

# Towards the use of Simplification Rules in Intuitionistic Tableaux

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# Outline

**Work in progress:** apply simplification techniques to tableaux calculi for Intuitionistic Propositional Logic **Int**

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## Known results

- The decidability problem for **Int** is **PSPACE-complete** [Statman, TCS 1979]
- Calculi for **Int** have been provided such that:
  - Proofs have **linear** depth
  - The related decision procedure requires  $O(n \log n)$ -space.

We introduce **simplifications rules** which can be applied to **any** complete calculus for **Int**

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$$A \vee B \quad \rightsquigarrow_{A \text{ is true}} \quad \top \vee B$$

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$$\top \vee B \rightsquigarrow \top$$

To sum up, we have rewritten  $A \vee B$  as  $\top$

# Preliminary definitions and notation

The language  $\mathcal{L}$ :

$p \mid \top \mid \perp \mid A \wedge B \mid A \vee B \mid A \rightarrow B \mid \neg A$  with  $p \in \text{Var}$



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A **Kripke model** for  $\mathcal{L}$  is a structure  $\underline{K} = \langle P, \leq, \rho, \Vdash \rangle$ , where:

- $\langle P, \leq, \rho \rangle$  is a finite poset with minimum element  $\rho$ ;
- $\Vdash$  is the **forcing relation** over  $P \times \text{Var}$  satisfying the **monotonicity condition**:

$$\alpha \Vdash p \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha \leq \beta \quad \text{implies} \quad \beta \Vdash p$$

# The Intuitionistic Logic **Int**

The forcing relation is extended as follows:

- $\alpha \Vdash \top$
- $\alpha \nVdash \perp$
- $\alpha \Vdash A \wedge B$  iff  $\alpha \Vdash A$  and  $\alpha \Vdash B$
- $\alpha \Vdash A \vee B$  iff  $\alpha \Vdash A$  or  $\alpha \Vdash B$
- $\alpha \Vdash A \rightarrow B$  iff, *for every*  $\beta \geq \alpha$ ,  $\beta \Vdash A$  implies  $\beta \Vdash B$
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The monotonicity property holds for arbitrary formulas

- $A$  is **valid** in  $\underline{K}$  iff, for every  $\alpha \in P$ ,  $\alpha \Vdash A$
- **Int** is the set of formulas valid in all Kripke models

# Tableau calculi: the language

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Let  $\underline{K} = \langle P, \leq, \rho, \Vdash \rangle$  and  $\alpha \in P$

- $\alpha \triangleright \mathbf{TA}$  iff  $\alpha \Vdash A$
- $\alpha \triangleright \mathbf{FA}$  iff  $\alpha \nVdash A$
- $\alpha \triangleright \Delta$  iff, for every  $H \in \Delta$ ,  $\alpha \triangleright H$ .

$\underline{K} \triangleright \Delta$  ( $\Delta$  is realized in  $\underline{K}$ ) iff, for some  $\alpha \in P$ ,  $\alpha \triangleright \Delta$ .

# Tableau calculi: the rules

A tableau calculus is defined by **rules** of the form

$$\frac{\Delta}{\Delta_1 \mid \cdots \mid \Delta_n} r$$

where  $\Delta$  (the **premise** of  $r$ ) and  $\Delta_1, \dots, \Delta_n$  (the **consequences** of  $r$ ) are sets of signed formulas.

- $r$  is **sound** iff

$$\underline{K} \triangleright \Delta \quad \implies \quad \text{there exists } \underline{K}' \text{ and } 1 \leq k \leq n \text{ s.t. } \underline{K}' \triangleright \Delta_k$$

- $r$  is **invertible** iff  $r$  is sound and, for every  $1 \leq k \leq n$

$$\underline{K} \triangleright \Delta_k \quad \implies \quad \text{there exists } \underline{K}' \text{ s.t. } \underline{K}' \triangleright \Delta$$

Invertible rules **do not require backtracking** in proof search



# Tableau calculi: the proofs

A **proof** for  $\Delta$  is a tree  $\tau$  such that:

- The **root** of  $\tau$  is  $\Delta$
- If  $\Delta'$  is a node of  $\tau$  and there exists a rule

$$\frac{\Delta'}{\Delta_1 \mid \cdots \mid \Delta_k} r'$$

then  $\Delta_1, \dots, \Delta_k$  are the **immediate successors** of  $\Delta'$

# Tableau calculi: closed proofs

A set of signed formulas  $\Delta$  is **contradictory** iff one of the following conditions holds:

- (i)  $\{\mathbf{T}A, \mathbf{F}A\} \subseteq \Delta$ ;
- (ii)  $\mathbf{T}\perp \in \Delta$ ;
- (iii)  $\mathbf{F}\top \in \Delta$ .

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- (iii)  $\mathbf{F}\mathbf{T} \in \Delta$ .

A proof  $\tau$  is **closed** if all its leaves are contradictory.

A is **provable** iff there exists a closed proof for  $\mathbf{F}A$ .

A calculus is **complete** for **Int** iff:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A \in \mathbf{Int} & \begin{array}{c} \Longleftrightarrow \\ \Longleftrightarrow \end{array} & \begin{array}{l} A \text{ is provable} \\ \text{there exists a closed proof for } \mathbf{F}A \end{array} \end{array}$$

We apply simplification rules to complete calculi.

# A proof-search example

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# A proof table

The proof table corresponding to the previous example is

$$\begin{array}{c} \frac{\mathbf{F}(A \rightarrow (A \vee B) \wedge (A \vee C))}{\mathbf{TA}, \mathbf{F}((A \vee B) \wedge (A \vee C))} \mathbf{F} \rightarrow \\ \hline \mathbf{TA}, \mathbf{F}(A \vee B) \quad | \quad \mathbf{TA}, \mathbf{F}(A \vee C) \quad \mathbf{F} \wedge \\ \hline \mathbf{TA}, \mathbf{FA}, \mathbf{FB} \quad | \quad \mathbf{TA}, \mathbf{F}(A \vee C) \quad \mathbf{F} \vee \\ \hline \mathbf{TA}, \mathbf{FA}, \mathbf{FB} \quad | \quad \mathbf{TA}, \mathbf{FA}, \mathbf{FC} \quad \mathbf{F} \wedge \end{array}$$

# Simplifying proofs

$$\frac{\mathbf{F}(A \rightarrow (A \vee B) \wedge (A \vee C))}{\mathbf{TA}, \mathbf{F}((A \vee B) \wedge (A \vee C))} \mathbf{F} \rightarrow$$

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## Step 1: Replacement

The formula  $\mathbf{TA}$  can be understood as “*A is proved to be true*”.

We can keep  $\mathbf{TA}$  and replace all the other  $A$  with  $\top$

$$\mathbf{TA}, \mathbf{F}((A \vee B) \wedge (A \vee C)) \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad \mathbf{TA}, \mathbf{F}((\top \vee B) \wedge (\top \vee C))$$



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## Step 1: Replacement

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We can keep **TA** and replace all the other *A* with **T**

$$\mathbf{TA}, \mathbf{F}((A \vee B) \wedge (A \vee C)) \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad \mathbf{TA}, \mathbf{F}((\mathbf{T} \vee B) \wedge (\mathbf{T} \vee C))$$

## Step 2: Boolean simplifications

$$\mathbf{T} \vee B \equiv \mathbf{T} \quad \mathbf{T} \vee C \equiv \mathbf{T} \quad \mathbf{T} \wedge \mathbf{T} \equiv \mathbf{T}$$

$$\mathbf{TA}, \mathbf{F}((\mathbf{T} \vee B) \wedge (\mathbf{T} \vee C)) \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad \mathbf{TA}, \mathbf{FT}$$

contradictory set

# What do we gain?

We have **reduced the search space**:

- In the first derivation, the rule **F $\wedge$**  applied to

$$\mathbf{T}A, \mathbf{F}((A \vee B) \wedge (A \vee C))$$

gives rise to two branches:

$$\mathbf{T}A, \mathbf{F}(A \vee B) \quad | \quad \mathbf{T}A, \mathbf{F}(A \vee C)$$

- In the second proof, by the application of simplification rules, **F** $((A \vee B) \wedge (A \vee C))$  is rewritten as **F** $\top$ , and the branch point is eliminated.
- We show that our simplification rules **do not require backtracking**

# Replacement rules

- Firstly introduced in modal and classical calculi:

*F. Massacci. Simplification: A general constraint propagation technique for propositional and modal tableaux. TABLEAUX'98, LNCS, vol. 1397, pp. 217–231.*

- In intuitionistic calculi

*A. Avellone, G. Fiorino, and U. Moscato. Optimization techniques for propositional intuitionistic logic and their implementation. TCS, 409(1):41–58, 2008.*

$$\frac{\mathsf{T}A, \Delta}{\mathsf{T}A, \Delta[\mathsf{T}/A]} \text{ Replace-}\mathsf{T}$$

$\Delta[\mathsf{T}/A]$ :  
replace all the occurrences of  $A$  in  $\Delta$  with  $\mathsf{T}$

$$\frac{\mathsf{T}\neg A, \Delta}{\mathsf{T}\neg A, \Delta[\perp/A]} \text{ Replace-}\mathsf{T}\neg$$

$\Delta[\perp/A]$ :  
replace all the occurrences of  $A$  in  $\Delta$  with  $\perp$

# Boolean simplification rules

Based on **Int** equivalences

$$\frac{\Delta}{\Delta[\perp/A \wedge \perp]} S_{\wedge \perp}$$

$$\frac{\Delta}{\Delta[A/A \wedge T]} S_{\wedge T}$$

$$\frac{\Delta}{\Delta[A/A \vee \perp]} S_{\vee \perp}$$

$$\frac{\Delta}{\Delta[T/A \vee T]} S_{\vee T}$$

$$\frac{\Delta}{\Delta[T/\perp \rightarrow A]} S_{\perp \rightarrow}$$

$$\frac{\Delta}{\Delta[A/T \rightarrow A]} S_{T \rightarrow}$$

$$\frac{\Delta}{\Delta[\perp/\neg T]} S_{\neg T}$$

$$\frac{\Delta}{\Delta[\perp/\perp \wedge A]} S_{\perp \wedge}$$

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$$\frac{\Delta}{\Delta[A/\perp \vee A]} S_{\perp \vee}$$

$$\frac{\Delta}{\Delta[T/T \vee A]} S_{T \vee}$$

$$\frac{\Delta}{\Delta[\neg A/A \rightarrow \perp]} S_{\rightarrow \perp}$$

$$\frac{\Delta}{\Delta[T/A \rightarrow T]} S_{\rightarrow T}$$

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# Invertibility = no backtracking

## Theorem

*The rules Replace- $\mathbf{T}$ , Replace- $\mathbf{T} \neg$  and the boolean simplification rules are invertible.*

Their addition to any complete calculus does not require backtracking.

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$$\mathbf{T}p, \mathbf{T}((p \vee q) \rightarrow r), \mathbf{F}q$$

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- ② Simplify:  $(\mathbf{T} \vee q) \rightarrow r \equiv \mathbf{T} \rightarrow r \equiv r$

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$$\mathbf{T}p, \mathbf{T}r, \mathbf{F}q$$

Since the last set is non-contradictory, we conclude that the initial set is **not provable** (no need of backtracking).

## Towards the rule **T**-permanence

Let  $\Delta$  be a set of signed formulas

Suppose that, for some  $p$ , we prove that:

$$\Delta \text{ is realizable} \iff Tp, \Delta \text{ is realizable}$$

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Namely:

**IF** for some model  $\underline{K}$  and state  $\alpha$  of  $\underline{K}$

$$\alpha \Vdash \Delta$$

**THEN** there exists a model  $\underline{K}'$  and a state  $\alpha'$  of  $\underline{K}'$  such that:

$$\alpha' \Vdash' p \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha' \Vdash' \Delta$$

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In this hypothesis the rule

$$\frac{\Delta}{Tp, \Delta} Tp$$

is **invertible**

# Positive occurrence

Intuitively, a prop. variable  $p$  *positively occurs* in a signed formula  $H$  ( $p \preceq^+ H$ ) if in a tableau derivation for  $H$  the formula  $\mathbf{F}p$  does not occur.

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Formally:

- $p \preceq^+ \mathbf{T}p$
- $p \preceq^+ \mathcal{S}\top$  and  $p \preceq^+ \mathcal{S}\perp$        $\mathcal{S} \in \{\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{F}\}$
- $p \preceq^+ \mathcal{S}q$ , where  $q$  is any propositional variable such that  $q \neq p$
- $p \preceq^+ \mathcal{S}(A \odot B)$  iff  $p \preceq^+ \mathcal{S}A$  and  $p \preceq^+ \mathcal{S}B$        $\odot \in \{\wedge, \vee\}$
- $p \preceq^+ \mathbf{F}(A \rightarrow B)$  iff  $p \preceq^+ \mathbf{T}A$  and  $p \preceq^+ \mathbf{F}B$
- $p \preceq^+ \mathbf{T}(A \rightarrow B)$  iff  $p \preceq^+ \mathbf{F}A$  and  $p \preceq^+ \mathbf{T}B$
- $p \preceq^+ \mathbf{F}\neg A$  iff  $p \preceq^+ \mathbf{T}A$
- $p \preceq^+ \mathbf{T}\neg A$  iff  $p \preceq^+ \mathbf{F}A$ .

# A necessary condition for $\top$ substitution

- If  $p \preceq^+ \Delta$  (i.e., for every  $H \in \Delta$ ,  $p \preceq^+ H$ ), then:

$\Delta$  is realizable  $\iff \mathbf{T}p, \Delta$  is realizable

- As a consequence, the rule

$$\frac{\Delta}{\mathbf{T}p, \Delta} \mathbf{T}p$$

is invertible

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 \hline
 \mathbf{T}q_1, \mathbf{T}q_2, \mathbf{T}(q_3 \vee p), \dots, \mathbf{T}(q_n \vee p) \mid \mathbf{T}q_1, \mathbf{T}p, \mathbf{T}(q_2 \vee p), \dots, \mathbf{T}(q_n \vee p) \mid \dots \mathbf{T}\vee \\
 \vdots
 \end{array}$$

After  $n$  steps we get the non-contradictory set

$$\mathbf{T}q_1, \mathbf{T}q_2, \mathbf{T}q_3, \dots, \mathbf{T}q_n$$

## An example (2)

- 1 By the above definition, we have:

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$$\frac{T(q_1 \vee p), T(q_2 \vee p), \dots, T(q_n \vee p)}{Tp, T(q_1 \vee p), T(q_2 \vee p), \dots, T(q_n \vee p)} Tp$$

- ③ We can replace  $p$  with  $T$

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$$\mathbf{T}p, \mathbf{T}(q_1 \vee \mathbf{T}), \mathbf{T}(q_2 \vee \mathbf{T}), \dots, \mathbf{T}(q_n \vee \mathbf{T})$$

- ④ By the equivalences  $q_1 \vee \mathbf{T} \equiv \mathbf{T}, \dots, q_n \vee \mathbf{T} \equiv \mathbf{T}$ , we can simplify:

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which is not contradictory.

- ⑤ We conclude that  $\mathbf{T}(q_1 \vee p), \mathbf{T}(q_2 \vee p), \dots, \mathbf{T}(q_n \vee p)$  is not provable.



# The rule **T**-permanence

$$\frac{\Delta}{\Delta[\mathbf{T}/p]} \text{ **T**-permanence} \quad p \preceq^+ \Delta$$

$\Delta[\mathbf{T}/p]$ : replace **all** the occurrences of  $p$  in  $\Delta$  with  $\mathbf{T}$

Note that in the conclusion we can leave  $\mathbf{T}p$  implicit

# The rule **T**-permanence

$$\frac{\Delta}{\Delta[\top/p]} \text{ **T**-permanence} \quad p \preceq^+ \Delta$$

$\Delta[\top/p]$ : replace **all** the occurrences of  $p$  in  $\Delta$  with  $\top$

Note that in the conclusion we can leave  $\top p$  implicit

## Theorem

*The rule **T**-permanence is invertible.*

# Negative occurrence

$p$  *negatively occurs* in  $H$  ( $p \preceq^- H$ ) iff:

- $p \preceq^- \mathbf{F}p$
- $p \preceq^- S\top$  and  $p \preceq^- S\perp$        $S \in \{\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{F}\}$
- $p \preceq^- Sq$ , where  $q$  is any propositional variable such that  $q \neq p$
- $p \preceq^- S(A \odot B)$  iff  $p \preceq^- SA$  and  $p \preceq^- SB$        $\odot \in \{\wedge, \vee\}$
- $p \preceq^- \mathbf{F}(A \rightarrow B)$  iff  $p \preceq^- \mathbf{T}A$  and  $p \preceq^- \mathbf{F}B$
- $p \preceq^- \mathbf{T}(A \rightarrow B)$  iff  $p \preceq^- \mathbf{F}A$  and  $p \preceq^- \mathbf{T}B$
- $p \preceq^- \mathbf{F}\neg A$  iff  $p \preceq^- \mathbf{T}A$
- $p \preceq^- \mathbf{T}\neg A$  iff  $p \preceq^- \mathbf{F}A$ .

# A necessary condition for $\perp$ substitution

- If  $p \preceq^- \Delta$  (i.e., for every  $H \in \Delta$ ,  $p \preceq^- H$ ), then:

$\Delta$  is realizable  $\iff \mathbf{T}\neg p, \Delta$  is realizable

- As a consequence, the rule

$$\frac{\Delta}{\mathbf{T}\neg p, \Delta} \mathbf{T}\neg p$$

is **invertible**.

We can replace every occurrence of  $p$  in  $\Delta$  with  $\perp$ .

**Remark:**  $\mathbf{T}\neg p$  is a stronger condition than  $\mathbf{F}p$   
(in Kripke semantics: *local* falsity vs. *global* falsity)

# The rule $\mathbf{T}_{\neg}$ -permanence

It allows the substitution of a propositional variable with  $\perp$

$$\frac{\Delta}{\Delta[\perp/p]} \mathbf{T}_{\neg}\text{-permanence} \quad p \preceq^- \Delta$$

$\Delta[\perp/p]$ : replace **all** the occurrences of  $p$  in  $\Delta$  with  $\perp$

## Theorem

*The rule  $\mathbf{T}_{\neg}$ -permanence is invertible.*

# Replacing **F**-formulas

$$\frac{\mathbf{F}A, \Delta}{\mathbf{F}A, \Delta[\perp/A]} \text{Replace-}\mathbf{F}$$

Sound in Classical Logic, but **not** in **Int**.

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# Replacing **F**-formulas

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$$\frac{\frac{\mathbf{F}(A \vee \neg A)}{\mathbf{F}A, \mathbf{F}\neg A} \mathbf{F}\vee}{\mathbf{F}A, \mathbf{F}\neg\perp} \text{Replace-F}$$
$$\frac{\mathbf{F}A, \mathbf{F}\neg\perp}{\mathbf{F}A, \mathbf{F}\top} \text{ simpl.}$$

This closed proof of  $A \vee \neg A$  is sound in Classical Logic, but **not** in **Int**

Problem

Differently from  $\mathbf{T}\neg A$ ,  $\mathbf{F}A$  does not mean “ $A$  is proved to be false”  
We need a weaker notion of substitution.

# Partial substitution

Partial substitution  $Z\{\perp/A\}$ :

do not substitute the  $A$  under the scope of  $\rightarrow$  or  $\neg$

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$$Z\{\perp/A\} = \begin{cases} \perp & \text{if } Z = A \\ X\{\perp/A\} \odot Y\{\perp/A\} & \text{if } Z = (X \odot Y) \quad \odot \in \{\wedge, \vee\} \\ Z & \text{if } Z = X \rightarrow Y \text{ or } Z = \neg X \\ & \text{or } Z \text{ is a prop. variable s.t. } Z \neq A \end{cases}$$

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Example

Global substitution  $\perp/A$ :  $A \vee \neg A \rightsquigarrow \perp \vee \neg \perp$

Partial substitution  $\perp/A$ :  $A \vee \neg A \rightsquigarrow \perp \vee \neg A$

# Replacement of **F**-formulas

The invertible rule for replacing **F**-formulas is:

$$\frac{\Delta, \mathbf{F}A}{\Delta\{\perp/A\}, \mathbf{F}A} \text{Replace-}\mathbf{F}$$

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In the previous example:

$$\frac{\mathbf{F}(A \vee \neg A)}{\mathbf{F}A, \mathbf{F}\neg A} \mathbf{F}\vee$$

The rule Replace-**F** has no effect and we cannot build a closed proof.



# Weak negative occurrence

We give a necessary condition to safely add  $\mathbf{F}p$  to a set  $\Delta$ .

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$p \preceq_w^- H$  ( $p$  weakly negatively occurs in  $H$ ) iff:

- $p \preceq_w^- \mathcal{S}\top$  and  $p \preceq_w^- \mathcal{S}\perp$
- $p \preceq_w^- \mathbf{F}A$  and  $p \preceq_w^- \mathbf{T}\neg A$ , for every  $A$
- $p \preceq_w^- \mathbf{T}q$  if  $q \neq p$
- $p \preceq_w^- \mathbf{T}(A \odot B)$  iff  $p \preceq_w^- \mathbf{T}A$  and  $p \preceq_w^- \mathbf{T}B$        $\odot \in \{\wedge, \vee\}$
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$p \preceq_w^- \Delta$  iff, for every  $H \in \Delta$ ,  $p \preceq_w^- H$ .

- $p \preceq^- H$  implies  $p \preceq_w^- H$
- $\preceq_w^-$  relation permits weaker simplifications than  $\preceq^-$

# The rule **F**-permanence

If  $p \preceq_w^- \Delta$  then:

$\Delta$  is realizable  $\iff \mathbf{F}p, \Delta$  is realizable

Now, let us consider the rule:

$$\frac{\Delta}{\Delta\{\perp/p\}} \mathbf{F}\text{-permanence} \quad p \preceq_w^- \Delta$$

## Theorem

*The rule **F**-permanence is invertible.*

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$$\Delta = \{ \mathbf{T}(p \vee q), \mathbf{F}(q \wedge r), \mathbf{F}(p \wedge r), \mathbf{F}(r \rightarrow q) \}$$

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- We cannot apply  $\mathbf{T}$ -permanence and  $\mathbf{T}\neg$ -permanence since

$$p \not\vdash^+ \Delta, \quad p \not\vdash^- \Delta, \quad q \not\vdash^+ \Delta, \quad q \not\vdash^- \Delta, \quad r \not\vdash^+ \Delta, \quad r \not\vdash^- \Delta$$

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- Since  $r \leq_w^- \Delta$ , we can apply **F**-permanence (partial subst.  $\perp/r$ )

$$\frac{\mathbf{T}(p \vee q), \mathbf{F}(q \wedge \perp), \mathbf{F}(p \wedge \perp), \mathbf{F}(\textcolor{red}{r} \rightarrow q)}{\mathbf{T}(p \vee q), \mathbf{F}\perp, \mathbf{F}(r \rightarrow q)} \text{ simpl.}$$



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- Now we can apply **T**-permanence (subst.  $\top/p$ )

$$\frac{\mathbf{T}(\top \vee q), \mathbf{F}\perp, \mathbf{F}(r \rightarrow q)}{\mathbf{T}\top, \mathbf{F}\perp, \mathbf{F}(r \rightarrow q)} \text{ simpl.}$$

Since the last set is not provable and there are no branch points, we conclude that  $\Delta$  is not provable.

# Preliminary experimental results

- Experiments have been carried out along the lines of [Raths et al., JAR 2007]
- 2000 random generated formulas with 1024 connectives and a number of variables ranging from 1 to 1024.

	0-1s	1-10s	10-100s	100-600s	>600s
PITP	1085	7	3	2	3
BPPI	1025	51	11	4	9(n.a.)
IPPI	856	227	12	4	1
EPPI	859	226	11	4	0

**PIPT** : Efficient **Int** prover [Avellone et al., TCS 2008] (C++)

**BPPI** : PIPT calculus plus Replace-**T**, Replace-**T** $\neg$  and simpl. (Prolog)

**IPPI** : BPPI plus **T**-permanence and **T** $\neg$ -permanence (Prolog)

**EPPI** : IPPI plus **F**-permanence (Prolog)

# Future improvements: substitutions inside contexts

Investigate substitutions **inside** a formula.

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For instance, in

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is **invertible**.

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**Main idea:** substitution **inside a context**