The Flower Calculus

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Abstract

We introduce the flower calculus, a deep inference proof system for intuitionistic first-order logic inspired by Peirce's existential graphs. It works as a rewriting system over inductive objects called "flowers", that enjoy both a graphical interpretation as topological diagrams, and a textual presentation as nested sequents akin to coherent formulas. Importantly, the calculus dispenses completely with the traditional notion of symbolic connective, operating solely on nested flowers containing atomic predicates. We prove both the soundness of the full calculus and the completeness of an analytic fragment with respect to Kripke semantics. This provides to our knowledge the first analyticity result for a proof system based on existential graphs, adapting semantic cut-elimination techniques to a deep inference setting. Furthermore, the kernel of rules targetted by completeness is fully invertible, a desirable property for both automated and interactive proof search.

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Related Version *Full Version*: `https://arxiv.org/abs/2402.15174` [21]

Supplementary Material
Software (Mechanized Theory): `https://github.com/Champitoad/flowers-metatheory` [19]
archived at `swh:1:dir:290076a847ca95e93c17fb66659086d7f68be014`
Software (Online Demo): `https://github.com/Champitoad/flower-prover` [20]
archived at `swh:1:dir:fcc934cae3a75692c031dc82ffdab138084a472d`

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1 Introduction

Graphical proof building. Proof assistants – also called *interactive theorem provers* (ITPs) – provide a set of tools to ease the process of formalizing mathematical developments. This includes languages to specify definitions and statements conveniently, but also interfaces to build proofs interactively without having to fill in all the details. The dominant paradigm for these interfaces is that of *tactic languages* [44]: the user is exposed with a set of *goals* that remain to be proved, constituting the *proof state*, and modifies these goals through textual commands, called *tactics*, until there is no goal left. This is currently what is implemented in mainstream proof assistants such as Coq [58] and Lean [45].

In recent years, there have been several efforts to replace or complement textual tactic languages with *graphical user interfaces* (GUIs) [51, 4, 38, 12, 53, 35, 68, 3]. The hope is to make proof assistants more intuitive and accessible to beginners and non-specialists, but also, to some extent, more productive and ergonomic even for experts.

The initial motivation for this work was to design a proof calculus well-suited to *direct manipulation* in such a graphical setting. The idea is that the user should be able to interact directly with the graphical representation of the proof state, using a pointing device such as

a mouse or fingers on a touch screen. In previous work [22], we proposed a way to synthesize complex logical inferences through *drag-and-drop* actions between two formulas of the current goal/sequent, based on the *subformula linking* (SFL) methodology [12, 13].

Diagrammatic reasoning. In this work, we show that (single-conclusion) sequents and symbolic formulas built from binary connectives and unary quantifiers are not mandatory for representing the proof state. Other authors have defended the idea of using *diagrams* as a more user-friendly frontend for ITPs. In particular, Linker et al. showed how to integrate tactic-based automation in an ITP based on *spider diagrams* [35], which are equivalent in expressive power to classical monadic *first-order logic* (FOL) [29].

We introduce a new data structure for goals inspired by an earlier invention in the history of diagrammatic logic: the *existential graphs* (EGs) of C. S. Peirce [52]. We noticed that our structure could be drawn and manipulated metaphorically in the form of nested *flowers*, and thus chose to name *flower calculus* the proof system for full intuitionistic FOL that we built around it. Our focus in this paper will be to introduce the flower calculus to readers unfamiliar with EGs, and to study its fundamental properties through the lens of modern *structural proof theory*.

Implementation. We have formalized in Coq a bidirectional simulation between the flower calculus and cut-free sequent calculus, yielding a soundness theorem and a *weak* completeness theorem for an analytic fragment of the flower calculus [19]. In this paper, we follow a *semantic* rather than syntactic approach, avoiding translations to and from symbolic formulas to obtain a stronger completeness result.

While currently at an early stage, we are also developing the *Flower Prover*, a prototype of direct-manipulation GUI for ITPs based on the flower calculus [20]. The interested reader can try a publicly available version of the prototype online[1]. We leave a detailed account of the Flower Prover and its connection to the flower calculus for future work.

Outline. The article is organized as follows: in Section 2 we give a brief overview of the original diagrammatic syntax of EGs used by Peirce in his system Alpha for classical propositional logic. In Section 3 we retrace the origin of an intuitionistic variant of EGs first introduced by Oostra in [46], that directly inspired our flower metaphor. In Section 4 we illustrate quickly the original mechanism of lines of identity used by Peirce to express first-order quantifiers in his Beta system, and show how to recast it in a more traditional binder-based syntax. In Section 5 we introduce our inductive syntax for flowers, and in Section 6 we give the full set of inference rules of the flower calculus as well as our notion of proof. In Section 7 we give a direct Kripke semantics to flowers, and in Section 8 we show that a restricted fragment of analytic and invertible rules is complete with respect to the semantics. Finally we conclude in Section 9 by a comparison with some related works.

▶ Note. The full version of this paper with complete appendices is available on arXiv [21]. The proof of soundness of the flower calculus is given in [21, Appendix B]. Contrary to the completeness proof, it is mostly routine work that does not require much insight. Detailed proofs for the deduction and completeness theorems are given respectively in [21, Appendix C.1] and [21, Appendix C.2]. Readers already familiar with EGs can find a detailed comparison of the rules of the flower calculus with Peirce's illative transformations in [21, Appendix A].

[1] `https://www.lix.polytechnique.fr/Labo/Pablo.DONATO/flowerprover/`

2 Existential graphs

Peirce designed in total three systems of EGs, which he called respectively Alpha, Beta and Gamma. They were invented chronologically in that order, which also captures their relationship in terms of complexity: Alpha is the foundation on which the other systems are built, and can today be understood as a diagrammatic calculus for classical *propositional* logic. As we will see in Section 4, Beta corresponds to a variable-free representation of *first-order* logic without function symbols. The last system Gamma is more experimental, with various unfinished features that have been interpreted as attempts to capture *modal* [67] and *higher-order* logics.

Sheet of Assertions. The most fundamental concept of Alpha is the *sheet of assertion*, denoted by SA thereafter. It is the space where statements are scribed by the reasoner, typically a sheet of paper, a blackboard, or a computer display. As its name indicates, scribing a statement on SA amounts to *asserting its truth*. Thus naturally, the empty SA where nothing is scribed will denote *vacuous truth*, traditionally signified by the symbol $\top$.

Juxtaposition. As we know from natural deduction, asserting the truth of the *conjunction* $a \wedge b$ of two propositions a and b, amounts to asserting *both* the truth of a and the truth of b. In Alpha, there is no need to introduce the symbolic connective $\wedge$, since one can just write both a and b at distinct locations on SA:

$a \quad b$

More generally, one might consider any two portions G and H of SA, and interpret their *juxtaposition* $G\ H$ as signifying that we assert the truth of their conjunction.

Cuts. Asserting the truth of the *negation* $\neg a$ of a proposition a, amounts to *denying* the truth of a. This is done in Alpha by *enclosing* a in a closed curve like so:

Peirce called such curves *cuts*[2], because they ought to be seen as literal cuts in the paper sheet that embodies SA. Note that they do not need to be circles: all that matters is that a is in a separate area from the rest of SA. This is precisely the content of the *Jordan curve theorem* in topology, and thus we can take cuts to be arbitrary Jordan curves. This entails in particular that cuts cannot intersect each other, but can be freely nested. Then as for juxtaposition, one can replace the proposition a in the interior of the cut by any *graph* G – i.e. any portion of SA – as long as the cut does not intersect other cuts in G.

Relationship with formulas. With just these two *icons*, juxtaposition and cuts, one can therefore assert the truth of any proposition made up of conjunctions and negations and built from atomic propositions. Importantly, the only symbols needed for doing so are letters $a, b, c \ldots$ denoting atomic propositions, that is "pure" symbols that do not have any logical meaning associated to them.

[2] Not to be confused with the name given to instances of the *cut rule* in sequent calculus.

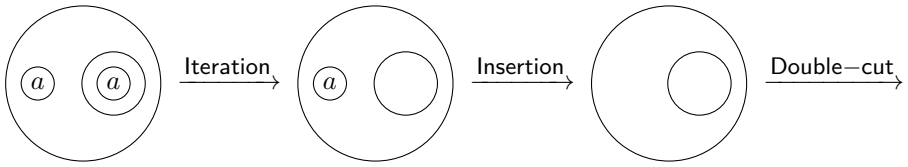
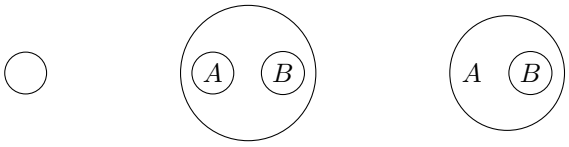


Figure 1 Proof of the law of excluded middle in Alpha.

Now, it is well-known that $\{\wedge, \neg\}$ is *functionally complete*, meaning that any boolean truth function can be expressed as the composition of conjunctions and negations. In particular, the symbolic definitions of *falsehood* $\bot \triangleq \neg\top$, classical *disjunction* $A \vee B \triangleq \neg(\neg A \wedge \neg B)$ and classical *implication* $A \supset B \triangleq \neg(A \wedge \neg B)$ can be expressed by the following three graphs:

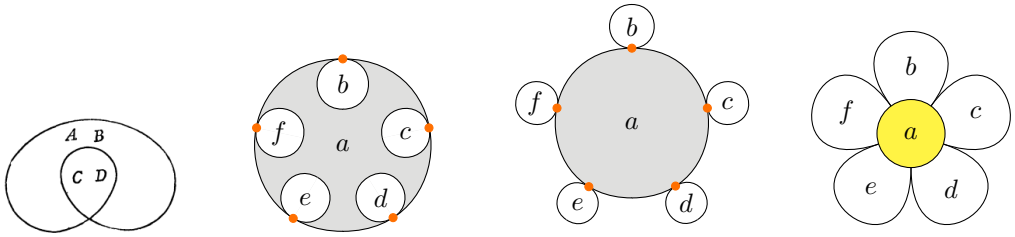


Thus one can easily encode any propositional formula into a classically equivalent graph. Conversely, one can translate any graph into a classically equivalent formula, as has been shown for instance in [54]. In fact, there are usually many possible formula readings of a given graph. One reason is that juxtaposition of graphs is a *variadic* operation, as opposed to conjunction of formulas which is *dyadic*: thus formulas that only differ up to *associativity* are associated to the same graph. Also, thanks to the topological nature of SA, juxtaposition is naturally *commutative*: the locations of two juxtaposed graphs do not matter, as long as they live in the same area delimited by a cut. The combination of these properties is called the *isotropy* of SA in [40], and is captured in traditional proof theory through the use of *(multi)sets* for modelling contexts in sequents.

Illative transformations. In order to have a proof system, one needs a collection of *inference rules* for deducing true statements from other true statements. In Alpha, inference rules are implemented by what Peirce called *illative transformations* on graphs. In modern terminology, they correspond to *rewriting* rules that can be applied to any subgraph. By measuring the depth of a subgraph as the number of cuts in which it is enclosed, we thus have that the rules of Alpha are applicable on subgraphs of arbitrary depth. This makes Alpha deserving of the title of *deep inference* system.

Figure 1 shows a proof of the law of excluded middle $a \vee \neg a$ in Alpha. The first step consists in applying the illative transformation of Iteration to erase the subgraph $\textcircled{a}$. More generally, Iteration allows to erase any subgraph G as long as G already occurs "higher" in SA, i.e. in an area that encloses the erased occurrence of G. The second step of Insertion allows to erase the other occurrence of $\textcircled{a}$ because it is scribed in a *negative* area, i.e. an area enclosed in an *odd* number of cuts – 1 in this case[3]. The last step of Double−cut allows to *collapse* the two remaining cuts, because there is nothing but empty space in between them. This leaves us with the empty SA, having thus reduced the initial goal to trivial truth.

[3] It might be quite confusing that we call "Insertion" a transformation that *erases* information. This is because we use Peirce's original terminology, despite the fact that we adopt a *backward* reading of rules where the conclusion that we want to prove is reduced to a sufficient premiss.



(a) Peirce's scroll. **(b)** Oostra's curl. **(c)** Inside-out curl. **(d)** Flower.

Figure 2 From scrolls to flowers.

3 Flowers

The scroll. In [50, pp. 533–535], Peirce explains that he did not immediately come up with the idea of juxtaposition and cuts as diagrammatizations of conjunction and negation. Instead, they arose as the natural development of a more primitive icon that he called the *scroll*. Figure 2a shows Peirce's drawing of the scroll as it appears in [50, Fig. 5]. He defines its intended meaning as that of a "conditional de inesse", which corresponds to the material implication of classical logic. Then the graph of Figure 2a is interpreted as the formula $(A \wedge B) \supset (C \wedge D)$. This agrees with the encoding of implication given in Section 2, if one sees the outer boundary enclosing the antecedent $A\ B$ and the inner boundary enclosing the consequent $C\ D$ as nested cuts.

It is no coincidence that Peirce based his most fundamental icon on implication: according to Lewis [34, p. 79], he was the one who introduced the "illative relation" of implication into symbolic logic in the first place, by giving it a distinguished symbol and studying extensively the algebraic laws that govern it (e.g. Peirce's law $((A \supset B) \supset A) \supset A$).

The n-ary scroll. In order to interpret the scroll as an *intuitionistic* implication, Oostra proposed in [46] to reify the scroll as a primitive icon of EGs, distinguished from the nesting of two cuts. In fact he went further, by generalizing both the cut and the scroll into an n-ary construction called the *curl*, where n is the number of inner boundaries, called *loops*. Figure 2b shows an example of curl with five loops, where the unique intersection points between inner and outer boundaries are highlighted in *orange*[4]. In [40], the curl is simply called *n-ary scroll*, the outer boundary *outloop*, and the inner boundaries *inloops*. Then cuts and scrolls are indeed special cases of n-ary scrolls, respectively with $n = 0$ and $n = 1$.

Like the unary scroll, the n-ary scroll is to be read as an implication whose antecedent is the content of the outloop, and consequent the content of the inloops. The generalization consists in taking the *disjunction* of the contents of all inloops: this reflects nicely the etymological meaning of the word "disjunction", since the inloops enclose *disjoint* areas of the outloop to which they are attached. Then the 5-ary scroll of Figure 2b can be read as the formula $a \supset (b \vee c \vee d \vee e \vee f)$; and the 0-ary scroll obtained by removing all inloops from the latter as $a \supset \bot$, since a 0-ary disjunction is naturally evaluated to its neutral element $\bot$. This coincides with the intuitionistic reading of negation $\neg A \triangleq A \supset \bot$.

Continuity. With this interpretation of the n-ary scroll, the Alpha encodings of disjunction and implication as nested cuts given in Section 2 are no longer valid, because they are not intuitionistically equivalent to the associated binary and unary scrolls. This is illustrated in

[4] We also shade the negative area delimited by the outer boundary in *gray*.

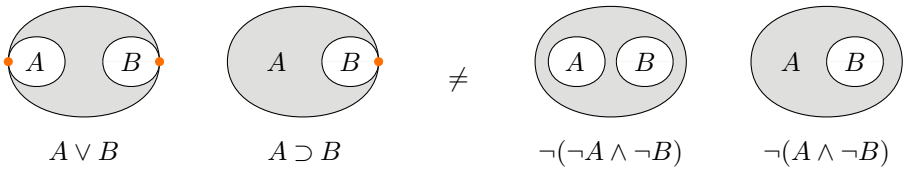


Figure 3 Continuity, disjunction and implication in intuitionistic EGs.

Figure 3, where the closeness in meaning is reflected iconically (but not symbolically) in the fact that the graphs only differ in the *continuity* (or lack thereof) between inloops and their outloop.

▶ Remark 3.1. This might be related to other manifestations of the notion of continuity in the semantics of intuitionistic logic, such as the well-known Stone-Tarski interpretation of formulas as topological spaces [57], and the interpretation of proofs as continuous maps in the *denotational semantics* of Dana Scott[5] [1].

Blooming. In terms of ergonomy, the n-ary scroll has one notable flaw, also shared with the classical cut-based syntax: it quickly induces heavy nestings of curves in the plane, making even relatively simple graphs hard to read for an untrained eye. Our solution is to turn inloops *inside-out*, as illustrated in Figure 2c. In this way, we effectively divide the amount of curve-nesting in scrolls by two. And as an added bonus, the new icon is reminiscent of a *flower*, as if it had bloomed from its curled bud; or as if the pistol cylinder from Figure 2b had transformed into a *pistil*, and its bullet chambers into *petals*.

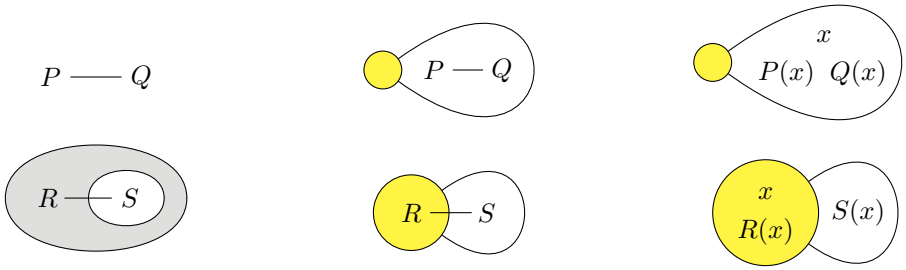
From that point onwards, we chose to fully embrace the flower metaphor: first in our drawing style as witnessed in Figure 2d, but also in our syntactic terminology, to be introduced in the next pages. Negative (resp. positive) outloops are now drawn as *yellow* (resp. *white*) pistils for a slightly more colorful experience, and inloops as transparent petals, i.e. of the same color as the area on which they are scribed.

4 Gardens

Lines of identity. To express first-order quantification, Peirce introduced in Beta the icon of *lines of identity* (LoIs). In short, the usual binders and variables of predicate calculus are replaced by *lines* that connect the occurrences of bound variables in predicate arguments to their binding point. For instance, the formulas $\exists x.P(x) \wedge Q(x)$ and $\forall x.R(x) \supset S(x)$ can be represented in Beta by the graphs of Figure 4a.

The kind of quantification is determined by the location of the binding point, which is taken to be the *outermost* point in the line: if it is in a *positive* area as in the upper graph, then the quantifier is *existential*; otherwise if it is in a *negative* area as in the lower graph, the quantifier is *universal*. This is justified by De Morgan's laws: the lower graph can also be read as the classically equivalent formula $\neg\, \exists x.R(x) \wedge \neg\, S(x)$.

[5] Before the advent of Oostra's intuitionistic EGs, Zalamea gave a detailed analysis of Peirce's philosophy of the *continuum*, how it relates to modern developments in mathematics, and how it is embodied in EGs [66]. Actually according to Oostra [49, p. 162], "the possibility of developing intuitionistic existential graphs was first suggested by Zalamea in the 1990s [64, 65]".



(a) EGs with LoIs. **(b)** Flowers with LoIs. **(c)** Flowers with variables.

Figure 4 From LoIs to variables.

Intuitionistic quantification. In intuitionistic logic however, De Morgan's laws do not hold anymore. Thus in the flower calculus we need a different way to interpret LoIs as quantifiers. Our key insight is to adopt a *polarity-invariant* viewpoint: a LoI now has *existential* (resp. *universal*) force when its outermost point is located in a *petal* (resp. *pistil*). In particular, this implies that LoIs cannot occur at the top-level of SA anymore, but only inside flowers. Thus the two previous Beta graphs are transformed into the single-petal flowers of Figure 4b.

Variables. Quine experimented with a notation similar to LoIs, but deemed it "too cumbersome for practical use" [52, p. 125]. While his lines connected locations inside symbolic formulas written in linear notation, it is true that having a line for each occurrence of bound variable can quickly lead to unreadable diagrams ridden with overlapping lines. This is not a problem in the context of Peirce's work, because his aim was "to separate [relational] reasoning into its smallest steps, [...] not to facilitate reasoning, but to facilitate the study of reasoning" [52, p. 111]; and recent formalizations of the algebra of LoIs in category theory support the pertinence of Peirce's approach [27, 6].

However, keeping in mind our goal of laying the basis for a calculus well-suited to practical reasoning in ITPs, we chose to replace LoIs by a more traditional syntax based on binders and variables. The idea is to substitute every LoI with a variable *binder* scribed in the area of its outermost point, so that the two flowers of Figure 4b transform into those of Figure 4c. Areas delimited by pistils and petals now comprise both flowers and binders, which can be seen metaphorically as *sprinklers* that irrigate the leaves (atomic predicates) of flowers through invisible LoIs, imagined as underground hoses. Hence we call these areas *gardens*.

5 Syntax

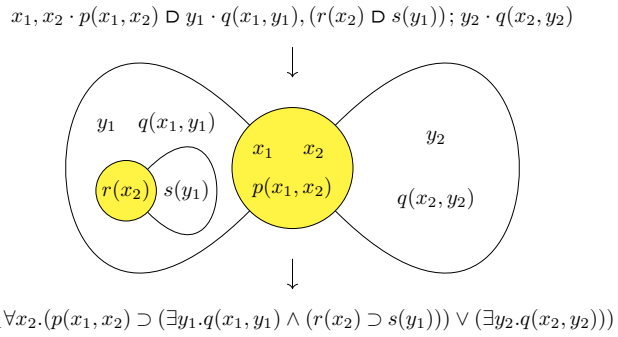
We are now going to distill the syntactic essence of flowers into an inductive, (multi)set-based data structure. This will allow for a more compact textual notation, that is better suited to proof-theoretical study. We previously illustrated how flowers allow to represent purely relational statements without function symbols. Since functions are just deterministic relations, one can in principle formalize any first-order theory in this syntax[6].

▶ **Definition 5.1.** *A* first-order signature *is a pair* $\Sigma = (\mathcal{P}, \mathsf{ar})$*, where* $\mathcal{P}$ *is the countable set of* predicate symbols *of* Σ*, and* $\mathsf{ar} : \mathcal{P} \to \mathbb{N}$ *gives an* arity *to each symbol.*

[6] Conversely, every relation can be faithfully encoded as its characteristic function, which is the basis for the formalization of mathematics in *type theories*.

Kind	Letters
Variables ($\mathcal{V}$)	x, y, z
Flowers ($\mathbb{F}$)	ϕ, ψ, ξ
Gardens ($\mathbb{G}$)	γ, δ
Sprinklers	$\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}$
Variable vectors	$\vec{\mathbf{x}}, \vec{\mathbf{y}}, \vec{\mathbf{z}}$
Substitutions	σ, τ
Bouquets	Φ, Ψ, Ξ
Corollas	Γ, Δ
Contexts	$\hat{\Phi}, \hat{\Psi}, \hat{\Xi}$
Theories	$\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{U}$

(a) Conventions for meta-variables.



(b) Interpreting flowers.

Figure 5 Notations.

In the following, we fix a countable set of variables $\mathcal{V}$ and a first-order signature Σ.

▶ **Definition 5.2.** *The sets of* flowers $\mathbb{F}$ *and* gardens $\mathbb{G}$ *are defined by mutual induction:*

Atom *If* $p \in \mathcal{P}$ *and* $\vec{\mathbf{x}} \in \mathcal{V}^{\mathsf{ar}(p)}$*, then* $p(\vec{\mathbf{x}}) \in \mathbb{F}$*;*

Garden *If* $\mathbf{x} \subset \mathcal{V}$ *is a finite set and* $\Phi \subset \mathbb{F}$ *a finite multiset, then* $\mathbf{x} \cdot \Phi \in \mathbb{G}$*;*

Flower *If* $\gamma \in \mathbb{G}$ *and* $\Delta \subset \mathbb{G}$ *is a finite multiset, then* $\gamma \Rsh \Delta \in \mathbb{F}$*.*

Similarly to nested sequents*, the syntax of flowers* ϕ, ψ *and gardens* γ, δ *can be expressed succinctly with the following grammar:*

$$\phi, \psi ::= p(x_1, \dots, x_n) \mid \gamma \Rsh \delta_1 ; \dots ; \delta_n \qquad \gamma, \delta ::= x_1, \dots, x_n \cdot \phi_1, \dots, \phi_n$$

Building on our botanical metaphor, any finite set $\mathbf{x} \subset \mathcal{V}$ of variables is called a *sprinkler*, finite multiset $\Phi \subset \mathbb{F}$ of flowers a *bouquet*, and finite multiset $\Gamma \subset \mathbb{G}$ of gardens a *corolla*. Following the grammar presentation, we will often write gardens as $x_1, \dots, x_n \cdot \phi_1, \dots, \phi_m$, where the x_i are called *binders*; and non-atomic flowers as $\gamma \Rsh \delta_1 ; \dots ; \delta_n$, where γ is the *pistil* and the δ_i are the *petals*. We write $\{E_i\}_i^n$ to denote a finite (multi)set of size n with elements E_i indexed by $1 \leq i \leq n$. We also omit writing the empty (multi)set, accounting for it with blank space as is done in sequent notation; in particular, $\cdot$ stands for the empty garden $\varnothing \cdot \varnothing$, $\gamma \Rsh$ for the flower with no petals $\gamma \Rsh \varnothing$, and $\gamma \Rsh \cdot$ for the flower with one empty petal.

Note that the order of precedence of operators is $, < \cdot < ; < \Rsh$: this is illustrated in Figure 5b, where a flower expression is parsed into the corresponding flower drawing, and then translated as a formula. Also to improve readability, we will most of the time omit the garden dot "$\cdot$" when the sprinkler is empty, writing Φ instead of $\cdot \Phi$.

▶ Remark 5.3. In some places the choice of letter for meta-variables will be important to disambiguate the kind of syntactic object we denote. Table 5a summarizes our chosen notational conventions in this respect.

We now proceed with routine definitions for handling variables.

▶ **Definition 5.4.** *The sets of* free variables $\mathsf{fv}(-)$ *and* bound variables $\mathsf{bv}(-)$ *of a flower/bouquet/garden are defined recursively by:*

$$\mathsf{fv}(p(\vec{\mathbf{x}})) = \vec{\mathbf{x}} \qquad \mathsf{fv}(\Phi) = \bigcup_{\phi\in\Phi} \mathsf{fv}(\phi) \qquad \mathsf{fv}(\mathbf{x}\cdot\Phi) = \mathsf{fv}(\Phi)\setminus\mathbf{x}$$

$$\mathsf{fv}(\mathbf{x}\cdot\Phi \rhd \Delta) = \mathsf{fv}(\mathbf{x}\cdot\Phi) \cup \bigcup_{\mathbf{y}\cdot\Psi\in\Delta} \mathsf{fv}(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{y}\cdot\Psi)$$

$$\mathsf{bv}(p(\vec{\mathbf{x}})) = \varnothing \quad \mathsf{bv}(\Phi) = \bigcup_{\phi\in\Phi} \mathsf{bv}(\phi) \quad \mathsf{bv}(\mathbf{x}\cdot\Phi) = \mathbf{x}\cup\mathsf{bv}(\Phi) \quad \mathsf{bv}(\gamma \rhd \Delta) = \mathsf{bv}(\gamma)\cup\bigcup_{\delta\in\Delta} \mathsf{bv}(\delta)$$

To avoid reasoning about α-equivalence, we adopt in this work the so-called *Barendregt convention* that all variable binders are distinct, both among themselves and from free variables. Formally, we assume that for any bouquet Φ the two following conditions hold:

1. computing $\mathsf{bv}(\Phi)$ as a multiset gives the same result as computing it as a set;
2. $\mathsf{bv}(\Phi)\cap\mathsf{fv}(\Phi) = \varnothing$.

To define substitutions, we introduce a general notion of *function update*, which will be useful for the semantic evaluation of flowers in Section 7.

▶ **Definition 5.5.** *Let A, B be two sets, $f, g : A \to B$ two functions and $R \subseteq A$ some subset of their domain. The* update *of f on R with g is the function defined by:*

$$(f\mid_R g)(x) = \begin{cases} g(x) & \text{if } x\in R \\ f(x) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$-\mid_-\,-$ is left-associative, that is $f\mid_R g\mid_S h = (f\mid_R g)\mid_S h$. Also if f or g is the identity function $\mathbf{1}$ we omit writing it, i.e. $f\mid_R = f\mid_R \mathbf{1}$ and $\mid_R g = \mathbf{1}\mid_R g$.

▶ **Definition 5.6.** *A* substitution *is a function $\sigma : \mathcal{V}\to\mathcal{V}$ with a finite* support $\mathsf{supp}(\sigma) = \{x \mid \sigma(x)\neq x\}$. *We write $\sigma : \mathbf{x}$ to denote a substitution σ whose support is $\mathbf{x}$. The domain of substitutions is extended to flowers, bouquets and gardens mutually recursively by:*

$$\sigma(p(x_1,\dots,x_n)) = p(\sigma(x_1),\dots,\sigma(x_n)) \qquad \sigma(\phi_1,\dots,\phi_n) = \sigma(\phi_1),\dots,\sigma(\phi_n)$$

$$\sigma(\mathbf{x}\cdot\Phi) = \mathbf{x}\cdot\sigma|_{\mathbf{x}}(\Phi) \qquad \sigma(\mathbf{x}\cdot\Phi \rhd \delta_1;\dots;\delta_n) = \sigma(\mathbf{x}\cdot\Phi) \rhd \sigma|_{\mathbf{x}}(\delta_1);\dots;\sigma|_{\mathbf{x}}(\delta_n)$$

We say that a substitution $\sigma : \mathbf{x}$ is capture-avoiding *in a bouquet Φ if $\sigma(\mathbf{x})\cap\mathsf{bv}(\Phi) = \varnothing$.*

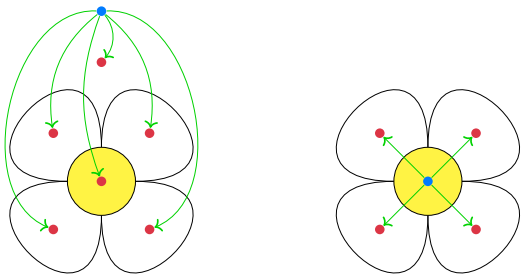
6 Calculus

Equipped with an inductive syntax, we can now express formally the inference rules of the flower calculus. First we need a notion of *context* to apply rules at arbitrarily deep locations:

▶ **Definition 6.1** (Context)**.** Contexts $\hat{\Phi}$ *are defined inductively by the following grammar:*

$$\hat{\Phi},\hat{\Psi},\hat{\Xi} ::= \Psi,\hat{\phi} \qquad \hat{\phi},\hat{\psi},\hat{\xi} ::= \square \mid \mathbf{x}\cdot\hat{\Phi} \rhd \Delta \mid \gamma \rhd \mathbf{x}\cdot\hat{\Phi};\Delta$$

Informally, a context can be seen as a bouquet with exactly one occurrence of a special flower $\square$ called its hole. *The* filling *of a context $\hat{\Phi}$ with a bouquet Ψ (resp. context $\hat{\Psi}$) is the bouquet $\hat{\Phi}\{\Psi\}$ (resp. context $\hat{\Phi}\{\hat{\Psi}\}$) equal to $\hat{\Phi}$ where $\square$ has been substituted with Ψ (resp. $\hat{\Psi}$).*



(a) Cross-pollination. **(b)** Self-pollination.

Figure 6 Pollination in flowers.

▶ **Definition 6.2** (Polarity). *The number of* inversions $\mathsf{inv}(\hat{\Phi})$ *of a context* $\hat{\Phi}$ *is:*

$$\mathsf{inv}(\Box) = 0 \quad \mathsf{inv}(\Psi, \hat{\phi}) = \mathsf{inv}(\hat{\phi}) \quad \mathsf{inv}(\mathbf{x} \cdot \hat{\Phi} \rhd \Delta) = 1 + \mathsf{inv}(\hat{\Phi}) \quad \mathsf{inv}(\gamma \rhd \mathbf{x} \cdot \hat{\Phi}; \Delta) = \mathsf{inv}(\hat{\Phi})$$

We say that a context $\hat{\Phi}$ *is* positive *if* $\mathsf{inv}(\hat{\Phi})$ *is even, and* negative *otherwise. We denote positive and negative contexts respectively by* $\hat{\Phi}^+$ *and* $\hat{\Phi}^-$*.*

In order to formulate the equivalent of the Iteration rule of EGs for flowers, we introduce a *pollination* relation that captures the availability of a flower in a given context:

▶ **Definition 6.3** (Pollination). *We say that a flower* ϕ *can be* pollinated *in a context* $\hat{\Phi}$*, written* $\phi \succ \hat{\Phi}$*, when there exists a bouquet* Ψ *with* $\phi \in \Psi$ *and contexts* $\hat{\Xi}$ *and* $\hat{\Xi}_0$ *s.t. either:*
Cross-pollination $\hat{\Phi} = \hat{\Xi}\{\Psi, \hat{\Xi}_0\}$*;*
Self-pollination $\hat{\Phi} = \hat{\Xi}\{\mathbf{x} \cdot \Psi \rhd \mathbf{y} \cdot \hat{\Xi}_0; \Delta\}$ *for some* $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \Delta$*.*
A bouquet Φ *can be* pollinated *in* $\hat{\Phi}$*, written* $\Phi \succ \hat{\Phi}$*, if* $\phi \succ \hat{\Phi}$ *for all* $\phi \in \Phi$*.*

Figure 6 illustrates the meaning of pollination as a relation of *justification* between locations: the blue dot marks the location of the justifying/pollinating occurrence of ϕ, and the red dots all the areas that it justifies/pollinates, and thus where ϕ is available for use. We distinguish two cases of cross-pollination and self-pollination, as botanists do when describing the reproduction of flowers. This distinction does not exist in classical EGs, because pistils and petals are both identified as instances of cuts[7].

▶ Remark 6.4. Incidentally, the pollination relation also explains the *scope* of variables. Indeed, one can interpet red dots in Figure 6 as the allowed *usage* points for the variable *bound* at the linked blue dot. This hints at a possible *type-theoretic* variant of the flower calculus where variables are also used for higher-order individuals, including flowers.

Proofs. The inference rules of the flower calculus are presented in Figure 7. Read from top to bottom, they correspond to traditional inference rules deducing a necessary conclusion from a valid premiss. But we will prefer their backward, *bottom-up* reading: then they can be seen as *rewriting* rules that reduce a goal to a sufficient premiss, just like in our illustration of the illative transformations of EGs in Figure 1. Also, all rules manipulate *bouquets*: this is seen more clearly in the *graphical* presentation of the rules in appendix (Figures 8 and 9).

[7] The same phenomenon is at work in SFL: cross-pollination and self-pollination can be seen as generalizing the *forward* and *backward* interaction connectives $\bigcirc$ and $\triangleright$ of intuitionistic SFL [13, 22], while the original formulation of SFL for classical linear logic had only one interaction connective $*$ [12]. Through the Curry-Howard-Lambek correspondence, this is also reminiscent of the adjunction between products ($\bigcirc$) and exponentials ($\triangleright$) in *cartesian closed categories*, as opposed to the natural isomorphism $(-)^*$ of $*$*-autonomous categories*.

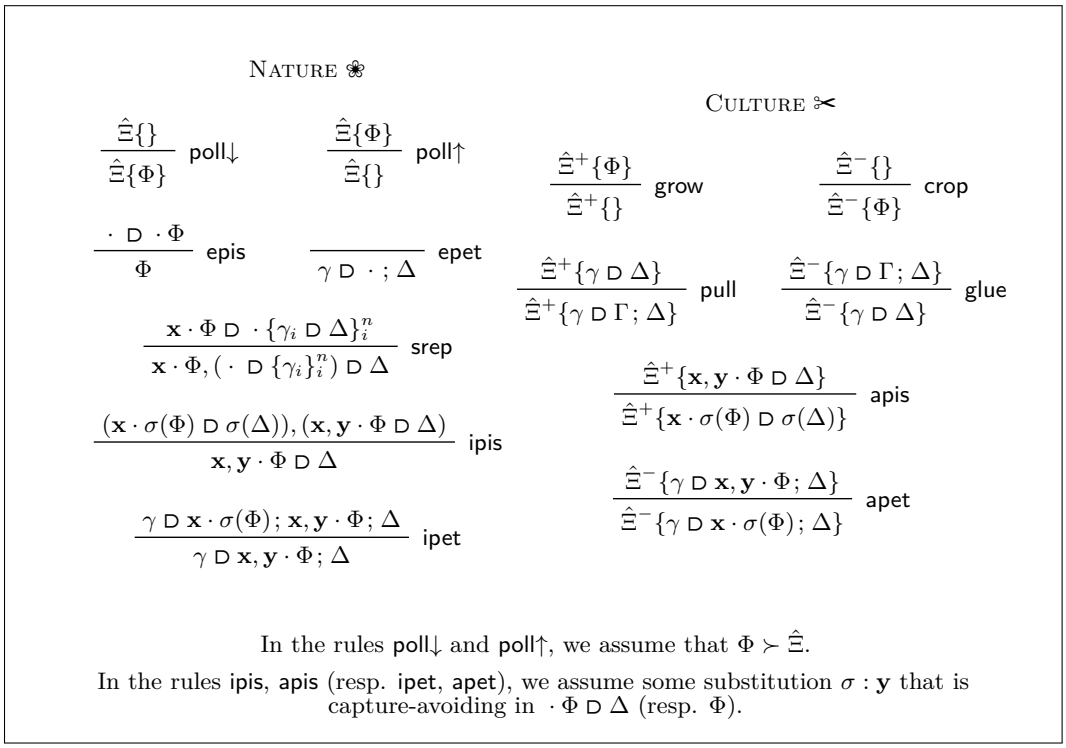


Figure 7 Rules of the flower calculus.

We partition the rules into two sets: the *natural* rules denoted by ❀ that apply in arbitrary contexts, and the *cultural* rules denoted by ✂ that apply exclusively in positive or negative contexts. In particular, every ❀-rule is both *analytic* (i.e. every atom in the premiss already appears in the conclusion) and *invertible* (see [21, Lemma B.17]); on the contrary, all ✂-rules are *non-invertible*, and they will be shown to be *admissible* in Section 8.

▶ **Definition 6.5** (Derivation). *Given a set of rules* R*, we write* $\Phi \to_{\mathsf{R}} \Psi$ *to indicate a rewrite* step *in* R*, that is an instance of some* $\mathsf{r} \in \mathsf{R}$ *with* Ψ *as premiss and* Φ *as conclusion. We just write* $\Phi \to \Psi$ *to mean* $\Phi \to_{❀ \cup ✂} \Psi$*. A* derivation $\Phi \to_{\mathsf{R}}^{n} \Psi$ *is a sequence of rewrite steps* $\Phi_0 \to_{\mathsf{R}} \Phi_1 \dots \to_{\mathsf{R}} \Phi_n$ *with* $\Phi_0 = \Phi$*,* $\Phi_n = \Psi$ *and* $n \geq 0$*. Generally the length* n *of the derivation does not matter, and we just write* $\Phi \to_{\mathsf{R}}^{*} \Psi$*. Finally, natural derivations are closed under arbitrary contexts: for every context* $\hat{\Xi}$*,* $\Phi \to_{❀} \Psi$ *implies* $\hat{\Xi}\{\Phi\} \to_{❀} \hat{\Xi}\{\Psi\}$*. We write* $\Phi \rightharpoonup_{❀} \Psi$ *to denote a* shallow *natural step, i.e. an instance of a* ❀*-rule in the empty context* $\Box$*.*

▶ **Definition 6.6** (Proof). *A* proof *of a bouquet* Φ *is a derivation* $\Phi \to^{*} \varnothing$*.*

In Peircean terms, the empty bouquet is the blank SA. Then proving a bouquet amounts to erasing it completely from SA, thus reducing it to trivial truth as in Figure 1. Figure 10 in appendix shows an example of ❀-proof in the flower calculus, both in textual and graphical syntax. Note that we used a non-duplicating version of the rules ipis and ipet, in order to save some space in the graphical presentation.

If we want to reason about *relative* truth, i.e. Φ is true under the assumption that Ψ is, we can simply rely on the existence of a derivation $\Phi \to^{*} \Psi$ in the full flower calculus. This will be justified by the soundness of all rules ([21, Theorem B.20]) as well as a *strong* completeness result (Corollary 8.8), that relies on the following strong deduction theorem:

▶ **Theorem 6.7** (Strong deduction). *$\Phi \to^* \Psi$ if and only if $\Psi \between \Phi \to^* \varnothing$.*

Contrary to full derivability, natural derivability $\Phi \to^*_{\text{❀}} \Psi$ is too weak to satisfy a strong deduction theorem. This is a consequence of the fact that ❀-rules are *invertible*, and thus can only relate equivalent bouquets. Indeed, as soon as $\Psi \between \Phi$ is ❀-provable but the converse $\Phi \between \Psi$ is not, it follows from the completeness of ❀-rules that Φ and Ψ are not equivalent: thus $\Phi \not\to^*_{\text{❀}} \Psi$, contradicting the strong deduction statement.

A trivial way to circumvent this is to define directly the relation of *hypothetical provability* $\Psi \vdash \Phi$ as $\Psi \between \Phi \to^* \varnothing$. This is closer to what one would find in sequent calculus, where hypothetical proofs are closed derivations of hypothetical sequents, not open derivations. The difference is that sequents capture only the *first-order*[8] implicative structure of logic, while flowers capture the full structure of intuitionistic FOL. This allows for a nice generalization of the notion of hypothetical provability, which will be useful in our completeness proof:

▶ **Definition 6.8.** *We say that Φ is* hypothetically provable *from Ψ in a fragment R of rules, written $\Psi \vdash_{\mathsf{R}} \Phi$, if $\hat{\Xi}\{\Phi\} \to^*_{\mathsf{R}} \hat{\Xi}\{\}$ for every context $\hat{\Xi}$ such that $\Psi \succ \hat{\Xi}$. We write $\Psi \vdash \Phi$ to denote hypothetical provability in the full flower calculus.*

▶ **Theorem 6.9** (Deduction). *$\Psi \vdash_{\text{❀}} \Phi$ if and only if $\vdash_{\text{❀}} \Psi \between \Phi$.*

7 Semantics

We now give a semantics to flowers in Kripke structures. We recall the standard definitions:

▶ **Definition 7.1.** *A* first-order structure *is a pair $(M, [\![\cdot]\!])$ where M is a non-empty set called the* domain*, and $[\![\cdot]\!]$ is a map called the* interpretation *that associates to each predicate symbol $p \in \mathcal{P}$ a relation $[\![p]\!] \subseteq M^{\mathsf{ar}(p)}$.*

▶ **Definition 7.2.** *A* Kripke structure *is a triplet $\mathcal{K} = (W, \leq, (M_w)_{w \in W})$, where W is the set of* worlds*, $\leq$ is a pre-order on W called* accessibility*, and $(M_w)_{w \in W}$ is a family of first-order structures indexed by W. Furthermore, we require the following monotonicity conditions to hold whenever $w \leq w'$: 1. $M_w \subseteq M_{w'}$; 2. for every $p \in \mathcal{P}$, $[\![p]\!]_w \subseteq [\![p]\!]_{w'}$.*

▶ **Definition 7.3.** *Given a Kripke structure $\mathcal{K}$ and a world w in $\mathcal{K}$, a* w-evaluation *is a function $e : \mathcal{V} \to M_w$. The interpretation map of M_w is extended to variables and substitutions with respect to any w-evaluation e as follows:*

$$[\![x]\!]_e = e(x) \qquad\qquad [\![\sigma]\!]_e(x) = [\![\sigma(x)]\!]_e$$

The crux of Kripke semantics is the *forcing* relation, that captures the truth-conditions of statements in Kripke structures. While it is usually defined on formulas, here we adapt the definition to flowers, which in our opinion makes it simpler and more uniform since flowers can be seen as built from essentially one big constructor:

▶ **Definition 7.4.** *The* depth *$|-|$ of a flower/garden is defined by mutual recursion:*

$$|p(\vec{\mathbf{x}})| = 0 \qquad |\mathbf{x} \cdot \Phi| = \max_{\phi \in \Phi} |\phi| \qquad |\gamma \between \Delta| = 1 + \max(|\gamma|, \max_{\delta \in \Delta} |\delta|)$$

▶ **Definition 7.5.** *Given some Kripke structure $\mathcal{K}$, the* forcing *relation $w \Vdash \phi\,[e]$ between a world w, a flower ϕ and a w-evaluation e is defined by induction on $|\phi|$ as follows:*

[8] As opposed to *higher-order*, in the sense of having negatively nested implications.

Atom $w \Vdash p(\vec{\mathbf{x}})\,[e]$ *iff* $[\![\vec{\mathbf{x}}]\!]_e \in [\![p]\!]_w$*;*
Flower $w \Vdash \mathbf{x} \cdot \Phi \mathbin{\mathsf{D}} \{\mathbf{x}_i \cdot \Phi_i\}_i^n\,[e]$ *iff for every* $w' \geq w$ *and every* w'*-evaluation* e'*, if* $w' \Vdash \Phi\,[e|_{\mathbf{x}} e']$ *then there is some* $1 \leq i \leq n$ *and* w'*-evaluation* e'' *such that* $w' \Vdash \Phi_i\,[e|_{\mathbf{x}} e'|_{\mathbf{x}_i} e'']$*.*
Bouquet $w \Vdash \Phi\,[e]$ *iff* $w \Vdash \phi\,[e]$ *for every* $\phi \in \Phi$*.*

Lastly, we define the notion of *semantic entailment* $\Phi \vDash \Psi$ on bouquets, mirroring the syntactic entailment $\Phi \vdash \Psi$ of the last section:

▶ **Definition 7.6.** *Let* $\mathcal{K}$ *be a Kripke structure, and* Φ, Ψ *some bouquets. We say that* Φ semantically entails Ψ *in* $\mathcal{K}$*, written* $\Phi \vDash_{\mathcal{K}} \Psi$*, when* $w \Vdash \Phi\,[e]$ *implies* $w \Vdash \Psi\,[e]$ *for every world* $w \in W$ *and* w*-evaluation* e*. This entailment is* valid *if it holds for any Kripke structure* $\mathcal{K}$*, and in that case we simply write* $\Phi \vDash \Psi$*. We say that* Φ *is* semantically equivalent *to* Ψ*, written* $\Phi \dashv\vDash \Psi$*, when* $\Phi \vDash \Psi$ *and* $\Psi \vDash \Phi$*.*

8 Completeness

We now outline a direct completeness proof for the natural fragment ❀ of the flower calculus: every true flower ϕ is naturally provable, i.e. $\vDash \phi$ implies $\vdash_{❀} \phi$. Since this fragment is analytic, we cannot reuse most completeness proofs from the literature, because they usually rely on a non-analytic principle like the cut rule of sequent calculus. Our insight was to adapt techniques from the *semantic cut-elimination* proof given by Hermant in [28], which is nonetheless relatively close to the original completeness proof of Gödel. A novelty of our proof is that it dispenses completely with the need for *Henkin witnesses*.

First we need to generalize our notions of syntactic and semantic entailment to possibly *infinite* sets of flowers, so-called *theories*:

▶ **Definition 8.1.** *Any set* $\mathcal{T} \subseteq \mathbb{F}$ *of flowers is called a* theory*. In particular, a bouquet can be regarded as a finite theory, by forgetting the number of repetitions of its elements. We say that a bouquet* Φ *is* provable from *a theory* $\mathcal{T}$*, written* $\mathcal{T} \vdash \Phi$*, if there exists a bouquet* $\Psi \subseteq \mathcal{T}$ *such that* $\Psi \vdash \Phi$*. Given a Kripke structure* $\mathcal{K}$*, a world* w *in* $\mathcal{K}$ *and a* w*-evaluation* e*, we say that* $\mathcal{T}$ *is* forced *by* w *under* e*, written* $w \Vdash \mathcal{T}\,[e]$*, if* $w \Vdash \phi\,[e]$ *for all* $\phi \in \mathcal{T}$*. Then* Φ *is a* consequence *of* $\mathcal{T}$*, written* $\mathcal{T} \vDash_{\mathcal{K}} \Phi$*, if* $w \Vdash \mathcal{T}\,[e]$ *implies* $w \Vdash \Phi\,[e]$ *for every world* w *in* $\mathcal{K}$ *and* w*-evaluation* e*.*

▶ **Definition 8.2.** *A theory* $\mathcal{T}$ *is said to be* ψ-consistent *when* $\mathcal{T} \nvdash_{❀} \psi$*, and* ψ-complete *when for all* $\phi \in \mathbb{F}$*, either* $\mathcal{T}, \phi \vdash_{❀} \psi$ *or* $\phi \in \mathcal{T}$*.*

Intuitively, a theory $\mathcal{T}$ is ψ-consistent when one cannot deduce ψ from it, and ψ-complete when it *decides* any formula ϕ relatively to ψ. This is better understood by considering the special case where $\psi = (\,\mathsf{D}\,)$ is the *absurd* flower: then consistency means that one cannot derive any contradiction from $\mathcal{T}$; and completeness that $\mathcal{T}$ either *refutes* ϕ syntactically with a proof of $\Phi, \phi \mathbin{\mathsf{D}} (\,\mathsf{D}\,)$ for some $\Phi \subseteq \mathcal{T}$, or already *validates* it "semantically", i.e. without the need for a proof since $\phi \in \mathcal{T}$.

The next two propositions constitute the central argument that allows the completeness proof to go through despite the analyticity of ❀-rules. They are a direct adaptation of [28, Proposition 7], which Hermant identifies as "an important property of any A-consistent, A-complete theory, [...] that it enjoys some form of the subformula property".

Roughly, the first proposition captures the intuitionistic truth-conditions that make a flower *valid* (i.e. true in every model) by modelling them on material implication, just like Peirce would do with his scroll (see Section 3): ϕ is true if the content Φ_i of one of its petals (consequents) is, or if the content Φ of its pistil (antecedent) is not.

▶ **Proposition 8.3** (Analytic truth). *Let $\psi \in \mathbb{F}$, $\mathcal{T}$ some ψ-consistent and ψ-complete theory, and $\phi = \mathbf{x} \cdot \Phi \rhd \Delta$ with $\Delta = \{\delta_i\}_i^n = \{\mathbf{x}_i \cdot \Phi_i\}_i^n$ such that $\phi \in \mathcal{T}$. Then for every substitution $\sigma : \mathbf{x}$, either $\sigma(\Phi_i) \subseteq \mathcal{T}$ for some $1 \leq i \leq n$, or $\mathcal{T} \nvdash_{❀} \sigma(\Phi)$.*

Proof. Suppose the contrary, i.e. there is a substitution σ such that $\mathcal{T} \vdash_{❀} \sigma(\Phi)$ and for all $1 \leq i \leq n$, there is some $\phi_i \in \Phi_i$ ① such that $\sigma(\phi_i) \notin \mathcal{T}$. Thus by ψ-completeness of $\mathcal{T}$, we get $\mathcal{T}, \sigma(\phi_i) \vdash_{❀} \psi$. So there are $\Psi \subseteq \mathcal{T}$ and $\Psi_i \subseteq \mathcal{T} \cup \sigma(\phi_i)$ such that $\Psi \vdash_{❀} \sigma(\Phi)$ ② and $\Psi_i \vdash_{❀} \psi$ ③. Now it cannot be the case that $\Psi_i \subseteq \mathcal{T}$, otherwise by weakening and ψ-consistency of $\mathcal{T}$ we would have $\Psi_i \nvdash_{❀} \psi$. So there must exist $\Psi_i' \subseteq \mathcal{T}$ such that $\Psi_i = \Psi_i' \cup \sigma(\phi_i)$ ④. Again by weakening and ψ-consistency of $\mathcal{T}$, we get $\Psi, \bigcup_{i=1}^n \Psi_i', \phi \nvdash_{❀} \psi$. Now we derive a contradiction by showing $\Psi, \bigcup_{i=1}^n \Psi_i', \phi \vdash_{❀} \psi$. Let $\hat{\Xi}$ be a context such that $\Psi, \bigcup_{i=1}^n \Psi_i', \phi \succ \hat{\Xi}$ ⑤. Then $\hat{\Xi}\{\psi\} \twoheadrightarrow_{❀}^* \hat{\Xi}\{\}$ with the following derivation:

$$
\begin{array}{lll}
\hat{\Xi}\{\psi\} & \to_{\mathsf{epis}} & \hat{\Xi}\{\cdot \rhd \cdot \psi\} \\
& \to_{\mathsf{poll}\uparrow} & \hat{\Xi}\{\cdot \phi \rhd \cdot \psi\} \qquad (⑤) \\
& \to_{\mathsf{ipis}} & \hat{\Xi}\{\cdot (\cdot \sigma(\Phi) \rhd \sigma(\Delta)), \phi \rhd \cdot \psi\} \\
& \to_{\mathsf{poll}\downarrow} & \hat{\Xi}\{\cdot (\cdot \rhd \sigma(\Delta)), \phi \rhd \cdot \psi\} \qquad (②, ⑤) \\
& \to_{\mathsf{srep}} & \hat{\Xi}\{\cdot \phi \rhd \cdot \{\sigma(\delta_i) \rhd \cdot \psi\}_i^n\} \\
& = & \hat{\Xi}\{\cdot \phi \rhd \cdot \{\mathbf{x}_i \cdot \sigma(\Phi_i) \rhd \cdot \psi\}_i^n\} \\
& \to_{\mathsf{poll}\downarrow}^n & \hat{\Xi}\{\cdot \phi \rhd \cdot \{\mathbf{x}_i \cdot \sigma(\Phi_i) \rhd \cdot\}_i^n\} \qquad (①, ③, ④, ⑤) \\
& \to_{\mathsf{epet}}^n & \hat{\Xi}\{\cdot \phi \rhd \cdot\} \\
& \to_{\mathsf{epet}} & \hat{\Xi}\{\}
\end{array}
$$

◀

Dually, the second proposition captures the grounds on which a flower can be deemed *invalid* (i.e. false in at least one model): ϕ is not true if assuming that its pistil Φ is true is not sufficient to conclude that one of its petals Φ_i is.

▶ **Proposition 8.4** (Analytic refutation). *Let $\psi \in \mathbb{F}$, $\mathcal{T}$ some ψ-consistent and ψ-complete theory, and $\phi = \mathbf{x} \cdot \Phi \rhd \Delta$ with $\Delta = \{\delta_i\}_i^n = \{\mathbf{x}_i \cdot \Phi_i\}_i^n$ such that $\mathcal{T} \nvdash_{❀} \phi$. Then for every $1 \leq i \leq n$ and substitution $\sigma : \mathbf{x}_i$, there is some $\phi_i \in \Phi_i$ such that $\mathcal{T}, \Phi \nvdash_{❀} \sigma(\phi_i)$.*

Proof. Suppose the contrary, i.e. there are some $1 \leq i \leq n$ and $\sigma : \mathbf{x}_i$ such that $\mathcal{T}, \Phi \vdash_{❀} \sigma(\Phi_i)$. Therefore there must exist $\Psi \subseteq \mathcal{T}$ and $\Phi_0 \subseteq \Phi$ ① such that $\Psi, \Phi_0 \vdash_{❀} \sigma(\Phi_i)$ ②. By hypothesis, for every $\Phi' \subseteq \mathcal{T}$ there is a context $\hat{\Xi}$ such that $\Phi' \succ \hat{\Xi}$ and $\hat{\Xi}\{\phi\} \nrightarrow_{❀}^* \hat{\Xi}\{\}$. We now derive a contradiction by showing $\hat{\Xi}\{\phi\} \twoheadrightarrow_{❀}^* \hat{\Xi}\{\}$ for all $\hat{\Xi}$ such that $\Psi \succ \hat{\Xi}$ ③:

$$
\begin{array}{lll}
\hat{\Xi}\{\phi\} & \to_{\mathsf{ipet}} & \hat{\Xi}\{\mathbf{x} \cdot \Phi \rhd \cdot \sigma(\Phi_i); \Delta\} \\
& \to_{\mathsf{poll}\downarrow} & \hat{\Xi}\{\mathbf{x} \cdot \Phi \rhd \cdot ; \Delta\} \qquad (①, ②, ③) \\
& \to_{\mathsf{epet}} & \hat{\Xi}\{\}
\end{array}
$$

◀

Next, we define the so-called *universal Kripke structure* ✿(ψ) relative to a flower ψ:

▶ **Definition 8.5.** *Let $\psi \in \mathbb{F}$. The* universal Kripke structure ✿(ψ) *has:*

- *The set of ψ-consistent and ψ-complete theories as its worlds;*
- *Set inclusion $\subseteq$ as its accessibility relation;*

- *For each world $\mathcal{T}$, a first-order structure whose domain is the set of variables $\mathcal{V}$, and whose interpretation map is given by $[\![p]\!]_{\mathcal{T}} = \{\vec{\mathbf{x}} \mid p(\vec{\mathbf{x}}) \in \mathcal{T}\}$.*

One can easily check that the monotonicity conditions of Kripke structures hold for $✿(\psi)$.

We are now equipped to formulate the main *adequacy* lemma, which relates forcing in $✿(\psi)$ to ψ-consistency and ψ-completeness:

▶ **Lemma 8.6** (Adequacy). *Let $\phi, \psi \in \mathbb{F}$, $\mathcal{T}$ a ψ-consistent and ψ-complete theory, and σ a substitution. Then 1. $\sigma(\phi) \in \mathcal{T}$ implies $\mathcal{T} \Vdash \phi\,[\sigma]$, and 2. $\mathcal{T} \nvdash_{❀} \sigma(\phi)$ implies $\mathcal{T} \nVdash \phi\,[\sigma]$.*

Proof. The proof goes by induction on $|\phi|$. We only give an informal sketch, see [21, Appendix C.2] for the detailed proof. There are just two cases to consider:

Base case $\phi = p(\vec{\mathbf{x}})$. The first statement is trivial. The second statement is immediate from reflexivity and weakening lemmas on the hypothetical provability relation $\vdash$.

Recursive case $\phi = \gamma \multimap \Delta$. The first statement follows from Proposition 8.3. The second statement follows from Proposition 8.4, as well as the existence and properties of the completion procedure. ◀

We get the completeness theorem as a near-direct consequence:

▶ **Theorem 8.7** (Completeness). $\Phi \vDash \Psi$ *implies* $\Phi \vdash_{❀} \Psi$.

Combined with strong deduction (Theorem 6.7), this also yields a strong completeness theorem for the full flower calculus[9]:

▶ **Corollary 8.8** (Strong completeness). $\Phi \vDash \Psi$ *implies* $\Psi \to^* \Phi$.

Finally, the composition of the soundness, completeness and deduction theorems ([21, Theorem B.20], Theorem 8.7 and Theorem 6.9) gives the admissibility of ✂-rules, and thus the analyticity of the flower calculus:

▶ **Corollary 8.9** (Cult-elimination). *If $\Phi \vdash \Psi$ then $\Phi \vdash_{❀} \Psi$.*

9 Related works

Intuitionistic EGs. We have already mentioned the seminal work of Oostra, who introduced in [46] an intuitionistic version of Alpha. In [47] he describes its natural extension with LoIs to get an intuitionistic version of Beta, and in [48] he gives formal soundness and completeness proofs for intuitionistic Alpha, based on a linear notation for graphs. Ma and Pietarinen have developed in [40] their own system of intuitionistic EGs for propositional logic, with a different set of inference rules than Oostra's. They give a more systematic proof theory, including deduction, soundness and completeness theorems with respect to Heyting algebras.

Our work brings several new contributions on top of those:

Variadicity Our multiset-based definition of flowers captures faithfully the *variadic* nature of juxtaposition and n-ary scrolls in the diagrammatic syntax. In contrast, previous formalizations rely on a restricted inductive syntax which only captures graphs that are isomorphic to formulas built with binary connectives.

Intuitionistic binders While replacing LoIs with binders and variables has already been done by Sowa in the context of classical EGs [56], it seems like we are the first to adapt the idea to the intuitionistic setting.

[9] Actually it already works for the fragment $❀ \cup \{\mathsf{grow}\}$, thanks to the proof of the strong deduction theorem (see [21, Appendix C.1]).

Analyticity To our knowledge, we are the first to give a Kripke semantics to a syntax based on EGs, and to use this to obtain an analyticity result[10].

Invertibility The natural fragment of the flower calculus appears to be the first proof system based on EGs where all rules are *invertible*.

Deep inference. While the deep inference literature is most furnished with systems for classical logic, a few works tackle intuitionistic logics: the seminal work of Tiu, who proposed a *calculus of structures* for intuitionistic FOL [59], was followed by computational interpretations of the implicative fragment in Guenot's thesis [26]. There are also nested sequent systems for (propositional) full intuitionistic linear logic [15], standard and constant-domain intuitionistic FOL [23], and intuitionistic modal logics [14, 32, 37]. The flower calculus is closer to Guenot's nested sequent calculi for implicative logic which also function as rewriting systems, but extends them to full intuitionistic FOL.

Labelled sequent calculi. For a long time, it was believed that there could not be fully invertible proof systems for intuitionistic logics, even in the propositional case. While this might be true in standard Gentzen formalisms, recent works have shown that it is possible in the context of *labelled sequent calculi*: first with Lyon's G3IntQ calculus for FOL [36, Section 3.3], and then with the calculus labIS4$_{\leq}$ of Girlando et al. for the modal logic S4 [25]. In these systems, invertibility is made possible by the addition of *semantic* information to sequents, in the form of so-called *labels* and *relational atoms* that respectively encode the worlds and accessibility relations of Kripke structures. The flower calculus follows instead a purely *syntactic* approach, by relying on deep inference to retrieve what would normally be semantic information from the context $\hat{\Xi}$ in the pollination rules poll$\uparrow$ and poll$\downarrow$.

Categorical EGs. Since the seminal work of Brady and Trimble in 2000 on the formalization of EGs in category theory [7, 8], there have been various efforts to find rich categorical axiomatizations of Beta. The first approach – initiated in [8] – is based on *string diagrams*, and has recently enabled strong connections with *Frobenius algebras* and *bicategories or relations* [43, 27, 6]. A second approach makes use of the concept of *generic figure* [11], introduced by Reyes as a basic building block for *topos theory* [33]. We do not know however of any attempt to uncover the categorical structures underlying intuitionistic EGs. The flower calculus might be an interesting candidate, in that the invertibility of the natural fragment could enable a purely *equational* approach.

Coherent logic. We noticed a formal connection between flowers and *coherent logic*, a subset of the formulas of FOL discovered by Skolem in 1920 [55] that is capable of expressing many mathematical theories, and has close connections to topos theory [31, Section D3.3]. Indeed, the interpretation $\lfloor \mathbf{x} \cdot \Phi \rhd \Delta \rfloor$ of a generic flower is given by the following formula, which has exactly the shape of a coherent formula as described e.g. in [5]:

$$\forall \mathbf{x}. \left(\bigwedge_{\phi \in \Phi} \lfloor \phi \rfloor \supset \bigvee_{\mathbf{y} \cdot \Psi \in \Delta} \exists \mathbf{y}. \bigwedge_{\psi \in \Psi} \lfloor \psi \rfloor \right)$$

[10] Ma and Pietarinen claim in [39] that Alpha is analytic because it can simulate the cut rule of sequent calculus. This is a misinterpretation, since this supports precisely the *contrary*: the ability to simulate the cut rule with a constant number of rules implies the *non-analyticity* of one the rules involved (namely, Peirce's Deletion rule). Still, the notion of analyticity is not yet fully understood in deep inference systems, as discussed in [10].

The only difference is that flowers can be *nested*, while coherent formulas (also called coherent *sequents*) are first-order, in the sense that ϕ and ψ must be atoms. Coherent formulas appear in the theory of *focusing* in sequent calculi [41], and they lend themselves to simple proof search procedures that allow for *explainable proof automation* in ITPs [5, 30]. A higher-order variant of coherent formulas that is almost isomorphic to flowers has also been used to construct an intuitionistic version of the *arithmetical hierarchy*, as well as a fully *non-invertible* proof system for propositional intuitionistic logic [9].

Graph calculi. In the last twenty years, Veloso et al. have studied a series of so-called *graph calculi*, where first-order relations are represented by graphs in the sense of graph theory, and inference rules as graph transformations. The first graph calculus was introduced informally by Curtis and Lowe in 1996 [16], as a graphical notation supposedly capturing both relational calculus, and the sequential calculus of Karger and Hoare [63]. Veloso et al. gave sound and complete syntax and semantics to the calculus in [17], showing that it captures *positive* first-order logic on *binary* relations. They then extended their formalism to support relational complementation (negation) [18] as well as various modal [62, 60] and dynamic logics [61].

Graph calculi only handle *binary* relations and classical logic, while EGs and the flower calculus support relations of arbitrary arity and intuitionistic logic. We conjecture that the relationship between graph calculi and EGs is similar to that between *commutative diagrams* and *string diagrams* in category theory: the former represent relations/morphisms as edges between individuals/objects, while the latter represent them dually as points related by lines. EGs could then be understood as a *hypergraph* generalization of graph calculi, where lines of identity are hyperedges connecting multiple predicate vertices.

Development calculi. Through their backward reading, the rules of the flower calculus can be understood as primitive *tactics* for building proofs interactively. In [2, Chapter 3], Ayers calls such systems *development calculi*. In particular, he presents his own development calculus inspired by McBride's OLEG system [42] and Ganesalingam & Gowers's prover [24] called the `Box` calculus, where goals are represented by a so-called `Box` data structure very similar to flowers. In particular, `Box`es have so-called *disjunctive pairs* to reduce backtracking, that correspond to the petals of flowers. The main difference is that the `Box` calculus is based on dependent type theory instead of FOL: this allows to store the partial proof terms inside of the `Box`es themselves, while this information is lost during the construction of flowers. However, there is no completeness nor analyticity result for the `Box` calculus. It would be interesting to investigate further connections, in order to develop a dependently-typed version of the flower calculus.

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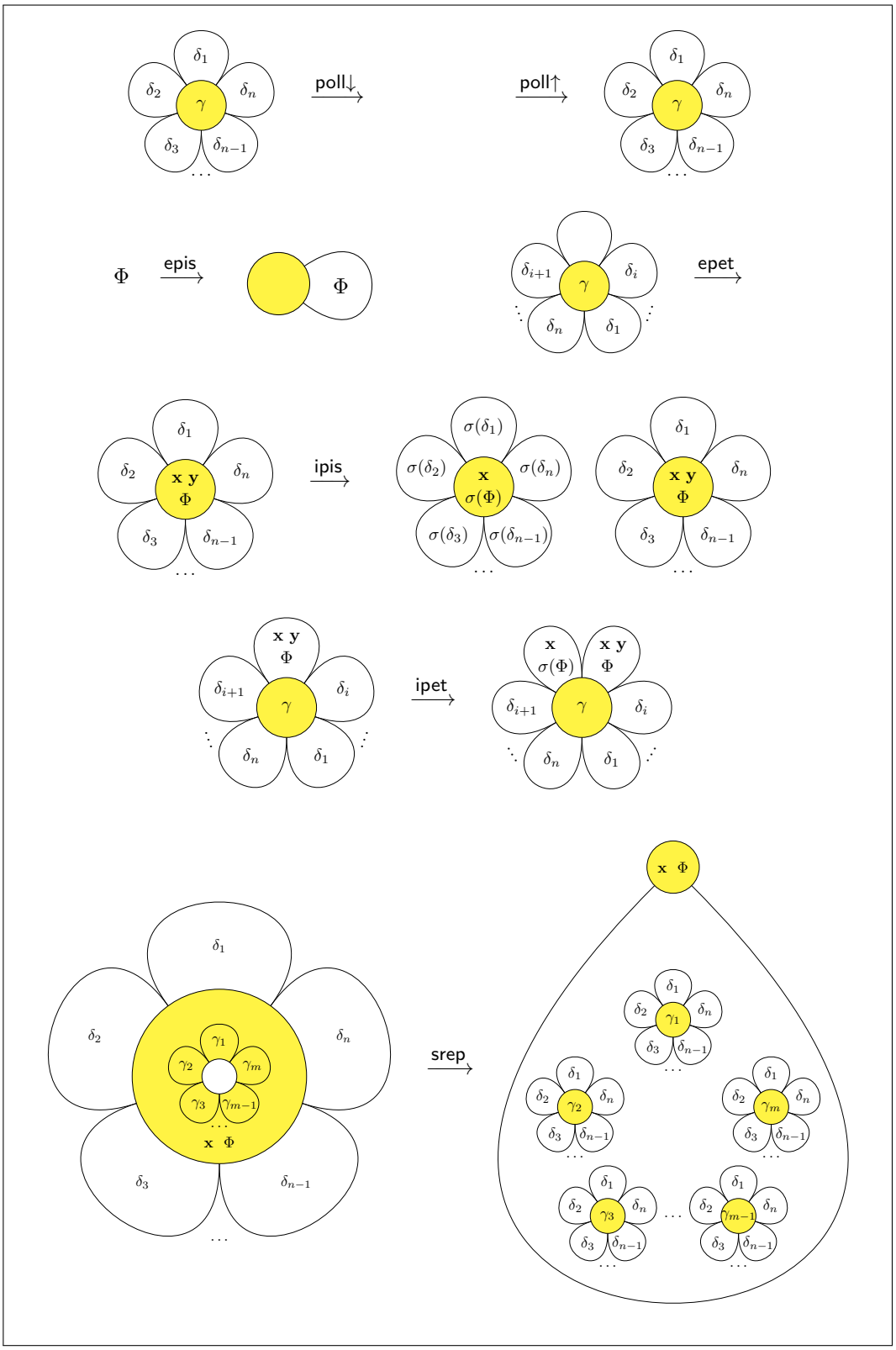


Figure 8 Graphical presentation of natural rules ❀.

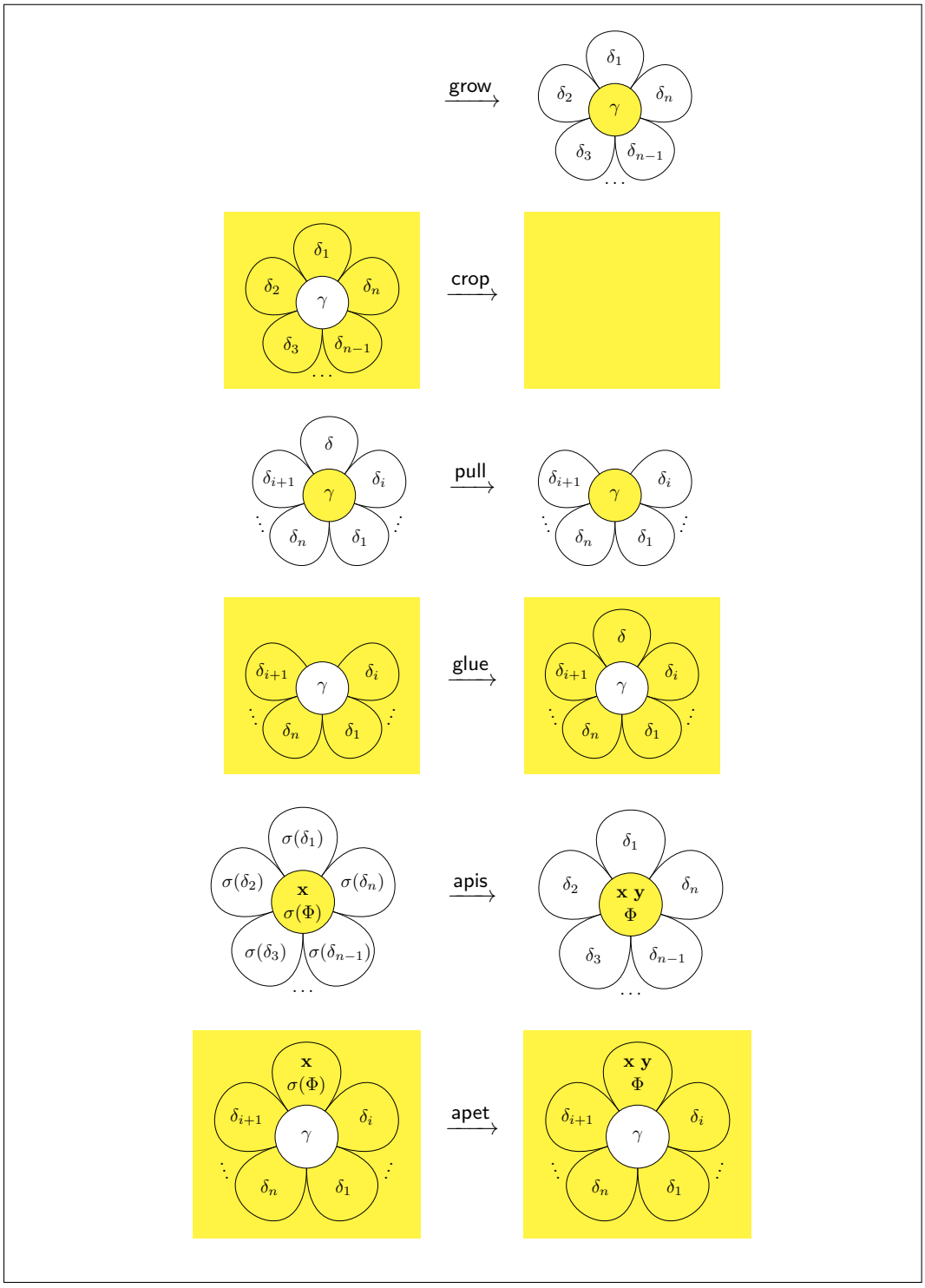
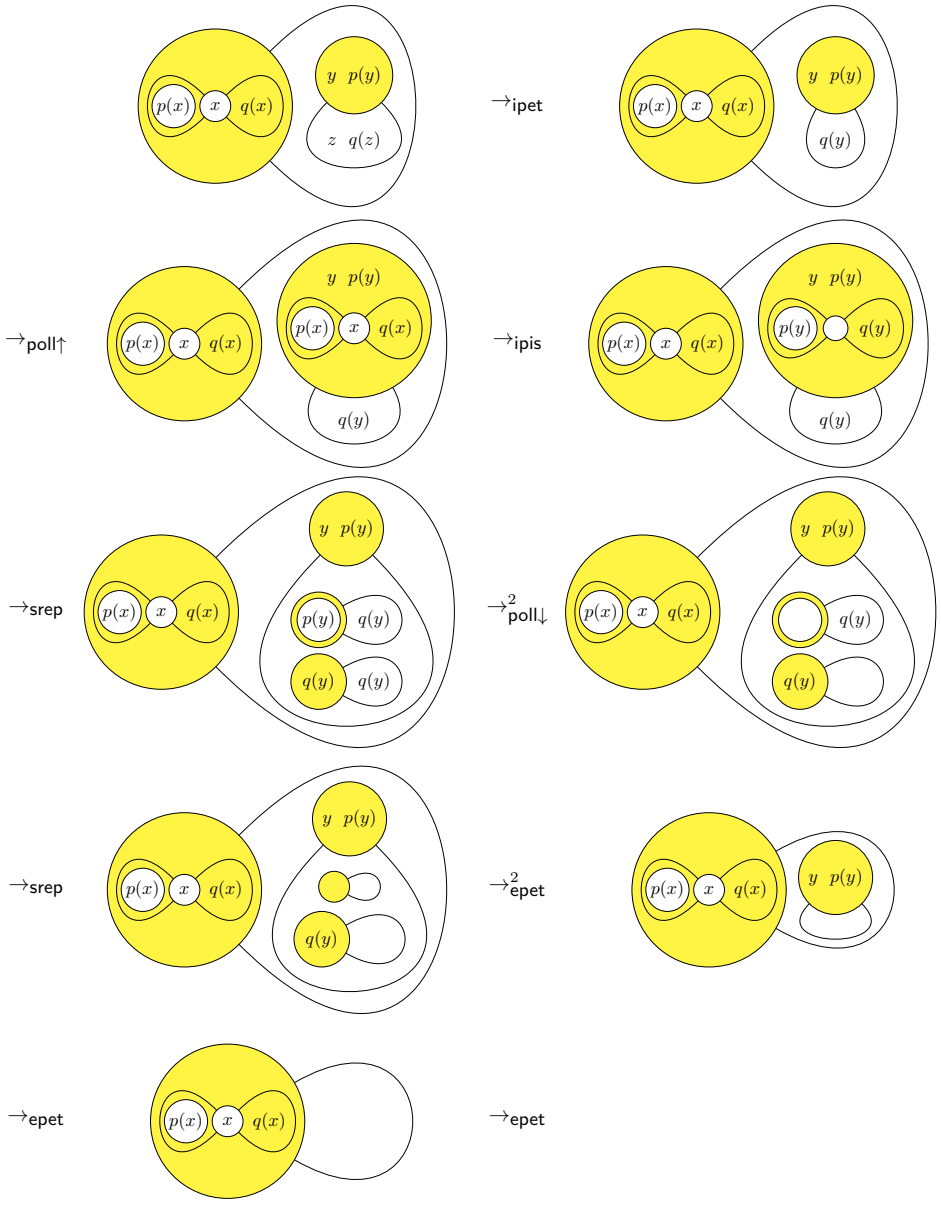


Figure 9 Graphical presentation of cultural rules ✂.

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
 & (x\cdot \mathsf{D}\,(p(x)\,\mathsf{D});\,q(x))\,\mathsf{D}\,(y\cdot p(y)\,\mathsf{D}\,z\cdot q(z)) \\
\to_{\mathsf{ipet}} & (x\cdot \mathsf{D}\,(p(x)\,\mathsf{D});\,q(x))\,\mathsf{D}\,(y\cdot p(y)\,\mathsf{D}\,q(y)) \\
\to_{\mathsf{poll}\uparrow} & (x\cdot \mathsf{D}\,(p(x)\,\mathsf{D});\,q(x))\,\mathsf{D}\,(y\cdot p(y), (x\cdot \mathsf{D}\,(p(x)\,\mathsf{D});\,q(x))\,\mathsf{D}\,q(y)) \\
\to_{\mathsf{ipis}} & (x\cdot \mathsf{D}\,(p(x)\,\mathsf{D});\,q(x))\,\mathsf{D}\,(y\cdot p(y), (\mathsf{D}\,(p(y)\,\mathsf{D});\,q(y))\,\mathsf{D}\,q(y)) \\
\to_{\mathsf{srep}} & (x\cdot \mathsf{D}\,(p(x)\,\mathsf{D});\,q(x))\,\mathsf{D}\,(y\cdot p(y)\,\mathsf{D}\,((p(y)\,\mathsf{D})\,\mathsf{D}\,q(y)), (q(y)\,\mathsf{D}\,q(y))) \\
\to^2_{\mathsf{poll}\downarrow} & (x\cdot \mathsf{D}\,(p(x)\,\mathsf{D});\,q(x))\,\mathsf{D}\,(y\cdot p(y)\,\mathsf{D}\,((\mathsf{D})\,\mathsf{D}\,q(y)), (q(y)\,\mathsf{D}\,\cdot)) \\
\to_{\mathsf{srep}} & (x\cdot \mathsf{D}\,(p(x)\,\mathsf{D});\,q(x))\,\mathsf{D}\,(y\cdot p(y)\,\mathsf{D}\,(\mathsf{D}\,\cdot), (q(y)\,\mathsf{D}\,\cdot)) \\
\to^2_{\mathsf{epet}} & (x\cdot \mathsf{D}\,(p(x)\,\mathsf{D});\,q(x))\,\mathsf{D}\,(y\cdot p(y)\,\mathsf{D}\,\cdot) \\
\to_{\mathsf{epet}} & (x\cdot \mathsf{D}\,(p(x)\,\mathsf{D});\,q(x))\,\mathsf{D}\,\cdot \\
\to_{\mathsf{epet}} &
\end{array}
$$

(a) Textual presentation.



(b) Graphical presentation.

Figure 10 A natural proof in the flower calculus.