Inference in first-order logic

Chapter 9, Sections 1–4

Outline

- ◊ Proofs
- ◊ Unification
- ◊ Generalized Modus Ponens
- ◊ Forward and backward chaining

Proofs

Sound inference: find α such that $KB \models \alpha$.
Proof process is a search, operators are inference rules.

E.g., Modus Ponens (MP)

$$\frac{\alpha, \quad \alpha \Rightarrow \beta}{\beta} \qquad \frac{At(Joe, UCB) \quad At(Joe, UCB) \Rightarrow OK(Joe)}{OK(Joe)}$$

E.g., And-Introduction (AI)

$$\frac{\alpha \quad \beta}{\alpha \wedge \beta} \qquad \frac{OK(Joe) \quad CSMajor(Joe)}{OK(Joe) \wedge CSMajor(Joe)}$$

E.g., Universal Elimination (UE)

$$\frac{\forall x \;\; \alpha}{\alpha\{x/\tau\}} \qquad \frac{\forall x \;\; At(x, UCB) \Rightarrow OK(x)}{At(Pat, UCB) \Rightarrow OK(Pat)}$$

τ must be a ground term (i.e., no variables)

Example proof

Bob is a buffalo	1. $Buffalo(Bob)$
Pat is a pig	2. $Pig(Pat)$
Buffaloes outrun pigs	3. $\forall x, y \;\; Buffalo(x) \wedge Pig(y) \Rightarrow Faster(x, y)$
Bob outruns Pat	

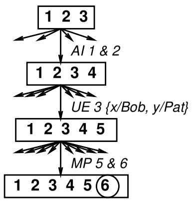
AI 1 & 2	4. $Buffalo(Bob) \wedge Pig(Pat)$

UE 3, $\{x/Bob, y/Pat\}$	5. $Buffalo(Bob) \wedge Pig(Pat) \Rightarrow Faster(Bob, Pat)$

MP 6 & 7	6. $Faster(Bob, Pat)$

Search with primitive inference rules

Operators are inference rules
States are sets of sentences
Goal test checks state to see if it contains query sentence



AI, UE, MP is a common inference pattern

Problem: branching factor huge, esp. for UE

Idea: find a substitution that makes the rule premise match some known facts
$\Rightarrow$ a single, more powerful inference rule

Unification

A substitution σ unifies atomic sentences p and q if $p\sigma = q\sigma$

p	q	σ
$Knows(John, x)$	$Knows(John, Jane)$	
$Knows(John, x)$	$Knows(y, OJ)$	
$Knows(John, x)$	$Knows(y, Mother(y))$	

.

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

Idea: Unify rule premises with known facts, apply unifier to conclusion
E.g., if we know q and $Knows(John, x) \Rightarrow Likes(John, x)$
then we conclude $Likes(John, Jane)$
$Likes(John, OJ)$
$Likes(John, Mother(John))$

Generalized Modus Ponens (GMP)

$$\frac{p_1{}',\ p_2{}',\ \ldots,\ p_n{}',\ (p_1 \wedge p_2 \wedge \ldots \wedge p_n \Rightarrow q)}{q\sigma} \qquad \text{where } p_i{}'\sigma = p_i\sigma \text{ for all } i$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{E.g. } p_1{}' &= \text{Faster(Bob,Pat)} \\ p_2{}' &= \text{Faster(Pat,Steve)} \\ p_1 \wedge p_2 \Rightarrow q &= Faster(x, y) \wedge Faster(y, z) \Rightarrow Faster(x, z) \\ \sigma &= \{x/Bob, y/Pat, z/Steve\} \\ q\sigma &= Faster(Bob, Steve) \end{aligned}$$

GMP used with KB of definite clauses (*exactly* one positive literal):
either a single atomic sentence or
(conjunction of atomic sentences) $\Rightarrow$ (atomic sentence)
All variables assumed universally quantified

Soundness of GMP

Need to show that

$$p_1{}',\ \ldots,\ p_n{}',\ (p_1 \wedge \ldots \wedge p_n \Rightarrow q) \models q\sigma$$

provided that $p_i{}'\sigma = p_i\sigma$ for all i

Lemma: For any definite clause p, we have $p \models p\sigma$ by UE

1. $(p_1 \wedge \ldots \wedge p_n \Rightarrow q) \models (p_1 \wedge \ldots \wedge p_n \Rightarrow q)\sigma = (p_1\sigma \wedge \ldots \wedge p_n\sigma \Rightarrow q\sigma)$

2. $p_1{}',\ \ldots,\ p_n{}' \models p_1{}' \wedge \ldots \wedge p_n{}' \models p_1{}'\sigma \wedge \ldots \wedge p_n{}'\sigma$

3. From 1 and 2, $q\sigma$ follows by simple MP

Forward chaining

When a new fact p is added to the KB
  for each rule such that p unifies with a premise
    if the other premises are known
    then add the conclusion to the KB and continue chaining

Forward chaining is data-driven
    e.g., inferring properties and categories from percepts

Forward chaining example

Add facts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 in turn.
Number in [] = unification literal; $\surd$ indicates rule firing

1. $Buffalo(x) \land Pig(y) \Rightarrow Faster(x,y)$
2. $Pig(y) \land Slug(z) \Rightarrow Faster(y,z)$
3. $Faster(x,y) \land Faster(y,z) \Rightarrow Faster(x,z)$
4. $Buffalo(Bob)$ [1a,×]
5. $Pig(Pat)$ [1b,$\surd$] → 6. $Faster(Bob, Pat)$ [3a,×], [3b,×]
   [2a,×]
7. $Slug(Steve)$ [2b,$\surd$]
   →8. $Faster(Pat, Steve)$ [3a,×], [3b,$\surd$]
     →9. $Faster(Bob, Steve)$ [3a,×], [3b,×]

Backward chaining

When a query q is asked
  if a matching fact q' is known, return the unifier
  for each rule whose consequent q' matches q
    attempt to prove each premise of the rule by backward chaining

(Some added complications in keeping track of the unifiers)

(More complications help to avoid infinite loops)

Two versions: find any solution, find all solutions

Backward chaining is the basis for logic programming, e.g., Prolog

Backward chaining example

1. $Pig(y) \land Slug(z) \Rightarrow Faster(y,z)$
2. $Slimy(z) \land Creeps(z) \Rightarrow Slug(z)$
3. $Pig(Pat)$ 4. $Slimy(Steve)$ 5. $Creeps(Steve)$