

**COMPSCI 366 S1 C 2006**  
**Foundations of Artificial Intelligence**  
**—Knowledge Representation in Logic—**

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# Propositional Logic

## Advantages:

- It is simple to deal with.
- There is a decision procedure for it.

## Propositional Semantics

P	Q	$\neg P$	$P \wedge Q$	$P \vee Q$	$P \rightarrow Q$	$P \leftrightarrow Q$
T	T	F	T	T	T	T
T	F	F	F	T	F	F
F	T	T	F	T	T	F
F	F	T	F	F	T	T

## Propositional Semantics (cont'd)

- $P \rightarrow Q$  is called a conditional and  $Q \rightarrow P$  its converse.
- $\neg Q \rightarrow \neg P$  is called contrapositive.
- $P \leftrightarrow Q$  holds if and only if  $P \rightarrow Q$  and its converse both hold.
- The contrapositive of  $P \rightarrow Q$  holds if and only if  $P \rightarrow Q$  holds.
- $P \vee \neg P$  is called a tautology.
- $P \wedge \neg P$  is a contradiction. An expression that is not a contradiction is satisfiable.

## Example

Facts	Proposition
It is raining.	<i>RAINING</i>
It is sunny.	<i>SUNNY</i>
If it is raining, then it is not sunny.	<i>RAINING</i> $\rightarrow$ $\neg$ <i>SUNNY</i>

## Rules of Inference

### Modus Ponens:

Assume:  $P \rightarrow Q$   
And:  $P$   
Then:  $Q$

If it is snowing then school will be cancelled,  
and I also know it is snowing.

### Disjunctive Syllogism:

Assume:  $P$   
Then:  $P \vee Q$

If I know it is snowing I can truthfully say  
that it is snowing or I have long hair.

## Rules of Inference (cont'd)

### Resolution:

Assume:  $P \vee Q$   
And:  $\neg P \vee Z$   
Then:  $Q \vee Z$

It is snowing or it is raining. It is not snowing or it is cold. So it is raining or it is cold.

## A Shortcoming

### Example:

Facts	Proposition
Socrates is a man.	<i>SOCRATESMAN</i>
Plato is a man.	<i>PLATOMAN</i>
All men are mortal.	<i>MORTALMAN</i>

### Observation:

- This does not capture the relationship between the sentences.
- More powerful logic is needed.



## (First-Order) Predicate Logic

$\forall, \exists$ , variables

### Positive aspects:

- Real-world facts are represented as statements written as well-formed formulas (wff's).
- These statements may contain variables and quantification.

### Negative aspect:

- Predicate logic is only semidecidable (halting problem).

## Example

- Marcus was a man.  
 $man(Marcus)$
- Marcus was a Pompeian.  
 $Pompeian(Marcus)$
- All Pompeians were Romans.  
 $\forall x : Pompeian(x) \rightarrow Roman(x)$
- Caesar was a ruler.  
 $ruler(Caesar)$

## Example (cont'd)

- All Romans were loyal to Caesar or hated him.  
 $\forall x : Roman(x) \rightarrow loyalto(x, Caesar) \vee hate(x, Caesar)$
- All Romans were either loyal to Caesar or hated him.  
 $\forall x : Roman(x) \rightarrow$   
 $[(loyalto(x, Caesar) \vee hate(x, Caesar)) \wedge$   
 $\neg(loyalto(x, Caesar) \wedge hate(x, Caesar))]$
- Everyone is loyal to someone.  
 $\forall x : \exists y : loyalto(x, y)$

## Example (cont'd)

- People only try to assassinate rulers they are not loyal to.

$$\forall x : \forall y : \text{person}(x) \wedge \text{ruler}(y) \wedge \text{tryassassinate}(x, y) \rightarrow \neg \text{loyalto}(x, y)$$

- Marcus tried to assassinate Caesar.

$$\text{tryassassinate}(\text{Marcus}, \text{Caesar})$$

- There exist precisely two individuals that are parents of Marcus.

$$\begin{aligned} & \exists x : \exists y : \neg \text{sameperson}(x, y) \wedge \text{parent}(x, \text{Marcus}) \wedge \text{parent}(y, \text{Marcus}) \wedge \\ & \forall z : \text{parent}(z, \text{Marcus}) \rightarrow (\text{sameperson}(z, x) \vee \text{sameperson}(z, y)) \end{aligned}$$

## Was Marcus Loyal to Caesar?

$$\begin{array}{c} \neg \text{loyalto}(\text{Marcus}, \text{Caesar}) \\ \uparrow \\ \text{person}(\text{Marcus}) \wedge \text{ruler}(\text{Caesar}) \wedge \text{tryassassinate}(\text{Marcus}, \text{Caesar}) \\ \uparrow \\ \text{person}(\text{Marcus}) \wedge \text{tryassassinate}(\text{Marcus}, \text{Caesar}) \\ \uparrow \\ \text{person}(\text{Marcus}) \end{array}$$

**Additional wff necessary:**

$$\text{person}(\text{Marcus})$$

## Observations

- Proving means searching an AND-OR graph.
- Many English sentences are ambiguous:  
*The spy saw the cop with binoculars.*
- Often there is a choice of how to represent a sentence.
- The set of wff's is likely to be incomplete because commonsense knowledge is often lacking from them.
- It is not obvious which statements to deduce:  
 $\neg \textit{loyalto}(\textit{Marcus}, \textit{Caesar}), \textit{loyalto}(\textit{Marcus}, \textit{Caesar})$