CS 1571 Introduction to AI
Lecture 9

Propositional logic: Inference

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Administration

- **PS–3 due today (before the class)**
  - Report
  - Programs through ftp
- **PS-4 is out**
  - on the course web page
  - due next week on Tuesday, October 1, 2002
    - Report
    - Programs

Knowledge-based agent

Knowledge base
Inference engine

- **Knowledge base (KB):**
  - A set of sentences that describe facts about the world in some formal (representational) language
  - **Domain specific**
- **Inference engine:**
  - A set of procedures that work upon the representational language and can infer new facts or answer KB queries
  - **Domain independent**

Knowledge representation

- The **objective of knowledge representation** is to express the knowledge about the world in a computer-tractable form

- Key aspects of knowledge representation languages:
  - **Syntax:** describes how sentences are formed in the language
  - **Semantics:** describes the meaning of sentences, what is it the sentence refers to in the real world
  - **Computational aspect:** describes how sentences and objects are manipulated in concordance with semantic conventions

Many KB systems rely on some variant of logic

Logic

A formal language for expressing knowledge and ways of reasoning.

Logic is defined by**:**

- **A set of sentences**
  - A sentence is constructed from a set of primitives according to syntax rules.
- **A set of interpretations**
  - An interpretation gives a semantic to primitives. It associates primitives with values.
- **The valuation (meaning) function** V
  - Assigns a value (typically the truth value) to a given sentence under some interpretation

$$V : \text{sentence} \times \text{interpretation} \rightarrow \{True, False\}$$

Types of logic

- Different types of logics possible:
  - **Propositional logic**
  - First-order logic
  - Temporal logic
  - Numerical constraints logic
  - Map-coloring logic

In the following:

- **Propositional logic.**
  - Formal language for making logical inferences
  - Foundations of **propositional logic**: **George Boole** (1854)

Propositional logic. Syntax

- **Propositional logic P:**
  - defines a language for symbolic reasoning

First step: define **Syntax+interpretation+semantics of P**

Syntax:

- **Symbols (alphabet)** in P:
  - **Constants**: True, False
  - **A set of propositional variables** (propositional symbols):
    Examples: $P, Q, R, \ldots$ or statements like:
    Light in the room is on,
    It rains outside, etc.
  - **A set of connectives**:
    $\neg, \wedge, \vee, \Rightarrow, \Leftrightarrow$

Propositional logic. Syntax

Sentences in the propositional logic:

- **Atomic sentences:**
  - **Constructed from constants and propositional symbols**
  - True, False are (atomic) sentences
  - P, Q or *Light in the room is on, It rains outside* are (atomic) sentences
- **Composite sentences:**
  - **Constructed from valid sentences via connectives**
  - If A, B are sentences then
    $\neg A \quad (A \wedge B) \quad (A \vee B) \quad (A \Rightarrow B) \quad (A \Leftrightarrow B)$
    or $(A \vee B) \wedge (A \vee \neg B)$
    are sentences

Propositional logic. Semantics.

The semantic gives the meaning to sentences.

In the propositional logic the semantics is defined by:

1. **Interpretation of propositional symbols and constants**
   – Semantics of atomic sentences
2. **Through the meaning of connectives**
   – Meaning (semantics) of composite sentences

Semantic: propositional symbols

A **propositional symbol** (an atomic sentence) can stand for an arbitrary fact (statement) about the world

Examples: "*Light in the room is on*",
"*It rains outside*", etc.

- An **interpretation** maps symbols to one of the two values: ***True (T),*** or ***False (F)***, depending on whether the symbol is satisfied in the world

  I: *Light in the room is on -> **True**, It rains outside -> **False***

  I': *Light in the room is on -> **False**, It rains outside -> **False***

- The **meaning (value)** of the propositional symbol for a specific interpretation is given by its interpretation

  V(Light in the room is on, **I***) = **True***
  V(Light in the room is on, **I'***) = **False***

Semantics: constants

- **The meaning (truth) of constants:**
  - True and False constants are always (under any interpretation) assigned the corresponding ***True,False*** value

$V(True, \mathbf{I}) = \boldsymbol{True}$

$V(False, \mathbf{I}) = \boldsymbol{False}$

For any interpretation **I**

Semantics: composite sentences.

- **The meaning (truth value) of complex propositional sentences.**
  - Determined using the "standard" rules for combining logical sentences:

P	Q	$\neg P$	$P \wedge Q$	$P \vee Q$	$P \Rightarrow Q$	$P \Leftrightarrow Q$
True	***True***	***False***	***True***	***True***	***True***	***True***
True	***False***	***False***	***False***	***True***	***False***	***False***
False	***True***	***True***	***False***	***True***	***True***	***False***
False	***False***	***True***	***False***	***False***	***True***	***True***

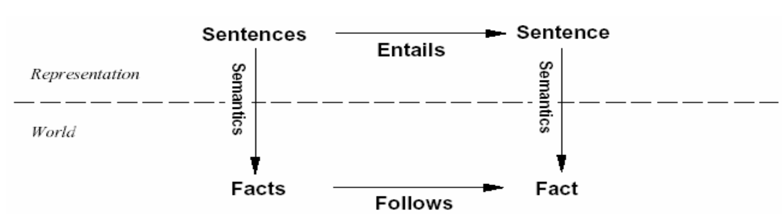
Some definitions

- A **model (in logic):** An interpretation is **a model for a set of sentences** if it assigns true to each sentence in the set.
- A sentence is **satisfiable** if it has a model;
  - There is at least one interpretation under which the sentence can evaluate to True.
- A sentence is **valid** if it is ***True*** in all interpretations
  - i.e., if its negation is **not satisfiable** (leads to contradiction)

			Satisfiable sentence	**Valid sentence**
P	Q	$P \vee Q$	$(P \vee Q) \wedge \neg Q$	$((P \vee Q) \wedge \neg Q) \Rightarrow P$
True	***True***	***True***	***False***	***True***
True	***False***	***True***	***True***	***True***
False	***True***	***True***	***False***	***True***
False	***False***	***False***	***False***	***True***

Entailment

- **Entailment** reflects the relation of one fact in the world following from the others



- Entailment $KB \models \alpha$
- Knowledge base KB entails sentence α if and only if α is true in all worlds where KB is true

Sound and complete inference.

Inference is a process by which conclusions are reached.

Our goal:

- We want to implement the inference process on a computer !!

Assume an **inference procedure *i*** that

- derives a sentence α from the KB : $KB \vdash_i \alpha$

Properties of the inference procedure in terms of entailment

- **Soundness:** An inference procedure is **sound**

  If $KB \vdash_i \alpha$ then it is true that $KB \models \alpha$

- **Completeness:** An inference procedure is **complete**

  If $KB \models \alpha$ then it is true that $KB \vdash_i \alpha$

Logical inference problem

Logical inference problem:

- **Given:**
  - a knowledge base KB (a set of sentences) and
  - a sentence α (called **a theorem)**,
- **Does a KB semantically entail** α ? $KB \models \alpha$?

In other words: In all interpretations in which sentences in the KB are true, is also α true?

Question: Is there a procedure (program) that can decide this problem in a finite number of steps?

Answer: **Yes**. Logical inference problem for the propositional logic is **decidable**.

Solving logical inference problem

In the following:

How to design the procedure that answers:

$$KB \models \alpha \ ?$$

Three approaches:

- **Truth-table approach**
- **Inference rules**
- **Conversion to the inverse SAT problem**
  - **Resolution-refutation**

Truth-table approach

Problem: $KB \models \alpha \ ?$

- We need to check all possible interpretations for which the KB is true (models of KB) whether α is true for each of them

Truth tables:

- enumerate truth values of sentences for all possible interpretations (assignments of True/False values to propositional symbols)

Example:

		KB		α
P	Q	$P \vee Q$	$P \Leftrightarrow Q$	$(P \vee \neg Q) \wedge Q$
True	*True*	*True*	*True*	*True*
True	*False*	*True*	*False*	*False*
False	*True*	*True*	*False*	*False*
False	*False*	*False*	*True*	*False*

Truth-table approach

Problem: $KB \models \alpha$?

- We need to check all possible interpretations for which the KB is true (models of KB) whether α is true for each of them

Truth tables:

- enumerate truth values of sentences for all possible interpretations (assignments of True/False to propositional symbols)

Example:

		KB		α	
P	Q	$P \vee Q$	$P \Leftrightarrow Q$	$(P \vee \neg Q) \wedge Q$	
True	***True***	***True***	***True***	***True***	✓
True	***False***	***True***	***False***	***False***	
False	***True***	***True***	***False***	***False***	
False	***False***	***False***	***True***	***False***	

Truth-table approach

A two steps procedure:

1. **Generate table for all possible interpretations**
2. Check whether the sentence α evaluates to true whenever *KB* evaluates to true

Example: $KB = (A \vee C) \wedge (B \vee \neg C)$ $\alpha = (A \vee B)$

A	B	C	$A \vee C$	$(B \vee \neg C)$	KB	α
True	***True***	***True***				
True	***True***	***False***				
True	***False***	***True***				
True	***False***	***False***				
False	***True***	***True***				
False	***True***	***False***				
False	***False***	***True***				
False	***False***	***False***				

Truth-table approach

A two steps procedure:

1. Generate table for all possible interpretations
2. **Check whether the sentence α evaluates to true whenever *KB* evaluates to true**

Example: $KB = (A \vee C) \wedge (B \vee \neg C) \qquad \alpha = (A \vee B)$

A	B	C	$A \vee C$	$(B \vee \neg C)$	KB	α
True	*True*	*True*	*True*	*True*	*True*	*True*
True	*True*	*False*	*True*	*True*	*True*	*True*
True	*False*	*True*	*True*	*False*	*False*	*True*
True	*False*	*False*	*True*	*True*	*True*	*True*
False	*True*	*True*	*True*	*True*	*True*	*True*
False	*True*	*False*	*False*	*True*	*False*	*True*
False	*False*	*True*	*True*	*False*	*False*	*False*
False	*False*	*False*	*False*	*True*	*False*	*False*

Truth-table approach

$KB = (A \vee C) \wedge (B \vee \neg C) \qquad \alpha = (A \vee B)$

A	B	C	$A \vee C$	$(B \vee \neg C)$	KB	α
True	*True*	*True*	*True*	*True*	*True*	*True*
True	*True*	*False*	*True*	*True*	*True*	*True*
True	*False*	*True*	*True*	*False*	*False*	*True*
True	*False*	*False*	*True*	*True*	*True*	*True*
False	*True*	*True*	*True*	*True*	*True*	*True*
False	*True*	*False*	*False*	*True*	*False*	*True*
False	*False*	*True*	*True*	*False*	*False*	*False*
False	*False*	*False*	*False*	*True*	*False*	*False*

KB entails α

- The **truth-table approach** is **sound and complete** for the propositional logic!!

Inference rules approach.

$$KB \models \alpha \ ?$$

Problem with the truth table approach:

- the truth table is **exponential** in the number of propositional symbols (we checked all assignments)
- KB is true on only a smaller subset

Idea: Can we check only entries for which KB is *True* ?

Solution: apply inference rules to sentences in the KB

Inference rules:

- Represent sound inference patterns repeated in inferences
- Can be used to generate new (sound) sentences from the existing ones

Inference rules for logic

- **Modus ponens**

$$\frac{A \Rightarrow B, \quad A}{B}$$

← **premise**

← **conclusion**

- If both sentences in the premise are true then conclusion is true.
- The modus ponens inference rule is **sound.**
  - We can prove this through the truth table.

A	B	$A \Rightarrow B$
False	*False*	*True*
False	*True*	*True*
True	*False*	*False*
True	*True*	*True*

Inference rules for logic

- **And-elimination**

$$\frac{A_1 \wedge A_2 \wedge \quad A_n}{A_i}$$

- **And-introduction**

$$\frac{A_1, A_2, \quad A_n}{A_1 \wedge A_2 \wedge \quad A_n}$$

- **Or-introduction**

$$\frac{A_i}{A_1 \vee A_2 \vee \ldots A_i \vee \quad A_n}$$

Inference rules for logic

- **Elimination of double negation**

$$\frac{\neg\neg A}{A}$$

- **Unit resolution**

$$\frac{A \vee B, \quad \neg A}{B}$$

A special case of

- **Resolution**

$$\frac{A \vee B, \quad \neg B \vee C}{A \vee C}$$

- All of the above inference rules **are sound.** We can prove this through the truth table, similarly to the **modus ponens** case.

Example. Inference rules approach.

KB: $P \wedge Q \quad P \Rightarrow R \quad (Q \wedge R) \Rightarrow S$ **Theorem:** S

1. $P \wedge Q$
2. $P \Rightarrow R$
3. $(Q \wedge R) \Rightarrow S$

Example. Inference rules approach.

KB: $P \wedge Q \quad P \Rightarrow R \quad (Q \wedge R) \Rightarrow S$ **Theorem:** S

1. $P \wedge Q$
2. $P \Rightarrow R$
3. $(Q \wedge R) \Rightarrow S$
4. P **From 1 and And-elim**

$$\frac{A_1 \wedge A_2 \wedge \quad A_n}{A_i}$$

Example. Inference rules approach.

KB: $P \wedge Q \quad P \Rightarrow R \quad (Q \wedge R) \Rightarrow S$ **Theorem:** S

1. $P \wedge Q$
2. $P \Rightarrow R$
3. $(Q \wedge R) \Rightarrow S$
4. P
5. R

From 2,4 and Modus ponens

$$\frac{A \Rightarrow B, \quad A}{B}$$

Example. Inference rules approach.

KB: $P \wedge Q \quad P \Rightarrow R \quad (Q \wedge R) \Rightarrow S$ **Theorem:** S

1. $P \wedge Q$
2. $P \Rightarrow R$
3. $(Q \wedge R) \Rightarrow S$
4. P
5. R
6. Q

From 1 and And-elim

$$\frac{A_1 \wedge A_2 \wedge \quad A_n}{A_i}$$

Example. Inference rules approach.

KB: $P \wedge Q \quad P \Rightarrow R \quad (Q \wedge R) \Rightarrow S$ **Theorem:** S

1. $P \wedge Q$
2. $P \Rightarrow R$
3. $(Q \wedge R) \Rightarrow S$
4. P
5. R
6. Q
7. $(Q \wedge R)$

From 5,6 and And-introduction

$$\frac{A_1, A_2, \quad A_n}{A_1 \wedge A_2 \wedge \quad A_n}$$

Example. Inference rules approach.

KB: $P \wedge Q \quad P \Rightarrow R \quad (Q \wedge R) \Rightarrow S$ **Theorem:** S

1. $P \wedge Q$
2. $P \Rightarrow R$
3. $(Q \wedge R) \Rightarrow S$
4. P
5. R
6. Q
7. $(Q \wedge R)$
8. S

$$\frac{A \Rightarrow B, \quad A}{B}$$

From 7,3 and Modus ponens

Proved: S

Example. Inference rules approach.

KB: $P \wedge Q \quad P \Rightarrow R \quad (Q \wedge R) \Rightarrow S$ **Theorem:** S

1. $P \wedge Q$
2. $P \Rightarrow R$
3. $(Q \wedge R) \Rightarrow S$
4. P — **From 1 and And-elim**
5. R — **From 2,4 and Modus ponens**
6. Q — **From 1 and And-elim**
7. $(Q \wedge R)$ — **From 5,6 and And-introduction**
8. S — **From 7,3 and Modus ponens**

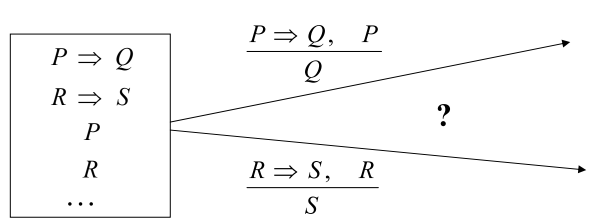
Proved: S

Inference rules

- To show that theorem α holds for a KB
  - we may need to apply a number of sound inference rules

Problem: many possible inference rules to be applied next

Looks familiar?

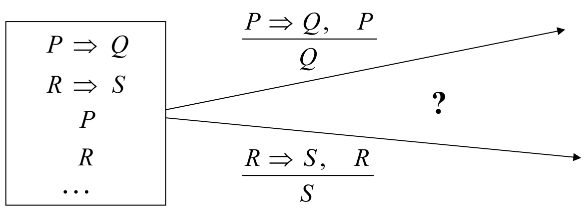


Logic inferences and search

- To show that theorem α holds for a KB
  - we may need to apply a number of sound inference rules

Problem: many possible inference rules to be applied next

Looks familiar?



This is an instance of a search problem:

Truth table method (from the search perspective):

- blind enumeration and checking

Logic inferences and search

Inference rule method as a search problem:

- **State:** a set of sentences that are known to be true
- **Initial state**: a set of sentences in the KB
- **Operators**: applications of inference rules
  - Allow us to add new sound sentences to old ones
- **Goal state:** a theorem α is derived from KB

Logic inference:

- **Proof:** A sequence of sentences that are immediate consequences of applied inference rules
- **Theorem proving:** process of finding a proof of theorem

Normal forms

Sentences in the propositional logic can be transformed into one of the normal forms. This can simplify the inferences.

Normal forms used:

Conjunctive normal form (CNF)

- conjunction of clauses (clauses include disjunctions of literals)

$$(A \vee B) \wedge (\neg A \vee \neg C \vee D)$$

Disjunctive normal form (DNF)

- Disjunction of terms (terms include conjunction of literals)

$$(A \wedge \neg B) \vee (\neg A \wedge C) \vee (C \wedge \neg D)$$

Conversion to a CNF

Assume: $\neg(A \Rightarrow B) \vee (C \Rightarrow A)$

1. Eliminate $\Rightarrow, \Leftrightarrow$

$$\neg(\neg A \vee B) \vee (\neg C \vee A)$$

2. Reduce the scope of signs through DeMorgan Laws and double negation

$$(A \wedge \neg B) \vee (\neg C \vee A)$$

3. Convert to CNF using the associative and distributive laws

$$(A \vee \neg C \vee A) \wedge (\neg B \vee \neg C \vee A)$$

and

$$(A \vee \neg C) \wedge (\neg B \vee \neg C \vee A)$$

Satisfiability (SAT) problem

Determine whether a sentence in the conjunctive normal form (CNF) is satisfiable (I.e. can evaluate to true)

$$(P \vee Q \vee \neg R) \wedge (\neg P \vee \neg R \vee S) \wedge (\neg P \vee Q \vee \neg T) \ldots$$

It is an instance of a constraint satisfaction problem:

- **Variables:**
  - Propositional symbols (*P, R, T, S*)
  - Values: ***True, False***
- **Constraints:**
  - Every conjunct must evaluate to true, at least one of the literals must evaluate to true
- **All techniques developed for CSPs can be applied to solve the logical inference problem !!**

Relationship between inference problem and satisfiability

Inference problem:

- we want to show that the sentence α is entailed by KB

Satisfiability:

- The sentence is satisfiable if there is some assignment (interpretation) under which the sentence evaluates to true

Connection:

$KB \models \alpha$ if and only if

$(KB \wedge \neg \alpha)$ is **unsatisfiable**

Consequences:

- inference problem is NP-complete
- programs for solving the SAT problem can be used to solve the inference problem

Universal inference rule: Resolution rule

Sometimes inference rules can be combined into a single rule

Resolution rule

- sound inference rule that works for CNF
- It is complete for **propositional logic (refutation complete)**

$$\frac{A \vee B, \quad \neg A \vee C}{B \vee C}$$

A	B	C	$A \vee B$	$\neg B \vee C$	$A \vee C$
False	*False*	*False*	*False*	*True*	*False*
False	*False*	*True*	*False*	*True*	*True*
False	*True*	*False*	*True*	*False*	*False*
False	*True*	*True*	*True*	*True*	*True*
True	*False*	*False*	*True*	*True*	*True*
True	*False*	*True*	*True*	*True*	*True*
True	*True*	*False*	*True*	*False*	*True*
True	*True*	*True*	*True*	*True*	*True*

Universal rule: Resolution.

Initial obstacle:

- Repeated application of the resolution rule to a KB in CNF may fail to derive new valid sentences

  Example:

  We know: $(A \wedge B)$ We want to show: $(A \vee B)$

  Resolution rule fails to derive it (**incomplete ??)**

A trick to make things work:

- **proof by contradiction**
  - **Disproving:** $KB, \neg \alpha$
  - **Proves the entailment** $KB \models \alpha$

Resolution algorithm

Algorithm:

- **Convert KB to the CNF form;**
- **Apply iteratively the resolution rule** starting from
  $KB, \neg \alpha$ (in CNF form)
- **Stop when**:
  - Contradiction (empty clause) is reached:
    - $A, \neg A \rightarrow \emptyset$
    - proves entailment.
  - No more new sentences can be derived
    - disproves it.

Example. Resolution.

KB: $(P \wedge Q) \wedge (P \Rightarrow R) \wedge [(Q \wedge R) \Rightarrow S]$ **Theorem:** S

Step 1. convert KB to CNF:

- $P \wedge Q \longrightarrow P \wedge Q$
- $P \Rightarrow R \longrightarrow (\neg P \vee R)$
- $(Q \wedge R) \Rightarrow S \longrightarrow (\neg Q \vee \neg R \vee S)$

KB: $P \quad Q \quad (\neg P \vee R) \quad (\neg Q \vee \neg R \vee S)$

Step 2. Negate the theorem to prove it via refutation

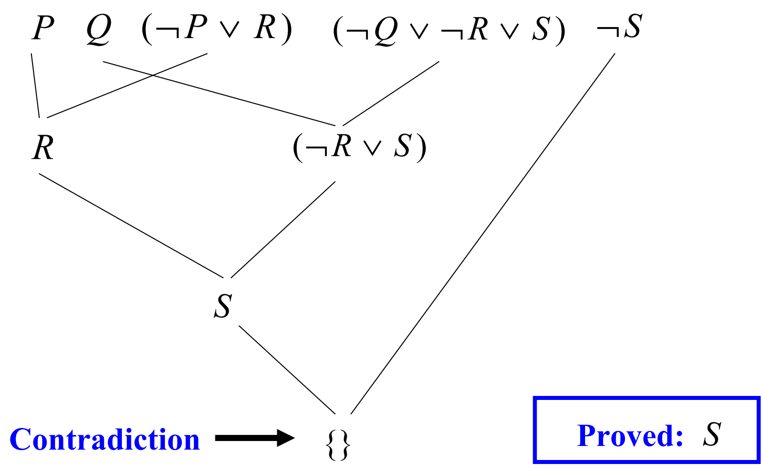
$S \longrightarrow \neg S$

Step 3. Run resolution on the set of clauses

$P \quad Q \quad (\neg P \vee R) \quad (\neg Q \vee \neg R \vee S) \quad \neg S$

Example. Resolution.

KB: $(P \wedge Q) \wedge (P \Rightarrow R) \wedge [(Q \wedge R) \Rightarrow S]$ **Theorem:** S



Horn clauses

A special type of clause with at most one positive literal

$$(A \vee \neg B) \wedge (\neg A \vee \neg C \vee D)$$

Can be written also as: $(B \Rightarrow A) \wedge ((A \wedge C) \Rightarrow D)$

- Two types of propositional statements:
  - Implications: called **rules** $(B \Rightarrow A)$
  - Propositional symbols: **facts** B

Modus ponens:

- is the "universal "(complete) rule for the sentences in the Horn form

$$\frac{A \Rightarrow B, \quad A}{B} \qquad \frac{A_1 \wedge A_2 \wedge \ldots \wedge A_k \Rightarrow B, A_1, A_2, \ldots A_k}{B}$$

Forward and backward chaining

Two inference procedures based on modus ponens for **Horn KBs**:

- **Forward chaining**

  Idea: Whenever the premises of a rule are satisfied, infer the conclusion. Continue with rules that became satisfied.

- **Backward chaining (goal reduction)**

  Idea: To prove the fact that appears in the conclusion of a rule prove the premises of the rule. Continue recursively.

Both procedures are **complete for KBs in the Horn form** !!!

Forward chaining example

- **Forward chaining**

  Idea: Whenever the premises of a rule are satisfied, infer the conclusion. Continue with rules that became satisfied.

Assume the KB with the following rules and facts:

KB: R1: $A \wedge B \Rightarrow C$

R2: $C \wedge D \Rightarrow E$

R3: $C \wedge F \Rightarrow G$

F1: A
F2: B
F3: D

Theorem: E ?

Forward chaining example

Theorem: E

KB: R1: $A \wedge B \Rightarrow C$

R2: $C \wedge D \Rightarrow E$

R3: $C \wedge F \Rightarrow G$

F1: A
F2: B
F3: D

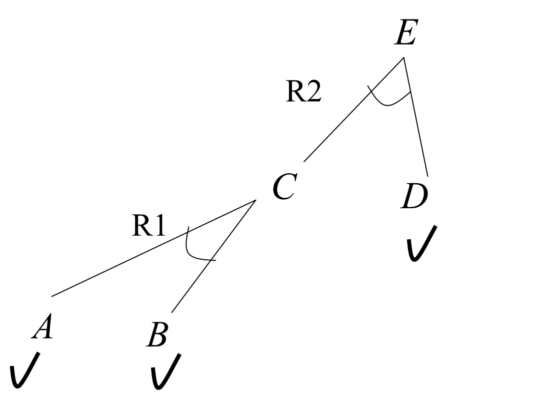
Rule R1 is satisfied.

F4: C

Rule R2 is satisfied.

F5: E ✓

Backward chaining example



KB: R1: $A \wedge B \Rightarrow C$

R2: $C \wedge D \Rightarrow E$

R3: $C \wedge F \Rightarrow G$

F1: A
F2: B
F3: D

- Backward chaining is more focused:
  - tries to prove the theorem only