

# 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_start`]

- **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_start`]
- **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

## 4. Normal Forms

- **Conjunctive Normal Form (CNF):** A conjunction of disjunctions of literals  

$$\bigwedge_{i=1}^n \bigvee_{j=1}^m L_{i,j}$$

**Disjunctive Normal Form (DNF):** A disjunction of conjunctions of literals  

$$\bigvee_{i=1}^m \bigwedge_{j=1}^n L_{i,j}$$

| 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  $\wedge$

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$F =$

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## 5. Horn Formulas

| A formula  $F$  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  $(P_1 \wedge P_2 \wedge \dots \wedge P_m) \rightarrow Q$  has all  $P_i$  marked, mark  $Q$   
| If a contradiction  $(P_1 \wedge \dots \wedge P_m) \rightarrow \perp$  is reached, it is **Unsat**

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## 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**