

Free Boolean Algebra

Brian Huffman

October 13, 2025

Abstract

This theory defines a type constructor representing the free Boolean algebra over a set of generators. Values of type $(\alpha)formula$ represent propositional formulas with uninterpreted variables from type α , ordered by implication. In addition to all the standard Boolean algebra operations, the library also provides a function for building homomorphisms to any other Boolean algebra type.

1 Free Boolean algebras

```
theory Free-Boolean-Algebra
imports Main
begin
 $\langle proof \rangle$ 
```

1.1 Free boolean algebra as a set

We start by defining the free boolean algebra over type $'a$ as an inductive set. Here $i :: 'a$ represents a variable; $A :: 'a \text{ set}$ represents a valuation, assigning a truth value to each variable; and $S :: 'a \text{ set set}$ represents a formula, as the set of valuations that make the formula true. The set fba contains representatives of formulas built from finite combinations of variables with negation and conjunction.

inductive-set

$fba :: 'a \text{ set set set}$

where

$var: \{A. i \in A\} \in fba$
| $Compl: S \in fba \implies \neg S \in fba$
| $inter: S \in fba \implies T \in fba \implies S \cap T \in fba$

lemma *fba-Diff*: $S \in fba \implies T \in fba \implies S - T \in fba$

$\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *fba-union*: $S \in fba \implies T \in fba \implies S \cup T \in fba$

$\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *fba-empty*: $(\{\} :: 'a \text{ set set}) \in \text{fba}$
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

lemma *fba-UNIV*: $(\text{UNIV} :: 'a \text{ set set}) \in \text{fba}$
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

1.2 Free boolean algebra as a type

The next step is to use *typedef* to define a type isomorphic to the set *fba*. We also define a constructor *var* that corresponds with the similarly-named introduction rule for *fba*.

typedef *'a formula* = *fba* :: *'a set set set*
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

definition *var* :: *'a* $\Rightarrow$ *'a formula*
where *var* *i* = *Abs-formula* $\{A. i \in A\}$

lemma *Rep-formula-var*: *Rep-formula* (*var* *i*) = $\{A. i \in A\}$
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

Now we make type *'a formula* into a Boolean algebra. This involves defining the various operations (ordering relations, binary infimum and supremum, complement, difference, top and bottom elements) and proving that they satisfy the appropriate laws.

instantiation *formula* :: (*type*) *boolean-algebra*
begin

definition
 $x \sqcap y = \text{Abs-formula } (\text{Rep-formula } x \cap \text{Rep-formula } y)$

definition
 $x \sqcup y = \text{Abs-formula } (\text{Rep-formula } x \cup \text{Rep-formula } y)$

definition
 $\top = \text{Abs-formula } \text{UNIV}$

definition
 $\perp = \text{Abs-formula } \{\}$

definition
 $x \leq y \iff \text{Rep-formula } x \subseteq \text{Rep-formula } y$

definition
 $x < y \iff \text{Rep-formula } x \subset \text{Rep-formula } y$

definition
 $- x = \text{Abs-formula } (- \text{Rep-formula } x)$

definition

$$x - y = \text{Abs-formula } (\text{Rep-formula } x - \text{Rep-formula } y)$$

lemma *Rep-formula-inf*:

$$\text{Rep-formula } (x \sqcap y) = \text{Rep-formula } x \cap \text{Rep-formula } y$$

<proof>

lemma *Rep-formula-sup*:

$$\text{Rep-formula } (x \sqcup y) = \text{Rep-formula } x \cup \text{Rep-formula } y$$

<proof>

lemma *Rep-formula-top*: $\text{Rep-formula } \top = \text{UNIV}$

<proof>

lemma *Rep-formula-bot*: $\text{Rep-formula } \perp = \{\}$

<proof>

lemma *Rep-formula-compl*: $\text{Rep-formula } (- x) = - \text{Rep-formula } x$

<proof>

lemma *Rep-formula-diff*:

$$\text{Rep-formula } (x - y) = \text{Rep-formula } x - \text{Rep-formula } y$$

<proof>

lemmas *eq-formula-iff* = *Rep-formula-inject* [*symmetric*]

lemmas *Rep-formula-simps* =

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{less-eq-formula-def less-formula-def eq-formula-iff} \\ & \text{Rep-formula-sup Rep-formula-inf Rep-formula-top Rep-formula-bot} \\ & \text{Rep-formula-compl Rep-formula-diff Rep-formula-var} \end{aligned}$$

instance *<proof>*

end

The laws of a Boolean algebra do not require the top and bottom elements to be distinct, so the following rules must be proved separately:

lemma *bot-neq-top-formula* [*simp*]: $(\perp :: 'a \text{ formula}) \neq \top$

<proof>

lemma *top-neq-bot-formula* [*simp*]: $(\top :: 'a \text{ formula}) \neq \perp$

<proof>

Here we prove an essential property of a free Boolean algebra: all generators are independent.

lemma *var-le-var-simps* [*simp*]:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{var } i \leq \text{var } j \iff i = j \\ & \neg \text{var } i \leq - \text{var } j \end{aligned}$$

$\neg - \text{var } i \leq \text{var } j$
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

lemma *var-eq-var-simps* [*simp*]:
 $\text{var } i = \text{var } j \longleftrightarrow i = j$
 $\text{var } i \neq - \text{var } j$
 $- \text{var } i \neq \text{var } j$
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

We conclude this section by proving an induction principle for formulas. It mirrors the definition of the inductive set *fba*, with cases for variables, complements, and conjunction.

lemma *formula-induct* [*case-names var compl inf, induct type: formula*]:
fixes $P :: 'a \text{ formula} \Rightarrow \text{bool}$
assumes 1: $\bigwedge i. P (\text{var } i)$
assumes 2: $\bigwedge x. P x \Longrightarrow P (- x)$
assumes 3: $\bigwedge x y. P x \Longrightarrow P y \Longrightarrow P (x \sqcap y)$
shows $P x$
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

1.3 If-then-else for Boolean algebras

This is a generic if-then-else operator for arbitrary Boolean algebras.

definition
 $\text{ifte} :: 'a :: \text{boolean-algebra} \Rightarrow 'a \Rightarrow 'a \Rightarrow 'a$
where
 $\text{ifte } a \ x \ y = (a \sqcap x) \sqcup (- a \sqcap y)$

lemma *ifte-top* [*simp*]: $\text{ifte } \top \ x \ y = x$
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

lemma *ifte-bot* [*simp*]: $\text{ifte } \perp \ x \ y = y$
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

lemma *ifte-same*: $\text{ifte } a \ x \ x = x$
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

lemma *compl-ifte*: $- \text{ifte } a \ x \ y = \text{ifte } a \ (- x) \ (- y)$
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

lemma *inf-ifte-distrib*:
 $\text{ifte } x \ a \ b \sqcap \text{ifte } x \ c \ d = \text{ifte } x \ (a \sqcap c) \ (b \sqcap d)$
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

lemma *ifte-ifte-distrib*:
 $\text{ifte } x \ (\text{ifte } y \ a \ b) \ (\text{ifte } y \ c \ d) = \text{ifte } y \ (\text{ifte } x \ a \ c) \ (\text{ifte } x \ b \ d)$
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

1.4 Formulas over a set of generators

The set *formulas* S consists of those formulas that only depend on variables in the set S . It is analogous to the *lists* operator for the list datatype.

definition

formulas :: 'a set $\Rightarrow$ 'a formula set

where

formulas $S =$
 $\{x. \forall A B. (\forall i \in S. i \in A \longleftrightarrow i \in B) \longrightarrow$
 $A \in \text{Rep-formula } x \longleftrightarrow B \in \text{Rep-formula } x\}$

lemma *formulasI*:

assumes $\bigwedge A B. \forall i \in S. i \in A \longleftrightarrow i \in B$
 $\implies A \in \text{Rep-formula } x \longleftrightarrow B \in \text{Rep-formula } x$
shows $x \in \text{formulas } S$
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

lemma *formulasD*:

assumes $x \in \text{formulas } S$
assumes $\forall i \in S. i \in A \longleftrightarrow i \in B$
shows $A \in \text{Rep-formula } x \longleftrightarrow B \in \text{Rep-formula } x$
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

lemma *formulas-mono*: $S \subseteq T \implies \text{formulas } S \subseteq \text{formulas } T$

$\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

lemma *formulas-insert*: $x \in \text{formulas } S \implies x \in \text{formulas } (\text{insert } a \ S)$

$\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

lemma *formulas-var*: $i \in S \implies \text{var } i \in \text{formulas } S$

$\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

lemma *formulas-var-iff*: $\text{var } i \in \text{formulas } S \longleftrightarrow i \in S$

$\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

lemma *formulas-bot*: $\perp \in \text{formulas } S$

$\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

lemma *formulas-top*: $\top \in \text{formulas } S$

$\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

lemma *formulas-compl*: $x \in \text{formulas } S \implies \neg x \in \text{formulas } S$

$\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

lemma *formulas-inf*:

$x \in \text{formulas } S \implies y \in \text{formulas } S \implies x \sqcap y \in \text{formulas } S$
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

lemma *formulas-sup*:

$x \in \text{formulas } S \implies y \in \text{formulas } S \implies x \sqcup y \in \text{formulas } S$
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

lemma *formulas-diff*:

$x \in \text{formulas } S \implies y \in \text{formulas } S \implies x - y \in \text{formulas } S$
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

lemma *formulas-ifte*:

$a \in \text{formulas } S \implies x \in \text{formulas } S \implies y \in \text{formulas } S \implies$
 $\text{ifte } a \ x \ y \in \text{formulas } S$
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

lemmas *formulas-intros* =

formulas-var formulas-bot formulas-top formulas-compl
formulas-inf formulas-sup formulas-diff formulas-ifte

1.5 Injectivity of if-then-else

The if-then-else operator is injective in some limited circumstances: when the scrutinee is a variable that is not mentioned in either branch.

lemma *ifte-inject*:

assumes $\text{ifte } (\text{var } i) \ x \ y = \text{ifte } (\text{var } i) \ x' \ y'$
assumes $i \notin S$
assumes $x \in \text{formulas } S$ **and** $x' \in \text{formulas } S$
assumes $y \in \text{formulas } S$ **and** $y' \in \text{formulas } S$
shows $x = x' \wedge y = y'$
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

1.6 Specification of homomorphism operator

Our goal is to define a homomorphism operator *hom* such that for any function *f*, *hom f* is the unique Boolean algebra homomorphism satisfying $\text{hom } f \ (\text{var } i) = f \ i$ for all *i*.

Instead of defining *hom* directly, we will follow the approach used to define Isabelle's *fold* operator for finite sets. First we define the graph of the *hom* function as a relation; later we will define the *hom* function itself using definite choice.

The *hom-graph* relation is defined inductively, with introduction rules based on the if-then-else normal form of Boolean formulas. The relation is also indexed by an extra set parameter *S*, to ensure that branches of each if-then-else do not use the same variable again.

inductive

hom-graph ::

$('a \Rightarrow 'b::\text{boolean-algebra}) \Rightarrow 'a \ \text{set} \Rightarrow 'a \ \text{formula} \Rightarrow 'b \Rightarrow \text{bool}$

for $f :: 'a \Rightarrow 'b::\text{boolean-algebra}$

where

bot: $\text{hom-graph } f \ \{\} \ \text{bot} \ \text{bot}$

| *top*: $\text{hom-graph } f \ \{\} \ \text{top top}$
| *ifte*: $i \notin S \implies \text{hom-graph } f \ S \ x \ a \implies \text{hom-graph } f \ S \ y \ b \implies$
 $\text{hom-graph } f \ (\text{insert } i \ S) \ (\text{ifte } (\text{var } i) \ x \ y) \ (\text{ifte } (f \ i) \ a \ b)$

The next two lemmas establish a stronger elimination rule for assumptions of the form $\text{hom-graph } f \ (\text{insert } i \ S) \ x \ a$. Essentially, they say that we can arrange the top-level if-then-else to use the variable of our choice. The proof makes use of the distributive properties of if-then-else.

lemma *hom-graph-dest*:

$\text{hom-graph } f \ S \ x \ a \implies k \in S \implies \exists y \ z \ b \ c.$
 $x = \text{ifte } (\text{var } k) \ y \ z \wedge a = \text{ifte } (f \ k) \ b \ c \wedge$
 $\text{hom-graph } f \ (S - \{k\}) \ y \ b \wedge \text{hom-graph } f \ (S - \{k\}) \ z \ c$
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

lemma *hom-graph-insert-elim*:

assumes $\text{hom-graph } f \ (\text{insert } i \ S) \ x \ a$ **and** $i \notin S$
obtains $y \ z \ b \ c$
where $x = \text{ifte } (\text{var } i) \ y \ z$
and $a = \text{ifte } (f \ i) \ b \ c$
and $\text{hom-graph } f \ S \ y \ b$
and $\text{hom-graph } f \ S \ z \ c$
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

Now we prove the first uniqueness property of the *hom-graph* relation. This version of uniqueness says that for any particular value of S , the relation $\text{hom-graph } f \ S$ maps each x to at most one a . The proof uses the injectiveness of if-then-else, which we proved earlier.

lemma *hom-graph-imp-formulas*:

$\text{hom-graph } f \ S \ x \ a \implies x \in \text{formulas } S$
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

lemma *hom-graph-unique*:

$\text{hom-graph } f \ S \ x \ a \implies \text{hom-graph } f \ S \ x \ a' \implies a = a'$
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

The next few lemmas will help to establish a stronger version of the uniqueness property of *hom-graph*. They show that the *hom-graph* relation is preserved if we replace S with a larger finite set.

lemma *hom-graph-insert*:

assumes $\text{hom-graph } f \ S \ x \ a$
shows $\text{hom-graph } f \ (\text{insert } i \ S) \ x \ a$
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

lemma *hom-graph-finite-superset*:

assumes $\text{hom-graph } f \ S \ x \ a$ **and** *finite* T **and** $S \subseteq T$
shows $\text{hom-graph } f \ T \ x \ a$
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

lemma *hom-graph-imp-finite*:
 $hom-graph\ f\ S\ x\ a \implies finite\ S$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

This stronger uniqueness property says that *hom-graph f* maps each x to at most one a , even for *different* values of the set parameter.

lemma *hom-graph-unique'*:
assumes $hom-graph\ f\ S\ x\ a$ **and** $hom-graph\ f\ T\ x\ a'$
shows $a = a'$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

Finally, these last few lemmas establish that the *hom-graph f* relation is total: every x is mapped to some a .

lemma *hom-graph-var*: $hom-graph\ f\ \{i\}\ (var\ i)\ (f\ i)$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *hom-graph-compl*:
 $hom-graph\ f\ S\ x\ a \implies hom-graph\ f\ S\ (-\ x)\ (-\ a)$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *hom-graph-inf*:
 $hom-graph\ f\ S\ x\ a \implies hom-graph\ f\ S\ y\ b \implies$
 $hom-graph\ f\ S\ (x\ \sqcap\ y)\ (a\ \sqcap\ b)$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *hom-graph-union-inf*:
assumes $hom-graph\ f\ S\ x\ a$ **and** $hom-graph\ f\ T\ y\ b$
shows $hom-graph\ f\ (S\ \cup\ T)\ (x\ \sqcap\ y)\ (a\ \sqcap\ b)$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *hom-graph-exists*: $\exists a\ S. hom-graph\ f\ S\ x\ a$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

1.7 Homomorphisms into other boolean algebras

Now that we have proved the necessary existence and uniqueness properties of *hom-graph*, we can define the function *hom* using definite choice.

definition
 $hom :: ('a \Rightarrow 'b::boolean-algebra) \Rightarrow 'a\ formula \Rightarrow 'b$
where
 $hom\ f\ x = (THE\ a. \exists S. hom-graph\ f\ S\ x\ a)$

lemma *hom-graph-hom*: $\exists S. hom-graph\ f\ S\ x\ (hom\ f\ x)$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *hom-equality*:
 $hom-graph\ f\ S\ x\ a \implies hom\ f\ x = a$

$\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

The *hom* function correctly implements its specification:

lemma *hom-var* [*simp*]: $\text{hom } f \text{ (var } i) = f \ i$
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

lemma *hom-bot* [*simp*]: $\text{hom } f \ \perp = \perp$
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

lemma *hom-top* [*simp*]: $\text{hom } f \ \top = \top$
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

lemma *hom-compl* [*simp*]: $\text{hom } f \ (-\ x) = -\ \text{hom } f \ x$
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

lemma *hom-inf* [*simp*]: $\text{hom } f \ (x \sqcap y) = \text{hom } f \ x \sqcap \text{hom } f \ y$
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

lemma *hom-sup* [*simp*]: $\text{hom } f \ (x \sqcup y) = \text{hom } f \ x \sqcup \text{hom } f \ y$
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

lemma *hom-diff* [*simp*]: $\text{hom } f \ (x - y) = \text{hom } f \ x - \text{hom } f \ y$
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

lemma *hom-ifte* [*simp*]:
 $\text{hom } f \ (\text{ifte } x \ y \ z) = \text{ifte } (\text{hom } f \ x) \ (\text{hom } f \ y) \ (\text{hom } f \ z)$
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

lemmas *hom-simps* =
hom-var hom-bot hom-top hom-compl
hom-inf hom-sup hom-diff hom-ifte

The type *'a formula* can be viewed as a monad, with *var* as the unit, and *hom* as the bind operator. We can prove the standard monad laws with simple proofs by induction.

lemma *hom-var-eq-id*: $\text{hom } \text{var } x = x$
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

lemma *hom-hom*: $\text{hom } f \ (\text{hom } g \ x) = \text{hom } (\lambda i. \text{hom } f \ (g \ i)) \ x$
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

1.8 Map operation on Boolean formulas

We can define a map functional in terms of *hom* and *var*. The properties of *fmap* follow directly from the lemmas we have already proved about *hom*.

definition
 $\text{fmap} :: ('a \Rightarrow 'b) \Rightarrow 'a \text{ formula} \Rightarrow 'b \text{ formula}$
where

$fmap\ f = hom\ (\lambda i. var\ (f\ i))$

lemma *fmap-var* [simp]: $fmap\ f\ (var\ i) = var\ (f\ i)$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *fmap-bot* [simp]: $fmap\ f\ \perp = \perp$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *fmap-top* [simp]: $fmap\ f\ \top = \top$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *fmap-compl* [simp]: $fmap\ f\ (-\ x) = -\ fmap\ f\ x$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *fmap-inf* [simp]: $fmap\ f\ (x\ \sqcap\ y) = fmap\ f\ x\ \sqcap\ fmap\ f\ y$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *fmap-sup* [simp]: $fmap\ f\ (x\ \sqcup\ y) = fmap\ f\ x\ \sqcup\ fmap\ f\ y$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *fmap-diff* [simp]: $fmap\ f\ (x - y) = fmap\ f\ x - fmap\ f\ y$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *fmap-ifte* [simp]:
 $fmap\ f\ (ifte\ x\ y\ z) = ifte\ (fmap\ f\ x)\ (fmap\ f\ y)\ (fmap\ f\ z)$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemmas *fmap-simps* =
fmap-var fmap-bot fmap-top fmap-compl
fmap-inf fmap-sup fmap-diff fmap-ifte

The map functional satisfies the functor laws: it preserves identity and function composition.

lemma *fmap-ident*: $fmap\ (\lambda i. i)\ x = x$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma *fmap-fmap*: $fmap\ f\ (fmap\ g\ x) = fmap\ (f \circ g)\ x$
 $\langle proof \rangle$

1.9 Hiding lattice syntax

The following command hides the lattice syntax, to avoid potential conflicts with other theories that import this one. To re-enable the syntax, users should unbundle *lattice-syntax*.

unbundle *no lattice-syntax*

end