

# COMPUTATIONAL SEMANTICS: DAY 5

**Johan Bos**

University of Groningen

[www.rug.nl/staff/johan.bos](http://www.rug.nl/staff/johan.bos)



# Computational Semantics

- Day 1: Exploring Models
- Day 2: Meaning Representations
- Day 3: Computing Meanings with DCG
- Day 4: Computing Meanings with CCG
- **Day 5: Drawing Inferences and Meaning Banking**

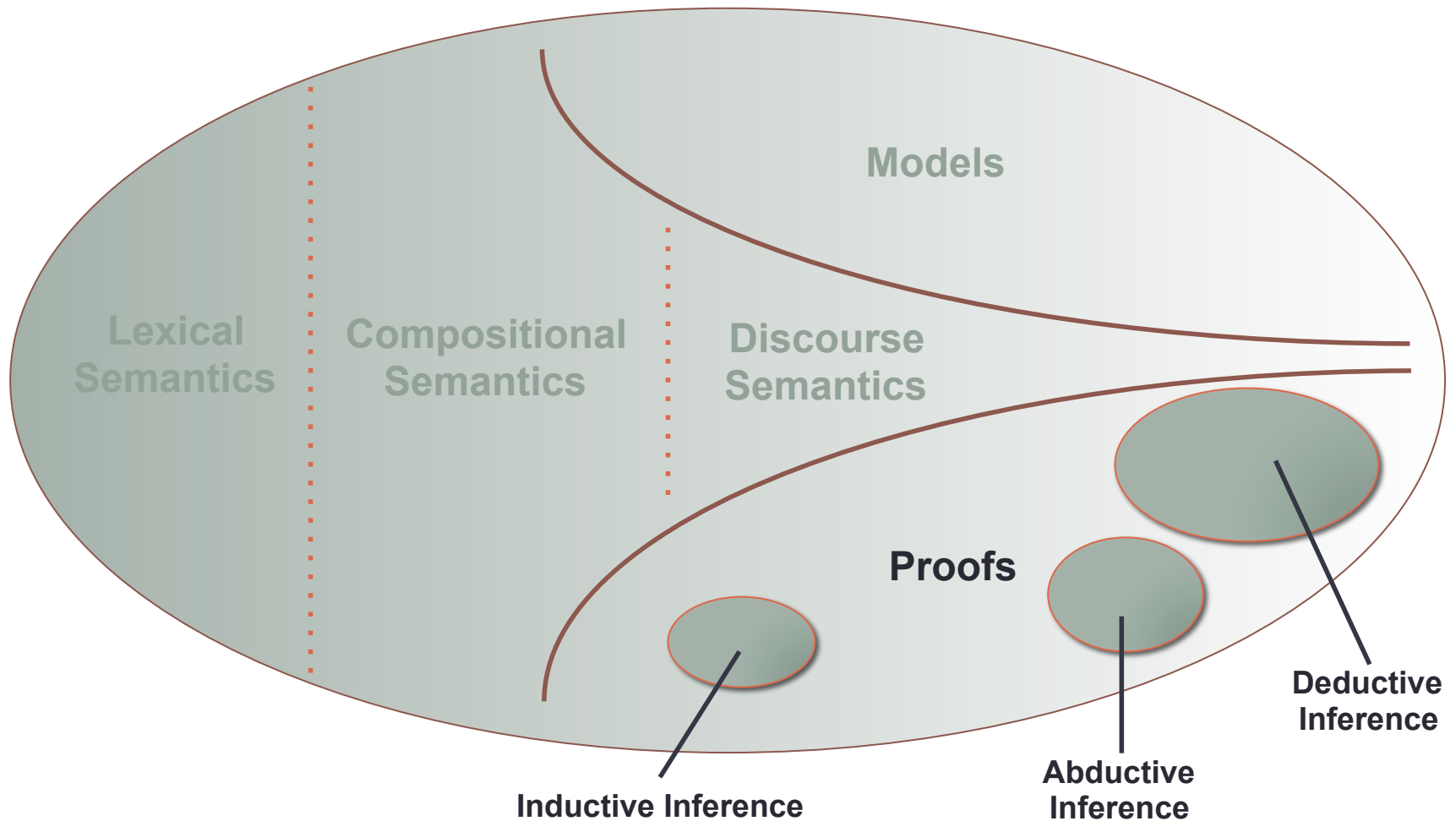


# Drawing Inferences

- By now we know how to produce semantic representations for natural language expressions
- But how can we use them to automate the process of drawing inferences?



# Proof-Theoretical Semantics



# Abductive reasoning (Abduction)

**Guessing for an explanation...**

The dog is wet.

---

? It's raining outside.

? It jumped in the pool.



# Inductive reasoning (Induction)

## Making generalizations...

This dog has four legs.  
That dog has four legs.  
And that one. And this one.  
And that one too.

---

All dogs have four legs.



# Inductive reasoning (Induction)

## Making generalizations...

This dog has four legs.

That dog has four legs.

And that one. And this one.

And that one too.

---

All dogs have four legs.



# Deductive reasoning (Deduction)

**Drawing conclusions from a set of premises**

Every dog jumped in the pool.

Fido is a dog.

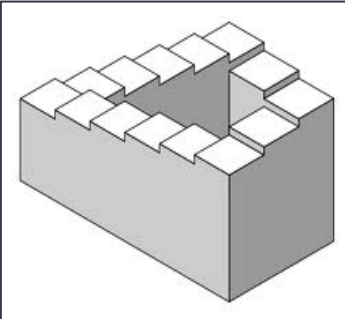
Fido jumped in the pool.





# The three inference tasks

The **Consistency Checking Task**



The **Informativeness Checking Task**

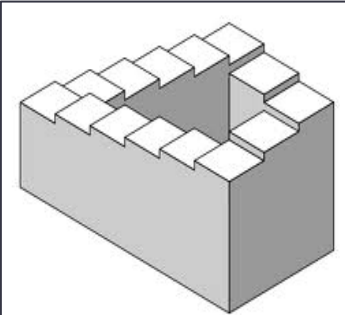


The **Querying Task**



# The three inference tasks

The Consistency Checking Task  
theorem prover + model builder



The Informativeness Checking Task  
theorem prover + model builder



The Querying Task  
model checker

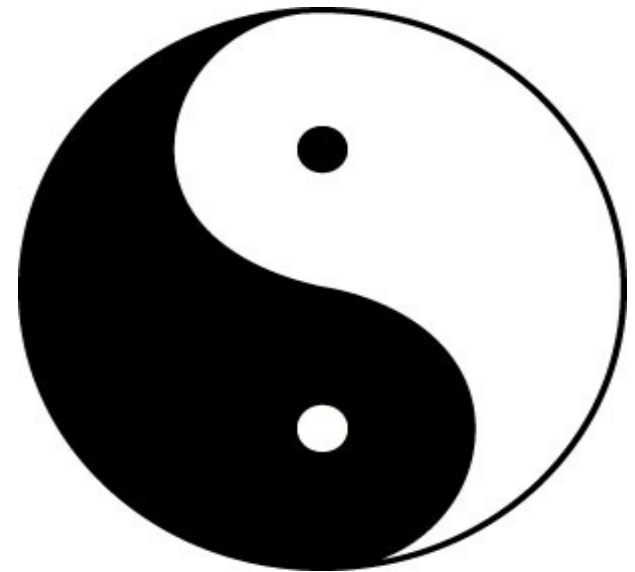


# But hey, isn't first-order logic...

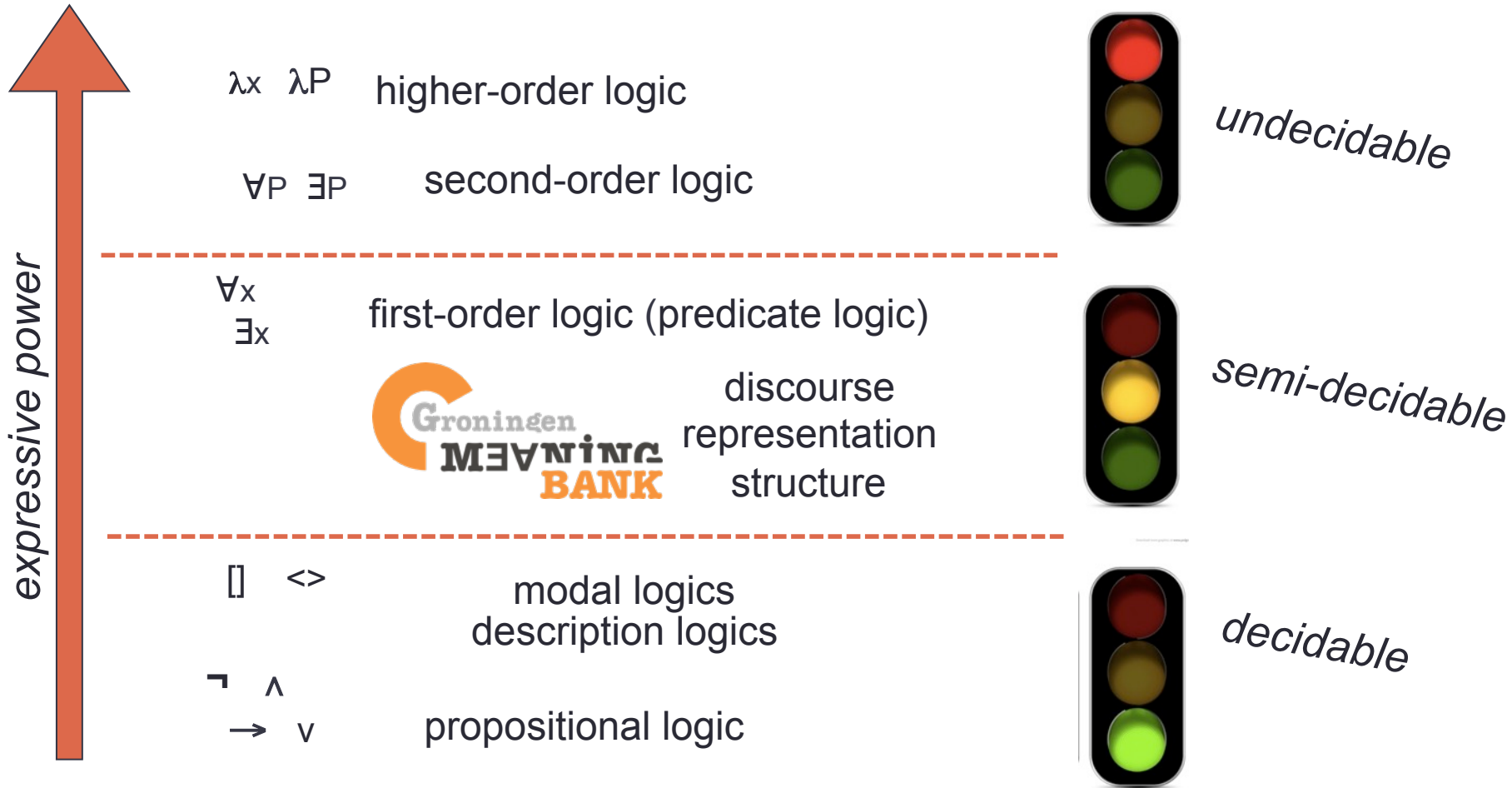
- Yes indeed, first-order logic is undecidable.  
In fact, it is semi-decidable.
- But what does this mean?  
Can we do anything about this?  
Are we in trouble?

# No general algorithmic solution

- We already dealt with the querying task (Lecture 1/2)
- The consistency/informativeness checking tasks are undecidable
- But there are partial solutions to be explored:
  - use theorem provers for negative tests
  - use model builders for positive tests



# Controlling Inference



# Theorem Proving

---

- The task of checking whether a formula (or a set of formulas) is a validity (a theorem), or put differently, checking whether that formula is true in all models

Input: **formula**

Output: **proof** (if you're lucky)

- Theorem proving serves to check whether input is inconsistent and uninformative!

(i.e., recognizing textual entailment)

# Example 1: Steve

Steve visited only Bologna.

---

Steve visited Bologna and Pisa.

**inconsistent**



## Example 2: Bush

“... when there's more trade, there's more commerce.”



**not  
informative**

George W. Bush, at the Summit of the Americas in Quebec City, April 21, 2001 (source: Language Log 24/10/2004)



# Theorem Proving vs Model Building

- **Theorem provers** check for logical validity
  - Is a formula  $\varphi$  true in all possible situations?
  - Output: proof
  - Useful for: detecting contradictory and non-informative texts
- **Model builders** check for satisfiability
  - Is a formula  $\varphi$  true in at least one situation?
  - Output: model
  - Useful for: detecting consistent and informative texts

# Example 3: James

James visited Rome.

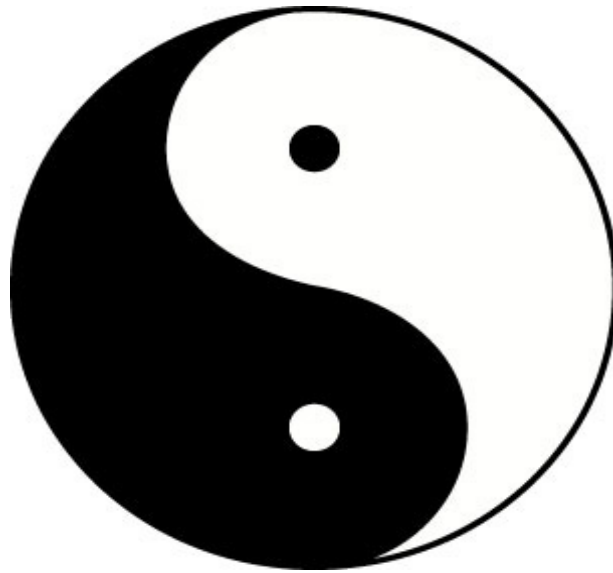
---

James visited only Rome.

**consistent  
informative**

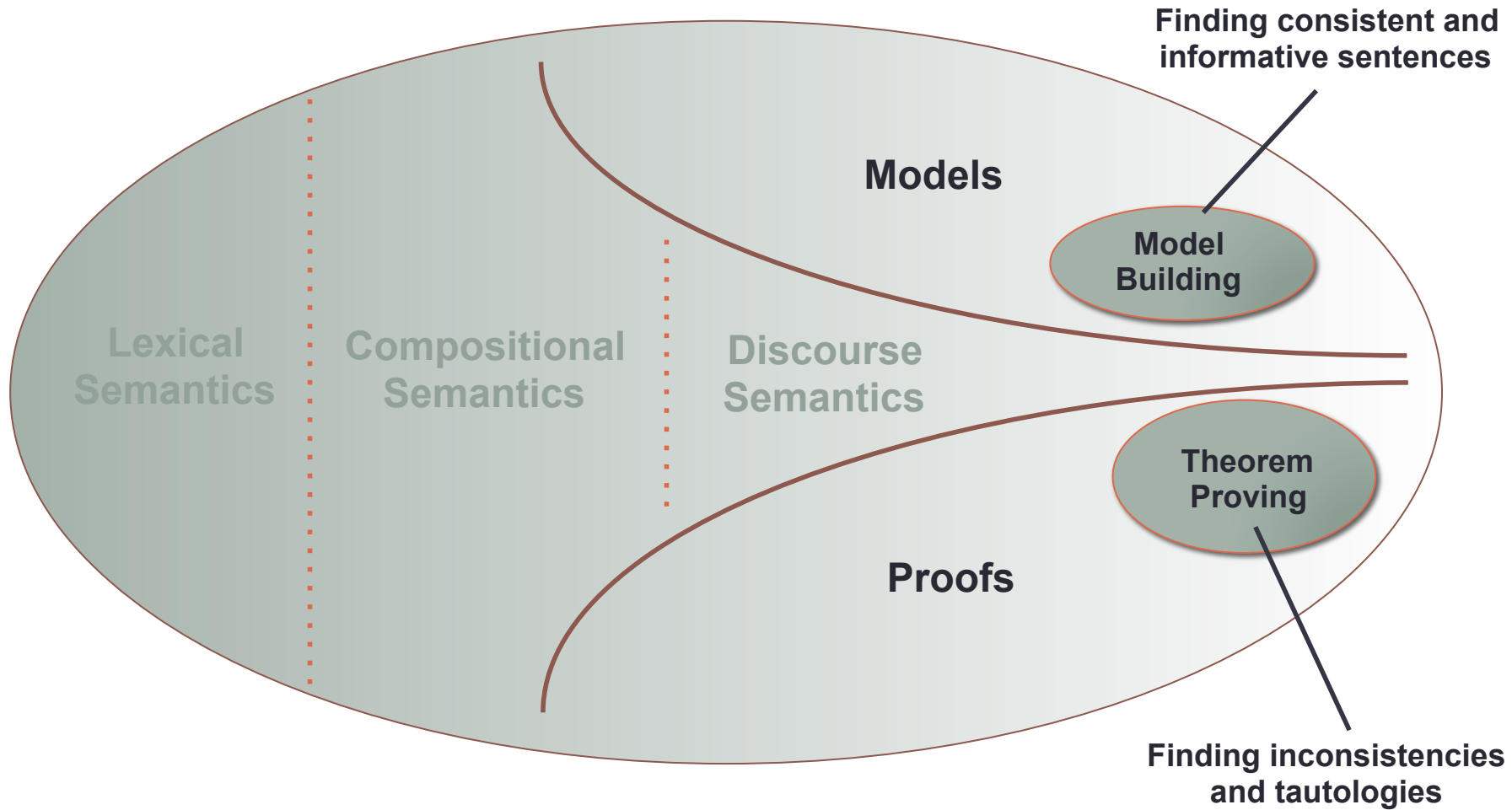


# The Yin and Yang of Inference



**Theorem Proving and Model Building**  
function as opposite forces

# Inference



# Consistency/Informativeness checking

- $\psi$  is inconsistent wrt  $\varphi_1 \dots \varphi_n$  means that  $(\varphi_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \varphi_n) \rightarrow \neg\psi$  is valid
- $\psi$  is uninformative wrt  $\varphi_1 \dots \varphi_n$  means that  $(\varphi_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \varphi_n) \rightarrow \psi$  is valid

Validity is defined in terms of models:  
a valid formula is one that is satisfied in ***all*** models

But there are infinitely many models...

# Proof Methods

- Recall the method of truth tables
  - it doesn't scale up
  - and can't be extended to first-order logic
- In this lecture we will look at two specific methods: **semantic tableau** and **resolution**
- We will first look at how this is done for propositional logic. Why?

*Because it is a lot simpler than first-order logic!  
(dealing with quantifiers and equality is a tricky business)*

# Propositional Tableaux

- systematic syntactic check for answering the following (semantic) question:

Suppose we are given a formula and a truth value (true or false). Is it possible to find a model in which the given formula has the given truth value?

- If we had such a systematic check at our disposal, we would be able to test formulas for validity. Why?

A formula is valid if and only if it is not possible to falsify it in any model

# A refutation proof method

- A formula is valid if and only if it is not possible to falsify it in any model
- If tableau can tell us that there is no way to build a model that falsifies a formula, then this formula is valid
- So what we do is this:

**We show that a formula is valid by showing that all attempts to falsify it fail**



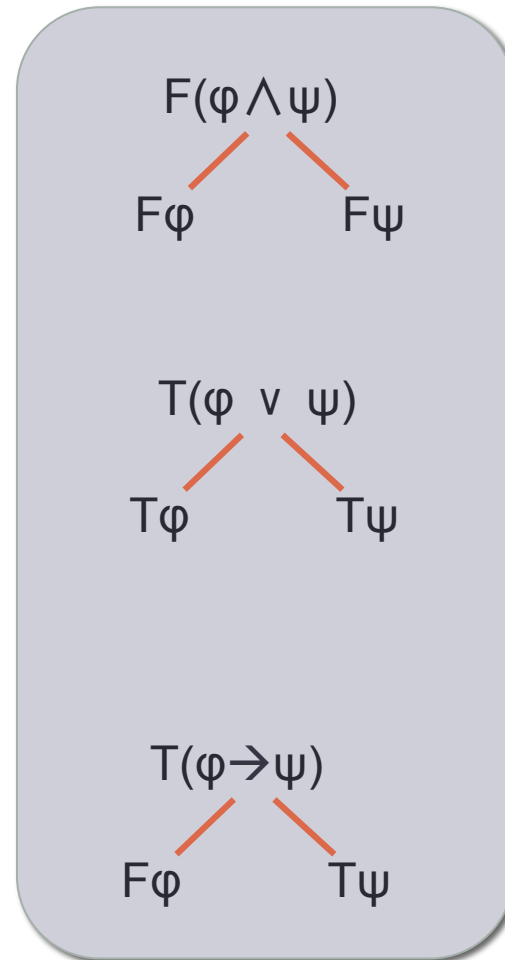
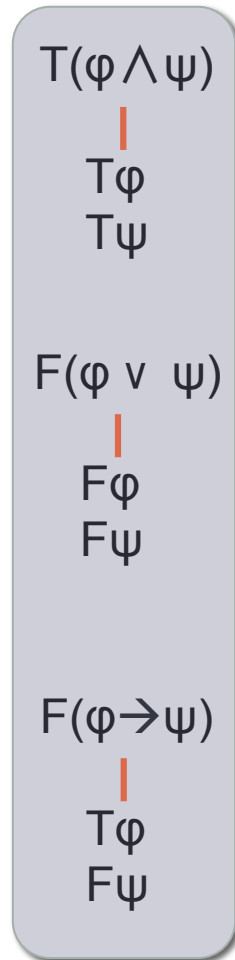
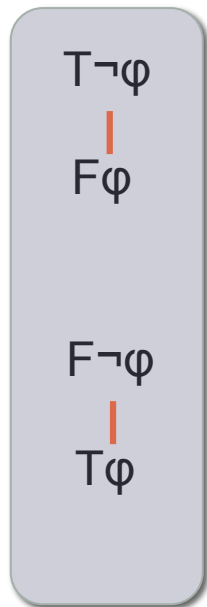
# The tableau system

- We will develop **tableau expansion rules**
- They work by breaking down complex formulas into their component formulas
- We will work through three examples. First example:

$p \vee \neg p$

This is clearly a validity. Why? Let's try to falsify it.

# The tableau expansion rules



# Signed formulas

- We need a nice piece of notation. Here it is:

Writing  $F\varphi$  will mean that we want to falsify  $\varphi$

Writing  $T\varphi$  will mean that we want to make  $\varphi$  true

- T and F are called **signs**.  
A formula preceded by a sign is called a **signed formula**.

# Proving validity of $p \vee \neg p$

1.  $F(p \vee \neg p)$

How do you make a disjunction false?

# Proving validity of $p \vee \neg p$

1.  $F(p \vee \neg p)$  ✓
2.  $Fp$             1,  $F_{\vee}$
3.  $F\neg p$             1,  $F_{\vee}$

This expansion rule is called  $F_{\vee}$

The ✓ records the fact that we applied an expansion rule to it (broke it into smaller pieces)

# Proving validity of $p \vee \neg p$

1.  $F(p \vee \neg p)$  ✓
2.  $Fp$  1,  $F_{\vee}$
3.  $F\neg p$  1,  $F_{\vee}$  ✓
4.  $Tp$  3,  $F_{\neg}$

This expansion rule is called  $F_{\neg}$

# Proving validity of $p \vee \neg p$

1.  $F(p \vee \neg p)$  ✓
2.  $Fp$  1,  $F_{\vee}$
3.  $F\neg p$  1,  $F_{\vee}$  ✓
4.  $Tp$  3,  $F_{\neg}$

Two important observations about this tableau:

- (1) It is rule-saturated. We can't expand it further.
- (2) It is closed. It contains contradictory wishes:  
we have to make  $p$  false (line 2) and we have to make  $p$  true (line 4)

# Proving validity of $p \vee \neg p$

1.  $F(p \vee \neg p)$  ✓
2.  $Fp$             1,  $F_{\vee}$
3.  $F\neg p$             1,  $F_{\vee}$  ✓
4.  $\top p$             3,  $F_{\neg}$

It contains all (just one in this case) possibilities to falsify  $p \vee \neg p$ . We fail to do this. Hence  $p \vee \neg p$  is valid. We call this a closed tableau (or a tableau proof).



# Proving validity of $\neg(q \wedge r) \rightarrow (\neg q \vee \neg r)$

1.  $\vdash \neg(q \wedge r) \rightarrow (\neg q \vee \neg r)$

# Proving validity of $\neg(q \wedge r) \rightarrow (\neg q \vee \neg r)$

1.  $F\neg(q \wedge r) \rightarrow (\neg q \vee \neg r)$  ✓
2.  $T\neg(q \wedge r)$  1,  $F_{\rightarrow}$
3.  $F(\neg q \vee \neg r)$  1,  $F_{\rightarrow}$

# Proving validity of $\neg(q \wedge r) \rightarrow (\neg q \vee \neg r)$

1.  $F\neg(q \wedge r) \rightarrow (\neg q \vee \neg r)$  ✓
2.  $T\neg(q \wedge r)$  1,  $F_{\rightarrow}$
3.  $F(\neg q \vee \neg r)$  1,  $F_{\rightarrow}$  ✓
4.  $F\neg q$  3,  $F_{\vee}$
5.  $F\neg r$  3,  $F_{\vee}$

Hey! Don't we skip line 2?

No we don't. We're free to apply the rules in any order.

# Proving validity of $\neg(q \wedge r) \rightarrow (\neg q \vee \neg r)$

1.  $F \neg(q \wedge r) \rightarrow (\neg q \vee \neg r)$  ✓
2.  $T \neg(q \wedge r)$  1,  $F_{\rightarrow}$
3.  $F(\neg q \vee \neg r)$  1,  $F_{\rightarrow}$  ✓
4.  $F \neg q$  3,  $F_{\vee}$  ✓
5.  $F \neg r$  3,  $F_{\vee}$
6.  $T q$  4,  $F_{\neg}$

# Proving validity of $\neg(q \wedge r) \rightarrow (\neg q \vee \neg r)$

1.  $F \neg(q \wedge r) \rightarrow (\neg q \vee \neg r)$  ✓
2.  $T \neg(q \wedge r)$  1,  $F_{\rightarrow}$
3.  $F(\neg q \vee \neg r)$  1,  $F_{\rightarrow}$  ✓
4.  $F \neg q$  3,  $F_{\vee}$  ✓
5.  $F \neg r$  3,  $F_{\vee}$  ✓
6.  $T q$  4,  $F_{\neg}$
7.  $T r$  5,  $F_{\neg}$

# Proving validity of $\neg(q \wedge r) \rightarrow (\neg q \vee \neg r)$

1.  $F \neg(q \wedge r) \rightarrow (\neg q \vee \neg r)$  ✓
2.  $T \neg(q \wedge r)$  1,  $F_{\rightarrow}$  ✓
3.  $F(\neg q \vee \neg r)$  1,  $F_{\rightarrow}$  ✓
4.  $F \neg q$  3,  $F_{\vee}$  ✓
5.  $F \neg r$  3,  $F_{\vee}$  ✓
6.  $T q$  4,  $F_{\neg}$
7.  $T r$  5,  $F_{\neg}$
8.  $F q \wedge r$  2,  $T_{\neg}$

# Proving validity of $\neg(q \wedge r) \rightarrow (\neg q \vee \neg r)$

1.  $F \neg(q \wedge r) \rightarrow (\neg q \vee \neg r)$  ✓
2.  $T \neg(q \wedge r)$  1,  $F_{\rightarrow}$  ✓
3.  $F(\neg q \vee \neg r)$  1,  $F_{\rightarrow}$  ✓
4.  $F \neg q$  3,  $F_{\vee}$  ✓
5.  $F \neg r$  3,  $F_{\vee}$  ✓
6.  $T q$  4,  $F_{\neg}$
7.  $T r$  5,  $F_{\neg}$
8.  $F q \wedge r$  2,  $T_{\neg}$  ✓

9.  $F q$

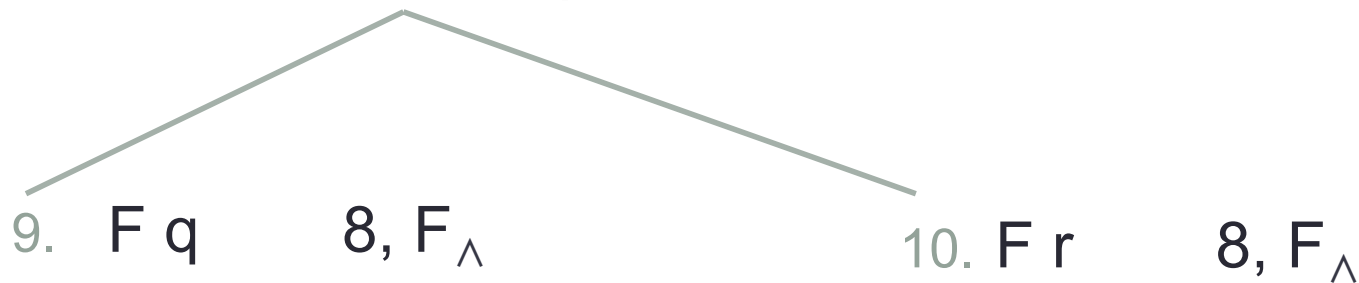
8,  $F_{\wedge}$

10.  $F r$

8,  $F_{\wedge}$

## Can we further expand this tableau?

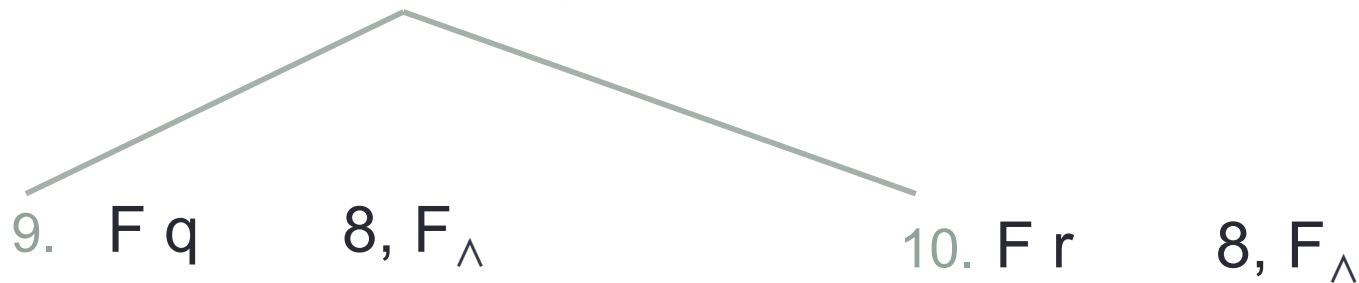
- |    |   |                        |
|----|---|------------------------|
| 1. | $F \neg(q \wedge r) \Rightarrow (\neg q \vee \neg r)$ | ✓                      |
| 2. | $T \neg(q \wedge r)$                                  | 1, $F_{\rightarrow}$ ✓ |
| 3. | $F(\neg q \vee \neg r)$                               | 1, $F_{\rightarrow}$ ✓ |
| 4. | $F \neg q$  | 3, $F_{\vee}$ ✓        |
| 5. | $F \neg r$  | 3, $F_{\vee}$ ✓        |
| 6. | $T q$   | 4, $F_{\neg}$          |
| 7. | $T r$   | 5, $F_{\neg}$          |
| 8. | $F q \wedge r$  | 2, $T_{\neg}$ ✓        |





# How many branches does this tableau contain?

1.  $F \neg(q \wedge r) \Rightarrow (\neg q \vee \neg r)$  ✓
2.  $T \neg(q \wedge r)$  1,  $F_{\rightarrow}$  ✓
3.  $F(\neg q \vee \neg r)$  1,  $F_{\rightarrow}$  ✓
4.  $F \neg q$  3,  $F_{\vee}$  ✓
5.  $F \neg r$  3,  $F_{\vee}$  ✓
6.  $T q$  4,  $F_{\neg}$
7.  $T r$  5,  $F_{\neg}$
8.  $F q \wedge r$  2,  $T_{\neg}$  ✓



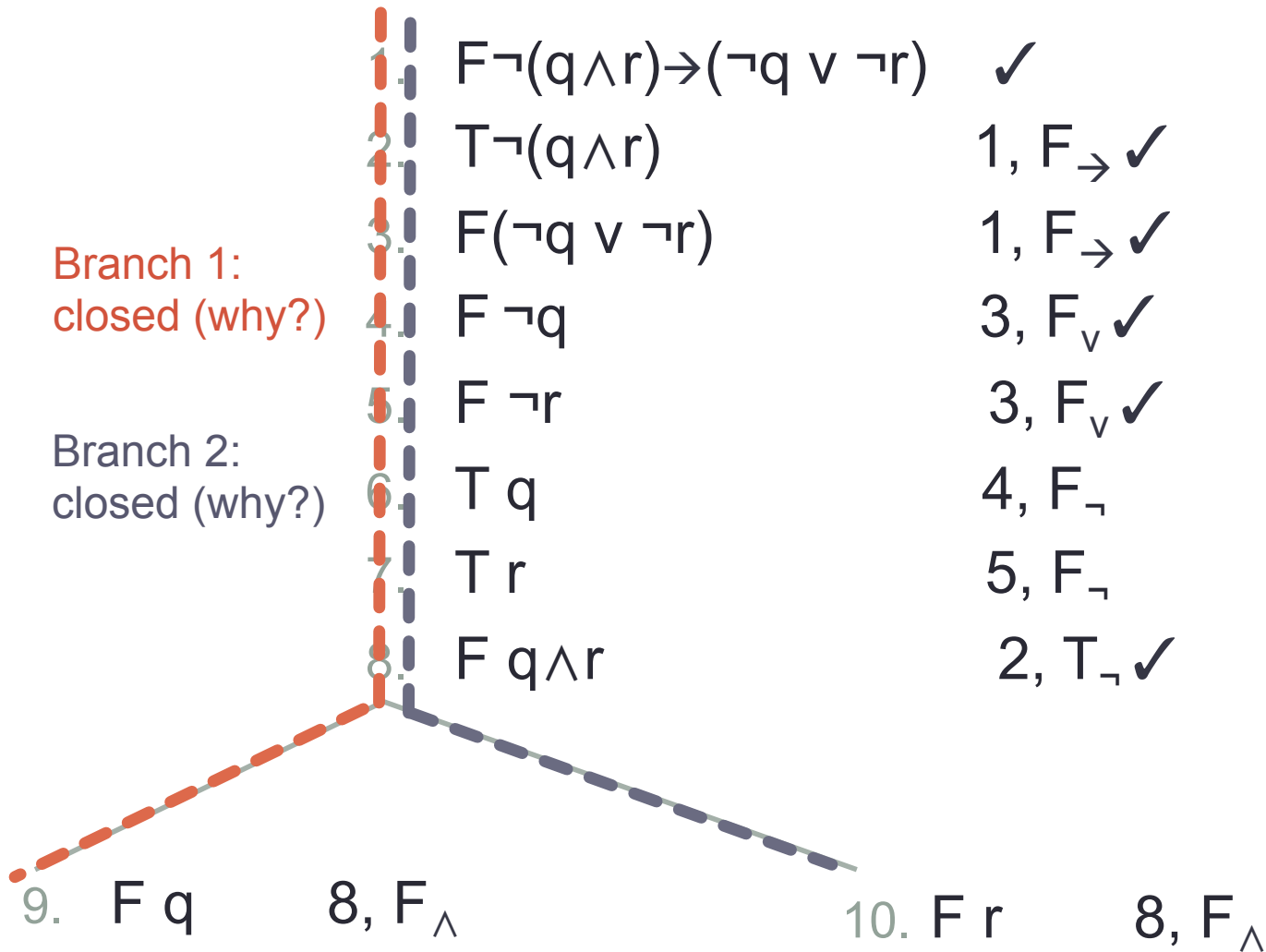
# Are all branches closed?

Branch 1:  
closed (why?)

- |    |   |                        |
|----|---|------------------------|
| 1. | $F \neg(q \wedge r) \Rightarrow (\neg q \vee \neg r)$ | ✓                      |
| 2. | $T \neg(q \wedge r)$                                  | 1, $F_{\rightarrow}$ ✓ |
| 3. | $F(\neg q \vee \neg r)$                               | 1, $F_{\rightarrow}$ ✓ |
| 4. | $F \neg q$  | 3, $F_{\vee}$ ✓        |
| 5. | $F \neg r$  | 3, $F_{\vee}$ ✓        |
| 6. | $T q$   | 4, $F_{\neg}$          |
| 7. | $T r$   | 5, $F_{\neg}$          |
| 8. | $F q \wedge r$  | 2, $T_{\neg}$ ✓        |



# Are all branches closed?



# Nice so far, but ...

... what happens if the formula we are working which is not a validity?



# Checking validity of $(p \wedge q) \rightarrow (r \vee s)$

1.  $F(p \wedge q) \rightarrow (r \vee s)$

# Checking validity of $(p \wedge q) \rightarrow (r \vee s)$

1.  $F(p \wedge q) \rightarrow (r \vee s)$  ✓
2.  $T(p \wedge q)$  1,  $F_{\rightarrow}$
3.  $F(r \vee s)$  1,  $F_{\rightarrow}$

# Checking validity of $(p \wedge q) \rightarrow (r \vee s)$

1.  $F(p \wedge q) \rightarrow (r \vee s)$  ✓
2.  $T(p \wedge q)$  1,  $F_{\rightarrow}$  ✓
3.  $F(r \vee s)$  1,  $F_{\rightarrow}$
4.  $Tp$  2,  $T_{\wedge}$
5.  $Tq$  2,  $T_{\wedge}$

# Checking validity of $(p \wedge q) \rightarrow (r \vee s)$

1.  $F(p \wedge q) \rightarrow (r \vee s)$  ✓
2.  $T(p \wedge q)$  1,  $F_{\rightarrow}$  ✓
3.  $F(r \vee s)$  1,  $F_{\rightarrow}$  ✓
4.  $Tp$  2,  $T_{\wedge}$
5.  $Tq$  2,  $T_{\wedge}$
6.  $Fr$  3,  $F_{\vee}$
7.  $Fs$  3,  $F_{\vee}$



# Checking validity of $(p \wedge q) \rightarrow (r \vee s)$

- |    |  |                        |
|----|--|------------------------|
| 1. | $F(p \wedge q) \rightarrow (r \vee s)$ | ✓                      |
| 2. | $T(p \wedge q)$                        | 1, $F_{\rightarrow}$ ✓ |
| 3. | $F(r \vee s)$                          | 1, $F_{\rightarrow}$ ✓ |
| 4. | $Tp$                                   | 2, $T_{\wedge}$        |
| 5. | $Tq$                                   | 2, $T_{\wedge}$        |
| 6. | $Fr$                                   | 3, $F_{\vee}$          |
| 7. | $Fs$                                   | 3, $F_{\vee}$          |

Can we further expand this tableau?  
How many (closed) branches are there?

# Checking validity of $(p \wedge q) \rightarrow (r \vee s)$

- |    |  |                        |
|----|--|------------------------|
| 1. | $F(p \wedge q) \rightarrow (r \vee s)$ | ✓                      |
| 2. | $T(p \wedge q)$                        | 1, $F_{\rightarrow}$ ✓ |
| 3. | $F(r \vee s)$                          | 1, $F_{\rightarrow}$ ✓ |
| 4. | $Tp$                                   | 2, $T_{\wedge}$        |
| 5. | $Tq$                                   | 2, $T_{\wedge}$        |
| 6. | $Fr$                                   | 3, $F_{\vee}$          |
| 7. | $Fs$                                   | 3, $F_{\vee}$          |

Can we further expand this tableau? NO  
How many (closed) branches are there? 1 (open)

**Because we are able to falsify the formula, it is not a validity**

# Checking validity of $(p \wedge q) \rightarrow (r \vee s)$

1.  $F(p \wedge q) \rightarrow (r \vee s)$  ✓
2.  $T(p \wedge q)$  1,  $F_{\rightarrow}$  ✓
3.  $F(r \vee s)$  1,  $F_{\rightarrow}$  ✓
4.  $Tp$  2,  $T_{\wedge}$
5.  $Tq$  2,  $T_{\wedge}$
6.  $Fr$  3,  $F_{\vee}$
7.  $Fs$  3,  $F_{\vee}$

$(p \wedge q) \rightarrow (r \vee s)$  is false in a model

where  $p$  is true,  $q$  is true,  $r$  is false, and  $s$  is false

# Definitions

- A branch of a tableau is a **closed branch** if it contains both  $T\varphi$  and  $F\varphi$ , where  $\varphi$  is some formula
- A branch that is not closed is called an **open branch**
- A tableau with all of its branches closed is called a **closed tableau**
- A tableau with at least one open branch is called an **open tableau**



# Semantic Tableaux

- The tableaux method can be used to check for validities (try to falsify a formula, and show that this attempt fails in all possible ways)
- But it can also be used to build a model, i.e. showing that a formula is not a contradiction
- These models can be useful for many applications --- think of our image domain!

In sum: a tableaux system can be used both  
as a **theorem prover** and as a **model builder**

# Proof Theory & Automated Reasoning

- Investigate logical validity from a purely syntactic perspective
- Various proof methods and theorem provers that implement them
- Crucial:
  - only make use of the syntactic structure of formulas**
- Examples:
  - **tableau** methods (previous lecture)
  - **resolution** methods (this lecture)

# Propositional Resolution

- Introduce a second technique for checking the validity of propositional formulas: the **resolution method**
- It is, like tableau, purely symbolic
- But unlike tableau it uses only one rule (the resolution rule), and needs preprocessing (conversion to CNF).

# Conjunctive Normal Form (CNF)

- **positive literals** (sentence symbols:  $p, q, r, s, \dots$ )
- **negative literals** (negated sentence symbols:  $\neg p, \neg q, \dots$ )
- **literals**: positive or negative literals
- **clause**: a disjunction of literals
- **CNF**: a conjunction of clauses

Example of a formula in CNF:

$$(p \vee q) \wedge (r \vee \neg p \vee s) \wedge (q \vee \neg s)$$



# Conjunctive Normal Form (CNF)

- **positive literals** (sentence symbols:  $p, q, r, s, \dots$ )
- **negative literals** (negated sentence symbols:  $\neg p, \neg q, \dots$ )
- **literals**: positive or negative literals
- **clause**: a disjunction of literals
- **CNF**: a conjunction of clauses

Example of a formula in CNF:

$(p \vee q) \wedge (r \vee \neg p \vee s) \wedge (q \vee \neg s)$

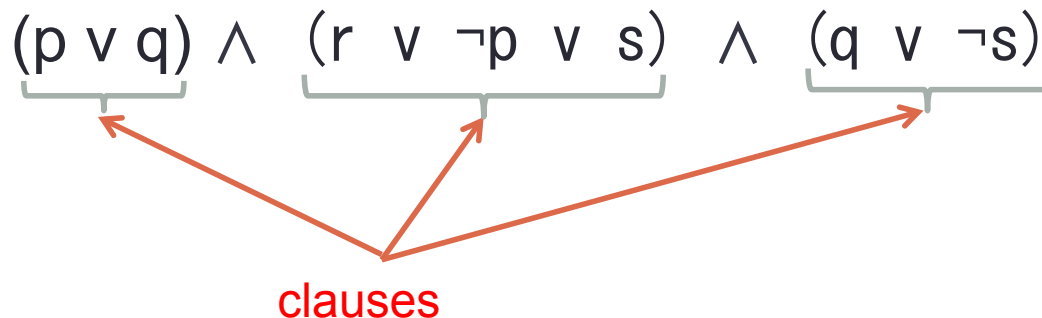
literals



# Conjunctive Normal Form (CNF)

- **positive literals** (sentence symbols:  $p, q, r, s, \dots$ )
- **negative literals** (negated sentence symbols:  $\neg p, \neg q, \dots$ )
- **literals**: positive or negative literals
- **clause**: a disjunction of literals
- **CNF**: a conjunction of clauses

Example of a formula in CNF:



# Key semantic observation: clause

- To make a clause true, we have to make at least one of its literals true (after all, a clause is a disjunction).
- Special case: the empty clause, written as  $[\ ]$

The empty clause contains no literals.

Hence it is impossible to make at least one of them true.

Hence it is impossible to make the empty clause true.



# Key semantic observation: CNF

- For a formula in CNF to be true, all the clauses it contains (all of the conjuncts) must be true.
- Hence, if a formula in CNF has the empty clause as one of its conjuncts, it can never be true.

# Conversion to CNF

- Given an arbitrary formula. How do we get it into CNF?
- One method (there are more):
  - first translate it to negation normal form (NNF)
  - then repeatedly apply the distributive and associative rules
- What is NNF?
  - It is a formula built out of literals, conjunction, and disjunction.

# Conversion to NNF

- Rewrite  $\neg(\varphi \wedge \psi)$  as  $\neg\varphi \vee \neg\psi$   
and  $\neg(\varphi \vee \psi)$  as  $\neg\varphi \wedge \neg\psi$

drive  
negations  
inwards

- Rewrite  $\neg(\varphi \rightarrow \psi)$  as  $\varphi \wedge \neg\psi$   
and  $\varphi \rightarrow \psi$  as  $\neg\varphi \vee \psi$

eliminate  
implications

- Rewrite  $\neg\neg\varphi$  as  $\varphi$

remove  
double  
negations

# From NNF to CNF

drive conjunction  
outwards  
(distribution rules)

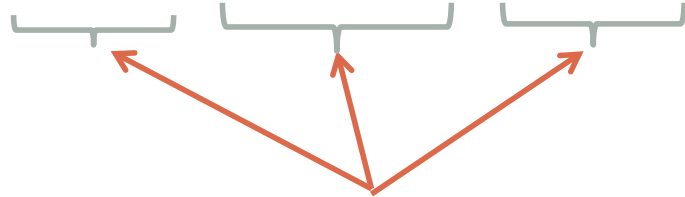
- Rewrite  $\theta \vee (\varphi \wedge \psi)$  as  $(\theta \vee \varphi) \wedge (\theta \vee \psi)$
- Rewrite  $(\varphi \wedge \psi) \vee \theta$  as  $(\varphi \vee \theta) \wedge (\psi \vee \theta)$
  
- Rewrite  $(\varphi \wedge \psi) \wedge \theta$  as  $\varphi \wedge (\psi \wedge \theta)$
- Rewrite  $(\varphi \vee \psi) \vee \theta$  as  $\varphi \vee (\psi \vee \theta)$

move brackets  
(associativity rules)

# The CNF list of lists notation

$$(p \vee q) \wedge (r \vee \neg p \vee s) \wedge (q \vee \neg s)$$

$[[p, q], [r, \neg p, s], [q, \neg s]]$



clauses





# Set CNF

The resolution algorithm assumes an input formula in **set CNF** (also called *clause sets*):

- None of the clauses may contain a repeated literal
- No clause occurs more than once

Example:  $[[p, \neg q, \neg r], [r, q, r]]$  is not in set CNF. Why?

But  $[[p, \neg q, \neg r], [r, q]]$  is.

(why does this make sense?)

# More terminology

- complementary pairs (*resolvents*)
- complementary clauses

Say we have two clauses  $C$  and  $C'$ . If  $C$  contains a positive literal (say  $r$ ) and  $C'$  its negation ( $\neg r$ ), then  $C$  and  $C'$  are **complementary clauses**. Moreover,  $r$  and  $\neg r$  are a **complementary pair** (are **resolvents**)

# The binary resolution rule

- **Input:**  
two complementary clauses
- **Output:**  
one clause obtained by merging the two complementary clauses while removing the resolvents

$[p_1, \dots, p_m, r, p_{m+1}, \dots, p_n] \quad [q_1, \dots, q_i, \neg r, q_{i+1}, \dots, q_j]$

$[p_1, \dots, p_m, p_{m+1}, \dots, p_n, q_1, \dots, q_i, q_{i+1}, \dots, q_j]$

# Why does this make sense?

$$\frac{p \vee q \quad \neg q}{p}$$

If  $\neg q$  is true, then  $q$  is false, so to make  $p \vee q$  true,  $p$  needs to be true

# Why does this make sense?

$$\begin{array}{c} p \vee q \quad \quad \neg q \vee r \\ \hline p \vee r \end{array}$$

It is impossible that both  $p$  and  $r$  are false (because in that case, either  $p \vee q$  is false, or  $\neg q \vee r$  is false).

# Example 1

Proof:  $(p \vee \neg p)$ . I.e. try to falsify it.

$$\neg(p \vee \neg p)$$
$$(\neg p \wedge \neg \neg p)$$
$$(\neg p \wedge p)$$
$$[[p],[\neg p]]$$
$$[[]]$$

Empty clause, hence proof.

## Example 2

Proof:  $\neg(q \wedge r) \rightarrow (\neg q \vee \neg r)$

$\neg(\neg(q \wedge r) \rightarrow (\neg q \vee \neg r))$

$(\neg(q \wedge r) \wedge \neg(\neg q \vee \neg r))$

$(\neg q \vee \neg r) \wedge (q \wedge r)$

$[-q, -r], [q], [r]$

$[-r], [r]$

$\square$

# Moving to first-order logic

- The tableaux expansion rules are defined for propositional logic. What consequences does moving to FOL have?
  1. We need tableaux expansion rules for the universal and existential quantifier (see Blackburn & Bos chapter 5)
  2. Non-deterministic aspects: the universal quantifier expansion rule can be applied multiple times
  3. Skolem terms for the existential quantifier expansion rules
  4. Unification with occurs-check
  5. Expansion rules for the equality symbol

These directions go beyond the scope of this course. Instead, we will have a look at off-the-shelf model builders



# AUTOMATED INFERENCE



Theorem Proving  
Model Building

# Which theorem provers? Which model builders?

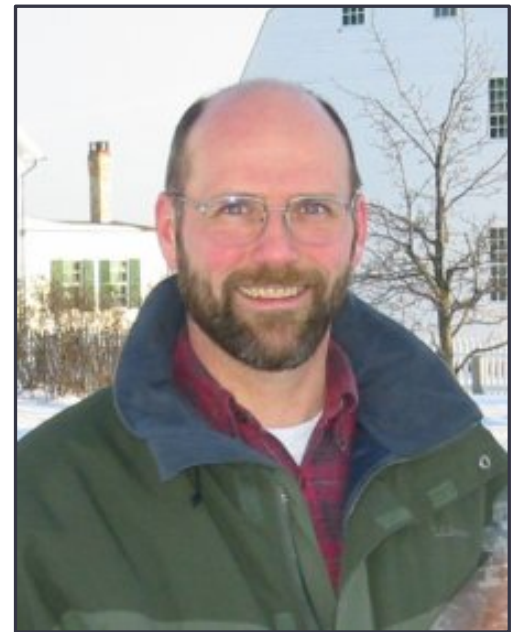
World Cup Automated Deduction  
(annual event, CASC)

- Best Theorem Provers  
(**Bliksem, Otter, Spass, Vampire**)
- Best Model Builders  
(**Mace, Paradox**)



# Off-the-shelf model builders

- There are several model builders for first-order logic available (free, easy to install and use)
- In this course we will use the model builder MACE-2, developed by William McCune (1953--2011)



# Using the model builder Mace-2

- Downloads: <http://www.cs.unm.edu/~mccune/mace2/>  
(It comes together with the (famous) theorem prover **Otter**)
- The Blackburn & Bos software contains an interface to mace: it is called `callInference.pl`
- Example query:

```
?- callMB(some(X, and(woman(X), walk(X))), 4, Model, Engine).  
Model = model([d1], [f(0, c1, d1), f(1, woman, [d1]), f(1, walk,  
[d1])]),  
Engine = mace.
```

```
?- callMB(all(X, imp(woman(X), walk(X))), 4, Model, Engine).  
Model = model([d1], [f(1, woman, []), f(1, walk, [])]),  
Engine = mace.
```

# More about Mace

- Mace builds **finite** models
- There are models that are **infinitely** large; so model builders such as mace try to build a model up to a given domain size (the second argument of callMB/4)
- Model builders (obviously) don't know anything about the world!

```
?- callMB(some(X, and(man(X), woman(X))), 4, Model, Engine).  
Model = model([d1], [f(0, c1, d1), f(1, man, [d1]), f(1, woman, [d1])]),  
Engine = mace.
```

# Reflection

- What can we use theorem provers for?
- What can we use model builders for?
- Other uses of the model checker?

General Purpose – Specific Applications



# Logicians vs. Linguists



Suppose we got a theory  $\Phi$

	Logician	Linguist
Proof $\Phi$		
Model $\Phi$		
Proof $\neg\Phi$		
Model $\neg\Phi$		



# Logicians vs. Linguists



Suppose we got a theory  $\Phi$

	Logician	Linguist
Proof $\Phi$	☺	
Model $\Phi$		
Proof $\neg\Phi$		
Model $\neg\Phi$		





# Logicians vs. Linguists



Suppose we got a theory  $\Phi$

	Logician	Linguist
Proof $\Phi$	☺	☹
Model $\Phi$		
Proof $\neg\Phi$		
Model $\neg\Phi$		



# Logicians vs. Linguists



Suppose we got a theory  $\Phi$

	Logician	Linguist
Proof $\Phi$	☺	☹
Model $\Phi$	☹	
Proof $\neg\Phi$		
Model $\neg\Phi$		



# Logicians vs. Linguists



Suppose we got a theory  $\Phi$

	Logician	Linguist
Proof $\Phi$	☺	☹
Model $\Phi$	☹	☺
Proof $\neg\Phi$		
Model $\neg\Phi$		



# Logicians vs. Linguists



Suppose we got a theory  $\Phi$

	Logician	Linguist
Proof $\Phi$	😊	😞
Model $\Phi$	😞	😊
Proof $\neg\Phi$	😊	😞
Model $\neg\Phi$	😞	😊

# Logician vs. Linguists

Summing up:

- The logician thinks in terms of **proofs** and **counter-models**
- The linguist thinks in terms of **models** and **counter-proofs**

