

# Full Clausal Logic - Syntax:

## clauses

compound terms  
aggregate objects

Add function symbols (functors), with an arity; constants are 0-ary functors.

object

functor : single word starting with lower case  
variable : single word starting with upper case  
term : variable | functor [(term [, term]\*)]

predicate : single word starting with lower case

atom : predicate [(term [, term]\*)]

proposition

clause : head [:- body]

head : [atom ; atom]\*

body : proposition [, proposition]\*

“adding two Peano-  
encoded naturals”

```
plus(0, X, X).  
plus(s(X), Y, s(Z)) :- plus(X, Y, Z).
```

# Full Clausal Logic - *Semantics*:

analogous to relational clausal logic

## Herbrand universe, base, interpretation

**Herbrand universe** of a program  $P$

$\{ \emptyset, s(\emptyset), s(s(\emptyset)), s(s(s(\emptyset))), \dots \}$

infinite!

terms that can be constructed from the constants and functors

**Herbrand base  $B_P$**  of a program  $P$

$\{ \text{plus}(\emptyset, \emptyset, \emptyset), \text{plus}(s(\emptyset), \emptyset, \emptyset),$   
 $\text{plus}(\emptyset, s(\emptyset), \emptyset), \text{plus}(s(\emptyset), s(\emptyset), \emptyset), \dots \}$

set of all ground atoms that can be constructed using predicates in  $P$  and ground terms in the Herbrand universe of  $P$

**Herbrand interpretation  $I$**  of  $P$

$\{ \text{plus}(\emptyset, \emptyset, \emptyset), \text{plus}(s(\emptyset), \emptyset, s(\emptyset)), \text{plus}(\emptyset, s(\emptyset), s(\emptyset)) \}$

is this a model?

possibly infinite subset of  $B_P$  consisting of ground atoms that are true

# Full Clausal Logic - *Semantics*: infinite models are possible

Herbrand universe is infinite,  
therefore infinite number of  
grounding substitutions

An interpretation is a **model for a program** if it is a model for each ground instance of every clause in the program.

```
plus(0,0,0)
plus(s(0),0,s(0)):-plus(0,0,0)
plus(s(s(0)),0,s(s(0))):-plus(s(0),0,s(0))
...
plus(0,s(0),s(0))
plus(s(0),s(0),s(s(0))):-plus(0,s(0),s(s(0)))
plus(s(s(0)),s(0),s(s(s(0)))):-plus(s(0),s(0),s(s(0)))
...
```

according to first ground clause, `plus(0,0,0)` has to be in any model  
but then the second clause requires the same of `plus(s(0),0,s(0))`  
and the third clause of `plus(s(s(0)),0,s(s(0)))` ...

all models of this program  
are necessarily infinite

# Full Clausal Logic - *Proof Theory*: computing the most general unifier

analogous to relational clausal logic, but have to take compound terms into account when computing the mgu of complementary atoms

atoms

$\text{plus}(s(\theta), X, s(X))$  and  $\text{plus}(s(Y), s(\theta), s(s(Y)))$

have most general unifier

$\{Y/\theta, X/s(\theta)\}$

yields unified atom  
 $\text{plus}(s(Y), s(\theta), s(s(Y)))$

found by

renaming variables so that the two atoms have none in common

ensuring that the atoms' predicates and arity correspond

scanning the subterms from left to right to

$s(Y)$  and  $s(\theta)$

find first pair of subterms where the two atoms differ;

if neither subterm is a variable, unification fails;

else substitute the other term for all occurrences of the variable

and remember the partial substitution;

$\{Y/\theta\}$

repeat until no more differences found

# Full Clausal Logic - Proof Theory:

## computing the most general unifier using the Martelli-Montanari algorithm

```

repeat
  select  $s = t \in \mathcal{E}$ 
  case  $s = t$  of
     $f(s_1, \dots, s_n) = f(t_1, \dots, t_n)$  ( $n \geq 0$ ):
      replace  $s = t$  by  $\{s_1 = t_1, \dots, s_n = t_n\}$ 
     $f(s_1, \dots, s_m) = g(t_1, \dots, t_n)$  ( $f/m \neq g/n$ ):
      fail
     $X = X$ :
      remove  $X = X$  from  $\mathcal{E}$ 
     $t = X$  ( $t \notin \mathbf{Var}$ ):
      replace  $t = X$  by  $X = t$ 
     $X = t$  ( $X \in \mathbf{Var} \wedge X \neq t \wedge X$  occurs more than once in  $\mathcal{E}$ ):
      if  $X$  occurs in  $t$ 
      then fail
      else replace all occurrences of  $X$  in  $\mathcal{E}$  (except in  $X = t$ ) by  $t$ 
  esac
until no change
  
```

operates on a finite set of equations  $s=t$

occur check

$$\begin{aligned} & \{f(X, g(Y)) = f(g(Z), Z)\} \\ \Rightarrow & \{X = g(Z), g(Y) = Z\} \\ \Rightarrow & \{X = g(Z), Z = g(Y)\} \\ \Rightarrow & \{X = g(g(Y)), Z = g(Y)\} \\ \Rightarrow & \{X/g(g(Y)), Z/g(Y)\} \end{aligned}$$

resulting set = mgu

$$\begin{aligned} & \{f(X, g(X), b) = f(a, g(Z), Z)\} \\ \Rightarrow & \{X = a, g(X) = g(Z), b = Z\} \\ \Rightarrow & \{X = a, X = Z, b = Z\} \\ \Rightarrow & \{X = a, a = Z, b = Z\} \\ \Rightarrow & \{X = a, Z = a, b = Z\} \\ \Rightarrow & \{X = a, Z = a, b = a\} \\ \Rightarrow & \text{fail} \end{aligned}$$

# Full Clausal Logic - *Proof Theory*:

## importance of occur check

before substituting a term for a variable, verify that the variable does not occur in the term; if so: fail

program

query

`loves(X, person_loved_by(X)).`

`:- loves(Y, Y).`

without occur check, atoms to be resolved upon unify under substitution

`{Y/X, X/person_loved_by(X)}`

and therefore resolving to the empty clause

no semantics for infinite terms as there are no such terms in the Herbrand base

try to print answer:

`X=person_loved_by(person_loved_by(person_loved_by(...)))`

moreover, not a logical consequence of the program

omitting occur check renders resolution unsound

BUT

# Full Clausal Logic - *Proof Theory*:

## occur check

not performed in Prolog out of performance considerations  
(e.g. unify  $X$  with a list of 1000 elements)

### Martelli-Montanari algorithm

$\Rightarrow \frac{\{I(Y, Y) = I(X, f(X))\}}{\{Y = X, Y = f(X)\}}$   
 $\Rightarrow \{Y = X, X = f(X)\}$   
 $\Rightarrow$  **fail**

### SWI-Prolog

```
?- I(Y, Y) = I(X, f(X)).  
Y = f(**),  
X = f(**).  
?-
```

built-in unification operator

```
?- unify_with_occurs_check(I(Y, Y), I(X, f(X))).  
false.  
?-
```

in rare cases where the occurs check is needed

# Full Clausal Logic - *Meta-theory*: soundness, completeness, decidability

sound

full clausal logic is sound

$$P \vdash C \Rightarrow P \models C$$

complete

full clausal logic is refutation-complete

$$P \cup \{C\} \text{ inconsistent} \Rightarrow P \cup \{C\} \vdash \square$$

decidability

The question " $P \models C$ ?" is only semi-decidable.

there is no algorithm that will always answer the question (with "yes" or "no") in finite time; but there is an algorithm that, if  $P \models C$ , will answer "yes" in finite time but this algorithm may loop if  $P \not\models C$ .



# Clausal Logic: overview

	propositional	relational	full
Herbrand universe	-	$\{a, b\}$ finite	$\{a, f(a), f(f(a)), \dots\}$ infinite
Herbrand base	$\{p, q\}$	$\{p(a, a), p(b, a), \dots\}$	$\{p(a, f(a)), p(f(a), p(f(f(a))), \dots\}$
clause	$p :- q$	$p(X, Z) :- q(X, Y), p(Y, Z)$	$p(X, f(X)) :- q(X)$
Herbrand models	$\{\}$ $\{p\}$ $\{p, q\}$	$\{\}$ $\{p(a, a)\}$ $\{p(a, a), p(b, a), q(b, a)\}$ $\dots$	$\{\}$ $\{p(a, f(a)), q(a)\}$ $\{p(f(a), f(f(a))), q(f(a))\}$ $\dots$
meta-theory	sound refutation-complete decidable	sound refutation-complete decidable	sound (occurs check) refutation-complete semi-decidable

# Clausal Logic:

## conversion to first-order predicate logic (1)

Every set of clauses can be rewritten as an equivalent sentence in first-order predicate logic.

variables in a sentence cannot range over predicates

```
married;bachelor :- man,adult.  
haswife :- married.
```

becomes  $(\text{man} \wedge \text{adult} \Rightarrow \text{married} \vee \text{bachelor}) \wedge$   
 $(\text{married} \Rightarrow \text{haswife})$

$A \Rightarrow B \equiv \neg A \vee B$   
 $\neg(A \wedge B) \equiv \neg A \vee \neg B$

or  $(\neg \text{man} \vee \neg \text{adult} \vee \text{married} \vee \text{bachelor})$   
 $\wedge (\neg \text{married} \vee \text{haswife})$

conjunctive normal form: conjunction of disjunction of literals

```
reachable(X,Y,route(Z,R)) :- connected(X,Z,L), reachable(Z,Y,R).
```

becomes  $\forall X \forall Y \forall Z \forall R \forall L : \neg \text{connected}(X,Z,L) \vee$   
 $\neg \text{reachable}(Z,Y,R) \vee$   
 $\text{reachable}(X,Y,\text{route}(Z,R))$

variables in clauses are universally quantified

# Clausal Logic:

Every set of clauses can be rewritten as an equivalent sentence in first-order predicate logic.

## conversion to first-order predicate logic (2)

$\text{nonempty}(X) \text{ :- contains}(X, Y).$

becomes

$\forall X \forall Y: \text{nonempty}(X) \vee \neg \text{contains}(X, Y)$

or

$\forall X: (\text{nonempty}(X) \vee \forall Y \neg \text{contains}(X, Y))$

or

$\forall X: \text{nonempty}(X) \vee \neg (\exists Y: \text{contains}(X, Y))$

or

$\forall X: (\exists Y: \text{contains}(X, Y)) \Rightarrow \text{nonempty}(X)$

variables that occur only in the body of a clause are existentially qualified

# Clausal Logic:

For each first order sentence, there exists an "almost equivalent" set of clauses.

## conversion from first-order predicate logic (1)

$$\forall X [\text{brick}(X) \Rightarrow (\exists Y [\text{on}(X, Y) \wedge \neg \text{pyramid}(Y)] \wedge \neg \exists Y [\text{on}(X, Y) \wedge \text{on}(Y, X)] \wedge \forall Y [\neg \text{brick}(Y) \Rightarrow \neg \text{equal}(X, Y)])]$$

1 eliminate  $\Rightarrow$  using  $A \Rightarrow B \equiv \neg A \vee B$ .

$$\forall X [\neg \text{brick}(X) \vee (\exists Y [\text{on}(X, Y) \wedge \neg \text{pyramid}(Y)] \wedge \neg \exists Y [\text{on}(X, Y) \wedge \text{on}(Y, X)] \wedge \forall Y [\neg(\neg \text{brick}(Y)) \vee \neg \text{equal}(X, Y)])]$$

2 put into negation normal form: negation only occurs immediately before propositions

$$\forall X [\neg \text{brick}(X) \vee (\exists Y [\text{on}(X, Y) \wedge \neg \text{pyramid}(Y)] \wedge \forall Y [\neg \text{on}(X, Y) \vee \neg \text{on}(Y, X)] \wedge \forall Y [\text{brick}(Y) \vee \neg \text{equal}(X, Y)])]$$


$\neg(A \wedge B) \equiv \neg A \vee \neg B$   
 $\neg(A \vee B) \equiv \neg A \wedge \neg B$   
 $\neg(\neg A) \equiv A$   
 $\neg \forall X [p(X)] \equiv \exists X [\neg p(X)]$   
 $\neg(\exists X [p(X)]) \equiv \forall X [\neg p(X)]$

# Clausal Logic:

## conversion from first-order predicate logic (2)

For each first order sentence, there exists an "almost equivalent" set of clauses.

$$\forall X [\neg \text{brick}(X) \vee (\exists Y [\text{on}(X, Y) \wedge \neg \text{pyramid}(Y)]) \wedge \\ \forall Y [\neg \text{on}(X, Y) \vee \neg \text{on}(Y, X)] \wedge \\ \forall Y [\text{brick}(Y) \vee \neg \text{equal}(X, Y)]]]$$

 model {loves(paul,anna)}  
can be converted to equivalent  
{loves(paul, person\_loved\_by(paul))}

$$\forall X \exists Y : \text{loves}(X, Y) \\ \forall X : \text{loves}(X, \text{person\_loved\_by}(X))$$

$\exists X \forall Y : \text{loves}(X, Y)$   
Skolem constants substitute for an  
existentially quantified variable  
which does not occur in the scope  
of a universal quantifier

replace existentially quantified variable by a compound term of which the arguments are the universally quantified variables in whose scope the existentially quantified variable occurs

3 replace  $\exists$  using Skolem functors (abstract names for objects, functor has to be new)

$$\forall X [\neg \text{brick}(X) \vee (\text{on}(X, \text{sup}(X)) \wedge \neg \text{pyramid}(\text{sup}(X))) \wedge \\ \forall Y [\neg \text{on}(X, Y) \vee \neg \text{on}(Y, X)] \wedge \\ \forall Y [\text{brick}(Y) \vee \neg \text{equal}(X, Y)]]]$$

# Clausal Logic:

For each first order sentence, there exists an "almost equivalent" set of clauses.

## conversion from first-order predicate logic (3)

$$\forall X [\neg \text{brick}(X) \vee ([\text{on}(X, \text{sup}(X)) \wedge \neg \text{pyramid}(\text{sup}(X))]) \wedge \\ \forall Y [\neg \text{on}(X, Y) \vee \neg \text{on}(Y, X)] \wedge \\ \forall Y [\text{brick}(Y) \vee \neg \text{equal}(X, Y)]]]$$

4 standardize all variables apart such that each quantifier has its own unique variable

$$\forall X [\neg \text{brick}(X) \vee ([\text{on}(X, \text{sup}(X)) \wedge \neg \text{pyramid}(\text{sup}(X))]) \wedge \\ \forall Y [\neg \text{on}(X, Y) \vee \neg \text{on}(Y, X)] \wedge \\ \forall Z [\text{brick}(Z) \vee \neg \text{equal}(X, Z)]]]$$

5 move  $\forall$  to the front

$$\forall X \forall Y \forall Z [\neg \text{brick}(X) \vee ([\text{on}(X, \text{sup}(X)) \wedge \neg \text{pyramid}(\text{sup}(X))]) \wedge \\ [\neg \text{on}(X, Y) \vee \neg \text{on}(Y, X)] \wedge \\ [\text{brick}(Z) \vee \neg \text{equal}(X, Z)]]]$$

# Clausal Logic:

For each first order sentence, there exists an "almost equivalent" set of clauses.

## conversion from first-order predicate logic (4)

$$\forall X \forall Y \forall Z [ \neg \text{brick}(X) \vee ( [\text{on}(X, \text{sup}(X)) \wedge \neg \text{pyramid}(\text{sup}(X))] \wedge [\neg \text{on}(X, Y) \vee \neg \text{on}(Y, X)] \wedge [\text{brick}(Z) \vee \neg \text{equal}(X, Z)] ) ]$$

6

convert to conjunctive normal form using  $A \vee (B \wedge C) \equiv (A \vee B) \wedge (A \vee C)$

$$\forall X \forall Y \forall Z [ ( \neg \text{brick}(X) \vee [\text{on}(X, \text{sup}(X)) \wedge \neg \text{pyramid}(\text{sup}(X))] ) ) \wedge ( \neg \text{brick}(X) \vee [\neg \text{on}(X, Y) \vee \neg \text{on}(Y, X)] ) \wedge ( \neg \text{brick}(X) \vee [\text{brick}(Z) \vee \neg \text{equal}(X, Z)] ) ]$$
$$\forall X \forall Y \forall Z [ ( ( \neg \text{brick}(X) \vee \text{on}(X, \text{sup}(X)) ) \wedge ( \neg \text{brick}(X) \vee \neg \text{pyramid}(\text{sup}(X)) ) ) ) \wedge ( \neg \text{brick}(X) \vee [\neg \text{on}(X, Y) \vee \neg \text{on}(Y, X)] ) \wedge ( \neg \text{brick}(X) \vee [\text{brick}(Z) \vee \neg \text{equal}(X, Z)] ) ]$$
$$\forall X \forall Y \forall Z [ [ \neg \text{brick}(X) \vee \text{on}(X, \text{sup}(X)) ] \wedge [ \neg \text{brick}(X) \vee \neg \text{pyramid}(\text{sup}(X)) ] \wedge [ \neg \text{brick}(X) \vee \neg \text{on}(X, Y) \vee \neg \text{on}(Y, X) ] \wedge [ \neg \text{brick}(X) \vee \text{brick}(Z) \vee \neg \text{equal}(X, Z) ] ]$$

$A \vee (B \vee C) \equiv A \vee B \vee C$

# Clausal Logic:

For each first order sentence, there exists an "almost equivalent" set of clauses.

## conversion from first-order predicate logic (5)

```

$$\forall X \forall Y \forall Z [ [\neg \text{brick}(X) \vee \text{on}(X, \text{sup}(X))] \wedge$$
  

$$[\neg \text{brick}(X) \vee \neg \text{pyramid}(\text{sup}(X))] \wedge$$
  

$$[\neg \text{brick}(X) \vee \neg \text{on}(X, Y) \vee \neg \text{on}(Y, X)] \wedge$$
  

$$[\neg \text{brick}(X) \vee \text{brick}(Z) \vee \neg \text{equal}(X, Z)] ]$$

```

7 split the conjuncts in clauses (a disjunction of literals)

```

$$\forall X \quad \neg \text{brick}(X) \vee \text{on}(X, \text{sup}(X))$$
  

$$\forall X \quad \neg \text{brick}(X) \vee \neg \text{pyramid}(\text{sup}(X))$$
  

$$\forall X \forall Y \quad \neg \text{brick}(X) \vee \neg \text{on}(X, Y) \vee \neg \text{on}(Y, X)$$
  

$$\forall X \forall Z \quad \neg \text{brick}(X) \vee \text{brick}(Z) \vee \neg \text{equal}(X, Z)$$

```

8 convert to clausal syntax (negative literals to body, positive ones to head)

```

$$\text{on}(X, \text{sup}(X)) \text{ :- brick}(X).$$
  

$$\text{ :- brick}(X), \text{ pyramid}(\text{sup}(X)).$$
  

$$\text{ :- brick}(X), \text{ on}(X, Y), \text{ on}(Y, X).$$
  

$$\text{brick}(X) \text{ :- brick}(Z), \text{ equal}(X, Z).$$

```



# Clausal Logic:

## conversion from first-order predicate logic (6)

For each first order sentence, there exists an "almost equivalent" set of clauses.

1 eliminate  $\Rightarrow$

$\forall X: (\exists Y: \text{contains}(X, Y)) \Rightarrow \text{nonempty}(X)$

2 put into negation normal form

$\forall X: \neg(\exists Y: \text{contains}(X, Y)) \vee \text{nonempty}(X)$

3 replace  $\exists$  using Skolem functors

$\forall X: (\forall Y: \neg \text{contains}(X, Y)) \vee \text{nonempty}(X)$

4 standardize variables

5 move  $\forall$  to the front

$\forall X \forall Y: \neg \text{contains}(X, Y) \vee \text{nonempty}(X)$

6 convert to conjunctive normal form

7 split the conjuncts in clauses

8 convert to clausal syntax

$\text{nonempty}(X) \text{ :- contains}(X, Y)$

# Definite Clause Logic: motivation

indefinite  
program

```
married(X);bachelor(X) :- man(X), adult(X).
man(peter). adult(peter). man(paul).
:-married(maria). :-bachelor(maria). :-bachelor(paul).
```

how to use the clause depends on what you want to prove, but this indeterminacy is a source of inefficiency in refutation proofs

logical consequences that  
can be derived in two resolution steps

clause is used  
from right to left

```
married(X);bachelor(X) :-man(X), adult(X)      man(peter)
|
married(peter);bachelor(peter) :-adult(peter)   adult(peter)
|
married(peter);bachelor(peter)
```

indefinite  
conclusion

clause is used  
from left to right

```
married(X);bachelor(X) :-man(X), adult(X)      :-married(maria)
|
bachelor(maria) :-man(maria), adult(maria)     :-bachelor(maria)
|
:-man(maria), adult(maria)
```

both literals from  
head and body are  
resolved away

```
married(X);bachelor(X) :-man(X), adult(X)      man(paul)
|
married(paul);bachelor(paul) :-adult(paul)     :-bachelor(paul)
|
married(paul) :-adult(paul)
```

# Definite Clause Logic: syntax and proof procedure

for efficiency's sake

rules out indefinite conclusions



full clausal logic clauses  
are restricted: at most  
one atom in the head

$A \text{ :- } B_1, \dots, B_n$

fixes direction to use clauses



from right to left:  
⇒ procedural interpretation

“prove A by proving each of B<sub>i</sub>”

# Definite Clause Logic: recovering lost expressivity

semantics and proof theory for the not in a general clause will be discussed later; Prolog actually provides a special predicate not/1 which can only be understood procedurally

problem

can no longer express

```
married(X); bachelor(X) :- man(X), adult(X).  
man(john). adult(john).
```

characteristic  
of indefinite clauses

which had two minimal models

```
{man(john), adult(john), married(john)}  
{man(john), adult(john), bachelor(john)}  
{man(john), adult(john), married(john), bachelor(john)}
```

definite clause  
containing not

general clauses

first model is minimal model of **general** clause

```
married(X) :- man(X), adult(X), not bachelor(X).
```

second model is minimal model of **general** clause

```
bachelor(X) :- man(X), adult(X), not married(X).
```

to prove that someone is a bachelor, prove that he is a man and an adult, and prove that he is not a bachelor