Preface

This book is a collection of three articles that have stemmed from the researches leading to my *tesi di laurea* and doctoral dissertation. They have been written in the course of several years under the ideal influence of some eminent logicians that I had the chance to meet in Pisa and during my long, or not so long, visits abroad – from Amsterdam to Tübingen, passing through Stockholm and Helsinki – and they bear a common denominator in my interest for the relationship between the calculi of sequent calculus and natural deduction. This relation has always struck me as one of the most fascinating topics of Proof Theory. The numerous and various aspects of it – which may be looked at from as much numerous and various points of view – makes it in my opinion so pregnant with significance that it becomes impossible to ignore it without failing to grasp the essential meaning of many structural properties of one or the other of the two calculi.

The articles have been reworked as chapters of a homogeneous book and arranged following the line of reasoning described and accounted for in the Introduction – which also provides a sort of "philosophical background" for them – but they need not necessarily to be read in that order. I hope that they may be of some interest and help the reader throw light on certain aspects of natural deduction and sequent calculus that have sometimes been neglected or quite misunderstood.

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