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The Epsilon Calculus in Non-classical Logics

Recent Results and Open Questions

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The classical epsilon calculus

ε and τ in intermediate logics

Conservativity and non-conservativity

Epsilon theorems

Open questions

What is the epsilon calculus?

- ▷ Formalization of logic without quantifiers but with the ε -operator.
- ▷ If $A(x)$ is a formula, then $\varepsilon_x A(x)$ is an ε -term.
- ▷ Intuitively, $\varepsilon_x A(x)$ is an indefinite description:
 $\varepsilon_x A(x)$ is some x for which $A(x)$ is true.
- ▷ ε can replace \exists : $\exists x A(x) \Leftrightarrow A(\varepsilon_x A(x))$
- ▷ Axioms of ε -calculus:
 - Propositional tautologies
 - $A(t) \rightarrow A(\varepsilon_x A(x))$
- ▷ Predicate logic can be embedded in ε -calculus.

Why should you care?

- ▷ Alternative basis for proof-theoretic research: proof theory without sequents.
- ▷ Interesting logical formalism:
 - Trades logical structure for term structure.
 - Suitable for proof formalization.
- ▷ Other Applications:
 - Use of choice functions in provers (e.g., HOL, Isabelle).
 - Applications in linguistics (choice functions, anaphora).
 - Connections to Fine's "arbitrary object" theory.
 - Propositions-as-types for dynamic linking.

The classical epsilon calculus

Axiomatisation of the epsilon calculus

- ▷ **C** (axioms of the *elementary calculus*): all propositional tautologies
- ▷ **C ϵ** (the *pure epsilon calculus*): add to **C** all substitution instances of

$$A(t) \rightarrow A(\epsilon_x A(x)) . \tag{1}$$

An axiom of the form (1) is called a *critical formula*.

- ▷ **QC** (the *predicate calculus*), **QC ϵ** (*extended predicate calculus*): **C** and **C ϵ** , respectively, together with all instances of $A(t) \rightarrow \exists x A(x)$ and $\forall x A(x) \rightarrow A(t)$ in the respective language, and quantifier rules.

Embedding \mathbf{QC}_ε in \mathbf{C}_ε

Map $^\varepsilon$ of expressions in \mathbf{QC}_ε to expressions in \mathbf{C}_ε as follows:

$$\triangleright x^\varepsilon = x$$

$$\triangleright P(t_1, \dots, t_n)^\varepsilon = P(t_1^\varepsilon, \dots, t_n^\varepsilon)$$

$$\triangleright (\neg A)^\varepsilon = \neg A^\varepsilon$$

$$\triangleright (A \vee B)^\varepsilon = A^\varepsilon \vee B^\varepsilon$$

$$\triangleright (A \wedge B)^\varepsilon = A^\varepsilon \wedge B^\varepsilon$$

$$\triangleright (A \rightarrow B)^\varepsilon = A^\varepsilon \rightarrow B^\varepsilon$$

$$\triangleright (\varepsilon_x A(x))^\varepsilon = \varepsilon_x A(x)^\varepsilon$$

$$\triangleright (\exists x A(x))^\varepsilon = A^\varepsilon(\varepsilon_x A(x)^\varepsilon)$$

$$\triangleright (\forall x A(x))^\varepsilon = A^\varepsilon(\varepsilon_x \neg A(x)^\varepsilon)$$

The embedding lemma

▷ A^ε is of the form:

$$[A(t) \rightarrow \exists x A(x)]^\varepsilon \equiv A^\varepsilon(t^\varepsilon) \rightarrow A^\varepsilon(\varepsilon_x A(x)^\varepsilon) ,$$

which is a critical formula.

▷ A^ε is of the form:

$$[\forall x A(x) \rightarrow A(t)]^\varepsilon \equiv A^\varepsilon(\varepsilon_x \neg A(x)) \rightarrow A^\varepsilon(t^\varepsilon)$$

This is the contrapositive of, and hence provable from, the critical formula

$$\neg A^\varepsilon(t^\varepsilon) \rightarrow \neg A^\varepsilon(\varepsilon_x \neg A(x))$$

The embedding lemma

- ▷ Translations of axioms provable
- ▷ Modus ponens preserved under $^\varepsilon$:

$$\frac{A \quad A \rightarrow B}{B} \mapsto \frac{A^\varepsilon \quad A^\varepsilon \rightarrow B^\varepsilon}{B^\varepsilon}$$

- ▷ Applications of generalization rule redundant:

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \vdots \quad \pi \\ A \rightarrow B(x) \end{array}}{A \rightarrow \forall x B(x)} \mapsto \frac{\begin{array}{c} \vdots \quad \pi[\varepsilon_x B^\varepsilon(x)/x] \\ A^\varepsilon \rightarrow B^\varepsilon(\varepsilon_x B^\varepsilon(x)) \end{array}}$$

The First Epsilon Theorem

First Epsilon Theorem

If A is a formula without bound variables (no quantifiers, no epsilons) and $QC_\epsilon \vdash A$ then $C \vdash A$.

Second Epsilon Theorem

If A is a formula without epsilons and $C^\epsilon \vdash A^\epsilon$ then $QC \vdash A$.

Herbrand Theorem

Herbrand Theorem for \exists_1

If $\exists x_1 \dots \exists x_n A(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ is a purely existential formula

$$\mathbf{QC} \vdash \exists x_1 \dots \exists x_n A(x_1, \dots, x_n),$$

then there are terms t_{ij} such that

$$\mathbf{C} \vdash \bigvee_i A(t_{i1}, \dots, t_{in}).$$

From the last formula, the original formula can be proved in **QC**.

- ▷ Can be extended to prenex formulas (by “Herbrandization”)
- ▷ Can be extended to all formulas, since **QC** proves every formula equivalent to prenex form.
- ▷ Herbrand Theorem is a consequence of Extended Epsilon Theorem

Extended First Epsilon Theorem

Extended First Epsilon Theorem

Suppose $D(e_1, \dots, e_m)$ is a quantifier-free formula containing only the ε -terms e_1, \dots, e_m , and

$$\mathbf{C}\varepsilon \vdash_{\pi} D(e_1, \dots, e_m) ,$$

then there are ε -free terms t_j^i such that

$$\mathbf{C} \vdash \bigvee_{i=1}^n D(t_1^i, \dots, t_m^i)$$

(Moser & Z 2006: $n \leq 2^{2^{\dots^{2^{3 \cdot \text{cc}(\pi)}}}}$ } stack of $3 \cdot \text{cc}(\pi)$ 2's.)

ε and τ in intermediate logics

- ▷ In classical logic, \exists and \forall are interdefinable
- ▷ Not true in *intuitionistic logic* and its extensions (*intermediate logics*)
- ▷ Epsilon operator seems intuitively related to *choice*, so intuitionistically suspect
- ▷ So: what happens when ϵ added to a intermediate logic?

Interdefinability of \forall and \exists

- ▷ In classical logic:

$$\neg \exists x \neg A(x) \leftrightarrow \forall x A(x)$$

$$\neg \neg A(\varepsilon_x \neg A(x)) \leftrightarrow A(\varepsilon_x \neg A(x))$$

- ▷ \rightarrow fails in intuitionistic logic
- ▷ Cannot define \forall as $\neg \exists \neg$
- ▷ Cannot faithfully translate $\forall x A(x)$ to $A(\varepsilon_x \neg A(x))$

Intermediate logics

H	Intuitionistic logic
KC	Logic of weak excluded middle: $\mathbf{H} + J = \neg A \vee \neg\neg A$
LC	infinite-valued Gödel logic, linear Kripke frames $\mathbf{H} + Lin = (A \rightarrow B) \vee (B \rightarrow A)$
LC_m	m -valued Gödel logic, linear Kripke frames of length $< m$ $\mathbf{H} + B_m = (A_1 \rightarrow A_2) \vee \dots \vee (A_m \rightarrow A_{m+1})$
C	Classical logic: $\mathbf{H} + A \vee \neg A$, $\mathbf{H} + B_2$

Quantified intermediate logics

QH	Intuitionistic logic
QKC	Weak excluded middle: QH + J
QLC	Linear Kripke frames: QH + Lin
QLC_m	QH + B_m
G_ℝ	Gödel logic on $[0, 1]$, constant-domain linear Kripke frames QLC + $CD = \forall x(A(x) \vee B) \rightarrow (\forall x A(x) \vee B)$
G₀	Gödel logic on $\{0\} \cup [1/2, 1]$ QLC + $CD + K = \forall x \neg \neg A(x) \rightarrow \neg \neg \forall x A(x)$
G_m	m -valued Gödel logic: QH + B_m + CD
QC	Classical logic

- ▷ Introduce dual operator τ : $\tau_x A(x)$
- ▷ Critical formulas now:
 - $A(t) \rightarrow A(\varepsilon_x A(x))$ and
 - $A(\tau_x A(x)) \rightarrow A(t)$
- ▷ $\varepsilon\tau$ -translation just like ε -translation, except for:
 - $(\exists x A(x))^{\varepsilon\tau} = A^{\varepsilon\tau}(\varepsilon_x A(x)^{\varepsilon\tau})$
 - $(\forall x A(x))^{\varepsilon\tau} = A^{\varepsilon\tau}(\tau_x A(x)^{\varepsilon\tau})$

Conservativity and non-conservativity

Conservativity questions

- ▷ In classical logic, addition of ε is conservative.
- ▷ Question: Does addition of ε and τ to intermediate logic have effect on theorems?
- ▷ Results by Bell and DeVidi suggest yes: under certain assumptions, even excluded middle $A \vee \neg A$ becomes provable.
- ▷ However, these results rely on presence of $=$ and need axioms.
- ▷ What about *pure logic*?
 - No effect on propositional level.
 - All quantifier shifts become provable.

Shadow

The *shadow* A^s of a formula is defined as follows:

$$P(t_1, \dots, t_n)^s = X_P$$

$$(A \wedge B)^s = A^s \wedge B^s$$

$$(A \rightarrow B)^s = A^s \rightarrow B^s$$

$$(\exists x A)^s = A^s$$

$$(A \vee B)^s = A^s \vee B^s$$

$$(\neg A)^s = \neg A^s$$

$$(\forall x A)^s = A^s$$

where X_P is a propositional variable.

The *shadow of a proof* $\pi = A_1, \dots, A_n$ is A_1^s, \dots, A_n^s .

Conservativity of $\varepsilon\tau$

If $A_1, \dots, A_n \vdash_{\mathbf{L}\varepsilon\tau} B$, then $A_1^s, \dots, A_n^s \vdash B^s$.

$\mathbf{L}\varepsilon\tau$ is conservative over \mathbf{L} for propositional formulas.

- ▷ The shadows of critical formulas are of the form $A \rightarrow A$.
- ▷ Intermediate logics prove $A \rightarrow A$.
- ▷ The shadow of modus ponens is modus ponens.
- ▷ (The shadows of premise and conclusion of universal quantification rules are identical so also holds for $\mathbf{QL}\varepsilon\tau$.)

$$\forall x(A(x) \vee B) \rightarrow (\forall x A(x) \vee B) \quad (CD)$$

$$(A(\tau_x(A(x) \vee B)) \vee B) \rightarrow (A(\tau_x A(x)) \vee B) \quad (CD^{\varepsilon\tau})$$

$$(B \rightarrow \exists x A(x)) \rightarrow \exists x(B \rightarrow A(x)) \quad (Q_{\exists})$$

$$(B \rightarrow A(\varepsilon_x A(x))) \rightarrow (B \rightarrow A(\varepsilon_x(B \rightarrow A(x)))) \quad (Q_{\exists}^{\varepsilon\tau})$$

$$(\forall x A(x) \rightarrow B) \rightarrow \exists x(A(x) \rightarrow B) \quad (Q_{\forall})$$

$$(A(\tau_x A(x)) \rightarrow B) \rightarrow (A(\varepsilon_x(A(x) \rightarrow B)) \rightarrow B) \quad (Q_{\forall}^{\varepsilon\tau})$$

- ▷ In each case, x is not free in B .
- ▷ Note: $(Q_{\forall}^{\varepsilon\tau})$ is a critical formula.

$$\begin{array}{ll} CD^{\varepsilon\tau} & (A(\tau_x A) \vee B) \rightarrow (A(\tau_x(A \vee B)) \vee B) \\ & A_1 = A(\tau_x A) \quad A_2 = A(\tau_x(A \vee B)) \\ & A(\tau_x A) \rightarrow A(\tau_x(A \vee B)) \\ & (A_1 \rightarrow A_2) \rightarrow ((A_1 \vee B) \rightarrow (A_2 \vee B)) \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} Q_{\exists}^{\varepsilon\tau} & (B \rightarrow A(\varepsilon_x(B \rightarrow A))) \rightarrow (B \rightarrow A(\varepsilon_x A)) \\ & A_1 = A(\varepsilon_x(B \rightarrow A)) \quad A_2 = A(\varepsilon_x A) \\ & A(\varepsilon_x(B \rightarrow A)) \rightarrow A(\varepsilon_x A) \\ & (A_1 \rightarrow A_2) \rightarrow ((B \rightarrow A_1) \rightarrow (B \rightarrow A_2)) \end{array}$$

$A_1 \rightarrow A_2$ is a critical formula

Epsilon theorems

Extended First $\varepsilon\tau$ -Theorem

If $D(e_1, \dots, e_n)$ is an $\varepsilon\tau$ -formula with e_1, \dots, e_n , its only $\varepsilon\tau$ -terms and

$$\mathbf{L}\varepsilon\tau \vdash A(e_1, \dots, e_n),$$

then there are terms t_{ij} such that

$$\mathbf{L} \vdash \bigvee_i D(t_{i1}, \dots, t_{in}).$$

No Extended First $\varepsilon\tau$ -Theorem in intermediate logics

Theorem

Suppose $\mathbf{L}^{\varepsilon\tau}$ has the extended first epsilon theorem. Then

$$\mathbf{L} \vdash B_m = (A_1 \rightarrow A_2) \vee \dots \vee (A_m \rightarrow A_{m+1})$$

for some m .

- ▷ Consider $\exists x \forall y (P(y) \rightarrow P(x))$.
- ▷ (Equivalent over **QH** to Q_{\exists} so $\varepsilon\tau$ -translation provable.)
- ▷ Herbrand form: $\exists x (P(f(x)) \rightarrow P(x))$.
- ▷ $\varepsilon\tau$ -Translation: $P(f(e)) \rightarrow P(e)$ where $e = \varepsilon_x (P(f(x)) \rightarrow P(x))$.
- ▷ Herbrand disjunction of formulas of the form $P(f^n(s)) \rightarrow P(f^{n-1}(s))$
- ▷ Rearrange, substitute to get B_m

- ▷ Extended first theorem holds for $\mathbf{L}_{\varepsilon\tau}$ only if $\mathbf{L} \vdash B_m$ for some m .
- ▷ $\mathbf{L} \vdash B_m$ exactly for the finite valued Gödel logics \mathbf{LC}_m .
- ▷ In particular, no extended first $\varepsilon\tau$ -theorem for
 - intuitionistic logic \mathbf{H} ,
 - (infinite valued) Gödel logic \mathbf{LC} ,
 - logic of weak excluded middle \mathbf{KC} .

Epsilon elimination

- ▷ Classical epsilon theorem proceeds by iterated elimination of critical formulas
- ▷ A proof of $D(e)$ with critical formulas

$$A(t_1) \rightarrow A(e), \dots, A(t_n) \rightarrow A(e)$$

belonging to ε -term e yields proofs of

$$A(t_1) \rightarrow D(t_1), \dots, A(t_n) \rightarrow D(t_n), \text{ and } (\neg A(t_1) \wedge \dots \neg A(t_n)) \rightarrow D(e)$$

which combine to a proof of

$$D(t_1) \vee \dots \vee D(t_n) \vee D(e)$$

by excluded middle.

- ▷ But of course, excluded middle can't be used in intermediate logics.

- ▷ We analyze and refine Hilbert's approach:
- ▷ In a proof of $D(e)$ we divide the critical formulas involved into:
 - Γ where e is not the critical $\varepsilon\tau$ -term;
 - $\Lambda(e) \cup \Lambda'(e)$ where e is the critical $\varepsilon\tau$ -term
- ▷ s_1, \dots, s_k is an e -elimination set for $\Lambda(e)$ if

$$\Gamma[s_1/e], \dots, \Gamma[s_k/e], \Lambda'(e) \vdash D(s_1) \vee \dots \vee D(s_k)$$

- ▷ In **C**, if
 - $\Lambda(e) = \{A(t_1) \rightarrow A(e)\}$ are all the critical formulas belonging to e and
 - Γ are all other critical formulasthen t_1, \dots, t_n, e is an e -elimination set for $\Lambda(e)$.

- ▷ Let $\Lambda(e)$ be all the critical formulas belongin to e of the form $A(t) \rightarrow A(e)$ where t does not contain e .
- ▷ Let $\Lambda'(e)$ be all those where t does contain e .
- ▷ Then:
 - $\Lambda(e)$ has e -elimination sets if $\mathbf{L} \vdash Lin$.
 - $\Lambda'(e)$ has e -elimination sets if $\mathbf{L} \vdash B_m$ for some m .

Extended First $\varepsilon\tau$ -Theorem for G_m

- ▷ Pick e of maximal rank and maximal degree.
- ▷ Eliminate $\Lambda(e)$ using Lin .
- ▷ Eliminate remaining $\Lambda'(e)$ using B_m .
- ▷ Repeat.
- ▷ Proper order (rank, degree) ensures termination.

Summary of results

Conservativity over propositional logic	Yes	Any
Extended First ε -Theorem	No	Any except \mathbf{LC}_m
	Yes	\mathbf{LC} , \mathbf{KC} (for negated formulas)
	Yes	\mathbf{LC}_m
Second $\varepsilon\tau$ -Theorem	No	$\mathbf{G}_{\mathbb{R}}$, \mathbf{QLC}_m
	Yes	\mathbf{G}_m

Open questions

- ▷ The second $\varepsilon\tau$ -theorem: when is the extended $\varepsilon\tau$ -calculus conservative over a quantified logic?
- ▷ Characterize proofs for which $\varepsilon\tau$ -elimination works with just *Lin*.
- ▷ Semantics of intuitionistic ε 's and τ 's.

- ▷ Worlds W with (reflexive, transitive) accessibility relation R
- ▷ Domain $D(w)$ for each $w \in W$
- ▷ Domains must be monotonic: $wRv \Rightarrow D(w) \subseteq D(v)$
- ▷ Predicates must be monotonic:

$$wRv \wedge w \Vdash P(\vec{d}) \quad \Rightarrow \quad v \Vdash P(\vec{d})$$

$$w \Vdash A \wedge B \Leftrightarrow$$

$$w \Vdash A \vee B \Leftrightarrow$$

$$w \Vdash A \rightarrow B \Leftrightarrow$$

$$w \Vdash \exists x A(x) \Leftrightarrow$$

$$w \Vdash \forall x A(x) \Leftrightarrow$$

$$w \Vdash A \text{ and } w \Vdash B$$

$$w \Vdash A \text{ or } w \Vdash B$$

$$w \nVdash A \text{ or } w \Vdash B$$

$$\text{for some } d \in D, w \Vdash A(d)$$

$$\text{for all } d \in D, w \Vdash A(d)$$

Intuitionistic satisfaction

$w \Vdash A \wedge B \Leftrightarrow$	$w \Vdash A$ and $w \Vdash B$
$w \Vdash A \vee B \Leftrightarrow$	$w \Vdash A$ or $w \Vdash B$
$w \Vdash A \rightarrow B \Leftrightarrow$	for all v st wRv , $v \nVdash A$ or $v \Vdash B$
$w \Vdash \exists x A(x) \Leftrightarrow$	for some $d \in D$, $w \Vdash A(d)$
$w \Vdash \forall x A(x) \Leftrightarrow$	for all $d \in D$, $v \Vdash A(d)$

$D(\infty)$	0	1	2	3	...
$D(\infty - 1)$	0	1	2	3	...
$D(\infty - 1)$	0	1	2	3	...
$D(\infty - 3)$	0	1	2	3	...
\vdots					
$D(0)$	0	1	2	3	...

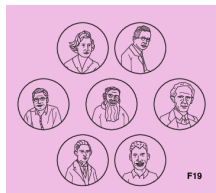
- ▷ $0 \not\models \exists x P(x)$
- ▷ $\infty - i \models \exists x P(x)$
- ▷ no n can be $\varepsilon_x P(x)$ in *all* worlds $\infty - i$
- ▷ $\not\models \exists x P(x) \rightarrow P(\varepsilon_x P(x))$
- ▷ $\not\models \exists y(\exists x P(x) \rightarrow P(y))$

\vdots					
$D(3)$	0	1	2	3	...
$D(2)$	0	1	2	3	...
$D(1)$	0	1	2	3	...
$D(0)$	0	1	2	3	...

- ▷ $i \not\models \forall x P(x)$
- ▷ for every n there is an i so that $i \models P(n)$
- ▷ no n can be $\tau_x P(x)$
- ▷ $\not\models P(\tau_x P(x)) \rightarrow \forall x P(x)$
- ▷ $\not\models \exists x (P(x) \rightarrow \forall y P(y))$

Boxes and Diamonds

An Open Introduction to
Modal Logic



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[illegible]

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Thanks!

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