

Constructive Logic (15-317), Fall 2016

Assignment 5: Computing proofs

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Due Tuesday, October 18, 2016, 1:30pm

This assignment is due at the beginning of class on the above date and must be submitted electronically via autolab. Submit your homework as a **tar** archive containing the files: **hw5.pdf** (your written solutions), **.sig** and **.sml** files from Task 3 (**g4ip**, **prop**, **test**), and **horn.kyt** (your KeYmaera solutions for Task 4). **After submitting via autolab, please check the submission's contents to ensure it contains what you expect. No points can be given to a submission that isn't there.**

1 Implementing a theorem prover

You might have noticed, after some practice, that proving a theorem in a calculus becomes quite a mechanical task. Wouldn't it be great if we could have the computer do that for us? That is exactly our goal for this homework: to implement an automatic theorem prover for propositional intuitionistic logic.

The first thing to think about is which calculus we will use. It should be clear by now that natural deduction is not the best choice, as it is too non-deterministic. The verification calculus could be a bit better, as it avoids the redundant steps that eliminate and introduce the same connective over and over again, but it still has the problem of keeping track of the right assumptions at the right places. Maybe we should try the sequent-style presentation of natural deduction, since this keeps the context in place. In this case we need to be very smart about which direction to work at each step, since we can either go upwards or downwards. Instead of trying to come up with heuristics for that, why don't we use the sequent calculus itself, where proof construction always happens from the bottom up?

Indeed, sequent calculi are much better behaved for proof search. But we need to be careful about it. Think about the first sequent calculus we have seen. In this first version, the formulas on the left side of the sequent were persistent. This means we can *always* choose to decompose those formulas. In fact, any

sequent calculus that has what we call *implicit contraction*¹ of some formulas runs into the same problem. This happens for both the restricted and inversion calculi (implicit contraction on the $\supset L$ rule). Luckily, Roy Dyckhoff has devised a contraction-free sequent calculus for intuitionistic logic that can be used for a more efficient proof search procedure. This calculus, called **G4ip**, relies on distinguishing the type of antecedent on an implication on the left. The rules are:

Init Rule

$$\overline{\Gamma, P \longrightarrow P} \text{ init}$$

Ordinary Rules

$$\begin{array}{c} \overline{\Gamma \longrightarrow \top} \top R \\ \frac{\Gamma \longrightarrow A \quad \Gamma \longrightarrow B}{\Gamma \longrightarrow A \wedge B} \wedge R \\ \text{(no } \perp R \text{ rule)} \\ \frac{\Gamma \longrightarrow A}{\Gamma \longrightarrow A \vee B} \vee R_1 \quad \frac{\Gamma \longrightarrow B}{\Gamma \longrightarrow A \vee B} \vee R_2 \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} \frac{\Gamma \longrightarrow C}{\Gamma, \top \longrightarrow C} \top L \\ \frac{\Gamma, A, B \longrightarrow C}{\Gamma, A \wedge B \longrightarrow C} \wedge L \\ \overline{\Gamma, \perp \longrightarrow C} \perp L \\ \frac{\Gamma, A \longrightarrow C \quad \Gamma, B \longrightarrow C}{\Gamma, A \vee B \longrightarrow C} \vee L \\ \frac{\Gamma, A \longrightarrow B}{\Gamma \longrightarrow A \supset B} \supset R \end{array}$$

Compound Left Rules

$$\begin{array}{c} \frac{P \in \Gamma \quad \Gamma, B \longrightarrow C}{\Gamma, P \supset B \longrightarrow C} P \supset L \\ \frac{\Gamma, B \longrightarrow C}{\Gamma, \top \supset B \longrightarrow C} \top \supset L \quad \frac{\Gamma, D \supset E \supset B \longrightarrow C}{\Gamma, D \wedge E \supset B \longrightarrow C} \wedge \supset L \\ \frac{\Gamma \longrightarrow C}{\Gamma, \perp \supset B \longrightarrow C} \perp \supset L \quad \frac{\Gamma, D \supset B, E \supset B \longrightarrow C}{\Gamma, D \vee E \supset B \longrightarrow C} \vee \supset L \\ \frac{\Gamma, D, E \supset B \longrightarrow E \quad \Gamma, B \longrightarrow C}{\Gamma, (D \supset E) \supset B \longrightarrow C} \supset \supset L \end{array}$$

¹Usually in the form of applying a rule to decompose a formula and keeping a copy of the original formula in the context.

1.1 A little practice

Even in **G4ip** there is still some level of non-determinism involved in proof search. So before implementing it, it is good to have some practice in proving theorems using this calculus. Write proofs for the following propositions using **G4ip** (assume that P, Q, R, S and T stand for atomic propositions).

Task 1 (5pts).

$$\longrightarrow ((P \supset (Q \vee R)) \supset S) \supset (P \supset ((Q \vee R) \supset S))$$

Task 2 (5pts).

$$\longrightarrow ((P \wedge Q) \supset (R \vee S)) \supset ((R \vee S) \supset T) \supset ((P \wedge Q) \supset T)$$

1.2 Programming

Because **G4ip**'s rules all reduce the “weight” of the formulas making up the sequent when read bottom-up, it is straightforward to see that it represents a decision procedure. The rules themselves are non-deterministic, though, so one must invest some effort in extracting a deterministic implementation from them.

Task 3 (20 pts). Implement a proof search procedure based on the **G4ip** calculus. Efficiency should not be a primary concern, but see the hints below regarding invertible rules. Strive instead for *correctness* and *elegance*, in that order.

You should write your implementation in Standard ML.² Some starter code is provided in the file `prop.sml`, included in this homework's handout, to clarify the setup of the problem and give you some basic tools for debugging. Implement a structure `G4ip` matching the signature `G4IP`. A simple test harness assuming this structure is given in the structure `Test` in the file `test.sml`, also included in the handout. Feel free to post any additional interesting test cases you encounter to Piazza.

Here are some hints to help guide your implementation:

- Be sure to apply all invertible rules before you apply any non-invertible rules. Recall that the only non-invertible rules in **G4ip** are $\forall R_1$, $\forall R_2$, and $\supset\supset L$, but that $P\supset L$ and the `init` rule cannot always be applied asynchronously. One simple way to ensure that you do inversions first is to maintain a second context of non-invertible propositions and to process it only when the invertible context is exhausted.

²If you are not comfortable writing in Standard ML, you should contact the instructors and the TAs for help.

- When it comes time to perform non-invertible search, you'll have to consider all possible choices you might make. Many theorems require you to use your non-invertible hypotheses in a particular order, and unless you try all possible orders, you may miss a proof.
- The provided test cases can help you catch many easy-to-make errors. Test your code early and often! If you come up with any interesting test cases of your own that help you catch other errors, we encourage you to share them on Piazza.

There are many subtleties and design decisions involved in this task, so don't leave it until the last minute!

2 Writing smart tactics in KeYmaera

Suppose that you are working in a fragment of intuitionistic logic where all formulas have the form:

$$C := A \mid C \wedge C$$

$$H := A \mid C \supset A$$

Where A is an atom. In this fragment, a valid sequent $\longrightarrow H$ can be proved using always the same strategy. The set of formulas H is actually called *Horn clauses* and are the base of logic programming, which you will see next in the course.

Task 4 (10 points). Find a strategy to prove this kind of formulas and write a KeYmaera tactic for it. You should be able to use this same tactic to solve every problem in the fragment defined above.