

# Proofs in Propositional Logic<sup>1</sup>

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1. This lecture corresponds mainly to Chapter 3 : “Propositions and Proofs” and part of Chapter 5 : “Everyday Logic” of the book.

In this class, we introduce the reasoning techniques used in *Coq*, starting with a very reduced fragment of logic, *propositional intuitionistic logic*.

We shall present :

- ▶ The logical formulas and the statements we want to prove,
- ▶ How to build proofs interactively.

## The Type `Prop`

In *Coq*, a predefined type, namely `Prop`, is inhabited by all logical propositions. For instance the true and false propositions are simply constants of type `Prop` :

Check True.

*True : Prop*

Check False.

*False : Prop*

Don't mistake the *proposition* True (resp. False) for the *boolean* true (resp. false), which belong to the `bool` *datatype*.

## Propositional Variables

We shall learn with Yves how to build propositions for expressing such statements as  $5 \times 7 < 6^2$ , 41 is a prime number, or the list *l* is sorted.

In this lecture we shall consider only abstract propositions build from *variables* using *connectives* :  $\vee$ ,  $\wedge$ ,  $\rightarrow$ , etc.

$\text{it\_is\_raining} \vee \sim \text{it\_is\_raining}$

$P \wedge Q \rightarrow Q \wedge P$

$\sim(P \vee Q) \rightarrow \sim(P \wedge Q)$

$\text{it\_is\_raining}$ ,  $P$  and  $Q$  are *propositional variables*.

## How to declare propositional variables

A propositional variable is just a variable of type `Prop`. So, you may just use the `Parameter` command for declaring a new propositional variable :

```
Parameter it_is_raining : Prop.  
Parameters P Q R : Prop.
```

Check `P`.

*$P : Prop$*

# Propositional Formulas

One can build propositions by using the following rules :

- ▶ Each variable of type **Prop** is a proposition,
- ▶ The constants **True** and **False** are propositions,
- ▶ if  $A$  and  $B$  are propositions, so are :
  - ▶  $A \leftrightarrow B$  (logical equivalence) (in ASCII :  $A <-> B$ )
  - ▶  $A \rightarrow B$  (implication) (in ASCII :  $A -> B$ )
  - ▶  $A \vee B$  (disjunction) (in ASCII :  $A \setminus / B$ )
  - ▶  $A \wedge B$  (conjunction) (in ASCII :  $A /\setminus B$ )
  - ▶  $\sim A$  (negation)

Like in many programming languages, connectors have *precedence* and *associativity* conventions :

The connectors  $\rightarrow$ ,  $\searrow$ , and  $/\wedge$  are *right-associative* : for instance  $P \rightarrow Q \rightarrow R$  is an abbreviation for  $P \rightarrow (Q \rightarrow R)$ .

The connectors are displayed below in order of increasing precedence :

$$\leftrightarrow, \quad \rightarrow, \quad \searrow, \quad /\wedge, \quad \sim$$

Check  $((P \rightarrow (Q /\wedge P)) \rightarrow (Q \rightarrow P))$ .

$(P \rightarrow Q /\wedge P) \rightarrow Q \rightarrow P : Prop$

# Logical Statements

In *Coq*, we may want to prove some *statements* like :

*“If the following propositions :*

$P \vee Q$

$\sim Q$

*hold, then the following proposition :*

$R \rightarrow R \wedge P$

*holds.”*

The propositions in blue are called *hypotheses*, and the proposition in red is the *conclusion* of the statement.



# The Sequent Notation

The (intuitionistic) sequent notation is a convenient mathematical notation for denoting a statement composed of a set of hypotheses  $\Gamma$  and a conclusion  $A$ . The notation is simply  $\Gamma \vdash A^2$

For instance, our previous statement may look like that :

$$\underbrace{P \vee Q, \sim Q}_{\text{hypotheses}} \vdash \underbrace{R \rightarrow R \wedge P}_{\text{conclusion}}$$

Another useful presentation is the following one :

$$\begin{array}{l} P \vee Q \\ \sim Q \end{array}$$

-----

$$R \rightarrow R \wedge P$$

2. The symbol  $\vdash$  is often called *turnstile*, or *corkscrew*.

## Hypotheses and Goals

A *goal* is just a statement composed of a set of hypotheses  $\Gamma$  and a conclusion  $A$ . We use *Coq* for *solving the goal*, i.e. for building *interactively* a *proof* that the conclusion logically follows from the hypotheses. We shall use also the notation  $\Gamma \vdash A$ .

In *Coq* a goal is shown as below : each hypothesis is given a distinct name, and the conclusion is displayed under a bar which separates it from the hypotheses :

$$H : P \vee Q$$

$$H0 : \sim Q$$


---


$$R \rightarrow R \wedge P$$

## A very quick demo

Let us show how to prove the previous goal :

The first step is to build a *context* from the two hypotheses. This can be done using a *section* (sort of named block).

```
Section my_first_proof.
```

```
  Hypothesis H : P  $\vee$  Q.
```

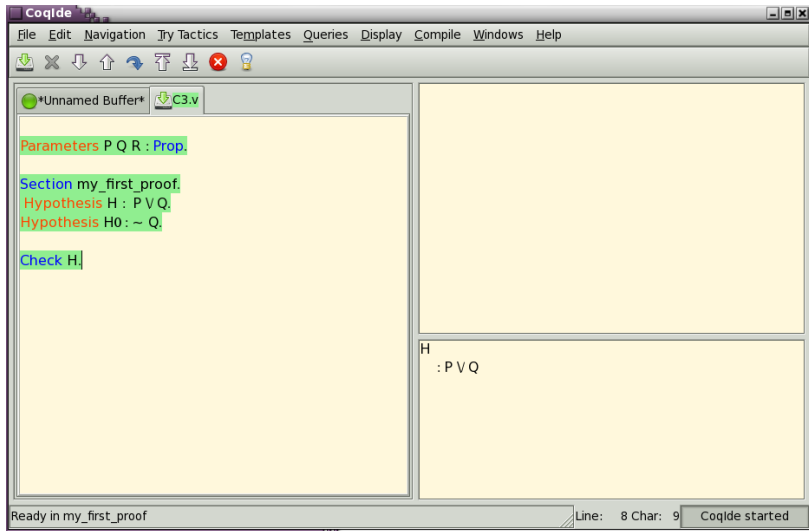
```
  Hypothesis H0 :  $\sim$  Q.
```

```
  Check H.
```

```
H : P  $\vee$  Q
```

# Proofs in Propositional Logic

## Sequents and Goals




The screenshot shows the Coq IDE interface. The left pane displays a proof script with the following content:

```
*Unnamed Buffer* C3.v  
  
Parameters P Q R : Prop.  
  
Section my_first_proof.  
  Hypothesis H : P ∨ Q.  
  Hypothesis H0 : ~ Q.  
  
Lemma my_first_lemma : R -> R ∧ P.  
Proof.
```

The right pane shows the current goal for the lemma:

```
1 subgoal  
H : P ∨ Q  
H0 : ~ Q  
_____  
R -> R ∧ P  
(1/1)
```

Then we use the *tactic* **intro** for introducing the hypothesis  $r : R$ .  
 The conclusion of the current goal becomes  $R \wedge P$ .

\*Unnamed Buffer\*
  C3.v

```

Parameters P Q R : Prop.

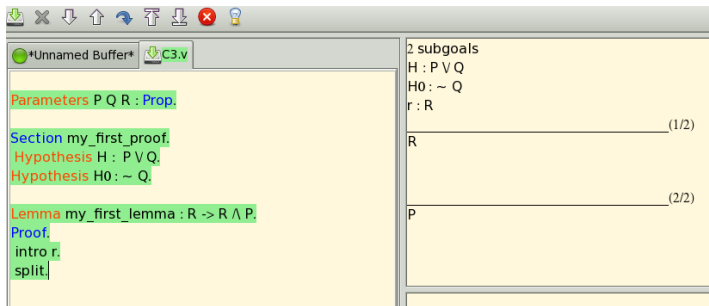
Section my_first_proof.
Hypothesis H : P ∨ Q.
Hypothesis H0 : ~ Q.

Lemma my_first_lemma : R -> R ∧ P.
Proof.
  intro r.
      
```

```

1 subgoal
H : P ∨ Q
H0 : ~ Q
r : R
_____
R ∧ P
(1/1)
      
```

For proving  $R \wedge P$ , we may prove  $R$ , *and* prove  $P$ . The tactic **split** generates two new *subgoals*.



Note that the first subgoal is trivial, since  $R$  is assumed in the context of this subgoal. In this situation, one may use the tactic **exact r** or **assumption**.

```

Parameters P Q R : Prop.

Section my_first_proof.
Hypothesis H : P ∨ Q.
Hypothesis H0 : ~ Q.



Lemma my_first_lemma : R -> R ∧ P.
Proof.
intro r.
split.
exact r (* assumption *).
        
```

```

1 subgoal
H : P ∨ Q
H0 : ~ Q
r : R
_____ (1/1)
P
        
```

The displayed subgoal suggests to proceed to a *case analysis* on the hypothesis  $H$ . One may use the tactic call **destruct H** (or better : **destruct H as [Hp | Hq]**)



 \*Unnamed Buffer\*
  C3.v

```

Parameters P Q R : Prop.

Section my_first_proof.
Hypothesis H : P ∨ Q.
Hypothesis H0 : ~ Q.

Lemma my_first_lemma : R -> R ∧ P.
Proof.
  intro r.
  split.
  exact r (* assumption *).
  destruct H.
        
```

2 subgoals

H : P ∨ Q

H0 : ~ Q

r : R

H1 : P


---

P (1/2)

---

P (2/2)

The first subgoal is immediately solved with **assumption**.

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```

Parameters P Q R : Prop.

Section my_first_proof.
Hypothesis H : P ∨ Q.
Hypothesis H0 : ~ Q.

Lemma my_first_lemma : R -> R ∧ P.
Proof.
  intro r.
  split.
  exact r (* assumption *).
  destruct H.
  assumption.

```

```

1 subgoal
H : P ∨ Q
H0 : ~ Q
r : R
H1 : Q
_____ (1/1)
P


```

The current context contains two mutually contradictory propositions :  $Q$  and  $\sim Q$ . The tactic call **absurd**  $Q$  helps to start a *proof by reduction to the absurd*.

## Proofs in Propositional Logic

### └ Sequents and Goals

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 C3.v

Parameters  $P\ Q\ R : \text{Prop.}$

Section my\_first\_proof.

Hypothesis  $H : P \vee Q.$

Hypothesis  $H0 : \sim Q.$

Lemma my\_first\_lemma :  $R \rightarrow R \wedge P.$

Proof.

intro r.

split.

exact r (\* assumption \*).

destruct H.

assumption.

absurd Q.

2 subgoals

$H : P \vee Q$

$H0 : \sim Q$

$r : R$

$H1 : Q$

---

$\sim Q$

(1/2)

---

$Q$

(2/2)

```
Section my_first_proof.
```

```
Hypothesis H : P ∨ Q.
```

```
Hypothesis H0 : ~ Q.
```

```
Lemma my_first_lemma : R -> R ∧ P.
```

```
Proof.
```

```
intro r.
```

```
split.
```

```
exact r (* assumption *).
```

```
destruct H.
```

```
assumption.
```

```
absurd Q.
```

```
assumption.
```

```
assumption.
```

```
Qed.
```

## Proofs in Propositional Logic

### └ Sequents and Goals

```
Section my_first_proof.
```

```
Hypothesis H : P ∨ Q.
```

```
Hypothesis H0 : ~ Q.
```

```
Lemma my_first_lemma : R -> R ∧ P.
```

```
Proof.
```

```
intro r.
```

```
split.
```

```
exact r (* assumption *).
```

```
destruct H.
```

```
assumption.
```

```
absurd Q.
```

```
assumption.
```

```
assumption.
```

```
Qed.
```

```
Check my_first_lemma.
```

```
my_first_lemma  
: R -> R ∧ P
```

When we close the section `my_first_proof` the *local* hypotheses disappear :

```
Check my_first_lemma.
```

```
End my_first_proof.
```

```
Check my_first_lemma.
```

```
Check H.
```

Error: The reference H was not found in the current environment.

**Important note** : The scope of an hypothesis is always limited to its enclosing section. If we need assumptions with *global* scope, declare them with the command

Axiom Axi : A.

Note that the statement of our lemma is enriched with the hypotheses that were used in its proof :

```
Check my_first_lemma.
```

```
End my_first_proof.
```

```
Check my_first_lemma.
```

```
my_first_lemma  
: P ∨ Q -> ~ Q -> R -> R ∧ P
```

## Structure of an interactive proof (1)

Lemma  $L$ :  $A$ .

Proof.

*sequence of tactic applications*

Qed.

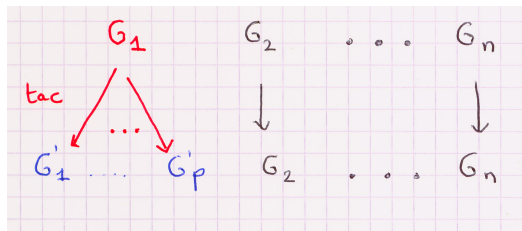
**Notes :** The keyword Lemma may be replaced by Theorem, Fact, Remark, etc. The name  $L$  must be *fresh*.

A goal is immediately built, the conclusion of which is the proposition  $A$ , and the context of which is build from the currently active hypotheses.



## Structure of an interactive proof (2)

- ▶ In general, at each step of an interactive proof, a finite sequence of *subgoals*  $G_1, G_2, \dots, G_n$  must be solved.
- ▶ The basic tool for interactively solving a goal  $G = \Gamma \vdash A$  is called a *tactic*, which is a command typed by the user.
- ▶ An elementary step of an interactive proof has the following form : The user tries to apply a tactic to (by default) the first subgoal  $G_1$ ,
  - ▶ This application may fail, in which case the state of the proof doesn't change,
  - ▶ or this application generates a finite sequence (possibly empty) of new subgoals, which replaces the previous one.



Note that  $p$  may be 0, 1, or any number greater or equal than 2!

## When is an interactive proof finished ?

The number of subgoals that remain to be solved decreases only when some tactic application generates 0 new subgoals.

The interactive search of a proof is finished when there remain no subgoals to solve. The **Qed** command makes *Coq* do the following actions :

1. build a proof term from the history of tactic invocations,
2. check whether this proof is correct,
3. register the proven theorem.

## Basic tactics for minimal propositional logic

In a first step, we shall consider only formulas built from propositional variables and the implication connective  $\rightarrow$ . It is a good framework for learning basic concepts on tactics in *Coq*.

## The tactic **assumption**

The tactic **assumption** can be used everytime the current goal has the following form :

...

**H**:A

...

-----

**A**

- ▶ Note that one can use **exact H**, or **trivial** in the same situation.
- ▶ This tactic is associated to the following *inference rule* :

$$\frac{A \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash A} \text{ assumption}$$

## Introduction tactic for the implication

Let us consider a goal  $\Gamma \vdash A \rightarrow B$ . The tactic **intro**  $H$  (where  $H$  is a fresh name) transforms this goal into  $\Gamma, H : A \vdash B$ .

- ▶ This tactic is applicable when *the conclusion* of the goal is an implication.
- ▶ This tactic corresponds to the *implication introduction rule*

$$\frac{\Gamma, A \vdash B}{\Gamma \vdash A \rightarrow B} \text{imp\_i}$$

- ▶ The multiple introduction tactic **intros**  $H1\ H2\ \dots\ Hn$  is a shorthand for **intro**  $H1$ ; **intro**  $H2$ ; ...; **intro**  $Hn$ .

# Elimination tactic for the implication (modus ponens)

Let us consider a goal of the form  $\Gamma \vdash A$ . If  $H : A_1 \rightarrow A_2 \rightarrow \dots A_n \rightarrow A$  is an hypothesis of  $\Gamma$  or an already proven theorem, then the tactic **apply**  $H$  generates  $n$  new subgoals,  $\Gamma \vdash A_1, \dots, \Gamma \vdash A_n$ .

This tactic corresponds to the following inference rules :

$$\frac{\overline{\Gamma \vdash B \rightarrow A} \quad \overline{\Gamma \vdash B}}{\Gamma \vdash A} \text{ mp}$$

$$\frac{\overline{\Gamma \vdash A_1 \rightarrow A_2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow A_n \rightarrow A} \quad \overline{\Gamma \vdash A_1} \quad \overline{\Gamma \vdash A_2} \quad \dots \quad \overline{\Gamma \vdash A_n}}{\Gamma \vdash A}$$

## A simple example

```
Section Propositional_Logic.
```

```
Variables P Q R : Prop.
```

```
Lemma imp_dist : (P → (Q → R)) → (P → Q) → P → R.
```

```
Proof.
```

```
1 subgoal
```

```
P : Prop
```

```
Q : Prop
```

```
R : Prop
```

```
-----  
(P → Q → R) → (P → Q) → P → R
```

```
intros H H0 p.
```



*1 subgoal:*

*$P : Prop$*

*$Q : Prop$*

*$R : Prop$*

*$H : P \rightarrow Q \rightarrow R$*

*$H0 : P \rightarrow Q$*

*$p : P$*

---

*$R$*

apply H.

*2 subgoals:*

*$P : Prop$*

*$Q : Prop$*

*$R : Prop$*

*$H : P \rightarrow Q \rightarrow R$*

*$H0 : P \rightarrow Q$*

*$p : P$*

---

*$P$*

*subgoal 2 is:*

*$Q$*

`assumption.`

*1 subgoal:*

*$P : Prop$*

*$Q : Prop$*

*$R : Prop$*

*$T : Prop$*

*$H : P \rightarrow Q \rightarrow R$*

*$H0 : P \rightarrow Q$*

*$p : P$*

---

*$Q$*

apply H0;assumption.

*Proof completed*

Qed.

*imp\_dist is defined*

Check imp\_dist.

*imp\_dist*

*: (P → Q → R) → (P → Q) → P → R*

Print imp\_dist.

*imp\_dist =*

*fun (H : P → Q → R) (H0 : P → Q) (H1 : P) ⇒ H H1 (H0 H1)*  
*: (P → Q → R) → (P → Q) → P → R*

We notice that the internal representation of the proof we have just built is a term whose type is the theorem statement.

It is possible, but not usual, to build directly proof terms, considering that a proof of  $A \rightarrow B$  is just a function which maps any proof of  $A$  to a proof of  $B$ .

Definition `imp_trans`  $(H:P \rightarrow Q) (H0:Q \rightarrow R) (p:P) : R$   
`:= H0 (H p).`

Check `imp_trans`.

*$imp\_trans : (P \rightarrow Q) \rightarrow (Q \rightarrow R) \rightarrow P \rightarrow R.$*

## Using the section mechanism

Another way to prove an implication  $A \rightarrow B$  is to prove  $B$  inside a *section* which contains a hypothesis assuming  $A$ , *if the proof of  $B$  uses truly the hypothesis assuming  $A$* . This scheme generalizes to any number of hypotheses  $A_1, \dots, A_n$ .

```
Section Imp_trans.
```

```
Hypothesis H : P → Q.
```

```
Hypothesis H0 : Q → R.
```

```
Lemma imp_trans' : P → R.
```

```
(* Proof skipped, uses H and H0 *)
```

```
End Imp_trans.
```

```
Check imp_trans'.
```

```
imp_trans : (P → Q) → (Q → R) → P → R
```

## Introduction and Elimination Tactics

Let us consider again the goal below :

$$H : R \rightarrow P \wedge Q$$

$$H0 : \neg(R \wedge Q)$$

$$-----$$
$$R \rightarrow P$$

We colored in blue the main connective of the conclusion, and in red the main connective of each hypothesis.

To solve this goal, we can use an **introduction tactic** associated to the **main connective** of the conclusion, or an **elimination tactic** on some hypothesis.

# Propositional Intuitionistic Logic

We will now add to Minimal Propositional Logic introduction and elimination rules and tactics for the constants **True** and **False**, and the connectives **and** ( $\wedge$ ), **or** ( $\vee$ ), **iff** ( $\leftrightarrow$ ) and **not** ( $\sim$ ).



## Introduction rule for **True**

In any context  $\Gamma$  the proposition **True** is immediately provable (thanks to a predeclared constant  $I : \text{True}$ ).

Practically, any goal  $\Gamma \vdash^2 \text{True}$  can be solved by the *tactic* **trivial** :

$H : R \rightarrow P \vee Q$

$H0 : \sim(R \wedge Q)$

-----  
**True**

trivial.

There is no useful elimination rule for **True**.

## Falsity

The elimination rule for the constant **False** implements the so-called *principle of explosion*, according to which “any proposition follows from a contradiction”.

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \text{False}}{\Gamma \vdash A} \text{False\_e}$$

There is an elimination tactic for **False** : Let us consider a goal of the form  $\Gamma \vdash^? A$  , and an hypothesis  $H : \text{False}$ . Then the tactic **destruct H** solves this goal immediately.

In order to avoid to prove contradictions, there is no introduction rule nor introduction tactic for **False**.

## Introduction rule and tactic for conjunction

A proof of a sequent  $\Gamma \vdash A \wedge B$  is composed of a proof of  $\Gamma \vdash A$  and a proof of  $\Gamma \vdash B$ .

$$\frac{\frac{\dots}{\Gamma \vdash A} \quad \frac{\dots}{\Gamma \vdash B}}{\Gamma \vdash A \wedge B} \text{ conj}$$

Coq's tactic **split**, splits a goal  $\Gamma \vdash A \wedge B$  into two *subgoals*  $\Gamma \vdash A$  and  $\Gamma \vdash B$ .

# Conjunction elimination

**Rule :**

$$\frac{\frac{\dots}{\Gamma \vdash A \wedge B} \quad \frac{\dots}{\Gamma, A, B \vdash C}}{\Gamma \vdash C} \text{and\_e}$$

**Associated tactic :**

Let us consider a goal  $\Gamma \vdash^2 C$ , and  $H : A \wedge B$ . Then the tactic **destruct H as [H1 H2]** generates the new goal

$$\Gamma, H1 : A, H2 : B \vdash^2 C$$

## Example

Lemma and\_comm :  $P \wedge Q \rightarrow Q \wedge P$ .

Proof.

intro H.

*1 subgoal*

*$P : Prop$*

*$Q : Prop$*

*$H : P \wedge Q$*

---

*$Q \wedge P$*

destruct H as [H1 H2].

*1 subgoal*

*P : Prop*

*Q : Prop*

*H1 : P*

*H2 : Q*

---

*Q /\ P*

split.

*2 subgoals*

*$P : Prop$*

*$Q : Prop$*

*$H1 : P$*

*$H2 : Q$*

---

*$Q$*

*subgoal 2 is:*

*$P$*

...

## Introduction rules and tactics for disjunction

There are two introduction rules for  $\vee$  :

$$\frac{\overline{\Gamma \vdash A}}{\Gamma \vdash A \vee B} \text{ or\_intro\_l}$$

$$\frac{\overline{\Gamma \vdash B}}{\Gamma \vdash A \vee B} \text{ or\_intro\_r}$$

The tactic **left** is associated to *or\_intro\_l*, and the tactic **right** to *or\_intro\_r*.



# Elimination rule and tactic for disjunction

$$\frac{\overline{\Gamma \vdash A \vee B} \quad \overline{\Gamma, A \vdash C} \quad \overline{\Gamma, B \vdash C}}{\Gamma \vdash C} \text{ or\_e}$$

Let us consider a goal  $\Gamma \vdash^? C$ , and  $H : A \vee B$ . Then the tactic **destruct**  $H$  as  $[H1 \mid H2]$  generates two new subgoals :

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma, H1 : A &\vdash^? C \\ \Gamma, H2 : B &\vdash^? C \end{aligned}$$

This tactic implements the *proof by cases* paradigm.

## A combination of left, right and destruct

Consider the following goal :

$P : Prop$

$Q : Prop$

$H : P \vee Q$

-----

$Q \vee P$

We have to choose between an introduction tactic on the conclusion  $Q \vee P$ , or an elimination tactic on the hypothesis  $H$ .

If we start with an introduction tactic, we have to choose between **left** and **right**. Let us use **left** for instance :

`left.`

*$P : Prop$*

*$Q : Prop$*

*$H : P \vee Q$*

-----  
 *$P$*

This is clearly a dead end. Let us come back to the previous step (with command `Undo` (`coqtop` or using Coqide's navigation menu)).

destruct H as [H0 | H0].

*two subgoals*

*P : Prop*

*Q : Prop*

*H : P ∨ Q*

*H0 : P*

-----  
*Q ∨ P*

*subgoal 2 is :*

*Q ∨ P*

right;assumption.

left;assumption.

Qed.

## Negation

In *Coq*, the negation of a proposition  $A$  is represented with the help of a constant **not**, where **not**  $A$  (also written  $\sim A$ ) is defined as the implication  $A \rightarrow \text{False}$ .

The tactic **unfold not** allows to expand the constant **not** in a goal, but is seldom used.

The introduction tactic for  $\sim A$  is the introduction tactic for  $A \rightarrow \text{False}$ , i.e. **intro**  $H$  where  $H$  is a fresh name. This tactic pushes the hypothesis  $H : A$  into the context and leaves **False** as the proposition to prove.

## Elimination tactic for the negation

The elimination tactic for negation implements some kind of reasoning by contradiction (absurd).

Let us consider a goal  $\Gamma, H : \sim B \vdash A$ . Then the tactic **destruct H** generates a new subgoal  $\Gamma \vdash B$ .

**Note :** Using **case H** instead of **destruct H** allows to keep the hypothesis H in the context (we may need to use it later in the proof).

# Justification of the previous tactic

$$\frac{\frac{\overline{\dots}}{\Gamma \vdash B} \quad \frac{\overline{\Gamma, H : \sim B \vdash \sim B}}{\Gamma, H : \sim B \vdash B \rightarrow \text{False}}}{\Gamma, H : \sim B \vdash \text{False}}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, H : \sim B \vdash \text{False}}{\Gamma, H : \sim B \vdash A}$$

**Note :** In situation like below :

$H : C \rightarrow B \rightarrow \sim A$

-----

False

You can use simply **apply H** (because  $\sim A$  is just  $A \rightarrow \text{False}$ )



## Logical equivalence

Let  $A$  and  $B$  be two propositions. Then the formula  $A \leftrightarrow B$  (read “ $A$  iff  $B$ ”) is defined as the conjunction  $(A \rightarrow B) \wedge (B \rightarrow A)$ .

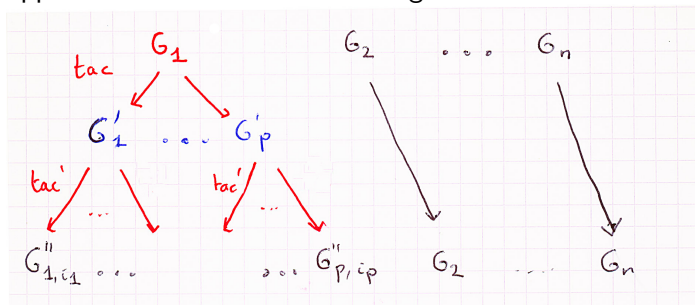
The introduction tactic for  $\leftrightarrow$  is **split**, which associates to any goal  $\Gamma \vdash A \leftrightarrow B$  the subgoals  $\Gamma \vdash A \rightarrow B$  and  $\Gamma \vdash B \rightarrow A$ .

The elimination tactic for  $\leftrightarrow$  is **destruct H as [H1 H2]** where  $H$  is an hypothesis of type  $A \leftrightarrow B$  and  $H1$  and  $H2$  are “fresh” names. This tactic adds to the current context the hypotheses  $H1 : A \rightarrow B$  and  $H2 : B \rightarrow A$ .

# Simple tactic composition

Let  $tac$  and  $tac'$  be two tactics.

The tactic  $tac; tac'$  applies  $tac'$  to each subgoal generated by the application of  $tac$  to the first subgoal.



Lemma and\_comm' :  $P \wedge Q \rightarrow Q \wedge P$ .

Proof.

intro H;destruct H as [H1 H2].

*H1 : P*

*H2 : Q*

-----  
*Q ∧ P*

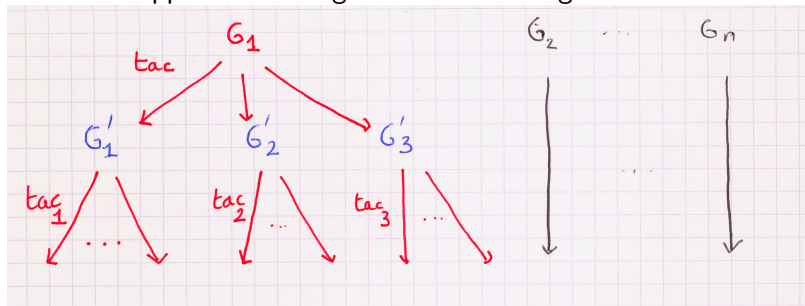
split;assumption.

(\* assumption has been applied to each one of the  
two subgoals generated by split \*)

Qed.

## Another composition operator

The tactic composition  $tac;[tac1|tac2|...]$  is a generalization of the simple composition operator, in situations where the same tactic cannot be applied to each generated new subgoal.



## The **assert** tactic (forward chaining)

Let us consider some goal  $\Gamma \vdash A$ , and  $B$  be some proposition.

The tactic **assert** ( $H : B$ ), generates two subgoals :

1.  $\Gamma \vdash B$
2.  $\Gamma, H : B \vdash A$

This tactic can be useful for avoiding proof duplication inside some interactive proof. *Notice that the scope of the declaration  $H : B$  is limited to the second subgoal. If a proof of  $B$  is needed elsewhere, it would be better to prove a lemma stating  $B$ .*

**Remark :** Sometimes the overuse of **assert** may lead to verbose developments (remember that the user has to type the statement  $B$ !)

Section assert.

Hypotheses (H :  $P \rightarrow Q$ )

(H0 :  $Q \rightarrow R$ )

(H1 :  $(P \rightarrow R) \rightarrow T \rightarrow Q$ )

(H2 :  $(P \rightarrow R) \rightarrow T$ ).

Lemma L8 : Q.

(\* A direct backward proof would need to prove twice  
the proposition  $(P \rightarrow R)$  \*)

The tactic `assert (PR :  $P \rightarrow R$ )` generates two subgoals :

*2 subgoals*

*$H : P \rightarrow Q$*

*$H0 : Q \rightarrow R$*

*$H1 : (P \rightarrow R) \rightarrow T \rightarrow Q$*

*$H2 : (P \rightarrow R) \rightarrow T$*

---

*$P \rightarrow R$*

*$Q$*

```
intro p;apply H0;apply H;assumption.
```

$H : P \rightarrow Q$

$H0 : Q \rightarrow R$

$H1 : (P \rightarrow R) \rightarrow T \rightarrow Q$

$H2 : (P \rightarrow R) \rightarrow T$

$PR : P \rightarrow R$

-----

$Q$

apply H1; [ assumption | apply H2;assumption].

Qed.



## A more clever use of destruct

The tactic **destruct H** works also when  $H$  is an hypothesis (or axiom, or already proven theorem), of type  $A_1 \rightarrow A_2 \dots \rightarrow A_n \rightarrow A$  where the main connective of  $A$  is  $\vee$ ,  $\wedge$ ,  $\sim$ ,  $\leftrightarrow$  or **False**.

In this case, new subgoals of the form  $\Gamma \vdash A_i$  are also generated (in addition to the behaviour we have already seen).

Section Ex5.

Hypothesis H :  $T \rightarrow R \rightarrow P \wedge Q$ .

Hypothesis H0 :  $\sim (R \wedge Q)$ .

Hypothesis H1 : T.

Lemma L5 :  $R \rightarrow P$ .

Proof.

intro r.

Destructuring H will produce four subgoals :

- ▶ prove T
- ▶ prove R
- ▶ assuming P, prove P,
- ▶ assuming Q, prove P.

```
(* Let us try to apply assumption  
   to each of these four subgoals *)  
destruct H as [H2 | H2] ;try assumption.
```

*1 subgoal*

$H : T \rightarrow R \rightarrow P \vee Q$

$H0 : \sim (R \wedge Q)$

$H1 : T$

$r : R$

$H2 : Q$

-----  
 $P$

```
destruct H0; split;assumption.
```

```
Qed.
```

## A variant of intros

Lemma L2 :  $(P \wedge Q) \wedge \sim P \rightarrow Q$ .

Proof.

```
intros [[p | q] p'].
```

*2 subgoals*

*$p : P$*

*$p' : \sim P$*

---

*$Q$*

*subgoal 2 is:*

*$Q$*

```
destruct p';trivial.
```

*1 subgoal*

*$q : Q$*

*$p' : \sim P$*

---

*$Q$*   
assumption.

Qed.

## An automatic tactic for intuitionistic propositional logic

The tactic **tauto** solves goals which are instances of intuitionistic propositional tautologies.

Lemma L5' :  $(R \rightarrow P \ \backslash / \ Q) \rightarrow \sim(R \ /\ \ Q) \rightarrow R \rightarrow P$ .

Proof.

tauto.

Qed.

The tactic **tauto** doesn't solve goals that are only provable in classical propositional logic (*i.e.* intuitionistic + the rule of excluded middle  $\vdash A \backslash / \sim A$ ). Here are some examples :

$$P \ \backslash / \ \sim P$$

$$(P \rightarrow Q) \leftrightarrow (\sim P \ \backslash / \ Q)$$

$$\sim(P \ /\ \ Q) \leftrightarrow \sim P \ \backslash / \ \sim Q$$

$$((P \rightarrow Q) \rightarrow P) \rightarrow P \quad (\textit{Peirce's formula})$$