



NANYANG  
TECHNOLOGICAL  
UNIVERSITY  
SINGAPORE

# CZ3005 Artificial Intelligence

## Inference of First Order Logic

Asst/P Mahardhika Pratama  
*Email:* mpratama@ntu.edu.sg  
*Office:* N4-02a-08



# Existential Quantifier $\exists$

- **Express properties of some particular objects**
  - Make a statement about *one* object without naming it
    - e.g. “King John has a brother who is king”  
 $\exists x, \text{Brother}(x, \text{KingJohn}) \wedge \text{King}(x)$

instead of

$\text{Brother}(\text{Henry}, \text{KingJohn}) \wedge \text{King}(\text{Henry}) \vee$

$\text{Brother}(\text{KingJohn}, \text{KingJohn}) \wedge \text{King}(\text{KingJohn}) \vee$

$\text{Brother}(\text{Mary}, \text{KingJohn}) \wedge \text{King}(\text{Mary}) \vee$

$\text{Brother}(\text{London}, \text{KingJohn}) \wedge \text{King}(\text{London}) \vee$

$\text{Brother}(\text{Richard}, \text{KingJohn}) \wedge \text{King}(\text{Richard}) \vee$

...



# Using Existential Quantifier

□ ***The conjunction ( $\wedge$ ) is the natural connective to use with the existential quantifier ( $\exists$ )***

## Example

- General form:  $\exists x P(x) \wedge Q(x)$  e.g.  $\exists x \text{Dog}(x) \wedge \text{Owns}(\text{John}, x)$   
“John owns a dog”
- Use Implication?  $\exists x P(x) \Rightarrow Q(x)$  e.g.  $\exists x \text{Dog}(x) \Rightarrow \text{Owns}(\text{John}, x)$   
true for all  $x$  such that  $P(x)$  is false  
e.g.  $\text{Dog}(\text{Garfield}) \Rightarrow \text{Owns}(\text{John}, \text{Garfield})$   
→ yields a very weak statement (too weak! i.e. *useless*)



# Example

□ Mammals drink milk

$\forall x, \text{Mammal}(x) \Rightarrow \text{Drink}(x, \text{milk})$

□ Man is mortal

$\forall x, \text{Man}(x) \Rightarrow \text{Mortal}(x)$



# Example

□ Man is a mammal

$\forall x \text{ Man}(x) \Rightarrow \text{Mammal}(x)$

□ Tom is a man

$\text{Man}(\text{Tom})$

## □ Combining $\forall$ and $\exists$

- Express more complex sentences
  - e.g. “if x is the parent of y then y is the child of x”:  
 $\forall x, \forall y \text{ Parent}(x, y) \Rightarrow \text{Child}(y, x)$
  - “every person has a parent”:  $\forall x \text{ Person}(x) \Rightarrow \exists y \text{ Parent}(y, x)$
- Semantics depends on quantifiers ordering
  - e.g.  $\exists y, \forall x \text{ Parent}(y, x)$   
“there is someone who is everybody’s parent” ?!?
- Choosing variables to avoid confusion
  - e.g.  $\forall x \text{ King}(x) \vee \exists x \text{ Brother}(\text{Richard}, x)$  is better written:  
 $\forall x \text{ King}(x) \vee \exists z \text{ Brother}(\text{Richard}, z)$

## □ Well-formed formula (WFF)

- Sentences with all variables properly quantified



# Connections between Quantifiers

## □ Equivalences

- Using the negation (*hence only one quantifier is needed*)

$$\forall x P(x) \Leftrightarrow \neg \exists x \neg P(x)$$

- e.g. "everyone is mortal":

$$\forall x \text{Mortal}(x) \Leftrightarrow \neg \exists x \neg \text{Mortal}(x)$$

- De Morgan's Laws

• $\forall x P \Leftrightarrow \neg \exists x \neg P$	$P \wedge Q \Leftrightarrow \neg(\neg P \vee \neg Q)$
$\forall x \neg P \Leftrightarrow \neg \exists x P$	$\neg P \wedge \neg Q \Leftrightarrow \neg(P \vee Q)$
$\neg \forall x P \Leftrightarrow \exists x \neg P$	$\neg(P \wedge Q) \Leftrightarrow \neg P \vee \neg Q$
$\neg \forall x \neg P \Leftrightarrow \exists x P$	$\neg(\neg P \wedge \neg Q) \Leftrightarrow P \vee Q$

# Grammar of FOL



**Sentence**

→ AtomicSentence | (Sentence)  
| Sentence Connective Sentence  
|  $\neg$ Sentence  
| Quantifier Variable, ... Sentence

**AtomicSentence**

→ Predicate(Term, ...) | Term = Term

**Term**

→ Function(Term, ...) | Constant | Variable

**Connective**

→  $\wedge$  |  $\vee$  |  $\Leftrightarrow$  |  $\Rightarrow$

**Quantifier**

→  $\forall$  |  $\exists$

**Constant**

→ A |  $X_1$  | John | ...

**Variable**

→ a | x | person | ...

**Predicate**

→ P() | Colour() | Before() | ...

**Function**

→ F() | MotherOf() | SquareRootOf() | ...





# Example

1. Some dogs bark :  $\exists x \text{ dog}(x) \wedge \text{bark}(x)$
2. All dogs have four legs:  $\forall x \text{ dog}(x) \Rightarrow \text{leg}(x, 4)$
3. All barking dogs are irritating:  $\forall x \text{ dog}(x) \wedge \text{bark}(x) \Rightarrow \text{irritating}(x)$
4. Not all dogs purr:  $\neg(\forall x \text{ dog}(x) \Rightarrow \text{purr}(x))$
5. Fathers are male parents with Children:  $\forall x \text{ Father}(x) \Rightarrow \exists y \text{ male}(x) \wedge \text{Children}(y, x)$
6. Students are people who are enrolled in courses:  
 $\forall x \text{ Student}(x) \Rightarrow \exists y \text{ people}(x) \wedge \text{courses}(y) \wedge \text{enroll}(x, y)$

# Inference of FOL

*“In which we define inference mechanisms that can efficiently answer questions posed in first-order logic.”*

# □ Inference rules from Propositional Logic

– *Modus Ponens*

$$\bullet \frac{\alpha \Rightarrow \beta, \alpha}{\beta}$$

– And-Elimination

$$\bullet \frac{\alpha_1 \wedge \alpha_2 \wedge \dots \wedge \alpha_n}{\alpha_i}$$

– Or-Introduction

$$\bullet \frac{\alpha_i}{\alpha_1 \vee \alpha_2 \vee \dots \vee \alpha_n}$$

– Double-Negation-Elimination

$$\bullet \frac{\neg \neg \alpha}{\alpha}$$

– And-Introduction

$$\bullet \frac{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n}{\alpha_1 \wedge \alpha_2 \wedge \dots \wedge \alpha_n}$$

– Resolution

$$\bullet \frac{\alpha \vee \beta, \neg \beta \vee \gamma}{\alpha \vee \gamma}$$

# Inferences Rules with Quantifiers

$\forall x \text{ Dog}(x) \Rightarrow \text{Friendly}(x)$

$\vdash \text{Dog}(\text{Snoopy}) \Rightarrow \text{Friendly}(\text{Snoopy})$

- **Substitutions**

- $\text{SUBST}(\theta, \alpha)$ : binding list  $\theta$  applied to a sentence  $\alpha$

- e.g.:  $\text{SUBST}(\{x / \text{John}, y / \text{Richard}\}, \text{Brother}(x, y)) =$   
 $\text{Brother}(\text{John}, \text{Richard})$

- **Inference rules**

- Universal Elimination

- $$\frac{\forall x \alpha}{\text{SUBST}(\{x/g\}, \alpha)}$$

- Existential Introduction

- $$\frac{\alpha}{\exists x \text{ SUBST}(\{g/v\}, \alpha)}$$

- Existential Elimination

- $$\frac{\exists x \alpha}{\text{SUBST}(\{x/K\}, \alpha)}$$
  
(Skolemization)

$\exists x \text{ Dog}(x) \wedge \text{Owns}(\text{John}, x)$

$\vdash \text{Dog}(\text{Lassie}), \text{Owns}(\text{John}, \text{Lassie})$

## □ Proof procedure

- Analysis of the problem description (Natural Language)
- Translation from NL to first-order logic
- Application of inference rules (proof)

## □ Problem statement

- *“It is a crime for an American to sell weapons to hostile nations. The country Nono, an enemy of America, has some missiles, and all of its missiles were sold by Col. West, who is American.”*



# Translation in FOL

- “It is a crime for an American to sell weapons to hostile nations ...”  
(1)  $\forall x,y,z \text{ American}(x) \wedge \text{Weapon}(y) \wedge \text{Nation}(z) \wedge \text{Hostile}(z) \wedge \text{Sells}(x,z,y) \Rightarrow \text{Criminal}(x)$
- “The country Nono [...] has some missiles, ...”  
(2)  $\exists x \text{ Owns}(\text{Nono}, x) \wedge \text{Missile}(x)$
- “... all of its missiles were sold by Col. West, ...”  
(3)  $\forall x \text{ Owns}(\text{Nono}, x) \wedge \text{Missile}(x) \Rightarrow \text{Sells}(\text{West}, \text{Nono}, x)$
- A missile is a weapon.  
(4)  $\forall x \text{ Missile}(x) \Rightarrow \text{Weapon}(x)$
- An enemy of America is hostile.  
(5)  $\forall x \text{ Enemy}(x, \text{America}) \Rightarrow \text{Hostile}(x)$
- “... West, who is American.”  
(6)  $\text{American}(\text{West})$
- “The country Nono ...”  
(7)  $\text{Nation}(\text{Nono})$
- “Nono, an enemy of America ...”  
(8)  $\text{Enemy}(\text{Nono}, \text{America})$   
(9)  $\text{Nation}(\text{America})$

## Knowledge Base

- (1)  $\forall x,y,z \text{ American}(x) \wedge \text{Weapon}(y) \wedge \text{Nation}(z) \wedge \text{Hostile}(z) \wedge \text{Sells}(x,z,y) \Rightarrow \text{Criminal}(x)$
- (2)  $\exists x \text{ Owns}(\text{Nono}, x) \wedge \text{Missile}(x)$
- (3)  $\forall x \text{ Owns}(\text{Nono}, x) \wedge \text{Missile}(x) \Rightarrow \text{Sells}(\text{West}, \text{Nono}, x)$
- (4)  $\forall x \text{ Missile}(x) \Rightarrow \text{Weapon}(x)$
- (5)  $\forall x \text{ Enemy}(x, \text{America}) \Rightarrow \text{Hostile}(x)$
- (6)  $\text{American}(\text{West})$
- (7)  $\text{Nation}(\text{Nono})$
- (8)  $\text{Enemy}(\text{Nono}, \text{America})$
- (9)  $\text{Nation}(\text{America})$

## Inferences

From (2) and Existential-Elimination:  
(10)  $\text{Owns}(\text{Nono}, M1) \wedge \text{Missile}(M1)$

From (10) and And-Elimination:

(11)  $\text{Owns}(\text{Nono}, M1)$

(12)  $\text{Missile}(M1)$

From (4) and Universal-Elimination:

(13)  $\text{Missile}(M1) \Rightarrow \text{Weapon}(M1)$

From (12,13) and Modus Ponens:

(14)  $\text{Weapon}(M1)$

## Knowledge Base

(1)  $\forall x,y,z \text{ American}(x) \wedge \text{Weapon}(y) \wedge$   
 $\text{Nation}(z) \wedge \text{Hostile}(z) \wedge \text{Sells}(x,z,y)$   
 $\Rightarrow \text{Criminal}(x)$

...

(3)  $\forall x \text{ Owns}(\text{Nono},x) \wedge \text{Missile}(x) \Rightarrow$   
 $\text{Sells}(\text{West},\text{Nono},x)$

...

(6)  $\text{American}(\text{West})$

...

(10)  $\text{Owns}(\text{Nono}, M1) \wedge \text{Missile}(M1)$

...

(14)  $\text{Weapon}(M1)$

## Inferences

From (3) and Universal-Elimination:

(15)  $\text{Owns}(\text{Nono}, M1) \wedge \text{Missile}(M1)$   
 $\Rightarrow \text{Sells}(\text{West},\text{Nono},M1)$

From (15,10) and Modus Ponens:

(16)  $\text{Sells}(\text{West},\text{Nono},M1)$

From (1) and Universal-Elimination  
(three times):

(17)  $\text{American}(\text{West}) \wedge \text{Weapon}(M1)$   
 $\wedge \text{Nation}(\text{Nono}) \wedge \text{Hostile}(\text{Nono})$   
 $\wedge \text{Sells}(\text{West},\text{Nono},M1)$   
 $\Rightarrow \text{Criminal}(\text{West})$



## Knowledge Base

...

(5)  $\forall x \text{ Enemy}(x, \text{America}) \Rightarrow \text{Hostile}(x)$

(6)  $\text{American}(\text{West})$

(7)  $\text{Nation}(\text{Nono})$

(8)  $\text{Enemy}(\text{Nono}, \text{America})$

...

(14)  $\text{Weapon}(\text{M1})$

(16)  $\text{Sells}(\text{West}, \text{Nono}, \text{M1})$

(17)  $\text{American}(\text{West}) \wedge \text{Weapon}(\text{M1})$   
 $\wedge \text{Nation}(\text{Nono}) \wedge \text{Hostile}(\text{Nono})$   
 $\wedge \text{Sells}(\text{West}, \text{Nono}, \text{M1})$

$\Rightarrow \text{Criminal}(\text{West})$

## Inferences

From (5) and Universal-Elimination:

(18)  $\text{Enemy}(\text{Nono}, \text{America})$   
 $\Rightarrow \text{Hostile}(\text{Nono})$

From (8,18) and Modus Ponens:

(19)  $\text{Hostile}(\text{Nono})$

From (6,7,14,16,19) and And-Intro.:

(20)  $\text{American}(\text{West}) \wedge \text{Weapon}(\text{M1})$   
 $\wedge \text{Nation}(\text{Nono}) \wedge \text{Hostile}(\text{Nono})$   
 $\wedge \text{Sells}(\text{West}, \text{Nono}, \text{M1})$

From (17,20) and Modus Ponens:

(21) **Criminal(West)**