

# Symbolic Artificial Intelligence (COMP3008)

## Lecture 2: First-Order Logic

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# First-Order Logic

# First-Order Logic

- To formalise knowledge and reasoning, we need a formal language to describe knowledge
- There exist many formal languages to describe knowledge
- The first one we will study is the First-Order Logic (FOL)

# Main characteristics of FOL

- FOL is a declarative language
- Designed to express knowledge
- Precise: each fact can only be true or false (unlike in fuzzy logic)
- Defines which strings are valid sentences (syntax) and what it means for them to be true (semantics)
- Unlike natural languages (e.g. English), FOL is completely abstract; it does not have the tools to describe real-world phenomena
  - The language uses abstract symbols, e.g. 'x', 'Dog2', ...
  - The mapping of those symbols to real-world phenomena is up to the user

# Examples

- 1  $\text{Dog}(\text{fido}) \vee \text{Cat}(\text{fido})$
- 2  $\text{Dog}(x) \rightarrow \text{Animal}(x)$
- 3  $\exists x. \text{Dog}(x) \wedge \text{Lovely}(x)$
- 4  $\forall x. (\text{Dog}(x) \vee \text{Cat}(x)) \rightarrow \text{Animal}(x)$

As it concerns FOL, there are two ‘data types’:

- Boolean
- Domain of discourse (domain)

Operations such as  $\wedge$ ,  $\vee$  and  $\neg$  work with Booleans

Domain elements are used in quantifiers  $\forall$  and  $\exists$  and equality  $=$ , and they can be passed as parameters

## Logical symbols:

- Quantifiers  $\forall$  and  $\exists$  for domain elements
- Logical connectives  $\wedge, \vee, \neg, \rightarrow, \leftrightarrow$
- Equality  $=$  to compare domain elements
- Punctuation ‘(’, ‘)’ and other brackets for readability: ‘[’, ‘]’, ‘{’, ‘}’
- Variables for domain elements – usually lower case letters, optionally provided with indices, e.g.  $x, y_1, z_{3,8}, \dots$

## Non-logical symbols:

- Predicate symbols: ‘functions’ that return Booleans; usually begin with capital letters, e.g.  $P(x), Q, IsTasty(y)$
- Function symbols: functions that return domain elements; usually begin with lower-case letters, e.g.  $f(x), g, madeOf(y)$

# Logical connectives

$\neg A$  is negation (logical 'not'): it is true iff  $A$  is false.

$A \wedge B$  is conjunction (logical 'and'): both  $A$  and  $B$  are true.

$A \vee B$  is disjunction (logical 'or'): at least one of  $A$  and  $B$  is true.

$A \rightarrow B$  can be read as 'if  $A$  then  $B$ ': if  $A$  is true then  $B$  must also be true.  $A \rightarrow B$  is short for  $\neg A \vee B$ . Sometimes denoted as  $\supset$ .

$A \leftrightarrow B$  is 'if and only if': both  $A$  and  $B$  are either false or true.  $A \leftrightarrow B$  is short for  $(A \rightarrow B) \wedge (B \rightarrow A)$ . Sometimes denoted as  $\equiv$ .

|       |          | $A$   | $B$   | $A \wedge B$ | $A \vee B$ | $A \rightarrow B$ | $A \leftrightarrow B$ |
|-------|----------|-------|-------|--------------|------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| $A$   | $\neg A$ | False | False | False        | False      | True              | True                  |
| False | True     | False | True  | False        | True       | True              | False                 |
| True  | False    | True  | False | False        | True       | False             | False                 |
|       |          | True  | True  | True         | True       | True              | True                  |



# Precedence

We will use these rules (different sources may give different rules)

- Apply all the functions, predicates, and '='
- Apply  $\neg$  to as little as possible

$$\neg A \wedge B \quad \text{means} \quad (\neg A) \wedge B$$

- Then apply the quantifiers to as little as possible

$$\forall x. A(x) \wedge B(x) \wedge C \quad \text{means} \quad (\forall x. A(x) \wedge B(x)) \wedge C$$

- Then apply  $\wedge$  to as little as possible

$$A \rightarrow B \wedge \neg C \wedge D \quad \text{means} \quad A \rightarrow ((B \wedge (\neg C)) \wedge D)$$

- Then apply  $\vee$  to as little as possible
- Then apply  $\rightarrow$  to as little as possible
- Then apply  $\leftrightarrow$  to as little as possible

# Note about quantifiers and precedence

Consider this expression:

$$\forall x. A(x) \wedge B(x)$$

One could interpreted it as

$$(\forall x. A(x)) \wedge B(x)$$

but it clearly means

$$\forall x. (A(x) \wedge B(x))$$

as otherwise  $x$  in  $B(x)$  would not be defined

# De Morgan's laws and their generalisation

De Morgan's laws:

$$\neg(A_1 \wedge A_2 \wedge \cdots \wedge A_n) = \neg A_1 \vee \neg A_2 \vee \cdots \vee \neg A_n$$

$$\neg(A_1 \vee A_2 \vee \cdots \vee A_n) = \neg A_1 \wedge \neg A_2 \wedge \cdots \wedge \neg A_n$$

Generalisations:

$$\neg\forall x.A(x) = \exists x.\neg A(x)$$

$$\neg\exists x.A(x) = \forall x.\neg A(x)$$

# Arity of function and predicate symbols

- Each predicate and function symbol has *arity*, i.e. the number of parameters
- Arity can be 0, 1, 2, etc.
- Predicates with arity 0 are called *propositional variables*; they take value 'true' or 'false'
- Functions with arity 0 are called *constant symbols*; they stand for domain elements such as 'COMP3008 module', 'Number 73', 'Cat', etc.
- For predicates and functions of arity 0, we skip the parentheses:  $P$ ,  $f$ , etc. instead of  $P()$ ,  $f()$ , etc.

# Example of an FOL formula

$$\exists x. x = f(x) \wedge x = g(x)$$

The order of operations is as follows:

$$\exists x. ((x = f(x)) \wedge (x = g(x)))$$

It reads as

‘There exists  $x$  such that  $x$  is equal to  $f(x)$  and  $x$  is equal to  $g(x)$ , where  $f$  and  $g$  are functions of arity 1’

For example, if our domain of discourse is the set of all integers,  $f(x) = 2x$  and  $g(x) = x^2$ , then the above statement is true (why?)

# Well-Formed Formulas

- Not every sequence of alphabet symbols is a valid expression, e.g.

$$\neg \wedge x \forall$$

has no meaning

- Similarly, not every sequence of words in English has a meaning, e.g. 'Run 15 laptop or' is grammatically incorrect
- Valid formulas are called Well-Formed Formulas (WFF)
- WFFs are defined inductively via terms and formulas:
  - *Term* is an expression that 'returns' a domain element
  - *Formula* is an expression that 'returns' Boolean

# Formation rules (grammar)

Formation rules inductively define terms and formulas

A term is either

- A variable
- Any expression in the form of  $f(t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n)$ , where  $t_i$  is a term and  $f$  is a function symbol of arity  $n$

A formula is any expression in the following forms:

- $P(t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n)$ , where  $t_i$  is a term and  $P$  is a predicate symbol of arity  $n$
- $\neg\phi$ , where  $\phi$  is a formula
- $t_1 = t_2$ , where  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  are terms
- $\phi \wedge \psi$ ,  $\phi \vee \psi$ ,  $\phi \rightarrow \psi$  and  $\phi \leftrightarrow \psi$ , where  $\phi$  and  $\psi$  are formulas
- $\forall x.\phi$  and  $\exists x.\phi$ , where  $x$  is a variable name and  $\phi$  is a formula

# Variable scope

- Variables in FOL can be *free* or *bound*
  - Bound variables are defined by quantifiers, e.g.  $\forall x.P(x)$
  - Free variables are defined outside the formula (their values are given), e.g.  $P(x) \vee Q(x)$
- The *scope* of a variable is the part of the formula where it can be used
- Variables defined by a quantifier are only accessible within the scope of that quantifier
- In this example,  $x$  is free and  $y$  is bound:

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Scope of } x \\ \overbrace{P(x) \vee \exists y.Q(y) \wedge R(x, y)} \\ \underbrace{\hspace{10em}} \\ \text{Scope of } y \end{array}$$

- If the name of a variable is reused, it refers to the innermost definition, e.g.  $P(x) \vee \exists x.Q(x)$  uses two variables  $x$ , and  $Q(x)$  refers to the bound  $x$



# Sentences

Sentences are special cases of formulas:

A WFF that does not have free variables is called *sentence*

To convert a formula with free variables into a sentence, we need to substitute values for every free variable in that formula

# Semantics

- Consider the following sentence:

$$\forall x. PM(x) \rightarrow MP(x) \wedge Popular(x)$$

What does it mean?

Is it true?

- Consider the following sentence:

$$\forall x. PM(x) \rightarrow MP(x) \wedge Popular(x)$$

What does it mean?

Is it true?

- Cannot answer these questions: we don't know what the non-logical symbols mean and how they behave
- Without precise interpretation of each non-logical symbol, cannot represent knowledge
- Semantics is concerned with the meaning of sentences (but not the mapping to real world)
- *Logical interpretation* defines the semantics of FOL
  - It specifies how non-logical symbols behave

# Interpretation

Interpretation  $\mathcal{I}$  is a pair  $\langle \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{I} \rangle$ , where

$\mathcal{D}$  is a non-empty set called *domain of discourse* (or *domain*), and  $\mathcal{I}$  gives mapping of every non-logical symbol

$\mathcal{I}$  is defined as follows:

- For a functional symbol  $f$  of arity  $n$

$$\mathcal{I}[f] : \underbrace{\mathcal{D} \times \mathcal{D} \times \mathcal{D} \times \cdots \times \mathcal{D}}_{n \text{ times}} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$$

- Recall that constant symbol is a functional symbol of arity 0; then interpretation of a constant symbol  $a$  is defined as  $\mathcal{I}[a] \in \mathcal{D}$

- For a predicate symbol  $P$  of arity  $n$

$$\mathcal{I}[P] : \underbrace{\mathcal{D} \times \mathcal{D} \times \mathcal{D} \times \cdots \times \mathcal{D}}_{n \text{ times}} \rightarrow \{\text{True}, \text{False}\}$$

- $\mathcal{I}[P]$  can also be seen as a relation:  $\mathcal{I}[P] \subseteq \underbrace{\mathcal{D} \times \mathcal{D} \times \mathcal{D} \times \cdots \times \mathcal{D}}_{n \text{ times}}$

# Sufficiency of logical interpretation

Interpretation  $\mathcal{I} = \langle \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{I} \rangle$  is all you need to know about non-logical symbols to evaluate an FOL sentence as true or false

In other words, to say if a sentence is true, all you need is to know is

- The set of elements in the domain
- Which inputs satisfy predicate symbols
- Which element does each function return for every possible input

# Question

Evaluate sentence

$$\exists x.A(x) \wedge \forall y.B(x, y)$$

given the following interpretation  $\mathcal{I}$ :

$$\mathcal{D} = \{1, 2, 3\}$$

| $x$ | $A(x)$ |
|-----|--------|
| 1   | True   |
| 2   | False  |
| 3   | True   |

| $x$ | $y$ | $B(x, y)$ |
|-----|-----|-----------|
| 1   | 1   | False     |
| 1   | 2   | True      |
| 1   | 3   | False     |
| 2   | 1   | True      |
| 2   | 2   | True      |
| 2   | 3   | True      |
| 3   | 1   | True      |
| 3   | 2   | False     |
| 3   | 3   | True      |

## Answer

We need to find at least one value of  $x \in \mathcal{D}$  such that  $A(x) = \text{True}$  and  $B(x, y) = \text{True}$  for every  $y \in \mathcal{D}$ .

Since  $A(2) = \text{False}$ , we can exclude  $x = 2$ .

For  $x = 1$ , predicate  $B(x, y)$  evaluates to False for  $y = 1$ , hence  $x = 1$  does not satisfy the sentence.

For  $x = 3$ , predicate  $B(x, y)$  evaluates to False for  $y = 2$ , hence  $x = 3$  does not satisfy the sentence.

We conclude that interpretation  $\mathcal{I}$  does not satisfy this sentence; the sentence evaluates to False.



# Satisfiability

# Satisfaction

Having interpretation  $\mathcal{I}$ , we can determine if a sentence  $\alpha$  is *satisfied* by  $\mathcal{I}$ :

$$\mathcal{I} \models \alpha$$

If  $\alpha$  is a formula with free variables, satisfiability then depends on the variable assignment  $\mu$ :

$$\mathcal{I}, \mu \models \alpha$$

(we say that  $\alpha$  is satisfied by  $\mathcal{I}$  and  $\mu$ )

Same notation can be used for a set  $S$  of sentences/formulas:

$$\mathcal{I} \models S \quad \mathcal{I}, \mu \models S$$

We can also use symbol  $\not\models$  to say that a formula is not satisfied, i.e. it is false under interpretation  $\mathcal{I}$  (and variable assignment  $\mu$ )

# Rules of interpretation

Let  $P$  be a predicate symbol of arity  $n$ ,  $t_i$  be a term,  $d_i = \mathcal{I}[t_i]$  (or  $d_i = \mu[t_i]$  for free variables),  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  be formulas, and  $x$  be a variable

Then the rules of interpretation are as follows

- $\mathcal{I}, \mu \models P(t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n)$  iff  $\langle d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n \rangle \in \mathcal{I}[P]$
- $\mathcal{I}, \mu \models (t_1 = t_2)$  iff  $d_1$  is the same object as  $d_2$
- $\mathcal{I}, \mu \models \neg\alpha$  iff  $\mathcal{I}, \mu \not\models \alpha$
- $\mathcal{I}, \mu \models (\alpha \wedge \beta)$  iff  $\mathcal{I}, \mu \models \alpha$  and  $\mathcal{I}, \mu \models \beta$
- $\mathcal{I}, \mu \models (\alpha \vee \beta)$  iff  $\mathcal{I}, \mu \models \alpha$  or  $\mathcal{I}, \mu \models \beta$
- $\mathcal{I}, \mu \models \exists x.\alpha$  iff for some  $d \in \mathcal{D}$  holds  $\mathcal{I}, \mu \models \alpha$ , where  $\mu[x] = d$
- $\mathcal{I}, \mu \models \forall x.\alpha$  iff for every  $d \in \mathcal{D}$  holds  $\mathcal{I}, \mu \models \alpha$ , where  $\mu[x] = d$

# Logical entailment

Satisfaction of a sentence generally depends on interpretation

Instead of defining an interpretation, we can put 'constraints' on the interpretation, e.g.

if  $\mathcal{I} \models \alpha$  then  $\mathcal{I} \models \neg(\beta \wedge \neg\alpha)$  for any  $\mathcal{I}$

Let  $S$  be a set of sentences and  $\alpha$  be a sentence

If every interpretation  $\mathcal{I}$  that satisfies  $S$  also satisfies  $\alpha$  then we say that

- $\alpha$  is a *logical consequence* of  $S$
- $S$  *logically entails*  $\alpha$
- $S \models \alpha$

# Classification of sentences

Sentence  $\alpha$  is

**Unsatisfiable** if no interpretation satisfies  $\alpha$

**Satisfiable** if at least one interpretation satisfies  $\alpha$

**Not valid** if at least one interpretation does not satisfy  $\alpha$

**Valid** if every interpretation satisfies  $\alpha$

These definitions can be applied to a set of sentences

$S = \{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n\}$ ; just let  $\alpha = \alpha_1 \wedge \alpha_2 \wedge \dots \wedge \alpha_n$

We can also allow free variables; e.g., formula  $\alpha$  is satisfiable if there exists an interpretation  $\mathcal{I}$  and a variable assignment  $\mu$  such that

$\mathcal{I}, \mu \models \alpha$

# Logical validity

A sentence  $\alpha$  is *logically valid* (*valid*) if it is satisfied by every interpretation

An equivalent definition: a formula is valid if it is a logical consequence of an empty set:

$$S \models \alpha, \text{ where } S = \emptyset$$

We write ' $\models \alpha$ ' if  $\alpha$  is valid and ' $\not\models \alpha$ ' for not valid

For example

$$\models \alpha \vee \neg \alpha$$

Observe that entailment can be reduced to validity:

$$\text{if } \{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n\} \models \beta \text{ then } \models (\alpha_1 \wedge \alpha_2 \wedge \dots \wedge \alpha_n) \rightarrow \beta$$

# Unsatisfiability

Sentence  $\alpha$  is *unsatisfiable* if there is no  $\mathcal{I}$  such that  $\mathcal{I} \models \alpha$

E.g.  $\alpha = \alpha' \wedge \neg\alpha'$  is unsatisfiable

Unsatisfiability can be expressed using entailment:

- Let us define FALSE as  $\exists x. \neg(x = x)$   
(you can use any other unsatisfiable sentence)
- Recall that  $S$  entails a sentence  $\beta$  if every interpretation  $\mathcal{I}$  that satisfies  $S$  also satisfies  $\beta$
- If  $S$  is unsatisfiable, there is no interpretation that satisfies  $S$ , hence any formula including FALSE is a consequence of  $S$
- A common way of showing that  $S$  is unsatisfiable is  $S \models \text{FALSE}$

# Summary

| Concept          | Notation                          | Definition   |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Satisfaction     | $\mathcal{I}, \mu \models \alpha$ | $\alpha$ is satisfied by the interpretation  |
| Entailment       | $S \models \alpha$                | $\alpha$ is a logical consequence of $S$ (it is satisfied by every interpretation that satisfies $S$ ) |
| Satisfiability   | (no notation)                     | there exists an interpretation that satisfies $\alpha$   |
| Validity         | $\models \alpha$                  | $\alpha$ is satisfied by every interpretation  |
| Unsatisfiability | $S \models \text{FALSE}$          | there exists no interpretation that would satisfy $S$  |



# In-class exercises

## Z3 program (SMT2)

```
(declare-const A Bool)
(declare-const B Bool)
(declare-const C Bool)
(assert (or A B))
(assert (or B C))
(check-sat)
(get-model)
```

## Z3 program (SMT2)

```
(declare-const A Bool)
(declare-const B Bool)
(declare-const C Bool)
(assert (or A B))
(assert (or B C))
(check-sat)
(get-model)
```

- 1 Declare propositional variables (predicates of arity 0)  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$
- 2 Express our knowledge using FOL:  $A \vee B$  and  $B \vee C$
- 3 Ask Z3 to verify whether our program is **satisfiable**
- 4 Ask to print out an interpretation that satisfies our program

# Z3 output

```
sat
(model
  (define-fun A () Bool
    false)
  (define-fun B () Bool
    true)
  (define-fun C () Bool
    false)
)
```

This means that  $A = \text{False}$ ,  $B = \text{True}$  and  $C = \text{False}$

Are there any other models that satisfy our program?

- In terms of FOL, Z3 program is a sentence:

$$S = S_1 \wedge S_2 \wedge \dots$$

where  $S_1, S_2, \dots$  are assertions

- Z3 can only test satisfiability
  - If the program is satisfiable, Z3 finds a ‘model’ (i.e. interpretation):

find interpretation  $\mathcal{I}$  such that  $\mathcal{I} \models S$

- If the program is unsatisfiable, Z3 can only return ‘unsat’

# Question

What does this mean?

$$S \not\models \alpha$$

# Question

What does this mean?

$$S \not\models \alpha$$

It means ‘does not entail’:

**Entails:** Every interpretation  $\mathcal{I}$  that satisfies  $S$  also satisfies  $\alpha$

**Does not entail:** There exists at least one interpretation  $\mathcal{I}$  that satisfies  $S$  but does not satisfy  $\alpha$

# Question

Consider the following FOL sentence:

$$A \vee \exists x.B(x)$$

- 1 Is it satisfiable?
- 2 Is it valid?
- 3 Is it not valid?
- 4 Is it unsatisfiable?



# Approach

Let  $\alpha$  be our sentence

Answer two questions:

- 1 Is there an interpretation  $\mathcal{I}_{\text{sat}}$  that satisfies  $\alpha$ ?
- 2 Is there an interpretation  $\mathcal{I}_{\text{not-sat}}$  that does not satisfy  $\alpha$ ?

$\alpha$  is satisfiable if  $\mathcal{I}_{\text{sat}}$  exists

$\alpha$  is unsatisfiable if  $\mathcal{I}_{\text{sat}}$  does not exist

$\alpha$  is not valid if  $\mathcal{I}_{\text{non-sat}}$  exists

$\alpha$  is valid if  $\mathcal{I}_{\text{non-sat}}$  does not exist

$$\alpha : A \vee \exists x.B(x)$$

**1** Is there an interpretation  $\mathfrak{I}_{\text{sat}}$  that satisfies  $\alpha$ ?

$$\alpha : A \vee \exists x.B(x)$$

**1** Is there an interpretation  $\mathfrak{I}_{\text{sat}}$  that satisfies  $\alpha$ ?

Let  $A = \text{TRUE}$  and  $B(x) = \text{TRUE}$

$$\alpha : A \vee \exists x.B(x)$$

**1** Is there an interpretation  $\mathcal{I}_{\text{sat}}$  that satisfies  $\alpha$ ?

Let  $A = \text{TRUE}$  and  $B(x) = \text{TRUE}$

**2** Is there an interpretation  $\mathcal{I}_{\text{not-sat}}$  that does not satisfy  $\alpha$ ?

$$\alpha : A \vee \exists x.B(x)$$

- 1** Is there an interpretation  $\mathcal{I}_{\text{sat}}$  that satisfies  $\alpha$ ?

Let  $A = \text{TRUE}$  and  $B(x) = \text{TRUE}$

- 2** Is there an interpretation  $\mathcal{I}_{\text{not-sat}}$  that does not satisfy  $\alpha$ ?

Let  $A = \text{FALSE}$  and  $B(x) = \text{FALSE}$

$$\alpha : A \vee \exists x.B(x)$$

- 1 Is there an interpretation  $\mathcal{I}_{\text{sat}}$  that satisfies  $\alpha$ ?

Let  $A = \text{TRUE}$  and  $B(x) = \text{TRUE}$

- 2 Is there an interpretation  $\mathcal{I}_{\text{not-sat}}$  that does not satisfy  $\alpha$ ?

Let  $A = \text{FALSE}$  and  $B(x) = \text{FALSE}$

$\alpha$  is **satisfiable** if  $\mathcal{I}_{\text{sat}}$  exists

$\alpha$  is **unsatisfiable** if  $\mathcal{I}_{\text{sat}}$  does not exist

$\alpha$  is **not valid** if  $\mathcal{I}_{\text{non-sat}}$  exists

$\alpha$  is **valid** if  $\mathcal{I}_{\text{non-sat}}$  does not exist

Conclusion:  $\alpha$  is satisfiable and not valid

# Self-study exercises

# Exercise 1

Consider the following FOL formula:

$$\forall x \forall y. (P(f(x), y) \rightarrow f(x) = x \vee \neg P(x, y))$$

- 1 Place parenthesis to show the order of the operations
- 2 Translate it into English
- 3 Suggest a real-world example which fits the above formula



## Exercise 2

Let  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$  and  $x_3$  be variables,  $f$  and  $g$  be function symbols and  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$  be predicate symbols. Assume that the arity of function and predicate symbols is appropriate for the context.

Which of the following are WFFs?

- 1  $f(x_1) \wedge g(x_2)$
- 2  $A \vee (B \wedge \exists x_1. C(x_1))$
- 3  $B(A(x_1))$
- 4  $\exists A. (f(x_1) = x_2) \wedge A$
- 5  $[\forall x_1 \exists x_2. A(x_1, x_2) \wedge \neg B(x_2)] \vee [\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3. (f(x_1) = g(x_1, x_2, x_3)) \wedge (A(x_1) = B(x_2))]$

## Exercise 3: Background

It is easy to come up with simple examples of entailment, e.g.

$$\{\forall x. \neg(Dog(x) \wedge Cat(x)), Dog(oscar)\} \models \neg Cat(oscar)$$

We have not yet studied how to prove such an entailment, yet the proof is intuitive:

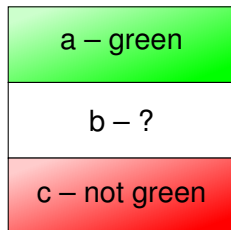
- Let  $x = oscar$
- From the first sentence:  $\neg(Dog(oscar) \wedge Cat(oscar))$
- Substitute the second sentence:  $\neg(TRUE \wedge Cat(oscar))$
- Simplify:  $\neg Cat(oscar)$

If such an example is scaled up, with hundreds of sentences, an automated reasoning system may be very handy

However, examples do not have to be large to be non-trivial

## Exercise 3: Example of a less trivial entailment

There are three blocks:  $a$ ,  $b$  and  $c$ , as shown in the figure. We know that  $a$  is green and  $c$  is not green. We do not know the colour of  $b$ . Question: is there a green block on top of a non-green block?



Our knowledge can be expressed using the following FOL sentences:

- 1  $OnTop(a, b)$
- 2  $OnTop(b, c)$
- 3  $Green(a)$
- 4  $\neg Green(c)$

Hypothesis:  $\exists x \exists y. OnTop(x, y) \wedge Green(x) \wedge \neg Green(y)$

## Exercise 3: Exercise

Using the FOL language, prove or disprove the hypothesis in the previous slide

You need to demonstrate that the sentences that express our knowledge entail the hypothesis

Hint: consider two complementary families of interpretations

# Self-study exercises – answers

# Exercise 1: Answers

The original formula is as follows

$$\forall x \forall y. (P(f(x), y) \supset f(x) = x \vee \neg P(x, y))$$

- 1 After placing parenthesis:

$$\forall x \forall y. \left( P(f(x), y) \supset ((f(x) = x) \vee (\neg P(x, y))) \right)$$

- 2 Translating into English: “For all  $x$  and  $y$ , if  $P(f(x), y)$  then  $f(x)$  is equal to  $x$  or  $P(x, y)$  is false.”
- 3 An example of an interpretation (you may have a completely different example): Let  $f(x)$  be the closest friend of  $x$  and  $P(x, y)$  be true if  $x$  and  $y$  are married. Then the sentence reads as follows: for any  $x$  and  $y$ , if the closest friend of  $x$  is married to  $y$  then either  $x$  is their own closest friend, or  $x$  is not married to  $y$ .

## Exercise 2: Answers

1  $f(x_1) \wedge g(x_2)$

This is not a WFF;  $f$  and  $g$  are functions; logical 'and' cannot be applied to terms

2  $A \vee (B \wedge \exists x_1. C(x_1))$

This is a WFF

3  $B(A(x_1))$

This is not a WFF;  $A(x_1)$  is a formula whereas the parameter of  $B$  as to be a term

4  $\exists A. (f(x_1) = x_2) \wedge A$

This is not a WFF;  $A$  is a predicate whereas quantifiers require variables

5  $[\forall x_1 \exists x_2. A(x_1, x_2) \wedge \neg B(x_2)] \vee [\exists x_1 \exists x_2 \exists x_3. (f(x_1) = g(x_1, x_2, x_3)) \wedge (A(x_1) = B(x_2))]$

This is not a WFF; equality connective in  $A(x_1) = B(x_2)$  cannot be used between predicates; instead, we had to use ' $\equiv$ ' for 'if and only if'

## Exercise 3: Answer

There are two cases: (1)  $\mathcal{I} \models \text{Green}(b)$  and (2)  $\mathcal{I} \models \neg \text{Green}(b)$

- 1 If  $\mathcal{I} \models \text{Green}(b)$  then for  $x = b$  and  $y = c$ , the following holds:  
 $\mathcal{I} \models \text{OnTop}(x, y) \wedge \text{Green}(x) \wedge \neg \text{Green}(y)$ , hence the hypothesis is correct
- 2 If  $\mathcal{I} \models \neg \text{Green}(b)$  then for  $x = a$  and  $y = b$ , the following holds:  
 $\mathcal{I} \models \text{OnTop}(x, y) \wedge \text{Green}(x) \wedge \neg \text{Green}(y)$ , hence the hypothesis is correct

Conclusion: for any interpretation  $\mathcal{I}$ , the hypothesis

$$\text{KB} \models \exists x \exists y. \text{OnTop}(x, y) \wedge \text{Green}(x) \wedge \neg \text{Green}(y)$$

is correct; there is a green block right on top of a non-green block