

# First order Logic

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# Where are we?

- Logic as the language of computation
- We can now ask and answer questions in propositional logic
- But, it's too restricted to encode many important problems about programs
- Now: more expressive logics
  - We start with first order logic

# First Order Logic

Propositional logic:  $(p \wedge r)$

First Order Logic:  $\forall x. \exists y. \exists z. x + y > 0 \wedge 0 < x * z$

New concepts:

- Quantifiers  $\exists, \forall$
- Functions  $+, *$
- Relations  $>, <$

# First Order Logic: Syntax

First order language:  $L(C, F, R)$

- $C$  : set of constants
- $F$  : set of function symbols
- $R$  : set of relations

**Basic Terms:**      constant  $a, b, c, \dots \in C$       variable  $x, y, z, x_1, x_2, \dots$

**Composite Terms:**  $f(t_1, \dots, t_k)$  where  $f \in F$  and  $t_1, \dots, t_k$  are (basic/composite) terms

Example:     $\text{mary}, x, \text{sister}(\text{mary}), \text{price}(x, \text{bol}), \text{age}(\text{mother}(y)), \dots$

# First Order Logic: Syntax

First order language:  $L(C, F, R)$

- $C$  : set of constants
- $F$  : set of function symbols
- $R$  : set of relations

Formula:  $F, F_1, F_2$

- $\top, \perp$
- Atomic predicate:  $p(t_1, \dots, t_k)$ , and  $p \in R$  with arity  $k$ ,  $t_1, \dots, t_k$  are terms
- $\neg F, F_1 \wedge F_2, F_1 \vee F_2$
- $\forall x. F, \exists y. F$ , for some variable  $x$

Atomic predicates are the propositional variables of FOL

# First Order Logic: Syntax

## Quiz:

Which of the following are valid first order formulas?

- $f(x)$
- $p(x)$
- $p(f(x))$
- $p(p(x))$
- $p(f(f(x)))$

# Quantifiers and Scoping

Scope: For a quantifier  $\forall x. F$  (or  $\exists y. F$ )  $F$  is the called scope of the quantifier

An occurrence of a variable is called bound, if it's in the scope of a quantifier

An occurrence of a variable is called free, if it's not in the scope of any quantifier

Example:  $\forall y. ((\forall x. p(x)) \rightarrow q(x, y))$

- Is  $y$  bound or free?
- Is the first occurrence of  $x$  bound or free?
- What about the second?

# Closed, Open, and Ground Formulas

- A formula with no free variables is called a closed formula, or sentence
- A formula with free variables is called open

Example: Is the formula  $\forall y.((\forall x .p(x )) \rightarrow (\exists x .q(x , y)))$  closed or open?

- A formula is called ground if it does not contain any variables

Example:  $p(a, f(b)) \rightarrow q(c)$  is ground

- Is  $\forall x .p(x)$  ground?



# FOL Example: Fermat's Last Theorem

Fermat's Last Theorem:

- No three positive integers  $x, y, z$  satisfy the equation  $x^n + y^n = z^n$ , for any integer  $n$  greater than 2.
- Assuming universe is integers, how do we express this theorem in FOL using function constant  $^$  and relation constants  $>, =$ ?

# First Order Logic: Semantics

- For propositional logic, semantic concepts were quite simple
- FOL is a bit more involved
- To give a semantics to FOL, we need to first fix a universe of discourse
- The universe of discourse is a non-empty set of objects we want to say something about
- Can be finite, countably infinite, uncountably infinite; but can't be empty.

Examples:  $\mathbb{N}$ ,  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $\{\square, \otimes\}$ , students in this class, types of fruit sold at AH

# First Order Logic: Semantics

- An interpretation  $I$  is a mapping from  $C, F, R$  to objects in universe  $U$
- $I$  maps  $c \in C$  to  $U$ , i.e.,  $I(c) \in U$
- $I$  maps  $f \in F$  to  $I(f) \in U^k \rightarrow U$  (i.e., a function over  $U$ ), where  $k$  is the arity of  $f$
- $I$  maps  $p \in R$  to  $I(p) \in U^k$ , where  $k$  is the arity of  $p$

Note: A first order interpretation does not talk about variables, only constants

# First Order Logic: Semantics

Example: Consider the first order language containing object constants  $\{a, b, c\}$ , unary function constant  $f$ , and ternary relation constant  $r$ .

- Let's fix the following universe of discourse  $U \triangleq \{1, 2, 3\}$
- A possible interpretation  $I$  is:

$$I(a) \triangleq 1, \quad I(b) \triangleq 2, \quad I(c) \triangleq 2$$

$$I(f) \triangleq \{1 \rightarrow 2, 2 \rightarrow 3, 3 \rightarrow 3\}$$

$$I(r) \triangleq \{\langle 1, 2, 1 \rangle, \langle 2, 2, 1 \rangle\}$$

# Structures and Variable Assignments

A structure  $S = \langle U, I \rangle$  for a first order language consists of a universe of discourse  $U$  and an interpretation  $I$

A variable assignment  $\sigma$  to a FOL formula  $F$  in a structure  $S = \langle U, I \rangle$  is a mapping from variables in  $F$  to an element in  $U$

Example: given  $U = \{1, 2, 3\}$  a possible assignment for  $x$  is  $\sigma(x) = 2$

# Semantics: Evaluating Terms

We define how to evaluate a term  $t$  under interpretation  $I$  and assignment  $\sigma$ , written  $\langle I, \sigma \rangle(t)$ .

Constant:  $\langle I, \sigma \rangle(a) \triangleq I(a)$

Variable:  $\langle I, \sigma \rangle(x) \triangleq \sigma(x)$

Function Term:  $\langle I, \sigma \rangle(f(t_1, \dots, t_k)) \triangleq I(f)(v_1, \dots, v_k)$ , where  $v_1 \triangleq \langle I, \sigma \rangle(t_1), \dots, v_k \triangleq \langle I, \sigma \rangle(t_k)$

# Semantics: Evaluating Terms

Quiz:

Under  $\sigma$  and  $I$ , what do these terms evaluate to?

Example:

Let  $U \triangleq \{1,2\}$  and  $\sigma \triangleq \{x \rightarrow 2, y \rightarrow 1\}$

$I(a) \triangleq 1, I(b) \triangleq 2$

$I(f) \triangleq \{\langle 1, 1 \rangle \rightarrow 2, \langle 1, 2 \rangle \rightarrow 2, \langle 2, 1 \rangle \rightarrow 1, \langle 2, 2 \rangle \rightarrow 1\}$

$f(a, y) =$

$f(x, b) =$

$f(f(x, b), f(a, y)) =$

# Semantics: Evaluating Formulas

We define evaluation of formula  $F$  under structure  $S = \langle U, I \rangle$  and variable assignment  $\sigma$ .

- If  $F$  evaluates to true under  $U, I, \sigma$ , we write  $U, I, \sigma \models F$
- If  $F$  evaluates to false under  $U, I, \sigma$ , we write  $U, I, \sigma \not\models F$
- Let's define the semantics of  $\models$ , by induction



# Semantics: Evaluating Formulas

## Base Case 1:

- $U, I, \sigma \models \top$
- $U, I, \sigma \not\models \perp$

## Base Case 2:

- $U, I, \sigma \models p(t_1, \dots, t_k)$  iff  $\langle v_1, \dots, v_k \rangle \in I(p)$  where,  $v_1 \triangleq \langle I, \sigma \rangle(t_1), \dots, v_k \triangleq \langle I, \sigma \rangle(t_k)$

# Semantics: Evaluating Formulas

Example: • Consider constants  $a, b$  and unary function  $f$ , and binary relation  $p$

• Universe  $U = \{\square, \textcircled{\text{M}}\}$  and interpretation  $I$ :

$$I(a) = \square \quad I(b) = \textcircled{\text{M}} \quad I(f) = \{\square \rightarrow \textcircled{\text{M}}, \textcircled{\text{M}} \rightarrow \square\} \quad I(p) = \{\langle \textcircled{\text{M}}, \square \rangle, \langle \textcircled{\text{M}}, \textcircled{\text{M}} \rangle\}$$

• Consider variable assignment  $\sigma : \{x \rightarrow \square\}$

Under,  $U, I, \sigma$ , what do the following formulas evaluate to?

$$\bullet \quad p(f(b), f(x)) = \quad p(f(x), f(b)) = \quad p(a, f(x)) =$$

# Semantics: Evaluating Formulas

## Boolean connectives:

- $U, I, \sigma \models \neg F$       iff     $U, I, \sigma \not\models F$
- $U, I, \sigma \models F_1 \wedge F_2$     iff     $U, I, \sigma \models F_1$  and  $U, I, \sigma \models F_2$
- $U, I, \sigma \models F_1 \vee F_2$     iff     $U, I, \sigma \models F_1$  or  $U, I, \sigma \models F_2$

# Semantics: Variant of Variable Assignment

- What's still missing? Quantifiers!
- First, let's define an  $x$ -variant of a variable assignment.
- An  **$x$ -variant** of assignment  $\sigma$ , written  $\sigma[x \mapsto c]$ , is the assignment that agrees with  $\sigma$  for assignments to all variables except  $x$  and assigns  $x$  to  $c$ .

Example:  $\sigma \triangleq \{x \mapsto 1, y \mapsto 2\}$ , what is  $\sigma[x \mapsto 3]$ ?

# Semantics: Evaluating Quantifiers

## Universal Quantifier:

- $U, I, \sigma \models \forall x. F$  iff for all  $v \in U$ ,  $U, I, \sigma[x \mapsto v] \models F$
- $U, I, \sigma \models \exists x. F$  iff there exists  $v \in U$  such that  $U, I, \sigma[x \mapsto v] \models F$

# Semantics: Evaluating Quantifiers

Example: • Universe  $U = \{\square, \oplus\}$ , assignment  $\sigma : \{x \rightarrow \square\}$  and interpretation I:

$$I(a) = \square \quad I(b) = \oplus \quad I(f) = \{\square \rightarrow \oplus, \oplus \rightarrow \square\} \quad I(p) = \{\langle \oplus, \square \rangle, \langle \oplus, \oplus \rangle\}$$

**Quiz:** Under  $U, I, \sigma$ , what do the following formulas evaluate to:

$$\forall x. p(x, a) =$$

$$\forall x. p(b, x) =$$

$$\exists x. p(a, x) =$$

$$\forall x. (p(a, x) \rightarrow p(b, x)) =$$

$$\exists x. (p(f(x), f(x)) \rightarrow p(x, x)) =$$

# Satisfiability and Validity

- A first-order formula  $F$  is satisfiable iff there exists a structure  $S$  and variable assignment  $\sigma$  such that  $S, \sigma \models F$
- $F$  is unsatisfiable otherwise
- Structure  $S$  is a model of  $F$  written  $S \models F$ , iff for all variable assignments  $\sigma$ ,  $S, \sigma \models F$
- Structure  $S$  is a valid written  $\models F$ , iff for all structures  $S$ ,  $S \models F$

# Satisfiability and Validity

Example:

- Is the formula  $\forall x. \exists y. p(x, y)$  satisfiable?
- Is the formula  $\forall x . (p(x, x) \rightarrow \exists y. p(x, y))$  valid?



# Satisfiability and Validity

Example:

- Is the formula  $(\exists x . p(x)) \rightarrow p(x)$  sat, unsat, or valid
- Is the formula  $(\forall x . p(x)) \rightarrow p(x)$  sat, unsat, or valid?
- What about  $(\forall x . (p(x) \rightarrow q(x))) \rightarrow (\exists x . (p(x) \wedge q(x)))$ ?

# Satisfiability and Validity

- Recall: A structure  $S$  is a model of a formula if for all  $\sigma$ ,  $S, \sigma \models F$

## Quiz:

- Consider a formula  $F$  such that  $S, \sigma \models F$ . Is  $S$  a model  $F$ ?
- Consider a sentence  $F$  such that  $S, \sigma \models F$ . Is  $S$  a model  $F$ ?
- Consider a ground formula  $F$  such that  $S, \sigma \models F$ . Is  $S$  a model  $F$ ?

# Semantic arguments

- We have seen what it means for a formula  $F$  to be valid, but how to prove validity?
- We extend the semantic argument method from PL to FOL
- Recall: In propositional logic, satisfiability and validity are duals

$F$  is valid iff  $\neg F$  is unsatisfiable

- Since this duality also holds in FOL, we focus on validity

# Semantic arguments

- Recall: Semantic argument method is a proof by contradiction
- Basic Idea: Assume that  $F$  is not valid, i.e., there exist  $S, \sigma$  such that  $S, \sigma \not\models F$
- Then, apply proof rules
- If we can derive a contradiction on every branch of the proof,  $F$  is valid

# Semantic arguments: New Rules

- All rules from propositional logic, but we need new rules for quantifiers

$$\text{univ I} \quad \frac{U, I, \sigma \models \forall x. F}{U, I, \sigma[x \mapsto v] \models F} \quad (\text{for any } v \in U)$$

- For example, suppose  $U, I, \sigma \models \forall x. \text{hates}(\text{jack}, x)$
- Using the above rule, we can conclude  $U, I, \sigma[x \mapsto I(\text{jack})] \models \text{hates}(\text{jack}, x)$

# Semantic arguments: New Rules

$$\text{univ II} \quad \frac{U, I, \sigma \models \forall x. F}{U, I, \sigma[x \mapsto v] \models F} \quad (\text{for a fresh } v \in U)$$

- By fresh, we mean not previously used in the proof
- Why do we need this restriction?

# Semantic arguments: New Rules

$$\text{exist I} \quad \frac{U, I, \sigma \models \exists x.F}{U, I, \sigma[x \mapsto v] \models F} \quad (\text{for a fresh } v \in U)$$

- Again fresh, means not previously used in the proof

$$\text{exist II} \quad \frac{U, I, \sigma \not\models \exists x.F}{U, I, \sigma[x \mapsto v] \not\models F} \quad (\text{for any } v \in U)$$

- If  $U, I, \sigma$  do not entail  $\exists x.F$ , this means there does not exist any object for which  $F$  holds
- Thus, no matter what object  $x$  maps to, it still won't entail  $F$

# Semantic arguments: New Rules

- Finally, we need a rule for deriving contradictions

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{U,I},\sigma \models p(s_1, \dots, s_k) \\ \text{U,I},\sigma \models p(t_1, \dots, t_k) \\ \text{contr} \quad \langle \text{I}, \sigma \rangle(t_1) = \langle \text{I}, \sigma \rangle(s_1), \dots, \langle \text{I}, \sigma \rangle(t_k) = \langle \text{I}, \sigma \rangle(s_k) \\ \hline \text{U,I},\sigma \models \perp \end{array}$$

- Example: Suppose we have  $S, \{x \rightarrow a\} \models p(x)$  and  $S, \{y \rightarrow a\} \not\models p(y)$
- Then, we can derive  $\perp$



# Semantic arguments: Examples

Example:  $F = (\forall x . p(x)) \rightarrow (\forall y . p(y))$

- Start: assume there exist  $S, \sigma$  such that  $S, \sigma \not\models F$

# Semantic arguments: Examples

Example:  $F = (\forall x . (p(x) \vee q(x))) \rightarrow (\exists x . p(x) \vee \forall x . q(x))$

- Prove that the formula is valid

# Semantic arguments: Examples

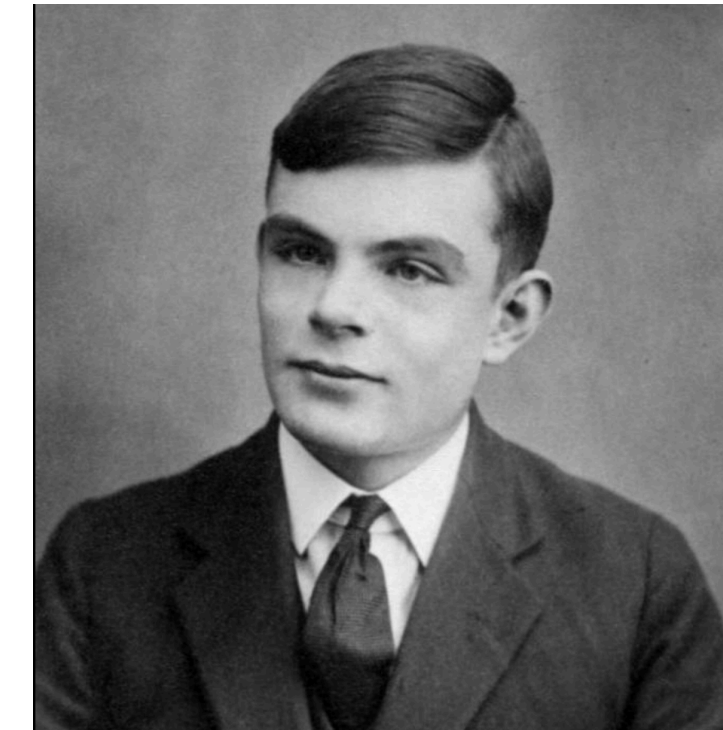
- To try at home:
  - $p(a) \rightarrow \exists x. p(x)$
  - $(\forall x. p(x)) \Leftrightarrow (\neg \exists x. \neg p(x))$
  - $(\forall x. (p(x) \wedge q(x))) \rightarrow (\forall x. p(x)) \wedge (\forall x. q(x))$
  - $\exists x (P(x) \vee Q(x)) \Leftrightarrow \exists x P(x) \vee \exists x Q(x)$

# Soundness and Completeness

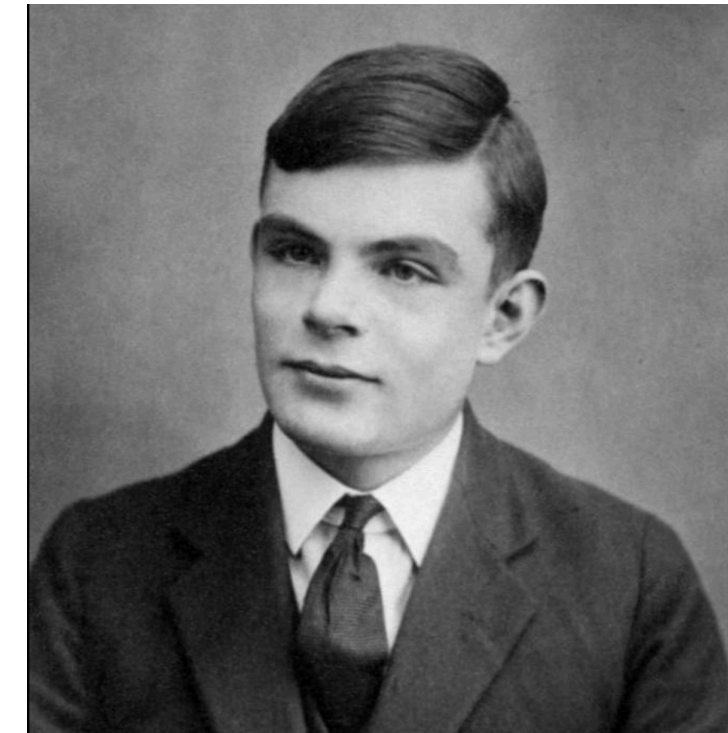
- The proof rules we used are sound and complete.
- Soundness: If every branch of semantic argument proof derives a contradiction, then  $F$  is indeed valid.
- Translation: The proof system does not reach wrong conclusions
- Completeness: If formula  $F$  is valid, then there exists a finite-length proof in which every branch derives  $\perp$
- Translation: There are no valid first-order formulas which we cannot prove to be valid using our proof rules.

# Undecidability of FOL

- Really important result by Church and Turing
- It is undecidable whether a first-order formula is valid
- Review: A problem is decidable iff there exists a procedure  $P$  such that for any input:
  - $P$  halts and says “yes” if the answer is positive
  - $P$  halts and says “no” if the answer is negative
- Can’t we just use the proof system? What’s the hard part?



# Semidecidability of FOL



- First order logic is semidecidable
- A problem is semidecidable iff there exists a procedure P such that for any input:
  - P halts and says “yes” if the answer is positive
  - P may not halt if the answer is negative (if it halts, it says “no”)
- How could we build such an algorithm from the proof system?
- No algorithm is guaranteed to terminate, if the formula is not valid

# Where are we?

- Logic as the language of computation
- We've seen first-order logic
- \*Very\* expressive (see Fermat's last theorem)
  - In fact, we can use it to encode all of mathematics via ZF set theory
- But undecidable makes decision procedures unpredictable
  - We don't know if they will terminate!
- Next first-order theories
- Focus on decidable fragments of FOL that allow encoding interesting questions about programs



# Proof Rules

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{neg} \quad \frac{S, \sigma \models \neg F}{S, \sigma \not\models F} \quad \frac{S, \sigma \not\models \neg F}{S, \sigma \models F} \qquad \text{conj} \quad \frac{S, \sigma \models F_1 \wedge F_2}{S, \sigma \models F_1 \quad S, \sigma \models F_2} \quad \frac{S, \sigma \not\models F_1 \wedge F_2}{S, \sigma \not\models F_1 \text{ \underline{or} } S, \sigma \not\models F_2}
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{disj} \quad \frac{S, \sigma \models F_1 \vee F_2}{S, \sigma \models F_1 \text{ \underline{or} } S, \sigma \models F_2} \quad \frac{S, \sigma \not\models F_1 \vee F_2}{S, \sigma \not\models F_1 \quad S, \sigma \not\models F_2} \qquad \text{imp} \quad \frac{S, \sigma \models F_1 \rightarrow F_2}{S, \sigma \models \neg F_1 \text{ \underline{or} } S, \sigma \models F_2} \quad \frac{S, \sigma \not\models F_1 \rightarrow F_2}{S, \sigma \models F_1 \quad S, \sigma \not\models F_2}
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{univ} \quad \frac{U, I, \sigma \models \forall x. F}{U, I, \sigma[x \mapsto v] \models F} \text{ (any } v \in U) \quad \frac{U, I, \sigma \not\models \forall x. F}{U, I, \sigma[x \mapsto v] \not\models F} \text{ (fresh } v \in U)
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{exists} \quad \frac{U, I, \sigma \models \exists x. F}{U, I, \sigma[x \mapsto v] \models F} \text{ (fresh } v \in U) \quad \frac{U, I, \sigma \not\models \exists x. F}{U, I, \sigma[x \mapsto v] \not\models F} \text{ (any } v \in U) \qquad \text{contr}
 \end{array}$$