# CS:4350 Logic in Computer Science

### Introduction

Cesare Tinelli

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#### Credits

These slides are largely based on slides originally developed by **Andrei Voronkov** at the University of Manchester. Adapted by permission.

- formalizes valid methods of reasoning
- was originally developed to formalize mathematics
- provides the mathematical foundations of CS
- drives several applications in CS and beyond

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#### Logic as a discipline in Western thought dates back to the ancient Greeks

Aristotle and Stoic philosophers formulated systems of reasoning in the 4th century BCE

Independent studies were done in China (MoZi or Micius, 4th c. BCE) and India (Dignaga, 6th c. CE)

Christian (Boethius 6th c.; Ockham, 14th c.) and Islamic (Ibn Sina or Avicenna, 10th c.) philosophers advanced Aristotle's idea in the middle ages

A major leap occurred in the 19th century in Europe with the goal of formalizing mathematics (Boole, Frege, Peano, ...)

In the 20th century, European (Göedel, Turing, ...) and American (Tarski, Church, Scott, ...) logicians effectively laid down the foundations of CS, largely before computers were invented!

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Logical methods are used to define

- the very idea of computation and computability
- the semantics of logical gates and circuits
- the operational semantics of programming languages
- the computational complexity of algorithms
- types systems and type checking
- distributed systems and protocols
- database semantics
- knowledge representation in Al

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#### A logic is also a formal mathematical construct

#### Each logic is characterized by its own:

- syntax and semantics
- Inference mechanisms
- proof theory and model theory

Many formal logics have been developed

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Most modern computer systems are unreliable

### Small Example: Software

Consider the following fragment of a C program:

```
int* allocateArray(int length)
{
    int i;
    int* array;
    array = malloc(sizeof(int) * length);
    for (i = 0; i <= length; i++)
        array[i] = 0;
    return array;
}</pre>
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Is this program correct?

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Is this program correct? Hardly: it writes into memory that has not been allocated

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Consider the following fragment of a C program:

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{
    int i;
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    array = malloc(sizeof(int) * length); // may return 0!
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Is this program correct? No: it may write to the null address

Consider the following fragment of a C program:

```
int* allocateArray(int length)
{
    int i;
    int* array;
    array = malloc(sizeof(int) * length);
    if (!array) return 0;
    for (i = 0; i < length; i++)
        array[i] = 0;
    return array;
}</pre>
```

Is this program correct?

#### Consider the following fragment of a C program:

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/* Returns a new array of integers of a given
   length initialized by a non-zero value */
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  array = malloc(sizeof(int) * length);
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Is this program correct? No: it initializes the array by zeros

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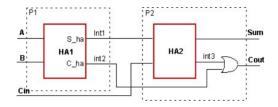
#### Note

- We could spot the *first two errors* without knowing anything about the intended purpose of the program
- However, we had to understand the meaning of C programs in general and some specific properties of programming in C
- To understand the *last error* we had to know something about the program's intended behavior

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#### Another example: circuit design

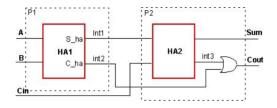


We would like to replace a circuit  $C_1$  in a processor by another circuit  $C_2$  (because, say,  $C_2$  results in a lower energy consumption)

We want to be sure that C<sub>2</sub> is correct, that is, it will behave according to some specification

If we already know that  $C_1$  is correct, it is sufficient to prove that  $C_2$  is functionally equivalent to  $C_1$ 

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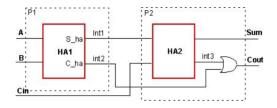


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#### Consider the system as a mathematical object by building a formal model of the system

- 2. Find a formal language  $\mathcal L$  for expressing intended properties
- 3. The language must have a formal semantics, defining the possible interpretations of the sentences of  $\mathcal L$ 
  - The semantics is normally based on notions of truth and satisfiability
- 4. Write a specification, that is, intended properties of the system in this language
- 5. Prove formally that the system model satisfies the specification

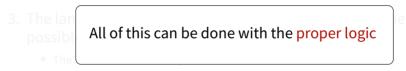
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#### A logic is a triple $(\mathcal{L}, \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{R})$ where

• *L*, the *language*, is

a class of sentences described by a formal grammar

- *S*, the *semantics*, is a formal specification for assigning meaning to sentences in *L*
- *R*, the *derivation (or, inference) system*, is
   a set of axioms (i.e., valid sentences) and derivation rules to
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#### **Derivations Systems**

Important theoretical properties:

# **Consistency** It is impossible to derive both a sentence and its negation from the axioms

Independence No axiom is derivable from the others

Soundness All derivable sentences are valid (always true)

Completeness All valid sentences are derivable

#### My God, it's full of logics!



**There are many, many logics:** propositional, first-order, higherorder, modal, temporal, intuitionistic, linear, non-monotonic, many-valued, ...

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