#### Theory and Practice of Uniform Interpolation

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Overview

Uniform interpolation

#### Practice

Theory

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Practice

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### Interpolation

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 $A \vdash B$ 

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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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So is

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### Uniform interpolants

Note that each of the interpolants

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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

$$E_q(\varphi)$$
 and  $A_q(\varphi)$ ,

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$$\text{if } \varphi \vdash \psi \text{ then } \varphi \vdash \mathcal{E}_{\boldsymbol{q}} \varphi \vdash \psi ,$$

and

if 
$$\psi \vdash \varphi$$
 then  $\psi \vdash A_q \varphi \vdash \varphi$ ,

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  $A_{\mu}\varphi$ 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."

(Pitts, 1992) 7/25

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In this example, it turns out that  $E_q(\varphi)$  can be computed as

$$eg p 
ightarrow r$$
,

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

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

$$arphi(ar{p},oldsymbol{q})dashigcolomigcolomigcolomigcolowig$$

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The idea is to replace it by

$$E_q(arphi) \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} \bigwedge \mathcal{E}_q(arphi)$$

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

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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  $\mathcal{E}_q(\varphi')$  and  $\mathcal{A}_q(\varphi')$  for smaller formulas  $\varphi'$ . Computing intuitionistic propositional quantifiers

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

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► What proof calculus to use?

# A terminating sequent calculus

Gentzen calculus LJ has contraction, and the rule:

$$\frac{ \mbox{ } \Gamma, \varphi_1 \rightarrow \varphi_2 \vdash \varphi_1 \mbox{ } \Gamma, \varphi_2 \vdash \psi }{ \mbox{ } \Gamma, \varphi_1 \rightarrow \varphi_2 \vdash \psi }$$

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which make proof search not obviously terminating. Classical solution: **G4ip** uses multisets as sequents, and replaces the  $\rightarrow$ -left rule by a finer case analysis on  $\varphi_1$ .

Replace  $\rightarrow\mbox{-left}$  rule by the following four rules:

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$$\begin{array}{c} \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{A}_1 \rightarrow (\mathcal{A}_2 \rightarrow \mathcal{B}) \vdash \mathcal{C} \\ \\ \mathcal{F}, (\mathcal{A}_1 \wedge \mathcal{A}_2) \rightarrow \mathcal{B} \vdash \mathcal{C} \end{array}$$

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$$\frac{\mathcal{F}, A_1 \to (A_2 \to B) \vdash C}{\mathcal{F}, (A_1 \land A_2) \to B \vdash C}$$

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#### Theorem

The sequent calculus **G4ip** is terminating, sound and complete for intuitionistic propositional logic.

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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:
$E_1$	$\Delta' \bullet q$	$E(\Delta') \wedge q$
$E_4$	$\Delta' \bullet (q \to \delta)$	$q \to E(\Delta' \bullet \delta)$
$E_5$	$\Delta^{\prime\prime} \bullet p \bullet (p \to \delta)$	$E(\Delta'' \bullet p \bullet \delta)$
$E_6$	$\Delta' \bullet (\delta_1 \wedge \delta_2) \to \delta_3$	$E(\Delta' \bullet (\delta_1 \to (\delta_2 \to \delta_3)))$
$E_8$	$\Delta' \bullet ((\delta_1 \to \delta_2) \to \delta_3)$	$(E(\Delta' \bullet (\delta_2 \to \delta_3)) \to A(\Delta' \bullet (\delta_2 \to \delta_3), \delta_1 \to \delta_2)) \to E(\Delta' \bullet \delta_3)$
	$\Delta, \phi$ matches:	$\mathcal{A}(\Delta, \phi)$ contains:
$A_3$	$\Delta' \bullet \delta_1 \lor \delta_2, \phi$	$(E(\Delta' \bullet \delta_1) \to A(\Delta' \bullet \delta_1, \phi)) \land (E(\Delta' \bullet \delta_2) \to A(\Delta' \bullet \delta_2, \phi))$
$A_7$	$\Delta' \bullet (\delta_1 \lor \delta_2) \to \delta_3, \phi$	$A(\Delta' \bullet (\delta_1 \to \delta_3) \bullet (\delta_2 \to \delta_3), \phi)$
$A_8$	$\Delta' \bullet ((\delta_1 \to \delta_2) \to \delta_3), \phi$	$(E(\Delta' \bullet (\delta_2 \to \delta_3)) \to A(\Delta' \bullet (\delta_2 \to \delta_3), (\delta_1 \to \delta_2))) \land A(\Delta' \bullet \delta_3, \phi)$
A <sub>11</sub>	$\Delta,\phi_1\wedge\phi_2$	$A(\Delta,\phi_1)\wedge A(\Delta,\phi_2)$
$A_{12}$	$\Delta, \phi_1 \lor \phi_2$	$A(\Delta,\phi_1) \lor A(\Delta,\phi_2)$
A <sub>13</sub>	$\Delta, \phi_1 \rightarrow \phi_2$	$E(\Delta \bullet \phi_1, \phi_2) \to A(\Delta \bullet \phi_1, \phi_2)$

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

Overview

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  $A_p$ .

https://hferee.github.io/UIML/

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- Recently, with Férée, v.d. Giessen and Shillito (IJCAR 2024): Extension of formalization to K, GL, and iSL.
   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  $(H, \lor, \land, \bot, \top, \rightarrow)$  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.

# Pitts' Theorem, semantically

Pitts' theorem can be reformulated using Heyting algebras as:

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A further consequence of this is:

#### Theorem (Pitts; Ghilardi & Zawadowski)

The opposite of the category  $HA_{\rm fp}$  of finitely presented Heyting algebras is a Heyting category.

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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 (\*).

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One may identify the algebraic conditions needed for this, giving a modular approach to model completions (Ghilardi & Zawadowski 2002; vG., Tsinakis, Metcalfe 2017; Metcalfe & Reggio 2023).

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

## Pitts via duality

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### **DL**(*H*, 2)

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).



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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  $\widehat{\varphi} := \{x \in X(\overline{p}) \mid \varphi \in x\}.$

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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

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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.

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$$\llbracket E_p \varphi \rrbracket_X = \{ x \in X \mid \exists X', x' \text{ with } (X', x') \sim_p (X, x) \text{ and } x' \in \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket_{X'} \},$$

$$\llbracket A_p \varphi \rrbracket_X = \{ x \in X \mid \forall X', x' \text{ with } (X', x') \sim_p (X, x), \ x' \in \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket_{X'} \}.$$

First main idea in all semantic proofs (see also Visser, 1996):

uniform interpolation  $\leftrightarrow$  definability of bisimulation quantifiers.

A  $\bar{p}$ -model is a poset  $(X, \leq)$ , with a function  $v : \bar{p} \to \mathrm{Up}(X, \leq)$ . By induction, any formula  $\varphi$  gets a semantics  $[\![\varphi]\!]_X \in \mathrm{Up}(X, \leq)$ . If  $E_p \varphi$  and  $A_p \varphi$  are the uniform interpolants for  $\varphi$ , then

$$\llbracket E_p \varphi \rrbracket_X = \{ x \in X \mid \exists X', x' \text{ with } (X', x') \sim_p (X, x) \text{ and } x' \in \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket_{X'} \},$$

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Here,  $\sim_p$  is the relation of bisimilarity up to p. 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  $X(p, \bar{q})$ :

$$d(x,y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} 2^{-\min\{|\varphi|_{\rightarrow} : \text{ exactly one of } x \text{ and } y \text{ is in } \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket\}}.$$

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#### Lemma

For every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , there exists  $R(n) \gg n$  such that  $B(\pi(x), 2^{-R(n)}) \subseteq \pi[B(x, 2^{-n})].$ 

The number R(n) gives a computable bound on the  $\rightarrow$ -depth of uniform interpolants of formulas of  $\rightarrow$ -depth n.

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- Better understanding of connection between proof theory vs. semantic proofs.
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- ▶ 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!