

# Completeness of a Gentzen System for First Order Logic

Tom Costello

Computer Science Department, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305,

Email `costello@cs.Stanford.EDU`

## 0.1 First Order Logic

A first order language  $L$  is a set of function symbols, predicate symbols and constant symbols. Each function and predicate symbol has a positive number associated with it, its arity  $\#(f) = n$ .

Given a language  $L$  we have a notion of a structure for  $L$ .

A *structure* for  $L$  is a pair  $\mathfrak{M} = \langle M, F \rangle$  where  $M$  is a non-empty set and  $F$  is a operation on the domain  $L$  such that

- if  $P \in L$  is a  $n$ -ary predicate symbol the  $R^{\mathfrak{M}} \subseteq M^n$ ;
- if  $f \in L$  is a  $n$ -ary function symbol the  $f^{\mathfrak{M}}: M^n \rightarrow M$ ;
- if  $c \in L$  is a constant symbol the  $c^{\mathfrak{M}} \in M$ ;

One often write  $\mathfrak{M}$  as  $\langle M, R^{\mathfrak{M}}, \dots, f^{\mathfrak{M}}, \dots, c^{\mathfrak{M}} \rangle$ .

**Definition 1** *The terms of  $L$  form the smallest set of expressions containing the variables,  $x, y, z, \dots$ , all constant symbols in  $L$  and closed under the formation rule: if  $t_1, \dots, t_n$  are terms of  $L$  and if  $f \in L$  is an  $n$ -ary function symbol then the expression  $f(t_1, \dots, t_n)$  is a term of  $L$ . A closed term is a term in which no variable appears.*

**Definition 2** *An atomic formula of  $L$  is an expression of either of then two forms:*

$$(t_1 = t_2) \quad P(t_1, \dots, t_n)$$

*where in the first case  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  are terms of  $L$ . IN the second case  $P \in L$  is any  $n$ -ary predicate symbol and  $t_1, \dots, t_n$  are terms of  $L$ .*

**Definition 3** *The first order formulas of  $L$  form the smallest set of expressions containing the atomic formulas and closed under the following formation rules:*

- *If  $\phi, \psi$  are formulas so are the expressions.*

$$\neg\phi, \quad (\phi \vee \psi) \quad (\phi \wedge \psi) \quad (\phi \supset \psi)$$

- *if  $\phi$  is a formula and  $v$  is a variable, the  $(\exists v\phi)$  and  $\forall v\phi$  are formulas.*

**Definition 4** *The set of  $FV(\phi)$  free variables of a formula  $\phi$  is defined as follows:*

- *if  $\phi$  is an atomic formula, the  $FV(\phi)$  is just the set of variables appearing in the expression  $\phi$ .*
- $FV(\neg\phi) = FV(\phi)$
- $FV(\phi \vee \psi) = FV(\phi \wedge \psi) = FV(\phi \supset \psi) = FV(\phi) \cup FV(\psi)$
- $FV(\exists v\phi) = FV(\forall v\phi) = FV(\phi) - \{v\}$

**Definition 5** *A first order sentence is a formula without any free variables.*

**Definition 6** *Let  $\mathfrak{M} = \langle M, \dots \rangle$  be a structure for a language  $L$ . An assignment in  $\mathfrak{M}$  is a function  $s$  with domain the set of variables of  $L$  and range a subset of  $M$ . We think of  $s$  as assigning a meaning  $s(v)$  to the variables  $v$ . We can then define for each term  $t$  of  $L$ , a function  $t^{\mathfrak{M}}$  which maps assignments to elements of  $M$ .*

*Let  $M$  be given. For a term  $t$  of  $L$  we define  $t^{\mathfrak{M}}$  as follows:*

- *If  $t$  is a constant symbol  $c$  then  $t^{\mathfrak{M}}(s) = c^{\mathfrak{M}}$  for all  $s$ .*
- *if  $t$  is a variable  $v$ , then  $t^{\mathfrak{M}}(s) = s(v)$  for all  $s$ ,*
- *if  $t$  is a term  $f(t_1, \dots, t_n)$  then for all  $s$  define*

$$t^{\mathfrak{M}} = f^{\mathfrak{M}}(t_1^{\mathfrak{M}}(s), \dots, t_n^{\mathfrak{M}}(s)).$$

**Definition 7** In the following definition we use  $s(\begin{smallmatrix} a \\ c \end{smallmatrix})$  for the assignment  $s'$  which agrees with  $s$  except that  $s'(v) = a$ .

Let  $\mathfrak{M}$  be an  $L$  structure. We define a relation

$$\mathfrak{M} \models \phi[s]$$

(read the assignment  $s$  satisfies the formula  $\phi$  in  $\mathfrak{M}$ ) for all assignments  $s$  and all formulas  $\phi$  as follows:

- $\mathfrak{M} \models (t_1 = t_2)[s]$  iff  $t_1^{\mathfrak{M}}(s) = t_2^{\mathfrak{M}}(s)$ ,
- $\mathfrak{M} \models P(t_1, \dots, t_n)[s]$  iff  $(t_1^{\mathfrak{M}}(s), \dots, t_n^{\mathfrak{M}}(s)) \in P^{\mathfrak{M}}$ ,
- $\mathfrak{M} \models \neg\phi[s]$  iff not  $\mathfrak{M} \models \phi[s]$ ,
- $\mathfrak{M} \models (\phi \vee \psi)[s]$  iff  $\mathfrak{M} \models \phi[s]$  or  $\mathfrak{M} \models \psi[s]$ ,
- $\mathfrak{M} \models (\phi \wedge \psi)[s]$  iff  $\mathfrak{M} \models \phi[s]$  and  $\mathfrak{M} \models \psi[s]$ ,
- $\mathfrak{M} \models (\phi \supset \psi)[s]$  iff either not  $\mathfrak{M} \models \phi[s]$  or else  $\mathfrak{M} \models \psi[s]$ ,
- $\mathfrak{M} \models (\forall v\phi)[s]$  iff for all  $a \in M$ ,  $\mathfrak{M} \models \phi[s(\begin{smallmatrix} a \\ c \end{smallmatrix})]$ ,
- $\mathfrak{M} \models (\exists v\phi)[s]$  iff there exists an  $a \in M$ , such that  $\mathfrak{M} \models \phi[s(\begin{smallmatrix} a \\ c \end{smallmatrix})]$ .

**Definition 8** When  $\phi$  is a sentence, (i.e. has no free variables), we write  $\mathfrak{M} \models \phi$  for  $\mathfrak{M} \models \phi[s]$  as the truth of this does no depend on  $s$ .

A structure  $\mathfrak{M}$  is a model of a set of sentences  $\Phi$  if  $\mathfrak{M} \models \phi$  for all  $\phi \in \Phi$ .

## 1 Proof Theory

First order logic has as connectives  $\wedge$ ,  $\vee$ ,  $\supset$  and  $\sim$ . It can be axiomatized in a Gentzen system as follows. Gentzen System Sequents  $\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta$  should be read  $\wedge\Gamma \supset \vee\Delta$ , where  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$  is a finite set of formulas.

**Axioms**

$$\Gamma, \varphi \Rightarrow \Delta, \varphi$$

$$\Gamma, \varphi \Rightarrow \Delta, t = t \text{ (} t \text{ any term)}$$

### Rules of Inference

$$\begin{array}{lcl}
\Rightarrow \wedge & \frac{\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \varphi \quad \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \psi}{\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \varphi \wedge \psi} & \wedge \Rightarrow \frac{\varphi, \psi, \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta}{\varphi \wedge \psi, \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta} \\
\Rightarrow \vee & \frac{\varphi, \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta \quad \psi, \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta}{\varphi \vee \psi, \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta} & \Rightarrow \vee \frac{\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \varphi, \psi}{\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \varphi \vee \psi} \\
\Rightarrow \supset & \frac{\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \varphi \quad \psi, \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta}{\varphi \supset \psi, \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta} & \Rightarrow \supset \frac{\varphi, \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \psi}{\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \varphi \supset \psi} \\
\Rightarrow \sim & \frac{\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \varphi}{\sim \varphi, \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta} & \Rightarrow \sim \frac{\varphi, \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta}{\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \sim \varphi}
\end{array}$$

if  $E$  is  $t_1 = t_2$  or  $t_2 = t_1$ , then

$$\frac{\Gamma, \phi(t_1) \Rightarrow \Delta, \psi(t_1)}{\Gamma, E, \phi(t_2) \Rightarrow \Delta, \psi(t_2)} \\
\forall \Rightarrow \frac{\Gamma, \phi(t) \Rightarrow \Delta}{\Gamma, \forall v \phi(v) \Rightarrow \Delta} \Rightarrow \exists \frac{\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \phi(t)}{\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \exists v \phi(v)}$$

For the next two rules the variable  $v$  is not allowed occur free in  $\Gamma \cup \Delta$ .

$$\Rightarrow \forall \frac{\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta \phi(v)}{\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \forall y \phi(y)} \quad \exists \Rightarrow \frac{\Gamma, \phi(v) \Rightarrow \Delta}{\Gamma, \exists y \phi(y) \Rightarrow \Delta} \\
\text{Cut} \quad \frac{\Gamma, \phi \Rightarrow \Delta \quad \Gamma \Delta, \phi}{\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta}$$

## 2 Completeness Theorem

A sentence  $\phi$  is derivable from a set of sentences  $T$  in the system  $G$  iff  $T \models \phi$ .

The  $\Rightarrow$  direction follows from the fact that each rules preserves validity, and the fact that the axioms are valid.

**Definition 9** A theory is a set of sentences with the property that  $T \vdash \phi \Rightarrow \phi \in T$  (a theory is closed under derivability).

**Definition 10** A set  $\Gamma$  such that  $T = \{\phi \mid \Gamma \vdash \phi\}$  is called an axiom set of the theory  $T$ . The elements of  $\Gamma$  are called axioms.

**Definition 11**  $T$  is called a Henkin Theory if for every sentence  $\exists v.\phi(v)$ , there is a constant  $c$  such that  $\exists v.\phi(v) \rightarrow \phi(c) \in T$  (such a  $c$  is called a witness for  $v$  in  $\phi$ ).

**Definition 12**  $T'$  is an extension of  $T$  if  $T \subseteq T'$ .

$T'$  is a conservative extension of  $T$  if  $T' \cap L = T$  (i.e. all theorems of  $T'$  in the language  $L$  are already theorems of  $T$ ).

**Definition 13** Let  $T$  be a theory with language  $L$ . We add to the language for each sentence  $\delta$  of the form  $\exists v\phi(v)$ , a constant  $c_\delta$  such that distinct  $\delta$ 's yield distinct  $c_\delta$ 's. The resulting language is  $L^*$ .

$T^*$  is the theory with axiom set  $T \cup \{\exists x\phi(x) \supset \phi(c_\delta) \mid \exists v\phi(v) \text{ closed, with witness } c_\delta\}$ .

**Lemma 14**  $T^*$  is conservative over  $T$ .

Let  $\exists x\phi(x) \supset \phi(c)$  be one of the new axioms. Suppose  $\Gamma, \exists x\phi(x) \supset \phi(c) \vdash \psi$  where  $\psi$  does not contain  $c$  and where  $\Gamma$  is a set of sentences none of which contain  $c$ . We show that  $\Gamma \vdash \psi$ .

$\Gamma \Rightarrow (\exists x\phi(x) \supset \phi(c) \supset \psi$

$\Gamma \Rightarrow (\exists x\phi(x) \supset \phi(y) \supset \psi$  where  $y$  is a variable that does not occur in the derivation of the previous line, as we can replace all occurrences of  $c$  by  $y$ , and the proof will still be valid.

$\Gamma, \exists x\phi(x) \supset \phi(y) \Rightarrow \psi$

$\Gamma, \exists x\phi(x) \Rightarrow \phi(y), \psi$

$\Gamma, \exists x\phi(x) \Rightarrow \exists y\phi(y), \psi$  as  $y$  does not occur in  $\Gamma, \psi$ .

$\Gamma, \exists x\phi(x) \supset \exists y\phi(y) \Rightarrow \psi$

But we have  $\Rightarrow \exists x\phi(x) \supset \exists y\phi(y)$  so  $\Gamma \Rightarrow \exists x\phi(x) \supset \exists y\phi(y)$ .

$\Gamma \Rightarrow \psi$  by Cut.

Now let  $T^* \vdash \psi$  for a  $\psi \in L$ . By the definition of derivability there is a finite set of axioms from  $T^*$  that are needed to derive  $\psi$ . These are either sentences from  $T$  or of the form  $\exists x\phi(x) \supset \phi(c)$ . Therefore  $T \cup \{\delta_1, \dots, \delta_n\} \vdash \psi$ .

We show  $T \vdash \psi$  by induction. For  $n = 0$  we are done. For the induction step we use the above.

**Lemma 15** Define  $T_0 = T; T_{n+1} = (T_n)^*$ ; then  $T_\omega = \cup\{T_n \mid n \geq 0\}$  is a Henkin theory and  $T_\omega$  is conservative over  $T$ .

Call the language of  $T_n$   $L_n$ .

$T_\omega$  is a theory: We need to show that  $T_\omega \vdash \delta$ , if  $\psi_0, \dots, \psi_n \vdash \delta$  for certain  $\psi_i$  in  $T_\omega$ .

For each  $i \leq n$   $\psi_i \in T_{m_i}$  for some  $m_i$ .

Let  $m = \max\{m_i | i \leq n\}$ . Since  $T_l \subseteq T_{k+1}$  for all  $k$ , we have  $T_{m_i} \subseteq T_m (i \leq n)$

Therefore  $T_m \vdash \delta$ .

$T_m$  is by definition a theory, so  $\delta \in T_m \subseteq T_\omega$ .

$T_\omega$  is a Henkin theory. Let  $\exists x\phi(x) \in L_\omega$ , then  $\exists x\phi(x) \in L_n$  for some  $n$ . By definition  $\exists\phi(x) \supset \phi(c) \in T_{n+1}$  for a certain  $c$ . So  $\exists x\phi(x) \supset \phi(x) \in T_\omega$ .

$T_\omega$  is conservative over  $T$ . Observe that  $T_\omega \vdash \delta$  if  $T_n \vdash \delta$  for some  $n$ . By induction of  $n$ , we can establish that  $T_\omega \vdash \delta$  if  $\mathcal{T} \vdash \delta$ .

**Lemma 16 Zorn's Lemma:** *Every partially ordered set in which every chain (i.e. totally ordered subset) has an upper bound contains at least one maximal element.*

**Lemma 17** *Each consistent theory is contained in a maximally consistent theory.*

Consider the set  $A$  of conservative extensions of  $T$  ordered by inclusion. Each chain has an upper bound, as the union of the chain is a conservative extension of  $T$ .

Therefore  $A$  has a maximal element  $T_m$ .

$T_m$  is a maximally conservative extension of  $T$ .  $T_m \subseteq T'$  and  $T' \in A$  then  $T_m = T'$ .

**Lemma 18** *If  $T_m$  is a maximally consistent extension of  $T_\omega$ , then  $T_m$  is a Henkin theory.*

Being a Henkin Theory is preserved under taking a maximally consistent extension as the language remains fixed.

**Theorem 19** *If  $\Gamma$  is consistent, then  $\Gamma$  has a model.*

Let  $T = \{\delta | \Gamma \vdash \delta\}$  be the theory of  $\Gamma$ . Any model of  $T$  is a model of  $\Gamma$ .

Let  $T_m$  be a maximally consistent extension of  $T_\omega$ , with language  $L_m$ .

We construct a model of  $T_m$  from  $T_m$  itself.

The universe  $S$  of the model is the closed terms of  $T_m$ .

For each function symbol  $f$  we define a function  $\bar{f}: A^k \rightarrow A = f(t_1 \dots t_k)$ .  
 For each predicet symbol  $P$  we define a relation  $\bar{P}: A^k$  by  $(t_1 \dots t_k) \in \bar{P}$   
 iff  $T_m \vdash P(t_1, \dots, t_k)$ .

For each contant symbol  $c$  we define  $\bar{c} = c$ .

This is not a model as equality is not interpreted by real equality.

We create the real model by taking the quotient of this model by  $t \sim s$ ,  
 where  $t \sim$  siff  $t \sim s \in T_m$ .

We need to show that  $t \sim s$  is an equivalence relation, i.e. symetric,  
 transitive and reflexive.

We need to show that all predicates and functions are congruent on  $\sim$ .

This follows from the axioms for equality.

We call this model  $\mathfrak{A}$ .

We now show that if  $\mathfrak{A} \models \phi$  then  $T_m \vdash \phi$  by induction on  $\phi$

The base cases are obvious by the definition of the model.

The induction step for propositional connectives follow from the right  
 elimiation rules and cut.

The induction step for  $\forall$  is the following.

Given  $\mathfrak{A} \models \phi(c)$  for all  $c \in A$  iff  $T_m \vdash \phi(c)$  for all  $c$  in  $A$ , show

$\mathfrak{A} \models \forall \phi(v)$  iff  $T_m \vdash \forall \phi(v)$ .

We assume the left, and try to derive the right.

$\mathfrak{A} \models \forall \phi(v)$ . Consider the Henkin sentence  $\exists x. \neg \phi(x) \supset \neg phi(c)$ .

This is equivalent to  $\phi(c) \supset \forall x. \phi(x)$ . We have that  $\mathfrak{A} \models \phi(c)$  iff  $T_m \vdash \phi(c)$ ,  
 so by one application of  $\supset \Rightarrow$  and cut we can derive that  $T_m \vdash \forall x. \phi(x)$  as  
 required.

The opposite direction follows from  $\forall \Rightarrow$  and cut by instantiating with  
 the  $c$  in question.

### Theorem 20

$$\Gamma \vdash \phi \text{ iff } \Gamma \models \phi$$

The left to right part is Soundness. We now consider

$$\Gamma \models \phi \text{ implies } \Gamma \vdash \phi$$

We consider the contrapositive:

$$\Gamma \not\vdash \phi \text{ implies } \Gamma \not\models \phi$$

$\Gamma \vdash \phi$  is equivalent to  $\Gamma, \neg \phi$  is consistent.

We use the earlier theorem to create a structure  $\mathfrak{M}$  where  $\mathfrak{M} \models \Gamma, \neg\phi$ .  
By construction,  $\mathfrak{M} \models \Gamma$  and  $\mathfrak{M} \models \neg\phi$ . Therefore  $\mathfrak{M} \not\models \phi$ . Therefore we have a model of  $\Gamma$  which is not a model of  $\phi$  as required.