

CROTT, LARRY JOSHUA, M.S. Construction and Evaluation of a Gold Standard Syntax for Formal Logic Formulas and Systems. (2022)

Directed by Dr. Stephen R. Tate. 30 pp.

The abstract page is a required component of the thesis/dissertation. The abstract should be a brief summary of the paper, stating only the problem, procedures used, and the most significant results and conclusions. Explanations and opinions are omitted. Remember to include the necessary information regarding any multimedia components included in the document. The abstract must be approved by your advisor/committee chair.

CONSTRUCTION AND EVALUATION OF A GOLD STANDARD SYNTAX FOR
FORMAL LOGIC FORMULAS AND SYSTEMS

by

Larry Joshua Crotts

A Thesis Submitted to
the Faculty of The Graduate School at
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
in Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Science

Greensboro

2022

Approved by

Committee Chair

© 2022 Larry Joshua Crotts

To my Viola.

APPROVAL PAGE

This thesis written by Larry Joshua Crotts has been approved by the following committee of the Faculty of The Graduate School at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Committee Chair _____

Stephen R. Tate

Committee Members _____

Chun Jiang Zhu

Insa R. Lawler

Date of Acceptance by Committee

Date of Final Oral Examination

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to extend my gratitude and thanks to the esteemed Dr. Steve Tate for not only overseeing and advising this thesis, but also for being a fantastic mentor and professor throughout my time at UNC Greensboro. I sincerely appreciate Dr. Nancy Green for introducing me to the wonderful world of academic-level computer science research, as well as Dr. Insa Lawler in the Philosophy department for introducing me to the exciting adventure that is formal logic and its pedagogical impact. Their unwavering guidance, mentorship, and insight influenced me to pursue graduate school.

Outside of UNCG, I thank my parents for their love and support throughout my education. I also thank two of my best friends: Audree Logan and Andrew Matzureff, for their support and friendship from high school to now.

It also cannot go without saying that I am forever grateful for the support from my loving fiancée Viola. You never let me down.

Finally, I am deeply indebted to Mr. Tony Smith: my former Advanced Placement¹ Computer Science teacher. Without him, I would not be where I am now. Thank you for seeing (and ultimately helping me reach) my potential.

¹<https://ap.collegeboard.org/>

PREFACE

The basis for this research stems from my love of teaching. When I took my first introduction to formal logic course as an undergraduate, I was taken aback by its amazing appeal and relation to computer science. From my semesters serving as a tutor/teaching assistant in the Philosophy department at UNC Greensboro, I saw many students that struggled with this material. The problems ranged from its confusing syntax, proof techniques, and esoteric notation. At that time, I thought to myself, “Why not make a tool that helps students understand it better?” Of course, that question had already been answered and deeply investigated across multiple disciplines, but I knew that there had to be more. Once I began my exploration, I quickly realized that online solvers, theorem provers, proof assistants, and similar tools do not have a ubiquitous input format, and testing their algorithms was far more cumbersome than I initially expected. This evolved into the desire for a gold standard syntax for both zeroth and first-order logic systems.

Table of Contents

List of Figures	viii
I. Introduction	1
1. Overview	1
2. Contribution	2
3. Thesis Content	2
4. Terminology	2
II. Related Work	4
1. Formal Logic Tutors	4
1.1. Propositional Logic	4
1.2. First-Order Logic	5
1.3. Problem/Solution Generators	5
2. Specialized Logic/Theorem-Proving Programming Languages	5
3. Boolean Satisfiability Solver Input Formats	5
III. Methods	6
1. Evaluation of Natural Deduction Systems	6
1.1. Experiment 1: A Student-Driven Approach for Difficulty Metrics	7

1.2. Experiment 2: Determining the Efficacy of Natural Deduction Software	7
1.2.1. FLAT: Formal Logic Aiding Tutor	7
1.2.2. ANDTaP: Another Natural Deduction Tutor and Prover	8
2. Gold Standard for Formal Logic System Syntax	14
2.1. Zeroth-Order Logic Well-Formed Formula Representation	15
2.1.1. Example 1.	16
2.1.2. Natural Deduction Extension.	18
2.1.3. Example 2.	18
2.2. First-Order Logic Well-Formed Formula Representation	19
2.2.1. Example 3.	21
IV. Discussion and Future Direction	23
References	24
A. Propositional Logic Natural Deduction Algorithm	26
B. Result Graphs	28

List of Figures

1. A figure with two subfigures	8
2. ANDTaP Tutoring System	9
3. LIGLAB's Natural Deduction	10
4. A figure with two subfigures	12
5. TautLogic's Predicate Natural Deduction	13
1. TautLogic's Predicate Natural Deduction	29
2. Propositional Logic Natural Deduction	30
3. Predicate Logic Results Graph	30

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1 Overview

Formal logic, otherwise known as classical formal logic, is a subset of philosophy that branches into related disciplines such as computer science, statistics, mathematics, and similar sciences. Logic, however, is taught in non-science fields like communicative studies to reinforce critical thinking and improve deductive skills for argumentation. Per Stanford’s Encyclopedia on Classical Logic [16], logic is a tool used for studying correct reasoning in both formal and informal languages. Its existence spawned questions ranging from its use in mathematics as an aid to disambiguate problems and proofs to considering it as an extension to natural language [16]. As Hatcher [7] states, due to an increased viewing of rhetoric and opinion versus factual knowledge in modern social media, the need for strong logical thinking abilities is crucial for evaluating, analyzing, and debating against arguments and claims. Hatcher, likewise, mentions that standard logical deductive forms such as methods of inference and syllogisms serve as critical components for a student’s ability to determine the validity of an argument and the relation (or lack thereof) of premises to conclusions. A desire for valid and sound arguments from students constitutes and contributes to wider adoption of formal logic classes in universities, or at the very least, the pedagogy of

invalid arguments with how to refute incorrect and, sometimes egregious, contentions. Formal logic's relation to computer science, in particular, ... **talk about how we can use formal logic for mathematical proofs, boolean logic for circuitry, set theory, etc.**

2 Contribution

3 Thesis Content

This thesis is broken up into three primary components. Chapter 1 introduces definitions, background, and our problem definitions. Chapter 2 reviews the related literature for prior work in this area. Chapter 3 discusses the primary two methods of research, being our natural deduction and formal logic tutoring system: FLAT (Formal Logic Aiding Tutor), as well as the creation of a gold standard for formal logic syntax and semantics (i.e., the creation of a standardized grammar for logic language evaluation).

4 Terminology

Before we continue, we will define some terms frequently used in formal logic-related work.

Definition 1 (Well-Formed Formula). A *well-formed formula*, according to [15] is a string (formula) of syntactically-correct characters which conform (well-formed) to a language grammar.

Definition 2 (Proposition). A *proposition* is a statement or claim that is either true or false.

Definition 3 (Proof).

Definition 4 (Theorem).

Definition 5 (Natural Deduction). Begin with a general definition, then the history

CHAPTER II

RELATED WORK

In this chapter, we will discuss the related work and prior contributions to the discipline of natural deduction pedagogy, as well as efforts to modernize and increase its effectiveness for students with a weaker background in, for example, mathematics. Extending formal logic to a technological education is not a new idea—there exist many online solvers, provers, and programming languages designed to suit the needs of logic students, or those that use formal logic in some manner. We will also mention more powerful theorem provers that are aimed at experts/more experienced users.

1 Formal Logic Tutors

1.1 *Propositional Logic*

Propositional logic, also known as zeroth-order logic (or in other disciplines as sentence logic, sentential logic, boolean logic, combinatorial logic, or propositional calculus), according to Hein [?], is a language of propositions that conform to rules. Propositional logic is comparatively simpler than first-order predicate logic described in section II.1.2—it does not use variables, constants, or quantifiers of any kind. Rather, in this language, there are four binary (two-place/two-arity) connectives: logical conjunction, logical disjunction, logical implication, and the biconditional, as

well as one unary (one-place/one-arity) operator: logical negation. **Show a table and describe different notation by different authors?**

Because of the reducible nature of propositional logic to simple structures and representations, there exist plentiful online truth table generators that provide detailed and immediate feedback for users while solving problems and well-formed formulas. Further, such generators work well not only for formal logic, but also computer science, mathematics, and electrical engineering, allowing students to enter a boolean truth value (i.e., true/false) for an operand or proposition and the computer will determine if it is valid or invalid for an arbitrary cell.

1.2 First-Order Logic

1.3 Problem/Solution Generators

Ahmed et al. wrote..... Hladik... Amendola... LLAT... Graham defines a semantic tableau...

2 Specialized Logic/Theorem-Proving Programming Languages

Coq..., *alean*TAP,..., Prolog...

3 Boolean Satisfiability Solver Input Formats

CHAPTER III

METHODS

In this chapter, we explain our evaluation method and metrics for assessing three publicly-available natural deduction systems against our prover. Additionally, we construct a formal definition for a standardized and uniform syntax for writing and, more importantly, testing differing logic systems and algorithms.

1 Evaluation of Natural Deduction Systems

To begin, while plenty of research papers and projects on formal logic tutors, natural deduction proving systems, and proof assistants exist, they are few and far between when viewed from the public, non-academic eye. That is, many only remain relevant in their academic research circle, and have either little purpose or minimal exposure outside to a “real audience”. Further, current research efforts focus more on improving their current tool rather than performing direct comparisons with others. The issue with head-to-head comparisons is the metric: how do we measure “success” in a formal logic tutor without user evaluation? In other words, what metric is viable for determining the efficiency, or effectiveness, of a tutoring/proving/assistant system for formal logic?

1.1 Experiment 1: A Student-Driven Approach for Difficulty Metrics

All students are not unique, and a formal logic class may contain students across different disciplines. As a result, what is difficult to one student who has yet to see logic may be easier to another student who programs or otherwise works with boolean operators. Determining what exactly constitutes difficult in a logic class is tricky for the same reason. That is, it is a non-trivial job to evaluate whether one problem or topic is inherently more challenging than another.....[continue here](#)

Describe the student-driven approach with ANDTaP, the desire for a metric of difficulty to find where students struggle most and what subjects struggle more... potentially show the two/three results? State that the experiment was a failure due to a lack of participants

1.2 Experiment 2: Determining the Efficacy of Natural Deduction Software

Give a brief overview of what we did. A longer description is provided later.

1.2.1 FLAT: Formal Logic Aiding Tutor

FLAT began as a collaborative project which extended LLAT: the Logic Learning Assistance Tool. This extension brought along a core component to formal logic proofs: the ability to prove or disprove a proposition via natural deduction. Not only does the system have an algorithm for automatically proving a clause of formulas (see Appendix IV), it also includes a tutoring system allowing students to, step-by-step, write a proof. FLAT supports both zeroth and first-order logics, with heuristics to prevent infinite proofs that comes with the semidecidability of first-order logic (cite

Gödel?).



Figure 1. A figure with two subfigures

Mention FLAT’s drawbacks (e.g., can’t solve some “simple” proofs, weak proofs by contradiction...)

Show table of FLAT operations from other paper?

1.2.2 ANDTaP: Another Natural Deduction Tutor and Prover

ANDTaP is a smaller, web-based version of FLAT’s natural deduction implementation. It supports a subset of its proving capabilities, but a superset of the tutoring functionality. Some natural deduction rules e.g., associativity and commutativity that are not present in FLAT work as intended in ANDTaP. The choice to use a web-based client for ANDTaP rather than a desktop application was highly influenced by the desire to allow students to use it wherever they want instead of being restricted to a computer.

Now that we have thoroughly discussed FLAT and ANDTaP, we will now explain, then discuss, the methods used to investigate several natural deduction systems in head-to-head comparisons against one another.

Systematically evaluating natural deduction software is complicated. For starters, as we previously mentioned, we still need a metric of analysis: how to directly compare

Automatic Natural Deduction Tutor

Logic Symbols

&

v

→

↔

¬

⊕

∃

∀

∴

(C & ¬(D → ¬E)), (A → (D → ¬E)) ∴ (¬A & C)

Start
Submit

Prove (¬A & C) using natural deduction.

1. (C & ¬(D → ¬E))	P
2. (A → (D → ¬E))	P
3. C	1 &E
4. ¬(D → ¬E)	1 &E
5. ¬A	2,4 MT
6. (¬A & C)	3,5 &I

Information

Random Proof Example

Update 11/20:
All rules should work and are present. Added 20 examples.

What to do: Enter a proof in the box to the left. Then, hit "Start". You need to complete the proof with the provided conclusion. To enter a new proof step, enter the wff into the input box at the bottom. Choose the steps it is derived from with the second input box (use CTRL+left click to select multiple). Finally, choose the step to use with the last input box. To add the step, hit "Submit".

Help: If you want to use different logic symbols or need information, hover over the buttons in the left-hand pane and a tooltip will appear. Right-clicking the button will allow you to select a different (but equivalent) symbol to use.

Figure 2. ANDTaP Tutoring System. ...

one system to another. The best and systematic way to do this, excluding the possibility of a human study, is via the overall size of a proof (i.e., the number of lines a generated proof contains). Beginning students that receive a large and unwieldy result are likely to ignore its significance. Though, because the length of a proof does not report a conclusive answer to its complexity, we recorded the number of rules/axioms a system used compared to its base set size. The idea behind this decision is to provide insight into how often a system takes advantage of its axiom set, instead of trying to strictly use direct proofs (e.g., in Hilbert systems) or proofs by contradiction.

We collected and created 288 well-formed formula propositional and first-order logic proofs from various logic and computer science textbooks. We manually converted each proof to the required syntax for all four system, then recorded the number of lines in the annotated proof as well as how many axioms/rules were used. Before we

reveal and explain the results, we will briefly review each investigated system.

The first tool we analyzed was a web application for proving propositional logic natural deduction formulas by Laboratoire d’Informatique de Grenoble (LIGLAB). While their tool includes a few other argument verification tools (e.g., semantic tabuleaux solver for modal logic S4, a resolution prover for first-order logic), we focused only on its propositional logic proving ability. Users enter premises as a series of conjunctions followed by an implication to the conclusion. This syntax follows the standard proof idea which says if all premises are true, then the conclusion must be true (in other words, the premises logically imply the conclusion). For beginning students or those using an ever-so-slightly different notation may be frustrated to discover that they have to convert their entire input to this rigid standard to parse it correctly. Such restrictions mean that users must focus on formatting their input to what the system requires rather than what it outputs as a result. We did find that their prover solved every propositional logic proof in our suite, but we found that because the system has a small baseset of theorems/axioms, almost every proof is a proof by contradiction, resulting in several nested proofs which can be hard to decipher.

The screenshot shows the LIGLAB Natural Deduction interface. At the top, there is a green header bar with the text "Natural Deduction". Below this is a white input area containing a logical proof script:

```
(b => e) & (~f + g) & ((b & c) & d) & ((d & c) => f) => (e & g)

assume (b => e) & (~f + g) & (b & c) & d & (d & c => f).
1. b => e.
2. ~f + g.
3. b & c.
4. d.
5. d & c => f.
6. assume ~f.
7. b & c.
8. therefore ~f => b.
9. assume g.
10. therefore ~f => g.
11. assume ~g.
12. therefore ~f.
13. assume b.
14. therefore ~f => b.
15. therefore g => b.
16. assume ~f.
17. b & c.
18. therefore ~f => b.
19. assume g.
20. therefore ~f => g.
21. assume ~g.
22. therefore ~f.
23. assume b.
24. therefore ~f => b.
25. therefore ~f => g.
26. assume ~f.
27. therefore ~f => g.
28. therefore ~f => g.
29. therefore ~f => g.
30. therefore ~f => g.
31. therefore (b => e) & (~f + g) & (b & c) & d & (d & c => f)
32. therefore (b => e) & (~f + g) & (b & c) & d & (d & c => f)
```

Below the input area is a "Prove Formula" button. To the right of the input area is a "Justified Proof" window titled "Justified Proof — Mozilla Firefox". It displays the same proof script with numbered annotations next to each line:

- Line 1: assume (b => e) & (~f + g) & (b & c) & d & (d & c => f); #1
- Line 2: ~f + g; #2
- Line 3: b & c; #3
- Line 4: d; #4
- Line 5: d & c => f; #5
- Line 6: assume ~f; #6
- Line 7: b & c; #7
- Line 8: therefore ~f => b; #8
- Line 9: assume g; #9
- Line 10: therefore ~f => g; #10
- Line 11: assume ~g; #11
- Line 12: therefore ~f; #12
- Line 13: assume b; #13
- Line 14: therefore ~f => b; #14
- Line 15: therefore g => b; #15
- Line 16: assume ~f; #16
- Line 17: b & c; #17
- Line 18: therefore ~f => b; #18
- Line 19: assume g; #19
- Line 20: therefore ~f => g; #20
- Line 21: assume ~g; #21
- Line 22: therefore ~f; #22
- Line 23: assume b; #23
- Line 24: therefore ~f => b; #24
- Line 25: therefore ~f => g; #25
- Line 26: assume ~f; #26
- Line 27: therefore ~f => g; #27
- Line 28: therefore ~f => g; #28
- Line 29: therefore ~f => g; #29
- Line 30: therefore ~f => g; #30
- Line 31: therefore (b => e) & (~f + g) & (b & c) & d & (d & c => f); #31

At the bottom of the interface, there are links for "examples | rules | syntax | info | download | home" and a timestamp "Last Modified : 16-Dec-2021".

Figure 3. LIGLAB’s Natural Deduction. Example proof showing the user interface and proof annotations.

Natural Deduction is a Windows 10 application designed by Jukka Häkkinen, and is the second natural deduction software we investigated. This system includes both a proof generator and a proof checker. While it primarily focuses on modal logic (specifically, the modal logic system S5), it has a propositional logic prover because modal logic natural deduction semantics are a superset of those of propositional logic. We noted that its interface is clean and very elegant to use. Likewise, its ability to prove both theorems and premise-conclusion style proofs is helpful. We also found its performance on par, if not faster than other similar software. However, Natural Deduction has a severe drawback: it's proof generation capabilities, or somewhat of a lack thereof. While it generates short and simple proofs for a subset of our test suite, for others, the proofs were unmanageably long and so cumbersome that a student would, realistically, never look through them. In addition to this significant issue, we discovered that the system places an arbitrary limit on the length of a premise set and its corresponding conclusion. Along a similar vein, the system refuses any proof that contains more than seven propositions/atoms, even if the proof contains no connectives - only atoms (e.g., A , B , C , D , E , F , G , H , $\therefore H$). Lastly, the system automatically converts connectives to a recognizable format e.g., $>$ to \rightarrow , and uppercases any entered propositions. It gets confused, though, if the user enters a symbol it does not recognize (e.g., $\&$ instead of \wedge), and erroneously replaces symbols that otherwise together represent one into two separate symbols e.g., $=>$ into $\equiv\supset$. These restrictions do not entirely detract students from the application; however, they exemplify the types of downfalls that other systems do not have.

TAUT-Logic is a web application designed by Ariel Roffé, and assisted by the Buenos Aires Logic Group. Unlike the first two, TAUT-Logic supports first-order predicate logic, and is the only easy-to-use system of its kind that we found which is

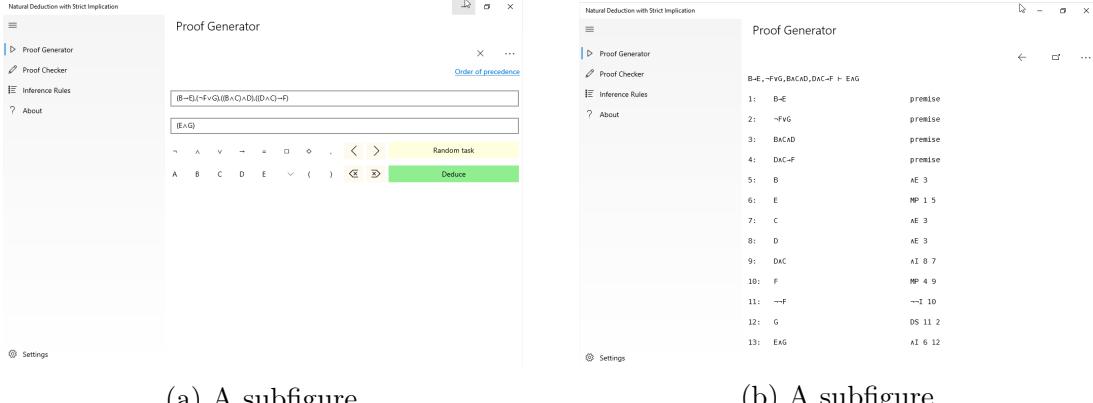


Figure 4. A figure with two subfigures

not out of commission nor abandoned. In addition to its natural deduction toolset, it supports basic set theory, truth table generation, and model truth.

One awkward characteristic of this system is that its propositional logic application only supports lowercase letters for atoms. Additionally, similar to Natural Deduction, TAUT-Logic supports a total of nine different atoms, ranging from *o* to *w*. Supporting only nine atoms may be enough for some problems/proofs, but this restriction seems rather arbitrary for natural deduction, whose problem complexity should not grow strictly in terms of the number of atoms. Another odd design choice is the preference of English phrases for connectives instead of symbols such as, for example, “implies” versus \rightarrow or \supset . Because all other systems we tested only utilize symbols (with the exception of FLAT, as it supports both), the process of converting each formula and symbol to the appropriate format was tiresome. Lastly, for some reason, the biconditional connective is not supported, requiring students to either convert them to a conjunction of implications, or omit the proof altogether.

Regarding TAUT-Logic’s performance, we discovered that it is roughly on par in terms of speed, but fails on moderately complex propositional and first-order logic

proofs. We also saw a general increase in the produced proof size compared to the other systems.

	Formula	Rule	On steps
1.	$\forall x (Rx \vee Bx)$	PREM \checkmark	
2.	$\forall x (Bx \rightarrow Sx)$	PREM \checkmark	
3.	$\neg Ra$	PREM \checkmark	
4.	$Ra \vee Ba$	E \forall \checkmark	
5.	$Ba \rightarrow Sa$	E \forall \checkmark	
6.	$\neg Ba$	SUP \checkmark	
7.	Ra	SUP \checkmark	
8.	\perp	E \neg \checkmark	
9.	$Ra \rightarrow \perp$	I \neg \checkmark	
10.	Ba	SUP \checkmark	
11.	\perp	E \neg \checkmark	
12.	$Ba \rightarrow \perp$	I \neg \checkmark	
13.	\perp	E \forall \checkmark	
14.	$\neg \neg Ba$	I \neg \checkmark	
15.	Ba	DN \checkmark	
16.	Sa	E \rightarrow \checkmark	
17.	$\neg Ra$	REP \checkmark	
18.	$\neg Ra \wedge Sa$	I \wedge \checkmark	
19.	$(\neg Ra \wedge Sa) \vee Cbc$	I \vee \checkmark	
20.	$\exists x ((\neg Rx \wedge Sx) \vee Cbc)$	I \exists \checkmark	

Figure 5. TautLogic's Predicate Natural Deduction. Write a caption...

Table 1 shows the tabulated results, including the average number of applied distinct rules compared to the base set size, the average length of all proofs, and the average success rate. Note: systems that did not support first-order logic contributed to a lower overall success rate. Consequently, we further subdivided the data into two groups: one with only propositional logic formulas ($n = 203$), and another with only predicate logic formulas ($n = 85$). Also note that, when a system cannot solve a proof, this, in turn, lowers the average number of steps and applied distinct rules as those count as zero towards the average. Thus, we created another table to show non-zero total averages.

Discuss the general findings, then the challenges with inputting data... which lead to the desire for a gold standard!

Table 1. Data Analysis of Propositional and First-Order Logic Proofs

System	Avg. Success Rate	Avg. No. Steps	Avg. No. Distinct
FLAT	84.72%	5.86	2.79
TeachingLogic	70.49%	12.41	3.77
NaturalDeduction	56.60%	13.50	3.38
TAUT-Logic	73.96%	13.34	4.46

Table 2. Data Analysis of Propositional Logic Proofs

System	Avg. Success Rate	Avg. No. Steps	Avg. No. Distinct Rules
FLAT	85.22%	5.94	2.67
TeachingLogic	99.01%	17.48	5.30
NaturalDeduction	79.31%	19.03	4.73
TAUT-Logic	76.35%	15.59	4.71

Table 3. Data Analysis of Predicate Logic Proofs

System	Avg. Success Rate	Avg. No. Steps	Avg. No. Distinct Rules
FLAT	83.53%	5.62	3.05
TAUT-Logic	68.24%	7.46	3.76

Table 4. Non-Zero Data Analysis of All Proofs

System	Avg. No. Steps	Avg. No. Distinct Rules
FLAT	6.92	3.30
TeachingLogic	17.61	5.35
NaturalDeduction	23.85	5.96
TAUT-Logic	18.04	6.03

2 Gold Standard for Formal Logic System Syntax

There are several reasons why a standardized grammar does not necessarily already exist for formal logic. Firstly, symbol usage varies widely from one subject to the next e.g., notation used in computer science may have subtle yet important differences from

philosophy-esque logics. Secondly, preexisting sources such as textbooks, websites, professors, and others all use preferential notation (i.e., they use what they think is correct, what they were taught, or what is otherwise preferred in their respective discipline), providing an amalgamation of symbols for students to use and reference which, therefore, leads students and automatic systems astray when expecting one syntax yet receive something completely different. Thirdly, propositional logic learning platforms may or may not include certain operators. For example, because it is trivial to represent the biconditional (if and only if) binary operator as a conjunction of implications, it is certainly possible, albeit rather rare, to omit its symbolic representation from a language. Such omissions cause problems when evaluating formulas either automatically or by hand..... **continue here**

We propose a formal definition that aims to solve most of these problems. One component of this definition allows users to create their own logic language definition as they see fit for their situation. This language is then translatable into a gold standard format, which we will define syntactically and semantically.

2.1 Zeroth-Order Logic Well-Formed Formula Representation

Let $M(\mathcal{L}, w)$ be a function that “applies” the zeroth-order logic language \mathcal{L} to the well-formed formula w . Let \mathcal{L} be a pair (f, g) where f is an connective mapping function, and g is an atomic literal mapping function.

The bijective function f maps two sets $f: X \rightarrow Y$, where X is the set of input connectives defined by \mathcal{L} , and $Y \subseteq \{N, C, D, E, I, B, T, F\}$ is the set of output connectives defined by our grammar, where $|X| = |Y|$. N is unary logical negation, C is binary logical conjunction, D is binary logical inclusive disjunction, E is binary logical exclusive disjunction, I is binary logical implication, B is binary logical biconditional

(if and only if), T is the truth function, and F is the false function. Note that the arity of any $\phi \in X$ must match the arity of its corresponding output connective in Y .

The bijective function g maps two sets $g: A \rightarrow B$, where A is the set of atomic literals $\psi \in A$ where ψ is an atomic literal used in w , and B is the set of output atomic formulas a_j where $j \in [1, |A|]$.

We can now define the Polish (Łukasiewicz), or prefix notation grammar G used to create a standardized notation for zeroth-order logic. This notation takes inspiration from Scheme-syntax with its parenthesization of connectives and operands. For this, we must extend the definition of typical Extended Backus-Naur Form to account for multiple-arity connectives. Thus, we introduce the notation $\langle x - R \rangle$ to indicate that x is a variable used in the EBNF rule R , and $\{\gamma\}^x$ to denote x applications of γ . In the grammar, α is the arity of a connective.

$$\langle \text{atomic} \rangle ::= 'a' ('1' | '2' | ...)$$

$$\langle \text{connective} \rangle ::= 'N' | 'C' | 'D' | 'E' | 'I' | 'B' | 'T' | 'F'$$

$$\langle \alpha - wff \rangle ::= \langle \text{atomic} \rangle | (\langle \text{connective} \rangle [' '] \{ \langle wff \rangle \}^\alpha)$$

2.1.1 Example 1.

Let us take a “standard” propositional logic language \mathcal{L} and a formula w . \mathcal{L} consists of two functions f and g where

$$f: \{\Box, \wedge, \vee, \leftrightarrow, \neg\} \mapsto \{I, C, D, B, N\}$$

$$g: \{A, B, C\} \mapsto \{a_1, a_2, a_3\}$$

We will let $w = A \supset (B \leftrightarrow \neg C)$. Thus,

$$M(\mathcal{L}, w) = (I\ a_1\ (B\ a_2\ (N\ a_3)))$$

This representation reads naturally from left-to-right as follows: “An implication of a_1 and a biconditional of a_2 and negated a_3 ”. We consider all connectives as first-class functions in our definition.

While prefix notation is not as readable as the infix w , it creates a uniform standard for testing zeroth-order logic systems. What’s more is that this application process is reversible; given $M^{-1}(\mathcal{L}', w')$ where $\mathcal{L}' = (f^{-1}, g^{-1})$ and $w' = M(\mathcal{L}, w)$, we can reproduce w using a simple stack-and-pop parsing evaluation approach (deterministic push-down automaton).

The reason we formalize the language definition is to allow different logic systems with varying syntax—some use lower-case atomic formulas, while others may restrict the alphabet to a subset. This definition allows different connective alphabets to map to the same symbol in the gold standard which provides a seamless translation to and from various host logic languages (i.e., the language of the implementing systems, assuming it does not, by default, use the gold standard internally). **Another benefit of using prefix connective notation is its disambiguation of precedence.** We assume the incoming formula is unambiguous according to its language grammar specification out of simplicity **NOTE:** We may add a precedence mapping function Γ . This is described more on paper. By enforcing prefix notation, we no longer have to deal with the inherent complexities of operator precedence present in the commonly-used infix notation.

2.1.2 Natural Deduction Extension.

It is simple to extend G to support premises and conclusions using the same syntax. We can define a new function $N(\mathcal{L}, P, c)$, where \mathcal{L} is the same definition as before, P is a set of well-formed formula acting as the premises of the proof, and c is the well-formed formula acting as the conclusion of the proof. Our new grammar G' is as follows:

$$\langle \text{atomic} \rangle ::= \text{'a'} (\text{'1'} | \text{'2'} | \dots)$$

$$\langle \text{connective} \rangle ::= \text{'N'} | \text{'C'} | \text{'D'} | \text{'E'} | \text{'I'} | \text{'B'} | \text{'T'} | \text{'F'}$$

$$\langle \alpha\text{-wff} \rangle ::= \langle \text{atomic} \rangle | (\langle \text{connective} \rangle [\cdot] \{ \langle \text{wff} \rangle \}^\alpha)$$

$$\langle \text{premise} \rangle ::= (\text{'P'} \langle \text{wff} \rangle)$$

$$\langle \text{conclusion} \rangle ::= (\text{'H'} \langle \text{wff} \rangle)$$

$$\langle \text{proof} \rangle ::= (\langle \text{conclusion} \rangle \{ \langle \text{premise} \rangle \})$$

The preceding grammar states that a premise is preceded by the letter P standing for *premise*, conclusions are preceded by H for *hence*, and a proof is a conclusion followed by zero or more premises (a proof with zero premises is a theorem).

2.1.3 Example 2.

Let's create a proof where $P = \{\neg(C \vee D), D \leftrightarrow (E \vee F), \neg A \supset (C \vee F)\}$, and $c = A$. We must redefine the function g in \mathcal{L} as follows:

$$g: \{A, C, D, E, F\} \mapsto \{a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, a_5\}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
N(\mathcal{L}, P, c) = & ((H \ a_1) \\
& (P \ (N \ (D \ a_2 \ a_3))) \\
& (P \ (B \ a_3 \ (D \ a_4 \ a_5))) \\
& (P \ (I \ (N \ a_1) \ (D \ a_2 \ a_5))))
\end{aligned}$$

We read this as “Hence a_1 if P_1 is true and P_2 is true and P_3 is true”, where P_1 , P_2 , and P_3 are the individual premises that comprise the argument. This style largely resembles the way we write Prolog (conditional) rules.

2.2 First-Order Logic Well-Formed Formula Representation

First-order logic is a superset of zeroth-order logic, meaning we can reuse most of our definitions from the previous section. We will, however, need to slightly redefine \mathcal{L} to allow for mapping predicate definitions, constants, and variables. Further, so as to not confuse the function definitions from zeroth-order logic, we will instead use new letters to represent mapping functions.

Let \mathcal{L} be a quadruple (p, q, r, s) where p is a connective mapping function, q is a predicate mapping function, r is a constant mapping function, and s is a variable mapping function.

The bijective function p is identical to f in the sense that it maps two sets $p: X \rightarrow Y$, where X is the set of input connectives defined by \mathcal{L} , and $Y \subseteq \{N, C, D, E, I, B, T, F, Z, X, V\}$ is the set of output connectives defined by our grammar, where $|X| = |Y|$. N, C, D, E, I, B, T , and F are identical in both syntactic and semantic meaning to zeroth-order logic. Z is the universal quantifier, X is the

existential quantifier, and V is the identity operator. Z and X have arities dependent on the formula used, so we cannot restrict it syntactically. Identity V , on the other hand, is a binary operator.

The bijective function q maps two sets $q: A \rightarrow B$, where A is the set of predicate letters $\phi \in A$ where ϕ is a predicate letter used in the wff w , and B is the set of output predicate letters L_i where $i \in [1, |A|]$.

The bijective function r maps two sets $r: C \rightarrow D$, where C is the set of constant letters $\psi \in C$ where ψ is a constant identifier used in w , and D is the set of output constant identifiers c_i where $i \in [1, |C|]$.

Lastly, the bijective function s maps two sets $s: E \rightarrow F$, where E is the set of variable letters $\rho \in E$ where ρ is a variable identifier used in w and F is the set of output variable identifiers v_i where $i \in [1, |E|]$.

Now, similar to zeroth-order logic, we will construct the gold standard Polish notation grammar H for first-order logic. Likewise, we will utilize the previously-defined notation $\langle x \rangle$ — R to eliminate ambiguity with operator arity. Two points to note are that, because identity is a special connective in first-order logic, we restrict its syntactic definition to only constants and variables. Additionally, quantifiers have a restriction in that they must have at least one variable following their declaration, as well as a bound well-formed formula.

$\langle \text{constant} \rangle ::= 'c' ('1' | '2' | ...)$

$\langle \text{variable} \rangle ::= 'v' ('1' | '2' | ...)$

$\langle \text{literal} \rangle ::= \langle \text{constant} \rangle \mid \langle \text{variable} \rangle$

$\langle \text{predicate} \rangle ::= 'L' ('1' | '2' | ...)$

$\langle \text{connective} \rangle ::= \text{'N'} \mid \text{'C'} \mid \text{'D'} \mid \text{'E'} \mid \text{'I'} \mid \text{'B'} \mid \text{'T'} \mid \text{'F'}$

$\langle \text{identity} \rangle ::= \text{'V'}$

$\langle \text{quantifier} \rangle ::= \text{'Z'} \mid \text{'X'}$

$\langle \alpha-\text{wff} \rangle ::= (\langle \text{predicate} \rangle \{\langle \text{literal} \rangle\})$

| $(\langle \text{connective} \rangle [\cdot] \langle \text{wff} \rangle^\alpha)$

| $(\langle \text{quantifier} \rangle \langle \text{variable} \rangle \{\langle \text{variable} \rangle\} \langle \text{wff} \rangle)$

| $(\langle \text{identity} \rangle \langle \text{literal} \rangle [\cdot] \langle \text{literal} \rangle)$

The above grammar states ...**continue here**

2.2.1 Example 3.

We will, once again, use a “standard” first-order logic language \mathcal{L} and a formula w . \mathcal{L} consists of the four functions p, q, r , and s where

$$p: \{\supset, \wedge, \vee, \leftrightarrow, \neg, \forall, \exists, =\} \mapsto \{I, C, D, B, N, Z, X, V\}$$

$$q: \{P, Q, R\} \mapsto \{L_1, L_2, L_3\}$$

$$r: \{c, d\} \mapsto \{c_1, c_2\}$$

$$s: \{x, y, z\} \mapsto \{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$$

Suppose $w = \forall x \forall y \neg Pxy \wedge (Qcd \vee \exists z Rz)$. Thus,

$$M(\mathcal{L}, w) = (C (Z v_1 (Z v_2 (N (L_1 v_1 v_2 c_1)))))$$

$$(D (L_2 c_1 c_2) (X v_3 (L_3 v_3))))$$

We read this as “A conjunction of a universal quantifier that binds v_1 , a universal quantifier binding v_2 , bound to the negation of $L_1 v_1 v_2 c_1$ and a disjunction of the following: $L_2 c_1 c_2$ and an existential quantifier which binds v_3 , bound to $L_3 v_3$.”

CHAPTER IV

DISCUSSION AND FUTURE DIRECTION

References

- [1] AHO, A. V., LAM, M. S., SETHI, R., AND ULLMAN, J. D. *Compilers: Principles, Techniques, and Tools (2nd Edition)*. Addison-Wesley Longman Publishing Co., Inc., USA, 2006.
- [2] AMENDOLA, G., RICCA, F., AND TRUSZCZYNSKI, M. Generating hard random boolean formulas and disjunctive logic programs. In *Proceedings of the 26th International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence* (2017), IJCAI'17, AAAI Press, pp. 532–538.
- [3] ARIEL ROFFÉ. Propositional logic - natural deduction.
- [4] CERNA, D. M., KIESEL, R., AND DZHIGANSKAYA, A. A mobile application for self-guided study of formal reasoning. In *ThEdu@CADE* (2019).
- [5] FENNELL, B., LEE, E., AND KIM, T. Truth table creator, 2020. Accessed: 2021-07-04.
- [6] GRENOBLE COMPUTER SCIENCE LABORATORY. Natural deduction.
- [7] HATCHER, D. L. Why formal logic is essential for critical thinking. *Informal Logic* 19, 1 (1999).

- [8] HATCHER, D. L. Why formal logic is essential for critical thinking. *Informal Logic* 19 (1999).
- [9] HEIN, J. L. *Discrete Structures, Logic, and Computability*, 2nd ed. Jones and Bartlett Publishers, Inc., USA, 2002.
- [10] HEIN, J. L. *Prolog Experiments in Discrete Mathematics, Logic, and Computability*. 2009.
- [11] JUKKA HÄKKINEN. Naturaldeduction, 01 2017.
- [12] LUKINS, S., LEVICKI, A., AND BURG, J. A tutorial program for propositional logic with human/computer interactive learning. 381–385.
- [13] NEAR, J. P., BYRD, W. E., AND FRIEDMAN, D. P. aleantap: A declarative theorem prover for first-order classical logic. In *Logic Programming* (Berlin, Heidelberg, 2008), M. Garcia de la Banda and E. Pontelli, Eds., Springer Berlin Heidelberg, pp. 238–252.
- [14] PRIEST, G. *An Introduction to Non-Classical Logic: From If to Is*, 2 ed. Cambridge Introductions to Philosophy. Cambridge University Press, 2008.
- [15] RALSTON, A., REILLY, E. D., AND HEMMENDINGER, D. *Encyclopedia of Computer Science*. John Wiley and Sons Ltd., GBR, 2003.
- [16] SHAPIRO, STEWART, AND KISSEL, T. K. Classical logic. *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Spring 2021)* (2021).

CHAPTER A

PROPOSITIONAL LOGIC NATURAL DEDUCTION ALGORITHM

This appendix describes the algorithm we used to find a natural deduction proof for propositional logic. The idea is to use a “satisfiability” algorithm. A wff w is satisfied when it is used in the reduction or expansion of another well-formed formula w' . In essence, if w is used to construct w' , then w is satisfied. At a high level, we recursively compute goals for each premise, and if we can satisfy each goal, then the premise is satisfied. The procedure SATISFY uses rules for each axiom to determine if a premise can be either simplified or if, as a goal, it can be constructed using other premises. For example, suppose we have two premises A and B and we want to satisfy $A \wedge B$. SATISFY will recursively search through the well-formed formula (i.e., attempt to satisfy its operands from left-to-right) to determine if either have been previously satisfied. Given that A and B are already premises, and premises are, by default, satisfied, we can conclude that $A \wedge B$ is satisfiable. As another example, let us take the argument $P = \{A \supset (B \wedge \neg C), \neg(B \wedge \neg C)\}$ and $c = \neg A$. It is trivial to see that we can conclude c from the premises in P via a modus tollens rule. SATISFY works slightly different when this type of situation occurs. Because there is no way to individually solve intermediate formulas e.g., B , $\neg C$, the algorithm searches for transformations and elimination rules e.g., modus ponens, modus tollens,

disjunctive syllogism, transposition, material implication, etc., that may be applied to premises. In our provided example, we can apply modus tollens to the two premises and consequently satisfy $\neg A$. $\neg A$ is, therefore, added to P . The terminating condition is when c is satisfied, or equivalently, $c \in P$. Because there are numerous transformations that may be applied to premises, we will omit their direct inclusion in favor of a broad description of behaviors. To prevent unnecessary premises, once a premise is satisfied, it can never be “unsatisfied”. Moreover, if a premise was constructed, it cannot be redundantly destructed or vice versa. For instance, suppose we have premises A and B . We can use a conjunction introduction $\wedge I$ rule to satisfy $A \wedge B$. The algorithm could, in theory, use a conjunction elimination $\wedge E$ rule to break $A \wedge B$ back down into its original components. Since such repeated applications blows up the size of P (leading to a potentially infinitely long proof), we heuristically prevent its occurrence.

Algorithm 1 Propositional Natural Deduction Satisfaction Algorithm

```

1: procedure PROVE( $P$ ,  $c$ )                                 $\triangleright P$  is a list of premises,  $c$  is conclusion
2:   while  $c$  is not satisfied do
3:     for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to  $P.length$  do
4:       if SATISFY( $P[i]$ ) then
5:          $P[i].satisfied \leftarrow \text{true}$ 
6:       if SATISFY( $c$ ) then
7:          $c.satisfied \leftarrow \text{true}$ 

```

CHAPTER B
RESULT GRAPHS

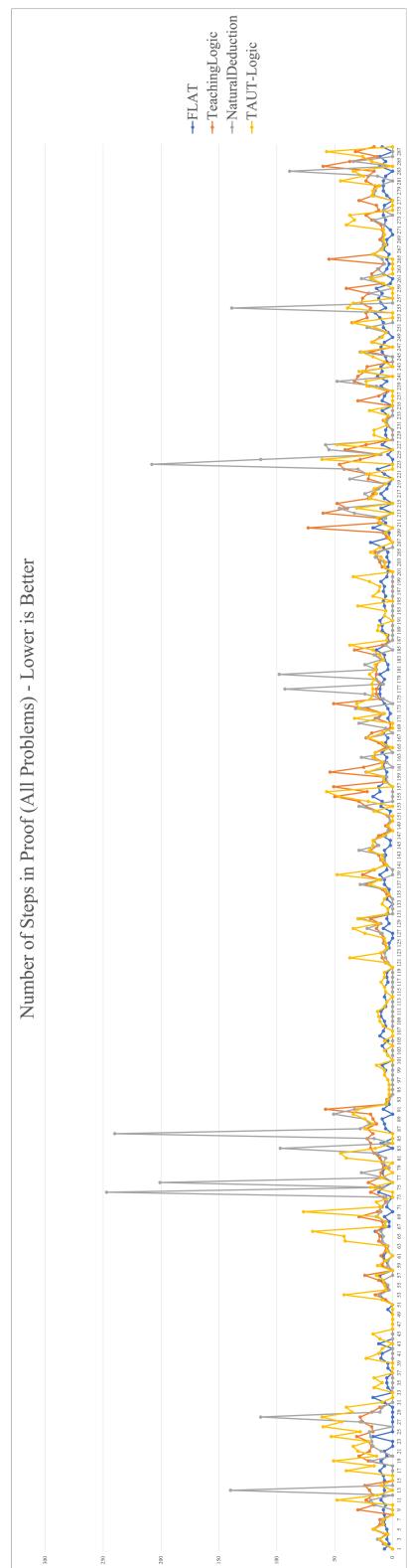


Figure 1. TautLogic's Predicate Natural Deduction. Write a caption...

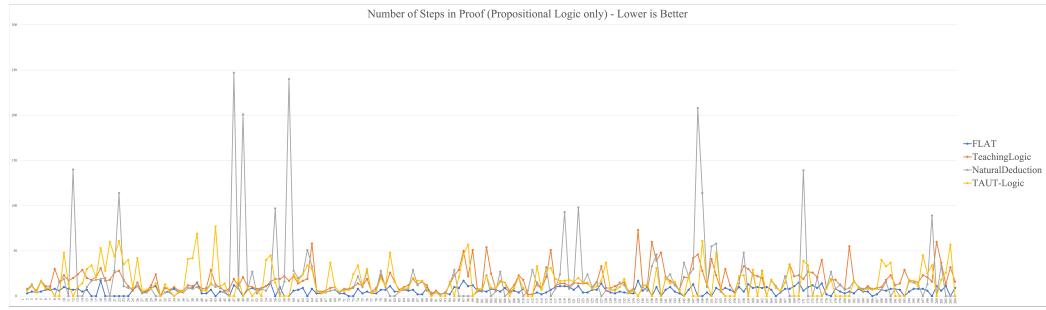


Figure 2. Propositional Logic Natural Deduction. Write a caption...

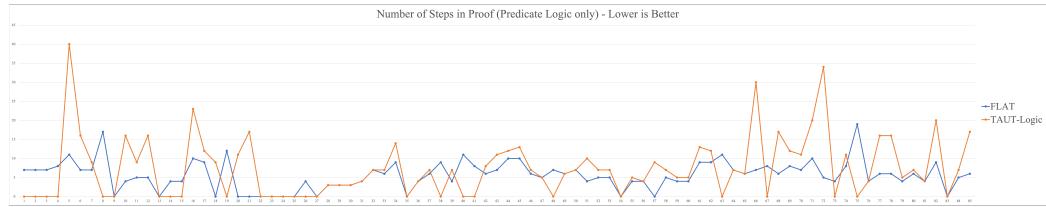


Figure 3. Predicate Logic Results Graph. Write a caption...