

Syntax of first order logic.

A **first-order language** \mathcal{L} is a set $\{\dot{f}_i; i \in I\} \cup \{\dot{R}_j; j \in J\}$ of function symbols and relation symbols together with a **signature** $\sigma: I \cup J \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$. In addition to the symbols from \mathcal{L} , we shall be using the **logical symbols** $\forall, \exists, \wedge, \vee, \rightarrow, \neg, \leftrightarrow$, equality $=$, and a set of variables Var .

Definition of an \mathcal{L} -term.

- Every variable is an \mathcal{L} -term.
- If $\sigma(\dot{f}_i) = n$, and t_1, \dots, t_n are \mathcal{L} -terms, then $\dot{f}_i(t_1, \dots, t_n)$ is an \mathcal{L} -term.
- Nothing else is an \mathcal{L} -term.

Definition of an \mathcal{L} -formula.

- If t and t^* are \mathcal{L} -terms, then $t = t^*$ is an \mathcal{L} -formula.
- If $\sigma(\dot{R}_i) = n$, and t_1, \dots, t_n are \mathcal{L} -terms, then $\dot{R}_i(t_1, \dots, t_n)$ is an \mathcal{L} -formula.
- If φ and ψ are \mathcal{L} -formulae and x is a variable, then $\neg\varphi, \varphi \wedge \psi, \varphi \vee \psi, \varphi \rightarrow \psi, \varphi \leftrightarrow \psi, \forall x(\varphi)$ and $\exists x(\varphi)$ are \mathcal{L} -formulae.
- Nothing else is an \mathcal{L} -formula.

An \mathcal{L} -formula without free variables is called an **\mathcal{L} -sentence**.

Semantics of first order logic (1).

We fix a first-order language $\mathcal{L} = \{f_i; i \in I\} \cup \{R_j; j \in J\}$ and a signature $\sigma : I \cup J \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$.

A tuple $\mathbf{X} = \langle X, \langle f_i; i \in I \rangle, \langle R_j; j \in J \rangle \rangle$ is called an **\mathcal{L} -structure** if f_i is an $\sigma(f_i)$ -ary function on X and R_j is an $\sigma(R_j)$ -ary relation on X .

An **X -interpretation** is a function $\iota : \text{Var} \rightarrow X$.

If ι is an X -interpretation and \mathbf{X} is an \mathcal{L} then ι extends to a function $\hat{\iota}$ on the set of all \mathcal{L} -terms.

If \mathbf{X} is an \mathcal{L} -structure and ι is an X -interpretation, we define a semantics for all \mathcal{L} -formulae by recursion.

Semantics of first order logic (2).

If \mathbf{X} is an \mathcal{L} -structure and ι is an X -interpretation, we define a semantics for all \mathcal{L} -formulae by recursion.

- $\mathbf{X}, \iota \models t = t^*$ if and only if $\hat{i}(t) = \hat{i}(t^*)$.
- $\mathbf{X}, \iota \models R_j(t_1, \dots, t_n)$ if and only if $R(\hat{i}(t_1), \dots, \hat{i}(t_n))$.
- $\mathbf{X}, \iota \models \varphi \wedge \psi$ if and only if $\mathbf{X}, \iota \models \varphi$ and $\mathbf{X}, \iota \models \psi$.
- $\mathbf{X}, \iota \models \neg\varphi$ if and only if it is not the case that $\mathbf{X}, \iota \models \varphi$.
- $\mathbf{X}, \iota \models \forall x (\varphi)$ if and only if for all X -interpretations ι^* with $\iota \sim_x \iota^*$, we have $\mathbf{X}, \iota^* \models \varphi$.
- $\mathbf{X} \models \varphi$ if and only if for all X -interpretations ι , we have $\mathbf{X}, \iota \models \varphi$.

Object Language \leftrightarrow Metalanguage.

Semantics of first order logic (3).

Object Language \leftrightarrow Metalanguage.

Let \mathbf{X} be an \mathcal{L} -structure. The **theory of \mathbf{X}** , $\text{Th}(\mathbf{X})$, is the set of all \mathcal{L} -sentences φ such that $\mathbf{X} \models \varphi$.

Under the assumption that the *tertium non datur* holds for the metalanguage, the theory of \mathbf{X} is always **complete**:

For every sentence φ , we either have $\varphi \in \text{Th}(\mathbf{X})$ or $\neg\varphi \in \text{Th}(\mathbf{X})$.

Deduction (1).

Let Φ be a set of \mathcal{L} -sentences. A Φ -proof is a finite sequence $\langle \varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_n \rangle$ of \mathcal{L} -formulae such that for all i , one of the following holds:

- $\varphi_i \equiv t = t$ for some \mathcal{L} -term t ,
- $\varphi_i \in \Phi$, or
- there are $j, k < i$ such that φ_j and φ_k are the premisses and φ_i is the conclusion in one of the rows of the following table.

Premisses		Conclusion
$\varphi \wedge \psi$		φ
$\varphi \wedge \psi$		ψ
φ	ψ	$\varphi \wedge \psi$
φ	$\neg\varphi$	ψ
$\varphi \rightarrow \psi$	$\neg\varphi \rightarrow \psi$	ψ
$\forall x (\varphi)$		$\varphi \frac{s}{x}$
$\varphi \frac{y}{x}$		$\forall x (\varphi)$
$t = t^*$	$\varphi \frac{t}{x}$	$\varphi \frac{t^*}{x}$

Deduction (2).

If Φ is a set of \mathcal{L} -sentences and φ is an \mathcal{L} -formula, we write $\Phi \vdash \varphi$ if there is a Φ -proof in which φ occurs.

We call a set Φ of sentences a **theory** if whenever $\Phi \vdash \varphi$, then $\varphi \in \Phi$ (“ Φ is deductively closed”).

Example. Let $\mathcal{L} = \{\leq\}$ be the language of partial orders. Let $\Phi_{\text{p.o.}}$ be the axioms of partial orders, and let Φ be the deductive closure of $\Phi_{\text{p.o.}}$. Φ is not a complete theory, as the sentence $\forall x \forall y (x \leq y \vee y \leq x)$ is not an element of Φ , but neither is its negation.

Completeness.



Kurt Gödel (1906-1978)

Semantic entailment. We write $\Phi \models \varphi$ for “whenever $\mathbf{X} \models \Phi$, then $\mathbf{X} \models \varphi$ ”.

Gödel Completeness Theorem (1929).

$\Phi \vdash \varphi$ if and only if $\Phi \models \varphi$.

“there is a Φ -proof of φ ”

“for all $\mathbf{X} \models \Phi$, we have $\mathbf{X} \models \varphi$ ”

$\Phi \not\vdash \varphi$ if and only if $\Phi \not\models \varphi$.

“no Φ -proof contains φ ”

“there is some $\mathbf{X} \models \Phi \wedge \neg\varphi$ ”

Applications (1).

The Model Existence Theorem.

If Φ is consistent (*i.e.*, $\Phi \not\vdash \perp$), then there is a model $\mathbf{X} \models \Phi$.

The Compactness Theorem.

Let Φ be a set of sentences. If every finite subset of Φ has a model, then Φ has a model.

Proof. If Φ doesn't have a model, then it is inconsistent by the **Model Existence Theorem**.

So, $\Phi \vdash \perp$, *i.e.*, there is a Φ -proof P of \perp .

But P is a finite object, so it contains only finitely many elements of Φ . Let Φ_0 be the set of elements occurring in P . Clearly, P is a Φ_0 -proof of \perp , so Φ_0 is inconsistent. Therefore Φ_0 cannot have a model. q.e.d.

Applications (2).

The Compactness Theorem. Let Φ be a set of sentences. If every finite subset of Φ has a model, then Φ has a model.

Corollary 1. Let Φ be a set of sentences that has arbitrary large finite models. Then Φ has an infinite model.

Proof. Let $\psi_{\geq n}$ be the formula stating “there are at least n different objects”. Let $\Psi := \{\psi_{\geq n} ; n \in \mathbb{N}\}$. The premiss of the theorem says that every finite subset of $\Phi \cup \Psi$ has a model. By compactness, $\Phi \cup \Psi$ has a model. But this must be infinite. q.e.d.

Let $\mathcal{L} := \{\leq\}$ be the first order language with one binary relation symbol. Let $\Phi_{\text{p.o.}}$ be the axioms of partial orders.

Corollary 2. There is no sentence σ such that for all partial orders P , we have

P is finite if and only if $P \models \sigma$.

[If σ is like this, then **Corollary 1** can be applied to $\Phi_{\text{p.o.}} \cup \{\sigma\}$.]

Foundations of Mathematics.

- Does mathematics need foundations? (Not until 1900.)
- *Mathematical approach*: Work towards an axiom system of mathematics with purely mathematical means. ([Hilbert's Programme](#)). In its naïve interpretation crushed by Gödel's Incompleteness Theorem.
- *Extra-mathematical approach*: Use external arguments for axioms and rules: pragmatic, philosophical, sociological, (theological ?).
- Foundations of number theory: test case.

Sets are everything (1).

- Different areas of mathematics use different primitive notions: ordered pair, function, natural number, real number, transformation, *etc.*
- Set theory is able to incorporate all of these in one framework:

- **Ordered Pair.** We define

$$\langle x, y \rangle := \{\{x\}, \{x, y\}\}.$$

(**Kuratowski pair**)

- **Function.** A set f is called a **function** if there are sets X and Y such that $f \subseteq X \times Y$ and

$$\forall x, y, y' (\langle x, y \rangle \in f \& \langle x, y' \rangle \in f \rightarrow y = y').$$

Sets are everything (2).

- Set theory incorporates basic notions of mathematics:
 - **Natural Numbers.** We call a set X **inductive** if it contains \emptyset and for each $x \in X$, we have $x \cup \{x\} \in X$. Assume that there is an inductive set. Then define \mathbb{N} to be the intersection of all inductive sets.
 - **Rational Numbers.** We define

$$\mathbb{P} := \{0, 1\} \times \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}, \text{ then}$$

$$\langle i, n, m \rangle \sim \langle j, k, \ell \rangle : \iff i = j \ \& \ n \cdot \ell = m \cdot k, \text{ and}$$

$$\mathbb{Q} := \mathbb{P} / \sim.$$

Sets are everything (3).

• Set theory incorporates basic notions of mathematics:

• **Real Numbers.** Define an order on \mathbb{Q} by

$$\langle i, n, m \rangle \leq \langle j, k, \ell \rangle : \iff i < j \vee (i = j \ \& \ n \cdot \ell \leq k \cdot m).$$

A subset X of \mathbb{Q} is called an **initial segment** if

$$\forall x, y (x \in X \ \& \ y \leq x \rightarrow y \in X).$$

Initial segments are linearly ordered by inclusion.

We define \mathbb{R} to be the set of initial segments of \mathbb{Q} .

These definitions implicitly used a lot of set theoretic assumptions.

Sets.

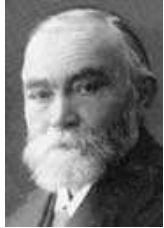
What is a set?

Eine Menge ist eine Zusammenfassung bestimmter, wohlunterschiedener Dinge unserer Anschauung oder unseres Denkens zu einem Ganzen. (Cantor 1895)

The Full Comprehension Scheme. Let X be our universe of discourse (“the universe of sets”) and let Φ be any formula. Then the collection of those x such that $\Phi(x)$ holds is a set:

$$\{x ; \Phi(x)\}.$$

Frege (1).



Gottlob Frege (1848-1925)

Frege's Comprehension Principle. If Φ is any formula, then there is some G such that

$$\forall x(G(x) \leftrightarrow \Phi(x)).$$

The ε operator. In Frege's system, we can assign to "concepts" F (second-order objects) a first-order object εF ("the extension of F ").

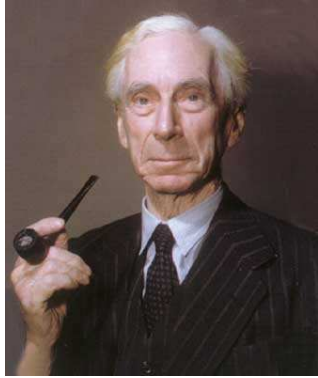
Frege (2).

Basic Law V. If F and G are concepts (second-order objects), then

$$\varepsilon F = \varepsilon G \iff \forall x(F(x) \leftrightarrow G(x)).$$

Frege's Foundations of Arithmetic. Let F be an absurd concept ("round square"). Let G be the concept "being equinumerous to εF ". We then define $0 := \varepsilon G$. Suppose $0, \dots, n$ are already defined. Then let H be the concept "being either 0 or \dots or n " and let \overline{H} be the concept "being equinumerous to εH ". Then let $n + 1 := \varepsilon \overline{H}$.

Russell (1).



Bertrand Arthur William
3rd Earl Russell (1872-1970)

- Grandson of John 1st Earl Russell (1792-1878); British prime minister (1846-1852 & 1865-1866).
- 1901: Russell discovers **Russell's paradox**.
- 1910-13: *Principia Mathematica* with **Alfred North Whitehead** (1861-1947).
- 1916: Dismissed from Trinity College for anti-war protests.
- 1918: Imprisoned for anti-war protests.
- 1940: Fired from City College New York.
- 1950: Nobel Prize for Literature.
- 1957: First Pugwash Conference.

Russell (2).

Frege's Comprehension Principle. Every formula defines a concept.

Basic Law V. If F and G are concepts, then $\varepsilon F = \varepsilon G \leftrightarrow \forall x(F(x) \leftrightarrow G(x))$.

Theorem (Russell). Basic Law V and the Full Comprehension Principle together are inconsistent.

Proof. Let R be the concept “being the extension of a concept which you don't fall under”, *i.e.*, the concept described by the formula

$$\Phi(x) \quad :\equiv \quad \exists F(x = \varepsilon F \wedge \neg F(x)).$$

This concept exists by **Comprehension**. Let $r := \varepsilon R$.

Either $R(r)$ or $\neg R(r)$:

1. If $R(r)$, then there is some F such that $r = \varepsilon F$ and $\neg F(r)$. Thus $\varepsilon F = \varepsilon R$, and by **Basic Law V**, we have that $F(r) \leftrightarrow R(r)$. But then $\neg R(r)$. **Contradiction!**
2. If $\neg R(r)$, then for all F such that $r = \varepsilon F$ we have $F(r)$. But R is one of these F , so $R(r)$. **Contradiction!**

q.e.d.

Russell (3).

Theorem (Russell). The Full Comprehension Principle cannot be an axiom of set theory.

Proof. Suppose the Full Comprehension Principle holds, *i.e.*, every formula Φ describes a set $\{x; \Phi(x)\}$. Take the formula $\Phi(x) :\equiv x \notin x$ and form the set $r := \{x; x \notin x\}$ (“the Russell class”).

Either $r \in r$ or $r \notin r$.

1. If $r \in r$, then $\Phi(r)$, so $r \notin r$. **Contradiction!**
2. If $r \notin r$, then $\neg\Phi(r)$, so $\neg r \notin r$, *i.e.*, $r \in r$. **Contradiction!**

q.e.d.

Frege & Russell.

- Russell discovered the paradox in June 1901.
- Russell's Paradox was discovered independently by [Zermelo](#) (Letter to Husserl, dated April 16, 1902).

B. Rang, W. Thomas, Zermelo's discovery of the "Russell paradox", **Historia Mathematica** 8 (1981), p. 15-22.

- Letter to Frege (June 16, 1902) with the paradox.
- Frege's reply (June 22, 1902):
 - “with the loss of my Rule V, not only the foundations of my arithmetic, but also the sole possible foundations of arithmetic, seem to vanish”.

Attempts to resolve the paradoxes.

- **Theory of Types.**

Russell (1903, “simple theory of types”; 1908, “ramified theory of types”). *Principia Mathematica*.

- **Axiomatization of Set Theory.**

Zermelo (1908). Skolem/Fraenkel (1922). Von Neumann (1925). “**Zermelo-Fraenkel set theory**” ZF.

- **Foundations of Mathematics.**

Hilbert’s 2nd problem: *Consistency proof of arithmetic* (1900). Hilbert’s Programme (1920s).