

Deep Inference for Graphical Theorem Proving

Pablo Donato

2024-05-29

Institut Polytechnique de Paris, LIX, PARTOUT

PhD defense, Palaiseau



Supervised by Benjamin Werner


Introduction

- Study of *sound* reasoning

Logic

- Study of *sound reasoning*
- Example of everyday life deduction:

it rains  you don't have 




you are wet 

Logic

- Study of *sound reasoning*
- Example of everyday life deduction:

premisses

conclusion

it rains 	you don't have 
<hr/>	
you are wet 	

Logic

- Study of *sound reasoning*
- Example of everyday life deduction:

premisses

conclusion

it rains ☁️	you don't have ☂️	you are outside
you are not under a bus shelter ...		
<hr/>		
you are wet 💧		

Logic

- Study of *sound reasoning*
- Example of everyday life deduction:

premisses

conclusion

it rains ☁️	you don't have ☂️	you are outside
you are not under a bus shelter ...		
<hr/>		
you are wet 💧		

- Hidden assumptions \Rightarrow lack of **certainty**

Formal logic

Let's try another one (Aristotle – 4th century BC):

$$\frac{\textit{Socrates is human} \quad \textit{All humans are mortal}}{\textit{Socrates is mortal}}$$

Formal logic

Let's try another one (Aristotle – 4th century BC):

$$\frac{\textit{Socrates is human} \quad \textit{All humans are mortal}}{\textit{Socrates is mortal}}$$

- Better! But *why* does it hold?

Formal logic

Let's try another one (Aristotle – 4th century BC):

$$\frac{\textit{Socrates is human} \quad \textit{All humans are mortal}}{\textit{Socrates is mortal}}$$

- Better! But *why* does it hold?
- **Forget** everything about *reality*:

$$\frac{x \text{ is } P \quad \text{All } P \text{ are } Q}{x \text{ is } Q}$$

Formal logic

Let's try another one (Aristotle – 4th century BC):

$$\frac{\text{Socrates is human} \quad \text{All humans are mortal}}{\text{Socrates is mortal}}$$

- Better! But *why* does it hold?
- **Forget** everything about *reality*:

$$\frac{x \text{ is } P \quad \text{All } P \text{ are } Q}{x \text{ is } Q}$$

↳ **Formal** essence of logical reasoning

Inference rules

$$\frac{x \text{ is } P \quad \text{All } P \text{ are } Q}{x \text{ is } Q}$$

Inference rules

$$\frac{x \text{ is } P \quad \text{All } P \text{ are } Q}{x \text{ is } Q} \rightsquigarrow \frac{P(x) \quad \forall y. P(y) \Rightarrow Q(y)}{Q(x)}$$

Inference rules

$$\frac{x \text{ is } P \quad \text{All } P \text{ are } Q}{x \text{ is } Q} \rightsquigarrow \frac{P(x) \quad \forall y. P(y) \Rightarrow Q(y)}{Q(x)}$$

- *Generic patterns* of deduction as **rules**

Inference rules

$$\frac{x \text{ is } P \quad \text{All } P \text{ are } Q}{x \text{ is } Q} \rightsquigarrow \frac{P(x) \quad \forall y. P(y) \Rightarrow Q(y)}{Q(x)}$$

- *Generic patterns* of deduction as **rules**
- Formalist school (Hilbert – 20th century):

Maths as a huge **game**

Goal: to prove theorems by following rules

Inference rules

$$\frac{x \text{ is } P \quad \text{All } P \text{ are } Q}{x \text{ is } Q} \rightsquigarrow \frac{P(x) \quad \forall y. P(y) \Rightarrow Q(y)}{Q(x)}$$

- *Generic patterns* of deduction as **rules**
- Formalist school (Hilbert – 20th century):

Maths as a huge **game**

Goal: to prove theorems by following rules

- **Proof theory:** design & study of *rule systems* capturing maths

Proof assistants

- Inference rules represented with **symbols**

Proof assistants

- Inference rules represented with **symbols**
- **Computers** very good at *manipulating symbols* and *following rules*

Proof assistants

- Inference rules represented with **symbols**
- **Computers** very good at *manipulating symbols* and *following rules*
 - ↳ Teach computers how to do maths with proof theory!

Proof assistants

- Inference rules represented with **symbols**
- **Computers** very good at *manipulating symbols* and *following rules*
 - ↳ Teach computers how to do maths with proof theory!
- Problem: maths is *hard* \Rightarrow need for a **human** in the loop
 - ↳ **Interactive** Theorem Provers (ITPs)

Textual vs. Graphical

State-of-the art: build proofs by writing **textual** commands

Textual vs. Graphical

State-of-the art: build proofs by writing **textual** commands



: “Please apply *this* rule”

Textual vs. Graphical

State-of-the art: build proofs by writing **textual** commands



: “Please apply *this* rule”



: “ **OK** here is the result!”

Textual vs. Graphical

State-of-the art: build proofs by writing **textual** commands



: “Please apply *this* rule”



: “**✗ ERROR:** dkfsljfdklsfjdkfjsldjfkdljsfj”

Textual vs. Graphical

State-of-the art: build proofs by writing **textual** commands



: “Please apply *this* rule”



: “**✗ ERROR:** dkfsljfjdklsfjdkfjsldjfkdlfsj”

1st contribution: build proofs by **direct manipulation** of *formulas*

↳ No need to *memorize* the rules

↳ No risks of *errors*

Symbolic vs. Iconic

- **Symbols** are hard to:
 - *learn* \Rightarrow purely conventional meaning
 - *manipulate* \Rightarrow need for very precise gestures

Symbolic vs. Iconic

- **Symbols** are hard to:
 - *learn* \Rightarrow purely conventional meaning
 - *manipulate* \Rightarrow need for very precise gestures
- Formulas can **interact** by being *moved* in the same **space**

Symbolic vs. Iconic

- **Symbols** are hard to:
 - *learn* \Rightarrow purely conventional meaning
 - *manipulate* \Rightarrow need for very precise gestures
- Formulas can **interact** by being *moved* in the same **space**

2nd contribution: replace logical symbols by **geometrical diagrams**

Symbolic Manipulations

Proof-by-Action



Subformula Linking

Semantics of drag-and-drop

Linking under quantifiers

Rewriting equalities

Completeness

Integration with Coq

Protocol

Compiling actions

Conclusion

- Quelques features manquantes, mais déjà utilisable
- Mathis a simplifié l'install -> n'hésitez pas à installer !
- Bientôt prêt pour évaluation sur des étudiants, voire experts

Iconic Manipulations

Symmetric Bubble Calculus

The chemical metaphor

Adding bubbles

Reducing non-determinism

Asymmetric Bubble Calculi

Coloring bubbles

Red bubbles

Blue bubbles

Classical vs. Intuitionistic

A change of viewpoint

Existential Graphs

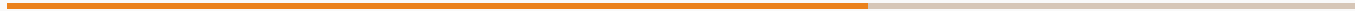
The three systems of EGs

The three icons of Alpha

Illative transformations

Example: modus ponens

Flowers



The scroll

The n-ary scroll

Blooming

Corollaries

Flower Calculus

Iteration and Deiteration

Insertion and Deletion

Instantiation and Abstraction

Case reasoning

QED

Metatheory: Nature vs. Culture

Natural rules

Cultural rules

Hypothetical provability

Cult-elimination

Flower Prover

Towards Curry-Howard

Thank you!