

The Framework of Linear Nested Sequents

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Sequent systems and modal logics

Sequent calculi for modal logics are well-established and well-understood – but not entirely satisfactory!

Some **desiderata** for “good” calculi [Wansing:’02]:

- ▶ subformula property: all the material in the premisses is contained in the conclusion
- ▶ separation: distinct left and right introduction rules
- ▶ locality: no restrictions on the context
- ▶ modularity: obtain other logics by changing single rules, e.g., following **Došen’s Principle**: only vary structural rules

Sequent systems and modal logics

It can be easily verified that each of the standard rule systems [for modal logics] fails to satisfy some of the philosophical requirements [...].

[Wansing:'94]

E.g.:

$$\frac{\Gamma \Rightarrow A}{\Box \Gamma \Rightarrow \Box A} \text{ k} \qquad \frac{\frac{\Box \Gamma \Rightarrow A}{\Box \Gamma \Rightarrow \Box A} 4}{\Gamma, A \Rightarrow \Delta} \text{ t}$$

Subformula property:

✓

✓

Separation:

✗

✓

Locality:

✗

✗

Modularity:

✗

Solutions: structures with sequents in them

The solution according to **internal approaches**:

Extend the sequent structure!

By now, there are many ways to do so:

- ▶ Higher-level sequents : Sequents of sequents of sequents of...
[Došen:'85]
- ▶ 2-sequents: Streams of sequents
[Masini:'92]
- ▶ Display calculi: structural connectives for all operators
[Belnap:'82, Wansing:'94, Kracht:'96]
- ▶ Nested sequents: Trees of sequents
[Kashima:'94, Brünnler:'06, Poggiolesi:'09]
- ▶ ...

The Question

What is the **simplest extension of the sequent structure** satisfying these desiderata for modal logics?

Reminder: Modal logics

The **formulae** of modal logic are given by

$$\varphi ::= \text{Var} \mid \neg\varphi \mid \varphi \wedge \varphi \mid \varphi \vee \varphi \mid \varphi \rightarrow \varphi \mid \Box\varphi$$

The **Hilbert-style presentation** of normal modal logic **K** is given by the axioms for classical propositional logic and

$$k \quad \Box(A \rightarrow B) \wedge \Box A \rightarrow \Box B \qquad \frac{\vdash A}{\vdash \Box A} \text{ nec}$$

The standard **sequent system** contains the standard propositional rules together with

$$\frac{\Gamma \Rightarrow A}{\Box\Gamma \Rightarrow \Box A} k$$

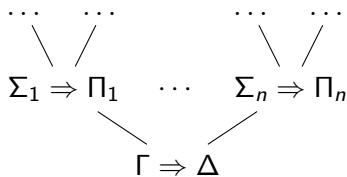
Case study: Nested sequents

Definition

([Brünnler:'09,Poggiolesi:'09])

A **nested sequent** is a finite tree whose nodes are labelled with sequents. The **interpretation** ι of this nested sequent is

$$\bigwedge \Gamma \rightarrow \bigvee \Delta \vee \bigvee_{i=1}^n \Box \iota(\Sigma_i \Rightarrow \Pi_i) .$$



Fact

The nested sequent calculus with modal rules \Box_R and \Box_L is sound and cut-free complete for modal logic K.

Case study: Nested sequents

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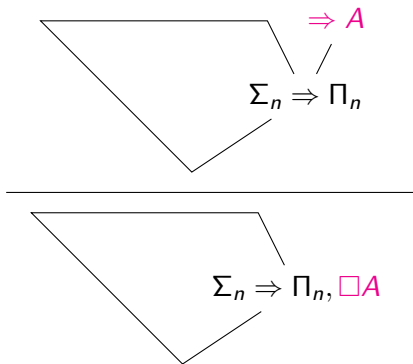
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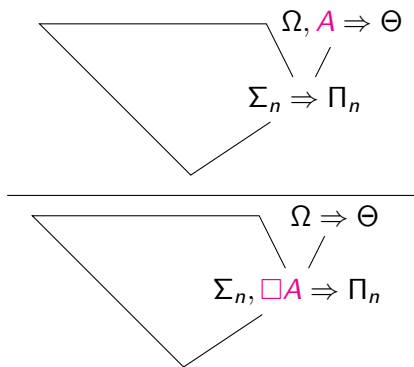
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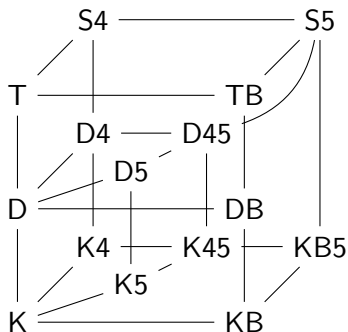
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Case study: Nested sequents

In fact, there are cut-free modular nested sequent systems for all logics in the (normal) **modal cube**:



[Marin, Straßburger:'14]

Case study: Nested sequents

In fact, there are cut-free modular nested sequent systems for all logics in the (normal) **modal cube**.

	seq.	nested seq.
Subformula property:	✓	✓
Separation:	✗	✓
Locality:	✗	✓
Modularity:	✗	✓

Trees are nice, but can we go **simpler**?

A different approach: 2-sequents

Definition ([Masini:'92])

A **2-sequent** is an infinite, eventually empty stream of sequents. It's interpretation is

$$\bigwedge \Gamma_1 \rightarrow \bigvee \Delta_1 \bigvee \square(\dots \square(\bigwedge \Gamma_n \rightarrow \bigvee \Delta_n) \dots)$$

Fact

The 2-sequent calculus with modal rules \square_R and \square_L is sound and cut-free complete for modal logic KD.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \vdots & & \vdots \\ \varepsilon & \Rightarrow & \varepsilon \\ \Gamma_n & \Rightarrow & \Delta_n \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \Gamma_1 & & \Delta_1 \end{array}$$

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The 2-sequent calculus with modal rules

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$$\begin{array}{c} \vdots \\ \varepsilon \\ \Gamma_n \Rightarrow \Delta_n \\ \vdots \\ \Gamma_1 \quad \Delta_1 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \vdots \\ \varepsilon \\ \Gamma_n \Rightarrow \Delta_n, \square A \\ \vdots \\ \Gamma_1 \quad \Delta_1 \end{array}$$

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$$\frac{\begin{array}{ccc} \vdots & & \vdots \\ \Sigma, A & & \Pi \\ \Gamma_n & \Rightarrow & \Delta_n \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \Gamma_1 & & \Delta_1 \end{array}}{\begin{array}{ccc} \vdots & & \vdots \\ \Sigma & & \Pi \\ \Gamma_n, \square A & \Rightarrow & \Delta_n \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \Gamma_1 & & \Delta_1 \end{array}}$$

A different approach: 2-sequents

This sequent system for KD admits cut-elimination, [...] and the introduction rules are separate, symmetrical and explicit, but no indication is given of how to present axiomatic extensions [...]. [I]t is not clear how Masini's framework may be modified in order to obtain a 2-sequent calculus for K.

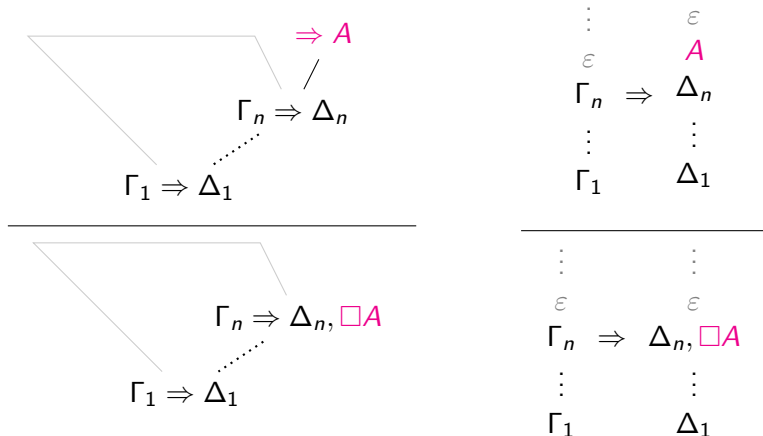
[Wansing:'02]

	seq.	nested seq.	2-seq.
Subformula property:	✓	✓	✓
Separation:	✗	✓	✓
Locality:	✗	✓	✓
Modularity:	✗	✓	✗

Infinite linear structures are nice, but can we go **simpler**?

Connections between nested sequents and 2-sequents

Comparing the rules reveals they are essentially the same, e.g.:



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$$\begin{array}{c}
 \Sigma, A \Rightarrow \Pi \\
 \diagup \quad \diagdown \\
 \Gamma_n \Rightarrow \Delta_n \\
 \vdots \\
 \Gamma_1 \Rightarrow \Delta_1
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \Sigma \Rightarrow \Pi \\
 \diagup \quad \diagdown \\
 \Gamma_n, \Box A \Rightarrow \Delta_n \\
 \vdots \\
 \Gamma_1 \Rightarrow \Delta_1
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \vdots \\
 \Sigma, A \Rightarrow \Pi \\
 \Gamma_n \Rightarrow \Delta_n \\
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$$\frac{\Gamma_1 \Rightarrow \Delta_1 \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \diagdown \\ \Gamma_n \Rightarrow \Delta_n \\ \diagup \\ A \Rightarrow \end{array}}{\Gamma_1 \Rightarrow \Delta_1}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma_1 \Rightarrow \Delta_1 \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \diagdown \\ \Gamma_n, \Box A \Rightarrow \Delta_n \\ \diagup \end{array}}{\Gamma_1 \Rightarrow \Delta_1}$$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{cc} \varepsilon & \vdots \\ A & \varepsilon \\ \Gamma_n \Rightarrow & \Delta_n \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ \Gamma_1 & \Delta_1 \end{array}}{\begin{array}{cc} \vdots & \vdots \\ \varepsilon & \varepsilon \\ \Gamma_n, \Box A \Rightarrow & \Delta_n \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ \Gamma_1 & \Delta_1 \end{array}}$$

So the structure of **finite lists** of sequents is enough for KD!

Let's try finite lists of sequents!

Linear nested sequents

Definition

A **linear nested sequent** (LNS) is a finite list of sequents, written

$$\Gamma_1 \Rightarrow \Delta_1 // \dots // \Gamma_n \Rightarrow \Delta_n$$

and interpreted as $\wedge \Gamma_1 \rightarrow \vee \Delta_1 \vee \square(\dots \square(\wedge \Gamma_n \rightarrow \vee \Delta_n) \dots)$.

The nested sequent system for K yields the modal rules of **LNS_K**:

$$\frac{\mathcal{G} // \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta // \Sigma, A \Rightarrow \Pi // \mathcal{H}}{\mathcal{G} // \Gamma, \square A \Rightarrow \Delta // \Sigma \Rightarrow \Pi // \mathcal{H}} \square_L \quad \frac{\mathcal{G} // \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta // \Rightarrow A}{\mathcal{G} // \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \square A} \square_R$$

The propositional rules are standard, e.g.:

$$\frac{\mathcal{G} // \Gamma, B \Rightarrow \Delta // \mathcal{H} \quad \mathcal{G} // \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, A // \mathcal{H}}{\mathcal{G} // \Gamma, A \rightarrow B \Rightarrow \Delta // \mathcal{H}} \rightarrow_L \quad \frac{\mathcal{G} // \Gamma, A \Rightarrow \Delta, B // \mathcal{H}}{\mathcal{G} // \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, A \rightarrow B // \mathcal{H}} \rightarrow_R$$

Completeness for linear nested sequents

We could show completeness via cut elimination ... but it's easier!

Observation: The data structure of LNS is the same as that of a history in backwards proof search for a sequent calculus.

So we simply **simulate a sequent derivation in the last components:**
(\mathcal{G} is the history)

$$\frac{\frac{\Gamma \Rightarrow A}{\Box \Gamma \Rightarrow \Box A} \text{ k}}{\vdots \mathcal{G}} \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad \frac{\frac{\mathcal{G} // \Box \Gamma \Rightarrow \Box A // \Gamma \Rightarrow A}{\mathcal{G} // \Box \Gamma \Rightarrow \Box A // \Rightarrow A} \Box_L}{\mathcal{G} // \Box \Gamma \Rightarrow \Box A} \Box_R$$

Theorem

LNS_K is sound and cut-free complete for K .

Corollary: Cut-free completeness of the nested sequent calculus.

Extensions

Extensions, e.g. (lifted shamelessly from nested sequent calculi):

$$\frac{\mathcal{G} // \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta // A \Rightarrow}{\mathcal{G} // \Gamma, \Box A \Rightarrow \Delta} \text{d}$$

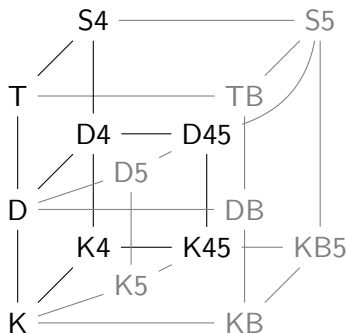
$$\frac{\mathcal{G} // \Gamma, A \Rightarrow \Delta // \mathcal{H}}{\mathcal{G} // \Gamma, \Box A \Rightarrow \Delta // \mathcal{H}} \text{t}$$

$$\frac{\mathcal{G} // \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta // \Sigma, \Box A \Rightarrow \Pi // \mathcal{H}}{\mathcal{G} // \Gamma, \Box A \Rightarrow \Delta // \Sigma \Rightarrow \Pi // \mathcal{H}} \text{4}$$

$$\frac{\mathcal{G} // \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta // \Sigma \Rightarrow \Pi, \Box A // \mathcal{H}}{\mathcal{G} // \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \Box A // \Sigma \Rightarrow \Pi // \mathcal{H}} \text{5}$$

Theorem

The LNS calculi for extensions of K with axioms from $d, t, 4$ or $d, 4, (4 \wedge 5)$ are cut-free complete and modular.



Application: intuitionistic logic

The same idea connects Maehara's multi-succedent calculus and Fitting's nested sequent calculus for first-order intuitionistic logic:

The **intuitionistic interpretation** of $\Gamma_1 \Rightarrow \Delta_1 // \dots // \Gamma_n \Rightarrow \Delta_n$ is

$$\bigwedge \Gamma_1 \rightarrow \bigvee \Delta_1 \vee (\bigwedge \Gamma_2 \rightarrow \bigvee \Delta_2 \vee (\dots (\bigwedge \Gamma_n \rightarrow \bigvee \Delta_n) \dots))$$

Restricting the nested sequent rules yields the rules of **LNS_{Int}**, e.g.:

$$\frac{\mathcal{G} // \Gamma, B \Rightarrow \Delta // \mathcal{H} \quad \mathcal{G} // \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, A // \mathcal{H}}{\mathcal{G} // \Gamma, A \rightarrow B \Rightarrow \Delta // \mathcal{H}} \rightarrow_L \quad \frac{\mathcal{G} // \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta // A \Rightarrow B}{\mathcal{G} // \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, A \rightarrow B} \rightarrow_R$$

$$\frac{\mathcal{G} // \Gamma, A\alpha \Rightarrow \Delta // \mathcal{H}}{\mathcal{G} // \Gamma, \forall x.Ax \Rightarrow \Delta // \mathcal{H}} \forall_L \quad \frac{\mathcal{G} // \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta // \Rightarrow A\alpha}{\mathcal{G} // \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \forall x.Ax} \forall_R$$

if α in \mathcal{H} then α in $\mathcal{G} // \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta$ α not in the conclusion

$$\frac{\mathcal{G} // \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta // \Sigma, A \Rightarrow \Pi // \mathcal{H}}{\mathcal{G} // \Gamma, A \Rightarrow \Delta // \Sigma \Rightarrow \Pi // \mathcal{H}} \text{Lift}$$

(Rules for \exists analogous and other rules local.)

Intuitionistic logic: Completeness

We simulate Maehara's rules in the last components, e.g.:

$$\frac{\Gamma, A \Rightarrow B}{\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, A \rightarrow B} \rightarrow_R \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad \frac{\mathcal{G} // \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, A \rightarrow B // \Gamma, A \Rightarrow B}{\mathcal{G} // \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, A \rightarrow B // A \Rightarrow B} \text{Lift} \rightarrow_R$$

$\vdots \mathcal{G}$

$$\frac{\Gamma \Rightarrow A\alpha}{\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \forall x.Ax} \forall_R \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad \frac{\mathcal{G} // \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \forall x.Ax // \Gamma \Rightarrow A\alpha}{\mathcal{G} // \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \forall x.Ax // \Rightarrow A\alpha} \text{Lift} \forall_R$$

$\vdots \mathcal{G}$

The other rules are easy.

Theorem

LNS_{Int} is sound and complete for first-order intuitionistic logic.

Corollary: Cut-free completeness of Fitting's calculus.

Taking it further: non-normal modal logics

The language of **monotone** modal logic **M** is that of modal logic.

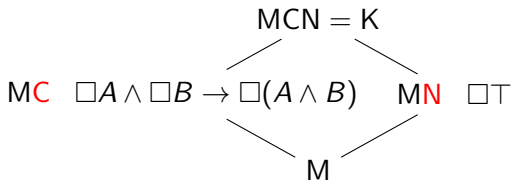
The **Hilbert-style presentation** of M is given by axioms for classical propositional logic and the rule

$$\frac{\vdash A \rightarrow B}{\vdash \Box A \rightarrow \Box B} \text{ Mon}$$

The **sequent system** for M contains the standard propositional rules and the modal rule

$$\frac{A \Rightarrow B}{\Box A \Rightarrow \Box B} \text{ Mon}$$

Common extensions:



Non-normal linear nested sequents

To capture the sequent rule $\frac{A \Rightarrow B}{\Box A \Rightarrow \Box B}$ we use a marker \parallel for “unfinished rules”: A **non-normal LNS** has the form ($n \geq 0$)

$$\Gamma_1 \Rightarrow \Delta_1 \parallel \dots \parallel \Gamma_n \Rightarrow \Delta_n$$

or $\Gamma_1 \Rightarrow \Delta_1 \parallel \dots \parallel \Gamma_n \Rightarrow \Delta_n \parallel \Gamma_{n+1} \Rightarrow \Delta_{n+1}$

Translating the sequent rule Mon yields the modal rules of LNS_M :

$$\frac{\mathcal{G} \parallel \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta \parallel \Rightarrow B}{\mathcal{G} \parallel \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \Box B} \Box_R \qquad \frac{\mathcal{G} \parallel \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta \parallel \Sigma, A \Rightarrow \Pi}{\mathcal{G} \parallel \Gamma, \Box A \Rightarrow \Delta \parallel \Sigma \Rightarrow \Pi} \Box_L$$

The propositional rules cannot be applied inside \parallel .

The completeness proof for LNS_M then uses the simulation

$$\frac{A \Rightarrow B}{\Box A \Rightarrow \Box B} \text{ Mon} \qquad \rightsquigarrow \qquad \frac{\mathcal{G} \parallel \Box A \Rightarrow \Box B \parallel A \Rightarrow B}{\frac{\mathcal{G} \parallel \Box A \Rightarrow \Box B \parallel \Rightarrow B}{\mathcal{G} \parallel \Box A \Rightarrow \Box B}} \Box_L \Box_R$$

$\vdots \mathcal{G}$

Modularity for non-normal modal logics

$$C \quad \Box A \wedge \Box B \rightarrow \Box(A \wedge B)$$

$$\frac{\mathcal{G} \parallel \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta}{\mathcal{G} \parallel \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta} \quad c$$

$$N \quad \Box \top$$

$$\frac{\mathcal{G} \parallel \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta}{\mathcal{G} \parallel \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta} \quad n$$

$$D_1 \quad \neg \Box \perp$$

$$\frac{\mathcal{G} \parallel \Rightarrow}{\mathcal{G}} \quad d_1$$

$$D_2 \quad \neg(\Box A \wedge \Box \neg A)$$

$$\frac{\mathcal{G} \parallel \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta \parallel A \Rightarrow}{\mathcal{G} \parallel \Gamma, \Box A \Rightarrow \Delta} \quad d_2$$

$$T \quad \Box A \rightarrow A$$

$$\frac{\mathcal{G} \parallel \Gamma, A \Rightarrow \Delta}{\mathcal{G} \parallel \Gamma, \Box A \Rightarrow \Delta} \quad t$$

$$4 \quad \Box A \rightarrow \Box \Box A$$

$$\frac{\mathcal{G} \parallel \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta \parallel \Sigma, \Box A \Rightarrow \Pi}{\mathcal{G} \parallel \Gamma, \Box A \Rightarrow \Delta \parallel \Sigma \Rightarrow \Pi} \quad 4$$

$$5 \quad \Box \neg A \vee \Box \neg \Box A$$

$$\frac{\mathcal{G} \parallel \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta \parallel \Sigma \Rightarrow \Pi, \Box A}{\mathcal{G} \parallel \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \Box A \parallel \Sigma \Rightarrow \Pi} \quad 5$$

Theorem

For $\mathcal{A} \subseteq \{C, N, D_1, D_2, T, 4\}$ the calculus $LNS_{M\mathcal{A}}$ is sound and complete for $M\mathcal{A}$. Similar for some combinations with 5.

(Use calculi e.g. from [Lavendhomme-Lucas:'00, Indrzejczak:'05].)

The desiderata

	seq.	nested seq.	2-seq	LNS
Subformula property:	✓	✓	✓	✓
Separation:	✗	✓	✓	✓
Locality:	✗	✓	✓	✓
Modularity:	✗	✓	✗	✓

What about connections to **other frameworks**?

Hypersequents

The data structure of LNS is rather familiar from another setting:

Definition ([Avron:'96])

A **hypersequent** is a finite list of sequents, written

$$\Gamma_1 \Rightarrow \Delta_1 \mid \cdots \mid \Gamma_n \Rightarrow \Delta_n$$

and interpreted as $\Box(\wedge \Gamma_1 \rightarrow \vee \Delta_1) \vee \cdots \vee \Box(\wedge \Gamma_n \rightarrow \vee \Delta_n)$.

This interpretation suggests the **external structural rules**:

$$\frac{\mathcal{G} \mid \Sigma \Rightarrow \Pi \mid \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta \mid \mathcal{H}}{\mathcal{G} \mid \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta \mid \Sigma \Rightarrow \Pi \mid \mathcal{H}} \text{EEX}$$

$$\frac{\mathcal{G} \mid \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta \mid \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta \mid \mathcal{H}}{\mathcal{G} \mid \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta \mid \mathcal{H}} \text{EC}$$

$$\frac{\mathcal{G} \mid \mathcal{H}}{\mathcal{G} \mid \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta \mid \mathcal{H}} \text{EW}$$

They are part of almost all hypersequent calculi for modal logics.

Hypersequents and linear nested sequents

Observation 1: EC and EW are the **structural nested sequent rules** for (4) and (t) (modulo internal structural rules):

$$\frac{\mathcal{G} \mid \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta \mid \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta \mid \mathcal{H}}{\mathcal{G} \mid \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta \mid \mathcal{H}} \text{ EC} \quad \text{vs.} \quad \frac{\mathcal{G} \parallel \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta \parallel \Sigma \Rightarrow \Pi \parallel \mathcal{H}}{\mathcal{G} \parallel \Gamma, \Sigma \Rightarrow \Delta, \Pi \parallel \mathcal{H}} \dot{t}$$

$$\frac{\mathcal{G} \mid \mathcal{H}}{\mathcal{G} \mid \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta \mid \mathcal{H}} \text{ EW} \quad \text{vs.} \quad \frac{\mathcal{G} \parallel \mathcal{H}}{\mathcal{G} \parallel \Rightarrow \parallel \mathcal{H}} \bar{4}$$

Observation 2: $\text{LNS}_K + \dot{t} + \bar{4} + \text{EEX}$ is (essentially) the hypersequent calculus for S5 from [Restall:'07].

Theorem

$\text{LNS}_K + \dot{t} + \bar{4} + \text{EEX}$ is sound and cut-free complete for S5 (under the LNS-interpretation).

(Similarly we obtain e.g. Avron's calculus etc.)

Hypersequents and intuitionistic logic

So let's try to add EEX to a different LNS calculus!

Theorem

$LNS_{Int} + EEX$ is sound and cut-free complete for first-order classical logic.

This yields calculi for classical and intuitionistic logic satisfying Wansing's desiderata and following Došen's principle.

Question: Can we view EEX as “backtracking” in game semantics?

$$\frac{\frac{\Rightarrow \perp // A \Rightarrow A}{A \Rightarrow \perp // \Rightarrow A} \text{Lift}}{\frac{\Rightarrow A // A \Rightarrow \perp}{\Rightarrow A, A \rightarrow \perp} \rightarrow_R} \text{EEX / backtracking}$$

Conclusion

Summing up:

- ▶ Finite lists of sequents give good systems for normal and non-normal modal logics and intuitionistic logic
- ▶ An easy method to show cut-free completeness
- ▶ A connection to hypersequents via external exchange.

Future work:

- ▶ Complexity of proof search (partly done)
- ▶ Syntactic cut elimination for LNS
- ▶ “Proper” LNS systems for logics without cut-free sequent calculi (e.g., modal logic B, constant-domain Int).