Meta-Interpreters

• How to find proofs in datalog
  - Depth first search
  - Breath first search
  - A* search
  - Interative Deepening

• Textbook writes these different interpreters in Prolog
  - Messy, as both base language and metalanguage based on datalog
  - Base language: what your knowledge engineer programs in
  - Meta language: what your programmer programs in to implement the reasoning procedure

• We use Python for implementing reasoning procedure
⇒ Disjunction

• Depth Bounded
• Delaying Goals
Adding Disjunction to datalog

• Want to allow disjunction in body of clause
  \[ a \leftarrow b \lor c \]
  - Means that if either \( b \) or \( c \) is true, then \( a \) must be true

• Not increasing the power of datalog, just making it easier for knowledge engineer
  \[ a \leftarrow b \]
  \[ a \leftarrow c \]

• First, how do we represent definite clauses in Python?
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• First, how do we represent definite clauses in Python?
  - As a list whose first element is head and rest are conjuncts of body
Defining Clauses in Python

• Need a more complex representation to handle disjunction
  - Clause is a list of length 2, first element is head, second is body

• Body:
  - atoms are bodies
  - a list with ‘and’ or ‘or’ as head followed by bodies is a body

• Examples:
  \[ s \leftarrow a \]
  \[ s \leftarrow a \land b \]
  \[ s \leftarrow a \lor b \]
  \[ s \leftarrow a \land (b \lor c \lor (e \land f) \lor g) \land h \]

• For simplicity, lets not allow embedded bodies. Just:
  \[ [’s’, [’and’, ’a’, ’b’]] \]
  \[ [’s’, [’or’, ’a’, ’b’]] \]
Interpreter for Disjunction

• Before (without disjunction)
  - State of a proof was a conjunction
  - Used resolution to replace conjunct \( a \) with a list of conjuncts \( b \ c \ d \), if we had the rule \( a \leftarrow b \ c \ d \)

• Now, replacement might be a conjunction or disjunction
  - Keep answer clause to be a conjunction of atoms
  - Conjunction: replace \( a \) with entire conjunction
  - Disjunction: replace \( a \) with one of the disjuncts
  - Note that which disjunct we pick does matter
    + This is not \textit{don’t care} non-determinism of picking which conjunct to work on first

• To find all of the neighbors of \( a \)
  - Need to find all rules whose head matches \( a \)
  - For each rule that is a disjunction, add answer clause for each disjuncts
Example

KB:
\[ a \leftarrow [or \ b \ c] \]
\[ a \leftarrow [and \ e \ f] \]
\[ a \leftarrow g \]
\[ a \leftarrow [or \ h \ i \ j] \]
\[ yes \leftarrow [and \ a \ k \ l \ m] \]

- What are the new neighbors?
Overview

• Disjunction

⇒ Depth Bounded

• Delaying Goals
Depth Bounded Reasoning Procedure

• Similar to Iterative Deepening
  But you don’t keep going to deeper and deeper depths
• Could be done for either depth-first or breadth-first
• Will it always halt?
• Is it sound and complete?
Overview

• Disjunction
• Depth Bounded
⇒ Delaying Goals
Delaying Goals

• Some goals, rather than being proved, can be delayed
  - Delay subgoals with variables, in the hope that subsequent calls will ground the variables
    + Delay an $is(X,Y)$ in which $Y$ is not fully instantiated
  - Delay assumptions, so that you can collect assumptions that are needed to prove a goal
    + We will see more of this later in the course
Example

• Delaying might allow a definite clause to be used in a way it wasn’t anticipated for

• Example: Brother, where we expect both variables to be inputs

  brother(X,Y) :-
  not(X = Y),
  sonof(X,Z),
  sonof(Y,Z),

• When used where either is not inputs, you get wrong behavior
  - Have reasoning procedure delay evaluation of ‘not =’ until both parameters are instantiated
Implementention

• Rather than always choosing the first atom in the conjunction
  - Have rules for when you can skip over atoms
  - At each step of the proof, keep rechecking whether atoms at the front of the answer clause (which were previously delayed) can be proved
  - Do not move delayed atoms to end of answer clause, as you should respect the defined ordering as much as possible

• While we are at it ...
  - If there are any ground atoms, you might want to prove those first
    + As no variable bindings from earlier atoms will not affect their truth
  - If they can’t be proved, may as well find out sooner than later
Caveat

• Re-ordering of atoms works in datalog
• Re-ordering of atoms does not make sense in Prolog in general
  - Prolog has assert/retract for adding/removing of facts during a proof
  - Programmer explicitly controls ordering of conjuncts in rules and rules in KB, and can use this ordering to take advantage of side effects from assert/retract
Recap of Class

• Adding Disjunction
  - Did not change expressiveness of datalog

• Depth Bounded Reasoning
  - Reasoning procedure that always halts in a certain amount of time
  - Sacrifices completeness

• Delaying Goals
  - Mechanism to remove reliance from knowledge engineer to order conjuncts in a rule
  - Can speed up the reasoning procedure