Provability

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18th October 2022

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Defining provability

 \vdash is defined to be the smallest relation between sets of formulae and formulae meeting the following conditions.

Defining provability (contd.)

$$\frac{\Gamma, P \vdash Q \qquad \Gamma, P \vdash \neg Q}{\Gamma \vdash \neg P} \neg Intro \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash \neg \neg P}{\Gamma \vdash P} DNE$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash P[u/v] \qquad u \not\in FV(\Gamma, \forall vP)}{\Gamma \vdash \forall vP} \forall Intro \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash \forall vP \qquad t \in Terms(\Sigma)}{\Gamma \vdash P[t/v]} \forall Elim$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash P[t/v]}{\Gamma \vdash \exists vP} \exists Intro \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash \exists vP \qquad \Gamma, P[u/v] \vdash Q \qquad u \not\in FV(\Gamma, Q, \exists vP)}{\Gamma \vdash Q} \exists Elim$$

$$\frac{t \in Terms(\Sigma)}{\vdash t = t} = Intro \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash s = t \qquad \Gamma \vdash P[s/v]}{\Gamma \vdash P[t/v]} = Elim$$

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A proof by induction: provability is compact

Compactness of provability

 $\Gamma \vdash P$ iff there is a finite $\Gamma_0 \subseteq \Gamma$ such that $\Gamma_0 \vdash P$.

The right-to-left direction is just a matter of applying Weakening.

The left-to-right direction needs an induction. Let's say that a sequent $\Gamma \triangleright P$ is compactable iff there is a finite $\Gamma_0 \subseteq \Gamma$ such that $\Gamma_0 \vdash P$; we are trying to show that every provable sequent is compactable.

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Assumption: if $\Gamma \triangleright P$ is an instance of Assumption, $\Gamma = \{P\}$ which is finite.

Weakening: if $\Gamma \triangleright P$ follows by Weakening from some provable compactable sequent, that sequent must be $\Delta \triangleright P$ for some $\Delta \subseteq \Gamma$. By the IH, there's a finite $\Delta_0 \subseteq \Delta$ such that $\Delta_0 \vdash P$; since $\Delta_0 \subseteq \Gamma$, this means $\Gamma \triangleright P$ is also compactable.

ightarrowIntro: suppose $\Gamma
hd P$ follows by ightarrowIntro from some provable compactable sequent. Then there must be some Q and R such that $P = Q \to R$ and that sequent is $\Gamma, Q
hd R$. By the IH, there's a finite subset Δ of $\Gamma \cup \{Q\}$ such that $\Delta
hd R$. Let $\Gamma_0 = \Delta \setminus \{Q\}$; note that Γ_0 is finite since Δ is. Then $\Gamma_0 \subseteq \Gamma$ and $\Delta \subseteq \Gamma_0 \cup \{Q\}$, so by Weakening $\Gamma_0, Q \vdash R$, so by \rightarrow Intro, $\Gamma_0 \vdash Q \to R$.

ightharpoonup Elim: suppose $\Gamma
hildoorup P$ follows by ightharpoonup Elim from two provable compactable sequents. Then there must be some Q such that one of those sequents is $\Gamma
hildoorup Q
ightharpoonup P$ and the other is $\Gamma
hildoorup Q$. By the IH, there are finite subsets Γ_1, Γ_2 of Γ such that $\Gamma_1 \vdash Q \to P$ and $\Gamma_2 \vdash Q$. Let $\Gamma_0 = \Gamma_1 \cup \Gamma_2$. By Weakening, $\Gamma_0 \vdash Q \to P$ and $\Gamma_0 \vdash Q$, so by \to Elim, $\Gamma_0 \vdash P$. Γ_0 is finite since it's the union of two finite sets.

Other rules similar.

Finite-sequent provability

We can shed more light on the last result by introducing a new relation \vdash_{fin} between finite sets of formulae and formulae (a subset of $\mathcal{P}_{\mathit{fin}}(\mathcal{L}(\Sigma)) \times \mathcal{L}(\Sigma)$). It is defined just like \vdash , but the Weakening rule is changed to:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\mathit{fin}} P \qquad Q \in \mathcal{L}(\Sigma)}{\Gamma, \, Q \vdash_{\mathit{fin}} P} \, \, \mathsf{One}\text{-}\mathsf{formula} \, \, \mathsf{Weakening}$$

Theorem

 $\Gamma \vdash P$ iff for some $\Gamma_0 \subseteq \Gamma$, $\Gamma_0 \vdash_{\mathit{fin}} P$

For the right-to-left direction, we first show by a trivial induction that $\Gamma_0 \vdash P$ whenever $\Gamma_0 \vdash_{\mathit{fin}} P$, and then appeal to Weakening to get that when $\Gamma_0 \vdash P$ and $\Gamma_0 \subseteq \Gamma$, $\Gamma \vdash P$.

For the left-to right direction, we first prove that \vdash_{fin} is closed under the version of Weakening restricted to $\mathit{finite}\ \Delta$ (by induction on the size of Δ). Then the proof proceeds just like the one on the previous slide.

Provability and proofs

What about proofs?

When you're taught to *use* a formal system of logic, you're taught rules for writing down things called *proofs*. So far, we haven't even mentioned them!

But there's a sense in which a certain very abstract notion of "proof" is in play whenever one defines a set (or relation) as a closure.

Closures and derivations

Supose we have a family (R_i) of relations on a set A (which may be of different arities), such that C is the smallest subset of A closed under all the R_i . (Note that some of the R_i may be 1-ary, i.e. subsets of A, so C need not be \varnothing !)

Let a *derivation history* for (R_i) be a list $s \in A^*$ such that for each element y of s, there is some R_i (of arity n) and some x_1, \ldots, x_{n-1} occurring earlier than y in s such that $R_i x_1 \ldots x_{n-1} y$. More carefully:

Definition

The set of derivation histories for (R_i) is the smallest set which contains [] and is such that if it contains s, and $R_i x_1 \dots x_{n-1} y$ for some $x_1 \dots x_{n-1} \in \text{elements } s$ (where n is the arity of R) then it contains (y:s).

It is easy to show that s and t are derivation histories, $s \oplus t$ is. (Use induction on s.)

The existence of derivations

A derivation of y is a derivation history whose last element is y, i.e. which is (y:s) for some $s \in A^*$.

Then we can show that for any $y \in A$, $y \in C$ iff there is a derivation of y.

Proof, left-to-right: When $y \in R_i$ for a singulary R_i , [y] is a derivation of y. Otherwise, suppose $R_i x_1 \dots x_{n-1} y$ for an n-ary R, where $x_1 \dots x_{n-1} \in C$, and there is a derivation s_i of each x_i . Then $t := [y] \oplus s_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus s_{n-1}$ is a derivation of y.

Right-to-left: we show by induction that for every s, if s is a derivation history, then elements $s \subseteq C$. Base case trivial since elements $[] = \varnothing \subseteq C$. Induction step: suppose s is such that if it's a derivation history, then elements $s \subseteq C$. Suppose (y:s) is a derivation history. Then s is a derivation history and there is an n-ary R_i such that for some $x_1 \dots x_{n-1} \in \text{elements } s$, $R_i x_1 \dots x_{n-1} y$. But by the induction hypothesis, elements $s \subseteq C$. Since C is closed under C, it follows that C.

The use of derivation histories

A common situation: we are interested in some finite number of (R_i) such that for each one, it is a mechanical matter to check whether $R_i x_1 \dots x_n$ (when $x_1 \dots x_n$ are "given" to us in some appropriate way, e.g. they are strings we have written down).

Figuring out whether a given y belongs to the smallest set closed under (R_i) may still be very hard!

But if we are presented (in the same canonical way) with a list of elements of A, it will be a mechanical matter to check whether it is a derivation of y. We just go through it step by step and check, for each step, whether it bears each R_i to an appropriate tuple of previous steps.

It's easier if we have an ``annotated'' derivation history where for each element of the list we are told which R_i applies and where in the earlier list we are to find the relevant x_1, \ldots, x_{n-1} ; but even without this information, there are only finitely many possibilities to search through.

Proofs

A derivation history for \vdash is a list of sequents, where each one is either an instance of Assumption, an instance of =Intro, follows from some earlier sequent by Weakening, \rightarrow Intro, ...; follows from two earlier sequents by \rightarrow Elim, \land Intro,...; or follows from three earlier sequents by \lor Elim.

Such derivation histories may involve sequents $\Gamma \triangleright P$ where Γ is infinite. There is no clear sense in which one could *write down* such a derivation history.

By contrast, derivation histories for \vdash_{fin} are lists of *finite* objects. These are more like what we'd expect a `proof' to be.

Proofs as strings

If we're treating formulas as strings, it's natural to think that proofs should be strings too. Derivation histories in \vdash_{fin} aren't strings; they are lists of ordered pairs of a finite set of formulae and a formula.

But we can represent any such list unambiguously as a string.

- 1. First, convert each finite set of formulae into a string by listing them in alphabetical order and joining them with a character that never appears in formulae: ;, say.
- 2. Second, convert each ordered pair of such a string and a formula into a single string by joining the two with another character that never appears in formulae: ▶, say.
- 3. Finally, convert the resulting list of strings into a single string by joining them all with some third character that never appears in formulae: newline, say.

Tree-style proofs

In constructing a proof in this sense of some given sequent, one typically ends up making a lot of arbitrary choices about how to order the lines. *Proof theorists* are interested in properties of proofs that don't depend on these arbitrary line-numbering choices: for these purposes, it's more useful to think of formal proofs as *trees* of formulae rather than lists of formulae. E.g. the following (cf. our earlier discussion of Explosion) would be an unambiguous visual representation of a unique proof:

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c|c} \Gamma \rhd P \\ \hline \Gamma, \neg Q \rhd P \end{array} \text{Weakening} & \frac{\Gamma \rhd \neg P}{\Gamma, \neg Q \rhd \neg P} \text{Weakening} \\ \hline & \frac{\Gamma \rhd \neg \neg Q}{\Gamma \rhd Q} \text{ DNE} \end{array}$$

The theory of trees can be developed along similar lines to the theory of lists; but we haven't done this, so we'll stick with our less elegant linear conception of proof.

Fitch-style proof formatting

In your introductory Logic class, you probably learnt a way of writing down proofs that look something like this:

1 -
$$A$$
 Assumption
2 - B Assumption
3 - A Reiteration, 1
4 - $B \rightarrow A$ \rightarrow -Intro 2--3
5 - $A \rightarrow (B \rightarrow A)$ \rightarrow -Intro 1--4

Any such proof can be understood as a proof in our sense (in a system with some more rules, which are derived rules for \vdash) where the vertical lines on the left correspond to the formulae on the left hand side of \triangleright .

The Fitch-style proof on the previous line corresponds in this sense to the following list of sequents:

$$A \triangleright A$$
 $A, B \triangleright B$
 $A, B \triangleright A$
 $A \triangleright B \rightarrow A$
 $A \triangleright A \rightarrow (B \rightarrow A)$

This is in fact a proof in our sense.

Fitch proofs enforce certain choices about the ordering of lines, so not every proof in our sense corresponds to a Fitch proof. It turns out that every provable sequent *does* have a Fitch proof, but we won't show this since it would require a rigorous definition of ``Fitch proof'' (which is fiddly!).

Sometimes, the lists of sequents corresponding to valid Fitch-style proofs are not valid proofs in our sense, e.g.:

This isn't a proof in our sense, but would become one if we added

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash A \qquad \Delta \vdash B}{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash A \land B} \land \mathsf{Intro}_w$$

This can easily be seen to be a *derived* rule for \vdash :

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c|c} \Gamma \vdash A & \Delta \vdash B \\ \hline \Gamma, \Delta \vdash A & \overline{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash B} \\ \hline \Gamma, \Delta \vdash A \land B \end{array}}{ \land \mathsf{Intro}} \mathsf{Weakening}$$

Our other two-premise and three-premise rules have 'mixed antecedent' generalizations that are derivable in the same way.

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash P \to Q \quad \Delta \vdash P}{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash Q} \to \mathsf{Elim}_{w} \qquad \frac{\Gamma, P \vdash Q \quad \Delta, P \vdash \neg Q}{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash \neg P} \to \mathsf{Intro}_{w}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash P \lor Q \quad \Delta, P \vdash R \quad \Delta', Q \vdash R}{\Gamma, \Delta, \Delta' \vdash R} \lor \mathsf{Elim}_{w}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \exists vP \quad \Delta, P[u/v] \vdash Q \quad u \not\in FV(\Gamma, \Delta, Q, \exists vP)}{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash Q} \exists \mathsf{Elim}_{w}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash s = t \quad \Delta \vdash P[s/v]}{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash P[t/v]} = \mathsf{Elim}_{w}$$

We would have got the very same relation \vdash if we used these clauses rather than the original ones. We'd get a different notion of 'proof', although there's a straightforward recipe for turning proofs-in-the-new-sense into proofs-in-the-old-sense.

Derived rules

There are many lots of other useful derived rules. For example:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash P \lor Q \qquad \Gamma \vdash \neg P}{\Gamma \vdash Q} \text{ Disjunctive Syllogism}$$

This is also derivable for \vdash :

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash P \lor Q}{\Gamma, P \vdash \neg \neg Q} \xrightarrow{P \vdash P} \underset{\neg Q}{A} \xrightarrow{\overline{Q} \vdash \overline{Q}} \underset{\neg Q \vdash \neg \neg Q}{W} \xrightarrow{\neg Q \vdash \neg Q} \underset{\neg I_{w}}{A}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, Q \vdash Q}{\Gamma, Q \vdash \neg \neg Q} \lor E$$

There are some useful derived rules where it's not so clear how one would add them to a Fitch-style proof system. Particularly interesting are so-called *structural* rules, which don't involve any particular connective, such as

$$\frac{\Gamma, P \vdash Q \quad \Delta \vdash P}{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash Q}$$
Cut

This is straightforward to derive using the \rightarrow rules:

$$\frac{\frac{\Gamma, P \vdash Q}{\Gamma \vdash P \to Q} \to \mathsf{Intro}}{\frac{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash Q}{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash Q}} \to \mathsf{Elim}_{w}$$

An important special case of Cut is Transitivity: if $P \vdash Q$ and $R \vdash P$, then $R \vdash Q$. (Take $\Gamma = \emptyset$ and $\Delta = \{R\}$.)

A useful generalization of Cut is "Transitivity $^+$ ": if $\Gamma \vdash P$ for all $P \in \Delta$ and $\Gamma, \Delta \vdash Q$, then $\Gamma \vdash Q$.

Two more examples:

$$\frac{\Gamma,P\vdash Q}{\Gamma,\neg Q\vdash \neg P} \text{ Contraposition } Proof: \underbrace{\frac{\neg Q\vdash \neg Q}{P,\neg Q\vdash \neg Q}}_{\Gamma,\neg Q\vdash \neg P} \text{ Assumption}_{Weakening}$$

$$\frac{P\in \Gamma}{\Gamma\vdash P} \text{ Assumption}_{w} Proof: \underbrace{\frac{\neg P\vdash P}{\Gamma\vdash P}}_{\Gamma\vdash P} \text{ Weakening}$$

Provable Equivalence

Provable equivalence

Definition

 $P \dashv \vdash Q$ (P and Q are provably equivalent) iff $P \vdash Q$ and $Q \vdash P$.

Fact

 $P \dashv \vdash Q$ iff for all Γ , $\Gamma \vdash P$ iff $\Gamma \vdash Q$.

Proof, right to left: by Assumption, $P \vdash P$ and $Q \vdash Q$.

Left-to-right: suppose $\Gamma \vdash P$. Since $P \vdash Q$, $\Gamma, P \vdash Q$ by Weakening, so $\Gamma \vdash P \to Q$ by \to Intro; hence $\Gamma \vdash Q$ by \to Elim.

Provable equivalence

Provable equivalence is a congruence

Suppose $P \dashv \vdash Q$ and $P' \dashv \vdash Q'$. Then $\neg P \dashv \vdash \neg Q$, $P \land P' \dashv \vdash Q \land Q'$, $P \lor P' \dashv \vdash Q \lor Q'$, $P \to P' \dashv \vdash Q \to Q'$, and for any variable v, $\forall vP \dashv \vdash \forall vQ$ and $\exists vP \dashv \vdash \exists vQ$.

Proof for \wedge : by \wedge Elim, $P \wedge P' \vdash P$ and $P \wedge P' \vdash P'$. But then by the hypothesis, $P \wedge P' \vdash Q$ and $P \wedge P' \vdash Q'$. So by \wedge Intro, $P \wedge P' \vdash Q \wedge Q'$.

Proof for \forall : $\forall vP \vdash P$ by \forall Elim (since P = P[v/v]. So by the hypothesis, $\forall vP \vdash Q$. Since v isn't free in $\forall vP$ or $\forall vQ$, we can apply \forall Intro to conclude that $\forall vP \vdash \forall vQ$.

Other cases similar.

Simplifying the language

Considered the function from $\mathcal{L}(\Sigma)$ to $\mathcal{L}_{\neg,\wedge,\forall,=}(\Sigma)$ given by

$$fP = P$$
 when P is atomic $f(\neg P) = \neg fP$
$$f(P \land Q) = fP \land fQ$$

$$f(P \lor Q) = \neg (\neg fP \land \neg fQ)$$

$$f(P \to Q) = \neg (fP \land \neg fQ)$$

$$f(\forall vP) = \forall vfP$$

$$f(\exists vP) = \neg \forall v \neg fP$$

One thing we can prove about this is that for all P, $P \dashv \vdash fP$. This will require an induction on the construction of the formula P, but first we'll need some initial lemmas.

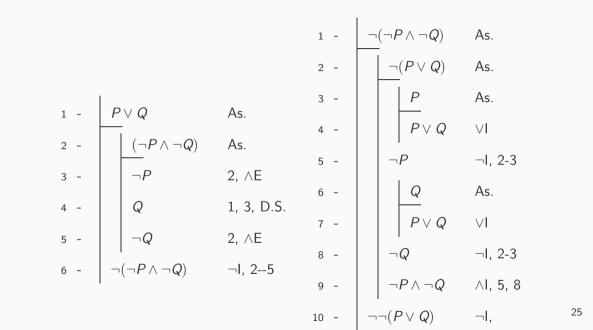
Lemmas

Facts

For any formulae P and Q and variable v:

$$P \lor Q \dashv \vdash \neg(\neg P \land \neg Q)$$
$$P \to Q \dashv \vdash \neg(P \land \neg Q)$$
$$\exists vP \dashv \vdash \neg \forall v \neg P$$

These are pretty straightforward exercises in proof construction similar to what you're used to from Logic. I'll do the first pair on the next slide.



Now we are ready to prove that $P \dashv \vdash fP$ for all P, by induction on the construction of P.

Base case: if *P* is atomic, fP = P, so we have P + P by Assumption.

Induction step for \neg : suppose $P = \neg Q$ where $Q \dashv \vdash fQ$. Then $fP = \neg fQ$, so we have $P \dashv \vdash fP$ by the fact that $\dashv \vdash$ is a congruence.

Induction steps for \wedge **and** \forall **:** similar.

Induction step for \vee : suppose $P = Q \vee R$, where $Q \dashv \vdash fQ$ and $R \dashv \vdash fR$. Then $fP = \neg(\neg fQ \wedge \neg fR)$, so by the lemma, $fP \dashv \vdash fQ \vee fR$. But $P \dashv \vdash fQ \vee fR$ by the induction hypothesis and the fact that $\dashv \vdash$ is a congruence.

Induction step for \rightarrow : similar, but using the \rightarrow part of the lemma.

Induction step for \exists : similar, but using the \exists part.

We can also prove something stronger. Recall that $\vdash_{\neg, \land, \lor, =}$ is the relation between sets of formulae and formulae of $\mathcal{L}_{\neg, \land, \lor}(\Sigma)$ defined just like \vdash but without the clauses for \rightarrow Intro, \rightarrow Elim, \lor Intro1, \lor Intro2, \lor Elim, \exists Intro, or Elim. Call it \vdash' for short. Then we can show the following:

Fact

$$\Gamma \vdash P \text{ iff } f[\Gamma] \vdash' fP.$$

Right-to-left: Suppose $f[\Gamma] \vdash' fP$. Then $f[\Gamma] \vdash fP$ (since $\vdash' \subseteq \vdash$). But by the previous result, every member of $f[\Gamma]$ is provably equivalent to some member of Γ , and hence proved by Γ , so by Transitivity $^+$, $\Gamma \vdash fP$; then by Cut, $\Gamma \vdash P$.

The left-to-right direction requires an induction on the derivation of $\Gamma \triangleright P$ (see next slide).

Assumption: $fP \triangleright fP$ is an instance of Assumption, so $fP \vdash' fP$.

Weakening: if $f[\Gamma] \vdash_{\neg, \wedge, \forall, =} fP$ then $f[\Gamma], f[\Delta] \vdash \vdash' fP$ by Weakening for \vdash' .

 \vee Intro1: Suppose $f[\Gamma] \vdash' fP$. We have that $\neg fP \land \neg fQ \vdash' \neg fP$ (by Assumption and $\land \mathsf{Elim1}_w$ for \vdash'). So by $\neg \mathsf{Intro}_w$ for \vdash' , $f[\Gamma] \vdash \neg (\neg fP \land fQ)$, which is $f(P \lor Q)$.

∨**Intro2:** Similar.

 \vee **Elim:** Suppose $f[\Gamma] \vdash' f(P \lor Q)$, i.e. $\neg(\neg fP \land \neg fQ)$, and moreover $f[\Gamma]$, $fP \vdash' fR$ and $f[\Gamma]$, $fQ \vdash' fR$. By Contraposition for \vdash' (established in the same way as for \vdash) we have $f[\Gamma]$, $\neg fR \vdash' \neg fP$ and $f[\Gamma]$, $\neg fR \vdash' \neg fQ$, so by \land Intro $f[\Gamma]$, $\neg fR \vdash' \neg fP \land \neg fQ$. So by \neg Intro $_w$ for \vdash' , $f[\Gamma] \vdash' \neg \neg fR$, and so $f[\Gamma] \vdash' f[R]$ by DNE.

ightharpoonupIntro: Suppose $f[\Gamma]$, $fP \vdash' fQ$. We have $fP \land \neg fQ \vdash' \neg fQ$ by Assumption_w and \land Elim, and so, $f[\Gamma]$, $fP \land \neg fQ \vdash' \neg fP$ by \neg Intro_w. But also $fP \land \neg fQ \vdash' fP$ by Assumption and \land Elim. So by \neg Intro_w, $f[\Gamma] \vdash' \neg (fP \land \neg fQ)$, which is $f(P \to Q)$.

ightarrow**Elim:** Suppose $f[\Gamma] \vdash' f(P \to Q)$ (i.e. $\neg (fP \land \neg fQ)$) and also $f[\Gamma] \vdash' fP$. By Assumption $\neg fQ \vdash' \neg fQ$, so by \land Intro $_w$, $f[\Gamma], \neg fQ \vdash' fP \land \neg fQ$. So by \neg Intro $_w$, $f[\Gamma] \vdash' \neg \neg fQ$, and by DNE, $f[\Gamma] \vdash' fQ$.

∃Intro: Suppos $f[\Gamma] \vdash' f(P[t/v])$. By ∀Elim for \vdash , $\forall v \neg fP \vdash' \neg fP[t/v]$. But $\neg fP[t/v]$ is $\neg ((fP)[t/v])$ (induction!), so by $\neg Intro_w$, $f[\Gamma] \vdash' \neg \forall v \neg fP$, which is $f(\exists vP)$.

∃Elim: Suppose $f[\Gamma] \vdash' f(\exists vP)$ (= $\neg \forall v \neg P$) and $f[\Gamma]$, $f(P[u/v]) \vdash' fQ$, where v is not free in Γ , $\exists vP$, or Q. It is easy to show (induction!) that f(P[u/v]) = fP[u/v]. By Contraposition, $f[\Gamma]$, $\neg fQ \vdash' \neg fP[u/v]$, which is $(\neg fP)[u/v]$. So by \forall -intro, $f[\Gamma]$, $\neg fQ \vdash' \forall v \neg fP$. So by $\neg Intro_w$, $f[\Gamma] \vdash \neg \neg fQ$, and by DNE $f[\Gamma] \vdash fQ$.