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ON REVERSE SKOLEMIZATION

by

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### ABSTRACT

An algorithm is presented which, for an arbitrary literal containing Skolem functions, outputs a set of closed quantified literals with the following properties. If  $a$  and  $b$  are formulae we define  $a \approx b$  iff  $\{sk(a), dsk(b)\}$  is unifiable where  $sk$  denotes Skolemization and  $dsk$  denotes the dual operation, with the roles of  $\forall$  and  $\exists$  reversed. If  $d$  is an arbitrary literal and  $X$  is the output, then:

- (i) Soundness: if  $x \in X$  then  $x \supset d$
- (ii) Completeness: if  $a \supset d$  then exists  $x \in X$  such that  $a \supset x$
- (iii) Nonredundancy: if  $x, y \in X$  then  $x \neq y$  and  $y \neq x$ .

## 1: Introduction

We consider the problem of reversing Skolemization and present an algorithm which assigns to a literal one or more closed literals where here, as in the rest of this paper, "closed literal" means a closed formula whose matrix is a literal. In the simplest case, if the input literal is the result of skolemizing a closed literal then by applying our algorithm, skolemizing and applying the algorithm again we will produce the original closed literal.

In the general case, however, the situation is more complex; for example if the input literal is one deduced by a mechanical question answering system. The ability to quantify such literals is especially important when the system attempts to answer a question beginning "Why ..." [ 2]. For such applications, the output of our algorithm must have properties of completeness and implicational independence. By "completeness" we mean that if some closed literal  $A$  implies the input literal  $B$  in a general sense to be defined later, then there is an output  $C$  from our algorithm such that  $A$  implies  $C$ . By "implicational independence" we mean that no output implies another different output.

## 2: Preliminaries

In this section we review standard concepts and notation, as well as introduce some specific definitions.

2.1: We shall use the word expression to refer to literals, terms and variables, where a variable is not a term.

Any term beginning with a Skolem function is called a Skolem term.

A quantifier string is a string of the form  $Q_1 x_1 \dots Q_n x_n$  ( $n \geq 0$ ) where  $Q_i$  is either  $\exists$  or  $\forall$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ) and  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  are distinct variables.

We use the word "formula" with its standard meaning in mathematical logic.

If  $s = pm$  is a formula such that  $p$  is a quantifier string and  $m$  contains no quantifiers then we define:

$$\text{prefix}(s) = p$$

$$\text{matrix}(s) = m$$

If  $a$  is any string, the head of  $a$  is the leftmost symbol of  $a$ .

If  $a = x(t_1, \dots, t_n)$ ,  $b = x(s_1, \dots, s_n)$  are expressions, then expressions  $t$  and  $s$  are said to be vis-a-vis in  $a$  and  $b$  iff for some  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ) with  $s = s_i$  and  $t = t_i$ , or  $t$  and  $s$  are vis-a-vis in  $t t_i$  and  $s_i$ .

If  $m$  is a literal,  $p$  is a quantifier string and  $v$  is a variable which does not occur in  $p$ , we define:

$$\text{sk}(m) = m$$

$$\text{sk}(p \forall v m) = \text{sk}(pm)$$

$$\text{sk}(p \exists v m) = \text{sk}(pm \theta)$$

where  $\theta = \{v \leftarrow f(u_1, \dots, u_r)\}$ ,  $f$  is a new Skolem function and  $u_1, \dots, u_r$  are all the variables immediately preceded by  $\forall$  in  $p$ . We also define a function  $\text{dsk}$  with the same range as  $\text{sk}$  by replacing in the above definition "sk" by "dsk", " $\forall$ " by " $\exists$ ", and " $\exists$ " by " $\forall$ ". Clearly,  $\text{sk}$  is Skolemization and  $\text{dsk}$  is the dual operation (see [3]).

If  $m$  is a formula and  $b$  is an occurrence of an expression in  $m$ , then  $b$  is called a top-level occurrence (in  $m$ ) iff it is not a proper subexpression of a Skolem subterm (of  $m$ ).

If  $m$  is a formula and  $b$  is an expression with a top-level occurrence in  $m$ , then we will say that  $b$  is top-level (in  $m$ ).

We will abbreviate the phrase "top-level Skolem" to TS.

If  $x$  is an expression we wrote  $x[t]$  to indicate that an expression  $t$  occurs in  $x$ .

## 2.2: Unification

We assume that the reader is familiar with standard definitions of such concepts as "substitution", "variant", "unification." Substitutions will be denoted by lower case Greek letters. We will call a substitution that transforms a literal into one of its variants a renaming. We abbreviate the phrase "most general unifier" to mgu. We assume a familiarity with some of the standard terminology of graph theory, used only in the proof of theorem 4.3.2.

We extend the definition of unification as follows:

$\mathcal{E}$  is a set of sets of expressions and  $\theta$  is a substitution,  $\theta$  unifies  $\mathcal{E}$  if and only if  $\theta$  unifies  $E$  for each  $E \in \mathcal{E}$ .

The following results is used in section 4.

### 2.2.1: Lemma

If  $X$  and  $Y$  are sets of expressions or sets of sets of expressions, then  $X \cup Y$  is unifiable iff  $X$  is unifiable and  $Y\sigma$  is unifiable where  $\sigma$  is an mgu of  $X$ .

### 2.2.2: Baxter's unification algorithm

Here we present a unification algorithm due to Baxter, which is used only in the proof of theorem 4.3.2. The result otherwise is only available as a technical report [1].



Let  $C$  be a set of unordered pairs of expressions. If  $F$  is a partition of the set of subexpressions of  $C$ , and  $p$  and  $q$  are subexpressions of  $C$ , then we denote by  $[p]_F$  the class in  $F$  which contains  $p$ . When  $F$  is understood from the context, we will write  $[p]$  for  $[p]_F$ .

In the following,  $F_n$  is the partition of all subexpressions of  $C$  in which each class contains a single expression.

algorithm TRANSFORM( $C$ )

$S \leftarrow C$

$P \leftarrow F.$

while  $S \neq \phi$

do { Delete a constraint  $\{p_1, p_2\}$  from  $S$   
     if  $[p_1] \neq [p_2]$   
     then { if  $[p_1]$  contains a term  $f_1(q_{11}, \dots, q_{1m})$   
             and  $[p_2]$  contains a term  $f_2(q_{21}, \dots, q_{2n})$   
             then { if  $f_1 \neq f_2$   
                     then { unification fails  
                             stop  
                     else add to  $S$  the pairs:  
                              $\{q_{11}, q_{21}\}, \dots, \{q_{1n}, q_{2n}\}$   
                     Replace  $[p_1]$  and  $[p_2]$  by  $[p_1] \cup [p_2]$  in  $F$

TRANSFORM  $\leftarrow F$

stop

This algorithm detects nonunifiability due to conflict of terms. It remains to detect nonunifiability of the type characterized by the pair  $\{x, f(x)\}$ .

The unification graph for  $C$  is a directed graph whose vertex set is  $\text{TRANSFORM}(C)$  (if this is defined; that is  $\text{TRANSFORM}$  has not detect nonunifiability). For each pair of vertices  $X$  and  $Y$ ,  $(X,Y)$  is an edge iff  $p$  is a subexpression of  $g$ , where  $q \in X$  and  $p \in Y$ .

2.2.2.1: Lemma: A set of pairs of expressions  $C$  is unifiable iff  $\text{TRANSFORM}(C)$  succeeds and the unification graph for  $C$  has no cycles.

### 3: The algorithms

In this section we describe two algorithms which together produce the required set of closed literals. The first of these algorithms,  $\text{PREPROCESS}$ , is unnecessary in the case when the input literal has no unifiable TS subterms.

If  $\sigma$  is a substitution,  $m$  is a literal,  $t$  is a top-level subexpression of  $m$  and  $x$  is a top-level variable of  $m$ , we say that  $\sigma$  disturbs  $t$  in  $m$  with  $x$  iff  $x$  occurs in  $t$  but not in  $t\sigma$ , or  $x$  occurs in  $t\sigma$  but  $x$  not in  $t$ . We will omit "in  $m$ " and "with  $x$ " when  $m$  is understood from context, and  $x$  is irrelevant. We say that  $\sigma$  disturbs  $m$  iff  $\sigma$  disturbs some top-level subexpression of  $m$ .

Let  $d$  be a literal.

algorithm  $\text{PREPROCESS}(d)$

$W \leftarrow \{d\}$

$R \leftarrow \phi$

while  $W \neq \phi$

do { delete  $e$  from  $W$ ;

if { every unifier of every pair of distinct TS subterms of  $e$  disturbs  $e$ , and  $R$  contains no variant of  $e$

then  $R \leftarrow R \cup \{e\}$

$W \leftarrow W \cup \{e\sigma \mid t \text{ and } s \text{ are distinct TS subterms of } e \text{ with mgu } \sigma\}$

$\text{PREPROCESS} \leftarrow R$

stop

If  $m$  is a formula, we define:

$$\omega(m) = \{ \{v \mid v \text{ is a free top-level variable of } m \text{ and} \\ \text{occurs in } t\} \\ \mid t \text{ is a TS subterm of } m \}$$

We then define  $\text{free}(m)$  as the set of lower bounds of the set  $\omega(m)$  with the partial ordering  $\subseteq$ . For example, if  $m = \exists w P(\alpha(x,w), \beta(y,z,u), \gamma(x, \delta(y), z), x, y, z, w)$ , where all the function symbols are Skolem, then  $\omega(m) = \{\{x\}, \{y, z\}, \{x, y, z\}\}$  and  $\text{free}(m) = \{\{x\}, \{y, z\}\}$ .

If  $m$  is a formula, we define:

$$\text{ground}(m) = \{t \mid t \text{ is a TS subterm of } m, \text{ and contains} \\ \text{no free top-level variables of } m \}$$

If  $X$  is a set, we denote by  $\vec{X}$  an arbitrary but fixed ordering of  $X$ .

If  $\vec{X} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$  we define:

$$\forall(\vec{X}) = \forall x_1 \forall x_2 \dots \forall x_n \quad (n \geq 0)$$

$$\exists(\vec{X}) = \exists x_1 \exists x_2 \dots \exists x_n \quad (n \geq 0)$$

If  $X$  is a set of variables and  $D$  is a set of variables or terms such that  $|X| = |D|$ , and if  $\vec{X} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$  and  $\vec{D} = (g_1, \dots, g_n)$ , then we denote the substitution  $\{x_1 \leftarrow g_1, \dots, x_n \leftarrow g_n\}$  by  $\{\vec{X} \leftarrow \vec{D}\}$ .

If  $m$  is a formula or expression, and  $a$  and  $b$  are expressions, then  $\text{repl}(a, b, m)$  is the formula or expression obtained by replacing all top-level occurrences of  $a$  in  $m$  by  $b$ . We extend this definition to ordered sets of expressions as follows:

$$\text{repl}((a_1, \dots, a_n), (b_1, \dots, b_n), m) \\ = \text{repl}((a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}), (b_1, \dots, b_{n-1}), \text{repl}(a_n, b_n, m))$$

Let us note that if  $u$  is a free, top-level variable of  $m$  then  $\text{repl}(u, b, m) = m\{u \leftarrow b\}$ .

Now we shall present a second main algorithm:

Let  $d$  be a literal.

algorithm QUANTIFY( $d$ )

$Q \leftarrow \phi$

$S \leftarrow \{d\}$

while  $S \neq \phi$

do { delete  $s$  from  $S$  ;

$G \leftarrow \text{ground}(s)$

if { for every mgu  $\sigma$  of every pair of distinct terms in  $G$   
 (#) { either  $\sigma$  disturbs a top-level variable in  $s$   
or for some  $v$  and  $y$ , where  $v$  is the new variable corresponding to some TS subterm  $t$  of  $d$ ,  $\forall v$  occurs in prefix( $s$ ) to the left of  $\exists y$  and  $\sigma$  disturbs  $t$  with  $y$ .

then {  $F \leftarrow \text{free}(s)$   
 $H \leftarrow \{v \mid v \text{ is a free variable in } s, \text{ and does not occur in any TS subterm of } s\}$

$p \leftarrow \text{prefix}(s)\forall(V)$  (see \* below)

$m \leftarrow \text{repl}(G, V, \text{matrix}(s))$

if  $F = \phi$

then  $Q \leftarrow Q \cup \{p\exists(H)m\}$

else { while  $F \neq \phi$

do { delete  $F$  from  $F$  :

$S \leftarrow S \cup \{p\exists(F)m\}$

QUANTIFY  $\leftarrow Q$

stop

(\*  $V$  is a set of variables which do not occur in  $s$ , and  $|V| = |G|$ .)

Examples which illustrate these algorithms are presented in section 5 where they may be more fully appreciated in the light of the results presented in section 4.

#### 4: Correctness and Implicational Independence

Here we prove some properties of the algorithms considered independently, such as their termination; and some properties of the algorithms combined.

##### 4.1: Termination

4.1.1: Lemma: PREPROCESS(d) halts for any literal d.

Proof: If a is a literal, we define:

$$f(a) = (n!)^2$$

where n = number of distinct TS subterms of a.

If W is a set of literals, we define:

$$F(W) = \sum_{a \in W} f(a)$$

Let W' and W'' be the value of W at the beginning and end of some execution of the loop; let a be the element of W' deleted and  $a_1, \dots, a_k$  the literals added, then:

$$W'' = W' - \{a\} \cup \{a_1, \dots, a_k\}$$

$$\therefore F(W'') = F(W') - f(a) + \sum_{i=1}^k f(a_i)$$

If  $f(a) = (n!)^2$ , then  $k \leq \frac{1}{2}n(n-1)$  and  $f(a_i) \leq ((n-1)!)^2$ .

$$\therefore F(W'') \leq F(W') - (n!)^2 + \frac{1}{2}n(n-1)((n-1)!)^2 < F(W').$$

Since F(W) is always non-negative, CASES obviously halts. □

4.1.2: Lemma: QUANTIFY(d) halts for any literal d.

Proof: We define a non-negative integer-valued function G on sets of formulae as follows:

$$G(s) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } S = \emptyset \\ \sum_{b \in S} N(b)! & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where N(b) = total number of free variables and Skolem terms in b.

Now consider some execution of the major loop of the algorithm and let  $S'$  and  $S''$  be the values of  $S$  at the beginning and end respectively of this execution. Also let  $s$  be the element of  $S'$  deleted and  $s_1, \dots, s_k$  the formulae added to  $S'$  in the loop. Then:

$$S'' = (S' - \{s\} \cup \{s_1, \dots, s_k\})$$

and

$$G(S'') = G(S') - N(s)! + \sum_{j=1}^k N(s_j)!$$

If  $s$  has no free variables occurring in Skolem terms, then  $F = \emptyset$  so that  $k=0$  and:

$$G(S'') = G(S') - N(s)! \\ < G(S')$$

If  $s$  has free variables occurring in Skolem terms, then  $N(s) \geq N(s_j) + 2$  ( $1 \leq j \leq k$ ) since at least one Skolem term and one free variable of  $s$  is quantified in  $s_j$ . Also  $k \leq N(s)$ , so that:

$$f(S'') \leq f(S') - N(s)! + k(N(s)-2)! \\ \leq f(S') - N(s)! + N(s)(N(s)-2)! \\ < f(S')$$

Since  $G(S')$  is non-negative, the algorithm must halt. □

#### 4.2: Soundness

If  $a$  and  $b$  are formulae whose matrices are literals we write  $a \supset b$  iff  $\{sk(a), dsk(b)\}$  are unifiable. In the case when  $a$  and  $b$  are closed, our definition coincides with the standard definition of  $\supset$ .

##### 4.2.1: Lemma: Soundness of QUANTIFY.

If  $a \in \text{QUANTIFY}(d)$ , then  $a \supset d$ .

Proof: We will show that at the beginning of every execution of the major loop, if  $b \in S \cup Q$  then  $\{sk(b), d\}$  has a unifier  $\sigma$  such that

no free variable of  $b$  occurs in  $\sigma$ .

At the beginning of the first execution of the major loop  $S \cup Q = \{d\}$ , so the result clearly holds.

Let  $S', Q'$  and  $S'', Q''$  be the values of  $S$  and  $Q$  at the beginning and end respectively, of some execution of the major loop. Assume the result holds for  $S' \cup Q'$ . Now suppose  $b \in S'' \cup Q''$  then either  $b \in S' \cup Q'$  in which case the result holds, by the above assumption; or  $b$  is introduced during the current execution of the loop. Let  $s$  be the element of  $S'$  deleted then:

$$b = p' \forall(\vec{V}) \exists(\vec{F}) \text{ repl}(\vec{G}, \vec{V}, m')$$

where  $p' = \text{prefix}(s)$ ,  $m' = \text{matrix}(s)$ , and  $V, F$  and  $G$  are as defined in the algorithm.

$$\text{Let } c = p' \forall(\vec{V}) \text{ repl}(\vec{G}, \vec{V}, m')$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then } \text{sk}(c) &= \text{sk}(p' \text{ repl}(\vec{G}, \vec{V}, m')) \\ &= \text{repl}(\vec{G}, \vec{V}, \text{sk}(p'm')) \\ &= \text{repl}(\vec{G}, \vec{V}, \text{sk}(s)) \end{aligned}$$

Since  $s \in S' \cup Q'$ , by the above assumption  $\{\text{sk}(s), d\}$  has a unifier  $\sigma$  containing no free variables of  $s$ .

$$\text{Let } \gamma = (d\gamma) \{\vec{V} \leftarrow \vec{G}\} \circ \sigma$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{then } \text{sk}(c)\gamma &= \text{repl}(\vec{G}, \vec{V}, \text{sk}(s))\gamma \\ &= \text{sk}(s)\sigma \\ &= d\sigma \\ &= d\gamma \text{ since none of the variables in } V \text{ occur in } d. \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $\gamma$  unifies  $\{\text{sk}(c), d\}$ ; also, since the elements of  $G$  are ground Skolem terms of  $s$ ,  $\gamma$  contains no variables free in  $s$ . Now

$$\text{let } p'' = \text{prefix}(c), m'' = \text{matrix}(c);$$

then  $b = p \ulcorner \exists(\vec{F})m \urcorner$

$\therefore \text{sk}(b) = \text{sk}(p \ulcorner \text{repl}(\vec{F}, \vec{T}, m) \urcorner)$

where  $T$  is a set of Skolem terms containing only variables immediately preceded by  $\forall$  in  $p$

$= \text{repl}(\vec{F}, \vec{T}, \text{sk}(p \ulcorner m \urcorner))$

$= \text{repl}(\vec{F}, \vec{T}, \text{sk}(c))$

Let  $\delta = \{\vec{F} \leftarrow \vec{T}\} \circ \gamma$

$= \gamma \circ \{\vec{F} \leftarrow \vec{T}\}$

since none of the variables in  $F$  occur in  $\gamma$ .

(Note that the meaning of  $\vec{T}\gamma$ , although we have not defined it, is obvious.)

Then  $d\delta = (d\gamma)\{\vec{F} \leftarrow \vec{T}\}$

$= (\text{sk}(c)\gamma)\{\vec{F} \leftarrow \vec{T}\gamma\}$

$= (\text{sk}(c)\{\vec{F} \leftarrow \vec{T}\})\gamma$

$= \text{repl}(\vec{F}, \vec{T}, \text{sk}(c))(\{\vec{F} \leftarrow \vec{T}\} \circ \gamma)$

$= \text{sk}(b)\delta$

Hence  $\delta$  unifies  $\{\text{sk}(b), d\}$  and does not contain any variables free in  $b$ . Note that we have assumed that  $F \neq \emptyset$ . In the case when  $F = \emptyset$  and  $H \neq \emptyset$ ,  $b=c$  in the above, and only the proof that  $\{\text{sk}(c), d\}$  is unifiable is necessary. This can be obtained from the above by replacing all occurrences of  $F$  by  $H$ .  $\square$

#### 4.2.2: Theorem: Soundness

If  $b \in \text{QUANTIFY}(c)$ , where  $c \in \text{PREPROCESS}(d)$ , then  $b \supset d$ .

The proof follows immediately from lemma 4.2.1, and lemma 4.4.2.



### 4.3: Completeness

If  $d$  and  $d'$  are literals such that  $d' \in \text{PREPROCESS}(d)$ , we shall denote by  $\mathcal{P}_{d'}$ , the partition of the set of all TS subterms of  $d$  such that  $s, t \in X \in \mathcal{P}_{d'}$ , iff  $s' = t'$ , where  $s'$  and  $t'$  are TS subterms of  $d'$  which are vis-a-vis  $s$  and  $t$  respectively.

#### 4.3.1: Lemma: Completeness of PREPROCESS

If  $c$  is a closed literal such that  $c \supset d$ , then there is a literal  $b \in \text{PREPROCESS}(d)$  such that  $\{\text{sk}(c), b\}$  has a unifier  $\xi$  with the property that  $t\xi \neq s\xi$  for all pairs of distinct TS subterms  $t$  and  $s$  of  $b$ .

Proof: Let  $\mu$  be an mgu of  $\{\text{sk}(c), d\}$ ; denote  $\text{sk}(c)\mu$  by  $e$ ; let  $\eta$  be an mgu for  $\mathcal{P}_e$ ; and let  $d' = d\eta$ . By lemma 2.2.1,  $\text{sk}(c)$  and  $d'$  are unifiable; let their mgu be  $\sigma$ . It is easy to show that at some time during the execution of  $\text{PREPROCESS}(d)$ ,  $d' \in W \cup R$ : to show this, we can select pairs of terms which belong to the same class of  $\mathcal{P}_e$ ; these terms are obviously unifiable, and will be unified during some execution of the loop. By continuing this process we can construct a sequence of literals such that each is in  $W \cup R$ , and the last in the sequence is  $d'$ . If  $d' \in R$ , then  $b = d'$  is obviously the required literal.

If  $d' \notin \text{PREPROCESS}(d)$ , we construct a sequence  $d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n$  ( $n \geq 2$ ) where  $d_1 = d'$ , and  $d_{i+1} = d_i\theta_i$  where  $\theta_i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n-1$ ) is an mgu of some pair of distinct TS subterms of  $d_i$  which does not disturb  $d_i$ , and  $d_n$  has no pair of distinct TS subterms with a unifier  $\theta_1$  that does not disturb  $d_1$ . Also since the number of distinct unifiable TS subterms is reduced at each extension of the sequence, the construction must terminate. Obviously  $d_n \in \text{PREPROCESS}(d)$ .

It remains only to show that  $d_n$  and  $sk(c)$  are unifiable. We will show that  $d_2$  and  $sk(c)$  are unifiable; the argument can be extended to the rest of the sequence.

Denote  $\theta_1$  by  $\theta$ . We will show that  $\sigma \circ \theta \circ \sigma \circ \theta \circ \sigma$  is a unifier of  $d_2$  and  $sk(c)$  with the required property. First we show that  $\sigma \circ \theta \circ \sigma \circ \theta \circ \sigma = \theta \circ \sigma \circ \theta \circ \sigma \circ \theta \circ \sigma$

- (i) If  $v$  is a top-level variable, then  $v = v\theta$  since no replaced variables of  $\theta$  are top-level because  $\theta$  does not disturb  $d_1$ . In this case the result obviously holds.
- (ii) If  $v$  is not top-level then  $v = v\sigma$ , since all the replaced variables of  $\sigma$  are top-level because  $\sigma$  does not unify any distinct TS subterms of  $d_1$ , and is an mgu.
  - (a) If  $v\theta$  contains no top-level variables then:

$$v\theta = v\theta\sigma$$

$$v\theta\sigma\theta\sigma = v\theta\theta\sigma\theta\sigma$$

$$= v\theta\sigma\theta\sigma$$

since none of the replaced variables of  $\theta$  occur in the terms of  $\theta$ .

$$= v\sigma\theta\sigma\theta\sigma$$

- (b) If  $v\theta$  contains a top-level variable, say  $u$ , we will show that  $v$  does not occur in  $u\sigma$ . Suppose the contrary; then in the simplest case there is an expression  $t$  in  $sk(c)$  which is vis-a-vis  $u$ , and in which there occurs a variable  $x$ , which is top-level in  $sk(c)$  (as are all the variables of  $sk(c)$ ) and is vis-a-vis a term  $s$  in  $d_1$ , where  $v$  occurs in  $s$ . Since  $\theta$  does not disturb  $d_1$ ,  $u$  must also occur in  $s$ . Therefore, to unify  $d_1$  and  $sk(c)$ , it is necessary to unify  $\{\{u, t[x]\} \{s[u], x\}\}$ , which is impossible. In the general case,

this nonunifiability between  $u$  and  $s$  will always arise, although there may be more than two pairs of expressions contributing to it. Now if  $y$  is any variable with the same properties as  $v$ , then by identical reasoning,  $y$  does not occur in  $u\sigma$ . Therefore,  $v\theta\sigma$  does not contain any variables of this type, and no top-level variables. So by similar reasoning to case (a), the result holds.

Hence  $\sigma\circ\theta\circ\sigma\circ\theta\circ\sigma$  is a unifier of  $d_1\theta$  and  $sk(c)$ . The fact that this substitution does not unify any distinct TS subterms of  $d_1\theta$  follows from the fact that  $\sigma$  does not unify any distinct TS subterms of  $d_1$ . □

#### 4.3.2: Theorem: Completeness

If  $a$  is a closed literal, and  $d$  is a literal such that  $a \supset d$ , there exists  $c$  and  $b$  such that  $c \in \text{PREPROCESS}(d)$ ,  $b \in \text{QUANTIFY}(c)$ , and  $a \supset b$ .

Proof: By lemma 4.3.1, there is a literal  $c \in \text{PREPROCESS}(d)$  such that  $\{sk(a), c\}$  has an mgu that does not unify any distinct TS subterms of  $c$ . We now consider the execution of  $\text{QUANTIFY}(c)$ , and show that at the beginning of every execution of the major loop there is a formula  $e \in S \cup Q$  such that

- (i)  $\{dsk(e), sk(a)\}$  is unifiable
- (ii) no vertex of the unification graph of  $\{dsk(e), sk(a)\}$  contains more than one Skolem subterm of  $dsk(e)$ .
- (iii) either  $e \in Q$

or if  $v$  is a variable existentially quantified in  $e$  and  $t$  is a TS subterm of  $e$ , then there is no walk from  $[v]$  to  $[t]$  in the unification graph  $U_e$  of  $\{dsk(e), sk(a)\}$ .

At the beginning of the first execution of the major loop,  
 $e = d \in S \cup Q$  clearly satisfies the conditions.

Let  $S', Q'$  and  $S'', Q''$  be the values of  $S$  and  $Q$  at the beginning and end respectively of some execution of the major loop. Assume the result holds for  $S' \cup Q'$  and let  $e \in S' \cup Q'$  be the formula with the required properties; then either  $e \in S' \cup Q''$  in which case the result holds for  $S'' \cup Q''$  or  $e$  is the formula deleted from  $S'$  in the execution of the loop. In the latter case we assume that the condition of the first if statement is satisfied so that quantification of  $e$  proceeds: we will show that a formula  $f$  with the required properties is added to  $S' \cup Q'$  during the execution of the loop.

Let  $f = p\forall(\vec{V})\exists(\vec{K}) \text{ repl}(\vec{G}, \vec{V}, m)$  where  $p, m, G, V$  are as defined in the algorithm and  $K$  is either  $F$  or  $H$  as defined in the algorithm: then  $f \in S'' \cup Q''$ . The particular  $K$  we choose for constructing  $f$  is irrelevant to the proof that  $f$  satisfies conditions (i) and (ii); consequently we will postpone the explanation of how  $K$  is selected until these conditions have been proved.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now } \text{dsk}(f) &= \text{dsk}(p\forall(\vec{V}) \text{ repl}(\vec{G}, \vec{V}, m)) \\ &= \text{dsk}(p \text{ repl}(\vec{V}, \vec{G}', \text{ repl}(\vec{G}, \vec{V}, m))) \\ &= \text{dsk}(p \text{ repl}(\vec{G}, \vec{G}', m)) \\ &= \text{ repl}(\vec{G}, \vec{G}', \text{dsk}(e)) \end{aligned}$$

where  $G'$  is a set of new Skolem terms introduced by the application of  $\text{dsk}$ .

We now describe the construction of  $U_f$  from  $U_e$ : the reader should verify that this construction is correct. The construction is as follows:

- (1) For each  $t \in G$  replace  $t$  by  $t'$  in  $[t]$ , where  $t'$  is the new Skolem term corresponding to  $t$ .
- (2) Delete all vertices which contain expressions which do not occur in  $\text{dsk}(f)$ . Note that such expressions have no top-level occurrences in  $e$ , so by condition (ii) on  $e$ , these deleted vertices each contain a single expression.
- (3) Delete all edges which enter or leave vertices deleted in (2).
- (4) For each  $t \in G$  and each top-level variable  $v$  of  $\text{dsk}(f)$  which occurs in  $t'$ , where  $t'$  is the new Skolem term corresponding to  $t$ , add the edge  $([t'],[v])$ .

We now show that  $f$  satisfies the conditions

- (i) Suppose there is a closed walk in  $U_f$ . Since  $U_e$  has no closed walks, some of the edges on this walk must be added in the above construction. Suppose there is exactly one such new edge  $([t'],[w])$  on the walk, where  $w$  is existentially quantified in  $e$  and  $t'$  is the new Skolem term in  $\text{dsk}(f)$  corresponding to some term  $t$  in  $e$ . Then there is a walk from  $[w]$  to  $[t]$  in  $U_e$  contradicting the assumption that  $e$  satisfied condition (ii). If the walk contains more than one such edge, we consider the part of the walk connecting two consecutive new edges and obtain the same contradiction. Hence  $\{\text{dsk}(f), \text{sk}(a)\}$  is unifiable.
- (ii) That  $f$  satisfies this condition is obvious from the above construction.
- (iii) In order to show that  $f$  satisfies this condition, we now explain how  $K$  is selected. Suppose  $\text{free}(e) \neq \emptyset$ , then the set  $NG = \{t \mid t \text{ is a TS subterm of } e \text{ and } t \notin \text{ground}(e)\}$

is not empty. Since  $U_e$  has no closed walks, it induces a partial ordering  $<$  on  $NG$  as follows:  $t_1 < t_2$  iff there is a walk from  $[t_2]$  to  $[t_1]$ . Let  $t$  be a minimal element of  $NG$  under this ordering; then we choose  $K$  to be that element of  $\text{free}(e)$  which is a subset of

$$\{v \mid v \text{ is a free top-level variable of } e, \text{ and occurs in } t\}.$$

Now suppose that  $v$  is existentially quantified in  $f$  and  $s$  is a TS subterm of  $f$  and hence of  $e$ . Either  $v \in K$ , and by the selection of  $K$  there is no walk from  $[v]$  to  $[s]$  in  $U_e$ ; or  $v$  is existentially quantified in  $e$  so by condition (iii) on  $e$ , there is no walk from  $[v]$  to  $[s]$  in  $U_e$ . Hence if there is such a walk in  $U_f$  it must contain at least one new edge introduced in the above construction. Suppose  $([s'], [w])$  is the last such edge on this walk, then there is a walk in  $U_e$  from  $[w]$  to  $[s]$ ; however,  $w \in K$  so such a walk contradicts our selection of  $K$ . Hence no walk from  $[s]$  to  $[v]$  exists in  $U_f$ , so condition (iii) is satisfied.

In the case when  $\text{free}(e) = \phi$ ,  $K = H$  and  $f \in Q''$ , so condition (iii) holds.

Now suppose that the condition (#) of the first if statement is not satisfied so no further quantification of  $e$  is done. Then there is a pair  $\{t, s\}$  of distinct TS subterms of  $c$  in  $\text{ground}(e)$  with an mgu  $\sigma$  with the following properties:

- (i)  $\sigma$  does not disturb top-level variables
- (ii) for every TS subterm  $r$  of  $d$  and every variable  $y$ , if  $r$  is disturbed by  $\sigma$  with  $y$  then either  $r$  occurs in  $e$  or  $\exists y$  occurs in  $\text{prefix}(e)$  to the left of  $\forall x$ , where  $x$  is the new variable corresponding to  $r$ .

Let  $b$  be the formula added to  $S$  when the first such  $\exists y$  is introduced into the prefix. Consider that execution of the loop of  $\text{PREPROCESS}(d)$  in which  $c$  is deleted from  $W$ : in the loop the literal  $c\sigma$  is added to  $W$ . Also, unifying any TS subterms of  $c$  disturbs  $c$  since  $c \in \text{PREPROCESS}(d)$ , therefore, unifying any TS subterms of  $c\sigma$  disturbs  $c\sigma$ ; hence  $c\sigma \in \text{PREPROCESS}(d)$ . Now since  $\sigma$  disturbs only TS subterms of  $d$  that occurs in  $b$  it is clear that during the execution of  $\text{QUANTIFY}(c\sigma)$  a formula  $b'$  will be produced such that:

$$b' = pm'$$

where  $p = \text{prefix}(b)$

$$m' = m\sigma$$

$$p = \text{matrix}(b)$$

Suppose that  $\text{QUANTIFY}$  were modified so that quantification of all formulae is completed (i.e. the first if statement is replaced by its then part). Let  $g$  be the formula output by this modified algorithm as a result of complete quantification of  $b$ , such that  $\{\text{dsk}(g), \text{sk}(a)\}$  is unifiable: such a formula exists, by the above proof. The essential difference between  $b$  and  $b'$  is that some of the TS subterms of  $b'$  contain more top-level variables than their counterparts in  $b$ . These extra variables, however, will be existentially quantified before any term disturbed with them is removed by  $\text{QUANTIFY}$ . Consequently, the order of quantifications performed in producing  $g$  from  $b$  can be exactly duplicated in quantifying  $b'$ . The resulting formula  $g'$  will differ from  $g$  only in the following way: the two quantifiers  $\forall x\forall y$  in  $\text{prefix}(g)$  introduced when  $\text{quantify}$  removed TS subterms  $t$  and  $s$  are replaced by a single quantifier  $\forall x$  in  $\text{prefix}(g')$ , and all occurrences of  $y$  in  $\text{matrix}(g)$  are replaced by

$x$  in  $\text{matrix}(g')$ . Obviously  $\{\text{dsk}(g'), \text{sk}(a)\}$  are unifiable. Note that later in the quantification of  $b'$  processing may again be terminated should the condition in the first if statement not be satisfied: in this case we repeat the above construction as many times as necessary.  $\square$

#### 4.4: Implicational Independence

##### 4.4.1: Lemma: Implicational Independence of QUANTIFY

If  $d$  is a literal,  $e, f \in \text{QUANTIFY}(d)$ , and  $e \neq f$ , then  $e \not\leq f$  and  $f \not\leq e$ .

Proof: First let us assume that  $\text{matrix}(e) = \text{matrix}(f)$ : this assumption is justified by noting that no two formulae in  $\text{QUANTIFY}(d)$  are variants of each other, and that each TS subterm can always be replaced by the same new variable. Let us also assume that the variables of  $e$  and  $f$  are ordered by a relation  $<$  in an arbitrary but fixed manner, and that blocks of quantifiers of the same type in the prefixes of  $e$  and  $f$  are arranged according to this ordering: that is, if  $Q u_1 Q u_2$  occurs in  $\text{prefix}(e)$  or  $\text{prefix}(f)$ , where  $Q$  is  $\forall$  or  $\exists$ , then  $u_1 < u_2$ .

Since  $e \neq f$ ,  $\text{prefix}(e) \neq \text{prefix}(f)$ . Let  $p$  be the longest quantifier string which is the left part of both prefixes (note that  $p$  could be empty), then:

$$\text{prefix}(e) = pQ'u \dots$$

$$\text{prefix}(f) = pQ''v \dots,$$

where  $Q'u \neq Q''v$ .

Now if  $Q' = Q'' = \forall$ , then  $u \neq v$ . Suppose  $u$  and  $v$  were introduced to replace TS subterms  $s$  and  $t$ , respectively; then all top level variables occurring in  $s$  and  $t$  must occur in  $p$ . Therefore,  $Q''v$



must occur to the right of  $Q'u$  in  $\text{prefix}(e)$ , and is introduced by QUANTIFY at the same time as  $Q'u$ ; hence  $u < v$ . Similarly, by considering  $\text{prefix}(f)$ , we find that  $v < u$ . Consequently, not both  $Q'$  and  $Q''$  are  $\forall$ . Now suppose that  $Q' = \forall$  and  $Q'' = \exists$  (or vice-versa); then there is a TS subterm  $s$  with all its top-level variables occurring in  $p$ : QUANTIFY always removes all such terms before existentially quantifying any further top-level variables. This contradicts the supposition that  $Q'' = \exists$ . The only remaining possibility is that  $Q' = Q'' = \exists$ , which implies  $u \neq v$ . Let  $U$  be the set of variables existentially quantified at the same time as  $u$  in the production of  $e$ : we define  $V$  analogously for  $v \Delta f$ .

Clearly  $U \neq V$ , since if  $U = V$  we can conclude  $u < v$  (from  $\text{prefix}(e)$ ) and  $v < u$  (from  $\text{prefix}(f)$ ); also  $U \neq V$  since  $U \subset V$  implies that  $V$  cannot be chosen as a minimal set of free variables to be existentially quantified. Consequently, there exists variables  $x \in U \setminus V$  and  $y \in V \setminus U$ , and TS subterms  $s$  and  $t$  such that  $x$  occurs in  $s$  not  $t$ , and  $y$  occurs in  $t$  not  $s$ , and:

$$\text{prefix}(e) = p \dots \exists x \dots \forall w \dots \exists y \dots \forall z \dots$$

$$\text{prefix}(f) = p \dots \exists y \dots \forall z \dots \exists x \dots \forall w \dots$$

where  $w$  and  $z$  are new variables corresponding to  $s$  and  $t$  respectively. Hence in order to unify  $\{\text{sk}(e), \text{dsk}(f)\}$  it is necessary to unify  $\{\{\alpha, x\}, \{w, \gamma[y]\}, \{\beta[w], y\}, \{z, \delta[x, y]\}\}$ , where  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are Skolem terms introduced by the application of  $\text{sk}$  to  $e$ , and  $\gamma$  and  $\delta$  are Skolem terms introduced by the application of  $\text{dsk}$  to  $f$ . Therefore,  $\{\text{sk}(e), \text{dsk}(f)\}$  is not unifiable; by symmetry, neither is  $\{\text{dsk}(e), \text{sk}(f)\}$ . □

4.4.2: Lemma: If  $d' \in \text{PREPROCESS}(d)$  and  $\theta$  is an mgu of  $P_{d'}$ , then  $d' = d\theta$ .

The proof follows easily from the definition of PREPROCESS, and is left to the reader.

4.4.3: Corollary: If  $d', d'' \in \text{PREPROCESS}(d)$  and  $P_{d'} = P_{d''}$ , then  $d' = d''$ .

Proof: If  $P_{d'} = P_{d''}$  then  $d' = d\sigma'$  and  $d'' = d\sigma''$  where  $\sigma'$  and  $\sigma''$  are mgus of  $P_{d'}$ . Hence either  $d''$  and  $d'$  are variants, contradicting the definition of PREPROCESS, or  $d' = d''$ .  $\square$

If  $d', d'' \in \text{PREPROCESS}(d)$ , we shall say that  $d' > d''$  iff for each  $X \in P_{d'}$ , there exists  $Y \in P_{d''}$  such that  $X \subseteq Y$ .

4.4.4: Lemma: If  $d', d'' \in \text{PREPROCESS}(d)$ ,  $d' > d''$ ,  $\sigma'$  is an mgu of  $P_{d'}$ , and  $\theta$  is an mgu of  $P_{d''\sigma'}$  then  $d'' = d'\theta$ . Again, the proof, based on the definition of PREPROCESS and lemma 4.4.2, is left to the reader.

4.4.5: Theorem: Implicational Independence

Let  $d, d', d''$  be literals such that  $d', d'' \in \text{PREPROCESS}(d)$  and  $d' \neq d''$ ; and suppose  $g' \in \text{QUANTIFY}(d')$ ,  $g'' \in \text{QUANTIFY}(d'')$ , then:

- (i)  $g'' \not\subseteq g'$
- (ii)  $g' \not\subseteq g''$

Proof: We consider two cases as follows:

- (a) Suppose  $d' \not\subseteq d''$  and  $d'' \not\subseteq d'$ . From the definition of  $>$ , it follows that  $d'$  has TS subterms  $s_1', t_1', s_2', t_2'$  which are vis-a-vis  $s_1'', t_1'', s_2'', t_2''$  in  $d''$ , such that  $s_1'' = t_1''$  and  $s_2' = t_2'$  but  $s_1' \neq t_1'$  and  $s_2'' \neq t_2''$ . Consequently,  $\forall x_1'', \forall y_1'$  and  $\forall x_2'$  occur in  $\text{prefix}(g'')$  where  $x_1', y_1'', x_2', x_1'', x_2'', y_2''$  are the new variables corresponding to  $s_1', t_1', s_2'$

( $= t_2'$ ),  $s_1'$ , ( $= t_1''$ ),  $s_2''$ ,  $t_2''$  respectively. Therefore, to unify  $\{dsk(g'), sk(g'')\}$  it is necessary to unify  $\{\{\alpha_1', x_1''\}, \{\beta_1'', x_1''\}\}$  where  $\alpha_1'$ ,  $\beta_1''$  are distinct Skolem terms introduced by the application of  $dsk$  to  $g'$ ; this is clearly impossible. Hence (i) is proved, and (ii) is similarly proved by considering the new terms in  $dsk(g'')$  which are vis-a-vis  $x_2$  in  $sk(g')$ .

- (b) Suppose  $d' > d''$ . Let  $\Theta$  be a substitution as defined in lemma 4.4.4 such that  $d'' = d'\Theta$ ; by corollary 4.4.3, since  $d' \neq d''$ ,  $P_{d'} \neq P_{d''}$  so  $\Theta$  must unify at least one pair of distinct TS subterms of  $d'$ . Therefore, vis-a-vis these distinct terms of  $d'$  are identical terms of  $d''$ , so by reasoning identical to that used in case (a), (i) holds.

Since  $d' \in \text{PREPROCESS}(d)$  but has distinct unifiable TS subterms (since  $\Theta$  unifies at least two of them),  $\Theta$  must disturb  $d'$ . There are two ways this can happen:

- either (A)  $\Theta$  disturbs a top-level variable  $u$  of  $d'$   
or (B)  $\Theta$  disturbs a top-level subterm of  $d'$ .

In case (A),  $u$  in  $d'$  occurs vis-a-vis a new Skolem term  $\alpha$  in  $sk(g')$ . Suppose  $u$  occurs vis-a-vis an expression  $t$  in  $d''$ . If  $t$  is a term, then it occurs vis-a-vis a term in  $dsk(g'')$  with a head different from that of  $\alpha$ , so (ii) clearly holds. If  $t$  is a variable, say  $v$  then it occurs in  $d''$  vis-a-vis both  $u$  and  $w$  in  $d'$ , where  $w \neq u$ , since  $\Theta$  disturbs  $u$ . Then  $v$  occurs in  $dsk(g'')$  vis-a-vis two different Skolem terms in  $sk(g')$ . Then  $v$  occurs in  $dsk(g'')$  vis-a-vis two different Skolem terms in  $sk(g')$ . Again it is clear that (ii) holds.

In case (B) we will show that  $g'$  has a TS subterm  $s'$  such that:

- (1) some top-level variable  $y'$  occurs in  $s'' = s'\theta$  but not in  $s'$ , and
- (2)  $\forall x'$  occurs to the left of  $\exists y'$  in  $\text{prefix}(g')$ , where  $x'$  is the new variable corresponding to  $s'$ .

Let  $t'$  and  $r'$  be two distinct TS subterms of  $d'$  which are unified by  $\theta$ . We have two cases to consider:

- (a) Suppose  $t'$  and  $r'$  are not replaced by new variables during the same execution of the major loop of QUANTIFY. Then some top-level variable  $y'$  occurs in  $t''$  but not in  $r'$  and  $y'$  is still free. Clearly  $\forall x'$  occurs to the left of  $\exists y'$  in  $\text{prefix}(g')$ , where  $x'$  is the new variable corresponding to  $r'$ .
- (b) If  $t'$  and  $r'$  are replaced by new variables in the same execution of the major loop, then suppose that for all TS subterms  $s$  and all top-level variables  $y$  and  $d'$ , if  $\theta$  disturbs  $s$  with  $y$ ,  $\forall x$  occurs to the right of  $\exists y$  in  $\text{prefix}(g')$  where  $x$  is the new variable corresponding to  $s$ . In the case when  $\theta$  is an mgu of  $t'$  and  $r'$ , processing of the formula by QUANTIFY will be terminated because of condition (#), contradicting the fact that  $g' \in \text{QUANTIFY}(d')$ . The general case, when  $\theta$  is not an mgu of  $r'$  and  $t'$ , is left to the reader.

Now for  $g \in \text{QUANTIFY}(d'')$ , it follows from (1) that  $\exists y'$  occurs to the left of  $\forall x''$  in  $\text{prefix}(g')$ , where  $x'$  is the new variable corresponding to  $s''$ . From this fact, and (2) it follows that to unify  $\{\text{sk}(g'), \text{dsk}(g'')\}$  it is necessary to unify  $\{\{x', \alpha[y']\}, \{y', \beta[x']\}\}$  where  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are Skolem terms introduced by  $\text{sk}$  and  $\text{dsk}$ . This proves case (ii).  $\square$

## 5: Examples and Final Remarks

First we illustrate QUANTIFY.

5.1: Example: Let  $d$  be the literal  $P(\alpha(x,y),\beta(x,z),\gamma(y,z),f(x,y),z)$

where  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  are Skolem functions and  $f$  is not. Then:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{QUANTIFY}(d) &= \{ \exists x \exists y \forall a \exists z \forall b \forall c \ m, \\ &\quad \exists y \exists z \forall c \exists x \forall z \forall b \ m, \\ &\quad \exists x \exists z \forall b \exists y \forall a \forall c \ m \} \\ \text{where } m &= P(a,b,c,f(x,y), z) \end{aligned}$$

The reader should note that for every  $b \in \text{QUANTIFY}(d)$ ,  $\text{dsk}(b) \neq d$ .

The next example illustrates that expressions which are not top-level have no influence on the output of QUANTIFY; and that the names of Skolem functions are unimportant.

5.2: Example: Let  $d_1 = P(f(\alpha),\gamma(g(z)),\beta(x),x)$  and  $d_2 = P(f(\beta(z)),\delta(a),\gamma(h(x)),x)$  where  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$ ,  $\delta$  are Skolem functions, and  $f$  is not. Then:

$$\text{QUANTIFY}(d_1) = \text{QUANTIFY}(d_2) = \{ \forall y \forall w \exists x \forall v P(f(y),w,v,x) \}.$$

In the preceding examples, no TS subterms are unifiable, so PREPROCESS would have no effect. The next example shows that PREPROCESS is required for completeness.

5.3: Example: Let  $d = P(\alpha(z),\alpha(x),x)$ , where  $\alpha$  is a Skolem function, then:

$$\text{QUANTIFY}(d) = \{ \forall y \exists x \forall v P(y,v,x) \} = \{b\}$$

Consider the closed literal  $c = \forall y P(y,y,a)$ . Clearly  $c \supset d$ , but  $c \not\equiv b$ . This is because QUANTIFY distinguishes between Skolem terms which are not identical but are unifiable. However:

$$\text{PREPROCESS}(d) = \{d, e\}$$

$$\text{where } e = P(\alpha(x), \alpha(x), x).$$

Then  $\text{QUANTIFY}(e) = \{\exists x \forall y P(y, y, x)\} = \{f\}$ , and  $c \supset f$ .

Now we provide an example to illustrate how PREPROCESS avoids redundancy.

5.4: Example: Let  $d = P(\alpha(x, z), \alpha(x, x), x)$  then  $\text{PREPROCESS}(d) = \{P(\alpha(x, x), \alpha(x, x), x)\} = \{b\}$ . Note that unlike example 5.3,  $d$  is not in  $\text{PREPROCESS}(d)$ , since the unification does not cause a disturbance; and that  $d \supset b$ .

Our final example illustrates the need for the condition (#) in QUANTIFY.

5.5: Example: Let  $d = P(\alpha(x), \gamma(y, v), \beta(z, y), \beta(z, x), x, z, v)$  then:

$$\text{PREPROCESS} = \{d, e\}$$

$$\text{where } e = P(\alpha(x), \gamma(x, v), \beta(z, x), \beta(z, x), x, z, v).$$

Suppose condition (#) is removed from QUANTIFY, then this modified algorithm produces from  $d$  the following:

$$\{\exists x \forall a \exists z \forall b_1 \forall b_2 \exists v \forall c \ m (= d_1),$$

$$\exists x \forall a \exists v \forall c \exists z \forall b_1 \forall b_2 \ m (= d_2),$$

$$\exists z \forall b_1 \exists v \forall c \exists x \forall a \forall b_2 \ m,$$

$$\exists z \forall b_1 \exists x \forall b_2 \forall a \exists v \forall c \ m,$$

$$\exists v \forall c \exists x \forall a \exists z \forall b_1 \forall b_2 \ m,$$

$$\exists v \forall c \exists z \forall b_1 \exists x \forall b_2 \forall a \ m\}$$

$$\text{where } m = P(a_1 c_1 b_1, b_2, x_1 z_1 v)$$

From  $e$ , QUANTIFY produces:

$$\{\exists x \forall a \exists v \forall c \exists z \forall b \ m' (= e_1),$$

$$\exists x \forall a \exists z \forall b \exists v \forall c \ m' (= e_2)\}$$

$$\text{where } m' = P(a_1 c_1, b_1 b_1 x_1 z_1 v)$$

Clearly  $d_1 \supset e_2$  and  $d_2 \supset e_1$ . However, condition (#) restricts QUANTIFY such that  $d_1$  and  $d_2$  are not produced, since at the point where the two unifiable terms have no free variables remaining, the term  $\gamma(y,v)$  which is disturbed by the mgu with  $x$  is either still in the matrix (in  $d_1$ ) or its corresponding new variable  $c$  occurs to the right of  $\exists x$  in the prefix (in  $d_2$ ).

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