MSML610: Advanced Machine Learning

Knowledge Representation

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References:

- Mostly papers and Internet
- AIMA 7: Logical agents
- AIMA 8, First-order logic
- AIMA 9: Inference in first-order logic
- AIMA 10, Knowledge representation

- ***Knowledge Representation***
  - Basics of Knowledge Representation
  - Examples of Logic
  - Logical Agents
  - Ontologies
  - Reasoning in Ontologies
- Propositional logic
- First-order Logic
- Non-classical Logics

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What is Knowledge Representation?

- **Knowledge Representation (KR)** is the study of how to formally encode information so that machines can reason with it
  - E.g., rules, logic, ontologies, semantic networks
  - It is at the heart of symbolic AI and complements learning-based approaches
- Defines:
  - **structure** (how knowledge is organized)
  - **semantics** (what it means)
- Serves as a bridge between perception (data) and reasoning (logic)
  - Essential for explainability and transparency in intelligent systems
- Enables machines to:
  - Draw conclusions
  - Perform planning
  - Answer queries
  - . . .

Expressiveness vs. Tractability

- **Tradeoff in AI / ML**
  - **Expressiveness**: richness of concepts that can be captured
  - **Tractability**: whether reasoning can be performed efficiently
  - More expressive languages lead to harder computation
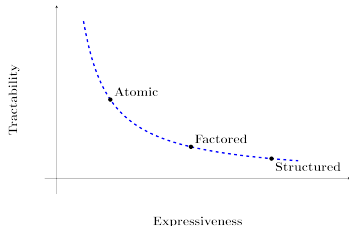
- Choosing the right knowledge representation formalism depends on the application needs
  - **Atomic**
    - Treats each state as a single, indivisible entity
    - E.g., depth-first search algorithms (e.g., E3 in Chess)
    - Simple and fast but limited in capturing complex relationships
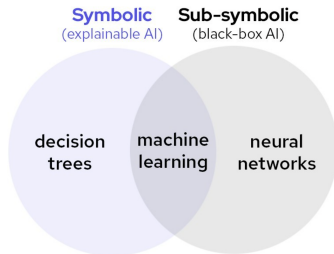 - **Factored**
    - E.g., propositional logic
    - E.g., $P_{1,1}$: *"Pit in square (1,1)"*, $B_{1,2} \Leftrightarrow (P_{1,1} \vee P_{2,2} \vee P_{1,3})$
    - Captures relationships between variables but can't express complex structures
  - **Structured**
    - E.g., first-order logic
    - $\forall x \, \forall y \, Father(x, y) \Rightarrow Parent(x, y) = $ *"A father of a person is their parent"*
    - More expressive but undecidable in general
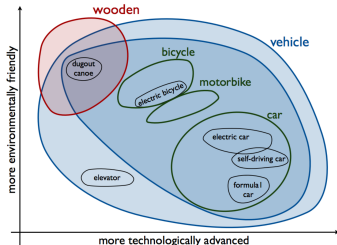
Symbolic vs. Sub-symbolic Representation

- **Symbolic knowledge** representation uses discrete, human-readable symbols
  - E.g., logic, knowledge graphs
  - Interpretable and suitable for rule-based reasoning
  - Struggle with ambiguity
- **Sub-symbolic knowledge** representation uses learned, distributed representations
  - E.g., vector embeddings
  - E.g., deep learning excels at perception and pattern recognition
  - Lack transparency
- **Neuro-symbolic approaches** blends the two approaches
  - Reason over learned concepts using structured logic

Symbolic
(explainable AI)

Sub-symbolic
(black-box AI)

decision
trees

machine
learning

neural
networks

Neuro-symbolic Approach: Conceptual Spaces

- **Conceptual spaces** are frameworks for representing knowledge using geometric structures
  - A concepts is a region in a multidimensional space defined by quality dimensions
  - Similarity between objects is modeled by spatial distance
  - Each dimension represents an interpretable feature

- **Example**
  - Dimensions: `Color`, `Size`, `Shape`
  - "Apple" occupies a region that is typically red / medium-sized / round
  - "Banana" occupies a different region: yellow / medium / curved and long
- Differences from symbolic representations
  - Symbolic systems use discrete symbols without structure
    - E.g., `Apple` vs `Banana`
- **Benefits**
  - Natural modeling of similarity and vagueness
  - Useful for grounding symbols in perception (link between sensory inputs and symbolic language)

Natural languages

- **Natural languages** (e.g., English, Italian) are:
  - **Expressive**
    - Medium for communication rather than representation
  - **Ambiguous**
    - E.g., "spring" is both a "season" and "something that goes boing"
  - **Context-dependent**
    - Meaning depends on the sentence and context
    - E.g., "Look!"
- **Sapir-Whorf hypothesis**
  - The language you speak shapes how you perceive, think about, and experience the world
    - Even through arbitrary grammatical features, such as gender of nouns
  - Some languages lack words for certain concepts (e.g., direction)
  - Some languages have many words for the same concepts
    - E.g., Arctic languages have many words for snow (fresh, hard)
  - Newspeak from 1984 (Orwell)
    - You can't think certain concepts since you don't have words for it

Procedural vs Declarative Approaches

- **Procedural approach**
  - Focuses on *how* a task is done
  - Encodes desired behavior directly into the program
  - E.g., a robot programmed with specific steps to navigate a maze
- **Declarative approach**
  - Specifies *what* the goal is, *not how* to achieve it
  - Describes relationships between actions and goals
  - Leaves solution search to the system
  - E.g., describing the goal "reach the exit" and letting the system find the path
- **Comparison**
  - Procedural: more control, less flexibility
  - Declarative: more abstraction, easier to modify or extend
- **Integration of approaches**
  - Many successful AI systems use a hybrid approach
  - Declarative knowledge can be compiled into procedural code
  - E.g., a planner generates procedures (plans) from declarative goals

Programming Languages

- A **programming language** (e.g., C++, Python) is a formal language
  - Data structures represent facts
  - Code updates data structures in a domain-specific way
  - Programming is procedural (vs declarative)
- **Limitations**:
  - Programming languages lack:
  1. A general mechanism for deriving facts from other facts
     - Code updates data structures based on programmer's domain knowledge
  2. Expressiveness to handle partial information
     - A variable represents a single value or unknown
     - Can't easily handle partial information or quantify uncertainty
     - E.g., "A white knight is in b1 or in f6"
- **Declarative language**
  - E.g., propositional logic, first order logic
  - Knowledge and inference are separate:
    1. Knowledge represents the domain-specific problem
    2. Inference is domain independent
  - Compositional semantics
    - The meaning of a sentence is a function of the meaning of its parts

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Propositional Logic

- Uses atomic statements (propositions) and logical connectives
  - **Syntax**
    - Atomic formulas: P, Q
    - Connectives: NOT ($\neg$), AND ($\wedge$), OR ($\vee$), IMPLIES ($\implies$)
  - **Semantics**
    - Based on truth tables
    - Each proposition has a binary truth value: true or false
  - **Inference mechanisms**
    - Modus ponens: from P and $P \implies Q$, infer Q
    - Resolution: derive contradictions to infer conclusions
- **Applications**: best used in closed and well-defined environments
  - Digital circuit design
  - Rule-based systems
  - Simplified AI models
- **Limitations**
  - Cannot represent objects, relations, or quantifiers
  - Not suitable for open or dynamic domains

First-Order Logic (FOL)

- **Extension of propositional logic**
  - Introduces predicates, variables, and quantifiers
    - Variables x
    - Predicate $Human(x)$
    - Universal quantifier "for all" $\forall$
    - Existential quantifier "there exists" $\exists$
  - E.g., $\forall x (Human(x) \implies Mortal(x)) = $ "All humans are mortal"
  - Represents more complex and structured knowledge than propositional logic
  - Can model properties, relationships, and quantification over objects
- **Inference mechanisms**
  - Unification: matches predicates with variables
  - Resolution: deduces new facts from known statements
  - Model checking: verifies truth of statements under specific interpretations
- **Computational properties**
  - Inference is semi-decidable: valid conclusions may require infinite time
  - More powerful but computationally more complex than propositional logic
- **Applications**
  - Knowledge representation
  - Automated theorem proving
  - Semantic web and ontologies

Reasoning and Inference in Logic

- **Logical inference** is the process of deriving new facts from known ones using formal rules
  - Used to make decisions and answer questions based on a Knowledge Base
- **Knowledge base (KB)**:
  - A structured set of facts and rules used for logical reasoning
- **Inference engine**:
  - Mechanism that applies logical rules to a KB to derive conclusions or answer queries
  - **Forward chaining**:
    - Starts with known facts and applies inference rules to extract more data
    - E.g., given $A \rightarrow B$ and A, infer B
  - **Backward chaining**:
    - Begins with a goal and works backward to find supporting facts
    - E.g., to prove B, check if $A \rightarrow B$ and then prove A
  - **Resolution**:
    - A complete inference rule for propositional and first-order logic
    - Useful in automated theorem proving
  - **Entailment ($KB \models \alpha$)**:
    - Sentence α is entailed by KB if it is true in all models where KB is true

Rule-Based Systems (1/2)

- A rule-based system uses "if-then" rules to derive conclusions or make decisions
  - It mimics human decision-making by applying logical rules to a set of facts
- **Key components**
  - Knowledge base: stores facts and rules
  - Inference engine: applies rules to known facts to infer new facts or take actions
  - Working memory: holds current facts being considered
- **How it works**
  - *Match*: find rules whose conditions match current facts
  - *Conflict resolution*: decide which rule to apply if multiple rules match
  - *Act*: apply the chosen rule to modify facts or trigger actions
  - *Repeat*: continue until no more rules can be applied
  - **E.g.,**
    - *Rule*: If a patient has a fever and a rash, then suggest measles
    - *Fact*: Patient has a fever and a rash
   - *Conclusion*: Suggest measles

Rule-Based Systems (2/2)

- **Pros**
  - Easy to modify and update rules
  - Transparent and explainable reasoning
  - Good when expert knowledge can be clearly articulated
- **Cons**
  - Hard to scale to very large or complex domains
  - Cannot handle uncertainty without extensions (e.g., probabilistic reasoning)
  - Rule conflicts and maintenance can become challenging
- **Applications**
  - Expert systems
    - E.g., medical diagnosis, technical troubleshooting
  - Business rule engines
  - Game AI
  - Tools for legal reasoning

Grounding

- **Grounding**
  - Connect abstract symbols to real-world entities or observations
  - E.g., link `Apple` to the fruit "apple"
  - Make representations meaningful beyond syntax
    - Enable agents to act meaningfully in the real world
    - Avoid purely symbolic manipulation without real-world relevance
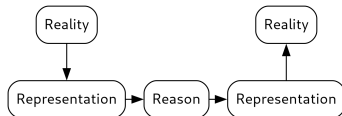
- **Challenges**
  - Noisy, incomplete sensory data
  - Complex, context-dependent mapping from inputs to concepts
- **Applications**
  - Robotics: object recognition, manipulation
  - Natural language understanding
  - Autonomous agents, cognitive systems

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Reflex Agents

- **Reflex agents** act based on the current percept, ignoring percept history
  - Operate using a condition-action rule: *"if condition, then action"*
  - Rely on predefined rules
  - Have no internal state or memory
    - E.g., a thermostat: *"if temperature < threshold, turn on the heater"*
- **Pros**
  - Fast and efficient in well-defined environments
- **Cons**
  - Struggle with complex or partially observable environments
  - Cannot plan ahead or learn from experience
- **Application**
  - Simple or fully observable environments where quick reactions are sufficient

Knowledge-based Agents

- **Intelligence** is achieved by *reasoning* on an internal *representation of knowledge*

- **Knowledge-based agents:**
    - Form representations of a complex world
    - Use inference to derive new representations
    - Deduce actions from new representations
    - Accept tasks as goal descriptions
    - Achieve competence by learning new knowledge
    - Adapt to changes by updating knowledge
    - Utilize a knowledge base to store information
    - Explain actions based on knowledge
        - E.g., medical diagnosis system infers diseases, suggests treatments
        - E.g., chess program uses move database to plan strategy
    - Handle incomplete or uncertain information through probabilistic reasoning

Logic / Knowledge Base (1/2)

- **Knowledge base (KB)** is a set of:
    - **Sentences** α expressing assertions (observed, assumed or derived) about the world
        - E.g., "it rains", "the ground is dry", "the ground is wet"
    - **Rules**
        - E.g, "If it rains, the ground gets wet"

- **Knowledge representation language** is a formal way of creating sentences about the world

- **Syntax** specifies all the sentences α that are well-formed in a logic / knowledge base

    - E.g., in arithmetic the sentence:
        - "$x + y = 4$" is well-formed
        - "$x4y + =$" is not well-formed

- **Semantics** is the meaning of sentences (i.e., their truth) with respect to each possible world

    - E.g., the sentence $x + y = 4$
        - Is true in the world (model) in which $x = 2, y = 2$
        - Is false in the world $x = 1, y = 1$

Logic / Knowledge Base (2/2)

- **Axiom** is a sentence taken as given
  - Not derived from other sentences
- **Inference** is the process of deriving new sentences from old ones
  - It should be done in a "logical" way
- **Truth values** of a sentence
  - In most logics every sentence is either true or false
  - **Fuzzy logic** allows sentences to have different degrees of truth
    - $Belief(\alpha) = 0.5$
  - **Probabilistic logic** allows sentences to have different probability of being true
    - $\Pr(\alpha) = 0.3$

Model and Possible Worlds: Examples

- **Example**: world where there is rain and wet ground
  - In each possible world/model, values are assigned to all relevant variables
  - "Possible worlds" can be thought of as real the environments
  - Model m is a mathematical abstraction of "possible world"
    - E.g., m is ($Rain = F$, $WetGround = T$)
  - Each possible world is a complete assignment of truth values to all relevant propositions
    - World 1: ($Rain = T$, $WetGround = T$)
    - World 2: ($Rain = T$, $WetGround = F$)
    - World 3: ($Rain = F$, $WetGround = T$)
    - World 4: ($Rain = F$, $WetGround = F$)
- **Example**: represent worlds with "men and women sitting at a table"
  - Model represents all possible worlds as (x men, y women)
  - Sentence $x + y = 4$ is true in certain worlds, false in others
  - In worlds with $x = 2$ men and $y = 2$ women, $x + y = 4$ is true

Model

Grounding

Possible worlds
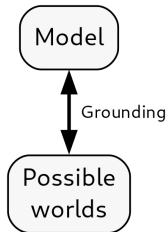
Satisfaction of a Sentence in a Model

- A model m fixes all the variables $x_1, ..., x_n$ used in sentences
  - E.g., $(Rain = T, WetGround = T)$
- If a sentence α is true in model m, we say *"the model m **satisfies** the sentence α"*
  - E.g., the model $(Rain = T, WetGround = F)$ satisfies $\alpha : Rain = T$
  - Note: this seems backwards, since in our common way of reasoning, the world is fixed and sentences are evaluated as true or false
- $M(\alpha)$ is the set of all the models in which α is true
  - E.g.,
    - $\alpha : Rain = T$
    - $M(Rain = T) = \{(Rain, WetGround), (Rain, \neg WetGround)\}$

Logical Entailment

- **Logical entailment** between sentences is the fact that a sentence follows logically from another sentence in a KB

- "α **entails** β" (written $\alpha \models \beta$) iff (by def) in every model in which α is true, β is also true

    - Equivalent to $M(\alpha) \subseteq M(\beta)$

- E.g., in the "rain and wet ground" world

    - α : "$Rain \implies WetGround$" entails β : "$(Rain = T, WetGround = T)$"

- E.g., in the "sitting table" world

    - α: "$x = 0$", β: "$x \cdot y = 0$"
    - α entails β since in any model in which $x = 0$ is true, also $x \cdot y = 0$ is true, regardless of the value of y

- **Intuition**:

    - Entailment is not related to a proof, it just "preserves truth" across all models
    - *"If you believe your KB, you must believe the entailed sentences"*

Logical Entailment vs Implication

- Entailment and implication are related but distinct
  - **Logical entailment** is about truth following from known facts
  - **Implication** is about a relationship between two statements
- **Logical entailment** ($KB \models \alpha$):
  - Means α is always true in any world where KB is true
  - E.g.,
    - KB: "It is raining", "If it rains, the ground is wet"
    - Entailed: "The ground is wet"
- **Implication** ($A \implies B$):
  - A statement in logic that says: "If A is true, then B is true"
    - Doesn't guarantee A or B is true by itself
    - Implication is true unless A is true and B is false
  - E.g.,
    - A: "It is raining", B: "The ground is wet"
    - $A \implies B$ is the statement "If it is raining, then the ground is wet"
    - This statement can be true even if it's not raining
- **Intuition**:
  - Entailment is "meta-level truth-following"
  - Implication is "within the logic"

Model Checking Procedure

- $M(KB)$ represents all the models / possible worlds that are true given our KB

- **Problem**:
    - We want to verify whether "a sentence α is entailed by KB" ($KB \models \alpha$)

- **Solution**:
    - According to the definition, we need to verify that α is true in all the models in which KB is true
        - I.e., $M(KB) \subseteq M(\alpha)$

- E.g., **model checking procedure** (brute force)
    1. Enumerate all the models / possible worlds
    2. Find which models are possible given the KB, i.e., $M(KB)$
    3. Check whether the sentence α is true in all the models that are compatible with the KB

Sound and Complete Inference Algorithm

- Inference: a syntactic process of deriving new sentences from others, using formal rules of a proof system (e.g., modus ponens, resolution, etc.)

  - You know: "If it rains, the ground gets wet."
  - You see: "It is raining."
  - You infer: "The ground must be wet."

- The ideal inference algorithm is both sound and complete

- **Sound** inference algorithm

  - Derives only sentences entailed from KB
  - "Whatever the inference algorithm finds, it's correct", i.e., no false positives
  - E.g., model checking is sound
    - It works only when the space of models is finite
    - When it works, it is truth preserving

- **Complete** inference algorithm

  - Can derive any sentence entailed from KB
  - "The inference algorithm doesn't miss anything," i.e., no false negatives

Isomorphism between Model and Possible Worlds

- A sound and complete inference
  algorithm should yield conclusions
  guaranteed to be true in any world
  where the premises are true
  -
- In other words, even if the inference
  operates on "syntax" (the internal
  representation):
  - "Sentences in the representation"
    correspond to "aspects of the real
    world"
  - "Entailment between sentences in
    the representation" corresponds to
    "implication between aspects of the
    real world"
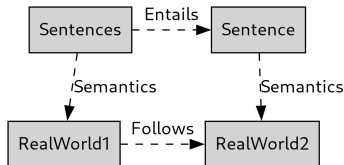
Entailment vs Inference vs Implication

- **Logical entailment**
  - *A* entails *B*: if the fact *A* is true and that automatically guarantees that fact *B* must also be true
  - E.g., *Rain* entails *WetGround* iff in every possible world where *Rain* is true, *WetGround* is also true
    - $Rain = T, WetGround = F \rightarrow$ violation
    - Since there is at least one counterexample, *Rain* does not entail *WetGround*
- **Inference**
  - This is what you (a person or a computer) figure out based on what you know
  - You start with some truths, then reason your way to new truths
  - It's "reasoning inside the logic system"
- **Implication**
  - "If *A*, then *B*"
  - It doesn't say whether A is true; it just says, if it happens, then B follows
  - It's a "statement inside the logic system"

Grounding

- **Grounding** is the operation of linking abstract symbols to reality
  - E.g., words, variables in the representation ... → objects, entities, or situations in the real world
  - It is the bridge between representation in a KB and the world
- How **can we know** that a KB accurately reflects the real world?
  - We can't be sure!
  - Do we live in a simulation? What is reality?
- We **assume** that is correct
  - Agent's sensors create a sentence in the KB when something happens in the real world
    IF smell = burning THEN food_is_burning
  - Agent learns rules and acts
    IF food_is_burning THEN turn_off_stove
- We assume that "learning" (going from particular cases to general cases) is typically correct
  - Learning is still fallible
  - E.g., smell = burning because maybe somebody is cooking on a grill

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Ontologies (in computer science)

- **Ontology:**
  - Is a formal, explicit representation of a domain
  - Describes the types of things that exist and how they relate to each other
    - Classes: types of things
    - Individuals: specific objects
    - Properties: how things are related
- **Examples**:
  - A medical ontology defines relationships between diseases, symptoms, and treatments
  - A geographical ontology describes cities, states, and countries
  - Semantic web (an extension of the current web to give meaning to information)
- **Goal**
  - Provide a vocabulary for a domain of knowledge
  - Enable machines and humans to understand and share information consistently
  - Enable reasoning about entities and their relationships
- **Related Concepts**
  - Schema: database-oriented structure, often more rigid than ontologies
  - Taxonomy: simpler hierarchical tree-like classification
  - Knowledge base: a collection of facts and rules, sometimes built from an ontology

Ontologies: Components

- **Classes / Concepts**:
  - Represent general concepts in a domain
  - E.g., `Person`, `City`, `Car`
- **Individuals / Instances**:
  - Specific, concrete examples of classes
  - E.g., `GP` (an instance of `Person`), `Rome`, `Ferrari 458`
- **Properties / Relations**:
  - Describe interactions or associations between classes or instances
  - E.g., `isMortal`, `locatedIn`, `hasAge`
- **Attributes / Data values**
  - Specify data associated with instances
  - E.g., (`GP`, `hasAge`, `<your_guess>`)
- **Constraints**
  - Rules that restrict the kinds of values a property can take
  - E.g., (`Ferrari 458`, `mustBe`, `red`)
- **Axioms**:
  - Logical statements that define rules and constraints
  - E.g., all humans are mortal: $\forall x(Person(x) \implies Mortal(x))$
- **Hierarchies**:
  - Organize classes and properties into parent-child relationships
  - E.g., `Student` is a subclass of `Person`

Ontology: Example University

- **Classes**
  - `Student`
  - `Professor`
  - `Course`
  - `Department`
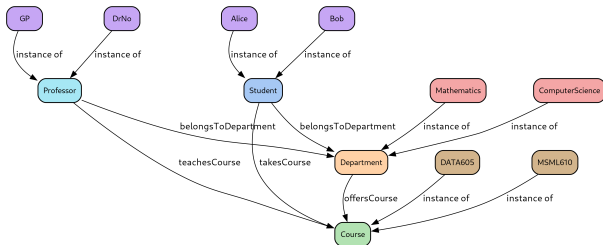
- **Properties**: relationships between Classes
  - `takesCourse (Student → Course)`
  - `teachesCourse (Professor → Course)`
  - `belongsToDepartment (Student, Professor → Department)`
- **Individuals**: examples of Classes
  - `Student`: Alice, Bob
  - `Professor`: GP, DrNo
  - `Course`: DATA605, MSML610
- **Axioms**: logical rules that must be true
  - Every `Course` must be taught by exactly one `Professor`
  - Every `Student` must belong to exactly one `Department`

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Example of Reasoning Tasks (1/4)

- **Subsumption**
  - "Is class `A` a subclass of `B`?"
  - Check whether one concept is more general than another
  - E.g., if `Person` subsumes `Student`, every `Student` is necessarily a `Person`
  - Important for building taxonomies and ontologies
- **Satisfiability**
  - "Can an instance of a concept exist?"
  - Test if a concept is logically consistent (i.e., without contradiction)
  - E.g., if the concept `FlyingPenguin` requires flying but is also defined as a penguin (which cannot fly), it might be not satisfiable
- **Classification**
  - Organize concepts into a hierarchy
  - Automatically organize concepts into a hierarchy by checking subsumption relationships
  - E.g., given definitions of `Animal`, `Bird`, and `Penguin`, classification places `Penguin` under `Bird`, and `Bird` under `Animal`

Example of reasoning tasks in KR (2/4)

- **Instance Checking**
  - "Is a specific individual an instance of a concept?"
  - E.g., is GP an instance of `Student`?
- **Consistency Checking**
  - "Is the entire knowledge base free of contradictions?"
  - E.g., no `Person` is both `Alive` and `Dead` at the same time
- **Realization**
  - "What is the most specific class an instance belongs to?"
  - E.g., discovering that GP is a `Professor` rather than just a `Human`
- **Retrieval**
  - Find all individuals that satisfy a certain condition
  - E.g., retrieve all instances classified as `TeachingAssistant`

Example of reasoning tasks in KR (3/4)

- **Query Answering**
  - Answer complex queries about the knowledge base
  - E.g., "Find all `Person` that study at the university and are not `Student`"
- **Abduction**
  - Given an observation, infer the best explanation
  - E.g., seeing a `Person` carrying a backpack and wearing flip-flops in the snow and infer that is likely a `Student`
- **Deduction**
  - Infer consequences that logically follow from facts and rules
  - E.g., if `John` is a `Student` in `ComputerScience` then he can attend `MSML610`

Example of reasoning tasks in KR (4/4)

- **Belief Revision**
  - Update the knowledge base when new, possibly conflicting, information arrives
  - E.g., learning that not every student in `ComputerScience` can take `MSML610` and revise a previous rule
- **Temporal Reasoning**
  - Reason about events over time
  - E.g., If `EventA` happens before `EventB`, then `EventB` cannot Cause `EventA`
- **Causal Reasoning**
  - Infer causes and effects among entities or events
  - E.g., inferring that (`Storm, Cause, Flooding`) based on temporal and physical knowledge

Ontologies tools: Protege Example

- **Protégé** is a free, open-source platform for building ontologies
  - Developed at Stanford
- **Construct and visualize ontologies**
  - Users can define classes, properties, individuals, and relationships
- **Enable reasoning** over ontologies using plugins
  - E.g., checking consistency, inferring new knowledge

- **Supports**
  - Major ontology languages
    - OWL (Web Ontology Language)
    - RDF (Resource Description Framework)
  - Multiple serialization formats
    - RDF/XML, Turtle, OWL Functional Syntax
- **Use cases**
  - Domain-specific knowledge modeling (e.g., biomedicine, law)
  - Semantic Web applications
  - AI systems that require structured knowledge
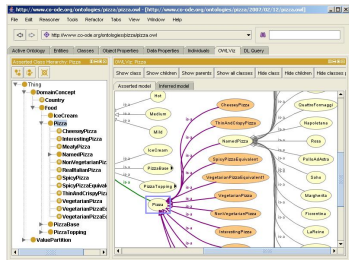
- Knowledge Representation
- ***Propositional logic***
    - Syntax
    - Semantics
- First-order Logic
- Non-classical Logics

- Knowledge Representation
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Propositional Logic

- **Propositional logic** is a formal system for reasoning about statements that can be true or false
  - **Syntax** defines the allowable sentences
    - Consists of proposition symbol and logical connectives
    - E.g., $P \wedge Q$
  - **Semantics** is the way in which the truth of sentences is determined
    - Truth tables or deduction rules evaluate the truth value of complex sentences
    - E.g., if P is true and Q is false then $P \wedge Q$ is false
- **Atomic representation**
  - No internal structure within atomic propositions
- **Uses**
  - SAT solvers
    - Tools for determining if a propositional logic formula can be satisfied
    - E.g., used in hardware verification and scheduling problems
  - Expert systems
    - Use logic rules to mimic human decision-making
    - E.g., medical diagnosis systems
  - Rule-based agents
    - Agents that operate based on a set of predefined rules
    - E.g., automated customer service chatbots

Proposition Symbol

- **Proposition symbol**
  - Is an atomic sentence consisting of a single symbol
    - E.g., P, Q, $North$
  - Doesn't have truth value, it is just a symbol for a real-world statement
    - Needs grounding
  - Stands for a proposition that can be true or false
    - E.g., $K_{E,5} =$ "the Knight is in E5"
    - $K_{E,5}$ is not composed of any other symbol, it is an atomic symbol
- *True* and *False* are proposition symbols with inherent truth values

Sentences

- **Atomic sentence**
  - Is a sentence composed of a single proposition symbol
  - E.g., P
- **Complex sentence**
  - Is constructed from simpler (sentences) using parentheses and logical connectives
  - E.g., $(P \land Q) \lor R$
  - It is a recursive definition that allow to build more complex sentences
- Common logical connectives
  - Not: $\neg$
  - And: $\land$ (looks like an "A" for "and")
  - Or: $\lor$ (comes from Latin "vel" which means "or")
  - Implies: $\implies$
  - If and only if: $\iff$
- Each sentence (atomic or complex) can be only true or false

Proposition Logic: Weather Example

- Proposition symbols are:
  - *Rain* = "it's raining"
  - *Cold* = "it's cold"
  - *Sunny* = "it's sunny"
  - *Snow* = "it's snowing"
  - *Cloudy* = "it's cloudy"
- **Atomic sentence** can be positive or negated
  - E.g., *Rain*, $\neg Rain$ = "it's not raining"
- **Negation**
  - E.g., $\neg(Rain \lor Cloudy)$ = "it's not the case that it's raining or cloudy"
- **Conjunction / Disjunction**
  - E.g., $Rain \land Cold$ = "it's raining and it's cold"
  - E.g., $Rain \lor Snow$ = "it's either raining or snowing"
- **Implication** is a sentence containing a premise $\implies$ conclusion
  - Aka "if-then statements", "rules"
  - E.g., $Rain \implies \neg Snow$ = "if it's raining, it's not snowing"
- **Biconditional**: $A \implies B \land B \implies A$
  - E.g., $Sunny \iff \neg Cloudy$ = "it's sunny if and only if it's not cloudy"

Grammar in BNF form

- **Backus Normal Form** formally represents the grammar of propositional logic
- Ambiguous, i.e., the same sentence can be parsed in multiple ways
  - E.g., $\neg A \vee B = (\neg A) \vee B$ or $\neg(A \vee B)$?
- To eliminate ambiguity define the precedence for each operator
  - E.g., $\neg$ has higher precedence than $\wedge, \vee$ so:
    $\neg A \vee B$ means $(\neg A) \vee B$

$$
\begin{aligned}
\textit{Sentence} \;\rightarrow\;& \textit{AtomicSentence} \mid \textit{ComplexSentence} \\
\textit{AtomicSentence} \;\rightarrow\;& \textit{True} \mid \textit{False} \mid P \mid Q \mid R \mid \ldots \\
\textit{ComplexSentence} \;\rightarrow\;& (\,\textit{Sentence}\,) \\
\mid\;& \neg\,\textit{Sentence} \\
\mid\;& \textit{Sentence} \wedge \textit{Sentence} \\
\mid\;& \textit{Sentence} \vee \textit{Sentence} \\
\mid\;& \textit{Sentence} \Rightarrow \textit{Sentence} \\
\mid\;& \textit{Sentence} \Leftrightarrow \textit{Sentence}
\end{aligned}
$$

OPERATOR PRECEDENCE : $\neg, \wedge, \vee, \Rightarrow, \Leftrightarrow$

- Knowledge Representation
- Propositional logic
    - Syntax
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Semantics of Propositional Logic

- **Semantics** are rules for determining the truth of a sentence α with respect to a model m
  - Determine if a sentence is true or false, given a possible world

- In propositional logic, a model m fixes the truth value (true or false) for every proposition symbol/atomic sentence, e.g.,

- The models are **abstractions** of the real world and have no a-priori connection to a specific world, e.g.,
  - $P_{1,2}$ is just a symbol and can mean:
    - "There is a pit in [1, 2]" or
    - "I'm in Paris today and tomorrow"
  - Need grounding

Computing the Truth Value of a Sentence

- The **truth value of a sentence** is derived from the truth of the proposition symbols (recursively from the model m)

$$m = \{P_{1,2} = F, P_{2,2} = F, P_{3,1} = T\}$$

- All sentences α are constructed from atomic sentences (assigned by model m) and connectives:

  - $\neg P$ is T iff P is F in m
  - $P \wedge Q$ is T iff P and Q are both true in m
  - $P \vee Q$ is T iff P or Q are true in m
  - $P \implies Q$ is true unless P is true and Q is false in m
  - $P \iff Q$ is true iff P and Q are both true or both false in m

- **Truth table** contains truth value of a sentence for each possible model m

  - E.g., $X = A \wedge B \vee C$

A	B	C	X
F	F	F	F
F	F	F	T

    ...

Interpretation of Implication

- In a **logical implication** "$P \implies Q$" there is **no causation** between P and Q

- "$P \implies Q$" says *"If P is true, I claim that Q is true. Otherwise I am making no claim"*

  - E.g., *"5 is odd implies that Tokyo is the capital of Japan"* is a true sentence in propositional logic (although very odd)

- **Pathological cases** for implication

  - An implication is true whenever the antecedent is false
  - E.g., *"5 is even implies pigs fly"* is true

Model Checking is Sound and Complete

- **Model checking algorithm**
  - Enumerate all the models (truth tables)
  - Check if α is true for every model where KB is true
- The model checking algorithm is:
  - **Sound**
    - "Any inference made by the algorithm is correct"
    - Implements the definition of entailment
  - **Complete**
    - "Any true sentence is inferred correctly by the algorithm"
    - Works for any KB and α
    - Always terminates (finite number of models)
- Complexity of model checking with n variables
  - Time complexity is $O(2^n)$ (NP-complete)
    - Worst case is exponential
    - Average case is better than exponential
  - Space complexity is $O(n)$ since enumeration is depth-first

Inference in Propositional Logic

- Inference are the rules of reasoning
  - **Modus Ponens**: if $p \implies q$ and p, infer q
    - If it rains, the ground will be wet. It rains.
    - Therefore, the ground is wet.
  - **Modus Tollens**: if $p \implies q$ and $\neg q$, infer $\neg p$
    - If it rains, the ground will be wet. The ground is not wet.
    - Therefore, it did not rain.
  - **Syllogism (Transitivity)**
    - If $p \implies q$ and $q \implies r$, then $p \implies r$
  - **Disjunctive Syllogism**
    - If $p \lor q$ and $\neg p$, infer q
  - **Addition**: if p, then $p \lor q$
  - **Simplification**: from $p \land q$, infer p (or q)
  - **Conjunction**: from p and kq, infer $p \land q$
  - **Resolution Rule**
    - From $(p \lor q)$ and $(\neg p \lor r)$, infer $(q \lor r)$

Propositional Theorem Proving

- To **prove** a desired sentence α under a knowledge base KB
  - Apply rules of inference to construct a proof of α
  - Any sentence can have only one of the following truth values:
    1. True
    2. False
    3. Undecidable under the KB
- **Theorem proving vs model checking**
  - Model checking involves enumerating all models to show the sentence is true/false in all models where KB is true
  - Propositional theorem proving builds a proof
  - If the proof is short, theorem proving can be more efficient than model checking

Logical Equivalence of Sentences

- Two sentences α and β are logically equivalent $\alpha \equiv \beta$
  - Iff they are true in the same set of models:

  $$M(\alpha) = M(\beta)$$

  - Iff they entail each other:

  $$\alpha \models \beta \wedge \beta \models \alpha$$

- E.g., $P \vee Q \equiv Q \vee P$

Logical Equivalences (1/2)

- Commutativity of $\land$ and $\lor$

$$(\alpha \land \beta) \equiv (\beta \land \alpha)$$

$$(\alpha \lor \beta) \equiv (\beta \lor \alpha)$$

- Associativity of $\land$ and $\lor$

$$(\alpha \land \beta) \land \gamma \equiv \alpha \land (\beta \land \gamma) \equiv \alpha \land \beta \land \gamma$$

$$(\alpha \lor \beta) \lor \gamma \equiv \alpha \lor (\beta \lor \gamma) \equiv \alpha \lor \beta \lor \gamma$$

- Distributivity of $\land$ over $\lor$

$$\alpha \land (\beta \lor \gamma) \equiv (\alpha \land \beta) \lor (\alpha \land \gamma)$$

- Distributivity of $\lor$ over $\land$

$$\alpha \lor (\beta \land \gamma) \equiv (\alpha \lor \beta) \land (\alpha \lor \gamma)$$

- Double negation elimination:

$$\neg(\neg \alpha) \equiv \alpha$$

Logical Equivalences (2/2)

- Contraposition:
$$(\alpha \implies \beta) \equiv (\neg\beta \implies \neg\alpha)$$

- Implication elimination:
$$(\alpha \implies \beta) \equiv (\neg\alpha \vee \beta)$$

- Biconditional elimination:
$$(\alpha \iff \beta) \equiv (\alpha \implies \beta) \wedge (\beta \implies \alpha)$$

- De Morgan equivalence:
$$\neg(\alpha \wedge \beta) \equiv (\neg\alpha \vee \neg\beta)$$
$$\neg(\alpha \vee \beta) \equiv (\neg\alpha \wedge \neg\beta)$$

Deduction theorem

- A **valid sentence** α is true for all the models
  - E.g., $P \lor \neg P$
  - Aka "tautology"
  - Every tautology is equivalent to the sentence *True*
- **Contradiction** is a sentence α that is false for all the models
  - E.g., $P \land \neg P$
  - Every contradiction is equivalent to the sentence *False*
- **Deduction theorem**
  - The sentence α entails β (written $\alpha \models \beta$) iff the sentence $\alpha \implies \beta$ is a tautology
- The deduction theorem is like a **bridge** between two different but closely related ideas:
  - Entailment $\models$ is a semantic notion
    - It's about truth across all models
    - $\alpha\,entails\,\beta$ means in every possible world where α is true, β is also true
  - Implication $\implies$ is a syntactic notion
    - $\alpha \implies \beta$ is just another formula inside the logic

Satisfiability

- A sentence α is **satisfiable** iff α is true for some model

- **SAT problem** is about determining satisfiability of sentence in propositional logic
  - One can enumerate all the possible models until one is found to satisfy the sentence α
  - It is NP-complete

- A sentence α is **un-satisfiable** iff α is never true (i.e., a contradiction)

- **Validity and satisfiability**
  - α is valid (i.e., a tautology) iff $\neg\alpha$ is un-satisfiable
  - By contrapositive, α is satisfiable iff $\neg\alpha$ is not valid ($\neg\alpha$ is not a tautology)

Proof by Contraction

- The sentence $\alpha \models \beta$ is true iff the sentence "$\alpha \vee \neg\beta$)" is un-satisfiable (i.e., a contradiction)

- In other words in a proof by contradiction:
    - Assume α
    - Assume that the sentence β is false
    - Prove that this leads to a contradiction
    - Thus β must be true

Propositional Logic

- E.g., $P \wedge Q$
- **Pros**
  - Declarative
    - Semantics is based on relation between sentences and possible worlds
  - Can deal with partial information
    - E.g., "A white knight is in b1 or in f6" is represented with $WK1_{b1} \vee WK2_{f6}$
  - Compositional semantics
    - The meaning of a sentence is a function of the meaning of its parts
  - Context independent
  - Unambiguous
- **Cons**
  - Can't concisely describe environment with many objects, e.g.,
    - In English *"The pawn is in a cell around b1"* requires all the possible states to be enumerated
  - Can't represent uncertainty
    - *"There is 50% of probability that the pawn is in b1"*

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First-Order Logic (FOL)

- First-order logic (FOL) extends propositional logic by:
  - Introducing **quantifiers** (e.g., $\forall$, $\exists$)
  - Using **predicates** to represent properties and relations
- Combines pros of propositional logic with pros of natural language
  - Built around objects and relations
  - Allows to express facts about some or all objects, e.g.,
    - *"Some humans have green eyes"*
    - *"Chess pieces around the Queen are at risk"*
- FOL provides expressive power to represent structured, relational knowledge

First-Order Logic: Syntax

- **Constants**: represent specific objects
  - E.g., *Socrates*
- **Predicates**: describe properties or relations
  - E.g., *Human(x) = "x is human"*
- **Functions**: map tuples of objects to objects
  - E.g., *Mother(x) = "the mother of x"*
- **Variables**: act as placeholders
  - E.g., *x, y*
- **Quantifiers**
  - E.g., $\forall x$ (for all x), $\exists x$ (there exists an x)

Sentence	$\rightarrow$	*AtomicSentence* | *ComplexSentence*
AtomicSentence	$\rightarrow$	*Predicate* | *Predicate(Term,…)* | *Term = Term*
ComplexSentence	$\rightarrow$	*(Sentence)*
	|	$\neg$ *Sentence*
	|	*Sentence* $\wedge$ *Sentence*
	|	*Sentence* $\vee$ *Sentence*
	|	*Sentence* $\Rightarrow$ *Sentence*
	|	*Sentence* $\Leftrightarrow$ *Sentence*
	|	*Quantifier Variable,… Sentence*
Term	$\rightarrow$	*Function(Term,…)*
	|	*Constant*
	|	*Variable*
Quantifier	$\rightarrow$	$\forall$ | $\exists$
Constant	$\rightarrow$	*A* | X_1 | *John* | $\cdots$
Variable	$\rightarrow$	*a* | *x* | *s* | $\cdots$
Predicate	$\rightarrow$	*True* | *False* | *After* | *Loves* | *Raining* | $\cdots$
Function	$\rightarrow$	*Mother* | *LeftLeg* | $\cdots$
OPERATOR PRECEDENCE	:	$\neg, =, \wedge, \vee, \Rightarrow, \Leftrightarrow$

Sentences

- **Term** is a logical expression that refers to an object
  - E.g., *Richard*

- **Atomic sentence** is a predicate symbol (i.e., corresponds to relations) followed by a list of terms in parenthesis *Predicate*(*Term*1, *Term*2, ...)
  - E.g., *Brother*(*Richard*, *John*) means *"Richard is the brother of John"*, under a given grounding / interpretation,
  - E.g., *Married*(*Father*(*Richard*), *Mother*(*John*)) means *"the father of Richard and the mother of John are married"*

- **Complex sentence** is a sentence using logical connectives complex, with the same syntax and semantics as in propositional logic

- **Variable** is a term that represents a possible object
  - Typically represented as lowercase letter (e.g., *x*, *y*, *z*)
  - Can be used as argument of a function, e.g., *LeftLeg*(*x*)

- **Equality symbol** signifies that two terms refer to the same object
  - E.g., *Father*(*John*) = *Henry*

Quantifiers

- **Quantifiers** express properties of entire collections of objects, instead of enumerating objects by name (like in propositional logic)

- **Universal quantifier**: $\forall x \, P(x)$

  - Universal quantifier makes a statement about *every* object
  - Statement is true if $P(x)$ is true for all x

- **Existential quantifier**: $\exists x \, P(x)$

  - Existential quantifier makes a statement about *some* object (without naming it)
  - Statement is true if $P(x)$ is true for at least one x

- Variables are **bound** by quantifiers or **free** (unbound)

  - E.g., $\forall x (Cat(x) \rightarrow Mammal(x))$

Nested Quantifiers

- More complex sentences can be expressed using **multiple quantifiers**
  - The order of quantifiers is important, so one can use parentheses to clarify
- **Example**:
  - *"Brothers are siblings"*: $\forall x, y \; Brother(x, y) \implies Sibling(x, y)$
  - Siblings is a symmetric relationship: $\forall x, y \; Sibling(x, y) \iff Sibling(y, x)$
  - *"Everybody loves somebody"*: $\forall x \; \exists y \; Loves(x, y)$
  - *"There is someone loved by everyone"*: $\exists y \; \forall x \; Loves(x, y)$

Connection between $\forall$ and $\exists$

- The universal and existential quantifiers are **connected** through negation and De Morgan rules

$$\forall x \, \neg P(x) \iff \neg \exists x : P(x)$$

$$\neg(\forall x \, P(x)) \iff \exists x \neg P(x)$$

$$\forall x \, P(x) \iff \neg \exists x \neg P(x)$$

$$\exists x \, P(x) \iff \neg(\forall x \, \neg P(x))$$

- Knowledge Representation
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First-order Logic: Semantics

- **Semantics** define how sentences are interpreted in a domain

- Symbols represent entities, relationships, and functions in the domain

  - **Constant symbols** represent specific objects
    - E.g., *Alice*, *GP*, *CS*101
  - **Predicate symbols** represent relationships among objects
    - E.g., *EnrolledIn*(*Student*, *Class*), *Teaches*(*Professor*, *Class*), *IsStudent*(*x*), *IsProfessor*(*x*)
  - **Function symbols** represent mappings between objects
    - E.g., *AdvisorOf*(*Student*), *DepartmentOf*(*Professor*)

- An **interpretation** maps the world to its mathematical description, and vice versa

  - There are many possible interpretations
  - The intended interpretation is the one that is the most natural
  - E.g., map the symbol *GP* → me
  - $\forall x$ (*Human*(*x*) → *Mortal*(*x*)) means that every human is mortal

Representing Knowledge in FOL

- FOL enables representation of:
  - General rules: $\forall x \, (Bird(x) \rightarrow CanFly(x))$
  - Specific facts: $Bird(Tweety)$
- Complex relations captured through predicates:
  - $Loves(Romeo, Juliet)$, $GreaterThan(3, 2)$
- Functions express object construction:
  - $FatherOf(John)$
- Knowledge base is built from axioms and facts
- Enables reasoning about objects, properties, and their relationships

First-Order Logic: Inference

- **Goal**: derive new sentences from existing ones using sound rules

  - **Universal Instantiation**:
    - From $\forall x\, P(x)$ infer $P(c)$ for any constant c
  - **Existential Instantiation**:
    - From $\exists x\, P(x)$ infer $P(c)$ with a new constant c
  - Standard propositional logic rules such as Modus Ponens, Modus Tollens, Resolution, etc., also apply within FOL
    - Modus ponens: from P and $P \implies Q$, infer Q

- FOL inference is semi-decidable:

  - If a sentence is entailed, a proof can be found
  - If not entailed, proof search may not terminate

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  - Intro and Examples
  - Description Logics
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Ontological Commitment

- **Ontological commitments** are assumptions about reality made by a language

- Different formal models make **different assumptions** on how the truth of sentences is defined

  - Propositional logic:
    - The world consists of facts that are either true or false
    - E.g., $P \vee Q$
  - First-order logic:
    - The world consists of objects with relations among them that hold or do not hold
    - $\forall x : Human(x) \implies Mortal(x)$
  - Temporal logic:
    - Facts about objects and relations hold at particular times or intervals
  - Higher-order logic:
    - Relations of first-order logic are objects themselves
    - E.g., can make assertions about relations (e.g., "all relations are transitive")

Epistemological Commitment

- **Epistemological commitment** is a possible states of knowledge by an agent with respect to each fact (i.e., belief), e.g.,
    - Propositional logic, first-order logic
        - 3 possible states of belief regarding any sentence: true, false, or unknown
    - Probability theory
        - There is a degree of belief in [0, 1] about each sentence
        - $\Pr(X = 6) = 0.3$
- Ontological commitment = what exists in the world
- Epistemological commitment = what an agent believes about facts

Non-monotonic Logic

- **Non-monotonic logic** is a type of logic where adding new information can invalidate previous conclusions

- Monotonic (classical) vs non-monotonic logic

    - In classical logic, once something is proven, it stays proven even if more information is added
    - In non-monotonic logic, conclusions can change as new facts are learned

- **E.g.,**

    - Initial knowledge: *"Birds typically fly"*
    - Fact: *"Tweety is a bird"*
    - Conclusion: *"Tweety can fly"*
    - New fact: *"Tweety is a penguin"*
    - Fact: *"penguins are birds that can't fly"*
    - Revised conclusion: *"Tweety cannot fly"*

- E.g., "Swans are white birds" and then black swans are discovered

- Real-world situations often involve incomplete or evolving knowledge

    - Non-monotonic logic allows systems to reason flexibly and adapt to new circumstances

Default Reasoning

- **Default reasoning** is reasoning where assumptions are made by default in the absence of contrary evidence
    - It allows conclusions based on typical situations unless exceptions are found
    - Relates to "common sense"
- **Key idea**
    - Assume the most likely case unless specified otherwise
    - If new information contradicts the assumption, revise the conclusion
- **E.g.,**
    - Default rule: *"Typically, birds can fly"*
    - Fact: *"Tweety is a bird"*
    - Conclusion: *"Tweety can fly"*
    - New fact: *"Tweety is a penguin"*
    - Revised conclusion: "Tweety cannot fly"
- **Why it is useful**
    - Default reasoning allows systems to function reasonably without knowing everything

Non-Monotonic Logic: University Example

- **Initial facts**
  - *Alice* is a *Student*
  - *Alice* belongs to the *ComputerScience* department
  - *CS*101 is a *Course* offered by the *ComputerScience* department
  - Default rule: *Students* in the *ComputerScience* department take classes in their department
- **Initial reasoning**
  - Since *Alice* is a *Student* in *ComputerScience*, by default *Students* take *CS*101
  - Conclusion: *Alice takesCourse CS*101
- **New information**
  - *Alice* is a student who does not meet the prerequisites for *CS*101
- **Revised reasoning**
  - New conclusion: *Alice* does not *takeCourse CS*101

Common Sense Reasoning

- **Common sense reasoning** is the ability to make assumptions, draw conclusions based on everyday knowledge about the world
  - Involves typical, unstated knowledge that humans take for granted, e.g.,
    - *"If you drop a glass, it will likely break"*
    - Knowing that *"people eat food when they are hungry"* without being explicitly told
- **Characteristics**
  - Deals with incomplete, uncertain, or ambiguous information
  - Relies on defaults, heuristics, and typical patterns rather than strict logical proofs
  - Often flexible and tolerant of exceptions
- **Challenges**
  - Common sense knowledge is vast, informal, and often not precisely defined
  - Difficult to encode all of it explicitly in a machine-readable form
  - Handling exceptions and contradictions is complex
- **Techniques**
  - Knowledge graphs
  - Non-monotonic logic
  - Probabilistic reasoning
  - Machine learning models trained on large, diverse data

Common Sense Reasoning: University Example

- **Initial facts**
  - *Alice* is a *Student*
  - *Bob* is a *Student*
  - *CS*101 is a *Course* offered by the *ComputerScience* department
- **Common sense knowledge**
  - *Students* typically *Enroll* in *Courses* offered by their *Department*
  - *Students* usually *attend Course* they are enrolled in
  - *Professors* usually teach the *Courses* they are assigned
- **Reasoning steps**
  - *Alice* belongs to the *ComputerScience* department
  - *CS*101 is offered by the *ComputerScience* department
  - Common sense suggests *Alice* is likely enrolled in *CS*101, even if enrollment is not explicitly stated
  - Therefore, it is reasonable to assume "*Alice takesCourse CS*101"
- **New information**
  - *Alice* is pursuing research only and not taking courses
  - The assumption that *Alice takesCourse CS*101 must be revised

Open World vs Closed World Assumptions

- **Closed World Assumption (CWA)**
  - Missing information is false
  - E.g.,
    - Fact: *"Alice takes CS101"* is known
    - Nothing is said about Bob
    - Under CWA: Conclude Bob does not take CS101
- **Open World Assumption (OWA)**
  - Missing information is unknown, not false
  - E.g.,
    - Fact: *"Alice takes CS101"* is known
    - Nothing is said about Bob
    - Under OWA: Can't conclude if Bob takes CS101 or not it is unknown
- **Applications**
  - CWA
    - Traditional relational databases (SQL)
    - Logic programming
    - Business rules and systems requiring complete data
  - OWA
    - Semantic Web (RDF, OWL)
    - Knowledge representation with incomplete or growing data

Inductive Logic Programming

- **Inductive logic programming**
  - Learns logical rules from examples and commonsense knowledge
  - Given positive and negative examples, and background facts, infer logical rules that explain the examples
- **Example**
  - Commonsense knowledge: *"Birds have wings"*
  - Positive example: *"Tweety is a bird that can fly"*
  - Negative example: *"Penguin cannot fly"*
  - Learned rule: *"Birds can fly unless they are penguins"*
- **Features**
  - Produces human-readable logical rules
  - Integrates learning with symbolic reasoning
  - Supports background knowledge integration
- **Challenges**
  - Computational complexity with large datasets
  - Handling noisy, incomplete, or ambiguous data

- Knowledge Representation
- Propositional logic
- First-order Logic
- Non-classical Logics
  - Intro and Examples
  - *Description Logics*
  - Semantic Web

Description Logic

- **Description logic**
  - Represents structured knowledge about a domain
  - Balances expressivity and computational efficiency
  - More expressive than propositional logic, less than first-order logic
- **Core building blocks:**
  - Classes: abstract groups
    - E.g., *Person*, *Animal*
  - Properties: binary relations between individuals
    - E.g., *hasChild*, *ownsPet*
  - Instances: specific objects
    - E.g., *GP*, *Nuvolo*
- Supports reasoning tasks such as:
  - Concept subsumption: *"Is class A a subset of class B?"*
  - Instance checking: *"Does instance a belong to class A?"*
- **Syntax often combines:**
  - Atomic concepts and roles
  - Logical constructors ($\sqcap$, $\sqcup$, $\neg$, $\forall$, $\exists$)
  - E.g.,
    - *Father* $\equiv$ *Man* $\sqcap$ $\exists$*hasChild*.*Person*
- Widely used in ontologies, e.g., OWL (Web Ontology Language)

ALC

- **Attributive Concept Language with Complements (ALC)** is a basic but expressive description logic
  - Concepts can be combined using logical operators, e.g.,
    - $\sqcap$ means "and"
    - $\sqcup$ means "or"
    - $\neg$ means "not"
  - Allows for existential and universal quantification, e.g., $\exists R.C$, $\forall R.C$
  - Interpretation is set-theoretic
    - Classes as sets, properties as binary relations
- **Examples**
  - *"All students take some course"*: Student $\equiv \exists$takes.Course
  - *"A mother is a woman who has at least one child"*:
    Mother $\equiv$ Woman $\sqcap \exists$hasChild.$\top$
- ALC:
  - Is decidable
  - Balances expressiveness and computational complexity
  - Is the basis for more complex logics used in OWL

SHOIN

- **SHOIN** is a description logic more expressive than ALC

- Components:
  - $\mathcal{S}$: Allows transitive properties
    - E.g., *ancestorOf* is transitive
  - $\mathcal{H}$: Supports role hierarchies
    - E.g., *hasSon* $\sqsubseteq$ *hasChild*
  - $\mathcal{O}$: Introduces specific individuals
    - E.g., *John* is a nominal class
  - $\mathcal{I}$: Enables roles to be navigated backward
    - E.g., *isChildOf* is inverse of *hasChild*
  - $\mathcal{N}$: Sets cardinality constraints
    - E.g., *"has exactly 1 children"*

- **Examples**
  - *"Exactly two children"*: *Person* $\sqsubseteq (= 2\ hasChild.\top)$

- **Characteristics**
  - More powerful but reasoning is harder (exponential complexity)
  - Model richer real-world scenarios
  - Foundation for OWL DL reasoning capabilities

OWL

- **Web Ontology Language (OWL)**:
  - "OWL" easier to pronounce than "WOL"
  - Semantic web language designed to represent complex knowledge about things and their relationships
  - Enables rich knowledge representation on the web (based on SHOIN)
  - Supports formal semantics for machine reasoning
  - Key constructs:
    - Classes, properties, individuals, axioms
- **Example**
  - "Every cat is a mammal": $Cat \sqsubseteq Mammal$
- **OWL variants**:
  - OWL Lite: simpler, for classification hierarchies
  - OWL DL: full expressiveness with decidable reasoning
  - OWL Full: maximum expressiveness, but undecidable
- **Applications**
  - Semantic search
  - Biomedical data

Example of OWL in RDF
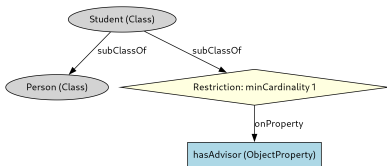

```
1.  ```
2.  <rdf:RDF xmlns:rdf="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#"
3.           xmlns:owl="http://www.w3.org/2002/07/owl#"
4.           xmlns:rdfs="http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#"
5.           xmlns:ex="http://example.org/">
6.    <owl:Class rdf:about="http://example.org/Person"/>
7.    <owl:Class rdf:about="http://example.org/Student">
8.      <rdfs:subClassOf rdf:resource="http://example.org/Person"/>
9.      <rdfs:subClassOf>
10.       <owl:Restriction>
11.         <owl:onProperty rdf:resource="http://example.org/hasAdvisor"/>
12.         <owl:minCardinality rdf:datatype="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#nonNegat
13.           1
14.         </owl:minCardinality>
15.       </owl:Restriction>
16.     </rdfs:subClassOf>
17.   </owl:Class>
18.   <owl:ObjectProperty rdf:about="http://example.org/hasAdvisor"/>
19. </rdf:RDF>
20.  ```
```

RDF (Resource Description Framework)

- **Resource Description Framework (RDF)** is a standard model for data interchange on the web
  - Represent structured information in a machine-readable way

- **Basic building block** is a triple:
  - *Subject*: the entity being described, e.g., Nuvolo
  - *Predicate*: the property or relationship, e.g., isA
  - *Object*: the value or another entity, e.g., Dog

Subject	Predicate	Object
Book123	hasTitle	"The Great Gatsby"
Book123	hasAuthor	Author456
Author456	hasName	"F. Scott Fitzgerald"
Book123	publishedYear	"1925"
Book123	belongsToGenre	"Fiction"

- **Key Features**:
  - Statements are directed graphs of nodes and edges
  - Components are URIs (Uniform Resource Identifiers) to ensure global uniqueness or literals
    - E.g., http://example.org/Nuvolo

- **Use Cases**:
  - Building knowledge graphs
  - Enabling semantic search
  - Supporting ontologies (e.g., OWL)

SPARQL

- SPARQL is the query language for RDF data
  - Allows users to retrieve and manipulate data stored in RDF format
- **Key Concepts**:
  - *Triple Patterns*: Query fragments that match triples in an RDF graph
  - *Basic Graph Pattern*: A set of triple patterns combined
  - *Variables*: Stand in for unknown parts of the triples
    - E.g., ?person, ?animal
- **Main Query Types**:
  - SELECT: Retrieve specific variables from the data
  - CONSTRUCT: Create new RDF triples based on query results
  - ASK: Return a boolean indicating whether a pattern exists
  - DESCRIBE: Return an RDF graph describing resources
- **Example**:
  - *"Find all resources that are of type Bird"*
    SELECT ?animal WHERE { ?animal rdf:type ex:Bird }

- Knowledge Representation
- Propositional logic
- First-order Logic
- Non-classical Logics
    - Intro and Examples
   - Description Logics
    - *Semantic Web*

Semantic Web

- The **Semantic Web** extends the current Web by enabling machines to understand and interpret data
  - HTML is human-readable but lacks semantic structure for computers
  - The Semantic Web adds meaning / semantics to data
  - Allow better data integration, automation, and discovery across sites
- **Key Technologies**
  - RDF (Resource Description Framework): base data model
  - SPARQL: query language for RDF data
  - OWL (Web Ontology Language): define rich ontologies
- **Current Status**
  - Some core ideas (e.g., structured data and ontologies) are widely adopted
  - Full vision remains only partially realized
- **Challenges**
  - Complexity of widespread adoption
  - Issues around privacy, data ownership, and feasibility
  - Need for standardization and tools
- **Criticism**
  - Skepticism about practicality and scalability
  - Concerns about centralization and censorship

WikiData

- **WikiData** is a free, open, collaborative knowledge base
  - Stores structured data for Wikipedia
  - Accessible via APIs using SPARQL queries
- **Graph-based data model**
  - *Item*: represents an entity or concept
    - Q42 → Douglas Adams
  - *Property*: describes a relationship or attribute
    - P31 (instance of), P27 (country of citizenship)
  - *Value*: specific data linked to an item via a property
    - Q42 (Douglas Adams) → P31 (instance of) → Q5 (human)
    - Q42 → P106 (occupation) → Q36180 (science fiction writer)
  - *Reference*: supports a claim by citing a source
    - Stating Douglas Adams's citizenship with a reference to a biography
  - *Qualifier*: adds context or additional information to a statement
    - Q90 (Paris) → P1082 (population) → "2,165,423"
    - With qualifier: P585 (point in time) → "2021"
    - Meaning: "The population of Paris was 2,165,423 in the year 2021"
- **Applications:**
  - Knowledge graph
  - Semantic search
  - AI reasoning
  - Data enrichment

DBPedia

- **DBpedia** extracts structured content from Wikipedia
  - Creates a large-scale, multilingual knowledge graph for querying
  - Data is extracted as RDF triples *(Subject, Predicate, Object)*
    - E.g., "Berlin" entity linked with properties like `dbo:country` `Germany`, `dbo:populationTotal` `3.5M`
  - Enables semantic queries over Wikipedia data via SPARQL endpoints
- **Applications**
  - Semantic Web
 - Enhancing AI models with real-world knowledge
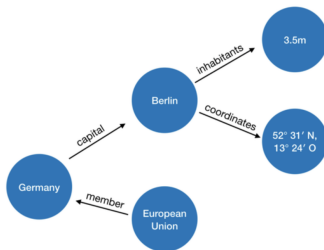
Semantic Networks

- **Semantic Networks** represent knowledge as graphs of concepts and relations
  - Nodes represent concepts
  - Edges represent relations (e.g., "is-a", "part-of")
    - E.g., if a `Dog` is an `Animal`, it inherits `Animal` traits
  - Examples: WordNet, ConceptNet
- **Pros**
  - Easy to visualize and traverse
  - Support reasoning
  - Common in early AI systems and current KG applications

WordNet

- **WordNet** is a large lexical database of English words
  - Models semantic relationships between words
  - Manually curated for high-quality semantic relations
  - Incomplete for domain-specific language
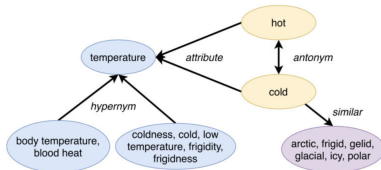
- **Graph** with synsets as nodes and relations as edges
  - *Synsets* are sets of synonyms expressing a distinct concepts
    - E.g., {car, automobile} share the same synset
  - *Relations* between synsets
    - Is-a relationships (e.g., Dog is a type of Animal)
    - Part-whole relationships (e.g., Wheel is a part of Car)
    - Opposite meanings
- **Applications**
  - Word sense disambiguation: choose correct word meaning in context
  - Semantic similarity measures: assess concept closeness
 - Information retrieval and question answering systems

ConceptNet

- **ConceptNet** is a large knowledge graph
  - Connects words and phrases with labeled semantic relationships
  - Represents commonsense knowledge about the world

- **Structure**
  - Nodes: concepts (words or phrases)
  - Edges: semantic relationships
    between concepts, e.g.,
    - *IsA*: (dog, animal)
    - *PartOf*: (wheel, car)
    - *UsedFor*: (knife, cutting)
    - *CapableOf*: (bird, fly)
    - *Causes*: (fire, smoke)
  - E.g., (bicycle, UsedFor,
    transportation)

- **Applications**
  - Natural language understanding
  - Question answering and chatbots
  - Commonsense reasoning in AI
  - Semantic search and recommendation systems
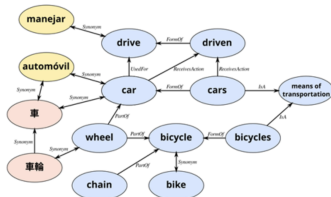
Knowledge Graphs

- Knowledge Graphs (KGs) represent entities and their relationships as a graph structure
  - Nodes = entities
  - Edges = relations
  - E.g., "Paris → isCapitalOf → France"
- Query languages like SPARQL allow expressive information retrieval
- KGs support reasoning via path traversal and schema inference
- Applications:
  - Question answering
  - Recommendation
  - Semantic search
- Widely used by Google, Facebook, and academic search engines

Knowledge Graph: University Example