Derivations / Reasoning

Limitations of proofs by calculation

Proofs by calculation are formal and well-structured, but often undirected and not particularly intuitive.

Example

$$
\begin{aligned}
P \wedge (P \vee Q) &\stackrel{val}{=} (P \vee F) \wedge (P \vee Q) \\
&\stackrel{val}{=} P \vee (F \wedge Q) \\
&\stackrel{val}{=} P \vee F \\
&\stackrel{val}{=} P
\end{aligned}
$$

we can prove this more intuitively by reasoning

Conclusions

$P \wedge (P \vee Q) \stackrel{val}{=} P$ $\quad$ $P \wedge (P \vee Q) \Leftrightarrow P \stackrel{val}{=} T$

An example of a mathematical proof

Theorem

If x^2 is even, then x is even ($x \in \mathbb{Z}$).

Proof

Let $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ be such that x^2 is even.
We need to prove that x is even too.

Assume that x is odd, towards a contradiction.

If x is odd than $x = 2y+1$ for some $y \in \mathbb{Z}$.
Then $x^2 = (2y+1)^2 = 4y^2 + 4y + 1 = 2(2y^2 + 2y) + 1$
and $2y^2 + 2y \in \mathbb{Z}$.

So, x^2 is odd too, and we have a contradiction.

(sub)goal

generating hypothesis

pure hypothesis

conclusion

Thanks to Bas Luttik

Exposing logical structure

Theorem

If x^2 is even, then x is even ($x \in \mathbb{Z}$).

Proof

Let $x \in \mathbb{Z}$

Assume x^2 is even.

Assume that x is odd.

Then $x = 2y+1$ for some $y \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Then $x^2 = (2y+1)^2 = 4y^2 + 4y + 1 = 2(2y^2 + 2y) + 1$ and $2y^2 + 2y \in \mathbb{Z}$.

So, x^2 is odd

a contradiction.

So, x is even

(sub)goal

generating hypothesis

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conclusion

Thanks to Bas Luttik

Single inference rule

Q is a correct conclusion from n premises $P_1, .., P_n$
iff
$(P_1 \wedge P_2 \wedge \ldots \wedge P_n) \overset{val}{\models} Q$

If n=0, then $P_1 \wedge P_2 \wedge \ldots \wedge P_n \overset{val}{=} T$

Note that $T \models Q$ means that $Q \overset{val}{=} T$

Q holds unconditionally

Derivation

Q is a correct conclusion from n premises $P_1, .., P_n$
iff
$(P_1 \wedge P_2 \wedge \ldots \wedge P_n) \overset{val}{\models} Q$

a formal system
based on the single
inference rule
for proofs that closely
follow our
intuitive reasoning

Two types of inference rules:

(particularly useful)
instances of the single
inference rule

elimination rules

for drawing
conclusions out of
premises

introduction rules

for simplifying goals

and one new
special rule!

Conjunction elimination

How do we use a conjunction in a proof?

$P \wedge Q \overset{val}{\models} P$

$P \wedge Q \overset{val}{\models} Q$

$\wedge$-elimination

||||

(k) $P \wedge Q$

||||

{$\wedge$-elim on (k)}
(m) P

(k < m)

||||

(k) $P \wedge Q$

||||

{$\wedge$-elim on (k)}
(m) Q

(k < m)

Implication elimination

How do we use an implication in a proof?

$P \Rightarrow Q \overset{val}{\models}$???

$(P \Rightarrow Q) \wedge P \overset{val}{\models} Q$

⇒-elimination

|| ||

(k) $P \Rightarrow Q$

|| ||

(l) P

|| ||

{⇒-elim on (k) and (l)}

(m) Q

$(k < m, l < m)$

Conjunction introduction

How do we prove a conjunction?

$P \wedge Q \overset{val}{\models} P \wedge Q$

$\wedge$-introduction

...

(k) P

...

(l) Q

...

{$\wedge$-intro on (k) and (l)}

(m) $P \wedge Q$

($k < m, l < m$)

Implication introduction

How do we prove an implication?

truly new
and
necessary for
reasoning with
hypothesis

⇒-introduction

…
{Assume}
(k) $\boxed{P}$

…

(l-1) Q
{⇒-intro on (k) and (l-1)}

(l) P⇒Q

flag shows the validity of a hypothesis

time for an example!

Negation introduction

How do we prove a negation?

$\neg P \overset{val}{=} P \Rightarrow F$

¬-introduction

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
 & \ldots \\
 & \{\text{Assume}\} \\
(k) & \boxed{P} \\
 & \ldots \\
(l-1) & F \\
 & \{\neg\text{-intro on } (k) \text{ and } (l-1)\} \\
(l) & \neg P
\end{array}
$$

⇒-intro

Negation elimination

How do we use a negation in a proof?

$P \wedge \neg P \overset{val}{\models} F$

¬-elimination

|| ||

(k) P

|| ||

(l) ¬P

|| ||

{¬-elim on (k) and (l)}

(m) F

(k < m, l < m)

time for an example!

F introduction

How do we prove F?

$P \wedge \neg P \overset{val}{\models} F$

F-introduction

$\ldots$

(k) P

$\ldots$

(l) ¬P

$\ldots$

{F-intro on (k) and (l)}

(m) F

$(k < m, l < m)$

the same as ¬-elim
only intended bottom-up

F elimination

How do we use F in a proof?

it's very useful!

$F \overset{val}{\models} P$

F-elimination

|| ||

(k) F

|| ||

{F-elim on (k)}
(m) P

(k < m)

Double negation introduction

How do we prove ¬¬?

$P \overset{val}{\models} \neg\neg P$

¬¬-introduction

...

(k) P

...

{¬¬-intro on (k)}

(m) ¬¬P

(k < m)

Double negation elimination

How do we use ¬¬ in a proof?

¬¬P $\overset{val}{\vDash}$ P

¬¬-elimination

||||

(k) ¬¬P

||||

{¬¬-elim on (k)}
(m) P

(k < m)

Proof by contradiction

Theorem

If x^2 is even, then x is even ($x \in \mathbb{Z}$).

Proof

Let $x \in \mathbb{Z}$

Assume x^2 is even.

Assume that x is odd.

Then $x = 2y+1$ for some $y \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Then $x^2 = (2y+1)^2 = 4y^2 + 4y + 1 = 2(2y^2 + 2y) + 1$ and $2y^2 + 2y \in \mathbb{Z}$.

So, x^2 is odd

a contradiction.

So, x is even

(sub)goal

generating hypothesis

pure hypothesis

conclusion

Thanks to Bas Luttik

Proof by contradiction

How do we prove P by a contradiction?

$\neg P \Rightarrow F \overset{val}{\models} \neg\neg P \overset{val}{\models} P$

proof by contradiction

{Assume}
(k) $\boxed{\neg P}$

...

(l-1) F
{¬-intro on (k) and (l-1)}
(l) ¬¬P
{¬¬-elim on (l)}
(l+1) P

(k < m)

¬-intro

¬¬-elim

time for an example!

Disjunction introduction

How do we prove a disjunction?

$\neg P \Rightarrow Q \overset{val}{\models} P \vee Q$

$\neg Q \Rightarrow P \overset{val}{\models} P \vee Q$

$\vee$-introduction

$\Rightarrow$-intro

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
 & \ldots \\
 & \{\text{Assume}\} \\
(k) & \boxed{\neg P} \\
 & \ldots \\
(l-1) & Q \\
 & \{\vee\text{-intro on } (k) \text{ and } (l-1)\} \\
(l) & P \vee Q
\end{array}
$$

Disjunction introduction

How do we prove a disjunction?

$\neg P \Rightarrow Q \overset{val}{\models} P \vee Q$

$\neg Q \Rightarrow P \overset{val}{\models} P \vee Q$

$\vee$-introduction

$\Rightarrow$-intro

…
{Assume}
(k) $\boxed{\neg Q}$

…

(l-1) P
{$\vee$-intro on (k) and (l-1)}
(l) $P \vee Q$

Disjunction elimination

How do we use a disjunction in a proof?

$P \vee Q \overset{val}{\models} \neg P \Rightarrow Q$

$P \vee Q \overset{val}{\models} \neg Q \Rightarrow P$

$\vee$-elimination

|| ||

(k) $P \vee Q$

|| ||

{$\vee$-elim on (k)}

(m) $\neg P \Rightarrow Q$

(k < m)

Disjunction elimination

How do we use a disjunction in a proof?

$P \vee Q \overset{val}{\models} \neg P \Rightarrow Q$

$P \vee Q \overset{val}{\models} \neg Q \Rightarrow P$

$\vee$-elimination

|| ||

(k) $P \vee Q$

|| ||

{$\vee$-elim on (k)}

(m) $\neg Q \Rightarrow P$

(k < m)

Proof by case distinction

How do we prove R by a case distinction?

$(P \vee Q) \wedge (P \Rightarrow R) \wedge (Q \Rightarrow R) \overset{val}{\models} R$

proof by
case distinction

|| ||

(k) $P \vee Q$

|| ||

(l) $P \Rightarrow R$

|| ||

(m) $Q \Rightarrow R$

|| ||

{case-dist on (k), (l), (m)}
(n) R

($k < n, l < n, m < n$)

Bi-implication introduction

How do we prove a bi-implication?

$(P \Rightarrow Q) \wedge (Q \Rightarrow P) \overset{val}{\models} P \Leftrightarrow Q$

$\wedge$-intro

$\Leftrightarrow$-introduction

$\dots$

(k) $P \Rightarrow Q$

$\dots$

(l) $Q \Rightarrow P$

$\dots$

{$\Leftrightarrow$-intro on (k) and (l)}

(m) $P \Leftrightarrow Q$

($k < m, l < m$)

Bi-implication elimination

How do we use a bi-implication in a proof?

$P \Leftrightarrow Q \overset{val}{\vDash} (P \Rightarrow Q) \wedge (Q \Rightarrow P)$

$\wedge$-elim

$\Leftrightarrow$-elimination

	‖ ‖
(k)	$P \Leftrightarrow Q$
	‖ ‖
	{$\Leftrightarrow$-elim on (k)}
(m)	$P \Rightarrow Q$

(k < m)

	‖ ‖
(k)	$P \Leftrightarrow Q$
	‖ ‖
	{$\Leftrightarrow$-elim on (k)}
(m)	$Q \Rightarrow P$

(k < m)