

Second-Order Characterizations of Definientia in Formula Classes

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1. Introduction

Definientia

- A **definition of G in terms of S within F** is a formula $(G \leftrightarrow X)$ s.t.
 1. $F \models (G \leftrightarrow X)$, and
 2. X contains only symbols from S
- G is the **definiendum**
 X is the **definiens**
- This applies also to first-order logic:
If there are no free variables in F , then
$$F \models \forall \mathbf{x}(G(\mathbf{x}) \leftrightarrow X(\mathbf{x})) \text{ iff}$$
$$F \models G(\mathbf{x}) \leftrightarrow X(\mathbf{x})$$
- We are interested in **computing definientia X** for given F , G and S

An Application: Definientia as Exact View-Based Query Rewritings

[Halevy 01, Calvanese* 07, Marx 07, Nash* 10, Barany* 13, W 14a]

- Given:

DBSymbols

ViewSymbols

ViewSpec in terms of *DBSymbols* \cup *ViewSymbols*

Query in terms of *DBSymbols*

$\{a\}$

$\{p, q\}$

$(p \leftrightarrow a) \wedge (q \leftrightarrow a)$

a

- Compute a *Rewriting* of *Query* in terms of *ViewSymbols* s.t. for all *DB*:

$$DB \wedge ViewSpec \models Rewriting \quad \text{iff} \quad DB \models Query$$

- (Under certain assumptions on *ViewSpec*), the *Rewritings* are the **definientia** of *Query* in terms of *ViewSymbols* within *ViewSpec*

$$(p \leftrightarrow a) \wedge (q \leftrightarrow a) \models a \leftrightarrow (p \wedge q)$$

$$(p \leftrightarrow a) \wedge (q \leftrightarrow a) \models a \leftrightarrow p$$

$$(p \leftrightarrow a) \wedge (q \leftrightarrow a) \models a \leftrightarrow q$$

$$(p \leftrightarrow a) \wedge (q \leftrightarrow a) \models a \leftrightarrow (p \vee q)$$

$$a \wedge (p \leftrightarrow a) \wedge (q \leftrightarrow a) \models p \quad \text{iff} \quad a \models a$$

$$\neg a \wedge (p \leftrightarrow a) \wedge (q \leftrightarrow a) \models p \quad \text{iff} \quad \neg a \models a$$

Addressed Question

- Definientia **in terms of a given set of predicates** can be characterized **semantically by second-order formulas**
 - They can be **computed** by **second-order quantifier elimination**
aka computation of **forgetting** and **uniform interpolants**
[Doherty* 97, Gabbay and Ohlbach 92, Gabbay* 08, Ghilardi* 06, Konev* 09, Koopmann and Schmidt 13]
- It seems useful to compute definientia that are **in a given formula class** (like Horn or Krom formulas)
- **“Determinacy”** is investigated in database research
[Segoufin and Vianu 05, Marx 07, Nash* 10, Barany* 13]

For *Query*, *ViewSpec* in particular **formula classes**:

- is the existence of an exact rewriting (definientia) decidable?
- what formula class contains all exact rewritings (definientia)?

**Can definientia in given formula classes
be characterized by second-order formulas?**

Two Basic Approaches

1. Characterizations **based on semantic properties**, such as the model intersection property for Horn formulas
2. Modeling syntactic characterizations by an auxiliary **“meta-level”** vocabulary

**Can definientia in given formula classes
be characterized by second-order formulas?**

2. Toolkit: Classical Logic + Second-Order Operators

Classical Logic + Second-Order Operators

- We start with an **underlying classical logic**, e.g., first-order or propositional
- It is extended by **second-order operators**, e.g., predicate quantification or Boolean quantification

$$\exists q (p \rightarrow q) \wedge (q \rightarrow r)$$

For propositional logic: $\exists p F \equiv F[p \mapsto \text{TRUE}] \vee F[p \mapsto \text{FALSE}]$

- The associated computation is **second-order operator elimination**:
computing an equivalent formula without second-order operators

$$\exists q (p \rightarrow q) \wedge (q \rightarrow r) \equiv p \rightarrow r.$$

Forgetting, Projection, Uniform Interpolation

Second-order operator	Elimination aka
$\exists q F$	Predicate quantifier elimination Boolean variable elimination
$\equiv \text{forget}_{\{q\}}(F)$	Computation of forgetting
$\equiv \text{project}_{\{p,r\}}(F)$	Computation of projection Uniform interpolation
$\equiv \text{forget}_{\text{ALLPREDICATES}-\{p,r\}}(F)$	
$\equiv \text{project}_{\text{ALLPREDICATES}-\{q\}}(F)$	

Considering Polarity: Literal Forgetting, Literal Projection

[Lang* 03, W 08]

- We generalize the first argument of forgetting and projection to a **set of ground literals**, called **scope**

Effects on just **positive** or **negative** predicate occurrences can be expressed

Literal forgetting and **literal projection** are now our basic operators

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Let } F &= (p \rightarrow q) \wedge (q \rightarrow r) \\ &\text{forget}_{\{-q\}}(F) \\ &\equiv \text{project}_{\{p,q,r,\neg p,\neg r\}}(F) \\ &\equiv (p \rightarrow q) \wedge (p \rightarrow r) \end{aligned}$$

An **interpretation** is a set of ground literals, containing each ground atom either positively or negatively.

$I \models \text{project}_S(F)$ iff_{def} There exists a J s.t. $J \models F$ and $J \cap S \subseteq I$.

$$\text{forget}_S(F) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{project}_{\text{ALLGROUNDLITERALS} \setminus S}(F).$$

Scope-Determined Circumscription

- Interpretations can be **partially ordered** according to the subset relationship between the set of ground atoms that they satisfy

$$\{p(a), \neg p(b), \neg q(a), \neg q(b)\} \leq \{p(a), p(b), q(a), \neg q(b)\}$$

- **Predicate circumscription** allows to characterize the set of models of a formula that are **minimal** w.r.t. this ordering and generalizations where
 - only extensions of specified predicates are compared
 - comparison requires that extensions of specified predicates are equal[McCarthy 80, Lifschitz 94, Doherty* 97]
- The **second-order operator** $\text{circ}_S(F)$ can express these variations, generalized to model maximization [W 12]

$$\text{circ}_{\{p,q\}}(p \vee q) \equiv (p \wedge \neg q) \vee (q \wedge \neg p)$$

$I \models \text{project}_S(F)$ iff_{def} There exists a J s.t. $J \models F$ and $J \cap S \subseteq I$.

$I \models \text{raise}_S(F)$ iff_{def} There exists a J s.t. $J \models F$ and $J \cap S \subset I \cap S$.

$\text{circ}_S(F)$ $\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} F \wedge \neg \text{raise}_S(F)$.

Notation for Aboutness

- That F is “about” S , or “in scope” S is written

$$F \in S$$

Let $F = p \vee \neg q \vee (r \wedge \neg r)$

$$F \in \{p, \neg q\}$$

$$F \in \{p, q, r, s, \neg p, \neg q, \neg r, \neg s\}$$

$$F \notin \{p\}$$

$$F \in S \quad \text{iff}_{\text{def}} \quad F \equiv \text{project}_S(F).$$

Globally Strongest Necessary and Weakest Sufficient Condition

- The **globally strongest necessary condition** of G on S within F is the strongest $X \in S$ s.th. $(F \wedge G) \models X$

It can be expressed by a second-order operator

$$\text{gsnc}_{\{p\}}((q \rightarrow p), q) \equiv p$$

- The **globally weakest sufficient condition** of G on S within F is the weakest $X \in S$ s.th. $(F \wedge X) \models G$

It can be expressed by a second-order operator

$$\text{gwsc}_{\{p\}}((p \rightarrow q), q) \equiv p$$

- The analog concepts in [Lin 01] are not unique modulo equivalence. See also [Doherty* 01, W 12]

Let \bar{S} denote the set of the complements of the members of scope S .

$$\text{gsnc}_S(F, G) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{project}_S(F \wedge G).$$

$$\text{gwsc}_S(F, G) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \neg \text{project}_{\bar{S}}(F \wedge \neg G).$$

Definientia, Definability in Terms of Second-Order Operators

Recall: A **definition** of G in terms of S within F is a formula $(G \leftrightarrow X)$ s.t. (1.) $X \in S$, and (2.) $F \models G \leftrightarrow X$. G is the **definiendum**, X is the **definiens**

- **Definientia** are exactly those formulas in the scope that are
between the GSNC and the GWSC

Let $F = (p \leftrightarrow a) \wedge (q \leftrightarrow a)$, let $S = \{p, q, \neg p, \neg q\}$

$$\text{gsnc}_S(F, a) \equiv (p \wedge q) \begin{array}{c} \models p \\ \models q \end{array} \equiv (p \vee q) \equiv \text{gwsc}_S(F, a)$$

- **Definability** (existence of a definiens) holds iff
the GSNC entails the GWSC

$\text{ISDEFINIENS}(X, G, S, F) \text{ iff}_{\text{def}} X \in S \text{ and } \text{gsnc}_S(F, G) \models X \models \text{gwsc}_S(F, G).$

$\text{ISDEFINABLE}(G, S, F) \text{ iff}_{\text{def}} \text{gsnc}_S(F, G) \models \text{gwsc}_S(F, G).$

$\text{gsnc}_S(F, G) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{project}_S(F \wedge G).$

$\text{gwsc}_S(F, G) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \neg \text{project}_{\bar{S}}(F \wedge \neg G).$

So Far we Have:

- Second-order operators for

literal forgetting

$\text{forget}_S(F)$

literal projection

$\text{project}_S(F)$

predicate circumscription

$\text{circ}_S(F)$

globally strongest necessary condition

$\text{gsnc}_S(F, G)$

globally weakest sufficient condition

$\text{gwsc}_S(F, G)$

- Characterizations in terms of second-order operations for

aboutness

$F \in S$

definiens

$\text{ISDEFINIENS}(X, G, S, F)$

definability

$\text{ISDEFINABLE}(G, S, F)$

3. Horn Formulas and Horn Upper Bounds

Horn Formulas and the Least Horn Upper Bound

- The **least Horn upper bound** of a given formula is the **strongest Horn formula that is weaker than or equivalent** to the given formula [Selman and Kautz 91, Kautz* 95]
 - It is unique up to equivalence
 - It is equivalent to the **conjunction of all prime implicates that are Horn** [Selman and Kautz 91]
 - Let $\text{lhub}(F)$ denote the **least Horn upper bound** of F
 - $\text{lhub}(F)$ can be characterized **semantically** as the strongest formula that is weaker than or equivalent to F and closed under “model intersection” [McKinsey 43, Dechter and Pearl 92]
- Closure under “model intersection” can be characterized by predicate quantification, but $\text{lhub}(F)$ seems to require further means

“Filled” Horn Upper Bound

[W 14b]

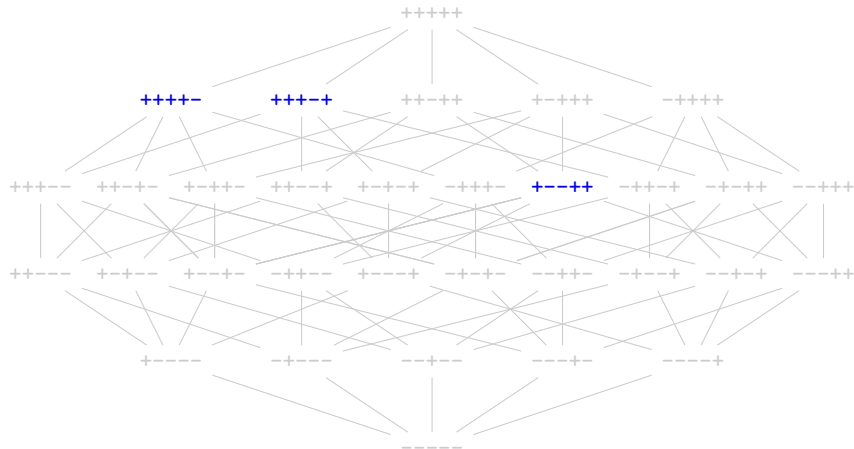
- Let **fhub**(F) denote the **“filled” Horn upper bound** of F , **another (possibly weaker) unique Horn upper bound**

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Let } F &= p \wedge (q \rightarrow r) \wedge (s \vee t) \wedge \neg u \\ \text{lhub}(F) &\equiv p \wedge (q \rightarrow r) \wedge \neg u \\ \text{fhub}(F) &\equiv p \wedge \neg u\end{aligned}$$

- It can be **characterized just in terms of predicate quantification**, involving a second-order operator $\text{diff}_S(F)$
- The set of models of $\text{fhub}(F)$, so-to-speak, completely **“fills”** the space “between” the greatest lower bound and the models of F

$$\begin{aligned}I \models \text{project}_S(F) &\quad \text{iff}_{\text{def}} \quad \text{There exists a } J \text{ s.t. } J \models F \text{ and } J \cap S \subseteq I. \\ I \models \text{diff}_S(F) &\quad \text{iff}_{\text{def}} \quad \text{There exists a } J \text{ s.t. } J \models F \text{ and } J \cap S \not\subseteq I. \\ \text{glb}(F) &\quad \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \quad \text{circ}_{\text{NEG}}(\neg \text{diff}_{\text{NEG}}(F)). \\ \text{fhub}(F) &\quad \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \quad \text{project}_{\text{POS}}(\text{glb}(F)) \wedge \text{project}_{\text{NEG}}(F).\end{aligned}$$

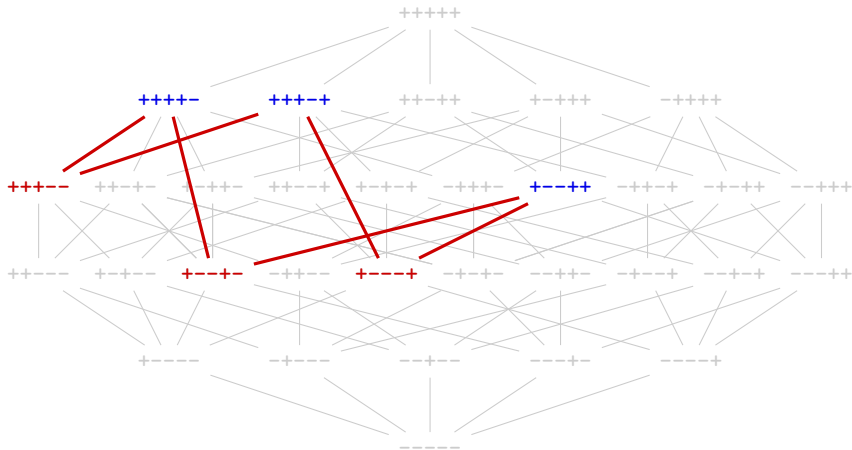
Illustration: Horn Upper Bounds



Formula

F

Illustration: Horn Upper Bounds



-
- ∪ ●

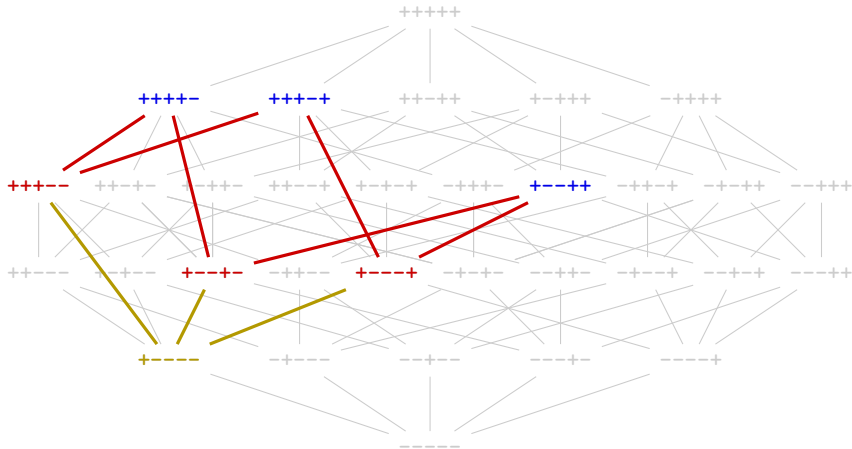
Formula

Model intersection step

F

$\text{im}(F)$

Illustration: Horn Upper Bounds

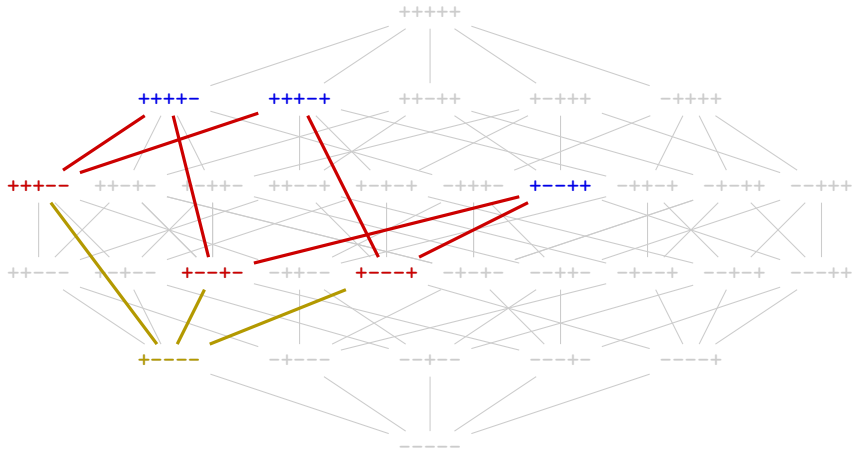


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Formula
 Model intersection step
 Least Horn upper bound

F
 $\text{im}(F)$
 $\text{im}(\text{im}(F)) = \text{lhub}(F)$

Illustration: Horn Upper Bounds



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Formula

Model intersection step

Least Horn upper bound

Greatest lower bound

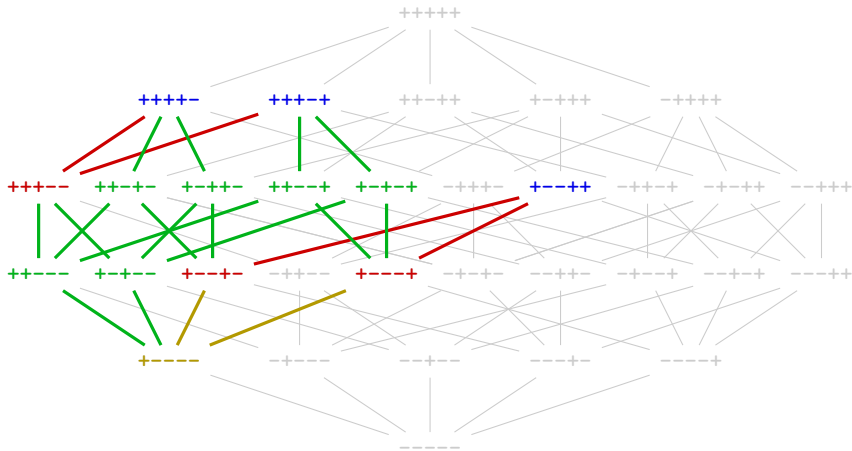
F

$\text{im}(F)$

$\text{im}(\text{im}(F)) = \text{lhub}(F)$

$\text{glb}(F)$

Illustration: Horn Upper Bounds



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- ∪ ●
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Formula

Model intersection step

Least Horn upper bound

Greatest lower bound

Filled Horn upper bound

F

$\text{im}(F)$

$\text{im}(\text{im}(F)) = \text{lhub}(F)$

$\text{glb}(F)$

$\text{fhub}(F)$

4. Expressing Definientia in Formula Classes

Considered Formula Classes and Shown Properties

- We consider the following formula classes:
 - **SHORN** Formulas equivalent to a **Horn** formula
 - **SCONATM** Formulas equivalent to a **conjunction of atoms**
 - **SKROM** Formulas equivalent to a **Krom** formula
- A definiens in such a class \mathcal{C} is called **\mathcal{C} -definiens**
- For each of these formula classes \mathcal{C} we show
 - a **characterization of \mathcal{C} -definability**, that is, existence of a \mathcal{C} -definiens
 - a **representative \mathcal{C} -definiens**, that is, a (second-order) formula which is a \mathcal{C} -definiens under the sole precondition of \mathcal{C} -definability

[W 14b]

Definability and Definientia: SHORN

- Definability: *The least Horn upper bound of the GSNC entails the GWSC*
- Representative definiens: *The least Horn upper bound of the GSNC*

Theorem: G is \mathcal{C} -definable in terms of S within F iff

For $\mathcal{C} = \text{SHORN}$: $\text{lhub}(\text{gsnc}_S(F, G)) \models \text{gwsc}_S(F, G)$.

For $\mathcal{C} = \text{SCONATM}$: $\text{glb}(\text{gsnc}_{S \cap \text{POS}}(F, G)) \models \text{gwsc}_{S \cap \text{POS}}(F, G)$.

For $\mathcal{C} = \text{SKROM}$: G is SCONATM -definable in terms of $\text{KS}(S)$ within $(F \wedge \text{KD}(S))$.

Theorem: If G is \mathcal{C} -definable in terms of S within F , then the following formula is a \mathcal{C} -definiens:

For $\mathcal{C} = \text{SHORN}$: $\text{lhub}(\text{gsnc}_S(F, G))$.

For $\mathcal{C} = \text{SCONATM}$: $\text{fhub}(\text{gsnc}_{S \cap \text{POS}}(F, G))$.

For $\mathcal{C} = \text{SKROM}$: $\text{project}_S(\text{fhub}(\text{gsnc}_{\text{KS}(S)}(F \wedge \text{KD}(S), G)) \wedge \text{KD}(S))$

Definability and Definientia: SCONATM

- Here we consider the GSNC and the GWSC on the set of the positive literals in the specified scope
- Definability: *The greatest lower bound of the GSNC entails the GWSC*
- Representative definiens: *The filled Horn upper bound of the GSNC*
- Expressed just **by the introduced second-order operators**, which in turn are reducible to predicate quantification

Theorem: G is \mathcal{C} -definable in terms of S within F iff

For $\mathcal{C} = \text{SHORN}$: $\text{lhub}(\text{gsnc}_S(F, G)) \models \text{gWSC}_S(F, G)$.

For $\mathcal{C} = \text{SCONATM}$: $\text{glb}(\text{gsnc}_{S \cap \text{POS}}(F, G)) \models \text{gWSC}_{S \cap \text{POS}}(F, G)$.

For $\mathcal{C} = \text{SKROM}$: G is SCONATM-definable in terms of $\text{KS}(S)$ within $(F \wedge \text{KD}(S))$.

Theorem: If G is \mathcal{C} -definable in terms of S within F , then the following formula is a \mathcal{C} -definiens:

For $\mathcal{C} = \text{SHORN}$: $\text{lhub}(\text{gsnc}_S(F, G))$.

For $\mathcal{C} = \text{SCONATM}$: $\text{fhub}(\text{gsnc}_{S \cap \text{POS}}(F, G))$.

For $\mathcal{C} = \text{SKROM}$: $\text{project}_S(\text{fhub}(\text{gsnc}_{\text{KS}(S)}(F \wedge \text{KD}(S), G)) \wedge \text{KD}(S))$

Modeling Syntactic Characterizations by a Meta-Level Vocabulary

- Idea:
 1. define “**meta-level**” **symbols** for expressions
 2. restrict the “meta-level” symbols allowed in definientia

Problem: Arbitrary combinations of **disjunctions** and **negations** of formulas would meet such restrictions

- **Negation and disjunction can be excluded with SCONATM-definientia**

Theorem: G is \mathcal{C} -definable in terms of S within F iff

For $\mathcal{C} = \text{SHORN}$: $\text{lhub}(\text{gsnc}_S(F, G)) \models \text{gWSC}_S(F, G)$.

For $\mathcal{C} = \text{SCONATM}$: $\text{glb}(\text{gsnc}_{S \cap \text{POS}}(F, G)) \models \text{gWSC}_{S \cap \text{POS}}(F, G)$.

For $\mathcal{C} = \text{SKROM}$: G is SCONATM-definable in terms of $\text{KS}(S)$ within $(F \wedge \text{KD}(S))$.

Theorem: If G is \mathcal{C} -definable in terms of S within F , then the following formula is a \mathcal{C} -definiens:

For $\mathcal{C} = \text{SHORN}$: $\text{lhub}(\text{gsnc}_S(F, G))$.

For $\mathcal{C} = \text{SCONATM}$: $\text{fhub}(\text{gsnc}_{S \cap \text{POS}}(F, G))$.

For $\mathcal{C} = \text{SKROM}$: $\text{project}_S(\text{fhub}(\text{gsnc}_{\text{KS}(S)}(F \wedge \text{KD}(S), G)) \wedge \text{KD}(S))$

Definability and Definientia: SKROM – Auxiliary Formula

- $\text{KD}(S)$ is the conjunction of the definitions of the “meta-level” atoms
 - **empty**, representing the empty clause, and
 - **clause**(L, M), representing nonempty Krom clauses
- $\text{KS}(S)$ are the positive literals with the “meta-level” atoms

Assume a fixed total order \leq on literals. Define:

$$\text{KD}(S) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\text{empty} \leftrightarrow \perp) \wedge \bigwedge_{L, M \in S, L \leq M, L \neq \overline{M}} (\text{clause}(L, M) \leftrightarrow L \vee M).$$

$$\text{KS}(S) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{\text{empty}\} \cup \{\text{clause}(L, M) \mid L, M \in S, L \leq M, L \neq \overline{M}\}.$$

Theorem: G is \mathcal{C} -definable in terms of S within F iff

$$\text{For } \mathcal{C} = \text{SHORN:} \quad \text{lhub}(\text{gsnc}_S(F, G)) \models \text{gWSC}_S(F, G).$$

$$\text{For } \mathcal{C} = \text{SCONATM:} \quad \text{glb}(\text{gsnc}_{S \cap \text{POS}}(F, G)) \models \text{gWSC}_{S \cap \text{POS}}(F, G).$$

$$\text{For } \mathcal{C} = \text{SKROM:} \quad G \text{ is SCONATM-definable in terms of } \text{KS}(S) \\ \text{within } (F \wedge \text{KD}(S)).$$

Theorem: If G is \mathcal{C} -definable in terms of S within F , then the following formula is a \mathcal{C} -definient:

$$\text{For } \mathcal{C} = \text{SHORN:} \quad \text{lhub}(\text{gsnc}_S(F, G)).$$

$$\text{For } \mathcal{C} = \text{SCONATM:} \quad \text{fhub}(\text{gsnc}_{S \cap \text{POS}}(F, G)).$$

$$\text{For } \mathcal{C} = \text{SKROM:} \quad \text{project}_S(\text{fhub}(\text{gsnc}_{\text{KS}(S)}(F \wedge \text{KD}(S), G)) \wedge \text{KD}(S))$$

Definability and Definientia: SKROM

- Definability: *Definable by a conjunction of the “meta-level” atoms*
- Representative definiens: *Take the representative definiens as conjunction of the “meta-level” atoms and convert it by projection to the original vocabulary*

Theorem: G is \mathcal{C} -definable in terms of S within F iff

For $\mathcal{C} = \text{SHORN}$: $\text{lhub}(\text{gsnc}_S(F, G)) \models \text{gwsc}_S(F, G)$.

For $\mathcal{C} = \text{SCONATM}$: $\text{glb}(\text{gsnc}_{S \cap \text{POS}}(F, G)) \models \text{gwsc}_{S \cap \text{POS}}(F, G)$.

For $\mathcal{C} = \text{SKROM}$: G is SCONATM -definable in terms of $\text{KS}(S)$ within $(F \wedge \text{KD}(S))$.

Theorem: If G is \mathcal{C} -definable in terms of S within F , then the following formula is a \mathcal{C} -definiens:

For $\mathcal{C} = \text{SHORN}$: $\text{lhub}(\text{gsnc}_S(F, G))$.

For $\mathcal{C} = \text{SCONATM}$: $\text{fhub}(\text{gsnc}_{S \cap \text{POS}}(F, G))$.

For $\mathcal{C} = \text{SKROM}$: $\text{project}_S(\text{fhub}(\text{gsnc}_{\text{KS}(S)}(F \wedge \text{KD}(S), G)) \wedge \text{KD}(S))$

5. Conclusion

Open(ed) Issues

- Q1: How to **express the least Horn upper bound** – fixpoint extension?
- Q2: What **first-order formula classes** correspond to semantic properties like closure under model intersection?
- Q3: What further **formula classes and properties** can be handled?
- Q4: Are there useful **properties of the second-order expressions** characterizing definability and definientia, also with respect to arguments from specific classes?
- Q5: Are there relationships to works on **non-uniform interpolation**?
- Q6: Can the characterizations be applied with **approximations** like GSNC and GWSC instead of definitions?
- Q7: What about **computation** of definientia? Layers involved:
- manipulation on the operator level
 - eliminating the second-order operators
 - conversion to the actual syntactic form
- Q8: Can the approach be **practically** used?
- implemented with *ToyElim* [W 13], suitable for tiny experiments
 - support for nested forgetting missing in current DL systems

Summary

- Steps towards a **formalized** and **mechanizable** bridge between
 - **expressibility in formula classes** and
 - **expressibility in restricted vocabularies**, formulated essentially by predicate quantification
- Demonstration with propositional logic as basis for **conjunctions of atoms**, **Krom** formulas, and to some degree for **Horn** formulas

Appendix

Example: SCONATM-Definientia

- Let $F = (q \rightarrow r \vee s) \wedge (t \rightarrow q) \wedge ((r \vee s) \wedge u \rightarrow p) \wedge (p \rightarrow t \wedge u)$
- Consider finding definientia of p within F , in terms of positive occurrences of the other atoms $S = S \cap \text{POS} = \{q, r, s, t, u\}$

- Then:
$$\begin{aligned} \text{gsnc}_S(F, p) &\equiv q \wedge t \wedge u \wedge (r \vee s). \\ \text{gwsc}_S(F, p) &\equiv u \wedge (q \vee r \vee s \vee t) \end{aligned}$$

- None of both is equivalent to a conjunction of atoms
- By the theorem, there must exist a SCONATM-definiens:

$$\text{glb}(\text{gsnc}_S(F, p)) \equiv (q \wedge t \wedge u \wedge \neg p \wedge \neg r \wedge \neg s) \models \text{gwsc}_S(F, p)$$

- By the theorem, $\text{fhub}(\text{gsnc}_S(F, p))$ is a SCONATM-definiens:

$$\text{gsnc}_S(F, p) \models \text{fhub}(\text{gsnc}_S(F, p)) \equiv (q \wedge t \wedge u) \models \text{gwsc}_S(F, p)$$

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