

## semantics & assignments: coincidence lemma

**only the assignment to free variables matters**

if  $\beta \upharpoonright \text{free}(\varphi) = \beta' \upharpoonright \text{free}(\varphi)$

then  $(\mathfrak{A}, \beta) \models \varphi$  iff  $(\mathfrak{A}, \beta') \models \varphi$

proof by syntactic induction,  
based on auxiliary claim for  
 $t \in T_\sigma$  and  $\beta \upharpoonright \text{var}(t) = \beta' \upharpoonright \text{var}(t)$

in particular, semantics of sentences independent of assignment (!)  
 $\sigma$ -sentences define classes of  $\sigma$ -structures ( $\rightsquigarrow$  elementary classes)

convention: write  $\mathfrak{A}, \mathbf{a} \models \varphi$  or  $\mathfrak{A} \models \varphi[\mathbf{a}]$   
indicating just the assignment  $\mathbf{a}$  to variables  $\mathbf{x}$  in  $\varphi = \varphi(\mathbf{x})$

## semantics & isomorphisms: isomorphism lemma

**sanity check!**

if  $(\mathfrak{A}, \beta) \simeq (\mathfrak{A}', \beta')$

then  $(\mathfrak{A}, \beta) \models \varphi$  iff  $(\mathfrak{A}', \beta') \models \varphi$

proof by syntactic induction,  
based on auxiliary claim about  
compatibility of isomorphisms  $f: \mathfrak{A} \simeq \mathfrak{A}'$   
with  $\mathfrak{I}(t)/\mathfrak{I}'(t)$  for  $\mathfrak{I} = (\mathfrak{A}, \beta)/\mathfrak{I}' = (\mathfrak{A}', f \circ \beta)$

in particular, elementary classes are closed under isomorphism (!)

## basic semantic notions

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**consequence relation**  $\varphi \models \psi$

$\varphi \models \psi$  if, for all interpretations  $\mathcal{I} = (\mathfrak{A}, \beta)$ ,  $\mathcal{I} \models \varphi$  implies  $\mathcal{I} \models \psi$

**logical equivalence**  $\varphi \equiv \psi$

$\varphi \equiv \psi$  if, for all interpretations  $\mathcal{I} = (\mathfrak{A}, \beta)$ ,  $\mathcal{I} \models \varphi$  iff  $\mathcal{I} \models \psi$

**validity & satisfiability**

$\varphi \in \text{FO}(\sigma)$  satisfiable if  $\mathcal{I} \models \varphi$  for some  $\sigma$ -interpretation  $\mathcal{I}$

$\varphi \in \text{FO}(\sigma)$  valid if  $\mathcal{I} \models \varphi$  for every  $\sigma$ -interpretation  $\mathcal{I}$

## elementary and $\Delta$ -elementary classes

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for sentence  $\varphi \in \text{FO}_0(\sigma)$ :

$\text{Mod}(\varphi)$  denotes the class (!) of all models of  $\varphi$

$\text{Mod}(\varphi) = \{\mathfrak{A} : \mathfrak{A} \models \varphi\}$

similarly  $\text{Mod}(\Phi) := \bigcap \{\text{Mod}(\varphi) : \varphi \in \Phi\}$

for sets of sentences  $\Phi \subseteq \text{FO}_0(\sigma)$

**elementary classes**

a class  $\mathcal{C}$  of  $\sigma$ -structures is an elementary class if  $\mathcal{C} = \text{Mod}(\varphi)$  for some sentence  $\varphi \in \text{FO}_0(\sigma)$

**$\Delta$ -elementary classes**

a class  $\mathcal{C}$  of  $\sigma$ -structures is a  $\Delta$ -elementary class if  $\mathcal{C} = \text{Mod}(\Phi)$  for some set  $\Phi \subseteq \text{FO}_0(\sigma)$  of sentences

## examples

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### elementary classes:

groups, rings, fields, . . . , boolean algebras, . . .

graphs, undirected loop-free graphs, . . .

linear orderings, dense linear orderings, partial orderings, . . .

equivalence relations, . . .

### $\Delta$ -elementary classes:

infinite sets, . . .

fields of characteristic 0, algebraically closed fields, . . .

acyclic graphs, . . .

**model-theoretic challenge:** how to show that some class is *not* elementary or not even  $\Delta$ -elementary?

## substitution

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of terms  $t$  for variables  $x$ , *where they occur free in  $\varphi$  (!)*

for tuple  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$  of pairwise distinct variables  
and tuple  $\mathbf{t} = (t_1, \dots, t_n)$  of terms  $t_i \in T_\sigma$ ,

the syntactic operation  $\text{FO}(\sigma) \longrightarrow \text{FO}(\sigma)$   
 $\varphi \longmapsto \varphi_{\mathbf{x}}^{\mathbf{t}}$

is such that, for all  $\sigma$ -interpretations  $\mathfrak{I} = (\mathfrak{A}, \beta)$ ,

$\mathfrak{I} \models \varphi_{\mathbf{x}}^{\mathbf{t}}$  iff  $\mathfrak{I}^{\mathbf{t}} \models \varphi$  (substitution lemma)