

Exercises 5

1. Determine the Skolem conjunctive normal form for each of the following formulas, and thereby its equivalent set of clauses. P and Q are predicate symbols.

(a) $\forall u [\forall x \neg \exists y P(x, y) \rightarrow \neg \forall x (\exists z P(x, y) \rightarrow \forall y P(u, y))]$.

(b) $\forall x (\exists y P(x, y) \leftrightarrow \exists z Q(z, x))$.

2. Deduce using resolution the empty clause (\square) from the following set of clauses

(a) $\{\neg P(x), P(x) \vee \neg Q(x), P(x) \vee \neg R(x), Q(x) \vee R(x)\}$,

(b) $\{\neg P(x, y), P(x, y) \vee \neg Q(x, z) \vee \neg P(z, y), P(x, y) \vee \neg Q(x, y), Q(a, b), Q(b, c)\}$.

3. Deduce using resolution the empty clause (\square) from the following set of clauses

$$S = \{Q(x) \vee P(f(x)) \vee P(v), R(g(y), y) \vee \neg P(y), \neg R(g(f(z)), u), \neg Q(c)\}.$$

For what $n \geq 0$ does $\square \in \text{Res}^n(S)$ hold? (See notation in Das.)

4. Let $\varphi(x_1, \dots, x_m, y_1, \dots, y_n)$ be a quantifier free formula without function symbols or the identity relation. Show that it is algorithmically decidable whether

$$\forall x_1 \cdots \forall x_m \exists y_1 \cdots \exists y_n \varphi(x_1, \dots, x_m, y_1, \dots, y_n)$$

has a proof or is refutable.¹ (Compare to Exercise 4.6.)

5. Show that the most general unifier of

$$f(g(x_1, x_1), g(x_2, x_2), \dots, g(x_n, x_n)) \text{ and } f(x_2, x_3, \dots, x_{n+1})$$

has 2^n occurrences of the variable x_1 . (This shows that it is necessary to represent terms in some efficient way, for instance as DAGs). There is indeed a linear time unification algorithm.²)

¹This was proven by Thoralf Skolem 1919, before the completeness theorem was formulated.

²A. Martelli, U. Montanari: *An efficient unification algorithm*. ACM Transactions on Programming Languages and Systems 4(1982), 258 – 281.