

A Simpler Proof Theory for Nominal Logic

James Cheney

University of Edinburgh

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Motivation

- Nominal logic [Pitts 2003]: an extension of sorted first-order logic that formalizes
 - *names, name-binding, and quantification over fresh names.*
 - via primitive concepts of *swapping* and *freshness* [Gabbay-Pitts 1999]
- Problem: Existing proof systems/axiomatizations are “overly complex” (a subjective judgment)
- One difficulty: complex axiom schemes/rules for λ -quantifier

Motivation

- Original approach [Pitts 2003]: an axiom scheme

$$\forall a. \phi \iff \exists a. a \# \vec{x} \wedge \phi \quad (FV(\forall a. \phi) \subseteq \{\vec{x}\})$$

defining \forall in terms of \exists , \wedge , and freshness $\#$.

- Gives little insight into self-duality and symmetry properties of \forall
- Syntactic side-condition makes checking uses painful
- **Gentzen-style rule systems** often preferable to axiomatic definitions

Motivation

- [Gabbay,Pitts 1999], [Pitts 2003] proposed sequent rules

$$\frac{\Gamma, a \# \vec{x}, \phi \Rightarrow \psi}{\Gamma, \forall a. \phi \Rightarrow \psi} \forall L \qquad \frac{\Gamma, a \# \vec{x} \Rightarrow \phi}{\Gamma \Rightarrow \forall a. \phi} \forall R$$

where $a \notin FV(\Gamma, \psi)$ and $FV(\Gamma, \psi, \forall a. \phi) \subseteq \{\vec{x}\}$.

- Not much simpler than axiom scheme
- Not closed under substitution, so cut-elimination hard to prove

Motivation

- Most recent idea [Gabbay, Cheney 2004]:

$$\frac{\Gamma, a \# \vec{t}, \phi \Rightarrow \psi}{\Gamma, \forall a. \phi \Rightarrow \psi} \forall L \qquad \frac{\Gamma, a \# \vec{t} \Rightarrow \phi}{\Gamma \Rightarrow \forall a. \phi} \forall R$$

where $a \notin FV(\Gamma, \psi)$ and ϕ can be decomposed as $\phi'(a, \vec{t})$ where $a \notin FV(\vec{t})$ and $\phi'(\dots)$ mentions only quantifiers/connectives.

- Closed under substitution, so cut-elimination straightforward
- but seems nondeterministic & side-conditions even more painful

Motivation

- Miller and Tiu's $FO\lambda^\nabla$ logic includes *local name contexts* and a self-dual quantifier ∇ :

$$\frac{\Sigma : \Gamma, (\sigma, x) \triangleright \phi \Rightarrow \mathcal{A}}{\Sigma : \Gamma, \sigma \triangleright \nabla x.\phi \Rightarrow \mathcal{A}} \nabla L \qquad \frac{\Sigma : \Gamma \Rightarrow (\sigma, x) \triangleright \phi}{\Sigma : \Gamma \Rightarrow \sigma \triangleright \nabla x.\phi} \nabla R$$

where $x \notin \Sigma$.

- These rules are not much more complicated than $\forall R, \exists L$.
- Can we obtain similarly simple rules for \mathbb{I} ?

Motivation

- In α Prolog [Cheney, Urban 2004] clauses can mention explicit name symbols a, b, \dots :

$$p(\vec{a}, \vec{X}) :- G(\vec{a}, \vec{X})$$

Clauses are interpreted as *implicitly* $\mathcal{N}\forall$ -quantified:

$$\mathcal{N}\vec{a}.\forall\vec{X}.G(\vec{a}, \vec{X}) \supset p(\vec{a}, \vec{X})$$

The \mathcal{N} -quantifier is interpreted in proof search as “generate a fresh name a , then proceed”

- Can we justify this interpretation using similar proof rules for \mathcal{N} ?

Motivation

- My approach: use special name symbols a and “freshness contexts” Σ that store needed freshness information

$$\frac{\Sigma \# a : \Gamma, \phi \Rightarrow \psi}{\Sigma : \Gamma, \forall a. \phi \Rightarrow \psi} \forall L \qquad \frac{\Sigma \# a : \Gamma \Rightarrow \phi}{\Sigma : \Gamma \Rightarrow \forall a. \phi} \forall R$$

where $a \notin \Sigma$.

- Closed under substitution, side conditions simpler (like $\forall R, \exists L, \nabla L/R$)
- Management of freshness information “compartmentalized” into Σ -context and an additional rule.

Outline

- Quick overview of nominal logic
- The sequent calculus NL^{\Rightarrow}
- Relating $FO\lambda^{\nabla}$ and nominal logic
- Conclusion

Nominal Logic: Syntax

- Names a, b inhabiting name-sorts A, A'
- Swapping $(a\ b) \cdot x$ exchanges two names
- Abstraction $\langle a \rangle x$ constructs “objects with one bound name”
- Freshness relation $a \# x$ means “ x does not depend on a ”
- \mathcal{N} -quantifier quantifies over fresh names: $\mathcal{N}a.\phi$ means “for fresh names a , ϕ holds”

Names: What are they?

- In this approach, names are a **new syntactic class**, distinct from variables and from function or constant symbols
- **Syntactically different name symbols always denote semantically distinct names**
- Names can be “semantically bound” in abstractions $\langle a \rangle x$, but also “syntactically bound” by \forall : $\forall a. \phi$
- $\langle a \rangle f(a, x)$ and $\langle b \rangle (b, x)$ are different nominal terms (and can denote different values), while $\forall a. p(a, x)$ and $\forall b. p(b, x)$ are α -equivalent formulas

Theory of Swapping and Freshness

- Swapping

$$(a\ b) \cdot a \approx b \quad (a\ a) \cdot x \approx x \quad (a\ b) \cdot (a\ b) \cdot x \approx x$$

$$(a\ b) \cdot c \approx c \quad (a\ b) \cdot f(\vec{x}) = f((a\ b) \cdot \vec{x})$$

- Freshness

$$a \# a' \iff a \not\approx a' \quad a \# x \wedge b \# x \supset (a\ b) \cdot x \approx x$$

- Examples

$$a \# b \approx (a\ b) \cdot a \quad (a\ b) \cdot f(a, \langle b \rangle a, g(a)) \approx f(b, \langle a \rangle b, g(b))$$

Theory of Name-Abstraction

- Intuitively, $\langle a \rangle x$ is “the value x with a distinguished bound name a ”.
- Considered equal up to “safe” renaming (α -equivalence)

$$\langle a \rangle x \approx \langle b \rangle x \iff (a \approx b \wedge x \approx y) \vee (a \# y \wedge x \approx (a \ b) \cdot y)$$

- For example,

$$\vDash \langle a \rangle a \approx \langle b \rangle b \quad \not\vDash \langle a \rangle f(a, b) \approx \langle b \rangle f(b, a)$$

Sequent Calculus

- Judgments use context Σ expressing both typing and freshness information

$$\Sigma ::= \cdot \mid \Sigma, x:S \mid \Sigma \# a:A$$

- Associate contexts with freshness constraint sets $|\Sigma|$:

$$|\cdot| = \emptyset \quad |\Sigma, x:S| = |\Sigma| \quad |\Sigma \# a:A| = |\Sigma| \cup \{a \# t \mid \Sigma \vdash t : S\}$$

- Auxiliary rule for extracting freshness information:

$$\frac{a \# t \in |\Sigma| \quad \Sigma : \Gamma, a \# t \Rightarrow \psi}{\Sigma : \Gamma \Rightarrow \psi} \Sigma \#$$

Freshness Principle

- Fresh names can always be chosen.

$$\frac{\Sigma \# a : \Gamma \Rightarrow \psi}{\Sigma : \Gamma \Rightarrow \psi} F \quad (a \notin \Sigma)$$

- An example derivation using (F) and ($\Sigma\#$):

$$\frac{a \# x \in |\Sigma, x \# a| \quad \overline{\Sigma, x \# a : a \# x \Rightarrow a \# x}}{\Sigma \#} \frac{\Sigma, x \# a : \cdot \Rightarrow a \# x}{\Sigma, x \# a : \cdot \Rightarrow \exists a. a \# x} \exists R \frac{\Sigma, x : \cdot \Rightarrow \exists a. a \# x}{\Sigma : \cdot \Rightarrow \forall x. \exists a. a \# x} F \forall R$$

Equivariance Principle

- Constants fixed by name-swapping

$$(a \ b) \cdot c \approx c$$

- Functions commute with name-swapping

$$(a \ b) \cdot f(\vec{t}) \approx f((a \ b) \cdot \vec{t})$$

- Truth preserved by name-swapping

$$\frac{\Sigma : \Gamma, p((a \ b) \cdot \vec{t}) \Rightarrow \psi}{\Sigma : \Gamma, p(\vec{t}) \Rightarrow C} EV$$

\mathcal{N} -Quantifier Rules

- Our rules:

$$\frac{\Sigma \# a : \Gamma, \phi \Rightarrow \psi}{\Sigma : \Gamma, \mathcal{N}a.\phi \Rightarrow \psi} \mathcal{N}L \qquad \frac{\Sigma \# a : \Gamma \Rightarrow \phi}{\Sigma : \Gamma \Rightarrow \mathcal{N}a.\phi} \mathcal{N}R \qquad (a \notin \Sigma)$$

- Intuitively, to either prove or use a \mathcal{N} -quantified formula, instantiate it to a completely fresh name and proceed.
- Previous systems have used complex syntactic side-conditions to do this.

Denotational Semantics?

- That's another talk. Sorry!
- An incomplete semantics can be inherited from Pitts' nominal logic semantics
- A complete semantics is known [Cheney 2004], working on publication

Examples

- A simple theorem: $\forall a. \forall b. a \neq b$

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\Sigma \# a \# b : a \neq b \Rightarrow a \neq b}{\Sigma \# a \# b : \cdot \Rightarrow a \neq b}}{\Sigma : \cdot \Rightarrow \forall a, b. a \neq b} \forall R^2}{\Sigma \#} \Sigma \#$$

- Another theorem: $\forall a, b. p(a) \supset p(b)$

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\Sigma \# a \# b : p(b) \Rightarrow p(b)}{\Sigma \# a \# b : (a \ b) \cdot p(a) \Rightarrow p(b)} \text{axioms}}{\Sigma \# a \# b : p(a) \Rightarrow p(b)} EV}{\Sigma : \cdot \Rightarrow \forall a, b. p(a) \supset p(b)} \forall R^2, \supset R$$

Examples

- A non-theorem: $\forall a.p(a, a) \Rightarrow \forall a, b.p(a, b)$

$$\frac{\Sigma \# a \# b \# a' : p(a', a') \Rightarrow p(a, b)}{\Sigma : \forall a.p(a, a) \Rightarrow \forall a, b.p(a, b)} \quad \forall R^2, \forall L$$

- Another non-theorem: $\forall a.p(a, y) \Rightarrow \forall x.p(x, y)$.

$$\frac{\Sigma, x \# a : p(a, y) \Rightarrow p(x, y)}{\Sigma : \forall a.p(a, y) \Rightarrow \forall x.p(x, y)} \quad \forall L, \forall R$$

Failure?

- Observe that *failure can be difficult to detect because of equivariance...*

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\vdots}{\Sigma : (a \ b) \cdot (a \ b) \cdot P \Rightarrow Q}}{\Sigma : (a \ b) \cdot P \Rightarrow Q}}{\Sigma : P \Rightarrow Q}}$$

- This problem was already present in other formalizations.
- Future work: deciding $\wedge P \supset \vee Q$, where P, Q are freshness, equality, or atomic formulas.

Formal properties

- Weakening, invertibility, contraction properties

Lemma 1 (Weakening). *If $\Sigma : \Gamma \Rightarrow \phi$ then $\Sigma : \Gamma, \psi \Rightarrow \phi$.*

Lemma 2 (Invertibility). *The $\forall L$ and $\forall R$ rules are invertible:*

– *If $\Sigma : \Gamma, \forall a.\psi \Rightarrow \phi$ then $\Sigma \# a : \Gamma, \psi \Rightarrow \phi$ (for $a \notin \Sigma$)*

– *If $\Sigma : \Gamma, \psi \Rightarrow \forall a.\phi$ then $\Sigma \# a : \Gamma, \psi \Rightarrow \phi$ (for $a \notin \Sigma$)*

Lemma 3 (Contraction). *If $\Sigma : \Gamma, \psi, \psi \Rightarrow \phi$ then $\Sigma : \Gamma, \psi \Rightarrow \phi$.*

Formal properties

- Equivariance was only assumed for atomic formulas, but more general rules are admissible.

Lemma 4 (Admissibility of EVL). *If $\Sigma : \Gamma, (a\ b) \cdot \psi \Rightarrow \phi$ then $\Sigma : \Gamma, \psi \Rightarrow \phi$.*

Lemma 5 (Admissibility of EVR). *If $\Sigma : \Gamma, \psi \Rightarrow (a\ b) \cdot \phi$ then $\Sigma : \Gamma, \psi \Rightarrow \phi$.*

Subtle point in proof: left and right equivariance are mutually recursive (because of implication)

$$\frac{\Sigma : \Gamma, (a\ b) \cdot \phi_1 \Rightarrow (a\ b) \cdot \phi_2}{\Sigma : \Gamma \Rightarrow (a\ b) \cdot (\phi_1 \supset \phi_2)} \supset R$$

Formal properties

- *hyp* rule only assumed for atomic formulas, but generalized form admissible.

Lemma 6 (Admissibility of *hyp).** *The rule*

$$\frac{}{\Sigma : \Gamma, \phi \Rightarrow \phi} \text{hyp}^*$$

is admissible.

Proof relies on *EVL* for \forall -case:

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{}{\Sigma \# a \# b : \phi(b) \Rightarrow \phi(b)}{\Sigma \# a \# b : \Gamma, (a \ b) \cdot \phi(a) \Rightarrow \phi(b)} \text{axioms}}{\Sigma \# a \# b : \Gamma, \phi(a) \Rightarrow \phi(b)} \text{EVL}}{\Sigma : \Gamma, \forall a. \phi \Rightarrow \forall a. \phi} \forall L, \forall R$$

Formal properties

- Cut-elimination

Theorem 7. *If $\Sigma : \Gamma, \phi \Rightarrow \psi$ and $\Sigma : \Gamma' \Rightarrow \phi$ then $\Gamma, \Gamma' \Rightarrow \psi$*

Proof follows standard techniques of permuting cuts upward.

- *The proof is straightforward, but relies on the previous properties*

Cut-elimination: interesting case

- Given a principal \forall -cut,

$$\frac{\frac{\Sigma \# a : \Gamma \Rightarrow \phi}{\Sigma : \Gamma \Rightarrow \forall a. \phi} \forall R \quad \frac{\Sigma \# a : \Gamma, \phi \Rightarrow \psi}{\Sigma : \Gamma, \forall a. \phi \Rightarrow \psi} \forall L}{\Sigma : \Gamma \Rightarrow \psi} cut$$

permute the cut upward using the freshness principle:

$$\frac{\frac{\Sigma \# a : \Gamma \Rightarrow \psi}{\Sigma : \Gamma \Rightarrow \psi} F \quad \Sigma \# a : \Gamma, \phi \Rightarrow \psi}{\Sigma \# a : \Gamma \Rightarrow \phi \quad \Sigma \# a : \Gamma, \phi \Rightarrow \psi} cut$$

Applications

- Syntactic proof of **consistency**
- Proof of **conservativity** relative to Pitts' system
- **Sound and complete** translation from $FO\lambda^\nabla$ to $NL \Rightarrow$

Translation from $FO\lambda^\nabla$ to nominal logic

- $FO\lambda^\nabla$ [Miller, Tiu 2003]: a logic with *local name contexts* σ and a self-dual local name quantifier $\nabla x.\phi$:

$$\frac{\Sigma : \Gamma, (\sigma, x) \triangleright \phi \Rightarrow \mathcal{A}}{\Sigma : \Gamma, \sigma \triangleright \nabla x.\phi \Rightarrow \mathcal{A}} \nabla L \quad \frac{\Sigma : \Gamma \Rightarrow (\sigma, x) \triangleright \phi}{\Sigma : \Gamma \Rightarrow \sigma \triangleright \nabla x.\phi} \nabla R \quad (x \notin \Sigma, \sigma)$$

- [Gabbay, Cheney 2004] gave a sound but not complete translation to a nominal logic variant
- Incomplete because \mathbb{N} admits “weakening”, “exchange”, but ∇ does not.

Examples of old translation

- translation of “weakening principle”

$$\nabla x.p \iff p \quad (\text{underivable})$$

is

$$\forall a.p \iff p \quad (\text{derivable!})$$

- translation of “exchange principle”

$$\nabla x, y.p(x, y) \iff \nabla y, x.p(x, y) \quad (\text{underivable})$$

is

$$\forall a, b.p(n(a), n(b)) \iff \forall b, a.p(n(a), n(b)) \quad (\text{derivable!})$$

Examples of new translation

- translation of “weakening principle”

$$\nabla x.p \iff p \quad (\text{underivable})$$

is

$$\forall a.p[a] \iff p[] \quad (\text{underivable})$$

- translation of “exchange principle”

$$\nabla x, y.p(x, y) \iff \nabla y, x.p(x, y) \quad (\text{underivable})$$

is

$$\forall a, b.p[a, b](n(a), n(b)) \iff \forall b, a.p[b, a](n(a), n(b)) \quad (\text{underivable})$$

Details of translation

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket \sigma \triangleright C \rrbracket &= C && (C \in \{\top, \perp\}) \\ \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \neg \phi \rrbracket &= \neg \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \phi \rrbracket \\ \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \phi \otimes \psi \rrbracket &= \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \phi \rrbracket \otimes \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \psi \rrbracket && (\otimes \in \{\wedge, \vee, \supset\}) \\ \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \forall x. \phi \rrbracket &= \forall h. ev(h) \supset \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \phi[h\sigma/x] \rrbracket \\ \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \exists x. \phi \rrbracket &= \exists h. ev(h) \wedge \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \phi[h\sigma/x] \rrbracket \\ \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \nabla x. \phi \rrbracket &= \llbracket \sigma, x \triangleright \phi \rrbracket \\ \llbracket \sigma \triangleright p\vec{t} \rrbracket &= \forall \vec{\sigma}. p[\sigma]\vec{t} \end{aligned}$$

Details of translation

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket \sigma \triangleright C \rrbracket &= C && (C \in \{\top, \perp\}) \\ \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \neg \phi \rrbracket &= \neg \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \phi \rrbracket \\ \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \phi \otimes \psi \rrbracket &= \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \phi \rrbracket \otimes \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \psi \rrbracket && (\otimes \in \{\wedge, \vee, \supset\}) \\ \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \forall x. \phi \rrbracket &= \forall h. ev(h) \supset \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \phi[h\sigma/x] \rrbracket \\ \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \exists x. \phi \rrbracket &= \exists h. ev(h) \wedge \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \phi[h\sigma/x] \rrbracket \\ \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \nabla x. \phi \rrbracket &= \llbracket \sigma, x \triangleright \phi \rrbracket \\ \llbracket \sigma \triangleright p\vec{t} \rrbracket &= \forall \vec{\sigma}. p[\sigma]\vec{t} \end{aligned}$$

Note: Translation is homomorphic on propositional connectives

Details of translation

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket \sigma \triangleright C \rrbracket &= C && (C \in \{\top, \perp\}) \\ \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \neg \phi \rrbracket &= \neg \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \phi \rrbracket \\ \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \phi \otimes \psi \rrbracket &= \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \phi \rrbracket \otimes \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \psi \rrbracket && (\otimes \in \{\wedge, \vee, \supset\}) \\ \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \forall x. \phi \rrbracket &= \forall h. ev(h) \supset \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \phi[h\sigma/x] \rrbracket \\ \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \exists x. \phi \rrbracket &= \exists h. ev(h) \wedge \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \phi[h\sigma/x] \rrbracket \\ \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \nabla x. \phi \rrbracket &= \llbracket \sigma, x \triangleright \phi \rrbracket \\ \llbracket \sigma \triangleright p\vec{t} \rrbracket &= \forall \vec{\sigma}. p[\sigma]\vec{t} \end{aligned}$$

Note: We lift \forall, \exists to make local context dependence explicit

(Here $ev(h) = \forall a : A. a \# h$)

Details of translation

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket \sigma \triangleright C \rrbracket &= C && (C \in \{\top, \perp\}) \\ \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \neg \phi \rrbracket &= \neg \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \phi \rrbracket \\ \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \phi \otimes \psi \rrbracket &= \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \phi \rrbracket \otimes \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \psi \rrbracket && (\otimes \in \{\wedge, \vee, \supset\}) \\ \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \forall x. \phi \rrbracket &= \forall h. ev(h) \supset \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \phi[h\sigma/x] \rrbracket \\ \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \exists x. \phi \rrbracket &= \exists h. ev(h) \wedge \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \phi[h\sigma/x] \rrbracket \\ \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \nabla x. \phi \rrbracket &= \llbracket \sigma, x \triangleright \phi \rrbracket \\ \llbracket \sigma \triangleright p\vec{t} \rrbracket &= \forall \vec{\sigma}. p[\sigma]\vec{t} \end{aligned}$$

Note: We delay using \forall for ∇ by storing ∇ -quantified names in local context.

Details of translation

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket \sigma \triangleright C \rrbracket &= C && (C \in \{\top, \perp\}) \\ \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \neg \phi \rrbracket &= \neg \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \phi \rrbracket \\ \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \phi \otimes \psi \rrbracket &= \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \phi \rrbracket \otimes \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \psi \rrbracket && (\otimes \in \{\wedge, \vee, \supset\}) \\ \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \forall x. \phi \rrbracket &= \forall h. ev(h) \supset \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \phi[h\sigma/x] \rrbracket \\ \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \exists x. \phi \rrbracket &= \exists h. ev(h) \wedge \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \phi[h\sigma/x] \rrbracket \\ \llbracket \sigma \triangleright \nabla x. \phi \rrbracket &= \llbracket \sigma, x \triangleright \phi \rrbracket \\ \llbracket \sigma \triangleright pt \rrbracket &= \mathcal{V}\vec{\sigma}. p[\sigma] \vec{t} \end{aligned}$$

Note: We translate local contexts to \mathcal{V} -quantified names

Note also: We also parameterize translated atomic formulas by list of local names.

Idea of proof

- Identify a normal form for NL derivations
- Prove that all normal forms represent $FO\lambda^\nabla$ proofs
- Prove that all derivations of translated $FO\lambda^\nabla$ sequents can be normalized.
- **Many details omitted here.**

Some details

- “First normal form”: derivation consists only of \mathcal{V} , hyp , or equational, freshness, or equivariance laws.
- Example: $\llbracket \Sigma : \Gamma, x \triangleright p \Rightarrow x \triangleright p \rrbracket$ derivable as

$$\frac{}{\Sigma : \Gamma, \forall x.p[x] \Rightarrow \forall x.p[x]} hyp^*$$

which expands to 1NF.

Proposition 8. $\llbracket \Sigma : \Gamma \Rightarrow \mathcal{A} \rrbracket$ is in 1NF if and only if $\Sigma : \Gamma \Rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ is an initial sequent (i.e., $\mathcal{A} \in \Gamma$).

By induction on derivations (using knowledge of translation).

More details

- “Second normal form”: derivation starts with a logical rule.
- If the first rule is \forall (or \exists) then it must be followed by corresponding \supset (or \wedge) on the same formula.

Proposition 9. *A translated sequent has a 2NF derivation if and only if there exists a $FO\lambda^\nabla$ logical rule instance*

$$\frac{J_1 \quad \dots \quad J_n}{\Sigma : \Gamma \Rightarrow \mathcal{A}}$$

such that the translations $\llbracket J_1 \rrbracket, \dots, \llbracket J_n \rrbracket$ are also derivable.

More details

- So far so good. The **hard part** is proving that that translated derivations have normal forms.

Proposition 10. *If $\llbracket J \rrbracket$ has a NL^{\Rightarrow} derivation, then it has a 1NF or 2NF derivation.*

The proof is by complicated induction on a strengthened induction hypothesis.

Theorem 11. *If $\llbracket J \rrbracket$ is derivable in NL^{\Rightarrow} , then J is derivable in $FO\lambda^{\nabla}$.*

Related work

- Many spatial/tree/graph/concurrency logics now incorporating \mathcal{N} (e.g., [Caires, Cardelli 2002])
- [Gabbay, Cheney 2004]: presented an alternative system with \mathcal{N} -rules using more complex syntactic side-conditions
- [Schöpp, Stark 2004]: develop a dependent type theory with names & binding using similar (but more general) *bunched contexts*
- [Miculan, Yemane 2005] describe an (incomplete) denotational semantics of $FO\lambda^\nabla$.

Future work

- Uniform proof semantics of nominal logic programming
- Semantics of $FO\lambda^\nabla$
- A *truly* simple proof theory?
- A *simple* type theory?

Conclusions

- Presented a proof theory for nominal logic that uses explicit name symbols and structured contexts to deal with \mathcal{N}
- We argue that this approach is “simpler” / “easier to use”; this is subjective
- Re-proved existing results (cut-elimination, consistency, conservativity)
- In addition, proved a nontrivial new result (embedding of $FO\lambda^\nabla$).