

Lecture 21

We will compare the computational content of constructive proofs in *i*FOL (also called \mathcal{L}_1) and intuitionistic (impredicative) second order logic (also called \mathcal{L}_2).

We examined the evidence terms for $A \& B \Rightarrow A \vee B$ in *i*FOL. We can have essentially these two evidence terms:

$$\lambda(ab.\text{spread}(ab; a, b.\text{inl}(a))) \quad \text{or} \quad \lambda(ab.\text{spread}(ab; a, b.\text{inr}(b))).$$

What is the “second-order realizer”? Is it “polymorphic” or “uniform” as the first-order ones are? *Can we reconstruct the proof from the realizer?*

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \vdash \forall X:\text{Prop}.(A \Rightarrow (B \Rightarrow X) \Rightarrow X) \Rightarrow \forall X:\text{Prop}.((A \Rightarrow X) \Rightarrow ((B \Rightarrow X) \Rightarrow X)) & \lambda(h.__) \\
 h:\forall X:\text{Prop}.(A \Rightarrow (B \Rightarrow X) \Rightarrow X) \vdash \forall X:\text{Prop}.((A \Rightarrow X) \Rightarrow ((B \Rightarrow X) \Rightarrow X)) & \text{by } \lambda(X.__) \\
 h:(__), X:\text{Prop} \vdash ((A \Rightarrow X) \Rightarrow ((B \Rightarrow X) \Rightarrow X)) & \text{ap}(h; X) \\
 X:\text{Prop}, h(X):A \Rightarrow (B \Rightarrow X) \Rightarrow X \vdash (A \Rightarrow X) \Rightarrow ((B \Rightarrow X) \Rightarrow X) & \lambda(ax;__) \\
 X:\text{Prop}, h(X):(__), ax:(A \Rightarrow X) \vdash (B \Rightarrow X) \Rightarrow X & \lambda(bx.__) \\
 X:\text{Prop}, h(X):(__), ax:(A \Rightarrow X), bx:(B \Rightarrow X) \vdash X & \text{ap}(h(X);__) = z \\
 X:\text{Prop}, ax:(A \Rightarrow X), bx:(B \Rightarrow X) \vdash A \Rightarrow (B \Rightarrow X) & \lambda(a.__) \uparrow \\
 X:\text{Prop}, ax:(A \Rightarrow X), bx:(B \Rightarrow X), a:A, \vdash (B \Rightarrow X) & \text{by } bx \uparrow \\
 z:X \vdash X & \text{by } z
 \end{array}$$

The realizer is $\lambda(h.\lambda(X.\lambda(ax.\lambda(bx.\text{apseq}(h(X);\lambda(a.bx);z.z))))$

What disjunct did we prove?

How could we prove the other one?

We can prove either given h . If we want A , we use $h(A)$, which is:

$$\lambda(ax.\lambda(bx.\text{apseq}(h(A);\lambda(a.bx);z.z))).$$

We need $ax \in A \Rightarrow A$ and $bx \in (B \Rightarrow A)$ which must be $\lambda(x.a)$.

If we want B , we use $h(B)$ and we need $A \Rightarrow B$ and $B \Rightarrow B$. So we need $\lambda(x.b)$ for $b \in B$. We can't have empty A or B since we need $A \Rightarrow (B \Rightarrow B) \Rightarrow B$ or $A \Rightarrow (B \Rightarrow A) \Rightarrow A$.

We can prove the following illuminating fact in Nuprl .

Theorem. $\forall A, B:\text{Prop}_1.(A \vee B) \Leftrightarrow \forall X:\text{Prop}_1.((A \Rightarrow X) \Rightarrow ((B \Rightarrow X) \Rightarrow X))$

Proof.

The direction $(A \vee B) \Rightarrow \forall X:\text{Prop}_1.((A \Rightarrow X) \Rightarrow ((B \Rightarrow X) \Rightarrow X))$ is trivial.

We have the hypothesis $d:A \vee B$, $X:\text{Prop}$, $ax:A \Rightarrow X$, $bx:B \Rightarrow X \vdash X$.

We use the case split on d , $\text{decide}(d; a.__ ; b.__)$. In case $a:A$ we use $A \Rightarrow X$ and in case b , $B \Rightarrow X$.

The direction \Leftarrow is more subtle.

We have the hypotheses:

$A : \text{Prop}_1$, $B : \text{Prop}_1$, $h : \forall X : \text{Prop}_1. ((A \Rightarrow X) \Rightarrow ((B \Rightarrow X) \Rightarrow X))$ to show $A \vee B$. We substitute $(A \vee B)$ for X in h to get the additional hypothesis.

$$h': A \Rightarrow (A \vee B) \Rightarrow (B \Rightarrow (A \vee B)) \Rightarrow X \vdash X.$$

Then we show $A \Rightarrow (A \vee B)$ to get the hypothesis $(B \Rightarrow (A \vee B)) \Rightarrow X$ and finally show $B \Rightarrow (A \vee B)$ to conclude X .

QED.