ELIMINATING DISJUNCTIONS BY DISJUNCTION ELIMINATION

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Abstract. Completeness and other forms of Zorn's Lemma are sometimes invoked for semantic proofs of conservation in relatively elementary mathematical contexts in which the corresponding syntactical conservation would suffice. We now show how a fairly general syntactical conservation theorem that covers plenty of the semantic approaches follows from an utmost versatile criterion for conservation given by Scott in 1974.

To this end we work with multi-conclusion entailment relations as extending single-conclusion entailment relations. In a nutshell, the additional axioms with disjunctions in positive position can be eliminated by reducing them to the corresponding disjunction elimination rules, which in turn prove admissible in all known mathematical instances. In deduction terms this means to fold up branchings of proof trees by way of properties of the relevant mathematical structures.

Applications include the syntactical counterparts of the theorems or lemmas known under the names of Artin–Schreier, Krull–Lindenbaum, and Szpilrajn. Related work has been done before on individual instances, e.g., in locale theory, dynamical algebra, formal topology and proof analysis.

§1. Introduction. As is well-known, certain additional axioms in which disjunctions occur in positive position such as

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} P(x*y) & \to & P(x) \vee P(y) & & P(e) & \to & \bot \\ \top & \to & Q(z) \vee Q(\sim\!\!z) & & Q(z) \wedge Q(\sim\!\!z) & \to & \bot \end{array}$$

are extremely useful in proof practice: they make possible quicker and slicker proofs in the special cases specified by the axioms. Examples include the characteristic axioms of integral domain, local ring, linear order, ordered field, and valuation ring. The use of such axioms, however, is said [67] to obstruct the extraction of computational content from classical proofs, e.g., by negative translation.

To reduce the general case to the special case, moreover, one needs to have at hand—in the terminology of Hilbert's Programme—the *ideal objects* characterised by the axioms, as there are prime ideals, prime filters, ultrafilters, complete theories, and linear orders. Yet the existence of these ideal objects is tied together—again in Hilbert's terms—with *transfinite methods* (Axiom of Choice, Well-Ordering Theorem, Ultrafilter Theorem, Zorn's Lemma, etc.) in the appropriate mathematical forms shaped by Artin–Schreier, Hahn–Banach, Krull–Lindenbaum, Szpilrajn, and others.

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This method is related to *semantic* conservation proofs with adequate completeness theorems at hand: by suitably embedding any given model of the base theory T into a model of the extended theory T^* [71]. In fact, if $T^* \vdash \varphi$, then $T^* \models \varphi$ by soundness; whence $T \models \varphi$ by embedding, and thus $T \vdash \varphi$ by completeness. While completeness and embedding normally need transfinite methods, in some cases Boolean-valued models can be used for constructive arguments [15].

More often than not one can also put and prove a *syntactical* conservation theorem the proof of which contains a proof-theoretic conversion algorithm that works at least for what is known as Horn sequents [40] or definite Horn clauses [75]. This approach is not new and has already proved practicable in different but related contexts: for example, in point-free topology such as locale theory and formal topology [11, 12, 16, 18, 53, 54]; in constructive algebra, especially with dynamical methods [21, 26, 42, 43, 45, 46, 78]; and in proof theory, e.g., in proof analysis [57, 58].

Towards a considerable generalisation (Theorem 3.3) we now employ a method pointed out in [11]: that is, to work with Scott's entailment relations. More specifically, we invoke the extremely efficient 'sandwich criterion' Scott [69] has proved equivalent to syntactical conservation of a multiconclusion entailment relation extending a single-conclusion entailment relation (Theorem 3.1 below). This criterion has turned out to hold in numerous cases including the ones we have abstracted before [63].

In a nutshell, applying Scott's criterion means to eliminate the additional axioms with disjunctions in positive position by reducing them to the corresponding disjunction elimination rules, which have proved admissible in all mathematical instances considered so far. In deduction terms this means to fold up branchings of proof trees by way of properties of the relevant mathematical structures.

Perhaps it in order to remember a saying by Scott [68, pp. 793–794]:

Unfortunately, in my opinion, both because of the aim of Gentzen's own work and in the light of later applications, the Gentzen systems have been very much oriented toward proof-theoretic analyses—especially the problems of establishing the so-called *cut elimination theorem*. For me this was misleading. It took me a long time to realize that cut is *not* eliminable—except in very special circumstances. This is not to say that cut elimination is uninteresting or unimportant, but there does seem to be a simple and basic point to make with the aid of Gentzen's idea which may not be so generally appreciated.

On method. All but Section 5 can be expressed within Elementary Constructive Zermelo–Fraenkel Set Theory ECST [2, 3]. This is a fragment of Constructive Zermelo–Fraenkel Set Theory CZF, which is based on intuitionistic logic and does not contain the Axiom of Power Set, let alone the Axiom of Choice. To supply semantics (Section 5) sometimes requires to use classical logic, to speak of power sets or to invoke Zorn's Lemma; for simplicity's sake we refer to ZFC in any such case.

By a finite set we understand a set that can be written as $\{a_1, \ldots, a_n\}$ for some $n \ge 0$. In **ECST** the generic subsets of a set T form a proper class, which as usual we write as $\mathcal{P}(T)$, whereas the finite subsets of a set T do form a set, which we denote by $\mathcal{P}_{\omega}(T)$.

§2. Relation.

2.1. Consequence. Let S be a set and $\triangleright \subseteq \mathscr{P}(S) \times S$. All but one of Tarski's axioms of consequence [74] can be put as

$$\frac{U\ni a}{U\rhd a} \text{ (R)} \quad \frac{\forall b\in U(V\rhd b) \quad U\rhd a}{V\rhd a} \text{ (T)} \quad \frac{U\rhd a}{\exists U_0\in\mathscr{P}_{\omega}(U)(U_0\rhd a)} \text{ (A)},$$

where $U, V \subseteq S$, and $a \in S$. Since Sambin's [64]² these axioms have also characterised a finitary covering or Stone covering in formal topology; see also [14, 55, 56].

The notion of consequence has allegedly been described first by Hertz [34–36]. We do not employ the one of Tarski's axioms by which he requires that S be countable. This axiom aside, Tarski has rather characterised the set of consequences of a set of propositions, which corresponds to the algebraic closure operator $U \mapsto U^{\triangleright}$ on $\mathscr{P}(S)$ correlated to a relation \triangleright as above, viz.

$$U^{\triangleright} \equiv \{a \in S : U \triangleright a\}.$$

Rather than with Tarski's notion, we henceforth work with its restriction to finite subsets, that is, the notion of a *single-conclusion entailment relation*. This is a relation $\triangleright \subseteq \mathscr{P}_{\omega}(S) \times S$ that satisfies

$$\frac{U\ni a}{U\rhd a} \text{ (R)} \qquad \frac{V\rhd b \quad V',b\rhd a}{V,V'\rhd a} \text{ (T)} \qquad \frac{U\rhd a}{U,U'\rhd a} \text{ (M)}$$

for all finite $U, U', V, V' \subseteq S$ and $a, b \in S$, where as usual $U, V \equiv U \cup V$ and $V, b \equiv V \cup \{b\}$.

Our focus thus is on *finite* subsets of S, for which we reserve the letters U, V, W, ...; we also sometimes write $a_1, ..., a_n$ in place of $\{a_1, ..., a_n\}$. Redefining

$$T^{\triangleright} \equiv \{ a \in S : \exists U \in \mathscr{P}_{\omega}(T)(U \triangleright a) \} \tag{1}$$

for arbitrary subsets T of S gives back an algebraic closure operator on $\mathcal{P}(S)$. Hence the single-conclusion entailment relations correspond exactly to the relations satisfying Tarski's axioms above.

¹For the sake of a slicker wording we thus deviate from the prevalent terminology of constructive mathematics and set theory [2, 3, 8, 9, 46, 52]: (1) to call 'subfinite' or 'finitely enumerable' a finite set in the sense above, i.e., a set T for which there is a surjection from $\{1,\ldots,n\}$ to T for some $n \ge 0$; and (2) to reserve the term 'finite' to sets which are in bijection with $\{1,\ldots,n\}$ for a necessarily unique $n \ge 0$. Also, finite sets in this stricter sense do not play a role in this paper.

²This also is from where we have taken the symbol \triangleright .

2.2. Entailment. Let S be a set and $\vdash \subseteq \mathscr{P}_{\omega}(S) \times \mathscr{P}_{\omega}(S)$. Scott's [69] axioms of entailment can be put as

$$\frac{U \between W}{U \vdash W} (R) \qquad \frac{V \vdash W, b \quad V', b \vdash W'}{V, V' \vdash W, W'} (T) \qquad \frac{U \vdash W}{U, U' \vdash W, W'} (M)$$

for finite $U, V, W \subseteq S$ and $b \in S$, where $U \between W$ means that U and W have an element in common.³ To be precise, any such \vdash is a *multi-conclusion entailment relation*, where 'multi' includes 'empty'. The axioms are symmetric: that is, \vdash satisfies the axioms if and only if so does the converse relation \dashv .

This fairly general notion of entailment has been introduced by Scott [68–70], building on Hertz's and Tarski's work (see above), and of course on Gentzen's sequent calculus [31,32]. Analogous concepts have been developed before by Lorenzen [47–50], who has even listed [48, pp. 84–85] counterparts of the axioms (R), (T), and (M) for single- and multi-conclusion entailment [22, 23].⁴ The relevance of the notion of entailment relation to point-free topology and constructive algebra has been pointed out in [11]; this has been used e.g., in [16, 17, 20, 24, 25, 58, 62]. Consequence and entailment have caught interest from various angles [6, 29, 30, 37, 38, 59, 72, 77].

It is in order to point out a major virtue Scott's treatment of entailment [69] has in comparison with the ones of his predecessors: the base set S may be any set whatsoever, and especially need not consist of formulas. The recommended reading of $U \vdash V$ still is as a sequent à la Gentzen, or rather as

$$\bigwedge_{b \in U} v(b) \to \bigvee_{c \in V} v(c),$$

where v is a distinguished predicate on S, normally the one that is of primary interest in the given context. In more logical terms one may view the elements of S as propositional variables and v as a valuation. Although this can be made precise by semantics, as we recall in Section 5, let us stress that—apart from heuristics—it is by no means constituent for our syntactical considerations, i.e., for all but Section 5.

Just as for sequents, it is common to abbreviate $\emptyset \rhd a$ by $\rhd a$, and to use $\vdash V$ and $U \vdash$ as shorthands of $\emptyset \vdash V$ and $U \vdash \emptyset$, respectively. One occasionally even writes \vdash in place of $\emptyset \vdash \emptyset$.

2.3. Generation. Let $\mathscr{E} \subseteq \mathscr{P}(X \times Y)$ be a class of relations between sets X and Y. We order \mathscr{E} by inclusion \subseteq , and call every $R \in \mathscr{E}$ an \mathscr{E} -relation. Let $R \subseteq X \times Y$, and $(x_i, y_i) \in X \times Y$ with $i \in I$. We say that R is the \mathscr{E} -relation generated by the axioms $x_i R y_i$ with $i \in I$ if R is the least \mathscr{E} -relation to which (x_i, y_i) belongs for every $i \in I$. Note that we thus do not incur circularity inasmuch as we suppose R to be given.

We will apply this in the two cases in which \mathcal{E} either consists of all single-conclusion entailment relations on a given set S, or else of all multiconclusion entailment relations on S. In these cases the axioms rather are

³We have adopted this notation from Giovanni Sambin.

⁴Stefan Neuwirth has hinted us at this circumstance.

axiom schemes in the sense that every parameter is tacitly understood as ranging over its domain. For example, if \circ is a binary operation on S, then by saying that \triangleright is generated by the axiom $a, b \triangleright a \circ b$ we mean that \triangleright is generated by *all* axioms $a, b \triangleright a \circ b$ with $a, b \in S$.

To actually construct an entailment relation generated by axioms, in a noncircular way, one can *inductively generate* it from the axioms by closing up with respect to (R), (T), and (M). This anyway is how we deal with our applications (Section 4), but is not always necessary for making proofs work. For example, for proving our main result (Theorem 3.3) it is enough to know that the entailment relations under consideration literally are the least entailment relations that satisfy the required axioms.

- §3. Conservation. Let \triangleright and \vdash stand for a single-conclusion and a multiconclusion entailment relation, respectively.
 - **3.1. Back and forth.** Given \vdash , its *trace* \triangleright_{\vdash} is defined by

$$U \rhd_{\vdash} a \equiv U \vdash a$$

and in fact is a single-conclusion entailment relation.

Given \triangleright and \vdash , it makes sense to say that

- 1. \vdash is an *extension* of \triangleright if $\triangleright \subseteq \triangleright_{\vdash}$;
- 2. \vdash is *conservative* over \triangleright if \triangleright \supseteq \triangleright \vdash .

By the very definitions, every \vdash is a conservative extension of its trace \triangleright_{\vdash} . Given \triangleright , there are $\vdash_{\triangleright}^{min}$ and $\vdash_{\triangleright}^{max}$ as follows [69]:⁵

$$\begin{array}{l} U \vdash^{\min}_{\rhd} V \equiv \exists b \in V(U \rhd b) \\ U \vdash^{\max}_{\rhd} V \equiv \forall W \in \mathscr{P}_{\omega}(S) \forall c \in S \big(\forall b \in V(W, b \rhd c) \to W, U \rhd c \big). \end{array}$$

These \vdash^{min}_{\rhd} and \vdash^{max}_{\rhd} indeed are multi-conclusion entailment relations, and $\vdash^{min}_{\rhd}\subseteq\vdash^{max}_{\rhd}$. As \rhd is the trace of either relation, both \vdash^{min}_{\rhd} and \vdash^{max}_{\rhd} are conservative extensions of \rhd .

For later use we notice that $a_1, \ldots, a_k \vdash^{\max}_{\triangleright} b_1, \ldots, b_\ell$ is tantamount to the validity of the rule

$$\frac{W, b_1 \rhd c \dots W, b_\ell \rhd c}{W, a_1, \dots, a_k \rhd c}$$
 (2)

for all finite $W \subseteq S$ and $c \in S$.

3.2. Unfolding sandwiches. Given \triangleright , the \vdash which are extensions of \triangleright (respectively, which are conservative over \triangleright) are closed upwards (respectively, closed downwards) with respect to \subseteq . Hence the \vdash which are conservative extensions of \triangleright form an interval. This interval has endpoints $\vdash^{\min}_{\triangleright}$ and $\vdash^{\max}_{\triangleright}$ by the following 'sandwich criterion' for conservative extension by Scott [69]:

⁵This definition of $\vdash^{\text{max}}_{\triangleright}$ is not identical but equivalent to the one given in [69].

Theorem 3.1. A multi-conclusion entailment relation \vdash is a conservative extension of the single-conclusion entailment relation \triangleright if and only if \vdash lies between $\vdash_{\triangleright}^{\min}$ and $\vdash_{\triangleright}^{\max}$, which is to say that

$$\rhd = \rhd_{\vdash} \iff \vdash^{min}_{\rhd} \subseteq \vdash \subseteq \vdash^{max}_{\rhd}.$$

Lorenzen [47, Satz 14, Satz 15] already had $\vdash^{\min}_{\triangleright}$ and $\vdash^{\max}_{\triangleright}$ as well as \Rightarrow of Theorem 3.1 [22, 23].6

By proof inspection we could make Scott's criterion slightly more precise, as follows:

LEMMA 3.2.

- 1. \vdash is an extension of \triangleright if and only if $\vdash^{\min}_{\triangleright} \subseteq \vdash$. 2. If \vdash is an extension of \triangleright , then \vdash is conservative over \triangleright if and only if $\vdash \subseteq \vdash_{\triangleright}^{\max}$.

To have that conservation follows from $\vdash \subseteq \vdash^{\max}_{\rhd}$ it is not necessary that \vdash be an extension of \rhd . In fact, if $U \vdash a$, then by $\vdash \subseteq \vdash^{\max}_{\rhd}$ we have $U \vdash^{\max}_{\rhd} a$, from which we get $U \triangleright a$ in view of $a \triangleright a$ by (R).

Remembering the recommended disjunctive reading of the conclusion Vof any sequent $U \vdash V$, in the light of Lemma 3.2 a possible interpretation of extension and conservation is as follows:

- 1. extension as that disjunctions introduced from \triangleright can be expressed as sequents of \vdash :
- 2. conservation as that disjunctions expressed as sequents of \vdash can be eliminated in terms of \triangleright .
- **3.3.** Adding axioms. Let the single-conclusion entailment relation \triangleright be generated by axioms. Let the multi-conclusion entailment relation ⊢ be generated by the axioms of \triangleright , of course with \vdash in place of \triangleright , and by additional axioms of the form

$$\varphi: a_1, \ldots, a_k \vdash b_1, \ldots, b_\ell$$

where $k, \ell \ge 0$. In any such situation we say that $\vdash extends \triangleright$, and list the additional axioms if needed. This is legitimate inasmuch as if \vdash extends \triangleright , then \vdash is an extension of \triangleright in the sense of Section 3.1. By the *conservation* criterion of an axiom φ as above we understand the rule

$$\frac{W, b_1 \triangleright c \dots W, b_\ell \triangleright c}{W, a_1, \dots, a_k \triangleright c} (E_{\varphi}),$$

where W is a finite subset of S and $c \in S$.

THEOREM 3.3. If \vdash extends \triangleright , then \vdash is conservative over \triangleright precisely when, for every additional axiom φ of \vdash , the conservation criterion E_{φ} is satisfied for \triangleright .

PROOF. As \vdash is an extension of \triangleright , the former is conservative over the latter if and only if $\vdash \subseteq \vdash^{max}_{\rhd}$ (Lemma 3.2). Now recall that \vdash is the least multi-conclusion entailment relation that satisfies not only the axioms of \triangleright but also the additional axioms of \vdash ; and that $\vdash^{\max}_{\triangleright}$ as an extension of \triangleright

⁶Stefan Neuwirth has hinted us at this circumstance.

already satisfies the former axioms. Hence $\vdash \subseteq \vdash^{max}_{\triangleright}$ is tantamount to $\vdash^{max}_{\triangleright}$ too satisfying all additional axioms, i.e.,

$$a_1,\ldots,a_k\vdash^{\max}_{\triangleright}b_1,\ldots,b_\ell$$

for every additional axiom φ as above. By definition of $\vdash^{\max}_{\triangleright}$, this is equivalent to E_{φ} being valid for \triangleright .

Given an axiom such as φ above, let \vdash_{φ} denote the multi-conclusion entailment relation that extends \rhd with the single additional axiom φ . If \vdash_{φ} is conservative over \rhd , we say—par abus de langage—that φ is *conservative* over \rhd . The related special case of Theorem 3.3 reads as follows:

COROLLARY 3.4. An axiom φ is conservative over \triangleright if and only if the rule E_{φ} is valid for \triangleright .

By reduction to the corresponding rule we can thus eliminate from proof trees occurrences of an additional axiom, roughly as follows; note that the result of this conversion does not contain \vdash at all:

The following is an equivalent formulation of Theorem 3.3; of course also a direct proof is possible.

COROLLARY 3.5. If \vdash extends \triangleright , then \vdash is conservative over \triangleright precisely when every additional axiom φ of \vdash is conservative over \triangleright .

The next lemma will prove useful for modifying the base of an instance of conservation.

- LEMMA 3.6. Let \triangleright be a single-conclusion entailment relation on S that is generated by axioms. For any subset D of S, let \triangleright' be generated by the axioms of \triangleright , and by the extra axioms $\triangleright d$ with $d \in D$.
 - 1. We have $U \rhd' a$ if and only if $U, V \rhd a$ for a finite subset $V \subseteq D$.
 - 2. If an axiom

$$\varphi: a_1, \ldots, a_k \vdash b_1, \ldots, b_\ell$$

is conservative over \triangleright , then it is conservative over \triangleright' .

§4. Application.

- **4.1. Szpilrajn's Theorem.** Our approach subsumes the existing syntactical treatment [58] of order extension, the semantics of which is that every (proper) quasiorder can be extended to a linear one [33, 73].
- 4.1.1. Quasi-orders. As a binary relation \leq on a set X is a quasiorder if \leq is reflexive and transitive, the single-conclusion entailment relation \triangleright

of quasiorder on $S = X \times X$ is generated by the corresponding axioms of reflexivity and transitivity:

$$\rho: \rhd(a,a) \qquad \tau: (a,b), (b,c) \rhd(a,c).$$

The multi-conclusion entailment relation \vdash_{λ} of *linear quasiorder* extends \triangleright with the single additional axiom of *linearity*:

$$\lambda$$
: \vdash $(a,b),(b,a).$

The conservation criterion of λ reads as follows:

$$\frac{W,(a,b)\rhd(r,s)}{W\rhd(r,s)} \xrightarrow{W,(b,a)\rhd(r,s)} (E_{\lambda}).$$

The closure operator corresponding to \triangleright assigns to a subset T of S its reflexive-transitive closure T^* . With this at hand, or following the proof of [58, Theorem 5.1], one readily verifies that E_{λ} is valid for \triangleright ; whence \vdash_{λ} is conservative over \triangleright (Theorem 3.3). This can equally be seen by restricting to single-conclusion instances an alternative description of \vdash_{λ} in terms of cycles [58, Section 7]. Reflexivity ρ is necessary for conservation, by way of the special case a = b = r = s of E_{λ} .

4.1.2. Bounded quasi-orders. We say that a quasiorder (X, \leq) with distinguished elements 0, 1 is bounded if $0 \leq s$ and $r \leq 1$ for all $r, s \in X$; and that \leq is proper if $1 \nleq 0$. Accordingly, the single-conclusion entailment relation \triangleright' of bounded quasiorder on $S = X \times X$ is generated by the axioms ρ and τ as above plus the following:

$$\beta_0: \rhd(0,s)$$
 $\beta_1: \rhd(r,1).$

The multi-conclusion entailment relation \vdash' of *linear proper bounded* quasiorder extends \triangleright' with the additional axioms of linearity λ and properness:

$$\pi: (1,0) \vdash$$

The conservation criterion of π reads as follows:

$$\overline{W,(1,0)\rhd(r,s)}$$
 (E _{π}).

By transitivity τ it is easy to see that E_{π} is valid for \triangleright' . As E_{λ} is valid for \triangleright (Section 4.1.1), E_{λ} is valid for \triangleright' too (Corollary 3.4, Lemma 3.6). In all, \vdash' is conservative over \triangleright' (Theorem 3.3).

4.1.3. Discussion. A proof-theoretic analysis of order relations is carried out in [58], with sequent calculi **GPO** and **GLO** which correspond to the theories of quasiorder and linear quasiorder, respectively. It is shown that a single-conclusion sequent derivable in **GLO** is derivable already in **GPO** [58, Theorems 5.1].

This conservation result is then carried over to nondegenerate nontrivial quasiorders [58, Theorem 5.2]. While *nondegenerate* means $1 \le 0$, i.e., what we have called 'proper', a quasiorder \le with distinguished elements 0 and 1

is said *nontrivial* if $0 \le 1$. In terms of the single-conclusion entailment relation of quasiorder, *nontriviality* means to add the axiom

$$\triangleright (0,1)$$

to reflexivity ρ and transitivity τ . With this add-on, conservation of linearity λ carries over (Lemma 3.6), whereas the conservation of properness π depends on the presence of β_0 and β_1 .

The conservation of linearity for quasiorders is an instance of the Universal Krull–Lindenbaum principle, to which we now turn our attention.

- **4.2.** Universal Krull–Lindenbaum. In the sequel \triangleright and \vdash always stand for a single-conclusion and a multi-conclusion entailment relation, respectively.
- 4.2.1. Universal Krull. Let S come with a (partial) binary operation $*: S \times S \rightarrow S$ and with a distinguished element $e \in S$. Given \triangleright , let \vdash extend \triangleright with additional axioms

$$\mu$$
: $a*b \vdash a,b$ π : $e \vdash$.

In this situation Theorem 3.3 reads as follows:

COROLLARY 4.1. \vdash is a conservative extension of \triangleright precisely when the following rules hold:

$$\frac{W, a \rhd c \qquad W, b \rhd c}{W, a * b \rhd c} (E_{\mu}) \qquad \frac{W, e \rhd c}{W, e \rhd c} (E_{\pi}).$$

The first and second conservation criterion above have occurred [63] as ' \triangleright satisfies *Encoding*' and as 'e is *convincing* for \triangleright ', respectively. It is noteworthy that the axiom of *contraction*

$$a * a \triangleright a$$

is necessary for conservation, by the special case a = b = c of E_u .

Corollary 4.1 can be compared with disjunction elimination and ex falso quodlibet, especially if S is a bounded distributive lattice such as an intuitionistic Lindenbaum algebra, with \vee as * and \perp as e. In these cases \triangleright is the single-conclusion entailment relation of filter or theory, see 4.2.4.

4.2.2. Universal Lindenbaum. Let *S* come with a (partial) unary operation \sim . Given \triangleright , let \vdash extend \triangleright with additional axioms

$$\eta: \vdash a, \sim a \qquad v: \quad a, \sim a \vdash.$$

In this situation Theorem 3.3 reads as follows:

Corollary 4.2. \vdash is a conservative extension of \triangleright precisely when

$$\frac{W, a \rhd c \qquad W, \sim a \rhd c}{W \rhd c} (\mathbf{E}_{\eta}) \qquad \frac{}{W, a, \sim a \rhd c} (\mathbf{E}_{\nu}).$$

Corollary 4.2 can be compared with *excluded middle* and *noncontradiction*, especially if S is a Boolean algebra such as a Lindenbaum algebra in classical logic, with complement or negation \neg as \sim . In these cases \triangleright again is the entailment relation of filter or theory, see 4.2.4. Further applications of Corollary 4.2 include Artin and Schreier's theorem, see 4.2.6 below.

4.2.3. Order extension revisited. Some proof-theoretic variants of Szpilrajn's theorem may also be viewed as instances of Universal Krull–Lindenbaum. In order to see this, consider once more the single-conclusion entailment relation \triangleright of bounded quasiorder on $S = X \times X$. The swap operation

$$\sim$$
 $(a,b) = (b,a)$

on S fits Universal Lindenbaum in parts, giving rise to Section 4.1.1 above. In fact, the axiom η becomes linearity λ and thus E_{η} can be proved valid, whereas E_{ν} does not hold in general.

We consider next, on the same $S = X \times X$, the *partial* binary operation \circ of composition defined by

$$(a,b) \circ (b,d) = (a,d).$$

With \circ in place of *, the axiom μ becomes *cotransivitity*

$$\kappa$$
: $(a,d) \vdash (a,b), (b,d),$

the conservation criterion of which reads

$$\frac{W,(a,b)\rhd(r,s)}{W,(a,d)\rhd(r,s)}(\mathrm{E}_{\kappa})$$

and can be proved by transitivity τ only. By reflexivity ρ , (conservation of) linearity λ is a special case of (conservation of) cotransitivity κ . With (1,0) as e, Section 4.1.2 above is an instance of Universal Krull as a whole.

An interesting variant is given by the *total* binary operation

$$(a,b)*(c,d) = (a,d)$$

with additional axiom

$$(a,d) \vdash (a,b), (c,d)$$

and conservation criterion

$$\frac{W,(a,b)\rhd(r,s)}{W,(a,d)\rhd(r,s)}.$$

This rule can be shown valid for the single-conclusion entailment relation of quasiorder, over which by reflexivity ρ it yields conservation of *strong linearity* [51]:

$$\vdash$$
 $(a,b),(c,a).$

4.2.4. Distributive lattices. Krull's Lemma for distributive lattices says that every proper filter (respectively, proper ideal) can be extended to a proper prime filter (respectively, proper prime ideal). To view the corresponding conservation statement, let L be a bounded lattice with meet \wedge and join \vee , and with bottom and top element 0 and 1, respectively. The entailment relation \triangleright of filter on S=L is generated by the axioms

$$\triangleright 1$$
 $a, b \triangleright a \wedge b$ $a \triangleright a \vee b$.

The multi-conclusion entailment relation \vdash of *proper prime filter* extends \triangleright with additional axioms

$$\mu: \quad a \vee b \vdash a, b \qquad \pi: \quad 0 \vdash$$

for which the conservation criteria read as follows:

$$\frac{W, a \rhd c \qquad W, b \rhd c}{W, a \lor b \rhd c} (\mathbf{E}_{\mu}) \qquad \frac{}{W, 0 \rhd c} (\mathbf{E}_{\pi}).$$

The closure operator corresponding to \triangleright assigns to a subset T of S the filter generated by T. Thus 0 is convincing, while the validity of E_{μ} , i.e., Encoding for \triangleright , follows from L being distributive [63, 4.2]. Therefore, with \vee as * and 0 as e, Universal Krull implies that the multi-conclusion entailment relation of proper prime filter on a distributive lattice is a conservative extension of the single-conclusion entailment relation of filter.

Dually, the single-conclusion entailment relation \triangleright' of *ideal* on S=L is generated by the axioms

$$\triangleright' 0$$
 $a, b \triangleright' a \vee b$ $a \triangleright' a \wedge b$.

This \triangleright' extends to the multi-conclusion entailment relation \vdash' of *proper prime ideal* by adding the following axioms:

$$u': a \wedge b \vdash' a.b \qquad \pi': 1 \vdash' .$$

The closure operator corresponding to \triangleright' assigns to a subset T of S the ideal generated by T. Reasoning dually to the case of filters shows that the multi-conclusion entailment relation of proper prime ideal is a conservative extension of the single-conclusion entailment relation of ideal.

While this approach fits Universal Krull, if L is a Boolean algebra with complement -, then we may instead add the axioms

$$\eta$$
: $\vdash a, -a$ v : $a, -a \vdash$

to both \triangleright and \triangleright' . Now Universal Lindenbaum applies, giving rise to conservation over \triangleright and \triangleright' of the multi-conclusion entailment relations of proper complete filter and proper complete ideal, respectively. This conservation corresponds to Lindenbaum's Lemma for Boolean algebras, which says that every proper filter (respectively, proper ideal) can be extended to a proper complete filter (respectively, proper complete ideal).

4.2.5. Commutative rings. The original form of Krull's Lemma, for commutative rings [41], says that every proper filter can be extended to a proper prime filter, which can be carried over from ideals to filters. In order to display the corresponding conservation results, let \triangleright be the single-conclusion entailment relation of *radical ideal* (or *reduced ring*) on a commutative ring S which is generated by the axioms of *ideal* (or *zero*)

$$\triangleright 0$$
 $a, b \triangleright a + b$ $a \triangleright ab$

together with the characteristic axiom of radical ideal

$$a^2 \triangleright a$$
.

The corresponding closure operator assigns to every subset T of S the radical of the ideal generated by T. The following rules are valid (see e.g., [63, Lemma 19] for a proof of the first one):

$$\frac{W,a\rhd c \qquad W,b\rhd c}{W,ab\rhd c}(\mathbf{E}_{\mu})\qquad \frac{}{W,1\rhd c}(\mathbf{E}_{\pi}).$$

By Universal Krull, with multiplication as * and 1 as e, the following axioms of *prime ideal* (or *integral domain*) are conservative over \triangleright :

$$\mu: ab \vdash a, b \qquad \pi: 1 \vdash.$$

The five axioms for \vdash stem from [11], and conservation of \vdash over \triangleright is essentially known from dynamical algebra [26]. As the relevant case of contraction, the characteristic axiom of radical ideal $a^2 \triangleright a$ is necessary for conservation.

Dually, the single-conclusion entailment relation of *filter* (or unit) on a commutative ring S is generated by the following axioms:

$$\triangleright 1$$
 $a, b \triangleright ab$ $ab \triangleright a$.

The corresponding closure operator assigns to every subset T of S the filter generated by T. The following rules hold (see e.g., [63, Lemma 20] for a proof of the first one):

$$\frac{W, a \rhd c \qquad W, b \rhd c}{W, a + b \rhd c} (E_{\mu}) \qquad \frac{W, 0 \rhd c}{W, 0 \rhd c} (E_{\pi}).$$

By Universal Krull, now with addition + in place of * and 0 as e, the axioms of *prime filter* (or *local ring*) are conservative over \triangleright :

$$\mu: \quad a+b\vdash a,b \qquad \quad \pi: \quad 0\vdash.$$

This again is essentially known from dynamical algebra [42].

4.2.6. Ordered fields. Artin and Schreier's Theorem [5], saying that every proper quadratic preorder on a field can be extended to a total order, was used to solve Hilbert's 17th Problem in the affirmative [4]. Towards the corresponding conservation result in terms of entailment relations, let the single-conclusion entailment relation \triangleright of *quadratic preorder* on a field S of char \neq 2 be generated by the following axioms:

$$\triangleright a^2$$
 $a, b \triangleright a + b$ $a, b \triangleright ab$.

The corresponding closure operator assigns to every subset T of S the quadratic preorder generated by T. The following rules are valid for \triangleright (see [63, Lemma 24] for a proof of the first one):

$$\frac{W, a \rhd c \quad W, b \rhd c}{W, a + b \rhd c} (\mathbf{E}_{\mu}) \qquad \frac{}{W, -1 \rhd c} (\mathbf{E}_{\pi}).$$

By Universal Krull, with addition + as * and -1 as e, the following axioms are conservative over \triangleright :

$$\mu$$
: $a+b\vdash a,b$ π : $-1\vdash$.

Equivalently so are the axioms of *total order* on $S \setminus \{0\}$:

$$\eta$$
: $\vdash a, -a$ v : $a, -a \vdash$.

We thus not only have an instance of Universal Krull but also one of Universal Lindenbaum, with minus – in place of \sim . A related set of axioms [11] already contains μ and ν .

Once more, this conservation statement is essentially known from dynamical algebra [43]. There is vast literature on computational and continuous aspects of the Artin–Schreier Theorem, Hilbert's 17th Problem and related results, see e.g., [7, 10, 27, 28, 60].

4.2.7. Valuation rings. Let R be a subring of a field K, and let R[U] denote the subring of K containing R that is generated by $U \subseteq K$. Take the single-conclusion entailment relation \triangleright on S = K that is generated by the axioms of subring of K containing R

$$\triangleright r \quad (r \in R) \qquad a, b \triangleright a + b \qquad a, b \triangleright ab$$

together with the following axiom of integral closure:

$$s_1, \ldots, s_n > a \quad (a^n + s_1 a^{n-1} + \cdots + s_n = 0, \ n \geqslant 1).$$

The corresponding closure operator assigns to every subset T of S the integral closure $\overline{R[T]}$ of R[T]; and the following rule can be shown valid [63, Lemma 23]:

$$\frac{W, a \rhd c \qquad W, b \rhd c}{W, ab \rhd c} (\mathbf{E}_{\mu}).$$

By Corollary 3.4, the additional axiom

$$\mu: ab \vdash a, b$$

is conservative over \triangleright . As there is no convincing element for \triangleright , this is a partial instance of Universal Krull, with multiplication in place of *.

Not only $a^2 \triangleright a$ as an instance of contraction, but even the full axiom of integral closure is necessary for conservation, which can be seen along the lines of the usual proof that a valuation ring is integrally closed. For example, if $c^2 + s_1c + s_2 = 0$, then $s_1, s_2 \triangleright c$ follows from the instance $a = -c, b = c + s_1$ and $W = \{s_1, s_2\}$ of E_μ .

Up to this point everything equally works for subrings of a ring K rather than a field K. For a field K, however, an alternative generation [11, 24] of \vdash makes use of the axiom of *valuation*:

$$\eta: \vdash a, a^{-1} \quad (a \neq 0).$$

Given the axioms of \triangleright , this η is equivalent to μ as above whenever the field K is *discrete* in the sense that the characteristic axiom of a field holds in the form

$$a = 0 \lor \exists b (ab = 1).$$

Hence η too is conservative over \triangleright for discrete fields K, and we have a partial instance of Universal Lindenbaum as well. This approach has been followed in the context of Kronecker's Theorem [44] and Dedekind's Prague Theorem [24], and more generally to study valuations in a point-free way [19].

4.2.8. Ordered vector spaces. Let E be a vector space over the field \mathbb{Q} of rationals. Let the single-conclusion entailment relation \triangleright on S = E be generated by the following axioms:

$$\triangleright 0$$
 $a, b \triangleright a + b$ $n \cdot a \triangleright a \quad (n \in \mathbb{N}, n \geqslant 1).$

The corresponding closure operator assigns to every $T \subseteq S$ the *positive cone* generated by T, and

$$\frac{W, a \rhd c \qquad W, b \rhd c}{W, a + b \rhd c} (E_{\mu})$$

is a valid rule for \triangleright . By Theorem 3.3, the multi-conclusion entailment relation \vdash extending \triangleright with the additional axiom

$$\mu: a+b\vdash a,b$$

is conservative over \triangleright . The axiom $n \cdot a \triangleright a$ of \triangleright follows from E_{μ} by induction and thus is necessary for conservation. A different set of axioms [11] for \vdash includes μ as above and the following axiom:

$$v: a, -a \vdash$$
.

From this one can go to the point-free treatments [11, 12, 16, 18] of the Hahn–Banach theorem in succession to [53, 54]. Unlike for many of the ring-theoretic applications mentioned above, it is not clear whether one can make computational use of the Hahn–Banach theorem itself [16].

- §5. Semantics. Now we place ourselves within **ZFC**. As before let S be a set, and write U, V for finite subsets of S.
- **5.1. Lindenbaum's Lemma and completeness theorems.** According to [69], a (multi-conclusion) entailment relation \vDash on S is *complete* if for each $a \in S$ either $\vDash a$ or $a \vDash$, and *consistent* if for no $a \in S$ both $\vDash a$ and $a \vDash$. Note that [69] if \vDash is inconsistent, then \vDash holds in the sense that $\emptyset \vDash \emptyset$. Conversely, if \vDash holds, then \vDash is inconsistent unless $S = \emptyset$.

The complete consistent entailment relations \vDash are just the *valuations* on S, i.e., predicates $v \in 2^S$. More precisely, if \vDash corresponds to v, then

$$U \vDash V \iff \left(\bigwedge_{b \in U} v(b) \Rightarrow \bigvee_{c \in V} v(c) \right).$$
 (3)

The following [69] surely is one of the most general versions of *Lindenbaum's Lemma*:

Theorem 5.1. Each entailment relation \vdash on a set S equals the intersection of all complete consistent entailment relations \models on S with $\models \supseteq \vdash$.

For an arbitrary subset P of S we set

$$U \Vdash_P V \iff (P \supseteq U \Rightarrow V \lozenge P).$$

As the valuations v on S are just the subsets P of S, in view of (3) the complete consistent entailment relations \vdash are precisely the relations of the form \vdash_P where P is a—not necessarily finite—subset of S.

Now let \vdash denote an arbitrary entailment relation. If $\vdash \subseteq \vdash_P$, then P is said to be an *ideal element* [25] of S or a *model* [17] of \vdash , for short $P \in \text{Mod}(\vdash)$. Hence Lindenbaum's Lemma (Theorem 5.1) is tantamount to the following *Completeness Theorem* [25]:

THEOREM 5.2. Every entailment relation \vdash on a set S has enough models in the sense that

$$U \vdash V \iff \forall P \in \operatorname{Mod}(\vdash)(U \Vdash_P V) \tag{4}$$

for all finite subsets U and V of S.

The models of the converse relation \dashv are exactly the complements of the models of \vdash . For example, the prime filters of a distributive lattice or commutative ring are exactly the complements of the prime ideals.

Constructive semantics. We hasten to add that a constructive semantics is possible, to be expressed in \mathbf{ECST} . If S is a distributive lattice, then a natural choice of an entailment relation is

$$U \vdash V \equiv \bigwedge U \leqslant \bigvee V$$

with (R) and (M) being automatic but (T) equivalent to distributivity [69]. In this case the models of \vdash and \dashv are nothing but the prime filters and prime ideals, respectively, of S.

Conversely, in [11, Theorem 3] the following seminal theorem has been proved, which now is already called 'fundamental theorem of entailment relations' [46, XI, Theorem 5.3]:8

Theorem 5.3. For every entailment relation \vdash on a set S there is a distributive lattice D with a map $i: S \to D$ satisfying

$$U \vdash V \iff \bigwedge i(U) \leqslant \bigvee i(V) \tag{5}$$

such that if L is an arbitrary distributive lattice and $j: S \to L$ is a map satisfying \Rightarrow of (5) with j in place of i, then there is a unique lattice homomorphism $f: D \to L$ such that $f \circ i = j$.

This can also be seen as the constructive essence of Theorem 5.2. In fact, (4) follows from (5) in **ZFC**, where every distributive lattice has enough prime filters by the adequate variant of Krull's Lemma.

5.2. Extension and conservation, semantically. Back to **ZFC**, let \triangleright and \vdash be a single-conclusion and multi-conclusion entailment relation, respectively. The models of \triangleright are exactly the subsets of S which are closed under the associated algebraic closure operator (1). The corresponding counterpart of Theorem 5.2 is trivial with \triangleright in place of \vdash and for singleton V: the closure of U equals the intersection of the closed supersets of U.

The next statements largely rely on completeness (Theorem 5.2).

⁷For the question whether in **CZF** the models of a given entailment relation form at least a 'set-generated class' we refer to [1, 39, 76]. When consulting this literature we suggest to observe that an entailment relation R on S is a specific sort of 'set of rules' on S, and the models of R are exactly the subsets of S that are 'R-closed'.

⁸The anonymous referee has kindly indicated this name to us, as well as the fact that both this theorem and the analogous one for single-conclusion entailment relations, with semilattices in place of lattices, were already known to Lorenzen [48].

LEMMA 5.4.

1. \vdash is an extension of \triangleright if and only if, for every finite $U \subseteq S$,

$$\bigcap \{P \in \operatorname{Mod}(\vdash) : P \supseteq U\} \supseteq U^{\triangleright}.$$

2. If \vdash is an extension of \triangleright , then \vdash is conservative over \triangleright if and only if, for every finite $U \subseteq S$,

$$\bigcap \{P \in \mathsf{Mod}(\vdash) : P \supseteq U\} \subseteq U^{\triangleright} .$$

In fact, by Theorem 5.2 for singleton V we have that, for every finite $U \subseteq S$,

$$\bigcap \{P \in \operatorname{Mod}(\vdash) : P \supseteq U\} = U^{\triangleright_{\vdash}}.$$

Proposition 5.5.

- 1. \vdash *is an extension of* \triangleright *if and only if every model of* \vdash *is a model of* \triangleright .
- 2. If \vdash is an extension of \triangleright , then \vdash is conservative over \triangleright if and only if, for every model I of \triangleright ,

$$\bigcap \{P \in \operatorname{Mod}(\vdash) : P \supseteq I\} = I.$$

More often than not the characterisation of conservation from Proposition 5.5.2 occurs in its contrapositive form, viz.

for every $I \in \operatorname{Mod}(\triangleright)$ and $a \in S$, if $I \not\ni a$, then there is $P \in \operatorname{Mod}(\vdash)$ with $P \supseteq I$ and $P \not\ni a$.

While this perfectly fits Zorn's Lemma, to prove the original form of Proposition 5.5.2 (and Theorems 5.1 and 5.2) it is perhaps more natural [13, 63, 65, 66] to use Raoult's Open Induction [61].

In the situation of 4.1.1 the semantics of Proposition 5.5.2 reads as

every quasiorder R on a set X equals the intersection of all linear quasiorders on X that contain R,

the contrapositive of which is known as Szpilrajn's Theorem [33, 58, 73]:

every proper quasiorder R on a set X can be extended to a proper linear quasiorder on X that contains R.

More generally, if \vdash is to \triangleright as in 4.2.1, then the semantics of Proposition 5.5.2 is the *Universal Krull–Lindenbaum Theorem* (*UKL*) [63, Theorem 14, Corollary 15], the crucial hypothesis of which is just Encoding recalled in 4.2.1. This UKL has been abstracted from Krull's [41] and Lindenbaum's [74, p. 394] results in commutative algebra and formal logic, respectively.

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