

Quantified Boolean Formulas (QBF)

- ▶ syntax
- ▶ semantics
- ▶ evaluating QBF formula on an interpretations: and-or trees
- ▶ positions/polarity
- ▶ bound/free occurrences of variables
- ▶ rectified formulas
- ▶ prenex normal form

Two-Player Games



Two-Player Games

Given a propositional formula G with variables $p_1, q_1, \dots, p_n, q_n$.

There are **two players**: P and Q .

At step k each player makes a move:

1. the player P can choose a Boolean value for the variable p_k ;
2. the player Q can choose a Boolean value for the variable q_k .

The player P **wins** if after n steps the chosen values make the formula G **true**.

The player Q **wins** if after n steps the chosen values make the formula G **false**.

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Suppose Both Players Make no Errors: Who Wins?

Consider several special cases

1. p_1
2. $p_1 \rightarrow q_1$
3. $p_1 \wedge \neg q_1$
4. $q_1 \rightarrow q_1$
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Winning Strategy

Problem: does player P have a winning strategy?

Player P has a winning strategy if

- ▶ there exists a move for P (a Boolean value for for p_1) such that
- ▶ for all moves of Q (Boolean values for for q_1)
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- ▶ for all moves of Q (Boolean values for for q_n) the formula G becomes true.

The existence of a winning strategy can be expressed by a quantified Boolean formula $\exists p_1 \forall q_1 \exists p_2 \forall q_2 \dots \exists p_n \forall q_n G$.

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Quantified Boolean Formulas (Syntax)

Propositional formula:

- ▶ Every Boolean variable is a formula.
- ▶ \top and \perp are formulas.
- ▶ If F_1, \dots, F_n are formulas, where $n \geq 2$, then $(F_1 \wedge \dots \wedge F_n)$ and $(F_1 \vee \dots \vee F_n)$ are formulas.
- ▶ If F is a formula, then $\neg F$ is a formula.
- ▶ If F and G are formulas, then $(F \rightarrow G)$ and $(F \leftrightarrow G)$ are formulas.

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- ▶ If p is a Boolean variable and F is a formula, then $\forall p F$ and $\exists p F$ are formulas.

Variable p is called **existentially quantified** in the case of $\exists p$ and **universally quantified** in the case of $\forall p$.

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Quantifiers

- ▶ \forall is called the universal quantifier.
- ▶ \exists is called the existential quantifier.
- ▶ Read $\forall pF$ as “for all p , F ”.
- ▶ Read $\exists pF$ as “there exists p such that F ” or “for some p , F ”.

Connective	Name	Precedence
\forall	for all	5
\exists	exists	5
\neg	negation	5
\wedge	conjunction	4
\vee	disjunction	3
\rightarrow	implication	2
\leftrightarrow	equivalence	1

New Notation

Define

$$I_p^b(q) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} I(q), & \text{if } p \neq q; \\ b, & \text{if } p = q. \end{cases}$$

Example: let $I = \{p \mapsto 1, q \mapsto 0, r \mapsto 1\}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} I_q^1 &= \{p \mapsto 1, q \mapsto 1, r \mapsto 1\} \\ I_q^0 &= \{p \mapsto 1, q \mapsto 0, r \mapsto 1\} = I \\ I_p^0 &= \{p \mapsto 0, q \mapsto 0, r \mapsto 1\} \end{aligned}$$

QBF Semantics

1. $I(\top) = 1$ and $I(\perp) = 0$.
2. $I(F_1 \wedge \dots \wedge F_n) = 1$ if and only if $I(F_i) = 1$ for all i .
3. $I(F_1 \vee \dots \vee F_n) = 1$ if and only if $I(F_i) = 1$ for some i .
4. $I(\neg F) = 1$ if and only if $I(F) = 0$.
5. $I(F \rightarrow G) = 1$ if and only if $I(F) = 0$ or $I(G) = 1$.
6. $I(F \leftrightarrow G) = 1$ if and only if $I(F) = I(G)$.
7. $I(\forall p F) = 1$ if and only if $I_p^0(F) = 1$ and $I_p^1(F) = 1$.
8. $I(\exists p F) = 1$ if and only if $I_p^0(F) = 1$ or $I_p^1(F) = 1$.

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Evaluating a Formula: and-or trees

Let us evaluate $\forall p \exists q (p \leftrightarrow q)$ on the interpretation $\{p \mapsto 1, q \mapsto 0\}$.

Denote any interpretation $\{p \mapsto b_1, q \mapsto b_2\}$ by $I_{b_1 b_2}$.

$$I_{10} \models \forall p \exists q (p \leftrightarrow q) \quad \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\begin{array}{l} I_{10} \models \exists q (p \leftrightarrow q) \\ I_{10} \models \exists q (p \leftrightarrow q) \end{array} \quad \text{and}$$

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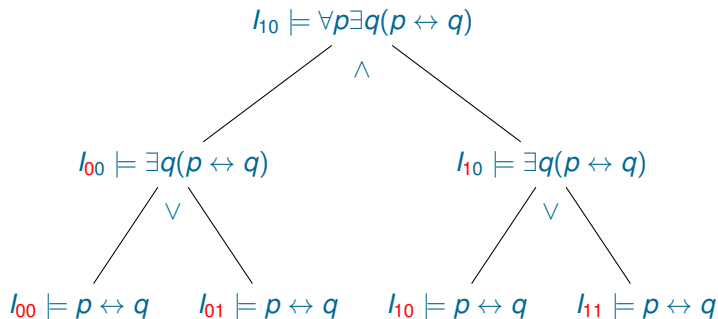
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Denote any interpretation $\{p \mapsto b_1, q \mapsto b_2\}$ by $I_{b_1 b_2}$. Use wildcards $*$ to denote “any” Boolean value.

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The variables p and q are **bound** by quantifiers $\forall p$ and $\exists q$, so the value of the formula does not depend on these variables.

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QBF: positions, polarity, free and bound variables

Subformula

Propositional formulas:

- ▶ The formulas F_1, \dots, F_n are the immediate subformulas of the formulas $F_1 \wedge \dots \wedge F_n$ and $F_1 \vee \dots \vee F_n$.
- ▶ The formulas F is the immediate subformula of the formula $\neg F$.
- ▶ The formulas F_1, F_2 are the immediate subformulas of the formulas $F_1 \rightarrow F_2$ and $F_1 \leftrightarrow F_2$.
- ▶ ...

Quantified Boolean formulas:

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Positions and Polarity

Let $F|_{\pi} = G$.

Propositional formulas:

- ▶ If G has the form $G_1 \wedge \dots \wedge G_n$ or $G_1 \vee \dots \vee G_n$, then for all $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ the position $\pi.i$ is a position in F and $pol(F, \pi.i) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} pol(F, \pi)$.
- ▶ If G has the form $\neg G_1$, then $\pi.1$ is a position in F , $F|_{\pi.1} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} G_1$ and $pol(F, \pi.1) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} -pol(F, \pi)$.
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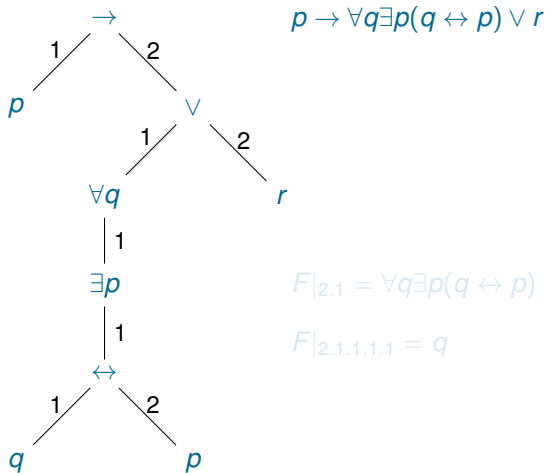
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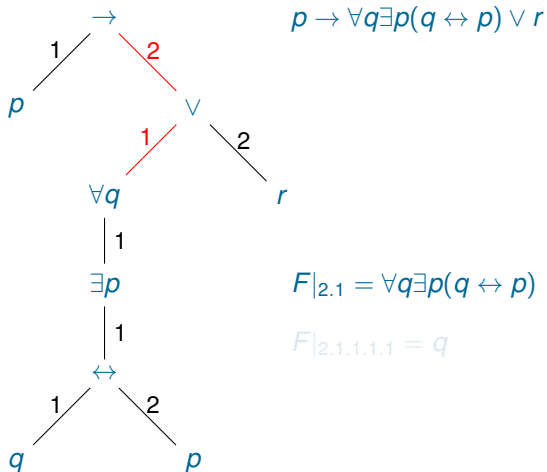
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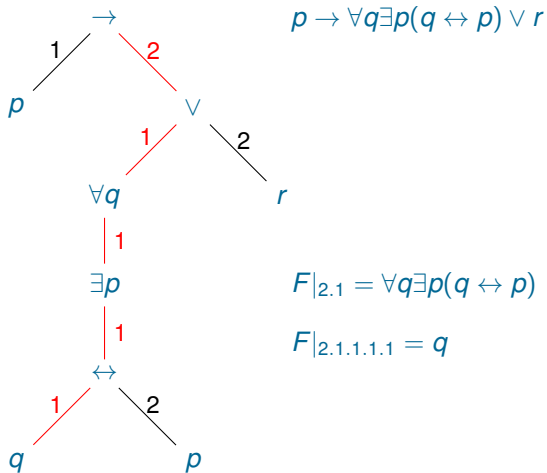
Example



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Example



Free and bound occurrences of variables

Let p be a Boolean variable and $F|_{\pi} = p$.

- ▶ The occurrence of p at the position π in F is **bound** if π can be represented as a concatenation of two strings $\pi_1\pi_2$ such that $F|_{\pi_1}$ has the form $\forall pG$ or $\exists pG$ for some G .
In other words, a bound occurrence of p is an occurrence **in the scope of $\forall p$ or $\exists p$** .
- ▶ **Free occurrence**: not bound.
- ▶ **Free (bound) variable** of a formula: a variable with at least one free (bound) occurrence.
- ▶ **Warning** The same variable can be **both free and bound** in a formula.
- ▶ **Closed formula**: formula with no free variables.

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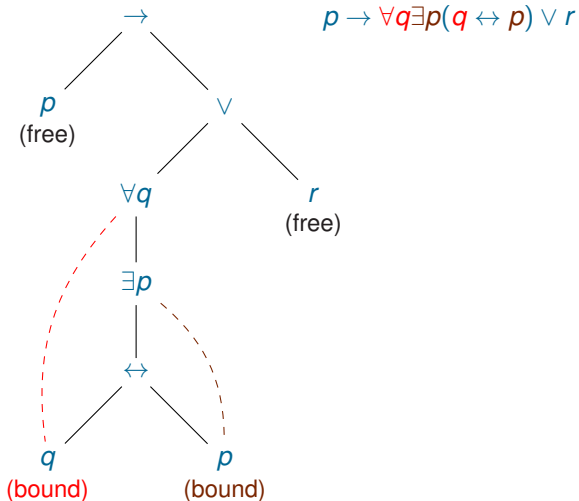
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Example: Free and Bound Variables



Only Free Variables Matter

The truth value of a formula depends only on the truth values of free variables of the formula:

Lemma

Let *for all free variables* p of a formula F we have $I_1(p) = I_2(p)$. Then $I_1 \models F$ if and only if $I_2 \models F$.

Theorem

Let F be a closed formula and I_1, I_2 be interpretations. Then $I_1 \models F$ if and only if $I_2 \models F$.

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Truth, Validity and Satisfiability

Validity and **satisfiability** are defined as for propositional formulas.

There is no difference between these notions for closed formulas:

Lemma

For every interpretation I and closed QBF formula F the following propositions are equivalent: (i) $I \models F$; (ii) F is satisfiable; and (iii) F is valid.

If a closed QBF formula is valid/satisfiable we say that the formula is **true** and otherwise it is **false**.

Validity and satisfiability can be expressed through truth:

Lemma

Let F be a QBF formula with free variables p_1, \dots, p_n .

- ▶ F is **satisfiable** if and only if the **closed** formula $\exists p_1 \dots \exists p_n F$ is **true** (satisfiable, valid).
- ▶ F is **valid** if and only if the **closed** formula $\forall p_1 \dots \forall p_n F$ is **true** (satisfiable, valid).

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QBF: substitutions, rectification

Substitutions for propositional formulas

Substitution: $(F)_p^G$: denotes the formula obtained from F by replacing all occurrences of the variable p by G .

Example:

$$\begin{aligned} & ((p \vee s) \wedge (q \rightarrow p))_p^{(I \wedge s)} = \\ & (((I \wedge s) \vee s) \wedge (q \rightarrow (I \wedge s))) \end{aligned}$$

Properties: If we apply **any substitution** to a **valid** formula then we also obtain a **valid** formula.

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Substitution for quantified formulas

Some problems...

Consider $\exists q(\neg p \leftrightarrow q)$.

We cannot simply replace variables by formulas any more:

$\exists(r \rightarrow r)(\neg p \leftrightarrow r \rightarrow r)$???

Free variables are **parameters**: we can only substitute for parameters.

But a variable can have both **free and bound** occurrences in a formula, e.g. $(\forall p p \rightarrow q) \wedge (q \vee (q \rightarrow p))$

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Renaming bound variables

Notation: $\exists\forall$: any of \exists, \forall and $\forall\exists$: any of \forall, \exists .

Renaming bound variables in F :

Let $F[\exists\forall pG]$.

1. Take a **fresh** variable q (that is a variable **not occurring** in F);
2. Replace all free occurrences of p in G (note: not in F !) by q obtaining G' .
3. So we obtain the $F[\exists\forall qG']$ as the result.

Lemma

$$F[\exists\forall pG] \equiv F[\exists\forall qG']$$

Example:

$$\exists q(\forall p((p \rightarrow q) \wedge p)) \vee p.$$

Then we can rename p into r obtaining

$$\exists q(\forall r((r \rightarrow q) \wedge r)) \vee p.$$

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Rectified formula F :

- ▶ no variable appears both free and quantified in F ;
- ▶ for every variable p , the formula F contains at most one occurrence of quantifiers $\exists p$.

Any formula can be transformed into a rectified formula by renaming bound variables.

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Rectification: Example

$$p \rightarrow \exists p(p \wedge \forall p(p \vee r \rightarrow \neg p)) \Rightarrow$$

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Variable capture

$\exists q(\neg p \leftrightarrow q)$: there exists a truth value equivalent to $\neg p$. This formula is valid.

Substitute p by q .

$\exists q(\neg q \leftrightarrow q)$: there exists a truth value equivalent to its own negation. This formula is unsatisfiable.

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Jointly rectified formulas

Suppose we want to substitute $(F)_p^G$.

Then we **require**: no free variable in G become **bound** in $(F)_p^G$.

In previous example $\exists q(\neg p \leftrightarrow q)$:

Substitute p by q . ($\exists q(\neg q \leftrightarrow q)$ does not satisfy above)

Uniform solution – renaming of bound variables

$\exists q(\neg p \leftrightarrow q) \equiv \exists r(\neg p \leftrightarrow r)$

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Formulas F_1, \dots, F_n are **jointly rectified** if for every variable p ,

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Rectification assumption

From now on we always assume that:

- ▶ formulas are rectified and collections of formulas are jointly **rectified**;
- ▶ in particular when considering substitutions $(F)_p^G$, then F and G are jointly rectified.

QBF: Equivalent Replacement; Prenex Form

Equivalent replacement

Lemma

Let I be an interpretation and $I \models F_1 \leftrightarrow F_2$. Then $I \models G[F_1] \leftrightarrow G[F_2]$.

Theorem (Equivalent Replacement)

Let $F_1 \equiv F_2$. Then $G[F_1] \equiv G[F_2]$.

Prenex form

- ▶ **Quantifier-free formula:** no quantifiers (that is, propositional).
- ▶ **Prenex formula** has the form $\exists_1 p_1 \dots \exists_n p_n G$, where G is quantifier-free.
- ▶ **Outermost prefix of $\exists_1 p_1 \dots \exists_n p_n G$:** the longest subsequence $\exists_1 p_1 \dots \exists_k p_k$ of $\exists_1 p_1 \dots \exists_n p_n$ such that $\exists_1 = \dots = \exists_k$.
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Prenexing rules

We assume that the formula is **rectified** before application of

Prenexing rules:

$$\exists \forall p F_1 \bowtie \dots \bowtie F_n \Rightarrow \exists \forall p (F_1 \bowtie \dots \bowtie F_n)$$

$$F_1 \leftrightarrow F_2 \Rightarrow (F_1 \rightarrow F_2) \wedge (F_2 \rightarrow F_1)$$

$$\forall p F_1 \rightarrow F_2 \Rightarrow \exists p (F_1 \rightarrow F_2) \quad \exists p F_1 \rightarrow F_2 \Rightarrow \forall p (F_1 \rightarrow F_2)$$

$$F_1 \rightarrow \forall p F_2 \Rightarrow \forall p (F_1 \rightarrow F_2) \quad F_1 \rightarrow \exists p F_2 \Rightarrow \exists p (F_1 \rightarrow F_2)$$

$$\neg \forall p F \Rightarrow \exists p \neg F$$

$$\neg \exists p F \Rightarrow \forall p \neg F$$

Warning: Sound only when the formulas are **rectified**!

Some useful equivalences: $\neg \forall p F \equiv \exists p \neg F$ and $\neg \exists p F \equiv \forall p \neg F$

Prenexing. Example I

$$\begin{aligned} & \exists q(q \rightarrow p) \rightarrow \neg \forall r(r \rightarrow p) \vee p \Rightarrow \\ & \forall q((q \rightarrow p) \rightarrow \neg \forall r(r \rightarrow p) \vee p) \Rightarrow \\ & \forall q((q \rightarrow p) \rightarrow \exists r \neg(r \rightarrow p) \vee p) \Rightarrow \\ & \forall q((q \rightarrow p) \rightarrow \exists r(\neg(r \rightarrow p) \vee p)) \Rightarrow \\ & \forall q \exists r((q \rightarrow p) \rightarrow \neg(r \rightarrow p) \vee p). \end{aligned}$$

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Summary

- ▶ quantified Boolean formulas (QBF): $\exists x \forall y \exists z F$
- ▶ syntax, semantics
- ▶ evaluating QBF formula on an interpretations: and-or trees
- ▶ positions/polarity
- ▶ bound/free occurrences of variables
- ▶ for closed formulas: validity and satisfiability coincide;
for open formulas we can express satisfiability/validity using \exists/\forall quantifiers respectively.
- ▶ rectified formulas: i) no variable occurs free and bound, ii) every variable is quantified at most once.
- ▶ rectification: rename bound variables
- ▶ prenex normal form: all quantifiers are on the left-hand-side
- ▶ prenexing: rectify + apply prenexing rules