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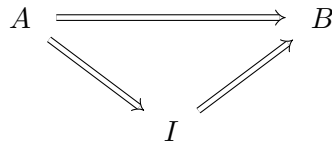
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# Introduction

The notion of interpolation has been introduced by Craig in [Cra57a]. Loosely speaking, given two formulas  $A$  and  $B$  such that  $A$  implies  $B$ , an interpolant  $I$  is a formula which is implied by  $A$  and which itself implies  $B$ , as visualised in Figure 1. Hence it in some sense captures the logical content of  $A$  which necessarily makes  $B$  true and therefore acts as a link between these formulas.



**Figure 1.1:** Given two formulas  $A$  and  $B$  such that  $A$  implies  $B$ , an interpolant is a formula  $I$  which is implied by  $A$  and which implies  $B$ .

Moreover, interpolants are not arbitrary formulas, but their language is restricted to those symbols, which are common to both original formulas. Thus they represent the logical connection solely by statements on notions, which are of significance to both  $A$  and  $B$ . This criterion establishes that the actually represented content meets some level of relevance and avoids unnecessary information, thereby ensuring that interpolants enjoy the favorable property of conciseness.

As Craig has shown that interpolants always exist in classical first-order logic, they can be regarded as a justification for material implication in classical logic: If an implication in classical logic holds under any circumstance, then there is a formula which contains the logical content explaining this implication. Or conversely, if such a summary of a potential implication does not exist, then the implication itself does not and in fact can not hold in general. Furthermore, if formulas are concerned with different matters (such that their language is disjoint), there certainly can not be a logical relation between them, as for such formulas, only trivial interpolants can be found.

Craig interpolation has been and is still studied with respect to a wide variety of logics. Most notably, it holds for propositional and classical first-order logic. These facts can be proven by different means: Interpolants can be directly extracted from proofs of logical relations of formulas, thus showing their existence in a constructive manner. Alternatively, also semantic proofs for the existence of interpolants can be given: Assuming the non-existence of interpolants, one can build a model contradicting an assumed logical relation of the original formulas.

The applications of Craig interpolation are manifold: As a theoretic tool, it can for instance be employed to prove Beth's definability theorem or to show lower bounds on the length of proofs of propositional proof systems ([Kra97, Pud97]). In recent years, it has been discovered that interpolants serve well in the area of model checking as a means to find formulas overapproximating the set of reachable states of a program ([McM03]), which is now an active area of research. Furthermore, in the field of program analysis, there are approaches making use of interpolation to extract information about the changes of program state inflicted by loop iterations in order to detect loop invariants ([Wei10]). This list is however merely a non-exhaustive selection of relevant use cases of interpolation.

**TODO:**

# Interpolation and proof theory

In this chapter, we introduce basic technical notions (2.1) in order to then formulate the interpolation theorem (2.2). We furthermore present strengthenings of the theorem (2.3) as well as an application in the form of Beth's definability theorem (2.4). This result is used in discussing the failure of interpolation in higher-order logic (2.5). We then continue to define the calculi, which will be used throughout this thesis (2.6 and 2.7) including considerations on the applicability of interpolation to them (2.6.3).

## 2.1 Preliminaries

Here, we give all required notations and basic concepts which will be used throughout this thesis.

### Formulas and language

We work in classical first-order logic with equality. Formulas are usually denoted by  $A$  or  $B$ , constant symbols by  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$  or  $d$ , function symbols by  $f$ ,  $g$  or  $h$  and variables by  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$ ,  $u$ ,  $v$  or  $w$ .

The language of a first-order formula  $A$  is designated by  $L(A)$  and contains all predicate, constant and function symbols that occur in  $A$ . For formulas  $A_1, \dots, A_n$ ,  $L(A_1, \dots, A_n) = \bigcup_{1 \leq i \leq n} L(A_i)$ . These are also referred to as the *non-logical symbols* of  $A$ . The *logical symbols* on the other hand include all logical connectives, quantifiers, the equality symbol ( $=$ ) as well as symbols denoting truth ( $\top$ ) and falsity ( $\perp$ ). Among the usual symbols for the logical connectives  $\wedge$  (conjunction),  $\vee$  (disjunction),  $\supset$  (implication), we use  $A \leftrightarrow B$  as an abbreviation for  $(A \supset B) \wedge (B \supset A)$ . Furthermore,  $\Leftrightarrow$  indicates logical equivalence and syntactic equality is denoted by  $\equiv$ . For a set of formulas  $\Phi$ ,  $\neg\Phi$  denotes  $\{\neg A \mid A \in \Phi\}$ .

With respect to a formula  $A$ , an occurrence of a subformula  $B$  of  $A$  is said to occur *positively* if it occurs under an even number of negations and *negatively* otherwise.

### Substitutions

A substitution is a mapping of finitely many variables to terms. We define named substitutions  $\sigma$  of a variable  $x$  by a term  $t$  in a set-style notation  $\sigma = \{x \mapsto t\}$  such that  $\varphi\sigma$  denotes a formula or term  $\varphi$  where each occurrence of the variable  $x$  is replaced by the term  $t$ . This is done in a capture avoiding manner, i.e. if a variable  $y$  occurs free in  $t$  and  $y$  is also bound in  $\varphi$  such that a free occurrence of  $x$  is in the scope of this quantifier, the bound variable is renamed by a fresh variable.

Unnamed substitution applications are written as  $\varphi[x/t]$ . A substitution  $\sigma$  is called trivial on  $x$  if  $x\sigma = x$ . Otherwise it is called non-trivial on  $x$ .

In some situations, mappings of infinitely many variables to terms are required. We denote such as infinite substitutions.

The domain of a substitution  $\sigma$ , designated by  $\text{dom}(\sigma)$ , is the set  $\{x \in V \mid x\sigma \neq x\}$ , where  $V$  denotes the set of all variables. We refer to the set  $\{x\sigma \mid x \in \text{dom}(\sigma)\}$  as the range of sigma, denoted by  $\text{ran}(\sigma)$ .

A term  $s$  is an *instance* of a term  $t$  if there exists a substitution  $\sigma$  such that  $t\sigma = s$ . If  $s$  is an instance of  $t$ , then  $t$  is an *abstraction* of  $s$ . Note that the abstraction- and instance-relation are reflexive.

### Formulas and terms

The length of a term or formula  $\varphi$  is the number of logical and non-logical symbols in  $\varphi$ .

For formulas or terms  $\varphi$ ,  $\varphi[s]_p$  denotes  $\varphi$  with an occurrence of  $s$  at position  $p$ .  $\varphi[s]$  denotes  $\varphi$  where the term  $s$  occurs on some set of positions  $\Phi$ .  $\varphi[t]$  denotes  $\varphi[s]$  where on each position in  $\Phi$ ,  $s$  has been replaced by  $t$ . Due to its vagueness, this notation is mostly used in order to emphasize that the term  $s$  does occur in  $\varphi$  in some way.

The function  $\text{FV}(\cdot)$  returns the set of free variables for terms and formulas. Moreover,  $\text{FS}(\cdot)$  returns the set of function symbols for terms, formulas and languages and  $\text{PS}(\cdot)$  the set of predicate symbols for formulas and languages.

### Models

A model  $M$  for a first-order language  $\mathcal{L}$  is a pair  $(D_M, \mathcal{I}_M)$ , where  $D_M$  is the domain and  $\mathcal{I}_M$  the interpretation, which assigns a domain element to every constant symbol, a function  $f : D_M^n \mapsto D_M$  to every function symbol of arity  $n$  and an  $n$ -ary relation of domain elements to every predicate symbol of arity  $n$  in the language  $\mathcal{L}$ .

For formulas or sets of formulas  $\varphi$ , we write  $M \models \varphi$  to denote that  $\varphi$  holds in  $M$ . For an additional formula or sets of formulas  $\psi$ ,  $\varphi \models \psi$  holds if for every model  $M$  of  $\varphi$ , it holds that  $M \models \psi$ .  $\varphi$  is said to be *satisfiable* if there is a model  $M$  such that  $M \models \varphi$ .

For formulas  $A$  with  $\text{FV}(A) = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  and a model  $M$ ,  $M \models A$  denotes  $M \models \forall x_1 \dots \forall x_n A$ . In instances where an explicit assignment  $\alpha$  to the free variables is desired, we write  $M_\alpha \models A$  to signify that  $M$  entails the formula  $A$  where the free variable assignment concurs with  $\alpha$  and the free variables not assigned by  $\alpha$  are universally quantified.

## 2.2 Craig Interpolation

We now present a formal definition of the notion of interpolation:

**Definition 2.1.** Let  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  be sets of first-order formulas. An *interpolant* of  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  is a first-order formula  $I$  such that

1.  $\Gamma \models I$
2.  $I \models \Delta$
3.  $L(I) \subseteq L(\Gamma) \cap L(\Delta)$ .

A *reverse interpolant* of  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  is a first-order formula  $I$  such that  $I$  meets conditions 1 and 3 of an interpolant as well as:

- 2'.  $\Delta \models \neg I$   $\Delta$

**Theorem 2.2** (Interpolation). *Let  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  be sets of first-order formulas such that  $\Gamma \models \Delta$ . Then there exists an interpolant for  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$ .*

**Theorem 2.3** (Reverse Interpolation). *Let  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  be sets of first-order formulas such that  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  is unsatisfiable. Then there exists a reverse interpolant for  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$ .*

**Proposition 2.4.** *Theorem 2.2 and 2.3 are equivalent.*

*Proof.* Let  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  be sets of first-order formulas such that  $\Gamma \models \Delta$ . Then  $\Gamma \cup \neg\Delta$  is unsatisfiable. By Theorem 2.3, there exists a reverse interpolant  $I$  for  $\Gamma$  and  $\neg\Delta$ . As  $\neg\Delta \models \neg I$ , we get by contraposition that  $I \models \Delta$ , hence  $I$  is an interpolant for  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$ .

For the other direction, let  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  be sets of first-order formulas such that  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  is unsatisfiable. Then  $\Gamma \models \neg\Delta$ , hence by Theorem 2.2, there exists an interpolant  $I$  of  $\Gamma$  and  $\neg\Delta$ . But as thus  $I \models \neg\Delta$ , we get by contraposition that  $\Delta \models \neg I$ , so  $I$  is a reverse interpolant for  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$ .  $\square$

As the notions of interpolation and reverse interpolation in this sense coincide, we will in the following only speak of interpolation where it will be clear from the context which definition applies.

**Lemma 2.5.** *Let  $\Gamma, \Gamma', \Delta, \Delta'$  be sets of first-order formulas such that  $\Gamma \Leftrightarrow \Gamma'$  and  $\Delta \Leftrightarrow \Delta'$  and  $L(\Gamma) \cap L(\Delta) = L(\Gamma') \cap L(\Delta')$ . Then  $I$  is an interpolant for  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  if and only if  $I$  is an interpolant for  $\Gamma'$  and  $\Delta'$ .*

*Proof.* Clearly  $\Gamma \models I$  holds if and only if  $\Gamma' \models I$  and similarly  $\Delta \models \neg I$  holds if and only if  $\Delta' \models \neg I$ . As the intersections of the respective languages coincide, the language condition on  $I$  is satisfied in both directions.  $\square$

*Remark.* In Lemma 2.5, it is not sufficient to require that  $\Gamma \Leftrightarrow \Gamma'$  and  $\Delta \Leftrightarrow \Delta'$ . Consider the example where  $\Gamma = \{\forall x(x = c)\}$  and  $\Delta = \neg\Gamma$  as well as  $\Gamma' = \{\forall x(x = d)\}$  and  $\Delta' = \neg\Gamma'$ . Then even though  $\Gamma$  and  $\Gamma'$  as well as  $\Delta$  and  $\Delta'$  have the same models,  $L(\Gamma) \cap L(\Delta) = \{c\}$  whereas  $L(\Gamma') \cap L(\Delta') = \{d\}$ . Therefore  $\forall x(x = c)$  is an interpolant for  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  but not for  $\Gamma'$  and  $\Delta'$ .  $\triangle$

In the context of interpolation, every non-logical symbol is assigned a color which indicates its origin(s).

**Definition 2.6** (Coloring). A non-logical symbol is said to be  $\Gamma$  ( $\Delta$ )-colored if it only occurs in  $\Gamma$  ( $\Delta$ ) and *grey* in case it occurs in both  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$ . A symbol is *colored* if it is  $\Gamma$ - or  $\Delta$ -colored. A term is  $\Phi$ -colored for  $\Phi \in \{\Gamma, \Delta\}$  if its outermost symbol is  $\Phi$ -colored. We also refer to  $\Phi$ -colored terms simply as  $\Phi$ -terms.

An occurrence of  $\Phi$ -term is called *maximal* if it does not occur as subterm of another  $\Phi$ -term. An occurrence of a colored term  $t$  is a maximal colored term if it does not occur as subterm of another colored term.  $\triangle$

We sometimes use  $\Phi$  and  $\Psi$  as colors to emphasise that the reasoning at hand is valid irrespective of the actual color assignment and solely assuming that  $\Phi \neq \Psi$ .

**Example 2.7.** Let  $\Gamma = \{P(f(a)) \supset Q(h(x)), R(h(a), b)\}$  and  $\Delta = \{R(h(b), x)\}$ . Then the predicate symbols  $P$  and  $Q$  are  $\Gamma$ -colored and  $R$  is grey. The function symbol  $f$  is  $\Gamma$ -colored whereas  $h$  is grey. Among the constant symbols,  $a$  is  $\Gamma$ -colored and  $b$  is grey.

Note that in  $\Gamma$ ,  $a$  occurs twice: In  $R(h(a), b)$ , it occurs as a maximal colored term since it does not occur as subterm of a larger colored term. It is also a maximal  $\Gamma$ -term as it is not contained in a  $\Gamma$ -term. In  $P(f(a))$  on the other hand, it does occur in a  $\Gamma$ -term and hence is neither a maximal colored nor a maximal  $\Gamma$ -colored occurrence.

Now consider the term  $g(a)$ . Here,  $a$  occurs as subterm of a colored term and therefore it is not a maximal colored occurrence. It is however a maximal  $\Gamma$ -colored occurrence, as it is not contained in a  $\Gamma$ -term. By the definition of



the coloring, terms containing symbols of different colors are not contained in  $\Gamma$  or  $\Delta$ .  $\triangle$

### 2.2.1 Degenerate cases

In this thesis, the equality symbol as well as the symbols for truth and falsity are regarded as a logical symbol. This is justified by the following examples, which are referred to in [BBJ07, Example 20.2 and 20.4] as “failure of interpolation” and “degenerate cases” respectively:

**Example 2.8.** Let  $\Gamma = \{a = b\}$  and  $\Delta = \{P(a), \neg P(b)\}$ . Note that here, the intersection of  $L(\Gamma)$  and  $L(\Delta)$  does not contain a predicate symbol. By regarding  $=$  as logical symbol and therefore permitting it to occur in an interpolant despite the fact that it does not occur in  $\Delta$  allows for the interpolant  $a = b$ . If we would not permit  $=$  in the interpolant, there would be no interpolant for  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$ , even though  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  clearly is unsatisfiable.

Similarly, for the pair  $\Gamma' = \{P(a) \wedge \neg P(b)\}$  and  $\Delta' = \{a \neq b\}$ , the equality symbol must occur in the interpolant. In this instance, the occurrence must be negative.  $\triangle$

**Example 2.9.** Let  $\Gamma = \{P(a) \wedge \neg P(a)\}$  and  $\Delta = \emptyset$ . As clearly the intersection of  $L(\Gamma)$  and  $L(\Delta)$  is empty, we may form an interpolant only of logical symbols. In this instance, the interpolant must be either  $\perp$  or a formula logically equivalent to  $\perp$ . By merely swapping  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$ , we arrive at a situation where the interpolant must be equivalent to  $\top$ .

Note that as we can express formulas, which are logically equivalent to  $\perp$  and  $\top$  respectively by employing the equality symbol<sup>1</sup>, the symbols for truth and falsity are not strictly required to be regarded as logical symbols for the interpolation theorem to hold.  $\triangle$

## 2.3 Strengthenings of the interpolation theorem

After Craig’s initial result, several stronger versions of the theorem have been published. [Cra57b] can already be counted among those, as it defines interpolants equivalently to our Definition 2.1, whereas the first publication in [Cra57a] restricts interpolants only with regard to their predicate symbols, but allows non-common function and constant symbols to occur in it.

Arguably one of the most important strengthenings is due Lyndon. In [Lyn59], he shows the following:

**Theorem 2.10** (Lyndon). *Let  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  be sets of first-order formulas such that  $\Gamma \models \Delta$ . Then there is a first-order formula  $I$  such that the conditions 1 and 2 of Definition 2.1 hold for  $I$  as well as the following:*

<sup>1</sup> $\forall x x \neq x$  and  $\forall x x = x$  are suitable examples for  $\perp$  and  $\top$  respectively.

- 3'. *Each predicate symbol occurring positively (negatively) in  $I$  occurs positively (negatively) in both  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$ .*

We do not give a proof here but only proof ideas. In [Lyn59] and [Sla70], proofs based on Herbrand's theorem are given: Starting from two unsatisfiable sets of formulas  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$ , unsatisfiable finite subsets are extracted by means of the compactness theorem and a set of unsatisfiable instances of these formulas are produced by Herbrand's theorem. From these, atoms with predicate symbols which are not contained in  $L(\Gamma) \cap L(\Delta)$  are dropped to obtain the desired interpolant.

Theorem 2.10 can however also be proven by model-theoretic means similar to the proof of the interpolation theorem given in 6.1 and is worked out in full detail in [Hen63] and [CK90, Theorem 2.2.24].

The restriction of the admissible function and constant symbols to the ones in the common language of  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  is absent in the original formulation of in Theorem 2.10, but can easily be added<sup>2</sup>. Therefore it is justified to refer to Lyndon interpolation as a strengthening of Craig interpolation.

It is however not possible to give an restriction on the polarity of the occurrence of constants or function symbol in the interpolant analogous to Theorem 2.10, as the following example shows:

**Example 2.11** (Cf. [CK90, p. 92]). Let  $\Gamma = \{\exists x(x = c \wedge \neg P(x))\}$  and  $\Delta = \{\neg P(c)\}$ . Here, the constant  $c$  occurs only positively in  $\Gamma$  and only negatively in  $\Delta$ , but must occur in any interpolant.  $\triangle$

Since we regard the equality symbol as a logical symbol, condition 3' of Theorem 2.10 does not apply to it. Nonetheless Oberschelp proves in [Obe68] that a slightly modified restriction on the polarity of the occurrences of the equality symbol in interpolants is feasible:

**Theorem 2.12** (Oberschelp). *Let  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  be sets of first-order formulas such that  $\Gamma \models \Delta$ . Then there is a first-order formula  $I$  such that the conditions 1 and 2 of Definition 2.1 and condition 3' of Theorem 2.10 hold for  $I$  as well as the following:*

4. *The equality symbol occurs positively in  $I$  only if it occurs positively in  $\Gamma$ .*
5. *The equality symbol occurs negatively in  $I$  only if it occurs negatively in  $\Delta$ .*

The proof can again be given by model-theoretic means in the style of the aforementioned ones. Example 2.8 illustrates these two cases and shows that given these occurrences of the equality symbol, there are sets of formulas which necessitate the equality symbol in their interpolant. Similar as for Theorem 2.10,

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<sup>2</sup>Cf. [Mot84]

a restriction on the function and constant symbols is not given in the original formulation, but can be added as shown in [Fuj78].

Note that Theorem 2.12 implies the following corollary on equality-free interpolation:

**Corollary 2.13.** *Let  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  be sets of first-order formulas such that  $\Gamma \models \Delta$  and the equality symbol only occurs negatively in  $\Gamma$  and only positively in  $\Delta$ . Then there exists an interpolant  $I$  which does not contain the equality symbol.*

## 2.4 Beth's definability theorem

In this section, we illustrate the interpolation theorem by presenting Beth's definability theorem, which admits a straightforward proof by means of the interpolation theorem. The definability theorem deals with definitions of predicates by means of formulas and bridges the gap between implicit definitions, where predicates are defined by its use, and explicit definitions, which define a predicate by means of another formula, by even showing their equivalence. This is given significance by the circumstance that implicit definitions occur in mathematics, but by this theorem do not have less expressive power than explicit definitions.

Its original publication in [Bet53] precedes Craig's papers on interpolation ([Cra57a, Cra57b]) by four years and relies on a direct proof.

**Definition 2.14** (Implicit and explicit definition). Let  $\mathcal{L}$  be a first-order language and  $P$  and  $P'$  be two fresh predicate symbols of arity  $n$ . Let  $\Gamma_P$  be a set of first-order sentences in the language  $\mathcal{L} \cup \{P\}$  and  $\Gamma_{P'}$  the same set of formulas with every occurrence of  $P$  in  $\Gamma_P$  replaced by  $P'$ , such that the language of  $\Gamma_{P'}$  is  $\mathcal{L} \cup \{P'\}$ .

$\Gamma_P$  defines  $P$  implicitly iff

$$\Gamma_P \cup \Gamma_{P'} \models \forall x_1 \dots \forall x_n (P(x_1, \dots, x_n) \leftrightarrow P'(x_1, \dots, x_n)).$$

On the other hand  $\Gamma_P$  defined  $P$  explicitly iff there is formula  $\varphi$  in  $\mathcal{L}$  with  $\text{FV}(\varphi) = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  such that

$$\Gamma_P \models \forall x_1 \dots \forall x_n (P(x_1, \dots, x_n) \leftrightarrow \varphi). \quad \Delta$$

Note that the definition of implicit definitions is essentially second-order and can be expressed by the second-order sentence

$$\forall P \forall P' ((\Gamma_P^* \wedge \Gamma_{P'}^*) \supset P = P'),$$

where  $\Gamma_P^*$  and  $\Gamma_{P'}^*$  are conjunctions of the formulas of respective reductions of  $\Gamma_P$  and  $\Gamma_{P'}$  to finite sets, which exist by the compactness theorem.

**Theorem 2.15** (Beth's definability theorem).  $\Gamma_P$  defines  $P$  explicitly if and only if  $\Gamma_P$  defines  $P$  implicitly.

*Proof.* Suppose that  $\Gamma_P$  defines  $P$  explicitly. Then there exists some formula  $\varphi$  such that  $\Gamma_P \models \forall x_1 \dots \forall x_n (P(x_1, \dots, x_n) \leftrightarrow \varphi)$ . But then it clearly also holds that  $\Gamma_{P'} \models \forall x_1 \dots \forall x_n (P'(x_1, \dots, x_n) \leftrightarrow \varphi)$ , hence

$$\Gamma_P \cup \Gamma_{P'} \models \forall x_1 \dots \forall x_n (P(x_1, \dots, x_n) \leftrightarrow P'(x_1, \dots, x_n)).$$

Therefore  $\Gamma_P$  is an implicit definition of  $P$ .

For the other direction, suppose that  $\Gamma_P$  defines  $P$  implicitly. Then  $\Gamma_P \cup \Gamma_{P'} \models \forall x_1 \dots \forall x_n (P(x_1, \dots, x_n) \leftrightarrow P'(x_1, \dots, x_n))$ . It follows from the compactness theorem that we can find a conjunction  $\Gamma_{P'}^*$  of formulas of a finite subset of  $\Gamma_{P'}$  such that  $\Gamma_P \cup \{\Gamma_{P'}^*\} \models \forall x_1 \dots \forall x_n (P(x_1, \dots, x_n) \leftrightarrow P'(x_1, \dots, x_n))$ . Let  $y_1, \dots, y_n$  be fresh variables. Then we obtain by the deduction theorem that  $\Gamma_P \cup \{P(y_1, \dots, y_n)\} \models \Gamma_{P'}^* \supset P'(y_1, \dots, y_n)$ .

Note that  $P$  only occurs in the antecedent and  $P'$  only occurs in the consequent. Hence we can apply the Interpolation Theorem 2.2 in order to obtain a formula  $\chi$  such that  $\Gamma_P \cup \{P(y_1, \dots, y_n)\} \models \chi$  and  $\chi \models \Gamma_{P'}^* \supset P'(y_1, \dots, y_n)$ , while additionally  $L(\chi) = L(\Gamma_P) \cap L(\Gamma_{P'})$ . This implies that neither  $P$  nor  $P'$  occur in  $\chi$ . By interpreting the free variables as constants for the purposes of the application of the interpolation theorem, we can also ensure that the only free variables in  $\chi$  are  $y_1, \dots, y_n$ .

Now we apply the deduction theorem another time and get that  $(\circ) \Gamma_P \models P(y_1, \dots, y_n) \supset \chi$  and  $\Gamma_{P'}^* \models \chi \supset P'(y_1, \dots, y_n)$ . As  $\Gamma_{P'}$  implies  $\Gamma_{P'}^*$ , we also have that  $\Gamma_{P'} \models \chi \supset P'(y_1, \dots, y_n)$ . Since  $P$  does not occur in this entailment, it remains valid if we replace every occurrence of the symbol  $P'$  by  $P$  and obtain that  $(*) \Gamma_P \models \chi \supset P(y_1, \dots, y_n)$ .

But then  $(\circ)$  and  $(*)$  imply that  $\Gamma_P \models \chi \leftrightarrow P(y_1, \dots, y_n)$ , which is equivalent to  $\Gamma_P \models \forall y_1 \dots \forall y_n (\chi \leftrightarrow P(y_1, \dots, y_n))$ . So clearly  $\Gamma_P$  defines  $P$  explicitly.  $\square$

## 2.5 Interpolation in higher-order logic

In this thesis, we restrict our attention to first-order logic. This is not only a matter of reasonable scope, but justified by the fact that the interpolation theorem does not hold even in second-order logic as discovered by Craig in [Cra65]. There, a second-order formula is presented and shown to be implicitly, but not explicitly definable. This failure of Beth definability directly leads to a failure of interpolation in this logic, which can easily be seen by the proof of Theorem 2.15.

## 2.6 Resolution

Resolution calculus, in the formulation as given here, is a sound and complete calculus for first-order logic with equality. Due to the simplicity of its rules, it is widely used in the area of automated deduction.

### 2.6.1 Unification

We first specify the unification algorithm which is vital for the resolution calculus.

Let  $\text{id}$  denote the identity function and **fail** be returned by  $\text{mgu}$  in case the arguments are not unifiable to signify that the  $\text{mgu}$  of the given arguments is not defined. We treat constants as 0-ary functions. Let  $s$  and  $t$  denote terms and  $x$  a variable.

**Definition 2.16** (Most general unifier). The most general unifier  $\text{mgu}$  of two literals  $l = A(s_1, \dots, s_n)$  and  $l' = A(t_1, \dots, t_n)$  is defined to be  $\text{mgu}(\{(s_1, t_1), \dots, (s_n, t_n)\})$ .

The  $\text{mgu}$  for a set of pairs of terms  $T$  is defined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{mgu}(\emptyset) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{id} \\ \text{mgu}(\{t\} \cup T) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} \text{fail} & \text{if } t = (x, s) \text{ or } t = (s, x) \text{ and } x \\ & \text{occurs in } s \text{ but } x \neq s \\ \text{mgu}(T[x/s])[x/s] \cup \{x \mapsto s\} & \text{if } t = (x, s) \text{ or } t = (s, x) \text{ and } x \text{ does} \\ & \text{not occur in } s \text{ or } x = x \\ \text{fail} & \text{if } t = (f(s_1, \dots, s_n), g(s_1, \dots, s_n)) \\ & \text{with } f \neq g \\ \text{mgu}(T \cup \{(s_1, t_1), \dots, (t_n, s_n)\}) & \text{if } t = (f(s_1, \dots, s_n), f(t_1, \dots, t_n)) \\ \text{mgu}(T) & \text{if } t = (s, s) \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

$\triangle$

Note that despite the nondeterminism inherent in this definition, it is unique up to renaming of variables. See [BS01] for a detailed discussion of unification.

### 2.6.2 Definition of the calculus

**Definition 2.17.** A *clause* is a finite set of literals. The empty clause will be denoted by  $\square$ . A *resolution refutation* of a set of clauses  $\Gamma$  is a derivation of  $\square$  consisting of applications of resolution rules (*inferences*) (cf. Figure 2.1) starting from clauses in  $\Gamma$ . All clauses used in inferences are assumed to be pairwise variable-disjoint. The unification employed in an inference  $\iota$  is denoted by  $\text{mgu}(\iota)$ .

A clause  $C'$  is a *successor* of a clause  $C$  if  $C$  occurs in the derivation of  $C'$ . A literal  $l'$  is a *successor* of a literal  $l$  if  $l'$  occurs in a successor  $C'$  of  $C$  and  $l'$  is derived from  $l$ . For a term  $t$  at position  $p$  in a literal  $l$  in a clause we say that  $t'$  is a *successor of the term  $t$*  if  $t'$  occurs at position  $p$  in a literal  $l'$  which succeeds  $l$ . For clauses, literals and terms, the predecessor relation is the inverse of the successor relation.  $\triangle$

Clauses will usually be denoted by  $C$ ,  $D$  or  $E$ , literals by  $l$ ,  $l'$  or  $\lambda$  and positions by  $p$ . Optional labels for clauses precede the clause and are separated by a colon.

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Resolution: } & \frac{C \vee l \quad D \vee \neg l'}{(C \vee D)\sigma} \text{ res} \quad \sigma = \text{mgu}(l, l') \\
\text{Factorisation: } & \frac{C \vee l \vee l'}{(C \vee l)\sigma} \text{ fac} \quad \sigma = \text{mgu}(l, l') \\
\text{Paramodulation: } & \frac{D \vee s = t \quad E[r]_p}{(D \vee E[t]_p)\sigma} \text{ par} \quad \sigma = \text{mgu}(s, r)
\end{aligned}$$

**Figure 2.1:** The rules of resolution calculus

**Theorem 2.18.** *A clause set  $\Gamma$  is unsatisfiable if and only if there is resolution refutation of  $\Gamma$ .*

*Proof.* See [Rob65]. □

**Definition 2.19** (Tree refutations). A resolution refutation is a *tree refutation* if every clause is used at most once. △

The following lemma shows that the restriction to tree refutations does not restrict the calculus given that we allow multiple occurrences of the clauses of the initial clause sets.

**Lemma 2.20.** *Every resolution refutation can be transformed into a tree refutation.*

*Proof.* Let  $\pi$  be a resolution refutation of a set of clauses  $\Phi$ . We show that  $\pi$  can be transformed into a tree refutation by induction on the number of clauses that are used multiple times.

Suppose that no clause is used more than once in  $\pi$ . Then  $\pi$  is a tree refutation.

Otherwise let  $\Psi$  be the set of clauses which is used multiple times. Let  $C \in \Psi$  be such that no clause  $D \in \Psi$  is used in the derivation leading to  $C$ . Let  $\chi$  be the derivation leading to  $C$ .

Suppose  $C$  is used  $m$  times. We create another resolution refutation  $\pi'$  from  $\pi$  which contains  $m$  copies of  $\chi$  and replaces the  $i$ th use of the clause  $C$  by the final clause of the  $i$ th copy of  $\chi$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq m$ . In order to ensure that the sets of variables of the input clauses are disjoint, we rename the variables in each copy of  $\chi$  and adapt  $\pi'$  accordingly. Hence  $\pi'$  is a resolution refutation of  $\Phi$  where  $m - 1$  clauses are used more than once. □

### 2.6.3 Resolution and Interpolation

In order to apply resolution to arbitrary first-order formulas, they have to be converted to clauses first. This usually makes use of intermediate normal forms which are defined as follows:

**Definition 2.21.** occurring in the formula  $A$  a formula is in *Negation Normal Form (NNF)* if negations only occur directly before atoms and the only other connectives occurring in the formula are conjunction and disjunction. A formula is in *Conjunctive Normal Form (CNF)* if it is a conjunction of disjunctions of literals.  $\triangle$

In this context, the conjuncts of a CNF-formula are interpreted as clauses. A well-established procedure for the translation to CNF is comprised of the following steps:

1. NNF-Transformation
2. Skolemisation
3. CNF-Transformation

Step 1 can be achieved by solely pushing the negation inwards. As this transformation yields logically equivalent formulas without affecting the language, by Lemma 2.5, the set of interpolants remains unchanged. Step 2 and 3 on the other hand do not produce logically equivalent formulas since they introduce new symbols. In this section, we will show that they nonetheless do preserve the set of interpolants. This fact is vital for the use of resolution-based methods for the computation of interpolants of arbitrary formulas.

### 2.6.3.1 Interpolation and Skolemisation

Skolemisation is a procedure for replacing existential quantifiers by Skolem terms:

**Definition 2.22.** Let  $V_{\exists x}$  be the set of universally bound variables whose scope includes the occurrence of  $\exists x$  in a formula. The Skolemisation of a formula  $A$  in NNF, denoted by  $\text{sk}(A)$ , is the result of replacing every occurrence of an existential quantifier  $\exists x$  in  $A$  by a term  $f(y_1, \dots, y_n)$  where  $f$  is a new Skolem function symbol and  $V_{\exists x} = \{y_1, \dots, y_n\}$ . In case  $V_{\exists x}$  is empty, the occurrence of  $\exists x$  is replaced by a new Skolem constant symbol  $c$ .

For a set of formulas  $\Phi$ , the Skolemisation  $\text{sk}(\Phi)$  is defined to be  $\{\text{sk}(A) \mid A \in \Phi\}$ .  $\triangle$

Note that Skolemisation has the property that  $\Phi$  and  $\text{sk}(\Phi)$  are equisatisfiable for any set of formulas  $\Phi$ , but due to the introduction of Skolem symbols, it is in general not the case that  $\Phi \Leftrightarrow \text{sk}(\Phi)$ . In the context of interpolation, we can show the following:

**Proposition 2.23.** *Let  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  be unsatisfiable. Then  $I$  is an interpolant for  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  if and only if it is an interpolant for  $\text{sk}(\Gamma) \cup \text{sk}(\Delta)$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $\text{sk}(\cdot)$  adds fresh symbols to both  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  individually, none of them are contained in  $L(\text{sk}(\Gamma)) \cap L(\text{sk}(\Delta))$ . Therefore the language condition on the interpolant is satisfied in both directions.

We conclude the proof by showing that  $\Phi \models A$  iff  $\text{sk}(\Phi) \models A$  for  $\Phi \in \{\Gamma, \Delta\}$  and  $A \in \{I, \neg I\}$ .

Let  $M$  be a model such that  $M \models \text{sk}(\Phi)$  and suppose that  $\Phi \models A$ . Note that the interpretation of the Skolem symbols of  $\text{sk}(\Phi)$  in  $M$  presents witnesses for the corresponding existential quantifiers in  $\Phi$ . Hence  $M \models \Phi$  and consequently  $M \models A$ .

On the other hand, suppose that  $M \models \Phi$  and  $\text{sk}(\Phi) \models A$ . We assume that  $\text{sk}(\Phi)$  only uses Skolem terms which are fresh with respect to  $M$ . Then we can extend  $M$  to a model  $M'$  of  $\text{sk}(\Phi)$  by encoding the witness terms for the existential quantifiers in  $\Phi$  in the Skolem terms of  $\text{sk}(\Phi)$  in  $M'$ . Then  $M' \models \text{sk}(\Phi)$  and thus  $M' \models A$ . But as  $L(A) \subseteq L(M) \subseteq L(M')$ ,  $M$  and  $M'$  agree on the interpretation of  $A$ , hence  $M \models A$ .  $\square$

### 2.6.3.2 Interpolation and structure-preserving Normal Form Transformation

In the following, we describe a common method for transforming a formula  $A$  without existential quantifiers into CNF while preserving its structure. Note that the restriction to formulas without existential quantifiers can easily be established for arbitrary formulas by means of Skolemisation and therefore does not limit the applicability of this procedure.

In the following, we use the notational convention that  $\{\bar{y}\} \cup \{\bar{z}\} = \{\bar{x}\}$  expressing the intuition that the free variables  $\bar{x}$  of a formula  $B$  are comprised of the not necessarily disjoint free variables  $\bar{y}$  and  $\bar{z}$  of  $B$ 's direct subformulas.

**Definition 2.24.** For every occurrence of a subformula  $B$  of a formula  $A$  without existential quantifiers, introduce a new atom  $L_B(\bar{x})$ , where  $\bar{x}$  are the free variables occurring in  $B$ . This atom acts as a label for the subformula. For each of them, create a defining clause  $D_B$ :

If  $B$  is atomic:

$$D_B \equiv \forall \bar{x} (\neg B \vee L_B(\bar{x})) \wedge \forall \bar{x} (B \vee \neg L_B(\bar{x}))$$

If  $B$  is of the form  $\neg G$ :

$$D_B \equiv \forall \bar{x} (L_B(\bar{x}) \vee L_G(\bar{x})) \wedge \forall \bar{x} (\neg L_B(\bar{x}) \vee \neg L_G(\bar{x}))$$

If  $B$  is of the form  $G \wedge H$ :

$$D_B \equiv \forall \bar{x} (\neg L_B(\bar{x}) \vee L_G(\bar{y})) \wedge \forall \bar{x} (\neg L_B(\bar{x}) \vee L_H(\bar{z})) \wedge \forall \bar{x} (L_B(\bar{x}) \vee \neg L_G(\bar{y}) \vee \neg L_H(\bar{z}))$$

If  $B$  is of the form  $G \vee H$ :



$$D_B \equiv \forall \bar{x} (L_B(\bar{x}) \vee \neg L_G(\bar{y})) \wedge \forall \bar{x} (L_B(\bar{x}) \vee \neg L_H(\bar{z})) \wedge \forall \bar{x} (\neg L_B(\bar{x}) \vee L_G(\bar{y}) \vee L_H(\bar{z}))$$

If  $B$  is of the form  $G \supset H$ :

$$D_B \equiv \forall \bar{x} (L_B(\bar{x}) \vee L_G(\bar{y})) \wedge \forall \bar{x} (L_B(\bar{x}) \vee \neg L_H(\bar{z})) \wedge \forall \bar{x} (\neg L_B(\bar{x}) \vee \neg L_G(\bar{y}) \vee L_H(\bar{z}))$$

If  $B$  is of the form  $\forall x G$ :

$$D_B \equiv \forall \bar{x} \forall x (\neg L_B(\bar{x}) \vee L_G(\bar{x}, x)) \wedge \forall \bar{x} \forall x (L_B(\bar{x}) \vee \neg L_G(\bar{x}, x))$$

Let  $D_{\Sigma(A)}$  be defined as  $\bigwedge_{B \in \Sigma(A)} D_B$  and  $\delta(A)$  as  $D_{\Sigma(A)} \wedge \forall \bar{x} L_A(\bar{x})$ , where  $\Sigma(A)$  denotes the set of occurrences of subformulas of  $A$ . For a set of formulas without existential quantifiers  $\Phi$ , let  $\delta(\Phi) = \{\delta(B) \mid B \in \Phi\}$ .  $\triangle$

Note that each of the  $D_B$  is in CNF, hence also  $\delta(A)$  for any formula  $A$  without existential quantifiers. We continue by working out the logical relations of formulas and their image under  $A$ :

**Lemma 2.25.** *Let  $M$  be a model of  $\delta(A)$  for a formula  $A$  without existential quantifiers. Then  $M \models A$ .*

*Proof.* We show that  $M \models B \leftrightarrow L_B(\bar{x})$  for  $B \in \Sigma(A)$ . As  $M \models \delta(A)$  directly implies that  $M \models L_A$ , this proves the lemma. Note that also  $M \models D_{\Sigma(A)}$ .

The proof is by induction on the structure of  $B$ . For the base case, let  $B$  be an atom. Then  $D_B \equiv \forall \bar{x} (\neg B \vee L_B(\bar{x})) \wedge \forall \bar{x} (B \vee \neg L_B(\bar{x}))$ , which due to  $M \models D_B$  immediately yields  $M \models B \leftrightarrow L_B(\bar{x})$ .

For the induction step, we illustrate a few cases as the remaining ones are similar.

- Suppose  $B$  is of the form  $\neg G$ . Then:

$$D_B \equiv \forall \bar{x} (L_B(\bar{x}) \vee L_G(\bar{x})) \wedge \forall \bar{x} (\neg L_B(\bar{x}) \vee \neg L_G(\bar{x}))$$

By the induction hypothesis,  $M \models G \leftrightarrow L_G(\bar{x})$ . As  $M \models D_B$ , it follows that  $M \models \neg L_G(\bar{x}) \leftrightarrow L_B(\bar{x})$ , so  $M \models \neg G \leftrightarrow L_B(\bar{x})$  and  $M \models B \leftrightarrow L_B(\bar{x})$ .

- Suppose  $B$  is of the form  $G \vee H$ . Then:

$$D_B \equiv \forall \bar{x} (L_B(\bar{x}) \vee \neg L_G(\bar{y})) \wedge \forall \bar{x} (L_B(\bar{x}) \vee \neg L_H(\bar{z})) \wedge \forall \bar{x} (\neg L_B(\bar{x}) \vee L_G(\bar{y}) \vee L_H(\bar{z}))$$

We can assume by the induction hypothesis that  $M \models G \leftrightarrow L_G(\bar{x})$  as well as  $M \models H \leftrightarrow L_H(\bar{x})$ . As  $M \models D_B$ , we get that  $M \models L_G(\bar{y}) \supset L_B(\bar{x})$ ,  $M \models L_H(\bar{z}) \supset L_B(\bar{x})$  and  $M \models L_B(\bar{x}) \supset (L_G(\bar{y}) \vee L_H(\bar{z}))$ . Therefore  $M \models L_B(\bar{x}) \leftrightarrow (G \vee H)$  and consequently  $M \models L_B(\bar{x}) \leftrightarrow B$ .

- Suppose  $B$  is of the form  $\forall xG$ . Then:

$$D_B \equiv \forall \bar{x} \forall x (\neg L_B(\bar{x}) \vee L_G(\bar{x}, x)) \wedge \forall \bar{x} \forall x (L_B(\bar{x}) \vee \neg L_G(\bar{x}, x))$$

By the induction hypothesis,  $M \models G \leftrightarrow L_G(\bar{x}, x)$ . Since  $M \models D_B$  and as  $x$  does not occur in  $L_B(\bar{x})$ ,  $M \models L_B(\bar{x}) \leftrightarrow \forall xG$ , which is nothing else than  $M \models L_B(\bar{x}) \leftrightarrow B$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.26.** *Let  $A$  be a formula without existential quantifiers and  $M_A$  a model in the language  $L(A)$ . Extend  $M_A$  to a model  $M'_A$  in the language  $L(\delta(A))$  such that for  $B \in \Sigma(A)$ ,  $M_A \models L_B(\bar{x})$  if and only if  $M_A \models B$ . Then  $M'_A \models D_{\Sigma(A)}$ .*

*Proof.* We proceed by induction on the structure of  $A$ . For the base case, suppose that  $A$  is an atom. Then  $D_{\Sigma(A)} = D_A = \forall \bar{x} (\neg A \vee L_A(\bar{x})) \wedge \forall \bar{x} (A \vee \neg L_A(\bar{x}))$ . Consider the case that  $M'_A \models A$ . Then by construction of  $M'_A$ ,  $M'_A \models L_A(\bar{x})$ , hence  $D_A$  holds. In the case where  $M'_A \not\models A$ , we know that  $M'_A \not\models L_A$ , so  $D_A$  holds as well.

For the induction step, consider the following cases. The remaining cases can be argued analogously.

- $A$  is of the form  $G \supset H$ . Then  $D_{\Sigma(A)} = D_{\Sigma(G)} \wedge D_{\Sigma(H)} \wedge D_A$ . By the induction hypothesis, we get that  $M'_A \models D_{\Sigma(G)}$  as well as  $M'_A \models D_{\Sigma(H)}$ . It remains to show that  $M'_A \models D_A$ , i.e.  $M'_A \models \forall \bar{x} (L_A(\bar{x}) \vee L_G(\bar{y})) \wedge \forall \bar{x} (L_A(\bar{x}) \vee \neg L_H(\bar{z})) \wedge \forall \bar{x} (\neg L_A(\bar{x}) \vee \neg L_G(\bar{y}) \vee L_H(\bar{z}))$ .

Suppose that  $M'_A \models A$ . Then  $M'_A \not\models G$  or  $M'_A \models H$ . By construction of  $M'_A$ , we furthermore have that  $M'_A \models L_B(\bar{x})$  and  $M'_A \models \neg L_G(\bar{y}) \vee L_H(\bar{z})$ .

Otherwise we have that  $M'_A \not\models A$ , so  $M'_A \models G$  and  $M'_A \not\models H$ . Hence  $M'_A \models \neg L_A(\bar{x})$ ,  $M'_A \models L_G(\bar{y})$  and  $M'_A \not\models L_H(\bar{z})$ .

- $A$  is of the form  $\forall xB$ . Then  $D_{\Sigma(A)} = D_{\Sigma(B)} \wedge D_A$ . By the induction hypothesis,  $M'_A \models D_{\Sigma(B)}$ , and we conclude by showing that  $M'_A \models \forall \bar{x} \forall x (\neg L_A(\bar{x}) \vee L_B(\bar{x}, x)) \wedge \forall \bar{x} \forall x (L_A(\bar{x}) \vee \neg L_B(\bar{x}, x))$ :

Suppose  $M'_A \models A$ . Then consequently,  $M'_A \models \forall xB$ , so  $M'_A \models L_A(\bar{x})$  and  $M'_A \models L_B(\bar{x}, x)$ . Otherwise  $M'_A \not\models A$ . In this case  $M'_A \not\models \forall xB$ , so  $M'_A \not\models L_A(\bar{x})$  and  $M'_A \not\models L_B(\bar{x}, x)$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.27.** *Let  $A$  be a formula and  $\Phi$  a set of formulas without existential quantifiers such that  $L(A) \subseteq L(\Phi)$ . Then  $\Phi \models A$  if and only if  $\delta(\Phi) \models A$ .*

*Proof.* If  $\Phi \models A$ , then  $\Phi \cup \{\neg A\}$  is unsatisfiable and thus by the Compactness Theorem, there exists a finite  $\Phi' \subseteq \Phi$  such that  $\Phi' \cup \{\neg A\}$  is unsatisfiable, or in other words  $\Phi' \models A$ . Extend  $\Phi'$  such that  $L(A) \subseteq L(\Phi')$ . Let  $B = \bigwedge_{C \in \Phi'} C$ . We show that  $B \models A$  if and only if  $\delta(B) \models A$  by induction on the structure of  $B$ .

For the if-direction, assume that  $\delta(B) \models A$  and let  $M$  be a model such that the  $L(B)$ -reduct of  $M$ ,  $M|_{L(B)}$ , is a model of  $B$ . Let  $M'$  extend  $M|_{L(B)}$  as in Lemma 2.26 and hence by that lemma,  $M' \models D_{\Sigma(B)}$ . By the construction of  $M'$ ,  $M' \models L_B(\bar{x})$ , therefore  $M' \models \delta(B)$ , so by the induction hypothesis  $M' \models A$ . As  $L(A) \subseteq L(B)$  and  $M'|_{L(B)} = M|_{L(B)}$ ,  $M \models A$ .

For the only if-direction, assume that  $B \models A$  and let  $M$  be a model such that  $M \models \delta(B)$ . By Lemma 2.25,  $M \models B$  and hence  $M \models A$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 2.28.** *Let  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  be unsatisfiable and contain no existential quantifiers. Then  $I$  is an interpolant for  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  if and only if  $I$  is an interpolant for  $\delta(\Gamma) \cup \delta(\Delta)$ .*

*Proof.* As  $\delta$  introduces fresh symbols for each  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$ , they do not occur in any interpolant for  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$ . This establishes the language condition in both directions.

Furthermore, Lemma 2.27 is applicable to interpolants  $I$  for  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  due to the language condition and demonstrates that  $\Gamma \models I$  if and only if  $\delta(\Gamma) \models I$  as well as  $\Delta \models \neg I$  if and only if  $\delta(\Gamma) \models \neg I$ , which gives the result.  $\square$

At this point, we can summarize the results which enable the use of resolution based methods for calculating interpolants:

**Theorem 2.29.** *Let  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  be unsatisfiable. Then  $I$  is an interpolant for  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  if and only if  $I$  is an interpolant for  $\delta(\text{sk}(\Gamma)) \cup \delta(\text{sk}(\Delta))$ .*

*Proof.* Immediate by Proposition 2.28 and Proposition 2.23.  $\square$

## 2.7 Sequent Calculus

The famous sequent calculus was introduced in [Gen35]. Its use of sequents in lieu of plain formulas allows for a natural mapping of the logical relations expressed by the connectives to the structure of proofs.

**Definition 2.30.** For multisets of first-order formulas  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$ ,  $\Gamma \vdash \Delta$  is called a *sequent*. In this context  $\Gamma$  forms the *antecedent*, whereas  $\Delta$  is referred to as *succedent*.

A sequent calculus proof of a sequent  $\Gamma \vdash \Delta$  is a tree such that the root is the sequent  $\Gamma \vdash \Delta$ , the leaves are axioms and each edge is labelled by a rule of sequent calculus as given in Figure 2.2, such that the nodes connected by the edge match the given form.

A sequent  $\Gamma \vdash \Delta$  is called *provable* if there exists a sequent calculus proof of  $\Gamma \vdash \Delta$ .  $\triangle$

The rules of sequent calculus are as follows:

**Axioms**

$$A \vdash A$$

$$\vdash t = t$$

**Cut**

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \Delta, A \quad A, \Sigma \vdash \Pi}{\Gamma, \Sigma \vdash \Delta, \Pi}$$

**Structural rules**

- Contraction

$$\frac{\Gamma, A, A \vdash \Delta}{\Gamma, A \vdash \Delta} c : l$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \Delta, A, A}{\Gamma \vdash \Delta, A} c : r$$

- Weakening

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \Delta}{\Gamma, A \vdash \Delta} w : l$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \Delta}{\Gamma \vdash \Delta, A} w : r$$

**Propositional rules**

- Negation

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \Delta, A}{\neg A, \Gamma \vdash \Delta} \neg : l$$

$$\frac{A, \Gamma \vdash \Delta}{\Gamma \vdash \Delta, \neg A} \neg : r$$

- Conjunction

$$\frac{\Gamma, A, B \vdash \Delta}{\Gamma, A \wedge B \vdash \Delta} \wedge : l$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \Delta, A \quad \Sigma \vdash \Pi, B}{\Gamma, \Sigma \vdash \Delta, \Pi, A \wedge B} \wedge : r$$

- Disjunction

$$\frac{\Gamma, A \vdash \Delta \quad \Sigma, B \vdash \Pi}{\Gamma, \Sigma, A \vee B \vdash \Delta, \Pi} \vee : l$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \Delta, A, B}{\Gamma \vdash \Delta, A \vee B} \vee : r$$

- Implication

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash A, \Delta \quad \Sigma, B \vdash \Pi}{\Gamma, \Sigma, A \supset B \vdash \Delta, \Pi} \supset : l$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, A \vdash \Delta, B}{\Gamma \vdash \Delta, A \supset B} \supset : r$$

**Quantifier rules**

- Universal

$$\frac{\Gamma, A[x/t] \vdash \Delta}{\Gamma, \forall x A \vdash \Delta} \forall : l$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \Delta, A[x/y]}{\Gamma \vdash \Delta, \forall x A} \forall : r$$

- Existential

$$\frac{\Gamma, A[x/y] \vdash \Delta}{\Gamma, \exists x A \vdash \Delta} \exists : l \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash \Delta, A[x/t]}{\Gamma \vdash \Delta, \exists x A} \exists : r$$

(provided no free variable of  $t$  becomes bound in  $A[x/t]$  and  $y$  does not occur free in  $\Gamma, \Delta$  or  $A$ )

### Equality rules

- Left rules

$$\frac{\Gamma, A[t]_p \vdash \Delta \quad \Sigma \vdash \Pi, s = t}{\Gamma, \Sigma, A[s]_p \vdash \Delta, \Pi} = : l_1$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, A[s]_p \vdash \Delta \quad \Sigma \vdash \Pi, s = t}{\Gamma, \Sigma, A[t]_p \vdash \Delta, \Pi} = : l_2$$

- Right rules

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \Delta, A[t]_p \quad \Sigma \vdash \Pi, s = t}{\Gamma, \Sigma \vdash \Delta, \Pi, A[s]_p} = : r_1$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \Delta, A[s]_p \quad \Sigma \vdash \Pi, s = t}{\Gamma, \Sigma \vdash \Delta, \Pi, A[t]_p} = : r_2$$

(provided no free variable of  $s$  or  $t$  becomes bound in  $A[t]_p$  or  $A[s]_p$ )

**Figure 2.2:** The rules of sequent calculus

For the purposes of this thesis, we usually consider the cut-free fragment of sequent calculus.

**Theorem 2.31.** *Cut-free sequent calculus is sound and complete.*

*Proof.* See [Tak87].

□

# Reduction to First-Order Logic without Equality

A common theme of proofs is to avoid the tedious effort of proving the result from first principles by reducing the problem to one that is easier to solve. In this instance, we are able to give a reduction for finding interpolants in first-order logic *with* equality to first-order logic *without* equality, where it is simpler to give an appropriate algorithm. This method is due to Craig ([Cra57a, Cra57b]).

In order to simplify notation, we shall consider constant symbols to be function symbols of arity 0 in this section. The general layout of this approach is the following: From two sets  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$ , where  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  is unsatisfiable, we compute two sets  $\Gamma'$  and  $\Delta'$  which do not make use of equality but simulate the effects of equality in  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  via axioms. In the process of this transformation, also function symbols are replaced by predicate symbols with appropriate axioms to make sure that the behaviour of these function-representing predicates is compatible to the one of actual functions. Now an interpolant for  $\Gamma'$  and  $\Delta'$  can be derived using an algorithm that is only capable of handling predicate symbols as all other non-logical symbols have been removed. Since the additional axioms ensure that the newly added predicate symbols mimic equality and functions respectively, we will see that the occurrences of these predicates in the interpolant can be translated back to occurrences of equality and function symbols in first-order logic with equality in the language of  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$ , thereby yielding the originally desired interpolant.

## 3.1 Translation of formulas

As we shall see in this section, first-order formulas with equality can be transformed into first-order formulas without equality in a way that is satisfiability-preserving, which is sufficient for our purposes.

First, we define axioms in a language with fresh symbols which allows for simulation of equality and functions in first-order logic without equality and function symbols:

**Definition 3.1** (Translation of languages). For a first-order language  $\mathcal{L}$  and fresh predicate symbols  $E$  and  $F_f$  for  $f \in \text{FS}(\mathcal{L})$ ,  $T(\mathcal{L})$  denotes  $(\mathcal{L} \cup \{E\} \cup \{F_f \mid f \in \text{FS}(\mathcal{L})\}) \setminus (\{=\} \cup \text{FS}(\mathcal{L}))$ .  $\triangle$

**Definition 3.2** (Equality and function axioms). For a first-order language  $\mathcal{L}$  we define the following axioms in  $T(\mathcal{L})$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \text{FAx}(\mathcal{L}) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \bigcup_{f \in \text{FS}(\mathcal{L})} \forall \bar{x} \exists y (F_f(\bar{x}, y) \wedge (\forall z (F_f(\bar{x}, z) \supset E(y, z)))) \\ \text{Refl}(P) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \forall x P(x, x) \\ \text{Congr}(P) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \forall x_1 \forall y_1 \dots \forall x_{\text{ar}(P)} \forall y_{\text{ar}(P)} ((E(x_1, y_1) \wedge \dots \wedge E(x_{\text{ar}(P)}, y_{\text{ar}(P)})) \supset \\ &\quad (P(x_1, \dots, x_{\text{ar}(P)}) \supset P(y_1, \dots, y_{\text{ar}(P)}))) \\ \text{E}_{\text{Ax}}(\mathcal{L}) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Refl}(E) \cup \bigcup_{\substack{P \in \text{PS}(\mathcal{L}) \cup \{E\} \cup \\ \{F_f \mid f \in \text{FS}(\mathcal{L})\}}} \text{Congr}(P) \end{aligned} \quad \triangle$$

$\text{Refl}(P)$  will be referred to as reflexivity axiom of  $P$ ,  $\text{Congr}(P)$  as congruence axiom of  $P$ . As any model of  $\text{E}_{\text{Ax}}(\mathcal{L})$  requires  $\text{Refl}(E)$  and  $\text{Congr}(E)$ ,  $E$  is also symmetric and transitive in the model:

**Proposition 3.3.** *In every model of  $\text{Refl}(E)$  and  $\text{Congr}(E)$ ,  $E$  is an equivalence relation.*

*Proof.* Let  $M$  be a model of  $\text{Refl}(E)$  and  $\text{Congr}(E)$ . Then  $M$  clearly is reflexive. Due to  $M \models \text{Congr}(E)$ ,  $M \models \forall x \forall y (E(x, y) \wedge E(x, x) \supset (E(x, x) \supset E(y, x)))$ . As we know that  $E$  is reflexive, this simplifies to  $M \models \forall x \forall y (E(x, y) \supset E(y, x))$ , i.e.  $E$  is symmetric in  $M$ . We show the transitivity of  $E$  by another instance of  $\text{Congr}(E)$ :  $M \models \forall x \forall y \forall z ((E(y, x) \wedge E(y, z)) \supset (E(y, y) \supset E(x, z)))$ . As  $E$  is reflexive and symmetric, we get that  $M \models \forall x \forall y \forall z ((E(x, y) \wedge E(y, z)) \supset E(x, z))$ .  $\square$

We continue by defining the translation procedure for formulas:

**Definition 3.4** (Translation and inverse translation of formulas). Let  $A$  be a first-order formula and  $E$  and  $F_f$  for  $f \in \text{FS}(A)$  be fresh predicate symbols. Then  $T(A)$  is the result of applying the following algorithm to  $A$ :

1. Replace every occurrence of  $s = t$  in  $A$  by  $E(s, t)$
2. As long as there is an occurrence of a function symbol  $f$  in  $A$ :  
 Let  $B$  be the atom in which  $f$  occurs as outermost symbol of a term. Then  $B$  is of the form  $P(s_1, \dots, s_{j-1}, f(\bar{t}), s_{j+1}, \dots, s_m)$ . Replace  $B$  in  $A$  by  $\exists y (F_f(\bar{t}, y) \wedge P(s_1, \dots, s_{j-1}, y, s_{j+1}, \dots, s_m))$  for a fresh variable  $y$ .

Moreover, let the inverse operation  $T^{-1}(B)$  for formulas  $B$  in the language  $T(L(A))$  be defined as the result of applying the following algorithm to  $B$ :

1. Replace every occurrence of  $E(s, t)$  in  $B$  by  $s = t$ .
2. For every  $f \in FS(A)$ , replace every occurrence of  $\exists y(F_f(\bar{t}, y) \wedge P(s_1, \dots, s_{j-1}, y, s_{j+1}, \dots, s_m))$  in  $B$  by  $P(s_1, \dots, s_{j-1}, f(\bar{t}), s_{j+1}, \dots, s_m)$
3. For every  $f \in FS(A)$ , replace every occurrence of  $F_f(\bar{t}, s)$  by  $f(\bar{t}) = s$ .

For sets of first-order formulas  $\Phi$ , let  $T(\Phi) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \bigcup_{A \in \Phi} T(A)$  and  $T^{-1}(\Phi) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \bigcup_{A \in \Phi} T^{-1}(A)$ .  $\triangle$

*Remark.* Let  $\mathcal{L}$  be a language. Step 2 and 3 of  $T^{-1}$  are both concerned with replacing occurrences of  $F_f$  by occurrences of  $f$  for  $f \in FS(\mathcal{L})$ , but are relevant in different contexts.

Step 2 of  $T^{-1}$  is the precise inverse of step 2 of  $T$  in the sense that for any formula  $A$ ,  $T^{-1}(T(A)) = A$  as we will show in Lemma 3.5. In this context, step 3 has no effect, as all occurrences of  $F_f$  have been introduced by  $T(\cdot)$  and are consequently of exactly the form that is handled by step 2. So the algorithm is in this regard complete even without step 3.

On the other hand, if arbitrary formulas in the language  $T(\mathcal{L})$  are given, they in general do not match that pattern and are only translated to  $\mathcal{L}$  in step 3. Note that  $T^{-1}$  without step 2 yields a complete algorithm, as any formula that is handled there can also be processed in step 3. In such a procedure,  $T^{-1}(T(A))$  and  $A$  are in general not syntactically equal for formulas  $A$  but only logically equivalent.  $\triangle$

**Lemma 3.5.** *Let  $A$  be a first-order formula and  $\Phi$  be a set of first-order formulas. Then  $T^{-1}(T(A)) = A$  and  $T^{-1}(T(\Phi)) = \Phi$ .*

*Proof.* Step 1 and 2 in the algorithms  $T$  and  $T^{-1}$  are each concerned with a different set of symbols and therefore do not interfere with each other. Moreover, the respective steps in both algorithms are the inverse of each other. For step 1, this is immediate and for step 2, consider that all occurrences of  $F_f$  for  $f \in FS(A)$  in  $T(A)$  have been introduced by  $T$  and are consequently of the form  $\exists y(F_f(\bar{t}, y) \wedge P(s_1, \dots, s_{j-1}, y, s_{j+1}, \dots, s_m))$ , which is replaced by  $P(s_1, \dots, s_{j-1}, f(\bar{t}), s_{j+1}, \dots, s_m)$  by  $T^{-1}$ . As no occurrences of  $F_f$  remain, step 3 of  $T^{-1}$  leaves the formula unchanged.  $\square$

**Definition 3.6** (Translation of formulas including axioms). For first-order formulas  $A$ , let  $T_{Ax}(A) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left( \bigwedge_{B \in F_{Ax}(L(A))} B \right) \wedge \left( \bigwedge_{B \in E_{Ax}(L(A))} B \right) \wedge T(A)$  and for sets of first-order formulas  $\Phi$ , let  $T_{Ax}(\Phi) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} F_{Ax}(L(\Phi)) \cup E_{Ax}(L(\Phi)) \cup T(\Phi)$ .  $\triangle$

Note that  $T_{Ax}(A)$  contains neither the equality predicate nor function symbols but additional predicate symbols instead. More formally:



**Lemma 3.7.**

1. Let  $\Phi$  be a set of first-order formulas. Then  $T_{Ax}(\Phi)$  is in the language  $T(L(\Phi))$ .
2. If  $\Psi$  is in the language  $T(\mathcal{L})$ , then  $T^{-1}(\Psi)$  is in the language  $\mathcal{L}$ .

**Proposition 3.8.** *Let  $\Phi$  be a set of first-order formulas.*

1. *If  $\Phi$  is satisfiable, then so is  $T_{Ax}(\Phi)$ .*
2. *Let  $\mathcal{L}$  be a first-order language and  $\Phi$  a set of first-order formulas in the language  $T(\mathcal{L})$ . If  $F_{Ax}(\mathcal{L}) \cup E_{Ax}(\mathcal{L}) \cup \Phi$  is satisfiable, then so is  $T^{-1}(\Phi)$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $\Phi$  is satisfiable. Let  $M$  be a model of  $\Phi$ . We show that  $T_{Ax}(\Phi)$  is satisfiable by extending  $M$  to the language  $L(\Phi) \cup \{E\} \cup \{F_f \mid f \in FS(A)\}$  and proving that the extended model satisfies  $T_{Ax}(\Phi)$ .

First, let  $M \models E(s, t)$  if and only if  $M \models s = t$ . By reflexivity of equality, it follows that  $M \models \text{Refl}(E)$ . As any predicate, in particular  $E$  and  $F_f$  for every  $f \in FS(\Phi)$ , satisfy the congruence axiom with respect to  $=$ , by the definition of  $E$  in  $M$ , they satisfy the congruence axiom with respect to  $E$ . Therefore  $M$  is a model of  $E_{Ax}(L(\Phi))$ .

Second, let  $M \models F_f(\bar{x}, y)$  if and only if  $M \models f(\bar{x}) = y$  for all  $f \in FS(\Phi)$ . Since  $M$  is a model of  $\Phi$ , it maps every function symbol  $f$  to a function, which by definition returns a unique result for every combination of parameters. This however is precisely the logical requirement on  $F_f$  stated by  $F_{Ax}(L(\Phi))$ , hence  $M$  is a model of  $F_{Ax}(L(\Phi))$ .

Lastly, we show that  $M \models T(A)$  for all  $A \in \Phi$ . By the above definition of  $E$  in  $M$ , step 1 of the algorithm in Definition 3.4 yields a formula that is satisfied by  $M$  as it satisfies every formula of  $\Phi$ . For step 2, suppose  $P(s_1, \dots, s_{j-1}, f(\bar{t}), s_{j+1}, \dots, s_m)$  does (not) hold under  $M$ . Let  $y$  be such that  $M \models f(\bar{t}) = y$ . By our definition of  $F_f$  under  $M$ ,  $M \models F_f(\bar{t}, y)$  with this unique  $y$ . Hence  $\exists y (F_f(\bar{t}, y) \wedge P(s_1, \dots, s_{j-1}, y, s_{j+1}, \dots, s_m))$  does (not) hold under  $M$ .

For 2, suppose  $F_{Ax}(\mathcal{L}) \cup E_{Ax}(\mathcal{L}) \cup \Phi$  is satisfiable and let  $M$  be a model of it.

First, note that as  $M \models E_{Ax}(\mathcal{L})$ , by Proposition 3.3,  $\mathcal{I}_M(E)$  is an equivalence relation. Let  $D$  be the domain of  $M$ . We build a model  $M'$  whose domain  $D_{M'}$  is the congruence relation of  $D_M$  modulo  $\mathcal{I}_M(E)$ . The interpretation  $\mathcal{I}_{M'}$  of  $M'$  is obtained from  $\mathcal{I}_M$  by replacing every occurrence of a domain element  $d$  by its respective congruence class with respect to  $\mathcal{I}_M(E)$ . As  $M \models E_{Ax}(\mathcal{L})$ ,  $\mathcal{I}_{M'}$  satisfies the congruence axioms with respect to every function and predicate symbol, and is therefore well-defined. Due to this construction,  $M' \models s = t$  if and only if  $M \models E(s, t)$  for all terms  $s$  and  $t$ .

Second, let  $M \models f(\bar{t}) = s$  if and only if  $M \models F_f(\bar{t}, s)$  for all  $f \in FS(\mathcal{L})$ . As by assumption  $M$  is a model of  $F_{Ax}(A)$ , we know that for every  $\bar{t}$ , some  $s$  with  $M \models F(\bar{t}, s)$  exists and is uniquely defined. Hence  $f$  in  $M$  refers to a well-defined function.

Lastly, to show that  $M \models T^{-1}(\Phi)$ , consider that the interpretations of the predicates  $E$  and  $=$  coincide in  $M$ . Furthermore, let  $B$  be an occurrence of

$\exists y(F_f(\bar{t}, y) \wedge P(s_1, \dots, s_{j-1}, y, s_{j+1}, \dots, s_m))$  for some  $f \in \text{FS}(\mathcal{L})$  in  $\Phi$ . Then by the above definition of  $f$  in  $M$ , we have that  $B$  is in  $M$  equivalent to  $\exists y f(\bar{t}) = y \wedge P(s_1, \dots, s_{j-1}, y, s_{j+1}, \dots, s_m)$ , which due to  $f$  being a function is equivalent to  $M \models P(s_1, \dots, s_{j-1}, f(\bar{t}), s_{j+1}, \dots, s_m)$ .

Similarly, let  $B$  be an occurrence of  $F_f(\bar{t}, s)$  in  $\Phi$ . Then by our above definition of  $f$  in  $M$ , we have that  $M \models f(\bar{t}) = s$  iff  $M \models B$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 3.9.** *Let  $\Phi$  be a set of first-order formulas. Then  $\Phi$  is satisfiable if and only if  $\text{T}_{\text{Ax}}(\Phi)$  is satisfiable.*

*Proof.* The left-to-right direction is directly given in Proposition 3.8. For the other direction, consider that by Proposition 3.8,  $\text{T}^{-1}(\text{T}(\Phi))$  is satisfiable, which by Lemma 3.5 is nothing else than  $\Phi$ .  $\square$

## 3.2 Computation of interpolants

For the proof of the interpolation theorem by reduction we require an algorithm that operates in first-order logic without equality and function symbols, which we describe in this section.

*Remark.* As the idea of this reduction is to simplify the problem by amongst others not considering function symbols, resolution-based methods can not be employed in a direct manner. This is because function symbols appear naturally in them as they usually handle existential quantification by means of Skolemisation, i.e. a new function symbol is introduced for every occurrence of an existential quantifier in the scope of a universal quantifier. Translating the skolemised formulas to a language without function symbols as described in Definition 3.4 is of no avail since this translation introduces new existential quantifiers for every function symbol it encounters, necessitating Skolemisation yet again.  $\triangle$

**Lemma 3.10.** *Let  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  be sets of first-order formulas such that the equality symbol does not occur in them and  $\Gamma \vdash \Delta$  is provable in sequent calculus. Then there exists a proof of  $\Gamma \vdash \Delta$  that does not contain the equality symbol.*

*Proof.* By the soundness of sequent calculus, we obtain that  $\Gamma \models A$  for some  $A \in \Delta$ . But as sequent calculus without equality rules is complete for first-order logic without equality, there is a proof  $\pi$  of  $\Gamma \vdash A$  in this calculus. However  $\pi$  is obviously also a proof in sequent calculus with equality rules.  $\square$

We now show that interpolants can be computed by means of a sequent calculus based procedure by Maehara as described in [Tak87, Lemma 6.5]. It is slightly stronger than the required statement as it allows for interpolants of partitions of sequents:

**Definition 3.11** (Partition of sequents). A partition of a sequent  $\Gamma \vdash \Delta$  is denoted by  $\langle (\Gamma_1; \Delta_1), (\Gamma_2; \Delta_2) \rangle$ , where  $\Gamma_1 \uplus \Gamma_2 = \Gamma$  and  $\Delta_1 \uplus \Delta_2 = \Delta$ .  $\triangle$

**Lemma 3.12** (Maehara). *Let  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  be sets of first-order formulas without equality and function symbols such that  $\Gamma \vdash \Delta$  is provable in cut-free sequent calculus. Then for any partition  $\langle(\Gamma_1; \Delta_1), (\Gamma_2; \Delta_2)\rangle$  there is an interpolant  $I$  such that*

1.  $\Gamma_1 \vdash \Delta_1, I$  is provable
2.  $\Gamma_2, I \vdash \Delta_2$  is provable
3.  $L(I) \subseteq L(\Gamma_1, \Delta_1) \cap L(\Gamma_2, \Delta_2)$

*Proof.* We prove this lemma by induction on the number of inferences in a cut-free proof of  $\Gamma \vdash \Delta$ . By Lemma 3.10, we can assume that no equality symbol occurs in the proof, so equality rules need not be considered.

Base case. Suppose no rules were applied. Then  $C \vdash D$  is of one of the form  $A \vdash A$ . We give interpolants for any of the four possible partitions:

1.  $\langle(A; A), (;)\rangle$ :  $I = \perp$
2.  $\langle(;;), (A; A)\rangle$ :  $I = \top$
3.  $\langle(;; A), (A; )\rangle$ :  $I = \neg A$
4.  $\langle(A; ), (; A)\rangle$ :  $I = A$

Structural rules. Suppose the property holds for  $n$  rule applications and the  $(n + 1)$ th rule application is a structural one.

- The last rule application is an instance of  $c : l$ . Then it is of the form:

$$\frac{\Gamma, A, A \vdash \Delta}{\Gamma, A \vdash \Delta} c : l$$

There are two possible partition schemes: of  $\Gamma, A \vdash \Delta$ :

1.  $\chi = \langle(\Gamma_1, A; \Delta_1), (\Gamma_2; \Delta_2)\rangle$ . By the induction hypothesis, we know that there is an interpolant  $I$  for the partition  $\langle(\Gamma_1, A, A; \Delta_1), (\Gamma_2; \Delta_2)\rangle$  of the upper sequent.  $I$  serves as interpolant for  $\chi$  as well.
2.  $\chi = \langle(\Gamma_1; \Delta_1), (\Gamma_2, A; \Delta_2)\rangle$ . By a similar argument, we get that there is an interpolant  $I$  for  $\langle(\Gamma_1; \Delta_1), (\Gamma_2, A, A; \Delta_2)\rangle$ , which again is also an interpolant for  $\chi$ .

The case of  $c : r$  is analogous.

- The last rule application is an instance of  $w : r$ . Then it is of the form:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \Delta}{\Gamma \vdash \Delta, A} w : r$$

By the induction hypothesis, there exists an interpolant  $I$  for any partition  $\langle(\Gamma_1; \Delta_1), (\Gamma_2; \Delta_2)\rangle$  of  $\Gamma \vdash \Delta$ . Clearly  $I$  remains an interpolant when adding  $A$  to either  $\Delta_1$  or  $\Delta_2$ .

The case of  $w : l$  is analogous.

Propositional rules. Suppose the property holds for  $n$  rule applications and the  $(n + 1)$ th rule application is a propositional one.

- The last rule application is an instance of  $\neg : l$ . Then it is of the form:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \Delta, A}{\neg A, \Gamma \vdash \Delta} \neg : l$$

There are two possible partition schemes of  $\Gamma, \neg A \vdash \Delta$ :

1.  $\chi = \langle (\Gamma_1, \neg A; \Delta_1), (\Gamma_2; \Delta_2) \rangle$ . By the induction hypothesis, there exists an interpolant  $I$  for the partition  $\langle (\Gamma_1; \Delta_1, A), (\Gamma_2; \Delta_2) \rangle$  of the upper sequent. Clearly  $I$  is an interpolant for  $\chi$  as well.
2.  $\chi = \langle (\Gamma_1; \Delta_1), (\Gamma_2, \neg A; \Delta_2) \rangle$ . A similar argument goes through.

The case of  $\neg : r$  is analogous.

- The last rule application is an instance of  $\supset : l$ . Then it is of the form:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \Delta, A \quad \Sigma, B \vdash \Pi}{\Gamma, \Sigma, A \supset B \vdash \Delta, \Pi} \supset : l$$

There are two possible partition schemes of  $\Gamma, A \supset B \vdash \Delta$ :

1.  $\chi = \langle (\Gamma_1, \Sigma_1, A \supset B; \Delta_1, \Pi_1), (\Gamma_2, \Sigma_2; \Delta_2, \Pi_2) \rangle$ . By the induction hypothesis, there is an interpolant  $I_1$  for the partition  $\langle (\Gamma_1; \Delta_1, A), (\Gamma_2; \Delta_2) \rangle$  of the left upper sequent. Hence for  $I_1$ , we have that  $\Gamma_1 \vdash \Delta_1, A, I_1$  and  $I_1, \Gamma_2 \vdash \Delta_2$  are provable. Moreover, we also get by the induction hypothesis that there is an interpolant  $I_2$  for the partition  $\langle (\Sigma_1, B; \Pi_1), (\Sigma_2; \Pi_2) \rangle$  of the right upper sequent. Therefore  $\Sigma_1, B \vdash \Pi_1, I_2$  and  $I_2, \Sigma_2 \vdash \Pi_2$  are provable.

Using these prerequisites, we first establish that  $I_1 \vee I_2$  fulfills conditions 1 and 2 of an interpolant for  $\chi$ :

$$\frac{\frac{\Gamma_1 \vdash \Delta_1, A, I_1 \quad \Sigma_1, B \vdash \Pi_1, I_2}{\Gamma_1, \Sigma_1, A \supset B \vdash \Delta_1, \Pi_1, I_1, I_2} \supset : l}{\Gamma_1, \Sigma_1, A \supset B \vdash \Delta_1, \Pi_1, I_1 \vee I_2} \vee : r$$

$$\frac{I_1, \Gamma_2 \vdash \Delta_2 \quad I_2, \Sigma_2 \vdash \Pi_2}{I_1 \vee I_2, \Gamma_2, \Sigma_2 \vdash \Delta_2, \Pi_2} \vee : l$$

To show that also condition 3 is satisfied, consider that by the induction hypothesis, it holds that:

$$\begin{aligned} L(I_1) &\subseteq L(\Gamma_1, \Delta_1, A) \cap L(\Gamma_2, \Delta_2) \\ L(I_2) &\subseteq L(\Sigma_1, B, \Pi_1) \cap L(\Sigma_2, \Pi_2) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned}
L(I_1) \cup L(I_2) &\subseteq (L(\Gamma_1, \Delta_1, A) \cap L(\Gamma_2, \Delta_2)) \cup (L(\Sigma_1, B, \Pi_1) \cap L(\Sigma_2, \Pi_2)) \\
&\Downarrow \\
L(I_1) \cup L(I_2) &\subseteq (L(\Gamma_1, \Delta_1, A) \cup L(\Sigma_1, B, \Pi_1)) \cap (L(\Gamma_2, \Delta_2) \cup L(\Sigma_2, \Pi_2)) \\
&\Updownarrow \\
L(I_1 \vee I_2) &\subseteq L(\Gamma_1, \Sigma_1, A \supset B, \Delta_1, \Pi_1) \cap L(\Gamma_2, \Sigma_2, \Delta_2, \Pi_2)
\end{aligned}$$

2.  $\chi = \langle (\Gamma_1, \Sigma_1; \Delta_1, \Pi_1), (\Gamma_2, \Sigma_2, A \supset B; \Delta_2, \Pi_2) \rangle$ . The argument for this case is similar using  $I_1 \wedge I_2$  as interpolant.

For the other binary connectives  $\wedge : l$ ,  $\wedge : r$ ,  $\vee : l$ ,  $\vee : r$  and  $\supset : r$ , similar arguments go through, where the interpolant is always either the conjunction or the disjunction of the interpolants of partitions of the preceding sequents.

Quantifier rules. Suppose the property holds for  $n$  rule applications and the  $(n + 1)$ th rule application is a quantifier rule.

- The last rule application is an instance of  $\forall : l$ . Then it is of the form:

$$\frac{\Gamma, A[x/y] \vdash \Delta}{\Gamma, \forall x A \vdash \Delta} \forall : l$$

Note that since we have excluded function symbols from occurring in the final sequent (and constant symbols are treated as function symbols of arity 0) and by completeness there is a proof of the sequent in the language of the sequent, we can assume that no function or constant symbols occur in this proof. Hence quantifiers are only instantiated by variables.

There are two possible partition schemes of  $\Gamma, \forall x A \vdash \Delta$ :

1.  $\langle (\Gamma_1, \forall x A; \Delta_1), (\Gamma_2; \Delta_2) \rangle$ . By the induction hypothesis, there is an interpolant  $I$  of the partition  $\langle (\Gamma_1, A[x/y]; \Delta_1), (\Gamma_2; \Delta_2) \rangle$ . Hence for  $I$ ,  $\Gamma_1, A[x/y] \vdash \Delta_1, I$  and  $I, \Gamma_2 \vdash \Delta_2$  are provable. By an application of  $\forall : l$  to the first sequent we get  $\Gamma_1, \forall x A \vdash \Delta_1, I$ , so  $I$  satisfies conditions 1 and 2 of being an interpolant for  $\chi$ . In order to show that also  $L(I) \subseteq L(\Gamma_1, \forall x A, \Delta_1) \cap L(\Gamma_2, \Delta_2)$ , consider that by the induction hypothesis,  $L(I) \subseteq L(\Gamma_1, A[x/y], \Delta_1) \cap L(\Gamma_2, \Delta_2)$ . As free variables are not considered to be part of the language,  $L(\forall x A) = L(A[x/y])$ .
2.  $\langle (\Gamma_1; \Delta_1), (\Gamma_2, \forall x A; \Delta_2) \rangle$ . This case can be argued analogously.

In the case of  $\exists : r$ , a similar argument goes through.

- The last rule application is an instance of  $\forall : r$ . Then it is of the form:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \Delta, A[x/y]}{\Gamma \vdash \Delta, \forall x A} \forall : r$$

where  $y$  does not appear in  $\Gamma$ ,  $\Delta$  or  $A$ .

There are two possible partition schemes of  $\Gamma \vdash \Delta, \forall x A$ :

1.  $\chi = \langle (\Gamma_1; \Delta_1, \forall x A), (\Gamma_2; \Delta_2) \rangle$ . By the induction hypothesis, there exists an interpolant  $I$  of the partition  $\langle (\Gamma_1; \Delta_1, A[x/y]), (\Gamma_2; \Delta_2) \rangle$  of the upper sequent. Hence for  $I$ ,  $\Gamma_1 \vdash \Delta_1, A[x/y], I$  and  $I, \Gamma_2 \vdash \Delta_2$  are provable.

As  $y$  does not occur in  $\Gamma$  or  $\Delta$  and consequently by condition 3 does not occur in  $I$ , we may apply the  $\forall : r$  rule to the former sequent to obtain  $\Gamma_1 \vdash \Delta_1, \forall x A, I$ . Hence  $I$  is an interpolant for  $\chi$  as well.

2.  $\langle (\Gamma_1; \Delta_1), (\Gamma_2; \Delta_2, \forall x A) \rangle$ . This case can be argued analogously.

In the case of  $\exists : l$ , a similar argument goes through.  $\square$

This allows us to state the central theorem of this section:

**Theorem 3.13.** *Let  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  be sets of closed first-order formulas without equality and function symbols such that  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  is unsatisfiable. Then there is an interpolant for  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$ .*

*Proof.* As  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  are unsatisfiable, by the compactness theorem, there exists a finite conjunction  $\Gamma^*$  of formulas of  $\Gamma$  as well as a finite conjunction  $\Delta^*$  of formulas of  $\Delta$  such that  $\Gamma^* \wedge \Delta^*$  are unsatisfiable. We may also write this as  $\Gamma^* \models \neg \Delta^*$ .

By the completeness of cut-free sequent calculus, there is a cut-free proof of  $\Gamma^* \vdash \neg \Delta^*$ . So by Lemma 3.12, there is an interpolant  $I$  for the partition  $\langle (\Gamma^*; ), (; \neg \Delta^*) \rangle$  such that  $\Gamma^* \vdash I$ ,  $I \vdash \neg \Delta^*$  and  $L(I) \subseteq L(\Gamma^*) \cap L(\Delta^*)$ . Clearly then also  $\Delta^* \vdash \neg I$  holds.

As  $\Gamma^*$  and  $\Delta^*$  are merely conjunctions of formulas of  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  respectively, we get that  $\Gamma \models I$ ,  $\Delta \models \neg I$  as well as  $L(I) \subseteq L(\Gamma) \cap L(\Delta)$ , which by Proposition 2.4 gives the result.  $\square$

### 3.3 Proof by reduction

Using the results of the previous sections, we can now give a proof of the interpolation theorem:

**Theorem 2.3** (Reverse Interpolation). *Let  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  be sets of first-order formulas such that  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  is unsatisfiable. Then there exists a reverse interpolant for  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  is unsatisfiable, by Proposition 3.8,  $T_{Ax}(\Gamma \cup \Delta)$  is unsatisfiable.

$$\begin{aligned}
T_{Ax}(\Gamma \cup \Delta) &\Leftrightarrow \{F_{Ax}(L(\Gamma \cup \Delta)), E_{Ax}(L(\Gamma \cup \Delta))\} \cup T(\Gamma \cup \Delta) \\
&\Leftrightarrow \{F_{Ax}(L(\Gamma) \cup L(\Delta)), E_{Ax}(L(\Gamma) \cup L(\Delta))\} \cup T(\Gamma) \cup T(\Delta) \\
&\Leftrightarrow \{F_{Ax}(L(\Gamma)) \wedge F_{Ax}(L(\Delta)), E_{Ax}(L(\Gamma)) \wedge E_{Ax}(L(\Delta))\} \cup T(\Gamma) \cup T(\Delta) \\
&\Leftrightarrow \{F_{Ax}(L(\Gamma)), E_{Ax}(L(\Gamma))\} \cup T(\Gamma) \cup \{F_{Ax}(L(\Delta)), E_{Ax}(L(\Delta))\} \cup T(\Delta) \\
&\Leftrightarrow T_{Ax}(\Gamma) \cup T_{Ax}(\Delta)
\end{aligned}$$

Hence  $T_{Ax}(\Gamma) \cup T_{Ax}(\Delta)$  is unsatisfiable as well. By Lemma 3.7.1  $T_{Ax}(\Gamma)$  and  $T_{Ax}(\Delta)$  contain neither function symbols nor the equality symbol. Hence by Theorem 3.13, there is an interpolant  $I$  such that

1.  $T_{Ax}(\Gamma) \models I$
2.  $T_{Ax}(\Delta) \models \neg I$
3.  $L(I) \subseteq L(T_{Ax}(\Gamma)) \cap L(T_{Ax}(\Delta))$

We now show that  $T^{-1}(I)$  is an interpolant for  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$ .

$T_{Ax}(\Gamma) \models I$  is equivalent to  $T_{Ax}(\Gamma) \cup \{\neg I\}$  being unsatisfiable. Through the unfolding of  $T_{Ax}(\Gamma)$ , we get that  $\{F_{Ax}(L(\Gamma)), E_{Ax}(L(\Gamma))\} \cup T(\Gamma) \cup \{\neg I\}$  is unsatisfiable. This set of formulas can now be translated back to the original language with the equality symbol and function symbols. More formally, since  $L(\neg I) \subseteq L(T_{Ax}(\Gamma))$ , we can apply Proposition 3.8.2 by considering  $T(\Gamma) \cup \{\neg I\}$  as  $\Phi$  to conclude that  $T^{-1}(T(\Gamma) \cup \{\neg I\})$  is unsatisfiable. By pulling  $T^{-1}$  inward and an application of Lemma 3.5, we get that  $\Gamma \cup \{T^{-1}(\neg I)\} = \Gamma \cup \{\neg T^{-1}(I)\}$  is unsatisfiable. Therefore  $\Gamma \models T^{-1}(I)$ .

For  $\Delta$ , an analogous argument goes through and so from  $T_{Ax}(\Gamma) \models \neg I$  we can deduce that  $\Delta \models \neg T^{-1}(I)$ .

By item 3,  $I$  is in the language  $L(T_{Ax}(\Gamma)) \cap L(T_{Ax}(\Delta))$ , which by Lemma 3.7.1 is  $T(L(\Gamma)) \cap T(L(\Delta))$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
&T(L(\Gamma)) \cap T(L(\Delta)) = \\
&\left( (L(\Gamma) \cup \{E\} \cup \{F_f \mid f \in FS(\Gamma)\}) \setminus (\{=\} \cup FS(\Gamma)) \right) \cap \\
&\left( (L(\Delta) \cup \{E\} \cup \{F_f \mid f \in FS(\Delta)\}) \setminus (\{=\} \cup FS(\Delta)) \right) \\
&= \left( (L(\Gamma) \cap L(\Delta)) \cup \{E\} \cup \{F_f \mid f \in FS(\Gamma) \cap FS(\Delta)\} \right) \setminus (\{=\} \cup FS(\Gamma) \cup FS(\Delta)) \\
&= \left( (L(\Gamma) \cap L(\Delta)) \cup \{E\} \cup \{F_f \mid f \in FS(L(\Gamma) \cap L(\Delta))\} \right) \setminus (\{=\} \cup FS(L(\Gamma) \cap L(\Delta))) \\
&= T(L(\Gamma) \cap L(\Delta))
\end{aligned}$$

As  $I$  is in the language  $T(L(\Gamma) \cap L(\Delta))$ , by Lemma 3.7.2,  $T^{-1}(I)$  is in the language  $L(\Gamma) \cap L(\Delta)$ .  $\square$

# Interpolant extraction from resolution proofs in two phases

In [Hua95], Huang proposes an algorithm for computing interpolants of two sets of first-order formulas  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$ , where  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  is unsatisfiable, by traversing a resolution refutation of  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$ . We present his proof in a modified form in this section and in more original form in appendix A. The central difference between these versions lies in the treatment of the interplay of substitutions and liftings. While in [Hua95], propositional deductions are employed, in which all substitutions are trivial, we provide a method which allows for commuting substitutions and liftings under certain conditions.

## 4.1 Layout of the proof

The underlying algorithm produces in a first phase propositional interpolants inductively for every clause which occurs in the resolution refutation. These interpolants are propositional in the sense that they only obey the language restriction on predicates and may contain colored terms. The propositional interpolant assigned to the last clause, the empty clause, is a propositional interpolant for the initial clause sets.

The second phase of the algorithm addresses the colored terms still contained in the propositional interpolant. These are eliminated (lifted) by replacing them with bound variables whose quantifiers are subject to a certain ordering.

## 4.2 Extraction of propositional interpolants

We define a procedure  $\text{PI}$ , which produces propositional interpolants from resolution refutations and is based on the “Interpolation algorithm” in [Hua95]. It is structured in the two subprocedures  $\text{PI}_{\text{init}}$  and  $\text{PI}_{\text{step}}$ :



**Definition 4.1** ( $\text{PI}_{\text{init}}$ ). For clauses  $C \in \Gamma \cup \Delta$ , we define  $\text{PI}_{\text{init}}(C)$  as follows:

$$\text{PI}_{\text{init}}(C) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} \perp & \text{if } C \in \Gamma \\ \top & \text{if } C \in \Delta \end{cases} \quad \Delta$$

**Definition 4.2** ( $\text{PI}_{\text{step}}$ ). Let  $\iota$  be an inference of a resolution refutation of  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  which derives  $C$  from the clauses  $C_1, \dots, C_n$  where  $n = 1$  if  $\iota$  is a factorisation inference and  $n = 2$  in case of a resolution or paramodulation inference. Let  $\bar{I} = I_1, \dots, I_n$  be formulas.

Then  $\text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\iota, \bar{I})$  is defined according to the following cases:

**Resolution.** If  $\iota$  is a resolution inference of  $C_1 : D \vee l$  and  $C_2 : E \vee \neg l'$  with  $\sigma = \text{mgu}(\iota)$ , then  $\text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\iota, I_1, I_2)$  is defined as follows:

1. If  $l$  is  $\Gamma$ -colored:  $\text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\iota, I_1, I_2) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [I_1 \vee I_2]\sigma$
2. If  $l$  is  $\Delta$ -colored:  $\text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\iota, I_1, I_2) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [I_1 \wedge I_2]\sigma$
3. If  $l$  is grey:  $\text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\iota, I_1, I_2) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [(l \wedge I_2) \vee (\neg l' \wedge I_1)]\sigma$

**Factorisation.** If  $\iota$  is a factorisation inference of  $C_1 : l \vee l' \vee D$  with  $\sigma = \text{mgu}(\iota)$ , then  $\text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\iota, I_1) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} I_1\sigma$ .

**Paramodulation.** Suppose that  $\iota$  is a paramodulation inference of  $C_1 : s = t \vee D$  and  $C_2 : E[r]$  with  $\sigma = \text{mgu}(\iota)$  such that  $s\sigma = r\sigma$ . Let  $h[r]$  be the maximal colored term in which  $r$  occurs in  $E[r]$ . Then  $\text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\iota, I_1, I_2)$  is defined according to the following case distinction:

1. If  $h[r]$  is  $\Delta$ -colored and  $h[r]$  occurs more than once in  $(I_2 \vee E[r])\sigma$ :

$$\text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\iota, I_1, I_2) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [(s = t \wedge I_2) \vee (s \neq t \wedge I_1)]\sigma \vee (s = t \wedge h[s] \neq h[t])\sigma$$

2. If  $h[r]$  is  $\Gamma$ -colored and  $h[r]$  occurs more than once in  $(I_2 \vee E[r])\sigma$ :

$$\text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\iota, I_1, I_2) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [(s = t \wedge I_2) \vee (s \neq t \wedge I_1)]\sigma \wedge (s \neq t \vee h[s] = h[t])\sigma$$

3. If  $r$  does not occur in a colored term in  $E[r]$  which occurs more than once in  $(I_2 \vee E[r])\sigma$ :

$$\text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\iota, I_1, I_2) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [(s = t \wedge I_2) \vee (s \neq t \wedge I_1)]\sigma \quad \Delta$$

**Definition 4.3** (Propositional interpolant extraction  $\text{PI}$ ). Let  $\pi$  be a resolution refutation of  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$ .  $\text{PI}(\pi)$  is defined to be  $\text{PI}(\square)$ , where  $\square$  is the empty clause derived in  $\pi$ . For a clause  $C$  in  $\pi$ ,  $\text{PI}(C)$  is defined as follows:

**Base case.** If  $C \in \Gamma \cup \Delta$ , then  $\text{PI}(C) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{PI}_{\text{init}}(C)$ .

**Induction step.** If  $C$  is the result of an inference  $\iota$  using the clauses  $C_1, \dots, C_n$ , then  $\text{PI}(C) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\iota, \text{PI}(C_1), \dots, \text{PI}(C_n))$ .  $\Delta$

For an illustration of the application of PI to a resolution refutation, see Example 4.24

*Remark.* The control flow of the procedure PI is predominantly determined by the coloring of literals. In this context, two distinct but similar interpretation of the notion of color are viable: On the one hand, one can employ the usual, symbol-based interpretation as given in Definition 2.6, where a (predicate) symbol is considered grey if there is at least one formula in  $\Gamma$  as well as at least one formula in  $\Delta$  which contain the symbol, and otherwise the symbol is considered to be colored in the respective color. Note that this does not necessarily capture the logical meaning of the symbol, as the symbol then is allowed to occur in the interpolant even if among the clauses used in the resolution refutation, only for instance clauses from  $\Gamma$  contain the symbol. It is obvious that one can then also find an interpolant which does not contain the symbol by computing an interpolant for  $\Gamma'$  and  $\Delta$ , where  $\Gamma'$  is derived from  $\Gamma$  by omitting any formula containing that symbol. Clearly the refutation of  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  is also a refutation of  $\Gamma' \cup \Delta$  and an appropriate interpolant can hence easily be computed.

However in [Hua95], a stricter notion of coloring is employed. There, a predicate symbol is colored based on its occurrence: All occurrences of predicate symbols in formulas in  $\Gamma$  ( $\Delta$ ) are considered to be  $\Gamma$ -( $\Delta$ )-colored. A predicate symbol occurring in a clause in the resolution derivation is  $\Phi$ -colored if its predecessor in the preceding clause is. Factorisation inferences create grey literals in case the factorised literals are respectively  $\Gamma$ - and  $\Delta$ -colored.

The definition above can be understood in this sense by only considering a minor adaption: Resolved or factorised literals  $l$  are to be read as  $\Gamma$ -( $\Delta$ )-colored only if *both* resolved or factorised literals  $l$  and  $l'$  in fact are  $\Gamma$ -( $\Delta$ )-colored and otherwise to be treated as grey. This is necessitated by the fact that in our definition, we may conclude from the circumstance that two resolved or factorised literals have the same predicate symbol that they also do possess the same coloring. In the definition due to [Hua95], this is in general not the case.  $\triangle$

### 4.3 Lifting of colored symbols

As PI only fixes the propositional structure of the interpolant but still contains colored symbol, we define a procedure which replaces colored terms by variables, which eventually will become bound by appropriate quantifiers. This replacement is referred to as lifting:

**Definition 4.4** (Lifting). Let  $\varphi$  a formula or a term and  $Z = \{s_1, \dots, s_n\}$  the maximal  $\Phi$ -colored terms in  $\varphi$ .

Let furthermore  $z_{\text{unfold-lift}(s_1)}, \dots, z_{\text{unfold-lift}(s_n)}$  be fresh variables, referred to as  $\Phi$ -*lifting variables* or *lifting variables* if the coloring is clear from the context.

We first define the function `unfold-lift`, which replaces lifting variables occurring in colored terms by the term they lift in order to avoid lifting variables in the index of other lifting variables and is defined as follows for terms  $t$ :

$$\text{unfold-lift}(t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} f(\text{unfold-lift}(t_1), \dots, \text{unfold-lift}(t_m)) & \text{if } t = f(t_1, \dots, t_m) \\ t & \text{if } t \text{ is a non-lifting variable } x \\ \text{unfold-lift}(s) & \text{if } t \text{ is a lifting variable } z_s \end{cases}$$

The *lifting* of  $\varphi$ , denoted by  $\ell_\Phi^z[\varphi]$ , is an abbreviation for  $\ell_\Phi^z[\varphi, Z]$ , which is defined as follows:

$$\ell_\Phi^z[\varphi, Z] \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} \varphi & Z = \emptyset \\ \ell_\Phi^z[\psi, Z \setminus \{s_i\}] & s_i \in Z \text{ such that } s_i \text{ is not subterm of another} \\ & \text{term in } Z, \psi \text{ is created from } \varphi \text{ by replacing} \\ & \text{every occurrence of } s_i \text{ by } z_{\text{unfold-lift}(s_i)} \end{cases}$$

To simplify the syntax, we sometimes write  $\ell_\Phi[\varphi]$  or  $\ell[\varphi]$  if the lifting variables or the lifting variables and the color of the terms to lift are clear from the context or not of the essence.  $\triangle$

We usually lift  $\Delta$ -terms by variables with the letter  $x$  and  $\Gamma$ -terms with the letter  $y$ . If the lifting is not specific to a color, we use variables with the letter  $z$ .

Some elementary properties of liftings are described by the following lemmas:

**Lemma 4.5** (Commutativity of lifting and logical operators). *Let  $A$  and  $B$  be first-order formulas and  $s$  and  $t$  be terms. Then it holds that:*

1.  $\ell_\Phi^z[\neg A] \Leftrightarrow \neg \ell_\Phi^z[A]$
2.  $\ell_\Phi^z[A \circ B] \Leftrightarrow (\ell_\Phi^z[A] \circ \ell_\Phi^z[B])$  for  $\circ \in \{\wedge, \vee\}$
3.  $\ell_\Phi^z[s = t] \Leftrightarrow (\ell_\Phi^z[s] = \ell_\Phi^z[t])$   $\square$

We furthermore require a means for commuting substitutions and liftings. This however can not be achieved in a direct manner. The following examples illustrate that in general for a term  $t$ , it is not the case that  $\ell_\Phi^z[t\sigma] = \ell_\Phi^z[t]\sigma$ .

Below, we assume that substitutions unless explicitly defined otherwise do not affect lifting variables. This is justified as all substitutions which occur in resolution refutations have this property.

**Example 4.6.**

1. Let  $t = f(x)$  be a  $\Phi$ -term and  $\sigma = \{x \mapsto a\}$ . Then  $\ell_\Phi^z[t\sigma] = \ell_\Phi^z[f(x)\sigma] = \ell_\Phi^z[f(a)] = z_{f(a)}$ . However  $\ell_\Phi^z[t]\sigma = \ell_\Phi^z[f(x)]\sigma = z_{f(x)}\sigma = z_{f(x)}$ .

This suggests that substitutions also have to be applied to lifted terms.

2. Let  $s = x$  be a variable and  $\sigma = \{x \mapsto c\}$ , where  $c$  is a  $\Phi$ -term. Then  $\ell_{\Phi}^z[s\sigma] = \ell_{\Phi}^z[x\sigma] = \ell_{\Phi}^z[c] = z_c$ . But  $\ell_{\Phi}^z[s]\sigma = \ell_{\Phi}^z[x]\sigma = x\sigma = c$ .

In this case, we see that terms in  $\text{ran}(\sigma)$  have to be lifted when the substitution is pulled out of the lifting.

3. Let  $r = \ell_{\Phi}^z[f(x)] = z_{f(x)}$  and  $\sigma = \{x \mapsto a\}$ . Then  $\ell_{\Phi}^z[r\sigma] = \ell_{\Phi}^z[z_{f(x)}\sigma] = \ell_{\Phi}^z[z_{f(x)}] = z_{f(x)}$ . Here however,  $\ell_{\Phi}^z[r]\sigma = \ell_{\Phi}^z[z_{f(x)}]\sigma = z_{f(x)}\sigma = z_{f(x)}$ .

This shows that obviously, as lifting variables are affected neither by substitutions nor liftings, arbitrary commutations of these can be performed. Note however that in case 1, lifting variables have to be modified.  $\triangle$

As a first step towards a solution, we define a substitution which acts as a tool to ensure that modifications to terms are also applied to lifting variables. This is vital for Item 1 of Example 4.6.

**Definition 4.7** ( $\tau$ ). For a substitution  $\sigma$  we define the infinite substitution  $\tau(\sigma)$  with  $\text{dom}(\tau(\sigma)) = \text{dom}(\sigma) \cup \{z_s \mid s\sigma \neq s\}$  as follows for a variable  $x$ :

$$x\tau(\sigma) = \begin{cases} x\sigma & x \text{ is a non-lifting variable} \\ z_{t\sigma} & x \text{ is a lifting variable } z_t \end{cases}$$

If the substitution  $\sigma$  is clear from the context, we abbreviate  $\tau(\sigma)$  by  $\tau$ . For inferences  $\iota$ , we define  $\tau(\iota)$  to be  $\tau(\text{mgu}(\iota))$ .  $\triangle$

**Example 4.6** (continued). Using  $\tau(\sigma)$ , we can solve the first example as  $\ell_{\Phi}^z[t\tau(\sigma)] = \ell_{\Phi}^z[f(x)\tau(\sigma)] = \ell_{\Phi}^z[f(a)] = z_{f(a)} = z_{f(x)\sigma} = z_{f(x)}\tau(\sigma) = \ell_{\Phi}^z[f(x)]\tau(\sigma) = \ell_{\Phi}^z[t]\tau(\sigma)$ . However the second example can not be dealt with analogously.  $\triangle$

Now we implement the idea motivated by Item 2 of Example 4.6 by lifting also the terms introduced by  $\tau$ . It turns out that in this formulation, commutation can be done in general:

**Lemma 4.8.** For a formula or term  $\varphi$  and a substitution  $\sigma$  such that  $\tau = \tau(\sigma)$ ,  $\ell[\ell[\varphi]\tau] = \ell[\varphi\tau]$ .

*Proof.* We proceed by induction.

- Suppose that  $t$  is a grey constant or function symbol of the form  $f(t_1, \dots, t_n)$ . Then we can derive the following, where (IH) signifies

a deduction by virtue of the induction hypothesis.

$$\begin{aligned}
\ell[\ell[t]\tau] &= \ell[\ell[f(t_1, \dots, t_n)]\tau] \\
&= \ell[f(\ell[t_1]\tau, \dots, \ell[t_n]\tau)] \\
&= f(\ell[\ell[t_1]\tau], \dots, \ell[\ell[t_n]\tau]) \\
&\stackrel{(\text{IH})}{=} f(\ell[t_1\tau], \dots, \ell[t_n\tau]) \\
&= \ell[f(t_1, \dots, t_n)\tau] \\
&= \ell[t\tau]
\end{aligned}$$

- Suppose that  $t$  is a colored constant or function symbol. Then:

$$\ell[\ell[t]\tau] = \ell[z_t\tau] = \ell[z_t\sigma] = z_t\sigma = z_t\tau = \ell[t\tau]$$

- Suppose that  $t$  is a variable  $x$ . Then:

$$\ell[\ell[t]\tau] = \ell[\ell[x]\tau] = \ell[x\tau] = \ell[t\tau]$$

- Suppose that  $t$  is a lifting variable  $z_t$ . Then:

$$\ell[\ell[z_t]\tau] = \ell[z_t\tau] \quad \square$$

The formulation of this Lemma can however be improved. First, note that the outer lifting of the expression  $\ell[\ell[\varphi]\tau]$  is only applied to terms introduced by  $\tau$ , which motivates the following definition:

**Definition 4.9** ( $\tau^{\ell\Phi}$ ). For a substitution  $\sigma$ , we define the infinite substitution  $\tau^{\ell\Phi}(\sigma)$  on variables  $x$  as follows:  $x\tau^{\ell\Phi}(\sigma) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \ell_\Phi[x\tau(\sigma)]$ .

If  $\sigma$  is clear from the context, we just write  $\tau^{\ell\Phi}$  and as usual, we may also omit  $\Phi$ .  $\triangle$

**Lemma 4.10.** For a formula or term  $\varphi$ ,  $\ell[\varphi]\tau^\ell = \ell[\varphi\tau]$ .

*Proof.* Immediate by Lemma 4.8 and the definition of  $\tau^\ell$ .  $\square$

Second, if we can exclude the case of lifting variables, we can apply  $\sigma$  as desired:

**Lemma 4.11.** For a formula or term  $\psi$  and a substitution  $\sigma$ , such that no lifting variable occurs in  $\psi$  or  $\text{ran}(\sigma)$ ,  $\ell[\psi]\tau^\ell = \ell[\psi\sigma]$ .

*Proof.* Immediate by 4.10 and the definition of  $\tau$ .  $\square$

Note that if the formula or term contains lifting variables, it is not possible to perform the commutation with  $\sigma$  as in Lemma 4.11. As illustrated in Item 3 of Example 4.6, we here have that  $\ell_{\Phi}^z[z_t\sigma] = \ell_{\Phi}^z[z_t] = z_t$ , but  $\ell_{\Phi}^z[z_t\tau^\ell] = \ell_{\Phi}^z[z_t\sigma] = z_{t\sigma}$ . Hence in these cases,  $\tau^\ell$  would have to leave lifting variables unchanged, which contradicts other use cases such as Item 1 of Example 4.6.

However in the context of interpolant extraction, one can deal with interpolants containing free occurrences of lifting variables by just employing  $\tau$  in their construction instead of  $\sigma$ .

## 4.4 Main lemma

By lifting symbols of one color of the propositional interpolant, we are able to already obtain a formula partially fulfilling the requirements for interpolants. The proof is separated into parts dealing with  $\text{PI}_{\text{init}}$  and  $\text{PI}_{\text{step}}$  respectively to be later combined to a result for  $\text{PI}$ .

We employ the following additional notation: For a clause  $C$ ,  $C_{\Phi}$  denotes the clause created from  $C$  by removing all literals which are not  $\Phi$ -colored.

**Lemma 4.12.** *Let  $C$  be an clause in  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$ . Then  $\Gamma \models \ell_{\Delta}^x[\text{PI}_{\text{init}}(C) \vee C_{\Gamma}]$ .*

*Proof.* If  $C \in \Gamma$ , then  $\Gamma \models \ell_{\Delta}^x[C_{\Gamma}]$  as  $C_{\Gamma} = C$  and  $\ell_{\Delta}^x[C] = C$ . Otherwise  $C \in \Gamma$ , but then  $\text{PI}_{\text{init}}(C) = \top$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 4.13.** *Let  $\iota$  be an inference in a resolution refutation of  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  using the clauses  $C_1, \dots, C_n$  and let  $\bar{I} = I_1, \dots, I_n$  be formulas such that  $\Gamma \models \ell_{\Delta}^x[I_i \vee (C_i)_{\Gamma}]$  for  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . Then  $\Gamma \models \ell_{\Delta}^x[\text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\iota, \bar{I}) \vee C_{\Gamma}]$ .*

*Proof.* We distinguish based on the type of  $\iota$ .

**Resolution.** Suppose that  $\iota$  is a resolution inference of the clauses  $C_1 : D \vee l$  and  $C_2 : E \vee \neg l'$  with  $\sigma = \text{mgu}(\iota)$ .

By Lemma 4.5 we obtain from the assumption that  $\Gamma \models \ell_{\Delta}^x[I_1] \vee \ell_{\Delta}^x[D_{\Gamma}] \vee \ell_{\Delta}^x[l_{\Gamma}]$  as well as  $\Gamma \models \ell_{\Delta}^x[I_2] \vee \ell_{\Delta}^x[E_{\Gamma}] \vee \neg \ell_{\Delta}^x[l'_{\Gamma}]$ . Now we apply  $\tau^{\ell_{\Delta}}$  and by Lemma 4.11 get that:

$$\stackrel{(\circ)}{\Gamma \models \ell_{\Delta}^x[I_1\sigma] \vee \ell_{\Delta}^x[D_{\Gamma}\sigma] \vee \ell_{\Delta}^x[l_{\Gamma}\sigma]}$$

$$\stackrel{(*)}{\Gamma \models \ell_{\Delta}^x[I_2\sigma] \vee \ell_{\Delta}^x[E_{\Gamma}\sigma] \vee \neg \ell_{\Delta}^x[l'_{\Gamma}\sigma]}$$

As  $l_{\Gamma}\sigma \equiv l'_{\Gamma}\sigma$ , we also have that  $\ell_{\Delta}^x[l_{\Gamma}\sigma] = \ell_{\Delta}^x[l'_{\Gamma}\sigma]$ . We proceed by a case distinction on the color of the resolved literal to show that in each case, we have that  $\Gamma \models \ell_{\Delta}^x[\text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\iota, \bar{I})] \vee \ell_{\Delta}^x[C_{\Gamma}]$ , which by Lemma 4.5 suffices for the result.

1. Suppose that  $l$  is  $\Gamma$ -colored. Then  $l_{\Gamma} = l$  and  $l'_{\Gamma} = l$ , and we can perform a resolution step on  $(\circ)$  and  $(*)$  to obtain that  $\Gamma \models$

- $\ell_\Delta^x[I_1\sigma] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[I_2\sigma] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[D_\Gamma\sigma] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[E_\Gamma\sigma]$ . This however is nothing else than  $\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\iota, \bar{I})] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[C_\Gamma]$ .
2. Suppose that  $l$  is  $\Delta$ -colored. Then  $(\circ)$  and  $(*)$  reduce to  $\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta^x[I_1\sigma] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[D_\Gamma\sigma]$  and  $\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta^x[I_2\sigma] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[E_\Gamma\sigma]$  respectively, which clearly implies that  $\Gamma \models (\ell_\Delta^x[I_1\sigma] \wedge \ell_\Delta^x[I_2\sigma]) \vee \ell_\Delta^x[D_\Gamma\sigma] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[E_\Gamma\sigma]$ . This is turn is however just the unfolding of the definition of  $\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\iota, \bar{I})] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[C_\Gamma]$ .
  3. Suppose that  $l$  is grey. Then  $l_\Gamma = l$  and  $l'_\Gamma = l$ . Suppose that for a model  $M$  of  $\Gamma$  that  $M \not\models \ell_\Delta^x[E_\Gamma\sigma]$  and  $M \not\models \ell_\Delta^x[D_\Gamma\sigma]$ . Then as  $\ell_\Delta^x[l_\Gamma\sigma] = \ell_\Delta^x[l'_\Gamma\sigma]$ , by  $(\circ)$  and  $(*)$ , depending on the truth value of  $\ell_\Delta^x[l_\Gamma\sigma]$  in  $M$ , we have that either  $M \models \ell_\Delta^x[l_\Gamma\sigma] \wedge \ell_\Delta^x[I_2\sigma]$  or  $M \models \neg \ell_\Delta^x[l'_\Gamma\sigma] \wedge \ell_\Delta^x[I_1\sigma]$  holds. Hence altogether we obtain that  $\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta^x[D_\Gamma\sigma] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[E_\Gamma\sigma] \vee (\ell_\Delta^x[l_\Gamma\sigma] \wedge \ell_\Delta^x[I_2\sigma]) \vee (\neg \ell_\Delta^x[l'_\Gamma\sigma] \wedge \ell_\Delta^x[I_1\sigma])$ . But this is equivalent to  $\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\iota, \bar{I})] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[C_\Gamma]$ .

**Factorisation.** Suppose the clause  $C$  is the result of a factorisation inference  $\iota$  of  $C_1 : l \vee l' \vee D$  with  $\sigma = \text{mgu}(\iota)$ .

By Lemma 4.5, the induction hypothesis gives  $\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta^x[I_1] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[l_\Gamma] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[l'_\Gamma] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[D_\Gamma]$ . Now we apply  $\tau^{\ell_\Delta}$  and by Lemma 4.11, obtain that  $\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta^x[I_1\sigma] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[l_\Gamma\sigma] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[l'_\Gamma\sigma] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[D_\Gamma\sigma]$ . As however  $l\sigma \equiv l'\sigma$ , also  $\ell[l\sigma] = \ell[l'\sigma]$ , so we can apply a factorisation step and obtain that  $\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta^x[I_1\sigma] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[l_\Gamma\sigma] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[D_\Gamma\sigma]$ , which by Lemma 4.5 is nothing else than  $\Gamma \models \text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\iota, \bar{I}) \vee \ell_\Delta^x[C_\Gamma]$ .

**Paramodulation.** Suppose the clause  $C$  is the result of a paramodulation inference  $\iota$  of  $C_1 : s = t \vee D$  and  $C_2 : E[r]_p$  with  $\sigma = \text{mgu}(\iota)$ .

By the induction hypothesis and Lemma 4.5, we obtain the following:

$$\begin{aligned} & \stackrel{(\circ)}{\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta^x[I_1] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[D_\Gamma] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[s] = \ell_\Delta^x[t]} \\ & \stackrel{(*)}{\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta^x[I_2] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[(E[r]_p)_\Gamma]} \end{aligned}$$

Suppose now that for a model  $M$  of  $\Gamma$  and an assignment  $\alpha$  of the free variables of  $\ell_\Delta^x[s]$  and  $\ell_\Delta^x[t]$  that  $M_\alpha \models \ell_\Delta^x[s] \neq \ell_\Delta^x[t]$ . Then we get by  $(\circ)$  that  $M_\alpha \models \ell_\Delta^x[I_1] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[D_\Gamma]$ , which by applying  $\tau^{\ell_\Delta}$  and Lemma 4.11 gives  $M_\alpha \models \ell_\Delta^x[I_1\sigma] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[D_\Gamma\sigma]$ . Note that  $M_\alpha \models \ell_\Delta^x[s\sigma] \neq \ell_\Delta^x[t\sigma] \wedge \ell_\Delta^x[I_1\sigma]$  suffices for  $M_\alpha \models \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\iota, \bar{I})]$  and  $M_\alpha \models \ell_\Delta^x[D_\Gamma\sigma]$  implies that  $M_\alpha \models \ell_\Delta^x[C_\Gamma]$ . Therefore we obtain that  $M_\alpha \models \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\iota, \bar{I})] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[C_\Gamma]$ .

Now suppose to the contrary that for a model  $M$  of  $\Gamma$  that for any assignment of free variables  $M \models \ell_\Delta^x[s] = \ell_\Delta^x[t]$ .

By applying  $\tau^{\ell_\Delta}$  and Lemma 4.11 we obtain from  $(*)$  that  $\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta^x[I_2\sigma] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[(E[r]_p)_\Gamma\sigma]$ . As however  $r\sigma \equiv s\sigma$ ,  $\ell_\Delta^x[r\sigma] \equiv \ell_\Delta^x[s\sigma]$ . Therefore we also have that  $\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta^x[I_2\sigma] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[(E[s]_p)_\Gamma\sigma]$ .

We proceed by a case distinction:

- Suppose that the position  $p$  in  $E[s]_p$  is not contained in a  $\Delta$ -term. Then  $\ell_\Delta^x[(E[s]_p)_\Gamma\sigma]$  and  $\ell_\Delta^x[(E[t]_p)_\Gamma\sigma]$  only differ at position  $p$ . As  $M \models \ell_\Delta^x[s] = \ell_\Delta^x[t]$ , we can apply  $\tau^{\ell_\Delta}$  and by Lemma 4.11 obtain that  $M \models \ell_\Delta^x[s\sigma] = \ell_\Delta^x[t\sigma]$ . Thus  $M \models \ell_\Delta^x[(E[s]_p)_\Gamma\sigma] \Leftrightarrow \ell_\Delta^x[(E[t]_p)_\Gamma\sigma]$  and consequently  $M \models \ell_\Delta^x[I_2\sigma] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[(E[t]_p)_\Gamma\sigma]$ . As furthermore  $\ell_\Delta^x[s\sigma] = \ell_\Delta^x[t\sigma] \wedge \ell_\Delta^x[I_2\sigma]$  entails  $\ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\iota, \bar{I})]$  and  $\ell_\Delta^x[(E[t]_p)_\Gamma\sigma]$  is sufficient for  $\ell_\Delta^x[C_\Gamma]$ , we have that  $M \models \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\iota, \bar{I})] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[C_\Gamma]$ .
- Suppose that the position  $p$  in  $E[s]_p$  is contained in a maximal  $\Delta$ -term  $h[s]$ . We distinguish further:
  - \* Suppose  $h[s]$  occurs more than once in  $I_2\sigma \vee E[s]_p\sigma$  and let  $\alpha$  be an arbitrary assignment to the variables  $\ell_\Delta^x[h[s]] = x_{h[s]}$  and  $\ell_\Delta^x[h[t]] = x_{h[t]}$ .  
 If  $M_\alpha \models \ell_\Delta^x[h[s]] \neq \ell_\Delta^x[h[t]]$ , then we have that  $M_\alpha \models \ell_\Delta^x[s] = \ell_\Delta^x[t] \wedge \ell_\Delta^x[h[s]] \neq \ell_\Delta^x[h[t]]$ , which implies that  $M_\alpha \models \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\iota, \bar{I})]$ .  
 Otherwise it holds that  $M_\alpha \models \ell_\Delta^x[h[s]] = \ell_\Delta^x[h[t]]$ . But then  $\ell_\Delta^x[(E[s]_p)_\Gamma\sigma]$  and  $\ell_\Delta^x[(E[t]_p)_\Gamma\sigma]$  differ in subterms which are equal in  $M_\alpha$ , so by a similar line of argument as in the preceding case, we can deduce that  $M \models \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\iota, \bar{I})] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[C]$ .
  - \* Suppose  $h[s]$  occurs exactly once in  $I_2\sigma \vee E[s]_p\sigma$ . Then the lifting variable  $x_{h[s]}$  occurs exactly once in  $\ell_\Delta^x[I_2\sigma] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[E[s]_p\sigma]$ . Note that from (\*) by applying  $\tau^{\ell_\Delta}$  and Lemma 4.11, we obtain that  $M \models \ell_\Delta^x[I_2\sigma] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[(E[s]_p)_\Gamma\sigma]$ . As  $x_{h[s]}$  occurs only once and free in this formula, it is implicitly universally quantified and we can instantiate it arbitrarily, in particular by  $x_{h[t]}$ . But thereby we get that  $M \models \ell_\Delta^x[I_2\sigma] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[(E[t]_p)_\Gamma\sigma]$ , which implies that  $\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\iota, \bar{I})] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[C_\Gamma]$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 4.14.** *Let  $\pi$  be a resolution refutation of  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  and  $C$  be a clause occurring in  $\pi$ . Then  $\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(C) \vee C]$ .*

*Proof.* We proceed by induction on the strengthening  $\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(C) \vee C_\Gamma]$ .

If  $C \in \Gamma \cup \Delta$ , then by Lemma 4.12 gives the result.

For the induction step, suppose the clause  $C$  is the result of an inference  $\iota$  using the clauses  $C_1, \dots, C_n$ . By induction hypothesis,  $\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(C_i) \vee (C_i)_\Gamma]$  for  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , hence by Lemma 4.13, we obtain that  $\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\iota, \bar{I}) \vee C_\Gamma]$ . This however is nothing else than  $\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(C) \vee C_\Gamma]$ .  $\square$

## 4.5 Symmetry of the extracted interpolants

The interpolant extraction procedure PI exhibits a convenient property which is termed *symmetry* in [DKPW10, Definition 3] and will be used to show that



results concerning  $\Gamma$  can easily be generalised to results for  $\Delta$ . We develop it starting from  $\text{PI}_{\text{init}}$  and  $\text{PI}_{\text{step}}$  in order to then state it for  $\text{PI}$ .

**Lemma 4.15.** *Let  $C$  be a clause in  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  and  $\hat{C}$  the same clause in  $\hat{\Gamma} \cup \hat{\Delta}$  such that  $\hat{\Gamma} = \Delta$  and  $\hat{\Delta} = \Gamma$ . Then  $\text{PI}_{\text{init}}(C) \Leftrightarrow \neg \text{PI}_{\text{init}}(\hat{C})$ .*

*Proof.*

$$\text{PI}_{\text{init}}(C) = \begin{cases} \top & \text{if } C \in \Delta \\ \perp & \text{if } C \in \Gamma \end{cases} = \begin{cases} \top & \text{if } \hat{C} \in \hat{\Gamma} \\ \perp & \text{if } \hat{C} \in \hat{\Delta} \end{cases} = \begin{cases} \neg \perp & \text{if } \hat{C} \in \hat{\Gamma} \\ \neg \top & \text{if } \hat{C} \in \hat{\Delta} \end{cases} = \neg \text{PI}_{\text{init}}(\hat{C})$$

□

**Lemma 4.16.** *Let  $\pi$  be a resolution refutation of  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  and  $\hat{\pi}$  be  $\pi$  with opposite coloring, i.e.  $\hat{\Gamma} = \Delta$  and  $\hat{\Delta} = \Gamma$ . If  $\iota$  is an inference of  $\pi$  using the clauses  $C_1, \dots, C_n$ , and  $I_1, \dots, I_n$  and  $\hat{I}_1, \dots, \hat{I}_n$  are formulas such that  $I_i \Leftrightarrow \neg \hat{I}_i$  for  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , then  $\text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\iota, I_1, \dots, I_n) \Leftrightarrow \text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\hat{\iota}, \hat{I}_1, \dots, \hat{I}_n)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\hat{\varphi}$  denote the clause/formula/literal/term in  $\hat{\pi}$  corresponding to the clause/formula/literal/term  $\varphi$  in  $\pi$ .

We distinguish cases based on the type of the inference  $\iota$ :

**Resolution.** Suppose that  $\iota$  is a resolution inference of  $C_1 : D \vee l$  and  $C_2 : E \vee \neg l'$  with  $\sigma = \text{mgu}(\iota)$ .

We distinguish the following cases:

1.  $l$  is  $\Gamma$ -colored. Then  $\hat{l}$  is  $\Delta$ -colored.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\iota, I_1, \dots, I_n) &= I_1\sigma \vee I_2\sigma \\ &\Leftrightarrow \neg(\neg I_1\sigma \wedge \neg I_2\sigma) \\ &\Leftrightarrow \neg(\hat{I}_1\sigma \wedge \hat{I}_2\sigma) \\ &= \neg \text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\hat{\iota}, \hat{I}_1, \hat{I}_2) \end{aligned}$$

2.  $l$  is  $\Delta$ -colored. This case can be argued analogously.

3.  $l$  is grey. Then  $\hat{l}$  is grey. Note that  $l\sigma \equiv l'\sigma$  (\*).

$$\begin{aligned} \text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\iota, I_1, \dots, I_n) &= [(l \wedge I_2) \vee (\neg l' \wedge I_1)]\sigma \\ &\stackrel{(*)}{\Leftrightarrow} [(\neg l \vee I_2) \wedge (l' \vee I_1)]\sigma \\ &\Leftrightarrow \neg[(l \wedge \neg I_2) \vee (\neg l' \wedge \neg I_1)]\sigma \\ &= \neg[(\hat{l} \wedge \neg I_2) \vee (\neg \hat{l}' \wedge \neg I_1)]\sigma \\ &\Leftrightarrow \neg[(\hat{l} \wedge \hat{I}_2) \vee (\neg \hat{l}' \wedge \hat{I}_1)]\sigma \\ &= \neg \text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\hat{\iota}, \hat{I}_1, \dots, \hat{I}_n) \end{aligned}$$

**Factorisation.** Suppose that  $\iota$  is a factorisation inference of  $C_1 : l \vee l' \vee D$  with  $\sigma = \text{mgu}(\iota)$ . Then  $\text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\iota, I_1) = I_1\sigma \Leftrightarrow \neg \hat{I}_1\sigma = \neg \text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\hat{\iota}, \hat{I}_1)$ .

**Paramodulation.** Suppose that  $\iota$  is a paramodulation inference of  $C_1 : s = t \vee D$  and  $C_2 : E[r]$  with  $\sigma = \text{mgu}(\iota)$ .

We proceed by a case distinction:

1.  $r$  occurs in a maximal  $\Delta$ -term  $h[r]$  in  $E[r]$  and  $h[r]$  occurs more than once in  $I_2 \vee E[r]$ . Then  $\hat{r}$  occurs in a maximal  $\Gamma$ -term  $\hat{h}[r]$  in  $\hat{E}[r]$  and  $\hat{h}[r]$  occurs more than once in  $\hat{E}[r] \vee \text{PI}(\hat{E}[r])$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\iota, I_1, I_2) &= [(s = t \wedge I_2) \vee (s \neq t \wedge I_1)]\sigma \vee (s = t \wedge h[s] \neq h[t])\sigma \\ &\Leftrightarrow [(s = t \wedge \neg \hat{I}_2) \vee (s \neq t \wedge \neg \hat{I}_1)]\sigma \vee (s = t \wedge h[s] \neq h[t])\sigma \\ &\Leftrightarrow \neg[(s \neq t \vee \hat{I}_2) \wedge (s = t \vee \hat{I}_1)]\sigma \wedge \neg(s \neq t \vee h[s] = h[t])\sigma \\ &\Leftrightarrow \neg[(s = t \wedge \hat{I}_2) \vee (s \neq t \wedge \hat{I}_1)]\sigma \wedge \neg(s \neq t \vee h[s] = h[t])\sigma \\ &= \neg \text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\hat{\iota}, \hat{I}_1, \hat{I}_2) \end{aligned}$$

2.  $r$  occurs in a maximal  $\Gamma$ -term  $h[r]$  in  $E[r]$  and  $h[r]$  occurs more than once in  $I_2 \vee E[r]$ . This case can be argued analogously.
3. Otherwise:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\iota, I_1, I_2) &= [(s = t \wedge I_2) \vee (s \neq t \wedge I_1)]\sigma \\ &\Leftrightarrow [(s = t \wedge \neg \hat{I}_2) \vee (s \neq t \wedge \neg \hat{I}_1)]\sigma \\ &\Leftrightarrow \neg[(s \neq t \vee \hat{I}_2) \wedge (s = t \vee \hat{I}_1)]\sigma \\ &\Leftrightarrow \neg[(s = t \wedge \hat{I}_2) \vee (s \neq t \wedge \hat{I}_1)]\sigma \\ &= \neg \text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\hat{\iota}, \hat{I}_1, \hat{I}_2) \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

**Lemma 4.17.** *Let  $\pi$  be a resolution refutation of  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  and  $\hat{\pi}$  be  $\pi$  with  $\hat{\Gamma} = \Delta$  and  $\hat{\Delta} = \Gamma$ . Then for a clause  $C$  and its corresponding clause  $\hat{C}$  in  $\hat{\pi}$ ,  $\text{PI}(C) \Leftrightarrow \neg \text{PI}(\hat{C})$ .*

*Proof.* We prove this lemma by induction.

For  $C \in \Gamma \cup \Delta$ , we obtain the result by Lemma 4.15.

For the induction step, suppose that the clause  $C$  is the result of an inference  $\iota$  of the clauses  $C_1, \dots, C_n$ . Then by the induction hypothesis, we obtain that  $\text{PI}(C_i) \Leftrightarrow \neg \text{PI}(\hat{C}_i)$  for  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . Hence we can apply Lemma 4.16 and get that  $\text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\iota, \text{PI}(C_1), \dots, \text{PI}(C_n)) \Leftrightarrow \neg \text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\hat{\iota}, \text{PI}(\hat{C}_1), \dots, \text{PI}(\hat{C}_n))$ . But this is nothing else than  $\text{PI}(C) \Leftrightarrow \neg \text{PI}(\hat{C})$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 4.18.** *Let  $\pi$  be a resolution refutation of  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$ . Then  $\Delta \models \ell_{\Gamma}^x[\neg \text{PI}(C) \vee C]$  for  $C$  in  $\pi$ .*

*Proof.* Form  $\hat{\pi}$  from  $\pi$  using  $\hat{\Gamma} = \Delta$  and  $\hat{\Delta} = \Gamma$  as initial clause sets. By Lemma 4.14, it holds that  $\hat{\Gamma} \models \ell_{\hat{\Delta}}^x [\text{PI}(\hat{C}) \vee \hat{C}]$  for  $\hat{C}$  in  $\hat{\pi}$  and by Lemma 4.17, we obtain that  $\hat{\Gamma} \models \ell_{\hat{\Delta}}^x [\neg \text{PI}(C) \vee \hat{C}]$  for the clause  $C$  in  $\pi$  corresponding to  $\hat{C}$  in  $\hat{\pi}$ . This however is nothing else than  $\Delta \models \ell_{\Gamma}^x [\neg \text{PI}(C) \vee C]$ .  $\square$

## 4.6 Propositional and one-sided interpolants

We now show that the results presented in section 4.4 and 4.5 already give propositional interpolants in the sense that besides possibly containing colored terms, they are proper interpolants. Note that this coincides with the notion of “relational interpolant” as given in [Hua95] and is defined formally in our notation in A.1.

**Corollary 4.19.** *Let  $\pi$  be a resolution refutation of  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$ . Then  $\text{PI}(\pi)$  is a propositional interpolant, i.e. it holds that:*

1.  $\Gamma \models \text{PI}(\pi)$
2.  $\Delta \models \neg \text{PI}(\pi)$
3.  $\text{PS}(\text{PI}(\pi)) \subseteq \text{PS}(\Gamma) \cap \text{PS}(\Delta)$ .

*Proof.* By the definition of  $\text{PI}$ ,  $\text{PI}(\pi)$  denotes  $\text{PI}(\square)$ , where  $\square$  is the empty clause derived in  $\text{PI}$ . By Lemma 4.14, we get that  $\Gamma \models \ell_{\Delta}^x [\text{PI}(\pi)]$ . As the lifting replaces terms by variables which are then implicitly universally quantified,  $\text{PI}(\pi)$  is an instance of  $\ell_{\Delta}^x [\text{PI}(\pi)]$ . Therefore  $\Gamma \models \text{PI}(\pi)$ .

By Corollary 4.18,  $\Delta \models \neg \ell_{\Gamma}^y [\text{PI}(\pi)]$ , thus by a similar argument as above,  $\Delta \models \neg \text{PI}(\pi)$ .

Finally, by the construction of  $\text{PI}$ ,  $\text{PI}(\pi)$  is solely comprised of grey predicate symbols.  $\square$

From Lemma 4.14, we can also easily derive a result on a restricted notion of interpolation which we refer to as one-sided interpolants.

**Definition 4.20.** Let  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  be sets of first-order formulas. A *one-sided interpolant* of  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  is a first-order formula  $I$  such that

1.  $\Gamma \models I$
2.  $\Delta \models \neg I$
3.  $\text{L}(I) \subseteq \text{L}(\Gamma)$   $\Delta$

Note that if  $I$  is a one-sided interpolant for  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  and additionally  $\text{L}(I) \subseteq \text{L}(\Delta)$  holds, then  $I$  is an interpolant for  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$ .

**Proposition 4.21.** *Let  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  be sets of first-order formulas such that  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  is unsatisfiable. Then there is a one-sided interpolant of  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  which is a  $\Pi_1$  formula.*

*Proof.* Let  $\pi$  be a resolution refutation of  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$ . By Lemma 4.14, we have that  $\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(\pi)]$ , or equivalently  $\Gamma \models \forall x_{t_1} \dots \forall x_{t_n} \text{PI}(\pi)$ , where  $x_{t_1}, \dots, x_{t_n}$  are the  $\Delta$ -lifting variables occurring in  $\text{PI}(\pi)$ .

By Corollary 4.19, we get that  $\Delta \models \neg \text{PI}(\pi)$ . This however provides witness terms for the formula  $\exists x_{t_1} \dots \exists x_{t_n} \neg \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(\pi)]$ , hence  $\Delta \models \exists x_{t_1} \dots \exists x_{t_n} \neg \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(\pi)]$ . Now we pull the quantifiers inwards to obtain that  $\Delta \models \neg \forall x_{t_1} \dots \forall x_{t_n} \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(\pi)]$ .

Clearly  $\forall x_{t_1} \dots \forall x_{t_n} \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(\pi)]$  is devoid of  $\Delta$ -terms and hence a one-sided interpolant, which is a  $\Pi_1$  formula.  $\square$

## 4.7 Quantifying over lifting variables

As we have already seen in Corollary 4.19 that  $\text{PI}(\pi)$  forms a propositional interpolant, it remains to lift all colored terms and quantify over the resulting lifting variables in a viable order.

**Lemma 4.22.** *For a formula or term  $\varphi$ ,  $\ell_\Gamma^y[\ell_\Delta^x[\varphi]] = \ell_\Delta^x[\ell_\Gamma^y[\varphi]]$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\varphi$  be a term which contains a colored term which in turn contains a term of different color. Suppose without loss of generality that it is a  $\Gamma$ -term which contains a maximal  $\Delta$ -term  $t$  at position  $p$ . Then  $\ell_\Delta^x[\ell_\Gamma^y[\varphi]] = \ell_\Delta^x[y_\varphi] = y_\varphi$ .

On the other hand  $\ell_\Gamma^y[\ell_\Delta^x[\varphi]] = \ell_\Gamma^y[\psi]$  such that  $\psi$  is equal to  $\varphi$  besides having  $x_t$  at position  $p$ . But  $\ell_\Gamma^y[\psi] = y_{\text{unfold-lift}(\psi)} = y_\varphi$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 4.23.** *Let  $\pi$  be a resolution refutation of  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  and  $t_1, \dots, t_n$  be an arrangement of the maximal colored terms in  $\text{PI}(\pi)$  according to the subterm order, i.e. if  $t_i$  is a subterm of  $t_j$ , then  $i < j$ . Then  $Q_1 z_{t_1} \dots Q_n z_{t_n} \ell_\Gamma^y[\ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(\pi)]]$ , where  $Q_i$  is  $\forall$  ( $\exists$ ) if  $z_{t_i}$  replaces a  $\Delta$  ( $\Gamma$ )-term, is an interpolant for  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$ .*

*Proof.* By Lemma 4.14,  $\Gamma \models \forall x_{s_1} \dots \forall x_{s_m} \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(\pi)]$ , where  $s_1, \dots, s_m$  are the maximal colored  $\Delta$ -terms in  $\text{PI}(\pi)$ .

A term in  $\ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(\pi)]$  is either  $x_{s_i}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq m$ , a grey term or a  $\Gamma$ -terms. Let  $t$  be a maximal  $\Gamma$ -term in  $\text{PI}(\pi)$  and  $r_1, \dots, r_k$  the maximal  $\Delta$ -terms in  $t$ . Then in  $\ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(\pi)]$ , the terms  $r_1, \dots, r_k$  are replaced by  $x_{r_1}, \dots, x_{r_k}$  respectively. Note that as all of  $r_1, \dots, r_k$  are subterms of  $t$ , all of  $x_{r_1}, \dots, x_{r_k}$  precede  $y_t$  in the arrangement of the lifting variables.

In  $\ell_\Gamma^y[\ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(\pi)]]$ ,  $t$  is lifted by  $y_t$ , which is existentially quantified. Hence  $t$  is a witness for  $y_j$  as due to the quantifier ordering, it is bound in the scope of the quantification of the lifting variables  $x_{r_1}, \dots, x_{r_k}$ . Therefore  $\Gamma \models Q_1 z_{t_1} \dots Q_n z_{t_n} \ell_\Gamma^y[\ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(\pi)]]$ .

By Corollary 4.18  $\Delta \models \forall y_{u_1} \dots \forall y_{u_{k'}} \neg \ell_\Gamma^y[\text{PI}(\pi)]$ , where  $u_1, \dots, u_{k'}$  are the maximal colored  $\Gamma$ -terms in  $\text{PI}(\pi)$ .

By a similar line of argumentation as above, we can replace the maximal  $\Delta$ -terms by lifting variables which are then existentially quantified and arrive at  $\Delta \models \overline{Q}_1 z_{t_1} \dots \overline{Q}_n z_{t_n} \neg \ell_\Delta^x[\ell_\Gamma^y[\text{PI}(\pi)]]$  where  $\overline{Q}_i = \exists$  ( $\forall$ ) if  $Q_i = \forall$  ( $\exists$ ). Therefore also  $\Delta \models \neg Q_1 z_{t_1} \dots Q_n z_{t_n} \ell_\Delta^x[\ell_\Gamma^y[\text{PI}(\pi)]]$  and finally by Lemma 4.22, we obtain that  $\Delta \models \neg Q_1 z_{t_1} \dots Q_n z_{t_n} \ell_\Gamma^y[\ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(\pi)]]$ .

As it is now easy to see that  $Q_1 z_{t_1} \dots Q_n z_{t_n} \ell_\Gamma^y[\ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(\pi)]]$  contains no colored symbol, it is an interpolant.  $\square$

*Remark.* In this proof, we order the lifting variables in the interpolant according to the subterm relation of the terms they represent. This differs from the proof in [Hua95], where the ordering is based on the length of these terms. The proof of the theorem above however shows that both of these approaches are equally valid, but clearly the subterm-based ordering in general allows for more permutations than the length-based ordering.  $\triangle$

We conclude by presenting the execution of the algorithm on an example:

**Example 4.24.** Let  $\Gamma = \{G(x, y) \vee L(x, y) \vee x = y, \neg G(v, f(v)), \neg Z(w) \vee \neg Z(f(w))\}$  and  $\Delta = \{Z(d), \neg Z(z) \vee \neg L(z, u)\}$ . Hence  $L(\Gamma) \cap L(\Delta) = \{Z, L\}$ ,  $L(\Gamma) \setminus L(\Delta) = \{G, f\}$  and  $L(\Delta) \setminus L(\Gamma) = \{d\}$ .

We use the following resolution refutation  $\pi$  for the extraction of the interpolant:

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{G(x, y) \vee L(x, y) \vee x = y \quad \neg Z(z) \vee \neg L(z, u)}{G(x, y) \vee x = y \vee \neg Z(x)} \text{res}_{z \mapsto x} \quad \frac{\neg Z(w) \vee \neg Z(f(w)) \quad Z(d)}{\neg Z(f(d))} \text{par}_{w \mapsto f(d)} \\
\frac{\frac{G(x, f(d)) \vee \neg Z(x) \vee \neg Z(x)}{G(x, f(d)) \vee \neg Z(x)} \text{fac}_{\text{id}} \quad \neg G(v, f(v))}{\neg Z(d)} \text{res}_{v \mapsto d, x \mapsto d} \\
\frac{Z(d) \quad \neg Z(d)}{\square} \text{res}_{\text{id}}
\end{array}$$

In the following tree, we show the propositional interpolant  $\text{PI}(C)$  for the corresponding clauses  $C$  (in simplified form):

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{\frac{\frac{\perp}{L(x, y)} \quad \top}{(x = f(d) \wedge \neg Z(f(d))) \vee (x \neq f(d) \wedge L(x, f(d)))} \quad \frac{\frac{\perp}{\neg Z(d)} \quad \top}{(d = f(d) \wedge \neg Z(f(d))) \vee (d \neq f(d) \wedge L(d, f(d)))} \quad \perp}{\neg Z(d) \vee ((d = f(d) \wedge \neg Z(f(d))) \vee (d \neq f(d) \wedge L(d, f(d))))} \top
\end{array}$$

Hence

$$\text{PI}(\pi) = \neg Z(d) \vee (d = f(d) \wedge \neg Z(f(d))) \vee (d \neq f(d) \wedge L(d, f(d)))$$

and lifting and quantification gives the final interpolant

$$\forall x_d \exists y_{f(d)} (\neg Z(x_d) \vee (x_d = y_{f(d)} \wedge \neg Z(y_{f(d)})) \vee (x_d \neq y_{f(d)} \wedge L(x_d, y_{f(d)}))).$$

$\triangle$

## Interpolant extraction from resolution proofs in one phase

In contrast to the approach described in chapter 4, where propositional interpolants are extracted first and colored terms lifted just in a second, separate phase, we now present a method which is based on the former but merges the two phases.

The motivation for the separation in two phases lies in the fact that just after the formation of the propositional interpolant, all terms and their logical relation can be known. This however neglects the fact that proofs are frequently structured in a way such that the occurrence of certain symbols and variables are restricted to certain areas of the proof. By lifting these and prefixing the entire interpolant with their respective quantifier, the resulting formula is not optimal in the sense that the quantifier scope can be minimised.

Consider the following example:

**Example 5.1.** Let  $\Gamma = \{P(x) \vee Q(y)\}$  and  $\Delta = \{\neg P(a), \neg Q(a)\}$ . We consider the following refutation of  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$ , which we annotate by the interpolation extraction by appending  $\text{PI}(C)$  to each clause  $C$ , separated by “|”. For the sake of brevity, we sometimes give simplified by logically equivalent versions of  $\text{PI}(C)$ . This notational convention will be used throughout this thesis for examples of a similar form.

$$\frac{\frac{P(x) \vee Q(y) \mid \perp \quad \neg P(a) \mid \top}{Q(y) \mid P(a)} \quad \neg Q(a) \mid \top}{\Box \mid Q(a) \vee P(a)}$$

Lifting and quantification of this propositional interpolant according to Theorem 4.23 gives the interpolant  $\forall x_a(Q(x_a) \vee P(x_a))$ . Note however that the more general formula  $(\forall x_a Q(x_a)) \vee (\forall x_a P(x_a))$  is an interpolant as well, but can not be constructed by this method. Consider yet that  $\Delta$  entails the

negated interpolant, so by generalising the interpolant, the formula entailed by  $\Delta$  becomes more specialised.  $\triangle$

## 5.1 Interpolant extraction with simultaneous lifting

We now define the lifted interpolant LI. Note that the structure of the resulting formula coincides the ones from PI as defined in Definition 4.3 except for quantifiers and, of course, the colored terms.

**Definition 5.2** (Incrementally lifted interpolant LI). Let  $\pi$  be a resolution refutation of  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$ . We define  $\text{LI}(\pi)$  to be  $\text{LI}(\square)$ , where  $\square$  is the empty clause derived in  $\pi$ .

Let  $C$  be a clause in  $\pi$ . We define the intermediary formula  $\text{LI}^\bullet(C)$  as follows:

Base case. If  $C \in \Gamma \cup \Delta$ ,  $\text{LI}^\bullet(C) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{PI}_{\text{init}}(C)$ .

Induction step. If  $C$  is the result of an inference  $\iota$  using the clauses  $\bar{C}$ , then  $\text{LI}^\bullet(C) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\iota, \text{LI}(C_1), \dots, \text{LI}(C_n))$ .

$\text{LI}(C)$  is built from  $\text{LI}^\bullet(C)$  according to the following lifting procedure:

1. Lift all maximal colored occurrences of a term  $t$  in  $\text{LI}^\bullet(C)$  for which at least one of the following conditions, referred to as *lifting conditions*, applies:
  - The term  $t$  contains some variable  $x$  such that  $x$  does not occur in  $C$ .
  - The term  $t$  is ground and  $C$  does not contain  $t$ .

Denote the resulting formula by  $\ell_{\text{part}}(\text{LI}^\bullet(C))$ .

2. Let  $\ell_{\text{part}}^*(\text{LI}^\bullet(C))$  be  $\ell_{\text{part}}(\text{LI}^\bullet(C))$  where every lifting variable  $z_t$ , which occurs free, is substituted by a fresh lifting variable  $z'_t$ .<sup>1</sup>
3. Let  $X$  ( $Y$ ) be the set of  $\Delta$ -( $\Gamma$ -)lifting variables which occur free in  $\ell_{\text{part}}^*(\text{LI}^\bullet(C))$ . Form an arrangement  $Q(C)$  of the elements of  $\{\forall x_t \mid x_t \in X\} \cup \{\exists y_t \mid y_t \in Y\}$  such that if  $s$  and  $r$  are terms such that  $s$  is a subterm of  $r$ , then  $z_s$  precedes  $z_r$ . Finally, let  $\text{LI}(C) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} Q(C)\ell_{\text{part}}^*(\text{LI}^\bullet(C))$ .  $\triangle$

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<sup>1</sup>See Example 5.5 for an illustration.



## 5.2 Main lemma

Note that the lifting conditions ensure that only terms are lifted, which do not exhibit a direct logical relation with any term in the remaining clause. More precisely, they do not influence the subsequent resolution derivation: If a variable  $x$  occurs in  $\text{LI}(C)$  but not in  $C$ , then as all clauses in a resolution refutation are pairwise variable-disjoint, the variable  $x$  does not occur in any other clause. For ground terms  $r$  however which occur in  $\text{LI}(C)$  but not in  $C$ , it is possible for them to cooccur in a subsequent clause. Let  $p$  be the occurrence of  $r$  in  $\text{LI}(C)$  and  $q$  the occurrence of  $r$  in a successor-clause of  $C$ . Then due to the fact that  $p$  is not used in any unification,  $q$  must be created or originate from other occurrences of the same function and/or constant symbols. Note that the lifting conditions ensure that for these, the order of the quantifiers of their respective lifting variables is established in a fashion appropriate to ensuring the logical validity of the interpolant, but despite the syntactic equality between  $p$  and  $q$ , there is no logical relation between them.

We now show more formally that the lifting conditions ensure that if a term contains another term, the subterm is not lifted before the superterm:

**Lemma 5.3.** *Let  $C$  be a clause of a resolution refutation such that  $\ell_\Delta[\text{LI}^\bullet(C)]$  contains a maximal colored  $\Gamma$ -term  $t$  which is lifted in  $\ell_\Delta[\text{LI}(C)]$ . Suppose furthermore that  $t$  contains a  $\Delta$ -lifting variable  $x_s$ . Then  $x_s$  occurs free as a subterm of  $t$  in  $\ell_\Delta[\text{LI}^\bullet(C)]$ .*

*Proof.* By the construction of  $\text{LI}$ , the lemma is violated only if the term  $s$  or a respective predecessor is lifted and bound due to fulfilling one of the lifting conditions.

For the sake of contradiction suppose that this is the case in the inference creating the clause  $C'$ . Let  $s'$  and  $t'$  be the respective predecessors of  $s$  and  $t$  in  $C'$ .

- Suppose that  $s'$  is lifted due to containing a variable which does not occur in  $C'$ . Then as  $s'$  is a subterm of  $t'$ ,  $t'$  contains this variable as well and therefore is lifted in  $\text{LI}(C')$ , contradicting the assumption.
- Suppose that  $s'$  is lifted due to being a ground term which does not occur in  $C'$ . Then  $t'$  does not occur in  $C'$  either as any occurrence of  $t'$  contains  $s'$ . Hence  $t'$  is lifted in  $\text{LI}(C')$ , contradicting the assumption.  $\square$

Now, we proceed to the main lemma:

**Lemma 5.4.** *Let  $C$  be a clause in a resolution refutation of  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$ . Then  $\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta[\text{LI}(C)] \vee \ell_\Delta[C]$*

*Proof.* We show the strengthening  $\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta[\text{LI}(C)] \vee \ell_\Delta[C_\Gamma]^2$ .

As a first step, we prove by induction that  $\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta[\text{LI}^\bullet(C)] \vee \ell_\Delta[C_\Gamma]$ .

If  $C \in \Gamma \cup \Delta$ , then Lemma 4.12 shows that  $\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta[\text{PI}_{\text{init}}(C) \vee C_\Gamma]$ , which is the unfolded definition of  $\ell_\Delta[\text{LI}^\bullet(C) \vee C_\Gamma]$ .

For the induction step, suppose the clause  $C$  is the result of an inference  $\iota$  using the clauses  $C_1, \dots, C_n$ . By induction hypothesis,  $\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta[\text{PI}(C_i) \vee (C_i)_\Gamma]$  for  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , hence by Lemma 4.13, we obtain that  $\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta[\text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\iota, \bar{I}) \vee C_\Gamma]$ . This however is nothing else than  $\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta[\text{LI}^\bullet(C) \vee C_\Gamma]$ .

As we have now established that  $\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta[\text{LI}^\bullet(C)] \vee \ell_\Delta[C_\Gamma]$ , we show that also  $\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta[\text{LI}(C)] \vee \ell_\Delta[C_\Gamma]$  holds.

The difference between  $\ell_\Delta[\text{LI}^\bullet(C)]$  and  $\ell_\Delta[\text{LI}(C)]$  lies only in certain maximal colored terms which are lifted and the resulting lifting variable bound in  $\ell_\Delta[\text{LI}(C)]$ , hence it suffices to consider these. Let  $t$  be a colored term in  $\text{LI}^\bullet(C)$  at position  $p$  such that  $\text{LI}(C)|_p = \ell[t]$ . Then  $t$  is a maximal colored term.

If  $t$  is  $\Delta$ -colored, then  $\ell_\Delta[\text{LI}^\bullet(C)]|_p = \text{LI}(C)|_p = x_t$ . Note that as  $t$  occurs at  $p$  in  $\text{LI}^\bullet(C)$ ,  $x_t$  occurs free at  $\ell_\Delta[\text{LI}^\bullet(C)]|_p$ . The renaming of lifting variables in step 2 of the lifting procedure ensures that  $x_t$  is a fresh lifting variable and hence is not bound by quantifiers introduced to other occurrences of the term  $t$ , which would otherwise also be lifted by the same lifting variable and bound by the same quantifier<sup>3</sup>. Hence  $x_t$  is implicitly universally quantified and therefore entails that an explicit universal quantification in  $\text{LI}(C)$  is valid with an arbitrarily placed universal quantifier.

If otherwise  $t$  is a  $\Gamma$ -term, then  $\ell_\Delta[\text{LI}^\bullet(C)]|_p = \ell_\Delta[t]$ . Therefore  $\ell_\Delta[t]$  represents a witness term for the existentially quantified lifting variable  $y_t$  at  $\text{LI}(C)|_p$ . In general,  $\ell_\Delta[t]$  however contains  $\Delta$ -lifting variables, hence for  $\ell_\Delta[t]$  to be a valid witness term, these have to be bound such that the existential quantifier of  $y_t$  is in their scope. Note that occurrences of colored terms which are not maximal colored terms are not lifted in  $\text{LI}$ .

Let  $x_s$  be a  $\Delta$ -lifting variable which occurs in  $\ell_\Delta[t]$ . We show that  $y_t$  is quantified in the scope of the quantification of  $x_s$  by discussing the different possibilities for quantification of  $x_s$ :

- Clearly if  $s$  or a respective successor is never bound due to not occurring at a maximal colored position, it is implicitly universally quantified.
- If  $s$  or a respective successor does occur at a maximal colored position but does not satisfy any of the lifting conditions up to the stage where  $t$  is lifted, it is bound at some later stage of the interpolant extraction, but as for any successor  $C'$  of  $C$ ,  $\text{LI}(C)$  is contained in  $\text{LI}(C')$ , the scope of its quantifier encompasses the quantifier for  $y_t$ .

<sup>2</sup>Recall that  $D_\Phi$  denotes the clause created from the clause  $D$  by removing all literals which are not contained in  $L(\Phi)$ .

<sup>3</sup>See Example 5.5 for an illustration.

- In the case that  $s$  and  $t$  are lifted at the same stage of the interpolant extraction, by the definition of the quantifier prefix, the quantification of  $x_s$  precedes the quantification for  $x_t$  as  $s$  is a subterm of  $t$ .
- It is furthermore essential to see that neither  $s$  nor a respective predecessor is lifted in a previous step of the interpolant extraction, which is shown by Lemma 5.3.  $\square$

We now present an example which demonstrates that LI does produce formulas realising the idea presented in Example 5.1.

**Example 5.5.** Let  $\Gamma = \{P(u, v) \vee Q(u) \vee R(v)\}$  and  $\Delta = \{\neg P(w, z), \neg Q(a), \neg R(a)\}$ . We consider a resolution refutation of  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  combined with the interpolant extraction. In order to emphasise the lifting steps, we do not just write  $C \mid \text{LI}(C)$  in the derivation as usual for a clause  $C$  but  $C \mid \text{LI}^\bullet(C)$  above  $C \mid \text{LI}(C)$  without a separating line in case  $\text{LI}^\bullet(C)$  is different from  $\text{LI}(C)$ . The primed variables make the renaming of lifting variables in step 2 of the lifting procedure explicit.

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{P(u, v) \vee Q(u) \vee R(v) \mid \perp \quad \neg P(w, z) \mid \top}{Q(u) \vee R(v) \mid P(u, v)} \text{res}_{w \mapsto u, v \mapsto z} \quad \frac{\neg Q(a) \mid \top}{\neg Q(a) \mid \top} \text{res}_{u \mapsto a} \\
\frac{R(v) \mid Q(a) \vee P(a, v)}{R(v) \mid \forall x_a(Q(x_a) \vee P(x_a, v))} \quad \frac{\neg R(a) \mid \top}{\neg R(a) \mid \top} \text{res}_{v \mapsto a} \\
\frac{\square \mid R(a) \vee \forall x_a(Q(x_a) \vee P(x_a, a))}{\square \mid \forall x'_a(R(x'_a) \vee \forall x_a(Q(x_a) \vee P(x_a, x'_a)))}
\end{array}$$

Hence we obtain here a non-prenex interpolant which reflects the logical expressiveness of  $\Gamma$ , in contrast to the interpolant which is produced by the two phase approach described in chapter 4, which in fact is  $\forall x_a(R(x_a) \vee Q(x_a) \vee P(x_a, x_a))$ .

Note that without the renaming of the lifting variables, the result of the extraction would be  $\forall x_a(R(x_a) \vee \forall x_a(Q(x_a) \vee P(x_a, x_a)))$ . In order to emphasise the binding, we alpha-rename this formula to  $\forall x(R(x) \vee \forall y(Q(y) \vee P(y, y)))$ . This is not an interpolant, as this formula is not entailed by  $\Gamma$ :

Consider a model  $M$  of  $\Gamma$  with domain  $D_M = \{0, 1\}$  and an interpretation  $\mathcal{I}_M$  such that  $\mathcal{I}_M(R) = \{0\}$ ,  $\mathcal{I}_M(Q) = \emptyset$  and  $\mathcal{I}_M(P) = \{(0, 1), (1, 1)\}$ . Then clearly  $M \models P(u, v) \vee Q(y) \vee R(v)$  as depending on the value of  $v$ , either  $R(v)$  or  $P(u, v)$  holds. But at the same time  $M \not\models \forall x(R(x) \vee \forall y(Q(y) \vee P(y, y)))$  since the instantiation of the bound variables  $x$  to 1 and  $y$  to 0 results in a formula which does not hold in  $M$ .

$\triangle$

### 5.3 Towards an interpolant

In a similar fashion as in Lemma 4.17 for PI, we can also show a symmetry-property for LI:

**Lemma 5.6.** *Let  $\pi$  be a refutation of  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  and  $\hat{\pi}$  be  $\pi$  with  $\hat{\Gamma} = \Delta$  and  $\hat{\Delta} = \Gamma$ . Then for a clause  $C$  in  $\pi$  and its corresponding clause  $\hat{C}$  in  $\hat{\pi}$ ,  $\text{LI}(C) \Leftrightarrow \neg \text{LI}(\hat{C})$ .*

*Proof.* We proceed by induction to show that  $\text{LI}^\bullet(C) \Leftrightarrow \neg \text{LI}^\bullet(\hat{C})$ :

If  $C \in \Gamma \cup \Delta$ , we obtain the result by Lemma 4.15.

For the induction step, suppose that the clause  $C$  is the result of an inference  $\iota$  of the clauses  $\hat{C} = C_1, \dots, C_n$ . Then by the induction hypothesis,  $\text{LI}(C_i) \Leftrightarrow \neg \text{LI}(\hat{C}_i)$  for  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . Hence we can apply Lemma 4.16 to obtain that  $\text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\iota, \text{LI}(C_1), \dots, \text{LI}(C_n)) \Leftrightarrow \neg \text{PI}_{\text{step}}(\hat{\iota}, \text{LI}(\hat{C}_1), \dots, \text{LI}(\hat{C}_n))$ . But this is nothing else than  $\text{LI}^\bullet(C) \Leftrightarrow \neg \text{LI}^\bullet(\hat{C})$ .

We conclude by showing that  $\text{LI}^\bullet(C) \Leftrightarrow \neg \text{LI}^\bullet(\hat{C})$  implies that  $\text{LI}(C) \Leftrightarrow \neg \text{LI}(\hat{C})$ : Clearly the terms to be lifted in  $\text{LI}^\bullet(C)$  and  $\text{LI}^\bullet(\hat{C})$  are the same and differ only in their color. Even though this results in different lifting variables, that is of no relevance as all lifted variables are bound, which makes the formulas alpha-equivalent. Additionally, the quantifier type of any given lifting variable in  $Q(C)$  is dual to the respective one in  $Q(\hat{C})$ . Furthermore note that the subterm-relation is not affected by the coloring, so the ordering of the quantifiers in  $Q(C)$  and  $Q(\hat{C})$  is identical. Hence  $\text{LI}(C) \Leftrightarrow \neg \text{LI}(\hat{C})$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 5.7.** *Let  $C$  be a clause in a resolution refutation of  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$ . Then  $\Delta \models \neg \ell_\Gamma[\text{LI}(C)] \vee \ell_\Gamma[C]$ .*

*Proof.* Construct  $\hat{\pi}$  with  $\hat{\Gamma} = \Delta$  and  $\hat{\Delta} = \Gamma$ . Then by Lemma 5.4,  $\hat{\Gamma} \models \ell_{\hat{\Delta}}[\text{LI}(\hat{C})] \vee \ell_{\hat{\Delta}}[\hat{C}]$ , which by Lemma 5.6 is nothing else than  $\Delta \models \neg \ell_\Gamma[\text{LI}(C)] \vee \ell_\Gamma[C]$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 5.8.** *Let  $\pi$  be a resolution refutation of  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$ . Then  $\text{LI}(\pi)$  is an interpolant for  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$ .*

*Proof.* We obtain by Lemma 5.4 that  $\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta[\text{LI}(\pi)]$  and by Lemma 5.7 that  $\Delta \models \neg \ell_\Gamma[\text{LI}(\pi)]$ . As the empty clause derived in  $\pi$  trivially contains neither variables nor ground terms and as any colored term either contains variables or is ground, at least one lifting condition holds for any term in  $\text{LI}^\bullet(\pi)$  and hence all colored terms are lifted in  $\text{LI}(\pi)$ . Therefore  $\ell_\Delta[\text{LI}(\pi)] = \text{LI}(\pi)$  and  $\ell_\Gamma[\text{LI}(\pi)] = \text{LI}(\pi)$ .  $\square$

We finish this chapter by demonstrating the application of the interpolant extraction procedure LI on a larger example:

**Example 5.9.** Let  $\Gamma = \{R(f(v_1, v_6)), P(f(v_2, g(v_3, v_4))) \vee Q(g(v_3, b)), \neg S(b)\}$  and  $\Delta = \{S(v_8) \vee \neg P(v_9) \vee \neg R(v_5), \neg Q(g(a, v_7))\}$ . Hence  $L(\Gamma) \cap L(\Delta) = \{R, P, Q, S, g\}$ ,  $L(\Gamma) \setminus L(\Delta) = \{f, b\}$  and  $L(\Delta) \setminus L(\Gamma) = \{a\}$ . We can produce

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an interpolant for  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  using the following refutation and extraction in the same notation as Example 5.5. We emphasise liftings of terms justified by being a ground term not occurring in the clause by  $(\circ)$ , and those justified by occurrences of variables which do not occur in the clause by  $(*)$ .

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{P(f(v_2, g(v_3, v_4))) \vee Q(g(v_3, b)) \mid \perp \quad \neg Q(g(a, v_7)) \mid \top}{P(f(v_2, g(a, v_4))) \mid Q(g(a, b))} \text{res}_{v_3 \mapsto a, v_7 \mapsto b} \quad \frac{S(v_8) \vee \neg P(v_9) \vee \neg R(v_5) \mid \top \quad R(f(v_1, v_6)) \mid \perp}{S(v_8) \vee \neg P(v_9) \mid R(f(v_1, v_6))} \text{res}_{v_5 \mapsto f(v_1, v_6)} \\
(\circ)_1 \quad \frac{P(f(v_2, g(a, v_4))) \mid \exists y_b Q(g(a, y_b))}{S(v_8) \mid P(f(v_2, g(a, v_4))) \wedge \exists y_{f(v_1, v_6)} R(y_{f(v_1, v_6)}) \vee \neg P(f(v_2, g(a, v_4))) \wedge \exists y_b Q(g(a, y_b))} \quad \frac{S(v_8) \vee \neg P(v_9) \mid \exists y_{f(v_1, v_6)} R(y_{f(v_1, v_6)})}{S(v_8) \vee \neg P(v_9) \mid \exists y_{f(v_2, g(a, v_4))} R(y_{f(v_2, g(a, v_4))})} \text{res}_{v_9 \mapsto f(v_2, g(a, v_4))} \\
(\circ)(*)_3 \quad \frac{S(v_8) \mid \forall x_a \exists y_{f(v_2, g(a, v_4))} (P(y_{f(v_2, g(a, v_4))}) \wedge \exists y_{f(v_1, v_6)} R(y_{f(v_1, v_6)}) \vee \neg P(y_{f(v_2, g(a, v_4))}) \wedge \exists y_b Q(g(x_a, y_b))) \quad \neg S(b) \mid \top}{\square \mid S(b) \wedge \forall x_a \exists y_{f(v_2, g(a, v_4))} (P(y_{f(v_2, g(a, v_4))}) \wedge \exists y_{f(v_1, v_6)} R(y_{f(v_1, v_6)}) \vee \neg P(y_{f(v_2, g(a, v_4))}) \wedge \exists y_b Q(g(x_a, y_b)))} \text{res}_{v_8 \mapsto b} \\
(\circ)_4 \quad \square \mid \exists y'_b (S(y'_b) \wedge \forall x_a \exists y_{f(v_2, g(a, v_4))} (P(y_{f(v_2, g(a, v_4))}) \wedge \exists y_{f(v_1, v_6)} R(y_{f(v_1, v_6)}) \vee \neg P(y_{f(v_2, g(a, v_4))}) \wedge \exists y_b Q(g(x_a, y_b))))
\end{array}$$

$(\circ)_1$ : The maximal colored term  $b$  is lifted as it does not occur in the clause. On the other hand, the maximal colored term  $a$  can not be lifted due to the opposite reason.

$(*)_2$ : The maximal colored term  $f(v_1, v_6)$  contains the variables  $v_1$  and  $v_6$ , which are not present in the clause. Due to the variable-disjointness restriction on clauses, these variables do not occur in any subsequent clause.

$(\circ)(*)_3$ : Clearly, the term  $a$  is a subterm of  $f(v_2, g(a, v_4))$ , hence we must quantify  $x_a$  before  $y_{f(v_2, g(a, v_4))}$ .

$(\circ)_4$ : We encounter another occurrence of the maximal colored term  $b$  (cf.  $(\circ)_1$ ). The lifting conditions however ensure that different lifting variables ( $y_b$  and  $y'_b$  respectively) are justified.  $\triangle$

## The semantic perspective on interpolation

An interesting feature of the interpolant theorem is that it admits a proof, which is distinct from the proof-theoretic ones discussed in the foregoing chapters, as it is a purely model-theoretic. It is based on the joint consistency theorem by Robinson ([Rob56]), which we show to be equivalent to the interpolation theorem. The joint consistency theorem itself was originally presented as a proof of Beth's definability theorem, which is discussed in section 2.4.

### 6.1 Joint consistency

The joint consistency theorem is based on two notions, which we define now:

**Definition 6.1** (Consistency). A set of formulas  $\Gamma$  is consistent if it is not the case that  $\Gamma \vdash \perp$ .  $\triangle$

Note that in classical first-order logic, the notions of consistency and satisfiability coincide.

**Definition 6.2** (Separability). Let  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  be sets of first-order formulas. A formula  $A$  in the language  $L(\Gamma) \cap L(\Delta)$  is said to *separate*  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  if  $\Gamma \models A$  and  $\Delta \models \neg A$ .  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  are *separable* if there exists a formula in the language  $L(\Gamma) \cap L(\Delta)$  which separates  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  and *inseparable* otherwise.  $\triangle$

Note that for joint consistency, it is not necessary to require the original sets to be consistent as this is implied by separability:

**Lemma 6.3.** *Let  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  be inseparable sets of first-order formulas. Then  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  are each consistent.*

*Proof.* Suppose w.l.o.g. that  $\Gamma$  is inconsistent. Then  $\Gamma \models \perp$ , and as  $\Delta \models \top$ ,  $\perp$  separates  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$ .  $\square$

The joint consistency theorem shows that if there exists no formula in the language  $L(\Gamma) \cap L(\Delta)$  which separates  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$ , then there exists no formula in any language which separate  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  as then,  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  is consistent:

**Theorem 6.4** (Robinson's joint consistency theorem). *Let  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  be sets of first-order formulas. Then  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  is consistent if and only if  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  are inseparable.*

The following proof essentially follows [Hen63] and [CK90].

*Proof.* Suppose that  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  is consistent and let  $M$  be a model of it. Then clearly for every formula  $A$ , if  $\Gamma \models A$ , then  $M \models A$  as  $M \models \Gamma$ . But  $M \models \Delta$ , hence it can not be the case that  $\Delta \models \neg A$ .

For the other direction, suppose that  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  are inseparable. We proceed by iteratively constructing two maximal consistent sets of formulas  $T$  and  $T'$  such that  $\Gamma \subseteq T$  and  $\Delta \subseteq T'$  where  $T \cup T'$  is consistent in order to then derive a model of this union, thus establishing the consistency of  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$ .

Let  $C = \{c_0, c'_0, c_1, c'_1, \dots\}$  be a countably infinite set of fresh constant symbols. Let  $\mathcal{A}_0, \mathcal{A}_1, \dots$  be an enumeration of all sentences in the language  $L(\Gamma) \cup C$  and  $\mathcal{B}_0, \mathcal{B}_1, \dots$  an enumeration of all sentences in the language  $L(\Delta) \cup C$ .

Let  $T_0 = \Gamma$  and  $T'_0 = \Delta$ . We construct  $T_{i+1}$  from  $T_i$  by means of the following formation rules:

- (1) If  $T_i \cup \{\mathcal{A}_i\}$  and  $T'_i$  are separable, then  $T_{i+1} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} T_i$ .
- (2) Otherwise:
  - (2a) If  $\mathcal{A}_i$  is of the form  $\exists x A$ , then  $T_{i+1} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} T_i \cup \{\mathcal{A}_i, A[x/c_i]\}$ .
  - (2b) Otherwise  $T_{i+1} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} T_i \cup \{\mathcal{A}_i\}$ .

$T'_{i+1}$  is formed in a similar fashion:

- (1') If  $T'_i \cup \{\mathcal{B}_i\}$  and  $T_{i+1}$  are separable, then  $T'_{i+1} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} T'_i$ .
- (2') Otherwise:
  - (2'a) If  $\mathcal{B}_i$  is of the form  $\exists x A$ , then  $T'_{i+1} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} T'_i \cup \{\mathcal{B}_i, A[x/c'_i]\}$ .
  - (2'b) Otherwise  $T'_{i+1} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} T'_i \cup \{\mathcal{B}_i\}$ .

Now let  $T = \bigcup_{i \geq 0} T_i$  and  $T' = \bigcup_{i \geq 0} T'_i$ . We prove properties on  $T$  and  $T'$  which will be vital for the construction of a model of  $T \cup T'$ :

I.  $T_i$  and  $T'_i$  are inseparable.

$\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  are inseparable by assumption and clearly the construction of the subsequent elements of the sequence do not violate this invariant.



II.  $T_i$  and  $T'_i$  are consistent.

Immediate by I and Lemma 6.3.

III.  $T$  and  $T'$  are each maximal consistent with respect to  $L(\Gamma) \cup C$  and  $L(\Delta) \cup C$  respectively.

We show the result for  $T$ . By II,  $T$  is consistent. Suppose that for some  $i$ ,  $\mathcal{A}_i \notin T$  and  $\neg \mathcal{A}_i \notin T$ . Then by the construction of  $T$ , we can derive that  $T_i \cup \{\mathcal{A}_i\}$  and  $T'_i$  are separable. Hence also  $T \cup \{\mathcal{A}_i\}$  and  $T'$  are, i.e. there exists a formula  $B_1$  in the language  $L(T \cup \{\mathcal{A}_i\}) \cap L(T') = (L(\Gamma) \cap L(\Delta)) \cup C$  such that  $T \cup \{\mathcal{A}_i\} \models B_1$  and  $T' \models \neg B_1$ . By the deduction theorem, we also have that  $(\circ) T \models \mathcal{A}_i \supset B_1$ .

As we also assume that  $\neg \mathcal{A}_i \notin T$ , by a similar argument, there exists a formula  $B_2$  in the language  $(L(\Gamma) \cap L(\Delta)) \cup C$  such that  $(*) T \models \neg \mathcal{A}_i \supset B_2$  and  $T' \models \neg B_2$ .

Then however  $(\circ)$  and  $(*)$  entail that in any model, depending on whether  $\mathcal{A}_i$  holds in the model, at least one of  $B_1$  and  $B_2$  holds, i.e.  $T \models B_1 \vee B_2$ . But as neither  $B_1$  nor  $B_2$  hold in  $T'$ , we obtain that  $T' \models \neg(B_1 \vee B_2)$ , in effect establishing that  $B_1 \vee B_2$  separates  $T$  and  $T'$ , a contradiction to I.

IV.  $T \cap T'$  is maximal consistent with respect to  $(L(\Gamma) \cap L(\Delta)) \cup C$ .

By III, for every formula  $A$  in  $(L(\Gamma) \cap L(\Delta)) \cup C$  it holds that either  $A \in T$  or  $\neg A \in T$  as well as  $A \in T'$  or  $\neg A \in T'$ . As  $T$  and  $T'$  are inseparable, either  $A \in T$  and  $A \in T'$  or otherwise  $\neg A \in T$  and  $\neg A \in T'$ .

As  $T$  is consistent, let  $M$  be a model of  $T$ . Due to III, for each term  $t$  in  $L(\Gamma) \cup C$ ,  $\exists x (t = x) \in T$  and hence by 2, there is some  $c_i \in C$  such that  $t = c_i \in T$ . Therefore we can find a submodel of  $N$  of  $M$  which as  $M$  is in the language  $L(\Gamma) \cup C$  such that every domain element in  $N$  corresponds to a constant symbol in  $C$ . Models  $M'$  of  $T'$  allow by a similar reasoning for finding submodels  $N'$  of  $M'$ .

As by IV,  $T$  and  $T'$  agree on all formulas of  $(L(\Gamma) \cap L(\Delta)) \cup C$ , we are able to find an isomorphism between the reducts  $N$  and  $N'$  to their common language. Hence we may build a common model  $K$  based on  $N$  and extending it to  $L(\Delta)$  by copying the respective interpretation of  $N'$  with regard to the isomorphism. Thus as  $N \models T$  and  $N' \models T'$ ,  $K \models T \cup T'$ , which implies that  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  is consistent.  $\square$

## 6.2 Joint consistency and interpolation

Despite the fact that the proof given in the previous section is of a different nature than the ones given in the previous chapters, it is easy to see that it expresses an equivalent notion. To that end, let us recall the Interpolation Theorem 2.3 in the reverse formulation:

---

**Theorem 2.3** (Reverse Interpolation). *Let  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  be sets of first-order formulas such that  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  is unsatisfiable. Then there exists a reverse interpolant for  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$ .*

**Proposition 6.5.** *Theorem 6.4 and Theorem 2.3 are equivalent.*

*Proof.* It is easy to see that the notion of reverse interpolant and separating formulas coincide.  $\square$

# Interpolant extraction from resolution proofs due to Huang

This section essentially presents the original proof of [Hua95] in a modern format. It forms the base for our work in chapter 4 and 5, and we refer to these chapters for lemmas and definitions which also apply here. Section A.4 features a commentary on the original publication.

## A.1 Propositional interpolants

Let  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  be unsatisfiable and  $\pi$  be a proof of the empty clause from  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$ . Then PI is a function that returns a interpolant with respect to the current clause.

**Definition A.1** (Propositional interpolant). Let  $\pi$  be a resolution refutation of  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$ . A formula  $A$  is a *propositional interpolant* if

1.  $\Gamma \models A$
2.  $\Delta \models \neg A$
3.  $\text{PS}(A) \subseteq (\text{PS}(\Gamma) \cap \text{PS}(\Delta)) \cup \{\top, \perp\}$ .

For a clause  $C$  in  $\pi$ , a formula  $A_C$  is a *propositional interpolant relative to  $C$*  if

1.  $\Gamma \models A_C \vee C$
2.  $\Delta \models \neg A_C \vee C$
3.  $\text{PS}(A_C) \subseteq (\text{PS}(\Gamma) \cap \text{PS}(\Delta)) \cup \{\top, \perp\}$ .

The propositional interpolant for the empty clause derived in  $\pi$  is denoted by  $\text{PI}(\pi)$ .  $\triangle$

The third condition of a propositional interpolant will sometimes be referred to as *language restriction*. It is easy to see that the propositional interpolant relative to the empty clause of a resolution refutation is a propositional interpolant.

We refer to Definition 4.3 for the definition of PI.

**Proposition A.2.** *Let  $C$  be a clause of a resolution refutation of  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$ . Then  $\text{PI}(C)$  is a propositional interpolant with respect to  $C$ .*

*Proof.* Proof by induction on the number of rule applications including the following strengthenings:  $\Gamma \models \text{PI}(C) \vee C_\Gamma$  and  $\Delta \models \neg \text{PI}(C) \vee C_\Delta$ , where  $D_\Phi$  denotes the clause  $D$  with only the literals which are contained in  $L(\Phi)$ . They clearly imply conditions 1 and 2 of definition A.1.

Base case. Suppose no rules were applied. We distinguish two possible cases:

1.  $C \in \Gamma$ . Then  $\text{PI}(C) = \perp$ . Clearly  $\Gamma \models \perp \vee C_\Gamma$  as  $C_\Gamma = C \in \Gamma$ ,  $\Delta \models \neg \perp \vee C_\Delta$  and  $\perp$  satisfies the restriction on the language.
2.  $C \in \Delta$ . Then  $\text{PI}(C) = \top$ . Clearly  $\Gamma \models \top \vee C_\Gamma$ ,  $\Delta \models \neg \top \vee C_\Delta$  as  $C_\Delta = C \in \Delta$  and  $\top$  satisfies the restriction on the language.

Suppose the property holds for  $n$  rule applications. We show that it holds for  $n + 1$  applications by considering the last one:

Resolution. Suppose the last rule application is an instance of resolution. Then it is of the form:

$$\frac{C_1 : D \vee l \quad C_2 : E \vee \neg l'}{C : (D \vee E)\sigma} \quad l\sigma = l'\sigma$$

By the induction hypothesis, we can assume that:

$$\Gamma \models \text{PI}(C_1) \vee (D \vee l)_\Gamma$$

$$\Delta \models \neg \text{PI}(C_1) \vee (D \vee l)_\Delta$$

$$\Gamma \models \text{PI}(C_2) \vee (E \vee \neg l')_\Gamma$$

$$\Delta \models \neg \text{PI}(C_2) \vee (E \vee \neg l')_\Delta$$

We consider the respective cases from definition 4.2:

1.  $l$  is  $\Gamma$ -colored. Then  $\text{PI}(C) = [\text{PI}(C_1) \vee \text{PI}(C_2)]\sigma$ .

As  $\text{PS}(l) \in L(\Gamma)$ ,  $\Gamma \models (\text{PI}(C_1) \vee D_\Gamma \vee l)\sigma$  as well as  $\Gamma \models (\text{PI}(C_2) \vee E_\Gamma \vee \neg l')\sigma$ . By a resolution step, we get  $\Gamma \models (\text{PI}(C_1) \vee \text{PI}(C_2))\sigma \vee ((D \vee E)\sigma)_\Gamma$ .

Furthermore, as  $\text{PS}(l) \notin L(\Delta)$ ,  $\Delta \models (\neg \text{PI}(C_1) \vee D_\Delta)\sigma$  as well as  $\Delta \models (\neg \text{PI}(C_2) \vee E_\Delta)\sigma$ . Hence it certainly holds that  $\Delta \models (\neg \text{PI}(C_1) \vee \neg \text{PI}(C_2))\sigma \vee (D \vee E)\sigma_\Delta$ .

The language restriction clearly remains satisfied as no non-logical symbols are added.

2.  $l$  is  $\Delta$ -colored. Then  $\text{PI}(C) = [\text{PI}(C_1) \wedge \text{PI}(C_2)]\sigma$ .

As  $\text{PS}(l) \notin L(\Gamma)$ ,  $\Gamma \models (\text{PI}(C_1) \vee D_\Gamma)\sigma$  as well as  $\Gamma \models (\text{PI}(C_2) \vee E_\Gamma)\sigma$ . Suppose that in a model  $M$  of  $\Gamma$ ,  $M \not\models D_\Gamma$  and  $M \not\models E_\Gamma$ . Then  $M \models \text{PI}(C_1) \wedge \text{PI}(C_2)$ . Hence  $\Gamma \models (\text{PI}(C_1) \wedge \text{PI}(C_2))\sigma \vee ((D \vee E)\sigma)_\Gamma$ . Furthermore due to  $\text{PS}(l) \in L(\Delta)$ ,  $\Delta \models (\neg \text{PI}(C_1) \vee D_\Delta \vee l)\sigma$  as well as  $\Delta \models (\neg \text{PI}(C_2) \vee E_\Delta \vee \neg l')\sigma$ . By a resolution step, we get  $\Delta \models (\neg \text{PI}(C_1) \vee \neg \text{PI}(C_2))\sigma \vee (D_\Delta \vee E_\Delta)\sigma$  and hence  $\Delta \models \neg(\text{PI}(C_1) \wedge \text{PI}(C_2))\sigma \vee (D_\Delta \vee E_\Delta)\sigma$ .

The language restriction again remains intact.

3.  $l$  is grey. Then  $\text{PI}(C) = [(l \wedge \text{PI}(C_2)) \vee (\neg l' \wedge \text{PI}(C_1))]\sigma$

First, we have to show that  $\Gamma \models [(l \wedge \text{PI}(C_2)) \vee (l' \wedge \text{PI}(C_1))]\sigma \vee ((D \vee E)\sigma)_\Gamma$ . Suppose that in a model  $M$  of  $\Gamma$ ,  $M \not\models D_\Gamma$  and  $\Gamma \not\models E$ . Otherwise we are done. The induction assumption hence simplifies to  $M \models \text{PI}(C_1) \vee l$  and  $M \models \text{PI}(C_2) \vee \neg l'$  respectively. As  $l\sigma = l'\sigma$ , by a case distinction argument on the truth value of  $l\sigma$ , we get that either  $M \models (l \wedge \text{PI}(C_2))\sigma$  or  $M \models (\neg l' \wedge \text{PI}(C_1))\sigma$ .

Second, we show that  $\Delta \models ((l \vee \neg \text{PI}(C_1)) \wedge (\neg l' \vee \neg \text{PI}(C_2)))\sigma \vee ((D \vee E)\sigma)_\Delta$ . Suppose again that in a model  $M$  of  $\Delta$ ,  $M \not\models D_\Delta$  and  $\Gamma \not\models E_\Delta$ . Then the required statement follows from the induction hypothesis.

The language condition remains satisfied as only the common literal  $l$  is added to the interpolant.

Factorisation. Suppose the last rule application is an instance of factorisation. Then it is of the form:

$$\frac{C_1 : l \vee l' \vee D}{C : (l \vee D)\sigma} \quad \sigma = \text{mgu}(l, l')$$

Then the propositional interpolant  $\text{PI}(C)$  is defined as  $\text{PI}(C_1)$ . By the induction hypothesis, we have:

$$\Gamma \models \text{PI}(C_1) \vee (l \vee l' \vee D)_\Gamma$$

$$\Delta \models \text{PI}(C_1) \vee (l \vee l' \vee D)_\Delta$$

It is easy to see that then also:

$$\Gamma \models (\text{PI}(C_1) \vee (l \vee D)_\Gamma)\sigma$$

$$\Delta \models (\text{PI}(C_1) \vee (l \vee D)_\Delta)\sigma$$

The restriction on the language trivially remains intact.

Paramodulation. Suppose the last rule application is an instance of paramodulation. Then it is of the form:

$$\frac{C_1 : D \vee s = t \quad C_2 : E[s]_p}{C : D \vee E[t]_p} \quad \sigma = \text{mgu}(s, r)$$

By the induction hypothesis, we have:

$$\Gamma \models \text{PI}(C_1) \vee (D \vee s = t)_\Gamma$$

$$\Delta \models \neg \text{PI}(C_1) \vee (D \vee s = t)_\Delta$$

$$\Gamma \models \text{PI}(C_2) \vee (E[r])_\Gamma$$

$$\Delta \models \neg \text{PI}(C_2) \vee (E[r])_\Delta$$

First, we show that  $\text{PI}(C)$  as constructed in case 3 of the definition is a propositional interpolant in any of these cases:

$$\text{PI}(C) = (s = t \wedge \text{PI}(C_2)) \vee (s \neq t \wedge \text{PI}(C_1))$$

Suppose that in a model  $M$  of  $\Gamma$ ,  $M \not\models D\sigma$  and  $M \not\models E[t]_p\sigma$ . Otherwise we are done. Furthermore, assume that  $M \models (s = t)\sigma$ . Then  $M \not\models E[r]_p\sigma$ , but then necessarily  $M \models \text{PI}(C_2)\sigma$ .

On the other hand, suppose  $M \models (s \neq t)\sigma$ . As also  $M \not\models D\sigma$ ,  $M \models \text{PI}(C_1)\sigma$ . Consequently,  $M \models [(s = t \wedge \text{PI}(C_2)) \vee (s \neq t \wedge \text{PI}(C_1))]\sigma \vee [(D \vee E)_\Gamma]\sigma$

By an analogous argument, we get  $\Delta \models [(s = t \wedge \neg \text{PI}(C_2)) \vee (s \neq t \wedge \neg \text{PI}(C_1))]\sigma \vee [(D \vee E)_\Delta]\sigma$ , which implies  $\Delta \models [(s \neq t \vee \neg \text{PI}(C_2)) \wedge (s = t \vee \neg \text{PI}(C_1))]\sigma \vee ((D \vee E)_\Delta)\sigma$

The language restriction again remains satisfied as the only predicate, that is added to the interpolant, is  $=$ .

This concludes the argumentation for case 3.

The interpolant for case 1 differs only by an additional formula added via a disjunction and hence condition 1 of definition A.1 holds by the above reasoning. As the adjoined formula is a contradiction, its negation is valid which in combination with the above reasoning establishes condition 2. Since no new predicates are added, the language condition remains intact.

The situation in case 2 is somewhat symmetric: As a tautology is added to the interpolant with respect to case 1, condition 1 is satisfied by the above reasoning. For condition 2, consider that the negated interpolant for case 1 implies the negated interpolant for this case. The language condition again remains intact.  $\square$

## A.2 Propositional refutations

Before we are able to specify a procedure to transform the propositional interpolant generated by PI into a proper interpolant without any colored terms, we need to make some observations about tree refutations.

In a tree refutation where the input clauses have a disjoint sets of variables, every variable has a unique ancestor which traces back to an input clause and hence appears only along a certain path. This insight allows us to push substitutions of the variables upwards along this path and arrive at the following definition and lemma:

**Definition A.3.** A resolution refutation is a *propositional refutation* if no nontrivial substitutions are employed.  $\triangle$

**Lemma A.4.** *Let  $\Phi$  be unsatisfiable. Then there is a propositional refutation of  $\Phi$  which starts from instances of  $\Phi$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\pi$  be a resolution refutation of  $\Phi$ . By Lemma 2.20, we can assume without loss of generality that  $\pi$  is a tree refutation where the sets of variables of the input clauses are disjoint. Furthermore, we can assume that only most general unifiers are employed in  $\pi$ .

Then any unifier in  $\pi$  is either trivial on  $x$  or there is one unique unifier  $\sigma$  in  $\pi$  with  $x\sigma = t$  where  $x$  does not occur in  $t$ . Hence along the path through the deduction where  $x$  occurs, it remains unchanged. Therefore we can create a new resolution refutation  $\pi'$  from  $\pi$  where  $x$  is replaced by  $t$ . Clearly  $\pi'$  is rooted in instances of  $\Phi$ .

By application of this procedure to all variable occurring in  $\pi$ , we obtain a desired resolution refutation.  $\square$

Even though propositional refutations have nice properties for theoretical analysis, their use in practise is not desired as its construction involves a considerable blowup of the refutation. But its use is still justified in this instance as we can show for arbitrary refutations  $\pi$  that the algorithm stated in 4.3 gives closely related results for both  $\pi$  and its corresponding propositional refutation.

**Lemma A.5.** *Let  $\pi$  be a resolution refutation of  $\Phi$  and  $\pi'$  a propositional refutation corresponding to  $\pi$ . Then for every clause  $C$  in  $\pi$  and its corresponding clause  $C'$  in  $\pi'$ ,  $\text{PI}(C)\sigma = \text{PI}(C')$ , where  $\sigma$  is the composition of the unifications of  $\pi$  which are applied to the variables occurring in  $C$ .*

*Proof.* For the construction of the propositional skeleton of  $\text{PI}(\cdot)$  only the coloring of the clauses is relevant and since this is the same in both  $\pi$  and  $\pi'$ , it coincides for  $\text{PI}(C)$  and  $\text{PI}(C')$ .

Hence  $\text{PI}(C)$  and  $\text{PI}(C')$  differ only in their term structure. To be more specific, in  $\text{PI}(C')$ , the composition of substitutions that are applied in  $\pi$  have already been applied to the initial clauses of  $\pi'$ . Note that substitution commutes with the rules of resolution. Therefore the only difference between  $\text{PI}(C)$  and  $\text{PI}(C')$  is that at certain term positions, there are variables in  $\text{PI}(C)$  where in  $\text{PI}(C')$  by some substitution a different term is located. But these substitutions are certainly applied by  $\sigma$ , hence  $\text{PI}(C)\sigma = \text{PI}(C')$ .  $\square$

### A.3 Lifting of colored symbols

We rely on the same definition of lifting as given in 4.3. First, we consider the lifting of the  $\Delta$ -terms, which corresponds to Lemma 4.14, but differs in the proof by relying on propositional refutations.

**Lemma A.6.** *Let  $\pi$  be a resolution refutation of  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$ . Then  $\Gamma \models \ell_{\Delta}^x[\text{PI}(C) \vee C]$  for  $C$  in  $\pi$ .*

*Proof.* We proof this result by induction on the number of rule applications in the propositional refutation corresponding to  $\pi$ . Similar to the proof of A.2, we show the strengthening:  $\Gamma \models \ell_{\Delta}^x[\text{PI}(C) \vee C_{\Gamma}]$  for  $C$  in  $\pi$ .

Base case. If no rules have been applied,  $C$  is an instance of a clause of either  $\Gamma$  or  $\Delta$ . In the former case, all  $\Delta$ -terms of  $C$  were added by unification, hence by replacing them with variables, we obtain a clause  $C'$  which still is an instance of  $C$  and consequently is implied by  $\Gamma$ . In the latter case,  $\text{PI}(C) = \top$ .

Resolution. Suppose the last rule application is an instance of resolution. Then it is of the form:

$$\frac{C_1 : D \vee l \quad C_2 : E \vee \neg l}{C : D \vee E}$$

By the induction hypothesis,

$$\Gamma \models \ell_{\Delta}^x[\text{PI}(C_1) \vee (D \vee l)_{\Gamma}] \text{ and}$$

$$\Gamma \models \ell_{\Delta}^x[\text{PI}(C_2) \vee (E \vee \neg l)_{\Gamma}]$$

which by Lemma 4.5 is equivalent to

$$\Gamma \models \ell_{\Delta}^x[\text{PI}(C_1)] \vee \ell_{\Delta}^x[D_{\Gamma}] \vee \ell_{\Delta}^x[l_{\Gamma}] \text{ (}\circ\text{) and}$$

$$\Gamma \models \ell_{\Delta}^x[\text{PI}(C_2)] \vee \ell_{\Delta}^x[E_{\Gamma}] \vee \neg \ell_{\Delta}^x[l_{\Gamma}] \text{ (}\ast\text{) .}$$

1. Suppose  $l$  is  $\Gamma$ -colored. Then  $\text{PI}(C) = \text{PI}(C_1) \vee \text{PI}(C_2)$ . By using resolution of  $(\ast)$  and  $(\circ)$  on  $\ell_{\Delta}^x[l_{\Gamma}]$ , we get that

$$\Gamma \models \ell_{\Delta}^x[\text{PI}(C_1)] \vee \ell_{\Delta}^x[\text{PI}(C_2)] \vee \ell_{\Delta}^x[D_{\Gamma}] \vee \ell_{\Delta}^x[E_{\Gamma}].$$

Several applications of Lemma 4.5 give  $\Gamma \models \ell_{\Delta}^x[\text{PI}(C_1) \vee \text{PI}(C_2) \vee (D \vee E)_{\Gamma}]$ .

2. Suppose  $l$  is  $\Delta$ -colored. Then  $\text{PI}(C) = \text{PI}(C_1) \wedge \text{PI}(C_2)$ .

As  $l$  and  $\neg l$  are not contained in  $L(\Gamma)$ , we get that

$$\Gamma \models \ell_{\Delta}^x[\text{PI}(C_1)] \vee \ell_{\Delta}^x[D_{\Gamma}] \text{ and}$$

$$\Gamma \models \ell_{\Delta}^x[\text{PI}(C_2)] \vee \ell_{\Delta}^x[E_{\Gamma}].$$

So if in a model  $M$  of  $\Gamma$  we have that  $M \not\models \ell_{\Delta}^x[D_{\Gamma}]$  and  $M \not\models \ell_{\Delta}^x[E_{\Gamma}]$ , it follows that  $M \models \ell_{\Delta}^x[\text{PI}(C_1)]$  and  $M \models \ell_{\Delta}^x[\text{PI}(C_2)]$ . Hence by Lemma 4.5  $M \models \ell_{\Delta}^x[\text{PI}(C_1) \wedge \text{PI}(C_2)] \vee \ell_{\Delta}^x[(D \vee E)_{\Gamma}]$ .



3. Suppose  $l$  is grey. Then  $\text{PI}(C) = (l \wedge \text{PI}(C_2)) \vee (\neg l \wedge \text{PI}(C_1))$ .  
 We show that  $\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta^x[(l \wedge \text{PI}(C_2)) \vee (\neg l \wedge \text{PI}(C_1)) \vee (D \vee E)]_\Gamma$ .  
 Suppose that for a model  $M$  of  $\Gamma$  that  $M \not\models \ell_\Delta^x[D_\Gamma]$  and  $M \not\models \ell_\Delta^x[E_\Gamma]$ .  
 Then by  $(\circ)$  and  $(*)$ , we get that  
 $M \models \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(C_1)] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[l_\Gamma]$  as well as  
 $M \models \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(C_2)] \vee \neg \ell_\Delta^x[l_\Gamma]$ .  
 So  $M \models \ell_\Delta^x[l_\Gamma]$  implies that  $M \models \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(C_2)]$  and  $M \models \neg \ell_\Delta^x[l_\Gamma]$   
 implies that  $M \models \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(C_1)]$  and  
 Therefore  $M \models (\ell_\Delta^x[l] \wedge \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(C_2)]) \vee (\neg \ell_\Delta^x[l] \wedge \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(C_1)]) \vee$   
 $(\ell_\Delta^x[D_\Gamma] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[E_\Gamma])$ , and several applications of Lemma 4.5 give  
 $M \models \ell_\Delta^x[(l \wedge \text{PI}(C_2)) \vee (\neg l \wedge \text{PI}(C_1)) \vee (D_\Gamma \vee E_\Gamma)]$ .

Factorisation. Suppose the last rule application is an instance of factorisation.  
 Then it is of the form:

$$\frac{C_1 : l \vee l \vee D}{C : l \vee D}$$

The propositional interpolant directly carried over from  $C_1$ , i.e.  $\text{PI}(C) = \text{PI}(C_1)$ .

By the induction hypothesis, we get that  $\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(C_1) \vee (l \vee l \vee D)]_\Gamma$ .  
 By Lemma 4.5,

$$\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(C_1)] \vee (\ell_\Delta^x[l_\Gamma] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[l_\Gamma] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[D_\Gamma]),$$

which clearly is equivalent to

$$\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(C_1)] \vee (\ell_\Delta^x[l_\Gamma] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[D_\Gamma]),$$

so by again applying Lemma 4.5, we arrive at

$$\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(C_1) \vee (l \vee D)]_\Gamma.$$

Paramodulation. Suppose the last rule application is an instance of paramodulation. Then it is of the form:

$$\frac{C_1 : D \vee s = t \quad C_2 : E[s]_p}{C : D \vee E[t]_p}$$

By the induction hypothesis, we have that

$$\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(C_1) \vee (D \vee s = t)]_\Gamma \text{ and}$$

$$\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(C_2) \vee (E[s]_p)]_\Gamma.$$

By Lemma 4.5, we get that

$$\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(C_1)] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[D_\Gamma] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[s] = \ell_\Delta^x[t] \text{ and}$$

$$\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(C_2)] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[(E[s]_p)]_\Gamma.$$

We distinguish two cases:

1. Suppose  $s$  does not occur in a maximal  $\Delta$ -term  $h[s]$  in  $E[s]_p$  which occurs more than once in  $\text{PI}(E(s)) \vee E[s]_p$ .

We show that  $\Gamma \models \ell_\Delta^x[(s = t \wedge \text{PI}(C_2)) \vee (s \neq t \wedge \text{PI}(C_1)) \vee (D \vee E[t]_p)_\Gamma]$ , which subsumes the cases 2 and 3 of Definition 4.2. By Lemma 4.5, this is equivalent to

$$\Gamma \models (\ell_\Delta^x[s] = \ell_\Delta^x[t] \wedge \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(C_2)]) \vee (\ell_\Delta^x[s] \neq \ell_\Delta^x[t] \wedge \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(C_1)]) \vee (\ell_\Delta^x[D_\Gamma] \vee \ell_\Delta^x[(E[t]_p)_\Gamma])$$

Suppose that  $M$  is a model and  $\alpha$  an assignment to the free variables such that  $M_\alpha \models \Gamma$ ,  $M_\alpha \not\models \ell_\Delta^x[D_\Gamma]$  and  $M_\alpha \not\models \ell_\Delta^x[(E[t]_p)_\Gamma]$ . We show that then, depending on whether  $\ell_\Delta^x[s] = \ell_\Delta^x[t]$  holds in  $M_\alpha$ , one of the first two disjuncts holds in  $M_\alpha$ .

In case  $M_\alpha \models \ell_\Delta^x[s] = \ell_\Delta^x[t]$  we also get  $M_\alpha \not\models \ell_\Delta^x[(E[s]_p)_\Gamma]$  and consequently by the induction hypothesis  $M_\alpha \models \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(C_2)]$ .

However in case  $M_\alpha \models \ell_\Delta^x[s] \neq \ell_\Delta^x[t]$  we get by the induction hypothesis that  $M \models \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(C_1)]$ .

2. Otherwise  $s$  occurs in a maximal  $\Delta$ -term  $h[s]$  in  $E[s]_p$  which occurs more than once in  $\text{PI}(E(s)) \vee E[s]_p$ . This reflects case 1 of Definition 4.2.

Then models are possible in which  $s = t$  holds, while at the same time  $\ell_\Delta^x[h[s]] \neq \ell_\Delta^x[h[t]]$  does not as  $h[s]$  and  $h[t]$  are replaced by distinct variables due to being different  $\Delta$ -terms.

Therefore we amend the proof of case 1 as follows:

In case  $M_\alpha \models \ell_\Delta^x[s] = \ell_\Delta^x[t]$  (otherwise proceed as in case 1), one of the following cases holds:

- $M_\alpha \models \ell_\Delta^x[h[s]] = \ell_\Delta^x[h[t]]$ . From this, it follows that as in the proof of case 1,  $M \not\models \ell_\Delta^x[(E[s]_p)_\Gamma]$  and consequently  $M \models \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(C_2)]$  again by the induction hypothesis.
- $M_\alpha \models \ell_\Delta^x[h[s]] \neq \ell_\Delta^x[h[t]]$ . However as here  $\text{PI}(C)$  contains the with respect to case 1 additional disjunct  $s = t \wedge h[s] \neq h[t]$ ,  $M_\alpha \models \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(C)]$  due to  $M_\alpha \models \ell_\Delta^x[s] = \ell_\Delta^x[t] \wedge \ell_\Delta^x[h[s]] \neq \ell_\Delta^x[h[t]]$ .  $\square$

From this, we can directly proof the theorem by relying on the notion of symmetry already shown in Section 4.5.

**Theorem A.7.** *Let  $\pi$  be a resolution refutation of  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  and  $t_1, \dots, t_n$  be the maximal colored terms in  $\text{PI}(\pi)$  in ascending order. Then  $Q_1 z_{t_1} \dots Q_n z_{t_n} \ell_\Gamma^y[\ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(\pi)]]$ , where  $Q_i$  is  $\forall$  ( $\exists$ ) if  $z_{t_i}$  replaces a  $\Delta$  ( $\Gamma$ )-term, is an interpolant.*

*Proof.* By Lemma A.6,  $\Gamma \models \forall x_{s_1} \dots \forall x_{s_m} \ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(\pi)]$ , where  $s_1, \dots, s_m$  are the maximal colored  $\Delta$ -terms in  $\text{PI}(\pi)$ .

A term in  $\ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(\pi)]$  is either  $x_{s_i}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq m$ , a grey term or a  $\Gamma$ -terms. Let  $t$  be a maximal  $\Gamma$ -term in  $\text{PI}(\pi)$  and  $r_1, \dots, r_k$  the maximal  $\Delta$ -terms in  $t$ .

Then in  $\ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(\pi)]$ , the terms  $r_1, \dots, r_k$  are replaced by  $x_{r_1}, \dots, x_{r_k}$  respectively. Note that as all of  $r_1, \dots, r_k$  due to being strict subterms of  $t$  are of strictly smaller length than  $t$ , all of  $x_{r_1}, \dots, x_{r_k}$  precede  $y_t$  in the arrangement of the lifting variables.

In  $\ell_\Gamma^y[\ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(\pi)]]$ ,  $t$  is lifted by  $y_t$ , which is existentially quantified. Hence  $t$  is a witness for  $y_j$  as due to the quantifier ordering, it is bound in the scope of the quantification of the lifting variables  $x_{r_1}, \dots, x_{r_k}$ . Therefore  $\Gamma \models Q_1 z_{t_1} \dots Q_n z_n \ell_\Gamma^y[\ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(\pi)]]$ .

By Corollary 4.18  $\Delta \models \forall y_{u_1} \dots \forall y_{u_{k'}} \neg \ell_\Gamma^y[\text{PI}(\pi)]$ , where  $u_1, \dots, u_{k'}$  are the maximal colored  $\Gamma$ -terms in  $\text{PI}(\pi)$ .

By a similar line of argumentation as above, we can replace the maximal  $\Delta$ -terms by variables which are then existentially quantified and arrive at  $\Delta \models \overline{Q}_1 z_{t_1} \dots \overline{Q}_n z_{t_n} \neg \ell_\Delta^x[\ell_\Gamma^y[\text{PI}(\pi)]]$  where  $\overline{Q}_i = \exists (\forall)$  if  $Q_i = \forall (\exists)$ . Therefore also  $\Delta \models \neg Q_1 z_{t_1} \dots Q_n z_{t_n} \ell_\Delta^x[\ell_\Gamma^y[\text{PI}(\pi)]]$  and finally by Lemma 4.22,  $\Delta \models \neg Q_1 z_{t_1} \dots Q_n z_{t_n} \ell_\Gamma^y[\ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(\pi)]]$ .

As it is now easy to see that  $Q_1 z_{t_1} \dots Q_n z_{t_n} \ell_\Gamma^y[\ell_\Delta^x[\text{PI}(\pi)]]$  contains no colored symbol, it is an interpolant.  $\square$

## A.4 Commentary on the original publication

In [Hua95, Definition 3], a maximal occurrence of a  $\Gamma$  ( $\Delta$ )-term is defined to be an occurrence of a  $\Gamma$  ( $\Delta$ ) term which is not a subterm of a larger  $\Gamma$  ( $\Delta$ )-term.

Furthermore, in the extension of the “Interpolation Algorithm” to include paramodulation inferences in [Hua95, p. 183], this notion is used to distinguish between the respective cases. Translated into our notation in the context of our corresponding Definition 4.2 for the case of paramodulation inferences, the conditions for the three cases can be stated as follows:

1. The term  $r$  occurs in  $E[r]$  as subterm of a maximal  $\Gamma$ -term, which occurs more than once in  $E[r] \vee \text{PI}(E[r])$ .
2. The term  $r$  occurs in  $E[r]$  as subterm of a maximal  $\Delta$ -term, which occurs more than once in  $E[r] \vee \text{PI}(E[r])$ .
3. Otherwise.

Note that if reading this definition in the strict sense, an ambiguity arises: It is very well possible for a term to be a subterm of a maximal  $\Gamma$ -term and a maximal  $\Delta$ -term at the same time. Suppose  $g$  is a  $\Gamma$ -colored and  $h$  a  $\Delta$ -colored function symbol. Then the term  $h(g(c))$  contains the maximal  $\Delta$ -term  $h(g(c))$  as well as the maximal  $\Gamma$ -term  $g(c)$  since  $g(c)$  is not subterm of a larger  $\Gamma$ -term in  $h(g(c))$ .

We present the following example, which illustrates that the definition of the conditions for the cases above is to be read as “maximal colored term,

which is  $\Phi$ -colored” (or more concisely: “maximal colored  $\Phi$ -term”) in place of “maximal  $\Phi$ -term”.

**Example A.8.** Let  $\Gamma = \{P(x) \vee \neg Q(x), \neg P(y) \vee Q(y), c = d, \neg R(g(d)), \neg S(g(c))\}$  and  $\Delta = \{S(v) \vee \neg Q(h(v)), R(u) \vee Q(h(u)), T(c, d)\}$ . Hence  $h$  is a  $\Delta$ -colored function symbol and  $g$  a  $\Gamma$ -colored function symbol, while the constant symbols  $c$  and  $d$  are grey.

We present a resolution refutation of  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  in combination with the interpolant extraction such that each label is of the form  $C \mid \text{PI}(C)$ , where  $C$  is the clause of the refutation and  $\text{PI}(C)$  is sometimes given in a simplified but logically equivalent form. The presentation of the refutation is split into parts in order to improve readability.

Note that at the paramodulation inference ( $\ast$ ), case 1 is erroneously selected due to  $d$  occurring in the maximal  $\Gamma$ -colored term  $g(d)$ , even though  $d$  is also contained in the maximal  $\Delta$ -colored term  $h(g(d))$ .

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{\neg R(g(d)) \mid \perp \quad R(u) \vee Q(h(u)) \mid \top}{Q(h(g(d))) \mid \neg R(g(d))} \text{res}_{u \mapsto g(d)} \quad \frac{P(x) \vee \neg Q(x) \mid \perp}{P(h(g(d))) \mid \neg R(g(d)) \wedge \neg Q(h(g(d)))} \text{res}_{x \mapsto h(g(d))} \quad \frac{c = d \mid \perp}{P(h(g(c))) \mid (c = d \wedge \neg R(g(d)) \wedge \neg Q(h(g(d)))) \vee (c \neq d \wedge g(c) = g(d))} \text{par}(\ast)_{\text{id}} \\
\\
\frac{\neg S(g(c)) \mid \perp \quad S(v) \vee \neg Q(h(v)) \mid \top}{\neg Q(h(g(c))) \mid \neg S(g(c))} \text{res}_{v \mapsto g(c)} \quad \frac{\neg P(y) \vee Q(y) \mid \perp}{\neg P(h(g(c))) \mid \neg S(g(c)) \wedge Q(h(g(c)))} \text{res}_{y \mapsto h(g(c))}
\end{array}$$

By combining these two derivation by means of a final resolution inference on the last remaining literal employing a trivial substitution, we obtain the empty clause and the corresponding interpolant  $\text{PI}(\square)$ :

$$(c = d \wedge \neg R(g(d)) \wedge \neg Q(h(g(d)))) \vee (c \neq d \wedge g(c) = g(d)) \vee \neg S(g(c)) \wedge Q(h(g(c)))$$

Lifting  $\text{PI}(\square)$  and adding appropriate quantifiers gives the final result  $I$  of the interpolant extraction:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \exists y_{g(c)} \exists y_{g(d)} \forall x_{h(g(c))} \forall x_{h(g(d))} \left( (c = d \wedge \neg R(y_{g(d)}) \wedge \neg Q(x_{h(g(d))})) \vee \right. \\
& \quad \left. (c \neq d \wedge y_{g(c)} = y_{g(d)}) \vee \neg S(y_{g(c)}) \wedge Q(x_{h(g(c))}) \right)
\end{aligned}$$

Now we show that  $\Gamma \not\models I$ . Note that as  $\Gamma \models c = d$ , no model of  $\Gamma$  satisfies  $(c \neq d \wedge y_{g(c)} = y_{g(d)})$ . The remaining two disjuncts imply that  $\forall x_{h(g(c))} \forall x_{h(g(d))} (\neg Q(x_{h(g(d))}) \vee Q(x_{h(g(c))}))$ , but we can easily find a model of  $\Gamma$  where at least one domain element satisfies the predicate  $Q$  and another domain element does not. Any such model is a countermodel to the proposition  $\Gamma \models I$ .  $\triangle$

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