



# Inference in first-order logic

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Russell and Norvig Chapter 9



## Outline

- Reducing first-order inference to propositional inference
- Generalized Modus Ponens
- Forward chaining
- Backward chaining
- Resolution

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November 3, 2014 2



## FOL to PL

- First order inference can be done by converting the knowledge base to PL and using propositional inference.
  - How to convert universal quantifiers?
    - Replace variable by ground term.
  - How to convert existential quantifiers?
    - Skolemization.

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November 3, 2014 3



## Universal Instantiation (UI)

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

$$\frac{\forall v \alpha}{\text{Subst}(\{v/g\}, \alpha)} \quad \text{Subst - the substitution operator}$$

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

E.g.,  $\forall x \text{ King}(x) \wedge \text{Greedy}(x) \Rightarrow \text{Evil}(x)$  yields:  
 $\text{King}(\text{John}) \wedge \text{Greedy}(\text{John}) \Rightarrow \text{Evil}(\text{John})$   
 $\text{King}(\text{Father}(\text{John})) \wedge \text{Greedy}(\text{Father}(\text{John})) \Rightarrow \text{Evil}(\text{Father}(\text{John}))$

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November 3, 2014 4



## Existential Instantiation (EI)

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

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

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

$$\text{Crown}(C_1) \wedge \text{OnHead}(C_1, \text{John})$$

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

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November 3, 2014 5



## EI versus UI

- UI can be applied several times to **add** new sentences; the new KB is logically equivalent to the old.
- EI can be applied once to replace the existential sentence.

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November 3, 2014 6

## Reduction to propositional inference

- Suppose the KB contains just the following:
  - $\forall x \text{ King}(x) \wedge \text{Greedy}(x) \Rightarrow \text{Evil}(x)$
  - $\text{King}(\text{John})$
  - $\text{Greedy}(\text{John})$
  - $\text{Brother}(\text{Richard}, \text{John})$
- Instantiating the universal sentence in all possible ways:
  - $\text{King}(\text{John}) \wedge \text{Greedy}(\text{John}) \Rightarrow \text{Evil}(\text{John})$
  - $\text{King}(\text{Richard}) \wedge \text{Greedy}(\text{Richard}) \Rightarrow \text{Evil}(\text{Richard})$
- The new KB is propositionalized

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7

## Reduction (cont)

- CLAIM:** A ground sentence is entailed by the new KB iff entailed by the original KB.
  - CLAIM:** Every FOL KB can be propositionalized so as to preserve entailment
  - IDEA:** propositionalize KB and query, apply resolution, return result
  - PROBLEM:** with function symbols, there are infinitely many ground terms,
    - e.g.,  $\text{Father}(\text{Father}(\text{Father}(\text{John})))$
    - In our natural numbers example:  $\text{NatNum}(S(0)), \text{NatNum}(S(S(0))), \dots$
- The question of entailment for FOL is semidecidable: no algorithm exists that says no to every nonentailed sentence.*

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8

## Reduction (cont)

- THEOREM:** Herbrand (1930). If a sentence  $\alpha$  is entailed by an FOL KB, it is entailed by a **finite** subset of the propositionalized KB
- IDEA:** For  $n = 0$  to  $\infty$  do
  - create a propositional KB by instantiating with depth- $n$  terms
  - see if  $\alpha$  is entailed by this KB
- PROBLEM:** works if  $\alpha$  is entailed, does not halt if  $\alpha$  is not entailed
- THEOREM:** Turing (1936), Church (1936) Entailment for FOL is **semi decidable**
  - algorithms exist that say yes to every entailed sentence, but no algorithm exists that also says no to every non-entailed sentence.
- With  $p$   $k$ -ary predicates and  $n$  constants, there are  $p \cdot n^k$  instantiations!

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9

## Is there another way?

- Instead of translating the knowledge base to PL, we can make the inference rules work in FOL.
- For example, given
  - $\forall x \text{ King}(x) \wedge \text{Greedy}(x) \Rightarrow \text{Evil}(x)$
  - $\text{King}(\text{John})$
  - $\forall y \text{ Greedy}(y)$
 It is intuitively clear that we can substitute  $\{x/\text{John}, y/\text{John}\}$  and obtain that  $\text{Evil}(\text{John})$

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10

## Unification

- We can make the inference if we can find a **substitution** such that  $\text{King}(x)$  and  $\text{Greedy}(x)$  match  $\text{King}(\text{John})$  and  $\text{Greedy}(y)$ 
  - $\{x/\text{John}, y/\text{John}\}$  works
- $\text{Unify}(\alpha, \beta) = \theta$  if  $\text{Subst}(\theta, \alpha) = \text{Subst}(\theta, \beta)$

$\alpha$	$\beta$	Subst
$\text{Knows}(\text{John}, x)$	$\text{Knows}(\text{John}, \text{Jane})$	
$\text{Knows}(\text{John}, x)$	$\text{Knows}(y, \text{OJ})$	
$\text{Knows}(\text{John}, x)$	$\text{Knows}(y, \text{Mother}(y))$	
$\text{Knows}(\text{John}, x)$	$\text{Knows}(x, \text{OJ})$	

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11

## Unification

- $\text{Unify}(\alpha, \beta) = \theta$  if  $\text{Subst}(\theta, \alpha) = \text{Subst}(\theta, \beta)$

$\alpha$	$\beta$	Subst
$\text{Knows}(\text{John}, x)$	$\text{Knows}(\text{John}, \text{Jane})$	$\{x/\text{Jane}\}$
$\text{Knows}(\text{John}, x)$	$\text{Knows}(y, \text{OJ})$	
$\text{Knows}(\text{John}, x)$	$\text{Knows}(y, \text{Mother}(y))$	
$\text{Knows}(\text{John}, x)$	$\text{Knows}(x, \text{OJ})$	

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12

## Unification



- Unify( $\alpha, \beta$ ) =  $\theta$  if  $\text{Subst}(\theta, \alpha) = \text{Subst}(\theta, \beta)$

$\alpha$	$\beta$	Subst
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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13

## Unification



- Unify( $\alpha, \beta$ ) =  $\theta$  if  $\text{Subst}(\theta, \alpha) = \text{Subst}(\theta, \beta)$

$\alpha$	$\beta$	Subst
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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14

## Unification



- Unify( $\alpha, \beta$ ) =  $\theta$  if  $\text{Subst}(\theta, \alpha) = \text{Subst}(\theta, \beta)$

$\alpha$	$\beta$	Subst
Knows(John,x)	Knows(John,Jane)	{x/Jane}
Knows(John,x)	Knows(y,OJ)	{x/OJ,y/John}
Knows(John,x)	Knows(y,Mother(y))	{y/John,x/Mother(John)}
Knows(John,x)	Knows(x,OJ)	{fail}

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15

## Unification



- Unifiers of  $\text{Knows}(\text{John},x)$  and  $\text{Knows}(y,z)$  are  $\{y/\text{John}, x/z\}$  or  $\{y/\text{John}, x/\text{John}, z/\text{John}\}$
- 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 =  $\{y/\text{John}, x/z\}$

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16

## 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  $\theta = \text{failure}$  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
    
```

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17

## 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  $\theta$ 
    
```

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18

## Generalized Modus Ponens (GMP)



Suppose that  $\text{Subst}(\theta, p_i) = \text{Subst}(\theta, p_j)$  for all  $i$  then:

$$p_1', p_2', \dots, p_n' \quad (p_1 \wedge p_2 \wedge \dots \wedge p_n \Rightarrow q)$$

$\text{Subst}(\theta, q)$

$p_1'$  is *King(John)*                       $p_1$  is *King(x)*  
 $p_2'$  is *Greedy(y)*                         $p_2$  is *Greedy(x)*  
 $\theta$  is  $\{x/\text{John}, y/\text{John}\}$                  $q$  is *Evil(x)*  
 $\text{Subst}(\theta, q)$  is *Evil(John)*

- All variables assumed universally quantified.

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19

## Example



- 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

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20

## Example



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

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21

## Example



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

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

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22

## Example



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

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

Nono ... has some missiles

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23

## Example



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

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

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

$$\text{Owns}(\text{Nono}, M_x) \wedge \text{Missile}(M_x)$$

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24

## Example



... it is a crime for an American to sell weapons to hostile nations:  
 $American(x) \wedge Weapon(y) \wedge Sells(x,y,z) \wedge Hostile(z) \Rightarrow Criminal(x)$   
Nono ... has some missiles, i.e.,  $\exists x Owns(Nono,x) \wedge Missile(x)$ :  
 $Owns(Nono,M_i) \wedge Missile(M_i)$   
... all of its missiles were sold to it by Colonel West

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25

## Example



... it is a crime for an American to sell weapons to hostile nations:  
 $American(x) \wedge Weapon(y) \wedge Sells(x,y,z) \wedge Hostile(z) \Rightarrow Criminal(x)$   
Nono ... has some missiles, i.e.,  $\exists x Owns(Nono,x) \wedge Missile(x)$ :  
 $Owns(Nono,M_i) \wedge Missile(M_i)$   
... all of its missiles were sold to it by Colonel West  
 $Missile(x) \wedge Owns(Nono,x) \Rightarrow Sells(West,x,Nono)$

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26

## Example



... it is a crime for an American to sell weapons to hostile nations:  
 $American(x) \wedge Weapon(y) \wedge Sells(x,y,z) \wedge Hostile(z) \Rightarrow Criminal(x)$   
Nono ... has some missiles, i.e.,  $\exists x Owns(Nono,x) \wedge Missile(x)$ :  
 $Owns(Nono,M_i) \wedge Missile(M_i)$   
... all of its missiles were sold to it by Colonel West  
 $Missile(x) \wedge Owns(Nono,x) \Rightarrow Sells(West,x,Nono)$   
Missiles are weapons:

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27

## Example



... it is a crime for an American to sell weapons to hostile nations:  
 $American(x) \wedge Weapon(y) \wedge Sells(x,y,z) \wedge Hostile(z) \Rightarrow Criminal(x)$   
Nono ... has some missiles, i.e.,  $\exists x Owns(Nono,x) \wedge Missile(x)$ :  
 $Owns(Nono,M_i) \wedge Missile(M_i)$   
... all of its missiles were sold to it by Colonel West  
 $Missile(x) \wedge Owns(Nono,x) \Rightarrow Sells(West,x,Nono)$   
Missiles are weapons:  
 $Missile(x) \Rightarrow Weapon(x)$

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28

## Example



... it is a crime for an American to sell weapons to hostile nations:  
 $American(x) \wedge Weapon(y) \wedge Sells(x,y,z) \wedge Hostile(z) \Rightarrow Criminal(x)$   
Nono ... has some missiles, i.e.,  $\exists x Owns(Nono,x) \wedge Missile(x)$ :  
 $Owns(Nono,M_i) \wedge Missile(M_i)$   
... all of its missiles were sold to it by Colonel West  
 $Missile(x) \wedge Owns(Nono,x) \Rightarrow Sells(West,x,Nono)$   
Missiles are weapons:  
 $Missile(x) \Rightarrow Weapon(x)$   
An enemy of America counts as "hostile":

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29

## Example



... it is a crime for an American to sell weapons to hostile nations:  
 $American(x) \wedge Weapon(y) \wedge Sells(x,y,z) \wedge Hostile(z) \Rightarrow Criminal(x)$   
Nono ... has some missiles, i.e.,  $\exists x Owns(Nono,x) \wedge Missile(x)$ :  
 $Owns(Nono,M_i) \wedge Missile(M_i)$   
... all of its missiles were sold to it by Colonel West  
 $Missile(x) \wedge Owns(Nono,x) \Rightarrow Sells(West,x,Nono)$   
Missiles are weapons:  
 $Missile(x) \Rightarrow Weapon(x)$   
An enemy of America counts as "hostile":  
 $Enemy(x,America) \Rightarrow Hostile(x)$

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30

## Example



... it is a crime for an American to sell weapons to hostile nations:  
 $American(x) \wedge Weapon(y) \wedge Sells(x,y,z) \wedge Hostile(z) \Rightarrow Criminal(x)$   
 Nono ... has some missiles, i.e.,  $\exists x Owns(Nono,x) \wedge Missile(x)$ :  
 $Owns(Nono,M_j) \wedge Missile(M_j)$   
 ... all of its missiles were sold to it by Colonel West  
 $Missile(x) \wedge Owns(Nono,x) \Rightarrow Sells(West,x,Nono)$   
 Missiles are weapons:  
 $Missile(x) \Rightarrow Weapon(x)$   
 An enemy of America counts as "hostile":  
 $Enemy(x,America) \Rightarrow Hostile(x)$   
 West, who is American ...

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31

## Example



... it is a crime for an American to sell weapons to hostile nations:  
 $American(x) \wedge Weapon(y) \wedge Sells(x,y,z) \wedge Hostile(z) \Rightarrow Criminal(x)$   
 Nono ... has some missiles, i.e.,  $\exists x Owns(Nono,x) \wedge Missile(x)$ :  
 $Owns(Nono,M_j) \wedge Missile(M_j)$   
 ... all of its missiles were sold to it by Colonel West  
 $Missile(x) \wedge Owns(Nono,x) \Rightarrow Sells(West,x,Nono)$   
 Missiles are weapons:  
 $Missile(x) \Rightarrow Weapon(x)$   
 An enemy of America counts as "hostile":  
 $Enemy(x,America) \Rightarrow Hostile(x)$   
 West, who is American ...  
 $American(West)$

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32

## Example



... it is a crime for an American to sell weapons to hostile nations:  
 $American(x) \wedge Weapon(y) \wedge Sells(x,y,z) \wedge Hostile(z) \Rightarrow Criminal(x)$   
 Nono ... has some missiles, i.e.,  $\exists x Owns(Nono,x) \wedge Missile(x)$ :  
 $Owns(Nono,M_j) \wedge Missile(M_j)$   
 ... all of its missiles were sold to it by Colonel West  
 $Missile(x) \wedge Owns(Nono,x) \Rightarrow Sells(West,x,Nono)$   
 Missiles are weapons:  
 $Missile(x) \Rightarrow Weapon(x)$   
 An enemy of America counts as "hostile":  
 $Enemy(x,America) \Rightarrow Hostile(x)$   
 West, who is American ...  
 $American(West)$   
 The country Nono, an enemy of America ...

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33

## Example



... it is a crime for an American to sell weapons to hostile nations:  
 $American(x) \wedge Weapon(y) \wedge Sells(x,y,z) \wedge Hostile(z) \Rightarrow Criminal(x)$   
 Nono ... has some missiles, i.e.,  $\exists x Owns(Nono,x) \wedge Missile(x)$ :  
 $Owns(Nono,M_j) \wedge Missile(M_j)$   
 ... all of its missiles were sold to it by Colonel West  
 $Missile(x) \wedge Owns(Nono,x) \Rightarrow Sells(West,x,Nono)$   
 Missiles are weapons:  
 $Missile(x) \Rightarrow Weapon(x)$   
 An enemy of America counts as "hostile":  
 $Enemy(x,America) \Rightarrow Hostile(x)$   
 West, who is American ...  
 $American(West)$   
 The country Nono, an enemy of America ...  
 $Enemy(Nono,America)$

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34

## Forward chaining algorithm



```
function POL-FC-ASK(KB,  $\alpha$ ) returns a substitution or false
repeat until new is empty
  new  $\leftarrow \{ \}$ 
  for each sentence r in KB do
    ( $p_1 \wedge \dots \wedge p_n \Rightarrow q$ )  $\leftarrow$  STANDARDIZE-APART(r) so there are no collisions
    for each  $\theta$  such that ( $p_1 \wedge \dots \wedge p_n$ ) $\theta = (p'_1 \wedge \dots \wedge p'_n)\theta$ 
      for some  $p'_1, \dots, p'_n$  in KB
         $q' \leftarrow$  SUBST( $\theta, q$ )
        if  $q'$  is not a renaming of a sentence already in KB or new then do
          add  $q'$  to new
           $\phi \leftarrow$  UNIFY( $q', \alpha$ )
          if  $\phi$  is not fail then return  $\phi$ 
  add new to KB
return false
```

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35

## Forward chaining example



- $\diamond American(x) \wedge Weapon(y) \wedge Sells(x,y,z) \wedge Hostile(z) \Rightarrow Criminal(x)$
- $\diamond Owns(Nono,M_j) \wedge Missile(M_j)$
- $\diamond Missile(x) \wedge Owns(Nono,x) \Rightarrow Sells(West,x,Nono)$
- $\diamond Missile(x) \Rightarrow Weapon(x)$
- $\diamond Enemy(x,America) \Rightarrow Hostile(x)$
- $\diamond American(West)$
- $\diamond Enemy(Nono,America)$

American(West)

Missile(M<sub>1</sub>)

Owns(Nono,M<sub>1</sub>)

Enemy(Nono,America)

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36

### Forward chaining example

- $American(x) \wedge Weapon(y) \wedge Sells(x,y,z) \wedge Hostile(z) \Rightarrow Criminal(x)$
- $Owms(Nono,M_i) \wedge Missile(M_i) \Rightarrow Sells(West,x,Nono)$
- $Missile(x) \wedge Owms(Nono,x) \Rightarrow Sells(West,x,Nono)$
- $Missile(x) \Rightarrow Weapon(x)$
- $Enemy(x,America) \Rightarrow Hostile(x)$
- $American(West)$
- $Enemy(Nono,America)$

November 3, 2014 37

### Forward chaining example

- $American(x) \wedge Weapon(y) \wedge Sells(x,y,z) \wedge Hostile(z) \Rightarrow Criminal(x)$
- $Owms(Nono,M_i) \wedge Missile(M_i) \Rightarrow Sells(West,x,Nono)$
- $Missile(x) \wedge Owms(Nono,x) \Rightarrow Sells(West,x,Nono)$
- $Missile(x) \Rightarrow Weapon(x)$
- $Enemy(x,America) \Rightarrow Hostile(x)$
- $American(West)$
- $Enemy(Nono,America)$

November 3, 2014 38

### Forward chaining for FOL

- Sound and complete for first-order definite clauses.
- Datalog** = first-order definite clauses with *no functions* (e.g. crime KB)
  - FC terminates for Datalog in finite number of iterations
- May not terminate in general definite clauses with functions if sentence is not entailed
  - This is unavoidable: entailment with definite clauses is semidecidable

November 3, 2014 39

### Backward chaining

- As in propositional, can work backwards from the goal
  - Requires a generator that tries multiple bindings
  - Depth-first recursive proof search
- Widely used for **logic programming**: problem solving by inference.
  - Example: Prolog

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### Backward chaining example

November 3, 2014 41

### Backward chaining example

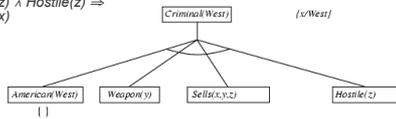
$American(x) \wedge Weapon(y) \wedge Sells(x,y,z) \wedge Hostile(z) \Rightarrow Criminal(x)$

$(x/West)$

November 4, 2014 42

## Backward chaining example

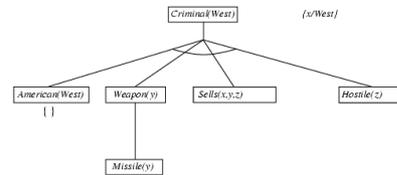
$American(x) \wedge Weapon(y) \wedge Sells(x,y,z) \wedge Hostile(z) \Rightarrow Criminal(x)$



November 4, 2014

43

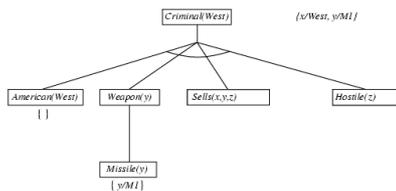
## Backward chaining example



November 3, 2014

44

## Backward chaining example

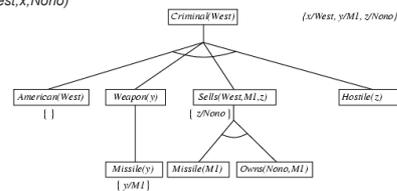


November 3, 2014

45

## Backward chaining example

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



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46

## Backward chaining example



November 3, 2014

47

## Backward chaining algorithm

**function** FOL-BC-ASK( $KB, query$ ) **returns** a generator of substitutions  
**return** FOL-BC-OR( $KB, query, \theta$ )

**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-VARIABLES( $lhs, rhs$ )  
**for each**  $\theta'$  in FOL-BC-AND( $KB, lhs, UNIFY(rhs, goal, \theta')$ ) **do**  
**yield**  $\theta'$

**generator** FOL-BC-AND( $KB, goal, \theta$ ) **yields** a substitution  
**if**  $\theta = failure$  **then return**  
**else if** length( $goals$ ) = 0 **then yield**  $\theta$   
**else do**  
 first, rest  $\leftarrow$  FIRST( $goals$ ), REST( $goals$ )  
**for each**  $\theta'$  in FOL-BC-OR( $KB, SUBST(\theta, first), \theta$ ) **do**  
**for each**  $\theta''$  in FOL-BC-AND( $KB, SUBST(\theta', rest), \theta$ ) **do**  
**yield**  $\theta''$

There may be multiple relevant substitutions, so the functions are generators 48

## Properties of backward chaining



Depth-first recursive proof search

- space is linear in size of proof.
- Incomplete due to infinite loops
  - Fixable
- Inefficient due to repeated subgoals
  - Fixable by caching previous results (extra space!!)
- Widely used for **logic programming**: problem solving by inference.
  - Example: Prolog

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49

## Logic programming: Prolog



- BASIS: backward chaining with Horn clauses + bells & whistles
- Program = set of clauses of the form  
head :- literal<sub>1</sub>, ... literal<sub>n</sub>.  
criminal(X) :- american(X), weapon(Y), sells(X,Y,Z), hostile(Z).

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50

## Prolog is a 'declarative' language



- Clauses are statements about what is true about a problem, instead of instructions how to accomplish the solution.
- The Prolog system uses the clauses to work out how to accomplish the solution by searching through the space of possible solutions.

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## Example



- Prolog program consists of facts and rules.  
animal(lion).  
animal(sparrow).  
hasfeathers(sparrow).  
bird(X) :- animal(X), hasfeathers(X).
- "Run" by asking questions or queries. Or (using logic terminology) by setting a *goal* for Prolog to try to prove:  
?- bird(sparrow).  
yes
- Or to find a value of a variable that makes it true:  
?- bird(What).  
What = sparrow

November 3, 2014

52

## Example



- 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=[]

November 3, 2014

53

## Example



- ancestor(X, Y) :- parent(X, Y).  
(X is an ancestor of Y if X is a parent of X.)
- ancestor(X, Y) :- parent(X, Z), ancestor(Z, Y).  
(X is an ancestor of Y if X is a parent of an ancestor of Y.)

November 3, 2014

54

## Permutations



- Permutation(X, Y) is true whenever Y is a permutation of X.

```
?-permutation([a,b,c], P).
P = [a,b,c];
P = [a,c,b];
P = [b,a,c];
```

### Two cases:

- The only permutation of the empty list is the empty list.
- If the first list is not empty, the it has the form [X|L], and a permutation of such a list can be constructed by first permuting L and then inserting X at any position into the permuted list.

```
permutation([], []).
permutation([X|L], P) :-
    permutation(L, L1), insert(X, L1, P).
```

November 3, 2014

55

## Resolution



- Full first-order version:

$$l_1 \vee \dots \vee l_p \quad m_1 \vee \dots \vee m_q$$

$$\text{Subst}(\theta, l_1 \vee \dots \vee l_{p-1} \vee l_{p+1} \vee \dots \vee l_p \vee m_1 \vee \dots \vee m_{i-1} \vee m_{i+1} \vee \dots \vee m_q)$$

where  $\theta = \text{Unify}(l_p, \neg m_i)$

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

- For example,

$$\frac{\neg \text{Rich}(x) \vee \text{Unhappy}(x), \quad \text{Rich}(\text{Ken})}{\text{Unhappy}(\text{Ken})}$$

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

- Apply resolution steps to CNF(KB  $\wedge$   $\neg\alpha$ ); complete for FOL

56

## Conversion to CNF



- Need to convert KB to CNF, eliminating existential quantifiers
- Consider the sentence "There is someone who is loved by everyone":

$$\exists y \forall x \text{Loves}(x, y)$$

Let's name that someone using a constant that does not appear elsewhere in the KB (Skolem constant):

$$\forall x \text{Loves}(x, \text{Sk1})$$

- Let's try now the sentence "Everyone is loved by someone"

$$\forall y \exists x \text{Loves}(x, y)$$

Consider the following Skolemization:

$$\forall y \text{Loves}(\text{SK2}, y)$$

November 4, 2014

57

## Conversion to CNF



- Need to convert KB to CNF, eliminating existential quantifiers
- Consider the sentence "There is someone who is loved by everyone":

$$\exists y \forall x \text{Loves}(x, y)$$

Let's name that someone using a constant that does not appear elsewhere in the KB (Skolem constant):

$$\forall x \text{Loves}(x, \text{Sk1})$$

- Let's try now the sentence "Everyone is loved by someone"

$$\forall y \exists x \text{Loves}(x, y)$$

Consider the following Skolemization:

$$\forall y \text{Loves}(\text{SK2}, y)$$

- This doesn't work, but skolemization using a function does:

$$\forall y \text{Loves}(\text{SK2}(y), y)$$

November 3, 2014

58

## Conversion to CNF



- Everyone who loves all animals is loved by someone:

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

- Eliminate implications (and biconditionals)

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

- Move  $\neg$  inwards:  $\neg \forall x p = \exists x \neg p$ ,  $\neg \exists x p = \forall x \neg p$

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

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

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

59

## Conversion to CNF



- Standardize variables: each quantifier should use a different one:

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

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

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

- Drop universal quantifiers:

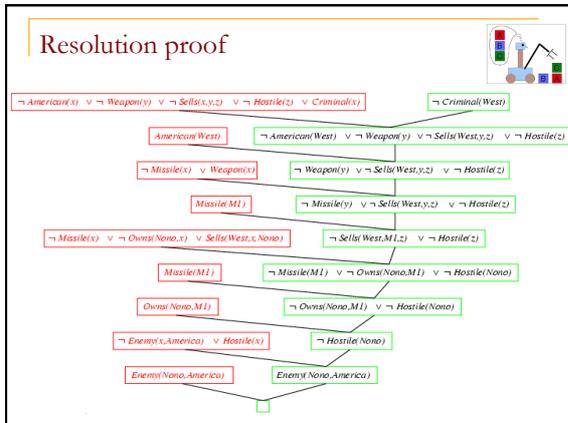
$$[\text{Animal}(F(x)) \wedge \neg \text{Loves}(x,F(x))] \vee \text{Loves}(G(x),x)$$

- Distribute  $\vee$  over  $\wedge$ :

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

November 3, 2014

60



### Connection with CSP

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

$\text{Diff}(\text{Red},\text{Blue}) \quad \text{Diff}(\text{Red},\text{Green})$   
 $\text{Diff}(\text{Green},\text{Red}) \quad \text{Diff}(\text{Green},\text{Blue})$   
 $\text{Diff}(\text{Blue},\text{Red}) \quad \text{Diff}(\text{Blue},\text{Green})$

- Colorable() is inferred iff the CSP has a solution
- Hardness of inference problem related to the difficulty of the corresponding CSP.

November 3, 2014 62

### Theorem provers

- Theorem prover – a system that does full first order logic inference (using resolution)
- Uses:
  - Prove mathematical theorems (known successes!)
  - Hardware/software verification
    - Verify that circuit/software produces correct output for all possible inputs (RSA algorithm was verified this way)

November 3, 2014 63