Metamathema

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Propositional logic

A proposition P signifies a qualitatively nondescript yet uniquely identifiable fact P^* that is either the case or not.

1. Syntax

DEFINITION 1.1. A logical operator o may act on any enumeration $\mathcal{E}$ of a fixed number $n \in \mathbb{N}$ of propositions $\mathcal{E} \subseteq \mathcal{W}$ to compose a new proposition $o(\mathcal{E}) = P \in \mathcal{W}$ where $P \notin \mathcal{E}$.

The fixed number n is said to be the order of the operator.

Any proposition in the enumeration $\mathcal{E}_i \in \mathcal{E}$ is said to be in the scope of the operator at position i.

THEOREM 1.1. There is no bound to the propositions that we may enumerate: if $|\mathcal{E}| \in \mathbb{N}$ then $\mathcal{E} \subset \mathcal{W}$.

PROOF. Consider $P_{i+1} = o((\mathcal{E} \setminus \{\mathcal{E}_1\}) \cup \{P_i\})$ where $P_0 = \mathcal{E}_1$.

Taking $\mathcal{D}_i = \bigcup_{j=0}^{i} \{P_j\}$ we see that $\mathcal{D}_i \subset \mathcal{D}_{i+1} \subseteq \mathcal{W}$ so $|\mathcal{D}_i| = i < |\mathcal{W}|$ for all $i \in \mathbb{N}$ hence $|\mathcal{W}| \notin \mathbb{N}$. $\qquad\square$

OPERATOR 1.1 (Material implication). For any $P, Q \in \mathcal{W}$:

$$P \to Q \in \mathcal{W}.$$

If $(P \to Q)^*$ is the case, then if P^* (the implicans) is the case, then so is Q^* (the implicandum). The implicans is said to be a sufficient condition for the implicandum.

OPERATOR 1.2 (Negation). For any $P \in \mathcal{W}$:

$$\neg P \in \mathcal{W}.$$

If $(\neg P)^*$ is the case then P^* is not the case.

Clearly propositions acted on by logical operators may themselves be composed of propositions. This may introduce ambiguity in the notation.

DEFINITION 1.2. Parentheses (,) indicate the scope of a logical operator in a composite proposition.

For instance $\neg R$ for $R = P \to Q$ may be written $\neg(P \to Q)$.

Composite propositions may be distinguished from those that contain no logical operators.

DEFINITION 1.3. When a proposition a is atomic there is no logical operator o nor any enumeration of propositions $\mathcal{E} \subset \mathcal{W}$ such that $a = o(\mathcal{E})$.

An exhaustive enumeration of atomic propositions is possible yet has no bound.

In the alphabet formed by atomic propositions, logical operators and parentheses not every expression composed of an enumeration of symbols forms a proposition that belongs to the logic. For instance, $\to a$ and $)a\neg$ are ill formed. Therefore $\mathcal{W}$ is known as the set of well formed formulas.

For purposes of investigation we may introduce an atom symbol a and a succession symbol $'$ such that an exhaustive enumeration $\mathcal{E}$ of atomic propositions may be denoted $\mathcal{E}_0 = a$ and $\mathcal{E}_{i+1} = (\mathcal{E}_i)'$ for all $i \in \mathbb{N}$. The alphabet $a, ', \to, \neg, (,)$ permits every expression to be encoded as a natural number in base 6.

THEOREM 1.2. The well formed formulas are exhaustively enumerable $|\mathcal{W}| \leq |\mathbb{N}|$.

Should we extend the alphabet with a propositional variable symbol p then any expression containing this symbol is evidently ill formed. Nonetheless we may combine it with the succession symbol $'$ to denote instances of propositional variables in a metatheoretical expression.

DEFINITION 1.4. Uniform substitution $\varphi(p/P)$ of a propositional variable p with a proposition $P \in \mathcal{W}$ substitutes every instance of the variable in the expression φ with an instance of the proposition.

DEFINITION 1.5. A formula φ is a metatheoretical expression that becomes a well formed formula $F \in \mathcal{W}$ once every propositional variable $p \in \varphi$ has been substituted uniformly with some well formed formula $P \in \mathcal{W}$.

The resulting proposition is known as an instance of the formula $F = \varphi(\mathcal{E})$ where $\mathcal{E} \subset \mathcal{W}$ enumerates the substituting propositions in order of substitution.

Note that only a formula with no instance of any propositional variable is well formed.

We have used formulas before to define logical operators. Now we can use them to express the logical structure shared by all instances of a formula.

The set of all formulas shall be denoted Φ.

Different formulas may contain instances of the same propositional variable.

DEFINITION 1.6. An instance $\Lambda(\mathcal{E})$ of a set of formulas $\Lambda \in \Phi$ follows from substitution of all propositional variables uniformly over the set $\Lambda(\mathcal{E})_i = \Lambda_i(\mathcal{E})$.

DEFINITION 1.7. A set of propositions $\mathcal{E} \subseteq \mathcal{W}$ may allow us to infer $\mathcal{E} \vdash P$ a proposition P.

In that case the propositions of $\mathcal{E}$ are known as premises whereas P is said to be a syntactic consequence.

A rule of inference $\Lambda \vdash \kappa$ relates a finite set of formulas $(\Lambda \cup \{\kappa\}) \subset \Phi$ such that $\Lambda(\mathcal{E}) \vdash \kappa(\mathcal{E})$ for every instance $(\Lambda \cup \{\kappa\})(\mathcal{E})$.

Every inference is an instance of some rule of inference. This ensures that inference is structural.

DEFINITION 1.8. The deductive closure $\partial\mathcal{E}$ of a set of propositions $\mathcal{E} \subseteq \mathcal{W}$ contains all syntactic consequences of the set such that $\mathcal{E} \vdash P$ only if $P \in \partial\mathcal{E}$.

The set is deductively closed if $\mathcal{E} = \partial\mathcal{E}$.

The set is consistent if there is no $P \in \partial\mathcal{E}$ such that also $\neg P \in \partial\mathcal{E}$.

The set is trivial if $\partial\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{W}$.

A set which is consistent or not trivial is maximally so if its extension $\mathcal{E} \cup \{P\}$ with any $P \notin \mathcal{E}$ is no longer so.

PROPERTY 1.1 (Transitivity). If $\mathcal{E} \vdash P$ for all $P \in \mathcal{D}$ and $\mathcal{D} \vdash Q$ then $\mathcal{E} \vdash Q$.

The following property does not hold in adaptive inference systems.

PROPERTY 1.2 (Monotony). If $\mathcal{E} \vdash P$ then $\mathcal{E} \cup \{Q\} \vdash P$ for any Q.

RULE 1.1 (Modus ponens).
$$\begin{matrix} p \to q, \\ p \end{matrix} \vdash q$$

1.1. Inferential approach. The following property allows us to infer over the possibility of inference itself. Consider the extension $\mathcal{E} \cup \{P\}$ of some premises $\mathcal{E}$ with a proposition P known as the hypothesis.

PROPERTY 1.1.1 (Deduction). If $\mathcal{E} \cup \{P\} \vdash Q$ then
$$\mathcal{E} \vdash P \to Q.$$
for all $\mathcal{E} \subset \mathcal{W}$.

Hence the subject of hypothesis is sufficient condition for what can be inferred from the extension.

This holds a fortiori for any finite $\Lambda \subset \Phi$ such that $\Lambda \cup \{p\} \vdash q$ since it holds for all instances.

Furthermore this entails a familiar property.

THEOREM 1.3 (Linearity of inference). If $\Lambda \vdash p$ and $\Lambda \cup \{p\} \vdash q$ then $\Lambda \vdash q$ for all $\Lambda \subset \Phi$.

PROOF. From $\Lambda \vdash p \to q$ and transitivity of inference.   □

Some expected properties of the implication can now follow.

THEOREM 1.4 (Transitivity of implication).
$$\begin{matrix} p \to q, \\ q \to r \end{matrix} \vdash p \to r$$

PROOF. From $p \to q, q \to r, p \vdash r$.   □

THEOREM 1.5 (Distributivity of implication).
$$p \to (q \to r) \vdash (p \to q) \to (p \to r)$$

The following rule seems all too evident.

RULE 1.1.1 (Reflection).
$$p \vdash p$$

It allows us to prove the following theorems.

THEOREM 1.6 (Reflexivity of implication).
$$\vdash p \to p$$

THEOREM 1.7 (Ex quod libet datum).
$$p \vdash q \to p$$

PROOF. $p, q \vdash p$ by monotony.   □

The implication thus defined is said to be material.

The preceding rules and theorems have applied exclusively to the implication. The following rule introduces the syntactic role of the negation.

RULE 1.2 (Contraposition).

$$p \to q \vdash \neg q \to \neg p$$

This shows a property of inference.

THEOREM 1.8 (Contrapositivity). If $p \vdash q$ then $\neg q \vdash \neg p$.

THEOREM 1.9 (Ex absurdum negatio quod libet).

$$p, \neg p \vdash \neg q$$

PROOF. $p \vdash q \to p$.   □

COROLLARY 1.1 (Ex absurdo falsum). For any formula τ such that $\vdash \tau$:

$$p, \neg p \vdash \neg \tau$$

THEOREM 1.10 (Ex falso negatio quod libet). For any formula τ such that $\vdash \tau$:

$$\vdash \neg \tau \to \neg q$$

PROOF. $\vdash q \to \tau$, also known as ex quod libet verum.   □

RULE 1.3 (Introduction of double negation).

$$p \vdash \neg \neg p$$

LEMMA 1.1 (Contraposition with left elimination).

$$p \to \neg q \vdash q \to \neg p$$

PROOF. $q \to \neg \neg q$ is transitive with $\neg \neg q \to \neg p$.   □

THEOREM 1.11 (Negatio improbis). For any formula τ such that $\vdash \tau$:

$$p \to \neg \tau \vdash \neg p.$$

THEOREM 1.12 (Introduction of implicative conjunction).

$$p, q \vdash \neg(p \to \neg q)$$

PROOF. We can deduce $p \vdash (p \to \neg q) \to \neg q$ from modus ponens.   □

This has a special case with an interesting consequence.

LEMMA 1.2 (Negatio reprobis).

$$p \to \neg p \vdash \neg p$$

PROOF. $p \vdash \neg(p \to \neg p)$. Alternatively by ex contradictio falsum.   □

THEOREM 1.13 (Reductio ad absurdum).

$$\begin{matrix} p \to q, \\ p \to \neg q \end{matrix} \vdash \neg p$$

By contrapositivity we also have the following.

COROLLARY 1.2 (Commutativity of implicative conjunction).

$$\neg(p \to \neg q) \vdash \neg(q \to \neg p)$$

The final rule completes the law of double negation.

RULE 1.4 (Elimination of double negation).

$$\neg\neg p \vdash p$$

This rule has been controversial since it allows the following.

THEOREM 1.14 (Proof by contradiction).

$$\neg p \to q, \neg p \to \neg q \vdash p$$

This result is rejected by intuitionists, hence they do not allow double negation to be eliminated.

The following completes the implicative variety of the law of junctive commutativity.

LEMMA 1.3 (Commutativity of implicative disjunction).

$$\neg p \to q \vdash \neg q \to p$$

This leads to double negation elimination considering $\vdash \neg p \to \neg\neg\neg p$.

Nonetheless, the following results may be preserved by intuitionists as independent rules. We complete the law of implicative conjunction and show an interesting lemma.

COROLLARY 1.3 (Elimination of implicative conjunction).

$$\neg(p \to \neg q) \vdash p, q$$

PROOF. $\neg p \vdash p \to \neg q$. □

LEMMA 1.4 (Introduction of implicative disjunction).

$$p \vdash \neg p \to q$$

PROOF. $p \vdash \neg q \to p$. □

THEOREM 1.15 (Ex absurdo quod libet).

$$\begin{matrix} p, \\ \neg p \end{matrix} \vdash q$$

A consistent set is clearly not trivial. Now we can also show the following.

COROLLARY 1.4. An inconsistent set is trivial.

Hence a maximally consistent set is maximally not trivial. This is avoided in paraconsistent inferential systems.

For any formula τ such that $\vdash \tau$:

THEOREM 1.16 (Ex falso quod libet).

$$\vdash \neg\tau \to q$$

COROLLARY 1.5 (Ex falso absurdum).

$$\neg\tau \vdash p, \neg p$$

Furthermore the completion of the law of contraposition allows us to conclude with a remarkable result.

LEMMA 1.5 (Converse contraposition).

$$\neg p \to \neg q \vdash q \to p$$

THEOREM 1.17 (Peirce's law).

$$(p \to q) \to p \vdash p$$

PROOF. We know that $\vdash \neg p \to (\neg q \to \neg p)$ so $\vdash \neg p \to (p \to q)$. However, in that case $\neg p \to \neg(p \to q) \vdash p$. $\square$

COROLLARY 1.6 (Consequentia mirabilis).

$$\neg p \to p \vdash p$$

PROOF. $\vdash (p \to \neg p) \to \neg p$ is transitive with $\neg p \to p$. $\square$

By ex absurdum quod libet we can show $\neg\neg p, \neg p \vdash p$. Evidently Peirce's law is unacceptable to intuitionists.

The following rule is rejected in its implicative variety for similar reasons.

THEOREM 1.18 (Implicative dilemma).

$$\neg p \to q, \begin{matrix} p \to r \\ q \to r \end{matrix} \vdash r$$

PROOF. $p \to q, \neg p \to q, \neg q \vdash q$. $\square$

Since $\vdash p \to p$ this is enough to invite consequentia mirabilis.

1.2. Alternative operators. We may disregard the law of double negation and introduce some new operators.

OPERATOR 1.3 (Conjuction). If $(P \ \& \ Q)^*$ is the case, then P^* is the case and Q^* is the case.

RULE 1.5 (Law of conjunction). $p, q \vdash p \ \& \ q$ and $p \ \& \ q \vdash p, q$.

THEOREM 1.19 (Conjunctive syllogism). $\neg(p \ \& \ q), p \vdash \neg q$.

PROOF. $p \vdash q \to (p \ \& \ q)$. $\square$

RULE 1.6 (Law against contradiction).

$$\vdash \neg(p \ \& \ \neg p)$$

LEMMA 1.6. $\vdash p \to \neg\neg p$.

LEMMA 1.7. $p \ \& \ q \vdash \neg(p \to \neg q)$

LEMMA 1.8. $p \to q \vdash \neg(p \ \& \ \neg q)$.

OPERATOR 1.4 (Disjunction). If $(P \lor Q)^*$ is the case, then P^* is the case or Q^* is the case.

RULE 1.7 (Disjunctive syllogism).

$$p \lor q, \neg p \vdash q$$

LEMMA 1.9. $\neg p \lor q \vdash p \to q$.

RULE 1.8 (Introduction of disjunction).

$$p \vdash p \lor q$$

RULE 1.9 (Dilemma).

$$p \vee q, \frac{p \rightarrow r,}{q \rightarrow r} \vdash r$$

RULE 1.10 (Law of junctive commutativity). $p \mathbin{\&} q \vdash q \mathbin{\&} p$ and $p \vee q \vdash q \vee p$.

OPERATOR 1.5 (Equivalence). If $(P \leftrightarrow Q)^*$ is the case then P^* is the case only if Q^* is the case.

RULE 1.11 (Law of equivalence).

$$p \rightarrow q, q \rightarrow p \vdash p \leftrightarrow q$$
$$p \leftrightarrow q \vdash p \rightarrow q, q \rightarrow p$$

THEOREM 1.20. $\vdash (p \leftrightarrow q) \leftrightarrow ((p \rightarrow q) \mathbin{\&} (q \rightarrow p))$

THEOREM 1.21 (De Morgan's laws I).

$$\vdash \neg(p \vee q) \leftrightarrow (\neg p \mathbin{\&} \neg q)$$

PROOF. $\vdash p \rightarrow (p \vee q), \vdash q \rightarrow (p \vee q)$. $\neg p \vdash (p \vee q) \rightarrow q$. $\qquad\square$

THEOREM 1.22 (De Morgan's laws IIa).

$$\neg p \vee \neg q \vdash \neg(p \mathbin{\&} q)$$

PROOF. $\neg p \vee \neg q, p \mathbin{\&} q \vdash q, \neg q$. $\qquad\square$

RULE 1.12 (Law of the excluded middle).

$$\vdash \neg p \vee p$$

COROLLARY 1.7. $\vdash \neg\neg p \rightarrow p$.

This is the first offence against intuitionism in this approach.
A weaker variety of the offending law suffices to complete De Morgan's laws.

LEMMA 1.10. $\vdash \neg p \vee \neg\neg p$

THEOREM 1.23 (De Morgan's laws IIb).

$$\neg(p \mathbin{\&} q) \vdash \neg p \vee \neg q$$

PROOF. $\neg(p \mathbin{\&} q) \vdash \neg\neg p \rightarrow (\neg p \vee \neg q)$ from $p \rightarrow \neg q \vdash \neg\neg p \rightarrow \neg q$. $\qquad\square$

THEOREM 1.24.

$\vdash$	$(p \mathbin{\&} q)$	$\leftrightarrow$	$\neg(p \rightarrow \neg q)$
$\vdash$	$(p \vee q)$	$\leftrightarrow$	$(\neg p \rightarrow q)$

PROOF. From elimination of implicative conjuction and from $\neg p \rightarrow q \vdash \neg p \rightarrow (p \vee q)$ by dilemma over exclusion of the middle. $\qquad\square$

COROLLARY 1.8.

$\vdash$	$(p \rightarrow q)$	$\leftrightarrow$	$\neg(p \mathbin{\&} \neg q)$
$\vdash$	$(p \rightarrow q)$	$\leftrightarrow$	$(\neg p \vee q)$

1.3. Axiomatic approach. We may disregard all properties and rules from the inferential approach. Instead we consider a special set of formulas $\Xi \subset \Phi$ known as axioms.

PROPERTY 1.3. *If* $\Lambda \cup \Xi \vdash p$ *then* $\Lambda \vdash p$.

AXIOM 1.1. $p \to (q \to p)$

AXIOM 1.2. $(p \to (q \to r)) \to ((p \to q) \to (p \to r))$

LEMMA 1.11. $\vdash p \to p$

PROOF. Taking $\alpha = p \to ((q \to p) \to p)$ and $\beta = p \to (q \to p)$ we have $\alpha \to (\beta \to (p \to p)), \alpha, \beta \in \Xi$. $\qquad\square$

COROLLARY 1.9. $p \vdash p$

THEOREM 1.25 (Deduction). *If* $\Lambda \cup \{p\} \vdash q$ *then* $\Lambda \vdash p \to q$.

PROOF. We have $\Lambda \vdash p \to \alpha$ for any $\alpha \in \Lambda \cup \{p\}$.
Hence for any $\alpha \to \beta \in \Lambda \cup \{p\}$ we have $\Lambda \vdash p \to (\alpha \to \beta)$.
Evidently $\Lambda \vdash p \to \beta$ permits continued deduction until we show $\Lambda \vdash p \to \gamma$ for any $\gamma \in \partial(\Lambda \cup \{p\})$. $\qquad\square$

AXIOM 1.3. $(\neg p \to \neg q) \to (q \to p)$

THEOREM 1.26 (Double negation elimination). $\vdash \neg\neg p \to p$

PROOF. $\neg\neg p \vdash \neg\neg(\neg\neg p) \to \neg\neg p$. $\qquad\square$

THEOREM 1.27 (Double negation introduction). $\vdash p \to \neg\neg p$

PROOF. $\vdash \neg\neg(\neg p) \to \neg p$. $\qquad\square$

Evidently the axiomatic approach allows precisely the same syntactic derivations as the inferential.

2. Semantics

The expressive range of P is restricted to a binary distinction $P^* \in \{0, 1\}$.
We say that P^* is the case only if $P^* = 1$. Only in that case is P true.

DEFINITION 2.1. A model is a valuation map $v : \mathcal{W} \longrightarrow \{0, 1\}$ that assigns a truth value $v(P) \in \{0, 1\}$ to each proposition $P \in \mathcal{W}$.
Support for $(\mathcal{E}, P)$ by a model v means that if all $E \in \mathcal{E}$ assign to $v(E) = 1$, then $v(P) = 1$. Furthermore any v is:

(inferential). If $\mathcal{E} \vdash P$ then v supports $(\mathcal{E}, P)$.
(regular with respect to negation). If $v(P) = v(Q)$ then $v(\neg P) = v(\neg Q)$.
(not trivial). There is at least one proposition P such that $v(P) = 0$.

We may consider the set of all models $\mathbf{M}$.

The positive domain $v^{-1}(1) \subseteq \mathcal{W}$ of a valuation map v contains all propositions P for which $v(P) = 1$. Clearly the model is determined by the positive domain alone. A model v supports $(\mathcal{E}, P)$ only if $P \in v^{-1}(1)$ if $\mathcal{E} \subseteq v^{-1}(1)$. We can see that a valuation map is inferential only if the positive domain is deductively closed.

DEFINITION 2.2. A proposition is a semantic consequence $\mathcal{E} \vDash P$ of a set of premises only if all models $v \in \mathbf{M}$ support $(\mathcal{E}, P)$.

$\mathcal{E}$ is said to validate P.

LEMMA 2.1. If $\mathcal{E} \vdash P$ then $\mathcal{E} \vDash P$.

The inferential system is semantically sound. The semantics are adequate for the inferential system.

PROPERTY 2.1. The following properties characterise the negation.

(consistency). $v(\neg P) = 0$ if $v(P) = 1$
(completeness). $v(\neg P) = 1$ if $v(P) = 0$

PROOF. A model must be consistent since it may not be trivial.

Consider now that $\vdash T$ where $T = a \to \neg\neg a$. Clearly $v(T) = 1$ so $v(\neg T) = 0$ by consistency. However, $\vdash \neg\neg T$ from which $v(\neg P) = 1$ if $v(P) = 0$ by negational regularity.   □

A consistent map v is not trivial. If it is also complete, it is regular with respect to negation. Hence, an inferential valuation map is regular with respect to negation and not trivial only if it is consistent and complete.

From paraconsistent inferential systems we may derive inferential maps which are not trivial yet inconsistent. Moreover, regularity with respect to negation implies that a single contradiction $v(P) = 1 = v(\neg P)$ of some P supports the contradiction $v(\neg Q) = 1$ of each Q as soon as $v(Q) = 1$. Therefore neither consistency nor regularity with respect to negation are a defining property of paraconsistent semantics. Instead a model is required to be complete and not trivial.

PROPERTY 2.2. The following properties characterise the implication.

(transferrable). If $v(P \to Q) = 1$ then if $v(P) = 1$ then $v(Q) = 1$
(decidable). $v(P \to Q) = 1$ if $v(Q) = 1$ if $v(P) = 1$

PROOF. By modus ponens transferribility holds for any deductively closed set.

Suppose now $v(Q) = 1$ then $v(P \to Q) = 1$ given materiality of implication. Should $v(P) = 0$ then $v(\neg P) = 1$ by completeness and therefore $v(P \to Q) = 1$ by ex contradictio quod libet.   □

DEFINITION 2.3. A set of propositions $\mathcal{E} \subseteq \mathcal{W}$ is saturable only if there is a model v such that $v(P) = 1$ if $P \in \mathcal{E}$.

The set determines the model only if $P \in \mathcal{E}$ if $v(P) = 1$.

A model set is deductively closed and maximally not trivial.

LEMMA 2.2. A deductively closed set which is maximally not trivial is also complete and decidable.

PROOF. Consider a map $v : \mathcal{W} \longrightarrow \{0, 1\}$ such that $v(P) = 0$ only if $P \notin \mathcal{E}$ where $\mathcal{E}$ is a model set.

If $v(P) = 0$ then $\mathcal{E} \cup \{P\} \vdash Q, \neg Q$ by maximal triviality so $v(\neg P) = v(P \to Q) = 1$ by deductive closure.   □

Note that a maximally consistent set is maximally not trivial if our logic permits it. In that case decidability already follows from completeness. Nonetheless, this suggests an extension of paraconsistent semantics with a decidability clause.

LEMMA 2.3. A set that does not prove a proposition $\mathcal{E} \nvdash P$ is a subset of a model set $\mathcal{E} \subseteq \Gamma$ that does not contain the proposition $P \notin \Gamma$.

PROOF. Consider $\Gamma_{i+1} = \Delta_i$ if $P \notin \Delta_i$ and $\Gamma_{i+1} = \Gamma_i$ otherwise, where $\Gamma_0 = \mathcal{E}$ and $\Delta_i = \partial(\Gamma_i \cup \{\mathcal{W}_i\})$. Evidently $\Gamma = \bigcup_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \Gamma_i$ is deductively closed, since for any finite $\mathcal{D} \subset \Gamma$ also $\partial \mathcal{D} \subset \Gamma_i$ for some i.

We can see that $P \to Q \in \Gamma$ since $\mathcal{W}_i = P \to Q$ for some i so lest Peirce's law come to effect $\Gamma_i \cup \{P \to Q\} \nvdash P$. Moreover, if $R \notin \Gamma$ then $\Gamma_i \cup \{R\} \vdash P$ for some i so $\Gamma \cup \{R\}$ is trivial.

Alternatively, if $\Gamma_0 = \mathcal{E} \cup \{\neg P\}$ is inconsistent we have $\mathcal{E} \vdash P$ by contradiction. Hence Γ_0 is consistent. We may take $\Gamma_{i+1} = \Delta_i$ if Δ_i is consistent. By construction Γ is maximally consistent. This proof only works if inconsistency implies triviality. It also relies on the consistency of $P \notin \Gamma$.   □

THEOREM 2.1. $\mathcal{E} \vDash P$ only if $\mathcal{E} \vdash P$.

The semantics are characteristic for the inferential system. The converse means that the inferential system is semantically complete.

Since $\vdash p \rightarrow (q \rightarrow \neg(p \rightarrow \neg q))$, a theorem deduced from modus ponens, we have $\vdash \neg(p \;\&\; (q \;\&\; \neg(p \;\&\; q)))$.

From $\vdash p \rightarrow (q \rightarrow p)$ we have $\neg(p \;\&\; (q \;\&\; \neg p))$.

Since $\vdash (p \rightarrow (q \rightarrow r)) \rightarrow ((p \rightarrow q) \rightarrow (q \rightarrow r))$ we have $\neg((\neg r \;\&\; q) \;\&\; p) \vdash \neg((p \;\&\; q) \;\&\; \neg(p \;\&\; r))$.

We need double negation elimination to introduce an inferential analogue of modus ponens $\neg(p \;\&\; \neg q), p \vdash q$ as well as to complete the law of conjuction $p \;\&\; q \vdash p, q$.

Reductio ad absurdum may be expressed $\neg(p \;\&\; q), \neg(p \;\&\; \neg q) \vdash \neg p$.

We have $p \vee q, \neg p \vdash q$ modus tollens.

Distributivity becomes $p \vee (q \vee r) \vdash (p \vee r) \vee \neg(p \vee \neg q)$.

Double negation elimination translates to $\vdash p \vee \neg p$.

Along with contraposition this means $p \vee q \vdash q \vee p$.

The verum ex quod libet may then be rewritten as $p \vdash p \vee q$.

Interestingly $\neg p \rightarrow \neg(q \rightarrow \neg r), \neg p \vdash q, r$ hence $p \vee (q \;\&\; r) \vdash (p \vee q) \;\&\; (p \vee r)$.

Peirce's law becomes $p \vee (p \;\&\; q) \vdash p$.

This justifies the following definition.

The following result is a formulation of the law of the excluded middle in terms of the implication.

Clearly $(\neg p \rightarrow p) \rightarrow \neg p \vdash \neg p$.

We see that $\vdash p \rightarrow (\neg p \rightarrow p)$ and $\vdash (\neg p \rightarrow p) \rightarrow \neg\neg p$

Since $(\neg\neg p \rightarrow p) \rightarrow p \vdash (\neg\neg p \rightarrow p) \rightarrow \neg\neg p, \neg\neg p$.

Furthermore $\neg\neg p \vdash \neg(p \rightarrow \neg p)$ since $\vdash (p \rightarrow \neg p) \rightarrow \neg p$.

This becomes more clear once we consider $\vdash (p \rightarrow \neg p) \rightarrow \neg p$.

In that case $\vdash \neg p \rightarrow \neg p$ means $\vdash (p \rightarrow \neg p) \rightarrow$.

Now $(\neg\neg p \rightarrow p) \rightarrow \neg p \vdash p \rightarrow \neg p$ since $\vdash p \rightarrow (\neg\neg p \rightarrow p)$.

Hence $\vdash ((\neg\neg p \rightarrow p) \rightarrow \neg p) \rightarrow \neg p$.

DEFINITION 2.4. We may define the disjunction $P \vee Q$ as $\neg P \rightarrow Q$ and $\neg Q \rightarrow P$.

The law of the excluded middle is then defined as $p \vee \neg p$. Evidently this is equivalent to reflexivity and introduction of double negation.

We may rewrite Peirce's law as $p \vee (p \, and \, \neg p) \vdash p$ for the instance $(p \rightarrow \neg\neg p) \rightarrow p \vdash p$.

Including this assumption with the preceding rules and operators suffices to characterise the entire logic. This is known as the inferential approach.

We may now show some interesting theorems that follow from the inferential approach. However, we may also characterise the logic by means of these theorems as premises while dropping the assumption of reflexivity as well as every rule except modus ponens. In that case these characterising theorems become axioms from which reflexivity and the omitted rules may be inferred.

Each of the characterising theorems of the inferential approach has a characteristic logical structure in which any of the composing propositions may be substituted for any other proposition to yield another characterising theorem. Conversely, the axioms may be written in a characteristic general form where substitution of a composing proposition yields another axiom.

AXIOM 1.4 (Materiality of implication).

$$P \to (Q \to P)$$

This shows that $P \to (P \to P)$ is an axiom so $P \vdash P$ for any $P, Q \in \mathcal{W}$. Hence the logic remains reflexive under the axiomatic approach. Evidently this implies that any axiom is also a theorem, which is necessary for the equivalence of the inferential and axiomatic approach.

Next we see that $P \to (Q \to R), P \to Q, P \vdash R$.

AXIOM 1.5 (Distributivity of implication).

$$(P \to (Q \to R)) \to ((P \to Q) \to (P \to R))$$