

# Semantic Theory

## Lecture 2 (Practical session) – Predicate Logic

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# Interpretation of terms

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Interpretation of terms with respect to a model  $M$  and a variable assignment  $g$ :

$$\llbracket \alpha \rrbracket^{M,g} = \begin{array}{ll} V_M(\alpha) & \text{if } \alpha \text{ is an individual constant} \\ g(\alpha) & \text{if } \alpha \text{ is a variable} \end{array}$$

# Interpretation of formulas

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Interpretation of formulas with respect to a model  $M$  and variable assignment  $g$ :

- $\llbracket R(t_1, \dots, t_n) \rrbracket^{M,g} = 1$     iff     $\langle \llbracket t_1 \rrbracket^{M,g}, \dots, \llbracket t_n \rrbracket^{M,g} \rangle \in V_M(R)$
- $\llbracket t_1 = t_2 \rrbracket^{M,g} = 1$     iff     $\llbracket t_1 \rrbracket^{M,g} = \llbracket t_2 \rrbracket^{M,g}$
- $\llbracket \neg\phi \rrbracket^{M,g} = 1$     iff     $\llbracket \phi \rrbracket^{M,g} = 0$
- $\llbracket \phi \wedge \psi \rrbracket^{M,g} = 1$     iff     $\llbracket \phi \rrbracket^{M,g} = 1$  and  $\llbracket \psi \rrbracket^{M,g} = 1$
- $\llbracket \phi \vee \psi \rrbracket^{M,g} = 1$     iff     $\llbracket \phi \rrbracket^{M,g} = 1$  or  $\llbracket \psi \rrbracket^{M,g} = 1$
- $\llbracket \phi \rightarrow \psi \rrbracket^{M,g} = 1$     iff     $\llbracket \phi \rrbracket^{M,g} = 0$  or  $\llbracket \psi \rrbracket^{M,g} = 1$
- $\llbracket \phi \leftrightarrow \psi \rrbracket^{M,g} = 1$     iff     $\llbracket \phi \rrbracket^{M,g} = \llbracket \psi \rrbracket^{M,g}$
- $\llbracket \exists x\phi \rrbracket^{M,g} = 1$     iff    there is a  $d \in U_M$  such that  $\llbracket \phi \rrbracket^{M,g[x/d]} = 1$
- $\llbracket \forall x\phi \rrbracket^{M,g} = 1$     iff    for all  $d \in U_M$ ,  $\llbracket \phi \rrbracket^{M,g[x/d]} = 1$

# Truth, Validity and Entailment

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A formula  $\phi$  is true in a model  $M$  iff:

$\llbracket \phi \rrbracket^{M,g} = 1$  for every variable assignment  $g$

A formula  $\phi$  is valid ( $\models \phi$ ) iff:

$\phi$  is true in all models

A formula  $\phi$  is satisfiable iff:

there is at least one model  $M$  such that  $\phi$  is true in model  $M$

A set of formulas  $\Gamma$  is (simultaneously) satisfiable iff:

there is a model  $M$  such that every formula in  $\Gamma$  is true in  $M$   
("M satisfies  $\Gamma$ ," or "M is a model of  $\Gamma$ ")

$\Gamma$  entails a formula  $\phi$  ( $\Gamma \models \phi$ ) iff:

$\phi$  is true in every model structure that satisfies  $\Gamma$

# Determining truth and entailment

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1. Find a model  $M$ , such that:

a.  $\llbracket \exists x(\text{rabbit}'(x) \wedge \exists y(\text{hat}'(y) \wedge \text{in}'(x, y))) \rrbracket^{M,g} = 1$

b.  $\llbracket \neg \forall x(\text{rabbit}'(x) \rightarrow \text{white}'(x)) \rrbracket^{M,g} = 1$

2. Determine if the following entailments hold:

a.  $L(b, m) \models? \exists x L(b, x)$  (with:  $b, m \in \text{CON}$ )

b.  $\exists x \forall y R(x, y) \models? \forall y \exists x R(x, y)$

c.  $\forall y P(y) \models? \exists y P(y)$

d.  $\exists x P(x) \wedge \exists x Q(x) \models? \exists x (P(x) \wedge Q(x))$

# Logical Equivalence

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Formula  $\phi$  is logically equivalent to formula  $\psi$  ( $\phi \Leftrightarrow \psi$ ), iff:

- $\llbracket \phi \rrbracket^{M,g} = \llbracket \psi \rrbracket^{M,g}$  for all models  $M$  and variable assignments  $g$ .

For all *closed* formulas  $\phi$  and  $\psi$ , the following assertions are equivalent:

1.  $\phi \Leftrightarrow \psi$  (logical equivalence)
2.  $\phi \models \psi$  and  $\psi \models \phi$  (mutual entailment)
3.  $\models \phi \leftrightarrow \psi$  (validity of “material equivalence”)

# Logical Equivalence Theorems: Propositions

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1)  $\neg\neg\phi \Leftrightarrow \phi$

Double negation

2)  $\phi \wedge \psi \Leftrightarrow \psi \wedge \phi$

Commutativity of  $\wedge$ ,  $\vee$

3)  $\phi \vee \psi \Leftrightarrow \psi \vee \phi$

4)  $\phi \wedge (\psi \vee \chi) \Leftrightarrow (\phi \wedge \psi) \vee (\phi \wedge \chi)$

Distributivity of  $\wedge$  and  $\vee$

5)  $\phi \vee (\psi \wedge \chi) \Leftrightarrow (\phi \vee \psi) \wedge (\phi \vee \chi)$

6)  $\neg(\phi \wedge \psi) \Leftrightarrow \neg\phi \vee \neg\psi$

de Morgan's Laws

7)  $\neg(\phi \vee \psi) \Leftrightarrow \neg\phi \wedge \neg\psi$

8)  $\phi \rightarrow \neg\psi \Leftrightarrow \psi \rightarrow \neg\phi$

Law of Contraposition

9)  $\phi \rightarrow \psi \Leftrightarrow \neg\phi \vee \psi$

10)  $\neg(\phi \rightarrow \psi) \Leftrightarrow \phi \wedge \neg\psi$

# Logical Equivalence Theorems: Quantifiers

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11)  $\neg \forall x \phi \Leftrightarrow \exists x \neg \phi$

Quantifier negation

12)  $\neg \exists x \phi \Leftrightarrow \forall x \neg \phi$

13)  $\forall x (\phi \wedge \psi) \Leftrightarrow \forall x \phi \wedge \forall x \psi$

Quantifier distribution

14)  $\exists x (\phi \vee \psi) \Leftrightarrow \exists x \phi \vee \exists x \psi$

15)  $\forall x \forall y \phi \Leftrightarrow \forall y \forall x \phi$

Quantifier Swap

16)  $\exists x \exists y \phi \Leftrightarrow \exists y \exists x \phi$

17)  $\exists x \forall y \phi \Rightarrow \forall y \exists x \phi$

... but not vice versa !

# Logical Equivalence Theorems: Quantifiers (cont.)

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The following equivalences are valid theorems of FOL, provided that  $x$  does not occur free in  $\phi$ :

Here,  $\phi[x/y]$  is the result of replacing all free occurrences of  $y$  in  $\phi$  with  $x$

$$18) \exists y\phi \Leftrightarrow \exists x\phi[x/y]$$

$$19) \forall y\phi \Leftrightarrow \forall x\phi[x/y]$$

$$20) \phi \wedge \forall x\Psi \Leftrightarrow \forall x(\phi \wedge \Psi)$$

$$21) \phi \wedge \exists x\Psi \Leftrightarrow \exists x(\phi \wedge \Psi)$$

$$22) \phi \vee \forall x\Psi \Leftrightarrow \forall x(\phi \vee \Psi)$$

$$23) \phi \vee \exists x\Psi \Leftrightarrow \exists x(\phi \vee \Psi)$$

$$24) \phi \rightarrow \forall x\Psi \Leftrightarrow \forall x(\phi \rightarrow \Psi)$$

$$25) \phi \rightarrow \exists x\Psi \Leftrightarrow \exists x(\phi \rightarrow \Psi)$$

$$26) \exists x\Psi \rightarrow \phi \Leftrightarrow \forall x(\Psi \rightarrow \phi)$$

$$27) \forall x\Psi \rightarrow \phi \Leftrightarrow \exists x(\Psi \rightarrow \phi)$$

# Equivalence Transformations

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(1)  $\neg \exists x \forall y (Py \rightarrow Rxy)$     “Nobody masters every problem”

(2)  $\forall x \exists y (Py \wedge \neg Rxy)$     “Everybody fails to master some problem”

We show the equivalence of (1) and (2) as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \neg \exists x \forall y (Py \rightarrow Rxy) &\Leftrightarrow \forall x \neg \forall y (Py \rightarrow Rxy) && (\neg \exists x \phi \Leftrightarrow \forall x \neg \phi) \\ &\Leftrightarrow \forall x \exists y \neg (Py \rightarrow Rxy) && (\neg \forall x \phi \Leftrightarrow \exists x \neg \phi) \\ &\Leftrightarrow \forall x \exists y (Py \wedge \neg Rxy) && (\neg(\phi \rightarrow \psi) \Leftrightarrow \phi \wedge \neg \psi) \end{aligned}$$

# Background reading material

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- Gamut: Logic, Language, and Meaning Vol I/II — Chapter 2
- For a more basic introduction, see:  
<http://www.logicinaction.org> — Chapter 4