

Deskolemization: From Tableaux to Proof Certificates

CHoCoLa Meeting

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VeriDis Team

University of Lorraine

CNRS, Inria, LORIA



✓ Interactive Theorem Proving (ITP)

- Proof assistants
- Guided search
- Proof certificate
- Nice logos



...



⚙️ Automated Theorem Proving (ATP)

- Click-and-prove software
- Autonomous search
- Statement or proof-like trace
- Less nice logos but at least they smile



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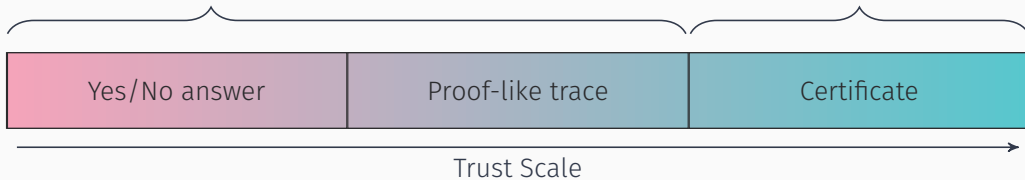


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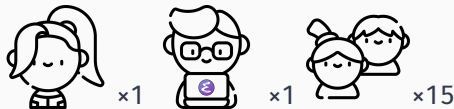
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i Automated Reasoning in FOL

- First-order classical logic
- Analytic tableaux

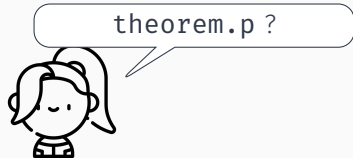


i The Goéland Tool

- A concurrent theorem prover
- 40 000 lines of code (Go)
- 345L of interns' tears
- Equality reasoning, deduction modulo theory, second-class polymorphism¹, ...

¹Thank you, Johann!

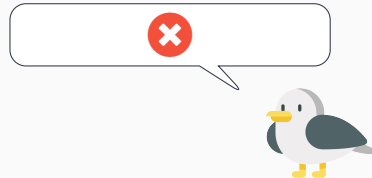
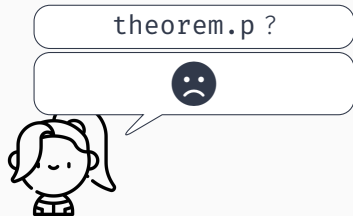






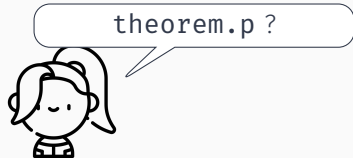
theorem.p ?





Some debugging later...

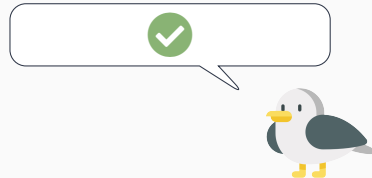
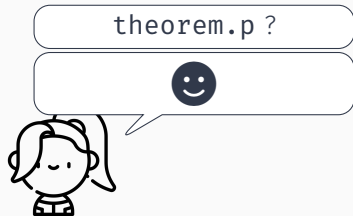


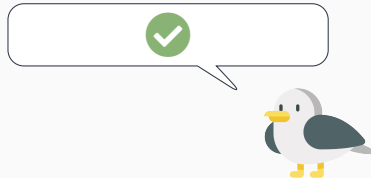
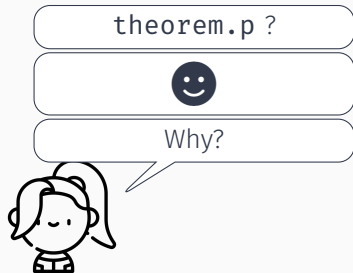


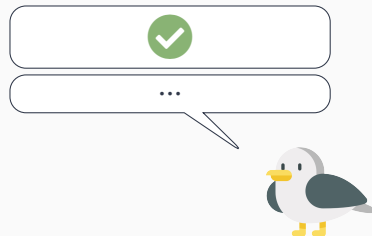
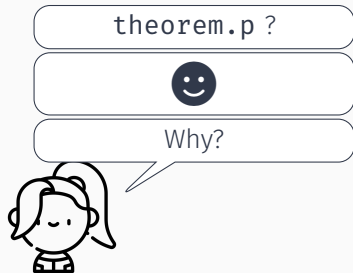


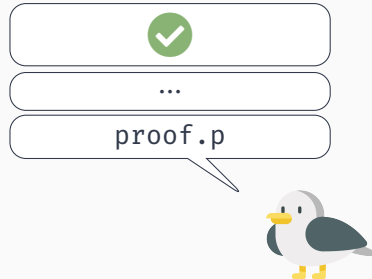
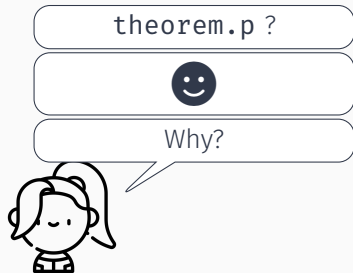
theorem.p ?












```
fof(f4, assumption, [(a => b), b] --> [((a => b) => (~a | b)), (~a | b), ~a, b],
  inference(hyp, [status(thm), 1, 3], [])).

fof(f3, assumption, [(a => b), ~a] --> [((a => b) => (~a | b)), (~a | b), ~a, b],
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fof(f2, plain, [(a => b)] --> [((a => b) => (~a | b)), (~a | b), ~a, b],
  inference(magic, [status(thm), 0], [f3, f4])).

fof(f1, plain, [(a => b)] --> [((a => b) => (~a | b)), (~a | b)],
  inference(rightOr, [status(thm), 1], [f2])).

fof(f0, plain, [] --> [((a => b) => (~a | b))],
  inference(rightImp, [status(thm), 0], [f1])).

fof(my_conjecture, conjecture, ((a => b) => (~a | b))).
```

```

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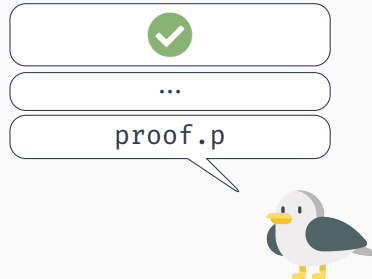
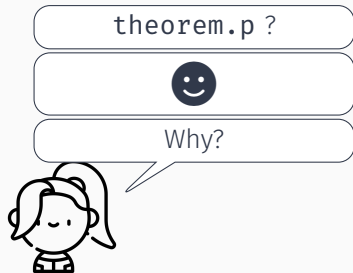
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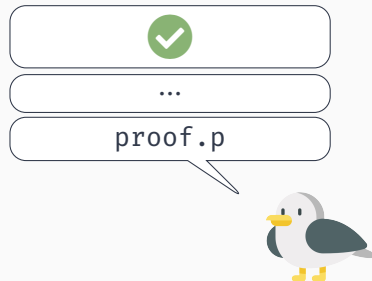
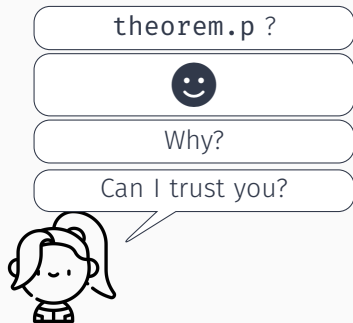
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fof(my_conjecture, conjecture, ((a => b) => (~a | b))).

```





Trust Issues

theorem.p ?



Why?

Can I trust you?

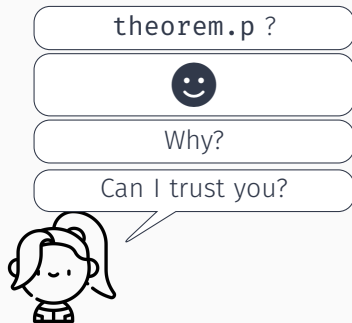


...

proof.p

Obviously not!





“The only purpose of tableaux is their ability to produce proofs”

— Gilles DOWEK

Tableaux

Sequents (GS3)

Tableaux

- Original formula

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Tableaux

- Original formula
- Set of inference rules

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Tableaux and Sequents

i Tableaux

- Original formula
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1-1 mapping

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Tableaux and Sequents

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- Original formula
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 \frac{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))}{\neg(D(X) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))} \gamma_{\neg\exists} \\
 \frac{\neg(D(X) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))}{D(X), \neg(\forall y D(y))} \alpha_{\neg\Rightarrow} \\
 \frac{D(X), \neg(\forall y D(y))}{\neg D(f(X))} \delta_{\neg\forall} \\
 \frac{\neg D(f(X))}{\neg(D(X_2) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))} \gamma_{\neg\exists} \\
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 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{\dots, \neg D(c'), D(c'), \neg(\forall y D(y)) \vdash}{\dots, \neg(D(c') \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \vdash} \text{ax} \\
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 \end{array}$$

From Sequents to Rocq

Require Export Classical.

Lemma goeland_notnot : forall P : Prop,

 P → (¬ P → False).

Proof. tauto. Qed.

Lemma goeland_nottrue :

 (¬ True → False).

Proof. tauto. Qed.

Lemma goeland_and : forall P Q : Prop,

 (P → (Q → False)) → (P ∧ Q → False).

Proof. tauto. Qed.

Lemma goeland_or : forall P Q : Prop,

 (P → False) → (Q → False) → (P ∨ Q → False).

Proof. tauto. Qed.

Lemma goeland_imply : forall P Q : Prop,

 (¬ P → False) → (Q → False) → ((P → Q) → False).

Proof. tauto. Qed.

Lemma goeland_equiv : forall P Q : Prop,

 (¬ P → ¬ Q → False) → (P → Q → False) → ((P ↔ Q) → False).

Proof. tauto. Qed.

Lemma goeland_notand : forall P Q : Prop,

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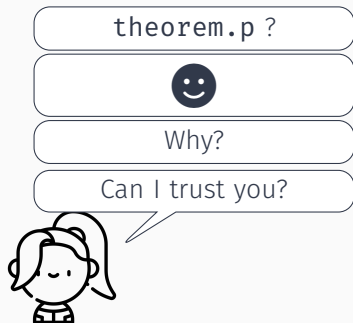


Tableaux proof

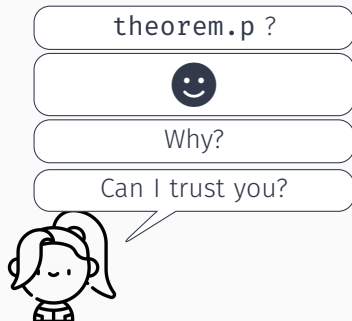
Sequent proof



I Trust You!



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²Even if some people in this room can prove **False** in Rocq in 10 lines.

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theorem.p ?



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Can I trust you?

Thank you Rocq!



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proof.p

Obviously not!

But you can trust me!²



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Unfortunately, life is not that easy...

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Drinker's Principle

$$\exists x. (D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))$$

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\rightsquigarrow

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\dots, D(c), \neg(\forall y D(y)), \neg D(c) \vdash}{\dots, D(c), \neg(\forall y D(y)) \vdash} \text{ax}}{\dots, \neg(D(c) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \vdash} \neg_{\forall}}{\dots, \neg(D(c) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \vdash} \neg_{\Rightarrow} \quad \frac{\dots, \neg(D(c) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \vdash}{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \vdash} \neg_{\exists}$$

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Further Investigation Required

Good news:

- This is a correct tableaux proof 😊

Bad news:

- This cannot be turned into a sequent proof with our current implementation 😞

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- Original formula
- Set of inference rules
- Proof search

1-1 mapping

Sequents (GS3)

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Rules

- Closure rules (\odot)
- Extension rules (α, β)
- Universal rules (γ)
- Existential rules (δ)

Tableaux vs Sequents

i Rules

- Closure rules (\odot)
- Extension rules (α, β)
- Universal rules (γ)
- Existential rules (δ)

$$\frac{\frac{\neg P(a), \forall x. P(x)}{P(X)} \gamma_{\forall}}{\sigma = \{X \mapsto a\}} \odot_{\sigma}$$

(a) Tableaux proof

i Tableaux

- Free variables

i Sequents

- Final value

$$\frac{\frac{}{\neg P(a), \forall x. P(x), P(a) \vdash} \text{ax}}{\neg P(a), \forall x. P(x) \vdash} \forall$$

(b) Sequent proof

i Rules

- Closure rules (\odot)
- Extension rules (α, β)
- Universal rules (γ)
- Existential rules (δ)

i Tableaux

- Fresh Skolem symbol parametrized by the free variables of the branch

i Sequents

- Fresh Skolem symbol

$$\frac{Q(Y, Z), \exists x. P(x)}{P(\text{sko}(Y, Z))} \delta_{\exists}$$

(a) Tableaux proof

$$\frac{Q(a, b), P(c) \vdash}{Q(a, b), \exists x. P(x) \vdash} \exists$$

(b) Sequent proof

Flavors of Skolemization

- Outer (δ): the free variables of the branch
- Inner (δ^+): the free variables of the formula
- Pre-inner (δ^+): δ^+ + reuse Skolem symbols
- δ^* , δ^{**} , ...
- Shorter proofs and faster proof search!

$$\frac{Q(Y, Z), \exists x. P(x, Y)}{P(\text{sko}(Y, Z), Y)} \delta_{\exists}$$

(a) Outer Skolemization

$$\frac{Q(Y, Z), \exists x. P(x, Y)}{P(\text{sko}(Y), Y)} \delta^+_{\exists}$$

(b) Inner Skolemization

What's Wrong with my Proof?

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))}{\neg(D(X) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))} \gamma_{\neg\exists} \\
 \frac{\neg(D(X) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))}{D(X), \neg(\forall y D(y))} \alpha_{\neg\Rightarrow} \\
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\rightsquigarrow

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{\dots, D(c), \neg(\forall y D(y)), \neg D(c) \vdash}{\dots, D(c), \neg(\forall y D(y)) \vdash} \text{ax} \\
 \frac{\dots, D(c), \neg(\forall y D(y)) \vdash}{\dots, \neg(D(c) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \vdash} \neg_{\forall} (*) \\
 \frac{\dots, \neg(D(c) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \vdash}{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \vdash} \neg_{\Rightarrow} \\
 \neg_{\exists}
 \end{array}$$

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 \end{array}$$

Outer Skolemization is equivalent to the corresponding sequent rule!

There is Hope!

Outer Skolemization is equivalent to the corresponding sequent rule!

$$\begin{array}{c}
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 \frac{\neg D(f(X))}{\neg(D(X_2) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))} \gamma_{\neg\exists} \\
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 \frac{D(X_2), \neg(\forall y D(y))}{\sigma = \{X_2 \mapsto f(X)\}} \odot_{\sigma}
 \end{array}$$

(a) Outer Skolemization tableau proof

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{\dots, \neg D(c'), D(c'), \neg(\forall y D(y)) \vdash}{\dots, \neg(D(c') \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \vdash} \text{ax} \\
 \frac{\dots, \neg(D(c') \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \vdash}{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)), \dots, \neg D(c') \vdash} \neg_{\Rightarrow} \\
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 \end{array}$$

(b) Equivalent sequent

Outer Skolemization is equivalent to the corresponding sequent rule!

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 \frac{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))}{\neg(D(X) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))} \gamma_{\neg\exists} \\
 \frac{\neg(D(X) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))}{D(X), \neg(\forall y D(y))} \alpha_{\neg\Rightarrow} \\
 \frac{D(X), \neg(\forall y D(y))}{\neg D(f(X))} \delta_{\neg\forall} \\
 \frac{\neg D(f(X))}{\neg(D(X_2) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))} \gamma_{\neg\exists} \\
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 \end{array}$$

(a) Outer Skolemization tableau proof

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 \frac{\dots, \neg D(c'), D(c'), \neg(\forall y D(y)) \vdash}{\dots, \neg(D(c') \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \vdash} \text{ax} \\
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 \end{array}$$

(b) Equivalent sequent

Can we still make use of advanced skolemization strategies while keeping the ability to turn tableaux proofs into sequents ones?

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Yes!

⚙ Deskolemization

Perform all Skolemization steps before the other rules, so the Skolem symbol is necessarily *fresh*

📖 Key Notions

- Formulas that *depend* on a Skolem symbol
- A formula F needs to be processed before another formula G iff G makes use of a Skolem symbol generated by F

Example

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))}{\neg(D(X) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))} \gamma_{\neg\exists}}{\frac{D(X), \neg(\forall y D(y))}{\neg D(c)} \alpha_{\neg\Rightarrow} \delta_{\neg\forall}^+}{\sigma = \{X \mapsto c\}} \odot_{\sigma}$$

Example

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))}{\neg(D(X) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))} \gamma_{\neg\exists} \quad \frac{\quad}{D(X), \neg(\forall y D(y))} \alpha_{\neg\Rightarrow}}{\quad} \delta_{\neg\forall}^+ \quad \frac{\neg D(c)}{\sigma = \{X \mapsto c\}} \odot_{\sigma}$$

$$\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \vdash$$

Example

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))}{\neg(D(X) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))} \gamma_{\neg\exists} \\
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 \frac{D(X), \neg(\forall y D(y))}{\neg D(c)} \delta_{\neg\forall}^+ \\
 \frac{\neg D(c)}{\sigma = \{X \mapsto c\}} \odot_{\sigma}
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$$\frac{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)), \neg(D(c) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y))}{\neg(\exists x. D(x) \Rightarrow \forall y D(y)) \vdash} \neg_{\exists}$$

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\neg_{\exists}
 \neg_{\forall}
 $W \times 2$
 \neg_{\Rightarrow}

Example

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Beware of the Hydra

- Replaying rules leads to duplicating branches
- That duplicate the original branch
- The hydra heads are growing *without* control
- Without? No: **inter-branches dependency**

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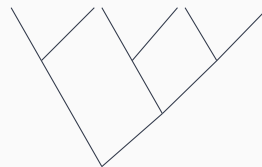
❗ Kill the Hydra? But it has a Family!

- Should keep formulas when replaying a branching rule
- But which ones? We provide **conditions**
- When satisfied, ensure termination and a well-formed proof
- (weak) requirements on existential rules to work

- SYN and SET categories (TPTP)
- 3 Skolemization strategies + DMT
- Number of problems solved
- **Rocq** output
- Size of the proof (number of branches)
- Average and max size increase



(a) Tableaux proof



(b) GS3 translation

	Problems Proved	Percentage Certified	Avg. Size Increase	Max. Size Increase
Goéland	261	100 %	0 %	-
Goéland+ δ^+	272	100 %	8.1 %	5.3
Goéland+ δ^{++}	274	100 %	10.6 %	10.3
Goéland+DMT	363	100 %	0 %	-
Goéland+DMT+ δ^+	375	100 %	4.5 %	3.9
Goéland+DMT+ δ^{++}	377	100 %	7.4 %	5.2

- A generic deskolemization framework
- Soundness proof
- Instantiation for δ^+ and δ^{++} rules in Goéland
- Output of GS3 proof into Rocq, LambdaPi and Lisa
- Promising results
- 100% of the proofs are certified
- Far below the theoretical bound



- A generic deskolemization framework
- Soundness proof
- Instantiation for δ^+ and δ^{++} rules in Goéland
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- Promising results
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What About Us?



...



Leo-III



...



DEDUC
TEAM

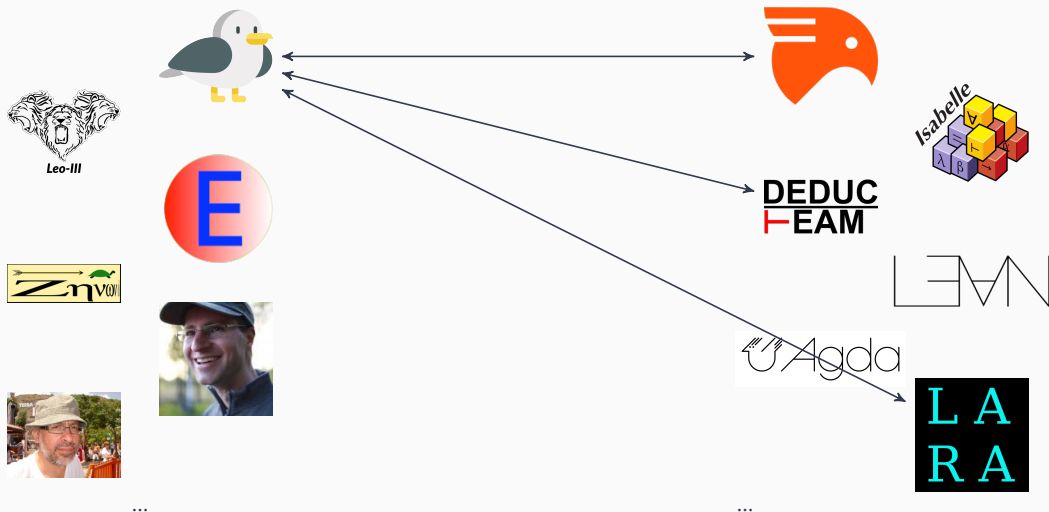


Agda

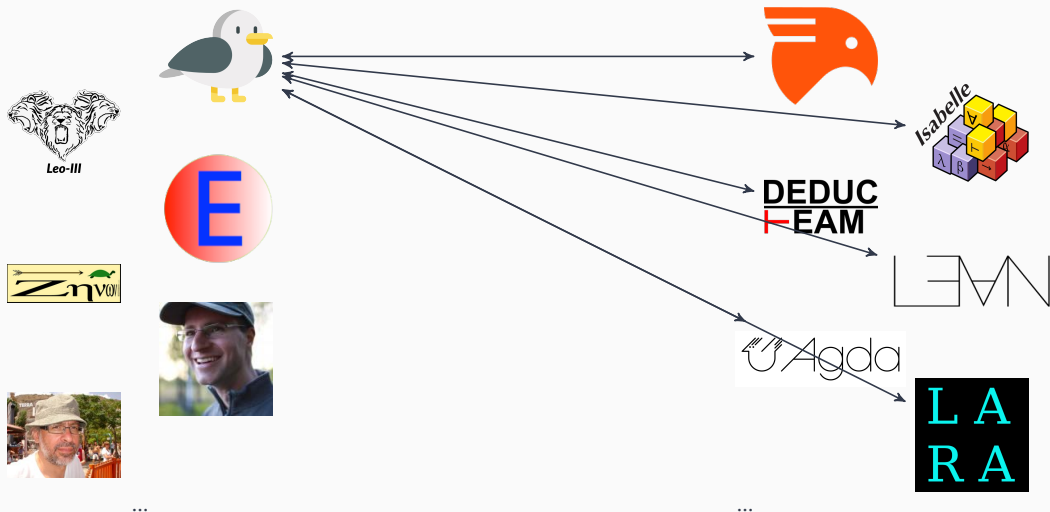


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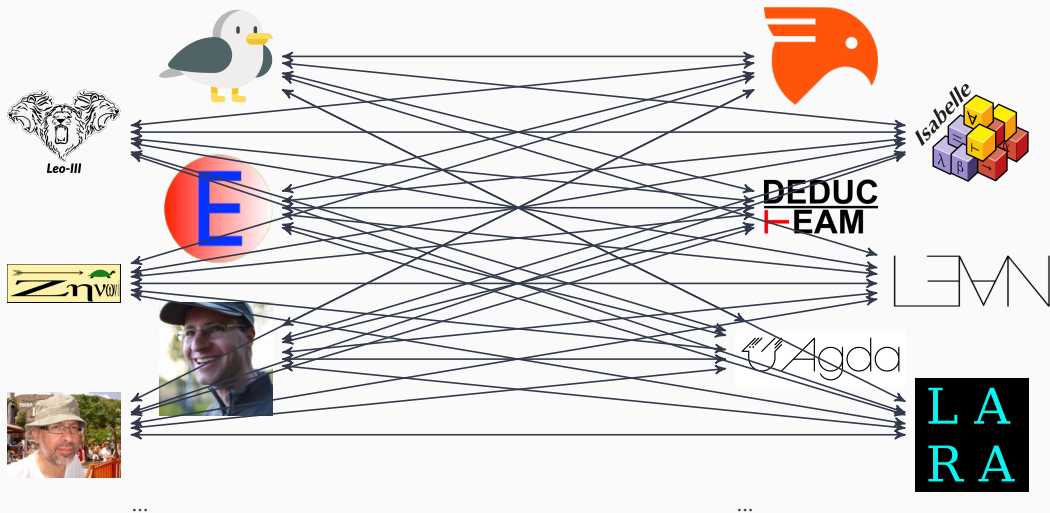
Proof Transfers

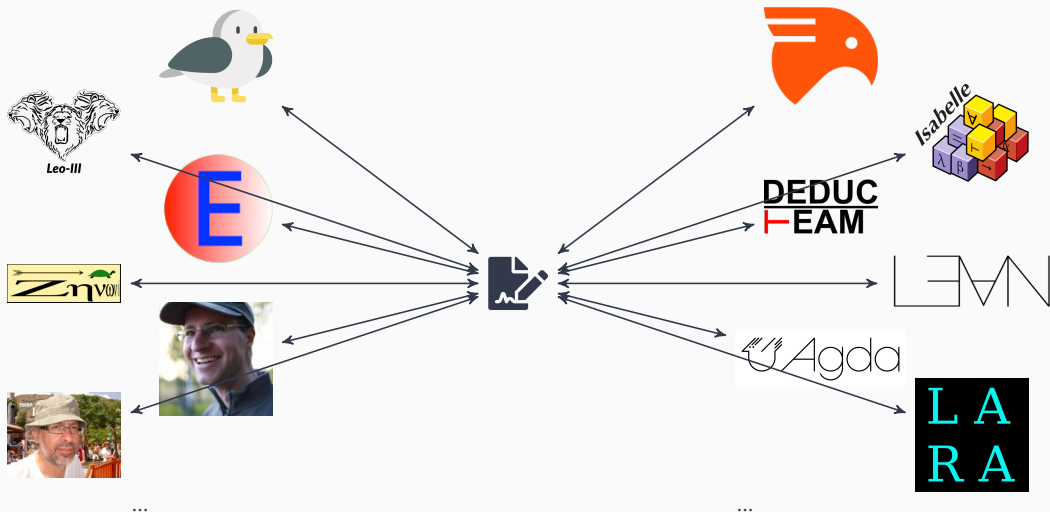


Proof Transfers



Proof Transfers





HOW STANDARDS PROLIFERATE:

(SEE: A/C CHARGERS, CHARACTER ENCODINGS, INSTANT MESSAGING, ETC.)



i The Format

- Extension of TPTP for sequent-based calculus
- Standard input format for ATP
- Easy syntax

i Rules

- List of supported rules
- Level of steps
- Management of non-deductive steps

```
fof(<name>, <role>, [<formula_list> --> [<formula_list>],  
<annotations>).
```

```
fof(f2, plain, [a | b, b] --> [], ...).
```

```
fof(f1, plain, [a | b, a] --> [], ...).
```

```
fof(f0, plain, [a | b] --> [], inference(leftOr, [status(thm), 0], [f1,  
f2])).
```

LambdaPi

- ITP-oriented
- Handle any foundation
- Hard to parse/import
- Translation from many proof assistants (+ some ATP/SMT solvers)

SC-TPTP

- ATP-oriented
- Focus on proof exchanges
- Easy to parse & reconstruct
- Close to current ATP's output format

i SC-TPTP Utils

- Proof checker
- Proof transformation

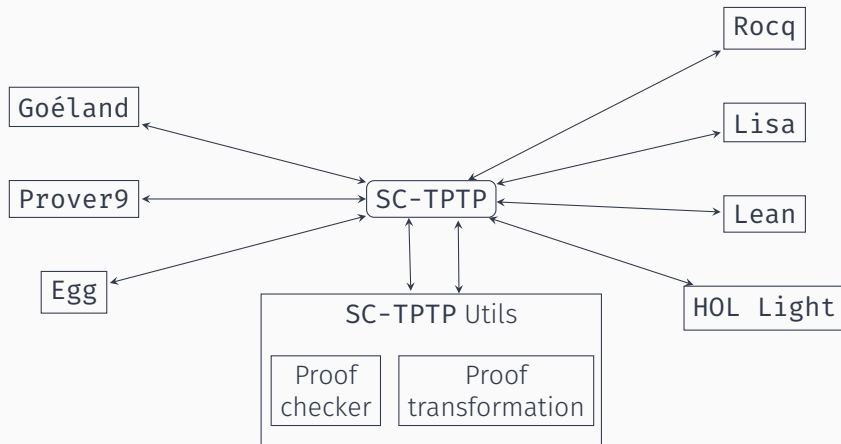
i Compatible Tools

- Proof-producing ATP
- Tactics for ITP

```
example (  $\alpha$  : Type) [Nonempty  $\alpha$ ] (d :  $\alpha \rightarrow$  Prop) :  
 $\exists$  y :  $\alpha$ ,  $\forall$  x :  $\alpha$ , (d x  $\rightarrow$  d y) := by goeland
```

```
val drinkers2 = Theorem( $\exists$ (x,  $\forall$ (y, d(x) ==> d(y)))):  
have(thesis) by Goeland
```

```
val thm = Theorem(( $\forall$ (x, P(x))  $\wedge$   $\forall$ (y, Q(y))) ==> (P( $\emptyset$ )  $\wedge$  Q( $\emptyset$ ))) :  
have(thesis) by Prover9
```



✓ Take Home Message

- You can perform an efficient (tableaux) proof-search while keeping the ability to produce a proof certificate
- You can use **SC-TPTP** to exchange proofs between various tools

i What's Next?

- Standalone tool and proof elaboration
- Integration of theories
- Framework for verification of tableaux proofs: **TableauxRocq**³
- Addition of tools into the SC-TPTP ecosystem
- The ProoVer competition at FLoC 2026!

³Currently under development. Actually, *right now*, depending on what Johann is doing...

Thank you! 😊

<https://github.com/GoelandProver/Goeland>



<https://github.com/SC-TPTP/sc-tptp>

