Unit 3: Knowledge Base

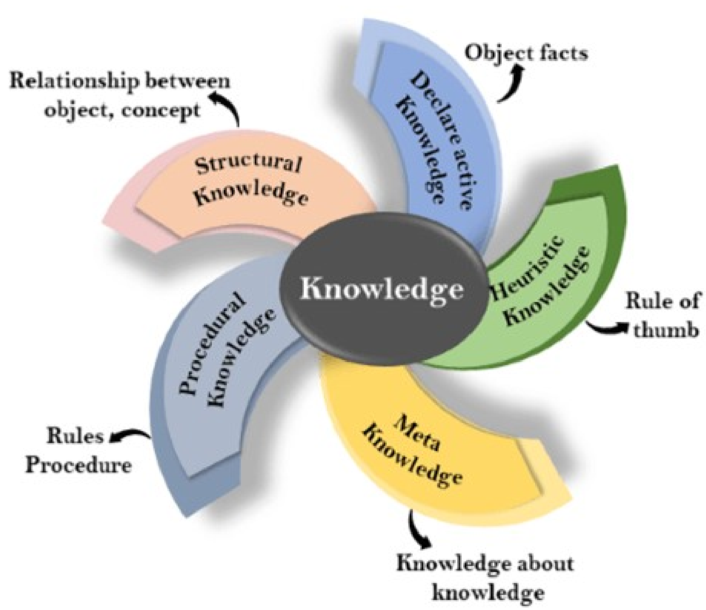
Knowledge representation

What is knowledge representation?

Humans are best at understanding, reasoning, and interpreting knowledge. Human knows things, which is knowledge and as per their knowledge they perform various actions in the real world. **But how machines do all these things comes under knowledge representation and reasoning**. Hence, we can describe Knowledge representation as following:

- Knowledge representation and reasoning (KR, KRR) is the part of Artificial intelligence which concerned with AI agents thinking and how thinking contributes to intelligent behavior of agents.
- It is responsible for representing information about the real world so that a computer can understand and can utilize this knowledge to solve the complex real world problems such as diagnosis a medical condition or communicating with humans in natural language.
- It is also a way which describes how we can represent knowledge in artificial intelligence. Knowledge representation is not just storing data into some database, but it also enables an intelligent machine to learn from that knowledge and experiences so that it can behave intelligently like a human.

Types of knowledge



1. Declarative Knowledge:

- Declarative knowledge is to know about something.
- It includes concepts, facts, and objects.
- It is also called descriptive knowledge and expressed in declarativesentences.
- It is simpler than procedural language.

2. Procedural Knowledge

- It is also known as imperative knowledge.
- Procedural knowledge is a type of knowledge which is responsible for knowing how to do something.
- It can be directly applied to any task.
- It includes rules, strategies, procedures, agendas, etc.
- Procedural knowledge depends on the task on which it can be applied.

3. Meta-knowledge:

- Knowledge about the other types of knowledge is called Meta-knowledge.

4. Heuristic knowledge:

- Heuristic knowledge is representing knowledge of some experts in a filed or subject.
- Heuristic knowledge is rules of thumb based on previous experiences, awareness of approaches, and which are good to work but not guaranteed.

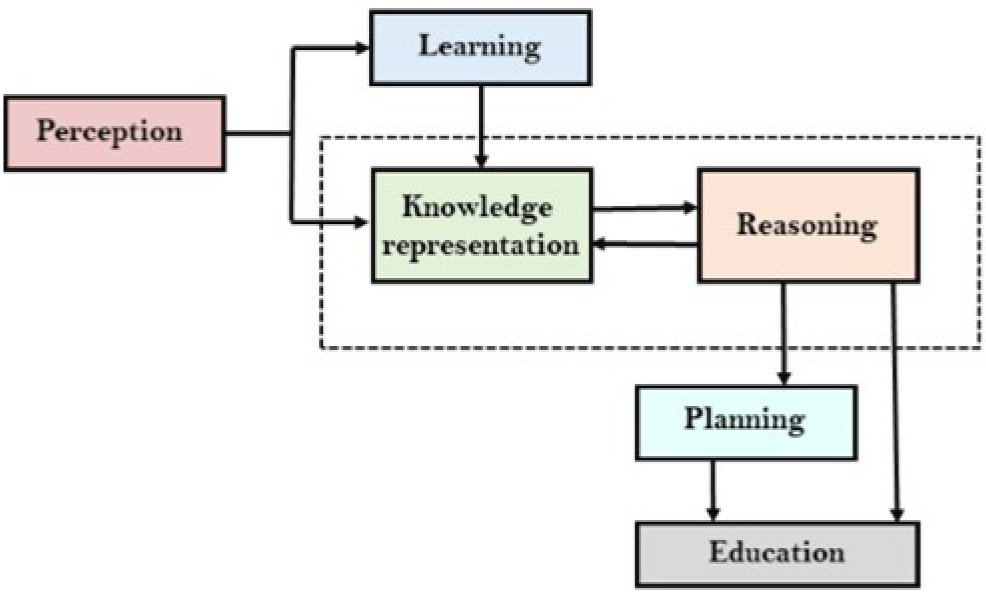
5. Structural knowledge:

- Structural knowledge is basic knowledge to problem-solving.
- It describes relationships between various concepts such as kind of, part of, and grouping of something.
- It describes the relationship that exists between concepts or objects.

AI knowledge cycle:

An Artificial intelligence system has the following components for displaying intelligent behavior:

- Perception
- Learning
- Knowledge Representation and Reasoning
- Planning
- Execution



The above diagram is showing how an AI system can interact with the real world and what components help it to show intelligence. AI system has Perception component by which it retrieves information from its environment. It can be visual, audio or another form of sensory input. The learning component is responsible for learning from data captured by Perception comportment. In the complete cycle, the main components are knowledge representation and Reasoning. These two components are involved in showing the intelligence in machine-like humans. These two components are independent with each other but also coupled together. The planning and execution depend on analysis of Knowledge representation and reasoning.

Approaches to knowledge representation:

There are mainly four approaches to knowledge representation, which are givenbelow:

1. Simple relational knowledge:

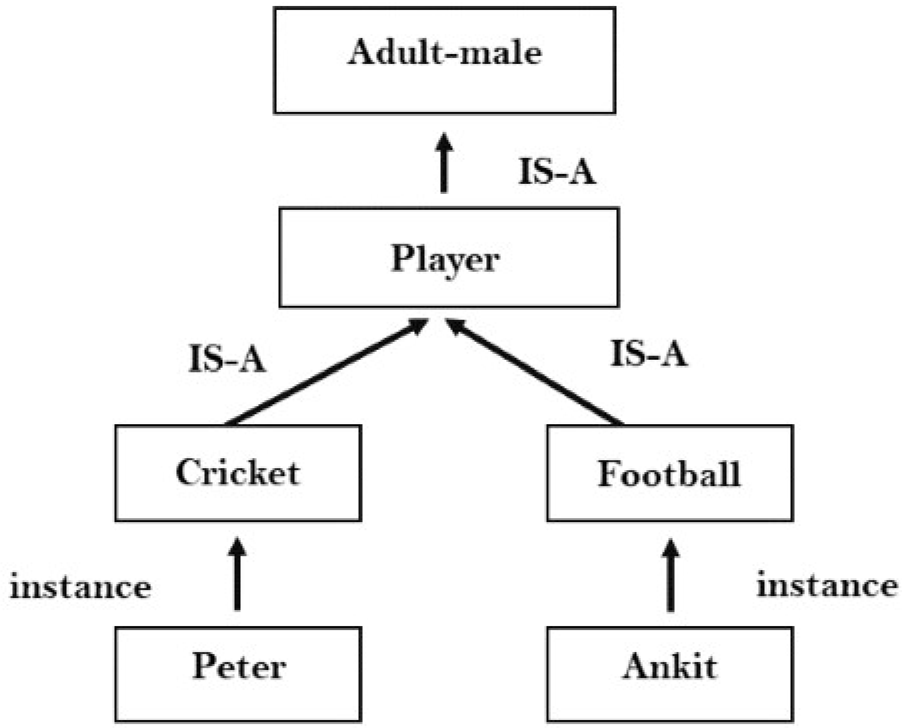
- It is the simplest way of storing facts which uses the relational method, and each fact about a set of the object is set out systematically in columns.
- This approach of knowledge representation is famous in database systems where the relationship between different entities is represented.
- This approach has little opportunity for inference.

Example: The following is the simple relational knowledge representation.

Player	Weight	Age
Player1	65	23
Player2	58	18
Player3	75	24

2. Inheritable knowledge:

- In the inheritable knowledge approach, all data must be stored into a hierarchy of classes.
- All classes should be arranged in a generalized form or a hierarchal manner.
- In this approach, we apply inheritance property.
- Elements inherit values from other members of a class.
- This approach contains inheritable knowledge which shows a relation between instance and class, and it is called instance relation.
- Every individual frame can represent the collection of attributes and its value.
- In this approach, objects and values are represented in Boxed nodes.
- We use Arrows which point from objects to their values.
- **Example:**



3. Inferential knowledge:

- Inferential knowledge approach represents knowledge in the form of formal logics.
- This approach can be used to derive more facts.
- It guaranteed correctness.
- **Example:** Let's suppose there are two statements:
    1. Marcus is a man
    2. All men are mortal
       Then it can represent as;

       man(Marcus)
       ∀x = man (x) ----------> mortal (x)s

4. Procedural knowledge:

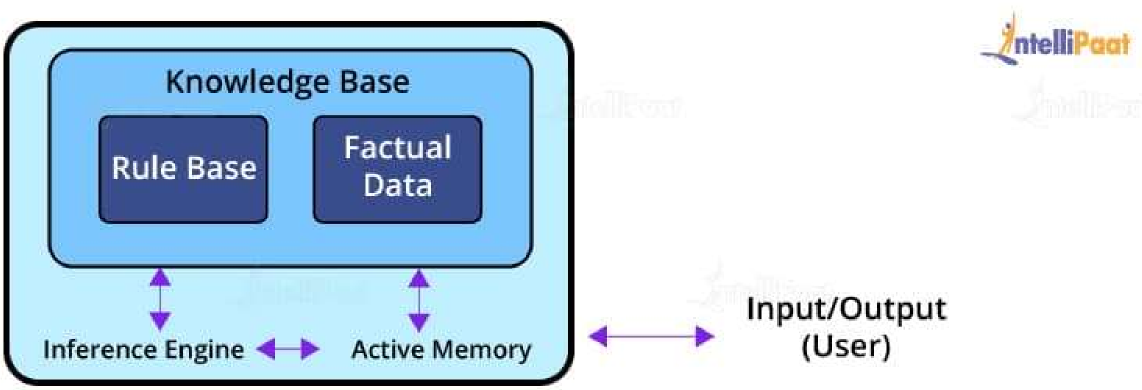
- Procedural knowledge approach uses small programs and codes which describes how to do specific things, and how to proceed.
- In this approach, one important rule is used which is **If-Then rule**.
- In this knowledge, we can use various coding languages such as **LISP language** and **Prolog language**.

- We can easily represent heuristic or domain-specific knowledge using this approach.
- But it is not necessary that we can represent all cases in this approach.

What is a Production System in AI?

A production system in AI helps create AI-based computer programs. With the help of it, the automation of various types of machines has become an easy task. The types of machines can be a computer, mobile applications, manufacturing tools, or more. The set of rules in a production system in **Artificial Intelligence defines** the behaviour of the machine. It helps the machine respond to the surroundings.

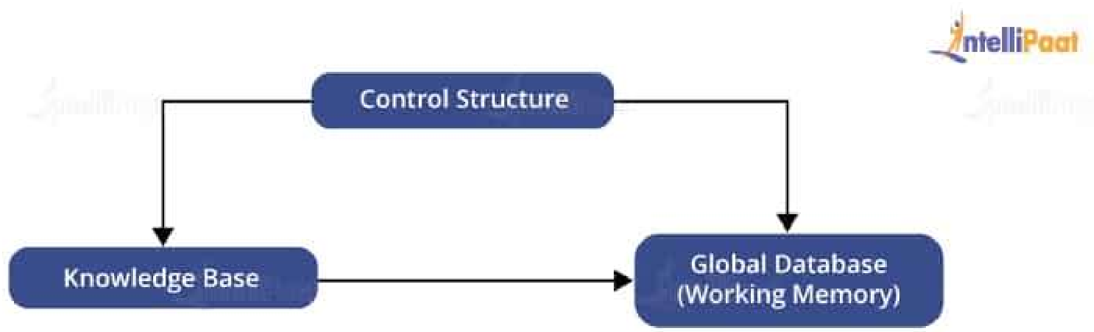
A production system in AI is a type of cognitive architecture that defines specific actions as per certain rules. The rules represent the declarative knowledge of a machine to respond according to different conditions. Today, many **expert systems** and automation methodologies rely on the rules of production systems. Below is the basic architecture of production systems in AI:



The rules in a production system are determined by LHS (left-hand side) and RHS (right-hand side) equations, where LHS denotes the specific condition to be applied, and RHS shows the output of the applied condition.

Components of a Production System in AI

For making an AI-based intelligent system that performs specific tasks, we need an architecture. The architecture of a production system in Artificial Intelligence consists of production rules, a database, and the control system.



Global Database

A global database consists of the architecture used as a central data structure. A database contains all the necessary data and information required for the successful completion of a task. It can be divided into two parts as permanent and temporary. The permanent part of the database consists of fixed actions, whereas the temporary part alters according to circumstances.

Production Rules

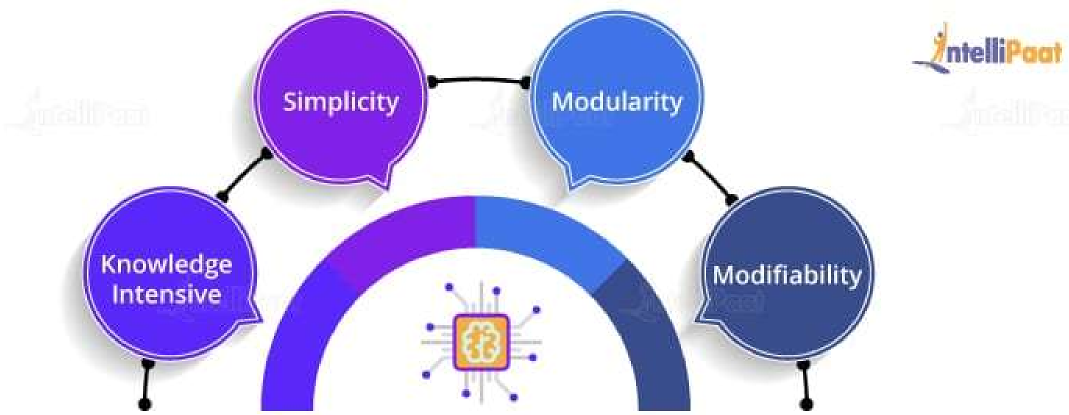
Production rules in AI are the set of rules that operates on the data fetched from the global database. Also, these production rules are bound with precondition and postcondition that gets checked by the database. If a condition is passed through a production rule and gets satisfied by the global database, then the rule is successfully applied. The rules are of the form A®B, where the right-hand side represents an outcome corresponding to the problem state represented by the left-hand side.

Control System

The control system checks the applicability of a rule. It helps decide which rule should be applied and terminates the process when the system gives the correct output. It also resolves the conflict of multiple conditions arriving at the same time. The strategy of the control system specifies the sequence of rules that compares the condition from the global database to reach the correct result.

Characteristics of a Production System

There are mainly four characteristics of the production system in AI that is simplicity, modifiability, modularity, and knowledge-intensive.



Simplicity

The production rule in AI is in the form of an 'IF-THEN' statement. Every rule in the production system has a unique structure. It helps represent knowledge and reasoning in the simplest way possible to solve real-world problems. Also, it helps improve the readability and understanding of the production rules.

Modularity

The modularity of a production rule helps in its incremental improvement as the production rule can be in discrete parts. The production rule is made from a collection of information and facts that may not have dependencies unless there is a rule connecting them together. The addition or deletion of single information will not have a major effect on the output. Modularity helps enhance the performance of the production system by adjusting the parameters of the rules.

Modifiability

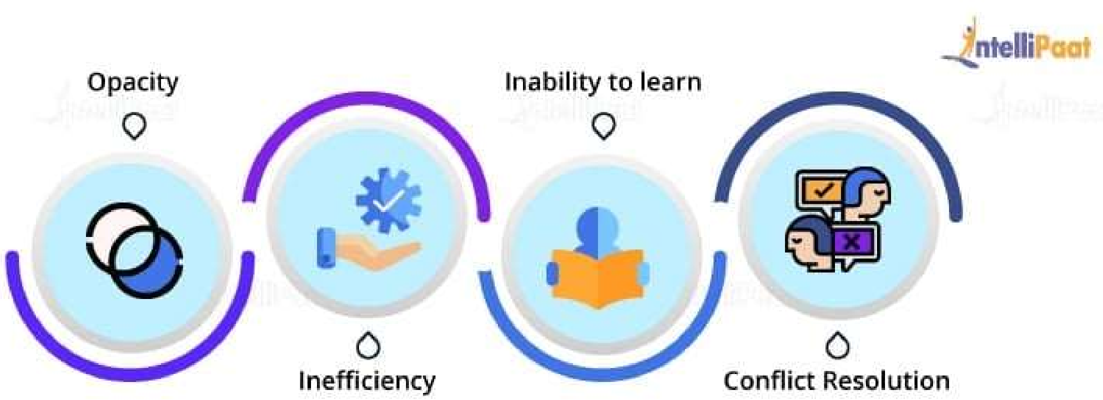
The feature of modifiability helps alter the rules as per requirements. Initially, the skeletal form of the production system is created. We then gather the requirements and make changes in the raw structure of the production system. This helps in the iterative improvement of the production system.

Knowledge-intensive

Production systems contain knowledge in the form of a human spoken language, i.e., English. It is not built using any programming languages. The knowledge is represented in plain English sentences. Production rules help make productive conclusions from these sentences.

Disadvantages of a Production System

We discussed various features of a production system in the previous section. However, many disadvantages are also there in a production system in Artificial Intelligence, and they are as given below:



Opacity

Communication between the rule interpreter and the production rules creates difficulty for the understanding of the control system and its strategies. This condition arises due to the impact of the combined operation of the control program. There exist difficulties in understanding the hierarchy of operations.

Inefficiency

There are various rules that we employ for solving a problem. The rules can be effective in different ways. There are conditions where multiple rules get activated during execution. All the individual rules apply exhaustive searches in each cycle that reduces the efficiency of the production system.

Inability to Learn

A simple production system based on certain rules is not capable of learning through experience, unlike advanced AI systems. They are simply bound to specific rules for actions. We can understand the rules and break them.

Inference Rules

There are many production rules in Artificial Intelligence. One of them is the inference rule. It is a type of rule that consists of a logical form used for transformation. Let us look at the types of inference rules:

Deductive Inference Rule

It consists of a logic that helps reasoning with the help of multiple statements to reach a conclusion.

Let us understand with the help of an example:

Example:

If it is given that ‘A implies B,’ then we can infer the conclusion as ‘B.’

A: B ⇒ B

Where,

A: The students are studying well.

B: If the students are studying well, then all the students will pass the exam.

Output:

B: All the students will pass the exam.

Abductive Inference Rule

This rule helps explain the conclusion in the simplest way by using the given observations.

Let us look at an example to understand the abductive inference rule.

Example:

It is given that ‘A implies B,’ and there is a possibility to get the output as ‘A.’

A: B ⇒ A

Where,

A: All the students will pass the exam.

B: If the students are studying well, then all the students will pass the exam.

Output:

The students are studying well.

Now, we will take a look at a use case to understand how to use production rules to solve a problem.

Use Case: Sorting a String in a Production System

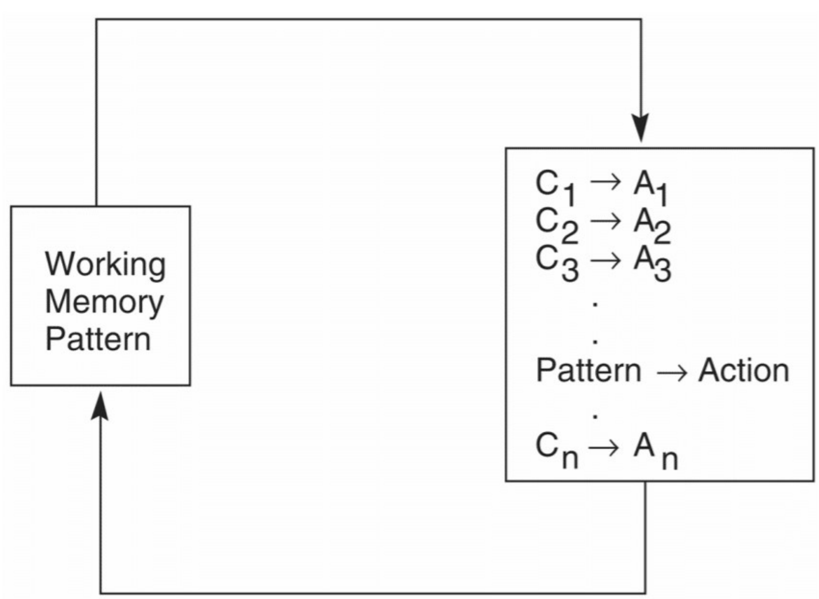
In the previous sections of this blog, we discussed the details of a production rule. Now, we will understand the use of production rules with an example of sorting a string.

Initial String: ‘cbaca’

Final String: ‘aabcc’

Let us look at the mechanism for sorting a string using the production system in AI.

- The production rules that we use for sorting will be enabled when it satisfies the condition by finding the sub-string in memory.
- When a particular rule is selected, it replaces the matched string by the string present on the right-hand side of the production rule.
- The loop of production rules will iterate until it finds the correct output.



Let us look at a basic production rule that can be used in this case:

1. ba -> ab
2. ca -> ac
3. cb -> bc

Now, the below diagram will show the execution of the rules for converting the string.

Iteration #	Working memory	Conflict set	Rule fired
0	cbaca	1, 2, 3	1
1	cabca	2	2
2	acbca	2, 3	2
3	acbac	1, 3	1
4	acabc	2	2
5	aacbc	3	3
6	aabcc	Ø	Halt

Here, the conflict set represents the set of all the rules that are applicable to the string. We have to decide which rule should be used.

Hence, by using three production rules and seven iterations, we are able to convert the string 'cbaca' to 'aabcc.'

Forward Chaining and backward chaining in AI

In artificial intelligence, forward and backward chaining is one of the important topics, but before understanding forward and backward chaining lets first understand that from where these two terms came.

Inference engine:

The inference engine is the component of the intelligent system in artificial intelligence, which applies logical rules to the knowledge base to infer new information from known facts. The first inference engine was part of the expert system. Inference engine commonly proceeds in two modes, which are:

a. **Forward chaining**

b. **Backward chaining**

Horn Clause and Definite clause:

Horn clause and definite clause are the forms of sentences, which enables knowledge base to use a more restricted and efficient inference algorithm. Logical inference algorithms use forward and backward chaining approaches, which require KB in the form of the **first-order definite clause**.

Definite clause: A clause which is a disjunction of literals with **exactly one positive literal** is known as a definite clause or strict horn clause.

Horn clause: A clause which is a disjunction of literals with **at most one positive literal** is known as horn clause. Hence all the definite clauses are horn clauses.

Example: ($\neg$ p V $\neg$ q V k). It has only one positive literal k.

It is equivalent to $p \land q \rightarrow k$.

A. Forward Chaining

Forward chaining is also known as a forward deduction or forward reasoning method when using an inference engine. Forward chaining is a form of reasoning which start with atomic sentences in the knowledge base and applies inference rules (Modus Ponens) in the forward direction to extract more data until a goal is reached.

The Forward-chaining algorithm starts from known facts, triggers all rules whose premises are satisfied, and add their conclusion to the known facts. This process repeats until the problem is solved.

Properties of Forward-Chaining:

- It is a down-up approach, as it moves from bottom to top.
- It is a process of making a conclusion based on known facts or data, by starting from the initial state and reaches the goal state.
- Forward-chaining approach is also called as data-driven as we reach to the goal using available data.
- Forward -chaining approach is commonly used in the expert system, such as CLIPS, business, and production rule systems.

Consider the following famous example which we will use in both approaches:

Example:

"As per the law, it is a crime for an American to sell weapons to hostile nations. Country A, an enemy of America, has some missiles, and all the missiles were sold to it by Robert, who is an American citizen."

Prove that **"Robert is criminal."**

To solve the above problem, first, we will convert all the above facts into first-order definite clauses, and then we will use a forward-chaining algorithm to reach the goal.

Facts Conversion into FOL:

- It is a crime for an American to sell weapons to hostile nations. (Let's say p, q, and r are variables)

  American (p) ∧ weapon(q) ∧ sells (p, q, r) ∧ hostile(r) → Criminal(p) ...(1)

- Country A has some missiles. **?p Owns(A, p) ∧ Missile(p)**. It can be written in two definite clauses by using Existential Instantiation, introducing new Constant T1.

  Owns(A, T1) ......(2)

  Missile(T1) ....(3)

- All of the missiles were sold to country A by Robert.

  ?p Missiles(p) ∧ Owns (A, p) → Sells (Robert, p, A) ......(4)

- Missiles are weapons.

  Missile(p) → Weapons (p) ....(5)

- Enemy of America is known as hostile.

  Enemy(p, America) →Hostile(p) ....(6)

- Country A is an enemy of America.

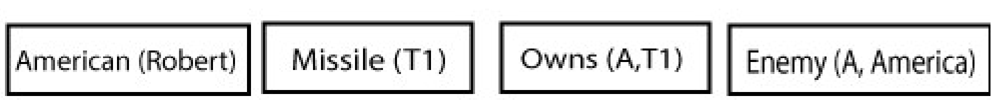
  Enemy (A, America) ....(7)

- Robert is American

  American(Robert). ....(8)

Forward chaining proof:

Step-1: In the first step we will start with the known facts and will choose the sentences which do not have implications, such as: **American(Robert), Enemy(A, America), Owns(A, T1), and Missile(T1)**. All these facts will be represented as below.



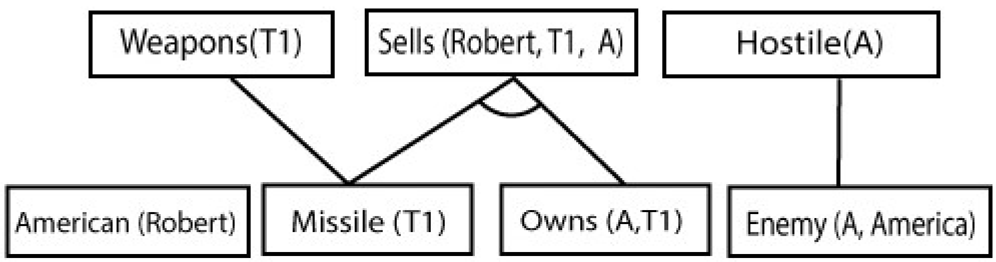
Step-2: At the second step, we will see those facts which infer from available facts and with satisfied premises.

Rule-(1) does not satisfy premises, so it will not be added in the first iteration.

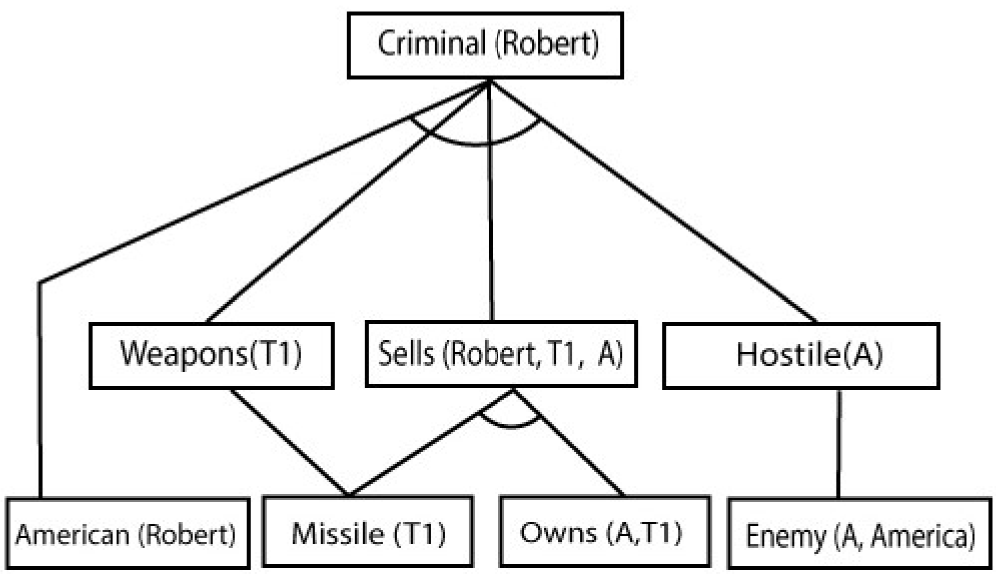
Rule-(2) and (3) are already added.

Rule-(4) satisfy with the substitution {p/T1}, **so Sells (Robert, T1, A)** is added, which infers from the conjunction of Rule (2) and (3).

Rule-(6) is satisfied with the substitution(p/A), so Hostile(A) is added and which infers from Rule-(7).



Step-3: At step-3, as we can check Rule-(1) is satisfied with the substitution **{p/Robert, q/T1, r/A}, so we can add Criminal(Robert)** which infers all the available facts. And hence we reached our goal statement.



Hence it is proved that Robert is Criminal using forward chaining approach.

B. Backward Chaining:

Backward-chaining is also known as a backward deduction or backward reasoning method when using an inference engine. A backward chaining algorithm is a form of reasoning, which starts with the goal and works backward, chaining through rules to find known facts that support the goal.

Properties of backward chaining:

- It is known as a top-down approach.
- Backward-chaining is based on modus ponens inference rule.
- In backward chaining, the goal is broken into sub-goal or sub-goals to prove the facts true.
- It is called a goal-driven approach, as a list of goals decides which rules are selected and used.
- Backward -chaining algorithm is used in game theory, automated theorem proving tools, inference engines, proof assistants, and various AI applications.
- The backward-chaining method mostly used a **depth-first search** strategy for proof.

Example:

In backward-chaining, we will use the same above example, and will rewrite all the rules.

- **American (p) ∧ weapon(q) ∧ sells (p, q, r) ∧ hostile(r) → Criminal(p) ...(1)**
  Owns(A, T1) ....(2)
- **Missile(T1)**
- **?p Missiles(p) ∧ Owns (A, p) → Sells (Robert, p, A) ......(4)**
- **Missile(p) → Weapons (p) ....(5)**
- **Enemy(p, America) →Hostile(p) ....(6)**
- **Enemy (A, America) ....(7)**
- **American(Robert). ....(8)**

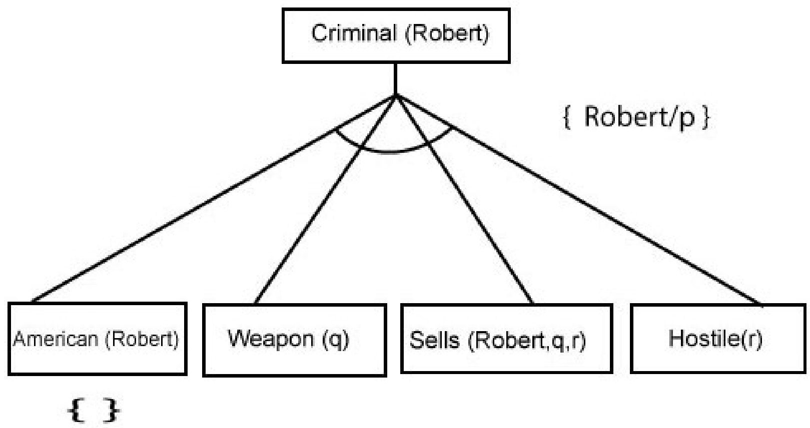
Backward-Chaining proof:

In Backward chaining, we will start with our goal predicate, which is **Criminal(Robert)**, and then infer further rules.

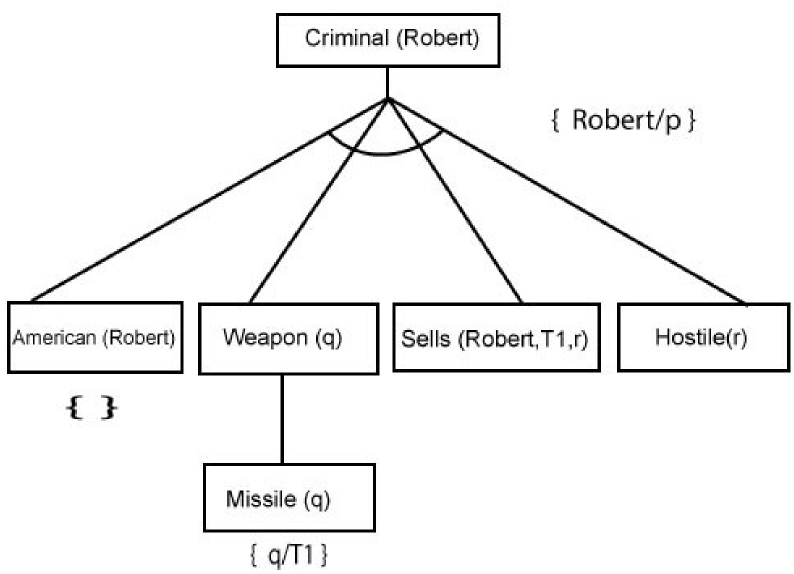
Step-1: At the first step, we will take the goal fact. And from the goal fact, we will infer other facts, and at last, we will prove those facts true. So our goal fact is "Robert is Criminal," so following is the predicate of it.

Step-2: At the second step, we will infer other facts form goal fact which satisfies the rules. So as we can see in Rule-1, the goal predicate Criminal (Robert) is present with substitution {Robert/P}. So we will add all the conjunctive facts below the first level and will replace p with Robert.

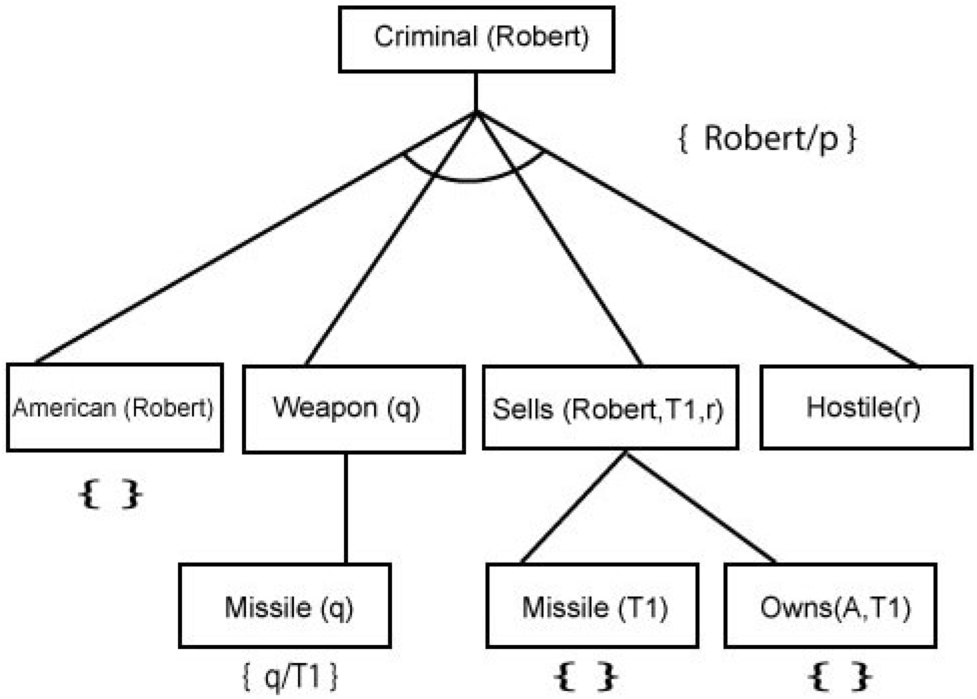
Here we can see American (Robert) is a fact, so it is proved here.



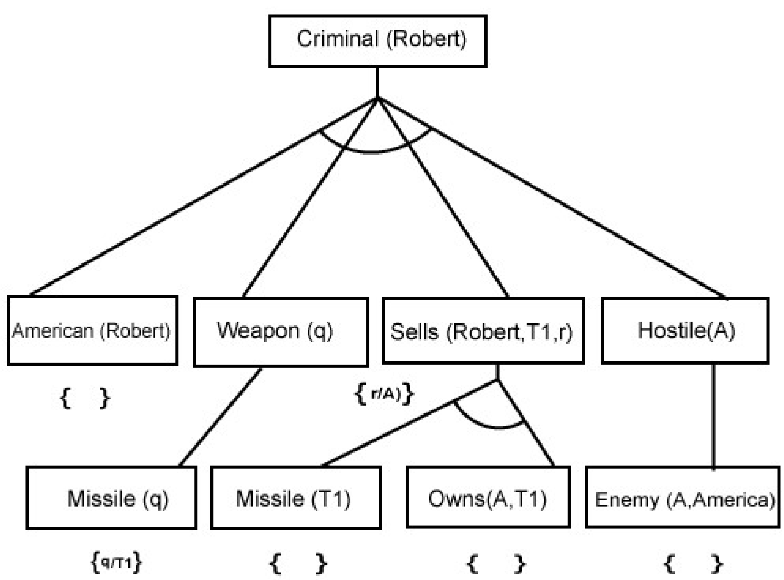
Step-3:t At step-3, we will extract further fact Missile(q) which infer from Weapon(q), as it satisfies Rule-(5). Weapon (q) is also true with the substitution of a constant T1 at q.



Step-4: At step-4, we can infer facts Missile(T1) and Owns(A, T1) form Sells(Robert, T1, r) which satisfies the **Rule- 4**, with the substitution of A in place of r. So these two statements are proved here.



Step-5: At step-5, we can infer the fact **Enemy(A, America)** from **Hostile(A)** which satisfies Rule- 6. And hence all the statements are proved true using backward chaining.



Difference between backward chaining and forward chaining

Following is the difference between the forward chaining and backward chaining:

- Forward chaining as the name suggests, start from the known facts and move forward by applying inference rules to extract more data, and it continues until it reaches to the goal, whereas backward chaining starts from the goal, move backward by using inference rules to determine the facts that satisfy the goal.
- Forward chaining is called a **data-driven** inference technique, whereas backward chaining is called a **goal-driven** inference technique.
- Forward chaining is known as the **down-up** approach, whereas backward chaining is known as a **top-down** approach.
- Forward chaining uses **breadth-first search** strategy, whereas backward chaining uses **depth-first search** strategy.
- Forward and backward chaining both applies **Modus ponens** inference rule.
- Forward chaining can be used for tasks such as **planning, design process monitoring, diagnosis, and classification**, whereas backward chaining can be used for **classification and diagnosis tasks**.
- Forward chaining can be like an exhaustive search, whereas backward chaining tries to avoid the unnecessary path of reasoning.
- In forward-chaining there can be various ASK questions from the knowledge base, whereas in backward chaining there can be fewer ASK questions.
- Forward chaining is slow as it checks for all the rules, whereas backward chaining is fast as it checks few required rules only.

S. No.	Forward Chaining	Backward Chaining
1.	Forward chaining starts from known facts and applies inference rule to extract more data unit it reaches to the goal.	Backward chaining starts from the goal and works backward through inference rules to find the required facts that support the goal.
2.	It is a bottom-up approach	It is a top-down approach

3.	Forward chaining is known as data-driven inference technique as we reach to the goal using the available data.	Backward chaining is known as goal-driven technique as we start from the goal and divide into sub-goal to extract the facts.
4.	Forward chaining reasoning applies a breadth-first search strategy.	Backward chaining reasoning applies a depth-first search strategy.
5.	Forward chaining tests for all the available rules	Backward chaining only tests for few required rules.
6.	Forward chaining is suitable for the planning, monitoring, control, and interpretation application.	Backward chaining is suitable for diagnostic, prescription, and debugging application.
7.	Forward chaining can generate an infinite number of possible conclusions.	Backward chaining generates a finite number of possible conclusions.
8.	It operates in the forward direction.	It operates in the backward direction.
9.	Forward chaining is aimed for any conclusion.	Backward chaining is only aimed for the required data.