

# Discrete Mathematics in Computer Science

## Inference Rules and Calculi

Malte Helmert, Gabriele Röger

University of Basel

## Inference: Motivation

- up to now: proof of logical consequence with semantic arguments
- no general algorithm
- solution: produce formulas that are logical consequences of given formulas with syntactic inference rules
- advantage: mechanical method that can easily be implemented as an algorithm

# Inference Rules

- Inference rules have the form

$$\frac{\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_k}{\psi}.$$

- Meaning: “Every model of  $\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_k$  is a model of  $\psi$ .”
- An **axiom** is an inference rule with  $k = 0$ .
- A set of inference rules is called a **calculus** or **proof system**.

German: Inferenzregel, Axiom, (der) Kalkül, Beweissystem

# Some Inference Rules for Propositional Logic

Modus ponens 
$$\frac{\varphi, (\varphi \rightarrow \psi)}{\psi}$$

Modus tollens 
$$\frac{\neg\psi, (\varphi \rightarrow \psi)}{\neg\varphi}$$

$\wedge$ -elimination 
$$\frac{(\varphi \wedge \psi)}{\varphi} \quad \frac{(\varphi \wedge \psi)}{\psi}$$

$\wedge$ -introduction 
$$\frac{\varphi, \psi}{(\varphi \wedge \psi)}$$

$\vee$ -introduction 
$$\frac{\varphi}{(\varphi \vee \psi)}$$

$\leftrightarrow$ -elimination 
$$\frac{(\varphi \leftrightarrow \psi)}{(\varphi \rightarrow \psi)} \quad \frac{(\varphi \leftrightarrow \psi)}{(\psi \rightarrow \varphi)}$$

# Derivation

## Definition (Derivation)

A **derivation** or **proof** of a formula  $\varphi$  from a knowledge base KB is a sequence of formulas  $\psi_1, \dots, \psi_k$  with

- $\psi_k = \varphi$  and
- for all  $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ :
  - $\psi_i \in \text{KB}$ , or
  - $\psi_i$  is the result of the application of an inference rule to elements from  $\{\psi_1, \dots, \psi_{i-1}\}$ .

**German:** Ableitung, Beweis

## Derivation: Example

### Example

Given:  $\text{KB} = \{P, (P \rightarrow Q), (P \rightarrow R), ((Q \wedge R) \rightarrow S)\}$

Task: Find derivation of  $(S \wedge R)$  from KB.

## Derivation: Example

### Example

Given:  $\text{KB} = \{P, (P \rightarrow Q), (P \rightarrow R), ((Q \wedge R) \rightarrow S)\}$

Task: Find derivation of  $(S \wedge R)$  from KB.

①  $P$  (KB)

## Derivation: Example

### Example

Given:  $\text{KB} = \{P, (P \rightarrow Q), (P \rightarrow R), ((Q \wedge R) \rightarrow S)\}$

Task: Find derivation of  $(S \wedge R)$  from KB.

- ①  $P$  (KB)
- ②  $(P \rightarrow Q)$  (KB)

## Derivation: Example

### Example

Given:  $\text{KB} = \{P, (P \rightarrow Q), (P \rightarrow R), ((Q \wedge R) \rightarrow S)\}$

Task: Find derivation of  $(S \wedge R)$  from KB.

- ①  $P$  (KB)
- ②  $(P \rightarrow Q)$  (KB)
- ③  $Q$  (1, 2, Modus ponens)

## Derivation: Example

### Example

Given:  $\text{KB} = \{P, (P \rightarrow Q), (P \rightarrow R), ((Q \wedge R) \rightarrow S)\}$

Task: Find derivation of  $(S \wedge R)$  from KB.

- ①  $P$  (KB)
- ②  $(P \rightarrow Q)$  (KB)
- ③  $Q$  (1, 2, Modus ponens)
- ④  $(P \rightarrow R)$  (KB)

## Derivation: Example

### Example

Given:  $\text{KB} = \{P, (P \rightarrow Q), (P \rightarrow R), ((Q \wedge R) \rightarrow S)\}$

Task: Find derivation of  $(S \wedge R)$  from KB.

- ①  $P$  (KB)
- ②  $(P \rightarrow Q)$  (KB)
- ③  $Q$  (1, 2, Modus ponens)
- ④  $(P \rightarrow R)$  (KB)
- ⑤  $R$  (1, 4, Modus ponens)

## Derivation: Example

### Example

Given:  $\text{KB} = \{P, (P \rightarrow Q), (P \rightarrow R), ((Q \wedge R) \rightarrow S)\}$

Task: Find derivation of  $(S \wedge R)$  from KB.

- ①  $P$  (KB)
- ②  $(P \rightarrow Q)$  (KB)
- ③  $Q$  (1, 2, Modus ponens)
- ④  $(P \rightarrow R)$  (KB)
- ⑤  $R$  (1, 4, Modus ponens)
- ⑥  $(Q \wedge R)$  (3, 5,  $\wedge$ -introduction)

## Derivation: Example

### Example

Given:  $\text{KB} = \{P, (P \rightarrow Q), (P \rightarrow R), ((Q \wedge R) \rightarrow S)\}$

Task: Find derivation of  $(S \wedge R)$  from KB.

- ①  $P$  (KB)
- ②  $(P \rightarrow Q)$  (KB)
- ③  $Q$  (1, 2, Modus ponens)
- ④  $(P \rightarrow R)$  (KB)
- ⑤  $R$  (1, 4, Modus ponens)
- ⑥  $(Q \wedge R)$  (3, 5,  $\wedge$ -introduction)
- ⑦  $((Q \wedge R) \rightarrow S)$  (KB)

## Derivation: Example

### Example

Given:  $\text{KB} = \{P, (P \rightarrow Q), (P \rightarrow R), ((Q \wedge R) \rightarrow S)\}$

Task: Find derivation of  $(S \wedge R)$  from KB.

- ①  $P$  (KB)
- ②  $(P \rightarrow Q)$  (KB)
- ③  $Q$  (1, 2, Modus ponens)
- ④  $(P \rightarrow R)$  (KB)
- ⑤  $R$  (1, 4, Modus ponens)
- ⑥  $(Q \wedge R)$  (3, 5,  $\wedge$ -introduction)
- ⑦  $((Q \wedge R) \rightarrow S)$  (KB)
- ⑧  $S$  (6, 7, Modus ponens)

## Derivation: Example

### Example

Given:  $\text{KB} = \{P, (P \rightarrow Q), (P \rightarrow R), ((Q \wedge R) \rightarrow S)\}$

Task: Find derivation of  $(S \wedge R)$  from KB.

- ①  $P$  (KB)
- ②  $(P \rightarrow Q)$  (KB)
- ③  $Q$  (1, 2, Modus ponens)
- ④  $(P \rightarrow R)$  (KB)
- ⑤  $R$  (1, 4, Modus ponens)
- ⑥  $(Q \wedge R)$  (3, 5,  $\wedge$ -introduction)
- ⑦  $((Q \wedge R) \rightarrow S)$  (KB)
- ⑧  $S$  (6, 7, Modus ponens)
- ⑨  $(S \wedge R)$  (8, 5,  $\wedge$ -introduction)

# Correctness and Completeness

## Definition (Correctness and Completeness of a Calculus)

We write  $\text{KB} \vdash_C \varphi$  if there is a derivation of  $\varphi$  from  $\text{KB}$  in calculus  $C$ .

(If calculus  $C$  is clear from context, also only  $\text{KB} \vdash \varphi$ .)

A calculus  $C$  is **correct** if for all  $\text{KB}$  and  $\varphi$

$\text{KB} \vdash_C \varphi$  implies  $\text{KB} \models \varphi$ .

A calculus  $C$  is **complete** if for all  $\text{KB}$  and  $\varphi$

$\text{KB} \models \varphi$  implies  $\text{KB} \vdash_C \varphi$ .

# Correctness and Completeness

## Definition (Correctness and Completeness of a Calculus)

We write  $\text{KB} \vdash_C \varphi$  if there is a derivation of  $\varphi$  from  $\text{KB}$  in calculus  $C$ .

(If calculus  $C$  is clear from context, also only  $\text{KB} \vdash \varphi$ .)

A calculus  $C$  is **correct** if for all  $\text{KB}$  and  $\varphi$

$\text{KB} \vdash_C \varphi$  implies  $\text{KB} \models \varphi$ .

A calculus  $C$  is **complete** if for all  $\text{KB}$  and  $\varphi$

$\text{KB} \models \varphi$  implies  $\text{KB} \vdash_C \varphi$ .

Consider calculus  $C$ , consisting of the derivation rules seen earlier.

**Question:** Is  $C$  correct?

**Question:** Is  $C$  complete?

**German:** korrekt, vollständig

## Refutation-completeness

- We obviously want **correct** calculi.
- Do we always need a **complete** calculus?

## Refutation-completeness

- We obviously want **correct** calculi.
- Do we always need a **complete** calculus?
- **Contradiction theorem:**  
 $KB \cup \{\varphi\}$  is unsatisfiable iff  $KB \models \neg\varphi$
- This implies that  $KB \models \varphi$  iff  $KB \cup \{\neg\varphi\}$  is unsatisfiable.
- We can reduce the **general** implication problem to a **test of unsatisfiability**.

## Refutation-completeness

- We obviously want **correct** calculi.
- Do we always need a **complete** calculus?
- **Contradiction theorem:**  
 $KB \cup \{\varphi\}$  is unsatisfiable iff  $KB \models \neg\varphi$
- This implies that  $KB \models \varphi$  iff  $KB \cup \{\neg\varphi\}$  is unsatisfiable.
- We can reduce the **general** implication problem to a **test of unsatisfiability**.
- In calculi, we use the special symbol  $\Box$  for (provably) unsatisfiable formulas.

# Refutation-completeness

- We obviously want **correct** calculi.
- Do we always need a **complete** calculus?
- **Contradiction theorem:**  
 $\text{KB} \cup \{\varphi\}$  is unsatisfiable iff  $\text{KB} \models \neg\varphi$
- This implies that  $\text{KB} \models \varphi$  iff  $\text{KB} \cup \{\neg\varphi\}$  is unsatisfiable.
- We can reduce the **general** implication problem to a **test of unsatisfiability**.
- In calculi, we use the special symbol  $\square$  for (provably) unsatisfiable formulas.

## Definition (Refutation-Completeness)

A calculus  $C$  is **refutation-complete** if  $\text{KB} \vdash_C \square$  for all unsatisfiable  $\text{KB}$ .

**German:** widerlegungsvollständig

# Discrete Mathematics in Computer Science

## Resolution Calculus

Malte Helmert, Gabriele Röger

University of Basel

## Resolution: Idea

- Resolution is a refutation-complete calculus for knowledge bases in conjunctive normal form.

## Resolution: Idea

- Resolution is a refutation-complete calculus for knowledge bases in conjunctive normal form.
- Every knowledge base can be transformed into equivalent formulas in CNF.
  - Transformation can require exponential time.
  - Alternative: efficient transformation into equisatisfiable formulas (not part of this course)

## Resolution: Idea

- Resolution is a refutation-complete calculus for knowledge bases in conjunctive normal form.
- Every knowledge base can be transformed into equivalent formulas in CNF.
  - Transformation can require exponential time.
  - Alternative: efficient transformation into **equisatisfiable** formulas (not part of this course)
- Show  $\text{KB} \models \varphi$  by deriving  $\text{KB} \cup \{\neg\varphi\} \vdash_R \square$  with **resolution calculus  $R$** .

## Resolution: Idea

- Resolution is a refutation-complete calculus for knowledge bases in conjunctive normal form.
- Every knowledge base can be transformed into equivalent formulas in CNF.
  - Transformation can require exponential time.
  - Alternative: efficient transformation into **equisatisfiable** formulas (not part of this course)
- Show  $\text{KB} \models \varphi$  by deriving  $\text{KB} \cup \{\neg\varphi\} \vdash_R \square$  with **resolution calculus  $R$** .
- Resolution can require exponential time.
- This is probably the case for **all** refutation-complete proof methods.  $\rightsquigarrow$  complexity theory

German: Resolution, erfüllbarkeitsäquivalent

# Knowledge Base as Set of Clauses

Simplified notation of knowledge bases in CNF

- Formula in CNF as **set of clauses**  
(due to commutativity, idempotence, associativity of  $\wedge$ )
- Set of formulas as **set of clauses**
- Clause as **set of literals**  
(due to commutativity, idempotence, associativity of  $\vee$ )
- Knowledge base as **set of sets of literals**

# Knowledge Base as Set of Clauses

Simplified notation of knowledge bases in CNF

- Formula in CNF as **set of clauses**  
(due to commutativity, idempotence, associativity of  $\wedge$ )
- Set of formulas as **set of clauses**
- Clause as **set of literals**  
(due to commutativity, idempotence, associativity of  $\vee$ )
- Knowledge base as **set of sets of literals**

## Example

$$\text{KB} = \{(P \vee P), ((\neg P \vee Q) \wedge (\neg P \vee R) \wedge (Q \vee \neg P) \wedge R), \\ ((\neg Q \vee \neg R \vee S) \wedge P)\}$$

as set of clauses:

# Knowledge Base as Set of Clauses

Simplified notation of knowledge bases in CNF

- Formula in CNF as **set of clauses**  
(due to commutativity, idempotence, associativity of  $\wedge$ )
- Set of formulas as **set of clauses**
- Clause as **set of literals**  
(due to commutativity, idempotence, associativity of  $\vee$ )
- Knowledge base as **set of sets of literals**

## Example

$$\text{KB} = \{(P \vee P), ((\neg P \vee Q) \wedge (\neg P \vee R) \wedge (Q \vee \neg P) \wedge R), \\ ((\neg Q \vee \neg R \vee S) \wedge P)\}$$

as set of clauses:

$$\Delta = \{\{P\}, \{\neg P, Q\}, \{\neg P, R\}, \{R\}, \{\neg Q, \neg R, S\}\}$$

## Resolution Rule

The **resolution calculus** consists of a single rule, called **resolution rule**:

$$\frac{C_1 \cup \{X\}, \ C_2 \cup \{\neg X\}}{C_1 \cup C_2},$$

where  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are (possibly empty) clauses and  $X$  is an atomic proposition.

## Resolution Rule

The **resolution calculus** consists of a single rule, called **resolution rule**:

$$\frac{C_1 \cup \{X\}, \ C_2 \cup \{\neg X\}}{C_1 \cup C_2},$$

where  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are (possibly empty) clauses and  $X$  is an atomic proposition.

If we derive the empty clause, we write  $\square$  instead of  $\{\}$ .

## Resolution Rule

The **resolution calculus** consists of a single rule, called **resolution rule**:

$$\frac{C_1 \cup \{X\}, \ C_2 \cup \{\neg X\}}{C_1 \cup C_2},$$

where  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are (possibly empty) clauses and  $X$  is an atomic proposition.

If we derive the empty clause, we write  $\square$  instead of  $\{\}$ .

Terminology:

- $X$  and  $\neg X$  are the **resolution literals**,
- $C_1 \cup \{X\}$  and  $C_2 \cup \{\neg X\}$  are the **parent clauses**, and
- $C_1 \cup C_2$  is the **resolvent**.

**German:** Resolutionskalkül, Resolutionsregel, Resolutionsliterale, Elternklauseln, Resolvent

# Proof by Resolution

## Definition (Proof by Resolution)

A **proof by resolution** of a clause  $D$  from a knowledge base  $\Delta$  is a sequence of clauses  $C_1, \dots, C_n$  with

- $C_n = D$  and
- for all  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ :
  - $C_i \in \Delta$ , or
  - $C_i$  is resolvent of two clauses from  $\{C_1, \dots, C_{i-1}\}$ .

If there is a proof of  $D$  by resolution from  $\Delta$ , we say that  $D$  can be **derived with resolution** from  $\Delta$  and write  $\Delta \vdash_R D$ .

**Remark:** Resolution is a **correct, refutation-complete**,  
**but incomplete** calculus.

**German:** Resolutionsbeweis, mit Resolution aus  $\Delta$  abgeleitet

## Proof by Resolution: Example

### Proof by Resolution for Testing a Logical Consequence: Example

Given:  $\text{KB} = \{P, (P \rightarrow (Q \wedge R))\}$ .

Show with resolution that  $\text{KB} \models (R \vee S)$ .

## Proof by Resolution: Example

### Proof by Resolution for Testing a Logical Consequence: Example

Given:  $KB = \{P, (P \rightarrow (Q \wedge R))\}$ .

Show with resolution that  $KB \models (R \vee S)$ .

Three steps:

- ① Reduce logical consequence to unsatisfiability.
- ② Transform knowledge base into clause form (CNF).
- ③ Derive empty clause  $\square$  with resolution.

## Proof by Resolution: Example

### Proof by Resolution for Testing a Logical Consequence: Example

Given:  $KB = \{P, (P \rightarrow (Q \wedge R))\}$ .

Show with resolution that  $KB \models (R \vee S)$ .

Three steps:

- ① Reduce logical consequence to unsatisfiability.
- ② Transform knowledge base into clause form (CNF).
- ③ Derive empty clause  $\square$  with resolution.

Step 1: Reduce logical consequence to unsatisfiability.

## Proof by Resolution: Example

### Proof by Resolution for Testing a Logical Consequence: Example

Given:  $\text{KB} = \{P, (P \rightarrow (Q \wedge R))\}$ .

Show with resolution that  $\text{KB} \models (R \vee S)$ .

Three steps:

- ① Reduce logical consequence to unsatisfiability.
- ② Transform knowledge base into clause form (CNF).
- ③ Derive empty clause  $\square$  with resolution.

**Step 1:** Reduce logical consequence to unsatisfiability.

$\text{KB} \models (R \vee S)$  iff  $\text{KB} \cup \{\neg(R \vee S)\}$  is unsatisfiable.

Thus, consider

$\text{KB}' = \text{KB} \cup \{\neg(R \vee S)\} = \{P, (P \rightarrow (Q \wedge R)), \neg(R \vee S)\}$ .

...

## Proof by Resolution: Example (continued)

### Proof by Resolution for Testing a Logical Consequence: Example

$$\text{KB}' = \{P, (P \rightarrow (Q \wedge R)), \neg(R \vee S)\}.$$

Step 2: Transform knowledge base into clause form (CNF).

## Proof by Resolution: Example (continued)

### Proof by Resolution for Testing a Logical Consequence: Example

$$\text{KB}' = \{P, (P \rightarrow (Q \wedge R)), \neg(R \vee S)\}.$$

Step 2: Transform knowledge base into clause form (CNF).

- $P$   
~~> **Clauses:**  $\{P\}$
- $P \rightarrow (Q \wedge R) \equiv (\neg P \vee (Q \wedge R)) \equiv ((\neg P \vee Q) \wedge (\neg P \vee R))$   
~~> **Clauses:**  $\{\neg P, Q\}, \{\neg P, R\}$
- $\neg(R \vee S) \equiv (\neg R \wedge \neg S)$   
~~> **Clauses:**  $\{\neg R\}, \{\neg S\}$

## Proof by Resolution: Example (continued)

### Proof by Resolution for Testing a Logical Consequence: Example

$$\text{KB}' = \{P, (P \rightarrow (Q \wedge R)), \neg(R \vee S)\}.$$

Step 2: Transform knowledge base into clause form (CNF).

- $P$   
~~> **Clauses:**  $\{P\}$
- $P \rightarrow (Q \wedge R) \equiv (\neg P \vee (Q \wedge R)) \equiv ((\neg P \vee Q) \wedge (\neg P \vee R))$   
~~> **Clauses:**  $\{\neg P, Q\}, \{\neg P, R\}$
- $\neg(R \vee S) \equiv (\neg R \wedge \neg S)$   
~~> **Clauses:**  $\{\neg R\}, \{\neg S\}$

$$\Delta = \{\{P\}, \{\neg P, Q\}, \{\neg P, R\}, \{\neg R\}, \{\neg S\}\}$$

...

## Proof by Resolution: Example (continued)

### Proof by Resolution for Testing a Logical Consequence: Example

$$\Delta = \{\{P\}, \{\neg P, Q\}, \{\neg P, R\}, \{\neg R\}, \{\neg S\}\}$$

Step 3: Derive empty clause  $\square$  with resolution.

- $C_1 = \{P\}$  (from  $\Delta$ )
- $C_2 = \{\neg P, Q\}$  (from  $\Delta$ )
- $C_3 = \{\neg P, R\}$  (from  $\Delta$ )
- $C_4 = \{\neg R\}$  (from  $\Delta$ )
- $C_5 = \{Q\}$  (from  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ )
- $C_6 = \{\neg P\}$  (from  $C_3$  and  $C_4$ )
- $C_7 = \square$  (from  $C_1$  and  $C_6$ )

Note: There are shorter proofs. (For example?)

## Another Example

### Another Example for Resolution

Show with resolution, that  $\text{KB} \models \text{DrinkBeer}$ , where

$$\text{KB} = \{(\neg \text{DrinkBeer} \rightarrow \text{EatFish}), \\ ((\text{EatFish} \wedge \text{DrinkBeer}) \rightarrow \neg \text{EatIceCream}), \\ ((\text{EatIceCream} \vee \neg \text{DrinkBeer}) \rightarrow \neg \text{EatFish})\}.$$

## Proving that Something Does Not Follow

- We can now use resolution proofs to mechanically show  $\text{KB} \models \varphi$  whenever a given knowledge base logically implies  $\varphi$ .
- **Question:** How can we use the same mechanism to show that something does **not** follow ( $\text{KB} \not\models \varphi$ )?