Inference in first-order logic

CE417: Introduction to Artificial Intelligence Sharif University of Technology Spring 2016

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"Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach", 3rd Edition, Chapter 9

Outline

- Reducing first-order inference to propositional inference
 - Potentially great expense
- Lifting inference (direct inference in FOL)
 - Unification
 - Generalized Modus Ponens
 - KB of Horn clauses
 - Forward chaining
 - Backward chaining
 - General KB
 - Resolution

FOL to PL

- FOL to PL conversion
 - First order inference by converting the knowledge base to PL and using propositional inference.
- ▶ How to remove universal and existential quantifiers?
 - Universel Instantiation
 - Existential Instantiation

Universal instantiation (UI)

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

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

- ▶ Example, α : $\forall x \, King(x) \land Greedy(x) \Rightarrow Evil(x)$
 - \blacktriangleright Subst($\{x/John\}, \alpha$)
 - $ightharpoonup King(John) \wedge Greedy(John) \Rightarrow Evil(John)$
 - \triangleright Subst($\{x/Richard\}, \alpha$)
 - $ightharpoonup King(Richard) \land Greedy(Richard) \Rightarrow Evil(Richard)$
 - \triangleright Subst($\{x/Father(John)\}, \alpha$)
 - $ightharpoonup King(Father(John)) \wedge Greedy(Father(John)) \Rightarrow Evil(Father(John))$

Existential instantiation (EI)

For any sentence α , variable v, and a <u>new constant symbol</u> k:

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

- ▶ Example, α : $\exists x \ Crown(x) \land OnHead(x, John)$
 - Subst($\{x/C_1\}, \alpha$)
 - $ightharpoonup Crown(C_1) \land OnHead(C_1, John)$
 - \triangleright C_1 is a new constant symbol, called a Skolem constant
- ▶ El can be applied one time (existentially quantified sentence can be discarded after it)

Reduction to propositional inference: Example

- KB of FOL sentences:
 - $\forall x \ King(x) \land Greedy(x) \Rightarrow Evil(x)$
 - King(John)
 - Greedy(John)
 - Brother(Richard, John)
 - $\exists x \ Crown(x) \land OnHead(x, John)$
- A universally quantified sentence is replaced by all possible instantiations & an existentially quantified sentence by one instantiation:
 - $ightharpoonup King(John) \wedge Greedy(John) \Rightarrow Evil(John)$
 - $ightharpoonup King(Richard) \wedge Greedy(Richard) \Rightarrow Evil(Richard)$
 - King(John)
 - Greedy(John)
 - Brother(Richard, John)
 - $ightharpoonup Crown(C_1) \land OnHead(C_1, John)$

Propositionalization

- Every FOL KB and query can be propositionalized
 - Algorithms for deciding PL entailment can be used
- Problem: infinitely large set of sentences
 - Infinite set of possible ground-term substitution due to function symbols
 - e.g., Father(... Father(Father(John)))
- Solution:
 - Theorem (Herbrand, 1930): If a sentence α is entailed by an FOL KB, it can be entailed by a finite subset of its propositionalized KB

```
for n = 0 to \infty do
```

Generate all instantiations with depth n nested symbols if α is entailed by this KB then return true

Propositionalization (Cont.)

- Problem: When procedure go on and on, we will not know whether it is stuck in a loop or the proof is just about to pop out
- Theorem (Turing-1936, Church-1936): Deciding entailment for FOL is semidecidable
 - Algorithms exist that say yes to every entailed sentence, but no algorithm exists that also says no to every non-entailed sentence.

Propositionalization is inefficient

- Generates lots of irrelevant sentences
- Example:
 - □ $King(Richard) \land Greedy(Richard) \Rightarrow Evil(Richard)$ is irrelevant.

 KB

```
\forall x \ King(x) \land Greedy(x) \Rightarrow Evil(x)
King(John)
Greedy(John)
Brother(Richard, John)
```

Query

Evil(x)

- $\blacktriangleright p$ k-ary predicates and n constants
 - $p \times n^k$ instantiations

Lifting & Unification

- Lifting: raising inference rules or algorithms from ground (variable-free) PL to FOL.
 - ▶ E.g., generalized Modus Ponens
- Unification: Lifted inference rules require finding substitutions that make different expressions looks identical.
 - Instantiating variables only as far as necessary for the proof.
- ▶ All variables are assumed universally quantified.

Unification: Simple example

Example: Infer immediately when finding a substitution θ such that King(x) and Greedy(x) match King(John) and Greedy(y)

```
KB
\forall x \ King(x) \land Greedy(x) \Rightarrow Evil(x)
King(John)
\forall y \ Greedy(y)
Brother(Richard, John)
Query
Evil(x)
```

Unification: examples

▶ $UNIFY(p,q) = \theta$ where $Subst(\theta,p) = Subst(\theta,q)$

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

Unification: examples

▶ $UNIFY(p,q) = \theta$ where $Subst(\theta,p) = Subst(\theta,q)$

p	q	θ
Knows(John, x)	Knows(John, Jane)	{x/Jane}
Knows(John, x)	Knows(y, Bill)	$\{x/Bill, y/John\}$
Knows(John, x)	Knows(y, Mother(y))	$\{x/Mother(John), y/John\}$
Knows(John, x)	Knows(x, Elizabeth)	fail

Unification: complications

- Complications
 - Two sentences using the <u>same variable name</u>
 - Standardizing apart: renaming the variables causing name clashes in one of sentences
 - More than one unifier
 - Most General Unifier (MGU)

p	q	θ
Knows(John, x)	Knows(x, Elizabeth)	fail
Knows(John, x)	$Knows(x_2, Elizabeth)$	$\{x/Elizabeth, x_2/John\}$

Unification (MGU)

- $\blacktriangleright UNIFY(Knows(John,x),Knows(y,z))$
 - $\theta_1 = \{y/John, \ x/z \}$
 - $\theta_2 = \{y/John, x/John, z/John\}$
 - $m heta_1$ is more general
- There is a single most general unifier (MGU) that is unique up to renaming of variables.

Generalized Modus Ponens (GMP)

For atomic sentences p_i , p_i' , q & $Subst(\theta, p_i') = Subst(\theta, p_i)$ for all i

$$\frac{p'_1, p'_2, \dots, p'_n, (p_1 \land p_2 \land \dots \land p_n \Rightarrow q)}{Subst(\theta, q)}$$

```
p'_1: King(John) p_1: King(x)

p'_2: Greedy(y) p_2: Greedy(x)

q: Evil(x)

\theta = \{x/John, y/John\}
```

 $Subst(\theta, q)$ is Evil(John)

KB $King(x) \land Greedy(x) \Rightarrow Evil(x)$ King(John) Greedy(y)...

Query Evil(x)

GMP is sound

$$\frac{p_1', p_2', \dots, p_n', (p_1 \land p_2 \land \dots \land p_n \Rightarrow q)}{Subst(\theta, q)}$$

▶ Universal instantiation: $p \models Subst(\theta, p)$

1)
$$\frac{p'_1 \wedge ... \wedge p'_n}{Subst(\theta, p'_1) \wedge ... \wedge Subst(\theta, p'_n)}$$

2)
$$\frac{p_1 \land p_2 \land ... \land p_n \Rightarrow q}{Subst(\theta, p_1) \land ... \land Subst(\theta, p_n) \Rightarrow Subst(\theta, q)}$$

3) $Subst(\theta, q)$ follows by Modus Ponens since we have $Subst(\theta, p'_i) = Subst(\theta, p_i)$.

Unification algorithm

```
function UNIFY(x, y, \theta) returns a substitution to make x and y identical
  inputs:
             x, a variable, a constant, list, or compound expression
             y, a variable, a constant, list, or compound expression
             \theta, the substitution built up so far (optional, defaults to empty)
  if \theta = failure then return failure
  else if x = y then return \theta
  else if VARIABLE? (x) then return UNIFY_VAR(x, y, \theta)
  else if VARIABLE? (y) then return UNIFY_VAR(y, x, \theta)
  else if COMPOUND?(x) and COMPOUND?(y) then
     return UNIFY(x. ARGS, y. ARGS, UNIFY(x. OP, y. OP, \theta))
  else if LIST? (x) and LIST? (y) then
     return UNIFY(x. REST, y. REST, UNIFY(x. FIRST, y. FIRST, \theta))
  else return failure
```

Unification algorithm

```
function UNIFY_VAR(var, x, \theta) returns a 

if \{var/val\} \in \theta then return UNIFY(val, x, \theta)

else if \{x/val\} \in \theta then return UNIFY(var, val, \theta)

else if OCCUR_CHECK? (var, x) then return failure

else return add \{var/x\} to \theta
```

KB of definite clauses

- Definite clause: disjunctions of literals of which exactly one is positive.
 - Atomic: P_1 , P_2 , ...
 - ▶ Implication: $(P_1 \land P_2 \land ... \land P_k) \Rightarrow P_{k+1}$
- First order definite clause examples:
 - $ightharpoonup King(x) \land Greedy(x) \Rightarrow Evil(x)$
 - King(John)
 - Brother(John, Richard)

• "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."

Question: Prove that Colonel West is a criminal

"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."

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

"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."

Enemy(Nono, America)

• "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."

 $\exists x \ Owns(Nono, x) \land Missile(x)$

 $Owns(Nono, M_1) \land Missile(M_1)$

• "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."

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

• "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."

American(West)

"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."

We need to know missiles are weapons:

```
Missile(x) \Rightarrow Weapon(x)
```

We need to know an enemy of America counts as "hostile":

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

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

Enemy(Nono, America)

 $Owns(Nono, M_1) \land Missile(M_1)$

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

American(West)

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

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

FC algorithm

```
function FOL_FC_ASK(KB, \alpha) returns a substitution or false
    inputs: KB, a set of first-order definite clauses
               \alpha, the query, an atomic sentence
    repeat until new = \{\}
       new = \{\}
       for each rule in KB do
           (p_1 \land \dots \land p_n \Rightarrow q) \leftarrow \text{STANDARDIZE\_VARS}(rule)
           for each \theta such that SUBST(\theta, p_1 \land \cdots \land p_n) = SUBST(\theta, p'_1 \land \cdots \land p'_n)
                          for some p'_1, \dots, p'_n in KB
               q' \leftarrow SUBST(\theta, q)
               if q' does not unify with some sentence already in KB or new then
                  add q' to new
                   \varphi \leftarrow \text{UNIFY}(q', \alpha)
                   if \varphi is not fail then return \varphi
       add new to KB
    return false
```

FC: example

Known facts



American(West)

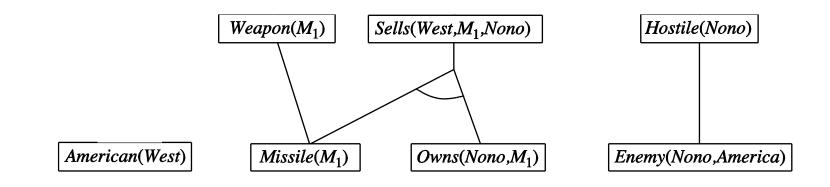
 $Missile(M_1)$

 $Owns(Nono,M_1)$

| Enemy(Nono,America)

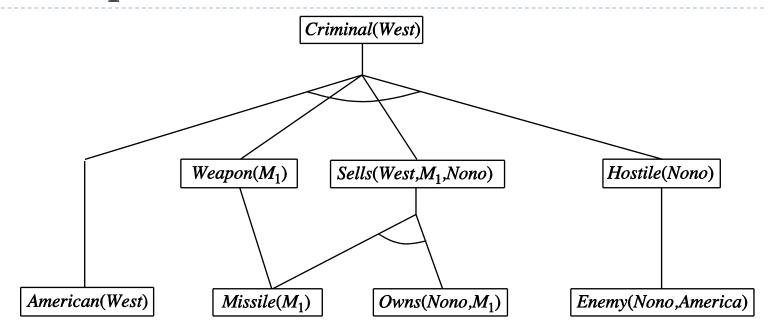
- 1) American(West)
- 2) $Owns(Nono, M_1) \land Missile(M_1)$
- 3) Enemy(Nono, America)
- 4) $Missile(x) \land Owns(Nono, x) \Rightarrow Sells(West, x, Nono)$
- 5) $American(x) \land Weapon(y) \land Sells(x, y, z) \land Hostile(z) \Rightarrow Criminal(x)$
- 6) $Missile(x) \Rightarrow Weapon(x)$
- 7) $Enemy(x, America) \Rightarrow Hostile(x)$

FC: example



- 1) $Missile(x) \land Owns(Nono, x) \Rightarrow Sells(West, x, Nono)$ $\{x/M_1\}$
- 2) $American(x) \land Weapon(y) \land Sells(x, y, z) \land Hostile(z) \Rightarrow Criminal(x)$
- 3) $Missile(x) \Rightarrow Weapon(x)$ $\{x/M_1\}$
- 4) $Enemy(x, America) \Rightarrow Hostile(x)$ $\{x/Nono\}$

FC: example



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

- $\{x/West, y/M_1, z/Nono\}$
- 2) $American(x) \land Weapon(y) \land Sells(x, y, z) \land Hostile(z) \Rightarrow Criminal(x)$
 - $\{x/M_1\}$

 $\{x/M_1\}$

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

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

 $\{x/Nono\}$

Properties of FC

- Sound
- Complete (for KBs of first-order definite clauses)
 - For <u>Datalog KBs</u>, proof is fairly easy.
 - Datalog KBs contain first-order definite clauses with no function symbols
 - FC reaches a fix point for Datalog KBs after finite number of iterations
 - It may not terminate in general if α is not entailed (query has no answer)
 - entailment with definite clauses is also semi-decidable

More efficient FC

- Heuristics for matching rules against known facts
 - ▶ E.g., conjunct ordering
- Incremental forward chaining to avoid redundant rule matching
 - Every new fact inferred on iteration t must be derived from at least one new fact inferred on iteration t-1.
 - ▶ Check a rule only if its premise includes a newly inferred fact (at iteration t -1)
- Avoid drawing irrelevant facts (to the goal)

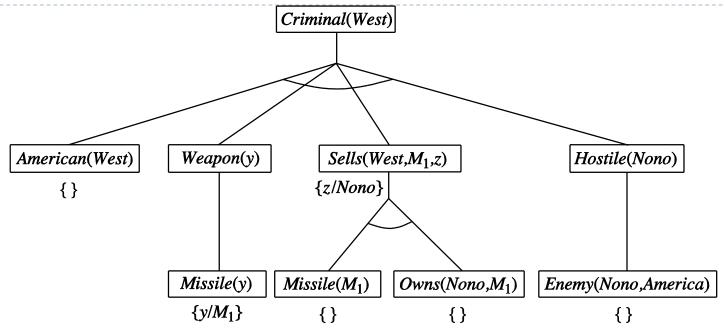
Backward Chaining (BC)

 Works backward from the goal, chaining through rules to find known facts supporting the proof

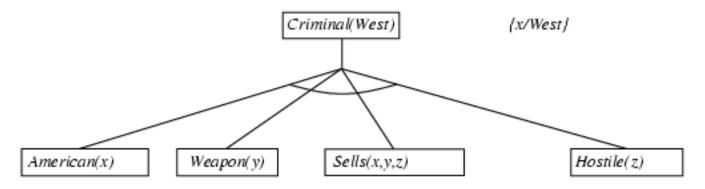
- AND-OR search
 - ightharpoonup OR: any rule $lhs \Rightarrow goal$ in KB can be used to prove the goal
 - AND: all conjuncts in *lhs* must be proved.
- ▶ It is used in logic programming (Prolog)

BC algorithm (depth-first recursive proof search)

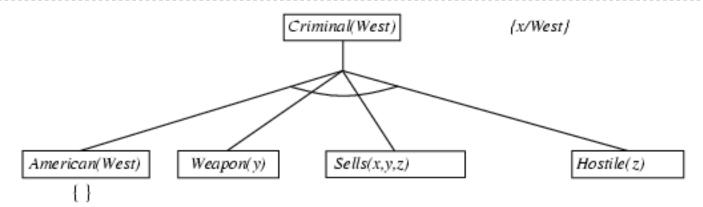
```
function FOL_BC_ASK(KB, query) returns a generator of substitutions
   return FOL_BC_OR(KB, query, {})
generator FOL_BC_OR(KB, goal, \theta) yields a substitution
   for each rule (lhs \Rightarrow rhs) in FETCH_RULES_FOR_GOAL(KB, goal) do
       (lhs, rhs) \leftarrow STANDARDIZE\_VARS(lhs, rhs)
       for each \theta' in FOL_BC_AND(KB, lhs, UNIFY(rhs, goal, \theta) do
           yield \theta'
generator FOL_BC_AND(KB, goals, \theta) yields a substitution
   if \theta = failure then return
   else if LENGTH(goals) = 0 then yield \theta
   else do
      first \leftarrow FIRST(goals)
      rest \leftarrow REST(goals)
      for each \theta' in FOL_BC_OR(KB, SUBST(\theta, first), \theta) do
          for each \theta'' in FOL_BC_AND(KB, rest, \theta') do
           yield \theta''
```



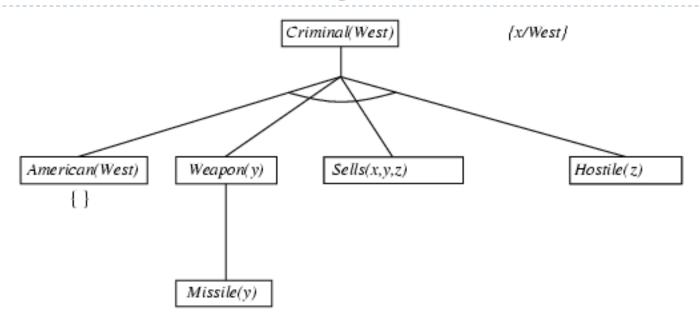
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- 3) American(West)
- 4) $Missile(x) \land Owns(Nono, x) \Rightarrow Sells(West, x, Nono)$
- 5) $American(x) \land Weapon(y) \land Sells(x,y,z) \land Hostile(z) \Rightarrow Criminal(x)$
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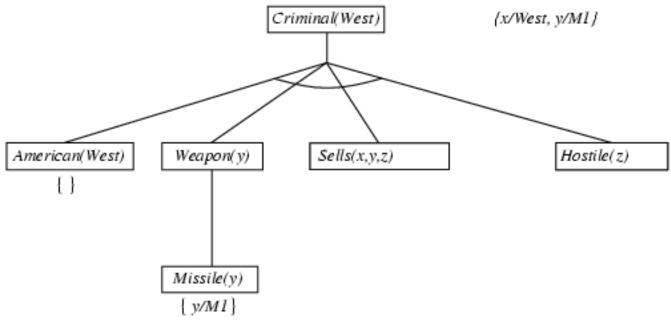
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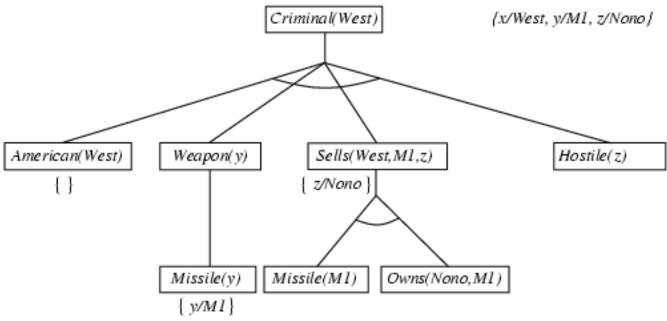
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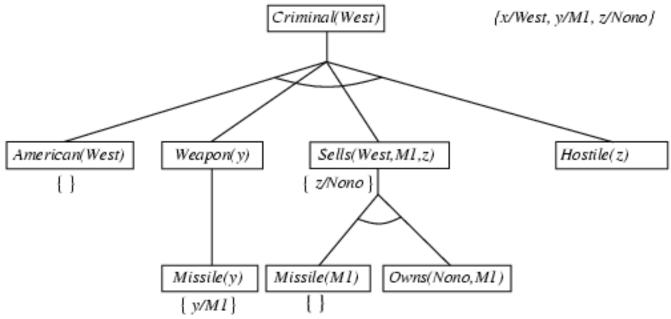
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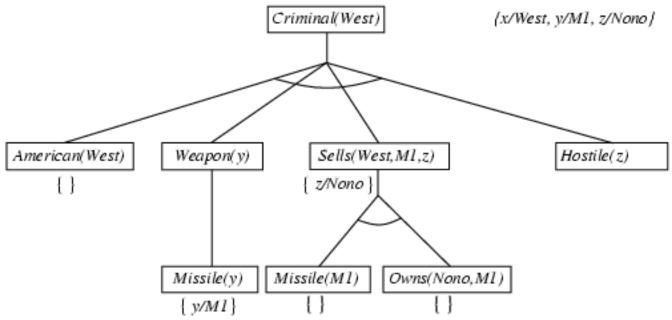
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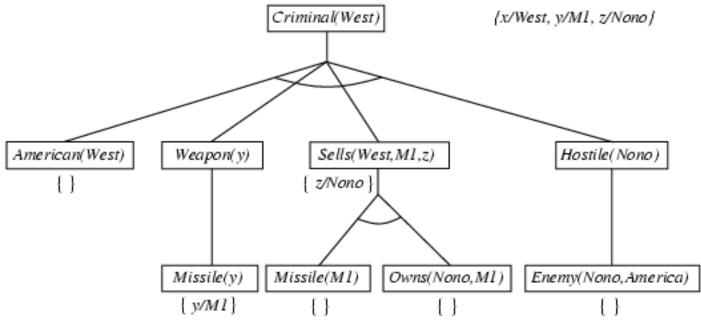
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Properties of BC

- Space is linear in the size of the proof
- Suffers from repeated states and incompleteness
 - Repeated subgoals (both success and failure)
 - Solution: caching of previous results
 - Incompleteness due to infinite loops
 - ▶ Solution: checking current goal against every goal on stack

Resolution algorithm

General theorem proving

- ▶ Apply resolution rule to $CNF(KB \land \neg \alpha)$
 - Refutation-complete for FOL

Resolution

PL resolution: l_i and m_j are complement

$$\frac{l_1 \vee l_2 \vee \cdots \vee l_k, \quad m_1 \vee m_2 \vee \cdots \vee m_n}{l_1 \vee \ldots \vee l_{i-1} \vee l_{i+1} \vee \cdots \vee l_k \vee m_1 \vee \ldots \vee m_{j-1} \vee m_{j+1} \vee \cdots \vee m_n}$$

- First-order resolution UNIFY $(l_i, \neg m_i) = \theta$
 - Clauses are assumed to be standardized apart (sharing no variables).

$$\frac{l_1 \vee l_2 \vee \cdots \vee l_k, \quad m_1 \vee m_2 \vee \cdots \vee m_n}{\mathsf{SUBST}(\theta, \ l_1 \vee \ldots \vee l_{i-1} \vee l_{i+1} \vee \cdots \vee l_k \vee m_1 \vee \ldots \vee m_{j-1} \vee m_{j+1} \vee \cdots \vee m_n)}$$

Example:

$$\frac{\neg Rich(x) \lor Unhappy(x), \quad Rich(Ken)}{Unhappy(Ken)} \quad \theta = \{x/Ken\}$$

Converting FOL sentence to CNF

- Example: "everyone who loves all animals is loved by someone"
 - $\forall x \ [\forall y \ Animal(y) \Rightarrow Loves(x,y)] \Rightarrow [\exists y \ Loves(y,x)]$
- 1) Eliminate implications $(P \Rightarrow Q \equiv \neg P \lor Q)$
 - $\forall x [\neg \forall y \neg Animal(y) \lor Loves(x,y)] \lor [\exists y Loves(y,x)]$
- 2) Move \neg inwards: $\neg \forall x p to \exists x \neg p, \neg \exists x p to \forall x \neg p$
 - $\forall x [\exists y \neg (\neg Animal(y) \lor Loves(x, y))] \lor [\exists y Loves(y, x)]$
 - $\forall x [\exists y \neg \neg Animal(y) \land \neg Loves(x,y)] \lor [\exists y Loves(y,x)]$
 - $\forall x \ [\exists y \ Animal(y) \land \neg Loves(x,y)] \lor [\exists y \ Loves(y,x)]$
- 3) Standardize variables (avoiding same names for variables)
 - $\forall x [\exists y \ Animal(y) \land \neg Loves(x,y)] \lor [\exists z \ Loves(z,x)]$

Converting FOL sentence to CNF

- 4) Skolemize: a more general form of existential instantiation.
 - Each existentially quantified variable is replaced by a Skolem function of the enclosing universally quantified variables.
 - $\forall x [Animal(F(x)) \land \neg Loves(x, F(x))] \lor Loves(G(x), x)$
- 5) Drop universal quantifiers:
 - $[Animal(F(x)) \land \neg Loves(x, F(x))] \lor Loves(G(x), x)$
- 6) Distribute \vee over \wedge :
 - $[Animal(F(x)) \lor Loves(G(x), x)] \land [\neg Loves(x, F(x)) \lor Loves(G(x), x)]$

Properties of resolution

- Resolution
 - Complete when used in combination with factoring
- Extend factoring to FOL
 - Factoring in PL: reduces two literals to one if they are identical
 - Factoring in FOL: reduces two literals to one if they are unifiable. The unifier must be applied to the entire clause

Resolution: definite clauses example

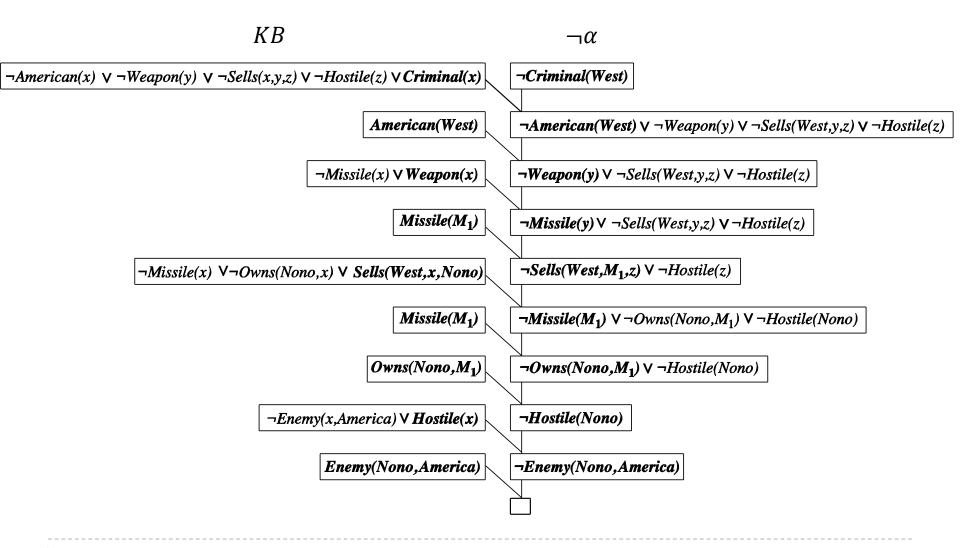
- 1) Enemy(Nono, America)
- 2) $Owns(Nono, M_1) \land Missile(M_1)$
- 3) American(West)
- 4) $Missile(x) \land Owns(Nono, x) \Rightarrow Sells(West, x, Nono)$
- 5) $American(x) \land Weapon(y) \land Sells(x, y, z) \land Hostile(z) \Rightarrow Criminal(x)$
- 6) $Missile(x) \Rightarrow Weapon(x)$
- 7) $Enemy(x, America) \Rightarrow Hostile(x)$



Convert to CNF

- 1) Enemy(Nono, America)
- 2) $Owns(Nono, M_1) \land Missile(M_1)$
- 3) American(West)
- 4) $\neg Missile(x) \lor \neg Owns(Nono, x) \lor Sells(West, x, Nono)$
- 5) $\neg American(x) \lor \neg Weapon(y) \lor \neg Sells(x, y, z) \lor \neg Hostile(z) \lor Criminal(x)$
- 6) $\neg Missile(x) \lor Weapon(x)$
- 7) $\neg Enemy(x, America) \lor Hostile(x)$

Resolution: definite clauses example



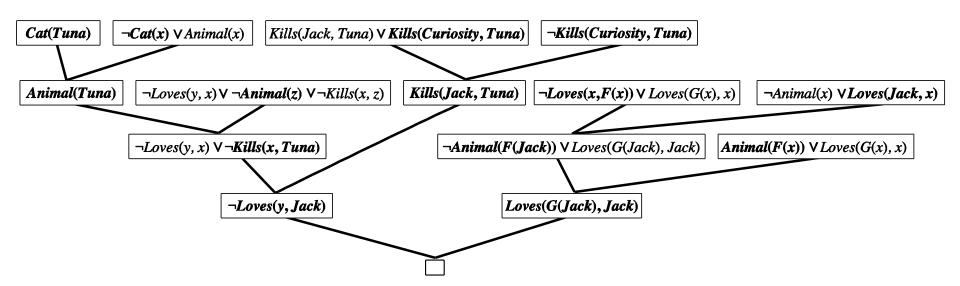
Resolution: general example

- Every one who loves all animals is loved by someone.
 - $\forall x \ [\forall y \ Animal(y) \Rightarrow Loves(x,y)] \Rightarrow [\exists y \ Loves(y,x)]$
- Anyone who kills an animal is loved by no one.
 - $\forall x \ [\exists z \ Animal(z) \land Kills(x,z)] \Rightarrow [\forall y \neg Loves(y,x)]$
- Jack loves all animals.
 - $\forall x \ Animal(x) \Rightarrow Loves(Jack, x)$
- ▶ Either Jack or Curiosity killed the cat, who is named Tuna.
 - Kills(Jack, Tuna) \(Kills(Curiosity, Tuna) \)
 - Cat(Tuna)
- Query: Did Curiosity kill the cat?
 - Kills(Curiosity, Tuna)

Resolution: general example

- ▶ CNF ($KB \land \neg \alpha$):
 - $ightharpoonup Animal(F(x)) \lor Loves(G(x), x)$
 - $ightharpoonup \neg Loves(x, F(x)) \lor Loves(G(x), x)$
 - $ightharpoonup \neg Loves(y, x) \lor \neg Animal(z) \lor \neg Kills(x, z)$
 - $ightharpoonup \neg Animal(x) \lor Loves(Jack, x)$
 - ▶ Kills(Jack, Tuna) ∨ Kills(Curiosity, Tuna)
 - Cat(Tuna)
 - \rightarrow \neg *Kills*(*Curiosity*, *Tuna*)
- Query: "Who killed the cat"?
 - \triangleright α : $\exists w \, Kills(w, Tuna)$
 - ▶ The binding $\{w/Curiosity\}$ in one of steps

Resolution: general example



- Query: "Who killed the cat"?
 - \triangleright α : $\exists w \, Kills(w, Tuna)$
 - The binding $\{w/Curiosity\}$ in one of steps

Prolog (Programming in logic)

- Basis: backward chaining with Horn clauses
 - Depth-first, left-to-right BC
- Program = set of clauses
 - ▶ Fact
 - ▶ e.g., american (west).
 - ▶ Rule: head :- literal, ... , literal,
 - e.g., criminal(X) :- american(X), weapon(Y), sells(X,Y,Z),
 hostile(Z).

Prolog: Example

Appending two lists to produce a third:

```
append([],Y,Y). append([X|L],Y,[X|Z]) :- append(L,Y,Z).
```

- p query: append(A,B,[1,2]) ?
- ▶ answers: A = [] B = [1, 2] A = [1] B = [2] A = [1, 2] B = []

Summary

- Lifting and unification
- Inference on KB of definite clauses
 - Forward chaining
 - Backward chaining
- Inference on general KB of FOL
 - Resolution