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ANALOGICAL REASONING OF NATURAL DEDUCTION PROOF BASED ON HIGHER ORDER ABSTRACTION

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Abstraction

This paper presents a framework of obtaining a natural deduction proof of a given logic formulae based on similarity among formulas under the assumption that similar formulas have similar solutions. A formulae to which a proof has already been given is called a guiding problem. From a guiding problem, a schema which is applicable to a class of similar formulas is constructed by abstraction. A schema acts as a specification of proofs and any object formulae having the same type to a schema can be obtained according to the typed proof structure. The analogical reasoning based on this idea is formalized using typed language in the framework of higher order logic. Finally, we show that this analogical reasoning procedure can be realized based on higher order unification within the computable scope.

1. Introduction

In order to realize an intelligent system on machine, one of the most important problem is to introduce a reasoning mechanism which break through the wall of present deductive theorem proving paradigm. The analogical reasoning is a mechanism to reason by finding certain similarity with some already known problem, and is considered as a most essential mechanism which supports the creative thinking of human beings. It has been proposed several kinds of models for analogical reasoning systems\(^{6,10,13}\). Among them, the reasoning system based on the generalized knowledge produced from already known formulae by abstraction is called the abstraction based analogy\(^{2,3,5,8,14,16}\). In this paper, an abstraction based analogical reasoning system for LK proving will be formalized as illustrated in Fig. 1. Where, the proof of a guiding problem is known and this proof structure is abstracted as proof schema. Then a new formulae is proved using the similarity between and some guiding problem. By this analogical reasoning process, we can expect to reduce the nondeterministic aspects from the processing and to realize certain non-deductive reasoning.

2. LK system and natural deduction proof

2.1 LK system

The LK system is a logic system which consists of the following inference rules.
A sequent $A \rightarrow A$ is trivially true and is called an axiom. A LK natural deduction proof is produced by applying the inference rules in nondeterministic, and can be represented by a derivation tree.

A formulae is provable if there exists a proof tree whose root and leaves are labeled with the formulae and certain axioms respectively. In Fig.2, an example of LK proof of the following formulae is shown: $\rightarrow p(a) \lor q(b) \land \forall x (p(x) \supset q(x)) \supset \exists x q(x)$

2.2 Term representation of LK proof

Each inference rule is looked upon a function which maps from the assumptions given in the upper side of the rule to the conclusion given in the lower side of the rule. For example, the or-L rule corresponds to a function with the type $[A, \Gamma \rightarrow \Theta] \rightarrow [B, \Gamma \rightarrow \Theta] \rightarrow [A \lor B, \Gamma \rightarrow \Theta]$.

This can be represented as the following term:

$[A \lor B, \Gamma \rightarrow \Theta] = \text{or-L}([A, \Gamma \rightarrow \Theta], [B, \Gamma \rightarrow \Theta])$

In the similar way, any LK proof is able to be represented by a term. In the followings, we denote the term representation of a proof for sequent $\Gamma \rightarrow \Theta$ as $\text{proof}(\Gamma \rightarrow \Theta)$, and call it as a proof term.
The labels of any leaves of completed proof are the axioms, that is, the sequents in the form \([A, \Gamma \rightarrow \Theta A]\) or equivalently in the form \([A \rightarrow A]\). Thus, the proof term of each completed proof is the form such that \(\text{term}(\ldots, \text{term}(A \rightarrow A), \ldots, \text{term}(B \rightarrow B))\). A proof in which some parts are not completed is called a partial proof. It is noted that the sequents at the leaves of partial proofs are not always axioms. For example, let us consider the proof given in Fig. 3, which is a proof of Fig. 2 in which the subproofs for the formulas \([p(a), \forall x (p(x) \supset q(x)) \rightarrow \exists x q(x)]\) and \([q(b) \rightarrow \exists x q(x)]\) are not completed.

\[
\begin{align*}
q(b) &\rightarrow \exists x q(x) \quad (\text{thin}_L) \\
p(a) \land q(b) \land \forall x (p(x) \supset q(x)) &\rightarrow \exists x q(x) \quad (\land L) \\
(p(a) \lor q(b)) \land \forall x (p(x) \supset q(x)) &\rightarrow \exists x q(x) \quad (\supset R) \\
\rightarrow (p(a) \lor q(b)) \land \forall x (p(x) \supset q(x)) &\rightarrow \exists x q(x)
\end{align*}
\]

Fig. 3 A partial proof of Fig. 2

A term representation of this partial proof is given as follows:

\[
\lambda X \lambda Y. \text{imp-}R(\text{and-}L(\text{or-}L(X, \text{thin-}L(Y))))
\]

, where X and Y represent the partial proof for \([p(a), \forall x (p(x) \supset q(x)) \rightarrow \exists x q(x)]\) and \([q(b) \rightarrow \exists x q(x)]\) respectively. Therefore, the partial proof given in Fig. 3 implies the proof having the type

\[
[p(a), \forall x (p(x) \supset q(x)) \rightarrow \exists x q(x)] \rightarrow [q(b) \rightarrow \exists x q(x)] \rightarrow [(p(a) \lor q(b)) \land \forall x (p(x) \supset q(x)) \land \exists x q(x)].
\]

We can consider that the proofs whose proof tree are different only at the leaves are similar together. Basing on this idea, an analogical reasoning system will be designed.

3 Schemata for Proof Analogy
3.1 Simple Schema as proof types

We call a formulae whose proofs have already been known to be a guiding formulae or guiding problem. We assume that some guiding problems are collected as a database. A schema constructed from guiding problem \(g\) is defined as a formulae in which some predicates of \(g\) are abstracted as predicate variables. A simple schema is a schema which is constructed from \(g\) by simply replacing several predicates appearing in \(g\) with predicate variables. For example, let \(g\) be a formulae such that

\[
g = [p(a) \lor q(b)] \land \forall x (p(x) \supset q(x)) \supset \exists x q(x).
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{O}(a) &\rightarrow \text{O}(a) \\
P(a) &\rightarrow P(a) \quad Q(a) \rightarrow \exists x Q(x) \\
P(a) \lor P(a) &\rightarrow Q(a) \rightarrow \exists x Q(x) \\
Q(b) &\rightarrow \exists x Q(x)
\end{align*}
\]

Fig. 4 A simple schema construction

Then the following formulae is a simple schema.
schemaₘ = (P(a) ∨ Q(b)) ∧ ∃x(P(x) ⊃ Q(x)) ⊃ ∃x.Q(x)

where P, Q are 2nd order predicate variables. The proof tree for schemaₘ is given by replacing the predicates p, q with P, Q as illustrated in Fig.4.

This means that the type of schemaₘ is the following.

[P(a) → P(a)] → [Q(a) → Q(a)] → [Q(b) → Q(b)] → [→(P(a) ∨ Q(b)) ∧ ∃x(P(x) ⊃ Q(x)) ⊃ ∃x.Q(x)]

and the proof term of schemaₘ is given as follows:

proof(schemaₘ) = imp-R(α, β, γ) → L(α, β, γ) → L(β, γ) → L(γ)

From this schemaₘ, the proof of any formulae obtained by replacing the symbols P, Q of schemaₘ with any formulas can be derived. This depends on the following well-known property.

[Proposition 3.1: Formule substitution rule]

If a sequent Γ → A is provable, then the substituted formulae Γ[P := p(x₁, x₂, ..., xₙ)] → A[P := p(x₁, x₂, ..., xₙ)] is also provable, where [P := p(x₁, x₂, ..., xₙ)] is a substitution of the formulae in the form of P(t₁, t₂, ..., tₙ) in Γ and A with p(x₁ := t₁, x₂ := t₂, ..., xₙ := tₙ).

Example 3.1 The proof of the following formulae h which is obtained from schemaₘ by substituting P and Q by p and s respectively has similar proof structure to schemaₘ as shown in Fig.5.

h = [ (p(a) → Q(b)) ∧ (Q(a) → Q(b)) ] → ∃x.(P(x) ⊃ Q(x)) ⊃ ∃x.Q(x)

Its proof term is obtained as proof(h) = proof(schemaₘ)(p → s).

Fig.5 The proof of h by analogy.

3.2 Schema with constraints

In this section, we shall discuss the relation between the proof terms of schemata with constraints and their instances. Let form(g(Δ)) be a formula whose proof has already been derived as proof(g(Δ)), and let form(g(χ)) and proof(g(χ)) be the formula and proof term obtained from form(g(Δ)) and proof(g(Δ)) by replacing some of the symbols in Δ with the symbols in χ respectively, where Δ and χ are the list of predicates in form(g(Δ)) and form(g(χ)). It is noted that proof(g(χ)) is not always completed. We denote a completed proof of proof(g(χ)) by proof*(g(χ)). In the followings, we take form(g(χ)) as a schema constructed from g, and sometimes denote form(g(χ)) as schemaₘ. For example, let form(g(p₄)) = [p(a) ∨ q(b)] ∧ ∃x.p(x) ⊃ q(x) ⊃ ∃x.q(x). Then we have schemaₘ = form(g(Φ, Ξ, Ψ, θ)) = (Φ(a) ∨ Ψ(b)) ∧ ∃x.(Ξ(x) ⊃ Q(x)) ⊃ ∃x.θ(x) as one of the schemata. The proof term of this schema proof(g(Φ, Ξ, Ψ, θ)) is obtained as follows.
It is noted that each leaf of \textit{proof}(g(A)) is of the form $\Gamma \rightarrow A \Delta$, and the corresponding sequents of \textit{proof}(g(X)) may be partial proof. That is, the sequents at the leaves of the proof tree are the subproofs which should be proved further. They are called the constraints. In the example of Fig.6, we have to prove the constraints and combine with \textit{proof}(g(\Phi, \Xi, \Psi, \Theta)) to obtain the complete proof \textit{proof}(g(\Phi, \Xi, \Psi, \Theta)) from \textit{proof}(g(\Phi, \Xi, \Psi, \Theta)).

Let $\text{constr}(g(X;A))$ be the set of constraints between \textit{form}(g(A)) and \textit{form}(g(X)). For example, the formulae $\textit{form}(g(p,q,r,s)) = (p(a) \wedge r(a)) \vee (q(a) \wedge r(a)) \wedge \forall x (p(x) \supset q(x)) \supset \exists x. t(x)$ is provable if the constraints $p(a) \rightarrow s(a)$, $r(b) \rightarrow t(b)$, $r(a) \rightarrow t(b)$ are all provable. This intuitive meaning is given in the following inference rule.

$$\textit{proof}(g(X)) \quad \textit{proof}(\text{constr}(g(X;A))) \quad \textit{proof}(\Phi(\Psi(\Theta)))$$

[Theorem 3.2] If \textit{form}(g(A)) is provable, then the proof of schema \textit{form}(g(X)) is provable. The proof \textit{proof}(g(X)) is given by patching the \textit{proof}(g(X)) with the proof of constraints \textit{proof}(\text{constr}(g(X;A))) which are introduced according to the used inference rules.

4. Schema Construction by Abstraction
A schema is a meta representation for formulas which are syntactically similar, and its proof term represents the proof type. We can consider the proof term of each schema as the specification of proofs. The proofs of the instances of the schema have the similar structure. This means that each instance formulae of a schema is a realization of the specification corresponding to the schema and its proof is an instance of the proof schema. As we have observed in the previous section, the generalization for $g,h$ is performed by transforming them to proof term representations \textit{proof}(g), \textit{proof}(h) using higher order unification algorithm. Concerning to the higher order unification algorithm, the other articles should be referred \cite{9,12,13}. We observe this by an example.

Let \textit{h} be a formula such that
\[ h = ((p(a) \wedge r(a)) \vee (q(a) \wedge r(a))) \wedge \forall x (p(x) \supset q(x)) \supset \exists x. t(x). \]

Here, we assume that we want to solve this by the analogy with \textit{g}.
\[ g = [p(a) \vee q(b)] \wedge \forall x (p(x) \supset q(x)) \supset \exists x. t(x). \]

Their proof terms are given in the following forms, where axiom parts of \textit{proof}(h) are arranged according to the proof structure.
g=====> proof(g)=imp-R(and-L(or-L(impl-L(p(a)=p(b),some-R(q(a)=q(a))))).

thin-L(some-R(q(b)=q(b))))).

\[ \uparrow \text{generalization} \]

h=====> proof(h)= impl-R(and-L(or-L((impl-L(p(a)=r(a))=p(a),some-R(q(a)=q(a))))).

thin-L(some-R((q(a)=r(a))=q(a))))).

By the generalization, we get the following proof schema.

impl-R(and-L(or-L((impl-L(\Phi(a)=p(a),some-R(Q(a)=Q(a))))).

thin-L(some-R(\Psi(a)=Q(a))))).

Then we get the following schema schema_g,

\[
\text{schema}_g = (\Phi(a) \lor \Psi(b) \land \forall x(P(x) \supset Q(x)) \supset \exists x.Q(x)
\]

constraints: \( \Phi(a) \rightarrow P(a), \Psi(b) \rightarrow Q(b) \)

, where \( \Phi \) and \( \Psi \) are predicate variables. The proof(schema_g) and proof(constr( \( \Phi(a) \rightarrow P(a), \Psi(b) \rightarrow Q(b) \) ) are obtained as in Fig.7(a),(b).

\[
\begin{array}{c|c|c}
\text{O(a)} \rightarrow \text{O(a)} & \text{P(a)} \rightarrow \text{P(a)} \\
\hline
\Phi(a) \rightarrow P(a) & \text{P(a)} \rightarrow \text{P(a)} \\
\Phi(a) \land \forall x(P(x) \supset Q(x)) \rightarrow \exists x.Q(x) & \text{P(a)} \land \text{R(a)} \rightarrow \text{P(a)} \land \text{R(a)} \\
\hline
\end{array}
\]

Constraints:

\[
\begin{array}{c|c|c}
\Phi(a) \rightarrow P(a) & \text{P(a)} \rightarrow \text{P(a)} \\
\Psi(b) \rightarrow Q(b) & \text{P(a)} \rightarrow \text{P(a)} \\
\Phi(a) \land \forall x(P(x) \supset Q(x)) \rightarrow \exists x.Q(x) & \text{P(a)} \land \text{R(a)} \rightarrow \text{P(a)} \land \text{R(a)} \\
\hline
\end{array}
\]

Fig.7 Schema with constraints for proving h.

5.Proving by Analogy

The rough sketch of this procedure is given as follows. We assume that standard schema have already been obtained as schema database, and let its elements be \( S_1, S_2, \ldots, S_n \). Firstly, a given target problem \( w \) is checked if some similar guiding problem exists or not. There are two cases for this step. One is to construct a schema from \( g \) and \( w \) by generalization. The other is to search a schema on the schema database which is unifiable both with \( g \) and \( w \). We are intending to develop a system which combine `ie both cases. This similarity check is examined using 2nd order matching algorithm. If there exists a schema \( S \) which match to \( w \), then a unifier is produced. The proof of \( w \) is derived by \( \sigma(\text{proof(S)})+\text{proof(constraints)} \).

Procedure

input: \( w \) (formulae) ; output: \text{proof(w)};

begin

Find a schema \( S \) which match with \( w \)

(1) if there is no such schema then stop and output " **prove by yourself""

(2) else choose (in nondeterministic ) a schema \( S \);

(2-1) compute unifier such that \( \sigma(S)=w \)

(2-2) check if it satisfies the constraints

if it satisfies then output \( \sigma(\text{proof(S)})+\text{proof(constraint)} \)

else " **prove by yourself""

end
It is noted that the procedure uses only 2nd order matching, it is realized in the computable scope.

[Theorem 4.1] The analogical proof reasoning procedure proposed here for LK is computable.

In the previous example in Section 4, we get a substitution $\sigma = \{ \Phi := p \land q, \Psi := q \land r, P := p, Q := q \}$ by the matching of $h$ with schema $s$ as typed terms, Then the proof(h) is derived as

$$\text{proof}(h) = \{ \lambda \Phi \lambda \Psi \lambda P \lambda Q. \text{proof}(\text{schema}_s) \}(p \land q \land r) (p) (\Phi \sigma P)(\Psi \sigma Q).$$

6. Discussions

We proposed an analogical reasoning for LK proof system based on higher-order abstraction. By this approach, a kind of proof system by analogy can be realized in natural way. Especially, it holds a similar interpretation of the analogy to the formulae as type concept such that the schemata corresponds to specifications and object proofs to their realizations. The procedure proposed here can be realized using the higher order unification algorithm for typed terms in the computable scope.

However, there exist several important problems to be solved. The most essential one is to design an efficient unification algorithm. The other problem is that the schema expressed by second order variables are too general for many cases. Hence undesirable unifiers will be output sometimes. In order to specify the schema more precisely, some additional axioms should be attached to such schema. Further, the obtained proof by this method is not always good. To translate the obtained proof to a better proof form is one of the interesting problems concerning to this topic.

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7. References