

First-Order Logic (FOL) part 2

Overview

- We'll first give some examples of how to translate between FOL and English
- Then look at modelling family relations in FOL
- And finally touch on a few other topics

Translating English to FOL

Every gardener likes the sun

$$\forall x \text{ gardener}(x) \rightarrow \text{likes}(x, \text{Sun})$$

All purple mushrooms are poisonous

$$\forall x (\text{mushroom}(x) \wedge \text{purple}(x)) \rightarrow \text{poisonous}(x)$$

No purple mushroom is poisonous (two ways)

$$\neg \exists x \text{ purple}(x) \wedge \text{mushroom}(x) \wedge \text{poisonous}(x)$$

$$\forall x (\text{mushroom}(x) \wedge \text{purple}(x)) \rightarrow \neg \text{poisonous}(x)$$

English to FOL: Counting



Use = predicate to identify different individuals

- There are at least two purple mushrooms

$$\exists x \exists y \text{ mushroom}(x) \wedge \text{purple}(x) \wedge \text{mushroom}(y) \wedge \text{purple}(y) \wedge \neg(x=y)$$

- There are exactly two purple mushrooms

$$\begin{aligned} &\exists x \exists y \text{ mushroom}(x) \wedge \text{purple}(x) \wedge \text{mushroom}(y) \wedge \text{purple}(y) \wedge \neg(x=y) \wedge \\ &\forall z (\text{mushroom}(z) \wedge \text{purple}(z)) \rightarrow ((x=z) \vee (y=z)) \end{aligned}$$

Saying there are 802 different Pokemon will be hard!

Translating English to FOL



What do these mean?

- You can fool some of the people all of the time
- You can fool all of the people some of the time

Translating English to FOL



What do these mean?

Both English statements are ambiguous

- **You can fool some of the people all of the time**

There is a nonempty subset of people so easily fooled that you can fool that subset every time*

For any given time, there is a non-empty subset at that time that you can fool

- **You can fool all of the people some of the time**

There are one or more times when it's possible to fool everyone*

Everybody can be fooled at some point in time

* Most common interpretation, I think

Some terms we will need



- **person(x)**: True iff x is a person
- **time(t)**: True iff t is a point in time
- **canFool(x, t)**: True iff x can be fooled at time t

Note: *iff* = *if and only if* = \leftrightarrow

Translating English to FOL



You can fool some of the people all of the time

There is a nonempty group of people so easily fooled that you can fool that group every time*

≡ There's (at least) one person you can fool every time

$\exists x \forall t \text{ person}(x) \wedge \text{time}(t) \rightarrow \text{canFool}(x, t)$

For any given time, there is a non-empty group at that time that you can fool

≡ For every time, there's a person at that time that you can fool

$\forall t \exists x \text{ person}(x) \wedge \text{time}(t) \rightarrow \text{canFool}(x, t)$

* Most common interpretation, I think

Translating English to FOL



You can fool all of the people some of the time

There's at least one time when you can fool everyone*

$$\exists t \forall x \text{time}(t) \wedge \text{person}(x) \rightarrow \text{canFool}(x, t)$$

Everybody can be fooled at some point in time

$$\forall x \exists t \text{person}(x) \wedge \text{time}(t) \rightarrow \text{canFool}(x, t)$$

* Most common interpretation, I think

Representation Design



- Many options for representing even a simple fact, e.g., something's color as red, green or blue, e.g.:
 - green(kermit)
 - color(kermit, green)
 - hasProperty(kermit, color, green)
- Choice can influence how easy it is to use
- Last option of representing properties & relations as triples used by modern knowledge graphs
 - Easy to ask: What color is Kermit? What are Kermit's properties?, What green things are there? Tell me everything you know, ...

Simple genealogy KB in FOL



Design a knowledge base using FOL that

- Has facts of immediate family relations, e.g., spouses, parents, etc.
- Defines of more complex relations (ancestors, relatives)
- Detect conflicts, e.g., you are your own parent
- Infers relations, e.g., grandparent from parent
- Answers queries about relationships between people

How do we approach this?



- Design an initial ontology of types, e.g.
 - e.g., person, man, woman, male, female
- Extend ontology by defining relations, e.g.
 - spouse, has_child, has_parent
- Add general constraints to relations, e.g.
 - $\text{spouse}(X,Y) \Rightarrow \sim X = Y$
 - $\text{spouse}(X,Y) \Rightarrow \text{person}(X), \text{person}(Y)$
- Add FOL sentences for inference, e.g.
 - $\text{spouse}(X,Y) \Leftrightarrow \text{spouse}(Y,X)$
 - $\text{man}(X) \Leftrightarrow \text{person}(X) \wedge \text{male}(X)$

Example: A simple genealogy KB by FOL

Predicates:

- parent(x, y), child(x, y), father(x, y), daughter(x, y), etc.
- spouse(x, y), husband(x, y), wife(x, y)
- ancestor(x, y), descendant(x, y)
- male(x), female(y)
- relative(x, y)

Facts:

- husband(Joe, Mary), son(Fred, Joe)
- spouse(John, Nancy), male(John), son(Mark, Nancy)
- father(Jack, Nancy), daughter(Linda, Jack)
- daughter(Liz, Linda)
- etc.

Example Axioms



$(\forall x,y)$ parent(x, y) \leftrightarrow child (y, x)

$(\forall x,y)$ father(x, y) \leftrightarrow parent(x, y) \wedge male(x) ;*similar for mother(x, y)*

$(\forall x,y)$ daughter(x, y) \leftrightarrow child(x, y) \wedge female(x) ;*similar for son(x, y)*

$(\forall x,y)$ husband(x, y) \leftrightarrow spouse(x, y) \wedge male(x) ;*similar for wife(x, y)*

$(\forall x,y)$ spouse(x, y) \leftrightarrow spouse(y, x) ;*spouse relation is symmetric*

$(\forall x,y)$ parent(x, y) \rightarrow ancestor(x, y)

$(\forall x,y)(\exists z)$ parent(x, z) \wedge ancestor(z, y) \rightarrow ancestor(x, y)

$(\forall x,y)$ descendant(x, y) \leftrightarrow ancestor(y, x)

$(\forall x,y)(\exists z)$ ancestor(z, x) \wedge ancestor(z, y) \rightarrow relative(x, y)

$(\forall x,y)$ spouse(x, y) \rightarrow relative(x, y) ;*related by marriage*

$(\forall x,y)(\exists z)$ relative(z, x) \wedge relative(z, y) \rightarrow relative(x, y) ;*transitive*

$(\forall x,y)$ relative(x, y) \leftrightarrow relative(y, x) ;*symmetric*

Axioms, definitions and theorems

- **Axioms**: facts and rules that capture (important) facts & concepts in a domain; axioms are used to prove **theorems**
 - Mathematicians dislike unnecessary (dependent) axioms, i.e. ones that can be derived from others
 - Dependent axioms can make reasoning faster, however
 - Choosing a good set of axioms is a design problem
- A **definition** of a predicate is of the form “ $p(X) \leftrightarrow \dots$ ” and can be decomposed into two parts
 - **Necessary** description: “ $p(x) \rightarrow \dots$ ”
 - **Sufficient** description “ $p(x) \leftarrow \dots$ ”
 - Some concepts have definitions (e.g., triangle) and some don't (e.g., person)

More on definitions

Example: define $\text{father}(x, y)$ by $\text{parent}(x, y)$ and $\text{male}(x)$

- **$\text{parent}(x, y)$** is a necessary (but not sufficient) description of $\text{father}(x, y)$

$$\text{father}(x, y) \rightarrow \text{parent}(x, y)$$

- **$\text{parent}(x, y) \wedge \text{male}(x) \wedge \text{age}(x, 35)$** is a sufficient (but not necessary) description of $\text{father}(x, y)$:

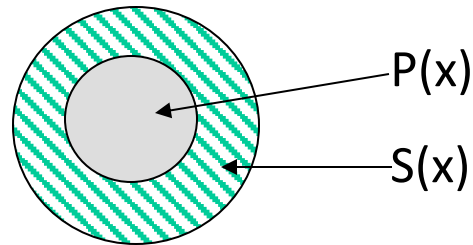
$$\text{father}(x, y) \leftarrow \text{parent}(x, y) \wedge \text{male}(x) \wedge \text{age}(x, 35)$$

- **$\text{parent}(x, y) \wedge \text{male}(x)$** is a necessary and sufficient description of $\text{father}(x, y)$

$$\text{parent}(x, y) \wedge \text{male}(x) \leftrightarrow \text{father}(x, y)$$

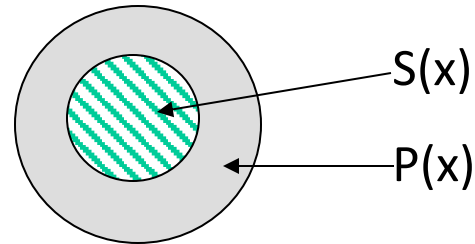
More on definitions

$S(x)$ is a
necessary
condition of $P(x)$



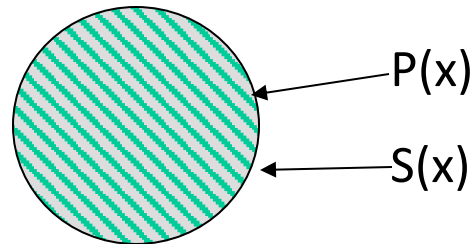
all P s are S s
 $(\forall x) P(x) \Rightarrow S(x)$

$S(x)$ is a
sufficient
condition of $P(x)$



all P s are S s
 $(\forall x) P(x) \Leftarrow S(x)$

$S(x)$ is a
necessary and
sufficient
condition of $P(x)$



all P s are S s
all S s are P s
 $(\forall x) P(x) \Leftrightarrow S(x)$

Higher-order logic

- FOL only lets us quantify over variables, and **variables can only range over objects**
- HOL allows us to quantify over relations, e.g.
“two functions are equal iff they produce the same value for all arguments”

$$\forall f \forall g (f = g) \leftrightarrow (\forall x f(x) = g(x))$$

- E.g.: (quantify over predicates)

$$\forall r \text{ transitive}(r) \rightarrow (\forall xyz) r(x,y) \wedge r(y,z) \rightarrow r(x,z)$$

- More expressive, but reasoning is undecidable, in general



Examples of FOL in use

- Semantics of W3C's [Semantic Web](#) stack (RDF, RDFS, OWL) is defined in FOL
- [OWL](#) Full is equivalent to FOL
- Other OWL profiles support a subset of FOL and are more efficient
- The semantics of [schema.org](#) is only defined in natural language text
- [Wikidata](#)'s knowledge graph (and Google's) has a richer schema

FOL Summary

- First order logic (FOL) introduces predicates, functions and quantifiers
- More expressive, but reasoning more complex
 - Reasoning in propositional logic is NP hard, FOL is semi-decidable
- Common AI knowledge representation language
 - Other KR languages (e.g., [OWL](#)) are often defined by mapping them to FOL
- FOL variables range over objects
 - HOL variables range over functions, predicates or sentences

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