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Natural Deduction

Rule Induction

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Natural Deduction and Rule Induction

Thomas Sewell UNSW Term 3 2024



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Some Announcements

Material from current & future lectures will appear on the website.

- Includes bonus material like Liam's preliminaries exercises.
- We'll try to do this before the lectures in future.

Assignment 0 will appear later this week.

• Some parts will cover future material; more on that later.

We've talked a lot about induction.

- Johannes' justification
 - In Rose tree notes I accidentally included from last year.
- Thomas' justification
 - Nearly all theory/proof work involves tricky induction.



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We've talked a lot about induction.

- Johannes' justification
 - In Rose tree notes I accidentally included from last year.
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 - Nearly all theory/proof work involves tricky induction.
- Today we'll connect this to program syntax.



Rule Induction

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Formalisation

To talk about languages in a mathematically precise way, we need to formalise them.

Formalisation

Formalisation is the process of giving a language a formal, mathematical description.



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Formalisation

To talk about languages in a mathematically precise way, we need to formalise them.

Formalisation

Formalisation is the process of giving a language a formal, mathematical description.

Typically, we describe the language in another language, called the *meta-language*. For implementations, it may be a programming language such as Haskell. For formalisations it is usually a minimal logic called a *meta-logic*.

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Learning from History

What sort of meta logic should we use? There are a number of things to formalise:



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Learning from History

Logicians in the early 20th century had much the same desire to formalise *logics*.





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Learning from History

In this course, we will use a meta-logic based on *Natural Deduction* and inductive inference rules, originally invented for formalising logics by Gerhard Gentzen in the mid 1930s.

Der Kalkül des natürlichen Schließens.

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Judgements

A *judgement* is a statement asserting a certain property for an object.

Example (Informal Judgements)

- $3 + 4 \times 5$ is a valid arithmetic expression.
- The string *madam* is a palindrome.
- The string *snooze* is a palindrome
 - \implies Judgements do not have to hold.

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Judgements

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Unary Judgements

Formally, we denote the judgement that a property **A** holds for an object s by writing s **A**.

Typically, s is a string when describing syntax, and s is a term when describing semantics.



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Proving Judgements

We define how a judgement may be proven by providing a set of *inference rules*.

Inference Rules

An inference rule is written as:

$$\frac{J_1 \qquad J_2 \qquad \dots \qquad J_n}{J}$$

This states that in order to prove judgement J (the *conclusion*), it suffices to prove all judgements J_1 through to J_n (the *premises*).

Rules with no premises are called *axioms*. Their conclusions always hold.



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Examples



n Nat





0 is a natural number

if n is a natural number, then the successor of nis a natural number.

What terms are in the set $\{n \mid n \text{ Nat}\}$?

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Examples



n Nat





0 is a natural number

if n is a natural number, then the successor of nis a natural number.

What terms are in the set $\{n \mid n \text{ Nat}\}$?

 $\{0, (S 0), (S (S 0)), (S (S (S 0))), \dots\}$



The Proof Video Game

To show that a judgement $s \land A$ holds:

- **1** Find a rule whose conclusion matches *s* **A**.
- The preconditions of the applied rules become new proof obligations.
- **③** Rinse and repeat until all obligations are proven up to axioms.



$(S \ (S \ (S \ (S \ (S \ 0))))) \ \textbf{Odd}$

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Examples







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Examples



$$\frac{\overline{(S (S 0)) \text{ Even}}}{(S (S (S (S 0)))) \text{ Even}} E_2}$$

$$(S (S (S (S (S 0)))) \text{ Odd} O_1$$

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Examples







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Examples







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Defining Languages

Example (Bracket Matching Language)

 $\mathbf{M} ::= \varepsilon \mid \mathbf{MM} \mid (\mathbf{M})$

Examples of strings: ε , (), (()), ()(), (()()), ...

Three rules:

AxiomThe empty string is in MJuxtapositionAny two strings in M can be concatenated
to give a new string in MNestingAny string in M can be surrounded by
parentheses, giving a new string in M



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With Rules



()(()) **M**

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With Rules





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With Rules





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With Rules







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Getting Stuck

If we had started with rule M_N instead, we would have gotten stuck:

 $\frac{\frac{???}{() () \mathbf{M}}}{() (()) \mathbf{M}} M_N$

Takeaway

Getting stuck does not mean what you're trying to prove is false!



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Derivability

Consider the following rule:

s M ((s)) M

Does adding this rule change M? (i.e. is it not *admissible* to M)?





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Derivability

Consider the following rule:

s M ((s)) M

Does adding this rule change M? (i.e. is it not *admissible* to M)? No, because we could always use rule M_N twice instead. Rules that are compositions of existing rules are called *derivable*:

$$\frac{\frac{s \mathbf{M}}{(s) \mathbf{M}} M_N}{((s)) \mathbf{M}} M_N$$

We can prove rules as well as judgements, by deriving the conclusion of the rule while taking the premises as local axioms.



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Derivability

Is this rule derivable?

s M (s)s M





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Derivability

Is this rule derivable?

s M (s)s M

We can derive it like so:

$$\frac{\overline{s \mathbf{M}}}{(s) \mathbf{M}} M_N \qquad \overline{s \mathbf{M}} M_J$$



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Derivability

Is this rule derivable?

 $\frac{(s) \mathbf{M}}{s \mathbf{M}}Q$





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Derivability

Is this rule derivable?



It is not admissible, let alone derivable, as it adds strings to M:





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Derivability

Is this rule admissible? If so, is it derivable?

()s M s M





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Derivability

Is this rule admissible? If so, is it derivable?

()s M s M

- It is admissible, as it doesn't let us prove any new judgements about **M**.
- It is not derivable, as it is not made up of the composition of existing rules.
- We will see how to prove these sorts of rules are admissible later on.



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Hypothetical Derivations

We can write a rule in a horizontal format as well:

$$\frac{A}{B}$$
 is the same as $A \vdash B$

This allows us to neatly make rules premises of other rules, called *hypothetical derivations*:

Example

$$\frac{A \vdash B}{C}$$

Read as: If assuming A we can derive B, then we can derive C.



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Specifying Logic

With hypotheticals we can specify logic, which was the original purpose of natural deduction. Let A **True** be the judgement that the proposition A is true.





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Specifying Logic

With hypotheticals we can specify logic, which was the original purpose of natural deduction. Let A **True** be the judgement that the proposition A is true.





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Specifying Logic, Continued

Example (Or, True, False and Not)





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Specifying Logic, Continued

Example (Or, True, False and Not)





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Minimal Definitions

$$\frac{s \mathbf{M}}{\varepsilon \mathbf{M}} M_E \qquad \frac{s \mathbf{M}}{(s) \mathbf{M}} M_N \qquad \frac{s_1 \mathbf{M} s_2 \mathbf{M}}{s_1 s_2 \mathbf{M}} M_J$$

The above rules are the smallest set of rules to define every string in \mathbf{M} .

Therefore

If we know that a string satisfies $s \, M$, it must have been through a (finite) derivation using these rules.

This is called an *inductive definition* of **M**.



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Rule Induction

Suppose we want to show that a property P(s) of strings s holds for any string s **M**. We will use *rule induction*.



These assumptions are called *inductive hypotheses*.



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Rule Induction

Example (Counting Parens)

Let op(s) denote the number of opening parentheses in s, and cl(s) denote the number of closing parentheses. We shall prove that

$$s \mathbf{M} \implies op(s) = cl(s)$$

by doing rule induction on s **M**.



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Rule Induction

Example (Counting Parens)







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Rule Induction

Example (Counting Parens)



Base Case: $op(\varepsilon) = 0 = cl(\varepsilon)$

Inductive Case: Assuming I.H:

op(s) = cl(s)op((s)) = op(s) + 1 = cl(s) + 1 = cl((s))

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Example (Counting Parens)

 $\overline{\varepsilon} \mathbf{M}^{M_E}$ **Base Case:** $op(\varepsilon) = 0 = cl(\varepsilon)$ $\frac{s \mathbf{M}}{(s) \mathbf{M}} M_N$ Inductive Case: Assuming I.H: op(s) = cl(s)op((s)) = op(s) + 1 = cl(s) + 1 = cl((s)) $\frac{s_1 \mathbf{M} s_2 \mathbf{M}}{s_1 s_2 \mathbf{M}} M_J$ Inductive Case: Assuming I.Hs: $op(s_1) = cl(s_1)$ and $op(s_2) = cl(s_2)$ $op(s_1s_2) = op(s_1) + op(s_2) = cl(s_1s_2)$



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Rule Induction in General

Rule Induction Method

Given a set of rules R, we may prove a property P inductively for all judgements that can be inferred with R by showing, for each rule of the form

$$\frac{J_1 \quad J_2 \quad \dots \quad J_n}{J}$$

that if P holds for each of $J_1 \dots J_n$, then P holds for J.

Therefore, axioms are the base cases of the induction, all other rules form inductive cases, and the premises of each rule give rise to inductive hypotheses.



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Structural Induction

Conventional *structural induction* such as that on natural numbers, which we have encountered before, is a special case of rule induction.





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Another Example

Recall our definition of even numbers:



We could define odd numbers differently:



Let's prove the original Odd rule, but for Odd' (to "whiteboard"):

 $\frac{n \text{ Even}}{(S n) \text{ Odd}'}$



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Arithmetic

Example (Arithmetic Expression)

Arith ::= $i \mid \text{Arith} \times \text{Arith} \mid \text{Arith} + \text{Arith} \mid (\text{Arith}) \quad (i \in \mathbb{Z})$

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Arithmetic



We can infer $1 + 2 \times 3$ **Arith** in two different ways.

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Ambiguity

Arith is *ambiguous*, which means that there are multiple ways to derive the same judgement.

For syntax, this is a big problem, as different interpretations of syntax can lead to semantic inconsistency:

$\frac{1 \text{ Anth } 2 \times 3 \text{ Anth }}{1 + 2 \times 3 \text{ Arith }}$			$\frac{1+2 \text{ Anth}}{1+2 \times 3 \text{ Arith}}$		
$\frac{1 \in \mathbb{Z}}{1 \text{ Arith}}$	$\frac{2 \text{ Arith}}{2 \times 3}$	3 Arith	$\frac{1 \text{ Arith}}{1 + 2}$	2 Arith	$\frac{3 \in \mathbb{Z}}{2 \text{ Arith}}$
	$2\in\mathbb{Z}$	$3 \in \mathbb{Z}$	$1\in\mathbb{Z}$	$2 \in \mathbb{Z}$	

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Second Attempt

We want to specify **Arith** in such a way that enforces order of operations.

Here we will use multiple judgements:

Example (Arithmetic Expression)

Atom	::=	i (SE	($i \in \mathbb{Z}$)
PExp	::=	Atom	PExp × PExp
SExp	::=	PExp	SExp + SExp

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Second Attempt

We want to specify **Arith** in such a way that enforces order of operations.

Here we will use multiple judgements:

Example (Arithmetic Expression)				
Atom PExp SExp	$ \begin{array}{ll} ::= & i \mid (SExp) & (i \in \mathbb{Z}) \\ ::= & Atom \mid PExp \times PExp \\ ::= & PExp \mid SExp + SExp \end{array} $			
$i\in\mathbb{Z}$	a SExp	e Atom	e PExp	
i Atom	(a) Atom	e PExp	e SExp	
a PExp	b PExp	a SExp	b SExp	
a imes b	$a \times b$ PExp		SExp	

Consider: Is there still any ambiguity here?



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More ambiguity



This ambiguity seems harmless, but it would not be harmless for some other operations. Which ones?



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More ambiguity



This ambiguity seems harmless, but it would not be harmless for some other operations. Which ones? Operators that are not *associative*.

We have to specify the *associativity* of operators. How?



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Associativities

Operators have various *associativity* constraints:

AssociativeAll associativities are equal.Left-Associative $A \odot B \odot C = (A \odot B) \odot C$ Right-Associative $A \odot B \odot C = A \odot (B \odot C)$

Try to think of some examples!



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Enforcing associativity

We force the grammar to accept a smaller set of expressions on one side of the operator only. Show how this works on the "whiteboard".

Example (Arithmetic Expression)

Atom::= $i \mid (SExp)$ $(i \in \mathbb{Z})$ PExp::=Atom \mid Atom × PExpSExp::=PExp \mid PExp + SExp

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Enforcing associativity

We force the grammar to accept a smaller set of expressions on one side of the operator only. Show how this works on the "whiteboard".

Example (Arithmetic Expression)			
Atom PExp SExp	::= i (S ::= Atom ::= PExp	Exp) (<i>i</i> ∈ Atom × PExp + 3	Eℤ) PExp SExp
$i\in\mathbb{Z}$	a SExp	e Atom	e PExp
i Atom	(a) Atom	e PExp	e SExp
a Atom	b PExp	a PExp	b SExp
$a \times b$	$a \times b$ PExp		SExp

Here we made multiplication and addition right associative. How would we do left?



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Bring Back Parentheses



Is this language ambiguous? to "whiteboard"

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Ambiguity in Parentheses

Not only is it ambiguous, it is infinitely so. Strings like ()()() could be split at two different locations by rule M_J , but if we use ε , then even the string () is ambiguous:





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We will eliminate the ambiguity by once again splitting ${\bf M}$ into two judgements, ${\bf N}$ and ${\bf L}.$

The crucial observation is that terms in M are a list (L) of terms nested within parentheses $(\mathsf{N}).$





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Proving Equivalence

Now we shall prove $\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{L}$. There are two cases, each dispatched with rule induction:

 $\frac{s \mathbf{M}}{s \mathbf{L}} = \frac{s \mathbf{L}}{s \mathbf{M}}$

The first case requires proving a *lemma*. The second requires *simultaneous induction*.

These proofs will be carried out on the "board".