

Logic for Computer Science

**Foundations of
Automatic Theorem Proving**

Second Edition

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To Anne, my wife,
Mia, Philippe and Sylvie, my children,
and my mother, Simone

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Preface (Dover Edition)

Logic for Computer Science, initially published in 1985 has been out of print since 2000. Nevertheless, there has been continued demand for my book, and this prompted me in 2003 to correct all known mistakes and typos and to put a copy available online. I am honored that Dover proposed reprinting a hard copy of my book, and I hope that this will be attractive to readers interested in mathematical sciences and philosophy.

This republication of my book is a slightly revised version of the 1985 edition of my logic book. Many typos and errors have been corrected and the line drawings have been improved. Most mistakes were minor, except for a subtle error in Theorem 4.3.3. Indeed, the second part of the theorem about the complexity of the proof tree T obtained from a resolution refutation D is false: It is not necessarily the case that the number of leaves of T is less than or equal to the number of resolution steps in D . As a consequence, Lemma 4.3.4 is also false.

In this revised edition, I simply removed all statements about the complexity of the conversion of resolution refutations into proof trees. Hopefully, this part of the book is now correct, as well as the rest of it!

Some parts of the book have now aged, in particular, the parts about PROLOG. Also, thirty years later, I would prefer to present some of the material in a different order and in a different manner. In particular, I would separate more clearly the material on the resolution method (Chapter 4) from the more proof-theory oriented material. However, I consider this too big a task and this mildly revised version will have to do (at least, for now!).

Ideally, a number of topics should also be covered, for example, some basics of constructive logic, linear logic, temporal logic and model checking. Again, this is too formidable a task for a single individual and I hope that readers enjoy this new version of my book anyway.

It should be noted that this book is of “pre \TeX vintage.” This means that LaTeX was not available at the time this book was written, which implies that I had to write macros (stolen and adapted from D. Knuth blue \TeX book) to do chapter headings, etc. Fortunately, Dover converted my \TeX files to LaTeX ; many thanks for accomplishing this tedious task. Nevertheless, I am grateful to Knuth for producing \TeX . Without it, this book would not be alive.

In retrospect, I realize how much I was inspired by, and thus, how much I owe, Gerhard Gentzen, Jacques Herbrand, Stephen Kleene, Gaisi Takeuti, Raymond Smullyan, Peter Andrews and last but not least, Jean-Yves Girard. You have my deepest respect for your seminal and inspiring work and I thank all of you for what you taught me.

Philadelphia, March 2015

Jean Gallier

Preface (1985 Edition)

This book is intended as an introduction to mathematical logic, with an emphasis on proof theory and procedures for constructing formal proofs of formulae algorithmically.

This book is designed primarily for computer scientists, and more generally, for mathematically inclined readers interested in the formalization of proofs, and the foundations of automatic theorem-proving.

The book is self contained, and the level corresponds to senior undergraduates and first year graduate students. However, there is enough material for at least a two semester course, and some Chapters (Chapters 6, 7, 9, 10) contain material which could form the basis of seminars. It would be helpful, but not indispensable, if the reader has had an undergraduate-level course in set theory and/or modern algebra.

Since the main emphasis of the text is on the study of proof systems and algorithmic methods for constructing proofs, it contains some features rarely found in other texts on logic. Four of these features are:

- (1) The use of Gentzen Systems;
- (2) A Justification of the Resolution method via a translation from a Gentzen System;
- (3) A presentation of SLD-resolution and a presentation of the foundations of PROLOG;
- (4) Fast decisions procedures based on congruence closures.

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A fruitful way to use this text is to teach PROLOG concurrently with the material in the book, and ask the student to implement in PROLOG some of the procedures given in the text, in order to design a simple theorem-prover.

Even though the main emphasis of the book is on the design of procedures for constructing formal proofs, the treatment of the semantics is perfectly rigorous. The following paradigm has been followed: Having defined the syntax of the language, it is shown that the set of well-formed formulae is a freely generated inductive set. This is an important point, which is often glossed over. Then, the concepts of satisfaction and validity are defined by recursion over the freely generated inductive set (using the “unique homomorphic extension theorem”, which can be rigorously justified). Finally, the proof theory is developed, and procedures for constructing proofs are given. Particular attention is given to the complexity of such procedures.

In our opinion, the choice of Gentzen systems over other formal systems is pedagogically very advantageous. Gentzen-style rules reflect directly the semantics of the logical connectives, lead naturally to mechanical proof procedures, and have the advantage of having duality “built in”. Furthermore, in our opinion, Gentzen systems are more convenient than tableaux systems or natural deduction systems for proof-theoretical investigations (cut-free proofs in particular). In three years of teaching, I have found that Gentzen-like systems were very much appreciated by students.

Another good reason for using a formal system inspired from Gentzen (a sequent calculus), is that the completeness theorem is obtained in a natural and simple way. Furthermore, this approach even yields a program (the *search* procedure) for constructing a proof tree for a valid formula. In fact, in our presentation of the completeness theorem (inspired by Kleene, Kleene 1967), the search for a proof tree is described by a program written in pseudo-PASCAL. We also show how a proof procedure for first-order logic with equality can be developed incrementally, starting with the propositional case.

The contents of the book are now outlined.

Chapter 1 sets the goals of the book.

Chapter 2 has been included in order to make the book as self contained as possible, and it covers the mathematical preliminaries needed in the text. It is recommended to refer to this Chapter only when needed, as opposed to reading it entirely before proceeding to Chapter 3.

Propositional logic is studied in Chapter 3. This includes the syntax and semantics of propositional logic. Gentzen systems are introduced as a method for attempting to falsify a proposition. The completeness theorem is shown as well as some of its consequences (the conjunctive and disjunctive normal forms). By introducing infinite sequents, the extended completeness theorem and the compactness theorem are obtained. An informal exposition of the complexity classes P, NP, and of the concept of NP-completeness is given at the end of the Chapter.

The resolution method for propositional logic is presented in Chapter 4. This Chapter uses a new approach for proving the completeness of resolution. Completeness

is obtained by defining a special Gentzen System whose completeness follows easily from the results of Chapter 3, and giving an algorithm for converting proofs in the special Gentzen Systems into resolution refutations. Some complexity issues are also examined.

Chapter 5 is devoted to first-order logic. The syntax and semantics are presented. This includes the notions of first-order languages, structures, and models. Gentzen systems are extended to deal with quantifiers and equality. The concept of a Hintikka set is also introduced. It is shown that every Hintikka set is satisfiable in a model whose domain is (a quotient of) a term algebra. This result, together with a generalization of the *search* procedure, is used to derive the main theorems of first-order logic: completeness, compactness, model existence, Löwenheim-Skolem theorems. One of the main themes in this Chapter is that the *search* procedure is a “Hintikka set builder”.

Chapter 6 is devoted to Gentzen’s “Cut elimination Theorem” and some of its applications. A simple semantic proof derived from the completeness theorem is given for the Gentzen System LK. An entirely proof-theoretic (constructive) argument is also given for a simpler system $G1^{mf}$. This proof due to Schwichtenberg has the advantage that it also yields a precise upper bound on the length of cut-free proofs obtained from a proof with cut. This result is then extended to a system with equality.

A constructive proof of Craig’s Interpolation Theorem is given, and Beth’s Definability Theorem and Robinson’s Joint Consistency Theorem are also proved. This Chapter contains more advanced material than the previous Chapters.

Chapter 7 is devoted to Gentzen’s “Sharpened Hauptsatz”, Herbrand’s Theorem, and the Skolem-Herbrand-Gödel Theorem. As Chapter 6, this Chapter contains more advanced material. Gentzen’s “Sharpened Hauptsatz” for prenex sequents is proved constructively, using proof transformation techniques. A version of the “Sharpened Hauptsatz” is also proved constructively for sequents consisting of formulae in NNF. To prove this result, a new Gentzen system with quantifier rules applying to certain subformulae is defined. This version of the “Sharpened Hauptsatz” for sequents in NNF appears to be new. Using these results, constructive versions of Herbrand’s Theorem are proved, as well as Andrews’s version of the Skolem-Herbrand-Gödel Theorem (Andrews 1981). The class of primitive recursive functions and the class of recursive functions are also briefly introduced.

In Chapter 8, the resolution method for first-order logic is presented. A recursive unification algorithm inspired from Robinson’s algorithm (Robinson 1965) is presented. Using results from Chapter 4 and the Skolem-Herbrand-Gödel Theorem, the completeness of first-order resolution is shown, using the “lifting technique”. Paramodulation is also briefly discussed.

Chapter 9 is devoted to SLD-resolution and the foundations of PROLOG. Using techniques from Chapter 4, the completeness of SLD-resolution is shown, by translating proofs in a certain Gentzen system into SLD-refutations. This approach appears to be new. Logic programs are defined, and a model-theoretic semantics is given. It is shown that SLD-resolution is a sound and complete computational proof procedure for logic

programs. Most of this material can only be found in research papers, and should be useful to readers interested in logic programming.

In Chapter 10 (the last Chapter), a brief presentation of many-sorted first-order logic is given. This presentation should be sufficient preparation for readers interested in the definition of abstract data types, or computing with rewrite rules. Finally, an extension of the congruence closure method of Nelson and Oppen (Nelson and Oppen, 1980) to the many-sorted case and its application to fast decision procedures for testing the validity of quantifier-free formulae are presented.

This book grew out of a number of class notes written for a graduate course in logic for computer scientists, taught at the University of Pennsylvania (CIS581). The inspiration for writing the book came from Sheila Greibach (my advisor at UCLA) and Ronald Book (my “supervisor” at UCSB, while I was a “Post Doc”), who convinced me that there is no better way to really know a topic than writing about it.

I wish to thank my colleagues Saul Gorn, Dale Miller and Alex Pelin for reading the manuscript very carefully, and for many helpful comments. I also wish to thank my students William Dowling, Tomas Isakowitz, Harry Kaplan, Larry Krablin, Francois Lang, Karl Schimpf, Jeff Stroomer, Stan Raatz and Todd Rockoff for their help in “debugging” the manuscript. This includes reporting of typos, stylistic improvements, additional exercises, and correction of mistakes.

Philadelphia, July 1985

Jean Gallier