

CS 228 : Logic in Computer Science

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Satisfiability of FOL

Given a formula in FOL over some signature τ , is it satisfiable?

Herbrand Theory

- ▶ Named after the French mathematician Jacques Herbrand
- ▶ Famous for Herbrand's Theorem, which allows a certain reduction from FOL to propositional logic
- ▶ Herbrand's theorem allows reducing a FOL formula φ in Skolem Normal Form to an infinite set $E(\varphi)$ of propositional formulae s.t. φ is satisfiable iff $E(\varphi)$ is satisfiable
- ▶ If $E(\varphi)$ is not satisfiable, then $\emptyset \in Res^*(E(\varphi))$, and we can derive this in finite number of steps
- ▶ As $E(\varphi)$ may be infinite, there is no way to say $\emptyset \notin Res^*(E(\varphi))$.

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- ▶ If τ contains a constant c and unary function f , then the Herbrand universe contains $c, f(c), f(f(c)), f(f(f(c))), \dots$
- ▶ If τ contains a constant c and unary function f and binary function g , then the Herbrand universe contains distinct ground terms $c, g(c, c), f(c), g(c, f(c)), g(g(f(f(c))), c), f(c), \dots$

Herbrand Universe

- ▶ If τ has no constants, then the Herbrand universe is empty
- ▶ If τ has no functions, then the Herbrand universe consists of the constants of τ and is finite
- ▶ If τ has constants and functions, then the Herbrand universe is infinite

Herbrand Structures

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- ▶ A Herbrand structure gives the natural interpretation to the constants and functions in τ : a constant c is interpreted as the element c in the universe,
- ▶ If the signature τ has no relations or no constants, there is a unique Herbrand structure for τ

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- ▶ If the signature τ has relations and constants, then there are many Herbrand structures over τ depending on how you interpret them.
 - ▶ If τ contains a constant c and a binary relation R , then
 - ▶ $\mathcal{A} = (U^{\mathcal{A}} = \{c\}, R^{\mathcal{A}} = \{(c, c)\})$ is a Herbrand structure for τ .
 - ▶ $\mathcal{A} = (U^{\mathcal{A}} = \{c\}, R^{\mathcal{A}} = \{\})$ is a Herbrand structure for τ .
- ▶ If τ contains a constant c , function f and a unary relation R , then
 - ▶ $\mathcal{A} = (U^{\mathcal{A}} = \{c, f(c), f(f(c)), \dots\}, R^{\mathcal{A}} = \{c, f(c)\})$ is a Herbrand structure for τ .
 - ▶ $\mathcal{A} = (U^{\mathcal{A}} = \{c, f(c), f(f(c)), \dots\}, R^{\mathcal{A}} = \{c, f(c), f(f(f(f(c))))\})$ is a Herbrand structure, and so on.

Herbrand Signature

Let Γ be a set of sentences over a signature τ .

- ▶ The Herbrand signature for Γ is denoted τ_H .
- ▶ $\tau_H = \tau \cup \{c\}$ if τ contains no constants, else it is τ .
- ▶ The Herbrand universe for Γ denoted $H(\Gamma)$ is the Herbrand universe for τ_H .

Herbrand Model

A Herbrand model for Γ is a Herbrand structure M over τ_H such that $M \models \varphi$ for all $\varphi \in \Gamma$.