# Introduction to Logic Natural Deduction

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#### **Proof Systems**

Popular Types of Proof Systems: Direct Proofs (Hilbert)

→ Natural Deduction (Fitch)
Refutation proofs (Resolution / Robinson)

#### Others:

Gentzen Systems Sequent Calculi and so forth

# **Example - Transitivity Proof**

Given  $(p \Rightarrow q)$  and  $(q \Rightarrow r)$ , prove  $(p \Rightarrow r)$ .

1. 
$$p \Rightarrow q$$
 Premise  
2.  $q \Rightarrow r$  Premise  
3.  $(q \Rightarrow r) \Rightarrow (p \Rightarrow (q \Rightarrow r))$  IC  
4.  $(p \Rightarrow (q \Rightarrow r))$  IE: 2, 3  
5.  $(p \Rightarrow (q \Rightarrow r)) \Rightarrow ((p \Rightarrow q) \Rightarrow (p \Rightarrow r))$  ID  
6.  $(p \Rightarrow q) \Rightarrow (p \Rightarrow r)$  IE: 4, 5

IE: 1, 6

How do we choose instances of IC and ID?

7.  $p \Rightarrow r$ 

# Transitivity - Related Proof

Given  $(p \Rightarrow q)$  and  $(q \Rightarrow r)$  and p, prove r.

1. 
$$p \Rightarrow q$$

2. 
$$q \Rightarrow r$$

3. *p* 

4. *q* 

5. *r* 

Premise

**Premise** 

Premise

IE: 1, 3

IE: 2, 4

#### **Deduction Theorem**

$$\Delta \vdash (\varphi \Rightarrow \psi)$$
 if and only if  $\Delta \cup \{\varphi\} \vdash \psi$ 

#### **Deduction Theorem**

Deduction Theorem:  $\Delta \vdash (\varphi \Rightarrow \psi)$  if and only if  $\Delta \cup \{\varphi\} \vdash \psi$ .

$$\{(p \Rightarrow q), (q \Rightarrow r)\} \vdash (p \Rightarrow r)$$
  
if and only if  
 $\{(p \Rightarrow q), (q \Rightarrow r), p\} \vdash r$ 

There is a proof of  $(p \Rightarrow r)$  from  $\{(p \Rightarrow q), (q \Rightarrow r)\}$  if and only if there is a proof of r from  $\{(p \Rightarrow q), (q \Rightarrow r), p\}$ .

## Transitivity - Hilbert Proof

Given  $(p \Rightarrow q)$  and  $(q \Rightarrow r)$ , prove  $(p \Rightarrow r)$ .

1. 
$$p \Rightarrow q$$
 Premise

2. 
$$q \Rightarrow r$$
 Premise

3. 
$$(q \Rightarrow r) \Rightarrow (p \Rightarrow (q \Rightarrow r))$$
 IC

4. 
$$(p \Rightarrow (q \Rightarrow r))$$
 IE: 2, 3

5. 
$$(p \Rightarrow (q \Rightarrow r)) \Rightarrow ((p \Rightarrow q) \Rightarrow (p \Rightarrow r))$$
 ID

6. 
$$(p \Rightarrow q) \Rightarrow (p \Rightarrow r)$$
 IE: 4, 5

7. 
$$p \Rightarrow r$$
 IE: 1, 6

*NB*: This is a proof of  $(p \Rightarrow r)$  from  $(p \Rightarrow q)$  and  $(q \Rightarrow r)$ .

#### Transitivity - Related Proof

Given  $(p \Rightarrow q)$  and  $(q \Rightarrow r)$  and p, prove r.

1. 
$$p \Rightarrow q$$

$$2. q \Rightarrow r$$

Premise

Premise

Premise

IE: 1, 3

IE: 2, 4

*NB:* This is **not** itself a proof of  $(p \Rightarrow r)$  from  $(p \Rightarrow q)$  and  $(q \Rightarrow r)$ , but the deduction theorem tells us there **is** such a proof.

#### Natural Deduction

#### **Natural Deduction**

Natural Deduction incorporates the deduction theorem in a new type of inference rule and an extended notion of proof.

More "natural" for most people.

No need for axiom schemata!!

#### Essence of Natural Deduction

#### **Making Assumptions**

e.g. assume p

#### **Using Assumptions**

e.g. derive q

Discharging Assumptions leading to implications

e.g. conclude  $p \Rightarrow q$ 

# Making Assumptions

In a natural deduction proof, it is permissible to make an arbitrary *assumption* in a nested proof.

NB: We can assume *anything we like*. We can assume *anything we like*. We can assume *anything we like*.

$$p \Rightarrow q$$

$$p \lor \neg p$$

$$p \land \neg p$$

This is **okay** since (1) an assumption is used only within a subproof and (2) everything we prove in that subproof **depends** on that assumption (as we shall see in a moment).

# **Using Assumptions**

Such assumptions can be used *within* **subproofs** to derive conclusions using ordinary rules of inference.

1. $p \Rightarrow q$	Premise
2. $q \Rightarrow r$	Premise
3.   <i>p</i>	Assumption
<ol> <li>3.    p</li> <li>4.    q</li> <li>5.    r</li> </ol>	Implication Elimination: 1, 3
5.   r	Implication Elimination: 2, 4

NB: This is a proof of *r under the assumption* that *p* is true. It is *not* a proof of *r* from the premises alone.

# Discharging Assumptions

After exiting a subproof, we infer an **implication** with the assumption as antecedent and the conclusion as consequent.

1. $p \Rightarrow q$	Premise
2. $q \Rightarrow r$	Premise
3.   <i>p</i>	Assumption
<ul> <li>3.   p</li> <li>4.   q</li> <li>5.   r</li> </ul>	Implication Elimination: 1, 3
5. r	Implication Elimination: 2, 4
6. $p \Rightarrow r$	Implication Introduction: 3, 5

Everything we prove in a subproof depends on the assumption, and we capture that dependence in the derived implication.

#### Our Transitivity Example

```
1. p \Rightarrow q Premise

2. q \Rightarrow r Premise

3. p Assumption

4. q Implication Elimination: 3, 1

5. p \Rightarrow r Implication Introduction: 3, 5
```

#### Caveat

An ordinary rule of inference *applies* to a subproof at any level of nesting if and only if there is an instance of the rule in which all of the premises occur earlier in the subproof or in a superproof of that subproof.

Importantly, it is *not* permissible to apply an ordinary rule of inference to items that occur in other subproofs.

#### **Bad Proof**

```
1. p \Rightarrow q Premise

2. q \Rightarrow r Premise

3. p \Rightarrow r Premise

4. p \Rightarrow r Implication Elmination: 1, 3

5. p \Rightarrow r Implication Elmination: 2, 4

6. p \Rightarrow r Implication Introduction: 3, 5

7. p \Rightarrow r Implication Elmination: 2, 4

X 8. p \Rightarrow r Implication Elmination: 2, 4

9. p \Rightarrow r Implication Introduction: 7, 8
```

#### Bad Proof

```
1. p \Rightarrow q Premise

2. q \Rightarrow r Premise

3. p \Rightarrow r Premise

4. p \Rightarrow r Implication Elimination: 1, 3

5. p \Rightarrow r Implication Elmination: 2, 4

6. p \Rightarrow r Implication Introduction: 3, 5

X 7. p \Rightarrow r Implication Elimination: 2, 4
```

## Terminology

A structured rule of inference is a pattern of reasoning consisting of one or more schemas, called *premises*, and one or more additional schemas, called *conclusions*, in which one of the premises is a condition of the form  $\phi \vdash \psi$ .

$$\frac{\phi \vdash \psi}{\phi \Rightarrow \psi}$$

Translation: If there is a subproof with assumption  $\phi$  and conclusion  $\psi$ , then we conclude  $\phi \Rightarrow \psi$  outside the subproof.

This new rule of inference is called *Implication Introduction*.

#### Terminology

A structured proof of a conclusion from a set of premises is a sequence of (possibly nested) sentences terminating in an occurrence of the conclusion at the top level of the proof. Each step in the proof must be either

- (1) a premise (at the top level),
- (2) an assumption, or
- (3) the result of applying an ordinary rule of inference or a structured rule of inference to earlier items in the sequence.

#### Fitch

## **Implications**

Implication Introduction (II):

$$\frac{\varphi \vdash \psi}{\varphi \Rightarrow \psi}$$

Implication Elimination (IE):

$$\frac{\varphi \Rightarrow \psi}{\varphi}$$

# Negations

Negation Introduction (NI):

$$\frac{\phi \Rightarrow \chi}{\phi \Rightarrow \neg \chi}$$

Negation Elimination (NE):

$$\frac{\neg \neg \varphi}{\varphi}$$

# Conjunctions

And Introduction (AI):

$$\frac{\varphi}{\psi}$$

And Elimination (AE):

# Disjunctions

Or Introduction (OI):

Or Elimination (OE):

#### Equivalences / Biconditionals

Biconditional Introduction (BI):

Biconditional Elimination (BE):

$$\frac{\phi \Leftrightarrow \psi}{\phi \Rightarrow \psi}$$

$$\psi \Rightarrow \phi$$

Examples

# Mary and Pat and Quincy

If Mary loves Pat, then Mary loves Quincy. If it is Monday, then Mary loves Pat or Quincy. If it is Monday, does Mary love Quincy?

#### Premises:

$$p \Rightarrow q$$
$$m \Rightarrow p \lor q$$

#### Goal:

$$m \Rightarrow q$$

- 1.  $p \Rightarrow q$  Premise
- 2.  $m \Rightarrow p \lor q$  Premise

- 1.  $p \Rightarrow q$  Premise
- 2.  $m \Rightarrow p \lor q$  Premise
- 3. | *m* Assumption

```
1. p \Rightarrow q Premise
```

2. 
$$m \Rightarrow p \lor q$$
 Premise

3. 
$$m$$
 Assumption

```
1. p \Rightarrow qPremise2. m \Rightarrow p \lor qPremise3. |m|Assumption4. |p \lor q|Implication Elimination: 2, 35. |q|Assumption6. |q \Rightarrow q|Implication Introduction: 5, 57. |q|Or Elimination: 4, 1, 6
```

```
1. p \Rightarrow q Premise

2. m \Rightarrow p \lor q Premise

3. |m| Assumption

4. |p \lor q| Implication Elimination: 2, 3

5. |q| Assumption

6. |q \Rightarrow q| Implication Introduction: 5, 5

7. |q| Or Elimination: 4, 1, 6

8. m \Rightarrow q Implication Introduction: 3, 7
```

## Reflexivity - Hilbert Proof

Prove  $(p \Rightarrow p)$ .

1. 
$$p \Rightarrow (p \Rightarrow p)$$
 IC  
2.  $p \Rightarrow ((p \Rightarrow p) \Rightarrow p)$  IC  
3.  $p \Rightarrow ((p \Rightarrow p) \Rightarrow p) \Rightarrow ((p \Rightarrow (p \Rightarrow p)) \Rightarrow (p \Rightarrow p))$  ID  
4.  $(p \Rightarrow (p \Rightarrow p)) \Rightarrow (p \Rightarrow p)$  IE: 2, 3  
5.  $(p \Rightarrow p)$ 

# Reflexivity - Fitch Proof

Prove  $(p \Rightarrow p)$ .

- 1. I p Assumption
- 2.  $p \Rightarrow p$  Implication Introduction: 1, 1

## Negation Elimination - Hilbert Proof

Prove  $(\neg \neg p \Rightarrow p)$ .

1 
$$\neg \neg p \Rightarrow (\neg \neg \neg \neg p \Rightarrow \neg \neg p)$$
 IC

2. 
$$(\neg\neg\neg\neg p \Rightarrow \neg\neg p) \Rightarrow (\neg p \Rightarrow \neg\neg\neg p)$$
 IR

3. 
$$\neg \neg p \Rightarrow (\neg p \Rightarrow \neg \neg \neg p)$$
 Transitivity: 1, 2

4. 
$$(\neg p \Rightarrow \neg \neg \neg p) \Rightarrow (\neg \neg p \Rightarrow p)$$
 IR

5. 
$$\neg \neg p \Rightarrow (\neg \neg p \Rightarrow p)$$
 Transitivity: 3, 4

6. 
$$(\neg \neg p \Rightarrow (\neg \neg p \Rightarrow p)) \Rightarrow$$
 ID
$$((\neg \neg p \Rightarrow \neg \neg p) \Rightarrow (\neg \neg p \Rightarrow p))$$

7. 
$$(\neg \neg p \Rightarrow \neg \neg p) \Rightarrow (\neg \neg p \Rightarrow p)$$
 IE: 6, 5

8. 
$$\neg \neg p \Rightarrow \neg \neg p$$
 Reflexivity

9. 
$$\neg \neg p \Rightarrow p$$
 IE: 7, 8

## Negation Elimination - Fitch Proof

Prove  $(\neg \neg p \Rightarrow p)$ .

- 1  $\neg \neg p$  Assumption 2. p Negation Elimination: 1
- 3.  $\neg \neg p \Rightarrow p$  Implication Introduction: 1, 2

Soundness and Completeness

## Logical Entailment and Provability

A set of premises  $\Delta$  *logically entails* a conclusion  $\varphi$  ( $\Delta \vDash \varphi$ ) if and only if every interpretation that satisfies  $\Delta$  also satisfies  $\varphi$ .

If there exists a proof of a sentence  $\varphi$  from a set  $\Delta$  of premises using the rules of inference in R, we say that  $\varphi$  is *provable* from  $\Delta$  using R (written  $\Delta \vdash_R \varphi$ ).

## Soundness and Completeness

A proof system is *sound* if and only if every provable conclusion is logically entailed.

If 
$$\Delta \vdash \varphi$$
, then  $\Delta \vDash \varphi$ .

A proof system is *complete* if and only if every logically entailed conclusion is provable.

If 
$$\Delta \vDash \varphi$$
, then  $\Delta \vdash \varphi$ .

#### Fitch

Theorem: Fitch is sound and complete for Propositional Logic.

$$\Delta \vDash \varphi$$
 if and only if  $\Delta \vdash_{\mathsf{Fitch}} \varphi$ .

Upshot: The truth table method and the Fitch method succeed in exactly the same cases!

#### Comparative Power

Fitch can do anything Hilbert can do!\*+#

- \* No axiom schemata necessary.
  - + More intuitive than Hilbert.
    - # Proofs are usually shorter.

## Implication Creation

Prove 
$$(p \Rightarrow (q \Rightarrow p))$$
.

1. 
$$p$$
2.  $q$ 
3  $p$ 
4  $q \Rightarrow p$ 
5.  $p \Rightarrow (q \Rightarrow p)$ 

Assumption

Reiteration

II: 2, 3

II: 1, 4

#### Implication Distribution

Prove 
$$(p \Rightarrow (q \Rightarrow r)) \Rightarrow ((p \Rightarrow q) \Rightarrow (p \Rightarrow r))$$
.

1. 
$$p \Rightarrow (q \Rightarrow r)$$
 Assumption  
2.  $p \Rightarrow q$  Assumption  
3  $p \Rightarrow q$  Assumption  
4  $p \Rightarrow q$  IE: 2, 3  
5.  $p \Rightarrow r$  IE: 1, 3  
6.  $p \Rightarrow r$  II: 3, 6  
8.  $p \Rightarrow r$  II: 3, 6  
9.  $p \Rightarrow q \Rightarrow (p \Rightarrow r)$  II: 2, 7  
9.  $p \Rightarrow (q \Rightarrow r) \Rightarrow (p \Rightarrow q) \Rightarrow (p \Rightarrow r)$  II: 1, 8

### Implication Reversal

Prove 
$$(\neg q \Rightarrow \neg p) \Rightarrow (p \Rightarrow q)$$
.

1. 
$$|\neg q \Rightarrow \neg p|$$
 Assumption  
2.  $|p|$  Assumption  
3  $|\neg q|$  Assumption  
4  $|p|$  Reiteration  
5.  $|\neg q \Rightarrow p|$  II: 3, 4  
6.  $|\neg \neg q|$  NI: 5, 1  
7.  $|q|$  NE: 6  
8.  $|p \Rightarrow q|$  II: 2, 7  
9.  $(\neg q \Rightarrow \neg p) \Rightarrow (p \Rightarrow q)$  II: 1, 8

#### **Practical Matters**

## Theorem Proving Requires Search

Good News: There *is* an algorithm for determining logical entailment in Propositional Logic (using Truth tables).

Bad News: Truth tables can be very large.

Good News: Proofs, once found, are usually smaller than truth tables. Moreover, there *are* algorithms for finding Propositional Logic proofs using Hilbert and Fitch.

Bad News: These algorithms can be expensive. (In fact, the worst case is no better than the truth table method!) *Theorem proving requires search*.

Good News: In many cases, proofs can be found quickly.

**Tip 1**: Given a goal ( $\phi \Rightarrow \psi$ ), it is often good to assume  $\phi$ , prove  $\psi$ , and then use Implication Introduction.

2. 
$$p$$
 Assumption
3.  $q$  Reiteration: 1
4.  $p \Rightarrow q$  II: 2, 3

3. 
$$q$$
 Reiteration: 1

4. 
$$p \Rightarrow q$$
 II: 2, 3

**Tip 2**: Given a *goal* ( $\phi \wedge \psi$ ), prove  $\phi$ , prove  $\psi$ , and then use And Introduction to derive ( $\phi \wedge \psi$ ).

1.  $p \Rightarrow q$ 

Premise

2.  $p \Rightarrow r$ 

Premise

3. *p* 

Premise

4. *q* 

IE: 1, 3

5. *r* 

IE: 2, 3

6.  $q \wedge r$ 

AI: 4, 5

**Tip 3**: Given a *goal* ( $\phi \lor \psi$ ), try to prove  $\phi$  *or* prove  $\psi$  (only one is needed), then use Or Introduction to disjoin with *anything else*.

1.  $p \wedge q$ 

**Premise** 

2. *p* 

AE: 1

3. *q* 

AE: 1

 $4. q \vee r$ 

OI: 3

**Tip 4**: Given a *goal* of the form  $\neg \phi$ , assume  $\phi$  and derive the sentence  $(\phi \Rightarrow \psi)$ , assume  $\phi$  again and derive the sentence  $\neg \psi$  leading to  $(\phi \Rightarrow \neg \psi)$ , and use Negation Introduction to derive  $\neg \phi$ .

1. 
$$p \Rightarrow q$$

**Premise** 

$$2. \neg q$$

**Premise** 

Assumption

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
3. & p \\
4. & \neg q
\end{array}$$

Reiteration: 2

5. 
$$p \Rightarrow \neg q$$
 II: 3, 4

NI: 1, 5

**Tip 5**: Given a goal  $\phi$ , assume  $\neg \phi$ , prove a contradiction, thereby deriving  $\neg\neg \varphi$ , and then apply Negation Elimination to get  $\phi$ .

1. 
$$\neg p \Rightarrow q$$

Premise

$$2. \neg q$$

2.  $\neg q$  Premise

Assumption

4. 
$$|\neg q|$$

Reiteration: 2

5. 
$$\neg p \Rightarrow \neg q$$
 II: 3, 4

6.  $\neg \neg p$  NI: 1, 5

NE: 6

**Tip 6**: Given a *premise* of the form ( $\phi \Rightarrow \psi$ ) and a goal  $\psi$ , try proving  $\phi$  and then use Implication Elimination to derive  $\psi$ .

1. 
$$p \land q \Rightarrow r$$
 Premise

4. 
$$p \wedge q$$
 AI: 2.3

**Tip 7**: Given a *premise* ( $\phi \lor \psi$ ) and a goal  $\chi$ , try proving  $(\phi \Rightarrow \chi)$  and  $(\psi \Rightarrow \chi)$  and use Or Elimination to derive  $\chi$ .

1.  $p \vee q$ 

Premise

2.  $p \Rightarrow q$ 

Premise

3. | *q* 

Assumption

4.  $q \Rightarrow q$  II: 3, 3

5. q

OE: 1, 2, 4

**Tip 8**: Given a *premise* ( $\phi \wedge \psi$ ), consider splitting it into its constituent conjuncts.

1.  $p \wedge q$ 

Premise

2. *p* 

**AE**: 1

3. *q* 

AE: 1

4.  $q \vee r$ 

OI: 3

Fitch Online System

#### Course Website

http://logica.stanford.edu

#### Example

```
1. p \Rightarrow q Premise

2. m \Rightarrow p \lor q Premise

3. m \Rightarrow p \lor q Premise

4. p \lor q Implication Elimination: 2, 3

5. q \Rightarrow q Implication Introduction: 5, 5

7. q \Rightarrow q Or Elimination: 4, 1, 6

8. m \Rightarrow q Implication Introduction: 3, 7
```

#### Example

1. 
$$p \Rightarrow r$$
 Premise

2. 
$$q \Rightarrow s$$
 Premise

3. 
$$p \vee q$$
 Premise

6. 
$$r \vee s$$
 Or Introduction: 3

7. 
$$p \Rightarrow r \vee s$$
 Implication Introduction: 4, 6

10. 
$$r \vee s$$
 Or Introduction: 9

11. 
$$q \Rightarrow r \vee s$$
 Implication Introduction: 8, 10

12. 
$$r \vee s$$
 Or Elimination: 3, 7, 11



# Example

Heads, you win. Tails, I lose. Prove that you win.

$h \Rightarrow y$	
-------------------	--

2. 
$$t \Rightarrow \neg m$$

$$4 \quad y \Leftrightarrow \neg m$$

Premise

Premise

Premise

Premise

Heads, you win. Tails, I lose. Prove that you win.

1	h	$\Rightarrow$	ν
_	<i>, ,</i>	•	y

2. 
$$t \Rightarrow \neg m$$

3. 
$$h \vee t$$

$$4 \quad y \Leftrightarrow \neg m$$

5. 
$$y \Rightarrow \neg m$$

6. 
$$\neg m \Rightarrow y$$

Premise

Premise

Premise

Premise

BE: 4

BE: 4

Heads, you win. Tails, I lose. Prove that you win.

1 
$$h \Rightarrow y$$

2. 
$$t \Rightarrow \neg m$$

3. 
$$h \vee t$$

$$4 \quad y \Leftrightarrow \neg m$$

5. 
$$y \Rightarrow \neg m$$

6. 
$$\neg m \Rightarrow y$$

Premise

Premise

Premise

Premise

BE: 4

BE: 4

Assumption

Heads, you win. Tails, I lose. Prove that you win.

1 
$$h \Rightarrow y$$

2. 
$$t \Rightarrow \neg m$$

3. 
$$h \vee t$$

$$4 \quad y \Leftrightarrow \neg m$$

5. 
$$y \Rightarrow \neg m$$

6. 
$$\neg m \Rightarrow y$$

7. 
$$\mid t$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 7. & t \\ 8. & \neg m \end{bmatrix}$$

Premise

Premise

**Premise** 

Premise

BE: 4

BE: 4

Assumption

IE: 2, 7

Heads, you win. Tails, I lose. Prove that you win.

1 
$$h \Rightarrow y$$

2. 
$$t \Rightarrow \neg m$$

$$4 \quad y \Leftrightarrow \neg m$$

5. 
$$y \Rightarrow \neg m$$

6. 
$$\neg m \Rightarrow y$$

$$7. \mid t$$

Premise

Premise

**Premise** 

Premise

BE: 4

BE: 4

Assumption

IE: 2, 7

IE: 6, 8

Heads, you win. Tails, I lose. Prove that you win.

1 
$$h \Rightarrow y$$

2. 
$$t \Rightarrow \neg m$$

$$4 \quad y \Leftrightarrow \neg m$$

5. 
$$y \Rightarrow \neg m$$

6. 
$$\neg m \Rightarrow y$$

$$7. \mid t$$

10. 
$$t \Rightarrow y$$

Premise

Premise

**Premise** 

Premise

BE: 4

BE: 4

Assumption

IE: 2, 7

IE: 6, 8

II: 7, 9

Heads, you win. Tails, I lose. Prove that you win.

1 
$$h \Rightarrow y$$

2. 
$$t \Rightarrow \neg m$$

$$4 \quad y \Leftrightarrow \neg m$$

5. 
$$y \Rightarrow \neg m$$

6. 
$$\neg m \Rightarrow y$$

$$7. \mid t$$

10. 
$$t \Rightarrow y$$

Premise

Premise

**Premise** 

Premise

BE: 4

BE: 4

Assumption

IE: 2, 7

IE: 6, 8

II: 7, 9

OE: 3, 1, 10

