

Theorem. Suppose that T has the following property: for every $M, N \models T$ and every $\bar{a} \in M$ and $\bar{b} \in N$,

$$\text{tp}_{qf}^M(\bar{a}) = \text{tp}_{qf}^N(\bar{b}) \text{ implies } \text{tp}^M(\bar{a}) = \text{tp}^N(\bar{b}) \quad (1)$$

where $\text{tp}_{qf}^M(\bar{a})$ is the quantifier-free type of \bar{a} in M . Then T has quantifier elimination.

Proof. Let $\phi(\bar{x})$ be an L -formula for which we want to find a quantifier-free equivalent modulo T . Let $\Sigma(\bar{x})$ be the set of all quantifier-free implications of ϕ ; that is

$$\Sigma(\bar{x}) := \{\psi(\bar{x}) \mid T \models \phi(\bar{x}) \rightarrow \psi(\bar{x})\}.$$

We claim that $T \cup \Sigma(\bar{x}) \models \phi(\bar{x})$. Note that if this claim is proved, then so is the theorem because then there are finitely many formulas in Σ that imply ϕ and they, themselves are implication of ϕ . So their conjunction is the quantifier-free formula we are looking for.

Let us prove the claim. If the claim does not hold, then there is a $K \models T$ and $\bar{k} \in K$ such that

$$K \models \Sigma(\bar{k}) \text{ and } K \models \neg\phi(\bar{k}). \quad (2)$$

Then $T \cup \text{tp}_{qf}^K(\bar{k}) \cup \{\phi(\bar{x})\}$ is consistent since otherwise, there is a $\gamma \in \text{tp}_{qf}^K(\bar{k})$ such that

$$T \cup \{\phi(\bar{x})\} \models \neg\gamma(\bar{x})$$

which implies $\neg\gamma \in \Sigma$ and this is a contradiction because then $K \models \gamma(\bar{k})$ and $K \models \neg\gamma(\bar{k})$.

Since $T \cup \text{tp}_{qf}^K(\bar{k}) \cup \{\phi(\bar{x})\}$ is consistent, there is a model K' of T and a tuple \bar{k}' in it such that

$$\text{tp}_{qf}^M(\bar{k}) = \text{tp}_{qf}^N(\bar{k}') \text{ and } K' \models \phi(\bar{k}')$$

and this is contradictory with condition 1 in the statement of theorem. \square

The proof above is from Pillay in http://www.math.uiuc.edu/People/pillay/lecturenotes_modeltheory.pdf.