

# Logical Agents: Propositional Logic

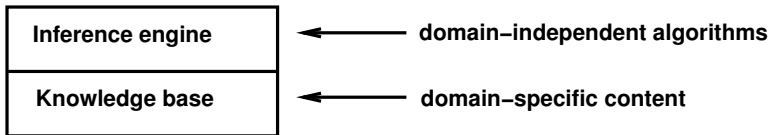
## Chapter 7

# Outline

## Topics:

- Knowledge-based agents
- Example domain: The Wumpus World
- Logic in general
  - models and entailment
- Propositional (Boolean) logic
- Equivalence, validity, satisfiability
- Inference rules and theorem proving
  - forward chaining
  - backward chaining
  - resolution

# Knowledge bases




- *Knowledge base* = set of *sentences* in a *formal* language
- *Declarative* approach to building an agent (or other system).
  - Declarative: Sentences express assertions about the domain
- Knowledge base operations:
  - *Tell* it what it needs to know
  - *Ask* (itself?) what to do – *query*
    - 👉 Answers should follow from the contents of the KB

# Knowledge bases

Agents can be viewed:

- at the *knowledge level*
  - i.e., *what they know*, regardless of how implemented
- at the *implementation level* (also called the *symbol level*)
  - i.e., data structures and algorithms that manipulate them

 Compare: abstract data type vs. data structure used to implement an ADT.

## A simple knowledge-based agent

Function **KB-Agent**(*percept*) **returns** an **action**

static: **KB**, a knowledge base

**t**, a counter, initially 0, indicating time

**Tell**(**KB**, **Make-Percept-Sentence**(*percept*, **t**))

**action**  $\leftarrow$  **Ask**(**KB**, **Make-Action-Query**(**t**))

**Tell**(**KB**, **Make-Action-Sentence**(**action**, **t**))

**t**  $\leftarrow$  **t** + 1

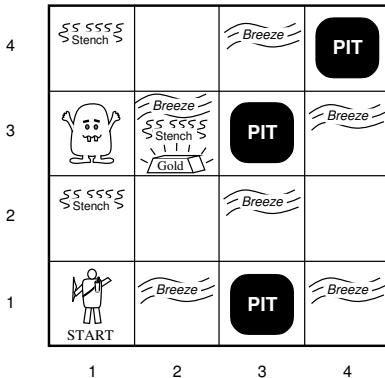
**return action**

## A simple knowledge-based agent

In the most general case, the agent must be able to:

- Represent states, actions, etc.
- Incorporate new percepts
- Update internal representations of the world
- Deduce hidden/implicit properties of the world
- Deduce appropriate actions

# The Wumpus World



## Wumpus World PEAS description

*Performance measure:* gold: +1000; death: -1000; -1 per step;  
-10 for using the arrow

*Environment:*

- Squares adjacent to wumpus are smelly
- Squares adjacent to pit are breezy
- Glitter iff gold is in the same square
- Shooting kills wumpus if you are facing it
- Shooting uses up the only arrow
- Grabbing picks up gold if in same square
- Releasing drops the gold in same square

*Actuators:* Left turn, Right turn, Forward, Grab, Release, Shoot

*Sensors:* Breeze, Glitter, Smell, Bump, Scream



# Wumpus world characterisation

Observable: ??

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Discrete: ??

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Discrete: Yes

Single-agent: ??

# Wumpus world characterisation

Observable: No – only *local* perception

Deterministic: Yes – outcomes exactly specified

Episodic: No – sequential at the level of actions

Static: Yes – Wumpus and pits do not move

Discrete: Yes

Single-agent: Yes – Wumpus is essentially a natural feature

## Exploring a wumpus world

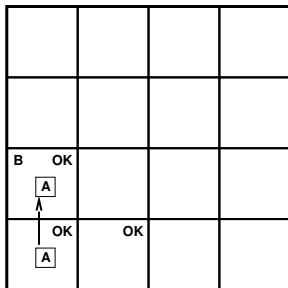
OK			
OK <div>A</div>	OK		

Percept:

[Stench: No, Breeze: No, Glitter: No, Bump: No, Scream: No]



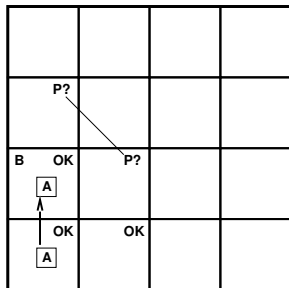
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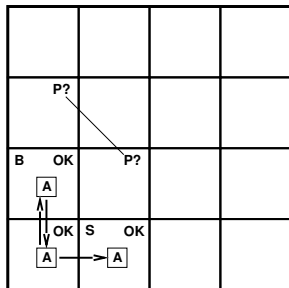
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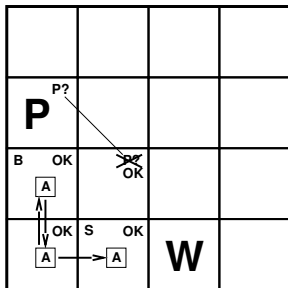
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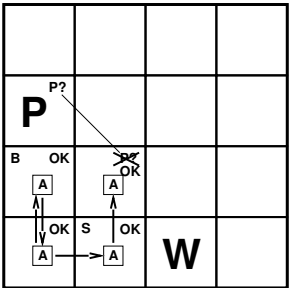
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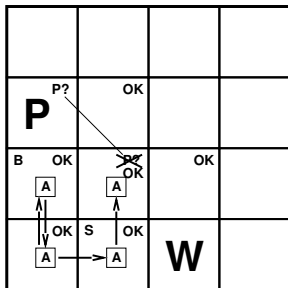
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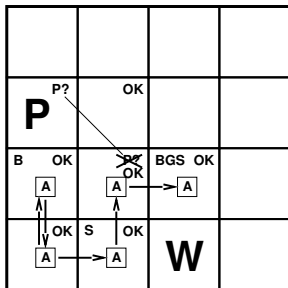
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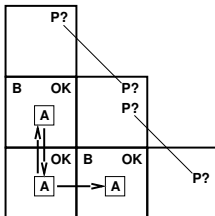
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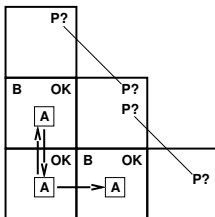
## Tight spots



- Breeze in (1,2) and (2,1)  
⇒ no safe actions

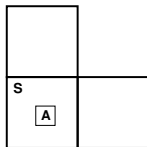


## Tight spots



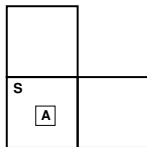
- Breeze in (1,2) and (2,1)  
 $\Rightarrow$  no safe actions
- If pits are uniformly distributed, (2,2) is more likely to have a pit than  $(1,3) + (3,1)$

## Tight spots



- Smell in (1,1)  
⇒ cannot safely move

## Tight spots



- Smell in (1,1)  
⇒ cannot safely move
- Can use a strategy of *coercion*:
  - shoot straight ahead
  - wumpus was there ⇒ dead ⇒ safe
  - wumpus wasn't there ⇒ safe

# Logic in the Wumpus World

- As the agent moves and carries out sensing actions, it performs *logical reasoning*.
  - E.g.: “If (1,3) or (2,2) contains a pit and (2,2) doesn't contain a pit then (1,3) must contain a pit”.
- We'll use logic to represent information about the wumpus world, and to reason about this world.

## Logic in general

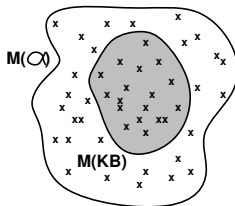
- A *logic* is a formal language for representing information such that conclusions can be drawn
- The *syntax* defines the sentences in the language
- The *semantics* define the “meaning” of sentences;
  - i.e., define *truth* of a *sentence* in a *world*
- E.g., in the language of arithmetic
  - $x + 2 \geq y$  is a sentence;  $x^2 + y >$  is not a sentence
  - $x + 2 \geq y$  is true iff the number  $x + 2$  is not less than  $y$
  - $x + 2 \geq y$  is true in a world where  $x = 7$ ,  $y = 1$
  - $x + 2 \geq y$  is false in a world where  $x = 0$ ,  $y = 6$

## Semantics: Entailment

- *Entailment* means that one thing *follows from* another:  
 $KB \models \alpha$
- Knowledge base  $KB$  *entails* sentence  $\alpha$  if and only if:
  - $\alpha$  is true in all worlds where  $KB$  is true
  - Or: if  $KB$  is true then  $\alpha$  **must** be true.
- E.g., the KB containing “the Canucks won” entails “either the Canucks won or the Leafs won”
- E.g.,  $x + y = 4$  entails  $4 = x + y$
- Entailment is a relationship between sentences (i.e., *syntax*) that is based on *semantics*
- Note: Brains (arguably) process *syntax* (of some sort).

## Semantics: Models

- Logicians typically think in terms of *models*, which are complete descriptions of a world, with respect to which truth can be evaluated
- We say  $m$  *is a model of* a sentence  $\alpha$  if  $\alpha$  is true in  $m$
- $M(\alpha)$  is the set of all models of  $\alpha$
- Thus  $KB \models \alpha$  if and only if  $M(KB) \subseteq M(\alpha)$
- E.g.  $KB = \text{Canucks won and Leafs won}$   
 $\alpha = \text{Canucks won}$



## Aside: Semantics

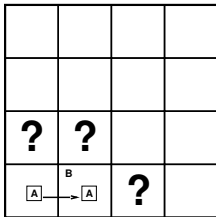
- Logic texts usually distinguish:
  - an *interpretation*, which is some possible world or complete state of affairs, from
  - a *model*, which is an interpretation that makes a specific sentence or set of sentences true.
- The text uses *model* in both senses (so don't be confused if you've seen the terms interpretation/model from earlier courses).
  - And if you haven't, ignore this slide!
- We'll use the text's terminology.



## Entailment in the Wumpus World

Consider the situation where the agent detects nothing in [1,1], moves right, detects a breeze in [2,1]

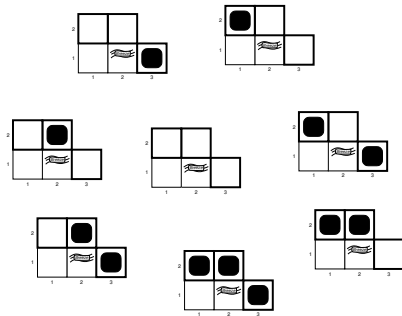
- Consider possible models for just the ?'s, assuming only pits



- With no information:  
3 Boolean choices  $\Rightarrow$  8 possible models

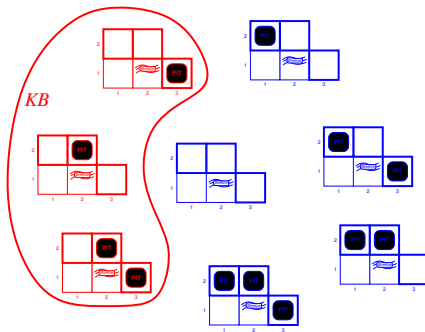
## Wumpus Models

Consider possible arrangements of pits in  $[1,2]$ ,  $[2,2]$ , and  $[3,1]$ , along with observations:



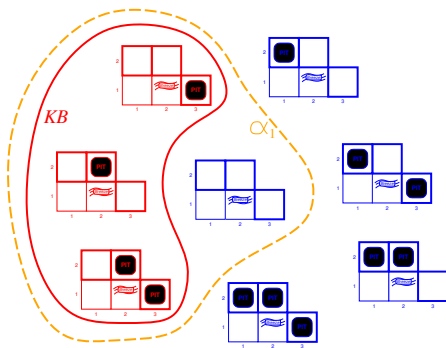
# Wumpus Models

Models of the KB:



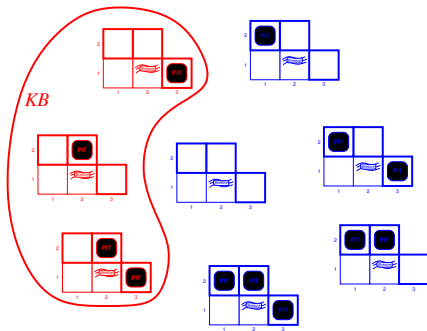
- $KB = \text{wumpus-world rules} + \text{observations}$

# Wumpus Models



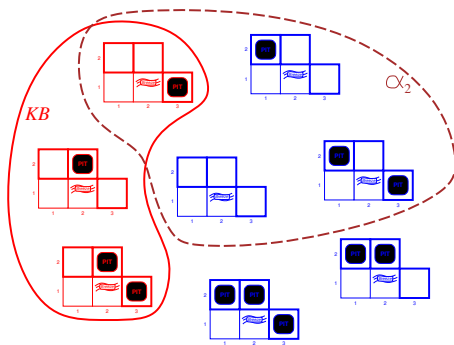
- $KB$  = wumpus-world rules + observations
- $\alpha_1$  = “[1,2] is safe”,  $KB \models \alpha_1$ , proved by *model checking*

## Wumpus Models: Another Example



- $KB = \text{wumpus-world rules} + \text{observations}$

# Wumpus Models: Another Example



- $KB$  = wumpus-world rules + observations
- $\alpha_2$  = "[2,2] is safe",  $KB \not\models \alpha_2$

# Inference

In the case of propositional logic, we can use entailment to derive conclusions by enumerating models.

- This is the usual method of computing *truth tables*
- I.e. can use entailment to do *inference*.
- In first order logic we generally can't enumerate all models (since there may be infinitely many of them and they may have an infinite domain).
- An *inference procedure* is a (syntactic) procedure for deriving some formulas from others.

# Inference

- Inference is a procedure for computing entailments.
- $KB \vdash \alpha$  = sentence  $\alpha$  can be derived from  $KB$  by the inference procedure
- Entailment says what things are implicitly true in a KB.
- Inference is used to *compute* things that are implicitly true.



# Inference

- Inference is a procedure for computing entailments.
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- Entailment says what things are implicitly true in a KB.
- Inference is used to *compute* things that are implicitly true.

## Desiderata:

- *Soundness*: An inference procedure is sound if whenever  $KB \vdash \alpha$ , it is also true that  $KB \models \alpha$ .
- *Completeness*: An inference procedure is complete if whenever  $KB \models \alpha$ , it is also true that  $KB \vdash \alpha$ .

# Propositional Logic: Syntax

- Propositional logic is a simple logic – illustrates basic ideas
- We first specify the *proposition symbols* or (*atomic sentences*):  $P_1, P_2$  etc.
- Then we define the language:  
    If  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  are sentences then:
  - $\neg S_1$  is a sentence (*negation*)
  - $S_1 \wedge S_2$  is a sentence (*conjunction*)
  - $S_1 \vee S_2$  is a sentence (*disjunction*)
  - $S_1 \Rightarrow S_2$  is a sentence (*implication*)
  - $S_1 \equiv S_2$  is a sentence (*biconditional*)

## Propositional Logic: Semantics

- Each model assigns true or false to each proposition symbol
- E.g.:  $P_{1,2} \leftarrow true, P_{2,2} \leftarrow true, P_{3,1} \leftarrow false$   
(With these symbols, 8 possible models, can be enumerated.)
- Rules for evaluating truth with respect to a model  $m$ :

$\neg S$	is true iff	$S$	is false
$S_1 \wedge S_2$	is true iff	$S_1$	is true <i>and</i> $S_2$ is true
$S_1 \vee S_2$	is true iff	$S_1$	is true <i>or</i> $S_2$ is true
$S_1 \Rightarrow S_2$	is true iff	$S_1$	is false <i>or</i> $S_2$ is true
$S_1 \equiv S_2$	is true iff	$S_1 \Rightarrow S_2$	is true <i>and</i> $S_2 \Rightarrow S_1$ is true

- Simple recursive process evaluates an arbitrary sentence, e.g.,  
 $\neg P_{1,2} \wedge (P_{2,2} \vee P_{3,1}) = true \wedge (false \vee true) = true \wedge true = true$

## Truth Tables for Connectives

$P$	$Q$	$\neg P$	$P \wedge Q$	$P \vee Q$	$P \Rightarrow Q$	$P \Leftrightarrow Q$
<i>false</i>	<i>false</i>	<i>true</i>	<i>false</i>	<i>false</i>	<i>true</i>	<i>true</i>
<i>false</i>	<i>true</i>	<i>true</i>	<i>false</i>	<i>true</i>	<i>true</i>	<i>false</i>
<i>true</i>	<i>false</i>	<i>false</i>	<i>false</i>	<i>true</i>	<i>false</i>	<i>false</i>
<i>true</i>	<i>true</i>	<i>false</i>	<i>true</i>	<i>true</i>	<i>true</i>	<i>true</i>

## Wumpus World Sentences

- Let  $P_{i,j}$  be true if there is a pit in  $[i,j]$ .
- Let  $B_{i,j}$  be true if there is a breeze in  $[i,j]$ .
- Information from sensors:  $\neg P_{1,1}$ ,  $\neg B_{1,1}$ ,  $B_{2,1}$
- Also know: “pits cause breezes in adjacent squares”

## Wumpus World Sentences

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- Let  $B_{i,j}$  be true if there is a breeze in  $[i,j]$ .
- Information from sensors:  $\neg P_{1,1}, \neg B_{1,1}, B_{2,1}$
- “A square is breezy *if and only if* there is an adjacent pit”  
$$B_{1,1} \equiv (P_{1,2} \vee P_{2,1})$$
$$B_{2,1} \equiv (P_{1,1} \vee P_{2,2} \vee P_{3,1})$$
  - Note:  $B_{1,1}$  has no “internal structure” – think of it as a string.
  - So must write one formula for each square.

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- “A square is breezy *if and only if* there is an adjacent pit”  
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  - Note:  $B_{1,1}$  has no “internal structure” – think of it as a string.
  - So must write one formula for each square.
- Using logic can conclude  $\neg P_{1,2}$  and  $\neg P_{2,1}$  from  $\neg B_{1,1}$ .
- Note, if you wrote the above as:  
$$B_{1,1} \Rightarrow (P_{1,2} \vee P_{2,1})$$

(I.e. “A breeze implies a pit in an adjacent square”)  
you could not derive  $\neg P_{1,2}$  and  $\neg P_{2,1}$  from  $\neg B_{1,1}$ .

👉 Crucial to express *all* information

## Wumpus World KB

For the part of the Wumpus world we're looking at, let

$$KB = \{R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5\}$$

where

$$R_1 \quad \text{is} \quad \neg P_{1,1}$$

$$R_2 \quad \text{is} \quad B_{1,1} \equiv (P_{1,2} \vee P_{2,1})$$

$$R_3 \quad \text{is} \quad B_{2,1} \equiv (P_{1,1} \vee P_{2,2} \vee P_{3,1})$$

$$R_4 \quad \text{is} \quad \neg B_{1,1}$$

$$R_5 \quad \text{is} \quad B_{2,1}$$



## Truth Tables for Inference

$B_{1,1}$	$B_{2,1}$	$P_{1,1}$	$P_{1,2}$	$P_{2,1}$	$P_{2,2}$	$P_{3,1}$	$R_1$	$R_2$	$R_3$	$R_4$	$R_5$	$KB$
$f$	$f$	$f$	$f$	$f$	$f$	$f$	$t$	$t$	$t$	$t$	$f$	$f$
$f$	$f$	$f$	$f$	$f$	$f$	$t$	$t$	$t$	$f$	$t$	$f$	$f$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
$f$	$t$	$f$	$f$	$f$	$f$	$f$	$t$	$t$	$f$	$t$	$t$	$f$
$f$	$t$	$f$	$f$	$f$	$f$	$t$	$t$	$t$	$t$	$t$	$t$	$\underline{t}$
$f$	$t$	$f$	$f$	$f$	$t$	$f$	$t$	$t$	$t$	$t$	$t$	$\underline{t}$
$f$	$t$	$f$	$f$	$f$	$t$	$t$	$t$	$t$	$t$	$t$	$t$	$\underline{t}$
$f$	$t$	$f$	$f$	$t$	$f$	$f$	$t$	$f$	$f$	$t$	$t$	$f$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
$t$	$t$	$t$	$t$	$t$	$t$	$t$	$f$	$t$	$t$	$f$	$t$	$f$

- Enumerate rows (different assignments to symbols),
- For  $KB \models \alpha$ , if KB is true in row, check that  $\alpha$  is too

# Inference by Enumeration

Function **TT-Entails?**(KB,  $\alpha$ ) returns true or false

inputs: KB, the knowledge base, a sentence in propositional logic

$\alpha$  the query, a sentence in propositional logic

symbols  $\leftarrow$  a list of the proposition symbols in KB and  $\alpha$

return TT-Check-All(KB,  $\alpha$ , symbols, [])

# Inference by Enumeration

Function **TT-Check-All**(KB,  $\alpha$ , symbols, model) returns true or false

```
if Empty?(symbols) then
  if PL-True?(KB, model) then return PL-True?( $\alpha$ , model)
  else return true
else do
   $P \leftarrow$  First(symbols); rest  $\leftarrow$  Rest(symbols)
  return TT-Check-All(KB,  $\alpha$ , rest, model  $\cup$  {P = true}) and
    TT-Check-All(KB,  $\alpha$ , rest, model  $\cup$  {P = false})
```

- Depth-first enumeration of all models
  - Hence, sound and complete
- Algorithm is  $O(2^n)$  for  $n$  symbols; problem is *co-NP-complete*

# Other Means of Computing Logical Inference

- We'll briefly consider other means of computing entailments:
  - Resolution theorem proving
  - Specialised rule-based approaches
- But first, some more terminology

# Logical Equivalence

- Two sentences are *logically equivalent* iff true in same models:  
 $\alpha \equiv \beta$  if and only if  $\alpha \models \beta$  and  $\beta \models \alpha$
- The following should be familiar:

$$\begin{aligned}(\alpha \wedge \beta) &\equiv (\beta \wedge \alpha) \\(\alpha \vee \beta) &\equiv (\beta \vee \alpha) \\((\alpha \wedge \beta) \wedge \gamma) &\equiv (\alpha \wedge (\beta \wedge \gamma)) \\((\alpha \vee \beta) \vee \gamma) &\equiv (\alpha \vee (\beta \vee \gamma)) \\\neg(\neg\alpha) &\equiv \alpha \\(\alpha \Rightarrow \beta) &\equiv (\neg\beta \Rightarrow \neg\alpha) \\(\alpha \Rightarrow \beta) &\equiv (\neg\alpha \vee \beta) \\(\alpha \equiv \beta) &\equiv ((\alpha \Rightarrow \beta) \wedge (\beta \Rightarrow \alpha)) \\\neg(\alpha \wedge \beta) &\equiv (\neg\alpha \vee \neg\beta) \\\neg(\alpha \vee \beta) &\equiv (\neg\alpha \wedge \neg\beta) \\(\alpha \wedge (\beta \vee \gamma)) &\equiv ((\alpha \wedge \beta) \vee (\alpha \wedge \gamma)) \\(\alpha \vee (\beta \wedge \gamma)) &\equiv ((\alpha \vee \beta) \wedge (\alpha \vee \gamma))\end{aligned}$$

# Validity and Satisfiability

- A sentence is *valid* if it is true in *all* models,  
e.g.,  $A \vee \neg A$ ,  $A \Rightarrow A$ ,  $(A \wedge (A \Rightarrow B)) \Rightarrow B$

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- Validity is connected to inference via the *Deduction Theorem*:  
 $KB \models \alpha$  if and only if  $(KB \Rightarrow \alpha)$  is valid

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 $KB \models \alpha$  if and only if  $(KB \Rightarrow \alpha)$  is valid
- A sentence is *satisfiable* if it is true in *some* model  
e.g.,  $A \vee B$ ,  $C$



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 $KB \models \alpha$  if and only if  $(KB \wedge \neg \alpha)$  is unsatisfiable
  - I.e., prove  $\alpha$  by *reductio ad absurdum*
- What often proves better for determining  $KB \models \alpha$  is to show that  $KB \wedge \neg \alpha$  is unsatisfiable.

# General Propositional Inference: Resolution

Resolution is a rule of inference defined for *Conjunctive Normal Form* (CNF)

- *CNF: conjunction* of *disjunctions* of *literals*
- A *clause* is a *disjunctions* of *literals*.
- E.g.,  $(A \vee \neg B) \wedge (B \vee \neg C \vee \neg D)$ .  
👉 Write as:  $(A \vee \neg B), (B \vee \neg C \vee \neg D)$

# Resolution

- *Resolution* inference rule:

$$\frac{\ell_1 \vee \dots \vee \ell_k, \quad m_1 \vee \dots \vee m_n}{\ell_1 \vee \dots \vee \ell_{i-1} \vee \ell_{i+1} \vee \dots \vee \ell_k \quad \vee \quad m_1 \vee \dots \vee m_{j-1} \vee m_{j+1} \vee \dots \vee m_n}$$

where  $\ell_i$  and  $m_j$  are complementary literals. (I.e.  $\ell_i \equiv \neg m_j$ .)

- E.g., 
$$\frac{P_{1,3} \vee P_{2,2}, \quad \neg P_{2,2}}{P_{1,3}}$$

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$$\frac{P_{1,3} \vee P_{2,2}, \quad \neg P_{2,2}}{P_{1,3}}$$
- If you can derive the “empty clause” from a set of clauses  $C$ , then  $C$  is unsatisfiable.
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  - E.g.  $\{A, \neg A \vee B, \neg B\}$  is unsatisfiable.
- Resolution is sound and complete for propositional logic
- I.e.  $KB \models \alpha$  iff  
     $KB \wedge \neg \alpha$  is unsatisfiable iff  
    the empty clause can be obtained from  $KB \wedge \neg \alpha$   
    by resolution

## Using resolution to compute entailments

To show whether  $KB \models \alpha$ , show instead that  $KB \wedge \neg\alpha$  is unsatisfiable:

- 1 Convert  $KB \wedge \neg\alpha$  into conjunctive normal form.
- 2 Use resolution to determine whether  $KB \wedge \neg\alpha$  is unsatisfiable.
- 3 If so then  $KB \models \alpha$ ; otherwise  $KB \not\models \alpha$ .



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E.g.:  $B_{1,1} \equiv (P_{1,2} \vee P_{2,1})$

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 $(B_{1,1} \Rightarrow (P_{1,2} \vee P_{2,1})) \wedge ((P_{1,2} \vee P_{2,1}) \Rightarrow B_{1,1})$

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 $(\neg B_{1,1} \vee P_{1,2} \vee P_{2,1}) \wedge (\neg(P_{1,2} \vee P_{2,1}) \vee B_{1,1})$

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- 3 Move  $\neg$  inwards using de Morgan's rules and double-negation:  
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For resolution, then write as

$$(\neg B_{1,1} \vee P_{1,2} \vee P_{2,1}), (\neg P_{1,2} \vee B_{1,1}), (\neg P_{2,1} \vee B_{1,1})$$

# Resolution Algorithm

Function **PL-Resolution**( $KB, \alpha$ ) returns true or false

inputs:  $KB$ , the knowledge base, a sentence in propositional logic  
 $\alpha$ , the query, a sentence in propositional logic

$clauses \leftarrow$  the set of clauses in  $CNF(KB \wedge \neg\alpha)$

loop do

if  $clauses$  contains the empty clause then return true

if  $C_i, C_j$  are resolvable clauses where

$PL\text{-}Resolve(C_i, C_j) \notin clauses$

then  $clauses \leftarrow clauses \cup PL\text{-}Resolve(C_i, C_j)$

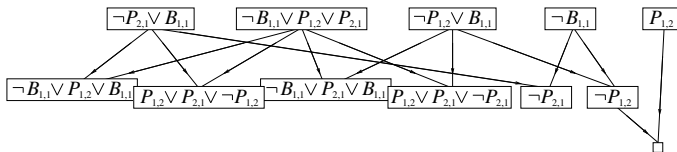
else return false



Note that the algorithm in the text is buggy

## Resolution Example

- E.g.:  $KB = (B_{1,1} \equiv (P_{1,2} \vee P_{2,1})) \wedge \neg B_{1,1}$ ,  
 $\alpha = \neg P_{1,2}$
- Show  $KB \models \alpha$  by showing that  $KB \wedge \neg\alpha$  is unsatisfiable:





## Resolution: Continued

There is a great deal that can be done to improve the basic algorithm:

- Unit resolution: propagate unit clauses (e.g.  $\neg B_{1,1}$ ) as much as possible.
  - Note that this corresponds to the *minimum remaining values* heuristic in constraint satisfaction!
- Eliminate tautologies
- Eliminate redundant clauses
- Eliminate clauses with literal  $\ell$  where the complement of  $\ell$  doesn't appear elsewhere.
- Set of support: Do resolutions on clauses with ancestor in  $\neg\alpha$ .
  - I.e. keep a focus on the goal.

# Specialised Inference: Rule-Based Reasoning

- We consider a very useful, restricted case: *Horn Form*
  - KB = *conjunction* of *Horn clauses*
- Horn clause =
  - proposition symbol; or
  - A rule of the form:  
 $(\text{conjunction of symbols}) \Rightarrow \text{symbol}$
- E.g.,  $C$ ,  $(B \Rightarrow A)$ ,  $(C \wedge D \Rightarrow B)$   
Not:  $(\neg B \Rightarrow A)$ ,  $(B \vee A)$
- Use Horn clauses to derive individual facts (or atoms), not arbitrary formulas.

## Horn clauses

Technically a Horn clause is a *clause* or disjunction of literals, with *at most* one positive literal.

- I.e. of form  $A_0 \vee \neg A_1 \vee \dots \vee \neg A_n$  or  
 $\neg A_1 \vee \dots \vee \neg A_n$
- These can be written:  $A_1 \wedge \dots \wedge A_n \Rightarrow A_0$  or  
 $A_1 \wedge \dots \wedge A_n \Rightarrow \perp$
- We won't bother with rules of the form  $A_1 \wedge \dots \wedge A_n \Rightarrow \perp$ 
  - Rules of this form are called *integrity constraints*.
  - They don't allow new facts to be derived, but rather rule out certain combinations of facts.

## Reasoning with Horn clauses

- *Modus Ponens* (for Horn form): Complete for Horn KBs

$$\frac{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n, \quad \alpha_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \alpha_n \Rightarrow \beta}{\beta}$$

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- *Forward chaining*: Iteratively add new derived facts
- *Backward chaining*: From a query, work backwards through the rules to known facts.
- These algorithms are very natural; forward chaining runs in *linear* time

## Example

KB:

$$P \Rightarrow Q,$$

$$L \wedge M \Rightarrow P,$$

$$B \wedge L \Rightarrow M,$$

$$A \wedge P \Rightarrow L,$$

$$A \wedge B \Rightarrow L,$$

$$A,$$

$$B$$



## Forward chaining

Idea:

- Fire any rule whose premises are satisfied in the  $KB$ ,
- Add its conclusion to the  $KB$ , until query is found

# Forward chaining algorithm

## Procedure:

$C := \{\}$ ;

*repeat*

*choose*  $r \in A$  *such that*

$r$  *is* ' $b_1 \wedge \dots \wedge b_m \Rightarrow h$ '

$b_i \in C$  *for all*  $i$ , *and*

$h \notin C$ ;

$C := C \cup \{h\}$

*until no more choices*

## Forward chaining example

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Query  $Q$ :

- From  $A$  and  $B$ , conclude  $L$

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- From  $L$  and  $M$ , conclude  $P$
- From  $P$  conclude  $Q$

## Backward chaining

- We won't develop an algorithm for backward chaining, but will just consider it informally.
- Idea with backward chaining:  
Start from query  $q$  and work backwards.
- To prove  $q$  by BC:
  - check if  $q$  is known already;
  - otherwise prove (by BC) all premises of some rule concluding  $q$
- Avoid loops: Check if new subgoal is already on the goal stack
- Avoid repeated work: Check if new subgoal
  - ① has already been proved true, or
  - ② has already failed



## Backward chaining example

KB:

$$P \Rightarrow Q, \quad L \wedge M \Rightarrow P, \quad B \wedge L \Rightarrow M, \quad A \wedge P \Rightarrow L, \\ A \wedge B \Rightarrow L, \quad A, \quad B$$

Query Q:

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Query  $Q$ :

- Establish  $P$  as a subgoal.

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Query  $Q$ :

- Establish  $P$  as a subgoal.
- Can prove  $P$  by proving  $L$  and  $M$
- For  $M$ :
  - Can prove  $M$  if we can prove  $B$  and  $L$

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  - $L$  can be proven by proving  $A$  and  $B$ .

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- For  $L$ :
  - $L$  can be proven by proving  $A$  and  $B$ .
  - $A$  and  $B$  are known to be true
- $L$  and  $M$  are true, thus  $P$  is true, thus  $Q$  is true

## Forward vs. backward chaining

- FC is *data-driven*, cf. automatic, unconscious processing,
  - E.g., object recognition, routine decisions
  - May do lots of work that is irrelevant to the goal
  - Good for reactive agents

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- FC is *data-driven*, cf. automatic, unconscious processing,
  - E.g., object recognition, routine decisions
  - May do lots of work that is irrelevant to the goal
  - Good for reactive agents
- BC is *goal-driven*, appropriate for problem-solving,
  - E.g., Where are my keys? How do I get a job?
  - Complexity of BC can be *much less* than linear in size of KB
  - Can also sometimes be *exponential* in size of KB
  - Good for question-answering and explanation

# Summary

- Logical agents apply *inference* to a *knowledge base* to derive new information and make decisions
- Basic concepts of logic:
  - *syntax*: formal structure of *sentences*
  - *semantics*: *truth* of sentences wrt *models*
  - *entailment*: necessary truth of one sentence given another
  - *inference*: deriving sentences from other sentences
  - *soundness*: derivations produce only entailed sentences
  - *completeness*: derivations can produce all entailed sentences

## Summary (Continued)

- Wumpus world requires the ability to represent partial and negated information, reason by cases, etc.
- Resolution is complete for propositional logic.
- Forward, backward chaining are complete for Horn clauses.
- Forward chaining is linear-time for Horn clauses.
- Propositional logic lacks expressive power