A Terminating Sequent Calculus for Intuitionistic Strong Löb Logic with the Subformula Property

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Provability logics

Provability logics are modal logics where the \Box modality is interpreted as provability.

• GL (Gödel-Löb Logic)

$$\begin{array}{lll} \mathsf{GL} &=& \mathsf{K} & & \mathsf{Classical\ modal\ logic} \\ &+& \Box(\Box\varphi\to\varphi)\to\Box\varphi & \mathsf{G\"{o}del\text{-}L\"{o}b\ Axiom} \end{array}$$

• GL is the provability logic of PA (Peano Arithmetic):

 $\Box \varphi \rightsquigarrow \varphi$ is provable in PA

Open question

What is the provability logic for HA (Heyting Arithmetic), the intuitionistic counterpart of PA?

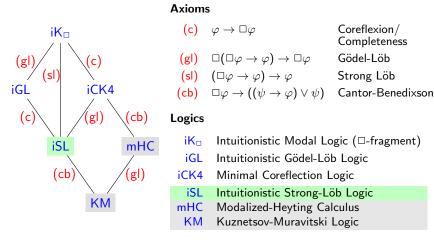
Provability logics: intuitionistic

- In the intuitionistic setting, we only consider the □ modality.
 There is no natural interpretation for ◊ (note that □ and ◊ must be independent).
- iGL (Intuitionistic Gödel-Löb Logic)

iGL = iK_□ Intuitionistic Modal Logic (□-fragment)
+
$$\Box(\Box\varphi\to\varphi)\to\Box\varphi$$
 Gödel-Löb Axiom

- iGL is the intuitionistic counterpart of GL
- iGL is sound w.r.t. provability in HA, but not complete.

Provability logics: an overview



I. van der Giessen. Ph.D thesis. 2022.

We focus on iSL, the provability logic of an extension of HA w.r.t. the so-called *slow provability*

* M. Mojtahedi. On provability logic of HA (2022), under review

Intuitionistic Strong-Löb logic iSL

$$\begin{array}{lll} \text{iSL} &=& \overbrace{\mathsf{iK}_{\square} \, + \, \square(\square\varphi \to \varphi) \to \square\varphi}^{\mathsf{iGL}} \, + \, \varphi \to \square\varphi \\ \\ &=& \mathsf{iK}_{\square} \, + \, (\square\varphi \to \varphi) \to \varphi \\ \\ &\varphi \to \square\varphi & \mathsf{Coreflexion/Completeness} \\ &\square(\square\varphi \to \varphi) \to \square\varphi & \mathsf{G\"{o}\'{o}\'{d}el-L\"{o}\'{b}} \\ &(\square\varphi \to \varphi) \to \varphi & \mathsf{Strong} \ \mathsf{L\"{o}\'{o}\'{b}} \end{array}$$

• iSL has the finite model property with respect to Kripke semantics.

Kripke models have two ordering relations: \leq (intuitionistic) and $\stackrel{R}{R}$ (modal).

• R is contained in \leq • R is irreflexive

Recently, sequent calculi for iSL have been introduced:

Calculus for IPL (Int. Prop. Logic) + rules for
$$\Box$$

The calculus G3i for IPL

Rules

Γ: multiset of formulas

- No structural rules
- Subformula property

A formula occurring in a G3i-tree τ is a subformula of a formula occurring in the root sequent of τ .

The calculus $G3iSL_{\square}^{+}$ for iSL

$$\mathsf{G3iSL}_{\square}^{+} = \mathsf{G3i} + \frac{\square \alpha, \Gamma, \Delta \Rightarrow \alpha}{\Gamma, \square \Delta \Rightarrow \square \alpha} R \square \qquad \square \alpha \text{: diagonal formula}$$

Polished variant of the calculus $G3iSL^a_{\square}$ introduced in

- I. van der Giessen, R. lemhoff. Proof theory for intuitionistic strong Löb logic.
 Special Volume of the Workshop Proofs! held in Paris in 2017. 2020.
- * I. van der Giessen. Ph.D thesis. 2022.
- Subformula property
- Main problem

G3-style calculi are not well-suited for bottom-up proof search, due to the rule for left \rightarrow

$$\frac{p \to q \Rightarrow p \qquad q \Rightarrow p}{p \to q \Rightarrow p} \xrightarrow{L \to q \Rightarrow p} L \to q \Rightarrow p$$

$$\frac{p \to q \Rightarrow p}{p \to q \Rightarrow p} \xrightarrow{L \to q} L \to q \Rightarrow p$$

Bottom-up proof search loops

Beyond G3i

We can replace the looping rule

$$\frac{\alpha \to \beta, \Gamma \Rightarrow \alpha \qquad \beta, \Gamma \Rightarrow \delta}{\alpha \to \beta, \Gamma \Rightarrow \delta} L \to$$

with specialized rules according to the shape of α in $\alpha \to \beta$:

$$\frac{\beta, \ \rho, \ \Gamma \Rightarrow \delta}{\rho \to \beta, \ \rho, \ \Gamma \Rightarrow \delta} \quad p: \text{ prop. var.} \quad \frac{\alpha_1 \to (\alpha_2 \to \beta), \ \Gamma \Rightarrow \delta}{(\alpha_1 \land \alpha_2) \to \beta, \ \Gamma \Rightarrow \delta}$$

$$\frac{\alpha_1 \to \beta, \ \alpha_2 \to \beta, \ \Gamma \Rightarrow \delta}{(\alpha_1 \lor \alpha_2) \to \beta, \ \Gamma \Rightarrow \delta} \quad \frac{\alpha_1, \ \alpha_2 \to \beta, \ \Gamma \Rightarrow \alpha_2 \quad \beta, \ \Gamma \Rightarrow \delta}{(\alpha_1 \to \alpha_2) \to \beta, \ \Gamma \Rightarrow \delta}$$

The resulting calculus is known as G4i (alias LJT)

- N. N. Vorob'ev. A new algorithm for derivability in the constructive propositional calculus (Russian). AMS Translations, Series 2, 1970.
- * R. Dyckhoff. Contraction-free sequent calculi for intuitionistic logic. JSL, 1992
- J. Hudelmaier. Bounds for cut elimination in intuitionistic propositional logic.
 AML. 1992

The calculus G4i for IPL

The calculus G4i is (strongly) terminating, namely:

There exists a well-founded relation ≺ such that, for every application

$$\frac{\ldots \quad \sigma' \quad \ldots}{\sigma}$$

of a rule of G4i, it holds that $\sigma' \prec \sigma$.

Accordingly, backward proof search in G4i always terminates, whatever strategy ones applies.

Note

Any calculus containing rule $L \rightarrow$ is not terminating:

$$\underbrace{\stackrel{\sigma'}{p \to q \Rightarrow p} \dots}_{p \to q \Rightarrow p} \dots L \to$$

Since $\sigma' = \sigma$, there is no well-founded relation \prec such that $\sigma' \prec \sigma$.

The calculus G4iSLt for iSL

$$\begin{array}{lll} \mathsf{G4iSLt} & = & \mathsf{G4i} & + & \dfrac{\Box \alpha, \Gamma, \Delta \Rightarrow \alpha}{\Gamma, \Box \Delta, \Box \alpha \to \beta \Rightarrow \Box \delta} \ L \Box \to \\ & + & \dfrac{\Box \alpha, \Gamma, \Delta \Rightarrow \alpha}{\Gamma, \Box \Delta \Rightarrow \Box \alpha} \ R \Box \end{array}$$

- I. Shillito, I. van der Giessen, R. Goré, R. Iemhoff. A new calculus for intuitionistic strong Löb logic. Strong termination and cut-elimination, formalised. TABLEAUX 2023. Best paper.
- Strong terminating
- Proofs of termination and completeness (via cut admissibility) formalized with the Coq proof assistant
- Subformula property is broken!

$$\frac{\mathsf{a}\to (\mathsf{b}\to \mathsf{c})\Rightarrow \mathsf{d}}{(\mathsf{a}\land \mathsf{b})\to \mathsf{c}\Rightarrow \mathsf{d}}\,\mathsf{L}\land\to$$

G3iSL⁺ vs. G4iSLt

	G3iSL ⁺ □	G4iSLt
Lineage	G3i	G4i
Termination	X Weak there exists a terminating proof search strategy	✓ Strong all proof search strategies are terminating
Subformula property	✓ Yes	✗ No

Our challenge

Design a calculus which features the valuable aspects of both calculi:

Strong termination + Subformula property

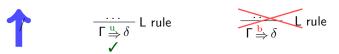
Make G3i terminating

Get back to the intuitionistic sequent calculus Gbu:

- M. Ferrari, C. Fiorentini, G. Fiorino. A terminating evaluation-driven variant of G3i. TABLEAUX 2013 (Nancy)
- M. Ferrari, C. Fiorentini, G. Fiorino. An Evaluation-Driven Decision Procedure for G3i. TOCL, 2015.
- Gbu is a terminating variant of G3i obtained by decorating the sequents with labels.

$$\Gamma \stackrel{I}{\Rightarrow} \delta$$
 $I \in \{b, u\}$ b: blocked u: unblocked

• The bottom-up application of a left rule to a b-sequent is blocked:



 A Gbu-derivation can be turned into a G3i-derivation by erasing the labels and some slight tweak.

The calculus GbuSL□ for iSL

$$GbuSL_{\square} = Gbu + rule R^{\square}$$
 with labels

We have to introduce an evaluation relation ▷

$$\begin{split} \Gamma \rhd \varphi &\iff \varphi \coloneqq \gamma \mid \varphi \land \varphi \mid \varphi \lor _ \mid _ \lor \varphi \mid _ \to \varphi \mid \Box \varphi \\ &\qquad \qquad \gamma \in \Gamma, \quad _ \text{ is any formula} \end{split}$$

Axiom rule Ax[▷]

$$\frac{}{\Gamma \stackrel{f}{\rightharpoonup} \alpha} Ax^{\triangleright}$$
 if $\Gamma \triangleright \alpha$

Examples of instances:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \alpha, \Gamma \xrightarrow{l} \alpha & (= \text{ rule Id}) & \overline{\alpha, \beta, \Gamma \xrightarrow{l} \alpha \wedge \beta} \\
 & \alpha, \Gamma \xrightarrow{l} \alpha \vee \beta & \overline{\alpha, \Gamma \xrightarrow{l} \beta \rightarrow \alpha} & \overline{\alpha, \Gamma \xrightarrow{l} \Box \alpha} & \cdots
\end{array}$$

The calculus GbuSL□ for iSL

Left rules

All of them have an u-sequent as conclusion

$$\frac{\alpha, \beta, \Gamma \overset{\text{u}}{\Rightarrow} \delta}{\alpha \land \beta, \Gamma \overset{\text{u}}{\Rightarrow} \delta} L \land \qquad \frac{\alpha, \Gamma \overset{\text{u}}{\Rightarrow} \delta}{\alpha \lor \beta, \Gamma \overset{\text{u}}{\Rightarrow} \delta} L \lor \\
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\frac{\alpha \to \beta, \Gamma \overset{\text{u}}{\Rightarrow} \delta}{\alpha \to \beta, \Gamma \overset{\text{u}}{\Rightarrow} \delta} L \to \\
\frac$$

The label **b** in the left premise of $L \rightarrow$ is crucial to avoid loops:

$$\frac{p \to q \overset{\text{b}}{\Rightarrow} p}{p \to q \overset{\text{u}}{\Rightarrow} p} L \to$$

The expansion of the left-most branch is blocked!

The calculus GbuSL□ for iSL

ullet Right rules for \wedge and \vee

$$\frac{\Gamma \overset{l}{\Rightarrow} \alpha \qquad \Gamma \overset{l}{\Rightarrow} \beta}{\Gamma \overset{l}{\Rightarrow} \alpha \wedge \beta} R \wedge \qquad \frac{\Gamma \overset{b}{\Rightarrow} \alpha_k}{\Gamma \overset{l}{\Rightarrow} \alpha_0 \vee \alpha_1} R \vee_k \qquad k \in \{0, 1\}$$

- ullet Right rules for o
 - (1) $\Gamma \triangleright \alpha$

$$\frac{\Gamma \stackrel{I}{\Rightarrow} \beta}{\Gamma \stackrel{\bot}{\Rightarrow} \alpha \to \beta} R \stackrel{\triangleright}{\rightarrow} \qquad \text{(it would be redundant)}$$

Examples of instances:

$$\frac{\swarrow, \alpha, \Gamma \stackrel{!}{\Rightarrow} \beta}{\alpha, \Gamma \stackrel{!}{\Rightarrow} \alpha \rightarrow \beta} \qquad \frac{\nearrow \swarrow, \alpha, \Gamma \stackrel{!}{\Rightarrow} \beta}{\alpha, \Gamma \stackrel{!}{\Rightarrow} (\alpha \lor \delta) \rightarrow \beta} \qquad \frac{\nearrow \swarrow, \alpha, \Gamma \stackrel{!}{\Rightarrow} \beta}{\alpha, \Gamma \stackrel{!}{\Rightarrow} \Box \alpha \rightarrow \beta} \qquad \dots$$

$$\frac{\alpha, \Gamma \stackrel{u}{\Rightarrow} \beta}{\Gamma \stackrel{!}{\Rightarrow} \alpha \rightarrow \beta} \qquad R \stackrel{\not \triangleright}{\Rightarrow} \qquad \dots$$

The calculus $GbuSL_{\square}$ for iSL_{\square}

ullet Right rules for \Box

Original rule $R\square$

$$\frac{\Box \alpha, \Gamma, \Delta \Rightarrow \alpha}{\Gamma \Box \Lambda \Rightarrow \Box \alpha} R \Box \qquad \Box \alpha \text{: diagonal formula}$$

Adding labels

(1) The conclusion has label u

(2) The conclusion has label b

$$\begin{array}{c|c} & \square\alpha, \Gamma, \Delta \stackrel{\mathrm{u}}{\Rightarrow} \alpha \\ \hline \underline{\Gamma, \square\Delta} \stackrel{b}{\Rightarrow} \square\alpha \end{array} \stackrel{\mathrm{ff}}{\Rightarrow} \square\alpha \qquad \text{if } \Gamma' \not \rhd \square\alpha \\ & \text{If } \Gamma' \rhd \square\alpha, \text{ the conclusion is an axiom (see the axiom rule } \mathrm{Ax}^{\triangleright}) \end{array}$$

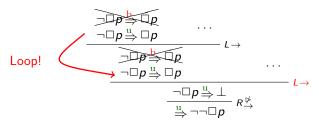
Example

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
\hline
\square p, \neg \square p \xrightarrow{b} \square p & Ax^{\triangleright} & \hline
\square p, \bot \xrightarrow{u} p & L\bot \\
\hline
\underline{\square p, \neg \square p \xrightarrow{u} p} & R_{b}^{\square} & \bot \xrightarrow{\bot \xrightarrow{u} \bot} L\bot \\
\hline
\underline{\neg \square p \xrightarrow{b} \square p} & R_{b}^{\square} & \hline
\underline{\bot \xrightarrow{u} \bot} & L\bot \\
\hline
\underline{\neg \square p \xrightarrow{u} \bot} & R \xrightarrow{p} \\
\hline
\underline{"} \neg \neg \square p & R \xrightarrow{p}
\end{array}$$

This proves that $\neg\neg\Box p \in iSL$.

$\sqrt{\text{Crucial point (1)}}$

Suppose the left premise of $L \rightarrow$ has label $u \dots$



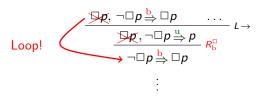
Example

$$\frac{\Box p, \neg \Box p \xrightarrow{b} \Box p}{\Box p, \neg \Box p \xrightarrow{u} p} \xrightarrow{Ax^{\triangleright}}
\frac{\Box p, \neg \Box p \xrightarrow{u} p}{\Box p, \neg \Box p \xrightarrow{b} \Box p} \xrightarrow{R_{b}^{\Box}}
\frac{\bot \xrightarrow{u} \bot}{\bot \xrightarrow{u} \bot} \xrightarrow{L \bot} \xrightarrow{L \bot}$$

$$\frac{\neg \Box p \xrightarrow{u} \bot}{\xrightarrow{u} \neg \neg \Box p} \xrightarrow{R^{\wp}}$$

$\sqrt{\text{Crucial point (2)}}$

Suppose that rule $R_{\rm b}^{\square}$ omits the diagonal formula $\square p$...



Properties of GbuSL_□

- (1) Strong terminating
- (2) Sound with respect to iSL

$$\vdash_{\mathsf{GbuSL}_{\square}} \Gamma \xrightarrow{I} \delta \qquad \Longrightarrow \qquad \Gamma \models_{\mathsf{iSL}} \delta$$

$$\vdash_{\mathsf{GbuSL}_{\square}} \sigma \qquad \Longrightarrow \qquad \mathsf{there} \ \mathsf{exists} \ \mathsf{a} \ \mathsf{GbuSL}_{\square}\text{-derivation of} \ \sigma$$

$$\Gamma \models_{\mathsf{iSL}} \delta \qquad \Longrightarrow \qquad \delta \ \mathsf{is} \ \mathsf{an} \ \mathsf{iSL-consequence} \ \mathsf{of} \ \Gamma$$

(3) Complete a with respect to iSL

$$\Gamma \models_{\mathsf{iSL}} \delta \implies \vdash_{\mathsf{GbuSL}_{\square}} \Gamma \stackrel{\mathrm{u}}{\Rightarrow} \delta$$

(4) We have designed a proof search strategy for GbuSL_□ which yields countermodels whenever proof search fails.

The proof search strategy has been implemented in Java.



Properties of GbuSL_□

We remark that completeness is only guaranteed for u-sequents.

$$a \lor b \models_{\mathsf{iSL}} b \lor a$$

By completeness:

$$\vdash_{\mathsf{GbuSL}_{\square}} a \lor b \stackrel{\mathrm{u}}{\Rightarrow} b \lor a$$

However the corresponding b-sequent is **not** provable in GbuSL_□:

$$\frac{a \lor b \xrightarrow{b} b}{a \lor b \xrightarrow{b} b \lor a} R \lor_{0} \qquad \qquad \frac{a \lor b \xrightarrow{b} a}{a \lor b \xrightarrow{b} b \lor a} R \lor_{1}$$

$$\frac{R \lor_{0}}{a \lor b \xrightarrow{b} b \lor a} R \lor_{1}$$

Actually, to build a GbuSL $_{\square}$ -derivation we have to start by applying $L\vee$:

$$\frac{\overrightarrow{a \overset{b}{\Rightarrow} a} \overset{A}{x^{\triangleright}} \qquad \overrightarrow{b \overset{b}{\Rightarrow} b} \overset{A}{x^{\triangleright}}}{\underbrace{a \overset{u}{\Rightarrow} b \vee a}} \overset{R\vee_{0}}{x^{\vee}} \qquad \underbrace{b \overset{b}{\Rightarrow} b} \overset{A}{x^{\vee}} \qquad \underbrace{k} \overset{R\vee_{0}}{x^{\vee}} \qquad \underbrace{k} \overset{L\vee}{x^{\vee}} \qquad \underbrace{k} \overset{L}{x^{\vee}} \qquad \underbrace{k} \overset{L\vee}{x^{\vee}} \qquad \underbrace{k} \overset{L\vee}{x^$$

About termination

- ullet We define a well-founded relations \prec_{bu} on labelled sequents.
- Critical point:

$$\frac{\sigma' = \alpha \to \beta, \Gamma \stackrel{b}{\Rightarrow} \alpha}{\sigma = \alpha \to \beta, \Gamma \stackrel{u}{\Rightarrow} \delta} \dots \longrightarrow L \to$$

To get $\sigma' \prec_{bu} \sigma$, we stipulate that b < u.

• How to accommodate the transition $b \mapsto u$?

$$\frac{\sigma' \ = \ \alpha, \Gamma \overset{\mathrm{u}}{\Rightarrow} \beta}{\sigma \ = \ \Gamma \overset{\mathrm{b}}{\Rightarrow} \alpha \to \beta} \ R \overset{\not \triangleright}{\to} \ \ \text{if} \ \Gamma \not \triangleright \alpha$$

We observe that:

- α is *new*, namely

$$\Gamma \not \triangleright \alpha$$

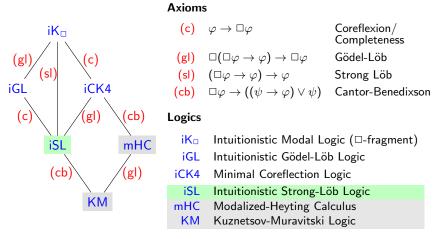
 By the subformula property, the number of possible new formulas is finite.

Conclusions: comparison

	G3iSL ⁺ _□ [1]	G4iSLt [2]	GbuSL□
Lineage	G3i	G4i	G3i
Termination	✗ Weak	✓ Strong	✓ Strong
Subformula prop.	✓ Yes	X No	✓ Yes
Cut-admissibility	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	?
Countermodels	_	_	✓ Yes

- [1] I. van der Giessen, R. lemhoff. Proof theory for intuitionistic strong Löb logic. Special Volume of the Workshop Proofs! held in Paris in 2017. 2020.
- [2] I. Shillito, I. van der Giessen, R. Goré, R. Iemhoff. A new calculus for intuitionistic strong Löb logic. Strong termination and cut-elimination, formalised. TABLEAUX 2023. Best paper.

Conclusions: future work



I. van der Giessen, Ph.D thesis, 2022.

We aim at extending the presented techniques to other provability logics, in particular to mHC and KM.