

Cut-elimination for non-wellfounded sequent calculi for IL

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Introduction: Interpretability logic $\mathbf{IL}$

- **interpretability logic**: a modal logic corresponding to the notion of relative interpretability between first-order arithmetical theories
- **syntax of interpretability logic**: given by

$$\phi ::= p \mid \perp \mid \phi \rightarrow \phi \mid \phi \triangleright \phi,$$

where p ranges over a fixed set of propositional variables

- we treat other Boolean connectives and modal operators $\Box$ and $\Diamond$ as abbreviations:

$$\begin{aligned}\neg\phi &:= \phi \rightarrow \perp, & \top &:= \neg\perp, & \phi \wedge \psi &:= \neg(\phi \rightarrow \neg\psi), \\ \phi \vee \psi &:= \neg\phi \rightarrow \psi, & \Box\phi &:= \neg\phi \triangleright \perp, & \Diamond\phi &:= \neg(\phi \triangleright \perp).\end{aligned}$$

Introduction: Interpretability logic IL

The Hilbert-style axiomatization of IL is given by the following axioms:

- tautologies of classical propositional logic,

$$(K) \quad \Box(\phi \rightarrow \psi) \rightarrow (\Box\phi \rightarrow \Box\psi),$$

$$(4) \quad \Box\phi \rightarrow \Box\Box\phi,$$

$$(L) \quad \Box(\Box\phi \rightarrow \phi) \rightarrow \Box\phi,$$

$$(J1) \quad \Box(\phi \rightarrow \psi) \rightarrow (\phi \triangleright \psi),$$

$$(J2) \quad (\phi \triangleright \chi) \wedge (\chi \triangleright \psi) \rightarrow (\phi \triangleright \psi),$$

$$(J3) \quad (\phi \triangleright \psi) \wedge (\chi \triangleright \psi) \rightarrow (\phi \vee \chi) \triangleright \psi,$$

$$(J4) \quad \phi \triangleright \psi \rightarrow (\Diamond\phi \rightarrow \Diamond\psi),$$

$$(J5) \quad \Diamond\phi \triangleright \phi,$$

and inference rules modus ponens and necessitation:

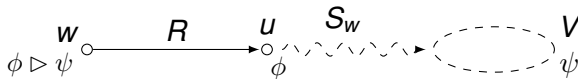
$$\frac{\phi \rightarrow \psi \quad \phi}{\psi}, \quad \frac{\phi}{\Box\phi}.$$

Generalised Veltman (Verbrugge) semantics

- basic semantics for interpretability logic: **Veltman semantics**
- **Verbrugge semantics** is a generalization of Veltman semantics
- an ordered quadruple $(W, R, \{S_w : w \in W\}, \Vdash)$ is called a **Verbrugge model** if it satisfies the following conditions:
 - (i) W is a non-empty set and $R \subseteq W \times W$ is a transitive and reverse well-founded
 - (ii) $S_w \subseteq R[w] \times (\mathcal{P}(R[w]) \setminus \{\emptyset\})$
 - (iii) wRu implies $uS_w\{u\}$
 - (iv) If $uS_w V$ and $(\forall v \in V)(vS_w Z_v)$, then $uS_w \left(\bigcup_{v \in V} Z_v \right)$
 - (v) If $wRuRv$ then $uS_w\{v\}$
 - (vi) If $uS_w V$ and $V \subseteq Z \subseteq R[w]$ then $uS_w Z$

(vii) $\Vdash$ is a forcing relation defined as usual in Boolean cases, and

$$w \Vdash \phi \triangleright \psi \text{ iff } \forall u((wRu \ \& \ u \Vdash \phi) \Rightarrow \exists V(uS_w V \ \& \ (\forall v \in V)(v \Vdash \psi))).$$



Veltman (ordinary) vs. Verbrugge (generalised) semantics

The current state of research regarding the principles that are used to extend IL:

	principle	compl(o)	compl(g)	FMP(o)	FMP(g)
M	$\phi \triangleright \psi \rightarrow \phi \wedge \Box \xi \triangleright \psi \wedge \Box \xi$	✓	✓	✓	✓
M ₀	$\phi \triangleright \psi \rightarrow \Diamond \phi \wedge \Box \xi \triangleright \psi \wedge \Box \xi$	✓	✓	?	✓
P	$\phi \triangleright \psi \rightarrow \Box(\phi \triangleright \psi)$	✓	✓	✓	✓
P ₀	$\phi \triangleright \Diamond \psi \rightarrow \Box(\phi \triangleright \psi)$	✗	✓	?	✓
R	$\phi \triangleright \psi \rightarrow \neg(\phi \triangleright \neg \xi) \triangleright \psi \wedge \Box \xi$	?	✓	?	✓
W	$\phi \triangleright \psi \rightarrow \phi \triangleright \psi \wedge \Box \neg \phi$	✓	✓	✓	✓
F	$\phi \triangleright \Diamond \phi \rightarrow \Box \neg \phi$	✗	?	✓	✓
W*	$\phi \triangleright \psi \rightarrow \psi \wedge \Box \xi \triangleright \psi \wedge \Box \xi \wedge \Box \neg \phi$	✓	✓	?	✓

- for example, the logic ILP is obtained from IL by adding the persistence principle P as an axiom

The systems of sequent calculus for interpretability logics

- cut-free systems for logics **IL** and **IK4** (axioms of IL without the L axiom):

Katsumi Sasaki, *A cut-free sequent system for the smallest interpretability logic*, *Studia Logica*, 70(3):353–372, 2002.

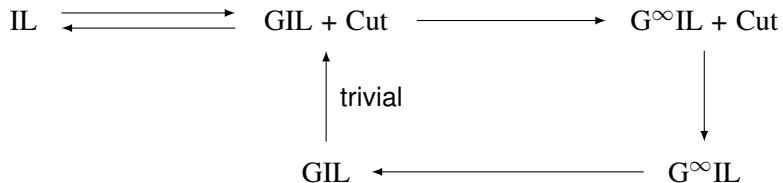
- another cut-free system for the logic **IK4**:

Katsumi Sasaki, *A sequent system for a sublogic of the smallest interpretability logic*, *Journal of the Nanzan Academic Society, Mathematical Sciences and Information Engineering*, 3:1–12, 2003.

- cut-free system for logic **IK4P** and system for **ILP** (that is conjectured to be cut-free):

Katsumi Sasaki, *A sequent system for the interpretability logic with the persistence axiom*, *Journal of the Nanzan Academic Society, Mathematical Sciences and Information Engineering*, 2:25–34, 2002.

An overview of the results that will be presented here



- a **sequent** is an expression of the form

$$\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta$$

where Γ and Δ are **finite multisets** of (IL-)formulas

- given a multiset of formulae Φ , we use the following notation:

$$\Phi \triangleright \perp := \{\phi \triangleright \perp \mid \phi \in \Phi\}$$

$$\Phi_X := \{\phi_i \mid i \in X\}$$

- we write $[S_i]_{m \dots i \dots 0}$ for the finite sequence of sequents $(S_m, S_{m-1}, \dots, S_0)$
- also we write $\phi_0, \dots, \phi_k, \Gamma_0, \dots, \Gamma_l \Rightarrow \Delta_0, \dots, \Delta_m, \psi_0, \dots, \psi_n$
instead of $\{\phi_0, \dots, \phi_k\} \cup \Gamma_0 \cup \dots \cup \Gamma_l \Rightarrow \Delta_0 \cup \dots \cup \Delta_m \cup \{\psi_0, \dots, \psi_n\}$

Wellfounded sequent calculus GIL

We define the sequent calculus GIL as the wellfounded calculus given by the following rules:

$$\begin{array}{c} \frac{}{p, \Gamma \Rightarrow p, \Delta} \text{ax} \qquad \frac{}{\perp, \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta} \perp\text{L} \\[10pt] \frac{\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \phi \quad \psi, \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta}{\phi \rightarrow \psi, \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta} \rightarrow \text{L} \qquad \frac{\phi, \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \psi}{\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \phi \rightarrow \psi} \rightarrow \text{R} \\[10pt] \frac{[\psi_i \triangleright \perp, \psi_i, \Phi_{[0,i)} \triangleright \perp, \phi \triangleright \perp \Rightarrow \Phi_{[0,i)}, \phi]_{m \dots i \dots 0}}{\{\phi_i \triangleright \psi_i\}_{i < m}, \Gamma \Rightarrow \psi_m \triangleright \phi, \Delta} \triangleright_{\text{IL}} \end{array}$$

The system GIL + Cut also has the following Cut rule:

$$\frac{\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \chi \quad \chi, \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta}{\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta} \text{Cut}$$

The rule $\triangleright_{\text{IL}}$ - an example

Let $m = 2$. Then we have

$$\frac{S_2 \quad S_1 \quad S_0}{\phi_0 \triangleright \psi_0, \phi_1 \triangleright \psi_1, \Gamma \Rightarrow \psi_2 \triangleright \phi, \Delta} \triangleright_{\text{IL}}$$

where

$$S_2 = \psi_2 \triangleright \perp, \psi_2, \phi_0 \triangleright \perp, \phi_1 \triangleright \perp, \phi \triangleright \perp \Rightarrow \phi_0, \phi_1, \phi$$

$$S_1 = \psi_1 \triangleright \perp, \psi_1, \phi_0 \triangleright \perp, \phi \triangleright \perp \Rightarrow \phi_0, \phi$$

$$S_0 = \psi_0 \triangleright \perp, \psi_0, \phi \triangleright \perp \Rightarrow \phi$$

An example of a wellfounded proof in GIL

A wellfounded **proof** in GIL (+ Cut) is a finite tree whose nodes are marked by sequents and whose leaves are marked by initial sequents (ax, $\perp$ L) and that is constructed to the rules of GIL (+ Cut).

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{}{\neg\neg p \triangleright \perp, p, \perp \triangleright \perp, p \triangleright \perp \Rightarrow \perp, p} \text{ax} \\
 \frac{}{\neg\neg p \triangleright \perp, \perp \triangleright \perp, p \triangleright \perp \Rightarrow \perp, p, \neg p} \neg R \\
 \frac{}{\neg\neg p \triangleright \perp, \neg\neg p, \perp \triangleright \perp, p \triangleright \perp \Rightarrow \perp, p} \neg L \quad \frac{}{\perp \triangleright \perp, \perp, \perp \triangleright \perp \Rightarrow \perp} \perp L \\
 \hline
 \frac{}{\diamond p \triangleright \perp, p \triangleright \perp \Rightarrow p, \neg\neg p \triangleright \perp} \neg L \quad \frac{}{\perp \triangleright \perp, \perp, \perp \triangleright \perp \Rightarrow \perp} \perp L \\
 \hline
 \frac{}{\diamond p \triangleright \perp, \diamond p, p \triangleright \perp \Rightarrow p} \neg L \\
 \hline
 \frac{}{\Rightarrow \diamond p \triangleright p} \triangleright_{IL}
 \end{array}$$

So we have proved that $\text{GIL} \vdash \diamond p \triangleright p$.

- By induction on the length of the Hilbert proof of ϕ we can prove:
if $\text{IL} \vdash \phi$, then $\text{GIL} + \text{Cut} \vdash \Rightarrow \phi$.
- Let S be a sequent $\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta$. We define the IL-formula $S^\sharp$ as the formula

$$\bigwedge \Gamma \rightarrow \bigvee \Delta.$$

Theorem

$\text{IL} \vdash S^\sharp$ if and only if $\text{GIL} + \text{Cut} \vdash S$.

- allows proofs of **infinite height**
- to guarantee that there is no vicious infinite reasoning, it is usual to add a constraint to the possible infinite paths in the proof, e.g. enforce that any infinite path goes through the premise of a rule infinite often

A **local-progress sequent calculus** is a pair $\mathcal{C} = (\mathcal{R}, L)$ where:

- (i) $\mathcal{R}$ is a set of rules, called the rules of $\mathcal{C}$,
- (ii) L is a function that given a rule $R \in \mathcal{R}$ and an instance of the rule

$$\frac{S_0, \dots, S_{k-1}}{S} \in R$$

returns a subset of $\{0, \dots, k-1\}$. This subset is the set of premises of the rule instance that make progress. The function is called the local progress function of $\mathcal{C}$.

Sequent calculus $G^\infty\text{IL}$

We define the sequent calculus $G^\infty\text{IL}$ as the local-progress sequent calculus given by the following rules:

$$\begin{array}{c} \frac{}{p, \Gamma \Rightarrow p, \Delta} \text{ax} \qquad \frac{}{\perp, \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta} \perp\text{L} \\[10pt] \frac{\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \phi \quad \psi, \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta}{\phi \rightarrow \psi, \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta} \rightarrow \text{L} \qquad \frac{\phi, \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \psi}{\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \phi \rightarrow \psi} \rightarrow \text{R} \\[10pt] \frac{[\psi_i, \Phi_{[0,i)} \triangleright \perp, \phi \triangleright \perp \Rightarrow \Phi_{[0,i)}, \phi]_{m\dots i\dots 0}}{\{\phi_i \triangleright \psi_i\}_{i < m}, \Gamma \Rightarrow \psi_m \triangleright \phi, \Delta} \triangleright_{\text{IK4}} \end{array}$$

Progress only occurs at the premises of $\triangleright_{\text{IK4}}$. The system with the Cut rule:

$$\frac{\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \chi \quad \chi, \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta}{\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta} \text{Cut}$$

will be denoted as $G^\infty\text{IL} + \text{Cut}$.

Comparison of rules

$$\frac{[\psi_i \triangleright \perp, \psi_i, \Phi_{[0,i)} \triangleright \perp, \phi \triangleright \perp \Rightarrow \Phi_{[0,i)}, \phi]_{m\dots i\dots 0}}{\{\phi_i \triangleright \psi_i\}_{i < m}, \Gamma \Rightarrow \psi_m \triangleright \phi, \Delta} \triangleright_{\text{IL}}$$

$$\frac{[\psi_i, \Phi_{[0,i)} \triangleright \perp, \phi \triangleright \perp \Rightarrow \Phi_{[0,i)}, \phi]_{m\dots i\dots 0}}{\{\phi_i \triangleright \psi_i\}_{i < m}, \Gamma \Rightarrow \psi_m \triangleright \phi, \Delta} \triangleright_{\text{IK4}}$$

An example of a non-wellfounded proof in $G^\infty\text{IL}$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \vdots \\
 \hline
 \frac{\neg\phi, \perp \triangleright \perp, \neg\psi \triangleright \perp \Rightarrow \perp, \neg\psi}{\perp \triangleright \perp, \neg\psi \triangleright \perp \Rightarrow \phi, \perp, \Box\phi} \text{IK4} \quad \frac{\perp, \dots \Rightarrow \dots}{\Box\phi} \perp\text{L} \\
 \hline
 \frac{\psi, \perp \triangleright \perp, \neg\psi \triangleright \perp \Rightarrow \phi, \perp}{\perp \triangleright \perp, \neg\psi \triangleright \perp \Rightarrow \phi, \perp, \neg\psi} \neg\text{R} \\
 \hline
 \frac{\neg\phi, \perp \triangleright \perp, \neg\psi \triangleright \perp \Rightarrow \perp, \neg\psi}{\neg\psi \triangleright \perp \Rightarrow \neg\phi \triangleright \perp} \neg\text{L} \\
 \hline
 \frac{\neg\psi \triangleright \perp \Rightarrow \neg\phi \triangleright \perp}{\Rightarrow \Box\psi \rightarrow \Box\phi} \rightarrow\text{R} \\
 \hline
 \frac{\phi, \dots \Rightarrow \phi, \dots}{\phi, \dots \Rightarrow \phi, \dots} \text{Ax} \quad \frac{\perp, \dots \Rightarrow \perp}{\perp, \dots \Rightarrow \perp} \perp\text{L} \\
 \hline
 \frac{\phi, \dots \Rightarrow \phi, \dots}{\phi, \dots \Rightarrow \phi, \dots} \rightarrow\text{L} \quad \frac{\perp, \dots \Rightarrow \perp}{\perp, \dots \Rightarrow \perp} \triangleright\text{IK4}
 \end{array}$$

So we have proved that $G^\infty\text{IL} \vdash \Box\psi \rightarrow \Box\phi$, where $\psi = \Box\phi \rightarrow \phi$.

Theorem

Let S be a sequent. If $\text{GIL} + \text{Cut} \vdash S$, then $G^\infty\text{IL} + \text{Cut} \vdash S$.

Proof.

- by induction on the height of the proof $\pi \vdash S$ in $\text{GIL} + \text{Cut}$ and case analysis in the last rule applied

If π is a non-wellfounded proof, we denote by $\text{lhg}(\pi)$ its local height.

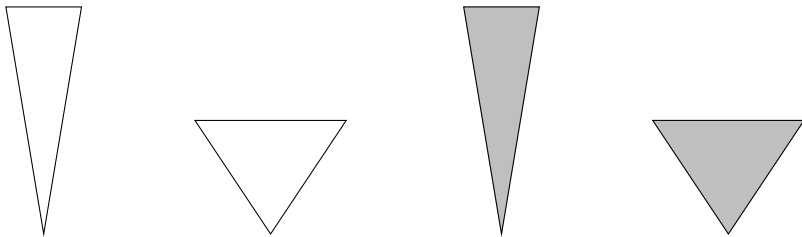
Lemma

Assume we have proofs $\pi \vdash \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \chi$ and $\tau \vdash \chi, \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta$ in $G^\infty\text{IL} + \text{Cut}$ which are locally cut-free. Then there is $\rho \vdash \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta$ in $G^\infty\text{IL} + \text{Cut}$ which is locally cut-free.

Proof. By induction on the lexicographic order of the pairs $\langle |\chi|, \text{lhg}(\pi) + \text{lhg}(\tau) \rangle$.

Coalgebraic Proof Translations of Non-Wellfounded Proofs

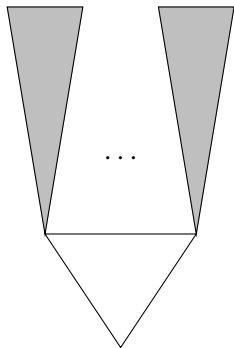
Borja Sierra Miranda, Thomas Studer and Lukas Zenger. "Coalgebraic Proof Translations of Non-Wellfounded Proofs". In Agata Ciabattoni, David Gabelaia and Igor Sedlár (eds). (2024) *Advances in Modal Logic*, Vol. 15. College Publications



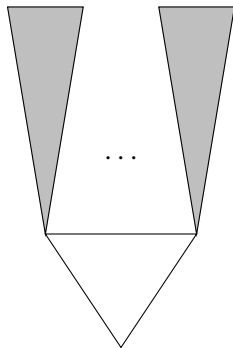
On the left: non-wellfounded proof and local fragment without cuts;
on the right: non-wellfounded proof and local fragment that can contain cuts

Coalgebraic Proof Translations of Non-Wellfounded Proofs

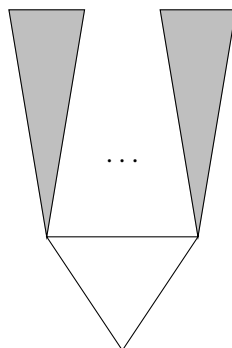
(1) local admissibility



$$\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta, \chi$$



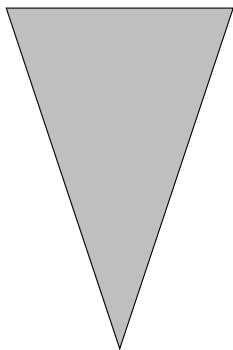
$$\chi, \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta$$



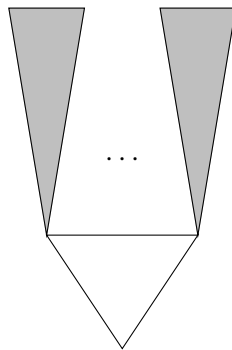
$$\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta$$

Coalgebraic Proof Translations of Non-Wellfounded Proofs

(2) step (local eliminability)



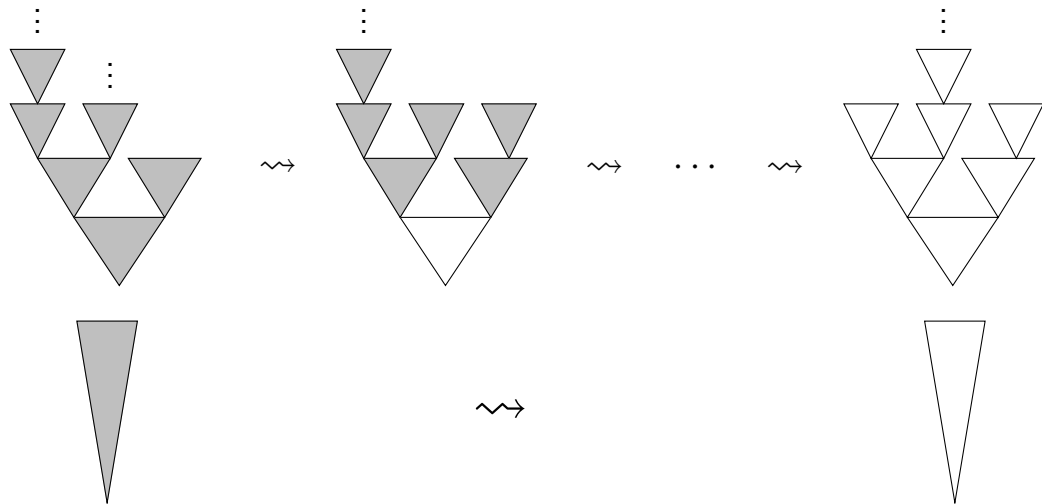
$\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta$



$\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta$

Coalgebraic Proof Translations of Non-Wellfounded Proofs

(3) applying step (eliminability)



By just applying the previous lemma corecursively to local proof fragments we get the desired result about the cut elimination for $G^\infty\text{IL}$.

Theorem

If $G^\infty\text{IL} + \text{Cut} \vdash S$, then $G^\infty\text{IL} \vdash S$.

The set $\text{Sub}(\phi)$

- Let ϕ be a formula. We define the set $\text{Sub}(\phi)$ recursively as follows:

$$\text{Sub}(p) = \{p\},$$

$$\text{Sub}(\perp) = \{\perp\},$$

$$\text{Sub}(\phi \rightarrow \psi) = \{\phi \rightarrow \psi\} \cup \text{Sub}(\phi) \cup \text{Sub}(\psi),$$

$$\text{Sub}(\phi \triangleright \psi) = \{\phi \triangleright \psi, \phi \triangleright \perp, \psi \triangleright \perp, \perp\} \cup \text{Sub}(\phi) \cup \text{Sub}(\psi).$$

- If Γ is a multiset of formulas, $\text{Sub}(\Gamma)$ is the *set*

$$\bigcup \{\text{Sub}(\phi) \mid \phi \in \Gamma\}.$$

- If $S = (\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta)$ is a sequent, then $\text{Sub}(S)$ is simply the set $\text{Sub}(\Gamma \cup \Delta)$.

$$\frac{[\psi_i, \Phi_{[0,i)} \triangleright \perp, \phi \triangleright \perp \Rightarrow \Phi_{[0,i)}, \phi]_{m \dots i \dots 0}}{\{\phi_i \triangleright \psi_i\}_{i < m}, \Gamma \Rightarrow \psi_m \triangleright \phi, \Delta} \triangleright_{\text{IK4}}$$

Lemma - formulas occurring in $G^\infty\text{IL}$ -proofs

Lemma

Let $\pi \vdash S$ in $G^\infty\text{IL}$ and ϕ be a formula occurring in π . Then $\phi \in \text{Sub}(S)$.

Proof. By the induction on the length of the node where ϕ appears.

Cut elimination for GIL

Theorem

For any finite set Λ of formulas, we have that

$$G^\infty\text{IL} \vdash \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta \text{ implies } \text{GIL} \vdash \Lambda \triangleright \perp, \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta.$$

Proof. Let $\pi \vdash \Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta$ in $G^\infty\text{IL}$. By induction on the lexicographical order

$$\langle |\text{Sub}(\Gamma \Rightarrow \Delta) \setminus \Lambda|, \text{lhg}(\pi) \rangle$$

and the case analysis in the last rule of π .

Corollary

Let S be a sequent. If $\text{GIL} + \text{Cut} \vdash S$, then $\text{GIL} \vdash S$.

- SEBASTIJAN HORVAT, BORJA SIERRA MIRANDA, AND THOMAS STUDER, *Non-wellfounded Proof Theory for Interpretability Logic*, **to appear**, 2025.
- SEBASTIJAN HORVAT, TIN PERKOV, *A correspondence theorem for interpretability logic with respect to Verbrugge semantics*, **Logic Journal of the IGPL**, vol. 33 (2025), pp. jzae081
- BORJA SIERRA MIRANDA, THOMAS STUDER, AND LUKAS ZENGLER, *Coalgebraic Proof Translations of Non-Wellfounded Proofs*, **Advances in Modal Logic** (Agata Ciabattoni, David Gabelaia and Igor Sedlár, editors), vol. 15, College Publications, 2024, pp. 527–548.
- KATSUMI SASAKI, *A Cut-Free Sequent System for the Smallest Interpretability Logic*, **Studia Logica**, vol. 70 (2002), no. 2, pp. 353–372.

Questions?