# Theory and Practice of Uniform Interpolation 

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## Overview

Uniform interpolation

Practice

Theory

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## Practice

Theory

## Interpolation

Interpolation is the problem that asks, given a deduction

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- What are $A, B, C$ ? Which symbols? What is $\vdash$ ?

We will look at propositional logics, and take symbols to mean propositional variables.

## The classical case

Suppose that

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A(p, q) \vdash B(p, r)
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So is

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## Uniform interpolants

Note that each of the interpolants

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These uniform interpolants encode propositional quantifiers:

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The simple encoding works because classical logic is locally finite: If we fix a finite set of variables, then there are only finitely many equivalence classes of formulas with variables from this set.

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Still, we have:
Theorem (Pitts 1992)
There exists a computable encoding of propositional quantifiers in intuitionistic propositional logic.

## Detailed statement of Pitts' Theorem

For every propositional formula $\varphi(\bar{p}, q)$, one can compute $q$-free formulas

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E_{q}(\varphi) \quad \text { and } \quad A_{q}(\varphi)
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where $\varphi \vdash \psi$ means intuitionistic entailment.

## Aside: Why Pitts proved his theorem

"Some ten or so years ago I tried to prove the negation of [the theorem] in connection with (...) the question of whether any Heyting algebra can appear as the algebra of truth-values of an elementary topos. I established that the free Heyting algebra on a countable infinity of generators does not so appear provided [the theorem] does not hold. It seemed likely to me (and to others to whom I posed the question) that a [formula] $\varphi$ could be found for which $A_{p} \varphi$ does not exist (although I could not find one!), thus settling the original question about toposes and Heyting algebras in the negative. That [the theorem] is true is quite a surprise to me. (...) It remains an open question whether every Heyting algebra can be the Lindenbaum algebra of a theory in intuitionistic higher order logic."

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\varphi[\perp / q] \equiv \neg \neg p, \quad \varphi[\top / q] \equiv r
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In this example, it turns out that $E_{q}(\varphi)$ can be computed as

$$
\neg p \rightarrow r
$$

which is equivalent to $\varphi[\neg p / q]$.

## A finite basis for interpolants

Given a formula $\varphi(\bar{p}, q)$, we have

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The idea is to replace it by

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where $\mathcal{E}_{q}(\varphi)$ is a finite basis for the set of consequences of $\varphi$. The computation of $A_{q}(\varphi)$ is similar, using a disjunction of $\mathcal{A}_{q}(\varphi)$. Pitts' definition recurses on the shape of the formula $A$, using already computed sets $\mathcal{E}_{q}\left(\varphi^{\prime}\right)$ and $\mathcal{A}_{q}\left(\varphi^{\prime}\right)$ for smaller formulas $\varphi^{\prime}$.

## Computing intuitionistic propositional quantifiers

Pitts constructs quantifiers, and proves correctness, by induction on proofs of $A \vdash B$.

The idea is that $E_{p}(A)$ represents 'all possible consequences of $A$ in a finite terminating proof search' (lemhoff 2019, v.d.Giessen 2023).

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- What proof calculus to use?


## A terminating sequent calculus

Gentzen calculus LJ has contraction, and the rule:

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\frac{\left\ulcorner, \varphi_{1} \rightarrow \varphi_{2} \vdash \varphi_{1} \quad\left\ulcorner, \varphi_{2} \vdash \psi\right.\right.}{\Gamma, \varphi_{1} \rightarrow \varphi_{2} \vdash \psi}
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Classical solution: G4ip uses multisets as sequents, and replaces the $\rightarrow$-left rule by a finer case analysis on $\varphi_{1}$.

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(Originally discovered by Vorob'ev 1952. Hudelmaier 1988 rediscovered it. Dyckhoff 1992 popularized it as 'LJT'. Troelsta \& Schwichtenberg 1996 introduced the name 'G4ip'.)

## A glimpse at Pitts' table

|  | $\Delta$ matches: | $\mathcal{E}(\Delta)$ contains: |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $E_{1}$ | $\Delta^{\prime} \bullet q$ | $E\left(\Delta^{\prime}\right) \wedge q$ |
| $E_{4}$ | $\Delta^{\prime} \bullet(q \rightarrow \delta)$ | $q \rightarrow E\left(\Delta^{\prime} \bullet \delta\right)$ |
| $E_{5}$ | $\Delta^{\prime \prime} \bullet p \bullet(p \rightarrow \delta)$ | $E\left(\Delta^{\prime \prime} \bullet p \bullet \delta\right)$ |
| $E_{6}$ | $\Delta^{\prime} \bullet\left(\delta_{1} \wedge \delta_{2}\right) \rightarrow \delta_{3}$ | $E\left(\Delta^{\prime} \bullet\left(\delta_{1} \rightarrow\left(\delta_{2} \rightarrow \delta_{3}\right)\right)\right)$ |
| $E_{8}$ | $\Delta^{\prime} \bullet\left(\left(\delta_{1} \rightarrow \delta_{2}\right) \rightarrow \delta_{3}\right)$ | $\left(E\left(\Delta^{\prime} \bullet\left(\delta_{2} \rightarrow \delta_{3}\right)\right) \rightarrow A\left(\Delta^{\prime} \bullet\left(\delta_{2} \rightarrow \delta_{3}\right), \delta_{1} \rightarrow \delta_{2}\right)\right) \rightarrow E\left(\Delta^{\prime} \bullet \delta_{3}\right)$ |
|  | $\Delta, \phi$ matches: | $\mathcal{A}(\Delta, \phi)$ contains: |
| $A_{3}$ | $\Delta^{\prime} \bullet \delta_{1} \vee \delta_{2}, \phi$ | $\left(E\left(\Delta^{\prime} \bullet \delta_{1}\right) \rightarrow A\left(\Delta^{\prime} \bullet \delta_{1}, \phi\right)\right) \wedge\left(E\left(\Delta^{\prime} \bullet \delta_{2}\right) \rightarrow A\left(\Delta^{\prime} \bullet \delta_{2}, \phi\right)\right)$ |
| $A_{7}$ | $\Delta^{\prime} \bullet\left(\delta_{1} \vee \delta_{2}\right) \rightarrow \delta_{3}, \phi$ | $A\left(\Delta^{\prime} \bullet\left(\delta_{1} \rightarrow \delta_{3}\right) \bullet\left(\delta_{2} \rightarrow \delta_{3}\right), \phi\right)$ |
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| $A_{11}$ | $\Delta, \phi_{1} \wedge \phi_{2}$ | $A\left(\Delta, \phi_{1}\right) \wedge A\left(\Delta, \phi_{2}\right)$ |
| $A_{12}$ | $\Delta, \phi_{1} \vee \phi_{2}$ | $A\left(\Delta, \phi_{1}\right) \vee A\left(\Delta, \phi_{2}\right)$ |
| $A_{13}$ | $\Delta, \phi_{1} \rightarrow \phi_{2}$ | $E\left(\Delta \bullet \phi_{1}, \phi_{2}\right) \rightarrow A\left(\Delta \bullet \phi_{1}, \phi_{2}\right)$ |

Table 1. Excerpt of Pitts' definitions of $\mathcal{E}(\Delta)$ and $\mathcal{A}(\Delta, \phi)$, with respect to a fixed variable $p$.

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## Uniform interpolation

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## Theory

## Pitts verified

In joint work with H. Férée (CPP 2023), we formalized Pitts' construction and correctness proof in Coq, yielding a correct-by-construction program that computes $E_{p}$ and $A_{p}$.
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- We obtain a usable program (with optimizations to be done).
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- Recently, with Férée, v.d. Giessen and Shillito (IJCAR 2024): Extension of formalization to $\mathbf{K}, \mathbf{G L}$, and $\mathbf{i S L}$. Open problems:
- How to make it (even) more modular?
- How to tackle difficult cases (iGL)?


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## The algebraic approach

Intuitionistic propositional logic is algebraically interpreted by Heyting algebras: structures ( $H, \vee, \wedge, \perp, \top, \rightarrow$ ) satisfying the axioms of a bounded distributive lattice and, for all $a, b, c \in H$,

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A Heyting category (aka logos) is a coherent category in which all change of base functors have upper and lower adjoints.

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A further consequence of this is:
Theorem (Pitts; Ghilardi \& Zawadowski)
The opposite of the category $\mathbf{H A}_{\mathrm{fp}}$ of finitely presented Heyting algebras is a Heyting category.

## A proof via sheaves

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G\&Z notice that $\Phi_{H}$ can also be seen as a contravariant sheaf on the category $\mathbf{P o s}_{\text {fin }}$ of finite posets, giving a functor

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and characterize the image of $\Phi$ via a combinatorial condition $(*)$. They prove Pitts' Theorem by showing that the direct image ( $\exists$ ) and universal image $(\forall)$ operations on sheaves preserve $(*)$.

## Quantifier elimination from uniform interpolation

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Further direction: Model completions for other varieties of logic-related algebras (LTL, CTL, ... , see Ghilardi \& vG. 2016-...)

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of homomorphisms to the two-element lattice (Stone 1937).

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Esakia (1974) derived from this a dual equivalence between Heyting algebras and certain ordered compact spaces, now called Esakia spaces. The finite part is Kripke semantics.

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M. Gehrke \& SvG: Topological Duality for Distributive Lattices: Theory and Applications, Cambridge University Press, 369pp (2024).

## Esakia spaces

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The main Esakia space of interest here is the canonical model, $X(\bar{p})$, over a finite set of variables $\bar{p}$ :

- points are prime theories in variables $\bar{p}$;
- order is inclusion of theories;
- topology is generated by $\widehat{\varphi}:=\{x \in X(\bar{p}) \mid \varphi \in x\}$.


## Esakia spaces

An Esakia space is a compact ordered space that is totally order disconnected and such that $\uparrow U$ is open for every open set $U$.

The main Esakia space of interest here is the canonical model, $X(\bar{p})$, over a finite set of variables $\bar{p}$ :

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- order is inclusion of theories;
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A co-finitely presented Esakia space is one that is isomorphic to a clopen up-set of $X(\bar{p})$, for some finite $\bar{p}$.

## An open mapping theorem

We give an open mapping theorem for Esakia spaces:
Theorem (vG. \& Reggio 2018)
Every continuous monotone bounded map between co-finitely presented Esakia spaces is open.

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By Esakia duality, this implies the algebraic Pitts' Theorem:
Corollary
Every homomorphism between finitely presented Heyting algebras has a lower and upper adjoint.

## Definable bisimulation quantifiers

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A $\bar{p}$-model is a poset $(X, \leq)$, with a function $v: \bar{p} \rightarrow \mathrm{Up}(X, \leq)$. By induction, any formula $\varphi$ gets a semantics $\llbracket \varphi \rrbracket_{X} \in \mathrm{Up}(X, \leq)$.

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If $E_{p} \varphi$ and $A_{p} \varphi$ are the uniform interpolants for $\varphi$, then
$\llbracket E_{p} \varphi \rrbracket_{X}=\left\{x \in X \mid \exists X^{\prime}, x^{\prime}\right.$ with $\left(X^{\prime}, x^{\prime}\right) \sim_{p}(X, x)$ and $\left.x^{\prime} \in \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket_{X^{\prime}}\right\}$,
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Thus, it suffices to show that the sets on the right are definable.

## Topological proof

To establish that the bisimulation quantifiers are definable, one can use a layered version of bisimulation. In our work with Reggio, we view this as a metric on the canonical model $X(p, \bar{q})$ :

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\left.d(x, y) \stackrel{\text { def }}{=} 2^{-\min \{|\varphi| \rightarrow: ~ e x a c t l y ~ o n e ~ o f ~} x \text { and } y \text { is in } \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket\right\} .
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## Lemma

For every $n \in \mathbb{N}$, there exists $R(n) \gg n$ such that
$B\left(\pi(x), 2^{-R(n)}\right) \subseteq \pi\left[B\left(x, 2^{-n}\right)\right]$.
The number $R(n)$ gives a computable bound on the $\rightarrow$-depth of uniform interpolants of formulas of $\rightarrow$-depth $n$.

## Outlook

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- Better understanding of connection between proof theory vs. semantic proofs.
- Studying \& improving complexity (theoretical \& practical).
- Uniform interpolation for other logics; in particular, iGL.
- For logics without (uniform) interpolation, an interesting computational problem: compute (uniform) interpolants when they exist, if not, provide a witness that they cannot exist.


## Thank you!

