

# Lecture 18

## Inference II

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Reading for This Class:  
Chapter 7, Russell and Norvig

# Review

- **Last Class**
  - Inference
    - Truth Table Approach
    - Inference Rule Approach
- **This Class**
  - Resolution Algorithm
- **Next Class**
  - First Order Logic

# Limitations of Inference Rules Approach

- The inference rules can be applied whenever **suitable premises** are found in the KB
- The **conclusion** of the rule must follow regardless of what else is in the KB
- The inference rules covered so far are **sound**, but if the available inference rules are **inadequate**, then it's **not complete**
- Now, we introduce a single inference rule, **resolution**, that gives a complete inference algorithm when coupled with any complete search algorithm

# Logical Inference Approaches

- $KB \models \alpha$  ?
- Three approaches:
  - Truth-table approach
  - Inference rules
  - Resolution algorithm
    - Proof by contradiction

# Resolution Algorithm

- $KB \models \alpha$  ?
- Two inference rules:
  - unit resolution rule
  - full resolution rule
- Conversion to conjunctive normal form (CNF)
- Satisfiability (SAT) problem
- Resolution algorithm

# Resolution Algorithm

- $KB \models \alpha$  ?
- **Two inference rules:**
  - unit resolution rule
  - full resolution rule
- Conversion to conjunctive normal form (CNF)
- Satisfiability (SAT) problem
- Resolution algorithm

# Complementary Literals

- A **literal** is either an atomic sentence or the negated atomic sentence, e.g.:  
 $P$  or  $\neg P$
- Two literals are **complementary** if one is the negation of the other, e.g.:  
 $P$  and  $\neg P$
- A **clause** is a disjunction of literals, e.g.,  
 $P \vee \neg Q \vee R$   
 $\neg P \vee Q$
- A **unit clause** is a disjunction of a single literal, e.g.,  
 $P$   
 $\neg P$

# Inference Rules-Unit Resolution

- ❖ **Unit Resolution** rule: (From a clause, if one of the literal is false, then you can infer the other one is true)

$$\frac{\alpha \vee \beta, \neg\beta}{\alpha} \quad \text{or equivalently} \quad \frac{(\alpha \vee \beta) \wedge \neg\beta}{\alpha}$$

- If  $l_i$  and  $m$  are complementary literals, then

$$\frac{l_1 \vee \dots \vee l_k, \quad m}{l_1 \vee \dots \vee l_{i-1} \vee l_{i+1} \dots \vee l_k}$$

- If both sentences in the premise are true, then conclusion is true.

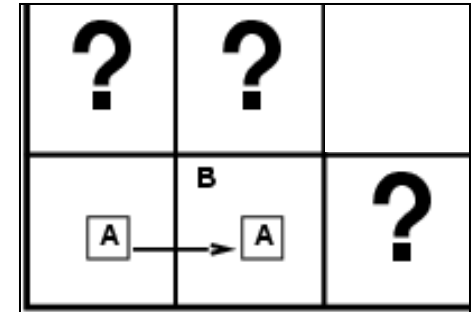


# Inference Rules-Unit Resolution

KB:

- R1:  $\neg P_{1,1}$
- R2:  $\neg B_{1,1}$
- R3:  $B_{1,1} \Leftrightarrow (P_{1,2} \vee P_{2,1})$
- R4:  $\neg P_{2,1}$
- R5:  $B_{2,1}$
- R6:  $B_{2,1} \Leftrightarrow (P_{1,1} \vee P_{2,2} \vee P_{3,1})$
- ...
- R13:  $P_{1,1} \vee P_{2,2} \vee P_{3,1}$
- R14:  $P_{2,2} \vee P_{3,1}$

Apply unit resolution rule to R1 and R13



# Inference Rules-Resolution

- ❖ **Resolution** rule: (From two clauses, a new clause is produced containing all the literals of the two original clauses *except* the **one pair** of complementary literals. Or equivalently, implication is transitive.)

$$\frac{\alpha \vee \beta, \quad \neg\beta \vee \gamma}{\alpha \vee \gamma} \quad \text{or equivalently} \quad \frac{\neg\alpha \Rightarrow \beta, \quad \beta \Rightarrow \gamma}{\neg\alpha \Rightarrow \gamma}$$

- If  $l_i$  and  $m_j$  are complementary literals, then

$$\frac{l_1 \vee \cdots \vee l_k, \quad m_1 \vee \cdots \vee m_n}{l_1 \vee \cdots \vee l_{i-1} \vee l_{i+1} \cdots \vee l_k \vee m_1 \vee \cdots \vee m_{j-1} \vee m_{j+1} \cdots \vee m_n}$$

- If both sentences in the premise are true, then conclusion is true.

# Inference Rules-Resolution

Note: we can resolve only **one pair** of complementary literals at a time.  
E.g., we can resolve  $P$  and  $\neg P$  to deduce

$$\frac{P \vee \neg Q \vee R, \quad \neg P \vee Q}{\neg Q \vee Q \vee R}$$

Or, we can resolve  $Q$  and  $\neg Q$  to deduce

$$\frac{P \vee \neg Q \vee R, \quad \neg P \vee Q}{P \vee R \vee \neg P}$$

Then if the new clause contains complementary literals, it is discarded (as a tautology) since it is always-true.

Thus, we cannot resolve on both  $P$  and  $Q$  at once to infer  $R$ !

# Inference Rules-Resolution

- **Soundness** of resolution inference rule:
  - If  $l_i$  is true, then  $m_j$  is false
    - hence  $(m_1 \vee \dots \vee m_{j-1} \vee m_{j+1} \dots \vee m)$  must be true
  - If  $l_i$  is false, then  $m_j$  is true
    - hence  $(l_1 \vee \dots \vee l_{i-1} \vee l_{i+1} \dots \vee l_k)$  must be true
  - no matter what
    - $(l_1 \vee \dots \vee l_{i-1} \vee l_{i+1} \dots \vee l_k) \vee (m_1 \vee \dots \vee m_{j-1} \vee m_{j+1} \dots \vee m)$  is true
- In the inference rule approach, the resolution rule can also be applied.
- Any complete search algorithm, **applying only the resolution rule**, can derive any conclusion entailed by any knowledge base in propositional logic.
- A resolution-based theorem prover can, for any sentences  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  in propositional logic, **decide whether  $\alpha \models \beta$**

# Resolution Algorithm

- $KB \models \alpha$  ?
- Two inference rules:
  - unit resolution rule
  - full resolution rule
- Conversion to conjunctive normal form (CNF)
- Satisfiability (SAT) problem
- Resolution algorithm

# Resolution and CNF

- Resolution inference rule applies only to **clauses** (disjunctions of literals)
- *Every sentence of propositional logic is logically equivalent to a conjunction of disjunctions of literals*
- A sentence expressed as a conjunction of clauses is said to be in conjunctive normal form or CNF:
  - conjunction of clauses
  - E.g.,  $(A \vee \neg B) \wedge (B \vee \neg C \vee \neg D)$

$$CNFSentence \rightarrow Clause_1 \wedge \dots \wedge Clause_n$$

$$Clause \rightarrow Literal_1 \vee \dots \vee Literal_m$$

$$Literal \rightarrow Symbol \mid \neg Symbol$$

$$Symbol \rightarrow P \mid Q \mid R \mid \dots$$

# Procedure for Obtaining CNF

1. Replace  $\alpha \Leftrightarrow \beta$  with  $(\alpha \Rightarrow \beta) \wedge (\beta \Rightarrow \alpha)$
2. Replace  $\alpha \Rightarrow \beta$  with  $\neg\alpha \vee \beta$
3. Move  $\neg$  inwards:  $\neg(\neg\alpha)$ ,  $\neg(\alpha \vee \beta)$ ,  $\neg(\alpha \wedge \beta)$
4. Distribute  $\vee$  over  $\wedge$ , e.g.,  $(\alpha \wedge \beta) \vee \gamma$  becomes  $(\alpha \vee \gamma) \wedge (\beta \vee \gamma)$
5. Flatten nesting:  $(\alpha \wedge \beta) \wedge \gamma$  becomes  $\alpha \wedge \beta \wedge \gamma$

# Example: Conversion to CNF

Convert the sentence  $B_{1,1} \Leftrightarrow (P_{1,2} \vee P_{2,1})$  into CNF:  
The steps are as follows:

1. **Eliminate**  $\Leftrightarrow$ , replacing  $\alpha \Leftrightarrow \beta$  with  $(\alpha \Rightarrow \beta) \wedge (\beta \Rightarrow \alpha)$ .

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

2. **Eliminate**  $\Rightarrow$ , replacing  $\alpha \Rightarrow \beta$  with  $\neg\alpha \vee \beta$ .

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

3. Move  $\neg$  inwards using **De Morgan** rule:

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

4. Apply **distributivity law** ( $\vee$  over  $\wedge$ ) and flatten:

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

The original sentence is now in CNF, as a conjunction of three clauses.  
It is much harder to read, but it can be used as **input to a resolution procedure**.



# Resolution Algorithm

- $KB \models \alpha$  ?
- Two inference rules:
  - unit resolution rule
  - full resolution rule
- Conversion to conjunctive normal form (CNF)
- Satisfiability (SAT) problem
- Resolution algorithm

# Inference Problem and Satisfiability

- Inference procedures based on resolution work by using the principle of **proof by contradiction or proof by refutation**.
- A sentence is satisfiable if it is true in some model, e.g.,  $A \vee B, C$
- A sentence is unsatisfiable if it is true in no models, e.g.,  $P \wedge \neg P$
- Entailment is connected to inference via the Deduction Theorem:  
 $KB \models \alpha$  if and only if  $(KB \Rightarrow \alpha)$  is valid  
(note:  $KB \Rightarrow \alpha$  is  $(\neg KB \vee \alpha)$ )
- Satisfiability is connected to inference via the following:  
 $KB \models \alpha$  if and only if  $(KB \wedge \neg \alpha)$  is **unsatisfiable**
- Thus proof by contradiction:  
**proving  $\alpha$  given  $KB$  by checking the unsatisfiability of  $(KB \wedge \neg \alpha)$**

# Satisfiability (SAT) Problem

- Determine whether a sentence in the conjunctive normal form (CNF) is satisfiable (i.e. can evaluate to true)

$$(P \vee Q \vee \neg R) \wedge (\neg P \vee \neg R \vee S) \wedge (\neg P \vee Q \vee \neg T) \wedge \dots$$

- **Variables:**
  - Propositional symbols (P, Q, R, T, S)
  - Values: *True, False*
- **Constraints:**
  - Every conjunct must evaluate to true, at least one of the literals in every conjunct must evaluate to true
- Thus, to show  $(KB \wedge \neg \alpha)$  is unsatisfiable is to show no models evaluate CNF to true.

$$\dots \wedge P \wedge \neg P$$

# Resolution Algorithm

- $KB \models \alpha$  ?
- Two inference rules:
  - unit resolution rule
  - full resolution rule
- Conversion to conjunctive normal form (CNF)
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# Resolution Algorithm

- To show that  $KB \models \alpha$ , we show that  $(KB \wedge \neg\alpha)$  is unsatisfiable

**1.  $(KB \wedge \neg\alpha)$  is converted into CNF**

**2. Apply iteratively the resolution rule to the resulting clauses**

- Each pair that contains complementary literals is resolved to produce a new clause, which is added to the set if it's not present

**3. Stop when:**

- Contradiction (empty clause  $\{\}$ ) is reached:
  - E.g.,  $P, \neg P \Rightarrow \{\}$
  - **Prove the entailment**
- No more new clauses can be derived
  - **Reject the entailment**

- $\{\}$  is a disjunction of no disjuncts is equivalent to False, thus the contradiction

# Resolution Algorithm

- **Proof by contradiction, i.e., show that  $KB \wedge \neg\alpha$  is unsatisfiable**

**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 the CNF representation of  $KB \wedge \neg\alpha$

$new \leftarrow \{ \}$

**loop do**

**for each** pair of clauses  $C_i, C_j$  **in**  $clauses$  **do**

$resolvents \leftarrow$  PL-RESOLVE( $C_i, C_j$ )

**if**  $resolvents$  contains the empty clause **then return** *true*

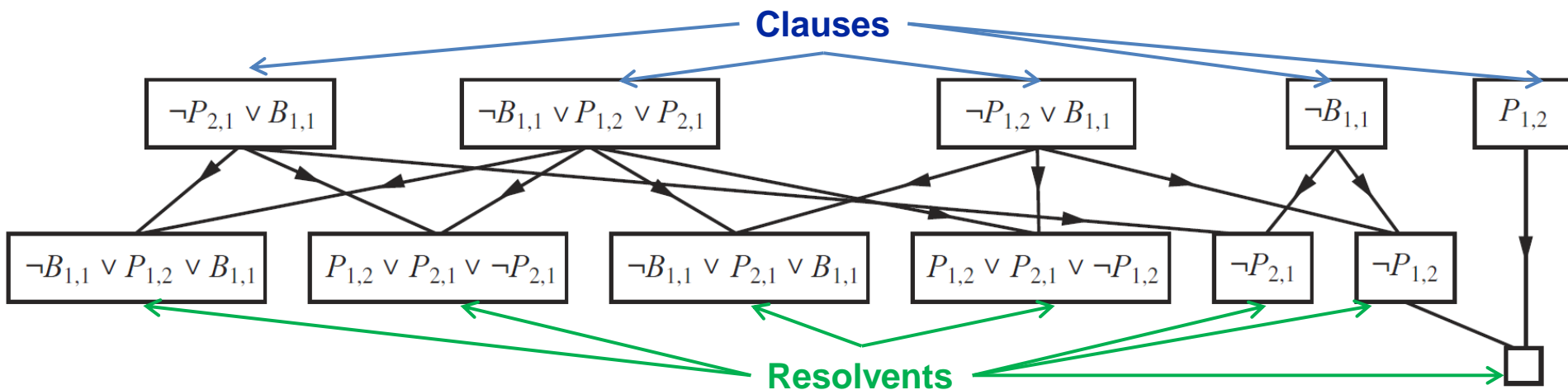
$new \leftarrow new \cup resolvents$

**if**  $new \subseteq clauses$  **then return** *false*

$clauses \leftarrow clauses \cup new$

# Resolution Example

- $KB = (B_{1,1} \Leftrightarrow (P_{1,2} \vee P_{2,1})) \wedge \neg B_{1,1}$
- $\alpha = \neg P_{1,2}$
- (1)  $KB \wedge \neg \alpha = (\neg B_{1,1} \vee P_{1,2} \vee P_{2,1}) \wedge (\neg P_{1,2} \vee B_{1,1}) \wedge (\neg P_{2,1} \vee B_{1,1}) \wedge \neg B_{1,1} \wedge P_{1,2}$ 
  - Set of clauses:  $\{(\neg B_{1,1} \vee P_{1,2} \vee P_{2,1}), (\neg P_{1,2} \vee B_{1,1}), (\neg P_{2,1} \vee B_{1,1}), \neg B_{1,1}, P_{1,2}\}$
- (2) Apply resolution rules to all clauses



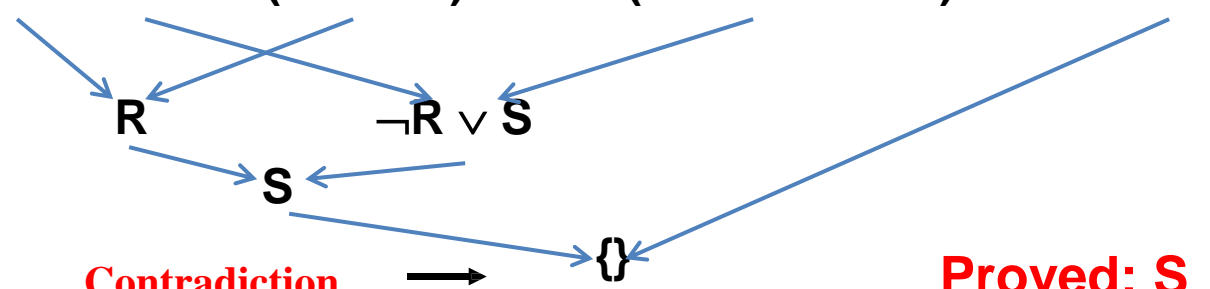
Partial application of PL-RESOLUTION to a simple inference in the wumpus world.  $\neg P_{1,2}$  is shown to follow from the first four clauses in the top row.

# Resolution Example

- KB:  $P \wedge Q; P \Rightarrow R; (Q \wedge R) \Rightarrow S$
- $\alpha : S$



# Resolution Example

- KB:  $P \wedge Q; P \Rightarrow R; (Q \wedge R) \Rightarrow S$
- $\alpha : S$
- Step1: convert  $(KB \wedge \neg\alpha)$  into CNF
  - $P \wedge Q \longrightarrow P \wedge Q$
  - $P \Rightarrow R \longrightarrow \neg P \vee R$
  - $(Q \wedge R) \Rightarrow S \longrightarrow \neg Q \vee \neg R \vee S$
  - $\neg\alpha \longrightarrow \neg S$
  - $(KB \wedge \neg\alpha) = P \wedge Q \wedge (\neg P \vee R) \wedge (\neg Q \vee \neg R \vee S) \wedge \neg S$
  - Set of clauses:  $\{P, Q, (\neg P \vee R), (\neg Q \vee \neg R \vee S), \neg S\}$
- Step2: Apply resolution rule to on the set of clauses
- |   |   |                   |                               |          |
|---|---|-------------------|-------------------------------|----------|
| P   | Q | $(\neg P \vee R)$ | $(\neg Q \vee \neg R \vee S)$ | $\neg S$ |
|  |   |                   |                               |          |
| <div>Contradiction <math>\longrightarrow</math> <math>\{\}</math> Proved: S</div>   |   |                   |                               |          |

# Inference Rules Summary

- ◇ **Modus Ponens** or **Implication-Elimination**: (From an implication and the premise of the implication, you can infer the conclusion.)

$$\frac{\alpha \Rightarrow \beta, \quad \alpha}{\beta}$$

- ◇ **And-Elimination**: (From a conjunction, you can infer any of the conjuncts.)

$$\frac{\alpha_1 \wedge \alpha_2 \wedge \dots \wedge \alpha_n}{\alpha_i}$$

- ◇ **And-Introduction**: (From a list of sentences, you can infer their conjunction.)

$$\frac{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n}{\alpha_1 \wedge \alpha_2 \wedge \dots \wedge \alpha_n}$$

- ◇ **Or-Introduction**: (From a sentence, you can infer its disjunction with anything else at all.)

$$\frac{\alpha_i}{\alpha_1 \vee \alpha_2 \vee \dots \vee \alpha_n}$$

- ◇ **Double-Negation Elimination**: (From a doubly negated sentence, you can infer a positive sentence.)

$$\frac{\neg\neg\alpha}{\alpha}$$

- ◇ **Unit Resolution**: (From a disjunction, if one of the disjuncts is false, then you can infer the other one is true.)

$$\frac{\alpha \vee \beta, \quad \neg\beta}{\alpha}$$

- ◇ **Resolution**: (This is the most difficult. Because  $\beta$  cannot be both true and false, one of the other disjuncts must be true in one of the premises. Or equivalently, implication is transitive.)

$$\frac{\alpha \vee \beta, \quad \neg\beta \vee \gamma}{\alpha \vee \gamma}$$

or equivalently

$$\frac{\neg\alpha \Rightarrow \beta, \quad \beta \Rightarrow \gamma}{\neg\alpha \Rightarrow \gamma}$$

• All of the listed inference rules are sound.

• We can prove this through the truth table.

# Enumeration of Models

Similarly:

**P**: Set of propositional symbols in  $\{KB, \neg\alpha\}$

**n**: Size of **P**

ENTAILS?(**KB**,  $\alpha$ )

For each of the  $2^n$  models on **P** do

    If it is a model of  $\{KB, \neg\alpha\}$  then return **no**

Return **yes**

# Summary

- **Literal**
- **Unit Resolution Rule**
- **Full Resolution Rule**
- **Resolution algorithm**

# What I want you to do

- Review Chapter 7