Production Systems Rule base Systems (Busse book handout)

CSE 537
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Production Systems (Rule Based Systems)

A production system consists of:

- 1. A knowledge base, also called a rule base containing production rules, or productions.
- 2. A database, contains facts
- 3.A rule interpreter, also called a rule application module to control the entire production system.

Production Rules (Expert System Rules)

Production rules are the **units** of knowledge of the form:

IF conditions

THEN actions

Condition part of the rule is also called the

IF part, premise, antecedent or left side of the rule.

Production Rules (Expert System Rules)

Action part is also called **THEN** part, conclusion, consequent, succeedent, or the right side of the rule.

Actions are executed when conditions are true and the rule is fired.

Rules Format:

$$C_1 \& C_2 \& ... \& C_n => A$$

 C_1, \dots, C_n, A are atomic formulas

Production Rule (Expert System Rule)

1. Propositional logic conceptualization: rules are propositional logic formulas i.e.

Rules are:

$$C_1 \& C_2 \& ... \& C_n => A$$

where C₁, ..., C_n, A are atomic formulas

In this case atomic formulas are propositional variables or sometimes their negations

All our book examples use propositional logic conceptualization!

Production Rules

2. Predicate Form conceptualization (knowledge representation)

Rules are:

Production System ES

$$ES = (R, RI, DBF)$$

R - is a finite set of production rules

RI – is an inference engine called rule interpreter

DBF – is a **database** of **facts** (changing dynamically)

Rules are always

$$C_1 \& ... \& C_n => A$$

For n > 1 and

C₁,...., C_n, A are atomic formulas in a Knowledge Representation we work with

Propositional Rule of Inference in ES Rules Interpreter RI

Rule of inference of the Rule Interpreter is:

$$C_1 \& C_2 \& ... \& C_n => A ; C_1, ... C_n$$
A

for C₁, ... C_n belonging to DBF

APPLICATION of the **Rule of Inference** means that

for a given rule of the production (expert) system ES

$$C_1 \& ... \& C_n -> A$$

the rule interpreter RI will check database of facts DBF and

if all C₁,...,C_n belong to DBF, the interpreter will deduce A and add A to the database of facts DBF.

We also say that the interpreter "Fire the rule" and add new fact A to the database of facts.

Conceptualizations

In Predicate Form Conceptualization

```
Facts are certain atomic formulas
attribute (x, value of the attribute)
where the variable x is replaced (unified) with
record identifier ID
```

In Propositional conceptualizations

Facts are propositional atomic formulas i.e. propositional variables or (sometimes) negations of propositional variables

DBF – Database of Facts

The content of DBF (database of facts) is changed cyclically by the rules interpreter RI

Facts may have time tags so that the time of their insertion by RI in to DBF can be determined

```
Example: (propositional)

DBF = {A, B} and our ES has a rule

A &B => C
```

The interpreter RI matches A &B with facts A,B and fires rule and adds C to the DBF and new get NEW DBF = {A, B, C}

RI Rule Interpreter

RI works iteratively in recognize-and-act cycles In a ONE CYCLE

- 1.RI matches the condition part of the rules against facts (current state of DBF)
- 2. Recognizes all applicable rules
- 3. Selects one of them and applies it (fires, executes)
- **4. Adds** the **action part** of the applied rule (fired rule) to the current **DBF**.

RI stops when goal is reached (problem solved) or there are no more applicable rules.

Predicate Form Conceptualization: Example

Records	a ₁	a ₂	a ₃	a ₄	a ₅
01	1	2	0	1	1
02	0	0	1	a	b
O ₃	0	1	2	1	а

Constants: (key attributes) o1, o2, o3

Values of a1 are: 1, 0, values of a2 are: 2, 0, 1

values of a3 are: 0, 1, 2, values of a4 are: 1, a, and values of a5 are:

1, a, b

TRIPLE PREDICATE FORM CONCEPTUALIZATION

Some Atomic Formulas that are NOT FACTS are:

 $(x, a_1, 1), (x, a1, 0), (x, a2, 2), (x, a5, a), where x is a variable!$

Some Atomic Formulas that ARE FACTS are:

 $(O_1, a_2, 0), (O_2, a_3, 1), (O_3, a_5, a),$

Rule example:

 $(x, a_1, 1) & (x, a_5, a) => (x, a_3, 1)$

Different Forms of Atomic Formulas

```
Atomic formula that is a FACT written in a triple form:
 (o_1, a_7, 1)
The same formula written in predicate form is: a_7 (o_1, 1)
Atomic formula that is NOT a FACT written in a triple form is
 (x, a_7, 1)
The same formula written in predicate form is: a_7(x, 1)
In Busse Handout the form of atomic formulas is:
  (Entity, Attribute, Value), (person, Attribute, Value),
where Entity represents a variable x, person represents a
  constant (like John):
(x, Attribute, Value), (John, Attribute, Value),
Where John is a constant and atomic formula becomes a FACT
We will use x to denote variables and we use the
predicate form: attribute(x, value)
```

Different Forms of Atomic Formulas

Name	a1	Valuehouse	
John	yes	100,000	

Atomic Formula that is a FACT written in a **predicate form**:

Valuehouse(John, 100,000)

Atomic Formula that is NOT a FACT written in a **predicate form:**

Valuehouse(x, 100,00)

x is a variable

In our Data Table: John is the key attribute

Two Forms of Atomic Formulas

ID	Eyes	Shoe Size	Children	House	Salary
John	Blue	10	2	Big	100,000
Mary	Green	9	0	Small	5,000
Anita	Green	9	1	Small	3,000

Atomic formulas

- Some atomic formulas from our database that are facts written in Busse's handout triple form are
 (John, eyes, blue), (Mary, children, 0)
 (Mary, house, small), (Anita, yes, green)
- 2. Some atomic formulas that are not facts written in a predicate form are eyes(x, blue), house(x, small)

Observe that the above formulas become **FACTS** when x becomes John or Mary. We say that **we MATCH** x in eyes(x, blue), with the record John, or with the record Mary in house(x, small)

We write it: eyes(x, blue){x/John) = eyes(John, blue), house(x, small){x/Mary} = house(Mary, small)

Rule Interpreter RI

- The RI works iteratively in Recognize-And-Act cycles. In such a cycle, RI:
- 1. Matches the condition part of the rules against the facts and recognizes all applicable rules
- 2. Selects one of the applicable rules and applies the rule i.e. fires or executes it: adds fact (action part) to the database

Rules have names, many have time tag.

RI stops when problem solved or no rules are applicable.

Pattern Matching: Unification

ES RULES are written with atomic formulas that are not FACTS written in a **triples form**

(entity, attribute, value), where entity is a variable, i.e. atomic formulas that are **NOT FACTS** are:

(x, attribute, value).

FACTS are represented by similar triples, with entity as a constant. i.e. they are:

(ID, attribute, value).

Pattern matching – is matching the variable x in the triple

(x, attribute, value) with a proper record in the database identified by the key attribute ID, i.e. with the fact

(ID, attribute, value).

We write it: (x, attribute, value) {x/ID} = (ID, attribute, value)

Example

```
Lets look at a RULE in a predicate triple form representation

(person, yearly income, >$15,000) &

(person, valuehouse, >$30,000) => (person, loantoget, < $3,000)

Person- variable x
```

Rule is: $C_1(x) \& C_2(x) \rightarrow A(x)$

```
(x, yearly income, >$15,000) &
(x, valuehouse, >$30,000) => (x, loantoget, <$3,000)
```

In "Plain English": If somebody has an yearly income greater the \$15,000 and his/hers house has a value greater the n\$30,000, then bank approves any loan smaller than \$3,000.

Facts

```
John – constant person = x - variable
F1: (John, yearly income, >$15,000)
F2: (John, valuehouse, >$30,000)
PATTERN MATCHING:
Assign (UNIFY) x/John (person/John)
Use Inference Rule (RI matching)
C_1 \& C_2 \rightarrow A \{x/John\}; F_1 \& F_1
(John, loantoget, <$3,000) \leftarrow add new fact to DB
```

During a cycle of RI, most of the time is spent on pattern matching = unification

The most popular efficient pattern matching algorithm was **RETE algorithm** (Forgy 1982)

It is used in a rule-based language OPS5, a language used and still being used for programming expert systems

There are excellent **new unification techniques algotithms** and **Prolog** is based on the **predicate resolution** and uses them and is the most natural,
efficient and modern language to use

We will cover **Predicate Resolution** as the next subject

ES Conflict Resolution

- RI recognition part of the cycle is divided into two parts
- 1.Selection: identification of applicable rules based on pattern matching and
- 2. Conflict resolution: choice of which rule to fire (apply, execute)

There are many possibilities and we decide what we want to use while designing the system

Conflict Resolution Heuristics

Here are some conflict resolution heuristics (choices) Most specific rule

- Example: rules P => R, P and Q => S both applicable,
- we choose P & Q => S as it is more specific (contains more detailed information)
- The rule using the most recent facts: facts must have time tags
- Highest Priority rule: rules must have assigned priority
- The first rule: rules are linearly ordered
- Principle: No rule is allowed to fire more then once on basis of the same contents of DBF
- We eliminate firing the same rule all the time

Production Rules and Expert System Rules

- Production rules are the rules in which actions are restricted exclusively to ADD FACTS to the DBF
- **Expert Systems** might contain also different rules; like rules about rules (**METARULES**), **DOMAIN**-**FREE** rules, **DOMAIN specific** rules, or others.
- **Rules** can have names (can be numbers, like R1, R2, ... etc)
- **Rules** often have **time tags** or other indicators, depending of **heuristics** used by RI module.

Metarules

Metarules – are rules about rules.

Metarules may be domain-specific, such as:

IF the car does not start

THEN first check the set of rules about the fuel system

Metarules may be **Domain-free** (not connected with DBF) such as

IF the rules given by manual apply

AND textbook rules apply

THEN: check first manual rules

Advantages and Disadvantages of Rules Based Expert systems

Advantage: modularity. Rules are independent pieces of knowledge so may be added or deleted.

They are easy to understand (should be)

Disadvantages: inefficiency of big production systems with non-organized rules

Rules based expert systems are the most popular

Forward Chaining

Data -> Rules -> Goal
Also called DATA DRIVEN, BOTTOM UP, or ANTECEDENT chaining

During the SELECTION step of each cycle, the RI is looking for applicable rules by MATCHING (unifying) condition part of a rule with the CURRENT CONTENT of the DB;

Forward chaining is applied, i.e. the proper rule is FIRED and a new FACT (action part) is added to the DB.

Process TERMINATES when the GOAL is reached, or when all possible FACTS are already inferred from the INITIAL database.

Backward Chaining

Also called GOAL-DRIVEN consequent chaining

- The production system ESTABLISHES whether a goal is supported by a given database

Start with the goal

-Applicable RULES are found by matching ACTION parts with the GOAL

$$C_1 \wedge ... \wedge C_n \rightarrow GOAL$$

Now the conditional part:

 $C_1 \wedge ... \wedge C_n$ is checked against the DB.

If all are (after matching) in DB, the solution is reached.

If C_i is not in DB, we treat it as a SUBGOAL and repeat.

Backward Chaining (re-captured)

GOAL = Fact F
Selected rule (by matching action parts with F)
$$(R) C_1 \wedge ... \wedge C_n \rightarrow F$$

1.If all $C_1 \wedge ... \wedge C_n$ are in DB – End

2.Let C be any of $C_1 \land ... \land C_n$

after unification and substitution, if needed.

If ~C is in DB, (R) can't be used and another rule should be selected

3. Neither C nor ~C is in DB, then

C is a SUBGOAL and we start over again as with F.

4. If no applicable rules exist, GOAL F is not established.

System may need new rules.

Usually, backward chaining is executed as depth-first search.

Backward chaining is used in applications with large data.

Forward chaining might produce too much.

Usually, mixed strategies are used.

Example (Busse book)

Simple rule system, no variables.

Knowledge representation = propositional logic

RULES:

R1: IF the ignition key is on

AND the engine won't start

THEN the starting system (including battery) is

faulty

R1 $A \wedge B \rightarrow E$

R2: IF E AND the headlights work

THEN the starter is faulty

R2 $E \land C \rightarrow G$

R3: IF E AND ~C

THEN the battery is dead

R3 E ∧ ~C→I

Example (continued)

R4:

Volts,

THEN the wiring between the ignition and the solenoid is OK R4

D→F

R5:

IF F

THEN replace the ignition switch

R5

F→H

FACTS in the INITIAL DATABASE:

A: The ignition key is on
B: The engine won't start
C: The headlights work
D: The voltage test on the solenoid shows 1 to 6 volts

^ |------------|
|
Syntax (in propositional logic representation): A, B, C, D

R1
$$A \land B \rightarrow E$$

R2 $E \land C \rightarrow G$
R3 $E \land ^\sim C \rightarrow I$
R4 $D \rightarrow F$
R5 $F \rightarrow H$

GOAL:

Infer all possible facts from IDB

- 1. Rules are ordered by number $R_1 < R_2 < R_3 < R_4 < R_5$
- 2. And they are scanned by RI in this order and inserted into a queue

STEP 1 Applicable: R1, R4

Queue (front to

rear): R1, R4

Conflict Resolution: ORDER (1) and

Fire a rule from the front of the queue (and remove it)

Fire: R1 and add E to the IDB

$$NEWDB = \{A, B, C, D, E\}$$

STEP 2 (second cycle) E: The starting system is faulty is added

- R1 is no longer applicable, since its action would add E, which is already in (new) DB (last in C.R.)
- R2 is applicable

Queue

- R3 is not applicable; R4 is applicable (and is in queue); R5 is not applicable.

R4 is FIRED from the FRONT of the queue, removed from the queue and new fact

F: The wiring between the ignition and the solenoid is OK Is added to the DB , now **DBF= { A, B, C, D, E, F}**

STEP 3 (third cycle)

Queue: R2,

R5

R5 is inserted, R2 is FIRED (and removed) and new fact

G: The starter is faulty

Is added to the DB, now **DBF** = {A, B, C, D, E, F, G}

STEP 4 (fourth cycle)

Queue: R5

No new rules are applicable, so R5 is fired and new fact

H: Replace the ignition switch

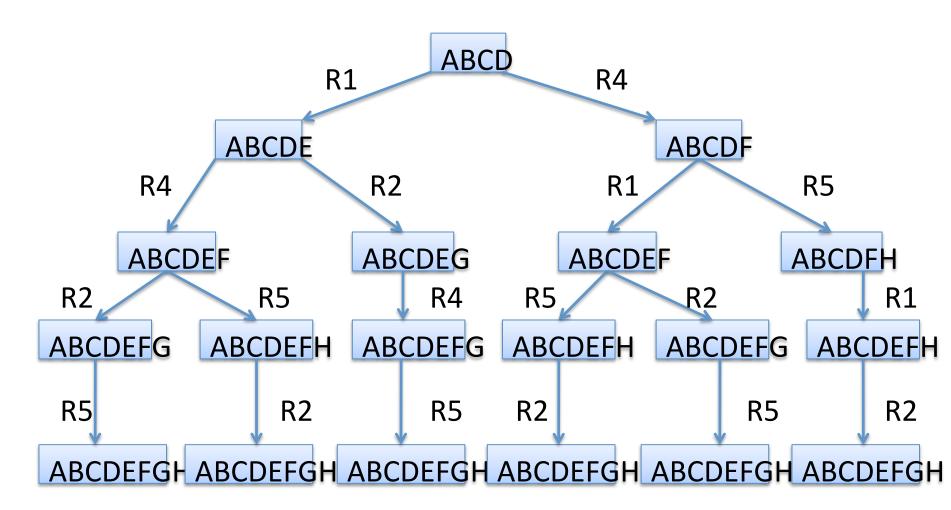
Is added to the DB

STEP 5

No applicable rules (all are used!) **DBF** = { A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H}

RI STOPS COMPUTATION

Search Space



Goal: All possible facts deduced

EXAMPLE 2

Initial DB

IDB= {**A**, **B**, **C**, **D**}

GOAL
Use backward chaining to infer/reject

Rules

R1
$$A \land B \rightarrow E$$
; R2 $E \land C \rightarrow G$; R3 $E \land ^\sim C \rightarrow I$; R4 $D \rightarrow F$; R5 $F \rightarrow H$

First: Consider H. H is not in the DB. The only rule that matches H (action) is

R5: F→H

Look at F; It is not in the IDB, so it is a SUBGOAL. Applicable:

R4 $D \rightarrow F$, and D is in the IDB.

So, F is SUPPORTED and hence H is supported.

Next: Consider I. I is not in the DB, applicable rule is

R3 E ∧ ~C→I

C is in the DB, hence R3 cannot be used. R3 is the ONLY rule, hence I is not supported and

GOAL $H \land I$ is rejected.

Example 2 re-captured

```
Initial Database: DBF= {A, B, C, D}
Rules
                                   R2: E &C => G
R1: A & B => E
R3: E & \neg C => I
                                   R4: D => F
R5: F => H
Backward Chaining Goal: H&I
First: Consider H.
H is not in DBF only rule that matches H (as action) is R5.
R5: F => H
Look at F; F is not in DB, so F becomes a subgoal
Applicable: R4: D =>F, and D is in DBF so
F is supported and hence H is supported.
```

Example 2 continued

Next: check I.

I is not in DBF, only applicable rule is R3: E & ¬ C => I C is in DB, hence R3 can't be used.

R3 is the only applicable rule, hence I is not supported and GOAL H & I is rejected.

Propositional Logic Conceptualization **Example 3**

- R1: If you are hot, then turn thermostat down
- R2: If you are not hot and window is open, then close the window
- R3: If the thermostat is turned down and you are cold, then open the window

- 1. Conceptualize this system in propositional logic
- 2. Design questions the program has to ask the user to achieve the goal: "open the window" by backward chaining and conflict resolution

Example 3 Rules revisited

R1: hot => turn down

R2: - hot & window open => close window

R3: thermostat down & cold => open window

GOAL: open window

The GOAL has to be reached by use of conflict resolution and rules R1, R2, R3 from a certain database of fact.

We need to build our **DBF** by asking user some questions.

Propositional Logic Conceptualization 1

- H − you are hot ¬ H − you are not hot
- O window open (open window)
- D Thermostat down
- W- close window (closed window)
- C- you are cold
- **R1:** H => D
- R2: ¬ H & O => W
- R3: D & C => O
- Goal: reach O by backward chaining
- You need to build your DBF by asking questions.

Example 3 continued

In order to reach the goal we have only one rule applicable:

R3: D & C => O

We have two **subgoals**: **D**, **C**

We get D by R1: H => D and D becomes a subgoal.

No applicable rule, so we need ask a question about H.

Question: Are you hot (H)?

If answer is **YES**: we ADD **H** into DBF , i.e.

 $DBF = \{H\}$ and we apply (fire) R1: $H \Rightarrow D$ and get D.

D is supported

We look now for **C**, **no applicable rule, so we need ask** a question about **C**

Example 3 continued

```
Question: Are you cold (C)?

If answer is YES, we ADD C into DBF, and C is supported,
and the GOAL O is SUPPORTED.
```

```
If answer to the question: Are you hot (H)? is NO, we added \{\neg H\} to DBF, i.e DBF = \{\neg H\}. No applicable rule, we STOP, GOAL O IS REJECTED.
```

Propositional Logic Conceptualization 2

H – you are hot

WO– window open

OW - open the window

D – Thermostat down

CW- close the window

WC- window closed

C- you are cold

R1: H => D

R2: ¬ H & WO => CW

R3: D & C => OW

Goal: reach O by backward chaining

- You need to build your DBF by asking questions.

Propositional Logic Conceptualization 3

H – you are hot NH – you are not hot

WO– window open

OW – open the window

D – Thermostat down

CW- close the window

WC- window closed

C- you are cold

R1: H => D

R2: NH& WO => CW

R3: D & C => OW

Goal: reach O by backward chaining

- You need to build your DBF by asking questions.

PREDICATE FORM Conceptualization

OBSERVATION:

FACTS are always true in ES Database

For example a Fact:

(car#42, battery, weak), or battery(car#42,weak) means that in our database we have a record

Key	Other attribute	Other attribute	Battery	
Car#42			weak	

Example 4: Predicate Conceptualization

Key	Other attribute	Other attribute	Battery	
Car#42			weak	

Another way of writing the fact (car#42, battery, weak) is:

battery(car#42, weak)

This is called a **predicate form**

Atomic formula written in a triple form is:

(x, battery, weak), or (ID, battery, weak)

First is not a FACT, second is a FACT.

Atomic formula written in a predicate form is:

battery(x, weak)

Atomic formula that is a fact is

battery(car#42, weak)

Example 5: given a DB

Cars	Battery	Color	Buy	PutGarage
C_1	good	red	no	
C_2	weak	black	no	

The DB represents the following FACTS: (in triple form)

- F1. (C₁, battery, good)
- F2. (C₁, color, red)
- F3. (C₁,buy, no)
- F4. (C₂, battery, weak)
- F5. (C₁, color, black)
- **F6.** (C₂, buy, no)

We will use the expert system rules to PUT cars into proper garages, i.e. to fill missing values of the attribute PutGarage

Example 6: given a DB

Cars	Battery	Color	Buy	PutGarage
C_1	good	red	no	
C_2	weak	black	no	

The **DB** represents the following **FACTS**: in **PREDICATE Form**

- F1. Battery(C₁, good)
- F2. Color(C₁, red)
- **F3**. Buy(**C**₁, no)
- F4. Battery(C₂, weak)
- F5. Color(C₁, black)
- F6. Buy(C_2 , no)

We will use the expert system rules to PUT cars into proper garages, i.e. to fill missing values of the attribute PutGarage

Predicate Rules Interpreter RI

Rule of inference of the Rule Interpreter is:

$$C_1(x) \& ... \& C_n(x) => A(x) \{x/ID\}; C_1(ID) ... C_n(ID)$$

$$A(ID)$$

APPLICATION of the **Predicate Rule of Inference** means that

for a given rule of the production (expert) system ES

$$C_1 \& ... \& C_n \rightarrow A$$
 i.e. $C_1 (x) \& ... \& C_n (x) \rightarrow A(x)$

the rule interpreter RI will check database (or database of facts) and match (unify) x with a proper record identifier ID (constant ID), if possible and evaluate

$$C_1$$
 (x)& ... & C_n (x){x/ID}= C_1 (ID)& ... & C_n (ID)
if all C_1 (ID), ... C_n (ID) belong to DBF, the Interpreter RI will deduce
 $A(x){x/ID}=A(ID)$ and add $A(ID)$ to the database of facts DBF.

Example 5

```
Some Rules in our ES (in a triple form) are:
R1. (x, battery, good) & (x, color, red) =>
(x, PutGarage, 2)
R2. (x, battery, weak) & (x, buy, no) =>
(x, PutGarage, 1)
  Matching (Unification): we unify x in the R1 with C1 and we
  get
(x, battery, good) & (x, color, red) (x/C1) = F1&F2
(x, PutGarage, 2){x/C1}= (C1, PutGarage, 2)
```

Example 5

```
Rules in our ES (in a triple form) are:
R1. (x, battery, good) & (x, color, red) =>
(x, PutGarage, 2)
R2. (x, battery, weak) & (x, buy, no) =>
(x, PutGarage, 1)
 Matching (Unification): we unify x in the rule R2with C2 and
  we get
(x, battery, weak) & (x, buy, no) {x/C2} = F4&F6
(x, PutGarage, 1)\{x/C2\}=(C2, PutGarage, 1)
```

Example 5: Extended Data Base

Cars	Battery	Color	Buy	PutGarage
C_1	good	red	no	2
C_2	weak	black	no	1

We used the expert system rules to PUT cars into proper garages, and

As a consequence we filled the missing values of the attribute PutGarage.

EXERCISE: Repeat it all writing rules in PREDICATE Form