



NICTA Advanced Course

**Theorem Proving**  
**Principles, Techniques, Applications**

**HOL**

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# QUASI ORDERS

$$\lesssim :: \alpha \Rightarrow \alpha \Rightarrow \text{bool}$$

is a quasi order iff it satisfies

$$x \lesssim x \text{ (reflexivity) and}$$

$$x \lesssim y \wedge y \lesssim z \implies x \lesssim z \text{ (transitivity)}$$

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(a partial order is also antisymmetric:  $x \leq y \wedge y \leq x \implies x = y$ )

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# CONTENT

→ Intro & motivation, getting started with Isabelle

→ **Foundations & Principles**

- Lambda Calculus
- **Higher Order Logic, natural deduction**
- Term rewriting

→ Proof & Specification Techniques

- Datatypes, recursion, induction
- Inductively defined sets, rule induction
- Calculational reasoning, mathematics style proofs
- Hoare logic, proofs about programs

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## LAST TIME ON HOL

→ natural deduction rules for  $\wedge$ ,  $\vee$  and  $\longrightarrow$

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- proof by assumption
- proof by intro rule
- proof by elim rule



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# MORE PROOF RULES

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## IFF, NEGATION, TRUE AND FALSE

$$\frac{}{A = B} \text{ iffI} \quad \frac{A = B}{C} \text{ iffE}$$

$$\frac{A = B}{A = B} \text{ iffD1}$$

$$\frac{A = B}{A = B} \text{ iffD2}$$

$$\frac{}{\neg A} \text{ notI}$$

$$\frac{\neg A}{P} \text{ notE}$$

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$$\frac{A \implies \textit{False}}{\neg A} \text{ notI}$$

$$\frac{\neg A \quad A}{P} \text{ notE}$$

$$\frac{}{\textit{True}} \text{ TrueI}$$

$$\frac{\textit{False}}{P} \text{ FalseE}$$



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# EQUALITY

$$\frac{}{t = t} \text{ refl} \quad \frac{s = t}{t = s} \text{ sym} \quad \frac{r = s \quad s = t}{r = t} \text{ trans}$$

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Rarely needed explicitly — used implicitly by term rewriting

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**DEMO**

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# CLASSICAL

$$\overline{P = True \vee P = False} \text{ True-False}$$

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$$\frac{}{P = \textit{True} \vee P = \textit{False}} \text{ True-False}$$

$$\frac{}{P \vee \neg P} \text{ excluded-middle}$$

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- **excluded-middle, ccontr** and **classical**  
not derivable from the other rules.
- if we include True-False, they are derivable

**They make the logic “classical”, “non-constructive”**



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# CASES

$\overline{P \vee \neg P}$  excluded-middle

is a case distinction on type *bool*

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$\overline{P \vee \neg P}$  excluded-middle

is a case distinction on type *bool*

Isabelle can do case distinctions on arbitrary terms:

**apply** (case\_tac *term*)

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## SAFE AND NOT SO SAFE

**Safe rules** preserve provability

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conjl, impl, notl, iffi, refl, ccontr, classical, conjE, disjE

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**Unsafe rules** can turn a provable goal into an unprovable one

disjI1, disjI2, impE, iffD1, iffD2, notE

$$\frac{A}{A \vee B} \text{ disjI1}$$

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**Unsafe rules** can turn a provable goal into an unprovable one

disjI1, disjI2, impE, iffD1, iffD2, notE

$$\frac{A}{A \vee B} \text{ disjI1}$$

**Apply safe rules before unsafe ones**

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**DEMO**



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# QUANTIFIERS

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## SCOPE

- Scope of parameters: whole subgoal
- Scope of  $\forall, \exists, \dots$ : ends with ; or  $\implies$

**Example:**

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means

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### Example:

$$\wedge x y. \llbracket \forall y. P y \longrightarrow Q z y; Q x y \rrbracket \implies \exists x. Q x y$$

means

$$\wedge x y. \llbracket (\forall y_1. P y_1 \longrightarrow Q z y_1); Q x y \rrbracket \implies (\exists x_1. Q x_1 y)$$

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## NATURAL DEDUCTION FOR QUANTIFIERS

$$\frac{}{\forall x. P x} \text{ all}$$
$$\frac{\forall x. P x}{R} \text{ allE}$$
$$\frac{}{\exists x. P x} \text{ exI}$$
$$\frac{\exists x. P x}{R} \text{ exE}$$

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## NATURAL DEDUCTION FOR QUANTIFIERS

$$\frac{\bigwedge x. P x}{\bigvee x. P x} \text{ all}$$

$$\frac{\bigvee x. P x}{R} \text{ allE}$$

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$$\frac{\bigexists x. P x}{R} \text{ exE}$$

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## NATURAL DEDUCTION FOR QUANTIFIERS

$$\frac{\bigwedge x. P x}{\bigvee x. P x} \text{ all}$$

$$\frac{\bigvee x. P x \quad P ?x \implies R}{R} \text{ allE}$$

$$\overline{\bigexists x. P x} \text{ exI}$$

$$\frac{\bigexists x. P x}{R} \text{ exE}$$

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## NATURAL DEDUCTION FOR QUANTIFIERS

$$\frac{\bigwedge x. P x}{\forall x. P x} \text{ allI}$$

$$\frac{\forall x. P x \quad P ?x \implies R}{R} \text{ allE}$$

$$\frac{P ?x}{\exists x. P x} \text{ exI}$$

$$\frac{\exists x. P x}{R} \text{ exE}$$



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$$\frac{\bigwedge x. P x}{\forall x. P x} \text{allI}$$

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$$\frac{\exists x. P x \quad \bigwedge x. P x \implies R}{R} \text{exE}$$

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## NATURAL DEDUCTION FOR QUANTIFIERS

$$\frac{\bigwedge x. P x}{\forall x. P x} \text{all}$$

$$\frac{\forall x. P x \quad P ?x \implies R}{R} \text{allE}$$

$$\frac{P ?x}{\exists x. P x} \text{exI}$$

$$\frac{\exists x. P x \quad \bigwedge x. P x \implies R}{R} \text{exE}$$

- **all** and **exE** introduce new parameters ( $\bigwedge x$ ).
- **allE** and **exI** introduce new unknowns ( $?x$ ).

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## INSTANTIATING RULES

**apply** (rule\_tac x = "*term*" in *rule*)

Like **rule**, but  $?x$  in *rule* is instantiated by *term* before application.

Similar: **erule\_tac**

**!  $x$  is in *rule*, not in goal !**

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## TWO SUCCESSFUL PROOFS

1.  $\forall x. \exists y. x = y$

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exploration

**apply** (rule exI)

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1.  $\bigwedge x. x = ?y\ x$

**apply** (rule refl)

$?y \mapsto \lambda u. u$

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## TWO SUCCESSFUL PROOFS

1.  $\forall x. \exists y. x = y$

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best practice

**apply** (rule\_tac x = "x" in exI)

1.  $\bigwedge x. x = x$

**apply** (rule refl)

**simpler & clearer**

exploration

**apply** (rule exI)

1.  $\bigwedge x. x = ?y x$

**apply** (rule refl)

$?y \mapsto \lambda u. u$

**shorter & trickier**

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## TWO UNSUCCESSFUL PROOFS

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**apply** (rule exI)

$$1. \forall x. x = ?y$$

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$$1. \bigwedge x. x = ?y$$

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**apply** (rule allI)

$$1. \bigwedge x. x = ?y$$

**apply** (rule refl)

$$?y \mapsto x \text{ yields } \bigwedge x'. x' = x$$

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**apply** (rule allI)

$$1. \bigwedge x. x = ?y$$

**apply** (rule refl)

$$?y \mapsto x \text{ yields } \bigwedge x'. x' = x$$

**Principle:**

$?f\ x_1 \dots x_n$  **can only be replaced by term**  $t$

**if**  $params(t) \subseteq x_1, \dots, x_n$



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## SAFE AND UNSAFE RULES

**Safe** all, exE

**Unsafe** allE, exI

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## SAFE AND UNSAFE RULES

**Safe** all, exE

**Unsafe** allE, exI

**Create parameters first, unknowns later**

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# DEMO: QUANTIFIER PROOFS

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# PARAMETER NAMES

**Parameter names are chosen by Isabelle**

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**Parameter names are chosen by Isabelle**

1.  $\forall x. \exists y. x = y$

**apply** (rule all)

1.  $\wedge x. \exists y. x = y$

**apply** (rule\_tac x = "x" in exI)

**Brittle!**

---

## RENAMING PARAMETERS

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**apply** (rule all)

1.  $\bigwedge x. \exists y. x = y$

**apply** (rename\_tac N)

1.  $\bigwedge N. \exists y. N = y$



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## RENAMING PARAMETERS

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**apply** (rule all)

1.  $\bigwedge x. \exists y. x = y$

**apply** (rename\_tac N)

1.  $\bigwedge N. \exists y. N = y$

**apply** (rule\_tac x = "N" in exI)

**In general:**

**(rename\_tac  $x_1 \dots x_n$ )** renames the rightmost (inner)  $n$  parameters to  $x_1 \dots x_n$

---

## FORWARD PROOF: FRULE AND DRULE

**apply** (frule  $\langle rule \rangle$ )

Rule:  $\llbracket A_1; \dots; A_m \rrbracket \implies A$

Subgoal: 1.  $\llbracket B_1; \dots; B_n \rrbracket \implies C$

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Substitution:  $\sigma(B_i) \equiv \sigma(A_1)$

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Substitution:  $\sigma(B_i) \equiv \sigma(A_1)$

New subgoals: 1.  $\sigma(\llbracket B_1; \dots; B_n \rrbracket \implies A_2)$   
:  
m-1.  $\sigma(\llbracket B_1; \dots; B_n \rrbracket \implies A_m)$   
m.  $\sigma(\llbracket B_1; \dots; B_n; A \rrbracket \implies C)$

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**apply** (frule  $\langle rule \rangle$ )

Rule:  $\llbracket A_1; \dots; A_m \rrbracket \implies A$

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New subgoals: 1.  $\sigma(\llbracket B_1; \dots; B_n \rrbracket \implies A_2)$   
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m-1.  $\sigma(\llbracket B_1; \dots; B_n \rrbracket \implies A_m)$   
m.  $\sigma(\llbracket B_1; \dots; B_n; A \rrbracket \implies C)$

Like **frule** but also deletes  $B_i$ : **apply** (drule  $\langle rule \rangle$ )

---

## EXAMPLES FOR FORWARD RULES

$$\frac{P \wedge Q}{P} \text{ conjunct1} \quad \frac{P \wedge Q}{Q} \text{ conjunct2}$$

$$\frac{P \longrightarrow Q \quad P}{Q} \text{ mp}$$

$$\frac{\forall x. P \ x}{P \ ?x} \text{ spec}$$

---

## FORWARD PROOF: OF

$r$  [**OF**  $r_1 \dots r_n$ ]

Prove assumption 1 of theorem  $r$  with theorem  $r_1$ , and assumption 2 with theorem  $r_2$ , and ...

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## FORWARD PROOF: OF

$$r \text{ [OF } r_1 \dots r_n]$$

Prove assumption 1 of theorem  $r$  with theorem  $r_1$ , and assumption 2 with theorem  $r_2$ , and ...

$$\text{Rule } r \quad [[A_1; \dots; A_m]] \implies A$$

$$\text{Rule } r_1 \quad [[B_1; \dots; B_n]] \implies B$$



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$$\text{Substitution} \quad \sigma(B) \equiv \sigma(A_1)$$

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$$r \text{ [OF } r_1 \dots r_n]$$

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$$\text{Rule } r_1 \quad \llbracket B_1; \dots; B_n \rrbracket \implies B$$

$$\text{Substitution} \quad \sigma(B) \equiv \sigma(A_1)$$

$$r \text{ [OF } r_1] \quad \sigma(\llbracket B_1; \dots; B_n; A_2; \dots; A_m \rrbracket \implies A)$$

---

## FORWARD PROOFS: THEN

$r_1$  [THEN  $r_2$ ] means  $r_2$  [OF  $r_1$ ]

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# DEMO: FORWARD PROOFS

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# HILBERT'S EPSILON OPERATOR



(David Hilbert, 1862-1943)

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$\varepsilon$  also known as **description operator**.

In Isabelle the  $\varepsilon$ -operator is written  $\text{SOME } x. P x$

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$\varepsilon$  also known as **description operator**.

In Isabelle the  $\varepsilon$ -operator is written  $\text{SOME } x. P x$

$$\frac{P ?x}{P (\text{SOME } x. P x)} \text{ someI}$$

---

## MORE EPSILON

$\varepsilon$  implies Axiom of Choice:

$$\forall x. \exists y. Q x y \implies \exists f. \forall x. Q x (f x)$$

Existential and universal quantification can be defined with  $\varepsilon$ .



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## MORE EPSILON

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Existential and universal quantification can be defined with  $\varepsilon$ .

Isabelle also know the definite description operator **THE** (also  $\iota$ ):

$$\frac{}{(\text{THE } x. x = a) = a} \text{the\_eq\_trivial}$$

---

## SOME AUTOMATION

### More Proof Methods:

**apply** (intro <intro-rules>) repeatedly applies intro rules

**apply** (elim <elim-rules>) repeatedly applies elim rules

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**apply** clarify applies all safe rules  
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**apply** safe applies all safe rules

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**apply** clarify applies all safe rules  
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**apply** safe applies all safe rules

**apply** blast an automatic tableaux prover  
(works well on predicate logic)

---

## SOME AUTOMATION

### More Proof Methods:

<b>apply</b> (intro <intro-rules>)	repeatedly applies intro rules
<b>apply</b> (elim <elim-rules>)	repeatedly applies elim rules
<b>apply</b> clarify	applies all safe rules that do not split the goal
<b>apply</b> safe	applies all safe rules
<b>apply</b> blast	an automatic tableaux prover (works well on predicate logic)
<b>apply</b> fast	another automatic search tactic

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# EPSILON AND AUTOMATION DEMO

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## WE HAVE LEARNED SO FAR...

→ Proof rules for negation and contradiction



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## WE HAVE LEARNED SO FAR...

- Proof rules for negation and contradiction
- Proof rules for predicate calculus

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- Proof rules for negation and contradiction
- Proof rules for predicate calculus
- Safe and unsafe rules
- Forward Proof
- The Epsilon Operator
- Some automation

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## EXERCISES

→ Download the exercise file and prove all theorems in there.

→ Prove or disprove:

If every poor person has a rich mother, then there is a rich person with a rich grandmother.