PART 1: Introduction- Intuitive definitions
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PART 1: General Introduction
Proof Systems - Intuitive Definition

**Proof systems** are built to prove, it means to *construct* **formal proofs** of statements formulated in a given **language**.

**First component** of any **proof system** is hence its **formal language** $\mathcal{L}$.

**Proof systems** are **inference machines** with statements called **provable statements** being their **final products**.
Semantical Link

The **starting points** of the **inference machine** of a proof system $S$ are called its **axioms**

We distinguish two kinds of axioms: **logical axioms** $\text{LA}$ and **specific axioms** $\text{SA}$

**Semantical link:** we usually build a **proof systems** for a given **language** and its **semantics** i.e. for a logic defined semantically
Semantical Link

We always choose as a set of **logical axioms** \( \text{LA} \) some subset of **tautologies**, under a given **semantics**.

We will **consider here** only proof systems with **finite sets** of **logical** or **specific axioms**, i.e. we will examine only **finitely axiomatizable** proof systems.
Semantical Link

We can, and we often do, consider proof systems with languages without yet established semantics.

In this case the logical axioms LA serve as description of tautologies under a future semantics yet to be built.

Logical axioms LA of a proof system S are hence not only tautologies under an established semantics, but they can also guide us how to define a semantics when it is yet unknown.
Specific Axioms

The **specific axioms** \( SA \) consist of statements that describe a specific knowledge of an universe we want to use the proof system \( S \) to prove facts about.

**Specific axioms** \( SA \) are not universally true.

**Specific axioms** \( SA \) are true only in the universe we are interested to **describe** and **investigate** by the use of the proof system \( S \).
Formal Theory

Given a **proof system** $S$ with **logical axioms** $LA$.

**Specific axioms** $SA$ of the proof system $S$ is any finite set of formulas that are not **tautologies**, and hence they are always disjoint with the set of **logical axioms** $LA$ of $S$.

The **proof system** $S$ with added set of **specific axioms** $SA$ is called a **formal theory** based on $S$. 
Inference Machine

The **inference machine** of a proof system $S$ is defined by a **finite set** of **inference rules**

The **inference rules** describe the way we are allowed to **transform** the information within the system with **axioms** as a starting point

We depict it **informally** on the next slide
Inference Machine

AXIOMS

RULES applied to AXIOMS

RULES applied to any expressions above

Provable formulas
Semantical Link

Semantical link:

Rules of inference of a system $S$ have to preserve the truthfulness of what they are being used to prove.

The notion of truthfulness is always defined by a given semantics $M$.

Rules of inference that preserve the truthfulness are called sound rules under a given semantics $M$.

Rules of inference can be sound under one semantics and not sound under another.
Soundness Theorem

Goal 1
When developing a proof system $S$ the first goal is prove the following theorem about it and its semantics $M$

Soundness Theorem
For any formula $A$ of the language of the system $S$
If a formula $A$ is provable from logical axioms $LA$ of $S$ only, then $A$ is a tautology under the semantics $M$
Propositional Proof Systems

We discuss here first only proof systems for propositional languages and call them proof systems for different propositional logics.

Remember

The notion of soundness is connected with a given semantics.

A proof system $S$ can be sound under one semantics, and not sound under the other.

For example a set of axioms and rules sound under classical logic semantics might not be sound under Ł logic semantics, or K logic semantics, or others.
Completeness of the Proof Systems

In general there are many proof systems that are sound under a given semantics, i.e. there are many sound proof systems for a given logic semantically defined.

Given a proof system $S$ with logical axioms $LA$ that is sound under a semantics $M$.

**Notation**

Denote by $T_M$ the set of all tautologies defined by the semantics $M$, i.e. we have that

$$T_M = \{ A \in F : \vdash_M A \}$$
Completeness Property

A natural question arises: Are all tautologies i.e formulas $A \in T_M$ provable in the system $S$?

We assume that we have already proved that $S$ is sound under the semantics $M$.

The positive answer to this question is called completeness property of the system $S$. 
Completeness Theorem

Goal 2
Given for a **sound** proof system $S$ under its semantics $M$, our second goal is to prove the following theorem about $S$

**Completeness Theorem**
For any formula $A$ of the language of $S$

$A$ **is provable** in $S$ iff $A$ is a **tautology** under the semantics $M$

We write the **Completeness Theorem** symbolically as

$$
\vdash_S A \iff \models_M A
$$

Completeness Theorem is composed of two parts:
**Soundness Theorem** and the **Completeness Part** that proves the completeness property of a sound proof system
Proving the Soundness and Completeness

Proving the Soundness Theorem for \( S \) under a semantics \( M \) is usually a straightforward and not a very difficult task.

We first prove that all logical axioms \( LA \) are tautologies, and then we prove that all inference rules of the system \( S \) preserve the notion of the truth.

Proving the completeness part of the Completeness Theorem is always a crucial, difficult and sometimes impossible task.
OUR PLAN

We will study two proofs of the Completeness Theorem for classical propositional proof system in Chapter 5.

We will present a constructive proofs of Completeness Theorem for two different Gentzen style automated theorem proving systems for classical Logic in Chapter 6.

We discuss the Intuitionistic Logic in Chapter 7.

Predicate Logics are discussed Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11.
PART 2
PROOF SYSTEMS: Formal Definitions
In this section we present **formal definitions** of the following notions

**Proof system** $S$

**Formal proof** from **logical axioms** in a proof system $S$

**Formal proof** from **specific axioms** in a proof system $S$

**Formal Theory** based on a proof system $S$

We also give **examples** of different simple **proof systems**
Components: Language

Language $\mathcal{L}$ of a proof system $S$ is any formal language $\mathcal{L}$

$$\mathcal{L} = (\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})$$

We assume as before that both sets $\mathcal{A}$ and $\mathcal{F}$ are enumerable, i.e. we deal here with enumerable languages.

The Language $\mathcal{L}$ can be propositional or first order (predicate) but we discuss propositional languages first.
Components: Expressions

Expressions $\mathcal{E}$ of a proof system $\mathcal{S}$
Given a set $\mathcal{F}$ of well formed formulas of the language $\mathcal{L}$ of the system $\mathcal{S}$
We often extend the set $\mathcal{F}$ to some set $\mathcal{E}$ of expressions build out of the language $\mathcal{L}$ and some extra symbols, if needed
In this case all other components of $\mathcal{S}$ are also defined on basis of elements of the set of expressions $\mathcal{E}$
In particular, and most common case we have that $\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{F}$
Automated theorem proving systems usually use as their basic components different sets of expressions build out of formulas of the language $\mathcal{L}$.

In Chapters 6 and 10 we consider finite sequences of formulas instead of formulas, as basic expressions of the proof systems RS and RQ. We also present there proof systems that use yet other kind of expressions, called original Gentzen sequents or their modifications.

Some systems use yet other expressions such as clauses, sets of clauses, or sets of formulas, others use yet still different expressions.
We always have to extend a given semantics $M$ for the language $L$ of the system $S$ to the set $E$ of all expression of the system $S$

Sometimes, like in case of Resolution based proof systems we have also to prove a semantic equivalency of new created expressions $E$ (sets of clauses in Resolution case) with appropriate formulas of $L$
Example

For example, in the automated theorem proving system RS presented in Chapter 6 the basic expressions $E$ are finite sequences of formulas of $L = L\{\neg, \cap, \cup, \Rightarrow\}$.

We extend our classical semantics for $L$ to the set $F^*$ of all finite sequences of formulas as follows:

For any $v : VAR \rightarrow \{F, T\}$ and any $\Delta \in F^*$, $\Delta = A_1, A_2, ..A_n$, we put

$$v^*(\Delta) = v^*(A_1, A_2, ..A_n)$$

$$= v^*(A_1) \cup v^*(A_2) \cup .... \cup v^*(A_n)$$

i.e. in a shorthand notation

$$\Delta \equiv (A_1 \cup A_2 \cup ... \cup A_n)$$
Components: Logical Axioms

Logical axioms $\text{LA}$ of $S$ form a non-empty subset of the set $\mathcal{E}$ of expressions of the proof system $S$, i.e.

$$ \text{LA} \subseteq \mathcal{E} $$

In particular, $\text{LA}$ is a non-empty subset of formulas, i.e.

$$ \text{LA} \subseteq \mathcal{F} $$

We assume here that the set $\text{LA}$ of logical axioms is always finite, i.e. that we consider here finitely axiomatizable systems.

In general, we assume that the set $\text{LA}$ is primitively recursive, i.e. that there is an effective procedure to determine whether a given expression $E \in \mathcal{E}$ is or is not in $\text{AL}$.
Components: Axioms

**Semantical link**
Given a semantics $M$ for $L$ and its extension to the set $E$ of all expressions
We extend the notion of **tautology** to the expressions and write

$$\models_M E$$

to denote that the expression $E \in E$ is a **tautology** under semantics $M$ and we put

$$T_M = \{ E \in E : \models_M E \}$$

**Logical axioms** $LA$ are always a subset of expressions that are **tautologies** of under the semantics $M$, i.e.

$$LA \subseteq T_M$$
Components: Rules of Inference

Rules of inference $\mathcal{R}$

We assume that a proof system contains only a finite number of inference rules.

We assume that each rule has a finite number of premisses and one conclusion.

We also assume that one can effectively decide, for any inference rule, whether a given string of expressions form its premisses and conclusion or do not, i.e. that all rules $r \in \mathcal{R}$ are primitively recursive.
Definition

Each rule of inference \( r \in R \) is a relation defined in the set \( E^m \), where \( m \geq 1 \) with values in \( E \), i.e.

\[
    r \subseteq E^m \times E
\]

Elements \( P_1, P_2, \ldots P_m \) of a tuple \( (P_1, P_2, \ldots P_m, C) \in r \) are called premisses of the rule \( r \) and \( C \) is called its conclusion.

All \( r \in R \) are primitively recursive relations.
Components: Rules of Inference

We write the **inference rules** in a following convenient way

**One** premiss rule

\[
\begin{align*}
(r) & \quad \frac{P_1}{C}
\end{align*}
\]

**Two** premisses rule

\[
\begin{align*}
(r) & \quad \frac{P_1 ; P_2}{C}
\end{align*}
\]

**m** premisses rule

\[
\begin{align*}
(r) & \quad \frac{P_1 ; P_2 ; \ldots ; P_m}{C}
\end{align*}
\]
Semantic Link: Sound Rules of Inference

**Given** some $m$ premisses rule

\[
(r) \quad \frac{P_1 ; P_2 ; \ldots ; P_m}{C}
\]

**Semantical link**

Given a semantics $\mathbf{M}$ for the language $\mathbf{L}$ and for the set of expressions $\mathcal{E}$

We want the rules of inference $r \in \mathbf{R}$ to preserve truthfulness i.e. to be **sound** under the semantics $\mathbf{M}$
General Definition: Sound Rule of Inference

Definition
Given an inference rule $r \in \mathcal{R}$

\[
(r) \quad \frac{P_1 ; P_2 ; \ldots ; P_m}{C}
\]

We say that the inference rule $r \in \mathcal{R}$ is **sound** under a semantics $\mathcal{M}$ if and only if all $\mathcal{M}$-models of the set $\{P_1, P_2, \ldots, P_m\}$ of its **premises** are also $\mathcal{M}$-models of its **conclusion** $C$. 
Propositional Definition: Sound Rule of Inference

In propositional languages case, the semantics $M$, and hence the $M$-models are defined in terms of the truth assignment $v: VAR \rightarrow LV$, where $LV$ is the set of logical values for the semantics $M$.

Definition
An inference rule $r \in R$, such that

$$(r) \quad \frac{P_1; P_2; \ldots; P_m}{C}$$

is sound under a semantics $M$ if and only if

the condition below holds or any $v: VAR \rightarrow LV$

If $v \models_M \{P_1, P_2, \ldots, P_m\}$, then $v \models_M C$. 
Example

Given a rule of inference

$$
(r) \quad \frac{(A \Rightarrow B)}{(B \Rightarrow (A \Rightarrow B))}
$$

Prove that $(r)$ is sound under classical semantics

Let $v$ be any truth assignment, such that $v \models (A \Rightarrow B)$, i.e.

by definition $v^*(A \Rightarrow B) = T$

We evaluate logical value of the conclusion under $v$ as follows

$v^*(B \Rightarrow (A \Rightarrow B)) = v^*(B) \Rightarrow T = T$

for any $B$ and any value of $v^*(B)$

This proves that $v \models (B \Rightarrow (A \Rightarrow B))$ and hence the soundness of $(r)$
Formal Definition: Proof System

Definition
By a **proof system** we understand a quadruple

\[ S = (L, E, LA, R) \]

where

- \( L = \{A, F\} \) is a **language** of \( S \) with a set \( F \) of formulas
- \( E \) is a set of **expressions** of \( S \)
- In particular case \( E = F \)
- \( LA \subseteq E \) is a **non-empty, finite set** of **logical axioms** of \( S \)
- \( R \) is a **non-empty, finite set** of **rules of inference** of \( S \)
PART 3: Formal Proofs
Simple Examples of Proof Systems
Provable Expressions

A final product of a single or multiple use of the inference rules of $S$, with axioms taken as a starting point are called provable expressions of the proof system $S$.

A single use of an inference rule is called a direct consequence.

A multiple application of rules of inference with axioms taken as a starting point is called a proof.
Definition: Direct Consequence

Formal definitions are as follows

Direct consequence
For any rule of inference $r \in R$ of the form

$$
\begin{array}{c}
(r) \quad \frac{P_1 \ ; \ P_2 \ ; \ .... \ ; \ P_m}{C}
\end{array}
$$

$C$ is called a **direct consequence** of $P_1, ... P_m$ by virtue of the rule $r \in R$
**Definition: Formal Proof**

**Formal Proof** of an expression \( E \in \mathcal{E} \) in a proof system

\[ S = (\mathcal{L}, \mathcal{E}, \mathcal{L}A, \mathcal{R}) \]

is a sequence

\[ A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_n \quad \text{for} \quad n \geq 1 \]

of expressions from \( \mathcal{E} \), such that

\[ A_1 \in \mathcal{L}A, \quad A_n = E \]

and for each \( 1 < i \leq n \), either \( A_i \in \mathcal{L}A \) or \( A_i \) is a direct consequence of some of the preceding expressions by virtue of one of the rules of inference.

\( n \geq 1 \) is the **length of the proof** \( A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_n \).
Formal Proof Notation

We write

\[ \vdash_S E \]

to denote that \( E \in \mathcal{E} \) has a proof in \( S \)

When the proof system \( S \) is fixed we write \( \vdash E \)

Any \( E \in \mathcal{E} \), such that \( \vdash_S E \) is called a provable expression of \( S \)

The set of all provable expressions of \( S \) is denoted by \( P_S \), i.e. we put

\[ P_S = \{ E \in \mathcal{E} : \vdash_S E \} \]
PART 4: Hypothesis, Consequence, Soundness and Completeness
Proof from Hypothesis

While proving expressions we often use some extra information available, besides the axioms of the proof system. This extra information is called hypothesis in the proof.

Let $\Gamma \subseteq \mathcal{E}$ be a set expressions called hypothesis

A proof of $E \in \mathcal{E}$ from the set of hypothesis $\Gamma$ in $S$ is a formal proof in $S$, where the expressions from $\Gamma$ are treated as additional hypothesis added to the set $\text{LA}$ of the logical axioms of the system $S$

Notation: $\Gamma \vdash_S A$
We read it: $A$ has a proof in $S$ from the set $\Gamma$ (and logical axioms $\text{LA}$)
Definition: Proof from Hypothesis

We say that \( A \) has a proof in \( S \) from the set \( \Gamma \) (and logical axioms \( LA \)) if and only if there is a sequence \( A_1, \ldots, A_n \) of expressions from \( \mathcal{E} \), such that

\[ A_1 \in LA \cup \Gamma, \quad A_n = A \]

and for each \( 1 < i \leq n \), either \( A_i \in LA \cup \Gamma \) or \( A_i \) is a direct consequence of some of the preceding expressions by virtue of one of the rules of inference.

We denote it as \( \Gamma \vdash_S A \)
Special Cases

We usually consider and use the case when the set of hypothesis is finite.

Case of $\Gamma \subseteq \mathcal{E}$ finite set and $\Gamma = \{B_1, B_2, ..., B_n\}$

We use notation

$$B_1, B_2, ..., B_n \vdash_S A$$

for $\{B_1, B_2, ..., B_n\} \vdash_S A$

Case of $\Gamma = \emptyset$ is also a special one.

By the definition of a proof of $A$ from $\Gamma$, $\emptyset \vdash A$ means that in the proof of $A$ we use only axioms LA of $S$

We hence use notation $\vdash_S A$ to denote that $A$ has a proof from empty $\Gamma$; i.e. $A$ has a proof from logical axioms only
Definition: Consequences of $\Gamma$

For any $\Gamma \subseteq \mathcal{E}$, and $A \in \mathcal{E}$,
If $\Gamma \vdash_S A$, then $A$ is called a consequence of $\Gamma$ in $S$.

Definition
We denote by $\text{Cn}_S(\Gamma)$ the set of all consequences of $\Gamma$ in $S$, i.e. we put

$$\text{Cn}_S(\Gamma) = \{ A \in \mathcal{E} : \Gamma \vdash_S A \}$$
Definition: Consequence Operation

Observe that by defining a consequence of $\Gamma$ in $S$, we define in fact a function which to every set $\Gamma \subseteq \mathcal{E}$ assigns a set of all its consequences $Cn_S(\Gamma)$. We denote this function by $Cn_S$ and adopt the following Definition.

Any function

$$Cn_S : 2^\mathcal{E} \rightarrow 2^\mathcal{E}$$

such that for every $\Gamma \in 2^\mathcal{E}$

$$Cn_S(\Gamma) = \{A \in \mathcal{E} : \Gamma \vdash_S A\}$$

is called the consequence operation in $S$. 
Consequence Operation: Monotonicity

Take any consequence operation

\[ C_{n_S} : 2^E \rightarrow 2^E \]

Monotonicity Property
For any sets \( \Gamma, \Delta \) of expressions of \( S \),
if \( \Gamma \subseteq \Delta \) then \( C_{n_S}(\Gamma) \subseteq C_{n_S}(\Delta) \)

Exercise: write the proof;
it follows directly from the definition of \( C_{n_S} \) and definition of
the formal proof
Consequence Operation: Transitivity

Take any consequence operation

$$\text{Cn}_S : 2^E \rightarrow 2^E$$

Transitivity Property
For any sets $\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2, \Gamma_3$ of expressions of $S$,
if $\Gamma_1 \subseteq \text{Cn}_S(\Gamma_2)$ and $\Gamma_2 \subseteq \text{Cn}_S(\Gamma_3)$,
then $\Gamma_1 \subseteq \text{Cn}_S(\Gamma_3)$

Exercise: write the proof;
it follows directly from the definition of $\text{Cn}_S$ and definition of the formal proof
Consequence Operation: Finiteness

Take any consequence operation

$$\text{Cn}_S : 2^\mathcal{E} \rightarrow 2^\mathcal{E}$$

Finiteness Property

For any expression $$A \in \mathcal{E}$$ and any set $$\Gamma \subseteq \mathcal{E}$$,

$$A \in \text{Cn}_S(\Gamma)$$ if and only if there is a finite subset $$\Gamma_0$$ of $$\Gamma$$ such that $$A \in \text{Cn}_S(\Gamma_0)$$

Exercise: write the proof;

it follows directly from the definition of $$\text{Cn}_S$$ and definition of the formal proof
Definition: Sound S

Definition
Given a proof system

\[ S = (\mathcal{L}, \mathcal{E}, LA, \mathcal{R}) \]

We say that the system \( S \) is sound under a semantics \( M \) iff the following conditions hold

1. \( LA \subseteq T_M \)
2. Each rule of inference \( r \in \mathcal{R} \) is sound
Example

Given a proof system:

\[ S = (\mathcal{L}_{\neg, \Rightarrow}, \mathcal{F}, \{(A \Rightarrow A), (A \Rightarrow (\neg A \Rightarrow B))\}), \quad (r) \frac{(A \Rightarrow B)}{(B \Rightarrow (A \Rightarrow B))} \]

1. Prove that S is sound under classical semantics
2. Prove that S is not sound under K semantics
Example

1. Both axioms of $S$ are basic classical tautologies and we have just proved that the rule of inference ($r$) is sound, hence $S$ is sound
2. Axiom $(A \Rightarrow A)$ is not a $K$ semantics tautology
   Any truth assignment $v$ such that $v^*(A) = \bot$ is a counter-model for it
   This proves that $S$ is not sound under $K$ semantics
Soundness Theorem

Let $P_S$ be the set of all provable expressions of $S$ i.e.

$$P_S = \{ A \in \mathcal{E} : \vdash_S A \}$$

Let $T_M$ be a set of all expressions of $S$ that are tautologies under a semantics $M$, i.e.

$$T_M = \{ A \in \mathcal{E} : \models_M A \}$$

**Soundness Theorem** for $S$ and semantics $M$

$$P_S \subseteq T_M$$

i.e. for any $A \in \mathcal{E}$, the following implication holds

If $\vdash_S A$, then $\models_M A$.

**Exercise:** prove by Mathematical Induction over the length of a proof that if $S$ is sound, the Soundness Theorem holds for $S$
Completeness Theorem

Completeness Theorem for $S$ and semantics $M$

$$P_S = T_M$$

i.e. for any $A \in \mathcal{E}$, the following holds

$$\vdash_S A \text{ if and only if } \models_M A$$

The Completeness Theorem consists of two parts:

Part 1: Soundness Theorem

$$P_S \subseteq T_M$$

Part 2: Completeness Part of the Completeness Theorem

$$T_M \subseteq P_S$$
Given a proof system $S = (\mathcal{L}, \mathcal{E}, \mathcal{LA}, \mathcal{R})$. Let a set $SA \subseteq \mathcal{E}$ be such that

$$SA \cap \mathcal{T}_M = \emptyset$$

A **formal theory** with the set of specific axioms $SA$ is denoted by $T(SA)$ and defined as follows

$$T(SA) = (\mathcal{L}_{SA}, \mathcal{E}, \mathcal{LA}, SA, \mathcal{R})$$

The set of all expressions of the language $\mathcal{L}_{SA}$ provable from the set specific axioms $SA$ (and logical axioms $\mathcal{LA}$) i.e. the set

$$T(SA) = \{A \in \mathcal{E} : \ SA \vdash_S A\}$$

is called the set of all **theorems** of the theory $T(SA)$
Soundness of the Theory

**Soundness Theorem** for a formal theory $T(SA)$ based on a proof system $S$ says:

For any formula $A$ of the language $L_{SA}$ of the theory $T(SA)$, if a formula $A$ is provable in the theory $T(SA)$, then $A$ is true in any model of the set of specific axioms $SA$ of $T(SA)$.
Completeness of the Theory

The **Completeness Theorem** for the proof system \( S \) established equivalency of the notion of provability and tautology:

\[
P_S = T_M
\]

Observe the equation \( P_S = T_M \) holds for a theory \( T(SA) \) only when the set of its specific axioms \( SA = \emptyset \)

We nevertheless talk about Complete Theories!
Complete Theory

Definition
A formal theory $T(SA)$ is complete if and only if for any $A$ of the language of the theory the following holds:

$A \in T(SA)$ or $\neg A \in T(SA)$

Otherwise a theory $T(SA)$ is incomplete

The completeness of a theory means that we can prove or disapprove any statement formulated within it. It hence corresponds to the natural meaning of the notion of a complete information.
Consistent Theory

Definition
A formal theory $T(SA)$ is **consistent** if and only if there is no expression $A$ of the language of the theory such that

$$A \in T(SA) \quad \text{and} \quad \neg A \in T(SA)$$

Otherwise $T(SA)$ is **inconsistent**

The notions of consistency, inconsistency and completeness, incompleteness describe are the most important properties of any theory.
PART 5: Decidable and Syntactically Decidable Proof Systems
Decidable and Syntactically Decidable Proof Systems

A proof system $S$ is called **decidable** when there is a finite, mechanical method for determining, given any expression $A \in \mathcal{E}$ whether there is a proof of $A$ in $S$; i.e. whether $A \in \mathcal{P}_S$

otherwise $S$ is called **undecidable**

**Observe** that the above notion of decidability of the system does not require to find a proof

It requires only a mechanical procedure of deciding whether a proof exists for any expression of the system.
Example

We prove now that a Hilbert style proof system $S$ for classical propositional logic presented in Chapter 9 is decidable. We first prove the Completeness Theorem for it

$$P_S = T_M$$

We get that for any $A \in \mathcal{E}$

$$A \notin P_S \iff A \notin T_M$$

We have proved already that the notion of classical propositional tautology, i.e. the statement $A \notin T_M$ is decidable.

We conclude: the system $S$ is decidable.
A proof system $S$ is **syntactically decidable** if it is possible to define for it a finite, mechanical method that generates a proof for any given expression $A$ of $S$.

Otherwise, the system $S$ is not syntactically decidable. We call such syntactically decidable systems **automated theorem proving** systems.
Syntactically Decidable Systems

All Gentzen type proof systems presented here are both decidable or semi-decidable and syntactically decidable or syntactically semi-decidable.

We usually call them **automated theorem proving** systems for different logics under consideration.

**Resolution** based proof systems are also wildly known examples of the syntactically decidable, or semi-decidable systems.

**Finding** a Gentzen Type, or Resolution type formalization for a given logic is a **standard question** one asks about any logic being developed.
Formal Proofs

**Remember** that the notion of a *formal proof* in a system $S$ is purely syntactical in its nature.

Formal Proof carries a semantical meaning via established semantics and the *Soundness Theorem*.

The rules of inference of a proof system define only how to transform strings of symbols of the language into another string of symbols.

The formal proof, by the definition says that in order to prove an expression $A$ in a system $S$ one has to construct of a sequence of proper transformations, defined by the rules of inference.
Consider a very simple proof system $S_1$ with $\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{F}$

$$S_1 = (\mathcal{L}_{\{P, \Rightarrow\}}, \mathcal{F}, LA1 = \{(A \Rightarrow A)\}, (r) \frac{B}{PB})$$

where $A, B \in \mathcal{F}$ are any formulas and where $P$ is some one argument connective; we might read $PA$ for example as ”it is possible that $A$”

Observe that even the system $S_1$ has only one axiom, it represents an infinite number of formulas. We call such axiom **axiom schema**
Simple System $S_2$

Consider now a system $S_2$

$$S_2 = (\mathcal{L}_{\{P,\Rightarrow\}}, \mathcal{F} \quad LA2 = \{(a \Rightarrow a)\}, (r) \quad \frac{B}{PB}),$$

where $a \in VAR$ is any variable (atomic formula) and $B \in \mathcal{F}$ is any formula.

Observe that even the system $S_1$ has only one axiom, it is also an **axiom schema**.

Observe that for example a formula

$$((Pa \Rightarrow (b \Rightarrow c)) \Rightarrow (Pa \Rightarrow (b \Rightarrow c)))$$

is an axiom of system $S_1$ but is not an axiom of the system $S_2$. 

Some Provable Formulas

We have that

\[ \vdash_{S_1} (((Pa \Rightarrow (b \Rightarrow c)) \Rightarrow (Pa \Rightarrow (b \Rightarrow c)))) \]

because

\[ (((Pa \Rightarrow (b \Rightarrow c)) \Rightarrow (Pa \Rightarrow (b \Rightarrow c)))) \in LA1 \]

other provable formulas are

\[ \vdash_{S_1} P(a \Rightarrow a), \quad \vdash_{S_2} P(a \Rightarrow a), \]

\[ \vdash_{S_1} PP(a \Rightarrow a), \quad \vdash_{S_2} PP(a \Rightarrow a) \]
Formal Proofs

Formal proofs in both systems of above formulas are identical and are as follows.

**Formal proof** of \( P(a \Rightarrow a) \) in \( S_1 \) and \( S_2 \) is:

\[
A_1 = (a \Rightarrow a), \quad A_2 = P(a \Rightarrow a)
\]

axiom \hspace{1cm} \text{rule application}

for \( B = (a \Rightarrow a) \)
Formal Proofs

Formal proof of $PP(a \Rightarrow a)$ in $S_1$ and $S_2$ is:

$A_1 = (a \Rightarrow a)$, \hspace{1cm} $A_2 = P(a \Rightarrow a)$, \hspace{1cm} $A_3 = PP(a \Rightarrow a)$

axiom \hspace{1cm} rule application \hspace{1cm} rule application

for $B = (a \Rightarrow a)$ for $B = P(a \Rightarrow a)$
Proof Search

Let’s search for a proof (if exists) of the formula $A$ below in $S_2$

$A = PP((Pa \Rightarrow (b \Rightarrow c)) \Rightarrow (Pa \Rightarrow (b \Rightarrow c)))$

Observe, that if $A$ had the proof, the only last step in this proof would be the application of the rule $(r) \frac{B}{PB}$ to the formula

$P((Pa \Rightarrow (b \Rightarrow c)) \Rightarrow (Pa \Rightarrow (b \Rightarrow c)))$

This formula, in turn, if it had the proof, the only last step in its proof would be the application of the rule $r$ to the formula

$((Pa \Rightarrow (b \Rightarrow c)) \Rightarrow (Pa \Rightarrow (b \Rightarrow c)))$

The search process stops here
Proof Search

Observe that

$$((P_a \Rightarrow (b \Rightarrow c)) \Rightarrow (P_a \Rightarrow (b \Rightarrow c))) \notin LA_2$$

what means that our search for the proof has failed; i.e. our found sequence of formulas does not constitute a proof

Moreover, the search was, at each step unique what proves that the proof of $$A$$ in $$S_2$$ does not exist, i.e.

$$\kappa_{S_2} PP(((P_a \Rightarrow (b \Rightarrow c)) \Rightarrow (P_a \Rightarrow (b \Rightarrow c))))$$
Proof Search Procedure

We easily generalize above example to a proof search procedure to any formula $A$ of $S_1$ or $S_2$ as follows

Procedure SP

Step: Check the main connective of $A$

If main connective is $P$, it means that $A$ was obtained by the rule $r$

Erase the main connective $P$

Repeat until no $P$ as a main connective is left.

If the main connective is $\Rightarrow$, check if a formula is an axiom

If it is an axiom, stop and yes we have a proof

If it is not an axiom, stop and no, proof does not exist
Syntactical Decidability

The Procedure SP is a finite, effective, automatic procedure of searching for a proof of formulas in both our proof systems. This proves the following.

Fact   Proof systems $S_1$ and $S_2$ are syntactically decidable
Remark that we haven’t defined a semantics for the language $L_{\{\Rightarrow, P\}}$ of systems $S1, S2$
We can’t talk about the soundness of these systems yet but we can think how to define a sound semantics for our systems.
If we want to understand statement $PA$ as “$A$ is possible” we need to define some kind of modal semantics.
Semantical link

All known modal semantics extend the classical semantics, i.e. they are the same as classical one on non-modal connectives.

Hence under any possible modal semantics axioms \( S_1, S_2 \) of would be a sound axiom under standard modal logics semantics, as they are classical tautologies.

To assure the soundness of both systems we must have a modal semantics \( M \) that makes the rule

\[
(r) \quad \frac{B}{PB}
\]

sound under the modal semantics \( M \)
General Question 1

General Q1: Are all proof systems decidable?
Answer Q1: No, not all proof systems are decidable
The most "natural" and historically first developed proof system for classical predicate logic is not decidable
General Question 2

**General Q2**  Can we give an example of a logic and its complete proof system which is not decidable, but the logic does have another complete, syntactically decidable proof system?

**Answer Q2:**  Hilbert style proof system for classical propositional logic presented in chapter 5 is complete and decidable but is not syntactically decidable.

We present in chapter 6 some complete proof systems for classical propositional logic that are syntactically decidable.