

On Proof Equivalence and Combinatorial Proofs

Matteo Acclavio



Pisa 24/04/2024

- What is a proof?
- When two proofs are the same? and why should we care about?
- Normalization vs Generality
- Proof equivalence via rule permutations
- From rule permutations to Generality
- Combinatorial Proofs and Proof Equivalence
- Comparing Proof Equivalences
- Related and Future Works

What is a proof?

A proof is...

- A sequence of instructions

A proof is...

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- A strategy to win an argumentation

A proof is...

- A sequence of instructions
- A strategy to win an argumentation
- The sound relations between the components of a statement

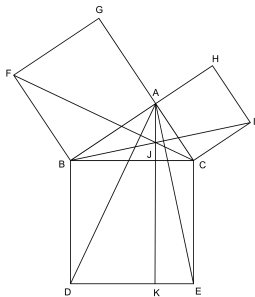
When two proofs are the same?

Pythagorean theorem

There are many different proofs of the Pythagorean theorem

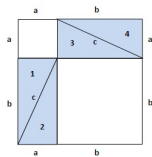
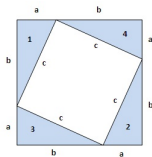
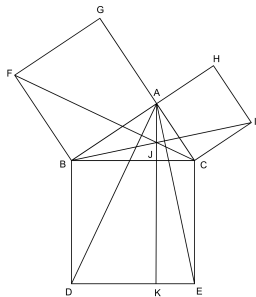
Pythagorean theorem

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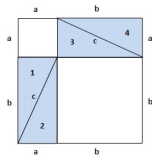
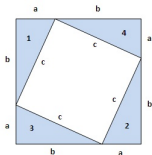
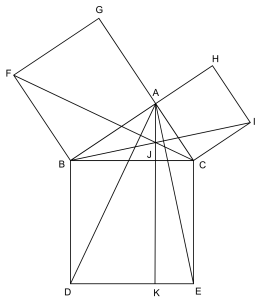
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Pythagorean theorem

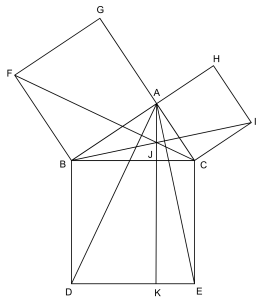
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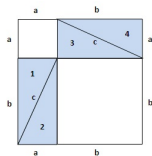
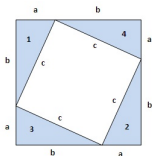
More proofs (122) available at
<http://www.cut-the-knot.org/pythagoras/index.shtml>

Pythagorean theorem

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Why should we care about?

Definition

Proof theory is the branch of mathematical logic that studies proofs as formal mathematical objects.

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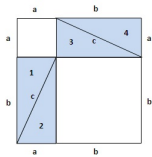
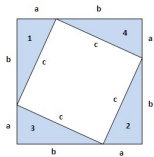
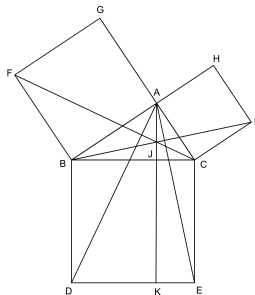
BUT

Definition

Proof theory is the branch of mathematical logic that studies proofs as formal mathematical objects.

BUT

“No entity without identity”

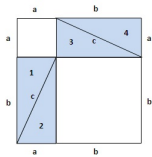
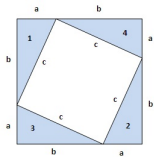
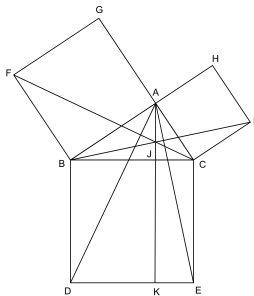


Definition

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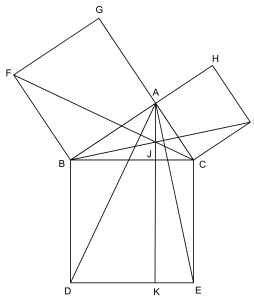
PROBLEM: no agreement on the meaning of “the same”

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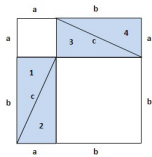
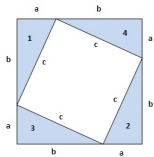
Proof theory is the branch of mathematical logic that studies proofs as formal mathematical objects.

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\approx



PROBLEM: no agreement on the meaning of “the same”

The 24th Hilbert problem¹:

Criteria of simplicity, or proof of the greatest simplicity of certain proofs. [...]

¹Found on notes discovered by Thiele in 2000

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Under a given set of conditions there can be but one simplest proof. [...]

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The 24th Hilbert problem¹ :

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Under a given set of conditions there can be but one simplest proof. [...]

Quite generally, if there are two proofs for a theorem, you must keep going until you have derived each from the other, or until it becomes quite evident what variant conditions (and aids) have been used in the two proofs. [...]

¹Found on notes discovered by Thiele in 2000

Why (also) computer scientists should care about it?

“[God] caused a tumult among them, by producing in them diverse languages, and causing that, through the multitude of those languages, they should not be able to understand one another.”
(Flavius Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews, c. 94 CE)



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$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{\frac{\overline{\overline{c}}, c}{\vdash \overline{c}, c} \text{ AX}}{\vdash \overline{c}, c, d} \text{ W} \quad \frac{\frac{\overline{\overline{d}}, d}{\vdash \overline{d}, d} \text{ AX}}{\vdash \overline{d}, c, d} \text{ W}}{\vdash (\overline{a} \wedge \overline{b}), \overline{c}, c, d} \text{ W} \quad \frac{\frac{\overline{\overline{d}}, d}{\vdash \overline{d}, d} \text{ AX}}{\vdash \overline{d}, c, d} \text{ W}}{\vdash (\overline{a} \wedge \overline{b}), \overline{d}, c, d} \text{ W} \\
 \hline
 \vdash (\overline{a} \wedge \overline{b}), (\overline{c} \wedge \overline{d}), c, d \quad \wedge \\
 \vdash (\overline{a} \wedge \overline{b}), (\overline{c} \wedge \overline{d}), c, d \quad \vee \\
 \vdash (\overline{a} \wedge \overline{b}) \vee (\overline{c} \wedge \overline{d}), c, d \quad \vee \\
 \vdash (\overline{a} \wedge \overline{b}) \vee (\overline{c} \wedge \overline{d}) \vee c, d \quad \vee \\
 \vdash (\overline{a} \wedge \overline{b}) \vee (\overline{c} \wedge \overline{d}) \vee c \vee d \quad \vee
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 (a \vee b) \wedge (c \vee d) \wedge \overline{c} \wedge \overline{d} \\
 \swarrow \quad \searrow \\
 a \vee b, c, \overline{c} \wedge \overline{d} \quad a \vee b, d, \overline{c} \wedge \overline{d} \\
 \downarrow \quad \downarrow \\
 a \vee b, \boxed{c}, \boxed{\overline{c}}, \overline{d} \quad a \vee b, \boxed{d}, \boxed{\overline{c}}, \overline{d}
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{t} \\
 = \frac{\frac{\text{t}}{\text{ai} \downarrow \overline{c} \vee c} \wedge \frac{\text{t}}{\text{ai} \downarrow \overline{d} \vee d}}{\text{s} \frac{((\overline{c} \vee c) \wedge \overline{d}) \vee d}{(\overline{c} \wedge \overline{d}) \vee d \vee c}} \\
 = \frac{\frac{\text{f}}{\text{w} \downarrow \overline{a} \wedge \overline{b}} \vee (\overline{c} \wedge \overline{d}) \vee c \vee d}{(\overline{a} \wedge \overline{b}) \vee (\overline{c} \wedge \overline{d}) \vee c \vee d}
 \end{array}$$

$$\frac{[(a \vee b) \wedge (c \vee d) \wedge \overline{c} \wedge \overline{d}]}{[a \vee b][c \vee d] \wedge \overline{c} \wedge \overline{d}} \wedge \\
 \frac{[a \vee b][c \vee d][\overline{c} \wedge \overline{d}]}{[a \vee b][\]} \text{Res}^{c \vee d}$$

“[God] caused a tumult among them, by producing in them diverse languages, and causing that, through the multitude of those languages, they should not be able to understand one another.”
(Flavius Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews, c. 94 CE)

Coq \leftrightarrow Lean

Proof equivalence as blueprint for program equivalence:

My last postdoc (SDU, Denmark)

VILLUM FONDEN



“X-IDF: Explainable Internet Data Flows”

Logic Programming:

- a proof system (set of rules) is a program
- a proof is a possible execution of the program

Proof equivalence as execution equivalence (via bisimulations)

⇒ distinguish if the data collected by two websites are the same

Two Approaches to Proof Equivalence

- **Normalization:** $\pi_1 = \pi_2 \iff \exists \hat{\pi} \text{ s.t. } \pi_1 \rightsquigarrow \hat{\pi} \text{ and } \pi_2 \rightsquigarrow \hat{\pi}$
 - Approach used in denotational semantics/categorical semantics/game semantics/Curry-Howard
 - Normalization may forget information

- **Generality:** $\pi_1 = \pi_2 \iff \llbracket \pi_1 \rrbracket = \llbracket \pi_2 \rrbracket$
 - two proofs are equivalent if we can associate both a same mathematical object (see proof nets)
 - No normalization is involved: two programs computing a same function can still be different

- **Normalization:** $\pi_1 = \pi_2 \iff \exists \hat{\pi}$ s.t. $\pi_1 \rightsquigarrow \hat{\pi}$ and $\pi_2 \rightsquigarrow \hat{\pi}$
 - Approach used in denotational semantics/categorical semantics/game semantics/Curry-Howard
 - Normalization may forget information

Not suitable for classical logic:

$$\text{cut} \frac{\begin{array}{c} \mathfrak{D}_1 \Vdash \\ \vdash \Gamma \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \mathfrak{D}_2 \Vdash \\ \vdash \Gamma \end{array}}{\begin{array}{c} \text{W} \frac{}{\vdash \Gamma, A} \quad \text{W} \frac{}{\vdash \Gamma, \bar{A}} \\ \vdash \Gamma \end{array}} \rightsquigarrow \begin{array}{c} \mathfrak{D}_1 \Vdash \\ \vdash \Gamma \end{array}$$

merge-sort and bubble-sort
cannot be the same!

- **Generality:** $\pi_1 = \pi_2 \iff \llbracket \pi_1 \rrbracket = \llbracket \pi_2 \rrbracket$
 - two proofs are equivalent if we can associate both a same mathematical object (see proof nets)
 - No normalization is involved: two programs computing a same function can still be different

Equivalence via rule permutations (Sequent Calculi)

$$\frac{\Gamma_1, \Delta_1 \quad \frac{\Gamma_2, \Delta_2, \Delta_3 \quad \Gamma_3, \Delta_4}{\Gamma_2, \Gamma_3, \Delta_2, \Sigma_2} \rho_2}{\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2, \Gamma_3, \Sigma_1, \Sigma_2} \rho_1 \equiv \frac{\Gamma_1, \Delta_1 \quad \Gamma_1, \Delta_2, \Delta_3}{\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2, \Sigma_1, \Delta_3, \rho_1} \rho_1 \quad \Gamma_3, \Delta_4}{\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2, \Gamma_3, \Sigma_1, \Sigma_2} \rho_2$$

$$\frac{\frac{\Gamma, \Delta_1, \Delta_2}{\Gamma, \Sigma_1, \Delta_2} \rho_1}{\Gamma, \Sigma_1, \Sigma_2} \rho_2 \equiv \frac{\Gamma, \Delta_1, \Delta_2}{\Gamma, \Delta_1, \Sigma_2} \rho_2 \quad \Gamma, \Sigma_1, \Sigma_2 \rho_1$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, \Delta_1, \Delta_2 \quad \Gamma_2, \Delta_3}{\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2, \Delta_1, \Sigma_2} \rho_2 \equiv \frac{\Gamma, \Delta_1, \Delta_2}{\Gamma, \Sigma_1, \Delta_2} \rho_1 \quad \Gamma_2, \Delta_3}{\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2, \Sigma_1, \Sigma_2} \rho_2$$

We consider some derivations to be the same proof:

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{\frac{\frac{\overline{a, \bar{a}} \text{ AX}}{a, \bar{a}} \quad \frac{\overline{\bar{b}, b} \text{ AX}}{\bar{b}, b}}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b} \otimes}{a \wp (\bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}), b} \wp}{a \wp (\bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}), b \otimes c, d, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}} \otimes \\
 \frac{\frac{\frac{\overline{c, \bar{c}} \text{ AX}}{c, \bar{c}} \quad \frac{\overline{\bar{d}, d} \text{ AX}}{\bar{d}, d}}{c, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}, d} \otimes}{c, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}, d} \otimes}{a \wp (\bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}), (b \otimes c) \wp d, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}} \wp
 \end{array}$$

Sequences are... sequential (no space for parallelism)

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 \end{array}$$

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$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\overline{\bar{b}}, b} \text{ AX} \quad \frac{\overline{c}, \bar{c}} \text{ AX}}{\bar{b}, b \otimes c, \bar{c}} \otimes \quad \frac{\overline{\bar{d}}, d} \text{ AX}}{\bar{b}, b \otimes c, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}, d} \otimes \quad \frac{\overline{a}, \bar{a}} \text{ AX}}{\bar{b}, (b \otimes c) \wp d, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}} \wp}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, (b \otimes c) \wp d, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}} \otimes}{a \wp (\bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}), (b \otimes c) \wp d, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}} \wp$$

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$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{\frac{\frac{\overline{a, \bar{a}} \text{ AX}}{a, \bar{a}} \otimes \frac{\frac{\overline{\bar{b}, b} \text{ AX}}{\bar{b}, b}}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b} \wp}{a \wp (\bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}), b} \otimes \frac{\frac{\frac{\overline{c, \bar{c}} \text{ AX}}{c, \bar{c}} \otimes \frac{\frac{\overline{\bar{d}, d} \text{ AX}}{\bar{d}, d}}{c, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}, d} \wp}{c, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}, d} \otimes}{a \wp (\bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}), b \otimes c, d, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}} \otimes}{a \wp (\bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}), (b \otimes c) \wp d, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}} \wp} \\
 \approx \\
 \frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\overline{\bar{b}, b} \text{ AX}}{\bar{b}, b} \otimes \frac{\frac{\overline{c, \bar{c}} \text{ AX}}{c, \bar{c}}}{\bar{b}, b \otimes c, \bar{c}} \otimes \frac{\frac{\overline{\bar{d}, d} \text{ AX}}{\bar{d}, d}}{\bar{b}, b \otimes c, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}, d} \otimes}{\bar{b}, (b \otimes c) \wp d, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}} \wp}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, (b \otimes c) \wp d, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}} \otimes}{a \wp (\bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}), (b \otimes c) \wp d, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}} \wp}
 \end{array}$$

Sequences are... sequential (no space for parallelism)

From Rule Permutations to Generality

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{\overline{a, \bar{a}} \text{ ax}}{\overline{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b}} \otimes \frac{\overline{\bar{b}, b} \text{ ax}}{\overline{c, \bar{c}}} \otimes \frac{\overline{c, \bar{c}} \text{ ax}}{\overline{c, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}, d}} \otimes \frac{\overline{\bar{d}, d} \text{ ax}}{\overline{c, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}, d}} \otimes \\
\frac{a \mathfrak{A}(\bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}), b}{a \mathfrak{A}(\bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}), b \otimes c, d, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}} \otimes \\
\frac{a \mathfrak{A}(\bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}), b \otimes c, d, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}}{a \mathfrak{A}(\bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}), (b \otimes c) \mathfrak{A} d, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}} \mathfrak{A}
\end{array}$$

≈

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{\overline{\bar{b}, b} \text{ ax}}{\overline{\bar{b}, b \otimes c, \bar{c}}} \otimes \frac{\overline{c, \bar{c}} \text{ ax}}{\overline{\bar{d}, d}} \otimes \frac{\overline{\bar{d}, d} \text{ ax}}{\overline{\bar{b}, b \otimes c, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}, d}} \otimes \\
\frac{\overline{a, \bar{a}} \text{ ax}}{\overline{a, \bar{a} \otimes b, (b \otimes c) \mathfrak{A} d, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}}} \otimes \\
\frac{a, \bar{a} \otimes b, (b \otimes c) \mathfrak{A} d, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}}{a \mathfrak{A}(\bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}), (b \otimes c) \mathfrak{A} d, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}} \mathfrak{A}
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{\overbrace{a, \bar{a}}^{\text{ax}}}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b} \otimes \frac{\overbrace{b, b}^{\text{ax}}}{c, \bar{c}} \\
\frac{\overbrace{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b}^{\text{ax}}}{a \mathfrak{A}(\bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}), b} \otimes \frac{\overbrace{c, \bar{c}}^{\text{ax}}}{c, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}, d} \otimes \frac{\overbrace{d, d}^{\text{ax}}}{c, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}, d} \\
\frac{\overbrace{a \mathfrak{A}(\bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}), b}^{\text{ax}}}{a \mathfrak{A}(\bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}), b \otimes c, d, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}} \otimes \\
\frac{\overbrace{a \mathfrak{A}(\bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}), b \otimes c, d, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}}^{\text{ax}}}{a \mathfrak{A}(\bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}), (b \otimes c) \mathfrak{A} d, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}} \otimes
\end{array}$$

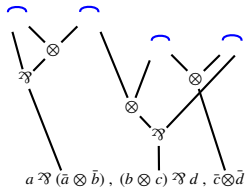
≈

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{\overbrace{b, b}^{\text{ax}}}{\bar{b}, b \otimes c, \bar{c}} \otimes \frac{\overbrace{c, \bar{c}}^{\text{ax}}}{\bar{b}, b \otimes c, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}, d} \otimes \frac{\overbrace{d, d}^{\text{ax}}}{(b \otimes c) \mathfrak{A} d, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}} \\
\frac{\overbrace{a, \bar{a}}^{\text{ax}}}{a, \bar{a} \otimes b, (b \otimes c) \mathfrak{A} d, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}} \otimes \\
\frac{\overbrace{a, \bar{a} \otimes b, (b \otimes c) \mathfrak{A} d, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}}^{\text{ax}}}{a \mathfrak{A}(\bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}), (b \otimes c) \mathfrak{A} d, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}} \otimes
\end{array}$$

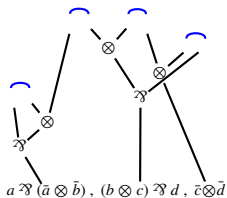
$$\begin{array}{c}
 \begin{array}{c}
 \overbrace{a, \bar{a}}^{\text{ax}} \quad \overbrace{b, \bar{b}}^{\text{ax}} \\
 \hline
 a, \bar{a} \otimes b, \bar{b} \quad \otimes \\
 \hline
 a \otimes (\bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}), b \\
 \hline
 a \otimes (\bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}), b \otimes c, d, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d} \\
 \hline
 a \otimes (\bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}), (b \otimes c) \otimes d, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}
 \end{array} \\
 \\
 \begin{array}{c}
 \overbrace{c, \bar{c}}^{\text{ax}} \quad \overbrace{d, \bar{d}}^{\text{ax}} \\
 \hline
 c, \bar{c} \otimes d, \bar{d} \quad \otimes \\
 \hline
 c \otimes \bar{c} \otimes d, \bar{d} \\
 \hline
 (b \otimes c) \otimes d, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d} \\
 \hline
 (b \otimes c) \otimes d, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}
 \end{array} \\
 \\
 \begin{array}{c}
 \overbrace{a, \bar{a}}^{\text{ax}} \\
 \hline
 a, \bar{a} \otimes b, (b \otimes c) \otimes d, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d} \\
 \hline
 a \otimes (\bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}), (b \otimes c) \otimes d, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}
 \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

 \cong

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \begin{array}{c}
 \overbrace{b, \bar{b}}^{\text{ax}} \quad \overbrace{c, \bar{c}}^{\text{ax}} \\
 \hline
 \bar{b}, b \otimes c, \bar{c} \quad \otimes \quad \overbrace{d, \bar{d}}^{\text{ax}} \\
 \hline
 \bar{b}, b \otimes c, \bar{c} \otimes d, \bar{d} \\
 \hline
 (\bar{b} \otimes b) \otimes c, \bar{c} \otimes d, \bar{d} \\
 \hline
 (b \otimes c) \otimes d, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d} \\
 \hline
 (b \otimes c) \otimes d, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}
 \end{array} \\
 \\
 \begin{array}{c}
 \overbrace{a, \bar{a}}^{\text{ax}} \\
 \hline
 a, \bar{a} \otimes b, (b \otimes c) \otimes d, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d} \\
 \hline
 a \otimes (\bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}), (b \otimes c) \otimes d, \bar{c} \otimes \bar{d}
 \end{array}
 \end{array}$$



\cong



This is an MLL-proof net [Gir87]

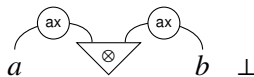
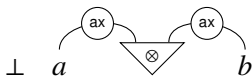
Bad news and Good news

Problem: no proof nets* for MLL with units [Hei&Hou14]

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\text{ax}}{a, \bar{a}} \perp \quad \frac{\text{ax}}{b, \bar{b}}}{a, \bar{a}, \perp \quad b, \bar{b}} \otimes}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b, \perp} \otimes}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b, \perp} \otimes \equiv \frac{\frac{\frac{\text{ax}}{a, \bar{a}} \quad \frac{\text{ax}}{a, \bar{a}}}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, a} \otimes \perp}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b, \perp} \perp}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b, \perp} \otimes \equiv \frac{\frac{\frac{\text{ax}}{b, \bar{b}} \perp}{b, \bar{b}, \perp} \otimes}{a, \bar{a} \quad b, \bar{b}, \perp} \perp}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b, \perp} \otimes$$

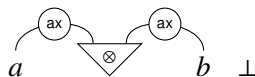
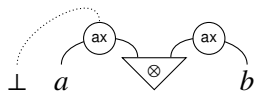
Problem: no proof nets* for MLL with units [Hei&Hou14]

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\text{ax}}{a, \bar{a}} \perp}{a, \bar{a}, \perp} \perp \quad \frac{\text{ax}}{b, \bar{b}}}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b, \perp} \otimes}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b, \perp} \otimes \quad \equiv \quad \frac{\frac{\text{ax}}{a, \bar{a}} \quad \frac{\text{ax}}{a, \bar{a}}}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, a} \otimes \quad \perp}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b, \perp} \perp \quad \equiv \quad \frac{\frac{\text{ax}}{a, \bar{a}} \quad \frac{\text{ax}}{b, \bar{b}} \perp}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, \perp} \perp}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b, \perp} \otimes$$



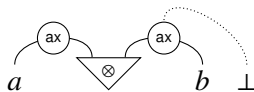
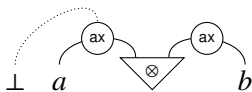
Problem: no proof nets* for MLL with units [Hei&Hou14]

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\text{ax}}{a, \bar{a}} \perp}{a, \bar{a}, \perp} \perp \quad \frac{\text{ax}}{b, \bar{b}}}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b, \perp} \otimes}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b, \perp} \otimes
 \quad \equiv \quad
 \frac{\frac{\text{ax}}{a, \bar{a}} \quad \frac{\text{ax}}{a, \bar{a}}}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, a} \otimes \quad \perp}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b, \perp} \perp
 \quad \equiv \quad
 \frac{\frac{\text{ax}}{a, \bar{a}} \quad \frac{\frac{\text{ax}}{b, \bar{b}} \perp}{b, \bar{b}, \perp}}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b, \perp} \otimes}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b, \perp} \otimes$$



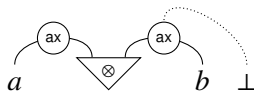
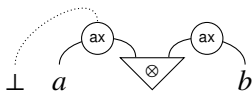
Problem: no proof nets* for MLL with units [Hei&Hou14]

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\text{ax}}{a, \bar{a}} \perp}{a, \bar{a}, \perp} \perp \quad \frac{\text{ax}}{b, \bar{b}}}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b, \perp} \otimes}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b, \perp} \otimes
 \equiv
 \frac{\frac{\frac{\text{ax}}{a, \bar{a}} \perp \quad \frac{\text{ax}}{a, \bar{a}}}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, a} \otimes}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b, \perp} \perp}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b, \perp} \otimes
 \equiv
 \frac{\frac{\frac{\text{ax}}{b, \bar{b}} \perp}{b, \bar{b}, \perp} \perp \quad \frac{\text{ax}}{a, \bar{a}}}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b, \perp} \otimes}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b, \perp} \otimes$$



Problem: no proof nets* for MLL with units [Hei&Hou14]

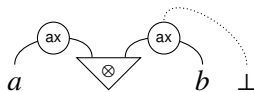
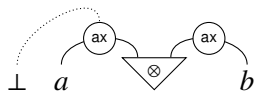
$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\text{ax}}{a, \bar{a}} \perp}{a, \bar{a}, \perp} \perp \quad \frac{\text{ax}}{b, \bar{b}}}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b, \perp} \otimes}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b, \perp} \otimes \equiv \frac{\frac{\text{ax}}{a, \bar{a}} \quad \frac{\text{ax}}{a, \bar{a}}}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, a} \otimes \perp}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b, \perp} \perp \equiv \frac{\frac{\text{ax}}{a, \bar{a}} \quad \frac{\frac{\text{ax}}{b, \bar{b}} \perp}{b, \bar{b}, \perp} \perp}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b, \perp} \otimes}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b, \perp} \otimes$$



* proof equivalence is P-space

Problem: no proof nets* for MLL with units [Hei&Hou14]

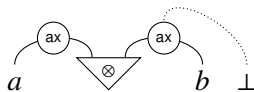
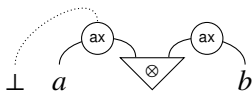
$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\text{ax}}{a, \bar{a}} \perp}{a, \bar{a}, \perp} \perp \quad \frac{\text{ax}}{b, \bar{b}}}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b, \perp} \otimes}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b, \perp} \otimes \equiv \frac{\frac{\text{ax}}{a, \bar{a}} \quad \frac{\text{ax}}{a, \bar{a}}}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, a} \otimes \perp}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b, \perp} \perp \equiv \frac{\frac{\text{ax}}{a, \bar{a}} \quad \frac{\frac{\text{ax}}{b, \bar{b}} \perp}{b, \bar{b}, \perp}}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b, \perp} \otimes}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b, \perp} \otimes$$



* proof equivalence is P-space BUT translation and check are P-time

Problem: no proof nets* for MLL with units [Hei&Hou14]

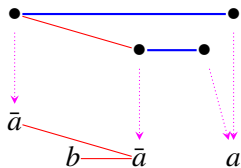
$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\text{ax}}{a, \bar{a}} \perp}{a, \bar{a}, \perp} \perp \quad \frac{\text{ax}}{b, \bar{b}}}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b, \perp} \otimes}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b, \perp} \otimes \equiv \frac{\frac{\text{ax}}{a, \bar{a}} \quad \frac{\text{ax}}{a, \bar{a}}}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, a} \otimes \perp}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b, \perp} \perp \equiv \frac{\frac{\text{ax}}{a, \bar{a}} \quad \frac{\frac{\text{ax}}{b, \bar{b}} \perp}{b, \bar{b}, \perp}}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b, \perp} \otimes}{a, \bar{a} \otimes \bar{b}, b, \perp} \otimes$$



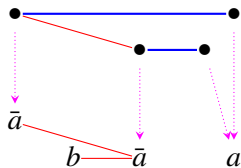
* proof equivalence is P-space BUT translation and check are P-time

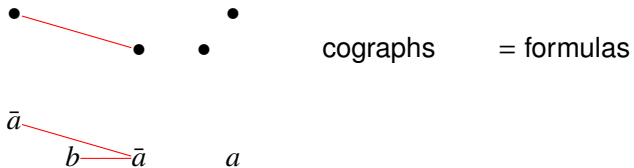
This is not a limit of THIS syntax, but it depends on the logic itself!

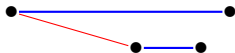
Combinatorial Proofs for various logics



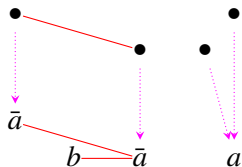
Combinatorial Proofs and Proof Equivalence



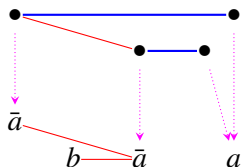




RB-cographs = linear proofs



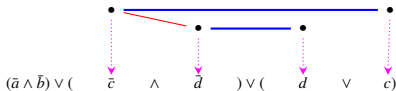
skew fibration = resource management



- Rule-free representation of proofs
- Canonical representation for (cut-free) proofs
- Topological characterization of “graphs representing proofs”
- Proof System (Cook-Reckhow)
- Polynomial translations

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\text{ax}}{\vdash \bar{c}, c} \text{W}}{\vdash \bar{c}, c, d} \text{W}}{\vdash (\bar{a} \wedge \bar{b}), \bar{c}, c, d} \text{W} \quad \frac{\frac{\frac{\text{ax}}{\vdash \bar{d}, d} \text{W}}{\vdash \bar{d}, c, d} \text{W}}{\vdash (\bar{a} \wedge \bar{b}), \bar{d}, c, d} \text{W}}{\vdash (\bar{a} \wedge \bar{b}), (\bar{c} \wedge \bar{d}), c, d} \wedge}{\vdash (\bar{a} \wedge \bar{b}), (\bar{c} \wedge \bar{d}), c, d} \vee}{\vdash (\bar{a} \wedge \bar{b}) \vee (\bar{c} \wedge \bar{d}), c, d} \vee}{\vdash (\bar{a} \wedge \bar{b}) \vee (\bar{c} \wedge \bar{d}) \vee c, d} \vee}{\vdash (\bar{a} \wedge \bar{b}) \vee (\bar{c} \wedge \bar{d}) \vee c \vee d} \vee$$

$$= \frac{\frac{\frac{\text{t}}{\text{ai} \downarrow \frac{\text{t}}{\bar{c} \vee c} \text{t}} \wedge \text{ai} \downarrow \frac{\text{t}}{\bar{d} \vee d} \text{t}}{\text{s} \frac{((\bar{c} \vee c) \wedge \bar{d}) \vee d}{(\bar{c} \wedge \bar{d}) \vee d \vee c} \text{s}}{\text{w} \downarrow \frac{\text{f}}{\bar{a} \wedge \bar{b}} \vee (\bar{c} \wedge \bar{d}) \vee c \vee d} \text{t}}{\text{t}} \frac{\text{f}}{\bar{a} \wedge \bar{b}} \vee (\bar{c} \wedge \bar{d}) \vee c \vee d}{(\bar{a} \wedge \bar{b}) \vee (\bar{c} \wedge \bar{d}) \vee c \vee d}$$



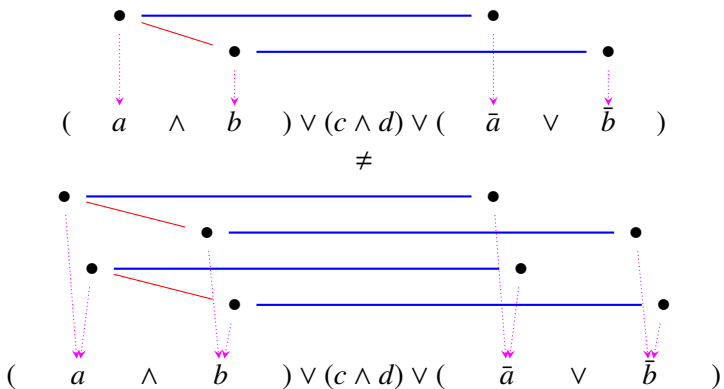
$$\frac{(a \vee b) \wedge (c \vee d) \wedge \bar{c} \wedge \bar{d}}{a \vee b, c, \bar{c} \wedge \bar{d} \quad a \vee b, d, \bar{c} \wedge \bar{d}} \wedge$$

$$\frac{a \vee b, c, \bar{c} \wedge \bar{d}}{a \vee b, \boxed{c}, \bar{c}, \bar{d}} \quad \frac{a \vee b, d, \bar{c} \wedge \bar{d}}{a \vee b, \boxed{d}, \bar{c}, \bar{d}}$$

$$\frac{\frac{[(a \vee b) \wedge (c \vee d) \wedge \bar{c} \wedge \bar{d}]}{[a \vee b][(c \vee d) \wedge \bar{c} \wedge \bar{d}]} \wedge}{\frac{[a \vee b][c \vee d][\bar{c} \wedge \bar{d}]}{[a \vee b][]} \text{Res}^{c \vee d}}$$

- sequent calculus [Hughes 2006]
- deep inference [Straßburger 2017]
- tableaux and resolution [Acclavio & Straßburger 2018]

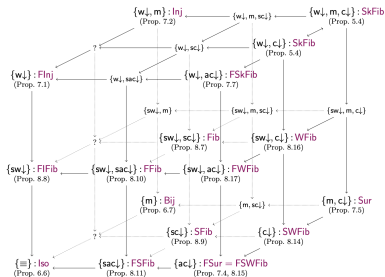
Combinatorial proofs do not identify all proofs!



Following the generality principle:

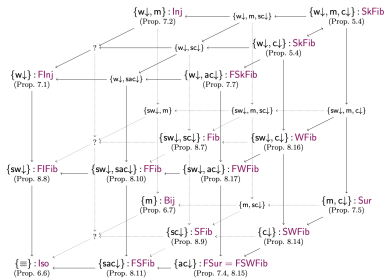
Two proofs are the same
iff
they can be represented by the same combinatorial proof

- Relevant Logic = LK without weakening
- Affine Logic = LK without contraction



*figure from Ralph and Straßburger paper

- Relevant Logic = LK without weakening
- Affine Logic = LK without contraction



*figure from Ralph and Straßburger paper

- Entailment Logic \simeq Relevant + non associative connectives

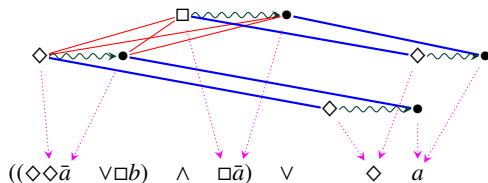
²Ralph & Straßburger Tableaux2019; Acclavio & Straßburger Wollic2019

Modal Formulas

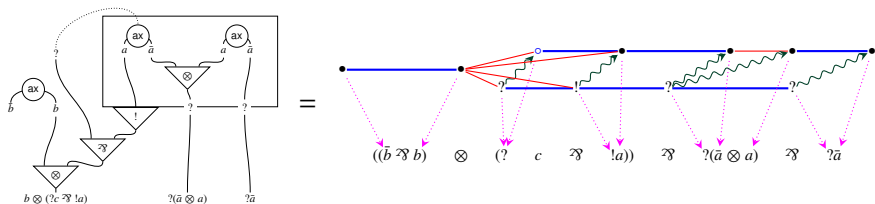
$$A, B := a \mid \bar{a} \mid A \wedge B \mid A \vee B \mid \Box A \mid \Diamond A$$

Sequent Calculus Rules

$$\text{LK} \cup \left\{ \text{K} \frac{A, \Gamma}{\Box A, \Diamond \Gamma}, \text{D} \frac{A, \Gamma}{\Diamond A, \Diamond \Gamma}, \text{T}_\downarrow \frac{C[A]}{C[\Diamond A]}, \text{4}_\downarrow \frac{C[\Diamond \Diamond A]}{C[\Diamond A]} \right\}$$



Multiplicative Linear Logic with Exponentials⁴

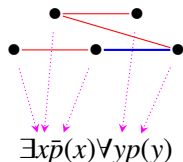


⁴Acclavio TLLA2020

Formulas

$$\begin{aligned}
 t &:= c \mid f(t_1, \dots, t_n) \\
 a &:= p(t_1, \dots, t_n) \mid \bar{p}(t_1, \dots, t_n) \\
 A, B &:= a \mid A \wedge B \mid A \vee B \mid \forall x A \mid \exists x A
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Rules LK} \cup \left\{ \frac{\Gamma, A[x/t]}{\Gamma, \exists x.A}, \quad \frac{\Gamma, A}{\Gamma, \forall x.A} \quad x \text{ not free in } \Gamma \right\}$$



⁵Hughes 2019; Hughes & Straßburger & Wu LICS2021

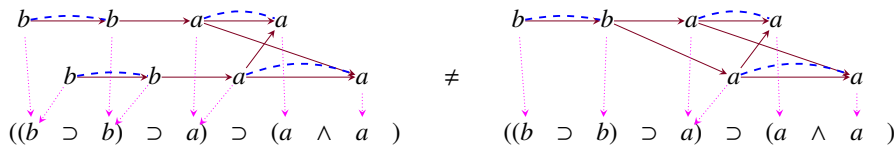
Formulas

$$A, B := a \mid A \wedge B \mid A \supset B$$

Sequent Calculus Rules

$$\frac{}{a \vdash a} \text{ax} \quad \frac{\Gamma, B \vdash A}{\Gamma \vdash B \supset A} \supset^R \quad \frac{\Gamma, B, C \vdash A}{\Gamma, B \wedge C \vdash A} \wedge^L \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash A \quad \Delta \vdash B}{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash A \wedge B} \wedge^R \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash A \quad \Delta, B \vdash C}{\Gamma, \Delta, A \supset B \vdash C} \supset^L$$

$$\frac{}{\vdash 1} 1 \quad \frac{\Gamma, B, B \vdash A}{\Gamma, B \vdash A} C \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash A}{\Gamma, B \vdash A} W$$


⁶Heijltjes, Hughes & Straßburger LICS2019

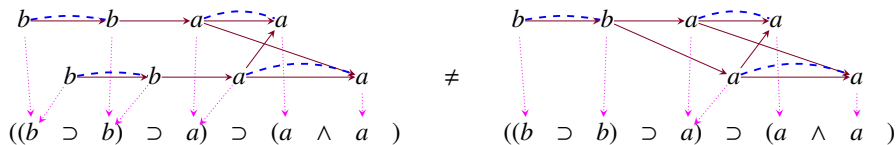
Formulas

$$A, B := a \mid A \wedge B \mid A \supset B$$

Sequent Calculus Rules

$$\frac{}{a \vdash a} \text{ax} \quad \frac{\Gamma, B \vdash A}{\Gamma \vdash B \supset A} \supset^R \quad \frac{\Gamma, B, C \vdash A}{\Gamma, B \wedge C \vdash A} \wedge^L \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash A \quad \Delta \vdash B}{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash A \wedge B} \wedge^R \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash A \quad \Delta, B \vdash C}{\Gamma, \Delta, A \supset B \vdash C} \supset^L$$

$$\frac{}{\vdash 1} 1 \quad \frac{\Gamma, B, B \vdash A}{\Gamma, B \vdash A} C \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash A}{\Gamma, B \vdash A} W$$



Note: both CPs above are mapped to $\lambda f^{(b \supset b) \supset a}. \langle f(\lambda x^a . x), f(\lambda y^a . y) \rangle$

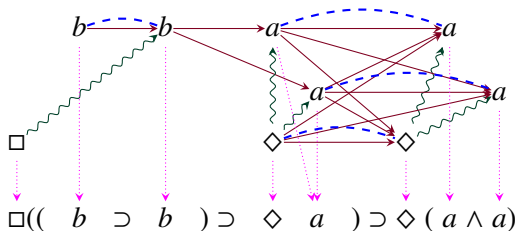
⁶Heijltjes, Hughes & Straßburger LICS2019

Modal Formulas

$$A, B := a \mid A \wedge B \mid A \supset B \mid \Box A \mid \Diamond A \mid 1$$

Additional Sequent Calculus Rules

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash A}{\Box \Gamma \vdash \Box A} K_{\Box} \quad \frac{B, \Gamma \vdash A}{\Diamond B, \Box \Gamma \vdash \Diamond A} K_{\Diamond} \quad \frac{B, \Gamma \vdash A}{\Box \Gamma \vdash \Diamond A} D$$



Combinatorial proofs helped in designing game semantics⁷ for CK

⁷Acclavio & Catta & Straßburger 2021

⁸Acclavio & Straßburger 2022

Comparing Proof Equivalences

(Case Study: Constructive Modal Logic)

Independent rules	\equiv
Resource Management	$\frac{\frac{\frac{\Gamma, A, A, B, B \vdash C}{\Gamma, A, B \vdash C} 2 \times C}{\Gamma, A \wedge B \vdash C} \wedge^L}{\Gamma, A, A \vdash B} C \equiv_e \frac{\frac{\frac{\Gamma, A, A, B, B \vdash C}{\Gamma, A \wedge B \vdash C} 2 \times \wedge^L}{\Gamma, A \wedge B \vdash C} C}{\Gamma, A, A \vdash B} C$ $\frac{\frac{\frac{\Gamma \vdash C}{\Gamma, A, B \vdash C} 2 \times W}{\Gamma, A \wedge B \vdash C} \wedge^L}{\Gamma, A, A \vdash B} W \equiv_e \frac{\Gamma \vdash C}{\Gamma, A \wedge B \vdash C} W$ $\frac{\frac{\frac{\Gamma, A, A \vdash B}{\Gamma, A \vdash B} C}{\Gamma, A, A \vdash B} W}{\Gamma, A, A \vdash B} W \equiv_e \Gamma, A, A \vdash B$ $\frac{\frac{\frac{\Gamma, A \vdash B}{\Gamma, A, A \vdash B} W}{\Gamma, A \vdash B} C}{\Gamma, A \vdash B} W \equiv_e \Gamma, A \vdash B$
Excising and Unfolding	$\frac{\frac{\frac{\Delta \vdash C}{\Gamma, \Delta, A \supset B \vdash C} W}{\Gamma, \Delta, A \supset B \vdash C} \supset^L}{\Gamma, \Delta, A \supset B \vdash C} W \equiv_e \frac{\Delta \vdash C}{\Gamma, \Delta, A \supset B \vdash C} W$ $\frac{\frac{\frac{\Delta, B, B \vdash C}{\Gamma, A \supset B \vdash C} C}{\Gamma, A \supset B \vdash C} \supset^L}{\Gamma, A \supset B \vdash C} C \equiv_u \frac{\frac{\frac{\Gamma \vdash A \quad \Delta, B, B \vdash C}{\Gamma, \Delta, A \supset B, B \vdash C} \supset^L}{\Gamma, \Delta, A \supset B, A \supset B \vdash C} \supset^L}{\Gamma, \Delta, A \supset B \vdash C} C$
Structural vs K	$\frac{\frac{\frac{\Gamma \vdash A}{\Gamma, B \vdash A} W}{\square \Gamma, \square B \vdash \square A} K_{\square}}{\square \Gamma, \square B, \square C \vdash \square A} K_{\square} \equiv_{\text{oc}} \frac{\frac{\frac{\Gamma \vdash A}{\square \Gamma \vdash \square A} K_{\square}}{\square \Gamma, \square B \vdash \square A} W}{\square \Gamma, \square B, \square C \vdash \square A} W$ $\frac{\frac{\frac{\Gamma, B, B \vdash A}{\Gamma, B \vdash A} C}{\square \Gamma, \square B \vdash \square A} K_{\square}}{\square \Gamma, \square B, \square C \vdash \square A} C \equiv_{\text{oc}} \frac{\frac{\frac{\Gamma, B, B \vdash A}{\square \Gamma, \square B, \square B \vdash \square A} K_{\square}}{\square \Gamma, \square B \vdash \square A} C}{\square \Gamma, \square B, \square C \vdash \square A} C$ $\frac{\frac{\frac{\Gamma, B \vdash A}{\Gamma, B, C \vdash A} W}{\square \Gamma, \diamond B, \square C \vdash \diamond A} K_{\diamond}}{\square \Gamma, \diamond B, \square C \vdash \diamond A} K_{\diamond} \equiv_{\text{oc}} \frac{\frac{\frac{\Gamma, B \vdash A}{\square \Gamma, \diamond B \vdash \diamond A} K_{\diamond}}{\square \Gamma, \diamond B, \square C \vdash \diamond A} W}{\square \Gamma, \diamond B, \square C \vdash \diamond A} W$ $\frac{\frac{\frac{\Gamma, B, C, C \vdash A}{\Gamma, B, C \vdash A} C}{\square \Gamma, \diamond B, \square C \vdash \diamond A} K_{\square}}{\square \Gamma, \diamond B, \square C \vdash \diamond A} C \equiv_{\text{oc}} \frac{\frac{\frac{\Gamma, B, C, C \vdash A}{\square \Gamma, \diamond B, \square C \vdash \diamond A} K_{\square}}{\square \Gamma, \diamond B, \square C \vdash \diamond A} C}{\square \Gamma, \diamond B, \square C \vdash \diamond A} C$
	$\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\Gamma \vdash A}{\Gamma, B \vdash A} W}{\square \Gamma, \diamond B \vdash \diamond A} K_{\diamond}}{\square \Gamma, \diamond B, \diamond C \vdash \diamond A} W}{\square \Gamma, \diamond B, \diamond C \vdash \diamond A} W \equiv_{\text{ow}} \frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\Gamma \vdash A}{\Gamma, C \vdash A} W}{\square \Gamma, \diamond C \vdash \diamond A} K_{\diamond}}{\square \Gamma, \diamond B, \diamond C \vdash \diamond A} W}{\square \Gamma, \diamond B, \diamond C \vdash \diamond A} W$

$$\equiv_{\text{CP}} := (\equiv \cup \equiv_c \cup \equiv_e) \quad \equiv_{\lambda} := (\equiv_{\text{CP}} \cup \equiv_u) \quad \equiv_{\text{WIS}} := (\equiv_{\lambda} \cup \equiv_{\text{oc}}) \quad \equiv_{\diamond W} := (\equiv_{\text{WIS}} \cup \equiv_{\text{oc}})$$

No possible proof systems capturing the rule permutations involving K

Related works
Work in Progress
Future works

Related works:

- Compositionality for Combinatorial proofs
 - Classical [Hug06,Str17,Omi&Str22]
 - Linear [Acc20]
 - Intuitionistic [Hei&Hug&Str22]
- Combinatorial Proofs and Game Semantics
 - Intuitionistic [Hei&Hug&Str19]
 - Constructive [Acc&Cat&Str21]

What next?

- Combinatorial Proofs as proof certificates
(Theorem provers interoperability)
- Combinatorial Proofs for Higher-Order logics
- Combinatorial Proofs with Fixed-points

Thanks

Thanks

Questions?