
Artificial Intelligence

III Knowledge and Reasoning

III.2 First-Order Logic

F. C. Langbein

School of Computer Science
and Informatics
Cardiff University





Overview

- First-Order Logic
 - Syntax
 - Semantics
- Basic set theory
- Higher order logics

First-Order Logic

- Propositional logic assumes world contains **facts**
- First-order logic (FOL) assumes world contains
 - **Objects** as elements in the world:
people, houses, colours, numbers, theories, wars, ...
 - **Functions** mapping k objects onto one object:
father_of, best_friend, one_more_than, head_of, ...
 - k -ary **relations** between objects which are true or false:
prime, colour, shape, brother, bigger, owns, ...
- **Variables** enable use of knowledge templates
 - ➔ *Reusable* knowledge:
instantiation with new objects gives new facts
- *Deterministic relational model*
 - Used in first-order logic reasoning, planning

FOL Syntax: Basic Elements

- **Constants**: KingJohn, 2, CardiffUniversity, ...
(to represent objects)
- **Functions**: Sqrt, LeftLegOf, ...
(to represent functions)
- **Predicates**: Brother, >, ...
(to represent relations between objects)
- **Connectives**: \neg , \vee , \wedge , \Rightarrow , \Leftrightarrow
(to construct complex sentences)
- **Variables**: x , y , a , b , ...
(to express knowledge templates)
- **Quantifiers**: \forall , \exists
(to declare variables)
- **Equality**: $=$
(to determine object equality)

FOL Syntax: Atomic Sentences

- `function, constant, predicate` are capitalised strings
- `variable` is non-capital character
- `term = (function, "(" , [term, {",", " , term}], ")")` |
`constant | variable`
 - `LeftLegOf(Richard)`
 - `Length(LeftLegOf(x))`
- `atom = (predicate, "(" , [term, {",", " , term}], ")")` |
`term, "=", term`
 - `Brother(KingJohn, RichardTheLionheart)`
 - `> (Length(LeftLegOf(Richard)),`
`Length(LeftLegOf(KingJohn)))`
 - `Richard = RichardTheLionheart`

FOL Syntax: Complex Sentences

➤ Complex sentences are made from atomic sentences using connectives and quantifiers

● sentence = (sentence, binary-connective, sentence) |
(unary-connective, sentence) |
(quantifier, variable, sentence) |
atom

● $\neg S$, $S_1 \wedge S_2$, $S_1 \vee S_2$, $S_1 \Rightarrow S_2$, $S_1 \Leftrightarrow S_2$

● $\forall x S(x)$, $\exists x S(x)$

– $> (1, 2) \vee \neg \geq (1, 2)$

– $\neg \leq (\text{Length}(\text{LeftLegOf}(\text{KingJohn})), 0)$

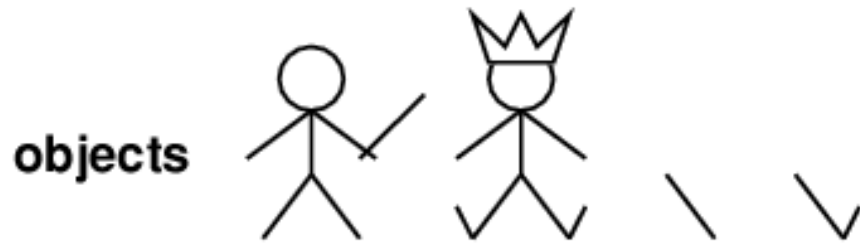
– $\forall x \text{Sibling}(\text{KingJohn}, x) \Rightarrow \text{Sibling}(x, \text{KingJohn})$

➤ Parenthesis for operator precedence

FOL Semantics: Basic Truth

- Sentences are true in a **model** described by **objects** & **functions** & **relations**
- An atomic sentence $predicate(term_1, \dots, term_n)$ is *true* iff **objects referred to by $term_1, \dots, term_n$ are in the relation referred to by $predicate$**
 - Variables, equality and quantifiers not yet included
- *Interpretation* of model specifies referents
 - Constant symbols \leftrightarrow objects in the world
 - Predicate symbols \leftrightarrow relations in the world
 - Function symbols \leftrightarrow functional relations in the world

FOL Model Example



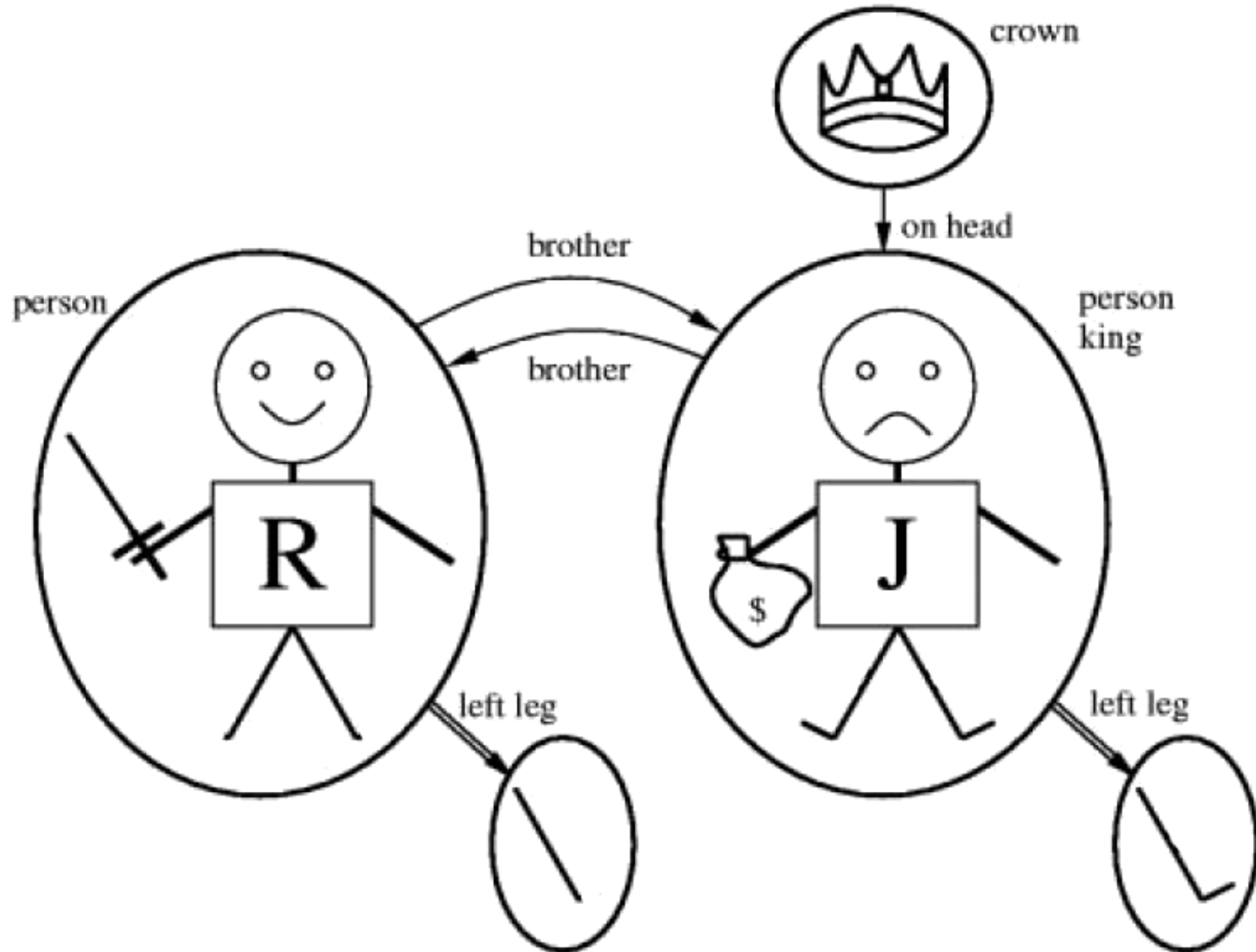
relations: sets of tuples of objects



functional relations: all tuples of objects + "value" object



FOL Model Example



Universal Quantification

➤ Universally quantified variables: $\forall \langle \textit{variable} \rangle \langle \textit{sentence} \rangle$
(sentence can use variable as term)

● “Everyone at Cardiff is smart”

$$\forall x \text{ At}(x, \text{Cardiff}) \Rightarrow \text{Smart}(x)$$

● $\forall x P$ is *conjunction of instantiations* of P

$$(\text{At}(\text{KingJohn}, \text{Cardiff}) \Rightarrow \text{Smart}(\text{KingJohn}))$$

$$\wedge (\text{At}(\text{Richard}, \text{Cardiff}) \Rightarrow \text{Smart}(\text{Richard}))$$

$$\wedge (\text{At}(\text{Cardiff}, \text{Cardiff}) \Rightarrow \text{Smart}(\text{Cardiff}))$$

$$\wedge \dots$$

➤ Typically, \Rightarrow is the main connective with \forall

● *Common MISTAKE*: \wedge is main connective with \forall

$$\forall x \text{ At}(x, \text{Cardiff}) \wedge \text{Smart}(x)$$

means “Everyone is at Cardiff and everyone is smart”!

Existential Quantification

➤ Existentially quantified variables: $\exists \langle \textit{variable} \rangle \langle \textit{sentence} \rangle$
(sentence can use variable as term)

● “Someone at Cambridge is smart”

$$\exists x \text{ At}(x, \text{Cambridge}) \wedge \text{Smart}(x)$$

● $\exists x P$ is *disjunction of instantiations* of P

$$\begin{aligned} & (\text{At}(\text{KingJohn}, \text{Cambridge}) \wedge \text{Smart}(\text{KingJohn})) \\ & \vee (\text{At}(\text{Richard}, \text{Cambridge}) \wedge \text{Smart}(\text{Richard})) \\ & \vee (\text{At}(\text{Cambridge}, \text{Cambridge}) \wedge \text{Smart}(\text{Cambridge})) \\ & \vee \dots \end{aligned}$$

➤ Typically, \wedge is the main connective with \exists

● *Common MISTAKE*: \Rightarrow is main connective with \exists

● $\exists x \text{ At}(x, \text{Cambridge}) \Rightarrow \text{Smart}(x)$

is true if there is anyone who is not at Cambridge!

Properties of Quantifiers

- $\forall x \forall y$ is the same as $\forall y \forall x$
- $\exists x \exists y$ is the same as $\exists y \exists x$
- Write $\forall x, y, \dots$ and $\exists x, y, \dots$ for simplicity
- $\exists x \forall y$ is *not* the same as $\forall y \exists x$
 - $\exists x \forall y \text{ Loves}(x, y)$
 - “There is someone 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
 - $\forall x \text{ Likes}(x, \text{IceCream}) \equiv \neg \exists x \neg \text{Likes}(x, \text{IceCream})$
 - $\exists x \text{ Likes}(x, \text{Broccoli}) \equiv \neg \forall x \neg \text{Likes}(x, \text{Broccoli})$

Equality

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

➤ Examples

● $1 = 2$: true if both constants refer to the same object

● $2 = 2$: true in any model

● $\forall x * (\text{Sqrt}(x), \text{Sqrt}(x)) = x$: true in certain models

➤ Example: definition of (full) sibling in terms of parent

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

[$\neg(x = y) \wedge$

($\exists m, f \neg(m = f) \wedge$

$\text{Parent}(m, x) \wedge \text{Parent}(f, x) \wedge$

$\text{Parent}(m, y) \wedge \text{Parent}(f, y) \quad) \quad]$

Kinship Examples

➤ “Brothers are siblings”

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

➤ “Sibling is symmetric”

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

➤ “One’s mother is one’s female parent”

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

➤ “A first cousin is a child of a parent’s sibling”

– $\forall x, y \text{ FirstCousin}(x, y) \Rightarrow$
 $(\exists p, s \text{ Parent}(p, x) \wedge \text{Sibling}(s, p) \wedge \text{Parent}(s, y))$
 $\wedge x \neq y$

Kinship Examples

➤ “There is at least one child”

– $\exists x \text{ Child}(x)$

➤ “There is at most one child”

– $\forall x, y \text{ Child}(x) \wedge \text{Child}(y) \Rightarrow x = y$

➤ “There is exactly one child”

– $\exists x \text{ Child}(x) \wedge (\forall x, y \text{ Child}(x) \wedge \text{Child}(y) \Rightarrow x = y)$

General Set Theory: Axioms

➤ General, not Zermelo-Fraenkel, sufficient for *finite* sets

➤ *Extensionality axiom*

$$\forall a, b, x (\text{In}(x, a) \Leftrightarrow \text{In}(x, b)) \Rightarrow a = b$$

– Usually, $\text{In}(x, a)$ is $x \in a$

➤ *Axiom scheme of specification* for any predicate P

$$\forall a \exists b \forall x \text{In}(x, b) \Leftrightarrow \text{In}(x, a) \wedge P(x)$$

– Usually $b = \{x \in a : P(x)\}$

– Special cases: $P = \text{true}$ or $P = \text{false}$

➤ *Empty set axiom*: $\exists e \forall x \neg \text{In}(x, e)$

– e is unique because of extensionality axiom

➤ *Adjunction axiom*

$$\forall a, b \exists w \forall x \text{In}(x, w) \Leftrightarrow \text{In}(x, a) \vee x = b$$

General Set Theory: Sets

➤ *List notation*: $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$ denotes a set A iff

$$\forall y \text{In}(y, A) \Leftrightarrow y = x_1 \vee y = x_2 \vee \dots \vee y = x_n$$

● Uniqueness of A not specified

– Extensionality guarantees uniqueness

➤ *Brace notation*: $\{x : P(x)\}$ denotes a set A iff

$$(\forall y \text{In}(y, A) \Leftrightarrow P(y)) \wedge (\forall b, z (\text{In}(z, b) \Leftrightarrow P(z)) \Rightarrow b = A)$$

● Uniqueness of A included

– Specification guarantees that set A exists for every P

– Extensionality guarantees second conjunct is satisfied whenever first conjunct is satisfied

➡ A always exists and is unique

General Set Theory: Subsets

➤ *Subset*

$$\forall a, b \text{ SubsetEq}(a, b) \Leftrightarrow (\forall x \text{ In}(x, a) \Rightarrow \text{In}(x, b))$$

➤ *Not subset*

$$\forall a, b \text{ NotSubset}(a, b) \Leftrightarrow (\exists x \text{ In}(x, a) \wedge \neg \text{In}(x, b))$$

➤ *True subset*

$$\begin{aligned} \forall a, b \text{ SubsetNotEq}(a, b) \Leftrightarrow \\ (\forall x \text{ In}(x, a) \Rightarrow \text{In}(x, b)) \wedge \\ (\exists y \text{ In}(y, b) \wedge \neg \text{In}(y, a)) \end{aligned}$$

General Set Theory: Operations

➤ *Union*

$$\forall a, b, x \text{ In}(x, \text{Union}(a, b)) \Leftrightarrow \text{In}(x, a) \vee \text{In}(x, b)$$

➤ *Intersection*

$$\forall a, b, x \text{ In}(x, \text{Intersection}(a, b)) \Leftrightarrow \text{In}(x, a) \wedge \text{In}(x, b)$$

➤ *Difference* (relative complement)

$$\forall a, b, x \text{ In}(x, \text{Difference}(a, b)) \Leftrightarrow \text{In}(x, a) \wedge \neg \text{In}(x, b)$$

➤ *Power set*

$$\forall a, x \text{ In}(x, \text{PowerSet}(a)) \Leftrightarrow \text{SubsetEq}(x, a)$$

– Note, $|\text{PowerSet}(a)| > |a|$ (Cantor, 1891)

Russell's Paradox

➤ Let R be the *set of all sets that do not contain themselves*

$$R = \{a : \neg \text{In}(a, a)\}$$

● From brace notation for R (first conjunct)

$$\forall x \text{In}(x, R) \Leftrightarrow P(x) \quad \text{with } P(x) = \neg \text{In}(x, x)$$

● Hence

$$\forall x \text{In}(x, R) \Leftrightarrow \neg \text{In}(x, x)$$

● Instantiate x by R

$$\text{In}(R, R) \Leftrightarrow \neg \text{In}(R, R)$$

➡ *Contradiction*

➤ Not allowing the above R is insufficient

– Many *reciprocal* P , e.g. $P(x) = \neg \exists z \text{In}(x, z) \wedge \text{In}(z, x)$

➡ Be very vareful with things referring to themselves!

Higher Order Logics

- Propositional logic: facts
- Higher-order logic
 - First-order logic: quantify over objects
 - Second-order logic: quantify over predicates
 - Higher order $k > 2$ logic:
 - order k predicate has order $k - 1$ predicate arguments
 - ➔ Proofs become messy in higher-order logics
- *Type theory*: hierarchy of types assigned to entities
 - Alternative to naive set theory
 - Roughly, a type corresponds to a set
 - E.g. *typed λ -calculus*
 - Foundation of programming languages