



# Knowledge Representation

- Attribute-Value pairs, frames, and semantic networks allow you to represent knowledge very effectively, but...
- ...accessing and reasoning with this knowledge is *ad hoc*.
- However, our reasoning does not seem *ad hoc*...we follow certain reasoning patterns or rules.



Read Prolog Tutorial on  
course website

# Rule-based Systems

- Rule-based systems try to mimic our reasoning steps with sets of if-then rules:

```
if is-fresh(coffee) then pour(coffee)
if not is-fresh(coffee) then make(coffee)
```

- This kind of reasoning was already studied by the ancient Greeks and is referred to as the *modus ponens*,

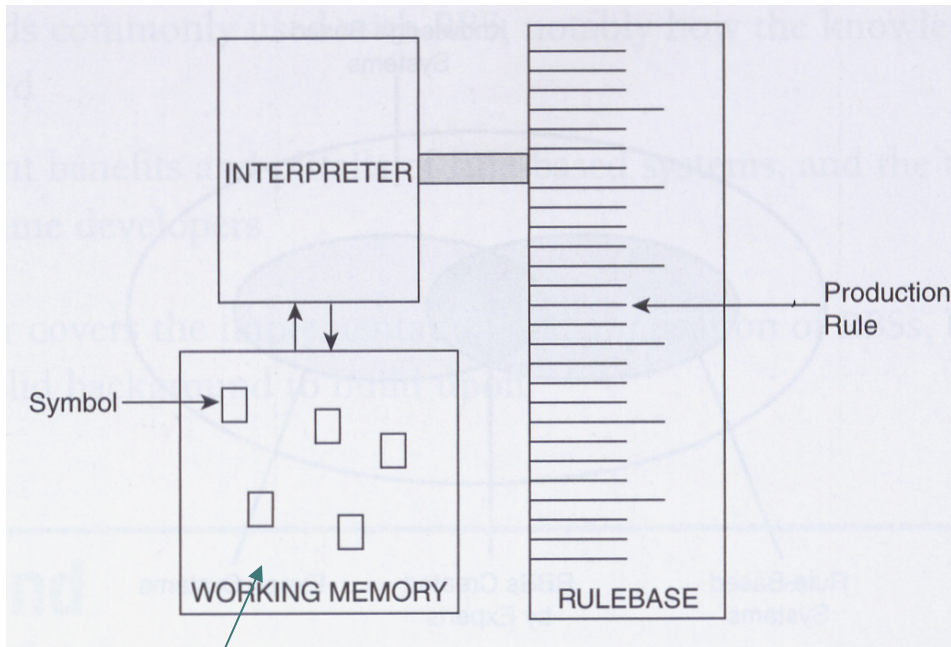
$$\begin{array}{l} \text{if } A \text{ then } B \\ A = \text{true} \\ \hline \therefore B = \text{true} \end{array}$$

- Sometimes rules are also referred to as *productions* or *production rules*.

Rules:  
If <condition> then <action>



# Rule-based Systems



Current State of  
the Reasoning  
(Computation)

Computation step:

- The interpreter
  - selects a rule from the rulebase
  - applies the rule to the symbols in the working memory
  - updates the working memory

☞ Rules can be selected in an arbitrary order only depending on the state of the computation.



# Rule-based Systems

- A convenient framework for rule-based reasoning is first-order logic (predicate logic)
- Rather than arbitrary data structures first-order logic depends on
  - Quantified Variables
  - Predicates
  - Logical Connectives
  - If-then Rules



# First-Order Logic

- Quantified Variables

- Universally quantified variables

$\forall X$  – for all objects  $X$

- Existentially quantified variables

$\exists Y$  – there exists an object  $Y$



# First-Order Logic

- Predicates

- Predicates are functions that map their arguments into *true/false*
- The signature of a predicate  $p(X)$  is

$p: \text{Objects} \rightarrow \{ \text{true}, \text{false} \}$

with  $X \in \text{Objects}$ .

- Example:  $\text{human}(X)$ 
  - $\text{human}: \text{Objects} \rightarrow \{ \text{true}, \text{false} \}$
  - $\text{human}(\text{tree}) = \text{false}$
  - $\text{human}(\text{paul}) = \text{true}$
- Example:  $\text{mother}(X, Y)$ 
  - $\text{mother}: \text{Objects} \times \text{Objects} \rightarrow \{ \text{true}, \text{false} \}$
  - $\text{mother}(\text{betty}, \text{paul}) = \text{true}$
  - $\text{Mother}(\text{giraffe}, \text{peter}) = \text{false}$



# First-Order Logic

- We can combine predicates and quantified variables to make statements on sets of objects
  - $\exists X[\text{mother}(X, \text{paul})]$ 
    - there exists an object  $X$  such that  $X$  is the mother of Paul
  - $\forall Y[\text{human}(Y)]$ 
    - for all objects  $Y$  such that  $Y$  is human



# First-Order Logic

- Logical Connectives: and, or, not
  - $\exists F \forall C [\text{parent}(F, C) \text{ and } \text{male}(F)]$ 
    - There exists an object F for all object C such that F is a parent of C and F is male.
  - $\forall X [\text{day}(X) \text{ and } (\text{comfortable}(X) \text{ or } \text{rainy}(X))]$ 
    - For all objects X such that X is a day and X is either comfortable or rainy.





# First-Order Logic

## ○ If-then rules: $A \rightarrow B$

- $\forall X \forall Y [\text{parent}(X, Y) \text{ and } \text{female}(X) \rightarrow \text{mother}(X, Y)]$ 
  - For all objects  $X$  and for all objects  $Y$  such that if  $X$  is a parent of  $Y$  and  $X$  is female then  $X$  is a mother.
- $\forall Q [\text{human}(Q) \rightarrow \text{mortal}(Q)]$ 
  - For all objects  $Q$  such that if  $Q$  is human then  $Q$  is mortal.



# First-Order Logic

$\forall \emptyset$  [female(pam)]  
 $\forall \emptyset$  [female(liz)]  
 $\forall \emptyset$  [female(ann)]  
 $\forall \emptyset$  [female(pat)]

Assertions

$\forall \emptyset$  [male(tom)]  
 $\forall \emptyset$  [male(bob)]  
 $\forall \emptyset$  [male(jim)]

$\forall \emptyset$  [parent(pam,bob)]  
 $\forall \emptyset$  [parent(tom,bob)]  
 $\forall \emptyset$  [parent(tom,liz)]  
 $\forall \emptyset$  [parent(bob,ann)]  
 $\forall \emptyset$  [parent(bob,pat)]  
 $\forall \emptyset$  [parent(pat,jim)]

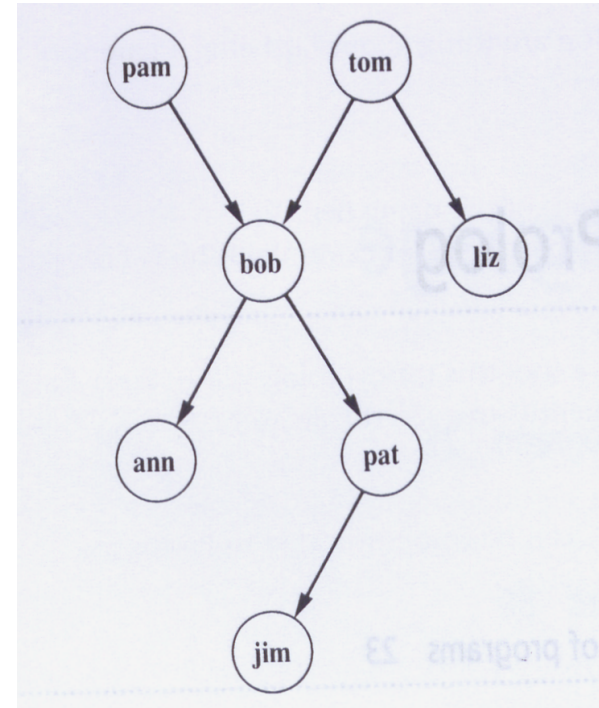
$\forall X \forall Y$  [parent(X,Y) and female(X)  $\rightarrow$  mother(X)]

$\forall X \forall Y$  [parent(X,Y) and male(X)  $\rightarrow$  father(X)]

$\forall X \forall Y \forall Z$  [parent(X,Y) and parent(X,Z) and not same-person(Y,Z)  $\rightarrow$  siblings(Y,Z)]

How about sister?

How about grandparent?



NOTE: if we only consider the persons mentioned here, then we are making use of the closed world assumption.



# Prolog

Prolog = **Programming in Logic**

☞ Executable First-Order Logic

Facts:

$\forall \emptyset$  [female(pam)]

becomes

female(pam).

Rules:

$\forall X \forall Y$  [parent(X,Y) and female(X)  $\rightarrow$  mother(X)]

becomes

And Connective

mother(X) :- parent(X,Y), female(X)

Observations:

- ☞ Think of :- as the  $\leftarrow$  arrow.
- ☞ Universal quantification is implied
- ☞ Only universally quantified rules are allowed
- ☞ Variables have to start with a capital letter
- ☞ Objects have to be all lower case letters



# Prolog – Rules & Facts

facts

```
female(pam).
female(liz).
female(ann).
female(pat).
male(tom).
male(bob).
male(jim).

parent(pam,bob).
parent(tom,bob).
parent(tom,liz).
parent(bob,ann).
parent(bob,pat).
parent(pat,jim).
```

rules

```
mother(X) :- parent(X,Y) , female(X).
father(X)  :- parent(X,Y) , male(X).
siblings(Y,Z) :- parent(X,Y) , parent(X,Z) , not(sameperson(Y,Z)).
```

We can execute this program by asking questions:

```
?- female(pam).
?- female(X).       $\exists X[\text{female}(X)]?$ 
?- mother(pam).
?- father(Y).
```

- ☞ Can we *prove* that ‘female(pam)’ is true?
- ☞ Can we *prove* that there exists an object X that make ‘female(X)’ true?
- ☞ *etc*

What about the ‘sameperson’ predicate?



# Prolog – Rules & Facts

facts

```
isa(cardinal, bird).
isa(bluejay, bird).
isa(boy, human).
isa(girl, human).
isa(computer, artifact).
isa(airplane, artifact).
isa(bird, animal).
isa(human, animal).

has(bird, feathers).
has(bird, wings).
has(human, intelligence).
has(computer, intelligence).
has(airplane, wings).
```

rules

```
can_do(Thing, fly) :- has(Thing, wings).
can_do(Thing, think) :- has(Thing, intelligence).
can_do(Thing, live) :- isa(Thing, animal).
```

We can ask questions:

```
?- isa(cardinal,bird).
?- isa(bluejay,human).
?- can_do(human,think).
```

or:

```
?- isa(cardinal,X).
?- can_do(X,think).
```