

# Computer Supported Modeling and Reasoning

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# Propositional Logic: Natural Deduction

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David Basin, Burkhardt Wolff, and Jan-Georg  
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# Natural Deduction

Developed by Gentzen [Gen35] and Prawitz [Pra65].

Designed to support ‘natural’ logical arguments:

- we make (temporary) **assumptions**;
- we **derive** new formulas by applying **rules**;
- there is also a mechanism for discharging assumptions.

## Natural Deduction (2)

Derivations are trees

$$\frac{A \rightarrow (B \rightarrow C) \quad A}{B \rightarrow C} \rightarrow\text{-}E \quad \frac{B \rightarrow C \quad B}{C} \rightarrow\text{-}E$$

where the leaves are called **assumptions**.

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where the leaves are called **assumptions**.

Write  $A_1, \dots, A_n \vdash A$  if there exists a derivation of  $A$  with assumptions  $A_1, \dots, A_n$ , e.g.  $A \rightarrow (B \rightarrow C), A, B \vdash C$ .

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A **proof** is a derivation with no (open) assumptions.

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- Deductive system given by **rules of proof**:

$$\begin{array}{c} \diamondsuit \\ \hline \clubsuit \end{array} \alpha \quad \begin{array}{c} \diamondsuit \\ \hline \spadesuit \end{array} \beta \quad \begin{array}{c} \clubsuit \quad \spadesuit \\ \hline \heartsuit \end{array} \gamma$$

How do you read these rules?



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How about this one?

# Natural Deduction: an Abstract Example

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- Deductive system given by **rules of proof**:

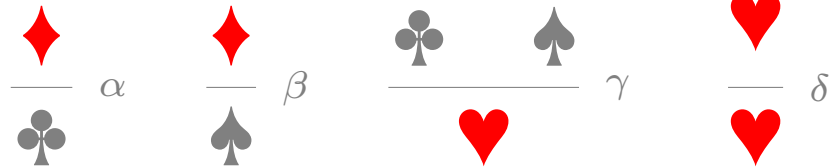
$$\begin{array}{c} \diamondsuit \\ \hline \clubsuit \end{array} \alpha \qquad \begin{array}{c} \diamondsuit \\ \hline \spadesuit \end{array} \beta \qquad \begin{array}{c} \clubsuit \quad \spadesuit \\ \hline \heartsuit \end{array} \gamma \qquad \begin{array}{c} [\diamondsuit] \\ \vdots \\ \heartsuit \\ \hline \heartsuit \end{array} \delta$$

How about this one?

N.B.  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta$  just **name** the rules.

# Proof of ♥

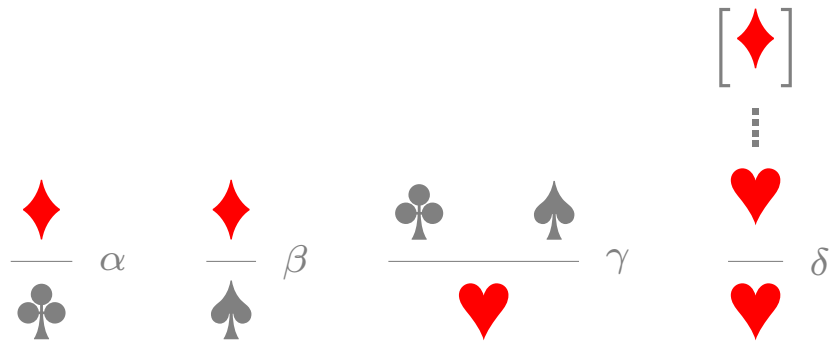
The rules:



The proof:

## Proof of ♥

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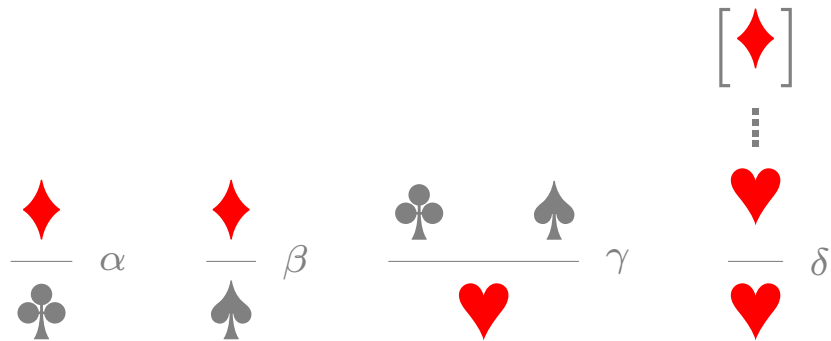
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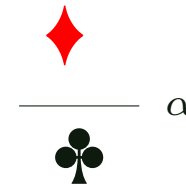
We make an assumption. The assumption is now open.

# Proof of ♥

The rules:



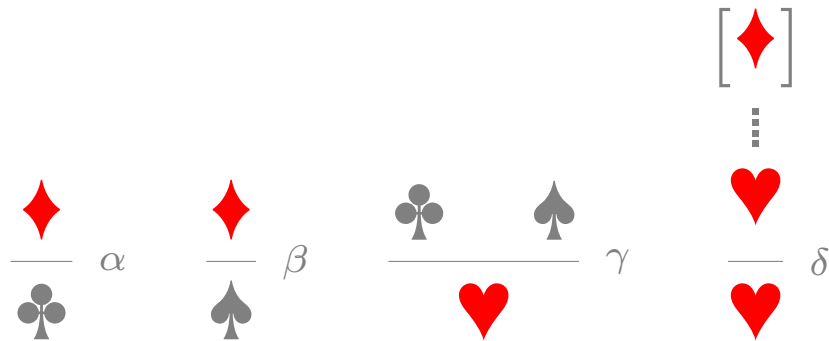
The proof:



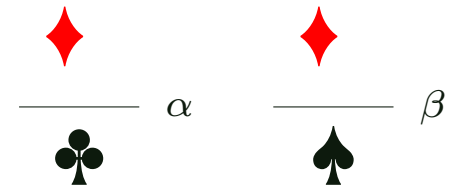
We apply  $\alpha$ .

## Proof of ♥

The rules:



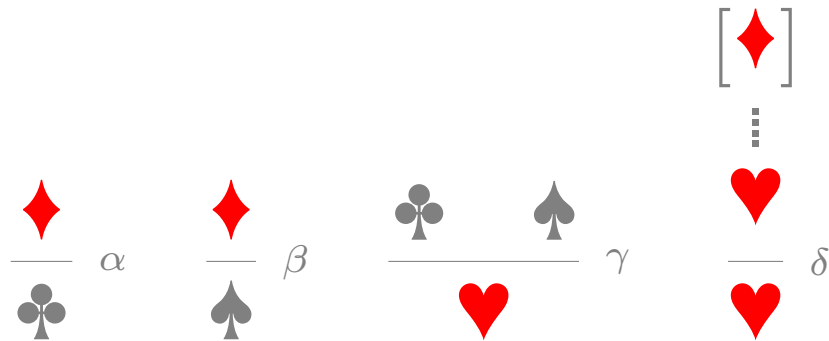
The proof:



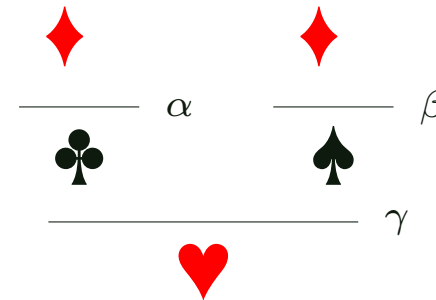
Similarly with  $\beta$ .

# Proof of ♥

The rules:



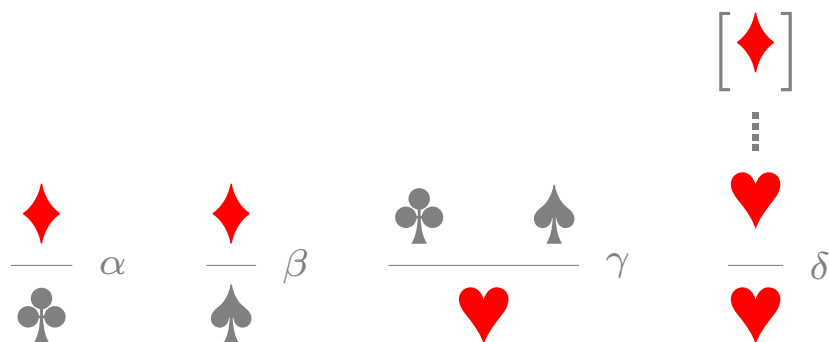
The proof:



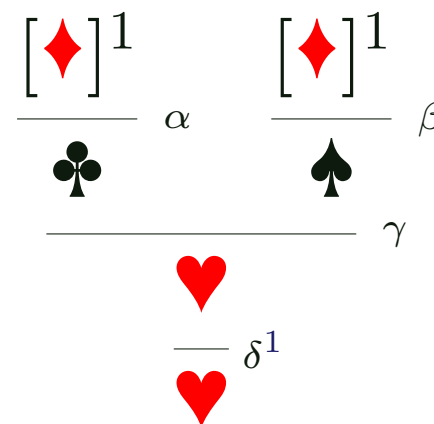
We apply  $\gamma$ .

# Proof of ♥

The rules:



The proof:



We apply  $\delta$ , discharging two occurrences of  $\spadesuit$ . We mark the brackets and the rule with a label so that it is clear which assumption is discharged in which step. The derivation is now a **proof**: it has no open assumptions (all discharged).



# Deductive System: Rules of Propositional Logic

We have rules for conjunction, implication, disjunction, falsity and negation.

Some rules **introduce**, others **eliminate** connectives.

# Rules of Propositional Logic: Conjunction

- Rules of two kinds: introduce connectives

$$\frac{A \quad B}{A \wedge B} \wedge\text{-I}$$

# Rules of Propositional Logic: Conjunction

- Rules of two kinds: introduce and eliminate connectives

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## Rules of Propositional Logic: Conjunction

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- Rules are schematic.
- Why valid? If all assumptions are true, then so is conclusion

$$\mathcal{A} \models A \wedge B \text{ iff } \mathcal{A} \models A \text{ and } \mathcal{A} \models B$$

# Example Derivation with Conjunction

The rules:

$$\frac{A \quad B}{A \wedge B} \wedge\text{-I}$$

$$\frac{A \wedge B}{A} \wedge\text{-EL}$$

$$\frac{A \wedge B}{B} \wedge\text{-ER}$$

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$$\frac{A \wedge (B \wedge C)}{A} \wedge\text{-EL}$$

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$$\frac{\frac{A \wedge (B \wedge C)}{A} \wedge\text{-EL} \quad \frac{\frac{A \wedge (B \wedge C)}{B \wedge C} \wedge\text{-ER} \quad \frac{B \wedge C}{C} \wedge\text{-ER}}{A \wedge C} \wedge\text{-I}}$$

## Example Derivation with Conjunction

The rules:

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$$\frac{A \wedge B}{A} \wedge\text{-EL}$$

$$\frac{A \wedge B}{B} \wedge\text{-ER}$$

$$\frac{\frac{A \wedge (B \wedge C)}{A} \wedge\text{-EL} \quad \frac{\frac{A \wedge (B \wedge C)}{B \wedge C} \wedge\text{-ER} \quad \frac{B \wedge C}{C} \wedge\text{-ER}}{A \wedge C} \wedge\text{-I}}$$

Can we **prove** anything with just these three rules?

# Rules of Propositional Logic: Implication

- Rules

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} [A] \\ \vdots \\ B \end{array}}{A \rightarrow B} \rightarrow\text{-I} \quad \frac{A \rightarrow B \quad A}{B} \rightarrow\text{-E}$$

# Rules of Propositional Logic: Implication

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$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} [A] \\ \vdots \\ B \end{array}}{A \rightarrow B} \rightarrow-I \quad \frac{A \rightarrow B \quad A}{B} \rightarrow-E$$

- $\rightarrow-E$  is also called **modus ponens**.

# Rules of Propositional Logic: Implication

- Rules

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} [A] \\ \vdots \\ B \end{array}}{A \rightarrow B} \rightarrow-I \quad \frac{A \rightarrow B \quad A}{B} \rightarrow-E$$

- $\rightarrow-E$  is also called **modus ponens**.
- $\rightarrow-I$  formalizes (bottom-up) strategy:  
To derive  $A \rightarrow B$ , derive  $B$  under the additional (local) assumption  $A$ .  
Top-down: we may discharge 0 or more occurrences of  $A$ .

## A Simple Proof

The simplest proof we can think of is the proof of  $P \rightarrow P$ .

$P$

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$$\frac{[P]^1}{P \rightarrow P} \rightarrow\text{-I}^1$$

Do you find this strange?

## Examples with Conjunction and Implication

1.  $A \rightarrow B \rightarrow A$

2.  $A \wedge (B \wedge C) \rightarrow A \wedge C$

3.  $(A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C) \rightarrow (A \rightarrow B) \rightarrow A \rightarrow C$

Object versus Meta: variables here can either represent object variables or metavariables.



# Disjunction

- Rules

$$\frac{A}{A \vee B} \vee\text{-IL}$$

$$\frac{B}{A \vee B} \vee\text{-IR}$$

$$\frac{A \vee B \quad \begin{array}{c} [A] \\ \vdots \\ C \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} [B] \\ \vdots \\ C \end{array}}{C} \vee\text{-E}$$

# Disjunction

- Rules

$$\frac{A}{A \vee B} \vee\text{-IL}$$

$$\frac{B}{A \vee B} \vee\text{-IR}$$

$$\frac{A \vee B \quad \begin{array}{c} [A] \\ \vdots \\ C \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} [B] \\ \vdots \\ C \end{array}}{C} \vee\text{-E}$$

- Formalizes case-split strategy for using  $A \vee B$ .

## Disjunction: Example

- Rules

$$\frac{A}{A \vee B} \vee\text{-IL} \qquad \frac{B}{A \vee B} \vee\text{-IR} \qquad \frac{A \vee B \quad \begin{array}{c} [A] \\ \vdots \\ C \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} [B] \\ \vdots \\ C \end{array}}{C} \vee\text{-E}$$

- Example: formalize and prove

When it rains then I wear my jacket.

When it snows then I wear my jacket.

It is raining or snowing.

Therefore I wear my jacket.

# Falsity and Negation

- Falsity

$$\frac{\perp}{A} \perp\text{-E}$$

No introduction rule!

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$$\frac{\perp}{A} \perp\text{-E}$$

No introduction rule!

- Negation: define  $\neg A$  as  $A \rightarrow \perp$ . Rules for  $\neg$  just special cases of rules for  $\rightarrow$ . Convenient to have

$$\frac{\neg A \quad A}{B} \neg\text{-E} \quad \text{derived by} \quad \frac{\neg A \quad A}{\perp} \rightarrow\text{-E} \quad \frac{\perp}{B} \perp\text{-E}$$

## Intuitionistic versus Classical Logic

- Peirce's Law:  $((A \rightarrow B) \rightarrow A) \rightarrow A$ .  
Is this valid? Provable?

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- Peirce's Law:  $((A \rightarrow B) \rightarrow A) \rightarrow A$ .  
Is this valid? Provable?
- It is provable in classical logic, obtained by adding

$$A \vee \neg A \text{ or } \frac{[\neg A] \quad \vdots \quad \perp}{A} \text{ RAA} \text{ or } \frac{[\neg A] \quad \vdots \quad A}{A} \text{ classical} .$$

## Example of Classical Reasoning

There exist irrational numbers  $a$  and  $b$  such that  $a^b$  is rational.

**Proof:** Let  $b$  be  $\sqrt{2}$  and consider whether or not  $b^b$  is rational.

Case 1: If rational, let  $a = b = \sqrt{2}$

Case 2: If irrational, let  $a = \sqrt{2}^{\sqrt{2}}$ , and then

$$a^b = \sqrt{2}^{\sqrt{2}^{\sqrt{2}}} = \sqrt{2}^{(\sqrt{2} * \sqrt{2})} = \sqrt{2}^2 = 2$$



## Overview of Rules

$$\frac{A \quad B}{A \wedge B} \wedge\text{-I} \quad \frac{A \wedge B}{A} \wedge\text{-EL} \quad \frac{A \wedge B}{B} \wedge\text{-ER}$$

$$\frac{A}{A \vee B} \vee\text{-IL} \quad \frac{B}{A \vee B} \vee\text{-IR} \quad \frac{A \vee B \quad \begin{array}{c} [A] \\ \vdots \\ C \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} [B] \\ \vdots \\ C \end{array}}{C} \vee\text{-E}$$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} [A] \\ \vdots \\ B \end{array}}{A \rightarrow B} \rightarrow\text{-I} \quad \frac{A \rightarrow B \quad A}{B} \rightarrow\text{-E} \quad \frac{\perp}{A} \perp\text{-E}$$

# Deductive System: Derived Rules

Using the **basic** rules, we can derive new rules.

Example: Resolution rule.

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$$\frac{R \vee S \quad \neg S}{R}$$

It looks like this.

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Using the **basic** rules, we can derive new rules.

Example: Resolution rule.

$$\neg S$$

$$\frac{R \vee S \quad \neg S}{R}$$

$$\frac{R \vee S}{R}$$

We build a fragment of a derivation by writing the conclusion  $R$  and the assumptions  $R \vee S$  and  $\neg S$ .

## Deductive System: Derived Rules

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Example: Resolution rule.

$$\neg S$$

$$\frac{R \vee S \quad \neg S}{R}$$

$$\frac{R \vee S \quad R}{R} \quad \vee\text{-}E$$

Since we have assumption  $R \vee S$ , using  $\vee\text{-}E$  seems a good idea. So we should make assumptions  $R$  and  $S$ . First  $R$ . But that is a derivation of  $R$  from  $R$ !

# Deductive System: Derived Rules

Using the **basic** rules, we can derive new rules.

Example: Resolution rule.

$$\neg S \quad S$$

$$\frac{R \vee S \quad \neg S}{R}$$

$$\frac{R \vee S \quad R}{R} \quad \vee\text{-E}$$

So now  $S$ .

# Deductive System: Derived Rules

Using the **basic** rules, we can derive new rules.

Example: Resolution rule.

$$\frac{R \vee S \quad \neg S}{R}$$

$$\frac{R \vee S \quad R}{R} \vee\text{-}E$$

$$\frac{\neg S \quad S}{\perp} \rightarrow\text{-}E$$

$\neg S$  and  $S$  allow us to apply  $\rightarrow\text{-}E$ .

## Deductive System: Derived Rules

Using the **basic** rules, we can derive new rules.

Example: Resolution rule.

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{R \vee S \quad \neg S}{R} \\
 \frac{R \vee S \quad R}{R} \\
 \frac{\frac{\frac{\neg S \quad S}{\perp} \rightarrow\text{-}E}{R} \perp\text{-}E}{R} \vee\text{-}E
 \end{array}$$

To apply  $\vee\text{-}E$  in the end, we need to derive  $R$ . But that's easy using  $\perp\text{-}E$ !



## Deductive System: Derived Rules

Using the **basic** rules, we can derive new rules.

Example: Resolution rule.

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{R \vee S \quad \neg S}{R} \\
 \\
 \frac{R \vee S \quad [R]^1}{R} \\
 \\
 \frac{\frac{\frac{\neg S \quad [S]^1}{\perp} \rightarrow\text{-}E}{R} \perp\text{-}E}{R} \vee\text{-}E^1
 \end{array}$$

Finally, we can apply  $\vee\text{-}E$ . The derivation with open assumptions is a new rule that can be used like any other rule.

# Alternative Deductive System Using Sequent Notation

One can base the deductive system around the **derivability judgement**, i.e., reason about  $\Gamma \vdash A$  where  $\Gamma \equiv A_1, \dots, A_n$  instead of individual formulae.

## Sequent Rules (for $\rightarrow / \wedge$ Fragment)

$$\Gamma \vdash A \quad (\text{where } A \in \Gamma) \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash B}{A, \Gamma \vdash B} \textit{weaken}$$

Rules for assumptions and weakening

## Sequent Rules (for $\rightarrow / \wedge$ Fragment)

$$\Gamma \vdash A \quad (\text{where } A \in \Gamma) \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash B}{A, \Gamma \vdash B} \text{weaken}$$

Rules for assumptions and weakening

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash A \quad \Gamma \vdash B}{\Gamma \vdash A \wedge B} \wedge-I \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash A \wedge B}{\Gamma \vdash A} \wedge-EL \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash A \wedge B}{\Gamma \vdash B} \wedge-ER$$

$$\frac{A, \Gamma \vdash B}{\Gamma \vdash A \rightarrow B} \rightarrow-I \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash A \rightarrow B \quad \Gamma \vdash A}{\Gamma \vdash B} \rightarrow-E$$

More rules can be derived.

## Example: Refinement Style with Metavariables

$$\frac{}{\vdash A \wedge (B \wedge C) \rightarrow A \wedge C} \rightarrow\text{-I}$$

We want to show that  $A \wedge (B \wedge C) \rightarrow A \wedge C$  is a tautology, i.e., that it is derivable without any assumptions.

## Example: Refinement Style with Metavariables

$$\frac{\frac{}{A \wedge (B \wedge C) \vdash A \wedge C} \wedge-I}{\vdash A \wedge (B \wedge C) \rightarrow A \wedge C} \rightarrow-I$$

The topmost connective of the formula is  $\rightarrow$ , so the best rule to choose is  $\rightarrow-I$ .

## Example: Refinement Style with Metavariables

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{}{A \wedge (B \wedge C) \vdash A} \quad \wedge\text{-EL}}{\frac{}{A \wedge (B \wedge C) \vdash C} \quad \wedge\text{-ER}}{\frac{}{A \wedge (B \wedge C) \vdash A \wedge C} \quad \wedge\text{-I}}{\vdash A \wedge (B \wedge C) \rightarrow A \wedge C} \quad \rightarrow\text{-I}$$

The topmost connective of the formula is  $\wedge$ , so the best rule to choose is  $\wedge\text{-I}$ .

## Example: Refinement Style with Metavariables

$$\frac{A \wedge (B \wedge C) \vdash A \wedge ?X}{A \wedge (B \wedge C) \vdash A} \wedge\text{-EL} \qquad \frac{}{A \wedge (B \wedge C) \vdash C} \wedge\text{-ER}$$

$$\frac{}{A \wedge (B \wedge C) \vdash A \wedge C} \wedge\text{-I}$$

$$\frac{}{\vdash A \wedge (B \wedge C) \rightarrow A \wedge C} \rightarrow\text{-I}$$

Things are becoming less obvious. To know that  $\wedge\text{-EL}$  is the best rule for the r.h.s., you need to inspect the assumption  $A \wedge (B \wedge C)$ .



## Example: Refinement Style with Metavariables

$$\frac{A \wedge (B \wedge C) \vdash A \wedge ?X}{A \wedge (B \wedge C) \vdash A} \wedge\text{-EL} \qquad \frac{\frac{A \wedge (B \wedge C) \vdash (?Y \wedge C)}{A \wedge (B \wedge C) \vdash C} \wedge\text{-ER}}{A \wedge (B \wedge C) \vdash A \wedge C} \wedge\text{-I} \wedge\text{-ER}$$

$$\frac{A \wedge (B \wedge C) \vdash A \wedge C}{\vdash A \wedge (B \wedge C) \rightarrow A \wedge C} \rightarrow\text{-I}$$

Now it's becoming even more difficult. To know that  $\wedge\text{-ER}$  is the best rule for the l.h.s., you need to look deep into the assumption  $A \wedge (B \wedge C)$ .

## Example: Refinement Style with Metavariables

$$\frac{\frac{A \wedge (B \wedge C) \vdash A \wedge ?X}{A \wedge (B \wedge C) \vdash A} \wedge\text{-EL} \quad \frac{\frac{A \wedge (B \wedge C) \vdash ?Z \wedge (?Y \wedge C)}{A \wedge (B \wedge C) \vdash (?Y \wedge C)} \wedge\text{-ER}}{A \wedge (B \wedge C) \vdash C} \wedge\text{-ER}}{A \wedge (B \wedge C) \vdash A \wedge C} \wedge\text{-I}$$

$$\frac{A \wedge (B \wedge C) \vdash A \wedge C}{\vdash A \wedge (B \wedge C) \rightarrow A \wedge C} \rightarrow\text{-I}$$

Again you need to look at both sides of the  $\vdash$  to decide what to do.

## Example: Refinement Style with Metavariables

$$\frac{\frac{A \wedge (B \wedge C) \vdash A \wedge ?X}{A \wedge (B \wedge C) \vdash A} \wedge\text{-EL} \quad \frac{\frac{A \wedge (B \wedge C) \vdash ?Z \wedge (?Y \wedge C)}{A \wedge (B \wedge C) \vdash (?Y \wedge C)} \wedge\text{-ER}}{A \wedge (B \wedge C) \vdash C} \wedge\text{-ER}}{A \wedge (B \wedge C) \vdash A \wedge C} \wedge\text{-I} \xrightarrow{\rightarrow\text{-I}} \vdash A \wedge (B \wedge C) \rightarrow A \wedge C$$

Solution for  $?Z = A$ ,  $?Y = B$  and  $?X = (B \wedge C)$ .

## Comments about Proof Refinement

This crazy way of carrying out proofs is the (standard) way, which is used in many proof assistants (as Isabelle)!

- Refinement style is also called **backward style** proofs
- Refinement style means we work from **goals to axioms**
- metavariables are used to delay substitutions

Isabelle allows **other refinements**/alternatives too (see labs).

## How Are ND Proofs Built?

ND proofs build derivations under (possibly temporary) assumptions.

# ND: Example for $\rightarrow / \wedge$ Fragment

Rules:

$$\frac{A \quad B}{A \wedge B} \wedge\text{-I} \quad \frac{A \wedge B}{A} \wedge\text{-EL}$$

$$\frac{A \wedge B}{B} \wedge\text{-ER} \quad \frac{\begin{array}{c} [A] \\ \vdots \\ B \end{array}}{A \rightarrow B} \rightarrow\text{-I}$$

$$\frac{A \rightarrow B \quad A}{B} \rightarrow\text{-E}$$

Proof:

$$\frac{[A \wedge B]^1}{B} \wedge\text{-EL} \quad \frac{[A \wedge B]^1}{A} \wedge\text{-ER}$$

$$\frac{B \quad A}{B \wedge A} \wedge\text{-I}$$

$$\frac{B \wedge A}{A \wedge B \rightarrow B \wedge A} \rightarrow\text{-I}^1$$

## Alternative Formalization Using Sequents

Rules (for  $\rightarrow / \wedge$  fragment). Here,  $\Gamma$  is a set of formulae.

$$\Gamma \vdash A \quad (\text{where } A \in \Gamma)$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash A \quad \Gamma \vdash B}{\Gamma \vdash A \wedge B} \wedge\text{-I} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash A \wedge B}{\Gamma \vdash A} \wedge\text{-EL} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash A \wedge B}{\Gamma \vdash B} \wedge\text{-ER}$$

$$\frac{A, \Gamma \vdash B}{\Gamma \vdash A \rightarrow B} \rightarrow\text{-I} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash A \rightarrow B \quad \Gamma \vdash A}{\Gamma \vdash B} \rightarrow\text{-E}$$

Two representations equivalent. Sequent notation seems simpler in practice.

## Example: Refinement Style with Metavariables

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{A \wedge (B \wedge C) \vdash A \wedge ?X}{A \wedge (B \wedge C) \vdash A} \quad \frac{A \wedge (B \wedge C) \vdash ?Z \wedge (?Y \wedge C)}{A \wedge (B \wedge C) \vdash (?Y \wedge C)} \\
 \frac{A \wedge (B \wedge C) \vdash A \quad A \wedge (B \wedge C) \vdash C}{A \wedge (B \wedge C) \vdash A \wedge C} \\
 \frac{A \wedge (B \wedge C) \vdash A \wedge C}{\vdash A \wedge (B \wedge C) \rightarrow A \wedge C}
 \end{array}$$

Solution for  $?Z = A$ ,  $?Y = B$  and  $?X = (B \wedge C)$ .

We went through this example in detail last lecture.



## Comments about Refinement

This crazy way of carrying out proofs is the (standard) Isabelle-way!

- Refinement style means we work from **goals to axioms**
- Metavariables used to delay commitments

Isabelle allows **other refinements**/alternatives too (see labs).

### More Detailed Explanations

## What are ND Systems and Proofs?

ND stands for **Natural Deduction**. It was explained in the previous lecture.

## What is Sequent Notation?

The judgement  $(\Gamma \vdash \phi)$  means that we can derive  $\phi$  from the assumptions in  $\Gamma$  using certain rules. As, explained in the [previous lecture](#), one can make such judgements the central objects of the deductive system.

## Sequent Notation and Isabelle

In particular, the sequent style notation is more amenable to automation, and thus it is closer to what happens in Isabelle.

## References

- [Gen35] Gerhard Gentzen. Untersuchungen über das logische Schliessen. *Mathematische Zeitschrift*, 39:176–210, 405–431, 1935. English translation in [Sza69].
- [Pra65] Dag Prawitz. *Natural Deduction: A proof theoretical study*. Almqvist and Wiksell, 1965.
- [Sza69] M. E. Szabo. *The Collected Papers of Gerhard Gentzen*. North-Holland, 1969.