

# Lecture - 40

## Topic: Semantic Relations in FOL

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## 1 Semantics of FOL

In the previous class we have seen and formalized how to check  $M, \alpha \models \phi$  (i.e Given structure M and binding  $\alpha$ , does  $\phi$  evaluate to true). Now we will see an example on it.

### 1.1 Semantics of FOL: Illustration

Lets take the following example:

$$\phi = \exists x R(x, f(y, a)) \rightarrow \exists z (\neg(z = a) \wedge R(z, y))$$

SO, we have to decide our M and  $\alpha$  first:

1. The given Formula contains the following variables x,y,z.
2. We can clearly see  $\exists x$  and  $\exists z$  but nothing for y. SO,  $\text{free}(\phi)$  (i.e free variables of  $\phi$ ) contains only y.
3. Now lets decide  $\alpha(y)$  as 2.
4. The vocabulary for the given formula is  $\{a, f, =, R\}$ .
5. Now for every item in vocabulary i have to choose a mapping in M. Lets consider the following Mapping

$$M = (N, (0, u + v, u < v))$$

where:

$$U^M \rightarrow N$$

$$a^M \rightarrow 0$$

$$f^M(u, v) \rightarrow u + v$$

$$R^M(u, v) \rightarrow u < v$$

$$= \rightarrow u = v$$

6. We know that if  $M, \alpha \models \exists x \phi$  it can be written as  $M, \alpha[x \rightarrow c] \models \phi$  based on this first lets evaluvate the term

$$M, \alpha[z \rightarrow 1] \models (\neg(z = a) \wedge R(z, y))$$

- (i) We kept z as 1 and a is mapped 0 so z is not equal to a which means  $\neg(z = a)$  is true.
- (ii) We kept z as 1 and y is mapped 2 (based on  $\alpha$ ) so z is less than y which implies  $R(z, y)$  (i.e

$z < y$  is true.

(iii) As both are true their intersection is true. Which implies the given statement is true.

(iv) From the principles we already discussed in starting of sixth point the given formula can be re-written as

$$M, \alpha \models \exists z (\neg(z = a) \wedge R(z, y))$$

This means the RHS of the implies is true.

7. Now lets check the LHS part of the implies and see if it evaluates to true.

8. The formula is

$$M, \alpha[x \rightarrow 0] \models R(x, f(y, a))$$

As we now  $y$  is mapped to 2 and  $a$  is mapped to 0  $f(y, a)$  is  $y+a$  which is 2 and  $x$  (whose value is 0) is less than 2, so  $R$  also evaluates to true as  $x < f(y, a)$ . The given one is true and can be rewritten as

$$M, \alpha \models \exists x R(x, f(y, a))$$

9. We finally got

$$M, \alpha \models \exists x R(x, f(y, a))$$

$$M, \alpha \models \exists z (\neg(z = a) \wedge R(z, y))$$

This clearly implies we proved  $M, \alpha \models \phi$

10. You can do the same this taking  $\alpha(y)$  as 1, then we get  $M, \alpha \not\models \phi$  because if  $y$  mapped to 1, For  $R(z, y)$  to be true  $z$  must be 0, then if  $z$  is 0 it implies  $z$  is equal to  $a$ . So  $\neg(z = a)$  evaluates to false. Then the RHS of implies in the given formula evaluates to false but LHS evaluates to true.

## 2 Semantic Relations in FOL

Let  $F = \{\phi_1, \phi_2, \dots\}$  be a (possibly infinite) set of formulas, and  $\psi$  be a formula

### 2.1 Semantic Entailment

$F \models \psi$  holds iff whenever  $M, \alpha \models \phi_i$  for all  $\phi_i \in F$ , then  $M, \alpha \models \psi$  as well.

**Example:**

$$\{\forall x((x = a) \vee R(x, y)), R(a, y)\} \models \forall z R(z, y)$$

if any  $M, \alpha$  is such that  $M, \alpha \models \forall x((x = a) \vee R(x, y))$  this tells that  $M, \alpha \models R(x, y)$  for all  $x$  except when  $x=a$  because  $x=a$  might be evaluated to true and  $R(x, y)$  might be evaluated to false. But using the second formula  $R(a, y)$  we can tell that  $M, \alpha \models R(x, y)$  even when  $x=a$ . so we proved that  $M, \alpha \models R(x, y)$  for all  $x$  (whether  $x$  is  $a$  or not  $a$ ). so we proved

$$M, \alpha \models \forall z R(z, y)$$

### 2.2 Satisfiability

$\psi$  is satisfiable iff there is some  $M$  and  $\alpha$  such that  $M, \alpha \models \psi$

**Example:**

$$\psi = \exists x R(x, f(y, a)) \rightarrow \exists z (\neg(z = a) \wedge R(z, y))$$

This is the first example we took in section 1 and we also chosen  $M, \alpha$  for which  $M, \alpha \models \psi$  So the above formula is **satisfiable**.

## 2.3 Validity

A V-formula  $\psi$  is valid iff  $M, \alpha \models \psi$  for all V-structures  $M$  and all bindings  $\alpha$  that assign values from  $U^M$  to  $\text{free}(\psi)$ .

**Example:**

$$\psi = \forall x P(x, y) \rightarrow \exists x P(x, y)$$

if  $M, \alpha \models \forall x P(x, y)$  it can be written as  $M, \alpha \models \neg(\exists x \neg(P(x, y)))$ . Now going further it can be written as  $M, \alpha[x \rightarrow c] \models \neg(\neg(P(x, y)))$ . This can be converted into

$$M, \alpha \models \exists x P(x, y)$$

. We finally got if  $M, \alpha \models \forall x P(x, y)$  then  $M, \alpha \models \exists x P(x, y)$ . Similarly we can prove if  $M, \alpha \not\models \forall x P(x, y)$  then  $M, \alpha \not\models \exists x P(x, y)$ . Therefore for any  $M, \alpha$  chosen  $M, \alpha \models \psi$ . So the given formula is valid.

## 2.4 Consistency

F is consistent iff there is at least one  $M$  and  $\alpha$  such that  $M, \alpha \models \phi_i$  for all  $\phi_i \in F$

**Example:**

$$F = \{\exists x R(x, y), \exists x R(f(x), y), \exists x R(f(f(x)), y), \dots\}$$

For the given F it is very clear that the free variable is y for all the  $\phi_i$ . So let's take

$$\alpha(y) = 2$$

$$M = (N, (u, u < v))$$

where:

$$U^M \rightarrow N$$

$$f^M(u) \rightarrow u$$

$$R^M(u, v) \rightarrow u < v$$

These  $M, \alpha$  binds to all  $\phi_i$  taking  $x \rightarrow 0$ . Therefore, the given F is **consistent**.

## 3 Semantic Equivalence in FOL

$$\phi \equiv \psi \text{ iff } \{\phi\} \models \psi \text{ and } \{\psi\} \models \phi$$

where

$\{\phi\} \models \psi$  means that the set  $\{\phi\}$  **semantically entails**  $\psi$  (we defined semantically entails in 2.1)

### 3.1 Quantifier equivalences

Here are some of the quantifier equivalences:

- $\forall x \forall y \psi \equiv \forall y \forall x \psi$
- $\exists x \exists y \psi \equiv \exists y \exists x \psi$
- $\forall x (\psi_1 \wedge \psi_2) \equiv (\forall x \psi_1) \wedge (\forall x \psi_2)$
- $\exists x (\psi_1 \vee \psi_2) \equiv (\exists x \psi_1) \vee (\exists x \psi_2)$
- If  $x \notin \text{free}(\phi_2)$ , then  $Qx (\phi_1 \text{ op } \phi_2) \equiv (Qx \phi_1) \text{ op } \phi_2$ , where  $Q \in \{\exists, \forall\}$  and  $\text{op} \in \{\vee, \wedge\}$ .

**Example(for the last one):**

$$\forall x(\psi_1(x) \vee \psi_2(x)) \not\equiv (\forall x\psi_1(x)) \vee (\forall x\psi_2(x))$$

where as

$$\forall x(\psi_1(x) \vee \psi_2(y)) \equiv (\forall x\psi_1(x)) \vee (\psi_2(y))$$

because  $x \notin \text{free}(\psi_2)$

**Renaming Quantified Variables:** Let  $z \notin \text{free}(\phi) \vee \text{bnd}(\phi)$ . Then  $Qx \phi \equiv Qz \phi[z/x]$  for  $Q \in \{\exists, \forall\}$

**Example 1:**

$$\exists xR(f(x, y), w) \equiv \exists zR(f(z, y), w)$$

**Example 2:**

$$\forall x\psi_1(x, y) \vee \forall x\psi_2(z, x) \equiv \forall x\psi_1(x, y) \vee \forall u\psi_2(z, u)$$

that can be further reduced to:

$$\forall x\psi_1(x, y) \vee \forall u\psi_2(z, u) \equiv \forall x(\forall u(\psi_1(x, y) \vee \psi_2(z, u)))$$

### 3.2 Negation Normal Form

We can Push negations down to atomic predicates using Demorgans law and using

$$\neg\exists x\phi(x) \equiv \forall x\neg\phi(x)$$

$$\neg\forall x\phi(x) \equiv \exists x\neg\phi(x)$$

### 3.3 Pull quantifiers out to the left

We will pull the quantifiers to the left using renaming as shown in example 2 in 3.1 if we are not able to do it directly. Here are some of the examples:

- $\exists x\phi(x) \vee \exists x\psi(x) \equiv \exists x(\phi(x) \vee \psi(x))$
- $\exists x\phi(x) \wedge \exists z\psi(z) \equiv \exists x\exists z(\phi(x) \wedge \psi(z))$
- $\forall x\phi(x) \wedge \exists x\psi(x) \equiv \forall x(\phi(x) \wedge \psi(x))$
- $\forall x\phi(x) \vee \forall z\psi(z) \equiv \forall x\forall z(\phi(x) \vee \psi(z))$