

# Inference in First-order Logic

## 1 Problem 1

Russell and Norvig, Exercise 9.18.

From "Horses are animals," it follows that "The head of a horse is the head of an animal." Demonstrate that this inference is valid by carrying out the following steps:

a. Translate the premise and the conclusion into the language of first-order logic.

Use three predicates:  $HeadOf(h, x)$  (meaning "h is the head of x"),  $Horse(x)$ , and  $Animal(x)$ .

**ANSWER:**

Knowledge base:

$C1 : \forall x \text{ Horse}(x) \Rightarrow \text{Animal}(x)$

Conclusion:

$G : \forall x, h \text{ Horse}(x) \wedge \text{HeadOf}(h, x) \Rightarrow \exists y \text{ Animal}(y) \wedge \text{HeadOf}(h, y)$

b. Negate the conclusion, and convert the premise and the negated conclusion into conjunctive normal form.

c. Use resolution to show that the conclusion follows from the premise.

**ANSWER:**

We get  $C2 : \neg \text{Horse}(x) \vee \text{Animal}(x)$  by converting  $C1$  into normal form.

$\neg G : \exists x, h \neg [\text{Horse}(x) \wedge \text{HeadOf}(h, x) \Rightarrow \exists y \text{ Animal}(y) \wedge \text{HeadOf}(h, y)]$

Implication elimination:  $\exists x, h \neg \{ \neg [\text{Horse}(x) \wedge \text{HeadOf}(h, x)] \vee [\exists y \text{ Animal}(y) \wedge \text{HeadOf}(h, y)] \}$

Move  $\neg$  inwards:  $\exists x, h \{ [\text{Horse}(x) \wedge \text{HeadOf}(h, x)] \wedge [\forall y \neg \text{Animal}(y) \vee \neg \text{HeadOf}(h, y)] \}$

Skolemization:  $\{ [\text{Horse}(G) \wedge \text{HeadOf}(H, G)] \wedge [\forall y \neg \text{Animal}(y) \vee \neg \text{HeadOf}(H, y)] \}$

Hence, we get the normal forms:

$C3 : \text{Horse}(G)$

$C4 : \text{HeadOf}(H, G)$

$C5 : \neg \text{Animal}(y) \vee \neg \text{HeadOf}(H, y)$

Then, we resolve  $C4$  and  $C5$  to yield  $\neg \text{Animal}(y)$ . Resolve this with  $C2$  to give  $\neg \text{Horse}(G)$ . Resolve this with  $C3$  to obtain a contradiction.

## 2 Problem 2

Use first-order refutation resolution to prove the following theorem:

**Knowledge Base:** For every married couple, there is some habit of the husband's that the wife does not like. Thomas is Kristina's husband.

**Theorem:** Kristina does not like all of Thomas's habits

**ANSWER.**

For every married couple, there is some habit of the husband's that the wife does not like.

$\forall husband, wife \text{ Husband-Of}(husband, wife) \Rightarrow \exists habit \text{ Has}(husband, habit) \wedge \neg \text{Likes}(wife, habit)$

1. Conversion to normal form

**Implication out.**  $\forall husband, wife \neg \text{Husband-Of}(husband, wife) \vee \exists habit \text{ Has}(husband, habit) \wedge \neg \text{Likes}(wife, habit)$

**Skolemize.**  $\forall husband, wife \neg \text{Husband-Of}(husband, wife) \vee \text{Has}(husband, habit(husband, wife)) \wedge \neg \text{Likes}(wife, habit(husband, wife))$

**Distribute law.**  $(\forall husband, wife \neg \text{Husband-Of}(husband, wife) \vee \text{Has}(husband, habit(husband, wife))) \wedge (\neg \text{Husband-Of}(husband, wife) \vee \neg \text{Likes}(wife, habit(husband, wife)))$

**Rename variable.**  $(\forall husband, wife \neg \text{Husband-Of}(husband_1, wife_1) \vee \text{Has}(husband_1, habit(husband_1, wife_1))) \wedge (\neg \text{Husband-Of}(husband_2, wife_2) \vee \neg \text{Likes}(wife_2, habit(husband_2, wife_2)))$

2. Then we have two clauses:

**C1:**  $\neg \text{Husband-Of}(husband_1, wife_1) \vee \text{Has}(husband_1, habit(husband_1, wife_1))$

**C2:**  $\neg \text{Husband-Of}(husband_2, wife_2) \vee \neg \text{Likes}(wife_2, habit(husband_2, wife_2))$

Thomas is Kristina's husband.

**C3:**  $husband - of(thomas, kristina)$

The goal: Kristina does not like all of Thomas's habits

$\text{Has}(thomas, badhabit) \wedge \neg \text{Likes}(kristina, badhabit)$

The negation gives

**C4:**  $\neg \text{Has}(thomas, badhabit) \vee \text{Likes}(kristina, badhabit)$

Then, we use resolution

**C5:**  $\text{Has}(thomas, habit(thomas, kristina))$  by unifying **C1** with **C3**

**C6:**  $\text{Likes}(kristina, habit(thomas, kristina))$  by unifying **C4** with **C5**

**C7:**  $\neg \text{Husband-Of}(thomas, kristina)$  by unifying **C2** with **C6**

**C8:**  $false$  by unifying **C3** with **C7**