Set 8: Inference in First-order logic

ICS 271 Fall 2018

Chapter 9: Russell and Norvig

Outline

- ♦ Reducing first-order inference to propositional inference
- ♦ Unification
- ♦ Generalized Modus Ponens
- ♦ Forward and backward chaining
- ♦ Logic programming
- ♦ Resolution

Universal instantiation (UI)

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

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

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

• E.g., $\forall x \ \textit{King}(x) \land \textit{Greedy}(x) \Rightarrow \textit{Evil}(x) \ \text{yields}$:

```
King(John) \land Greedy(John) \Rightarrow Evil(John)

King(Richard) \land Greedy(Richard) \Rightarrow Evil(Richard)

King(Father(John)) \land Greedy(Father(John)) \Rightarrow Evil(Father(John))
```

Obtained by substituting {x/John}, {x/Richard} and {x/Father(John)}

Existential instantiation (EI)

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

• E.g., ∃*x* Crown(x) ∧ OnHead(x,John) yields:

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

provided C_1 is a new (not used so far) constant term, called a Skolem constant

- Skolemization : ∃ elimination
 - \forall x \exists y Loves(y,x)
 - Incorrect inference : $\forall x \text{ Loves}(A,x) y \text{ may be different for each } x$
 - Correct inference : ∀x Loves(f(x),x)

Reduction to propositional inference

Suppose the KB contains just the following:

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

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

```
King(John) ∧ Greedy(John) ⇒ Evil(John)
King(Richard) ∧ Greedy(Richard) ⇒ Evil(Richard)
King(John)
Greedy(John)
Brother(Richard,John)
```

The new KB is propositionalized: proposition symbols are

King(John), Greedy(John), Evil(John), King(Richard), etc.

Reduction contd.

- Every FOL KB can be propositionalized so as to preserve entailment
 - A ground sentence is entailed by new KB iff entailed by original KB
- Idea: propositionalize KB and query, apply resolution, return result
- Problem: with function symbols, there are infinitely many ground terms,
 - e.g., Father(Father(John)))

Reduction contd.

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

Idea: For n = 0 to ∞ do create a propositional KB by instantiating with depth=n terms see if α is entailed by this KB

Problem: works (will terminate) if α is entailed, loops forever if α is not entailed

Theorem: Turing (1936), Church (1936) Entailment for FOL is semidecidable (algorithms exist that say yes to every entailed sentence, but no algorithm exists that also says no to every non-entailed sentence.)

Problems with propositionalization

- Propositionalization seems to generate lots of irrelevant sentences.
- E.g., from:

```
\forall x \text{ King}(x) \land \text{Greedy}(x) \Rightarrow \text{Evil}(x)
\text{King}(\text{John})
\forall y \text{ Greedy}(y)
\text{Brother}(\text{Richard},\text{John})
```

- Given query "Evil(x) it seems obvious that Evil(John), but propositionalization produces lots of facts such as Greedy(Richard) that are irrelevant
- With p k-ary predicates and n constants, there are $p \cdot n^k$ instantiations.

Generalized Modus Ponens (GMP)

$$\frac{p_1', p_2', \dots, p_n', (p_1 \land p_2 \land \dots \land p_n \Rightarrow q)}{q\theta} \quad \text{where } p_i'\theta = p_i \theta \text{ for all } i$$

King(John), Greedy(y), (King(x) \land Greedy(x) \Rightarrow Evil(x))

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

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

 θ is $\{x/John, y/John\}$ q is Evil(x)

q θ is *Evil*(*John*)

- GMP used with KB of definite clauses (exactly one positive literal)
- All variables assumed universally quantified

Soundness of GMP

Need to show that

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

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

- Lemma: For any sentence p, we have $p \models p\theta$ by UI
 - 1. $(p_1 \wedge ... \wedge p_n \Rightarrow q) \models (p_1 \wedge ... \wedge p_n \Rightarrow q)\theta = (p_1\theta \wedge ... \wedge p_n\theta \Rightarrow q\theta)$
 - 2. p_1' , ; ..., ; $p_n' \models p_1' \land ... \land p_n' \models p_1' \theta \land ... \land p_n' \theta$
 - 3. From 1 and 2, qθ follows by ordinary Modus Ponens

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

$$\theta = \{x/John, y/John\}$$
 works

- Unify(α,β) = θ if $\alpha\theta = \beta\theta$
 - note : replace variables with terms!

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

 Standardizing apart eliminates overlap of variables, e.g., Knows(z₁₇,OJ)

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• Unify(α , β) = θ if $\alpha\theta = \beta\theta$

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

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

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

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

$$\theta = \{x/John, y/John\}$$
 works

• Unify(α , β) = θ if $\alpha\theta = \beta\theta$

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

 Standardizing apart eliminates overlap of variables, e.g., Knows(z₁₇,OJ)

To unify Knows(John, x) and Knows(y,z),
 θ = {y/John, x/z } or θ = {y/John, x/John, z/John}

- The first unifier is more general than the second.
- There is a single most general unifier (MGU) that is unique up to renaming of variables.

```
MGU = \{ y/John, x/z \}
```

The unification algorithm

```
function UNIFY(x, y, \theta) returns a substitution to make x and y identical
   inputs: x, a variable, constant, list, or compound
            y, a variable, constant, list, or compound
            \theta, the substitution built up so far
   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(Args[x], Args[y], Unify(Op[x], Op[y], \theta))
   else if List?(x) and List?(y) then
       return Unify(Rest[x], Rest[y], Unify(First[x], First[y], \theta))
   else return failure
```

The unification algorithm

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

- Basic task: unify
 - $-p_1, p_2, ..., p_n$
 - $q_1, q_2, ..., q_n$
- Proceed left to right, carry along current substitution θ
- Compare p_i with q_i,
 - predicates must match
 - apply existing substitution
 - unify instantiated pair, producing θ_i
 - add new substitution to existing $\theta = \theta \cup \theta_i$
 - occurs check

Example knowledge base

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

Example knowledge base, cont.

... it is a crime for an American to sell weapons to hostile nations: $American(x) \land Weapon(y) \land Sells(x,y,z) \land Hostile(z) \Rightarrow Criminal(x)$

Nono ... has some missiles, i.e., $\exists x \ Owns(Nono,x) \land Missile(x)$: $Owns(Nono,M_1)$ and $Missile(M_1)$

... all of its missiles were sold to it by Colonel West $Missile(x) \land Owns(Nono,x) \Rightarrow Sells(West,x,Nono)$

Missiles are weapons:

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

An enemy of America counts as "hostile":

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

West, who is American ...

American(West)

The country Nono, an enemy of America ... *Enemy(Nono,America)*

Forward chaining algorithm

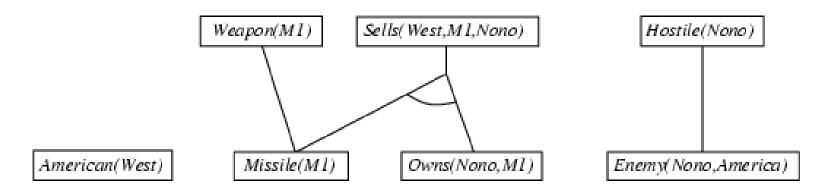
```
function FOL-FC-ASK(KB, \alpha) returns a substitution or false
   repeat until new is empty
         new \leftarrow \{ \}
         for each sentence r in KB do
               (p_1 \land \ldots \land p_n \Rightarrow q) \leftarrow \text{STANDARDIZE-APART}(r)
               for each \theta such that (p_1 \land \ldots \land p_n)\theta = (p'_1 \land \ldots \land p'_n)\theta
                                for some p'_1, \ldots, p'_n in KB
                     q' \leftarrow \text{SUBST}(\theta, q)
                   if q' is not a renaming of a sentence already in KB or new then do
                           add q' to new
                           \phi \leftarrow \text{UNIFY}(q', \alpha)
                           if \phi is not fail then return \phi
         add new to KB
   return false
```

American(West)

Missile(MI)

Owns(Nono, M1)

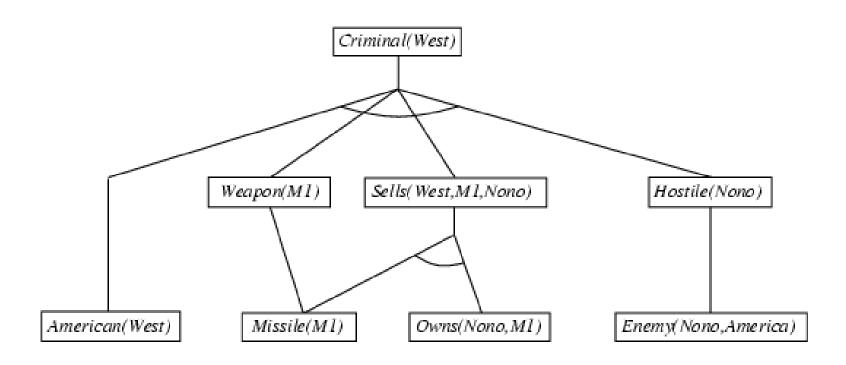
Enemy(Nono,America)



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

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

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



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

Calendar

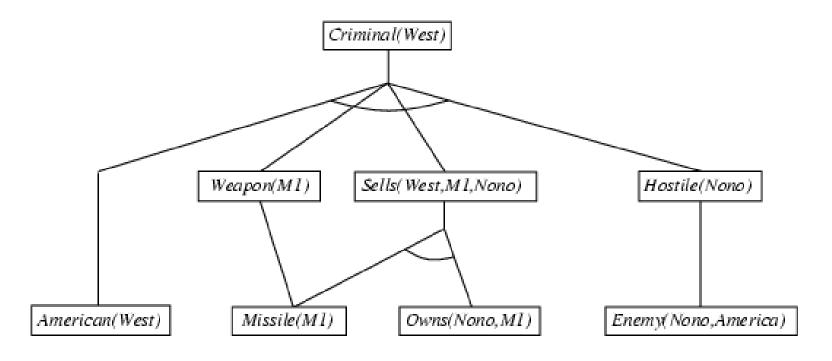
November 2017						
s	М	Т	w	Т	F	s
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December 2017						
s	М	Т	w	Т	F	s
				_	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Summary so far

- Reduction by propositionalization
 - Eliminate ∀ and ∃
 - With fn symbols infinitely many ground terms
 - Theorem: If a sentence α is entailed by an FOL KB, it is entailed by a finite subset of the propositionalized KB
 - Semi-decidable
 - Very slow in practice
- Generalized Modus Ponens
 - Inference with definite clauses
 - Replace instantiation step with unification

- UNIFY(p,q)=θ where SUBST(θ,p)=SUBST(θ,q)
- Forward chaining in FOL: lifted version of FC in PL

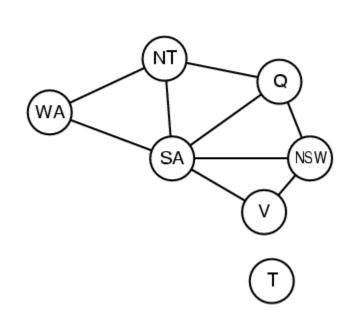


- American(x) \land Weapon(y) \land Sells(x,y,z) \land Hostile(z) \Rightarrow Criminal(x)
- $Missile(x) \land Owns(Nono,x) \Rightarrow Sells(West,x,Nono)$
- Missile(x) ⇒ Weapon(x)
- Enemy(x,America) ⇒ Hostile(x)
- Owns(Nono,M1) and Missile(M1)
- American(West)
- Enemy(Nono,America)

Properties of forward chaining

- Forward chaining is widely used in deductive databases
- Sound and complete for first-order definite clauses
- May not terminate in general if α is not entailed
- This is unavoidable: entailment with definite clauses is semidecidable
- Datalog = first-order definite clauses + no functions
 - FC terminates for Datalog in finite number of iterations (p·n^k ground terms)

Matching facts against rules: Hard matching example



```
Diff(wa,nt) \land Diff(wa,sa) \land Diff(nt,q) \land Diff(nt,sa) \land Diff(q,nsw) \land Diff(q,sa) \land Diff(nsw,v) \land Diff(nsw,sa) \land Diff(v,sa) \Rightarrow Colorable()
```

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

- Colorable() is inferred iff the CSP has a solution
- CSPs include 3SAT as a special case, hence matching is NP-hard
- Query complexity vs. data complexity

- Pattern matching itself can be expensive:
 - Use indexing to unify sentences that have a chance of unifying
 - Knows(x,y) vs Brother(u,v)
 - Database indexing allows O(1) retrieval of known facts
 - e.g., query Missile(x) retrieves Missile(M₁)

$$\underline{p_1', p_2', \dots, p_n', (p_1 \land p_2 \land \dots \land p_n \Rightarrow q)} where p_i'\theta = p_i \theta for all i$$

Matching rules against known facts

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

NP-hard in general, but can use heuristics used for CSPs

Rule-matching tractable when CSP is tractable

- 1. Incremental forward chaining: no need to match a rule on iteration *k* if a premise wasn't added on iteration *k-1*
 - match each rule whose premise contains a newly added positive literal
- 2. Retain partial matches and complete them incrementally as new facts arrive

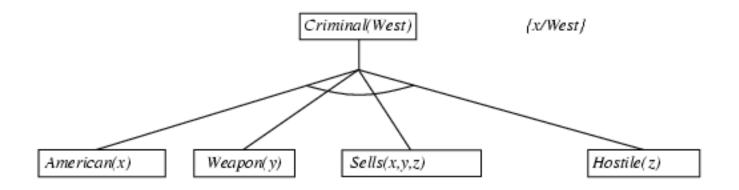
Forward chaining infers everything, most of which can be irrelevant to the goal

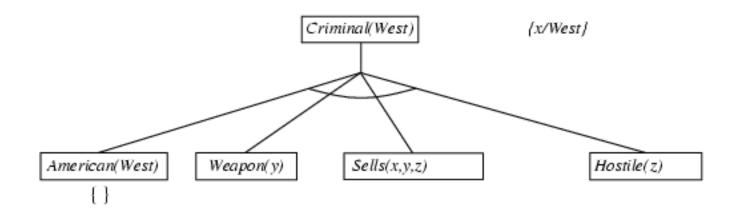
- Solution: allow only those bindings that are relevant to the goal
 - Use generic backward chaining
- Add Magic(x) extra conjunct to rules and Magic(c) to the KB
 - E.g. Magic(West)

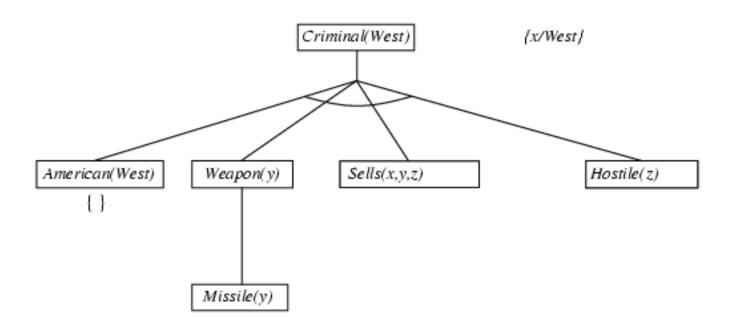
Backward chaining example

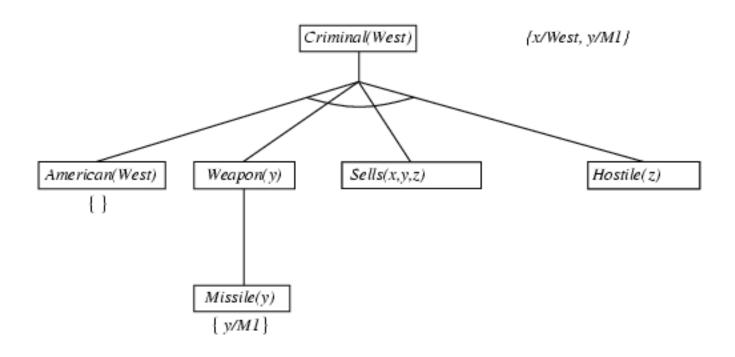
Criminal(West)

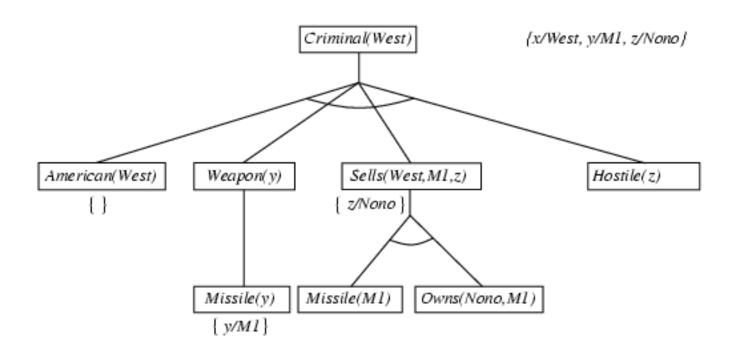
Backward chaining example

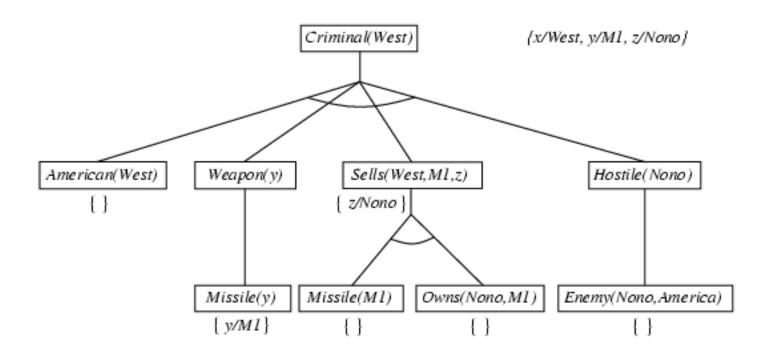












Backward chaining algorithm

```
function FOL-BC-Ask(KB, goals, \theta) returns a set of substitutions inputs: KB, a knowledge base goals, a list of conjuncts forming a query \theta, the current substitution, initially the empty substitution \{\} local variables: ans, a set of substitutions, initially empty if goals is empty then return \{\theta\} q' \leftarrow \text{SUBST}(\theta, \text{FIRST}(goals)) for each r in KB where STANDARDIZE-APART(r) = (p_1 \land \ldots \land p_n \Rightarrow q) and \theta' \leftarrow \text{UNIFY}(q, q') succeeds ans \leftarrow \text{FOL-BC-Ask}(KB, [p_1, \ldots, p_n | \text{REST}(goals)], \text{Compose}(\theta, \theta')) \cup ans return ans
```

SUBST(COMPOSE(θ_1, θ_2), p) = SUBST($\theta_2, SUBST(\theta_1, p)$)

Properties of backward chaining

- Depth-first recursive proof search: space is linear in size of proof
 - But not in size of data (bindings)
- Incomplete due to infinite loops
 - fix by checking current goal against every goal on stack
- Inefficient due to repeated subgoals (both success and failure)
 - fix using caching of previous results (extra space)
- Widely used for logic programming (Prolog)

Prolog

Appending two lists to produce a third:

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

• query: append(A,B,[1,2]) ?

• answers: A=[] B=[1,2] A=[1] B=[2] A=[1,2] B=[]

Logic programming: Prolog

- Algorithm = Logic + Control
- Basis: backward chaining with Horn clauses + bells & whistles
 Widely used in Europe, Japan (basis of 5th Generation project)
 Compilation techniques ⇒ 60 million LIPS

```
• Program = set of clauses = head :- literal<sub>1</sub>, ... literal<sub>n</sub>.
criminal(X) :- american(X), weapon(Y), sells(X,Y,Z), hostile(Z).
```

- Depth-first, left-to-right (within rule), top-down (within rule-set) backward chaining
- Built-in predicates for arithmetic etc., e.g., X is Y*Z+3
- Built-in predicates that have side effects (e.g., input and output predicates, assert/retract predicates)
- No occurs-check in unification may produce results not entailed
- No checks for infinite loops incomplete even for definite clauses
- Prolog: no caching; Tabled Logic Programming: memoization
- Database semantics :
 - Unique names assumption
 - Closed-world assumption ("negation as failure")
 - e.g., given alive(X) :- not dead(X).
 - alive(joe) succeeds if dead(joe) fails
 - Closed domain assumption

Resolution: brief summary

Full first-order version:

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

$$\neg Rich(x) \lor Unhappy(x)$$
 Rich(Ken)
Unhappy(Ken)

with $\theta = \{x/Ken\}$

Apply resolution steps to CNF(KB ∧ ¬α); complete (with factoring) for FOL

Conversion to CNF

• 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 biconditionals and implications

```
A \Leftrightarrow B becomes (A \Rightarrow B) \land (B \Rightarrow A)
A \Rightarrow B becomes \negA \lor B
\forallx [\forally \negAnimal(y) \lor Loves(x,y)] \Rightarrow [\existsy Loves(y,x)]
\forallx \neg[\forally \negAnimal(y) \lor Loves(x,y)] \lor [\existsy Loves(y,x)]
```

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

```
\forall x [\exists y \neg (\neg Animal(y) \lor Loves(x,y))] \Rightarrow [\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)]
```

Conversion to CNF contd.

• 3. Standardize variables: each quantifier should use a different one

$$\forall x [\exists y \ Animal(y) \land \neg Loves(x,y)] \lor [\exists z \ Loves(z,x)]$$

4. Skolemize: a more general form of existential instantiation.

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

$$\forall x [Animal(F(x)) \land \neg Loves(x,F(x))] \lor Loves(G(x),x)$$

5. Drop universal quantifiers:

$$[Animal(F(x)) \land \neg Loves(x,F(x))] \lor Loves(G(x),x)$$

• 6. Distribute ∨ over ∧ :

$$[Animal(F(x)) \lor Loves(G(x),x)] \land [\neg Loves(x,F(x)) \lor Loves(G(x),x)]$$

Example knowledge base contd.

... it is a crime for an American to sell weapons to hostile nations: $American(x) \land Weapon(y) \land Sells(x,y,z) \land Hostile(z) \Rightarrow Criminal(x)$

Nono ... has some missiles, i.e., $\exists x \ Owns(Nono,x) \land Missile(x)$: $Owns(Nono,M_1) \land Missile(M_1)$

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

Missile(x) ∧ Owns(Nono,x) ⇒ Sells(West,x,Nono)

Missiles are weapons:

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

An enemy of America counts as "hostile":

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

West, who is American ...

American(West)

The country Nono, an enemy of America ...

Enemy(Nono,America)

Resolution proof: definite clauses

```
\neg American(x) \lor \neg Weapon(y) \lor \neg Sells(x,y,z) \lor \neg Hostile(z) \lor Criminal(x)
                                                                                                           ¬ Criminal(West)
                                                               \neg American(West) \lor \neg Weapon(y) \lor \neg Sells(West,y,z)
                                   American(West)
                                                                                                                              ∨ ¬ Hostile(z)
                                                                       \neg Weapon(y) \lor \neg Sells(West,y,z)
                                \neg Missile(x) \lor Weapon(x)
                                                                                                              \vee \neg Hostile(z)
                                              Missile(M1)
                                                                         ¬ Missile(y) ∨ ¬ Sells(West,y,z)
                                                                                                               \vee \neg Hostile(z)
        \neg Missile(x) \lor \neg Owns(Nono,x) \lor Sells(West,x,Nono)
                                                                                 ¬ Sells(West,M1,z)
                                                                                                       \lor \neg Hostile(z)
                                      Missile(M1)
                                                                 \neg Missile(M1) \lor \neg Owns(Nono,M1) \lor \neg Hostile(Nono)
                                Owns(Nono,M1)
                                                                      \neg Owns(Nono,M1) \lor \neg Hostile(Nono)
                                                                             ¬ Hostile(Nono)
                          \neg Enemy(x,America)
                                                  ∨ Hostile(x)

→ Enemy(Nono,America)

                             Enemy(Nono, America)
```

Efficient Resolution

- Resolution proofs can be long
- Strategies :
 - Unit Preference
 - Set of support
 - Input resolution
 - Complete for Horn clauses
 - Linear Resolution
 - Complete in general

Converting to clause form (Try this example)

$$\forall x, y P(x) \land P(y) \land I(x,27) \land I(y,28) \rightarrow S(x,y)$$

$$P(A), P(B)$$

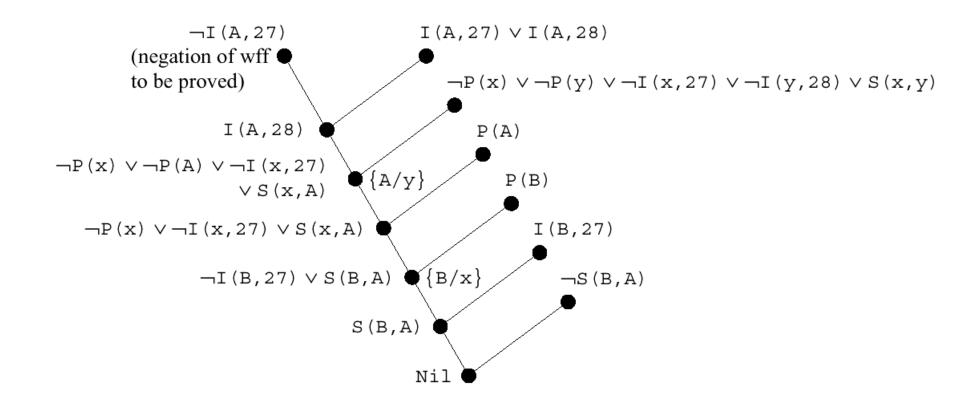
$$I(A,27) \lor I(A,28)$$

$$I(B,27)$$

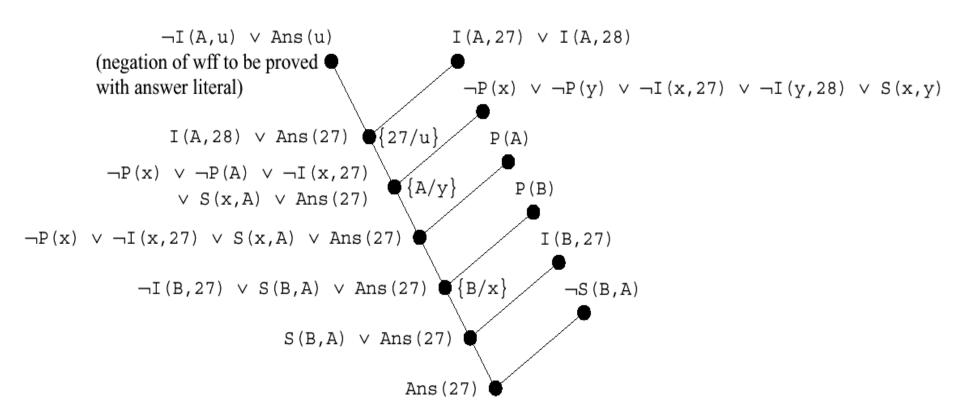
$$\neg S(B,A)$$

Prove I(A,27)

Example: Resolution Refutation Prove I(A,27)



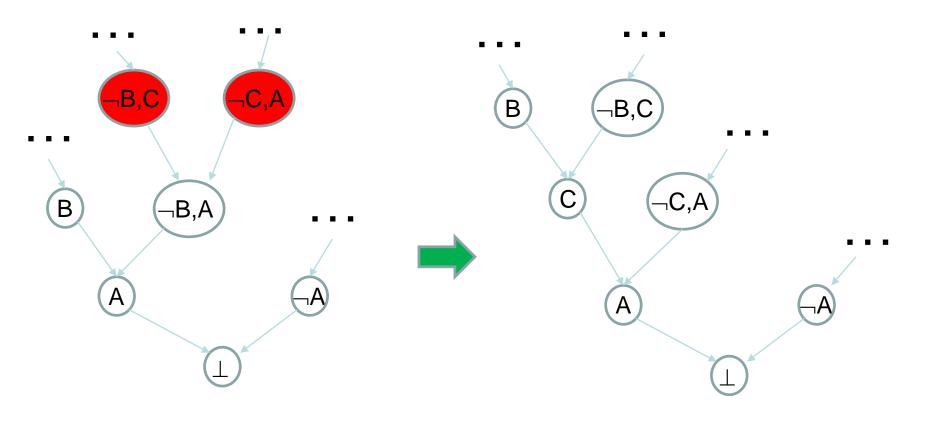
Example: Answer Extraction



Summary

- Inference in FOL
 - Propositionalization
 - Unification
 - GMP
 - Forward Chaining
 - Backward Chaining
 - Logic Programming
 - Resolution

Unit resolution is (refutation) complete for Horn clauses : example



Can transform any non-unit resolution proof to unit resolution proof

Unit resolution is (refutation) complete for Horn clauses : general case

