G) \equiv \exists x (F \wedge G)$
    - $(\exists x F \vee G) \equiv \exists x (F \vee G)$
  3.  $(\forall x F \wedge \forall x G) \equiv \forall x (F \wedge G)$   
 $(\exists x F \vee \exists x G) \equiv \exists x (F \vee G)$
  4.  $\forall x \forall y F \equiv \forall y \forall x F$   
 $\exists x \exists y F \equiv \exists y \exists x F$

Note:  $x$  does not occur free in  $G \Leftrightarrow G$  does not contain  $x$

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## Equivalences in FOL



### Important notes

- $\forall x \exists y F(x, y) \not\equiv \exists y \forall x F(x, y)$ . Why?
  - Example:** Assume that domain,  $U = \mathbb{Z}$  and
    - $F(x, y) = \text{True}$  if  $x < y$ , otherwise False
    - For every integer  $x$  there is an integer  $y$  such that  $x < y$  is **true**, but
    - There is an integer  $y$  such that for every integer  $x$ ,  $x < y$  is **false**
- **We cannot conclude** that
  - $\forall x F(x) \vee \forall x G(x) \equiv \forall x (F(x) \vee G(x))$
  - **Example:** Assume that domain,  $U = \mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$  and
    - $F(x) = \text{True}$ , if  $(x = 0)$ ; otherwise False
    - $G(x) = \text{True}$ , if  $(0 < x)$ ; otherwise False
    - Then
      - $\forall x (x = 0) \vee \forall x (0 < x)$  and  $\forall x ((x = 0) \vee (0 < x))$  are **not equivalent**, for  $\mathbb{N}$
      - the first is **false** in  $\mathbb{N}$ , whereas
      - the second is **true** in  $\mathbb{N}$

$$\forall x F(x) \vee \forall x G(x) \not\equiv \forall x (F(x) \vee G(x))$$

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## Prenex form



### Definition (prenex form):

- A formula is in **prenex** form if it has the form

$$Q_1x_1Q_2x_2\dots Q_nx_nF,$$

where  $Q_i \in \{\exists, \forall\}$ ,  $n > 0$ , and the  $x_i$  are variables. Further,  $F$  does not contain a quantifier.

A list of quantifiers  $Q_1x_1Q_2x_2\dots Q_nx_n$  is called **prefix** and  $F$  is called the **matrix** of a formula. Here  $F$  is represented in **CNF**.

### **Theorem:**

- For every formula  $F$  there exists an **equivalent formula**  $G$  in **prenex form**.

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## Prenex form. Reduction



### Algorithm (to transform a formula into $\equiv$ CN prenex Form):

- **Step 1:**
  - Transform a formula into  $\equiv$  **CNF** (see algorithm from [COT3541\\_2.PDF](#) slides).
- **Step 2:**
  - Positioning of " $\neg$ " just before the predicates:
    - $\neg((\forall x)P(x)) \equiv (\exists x)(\neg P(x))$  (1)
    - $\neg((\exists x)P(x)) \equiv (\forall x)(\neg P(x))$  (2)
- **Step 3:**
  - Movement of the quantifiers with changing variables, if necessary:  
(by  $R$  we will denote a predicate without a variable  $x$ )
    - $(Qx)P(x) \vee R \equiv Qx(P(x) \vee R)$  (3)
    - $(Qx)P(x) \wedge R \equiv Qx(P(x) \wedge R)$  (4)
    - $(\forall x)P(x) \wedge (\forall x)R(x) \equiv \forall x(P(x) \wedge R(x))$  (5)
    - $(\exists x)P(x) \vee (\exists x)R(x) \equiv \exists x(P(x) \vee R(x))$  (6)
    - $(Q_1x)P(x) \wedge (Q_2x)R(x) \equiv (Q_1x)(Q_2z)(P(x) \wedge R(z))$  (7)
    - $(Q_3x)P(x) \vee (Q_4x)R(x) \equiv (Q_3x)(Q_4z)(P(x) \vee R(z))$  (8)

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## Prenex form. Reduction

Example: Convert the following formula into  $\equiv$  **CN prenex form**:

$$(\forall x)(\forall y)((\exists z)(P(x,z) \wedge P(y,z)) \rightarrow (\exists z)Q(x,y,z))$$

Attention with the (..)

$$(\forall x)(\forall y)((\exists z)(P(x,z) \wedge P(y,z)) \rightarrow (\exists z)Q(x,y,z))$$

Implication rule

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

deMorgan Law

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

Changing variables

$$\equiv (\forall x)(\forall y)(\forall z)(\exists w)(\neg P(x,z) \vee \neg P(y,z) \vee Q(x,y,w))$$

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## Prenex form. Reduction

Exercise: Convert the following formula into  $\equiv$  **CN prenex form**:

$$F = (\forall x \exists y P(x, g(y, f(x))) \vee \neg Q(z)) \vee \neg \forall x R(x, y)$$

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## Skolem normal form.

### Definition (Skolem Normal Form):

- A formula is in **Skolem Normal Form** if it has the **prenex normal form**:

$$Q_1x_1Q_2x_2\ldots Q_nx_nF,$$

where

$Q_i \in \{\forall\}, 1 \leq i \leq n$ , and

the **matrix** of the formula doesn't contain free variables.

- **Examples (SNF):**

- $\forall x \forall y (P(x) \vee \neg Q(a, y))$
- $\forall y \forall z (\neg Q(g(y, f(z))) \vee \neg P(b))$

- The process of eliminating existential quantifiers and replacing the corresponding variable by a constant or a function is called **skolemisation**

**Thoralf Albert Skolem** (May/1887 – March/1963) was a Norwegian mathematician who worked in mathematical logic and set theory.

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## Skolemisation

- Let a formula be already in a **prenex normal form**:

$$Q_1x_1Q_2x_2\ldots Q_nx_nF,$$

- where **F** is in a **CNF**.

- Let  $Q_r$  be an existential quantifier in the prefix  $Q_1x_1Q_2x_2\ldots Q_nx_n$ ,  $1 \leq r \leq n$ .

- **Case #1:** If no universal quantifier appears before  $Q_r$ , we do the following:

- choose a new constant  $c$  different from other constants occurring in  $F$ ;
- replace all  $x_r$  appearing in  $F$  by  $c$ ;
- delete  $(Q_rx_r)$  from the prefix.

- **Example:**  $(\exists x)(\forall y)(\forall z)(P(x, y) \wedge Q(x, z))$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ (\forall y)(\forall z)(P(a, y) \wedge Q(a, z)) \end{array}$$

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## Skolemisation (cont...)

- Let a formula be already in a **prenex normal form**

$$Q_1x_1Q_2x_2\ldots Q_nx_nF,$$

- where F is in a **conjunctive normal form**.

- Let  $Q_r$  be an existential quantifier in the prefix  $Q_1x_1Q_2x_2\ldots Q_nx_n$ ,  $1 \leq r \leq n$ .

- Case #2:** If  $Q_{s_1}, \dots, Q_{s_m}$  are all the universal quantifiers appearing before  $Q_r$ ,  $1 \leq s_1 \leq s_2 \leq \dots \leq s_m \leq r$ , we do the following:

- choose a new m-place function symbol f different from other function symbols occurring in F;
- replace all  $y_r$  appearing in F by  $f(x_{s_1}, x_{s_2}, \dots, x_{s_m})$ ;
- delete  $(Q_r x_r)$  from the prefix.

- Example #1:**  $(\forall x)(\exists y)(\exists z)((\neg P(x, y) \vee Q(x, z)))$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ (\forall x)((\neg P(x, f(x)) \vee Q(x, g(x))) \end{array}$$

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## Skolemisation (cont...)

- Example #2:**

- Obtain a **Skolem normal form** of the formula

$$(\exists x)(\forall y)(\forall z)(\exists u)(\forall v)(\exists w)P(x, y, z, u, v, w)$$

- $(\exists x)$  is preceded by no universal quantifiers,  $(\exists u)$  is preceded by  $(\forall y)$  and  $(\forall z)$ , and  $(\exists w)$  by  $(\forall y)$ ,  $(\forall z)$  and  $(\forall v)$ .
- Therefore, we replace the existential variable x by a constant a, u by a two-place function  $f(y, z)$ , and w by a three-place function  $g(y, z, v)$ .

- The **Skolem normal form** of the formula is

$$(\forall y)(\forall z)(\forall v)P(a, y, z, f(y, z), v, g(y, z, v))$$

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## Skolemisation (cont...)



### ■ Example #3:

- Obtain a **Skolem normal form** of the formula  
 $(\forall x)(\exists y)(\exists z)((\neg P(x,y) \wedge Q(x,z)) \vee R(x,y,z)).$
- First, the matrix is transformed into a **CNF**:  
 $(\forall x)(\exists y)(\exists z)((\neg P(x,y) \vee R(x,y,z)) \wedge (Q(x,z) \vee R(x,y,z)))$
- Then, since  $(\exists y)$  and  $(\exists z)$  are both preceded by  $(\forall x)$ , the existential variables  $y$  and  $z$  are replaced, respectively by one-place functions  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$ .
- The **Skolem normal form** of the formula is  
 $(\forall x)((\neg P(x,f(x)) \vee R(x,f(x),g(x))) \wedge (Q(x,g(x)) \vee R(x,f(x),g(x))))$

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## Skolem form.



### Exercise:

- Obtain a **Skolem normal form** of the formula:

$$F = \neg \exists x \forall y (P(x,y) \wedge \exists x (P(x,x) \rightarrow Q(z))).$$

### Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} F &= \neg \exists x \forall y (P(x,y) \wedge \exists x (P(x,x) \rightarrow Q(z))) \\ &\equiv \forall x \exists y (\neg P(x,y) \vee \forall x (P(x,x) \wedge \neg Q(z))) \\ &\equiv \forall x \exists y (\neg P(x,y) \vee \forall u (P(u,u) \wedge \neg Q(z))) \\ &\equiv \forall x \exists y \forall u (\neg P(x,y) \vee (P(u,u) \wedge \neg Q(z))) \\ &\equiv_s \exists z \forall x \exists y \forall u (\neg P(x,y) \vee (P(u,u) \wedge \neg Q(z))) \\ &\equiv_s \forall x \forall u (\neg P(x,f(x)) \vee (P(u,u) \wedge \neg Q(a))). \end{aligned}$$

### CNF:

$$F \equiv_s \forall x \forall u ((\neg P(x,f(x)) \vee P(u,u)) \wedge (\neg P(x,f(x)) \vee \neg Q(a)))$$

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## Skolem form is not unique!



### ■ Example:

- Consider the following formula:

$$F = (\forall x)P(x) \wedge (\exists y)Q(y)$$

$$F_1 = (\forall x)(\exists y)(P(x) \wedge Q(y))$$

$$F_2 = (\exists y)(\forall x)(P(x) \wedge Q(y))$$

$F_1$  and  $F_2$  are **prenex normal forms**

$$F_1 \xRightarrow{\text{Skolem}} S_1 = (\forall x)(P(x) \wedge Q(f(x)))$$

$$F_2 \xRightarrow{\text{Skolem}} S_2 = (\forall x)(P(x) \wedge Q(a))$$

We want to find **Skolem forms** which are as simple as possible then the strategy is to **move  $\exists$  to the left as much as possible**

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## Skolem form. Logical equivalence



- Given a formula  $F$  and  $S$  that represents a **Skolem normal form of  $F$** .

**We can write that  $F \equiv S$ ?**

### ■ Nope!

- Counter-example:

- $F = (\exists x)P(x)$  and  $S = P(a)$
- Let  $\mathcal{A} = (U_{\mathcal{A}}, I_{\mathcal{A}})$ ,  $U_{\mathcal{A}} = \{1, 2\}$  and  $a^{\mathcal{A}} = 1$  and  $\{P^{\mathcal{A}}(1) = \text{False}, P^{\mathcal{A}}(2) = \text{True}\}$
- then  $\mathcal{A} \models F$  but  $\mathcal{A} \not\models S$  therefore in general  **$S \not\equiv F$**

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## Skolem form. Preserving Inconsistency



**Theorem:** (inconsistency preservation of Skolem form)

Let  $F$  be a formula and  $S$  be a **set of clauses in Skolem normal form** that represents the formula  $F$ . Then  $F$  is **inconsistent/contradiction** if and only if  $S$  is **inconsistent/contradiction**.

(see the Proof in the text book for the course)

- Then we have:
  - $S \equiv F$  iff  $F$  is inconsistent
  - $S \not\equiv F$  if  $F$  isn't inconsistent
    - (we can find an interpretation  $I$ , such that  $I \models S$  and  $I \not\models F$  or reverse)

- **Prenex Normal Form** – preserves equivalence
- **Skolemization** – preserves satisfiability

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## Skolem form. Preserving Inconsistency



**Example (home work):**

Suppose  $S = (\exists x)(\forall y)P(x,y)$  is a **prenex normal form** of  $F$ .

Prove that  $F$  is valid iff  $S' = (\exists x)P(x,f(x))$  is valid.

**Solution:**

- $F$  is valid  $\leftrightarrow \neg F$  is inconsistent  $\leftrightarrow \neg S$  is inconsistent
- $\neg S \equiv \neg (\exists x)(\forall y)P(x,y) \equiv (\forall x)(\exists y)\neg P(x,y) = F'$
- $F'$  is inconsistent  $\leftrightarrow F'_{\text{Skol}}$  is inconsistent, where  $F'_{\text{Skol}}$  is the Skolem normal form of the formula  $F'$
- $F'_{\text{Skol}} \equiv (\forall x)\neg P(x,f(x)) \equiv \neg((\exists x)P(x,f(x))) \equiv \neg S'$
- $\neg S'$  is inconsistent  $\leftrightarrow S'$  is valid

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