

Our goal is to prove Los's Theorem, which asserts that a formula is satisfied by a tuple in an ultraproduct iff it is satisfied in almost every coordinate modulo \mathcal{U} . In order to compare satisfaction in the ultraproduct with satisfaction in a coordinate structure we refer the following diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} X = \{x_1, x_2, \dots\} & \xrightarrow{v} & \prod_{i \in I} \mathbb{A}_i & \xrightarrow{\pi_j} & \mathbb{A}_j \\ & & \downarrow n & & \\ & & \prod_{\mathcal{U}} \mathbb{A}_i = \mathbb{B} & & \end{array}$$

Here v is a valuation in the product $\prod_{i \in I} \mathbb{A}_i$, n is the natural quotient map onto the ultraproduct \mathbb{B} , and π_j is the j -th coordinate projection. Since n and π_j are surjective, any valuation in \mathbb{B} or \mathbb{A}_j factors through n or π_j respectively. Thus we can compare valuations in \mathbb{B} and \mathbb{A}_j via valuations in $\prod_{i \in I} \mathbb{A}_i$.

Theorem 1. (*Los's Theorem*) Let $\{\mathbb{A}_i \mid i \in I\}$ be a set of \mathcal{L} -structures and let \mathcal{U} be an ultrafilter on I . Let $\mathbb{B} = \prod_{\mathcal{U}} \mathbb{A}_i$ be the ultraproduct. If $v: X \rightarrow \prod_{i \in I} \mathbb{A}_i$ is a valuation, then for every formula $\varphi(\bar{x})$ it is the case that

$$\mathbb{B} \models \varphi[n \circ v] \quad \text{iff} \quad \{i \in I \mid \mathbb{A}_i \models \varphi[\pi_i \circ v]\} \in \mathcal{U}.$$

Proof. The displayed line in the theorem statement is proved by induction on the complexity of φ , which we may assume is built up from atomic formulas using \neg, \wedge, \exists .

Claim 2. (*Terms*) For any term t , $t^{\mathbb{B}}[n \circ v] = [\langle t^{\mathbb{A}_i}[\pi_i \circ v] \mid i \in I \rangle]_{\theta_{\mathcal{U}}}$.

- ($t = x_k$)

$$t^{\mathbb{B}}[n \circ v] = x_k[n \circ v] = n \circ v(x_k) = [v(x_k)]_{\theta_{\mathcal{U}}} = [\langle x_k[\pi_i \circ v] \mid i \in I \rangle]_{\theta_{\mathcal{U}}} = [\langle t^{\mathbb{A}_i}[\pi_i \circ v] \mid i \in I \rangle]_{\theta_{\mathcal{U}}}$$

- ($t = c$)

$$t^{\mathbb{B}}[n \circ v] = c^{\mathbb{B}}[n \circ v] = c^{\mathbb{B}} = [\langle c^{\mathbb{A}_i} \mid i \in I \rangle]_{\theta_{\mathcal{U}}} = [\langle c^{\mathbb{A}_i}[\pi_i \circ v] \mid i \in I \rangle]_{\theta_{\mathcal{U}}} = [\langle t^{\mathbb{A}_i}[\pi_i \circ v] \mid i \in I \rangle]_{\theta_{\mathcal{U}}}$$

- ($t = F(t_1, \dots, t_m)$)

$$\begin{aligned} t^{\mathbb{B}}[n \circ v] &= F^{\mathbb{B}}(t_1^{\mathbb{B}}[n \circ v], \dots, t_m^{\mathbb{B}}[n \circ v]) = F^{\mathbb{B}}([\langle t_1^{\mathbb{A}_i}[\pi_i \circ v] \mid i \in I \rangle]_{\theta_{\mathcal{U}}}, \dots, [\langle t_m^{\mathbb{A}_i}[\pi_i \circ v] \mid i \in I \rangle]_{\theta_{\mathcal{U}}}) \\ &= [\langle F^{\mathbb{A}_i}(t_1^{\mathbb{A}_i}[\pi_i \circ v], \dots, t_m^{\mathbb{A}_i}[\pi_i \circ v]) \mid i \in I \rangle]_{\theta_{\mathcal{U}}} = [\langle t^{\mathbb{A}_i}[\pi_i \circ v] \mid i \in I \rangle]_{\theta_{\mathcal{U}}} \end{aligned}$$

Claim 3. (*Atomic formulas*)

- ($s = t$)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{B} \models (s = t)[n \circ v] &\leftrightarrow s^{\mathbb{B}}[n \circ v] = t^{\mathbb{B}}[n \circ v] \\ &\leftrightarrow [\langle s^{\mathbb{A}_i}[\pi_i \circ v] \mid i \in I \rangle]_{\theta_{\mathcal{U}}} = [\langle t^{\mathbb{A}_i}[\pi_i \circ v] \mid i \in I \rangle]_{\theta_{\mathcal{U}}} \\ &\leftrightarrow \{i \in I \mid s^{\mathbb{A}_i}[\pi_i \circ v] = t^{\mathbb{A}_i}[\pi_i \circ v]\} \in \mathcal{U} \\ &\leftrightarrow \{i \in I \mid \mathbb{A}_i \models (s = t)[\pi_i \circ v]\} \in \mathcal{U} \end{aligned}$$

- $(R(t_1, \dots, t_m))$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{B} \models R(t_1, \dots, t_m)[n \circ v] &\leftrightarrow (t_1^{\mathbb{B}}[n \circ v], \dots, t_m^{\mathbb{B}}[n \circ v]) \in R^{\mathbb{B}} \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{\leftrightarrow} \{i \in I \mid (t_1^{\mathbb{A}_i}[\pi_i \circ v], \dots, t_m^{\mathbb{A}_i}[\pi_i \circ v]) \in R^{\mathbb{A}_i}\} \in \mathcal{U} \\ &\leftrightarrow \{i \in I \mid \mathbb{A}_i \models R(t_1, \dots, t_m)[\pi_i \circ v]\} \in \mathcal{U} \end{aligned}$$

Claim 4. (*Connectives*)

- (\neg)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{B} \models \neg\varphi[n \circ v] &\leftrightarrow \mathbb{B} \not\models \varphi[n \circ v] \\ &\leftrightarrow \{i \in I \mid \mathbb{A}_i \models \varphi[\pi_i \circ v]\} \notin \mathcal{U} \\ &\leftrightarrow I \setminus \{i \in I \mid \mathbb{A}_i \models \varphi[\pi_i \circ v]\} \in \mathcal{U} \\ &\leftrightarrow \{i \in I \mid \mathbb{A}_i \models \neg\varphi[\pi_i \circ v]\} \in \mathcal{U} \end{aligned}$$

- (\wedge)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{B} \models (\chi \wedge \varphi)[n \circ v] &\leftrightarrow \mathbb{B} \models \chi[n \circ v] \text{ and } \mathbb{B} \models \varphi[n \circ v] \\ &\leftrightarrow \{i \in I \mid \mathbb{A}_i \models \chi[\pi_i \circ v]\} \in \mathcal{U} \text{ and } \{i \in I \mid \mathbb{A}_i \models \varphi[\pi_i \circ v]\} \in \mathcal{U} \\ &\leftrightarrow \{i \in I \mid \mathbb{A}_i \models \chi[\pi_i \circ v]\} \cap \{i \in I \mid \mathbb{A}_i \models \varphi[\pi_i \circ v]\} \in \mathcal{U} \\ &\leftrightarrow \{i \in I \mid \mathbb{A}_i \models (\chi \wedge \varphi)[\pi_i \circ v]\} \in \mathcal{U} \end{aligned}$$

Claim 5. (\exists)

$[\Rightarrow]$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{B} \models \exists x_k \varphi[n \circ v] &\longrightarrow \text{there is a valuation } v' \equiv_k v \text{ such that } \mathbb{B} \models \varphi[n \circ v'] \\ &\longrightarrow \{i \in I \mid \mathbb{A}_i \models \varphi[\pi_i \circ v']\} \in \mathcal{U} \\ &\longrightarrow \{i \in I \mid \mathbb{A}_i \models \exists x_k \varphi[\pi_i \circ v]\} \in \mathcal{U} \text{ (since } \pi_i \circ v \equiv_k \pi_i \circ v') \end{aligned}$$

$[\Leftarrow]$ Assume that $\{i \in I \mid \mathbb{A}_i \models \exists x_k \varphi[\pi_i \circ v]\} = U \in \mathcal{U}$. For each $i \in U$ pick a valuation $w_i \equiv_k \pi_i \circ v$ such that $\mathbb{A}_i \models \varphi[w_i]$. Choose any valuation $v': X \rightarrow \prod \mathbb{A}_i$ such that $v' \equiv_k v$ and $\pi_i \circ v' = w_i$ when $i \in U$. Then $\{i \in I \mid \mathbb{A}_i \models \varphi[\pi_i \circ v']\}$ contains U , so $\mathbb{B} \models \varphi[n \circ v']$ by induction, so $\mathbb{B} \models \exists x_k \varphi[n \circ v]$. \square