

CS:4980 Topics in Computer Science II
Introduction to Automated Reasoning

Proof systems for First-order Logic

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Credits

These slides are based on slides originally developed by **Cesare Tinelli** at the University of Iowa, and by **Clark Barrett**, **Caroline Trippel**, and **Andrew (Haoze) Wu** at Stanford University. Adapted by permission.

Outline

- Semantic arguments for FOL
- PCNF (ML 9.2) and Clausal Form
- First-order Resolution (ML 10)

Proofs in first-order logic

Proof systems for FOL are usually **extensions** of those for PL

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Semantic arguments for FOL: propositional rules

$$(a) \frac{\mathcal{I} \models \neg \alpha}{\mathcal{I} \not\models \alpha}$$

$$(g) \frac{\mathcal{I} \models \alpha \Rightarrow \beta}{\mathcal{I} \not\models \alpha \mid \mathcal{I} \models \beta}$$

$$(b) \frac{\mathcal{I} \not\models \neg \alpha}{\mathcal{I} \models \alpha}$$

$$(h) \frac{\mathcal{I} \not\models \alpha \Rightarrow \beta}{\mathcal{I} \models \alpha, \mathcal{I} \not\models \beta}$$

$$(c) \frac{\mathcal{I} \models \alpha \wedge \beta}{\mathcal{I} \models \alpha, \mathcal{I} \models \beta}$$

$$(i) \frac{\mathcal{I} \models \alpha \quad \mathcal{I} \not\models \alpha}{\mathcal{I} \models \perp}$$

$$(d) \frac{\mathcal{I} \not\models \alpha \wedge \beta}{\mathcal{I} \not\models \alpha \mid \mathcal{I} \not\models \beta}$$

$$(k) \frac{\mathcal{I} \models \alpha \Leftrightarrow \beta}{\mathcal{I} \models \alpha, \mathcal{I} \models \beta \mid \mathcal{I} \not\models \alpha, \mathcal{I} \not\models \beta}$$

$$(e) \frac{\mathcal{I} \models \alpha \vee \beta}{\mathcal{I} \models \alpha \mid \mathcal{I} \models \beta}$$

$$(j) \frac{\mathcal{I} \not\models \alpha \Leftrightarrow \beta}{\mathcal{I} \not\models \alpha, \mathcal{I} \models \beta \mid \mathcal{I} \models \alpha, \mathcal{I} \not\models \beta}$$

$$(f) \frac{\mathcal{I} \not\models \alpha \vee \beta}{\mathcal{I} \not\models \alpha, \mathcal{I} \not\models \beta}$$

Semantic arguments for FOL: quantifier rules

Notation: if v is a variable, ε is a term/formula, and t is a term, $\varepsilon[v \leftarrow t]$ denotes the term/formula obtained from ε by replacing every free occurrence of v in ε by t

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Examples:

$$x[x \leftarrow S(y)] = S(y)$$

$$(x + y)[x \leftarrow y] = y + y$$

$$x[x \leftarrow S(x)] = S(x)$$

$$(x \dot{=} y)[x \leftarrow 0] = 0 \dot{=} y$$

$$x[x \leftarrow y] = y$$

$$(x \dot{=} x)[x \leftarrow S(x)] = S(x) \dot{=} S(x)$$

$$(x \dot{=} y \vee x < y)[x \leftarrow S(0)] = S(0) \dot{=} y \vee S(0) < y$$

$$(x \dot{=} y \vee \forall x. x < y)[x \leftarrow S(y)] = S(y) \dot{=} y \vee \forall x. x < y$$

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Quantifier rules

$$(m) \frac{\mathcal{I} \models \forall v : \sigma. \alpha}{\mathcal{I} \models \alpha[v \leftarrow t]} \text{ for any term } t \text{ of sort } \sigma$$

$$(n) \frac{\mathcal{I} \not\models \exists v : \sigma. \alpha}{\mathcal{I} \not\models \alpha[v \leftarrow t]} \text{ for any term } t \text{ of sort } \sigma$$

$$(o) \frac{\mathcal{I} \models \exists v : \sigma. \alpha}{\mathcal{I} \models \alpha[v \leftarrow k]} \text{ for a } \text{fresh} \text{ variable } k \text{ of sort } \sigma$$

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Proof by deduction: Example 1

Consider signature Σ with $\Sigma^S = \{ A \}$, $\Sigma^F = \{ P \}$, $\text{rank}(P) = \langle A, \text{Bool} \rangle$, and all vars of sort A

Prove that $\exists x. P(x) \Rightarrow \exists y. P(y)$ is valid

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2. $\mathcal{I} \models \exists x. P(x)$ by (h) on 1
3. $\mathcal{I} \not\models \exists y. P(y)$ by (h) on 1
4. $\mathcal{I} \models P(x_0)$ by (o) on 2
5. $\mathcal{I} \not\models P(x_0)$ by (n) on 3
6. $\mathcal{I} \models \perp$ by (i) on 4, 5

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Proof by deduction: Example 3

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Prove that $\exists x. \forall y. Q(x, y) \Rightarrow \forall y. \exists x. Q(x, y)$ is valid

$$(m) \frac{\mathcal{I} \models \forall v: \sigma. \alpha}{\mathcal{I} \models \alpha[v \leftarrow t]} \text{ for any term } t \text{ of sort } \sigma$$

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Refutation Soundness and Completeness

Theorem 1 (Soundness)

For all Σ -formulas α , if there is a closed derivation tree with root $\mathcal{I} \not\models \alpha$ then α is valid

Theorem 2 (Completeness)

For all Σ -formulas α without equality, if α is valid, then there is a closed derivation tree with root $\mathcal{I} \not\models \alpha$

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Termination?

Does the semantic argument method describe a decision procedure then?

No, for an invalid formula, the semantic argument proof system might not terminate

Intuition: Consider the invalid formula $\forall x. q(x, x)$

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There is no strategy that guarantees termination in all cases of invalid formulas

This shortcoming is not specific to this proof system

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FOL is only **semi-decidable**: you **can** always **show validity** algorithmically but **not invalidity**

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Prenex Normal Form (PNF)

For AR purposes, it is useful in FOL too impose **syntactic restrictions** on formulas

A Σ -formula α is in *prenex normal form* (PNF) if it has the form

$$Q_1 x_1. \cdots. Q_n x_n. \beta$$

where each Q_i is a quantifier and β is a **quantifier-free formula**

Formula α above is in *prenex conjunctive normal form* (PCNF) if, in addition, β is in **conjunctive normal form**¹

Example: The formula below is in PCNF

$$\forall y. \exists z. ((p(y) \vee q(z)) \wedge (\neg q(z) \vee r(x)))$$

¹If we treat every atomic formula of β as if it was a propositional variable

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Clausal Form

A Σ -formula is in *clausal form* if

1. it is in **PCNF**
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3. all of its quantifiers are **universal**

Exercise: Which of the following formulas are clausal form?

- $\forall y. \exists z. (p(f(y)) \wedge \neg q(y, z))$ ✗
- $\forall y. \forall z. (p(f(y)) \wedge \neg q(x, z))$ ✗
- $\forall y. \forall z. (p(f(y)) \wedge \neg q(y, z))$ ✓

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A Σ -formula is in *clausal form* if

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Clausal Form: transformation

Theorem 3 (Skolem's Theorem)

*Any sentence can be transformed to an **equi-satisfiable** formula in **clausal form**.*

The high level transformation strategy is the following:

Sentence \longrightarrow PNF \longrightarrow PCNF \longrightarrow Clausal Form

Running example: $(\forall x.(p(x) \Rightarrow q(x))) \Rightarrow (\forall x.p(x) \Rightarrow \forall x.q(x))$

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- $\neg\forall v. \alpha \rightarrow \exists v. \neg\alpha \quad \neg\exists v. \alpha \rightarrow \forall v. \neg\alpha$
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II: Transforming into PCNF

Transforming a PNF to a **logically equivalent** PCNF is straightforward

We apply the **distributive laws** from propositional logic

$$\exists x. \forall z. \exists y. ((p(x) \wedge \neg q(x)) \vee (\neg p(y) \vee q(z)))$$

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III: Transforming into Clausal Form (Skolemization)

$$\exists x. \forall z. \exists y. ((p(x) \vee \neg p(y) \vee q(z)) \wedge (\neg q(x) \vee \neg p(y) \vee q(z)))$$

For every existential quantifier $\exists v$ in the PCNF, let u_1, \dots, u_n be the universally quantified variables preceding $\exists v$,

1. introduce a fresh function symbol f_v with arity n and $(\text{sort}(u_1), \dots, \text{sort}(u_n), \text{sort}(v))$
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For the formula above, introduce **nullary** function (i.e., a constant) symbol f_x and **unary** function symbol f_y for $\exists x$ and $\exists y$, respectively

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Note: Technically, the resulting formula is no longer a Σ -formula, but a Σ_E -formula, where $\Sigma_E^S = \Sigma^S$ and $\Sigma_E^F = \Sigma^F \cup \bigcup_v \{f_v\}$

Clausal forms as clause sets

As with propositional logic, we can write a formula in **clausal form unambiguously** as a set of clauses

Example:

$$\forall z. ((p(f(z)) \vee \neg p(g(z)) \vee q(z)) \wedge (\neg q(f(z)) \vee \neg p(g(z)) \vee q(z)))$$

can be written as

$$\Delta := \{ (p(f(z)), \neg p(g(z)), q(z)), (\neg q(f(z)), \neg p(g(z)), q(z)) \}$$

where all variables are implicitly universally quantified

Traditionally, theorem provers for FOL use the latter version of the clausal form

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A resolution-based proof system for PL

Recall: The satisfiability proof system consisting of the rules below is **sound**, **complete** and **terminating** for clause sets in PL

$$\text{RESOLVE } \frac{C_1, C_2 \in \Delta \quad p \in C_1 \quad \neg p \in C_2 \quad C = (C_1 \setminus \{p\}) \cup (C_2 \setminus \{\neg p\}) \quad C \notin \Delta \cup \Phi}{\Delta := \Delta \cup \{C\}}$$

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Consider the FOL clause set below where x, z are variables and σ is a constant symbol

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Note that Δ is equivalent to $\forall z. (P(z) \Rightarrow Q(z)) \wedge P(\sigma) \wedge \forall x. \neg Q(x)$, which is unsatisfiable

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$\{\}$	$\{C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4, C_5: \{Q(a)\}\}$	by RESOLVE on C_2, C_4
$\{\}$	$\{C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4, C_5, C_6: \{\neg Q(a)\}\}$	by INST on C_3 with $x \leftarrow a$
$\{\}$	$\{C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4, C_5, C_6, C_7: \{\}\}$	by RESOLVE on C_5, C_6
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$\{\}$	$\{C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4, C_5, C_6, C_7 : \{\}\}$	by RESOLVE on C_5, C_6
	UNSAT	by UNSAT on C_7

A resolution-based proof system for FOL

$$\text{RESOLVE } \frac{C_1, C_2 \in \Delta \quad p \in C_1 \quad \neg p \in C_2 \quad C = (C_1 \setminus \{p\}) \cup (C_2 \setminus \{\neg p\}) \quad C \notin \Delta \cup \Phi}{\Delta := \Delta \cup \{C\}}$$

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$$\text{UNSAT } \frac{\{\} \in \Delta}{\text{UNSAT}}$$

$$\text{SAT } \frac{\text{No other rules apply}}{\text{SAT}}$$

Example: $C_1 : \{\neg P(z), Q(z)\}$ $C_2 : \{P(a)\}$ $C_3 : \{\neg Q(x)\}$

Φ	Δ	
$\{\}$	$\{C_1, C_2, C_3\}$	
	$\{C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4 : \{\neg P(a), Q(a)\}\}$	by INST on C_1 with $z \leftarrow a$
	$\{C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4, C_5 : \{Q(a)\}\}$	by RESOLVE on C_2, C_4
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A resolution-based proof system for FOL

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$\{\}$	$\{C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4 : \{\neg P(a), Q(a)\}\}$
	by INST on C_1 with $z \leftarrow a$
	$\{C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4, \neg P(a), Q(a)\}$
	by RESOLVE on C_2, C_3
	$\{C_1, C_2, C_3, \neg P(a), \neg Q(a), C_5, C_6, C_7 : \{\}\}$
	by INST on C_3 with $x \leftarrow a$
	$\{C_1, C_2, C_3, \neg P(a), \neg Q(a), C_5, C_6, C_7 : \{\}\}$
	by RESOLVE on C_5, C_6
	$\{C_1, C_2, C_3, \neg P(a), \neg Q(a), C_7 : \{\}\}$
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	UNSAT

A resolution-based proof system for FOL

$$\text{RESOLVE } \frac{C_1, C_2 \in \Delta \quad p \in C_1 \quad \neg p \in C_2 \quad C = (C_1 \setminus \{p\}) \cup (C_2 \setminus \{\neg p\}) \quad C \notin \Delta \cup \Phi}{\Delta := \Delta \cup \{C\}}$$

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A resolution-based proof system for FOL

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$\{\}$	$\{C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4, C_5, C_6, C_7 : \{\}\}$	by RESOLVE on C_5, C_6

UNSAT

by **RESOLVE** on C_5, C_6

A resolution-based proof system for FOL

$$\text{RESOLVE } \frac{C_1, C_2 \in \Delta \quad p \in C_1 \quad \neg p \in C_2 \quad C = (C_1 \setminus \{p\}) \cup (C_2 \setminus \{\neg p\}) \quad C \notin \Delta \cup \Phi}{\Delta := \Delta \cup \{C\}}$$

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	UNSAT	by UNSAT on C_7

A resolution-based proof system for FOL

$$\text{RESOLVE } \frac{C_1, C_2 \in \Delta \quad p \in C_1 \quad \neg p \in C_2 \quad C = (C_1 \setminus \{p\}) \cup (C_2 \setminus \{\neg p\}) \quad C \notin \Delta \cup \Phi}{\Delta := \Delta \cup \{C\}}$$

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This system is **refutation-sound and complete** for FOL clause sets **without equality**:

- If a clause set Δ_0 is unsatisfiable, there is a derivation of **UNSAT** from Δ_0

A resolution-based proof system for FOL

$$\text{RESOLVE } \frac{C_1, C_2 \in \Delta \quad p \in C_1 \quad \neg p \in C_2 \quad C = (C_1 \setminus \{p\}) \cup (C_2 \setminus \{\neg p\}) \quad C \notin \Delta \cup \Phi}{\Delta := \Delta \cup \{C\}}$$

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This system is **refutation-sound** and **complete** for FOL clause sets **without equality**:

- If a clause set Δ_0 is unsatisfiable, there is a derivation of **UNSAT** from Δ_0

The system is also **solution-sound**:

- There is a derivation of **SAT** from Δ_0 only if Δ_0 is satisfiable

A resolution-based proof system for FOL

$$\text{RESOLVE } \frac{C_1, C_2 \in \Delta \quad p \in C_1 \quad \neg p \in C_2 \quad C = (C_1 \setminus \{p\}) \cup (C_2 \setminus \{\neg p\}) \quad C \notin \Delta \cup \Phi}{\Delta := \Delta \cup \{C\}}$$

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This system is **refutation-sound and complete** for FOL clause sets **without equality**:

- If a clause set Δ_0 is unsatisfiable, there is a derivation of **UNSAT** from Δ_0

The system is **not**, and cannot be, **terminating**:

- if Δ_0 is satisfiable, it is possible for **SAT** to never apply

A resolution-based proof system for FOL

RESOLVE
$$\frac{C_1, C_2 \in \Delta \quad p \in C_1 \quad \neg p \in C_2 \quad C = (C_1 \setminus \{p\}) \cup (C_2 \setminus \{\neg p\}) \quad C \notin \Delta \cup \Phi}{\Delta := \Delta \cup \{C\}}$$

CLASH
$$\frac{C \in \Delta \quad p, \neg p \in C}{\Delta := \Delta \setminus \{C\} \quad \Phi := \Phi \cup \{C\}}$$

INST
$$\frac{C \in \Delta \quad v \in \mathcal{FV}(C) \quad \text{sort}(t) = \text{sort}(v)}{\Delta := \Delta \cup \{C[v \leftarrow t]\}}$$

UNSAT
$$\frac{\{\} \in \Delta}{\text{UNSAT}}$$

SAT
$$\frac{\text{No other rules apply}}{\text{SAT}}$$

Note: This proof system is challenging to implement efficiently because **INST** is not constrained enough

A resolution-based proof system for FOL

$$\text{RESOLVE } \frac{C_1, C_2 \in \Delta \quad p \in C_1 \quad \neg p \in C_2 \quad C = (C_1 \setminus \{p\}) \cup (C_2 \setminus \{\neg p\}) \quad C \notin \Delta \cup \Phi}{\Delta := \Delta \cup \{C\}}$$

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Automated theorem provers for FOL use instead a more sophisticated **RESOLVE** rule

where two literals in different clauses are instantiated directly, and only as needed, to make them complementary (see ML Chap. 10)

A resolution-based proof system for FOL

$$\text{RESOLVE } \frac{C_1, C_2 \in \Delta \quad p \in C_1 \quad \neg p \in C_2 \quad C = (C_1 \setminus \{p\}) \cup (C_2 \setminus \{\neg p\}) \quad C \notin \Delta \cup \Phi}{\Delta := \Delta \cup \{C\}}$$

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Automated theorem provers for FOL use instead a more sophisticated **RESOLVE** rule

where two literals in different clauses are instantiated directly, and only as needed, to make them complementary (see ML Chap. 10)

Example: $\{P(x, y), Q(\textcolor{red}{a}, f(y))\}, \{\neg Q(\textcolor{red}{z}, f(b)), R(g(\textcolor{red}{z}))\}$ resolve to $\{P(x, b), R(g(\textcolor{red}{a}))\}$

A resolution-based proof system for FOL

$$\text{RESOLVE } \frac{C_1, C_2 \in \Delta \quad p \in C_1 \quad \neg p \in C_2 \quad C = (C_1 \setminus \{p\}) \cup (C_2 \setminus \{\neg p\}) \quad C \notin \Delta \cup \Phi}{\Delta := \Delta \cup \{C\}}$$

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Problem: How do we prove the unsatisfiability of these clause sets?

$$\{\{x \doteq y\}, \{\neg(y \doteq x)\}\} \quad \{\{x \doteq y\}, \{y \doteq z\}, \{\neg(x \doteq z)\}\} \quad \{\{x \doteq y\}, \{\neg(f(x) \doteq f(y))\}\}$$

A resolution-based proof system for FOL

$$\text{RESOLVE } \frac{C_1, C_2 \in \Delta \quad p \in C_1 \quad \neg p \in C_2 \quad C = (C_1 \setminus \{p\}) \cup (C_2 \setminus \{\neg p\}) \quad C \notin \Delta \cup \Phi}{\Delta := \Delta \cup \{C\}}$$

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We need specialized rules for equality reasoning!

A resolution-based proof system for FOL

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Another Problem: How to we prove the unsatisfiability of these clause sets?

$$\{\{x < x\}\} \quad \{\{x < y\}, \{y < z\}, \{\neg(x < z)\}\} \quad \{\{\neg(x + y \doteq y + x)\}\} \quad \{\{\neg(x + 0 \doteq x)\}\}$$

A resolution-based proof system for FOL

$$\text{RESOLVE } \frac{C_1, C_2 \in \Delta \quad p \in C_1 \quad \neg p \in C_2 \quad C = (C_1 \setminus \{p\}) \cup (C_2 \setminus \{\neg p\}) \quad C \notin \Delta \cup \Phi}{\Delta := \Delta \cup \{C\}}$$

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The thing is: each of these clause set is actually satisfiable in FOL!

A resolution-based proof system for FOL

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$$\{\{x < x\}\} \quad \{\{x < y\}, \{y < z\}, \{\neg(x < z)\}\} \quad \{\{\neg(x + y \doteq y + x)\}\} \quad \{\{\neg(x + 0 \doteq x)\}\}$$

The thing is: each of these clause set is actually satisfiable in FOL!

However, they are **unsatisfiable in the theory of arithmetic**

A resolution-based proof system for FOL

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We need proof systems for **satisfiability modulo theories**