

# Computer Supported Modeling and Reasoning

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April 2005

<http://www.infsec.ethz.ch/education/permanent/csmr/>

# Higher-Order Logic: Foundations

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David Basin

# Motivation

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- an **expressive foundation** for  
**mathematics:** analysis, algebra, ...  
**computer science:** program correctness, hardware verification, ...
- a **logical framework** for embedding languages/deductive systems.

In contrast, there is no meta/object distinction then.

Everything is defined within HOL. Reasoning is classical.

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Bertrand Russel once likened the advantages of postulation over definition to the advantages of theft over honest toil!

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- **Set theories (both) distinguish between sets and classes**
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  - A class cannot belong to another class (let alone a set)!
- **HOL** as alternative (Church 1940, Henkin 1950)
  - **Rationale**: one usually works with typed entities
  - Reasoning is then easier with support for types
  - Isabelle/HOL also supports like polymorphism and type classes!

HOL is weaker than ZF set theory, but for most applications this does not matter. If you prefer ML to Lisp, you will probably prefer HOL to ZF. (Paulson)

# HOL — Why Higher-Order? (1)

**1st-order:** quantification over individuals (0th-order objects)

$$\forall x, y. R(x, y) \longrightarrow R(y, x)$$

**2nd-order:** quantification over predicates/functions

$$\textit{false} \equiv \forall P. P$$

$$P \wedge Q \equiv \forall R. (P \longrightarrow Q \longrightarrow R) \longrightarrow R$$

**3rd-order:** quantify over variables whose arguments are predicates

- Instead of defining:

$$\text{subrel}(R, S) \equiv \forall x. R(x) \longrightarrow S(x)$$

- Abstract and use:

$$\forall X. (X(R, S) \Leftrightarrow \forall x. R(x) \longrightarrow S(x)) \longrightarrow \dots X(R', S') \dots$$

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  - in LF we quantified over functions at all types

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(LF sometimes called first-order! Better is minimal predicate logic with quantification over higher-types.)

# Core-HOL: Syntax

# Basic HOL Syntax (1)

- Types:

$$\tau ::= \mathit{bool} \mid \mathit{ind} \mid \tau \Rightarrow \tau$$

- *bool* and *ind* are also called *o* and *i* in literature [Chu40, And86]
- Isabelle allows definitions of new type constructors (e.g.,  $A \times B$ )
- Isabelle supports polymorphic type definitions, e.g.,  $\mathit{list}(\alpha)$

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- **Terms:** ( $\mathcal{V}$  is set of variables, and  $\mathcal{C}$  constants)

$$\mathcal{T} ::= \mathcal{V} \mid \mathcal{C} \mid (\mathcal{T}\mathcal{T}) \mid \lambda\mathcal{V}.\mathcal{T}$$

Terms are simply-typed. Terms of type *bool* are called (well-formed) formulae.

# Compare with Isabelle's Pure

## Basic HOL Syntax (2)

- **Constants** are always supplied with types and include:

$True, False : bool$

$_ = _ : \tau \Rightarrow \tau \Rightarrow bool$  (for all types  $\tau$ )

$_ \rightarrow _ : bool \Rightarrow bool \Rightarrow bool$

$\iota _ : (\tau \Rightarrow bool) \Rightarrow \tau$  (for all types  $\tau$ )



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Note that the **description operator**  $\iota f$  yields the unique element  $x$  for which  $f x$  is *True*, provided it exists. Otherwise, it yields an arbitrary value.

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Note that in Isabelle, the provisos “for all types  $\tau$ ” can be expressed by using polymorphic type variables  $\alpha$ .

# Core-HOL: Semantics

# HOL Semantics

- Intuitively an extension of many-sorted semantics with functions

- FOL: structure is domain and functions/relations

$$\langle \mathcal{D}, f_1, \dots, f_k, r_1, \dots, r_j \rangle$$

- Many-sorted FOL: domains are sort-indexed

$$\langle \mathcal{D}_1, \dots, \mathcal{D}_n, f_1, \dots, f_k, r_1, \dots, r_j \rangle$$

(if no relations then we have a heterogenous Algebra)

- HOL extends idea: domain  $\mathcal{D}$  is indexed by (infinitely many) types

- Our presentation ignores polymorphism on the object-logical level, it is treated on the meta-level, though (a version covering object-level parametric polymorphism is [GM93]).

## Model Based on Universe of Sets $\mathcal{U}$

### Definition 1 (Universe):

$\mathcal{U}$  is a collection of sets, fulfilling closure conditions:

**Inhab:** Each  $X \in \mathcal{U}$  is nonempty set

**Sub:** If  $X \in \mathcal{U}$  and  $Y \neq \emptyset \subseteq X$ , then  $Y \in \mathcal{U}$

**Prod:** If  $X, Y \in \mathcal{U}$  then  $X \times Y \in \mathcal{U}$ .

$X \times Y$  is Cartesian product,  $\{\{x\}, \{x, y\}\}$  encodes  $(x, y)$

**Pow:** If  $X \in \mathcal{U}$  then  $\mathcal{P}(X) = \{Y : Y \subseteq X\} \in \mathcal{U}$

**Infty:**  $\mathcal{U}$  contains a distinguished infinite set  $I$

## Universe of Sets $\mathcal{U}$ (cont.)

- **Function space:**

$X \Rightarrow Y$  is the set of (graphs of all total) functions from  $X$  to  $Y$

- For  $X$  and  $Y$  nonempty,  $X \Rightarrow Y$  is nonempty and a subset of  $\mathcal{P}(X \times Y)$
- From closure conditions:  $X, Y \in \mathcal{U}$  then so is  $X \Rightarrow Y$ .

- **Distinguished Sets:**

from **Infty** and **Sub** there is (at least one) set

**Unit:** A distinguished 1 element set  $\{1\}$

**Bool:** A distinguished 2 element set  $\{T, F\}$ .

# Frames

## Definition 2 (Frame):

A **frame** is a collection  $\mathcal{D}_\alpha$  of sets,  $\mathcal{D}_\alpha \in \mathcal{U}$ , for  $\alpha \in \tau$  where:

- $\mathcal{D}_{bool} = \{T, F\}$
- $\mathcal{D}_{Ind} = X$  where  $X$  is some infinite set of **individuals**
- $\mathcal{D}_{\alpha \Rightarrow \beta} \subseteq \mathcal{D}_\alpha \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}_\beta$ , i.e., **some** collection of functions from  $D_\alpha$  to  $D_\beta$



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**Example:**  $\mathcal{D}_{bool \Rightarrow bool}$  is some nonempty subset of functions from  $\{T, F\}$  to  $\{T, F\}$ . Some of these subsets contain, e.g., the identity function, others do not.

# Interpretations

## Definition 3 (Interpretation):

An **interpretation**  $\langle \mathcal{D}_\alpha, \mathcal{J} \rangle$  is a frame  $\mathcal{D}_\alpha$  and a denotation function  $\mathcal{J}$  mapping each constant of type  $\alpha$  to an element of  $\mathcal{D}_\alpha$  where:

- $\mathcal{J}(True) = T$  and  $\mathcal{J}(False) = F$
- $\mathcal{J}(=_{\alpha \Rightarrow \alpha \Rightarrow bool})$  is identity on  $\mathcal{D}_\alpha$
- $\mathcal{J}(\rightarrow)$  denotes implication function over  $\mathcal{D}_{bool}$ .  
I.e., it sends  $b, b' \in \{T, F\}$  to

$$b \longrightarrow b' = \begin{cases} F & \text{if } b = T \text{ and } b' = F \\ T & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- $\mathcal{J}(\iota_{(\alpha \Rightarrow \text{bool}) \Rightarrow \alpha}) \in (\mathcal{D}_\tau \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}_{\text{bool}}) \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}_\tau$  denotes the function

$$\text{ch}(f) = \begin{cases} a & \text{if } f = (\lambda x. x = a) \\ y & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

for an arbitrary  $y \in D_\alpha$  and an  $f \in \mathcal{D}_\alpha \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}_{\text{bool}}$

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Note: the notion of an **interpretation** generalizes the notion of a **structure** to a higher-order setting.

## Generalized Models

### Definition 4 (Generalized Models):

An interpretation  $\mathcal{M} = \langle \mathcal{D}_\alpha, \mathcal{J} \rangle$  is a (general) model for **HOL** iff there is a function  $\mathcal{V}_A^{\mathfrak{M}}$  such that for all type-indexed families of substitutions  $\sigma = \{\sigma_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in \tau}$  and terms, the following closure conditions hold:

1.  $\mathcal{V}_A^{\mathfrak{M}}(x_\alpha) = \sigma(x_\alpha)$  (i.e.,  $\sigma_\alpha(x_\alpha)$ )
2.  $\mathcal{V}_A^{\mathfrak{M}}(c) = \mathcal{J}(c)$  for  $c$  a (primitive) constant
3.  $\mathcal{V}_A^{\mathfrak{M}}(s_{\alpha \Rightarrow \beta} t_\alpha) = (\mathcal{V}_A^{\mathfrak{M}}(s))(\mathcal{V}_A^{\mathfrak{M}}(t))$   
i.e., the value of the function  $\mathcal{V}_A^{\mathfrak{M}}(s)$  at the argument  $\mathcal{V}_A^{\mathfrak{M}}(t)$

4.  $\mathcal{V}_A^{\mathcal{M}}(\lambda x_\alpha. t_\beta) =$  the function from  $\mathcal{D}_\alpha$  into  $\mathcal{D}_\beta$  whose value for each  $z \in \mathcal{D}_\alpha$  is  $\mathcal{V}_{\sigma[x \leftarrow z]}^{\mathcal{M}}(t)$

## Generalized Models - Facts (1)

- If  $\mathcal{M}$  is a general model and  $\sigma$  a substitution, then  $\mathcal{V}_A^{\mathcal{M}}$  is uniquely determined.

$\mathcal{V}_A^{\mathcal{M}}(t)$  is **value** of  $t$  in  $\mathcal{M}$  wrt  $\sigma$ .

- Gives rise to the standard notion of **satisfiability** of formulae

$$\mathcal{V}_A^{\mathcal{M}} \models \phi \text{ iff } \mathcal{V}_A^{\mathcal{M}}(\phi) = T$$

## Generalized Models - Facts (2)

- Not all interpretations are general models.
- Closure conditions guarantee every well-formed formula has a value under every assignment, e.g.,  
**closure under functions:** identity function from  $\mathcal{D}_\alpha$  to  $\mathcal{D}_\alpha$  must always belong to  $\mathcal{D}_{\alpha \Rightarrow \alpha}$  so that  $\mathcal{V}_A^m(\lambda x_\alpha. x)$  defined.  
**closure under application:**
  - if  $\mathcal{D}_N$  is natural numbers and
  - $\mathcal{D}_{N \Rightarrow N \Rightarrow N}$  contains addition function  $p$  where  $p x y = x + y$
  - then  $\mathcal{D}_{N \Rightarrow N}$  must contain  $k x = 2x + 5$   
since  $k = \mathcal{V}_A^m(\lambda x_N. f(f x x) y)$  where  $\sigma(f) = p$  and  $\sigma(y) = 5$ .



## Standard Models

### Definition 5 (Standard Models):

A **general model** is a **standard model** iff for all  $\alpha, \beta \in \tau$ ,  $\mathcal{D}_{\alpha \Rightarrow \beta}$  is the set of **all** functions from  $\mathcal{D}_\alpha$  to  $\mathcal{D}_\beta$ . A standard model is a general model, but not necessary vice versa.

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We can now re-introduce HOL in Isabelle/Pure.

# Isabelle/HOL

The syntax of the core-language is introduced by:

Trueprop	:: bool $\Rightarrow$ prop	("(_)" 5)
Not	:: bool $\Rightarrow$ bool	("¬_" [40] 40)
True	:: bool	
False	:: bool	
If	:: [bool, 'a, 'a] $\Rightarrow$ 'a	("(if _ then _ else _)")
The	:: ('a $\Rightarrow$ bool) $\Rightarrow$ 'a	( <b>binder</b> "THE" 10)
All	:: ('a $\Rightarrow$ bool) $\Rightarrow$ bool	( <b>binder</b> "∀" 10)
Ex	:: ('a $\Rightarrow$ bool) $\Rightarrow$ bool	( <b>binder</b> "∃" 10)
=	:: ['a, 'a] $\Rightarrow$ bool	( <b>infixl</b> 50)
$\wedge$	:: [bool, bool] $\Rightarrow$ bool	(infixr 35)
$\vee$	:: [bool, bool] $\Rightarrow$ bool	(infixr 30)
$\longrightarrow$	:: [bool, bool] $\Rightarrow$ bool	(infixr 25)

# The Axioms of HOL (1)

## axioms

refl : "t = t"

subst: " [ s = t; P(s) ]  $\implies$  P(t)"

ext: " ( $\bigwedge x. f\ x = g\ x$ )  $\implies$  ( $\lambda x. f\ x$ ) = ( $\lambda x. g\ x$ )"

impl: " (P  $\implies$  Q)  $\implies$  P  $\longrightarrow$  Q"

mp: " [ P  $\longrightarrow$  Q; P ]  $\implies$  Q"

iff : " (P  $\longrightarrow$  Q)  $\longrightarrow$  (Q  $\longrightarrow$  P)  $\longrightarrow$  (P = Q)"

True\_or\_False : " (P = True)  $\vee$  (P = False)"

the\_eq\_trivial : " (THE x. x = a) = (a::'a)"

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- universal  $\alpha, \beta$  and  $\eta$  congruence on terms (implicitly),
- the axiom of infinity,
- This is the entire basis!

# Core-HOL: Meta-theoretic Properties



# Meta-theoretic Properties of HOL

## Theorem 1 (Soundness of HOL):

HOL is sound w.r.t. to generalized models.

$$\vdash_{HOL} \phi \implies \mathcal{V}_A^m \models \phi$$

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For the proofs, see [[And86](#)].

## Core Definitions of HOL

True_def:	True	$\equiv ((\lambda x::\text{bool}. x) = (\lambda x. x))$
All_def :	All (P)	$\equiv (P = (\lambda x. \text{True}))$
Ex_def:	Ex(P)	$\equiv \forall Q. (\forall x. P\ x \longrightarrow Q) \longrightarrow Q$
False_def :	False	$\equiv (\forall P. P)$
not_def:	$\neg P$	$\equiv P \longrightarrow \text{False}$
and_def:	$P \wedge Q$	$\equiv \forall R. (P \longrightarrow Q \longrightarrow R) \longrightarrow R$
or_def :	$P \vee Q$	$\equiv \forall R. (P \longrightarrow R) \longrightarrow (Q \longrightarrow R) \longrightarrow R$
if_def :	If P x y	$\equiv \text{THE } z::'a. (P = \text{True} \longrightarrow z = x) \wedge (P = \text{False} \longrightarrow z = y)$

Definitions can be understood either **semantically**: so-called **shallow semantic embedding**, or as **derived rules**: in Isabelle, i.e., by their properties.

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# Conclusion



# Conclusions

- HOL generalizes semantics of FOL
  - *bool* serves as type of propositions
  - Syntax/semantics allows for higher-order functions
- Logic is rather minimal: 8 rules, more-or-less obvious
- Logic is very powerful in terms of what we can represent/derive.
  - Other “logical” syntax
  - Rich theories via conservative extensions (topic for next few weeks!)

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