

Partial proof terms in the study of idealized proof search

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LJT
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NJT
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Focusing vs intercalation
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Final
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Overview

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- Theoretical study of proof search
- The use of proof terms in proof search

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- Proof search in sequent calculus: **focusing**
- Proof search in natural deduction: **intercalation**

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- Proof search as rewriting of partial proof terms
- Test the approach with different proof formats: sequent calculus and natural deduction
- Proof search in sequent calculus: **focusing**
- Proof search in natural deduction: **intercalation**
- A theorem in IPS: focusing and intercalation are isomorphic

LJT

LJT

Sequents $\sigma ::= \Gamma \vdash A$ $\tau ::= \Gamma | A \vdash p$

Inference rules

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : A \vdash B}{\Gamma \vdash A \supset B} \text{RI} \qquad \frac{\Gamma, x : A | A \vdash p}{\Gamma, x : A \vdash p} \text{CTR}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash A \quad \Gamma | B \vdash p}{\Gamma | A \supset B \vdash p} \text{LI} \qquad \frac{}{\Gamma | p \vdash p} \text{AX}$$

LJT with proof terms

Proof terms and proof lists

$$\begin{aligned}
 t, u &::= \lambda x^A. t \mid x \hat{l} \\
 l &::= \star \mid u :: l
 \end{aligned}$$

Sequents $\Gamma \vdash t : A$ $\Gamma \mid A \vdash l : p$

Inference rules

$$\frac{}{\Gamma \mid p \vdash \star : p} \text{AX}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : A \mid A \vdash l : p}{\Gamma, x : A \vdash x \hat{l} : p} \text{CTR}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : A \vdash t : B}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x^A. t : A \supset B} \text{RI}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash u : A \quad \Gamma \mid B \vdash l : p}{\Gamma \mid A \supset B \vdash u :: l : p} \text{LI}$$

LJT: proof search (focusing)

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : A \vdash B}{\Gamma \vdash A \supset B} \text{RI} \qquad \frac{\Gamma, x : A | A \vdash p}{\Gamma, x : A \vdash p} \text{CTR}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash A \quad \Gamma | B \vdash p}{\Gamma | A \supset B \vdash p} \text{LI} \qquad \frac{}{\Gamma | p \vdash p} \text{AX}$$

LJT: proof search (focusing)

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : A \vdash B}{\Gamma \vdash A \supset B} RI \qquad \frac{\Gamma, x : A | A \vdash p}{\Gamma, x : A \vdash p} CTR$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash A \quad \Gamma | B \vdash p}{\Gamma | A \supset B \vdash p} LI \qquad \frac{}{\Gamma | p \vdash p} AX$$

- 1 Eagerly invert *RI* to decompose implications in the RHS
- 2 When the RHS becomes atomic, apply *CTR* to decide a formula in the LHS to focus on
- 3 As long as the focus is an implication, apply *LI*, keeping the focus on the succedent formula, and launching sub-problems
- 4 When the focus becomes atomic, compare with the atom in the RHS; if equal, finish with *AX*, otherwise return to 2.

From LJT to LJT_{∂}

- **Partial derivations:** incomplete derivations found in the proof search process

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- **Formal sequents** $\underline{\sigma} ::= (\underline{\Gamma} \vdash A) \quad \underline{\tau} ::= (\underline{\Gamma} | A \vdash p)$

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- **Partial proof terms**: proof terms with occurrences of formal sequents, they represent partial derivations
- Reduction relation on partial proof terms expressing proof search, such that **total terms are normal forms**
- Aim: **proof search as normalization**

$$\underbrace{LJT \text{ derives } \Gamma \vdash t : A}_{\text{proof search succeeds}} \text{ iff } \underbrace{(\underline{\Gamma \vdash A}) \twoheadrightarrow t}_{\substack{\text{the formal sequent} \\ \text{normalizes}}}$$

LJT_{∂} : partial proof terms

(Partial proof terms)	$t, u ::= \lambda x^A. t \mid x \hat{\cdot} l \mid \underline{\sigma}$
(Partial proof lists)	$l ::= \star \mid u :: l \mid \underline{\mathcal{I}}$
(Formal term sequents)	$\underline{\sigma} ::= \frac{}{\Gamma \vdash A}$
(Formal list sequents)	$\underline{\mathcal{I}} ::= \frac{}{\Gamma \mid A \vdash p}$

LJT_{∂} : partial sequents

Partial sequents $\Xi \Vdash t : \sigma$ $\Xi \Vdash l : \tau$ (proof state)

- Ξ list of formal sequents (proof obligations)
- t (resp. l) partial proof term (resp. list) (record of the search)
- σ (resp. τ) (goal sequent)

LJT_∂: partial derivations

Inference rules

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \overline{[\sigma] \Vdash \underline{\sigma} : \sigma} \quad \partial \qquad \overline{[\tau] \Vdash \underline{\tau} : \tau} \quad \partial \\
 \\
 \overline{\epsilon \Vdash \star : (\Gamma | p \vdash p)} \quad AX \qquad \frac{\Xi \Vdash l : (\Gamma, x : A | A \vdash p)}{\Xi \Vdash x \hat{l} : (\Gamma, x : A \vdash p)} \quad CTR \\
 \\
 \frac{\Xi \Vdash t : (\Gamma, x : A \vdash B)}{\Xi \Vdash \lambda x^A. t : (\Gamma \vdash A \supset B)} \quad RI \\
 \\
 \frac{\Xi_1 \Vdash u : (\Gamma \vdash A) \quad \Xi_2 \Vdash l : (\Gamma | B \vdash p)}{\Xi_1 @ \Xi_2 \Vdash u :: l : (\Gamma | A \supset B \vdash p)} \quad LI
 \end{array}$$

LJT_{∂} : reduction rules

$$\begin{array}{l}
 (IR) \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash A \supset B}{\Gamma \vdash A \supset B} \rightarrow \lambda x^A. (\Gamma, x : A \vdash B) \\
 (SFL) \quad \frac{\Gamma, x : A \vdash p}{\Gamma, x : A \vdash p} \rightarrow x^{\wedge}(\Gamma, x : A | A \vdash p) \\
 (KFL) \quad \frac{\Gamma | A \supset B \vdash C}{\Gamma | A \supset B \vdash C} \rightarrow (\Gamma \vdash A) :: (\Gamma | B \vdash C) \\
 (FFL) \quad \frac{\Gamma | p \vdash p}{\Gamma | p \vdash p} \rightarrow \star
 \end{array}$$

Example

$$\vdash (p \supset p) \supset p \supset p$$

Below let $\Gamma := \{f : p \supset p, x : p\}$

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$$\rightarrow_{IR}^2 \frac{\vdash (p \supset p) \supset p \supset p}{\lambda f^{p \supset p} \lambda x^p. (\Gamma \vdash p)}$$

Example

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$$\begin{array}{l} \rightarrow_{IR}^2 \quad \frac{\vdash (p \supset p) \supset p \supset p}{\lambda f^{p \supset p} \lambda x^p. (\Gamma \vdash p)} \\ \rightarrow_{SFL} \quad \lambda f^{p \supset p} \lambda x^p. \underline{f(\Gamma | p \supset p \vdash p)} \end{array}$$

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 \end{array}$$

Cf $\lambda f^{p \supset p} \lambda x^p. fx \ (\equiv \bar{1})$

Results

Proposition (Conservativity)

- 1 LJT derives $\Gamma \vdash t : A$ iff LJT_{∂} derives $\epsilon \Vdash t : (\Gamma \vdash A)$.
- 2 LJT derives $\Gamma | A \vdash l : p$ iff LJT_{∂} derives $\epsilon \Vdash l : (\Gamma | A \vdash p)$.

Lemma (Record of search)

- 1 If LJT_{∂} derives $\Xi \Vdash t : \sigma$ then $\underline{\sigma} \rightarrow t$.
- 2 If LJT_{∂} derives $\Xi \Vdash l : \tau$ then $\underline{\tau} \rightarrow t$.

Proposition (Subject reduction)

- 1 If $\Xi \Vdash t : \sigma$ and $t \rightarrow t'$, then $\Xi' \Vdash t' : \sigma$, for some Ξ' .
- 2 If $\Xi \Vdash l : \tau$ and $l \rightarrow l'$, then $\Xi' \Vdash l' : \tau$, for some Ξ' .

Main result

Theorem (Proof search as normalization)

- ① *LJT* derives $\Gamma \vdash t : A$ iff $\underline{\Gamma \vdash A} \twoheadrightarrow t$.
- ② *LJT* derives $\Gamma | A \vdash l : B$ iff $\underline{\Gamma | A \vdash p} \twoheadrightarrow l$.

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Proof.

LJT derives $\Gamma \vdash t : A$

Main result

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Proof.

LJT derives $\Gamma \vdash t : A$
 $\Rightarrow LJT_{\partial}$ derives $\epsilon \Vdash t : (\Gamma \vdash A)$ (by conservativity)

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- ② LJT derives $\Gamma | A \vdash l : B$ iff $\underline{\Gamma | A \vdash p} \twoheadrightarrow l$.

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LJT derives $\Gamma \vdash t : A$
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LJT derives $\Gamma \vdash t : A$
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 $\Rightarrow \underline{\Gamma \vdash A} \twoheadrightarrow t$ (by record of search)

$[\underline{\Gamma \vdash A}] \Vdash \underline{\Gamma \vdash A} : (\Gamma \vdash A)$ (by rule ∂)

Main result

Theorem (Proof search as normalization)

- ① LJT derives $\Gamma \vdash t : A$ iff $\underline{\Gamma \vdash A} \rightarrow t$.
- ② LJT derives $\Gamma | A \vdash l : B$ iff $\underline{\Gamma | A \vdash p} \rightarrow l$.

Proof.

- $$\begin{aligned}
 & LJT \text{ derives } \Gamma \vdash t : A \\
 \Rightarrow & LJT_{\partial} \text{ derives } \epsilon \Vdash t : (\Gamma \vdash A) \quad (\text{by conservativity}) \\
 \Rightarrow & \underline{\Gamma \vdash A} \rightarrow t \quad (\text{by record of search}) \\
 \\
 & \underline{[\Gamma \vdash A]} \Vdash \underline{\Gamma \vdash A} : (\Gamma \vdash A) \quad (\text{by rule } \partial) \\
 \Rightarrow & \Xi \Vdash t : (\Gamma \vdash A) \quad (\text{by subject reduction})
 \end{aligned}$$

Main result

Theorem (Proof search as normalization)

- ① LJT derives $\Gamma \vdash t : A$ iff $\underline{\Gamma \vdash A} \rightarrow t$.
- ② LJT derives $\Gamma | A \vdash l : B$ iff $\underline{\Gamma | A \vdash p} \rightarrow l$.

Proof.

- LJT derives $\Gamma \vdash t : A$
 $\Rightarrow LJT_{\partial}$ derives $\epsilon \Vdash t : (\Gamma \vdash A)$ (by conservativity)
 $\Rightarrow \underline{\Gamma \vdash A} \rightarrow t$ (by record of search)
- $[\underline{\Gamma \vdash A}] \Vdash \underline{\Gamma \vdash A} : (\Gamma \vdash A)$ (by rule ∂)
 $\Rightarrow \Xi \Vdash t : (\Gamma \vdash A)$ (by subject reduction)
 $\Rightarrow \epsilon \Vdash t : (\Gamma \vdash A)$ (since t is total)

Main result

Theorem (Proof search as normalization)

- ① *LJT* derives $\Gamma \vdash t : A$ iff $\underline{\Gamma \vdash A} \rightarrow t$.
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Proof.

- LJT derives $\Gamma \vdash t : A$
 $\Rightarrow LJT_{\partial}$ derives $\epsilon \Vdash t : (\Gamma \vdash A)$ (by conservativity)
 $\Rightarrow \underline{\Gamma \vdash A} \rightarrow t$ (by record of search)
- $[\underline{\Gamma \vdash A}] \Vdash \underline{\Gamma \vdash A} : (\Gamma \vdash A)$ (by rule ∂)
 $\Rightarrow \Xi \Vdash t : (\Gamma \vdash A)$ (by subject reduction)
 $\Rightarrow \epsilon \Vdash t : (\Gamma \vdash A)$ (since t is total)
 $\Rightarrow LJT$ derives $\Gamma \vdash t : A$ (by conservativity)



NJT

NJT

Sequents $\sigma ::= \Gamma \vdash A$ $\rho ::= \Gamma \triangleright A$

Inference rules

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : A \vdash B}{\Gamma \vdash A \supset B} \quad I \qquad \frac{}{\Gamma, x : A \triangleright A} A$$
$$\frac{\Gamma \triangleright A \supset B \quad \Gamma \vdash A}{\Gamma \triangleright B} E \qquad \frac{\Gamma \triangleright p}{\Gamma \vdash p} C$$

NJT with proof terms

Proof terms and head terms

$$\begin{aligned}
 M, N &::= \lambda x^A.M \mid \text{app}(H) \\
 H &::= x \mid HN
 \end{aligned}$$

Sequents $\Gamma \vdash M : A$ and $\Gamma \triangleright H : A$

Inference rules

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{}{\Gamma, x : A \triangleright x : A} A \qquad \frac{\Gamma \triangleright H : p}{\Gamma \vdash \text{app}(H) : p} C \\
 \\
 \frac{\Gamma, x : A \vdash M : B}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x^A.M : A \supset B} I \qquad \frac{\Gamma \triangleright H : A \supset B \quad \Gamma \vdash N : A}{\Gamma \triangleright HN : B} E
 \end{array}$$

NJT: proof search (intercalation)

Inference rules

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : A \vdash B}{\Gamma \vdash A \supset B} \quad I \qquad \frac{}{\Gamma, x : A \triangleright A} A$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \triangleright A \supset B \quad \Gamma \vdash A}{\Gamma \triangleright B} E \qquad \frac{\Gamma \triangleright p}{\Gamma \vdash p} C$$

- ① Implications in the RHS are decomposed by the bottom-up application of rule I
- ② When an atom p is computed, choose an assumption (rule A) and start the top-down phase
- ③ Decompose implications by top-down application of rule E , launching sub-problems
- ④ If the atom computed top-down is p , then finish with rule C , else return to 2.

NJT_{∂} : partial proof terms

(Partial proof terms)

$$M, N ::= \lambda x^A. M \mid \text{app}(H)$$

$$\mid \underline{\sigma} \mid \text{app}(H, \underline{\rho}, \underline{p})$$

(Partial head terms)

$$H ::= x \mid HN$$

(Formal term sequents)

$$\underline{\sigma} ::= \underline{\Gamma} \vdash A$$

(Formal head sequents)

$$\underline{\rho} ::= \underline{\Gamma} \triangleright H : A$$

NJT_∂: partial derivations

Sequents $\Xi \Vdash M : \sigma$ $\Xi \Vdash H : \rho$

Inference rules

$$\frac{}{[\underline{\sigma}] \Vdash \underline{\sigma} : \sigma} \partial \quad \frac{\Xi \Vdash H : \rho \quad \rho = (\Gamma \triangleright A)}{\Xi \textcircled{\text{[}} \underline{\rho}] \Vdash \text{app}(H, \underline{\rho}, \rho) : (\Gamma \vdash \rho)} \partial$$

$$\frac{}{\epsilon \Vdash x : (\Gamma, x : A \triangleright A)} A \quad \frac{\Xi \Vdash H : (\Gamma \triangleright \rho)}{\Xi \Vdash \text{app}(H) : (\Gamma \vdash \rho)} C$$

$$\frac{\Xi \Vdash M : (\Gamma, x : A \vdash B)}{\Xi \Vdash \lambda x^A. M : (\Gamma \vdash A \supset B)} I$$

$$\frac{\Xi_1 \Vdash H : (\Gamma \triangleright A \supset B) \quad \Xi_2 \Vdash N : (\Gamma \vdash A)}{\Xi_1 \textcircled{\text{[}} \Xi_2 \Vdash HN : (\Gamma \triangleright B)} E$$

NJT_{∂} : reduction rules

$$\begin{array}{l}
 (IR) \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash A \supset B}{\lambda x^A. (\Gamma, x : A \vdash B)} \rightarrow \lambda x^A. (\Gamma, x : A \vdash B) \\
 (SFD) \quad \frac{\Gamma, x : A \vdash p}{\text{app}(x, \Gamma, x : A \triangleright A, p)} \rightarrow \text{app}(x, \Gamma, x : A \triangleright A, p) \\
 (KFD) \quad \frac{\text{app}(H, \Gamma \triangleright A \supset B, p)}{\text{app}(H, \Gamma \triangleright p, p)} \rightarrow \text{app}(H(\Gamma \vdash A), \Gamma \triangleright B, p) \\
 (FFD) \quad \text{app}(H, \Gamma \triangleright p, p) \rightarrow \text{app}(H)
 \end{array}$$

Focusing vs intercalation

$LJT \cong NJT$

- Proof terms of LJT and NJT are in bijective correspondence
- $x\hat{(}u_1 :: (u_2 :: \star))$ corresponds to $app((xN_1)N_2)$
- Let $\Theta : LJT \rightarrow NJT$ be this bijection with inverse Ψ
- These maps are sound, they lift to a sound bijection of proofs

$LJT \cong NJT$

- Proof terms of LJT and NJT are in bijective correspondence
- $x\hat{\lambda}(u_1 :: (u_2 :: \star))$ corresponds to $app((xN_1)N_2)$
- Let $\Theta : LJT \rightarrow NJT$ be this bijection with inverse Ψ
- These maps are sound, they lift to a sound bijection of proofs

 $LJT_{\partial} \cong NJT_{\partial}$

- The bijections Θ and Ψ extend to partial proof terms
- By soundness they lift to sound bijection of partial proofs
- New: they establish an isomorphism between the rewriting relations

Translations $\Theta : LJT_{\partial} \rightarrow NJT_{\partial}$

$$\Theta(t) = M$$

$$\Theta(\lambda x.t) = \lambda x.\Theta t$$

$$\Theta(x \hat{=} l) = \Theta(x, l)$$

$$\Theta(\underline{\sigma}) = \underline{\sigma}$$

$$\Theta(H, l) = M$$

$$\Theta(H, u :: l) = \Theta(H(\Theta u), l)$$

$$\Theta(H, \star) = \text{app}(H)$$

$$\Theta(H, \underline{\Gamma | A \vdash p}) = \text{app}(H, \underline{\Gamma \triangleright A}, p)$$

Translations $\Psi : NJT_{\partial} \rightarrow LJT_{\partial}$

$$\Psi(M) = t$$

$$\Psi(\lambda x.M) = \lambda x.\Psi M$$

$$\Psi(\text{app}(H)) = \Psi(H, \star)$$

$$\Psi(\underline{\sigma}) = \underline{\sigma}$$

$$\Psi(\text{app}(H, \underline{\Gamma \triangleright A}, \rho)) = \Psi(H, \underline{\Gamma | A \vdash \rho})$$

$$\Psi(H, l) = t$$

$$\Psi(HN, l) = \Psi(H, (\Psi N) :: l)$$

$$\Psi(x, l) = x \hat{l}$$

Soundness

Soundness of Θ

$$\frac{\Xi \Vdash t : \sigma}{\Xi' \Vdash \Theta t : \sigma} \qquad \frac{\Xi_1 \Vdash H : (\Gamma \triangleright A) \quad \Xi_2 \Vdash I : (\Gamma | A \vdash p)}{\Xi_1 @ \Xi_2' \Vdash \Theta(H, I) : (\Gamma \vdash p)}$$

Soundness of Ψ

$$\frac{\Xi \Vdash M : \sigma}{\Xi' \Vdash \Psi M : \sigma} \qquad \frac{\Xi_1 \Vdash H : (\Gamma \triangleright A) \quad \Xi_2 \Vdash I : (\Gamma | A \vdash p)}{\Xi_1' @ \Xi_2 \Vdash \Psi(H, I) : (\Gamma \vdash p)}$$

$$LJT_{\partial} \cong NJT_{\partial}$$

Theorem

- 1 $\Theta\Psi M = M$ and $\Psi\Theta t = t$.
- 2 $t \rightarrow t'$ in LJT_{∂} iff $\Theta t \rightarrow \Theta t'$ in NJT_{∂} .
- 3 $M \rightarrow M'$ in NJT_{∂} iff $\Psi M \rightarrow \Psi M'$ in LJT_{∂} .

① Contributions

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- Modeling of proof search at a level of abstraction that still belongs to proof theory
- *NJT* as a reformulation of Sieg's intercalation calculus
- Folklore (?) theorem: focusing equivalent to intercalation

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2 Related work

- Type theories with meta-variables and explicit substitutions (e. g. Muñoz 2001, Nanevski *et al* 2008)
- Open proofs and open terms (Geuvers-Jojoagov 2002)
- Specification in rewriting logic (Olate *et al* 2023)

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3 Ongoing work

- Extend the results beyond the toy case studies
- Approach less idealized proof search

THANK YOU