Proofs as Terms and Terms as Programs, Positively

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Outline

Introduction

Proofs as Terms

Terms as Programs

Introduction

We live in a world full of syntactic structures.

Terms (or expressions) are everywhere.

In programming languages, formal proofs, mathematical proofs, natural languages, etc.

Handling operations on terms can be tricky, especially with bindings.

- substitution
- equality checking
- evaluation
- sharing

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Need a highly prinicipled and mathematically sound meta-theory ↔ (structural) proof theory might help

Starting from a given proof system, we can obtain a term representation by annotating proofs.

In addition to the structure of terms, other operations can sometimes be mimicked by operations on proofs.

→ Curry-Howard correspondence.

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Proofs as Terms

Gentzen's sequent calculus

We start by looking at the implicational fragment LJ_{\supset} of Gentzen's LJ. Formulas are made of atoms α, β, \ldots , and implications \supset .

$$\frac{\Gamma}{\Gamma, B \vdash B} I = \frac{\Gamma, B, B \vdash C}{\Gamma, B \vdash C} C = \frac{\Gamma \vdash B}{\Gamma \vdash C} \Gamma, B \vdash C \quad Cut$$
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash B_1}{\Gamma, B_1 \supset B_2 \vdash B} \supset L = \frac{\Gamma, B_1 \vdash B_2}{\Gamma \vdash B_1 \supset B_2} \supset R$$

Cut-elimination: the *cut* rule is not needed in terms of provability \hookrightarrow subformula property

Problems with sequent calculus

There are, however, some problems with this proof system:

 $1. \ \mbox{Non-controlled contraction}. \ \mbox{Consider the proof}$

$$\frac{\prod_{r,B,B \vdash C}}{\prod_{r,B \vdash C} C} C$$

Is this contraction really needed?

2. Lack of canonicity. Consider the following proofs:

$$\frac{1}{B_1 \supset B_2 \vdash B_1 \supset B_2} I \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\frac{B_1 \vdash B_1}{B_1 \supset B_2, B_1 \vdash B_2}}{\frac{B_1 \supset B_2, B_1 \vdash B_2}{B_1 \supset B_2 \vdash B_1 \supset B_2}} \supset R$$

Are they equivalent?

These two problems become even more visible when one considers proof search.

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Solutions to the problems

1. Controlled contraction: a contraction should be directly followed by a corresponding introduction rule.

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2. Atomic initial rule & invertibility of $\supset R$.

- We only need the initial rule for atoms: $\overline{\Gamma, \alpha \vdash \alpha}^{I_{at}}$
- The rule

$$\frac{\Gamma, B_1 \vdash B_2}{\Gamma \vdash B_1 \supset B_2} \supset R$$

is invertible: when doing proof-search, we can always apply $\supset R$ without losing provability.

These considerations eventually led us to the focused proof system LJF_{\neg} .

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Focusing, intuitively

Focusing was first introduced by Jean-Marc Andreoli as a technique to improve proof search in linear logic.

The idea is to classify inference rules based on the notion of invertibility.

The notion of invertibility provides a proof-search heuristic: whenever an invertible rule is available, one can simply apply it!

- some invertible rules are available \rightarrow apply them (negative phase)
- only non-invertible rules are available → choose one formula and focus on it (and its subformulas) (positive phase)

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Structure of focused proofs

Proofs obtained by focusing (also called focused proofs) are cut-free and have an alternating phase structure:



Proofs can be seen as built with some larger units (phases, synthetic connectives, synthetic inference rules, etc) rather than tiny inference rules.

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Focused proof system LJF_{\neg}

In LJF_{\neg} , formulas are polarized: the system is equipped with a polarization δ : ATOM \rightarrow {-,+}.

To make phases explicit, we add arrows (\uparrow, \downarrow) to sequents:

- Negative phase (for invertible rules) $\Gamma \vdash B \uparrow$
- Positive phase (for non-invertible rules) $\Gamma \Downarrow B \vdash \alpha$ or $\Gamma \vdash B \Downarrow$
- Border: sequents with no arrows $\Gamma \vdash \alpha$

Rules:

$$\delta(\alpha) = -\frac{1}{\Gamma \Downarrow \alpha \vdash \alpha} I_{l} \quad \delta(\alpha) = +\frac{1}{\Gamma, \alpha \vdash \alpha \Downarrow} I_{R} \quad \frac{\Gamma, N \Downarrow N \vdash \alpha}{\Gamma, N \vdash \alpha} D_{l}$$

$$\delta(\alpha) = +\frac{\Gamma \vdash \alpha \Downarrow}{\Gamma \vdash \alpha} D_{r} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash \alpha}{\Gamma \vdash \alpha \uparrow} S_{r} \quad \delta(\beta) = +\frac{\Gamma, \beta \vdash \alpha}{\Gamma \Downarrow \beta \vdash \alpha} R_{l} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash N \uparrow}{\Gamma \vdash N \Downarrow} R_{r}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash B_{1} \Downarrow \Gamma \Downarrow B_{2} \vdash \alpha}{\Gamma \Downarrow B_{1} \supset B_{2} \vdash \alpha} \supset L \quad \frac{\Gamma, B_{1} \vdash B_{2} \uparrow}{\Gamma \vdash B_{1} \supset B_{2} \uparrow} \supset R$$

Two-phase structure of LJF_{\supset} proofs

$$\frac{\overline{\Gamma, \gamma \vdash \alpha \downarrow} I_{R} \overline{\Gamma, \gamma \downarrow \beta \vdash \beta}}{\frac{\Gamma, \gamma \downarrow \alpha \supset \beta \vdash \beta}{\Gamma, \gamma \vdash \beta} D_{I}} \stackrel{I_{I}}{\supset L} \\
\frac{\overline{\Gamma, \gamma \vdash \beta}}{\frac{\Gamma, \gamma \vdash \beta \uparrow}{\Gamma, \gamma \vdash \beta \uparrow} S_{I}} S_{I} \\
\frac{\overline{\Gamma \uparrow \gamma \vdash \beta \uparrow}}{\frac{\Gamma \vdash \gamma \supset \beta \uparrow}{\Gamma \vdash \gamma \supset \beta \downarrow} R_{I}} \stackrel{\Gamma \downarrow \delta \vdash \delta}{R_{I}} \stackrel{I_{I}}{\supset L} \\
\frac{\overline{\Gamma \downarrow (\gamma \supset \beta) \supset \delta \vdash \delta}}{\frac{\Gamma \downarrow (\gamma \supset \beta) \supset \delta \vdash \delta}{\alpha, \alpha \supset \beta, (\gamma \supset \beta) \supset \delta \vdash \delta} D_{I}$$

The synthetic inference rule for a formula B tells how B can be *used* from a proof-search point of view!

Example:

How can the formula $\alpha \supset \beta$ on the L.H.S. be used (both α and β are negative)?

$$\frac{\Gamma, \alpha \supset \beta \vdash \alpha}{\Gamma, \alpha \supset \beta \vdash \alpha} \qquad \gamma = \beta \\
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So we have the synthetic inference rule

$$\gamma = \beta \ \frac{\Gamma, \alpha \supset \beta \vdash \alpha}{\Gamma, \alpha \supset \beta \vdash \gamma}$$

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Extending LJ_{\supset}

Imagine that we want to consider some formula B to be an axiom in LJ_{\neg} . We can simply put it on the L.H.S. However, this might not be ideal at times. What I have:

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What I probably want:

"Synthetic inference rules to the rescue"

synthetic

add to LJ_{\neg}

$$\cdots \frac{\Gamma, B, \Gamma_1 \vdash \alpha_1 \cdots \Gamma, B, \Gamma_k \vdash \alpha_k}{\Gamma, B \vdash \alpha} \cdots \frac{\Gamma, \Gamma_1 \vdash \alpha_1 \cdots \Gamma, \Gamma_k \vdash \alpha_k}{\Gamma \vdash \alpha}$$

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Let $B_1 = \alpha_0 \supset \alpha_1, \ldots, B_n = \alpha_0 \supset \cdots \supset \alpha_n, \ldots$ and consider the extensions of LJ by B_1, \ldots, B_n .

What are the proofs of $\alpha_0 \vdash \alpha_n$?

When α_i are all given the negative polarity, we have:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \alpha_0}{\Gamma \vdash \alpha_1} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash \alpha_0 \quad \Gamma \vdash \alpha_1}{\Gamma \vdash \alpha_2} \quad \cdots \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash \alpha_0 \quad \cdots \quad \Gamma \vdash \alpha_{n-1}}{\Gamma \vdash \alpha_n} \quad \cdots$$

There is a unique proof of exponential size.

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When α_i are all given the negative polarity, we have:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \alpha_0}{\Gamma \vdash \alpha_1} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash \alpha_0 \quad \Gamma \vdash \alpha_1}{\Gamma \vdash \alpha_2} \quad \cdots \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash \alpha_0 \quad \cdots \quad \Gamma \vdash \alpha_{n-1}}{\Gamma \vdash \alpha_n} \quad \cdots$$

There is a unique proof of exponential size.

When α_i are all given the positive polarity, we have:

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Now let us annotate the inference rules in the previous example.

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$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t_0 : \alpha_0 \quad \cdots \quad \Gamma \vdash t_{n-1} : \alpha_{n-1}}{\Gamma \vdash B_n t_0 \cdots t_{n-1} : \alpha_n}$$

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$$B_4 x_0 (B_1 x_0) (B_2 x_0 (B_1 x_0)) (B_3 x_0 (B_1 x_0) (B_2 x_0 (B_1 x_0)))$$

Now let us annotate the inference rules in the previous example.

When α_i are all given the positive polarity, we have:

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The shortest proof of $\alpha_0 \vdash \alpha_4$ is annotated by the term:

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α is negative	lpha is positive
$\mathbf{x}: \alpha \in \Gamma$ $\overline{\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{x}: \alpha}$	$\alpha \in \Gamma {\Gamma \vdash \alpha}$
$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t : \alpha \Gamma \vdash u : \alpha}{\Gamma \vdash tu : \alpha}$	$\{\alpha,\alpha\} \subseteq {\sf \Gamma} \ \frac{{\sf \Gamma},\alpha \vdash \alpha}{{\sf \Gamma}\vdash \alpha}$
$\frac{\Gamma, \alpha \vdash \alpha}{\Gamma \vdash \alpha}$	$\frac{\Gamma, \alpha \vdash \alpha \Gamma, \alpha \vdash \alpha}{\Gamma \vdash \alpha}$
negative λ -terms	positive λ -terms

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$\frac{\Gamma, x : \alpha \vdash t : \alpha}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x.t : \alpha}$	$\frac{\Gamma, \alpha \vdash \alpha \Gamma, \alpha}{\Gamma \vdash \alpha}$	$\vdash \alpha$
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In LJF, we have a systematic way of transforming a positively polarized proof into a negatively polarized one.

This provides a way to turn a positive λ -term into its corresponding (negative) λ -term, which consists of unfolding all the shared structures in the positive λ -term:

$$\underline{x} = x \qquad \underline{t} [x \leftarrow yz] = \underline{t} \{x \leftarrow yz\} \qquad \underline{t} [x \leftarrow \lambda y.\underline{u}] = \underline{t} \{x \leftarrow \lambda y.\underline{u}\}$$

Terms correspond to cut-free proofs.

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Terms as Programs

$\lambda\text{-terms}$ with sharing

Positive λ -terms are λ -terms with sharing.

 λ -terms are given by:

 $t, u \coloneqq x \mid tu \mid \lambda x.t$

In CbV, there are many possible ways to restrict the shape of applications:



These restrictions are typical in a call-by-value setting, as substitutions of applications sometimes are simply blocked by the syntax:

$$xy \longrightarrow (zw)y$$

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Classification/design of call-by-value calculi with ESs

It is actually possible to have only variables as immediate sub-terms of applications.

Now we have nine different forms of applications:

- the general form tu
- eight crumbled forms vu, xu, tv', vv', xv', ty, vy, and xy.

Some more ways to classify/design call-by-value calculi with ESs.

- Nested or flattened ESs: $t[x \leftarrow u[y \leftarrow r]]$ vs. $t[x \leftarrow u][y \leftarrow r]$
- Small-step vs. micro-step substitutions:

$$(xx)[x\leftarrow l] \rightarrow ||$$

vs.
$$(xx)[x\leftarrow l] \rightarrow (|x)[x\leftarrow l] \rightarrow (|l)[x\leftarrow l] \rightarrow ||$$

• Variables as values?

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vs.
$$(xx)[x \leftarrow I] \rightarrow (Ix)[x \leftarrow I] \rightarrow (II)[x \leftarrow I] \rightarrow II$$

• Variables as values?

In micro-step settings, one has the following substitution rule:

$$C\langle x\rangle[x{\leftarrow}v] \to C\langle v\rangle[x{\leftarrow}v]$$

What about making a substitution only when it contributes to the creation of some β -redexes?

Consider

$$(yx)[x \leftarrow I] \rightarrow (yI)[x \leftarrow I]$$

There is no β -redex created after this substitution, and there won't be any β -redex created in the future \rightarrow non-useful

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- $(xy)[x \leftarrow I] \rightarrow (Iy)[x \leftarrow I]$ is (directly) useful
- $x[x \leftarrow I] \rightarrow I[x \leftarrow I]$ is non-useful

- Contextual closure: $x[x \leftarrow I] \rightarrow I[x \leftarrow I]$ is non-useful while $x[x \leftarrow I]y \rightarrow I[x \leftarrow I]y$ is useful
- Indirect usefulness:

 (xy)[x←z][z←l] → (xy)[x←l][z←l]
 → It is useful!
- Renaming chains:

$$(x_0t)[x_0\leftarrow x_1][x_1\leftarrow x_2]\cdots[x_{k-1}\leftarrow x_k][x_k\leftarrow l]$$

$$\rightarrow \qquad (x_0t)[x_0\leftarrow x_1][x_1\leftarrow x_2]\cdots[x_{k-1}\leftarrow l][x_k\leftarrow l]$$

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• Indirect usefulness:

$$(xy)[x \leftarrow z][z \leftarrow l] \rightarrow (xy)[x \leftarrow l][z \leftarrow l]$$

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• Renaming chains:

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 (xy)[x←z][z←l] → (xy)[x←l][z←l] is useful or not?
 → It is useful!
- Renaming chains:

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- Indirect usefulness: $(xy)[x \leftarrow z][z \leftarrow I] \rightarrow (xy)[x \leftarrow I][z \leftarrow I] \rightarrow (Iy)[x \leftarrow I][z \leftarrow I]$ \Rightarrow It is (indirectly) useful!
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- Indirect usefulness: $(xy)[x \leftarrow z][z \leftarrow l] \rightarrow (xy)[x \leftarrow l][z \leftarrow l] \rightarrow (ly)[x \leftarrow l][z \leftarrow l]$ \rightarrow It is (indirectly) useful!
- Renaming chains:

$$(x_0t)[x_0\leftarrow x_1][x_1\leftarrow x_2]\cdots[x_{k-1}\leftarrow x_k][x_k\leftarrow I]$$

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$t, u \quad \coloneqq \quad x \mid t[x \leftarrow yz] \mid t[x \leftarrow \lambda y.u]$

- ESs are flattened.
- Restricted form of explicit substitutions:
 - 1. Minimalistic application yz
 - 2. No ES for variables: variables are not values and renaming chains do not exist!

Example of reduction:

 $\begin{aligned} & x[x \leftarrow yy][y \leftarrow zz'][z \leftarrow \lambda w.w'[w' \leftarrow ww]] \\ & \rightarrow_{oe_{+}} \quad x[x \leftarrow yy][y \leftarrow (\lambda w.w'[w' \leftarrow ww])z'][z \leftarrow \lambda w.w'[w' \leftarrow ww]] \\ & x[x \leftarrow w'_{1}w'_{1}][w'_{1} \leftarrow z'z'][z \leftarrow \lambda w.w'[w' \leftarrow ww]] \end{aligned}$

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Explicit positive λ -calculus λ_{xpos}

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Explicit positive λ -calculus λ_{xpos}

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 λ_{ovsc} (= Useful λ_{ovsc} + Non-useful)

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Focusing

Term representation


































non-useful λ_{vsc}



non-useful λ_{vsc}



Future work

- Towards a better understanding of polarities (of atomic formulas) in full linear logic.
- Efficient implementation of meta-level renamings involved in $\lambda_{\rm pos}.$ We expect this to be doable in an efficient way via an appropriate abstract machine.
- λ_{pos} for call-by-need evaluation.

Thank you for listening!