

14 Axiom Systems for Propositional Logic

- notions of axiomatic system, deduction
- particular axiom system for propositional logic
- use of this system to establish tautologies, equivalences, consistency, argument validity

- so far ...
 - *truth tables* used to define
 - * tautologies, (in)consistency, validity, ...
 - * **model theory** approach
 - gives the *semantics* of propositional logic
 - * semantics = considerations involving “truth” (meaning)
- now ...
 - a **proof theory** approach
 - * axioms, inference rules, proofs, theorems, ...
- later – *connections* between the semantic and proof theory approaches

- **Proof:**
 - set of initial hypotheses
 - each step generates a new consequence of the hypotheses
 - until the desired proposition is reached.
- In Propositional Logic
 - start with **axioms** (simple tautological propositions)
 - each step uses a **rule of inference**

(Axioms \approx Prolog program; conclusion \approx query.)
- Infinitely many possible axiom systems; we use **AL**

14.1.1 Syntactic Description

Axiomatic system has 4 parts:

Σ **alphabet** of symbols; we use $\neg, \rightarrow, (,), P, Q, R, \dots$

WF the **well formed formulae (wff)**

Ax the set of axioms, a subset of WF

R the set of rules of deduction

Well Formed Formulae (wff):

- Any propositional letter (e.g., P, Q, R) is a wff
- If W and V are wff then $W \rightarrow V$ and $\neg W$ are wff
- Nothing else is a wff

Usually want to assume infinite number of propositional letters; assume we can subscript them

There are infinitely many axioms, but all have one of these forms:

Axiom schemas — allow any wff for A, B , and C

$$\text{Ax1} \quad A \rightarrow (B \rightarrow A)$$

$$\text{Ax2} \quad (A \rightarrow (B \rightarrow C)) \rightarrow ((A \rightarrow B) \rightarrow (A \rightarrow C))$$

$$\text{Ax3} \quad (\neg A \rightarrow \neg B) \rightarrow (B \rightarrow A)$$

Examples:

- $P \rightarrow (Q \rightarrow P)$ is an *instance* of Ax1.
- $(\neg(D \rightarrow E) \rightarrow \neg S) \rightarrow (S \rightarrow (D \rightarrow E))$ is an instance of Ax3.

One rule of deduction, or **inference rule**:

modus ponens from A and $A \rightarrow B$ infer B

Given a set of hypotheses H , where $H \subseteq WF$, a **deduction** is a sequence of wff F_1, F_2, \dots, F_n where each F_i is either:

- An axiom ($F_i \in Ax$); or
- A hypothesis ($F_i \in H$); or
- Follows from *earlier* steps by a (the) rule of inference

$P \wedge Q$ Inference Rule (2)

We say a deduction ending in F_n is a deduction of F_n from H or that F_n is a deductive consequence of H , and write

$$H \vdash F_n$$

When $H = \emptyset$, we write

$$\vdash F_n$$

and say F_n is a *theorem*

- A boring example with a very short proof

$$\vdash P \rightarrow (Q \rightarrow P) \quad \text{Ax1}$$

- Another boring example

$$\vdash (\neg(D \rightarrow E) \rightarrow \neg S) \rightarrow (S \rightarrow (D \rightarrow E)) \quad \text{Ax3}$$

$$\vdash A \rightarrow A$$

- | | | |
|----|---|---------|
| 1. | $A \rightarrow ((B \rightarrow A) \rightarrow A)$ | Ax1 |
| 2. | $(A \rightarrow ((B \rightarrow A) \rightarrow A)) \rightarrow ((A \rightarrow (B \rightarrow A)) \rightarrow (A \rightarrow A))$ | Ax2 |
| 3. | $(A \rightarrow (B \rightarrow A)) \rightarrow (A \rightarrow A)$ | MP 1, 2 |
| 4. | $A \rightarrow (B \rightarrow A)$ | Ax1 |
| 5. | $A \rightarrow A$ | MP 3, 4 |

Exercise: Prove the following Simplification
MetaTheorems:

$$\vdash (A \wedge B) \rightarrow A$$

$$\vdash (A \wedge B) \rightarrow B$$

Here $A \wedge B$ is *defined* as $\neg(A \rightarrow \neg B)$.

$P \wedge Q$ 14.2 Meta-theorems

We have proved $\vdash A \rightarrow A$, but what about $\vdash P \rightarrow P$?

We haven't proved it, but we could: duplicate proof, replacing A with P

Works because for every axiom with A , there's one with P

Modus ponens works for P as well as for A

Take our theorem as a *meta*-theorem — a theorem template

As a shortcut, we could use $A \rightarrow A$ as if it were an axiom schema, because we could always replace it by its proof

Like using subroutines when programming

Prove $B \rightarrow (A \rightarrow A)$

- | | | |
|----|---|-------------|
| 1. | $A \rightarrow A$ | Theorem 4.1 |
| 2. | $(A \rightarrow A) \rightarrow (B \rightarrow (A \rightarrow A))$ | Ax1 |
| 3. | $B \rightarrow (A \rightarrow A)$ | MP 1, 2 |

Could replace Theorem 4.1 line with proof of Theorem 4.1:

- | | | |
|----|---|---------|
| 1. | $A \rightarrow ((B \rightarrow A) \rightarrow A)$ | Ax1 |
| 2. | $(A \rightarrow ((B \rightarrow A) \rightarrow A)) \rightarrow ((A \rightarrow (B \rightarrow A)) \rightarrow (A \rightarrow A))$ | Ax2 |
| 3. | $(A \rightarrow (B \rightarrow A)) \rightarrow (A \rightarrow A)$ | MP 1, 2 |
| 4. | $A \rightarrow (B \rightarrow A)$ | Ax1 |
| 5. | $A \rightarrow A$ | MP 3, 4 |
| 6. | $(A \rightarrow A) \rightarrow (B \rightarrow (A \rightarrow A))$ | Ax1 |
| 7. | $B \rightarrow (A \rightarrow A)$ | MP 5, 6 |

Exercise: Transitive Implication

Fill in the blanks in the following proof of

$$\{A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C\} \vdash A \rightarrow C$$

- | | | |
|----|---|------------|
| 1. | $B \rightarrow C$ | _____ |
| 2. | $(B \rightarrow C) \rightarrow (A \rightarrow (B \rightarrow C))$ | _____ |
| 3. | _____ | MP 1, 2 |
| 4. | $(A \rightarrow (B \rightarrow C)) \rightarrow ((A \rightarrow B) \rightarrow (A \rightarrow C))$ | _____ |
| 5. | $(A \rightarrow B) \rightarrow (A \rightarrow C)$ | _____ |
| 6. | $A \rightarrow B$ | Hypothesis |
| 7. | _____ | MP 5, 6 |

This proves implication is transitive; call it TI

Can use meta-theorems with hypotheses as rules of inference

First prove instances of hypotheses, then use meta-theorem to conclude instance of conclusion

Prove $\vdash \neg A \rightarrow (A \rightarrow B)$

1. $\neg A \rightarrow (\neg B \rightarrow \neg A)$ Ax1
2. $(\neg B \rightarrow \neg A) \rightarrow (A \rightarrow B)$ Ax3
3. $\neg A \rightarrow (A \rightarrow B)$ TI 1, 2

Could turn into proper proof by replacing step 3 with proof of TI, with $\neg A$ substituted for A , $(\neg B \rightarrow \neg A)$ for B and $(A \rightarrow B)$ for C , and lines 1 and 2 for the hypothesis lines

But this proof is much easier!

Kelly proves other useful Meta-theorems

Deduction meta-theorem:

$$\text{If } H \cup \{A\} \vdash B \text{ then } H \vdash A \rightarrow B$$

Proof is more complex (by induction)

Use deduction meta-theorem to prove

$\{A \rightarrow (B \rightarrow C)\} \vdash B \rightarrow (A \rightarrow C)$:

1. $A \rightarrow (B \rightarrow C)$

Hypothesis

2. A

Hypothesis (for sake of proof)

3. $B \rightarrow C$

MP 1, 2

4. B

Hypothesis (for sake of proof)

5. C

MP 3, 4

So, $\{A \rightarrow (B \rightarrow C), A, B\} \vdash C$

then $\{A \rightarrow (B \rightarrow C), B\} \vdash A \rightarrow C$

Deduction theorem

then $\{A \rightarrow (B \rightarrow C)\} \vdash B \rightarrow (A \rightarrow C)$

Deduction theorem

- no firm search strategy
- proofs generally hard to find
 - usually a mixture of seeing what you can do with the hypotheses you have, and seeing what might lead to the desired conclusion.

$P \wedge Q$ 14.4 Truth and Deduction (Kelly 4.5)

What is the relationship between *truth* (\models , see Kelly chapter 1) and *deduction* (\vdash , see Kelly chapter 4)?

What makes an axiom system useful?

1. **Consistency:** if $\vdash A$ then $\not\vdash \neg A$
Is it impossible to prove a wff and its negation?
2. **Soundness:** $\vdash A$ implies $\models A$
Is it impossible to prove a wff that is not a tautology?
3. **Completeness:** $\models A$ implies $\vdash A$
Can everything that is a tautology be proved?
4. **Decidability:**
Is there an algorithm to always decide if $\vdash A$?

Truth and Deduction (Kelly 4.5) (2)

The *AL* system of Kelly chapter 4 has all these properties

1. *Consistency*: follows from *soundness* (below), and that \models is consistent
2. *Soundness*: proof by induction; axioms are tautologies, and modus ponens only yields tautologies from tautologies
3. *Completeness*: complex proof, see Kelly pp. 87–90
4. *Decidability*: *AL* is complete, so it is enough to decide if $\models A$, which can be decided by truth table

- proof system based on axioms and inference rules defines a computational procedure for verifying deductions ... though not necessarily practical for *generating* deductions
- correctness of proof system with respect to semantics is guaranteed by soundness, completeness

