

**Phil 320**  
**Chapter 14: Proofs and Completeness**

**Note:** Omit 14.3

**I. Basic proof concepts. Soundness and completeness.**

*Proof procedure:* A set of *rules* characterizing a *deduction* (finite sequence of steps) from  $\Gamma$  to  $D$ .

*Soundness Theorem:* If  $D$  is deducible from  $\Gamma$ , then  $\Gamma \vdash D$ .

*Completeness Theorem:* If  $\Gamma \vdash D$ , then  $D$  is deducible from  $\Gamma$ .

More generally, “semantic” concepts turn out to line up with “syntactic” (proof-theoretic) concepts:

Semantic

*Implication:*  $\Gamma \vdash D$

*Unsatisfiability* of  $\Gamma$

*Validity* of  $D$

Syntactic

*Deduction:*  $D$  is deducible from  $\Gamma$

*Inconsistency* (= *refutability*) of  $\Gamma$

*Demonstrability* of  $D$

- Concepts on the *semantic* side are all special cases of a more general concept, *securing*:  $\Gamma$  *secures*  $\Delta$  iff each interpretation that makes all sentences in  $\Gamma$  true makes at least one sentence in  $\Delta$  true.

**Notes:**

- If  $\Gamma$  is the empty set  $\phi$ , *any* interpretation makes all sentences in  $\Gamma$  true.
- If  $\Delta$  is the empty set  $\phi$ , *no* interpretation makes at least one sentence in  $\Delta$  true.
- Expression of previous concepts in terms of securing:

$\Gamma \vdash D$	iff	$\Gamma$ secures $\{D\}$
$\Gamma$ is unsatisfiable	iff	$\Gamma$ secures $\phi$
$D$ is valid	iff	$\phi$ secures $\{D\}$

- Concepts on the *syntactic* side are all special cases of the more general concept of *derivation*.

The primary objects of derivation will be *sequents* of the form  $\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta$ , where  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  are both *finite* sets. Each sequent occupies one line of a derivation. There are inference rules for deriving new sequents from old ones. First, for finite sets:

$D$ is deducible from $\Gamma$	iff	$\Gamma \Rightarrow \{D\}$ is derivable	
$\Gamma$ is <i>inconsistent</i>	iff	$\Gamma \Rightarrow \phi$ is derivable	[ <i>inconsistent</i> = <i>refutable</i> ]
$D$ is <i>demonstrable</i>	iff	$\phi \Rightarrow \{D\}$ is derivable	

Infinite sets:  $\Delta$  *derivable* from  $\Gamma$  if a finite subset  $\Delta_0$  of  $\Delta$  is derivable from a finite subset  $\Gamma_0$  of  $\Gamma$ .

- Chapter 14 proves (for finite sets):

*Soundness Theorem:* Every derivable sequent is secure.

*Completeness Theorem:* Every secure sequent is derivable.

By **Compactness**, however, the results extend to infinite sets:

$\Delta$ derivable from $\Gamma$	iff $\Delta_0$ derivable from $\Gamma_0$ (as above), some $\Delta_0, \Gamma_0$
	iff $\Gamma_0$ secures $\Delta_0$ (soundness and completeness), for some $\Gamma_0$ and $\Delta_0$
	iff $\Gamma$ secures $\Delta$ (using Compactness)

**Note:** Soundness and completeness can be verified for any correct proof system. Sequents are convenient for doing the metalogical proofs of soundness and completeness, but less convenient in derivations.

**II. Sequents and derivation rules**

A *derivation* of  $\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta$  is a sequence of lines with the following properties:

- (1) Each line is a sequent.
- (2) The last line is  $\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta$ .

(3) Every line is either of the form  $\{A\} \Rightarrow \{A\}$  and justified by (R0), or must follow from previous lines via one of the other *rules of inference*.

Again for convenience, we omit  $\&$  and  $\forall$ , assuming only the logical symbols  $\sim, \vee, \exists, =$  plus parentheses and commas. The inference rules are as in Table 14-4 and correspond to familiar patterns of reasoning.

*Conventions* to make life easier:

- 1) Omit outermost parentheses if meaning is evident:  $A \vee B$  instead of  $(A \vee B)$ .
- 2) Omit curly brackets: write  $A \Rightarrow A, B$  instead of  $\{A\} \Rightarrow \{A, B\}$ .
- 3) Empty set (on either side): just put no symbols. Write  $\Rightarrow A, \sim A$  instead of  $\emptyset \Rightarrow A, \sim A$ .
- 4) When combining finite sets, use commas instead of  $\cup$ :  $A, B \Rightarrow A$  instead of  $\{A\} \cup \{B\} \Rightarrow A$ .
- 5) Provide a *justification* (rule plus lines) for each step (not ‘officially’ part of the derivation).

*Example:* Addition.      Derive:  $A \Rightarrow A \vee B$

1.       $A \Rightarrow A$       (R0)
2.       $A \Rightarrow A, B$       (R1), 1
3.       $A \Rightarrow A \vee B$       (R3), 2

### III. Examples of derivations

*Example 2:* Duplication.      Derive:  $A \vee A \Rightarrow A$

1.       $A \Rightarrow A$       (R0)
2.       $A \vee A \Rightarrow A$       (R4), 1, 1

*Example 3:* Simplification.      Derive:  $A \& B \Rightarrow B$       (\*\*Work bottom-up\*\*)

1.       $B \Rightarrow B$       (R0)
2.       $A, B \Rightarrow B$       (R1), 1
3.       $A \Rightarrow \sim B, B$       (R2a), 2
4.       $\Rightarrow \sim A, \sim B, B$       (R2a), 3
5.       $\Rightarrow (\sim A \vee \sim B), B$       (R3), 4
6.       $\sim(\sim A \vee \sim B) \Rightarrow B$       (R2b), 5

*Example 4:* Modus ponens.      Derive:  $A, A \rightarrow B \Rightarrow B$  (Clue: derive two sequents needed for (R4).)

1.       $A \Rightarrow A$       (R0)
2.       $A \Rightarrow A, B$       (R1), 1
3.       $A, \sim A \Rightarrow B$       (R2b), 2
4.       $B \Rightarrow B$       (R0)
5.       $A, B \Rightarrow B$       (R1), 4
6.       $A, \sim A \vee B \Rightarrow B$       (R4), 3, 5

*Example 5:* Quantifier rules.      Derive:  $\exists x Fx, \forall x (Fx \rightarrow Gx) \Rightarrow \exists x Gx$

- ...
6.       $Fc, \sim Fc \vee Gc \Rightarrow Gc$       (R4), 3, 5 (Exactly as for MP, above)
7.       $Fc \Rightarrow \sim(\sim Fc \vee Gc), Gc$       (R2a)
8.       $Fc \Rightarrow \sim(\sim Fc \vee Gc), \exists x Gx$       (R5)
9.       $Fc \Rightarrow \exists x \sim(\sim Fx \vee Gx), \exists x Gx$       (R5)
10.       $\exists x Fx \Rightarrow \exists x \sim(\sim Fx \vee Gx), \exists x Gx$       (R6)
11.       $\exists x Fx, \sim \exists x \sim(\sim Fx \vee Gx) \Rightarrow \exists x Gx$       (R2b)

**Note:** There are some important ‘tricks’ that help here – e.g., do the right side quantifier introductions first in order to be able to apply (R6) – but we won’t dwell on this. The text contains many additional examples, including some using the rules for  $=$ .

### IV. Soundness

**Theorem 14.1:** If  $\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta$  is derivable, then  $\Gamma$  secures  $\Delta$ .

*Proof:* Every (R0) sequent  $\{A\} \Rightarrow \{A\}$  is secure: if  $\Gamma$  makes  $A$  true, then  $\Gamma$  makes  $A$  true.

We have to show that each of (R1) - (R9) is sound, i.e., ‘preserves’ security. Then at every step in our derivation, we have a secure sequent. It follows that the final step is secure. The proof is almost entirely straightforward, because the rules were constructed with soundness in mind. I will only do a few steps.

(R1) is sound: if  $\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta$  is secure, then  $\Gamma' \Rightarrow \Delta'$  is secure. For if  $M \models \Gamma'$ , then  $M \models \Gamma$  (since  $M$  makes each sentence of  $\Gamma'$  true and  $\Gamma$  is a subset of  $\Gamma'$ ), and so  $M \models D$  for some  $D$  in  $\Delta$  and hence in  $\Delta'$  (since  $\Delta$  is a subset of  $\Delta'$ ).

(R2a) is sound: suppose  $\Gamma, A \Rightarrow \Delta$  is secure. Suppose  $M \models \Gamma$ . If  $M \models \neg A$ , then we have the result that  $M$  makes true a sentence  $D$  in  $\{\neg A\} \cup \Delta$ . Otherwise, we must have  $M \models A$  and hence it follows that  $M \models D$  for some  $D$  in  $\Delta$ . But then  $D$  is in  $\{\neg A\} \cup \Delta$ . So either way, the sequent  $\Gamma \Rightarrow \{\neg A\} \cup \Delta$  is secure.

(R2b) is sound: suppose  $\Gamma \Rightarrow \{A\} \cup \Delta$  is secure. Suppose  $M \models \Gamma \cup \{\neg A\}$ . Since  $M \models \Gamma$ ,  $M$  makes true some  $D$  in  $\{A\} \cup \Delta$ . But not  $A$ , since  $M \models \neg A$ . Hence,  $D$  must be in  $\Delta$ . So  $\Gamma \cup \{\neg A\} \Rightarrow \Delta$  is secure.

(R4) is sound: suppose the two sequents  $\Gamma, A \Rightarrow \Delta$  and  $\Gamma, B \Rightarrow \Delta$  are secure. Suppose now that  $M \models \Gamma, A \vee B$ . Then  $M \models \Gamma$  and either  $M \models A$  or  $M \models B$ . In either case,  $M$  must make true some sentence in  $\Delta$ , and thus  $\Gamma, A \vee B \Rightarrow \Delta$  is secure.

(R6) is sound: suppose  $\Gamma, A(c) \Rightarrow \Delta$  where  $c$  is a constant not in  $\Gamma$  or  $\Delta$  or  $A(x)$ . Suppose that  $M \models \Gamma, \exists x A(x)$ . Then  $M \models \Gamma$ , and  $M \models \exists x A(x)$ . This means that for some  $m$  in the domain, if we pick any  $c$  not in  $A(x)$  we have  $M_m \models A(c)$ . If in addition  $c$  is not in  $\Gamma$  or  $\Delta$ , then Extensionality tells us  $M_m$  does not change the truth-values of sentences in  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  from what  $M$  assigns them. In particular,  $M_m \models \Gamma$  and we have  $M_m \models A(c)$ , so that  $M_m \models D$  for some  $D$  in  $\Delta$ . But then  $M \models D$  as well, and thus  $\Gamma, \exists x A(x) \Rightarrow \Delta$  is secure.

This illustrates the idea; none of the remaining steps is harder than the proof for (R6). ■

## V. Completeness

**Theorem 14.2:** Every secure sequent  $\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta$  is derivable.

**Preliminaries:**  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  are finite sets, but the result extends to infinite sets, as noted earlier. So suppose  $\Gamma = \{C_1, \dots, C_m\}$  and  $\Delta = \{D_1, \dots, D_n\}$ . Write  $\sim \Delta$  for the set of *negated* members of  $\Delta$ , i.e.,  $\sim \Delta = \{\neg D_1, \dots, \neg D_n\}$ .

<b>First:</b> $\Gamma$ secures $\Delta$	iff	$\Gamma$ implies $D_1 \vee \dots \vee D_n$	
	iff	$\Gamma \cup \{\neg(D_1 \vee \dots \vee D_n)\}$ is unsatisfiable	
	iff	$\Gamma \cup \sim \Delta$ is unsatisfiable	
$\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta$ is derivable	iff	$C_1, \dots, C_m \Rightarrow D_1, \dots, D_n$	
	iff	$C_1, \dots, C_m, \neg D_1 \Rightarrow D_2, \dots, D_n$	(R2a $\rightarrow$ and R2b $\leftarrow$ )
	iff	$C_1, \dots, C_m, \neg D_1, \neg D_2 \Rightarrow D_3, \dots, D_n$	(same justification)
	...		
	iff	$C_1, \dots, C_m, \neg D_1, \dots, \neg D_n \Rightarrow$	(same justification)
	iff	$\Gamma \cup \sim \Delta$ is inconsistent (i.e., refutable)	

So to prove that “ $\Gamma$  secures  $\Delta$  implies  $\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta$  is derivable”, it’s good enough to prove that any unsatisfiable set is inconsistent, or equivalently, any consistent set is satisfiable.

**Next:** Recall the **Model Existence Lemma (Lemma 13.3)** of chapter 13: Suppose  $L$  is a language and  $L^+$  is obtained by adding infinitely many constants to  $L$ . If  $S^*$  is a set of sets of sentences of  $L^+$  having the satisfaction properties (S0) - (S8), then every set of sentences of  $L$  in  $S^*$  has a model in which each element of the domain is the denotation of some closed term of  $L^+$ .

We used this to prove **Compactness**, and we use it again. We need only show that if  $S$  is the set of all *consistent* sets in a language, then  $S$  has the satisfaction properties. For Lemma 13.3 then tells us that every consistent set has a model, i.e., is satisfiable. So we verify (S0) - (S8) for  $S$ .

**Proof:** [In each case, we show that if the property failed for some  $\Gamma$  in  $S$ , then  $\Gamma \Rightarrow \phi$  would be derivable, violating the consistency of  $\Gamma$ . Note that we sometimes write  $\Gamma \Rightarrow \phi$  as just  $\Gamma \Rightarrow$  .]

(S0) [If  $\Gamma$  in  $S$ ,  $\Gamma_0$  a subset of  $\Gamma$ , then  $\Gamma_0$  in  $S$ .] This means: if we can't derive  $\Gamma \Rightarrow \phi$ , then we can't derive  $\Gamma_0 \Rightarrow \phi$ .

This follows, since if we could derive  $\Gamma_0 \Rightarrow \phi$ , then  $\Gamma \Rightarrow \phi$  would be derivable by applying (R1).

(S1) [If  $\Gamma$  in  $S$ , for no  $A$  are both  $A$  and  $\sim A$  in  $\Gamma$ .] If  $A$  and  $\sim A$  were in  $\Gamma$ , we would be able to derive  $\Gamma \Rightarrow \phi$ , contradicting  $\Gamma$  in  $S$ :

$$\begin{array}{ll} A \Rightarrow A & (R0) \\ A, \sim A \Rightarrow & (R2b) \\ \Gamma \Rightarrow & (R1) \end{array}$$

(S2) [If  $\Gamma$  is in  $S$  and  $\sim\sim B$  in  $\Gamma$ , then  $\Gamma \cup \{B\}$  in  $S$ .] For if not, then we could derive

$$\begin{array}{ll} \Gamma, B \Rightarrow \phi & \text{and hence} \\ \Gamma \Rightarrow \sim B & (R2a) \\ \Gamma, \sim\sim B \Rightarrow \phi & (R2b) \quad \text{contradicting } \sim\sim B \text{ in } \Gamma \text{ and NOT } \Gamma \Rightarrow \phi. \end{array}$$

(S3) [If  $\Gamma$  is in  $S$  and  $B \vee C$  is in  $\Gamma$ , then either  $\Gamma \cup \{B\}$  is in  $S$  or  $\Gamma \cup \{C\}$  is in  $S$ .] If not, then we have the derivation

$$\begin{array}{ll} \Gamma, B \Rightarrow \phi \\ \Gamma, C \Rightarrow \phi \\ \Gamma, B \vee C \Rightarrow \phi & (R4), \text{ contradiction (since } B \vee C \text{ is in } \Gamma). \end{array}$$

(S4) [If  $\Gamma$  is in  $S$  and  $\sim(B \vee C)$  is in  $\Gamma$ , then both  $\Gamma \cup \{\sim B\}$  and  $\Gamma \cup \{\sim C\}$  are in  $S$ .] Suppose that  $\Gamma \cup \{\sim B\}$  is not in  $S$  (a similar argument for  $\sim C$ ). Then we have the derivation:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \Gamma, \sim B \Rightarrow \phi \\ \Gamma \Rightarrow B & (R9a) \\ \Gamma \Rightarrow B, C & (R1) \\ \Gamma \Rightarrow B \vee C & (R3) \\ \Gamma, \sim(B \vee C) \Rightarrow & (R2b), \text{ contradiction (since } \sim(B \vee C) \text{ is in } \Gamma). \end{array}$$

(S5) [If  $\Gamma$  is in  $S$  and  $\exists x B(x)$  is in  $\Gamma$ , and  $c$  does not appear in  $\Gamma$  or  $\exists x B(x)$ , then  $\Gamma \cup \{B(c)\}$  is in  $S$ .] Suppose not. Then:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \Gamma, B(c) \Rightarrow \\ \Gamma \cup \{\exists x B(x)\} \Rightarrow & (R6), \text{ contradiction (since } \exists x B(x) \text{ is in } \Gamma). \end{array}$$

(S6) [If  $\Gamma$  is in  $S$  and  $\sim\exists x B(x)$  is in  $\Gamma$ , then for every closed term  $t$ ,  $\Gamma \cup \{\sim B(t)\}$  is in  $S$ .] Suppose not. Then for some closed term  $t$ :

$$\begin{array}{ll} \Gamma, \sim B(t) \Rightarrow \\ \Gamma \Rightarrow B(t) & (R9a) \\ \Gamma \Rightarrow \exists x B(x) & (R5) \\ \Gamma, \sim\exists x B(x) \Rightarrow & (R2b), \text{ contradiction (since } \sim\exists x B(x) \text{ is in } \Gamma). \end{array}$$

(S7) [If  $\Gamma$  is in  $S$ , then  $\Gamma \cup \{t = t\}$  is in  $S$  for any closed term  $t$ .] Suppose not. Then for some such  $t$ ,

$$\begin{array}{ll} \Gamma, t = t \Rightarrow \\ \Gamma \Rightarrow & (R7), \text{ contradiction.} \end{array}$$

(S8) [If  $\Gamma$  is in  $S$  and  $B(s)$  and  $s=t$  are in  $\Gamma$ , then  $\Gamma \cup \{B(t)\}$  is in  $S$ .] Suppose not. Then

$$\begin{array}{ll} \Gamma, B(t) \Rightarrow \\ \Gamma \Rightarrow \sim B(t) & (R2a) \\ \Gamma \cup \{s = t\} \Rightarrow \sim B(s) & (R8a) \\ \Gamma, s=t, B(s) \Rightarrow & (R9b), \text{ contradiction (since } s=t \text{ and } B(s) \text{ are in } \Gamma). \quad \blacksquare \end{array}$$