

# Natural Deduction in Computer Science

## 1. Introduction to Natural Deduction

*Natural deduction involves a collection of proof rules*

*Given a set of premises and a conclusion ( $w$ )*

- **Premises:** Assumed to be true
- **Sequent:** Represents the relationship between premises and the conclusion

## 2. Basic Proof Rules

**And Introduction ( $\wedge_i$ ):**  $\frac{p \quad q}{p \wedge q}$

0. **And Elimination ( $\wedge_e$ ):**  $p \wedge q \vdash p$  and  $p \wedge q \vdash q$

0. **Double Negation:**  $\neg\neg p$  introduction and elimination

0. **Implies Elimination (Modus Ponens):**  $p, p \rightarrow q \vdash q$

0. **Implies Elimination (Modus Tollens):**  $\neg q, p \rightarrow q \vdash \neg p$

0. **OR Introduction ( $\vee_i$ ):**  $p \vdash p \vee q$  and  $q \vdash p \vee q$

0. **Law of Excluded Middle:**  $(p \vee \neg p)$

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## 3. Semantics and Proof Theory

[cite<sub>start</sub>]

- **Semantic Entailment ( $\models$ ):**  $\Gamma \models \phi$  means if all  $\Gamma$  evaluate to true, so does  $\phi$
- **Soundness:** If something is provable, it is semantically true ( $\Gamma \vdash \phi \Rightarrow \Gamma \models \phi$ )  
[cite<sub>start</sub>]
- **Completeness:** If something is semantically true, it is provable ( $\Gamma \models \phi \Rightarrow \Gamma \vdash \phi$ )
- **Provably Equivalent:** Two formulas are provably equivalent if they can be proven from each other using inference rules

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## 4. Normal Forms

- **Conjunctive Normal Form (CNF):** A conjunction of disjunctions of literals  $F = \bigwedge_{i=1}^n \bigvee_{j=1}^m L_{i,j}$   $F =$

**Disjunctive Normal Form (DNF):** A disjunction of conjunctions of literals  $F = \bigvee_{i=1}^m \bigwedge_{j=1}^n L_{i,j}$   $F =$

**Conversion to CNF:**

Replace  $p \rightarrow q$  with  $\neg p \vee q$

Use De Morgan's laws to move negations inward:  $\neg(p \wedge q) \equiv \neg p \vee \neg q$

Distribute  $\vee$  over  $\wedge$

## 5. Horn Formulas

*A formula is a Horn Formula if it is in CNF and every disjunction contains at most one positive literal*

**Satisfiability (SAT):** Determining if a Horn formula is SAT takes at most  $O(n^2)$  steps

**Algorithm:** Mark literals as true.  
marked, mark  $Q$   
reached, it is **Unsat**

*If a clause  $(P_1 \wedge P_2 \cdots \wedge P_m) \rightarrow Q$  has all  $P_i$   
If a contradiction  $(P_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge P_m) \rightarrow \perp$  is*

## 6. Resolution

Let  $C_1, C_2$  be clauses If  $p \in C_1$  and  $\neg p \in C_2$ , the **resolvent** is:

$$R = (C_1 \setminus \{p\}) \cup (C_2 \setminus \{\neg p\})$$

[cite\_start] **Soundness of Resolution:** If an empty clause ( $\square$ ) is found in the set of resolvents, the formula  $F$  is **Unsat**