



Semantics & Pragmatics SoSe 2021

Lecture 9: Formal Semantics (Summary)

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Historical Overview

Some of the earliest proponents of each framework:

- ▶ **Propositional Logic:** Diodorus Cronus (died around 284 BCE at Alexandria in Egypt), Chrysippus (mid-3rd century).
- ▶ **Predicate Logic:** Frege (1879), Peirce (1885).
- ▶ **Type Theory:** Russell (1908).
- ▶ **λ -Calculus:** Church (1940).
- ▶ **Montague Grammar:** Montague (1970a, 1970b, 1973).

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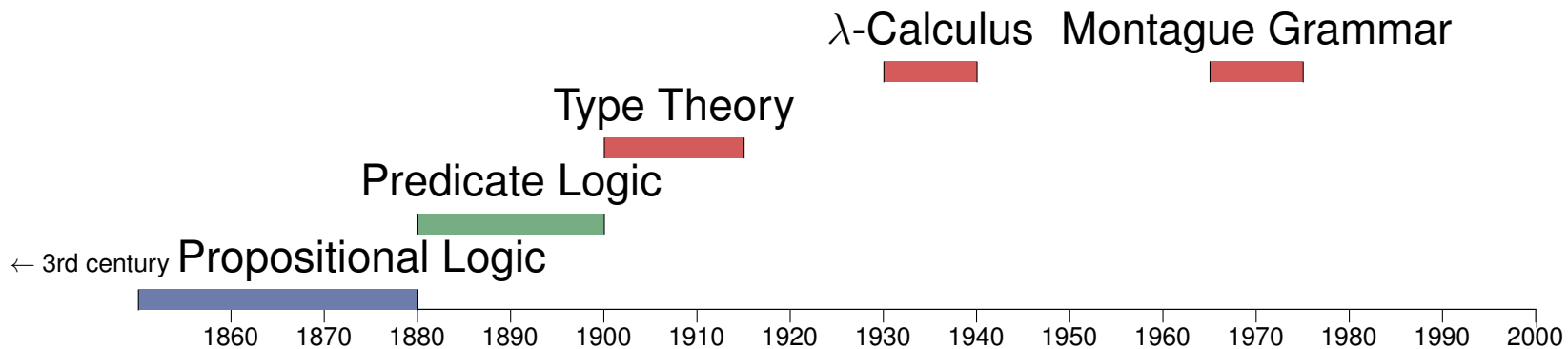
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Section 1: Propositional Logic



Formal Definition: Proposition

“The **proposition expressed by a sentence** is the **set of possible cases [situations]** of which that sentence is true.”

Zimmermann & Sternefeld (2013), p. 141.

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Coin-flip example:

situation	flip1	flip2
1	heads	heads
2	tails	tails
3	heads	tails
4	tails	heads

Sentence

S_1 : only one flip landed heads up

S_2 : all flips landed heads up

S_3 : flips landed at least once tails up

etc.

Proposition

$\llbracket S_1 \rrbracket = \{3, 4\}$

$\llbracket S_2 \rrbracket = \{1\}$

$\llbracket S_3 \rrbracket = \{2, 3, 4\}$

etc.



Propositional Formulas

“The propositional letters and the **composite expressions** which are formed from them by means of connectives are grouped together as *sentences* or **formulas**. We designate these by means of the letters ϕ and ψ , etc. For these **metavariables**, unlike the variables p , q , and r , there is no convention that different letters must designate different formulas.”

Gamut, L.T.F (1991). Volume 1, p. 29.

Examples:

$\phi \equiv p, q, r, \text{ etc.}$

$\phi \equiv \neg p, \neg q, \neg r, \text{ etc.}$

$\phi \equiv p \wedge q, p \vee q, \text{ etc.}$

$\phi \equiv \neg(\neg p_1 \vee q_5) \rightarrow q, \text{ etc.}$

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The Vocabulary

We can now define a **language L for propositional logic**. The “vocabulary” A of L consists of the propositional letters (e.g. p, q, r , etc.), the operators (e.g. $\neg, \wedge, \vee, \rightarrow$, etc.), as well as the round brackets ‘(’ and ‘)’’. The latter are important to group certain letters and operators together. We thus have:

$$A = \{p, q, r, \dots, \neg, \wedge, \vee, \rightarrow, \dots, (,)\} \quad (1)$$

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The Syntax: Recursive Definition

Reminiscent of formal grammars of natural languages (see last years lecture on Phrase Structure Grammar), we now also need to define **syntactic rules** which allow for the symbols of the vocabulary to be combined yielding **well-formed expressions**. These rules are:

- (i) Propositional letters in the vocabulary of L are formulas in L .
- (ii) If ϕ is a formula in L , then $\neg\phi$ is too.
- (iii) If ϕ and ψ are formulas in L , then $(\phi \wedge \psi)$, $(\phi \vee \psi)$, $(\phi \rightarrow \psi)$, and $(\phi \leftrightarrow \psi)$ are too.¹
- (iv) Only that which can be generated by the clauses (i)-(iii) in a finite number of steps is a formula in L .

Gamut, L.T.F (1991). Volume 1, p. 35.

¹We could also add the *exclusive or* here as a connective.

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Examples of **Valid** and **Invalid** Formulas

Formula	Rule Applied
p ✓	(i)
$\neg\neg\neg q$ ✓	(i) and (ii)
$((\neg p \wedge q) \vee r)$ ✓	(i), (ii), and (iii)
$((\neg(p \vee q) \rightarrow \neg\neg\neg q) \leftrightarrow r)$ ✓	(i), (ii), and (iii)
pq ✗	—
$\neg(\neg\neg p)$ ✗	—
$\wedge p\neg q$ ✗	—
$\neg((p \wedge q \rightarrow r))$ ✗	—

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The Semantics of Propositional Logic

“The valuations we have spoken of [i.e. truth valuations of formulas] can now, in the terms just introduced [i.e. functions], be described as (unary)² **functions mapping formulas onto truth values**. But not every function with formulas as its domain and truth values as its range will do. A valuation must agree with the **interpretations of the connectives** which are given in their truth tables.”

Gamut, L.T.F (1991). Volume 1, p. 35.

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²An *unary* function is a function with a single argument, e.g. $f(x)$. A *binary* function could be $f(x,y)$, a *ternary* function $f(x,y,z)$, etc.



Valuation Function

The valuation function V for each logical operator and logical formulas ϕ and ψ are then given as:

- (i) Negation: $V(\neg\phi) = 1$ iff $V(\phi) = 0$,
- (ii) Logical “and”: $V(\phi \wedge \psi) = 1$ iff $V(\phi) = 1$ and $V(\psi) = 1$,
- (iii) Inclusive “or”: $V(\phi \vee \psi) = 1$ iff $V(\phi) = 1$ or $V(\psi) = 1$,
- (iv) Material implication: $V(\phi \rightarrow \psi) = 0$ iff $V(\phi) = 1$ and $V(\psi) = 0$,
- (v) Material equivalence: $V(\phi \leftrightarrow \psi) = 1$ iff $V(\phi) = V(\psi)$.

Gamut (1991). Volume I, p. 44.

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Section 2: Predicate Logic



Propositional Logic vs. Predicate Logic

Commonalities:

- ▶ Usage of the same connectives and negation.

Differences:

- ▶ The introduction of **constants and variables** representing individuals and predicates to capture the main structural building blocks of sentences.
- ▶ The introduction of **quantifiers** to allow for quantified statements.

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The Vocabulary

Similar as for propositional logic, we can define a **language L for predicate logic**. In this case, the “vocabulary” of L consists of

- ▶ a (potentially infinite) supply of **constant symbols** (e.g. a, b, c , etc.),
- ▶ a (potentially infinite) supply of **variable symbols** representing the constants (e.g. x, y, z , etc.),
- ▶ a (potentially infinite) supply of **predicate symbols** (e.g. A, B, C , etc.),
- ▶ the **connectives** (e.g. $\neg, \wedge, \vee, \rightarrow$, etc.),
- ▶ the **quantifiers** \forall and \exists ,
- ▶ as well as the round brackets ‘(’ and ‘)’.
- ▶ (The equal sign ‘=’.)

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Translation Key

In order to translate a set of natural language sentences into predicate logic expressions unambiguously, we need a **translation key** listing the **predicates** and **constant symbols**.

Gamut, L.T.F (1991). Volume 1, p. 68.

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English sentences:

- (1) John is bigger than Peter or Peter is bigger than John.
- (2) Alcibiades does not admire himself.
- (3) If Socrates is a man, then he is mortal.
- (4) Ammerbuch lies between Tübingen and Herrenberg.
- (5) Socrates is a mortal man.

Translation key:

a_1 : Alcibiades
 a_2 : Ammerbuch
 j : John
 p : Peter
 s : Socrates
 t : Tübingen
 h : Herrenberg
 Axy : x admires y
 B_1xy : x is bigger than y
 B_2xyz : x lies between y and z
 M_1x : x is a man
 M_2x : x is mortal



Translation Examples

We can then translate the natural language sentences into predicate logic by further identifying the logical operators, i.e. connectives and negation.

Gamut, L.T.F (1991). Volume 1, p. 68.

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English sentences:

- (1) John is bigger than Peter **or** John is bigger than Socrates.
- (2) Alcibiades does **not** admire himself.
- (3) **If** Socrates is a man, **then** he is mortal.
- (4) Ammerbuch lies between Tübingen and Herrenberg.
- (5) Socrates is a mortal man.

Translations:

- (1) $B_{1jp} \vee B_{1js}$
- (2) $\neg Aa_1a_1$
- (3) $M_1s \rightarrow M_2s$
- (4) B_2a_2th
- (5) $M_1s \wedge M_2s$



The Syntax: Recursive Definition

Given the vocabulary of L we define the following clauses to create formulas of L .

- (i) If A is an n -ary predicate letter in the vocabulary of L , and each of t_1, \dots, t_n is a constant or a variable in the vocabulary of L , then At_1, \dots, t_n is a formula in L .
- (ii) If ϕ is a formula in L , then $\neg\phi$ is too.
- (iii) If ϕ and ψ are formulas in L , then $(\phi \wedge \psi)$, $(\phi \vee \psi)$, $(\phi \rightarrow \psi)$, and $(\phi \leftrightarrow \psi)$ are too.
- (iv) If ϕ is a formula in L and x is a variable, then $\forall x\phi$ and $\exists x\phi$ are formulas in L .
- (v) Only that which can be generated by the clauses (i)-(iv) in a finite number of steps is a formula in L .

Gamut, L.T.F (1991). Volume 1, p. 75.

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Examples of **Valid** and **Invalid** Formulas

Formula	Rule Applied
Aa ✓	(i)
Ax ✓	(i)
Aab ✓	(i)
Axy ✓	(i)
$\neg Axy$ ✓	(i) and (ii)
$Aa \rightarrow Axy$ ✓	(i) and (iii)
$\forall x(Aa \rightarrow Axy)$ ✓	(i), (iii), and (iv)
$\forall x Aa \rightarrow Axy$ ✓	(i), (iii), and (iv)
a ✗	—
A ✗	—
\forall ✗	—
$\forall(Axy)$ ✗	—

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Definition: The valuation function V_M

“If \mathbf{M} is a model for L whose interpretation function I is a function of the constants in L onto the domain D , then V_M , the valuation V based on M , is defined as follows:”

- (i) If Aa_1, \dots, a_n is an atomic sentence in L , then $V_M(Aa_1, \dots, a_n) = 1$ if and only if $\langle I(a_1), \dots, I(a_n) \rangle \in I(A)$.
- (ii) $V_M(\neg\phi) = 1$ iff $V_M(\phi) = 0$.
- (iii) $V_M(\phi \wedge \psi) = 1$ iff $V_M(\phi) = 1$ and $V_M(\psi) = 1$.
- (iv) $V_M(\phi \vee \psi) = 1$ iff $V_M(\phi) = 1$ or $V_M(\psi) = 1$.
- (v) $V_M(\phi \rightarrow \psi) = 0$ iff $V_M(\phi) = 1$ and $V_M(\psi) = 0$.
- (vi) $V_M(\phi \leftrightarrow \psi) = 1$ iff $V_M(\phi) = V_M(\psi)$.

Gamut, L.T.F (1991). Volume 1, p. 91.

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Definition: The valuation function V_M

(vii) $V_M(\forall x\phi) = 1$ iff $V_M([c/x]\phi) = 1$ for all constants c in L .

(viii) $V_M(\exists x\phi) = 1$ iff $V_M([c/x]\phi) = 1$ for at least one constant c in L .

If $V_M(\phi) = 1$, then ϕ is said to be true in model \mathbf{M} .

Gamut, L.T.F (1991). Volume 1, p. 91.

Note: The notation $[c/x]$ means “replacing x by c ”. Note that this valuation works only for **sentences** of predicate logic as defined above. That is, it works for formulas that consist of atomic sentences and/or formulas with variables that are bound. For *formulas with free variables*, it does not work.

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Valuation Example

Given a Model of the world \mathbf{M} , consisting of D and I , and some formula ϕ which adheres to predicate logic syntax (and which consists of atomic sentences and or quantifications with bound variables), we can then evaluate the truth of ϕ as follows.

Model \mathbf{M}

$$D = \{e_1, e_2, e_3\}$$

$$I = \{\langle j, e_1 \rangle, \langle p, e_2 \rangle, \langle m, e_3 \rangle, \langle S, \{\langle I(j), I(m) \rangle, \langle I(p), I(m) \rangle\} \rangle\}$$

$$I(S) = \{\langle I(j), I(m) \rangle, \langle I(p), I(m) \rangle\}$$

Translation key: j: John; p: Peter; m: morning star; Sxy: x sees y.

Valuation

“John sees the morning star”: $V_M(Sjm) = 1$ (according to (i))

“Everybody sees the morning star”: $V_M(\forall x Sxm) = 0$ (according to (vii))³

³This valuation gives 0 since the morning star (m) is a constant c in L, but it does not see itself, i.e. $\langle I(m), I(m) \rangle \notin S$.

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Section 3: Second-Order Logic



First-Order Logic vs. Second-Order Logic

Commonalities:

- ▶ Usage of the same **logical operators** (connectives, negation, quantifiers).
- ▶ Generally similar syntax and valuation of expressions.

Differences:

- ▶ Introducing **first-order predicate variables**, and **second-order predicates**.

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Beyond First-Order Predicate Logic

We have seen that predicate logic is an extension of propositional logic, by introducing predicates and quantifiers. **Predicate logic** might itself be superseded by another logical system, called **second-order logic**.

Gamut, L.T.F (1991). Volume 1, p. 168.

Take the following English sentences:

- (1) Mars is red.
- (2) Red is a color.
- (3) Mars has a color.
- (4) John has at least one thing in common with Peter.

How can we translate these into logical expressions?

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First-Order and Second-Order Logic

A **second-order logic** language L' is then an extension to a standard predicate logic language L by adding second-order predicates to L . The original language L is then sometimes referred to as **first-order logic** language.

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Further Examples:

- (5) $\exists X(CX \wedge Xm)$ (English sentence: “Mars has a color.”)
- (6) $\exists X(Xj \wedge Xp)$ (English sentence: “John has at least one thing in common with Peter.”)
- (7) $\exists \mathcal{X}(\mathcal{X}R \wedge \mathcal{X}G)$ (English sentence: “Red has something (a property) in common with green.”)



Vocabulary (special to Second-Order Logic)

The vocabulary extensions to fit **second-order logic requirements** are:

- ▶ A (potentially infinite) supply of **first-order predicate variables** (e.g. X, Y, Z , etc.), which are necessary to quantify over first-order predicates,
- ▶ a (potentially infinite) supply of **second-order predicate constants** (e.g. $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{C}$, etc.).

If we wanted to take it even at a higher-order level we could also have:

- ▶ a (potentially infinite) supply of **second-order predicate variables** (e.g. $\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{Z}$, etc.) to stand in for second-order predicates.

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The Syntax: Recursive Definition

Given the vocabulary of L we then define the following clauses to create formulas of L :

- (i) If A is an n -ary **first-order** predicate letter/constant in L , and t_1, \dots, t_n are individual terms in L , then At_1, \dots, t_n is an (atomic) formula in L ;
- (ii) If X is a [**first-order**] predicate variable and t is an individual term in L , then Xt is an atomic formula in L ;
- (iii) If \mathcal{A} is an n -ary **second-order** predicate letter/constant in L , and T_1, \dots, T_n are **first-order unary** predicate constants, or predicate variables, in L , then $\mathcal{A}T_1, \dots, T_n$ is an (atomic) formula in L ;
- (iv) If ϕ is a formula in L , then $\neg\phi$ is too;
- (v) If ϕ and ψ are formulas in L , then $(\phi \wedge \psi)$, $(\phi \vee \psi)$, $(\phi \rightarrow \psi)$, and $(\phi \leftrightarrow \psi)$ are too.

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The Syntax: Recursive Definition

Given the vocabulary of L we then define the following clauses to create formulas of L :

- (vi) If x is an individual variable ϕ is a formula in L , then $\forall x\phi$ and $\exists x\phi$ are also formulas in L ;
- (vii) If X is a [first-order] predicate variable, and ϕ is a formula in L , then $\forall X\phi$ and $\exists X\phi$ are also formulas in L ;
- (viii) Only that which can be generated by the clauses (i)-(vii) in a finite number of steps is a formula in L .

Gamut, L.T.F (1991). Volume 1, p. 170.

Note: In the above clauses (i) and (ii), the word “term” is used, which has not been defined by us before. In the context here, suffices to say that it includes both constants and variables (of constants), i.e. a, b, c , etc. and x, y, z , etc.

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Examples of **Valid** and **Invalid** Formulas

Formula	Rule Applied
Aa ✓	(i)
Ax ✓	(i)
Axy ✓	(i)
Xa ✓	(ii)
Xx ✓	(ii)
$\mathcal{A}A$ ✓	(iii)
$Xa \rightarrow \neg Xb$ ✓	(ii), (iv) and (v)
$\forall X \forall x (Xa \rightarrow Axy)$ ✓	(i), (ii), (v), (vi), and (vii)
x ✗	—
X ✗	—
Xab ✗	—
$\forall (Xa)$ ✗	—

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Section 4: Type Theory



Standard (First-Order) Logic vs. Typed Logic

Commonalities:

- ▶ Usage of the same **logical operators** (connectives, negation, quantifiers).

Differences:

- ▶ Introduction of a **potentially infinite number of types** defined for logical constants and variables which we can quantify over. Note that this makes typed logic a **higher-order logic**.

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Application to Natural Language

We can apply the theory of types to a logical language L by first defining the **two most basic types**, of which all other types are **composed**. These are the type e for **entities**, i.e. individual constants (e.g. John, Jumbo), and the type t for **sentences**, where t stands for *truth*, since truth values can only be assigned to sentences.

In the following we will expose how the **syntax** of a type-theoretic logical language L is defined.

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Definition: The Syntax of Types

For the set of types \mathbb{T} we define that:

- (i) $e, t \in \mathbb{T}$,
- (ii) if $a, b \in \mathbb{T}$, then $\langle a, b \rangle \in \mathbb{T}$,
- (iii) nothing is an element of \mathbb{T} except on the basis of clauses (i) and (ii).

Gamut (1991), Volume 2, p. 79.

Note: a and b above are variables which stand in for all kinds of types. This means we can create an infinite number of types by recursively applying clause (ii). For example:

Applying (ii) to $a = e$ and $b = t$ yields $\langle e, t \rangle$

Applying (ii) to $a = \langle e, t \rangle$ and $b = t$ yields $\langle \langle e, t \rangle, t \rangle$

Applying (ii) to $a = e$ and $b = \langle \langle e, t \rangle, t \rangle$ yields $\langle e, \langle \langle e, t \rangle, t \rangle \rangle$

etc.

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Examples of **Valid** and **Invalid** Types

e ✓

t ✓

$\langle e, t \rangle$ ✓

$\langle t, e \rangle$ ✓

$\langle t, \langle t, e \rangle \rangle$ ✓

$\langle \langle t, \langle t, e \rangle \rangle, t \rangle$ ✓

et ✗

e, t ✗

$\langle e, e, t \rangle$ ✗

$\langle e, \langle e, t \rangle \rangle$ ✗

Note: The usage of left and right angled brackets as defined by clause (ii) results in a **strict binarization** of the internal structure of types, i.e. at each level of embedding we always have an **ordered pair** of more basic types.

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Definition: Functional Application

How do we derive one type of expression from another?

“[...] if α is an expression of type $\langle a, b \rangle$ and β is an expression of type a , then $\alpha(\beta)$ is of type b .”

Gamut (1991), Volume 2, p. 79.

Examples

If $\alpha = \langle e, t \rangle$ and $\beta = e$ then $\alpha(\beta) = t$.

If $\alpha = \langle \langle e, t \rangle, \langle e, t \rangle \rangle$ and $\beta = \langle e, t \rangle$ then $\alpha(\beta) = \langle e, t \rangle$.

If $\alpha = \langle t, \langle t, e \rangle \rangle$ and $\beta = t$ then $\alpha(\beta) = \langle t, e \rangle$.

However,

If $\alpha = \langle t, \langle t, e \rangle \rangle$ and $\beta = \langle t, e \rangle$ then $\alpha(\beta)$ is **not defined**.

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Notation for Variables and Constants

As before, we will use the following notations to distinguish typographically between different variables and constants at different orders:

- ▶ Constants for entities: a, b, c , etc.
- ▶ Variables over entities: x, y, z , etc.
- ▶ First-order predicate constants: A, B, C , etc.
- ▶ Variables over first-order predicates: X, Y, Z , etc.
- ▶ Second-order predicate constants: $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{C}$, etc.
- ▶ (Second-order predicate variables: $\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{Z}$, etc.)⁴

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⁴These are just added for completeness here. We generally don't go into orders higher than *two* in exercises and examples.



The Syntax: Recursive Definition

The clauses for the syntax of a type-theoretic language are then:

- (i) If α is a variable or a constant of type a in L [i.e. v_a or c_a], then α is an expression of type a in L .
- (ii) If α is an expression of type $\langle a, b \rangle$ in L , and β is an expression of type a in L , then $(\alpha(\beta))$ is an expression of type b in L .
- (iii) If ϕ and ψ are expressions of type t in L (i.e. formulas in L), then so are $\neg\phi$, $(\phi \wedge \psi)$, $(\phi \vee \psi)$, $(\phi \rightarrow \psi)$, and $(\phi \leftrightarrow \psi)$.
- (iv) If ϕ is an expression of type t in L and v is a variable (of arbitrary type a), then $\forall v\phi$ and $\exists v\phi$ are expression of type t in L .
- (v) If α and β are expressions in L which belong to the same (arbitrary) type, then $(\alpha = \beta)$ is an expression of type t in L .
- (vi) Every expression L is to be constructed by means of (i)-(v) in a finite number of steps.

Gamut (1991), Volume 2, p. 81-82.

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Examples of **Valid** and **Invalid** Expressions

Definition of Types

Assume j is of type e (i.e. representing an entity), x is of type e , A is of type $\langle e, t \rangle$ (i.e. a first order one-place predicate), B is of type $\langle e, \langle e, t \rangle \rangle$ (i.e. a first-order two-place predicate), and \mathcal{C} is of type $\langle \langle e, t \rangle, t \rangle$ (i.e. a second-order one-place predicate).

Expressions

j ✓

A ✓

$A(j)$ ✓

$(B(j))(x)$ ✓ alternative notation: $B(j)(x)$

$\mathcal{C}(B(j))$ ✓

$A(j) \wedge \mathcal{C}(A)$ ✓

$\forall x A(x)$ ✓

Aj ✗

$B(A)$ ✗

$\forall x \mathcal{C}(x)$ ✗

Clause Applied

(i)

(i)

(i) and (ii)

(i) and (ii)

(i) and (ii)

(i), (ii), and (iii)

(i), (ii), and (iv)

—

—

—

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The Syntax: Adding the λ -clause

We simply add another clause to the **type-theoretic language** syntax:

- (vii) If α is an expression of type a in L , and v is a variable of type b , then $\lambda v(\alpha)$ is an expression of type $\langle b, a \rangle$ in L .⁵

Gamut (1991), Volume 2, p. 104.

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⁵I added the brackets around α here, since at least in some cases these are necessary to disambiguate.



Examples of λ -Abstractions

Assume a, b and x, y are of type e ; A is of type $\langle e, t \rangle$; B is of type $\langle e, \langle e, t \rangle \rangle$; and X is of type $\langle e, t \rangle$.

Expressions	Types	λ -Abstraction	Types
x ✓	e	$\lambda x(x)$	$\langle e, e \rangle$
$A(x)$ ✓	t	$\lambda x(A(x))$	$\langle e, t \rangle$
$B(y)(x)$ ✓	t	$\lambda x(B(y)(x))$ or $\lambda y(B(y)(x))$	$\langle e, t \rangle$
$B(a)(x)$ ✓	t	$\lambda x(B(a)(x))$	$\langle e, t \rangle$
$\forall x B(x)(y)$ ✓	t	$\lambda y(\forall x B(x)(y))$	$\langle e, t \rangle$
$X(a)$ ✓	t	$\lambda X(X(a))$	$\langle \langle e, t \rangle, t \rangle$
$X(a) \wedge X(b)$ ✓	t	$\lambda X(X(a) \wedge X(b))$	$\langle \langle e, t \rangle, t \rangle$

Note: In our practical usage of the type-theoretic language, variables are mostly defined to have type e (i.e. x, y, z , etc.). In some cases, they might be of type $\langle e, t \rangle$, namely, if they refer to predicate variables (X, Y, Z , etc.). Hence, λ -abstraction essentially amounts to **adding an e or $\langle e, t \rangle$ as a “prefix”** to the type of the expression that is abstracted over.

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λ -Conversion (aka β -Reduction)

Informally speaking, λ -**conversion**⁶ is the process whereby we reduce the λ -statement by removing the λ -operator (and the variable directly following it) and plugging an expression (in the simplest case a constant c , or a predicate constant C) into **every occurrence of the variable which is bound by the λ -operator**.

**Typed
expression**

**λ -Abstraction
(over x or X)**

**λ -Conversion
(with c or C over x or X)**

$S(x)$

$\lambda x(S(x))$

$\lambda x(S(x))(c) = S(c)$

$S(x) \wedge D(x)$

$\lambda x(S(x) \wedge D(x))$

$\lambda x(S(x) \wedge D(x))(c) = S(c) \wedge D(c)$

$X(a) \wedge X(b)$

$\lambda X(X(a) \wedge X(b))$

$\lambda X(X(a) \wedge X(b))(C) = C(a) \wedge C(b)$

⁶The term λ -conversion is not to be confused with α -conversion. The latter refers to replacing one variable for another.

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Why is λ -calculus needed?

If our aim is to model not only full sentences and formulas representing predicates, but also parts of sentences, and even individual words, by using in a unified account, then λ -abstraction and λ -conversion are possible solutions. Thus, λ -calculus allows us to capture the **compositionality of language**.

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English sentence

John smokes and drinks.

John smokes

smokes

drinks

smokes and drinks

Typed expression

$\lambda x(S(x) \wedge D(x))(j) = S(j) \wedge D(j)$

$\lambda x(S(x))(j) = S(j)$

$\lambda x(S(x))$

$\lambda x(D(x))$

$\lambda x(S(x) \wedge D(x))$



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Translation Summary

Natural Language	PL	FOL	SOL	TL
<i>John smokes.</i>	p	S_j	S_j	$S(j)$
<i>John smokes and drinks.</i>	$p \wedge q$	$S_j \wedge D_j$	$S_j \wedge D_j$	$S(j) \wedge D(j)$
<i>Jumbo likes Bambi.</i>	r	$L_j b$	$L_j b$	$L(b)(j)$
<i>Every man walks.</i>	p_1	$\forall x(Mx \rightarrow Wx)$	$\forall x(Mx \rightarrow Wx)$	$\forall x(M(x) \rightarrow W(x))$
<i>Red is a color.</i>	q_1	Cr	CR	$C(R)$
<i>smokes and drinks</i>	—	—	—	$\lambda x(S(x) \wedge D(x))$
<i>every man</i>	—	—	—	$\lambda X(\forall x(M(x) \rightarrow X(x)))$
<i>every</i>	—	—	—	$\lambda Y(\lambda X(\forall x(Y(x) \rightarrow X(x))))$
<i>is</i>	—	—	—	$\lambda X(\lambda x(X(x)))$

PL: Propositional Logic

FOL: First-Order Predicate Logic

SOL: Second-Order Predicate Logic

TL: Typed Logic (Higher-Order) with λ -calculus

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Thank You.

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