

# Conservative and Definitional Extensions

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Conservative and definitional extension (see, e.g., [Hod97]). Actually, a generalization of definitional extension is presented here. Formalized with the *PIE* system.

## 1 Conservative Extension

Formula  $G$  is a *conservative extension* of formula  $F$  if and only if the following biconditional is valid. The right-to-left direction can be expressed as first-order validity, since second-order quantification is only in the antecedent and only existential there. The left-to-right direction in

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*conservative\_extension*( $F, G$ )

---

Defined as

$$F \leftrightarrow \text{proj}(S, G),$$

where

$$S := \text{free\_predicates}(F).$$

### 1.1 Examples for Conservative Extensions

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$f_1$

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Defined as

$$a \rightarrow b.$$

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*ex\_ce1*

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Defined as

$$\text{conservative\_extension}(f_1, (f_1 \wedge (p \leftrightarrow a))).$$

This formula is valid: *ex\_ce1*.

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$ex\_ce_2$

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Defined as

$$conservative\_extension(f_1, (f_1 \wedge (p \leftarrow a))).$$

This formula is valid:  $ex\_ce_2$ .

## 1.2 Counterexamples for Conservative Extensions

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$ex\_ce_3$

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Defined as

$$conservative\_extension(f_1, (f_1 \wedge (b \rightarrow p) \wedge (p \rightarrow a))).$$

Failed to validate this formula:  $ex\_ce_3$ .

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$def\_extx(F, G)$

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Defined as

$$predicate\_definiens(P, (F, G)),$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} S_F &:= \text{free\_predicates}(F), \\ S_G &:= \text{free\_predicates}(G), \\ S_X &:= S_G \setminus S_F, \\ \text{singleton\_to\_member}(S\_X, P). \end{aligned}$$

## 2 Implicit Definitional Extensions

We define the following concept: Formula  $G$  is an *implicit definitional extension* of formula  $F$  by unary predicate  $p$  iff

1.  $p$  does not occur in  $F$ .
2. There exists a formula  $Dx$  with no occurrences of  $p$  and with no bound occurrences of  $x$  such that  $G \models \forall x px \leftrightarrow Dx$ .
3.  $F \equiv \exists p G$ .

That property can be verified with just first-order reasoning:  $Dx$  is a definiens of  $p$  that can be computed by interpolation. The right-to left direction of the conservative extension property, condition (3), can generally be expressed as first-order validity. Also the left-to-right condition can be expressed as first-order validity, as shown by the following equivalences:

$$\begin{aligned}
& F \models \exists p G[p] \\
\text{iff } & F \models \exists p G[p] \wedge \forall x px \leftrightarrow Dx \\
\text{iff } & F \models \exists p G[D] \wedge \forall x px \leftrightarrow Dx \\
\text{iff } & F \models G[D],
\end{aligned}$$

where  $G[p] = G$  and  $G[D]$  stands for  $G$  with all occurrences of  $p$  replaced by  $Dx$  with  $x$  instantiated to the argument of  $p$  at the respective occurrence. The following entailment is another equivalent way to express the above entailments. It is first-order expressible and might be more convenient since the replacement of the occurrences of  $p$  does not have to be explicitly performed:

$$F \models \forall p \neg(\forall x px \leftrightarrow Dx) \vee G[p].$$

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*predicate\_definiens\_xyz(P, F)*

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Defined as

$$\exists P (F \wedge P_X) \rightarrow \neg \exists P (F \wedge \neg P_X),$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
N &:= \text{arity of } P \text{ in } F, \\
X &:= x_1, \dots, x_N, \\
P_X &:= P(X).
\end{aligned}$$

A version of *predicate\_definiens* with fixed arguments (as obtained by `mac_make_args`). It is assumed that these are not used as constants elsewhere.

The following predicate implements the sketched method for verifying the implicit definitional extension property by means of first-order reasoning. The formula arguments are passed to the `ppl_predicates` that perform macro expansion. The predicate succeeds iff the property holds and returns a definiens for the argument predicate as binding of  $D$ .

```

implicit_definitional_extension(F, G, P, D) :-
    ppl_valid((ex2(P, G)->F), [prover=cm, printing=false]),
    last_ppl_result(true),
    ppl_ipol(predicate_definiens_xyz(P, G),
              [prover=cm, printing=false]),
    last_ppl_result(D),
    mac_get_arity(P, G, N),
    mac_make_args(N, X),
    mac_make_atom(P, X, P_X),

```

```
ppl_valid( (F -> all2(p, (all(X, (P_X<->D))->G))),
           [prover=cm, printing=false]),
last_ppl_result(true).
```

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$f_2$

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Defined as

$$f_1 \wedge (p \rightarrow a) \wedge (a \wedge b \rightarrow p).$$

---

$f_3$

---

Defined as

$$f_1 \wedge (p \rightarrow a).$$

Both formulas  $f_2$  and  $f_3$  are conservative extensions of  $f_1$ :

This formula is valid: *conservative\_extension*( $f_1, f_2$ ).

This formula is valid: *conservative\_extension*( $f_1, f_3$ ).

We can test the predicate `implicit_definitional_extension` with these calls:

```
?- implicit_definitional_extension(f1, f2, p, D).  % succeeds
?- implicit_definitional_extension(f1, f3, p, D).  % fails
```

Only formula  $f_2$  but not  $f_3$  is an implicit definitional extension of  $f_1$ . The following formula is a computed definiens  $D$  for

```
implicit_definitional_extension(f1, f2, p, D):
```

$$a \wedge b.$$

## References

[Hod97] Wilfrid Hodges. *A Shorter Model Theory*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1997.

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