

Title: First-Order Logic

AIMA: Chapter 8 (Sections 8.1 and 8.2)

Section 8.3, discussed briefly, is also required reading

Introduction to Artificial Intelligence

CSCE 476-876, Fall 2020

**URL:** [www.cse.unl.edu/~choueiry/F20-476-876](http://www.cse.unl.edu/~choueiry/F20-476-876)

Berthe Y. Choueiry (Shu-we-ri)

(402)472-5444

# Outline

- First-order logic:
  - basic elements
  - syntax
  - semantics
- Examples

## Pros and cons of propositional logic

- Propositional logic is declarative: pieces of syntax correspond to facts
- Propositional logic allows partial/disjunctive/negated information  
(unlike most data structures and databases)
- Propositional logic is compositional:  
meaning of  $B_{1,1} \wedge P_{1,2}$  is derived from meaning of  $B_{1,1}$  and of  $P_{1,2}$
- Meaning in propositional logic is context-independent  
(unlike natural language, where meaning depends on context)
- but...  
Propositional logic has very limited expressive power  
E.g., cannot say “pits cause breezes in adjacent squares”  
except by writing one sentence for each square

## Propositional Logic

- is simple
- illustrates important points:  
model, inference, validity, satisfiability, ..
- is restrictive: world is a set of facts
- lacks expressiveness:  
→ In PL, world contains facts

## First-Order Logic

- more symbols (objects, properties, relations)
- more connectives (quantifier)

## First Order Logic

- FOL provides more "primitives" to express knowledge:
- objects (identity & properties)
  - relations among objects (including functions)

5

**Objects:** people, houses, numbers, Einstein, Huskers, event, ..

**Properties:** smart, nice, large, intelligent, loved, occurred, ..

**Relations:** brother-of, bigger-than, part-of, occurred-after, ..

**Functions:** father-of, best-friend, double-of, ..

**Examples:** (objects? function? relation? property?)

— one plus two equals four [sic]

— squares neighboring the wumpus are smelly

## Logic

**Attracts:** mathematicians, philosophers and AI people

**Advantages:**

- allows to represent the world and reason about it
- expresses anything that can be programmed

**Non-committal to:**

- symbols could be objects or relations  
(*e.g.*, King(Gustave), King(Sweden, Gustave), Merciless(King))
- classes, categories, time, events, uncertainty

**.. but amenable** to extensions: OO FOL, temporal logics, situation/event calculus, modal logic, etc.

→ Some people think FOL *\*is\** the language of AI  
true/false? donno :—( but it will remain around for some time..

# Types of logic

Logics are characterized by what they commit to as “primitives”

## Ontological commitment :

what exists—facts? objects? time? beliefs?

## Epistemological commitment :

what states of knowledge?

7

| Language            | Ontological Commitment<br>(What exists in the world) | Epistemological Commitment<br>(What an agent believes about facts) |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Propositional logic | facts  | true/false/unknown   |
| First-order logic   | facts, objects, relations                            | true/false/unknown   |
| Temporal logic      | facts, objects, relations, times                     | true/false/unknown   |
| Probability theory  | facts  | degree of belief 0...1   |
| Fuzzy logic         | degree of truth                                      | degree of belief 0...1   |

Higher-Order Logic: views relations and functions of FOL as objects

## Syntax of FOL: words and grammar

The words: symbols

- Constant symbols stand for objects: QueenMary, 2, UNL, etc.
- Variable symbols stand for objects:  $x$ ,  $y$ , etc.
- Predicate symbols stand for relations: Odd, Even, Brother, Sibling, etc.
- Function symbols stand for functions (viz. relation) Father-of, Square-root, LeftLeg, etc.
- Quantifiers  $\forall$ ,  $\exists$
- Connectives:  $\wedge$ ,  $\vee$ ,  $\neg$ ,  $\Rightarrow$ ,  $\Leftrightarrow$ ,
- (Sometimes) equality =

Predicates and functions can have any arity (number of arguments)



## **Basic elements** in FOL (i.e., the grammar)

**In propositional logic**, every expression is a sentence

**In FOL**,

- Terms
- Sentences:
  - atomic sentences
  - complex sentences
- Quantifiers:
  - Universal quantifier
  - Existential quantifier

## Term

logical expression that refers to an object

- built with: constant symbols, variables, function symbols

$$\text{Term} = \textit{function}(\textit{term}_1, \dots, \textit{term}_n)$$

or constant or variable

- **ground term**: term with no variable

## Atomic sentences

state facts

built with terms and predicate symbols

Atomic sentence =  $predicate(term_1, \dots, term_n)$   
or  $term_1 = term_2$

### Examples:

Brother (Richard, John)

Married (FatherOf(Richard), MotherOf(John))

## Complex Sentences

built with atomic sentences and logical connectives

$$\neg S$$

$$S_1 \wedge S_2$$

$$S_1 \vee S_2$$

$$S_1 \Rightarrow S_2$$

$$S_1 \Leftrightarrow S_2$$

### Examples:

$\text{Sibling}(\text{KingJohn}, \text{Richard}) \Rightarrow \text{Sibling}(\text{Richard}, \text{KingJohn})$

$$\gt(1, 2) \vee \leq(1, 2)$$

$$\gt(1, 2) \wedge \neg \gt(1, 2)$$

## Truth in first-order logic: Semantic

Sentences are true with respect to a model and an interpretation

Model contains objects and relations among them

Interpretation specifies referents for

*constant symbols*  $\rightarrow$  objects

*predicate symbols*  $\rightarrow$  relations

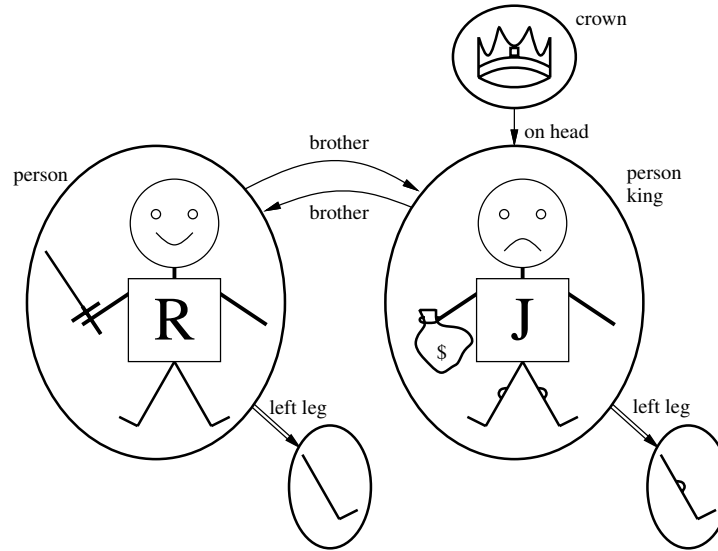
*function symbols*  $\rightarrow$  functional relations

An atomic sentence  $predicate(term_1, \dots, term_n)$  is true

iff the objects referred to by  $term_1, \dots, term_n$

are in the relation referred to by *predicate*

## Model in FOL: example



The domain of a model is the set of objects it contains:  
five objects

Intended interpretation: Richard refers Richard the Lion Heart,  
John refers to Evil King John, Brother refers to brotherhood  
relation, etc.

## Models for FOL: Lots!

We can enumerate the models for a given KB vocabulary:

For each number of domain elements  $n$  from 1 to  $\infty$

For each  $k$ -ary predicate  $P_k$  in the vocabulary

For each possible  $k$ -ary relation on  $n$  objects

For each constant symbol  $C$  in the vocabulary

For each choice of referent for  $C$  from  $n$  objects ...

Computing entailment by enumerating models is not going to be easy!

There are many possible interpretations, also some model domain are not bounded

→ Checking entailment by enumerating is not an option

## Quantifiers

allow to make statements about entire collections of objects

- universal quantifier: make statements about everything
- existential quantifier: make statements about some things



## Universal quantification

$\forall$  *<variables>* *<sentence>*

**Example:** all dogs like bones  $\forall x \text{Dog}(x) \Rightarrow \text{LikeBones}(x)$

$x = \text{Indy}$  is a dog

$x = \text{Indiana Jones}$  is a person

$\forall x P$  is equivalent to the conjunction of instantiations of  $P$

$\text{Dog}(\text{Indy}) \Rightarrow \text{LikeBones}(\text{Indy})$

$\wedge \text{Dog}(\text{Rebel}) \Rightarrow \text{LikeBones}(\text{Rebel})$

$\wedge \text{Dog}(\text{KingJohn}) \Rightarrow \text{LikeBones}(\text{KingJohn})$

$\wedge \dots$

**Typically:**  $\Rightarrow$  is the main connective with  $\forall$

**Common mistake:** using  $\wedge$  as the main connective with  $\forall$

**Example:**  $\forall x \text{Dog}(x) \wedge \text{LikeBones}(x)$

all objects in the world are dogs, and all like bones

## Existential quantification

$\exists \langle variables \rangle \langle sentence \rangle$

**Example:** some student will talk at the TechFair

$\exists x Student(x) \wedge TalksAtTechFair(x)$

Pat, Leslie, Chris are students

$\exists x P$  is equivalent to the disjunction of instantiations of  $P$

$$\begin{aligned} & Student(Pat) \wedge TalksAtTechFair(Pat) \\ \vee & Student(Leslie) \wedge TalksAtTechFair(Leslie) \\ \vee & Student(Chris) \wedge TalksAtTechFair(Chris) \\ \vee & \dots \end{aligned}$$

**Typically:**  $\wedge$  is the main connective with  $\exists$

**Common mistake:** using  $\Rightarrow$  as the main connective with  $\exists$

$\exists x Student(x) \Rightarrow TalksAtTechFair(x)$

is true if there is anyone who is not Student

## Properties of quantifiers (I)

$\forall x \forall y$  is the same as  $\forall y \forall x$

$\exists x \exists y$  is the same as  $\exists y \exists x$

$\exists x \forall y$  is not the same as  $\forall y \exists x$

$\exists x \forall y \text{ Loves}(x, y)$

“There is a person who loves everyone in the world”

$\forall y \exists x \text{ Loves}(x, y)$

“Everyone in the world is loved by at least one person”

**Quantifier duality:** each can be expressed using the other

$\forall x \text{ Likes}(x, \text{IceCream}) \quad \neg \exists x \neg \text{Likes}(x, \text{IceCream})$

$\exists x \text{ Likes}(x, \text{Broccoli}) \quad \neg \forall x \neg \text{Likes}(x, \text{Broccoli})$

**Parsimony principal:**  $\forall$ ,  $\neg$ , and  $\Rightarrow$  are sufficient

## Properties of quantifiers (II)

### Nested quantifier:

$\forall x(\exists y(P(x, y)))$ :

every object in the world has a particular property, which is the property to be related to some object by the relation P

$\exists x(\forall y(P(x, y)))$ :

there is some object in the world that has a particular property, which is the property to be related to every object by the relation P

**Lexical scoping:**  $\forall x[Cat(x) \vee \exists x Brother(Richard, x)]$

**Well-formed formulas (WFF):** (kind of correct spelling)

every variable must be introduced by a quantifier

$\forall xP(y)$  is not a WFF

## Examples

Brothers are siblings

.

“Sibling” is symmetric

.

One's mother is one's female parent

.

A first cousin is a child of a parent's sibling

## Examples

.

$$\forall x, y \text{ Brother}(x, y) \Rightarrow \text{Sibling}(x, y)$$

.

$$\forall x, y \text{ Sibling}(x, y) \Rightarrow \text{Sibling}(y, x)$$

.

$$\forall x, y \text{ Mother}(x, y) \Rightarrow (\text{Female}(x) \wedge \text{Parent}(x, y))$$

.

$$\forall x, y \text{ FirstCousin}(x, y) \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\exists a, b \text{ Parent}(a, x) \wedge \text{Sibling}(a, b) \wedge \text{Parent}(b, y)$$

## Tricky example

Someone is loved by everyone

$$\exists x \forall y \text{ Loves}(y, x)$$

Someone with red-hair is loved by everyone

$$\exists x \forall y \text{ Redhair}(x) \wedge \text{ Loves}(y, x)$$

Alternatively:

$$\exists x \text{ Person}(x) \wedge \text{ Redhair}(x) \wedge (\forall y \text{ Person}(y) \Rightarrow \text{ Loves}(y, x))$$

## Equality

$term_1 = term_2$  is true under a given interpretation if and only if  $term_1$  and  $term_2$  refer to the same object

### Examples

- $Father(John) = Henry$
- $1 = 2$  is satisfiable
- $2 = 2$  is valid
- Useful to distinguish two objects:
  - Definition of (full) *Sibling* in terms of *Parent*:  
 $\forall x, y \text{ Sibling}(x, y) \Leftrightarrow [\neg(x = y) \wedge \exists m, f \neg(m = f) \wedge \text{Parent}(m, x) \wedge \text{Parent}(f, x) \wedge \text{Parent}(m, y) \wedge \text{Parent}(f, y)]$  –  
 Spot has at least two sisters: ...

AIMA, Exercise 8.4. Write: “All Germans speak the same languages,” where  $Speaks(x, l)$  means that person  $x$  speaks language  $l$ .



## Knowledge representation (KR)

**Domain:** a section of the world about which we wish to express some knowledge

**Example:** Family relations (kinship):

- Objects: people
- Properties: gender, married, divorced, single, widowed
- Relations: parenthood, brotherhood, marriage..

**Unary predicates:** Male, Female

**Binary relations:** Parent, Sibling, Brother, Child, etc.

**Functions:** Mother, Father

$$\forall m, c, \text{Mother}(c) = m \Leftrightarrow \text{Female}(m) \wedge \text{Parent}(m, c)$$

## **In Logic** (informally)

- Basic facts: axioms (definitions)
- Derived facts: theorems

### **Independent axiom**

an axiom that cannot be derived from the rest

→ Goal of mathematicians: find the minimal set  
of independent axioms

## **In AI**

- Assertions: sentences added to a KB using TELL
- Queries or goals: sentences asked to KB using ASK

## Interacting with FOL KBs

Suppose a wumpus-world agent is using an FOL KB and perceives a smell and a breeze (but no glitter) at  $t = 5$ :

$Tell(KB, Percept([Smell, Breeze, None], 5))$

$Ask(KB, \exists a Action(a, 5))$

I.e., does the KB entail any particular actions at  $t = 5$ ?

Answer: *Yes*,  $\{a/Shoot\}$   $\leftarrow$  substitution (binding list)

Given a sentence  $S$  and a substitution  $\sigma$ ,

$S\sigma$  denotes the result of plugging  $\sigma$  into  $S$ ; e.g.,

$S = Smarter(x, y)$

$\sigma = \{x/Hillary, y/Bill\}$

$S\sigma = Smarter(Hillary, Bill)$

$Ask(KB, S)$  returns some/all  $\sigma$  such that  $KB \models S\sigma$

**Prepare for next lecture:** AIMA, Exercise 8.24, page 319

Takes( $x, c, s$ ): student  $x$  takes course  $c$  in semester  $s$

Passes( $x, c, s$ ): student  $x$  passes course  $c$  in semester  $s$

Score( $x, c, s$ ): the score obtained by student  $x$  in course  $c$  in semester  $s$

$x > y$ :  $x$  is greater than  $y$

$F$  and  $G$ : specific French and Greek courses

Buys( $x, y, z$ ):  $x$  buys  $y$  from  $z$

Sells( $x, y, z$ ):  $x$  sells  $y$  from  $z$

Shaves( $x, y$ ): person  $x$  shaves person  $y$

Born( $x, c$ ): person  $x$  is born in country  $c$

Parent( $x, y$ ): person  $x$  is parent of person  $y$

Citizen( $x, c, r$ ): person  $x$  is citizen of country  $c$  for reason  $r$

Resident( $x, c$ ): person  $x$  is resident of country  $c$  of person  $y$

Fools( $x, y, t$ ): person  $x$  fools person  $y$  at time  $t$

Student ( $x$ ), Person( $x$ ), Man( $x$ ), Barber( $x$ ), Expensive( $x$ ), Agent( $x$ ),

Insured( $x$ ), Smart( $x$ ), Politician( $x$ ),

## AI Limerick

If your thesis is utterly vacuous  
Use first-order predicate calculus  
With sufficient formality  
The sheerest banality  
Will be hailed by the critics: "Miraculous!"

*Henry Kautz*

*In Canadian Artificial Intelligence, September 1986*

*head of AI at AT&T Labs-Research*

*Program co-chair of AAAI-2000*

*Professor at University of Washington, Seattle*

*Founding Director of Institute for Data Science and Professor at University of Rochester*