Inference in first-order logic

LESSON 9

Reading

Chapter 9

Outline

Reducing first-order inference to propositional inference

Unification

Generalized Modus Ponens

Forward chaining

Backward chaining

Resolution

Universal instantiation (UI)

Every instantiation of a universally quantified sentence is entailed by it:

$$\frac{\forall v\ \alpha}{\text{Subst}(\{v/g\}, \alpha)}$$

for any variable *v* and ground term *g*

E.g., $\forall x\ King(x) \wedge Greedy(x) \Rightarrow Evil(x)$ yields:

$King(John) \wedge Greedy(John) \Rightarrow Evil(John)$

$King(Richard) \wedge Greedy(Richard) \Rightarrow Evil(Richard)$

$King(Father(John)) \wedge Greedy(Father(John)) \Rightarrow Evil(Father(John))$

.

.

.

Existential instantiation (EI)

For any sentence α, variable *v*, and constant symbol *k* that does not appear elsewhere in the knowledge base:

$$\frac{\exists v\ \alpha}{\text{Subst}(\{v/k\}, \alpha)}$$

E.g., $\exists x\ Crown(x) \wedge OnHead(x, John)$ yields:

$$Crown(C_1) \wedge OnHead(C_1, John)$$

provided C_1 is a new constant symbol, called a Skolem constant

Reduction to propositional inference

Suppose the KB contains just the following:

$\forall$x King(x) $\wedge$ Greedy(x) $\Rightarrow$ Evil(x)

King(John)

Greedy(John)

Brother(Richard,John)

Instantiating the universal sentence in all possible ways, we have:

King(John) $\wedge$ Greedy(John) $\Rightarrow$ Evil(John)

King(Richard) $\wedge$ Greedy(Richard) $\Rightarrow$ Evil(Richard)

King(John)

Greedy(John)

Brother(Richard,John)

The new KB is : proposition symbols are

Reduction contd.

Every FOL KB can be propositionalized so as to preserve entailment

(A ground sentence is entailed by new KB iff entailed by original KB)

Idea: propositionalize KB and query, apply resolution, return result

Problem: with function symbols, there are infinitely many ground terms,

- e.g., *Father*(*Father*(*Father*(*John*)))
-

Reduction contd.

Theorem: Herbrand (1930). If a sentence α is entailed by an FOL KB, it is entailed by a finite subset of the propositionalized KB

Idea: For n = 0 to ∞ do

create a propositional KB by instantiating with depth-\$n\$ terms

see if α is entailed by this KB

Problem: works if α is entailed, loops if α is not entailed

Theorem: Turing (1936), Church (1936) Entailment for FOL is

semidecidable (algorithms exist that say yes to every entailed sentence, but no algorithm exists that also says no to every nonentailed sentence.)

Problems with propositionalization

Propositionalization seems to generate lots of irrelevant sentences.

E.g., from:

$\forall x$ King(x) $\wedge$ Greedy(x) $\Rightarrow$ Evil(x)
King(John)
$\forall y$ Greedy(y)
Brother(Richard,John)

it seems obvious that *Evil*(*John*), but propositionalization produces lots of facts such as *Greedy*(*Richard*) that are irrelevant

With *p* *k*-ary predicates and *n* constants, there are $p \cdot n^k$ instantiations.

Unification

We can get the inference immediately if we can find a substitution θ such that *King(x)* and *Greedy(x)* match *King(John)* and *Greedy(y)*

θ = {x/John,y/John} works

Unify(α,β) = θ if αθ = βθ

p	q	θ
Knows(John,x)	Knows(John,Jane)	
Knows(John,x)	Knows(y,OJ)	
Knows(John,x)	Knows(y,Mother(y))	
Knows(John,x)	Knows(x,OJ)	

Standardizing apart eliminates overlap of variables, e.g., Knows(z_{17},OJ)

Unification

We can get the inference immediately if we can find a substitution θ such that *King(x)* and *Greedy(x)* match *King(John)* and *Greedy(y)*

θ = {x/John,y/John} works

Unify(α,β) = θ if αθ = βθ

p	q	θ
Knows(John,x)	Knows(John,Jane)	{x/Jane}}
Knows(John,x)	Knows(y,OJ)	
Knows(John,x)	Knows(y,Mother(y))	
Knows(John,x)	Knows(x,OJ)	

Standardizing apart eliminates overlap of variables, e.g., Knows(z_{17},OJ)

Unification

We can get the inference immediately if we can find a substitution θ such that *King(x)* and *Greedy(x)* match *King(John)* and *Greedy(y)*

θ = {x/John,y/John} works

Unify(α,β) = θ if αθ = βθ

p	q	θ
Knows(John,x)	Knows(John,Jane)	{x/Jane}}
Knows(John,x)	Knows(y,OJ)	{x/OJ,y/John}}
Knows(John,x)	Knows(y,Mother(y))	
Knows(John,x)	Knows(x,OJ)	

Standardizing apart eliminates overlap of variables, e.g., Knows(z_{17},OJ)

Unification

We can get the inference immediately if we can find a substitution θ such that *King(x)* and *Greedy(x)* match *King(John)* and *Greedy(y)*

= {x/John,y/John} works

Unify(α,β) = θ if αθ = βθ

p	q	θ
Knows(John,x)	Knows(John,Jane)	{x/Jane}}
Knows(John,x)	Knows(y,OJ)	{x/OJ,y/John}}
Knows(John,x)	Knows(y,Mother(y))	{y/John,x/Mother(John)}}
Knows(John,x)	Knows(x,OJ)	

Standardizing apart eliminates overlap of variables, e.g., Knows(z_{17},OJ)

Unification

We can get the inference immediately if we can find a substitution θ such that *King(x)* and *Greedy(x)* match *King(John)* and *Greedy(y)*

θ = {x/John,y/John} works

Unify(α,β) = θ if αθ = βθ

p	q	θ
Knows(John,x)	Knows(John,Jane)	{x/Jane}}
Knows(John,x)	Knows(y,OJ)	{x/OJ,y/John}}
Knows(John,x)	Knows(y,Mother(y))	{y/John,x/Mother(John)}}
Knows(John,x)	Knows(x,OJ)	{fail}

Standardizing apart eliminates overlap of variables, e.g., Knows(z_{17},OJ)

Unification

To unify *Knows(John,x)* and *Knows(y,z)*,

θ = {y/John, x/z } or θ = {y/John, x/John, z/John}

The first unifier is more general than the second.

There is a single most general unifier (MGU) that is unique up to renaming of variables.

MGU = { y/John, x/z }

The unification algorithm

function UNIFY(x, y, θ) **returns** a substitution to make x and y identical
  inputs: x, a variable, constant, list, or compound
    y, a variable, constant, list, or compound
    θ, the substitution built up so far

  if θ = failure **then return** failure
  else if $x = y$ **then return** θ
  else if VARIABLE?(x) **then return** UNIFY-VAR(x, y, θ)
  else if VARIABLE?(y) **then return** UNIFY-VAR(y, x, θ)
  else if COMPOUND?(x) **and** COMPOUND?(y) **then**
    return UNIFY(ARGS[x], ARGS[y], UNIFY(OP[x], OP[y], θ))
  else if LIST?(x) **and** LIST?(y) **then**
    return UNIFY(REST[x], REST[y], UNIFY(FIRST[x], FIRST[y], θ))
  else return failure

The unification algorithm

function UNIFY-VAR(var, x, θ) **returns** a substitution
  inputs: var, a variable
    x, any expression
    θ, the substitution built up so far

  if $\{var/val\} \in \theta$ **then return** UNIFY(val, x, θ)
  else if $\{x/val\} \in \theta$ **then return** UNIFY(var, val, θ)
  else if OCCUR-CHECK?(var, x) **then return** failure
  else return add $\{var/x\}$ to θ

Generalized Modus Ponens (GMP)

$$\frac{p_1', p_2', \ldots, p_n', (p_1 \wedge p_2 \wedge \ldots \wedge p_n \Rightarrow q)}{q\theta}$$

where $p_i'\theta = p_i\,\theta$ for all *i*

p_1' is *King*(*John*) p_1 is *King*(*x*)

p_2' is *Greedy*(*y*) p_2 is *Greedy*(*x*)

θ is {x/John,y/John} q is *Evil*(*x*)

q θ is *Evil*(*John*)

GMP used with KB of definite clauses (exactly one positive literal)

All variables assumed universally quantified

Soundness of GMP

Need to show that

$$p_1', \ldots, p_n', (p_1 \wedge \ldots \wedge p_n \Rightarrow q) \models q\theta$$

provided that $p_i'\theta = p_i\theta$ for all *I*

Lemma: For any sentence *p*, we have *p* $\models p\theta$ by UI

1. $(p_1 \wedge \ldots \wedge p_n \Rightarrow q) \models (p_1 \wedge \ldots \wedge p_n \Rightarrow q)\theta = (p_1\theta \wedge \ldots \wedge p_n\theta \Rightarrow q\theta)$
2.
2. p_1', \; …, \;p_n' $\models p_1' \wedge \ldots \wedge p_n' \models p_1'\theta \wedge \ldots \wedge p_n'\theta$
3. From 1 and 2, $q\theta$ follows by ordinary Modus Ponens
4.

Example knowledge base

The law says that it is a crime for an American to sell weapons to hostile nations. The country Nono, an enemy of America, has some missiles, and all of its missiles were sold to it by Colonel West, who is American.

Prove that Col. West is a criminal

Example knowledge base contd.

... it is a crime for an American to sell weapons to hostile nations:

$American(x) \wedge Weapon(y) \wedge Sells(x,y,z) \wedge Hostile(z) \Rightarrow Criminal(x)$

Nono … has some missiles, i.e., $\exists x\ Owns(Nono,x) \wedge Missile(x)$:

$Owns(Nono,M_1)$ and $Missile(M_1)$

… all of its missiles were sold to it by Colonel West

$Missile(x) \wedge Owns(Nono,x) \Rightarrow Sells(West,x,Nono)$

Missiles are weapons:

$Missile(x) \Rightarrow Weapon(x)$

An enemy of America counts as "hostile“:

$Enemy(x,America) \Rightarrow Hostile(x)$

West, who is American …

$American(West)$

The country Nono, an enemy of America …

$Enemy(Nono,America)$

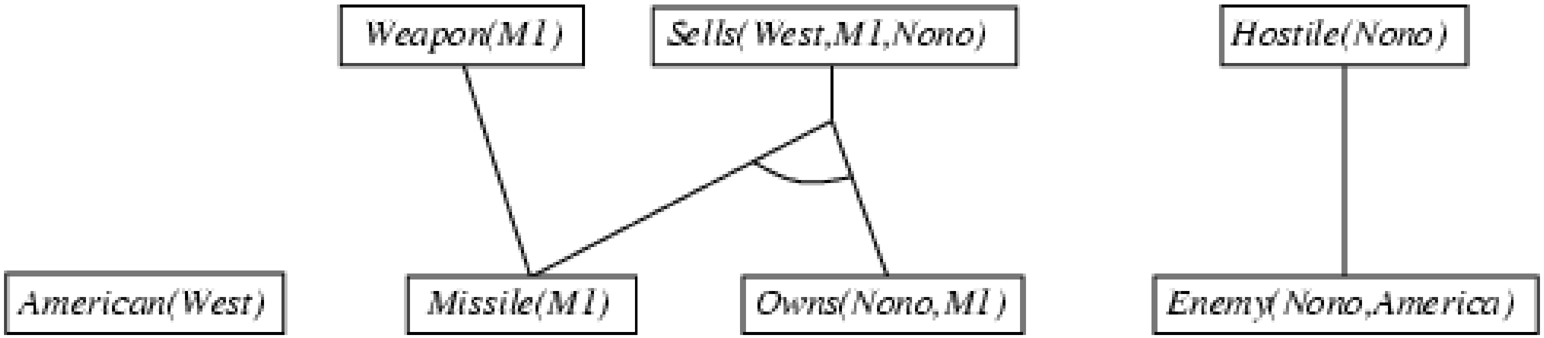
Forward chaining algorithm

function FOL-FC-ASK(KB, α) **returns** a substitution or *false*

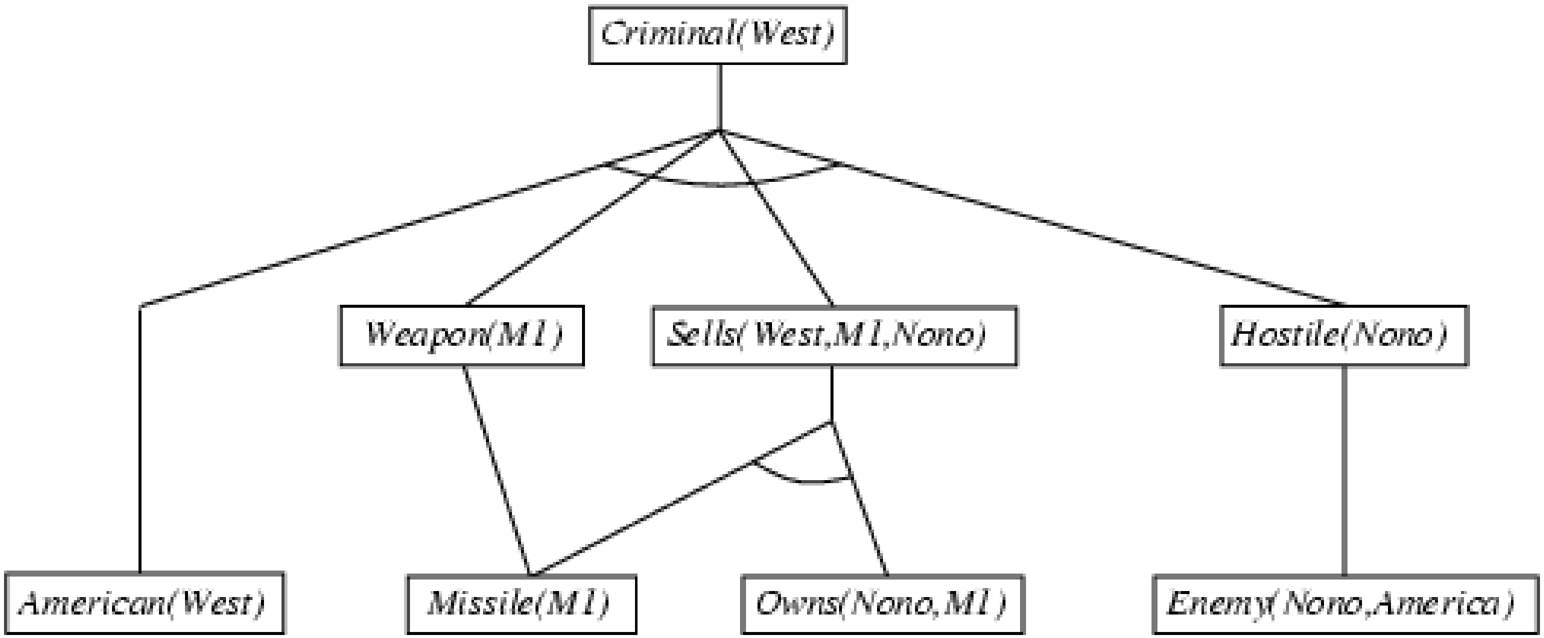
repeat until *new* is empty
  $new \leftarrow \{\}$
  for each sentence r **in** KB **do**
    $(p_1 \wedge \ldots \wedge p_n \Rightarrow q) \leftarrow$ STANDARDIZE-APART(r)
    for each θ such that $(p_1 \wedge \ldots \wedge p_n)\theta = (p'_1 \wedge \ldots \wedge p'_n)\theta$
        for some $p'_1, \ldots, p'_n$ in KB
      $q' \leftarrow$ SUBST(θ, q)
      if q' is not a renaming of a sentence already in KB or *new* **then do**
        add q' to *new*
        $\phi \leftarrow$ UNIFY(q', α)
        if ϕ is not *fail* **then return** ϕ
  add *new* to KB
return *false*

Forward chaining proof

Forward chaining proof



Forward chaining proof



Properties of forward chaining

Sound and complete for first-order definite clauses

Datalog = first-order definite clauses + no functions

FC terminates for Datalog in finite number of iterations

May not terminate in general if α is not entailed

This is unavoidable: entailment with definite clauses is semidecidable

Efficiency of forward chaining

Incremental forward chaining: no need to match a rule on iteration *k* if a premise wasn't added on iteration *k-1*

$\Rightarrow$ match each rule whose premise contains a newly added positive literal

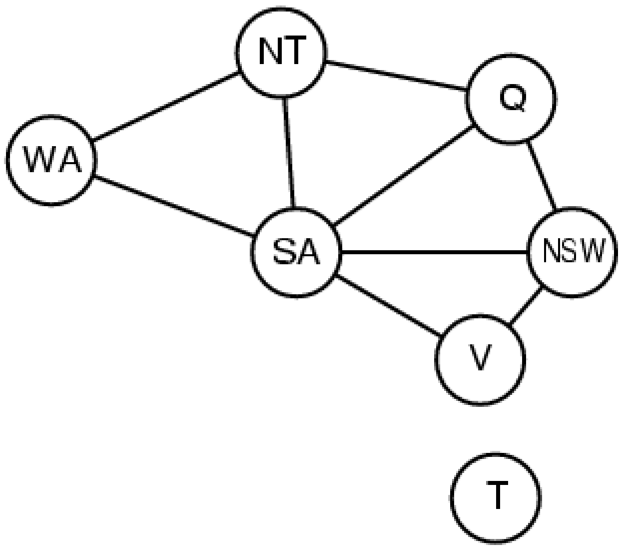
Matching itself can be expensive:

Database indexing allows O(1) retrieval of known facts

- e.g., query *Missile(x)* retrieves $Missile(M_1)$
-

Forward chaining is widely used in deductive databases

Hard matching example



$Diff(wa,nt) \wedge Diff(wa,sa) \wedge Diff(nt,q) \wedge Diff(nt,sa) \wedge Diff(q,nsw) \wedge Diff(q,sa) \wedge Diff(nsw,v) \wedge Diff(nsw,sa) \wedge Diff(v,sa) \Rightarrow Colorable()$

Diff(Red,Blue) *Diff (Red,Green)*
Diff(Green,Red) *Diff(Green,Blue)*
Diff(Blue,Red) *Diff(Blue,Green)*

Colorable() is inferred iff the CSP has a solution

CSPs include 3SAT as a special case, hence matching is NP-hard

Backward chaining algorithm

function FOL-BC-ASK(KB, goals, θ) **returns** a set of substitutions
  inputs: KB, a knowledge base
    $goals$, a list of conjuncts forming a query
    θ, the current substitution, initially the empty substitution { }
  local variables: ans, a set of substitutions, initially empty

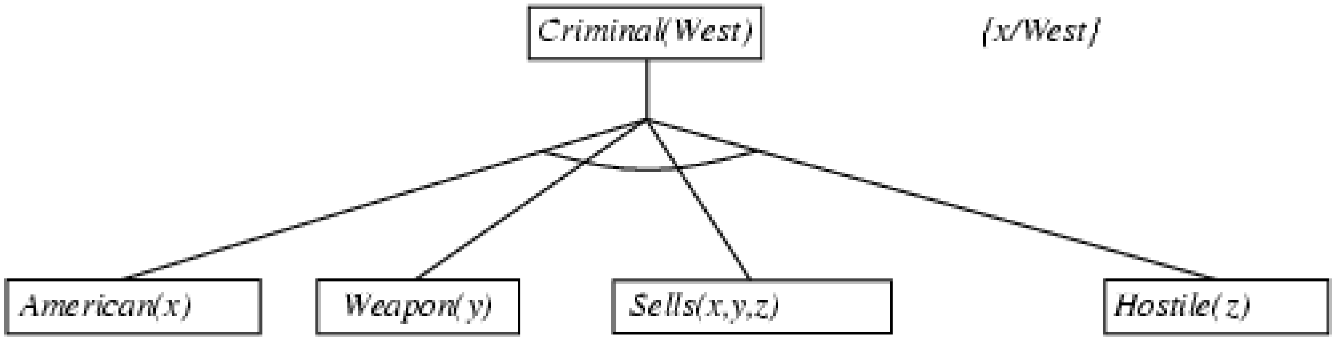
  if $goals$ is empty **then return** $\{\theta\}$
  $q' \leftarrow$ SUBST(θ, FIRST($goals$))
  for each r **in** KB where STANDARDIZE-APART(r) = ($p_1 \wedge \ldots \wedge p_n \Rightarrow q$)
    and $\theta' \leftarrow$ UNIFY(q, q') succeeds
   $ans \leftarrow$ FOL-BC-ASK(KB, $[p_1, \ldots, p_n | \text{REST}(goals)]$, COMPOSE($\theta, \theta'$)) $\cup$ ans
  return ans

SUBST(COMPOSE(θ_1, θ_2), p) = SUBST(θ_2, SUBST(θ_1, p))

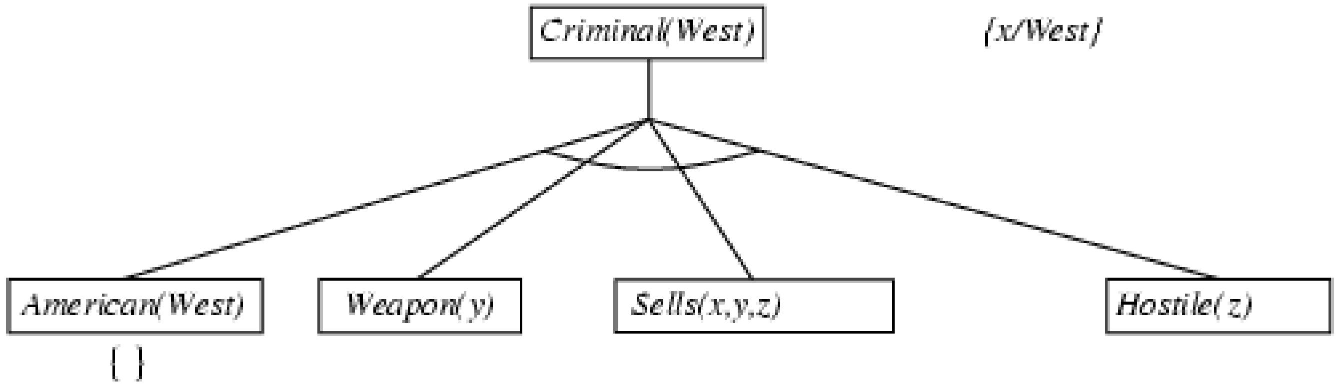
Backward chaining example

$\boxed{Criminal(West)}$

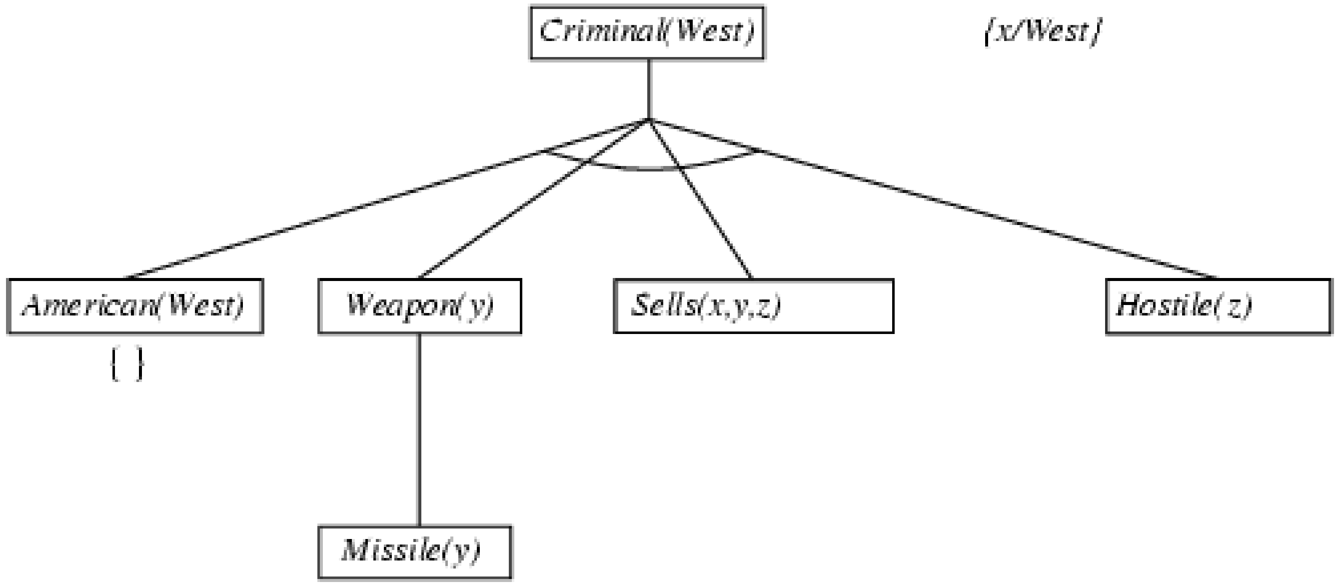
Backward chaining example



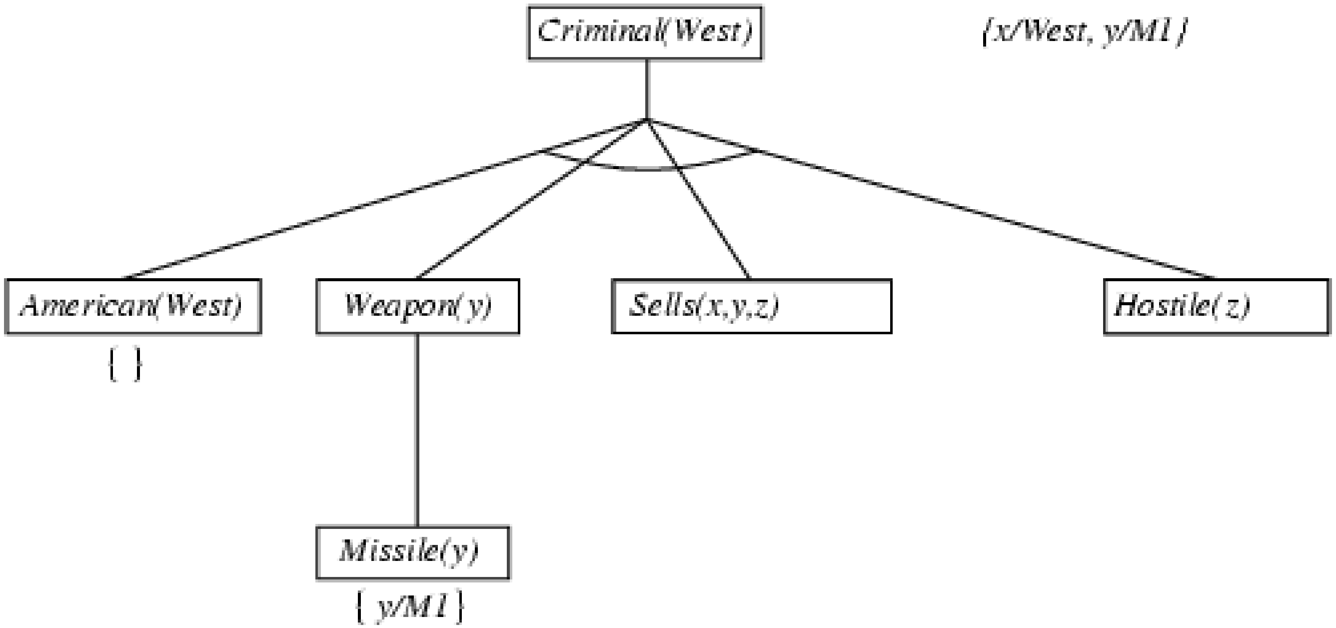
Backward chaining example



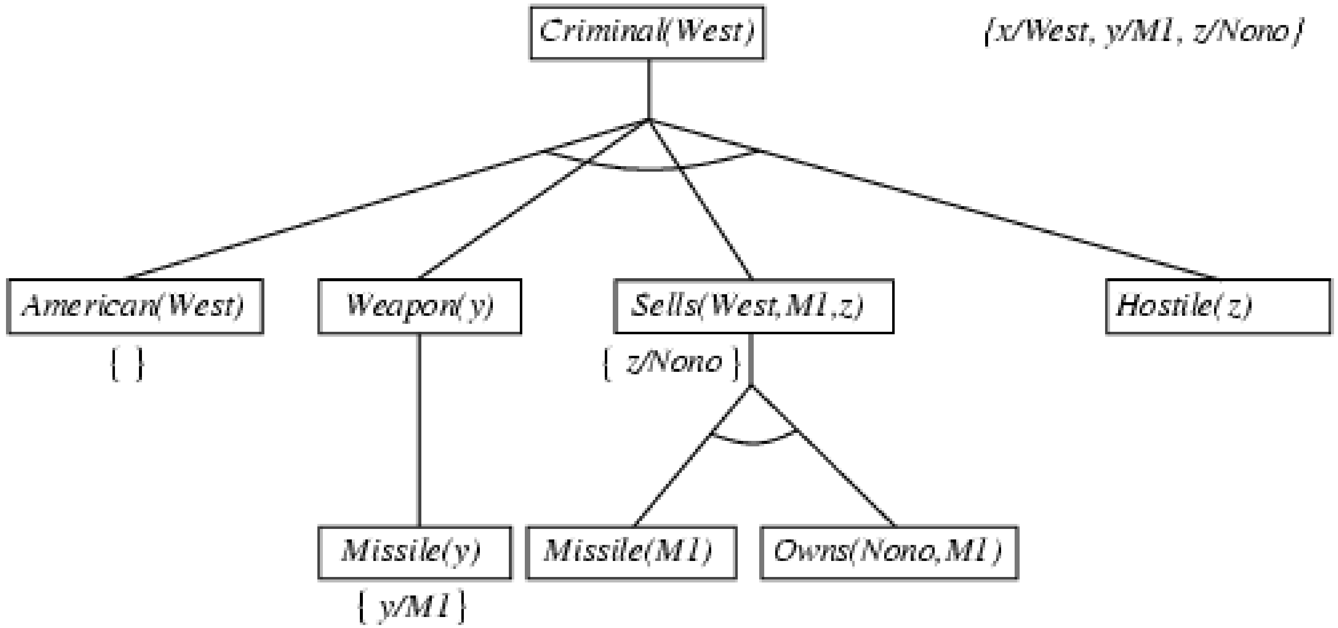
Backward chaining example



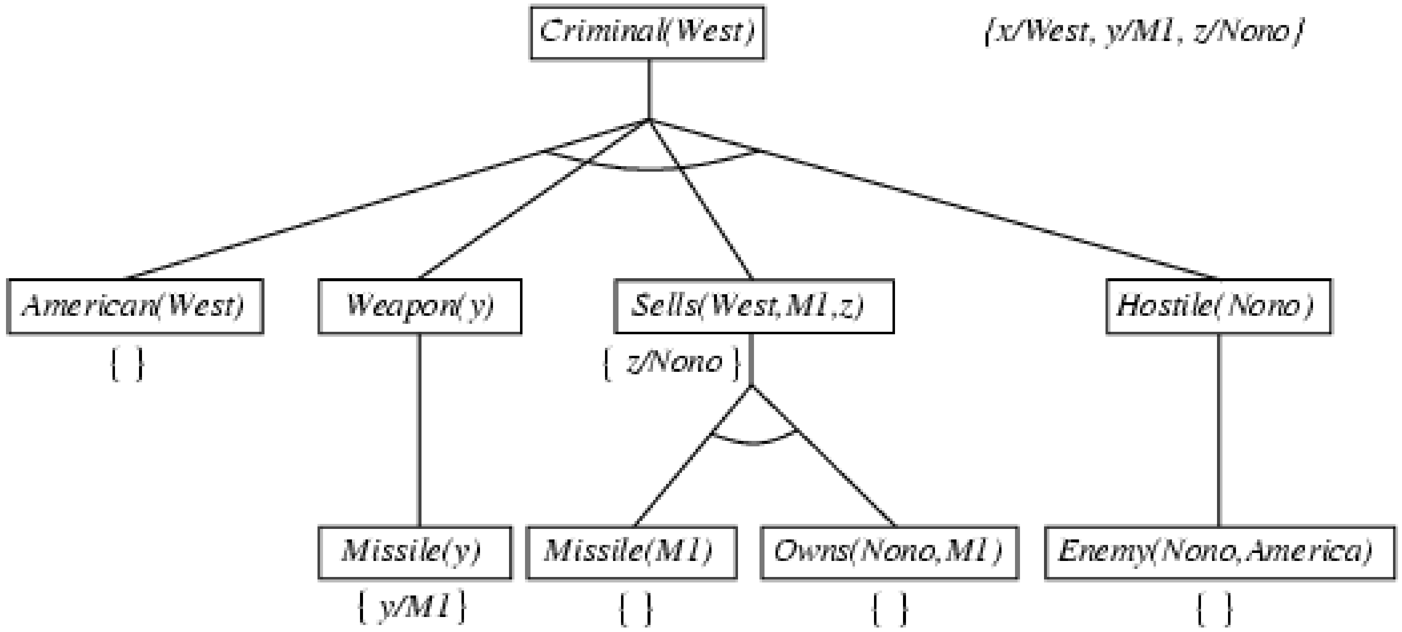
Backward chaining example



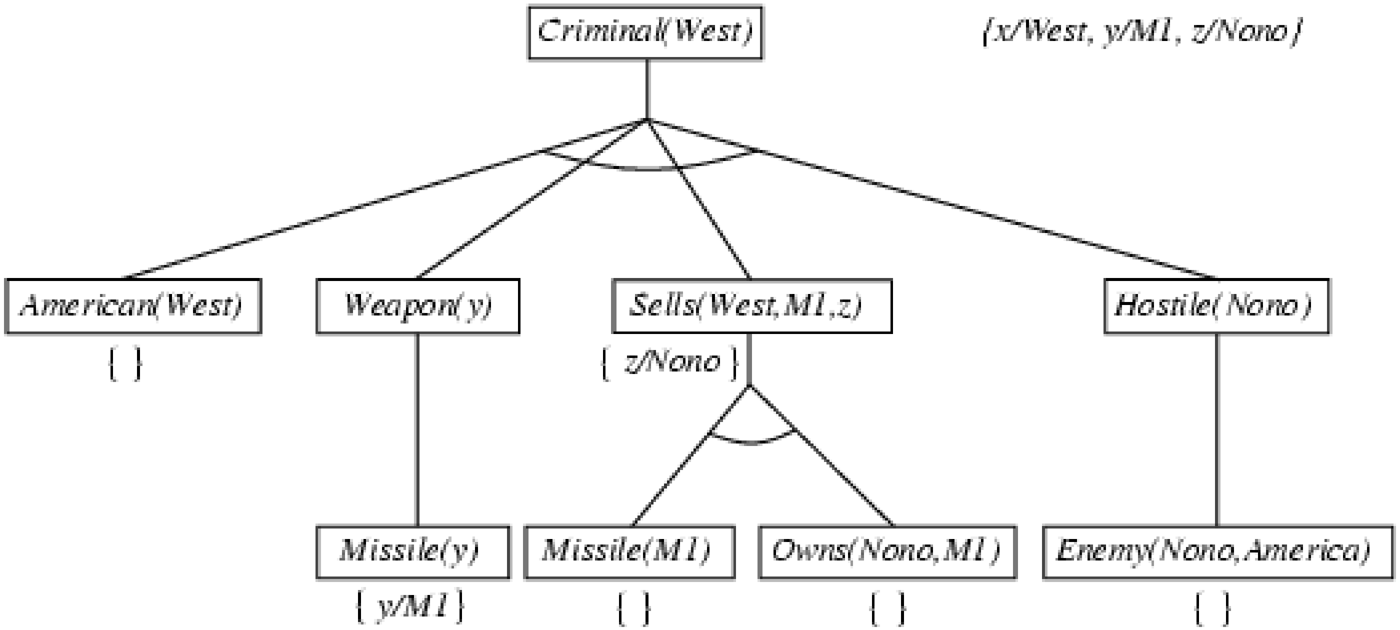
Backward chaining example



Backward chaining example



Backward chaining example



Properties of backward chaining

Depth-first recursive proof search: space is linear in size of proof

Incomplete due to infinite loops

- ⇒ fix by checking current goal against every goal on stack
-

Inefficient due to repeated subgoals (both success and failure)

- ⇒ fix using caching of previous results (extra space)
-

Widely used for logic programming

Resolution: brief summary

Full first-order version:

$$\frac{\ell_1 \vee \cdots \vee \ell_k, \qquad m_1 \vee \cdots \vee m_n}{(\ell_1 \vee \cdots \vee \ell_{i-1} \vee \ell_{i+1} \vee \cdots \vee \ell_k \vee m_1 \vee \cdots \vee m_{j-1} \vee m_{j+1} \vee \cdots \vee m_n)\theta}$$

where `Unify`($\ell_i, \neg m_j$) = θ.

The two clauses are assumed to be standardized apart so that they share no variables.

For example,

$$\frac{\neg Rich(x) \vee Unhappy(x) \qquad Rich(Ken)}{Unhappy(Ken)}$$

with θ = {x/Ken}

Conversion to CNF

Everyone who loves all animals is loved by someone:

$\forall x\ [\forall y\ \mathit{Animal}(y) \Rightarrow \mathit{Loves}(x,y)] \Rightarrow [\exists y\ \mathit{Loves}(y,x)]$

1. Eliminate biconditionals and implications

$\forall x\ [\neg\forall y\ \neg\mathit{Animal}(y) \vee \mathit{Loves}(x,y)] \vee [\exists y\ \mathit{Loves}(y,x)]$

2. Move $\neg$ inwards: $\neg\forall x\ p \equiv \exists x\ \neg p$, $\neg\exists x\ p \equiv \forall x\ \neg p$

$\forall x\ [\exists y\ \neg(\neg\mathit{Animal}(y) \vee \mathit{Loves}(x,y))] \vee [\exists y\ \mathit{Loves}(y,x)]$
$\forall x\ [\exists y\ \neg\neg\mathit{Animal}(y) \wedge \neg\mathit{Loves}(x,y)] \vee [\exists y\ \mathit{Loves}(y,x)]$
$\forall x\ [\exists y\ \mathit{Animal}(y) \wedge \neg\mathit{Loves}(x,y)] \vee [\exists y\ \mathit{Loves}(y,x)]$

Conversion to CNF contd.

Standardize variables: each quantifier should use a different one

$\forall x\ [\exists y\ Animal(y) \wedge \neg Loves(x,y)] \vee [\exists z\ Loves(z,x)]$

Skolemize: a more general form of existential instantiation.

Each existential variable is replaced by a Skolem function of the enclosing universally quantified variables:

$\forall x\ [Animal(F(x)) \wedge \neg Loves(x,F(x))] \vee Loves(G(x),x)$

Drop universal quantifiers:

$[Animal(F(x)) \wedge \neg Loves(x,F(x))] \vee Loves(G(x),x)$

Distribute $\vee$ over $\wedge$:

$[Animal(F(x)) \vee Loves(G(x),x)] \wedge [\neg Loves(x,F(x)) \vee Loves(G(x),x)]$

Resolution proof: definite clauses