



**DRONACHARYA**  
College of Engineering

INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS (CSE-303-F)

Section C

**Uncertainty**

# Representing uncertain knowledge

- Points
- Symbolic and numerical uncertainty
- The Closed World Assumption
- Predicate completion
- Taxonomic hierarchies
- Abduction
- Truth maintenance
- Bayes's rule
- Certainty factors
- Fuzzy sets

## Symbolic and numerical uncertainty

- Symbolic uncertainty: defeasible reasoning.
- Non-monotonic logic: make conclusions that cause no inconsistency.
- Default logic.
- Modal logic -- necessity and possibility:  
necessarily  $\Phi$   $\equiv$   $\neg$  possibly  $\neg \Phi$   
possibly  $\Phi$   $\equiv$   $\neg$  necessarily  $\neg \Phi$
- Numeric uncertainty: statistical reasoning, certainty factors.
- Bayesian probability theory.
- Fuzzy logic (theory of fuzzy sets).

## Examples of approximate reasoning in real life

- Judging by general shape, not by details.
- Jumping to conclusions without sufficient evidence.  
(Consider a lawn sign, seen from afar.)
- Understanding language.
- ...
- ...

# Why we need more than first-order logic

- **Complete ↔ incomplete knowledge:**
  - the world cannot be represented completely, there are exceptions and qualified statements.
- **Generality ↔ specificity (and typicality):**
  - absolute statements ignore individual variety.
- **Consistency ↔ inconsistency:**
  - conflicting views cannot be represented in first-order logic, not within one theory.
- **Monotonic ↔ defeasible reasoning:**
  - a change of mind cannot be represented.
- **Absolute ↔ tentative statements:**
  - partial commitment cannot be represented, statistical tendencies cannot be expressed.
- **Finality ↔ openness of knowledge:**
  - learning should not only mean new theorems.

## The Closed-World Assumption

- A complete theory in first-order logic must include either a fact or its negation.
- The Closed World Assumption (CWA) states that the only true facts are those that are explicitly listed as true (in a knowledge base, in a database) or are provably true.
- We may extend the theory by adding to it explicit negations of facts that cannot be proven.
- In Prolog, this principle is implemented by "finite failure", or "negation as failure".

## Predicate completion

- The fact  $p(a)$  could be rewritten equivalently as
- $\forall x \ x = a \Rightarrow p(x)$
- A completion of this quantified formula is a formula in which we enumerate all objects with property  $p$ .  
In this tiny example:
- $\forall x \ p(x) \Rightarrow x = a$
- A larger example: the world of birds.
  - $\forall x \ ostrich(x) \Rightarrow bird(x)$
  - $\neg ostrich(Sam)$
  - $bird(Tweety)$
- To complete the predicate  $bird$ , we say:
- $\forall x \ bird(x) \Rightarrow (ostrich(x) \vee x = Tweety)$
- This allows us to prove, for example, that
- $\neg bird(Sam)$

## Predicate completion (2)

• How to achieve non-monotonic reasoning? Let us add a new formula:

- $\forall x \text{ penguin}(x) \Rightarrow \text{bird}(x)$
- $\forall x \text{ ostrich}(x) \Rightarrow \text{bird}(x)$
- $\neg \text{ostrich}(\text{Sam})$
- $\text{bird}(\text{Tweety})$

• A new completion of the predicate **bird** would be:

- $\forall x \text{ bird}(x) \Rightarrow$
- $(\text{ostrich}(x) \vee \text{penguin}(x) \vee x = \text{Tweety})$

• We cannot prove  $\neg \text{bird}(\text{Sam})$  any more (why?).



## Taxonomic hierarchies and defaults

- $\text{thing}(\text{Tweety})$
- $\text{bird}(x) \Rightarrow \text{thing}(x)$
- $\text{ostrich}(x) \Rightarrow \text{bird}(x)$
- $\text{flying-ostrich}(x) \Rightarrow \text{ostrich}(x)$
- The following set of formulae represents typicality and exceptions:
  - $\text{thing}(x) \wedge \neg \text{bird}(x) \Rightarrow \neg \text{flies}(x)$
  - $\text{bird}(x) \wedge \neg \text{ostrich}(x) \Rightarrow \text{flies}(x)$
  - $\text{ostrich}(x) \wedge \neg \text{flying-ostrich}(x) \Rightarrow$ 
    - $\neg \text{flies}(x)$
  - $\text{flying-ostrich}(x) \Rightarrow \text{flies}(x)$

## Taxonomic hierarchies and defaults (2)

• This works, but is too specific. We need a way of showing exceptions explicitly. An exception is a departure from normality, and a way of blocking inheritance:

- $\text{thing}(\mathbf{x}) \wedge \neg\text{abnormal}_t(\mathbf{x}) \Rightarrow \neg\text{flies}(\mathbf{x})$
- $\text{bird}(\mathbf{x}) \Rightarrow \text{abnormal}_t(\mathbf{x})$
- $\text{bird}(\mathbf{x}) \wedge \neg\text{abnormal}_b(\mathbf{x}) \Rightarrow \text{flies}(\mathbf{x})$
- $\text{ostrich}(\mathbf{x}) \Rightarrow \text{abnormal}_b(\mathbf{x})$
- $\text{ostrich}(\mathbf{x}) \wedge \neg\text{abnormal}_o(\mathbf{x}) \Rightarrow \neg\text{flies}(\mathbf{x})$
- $\text{flying-ostrich}(\mathbf{x}) \Rightarrow \text{abnormal}_o(\mathbf{x})$
- $\text{flying-ostrich}(\mathbf{x}) \Rightarrow \text{flies}(\mathbf{x})$

## Taxonomic hierarchies and defaults (3)

•The taxonomy is now as follows:

• $\text{flying-ostrich}(x) \Rightarrow \text{ostrich}(x)$

• $\text{flying-ostrich}(x) \Rightarrow \text{abnormal}_o(x)$

• $\text{ostrich}(x) \Rightarrow \text{bird}(x)$

• $\text{ostrich}(x) \Rightarrow \text{abnormal}_t(x)$

• $\text{bird}(x) \Rightarrow \text{thing}(x)$

• $\text{bird}(x) \Rightarrow \text{abnormal}_t(x)$

• $\text{thing}(\text{Tweety})$

•The properties of classes:

• $\text{thing}(x) \wedge \neg \text{abnormal}_t(x) \Rightarrow \neg \text{flies}(x)$

• $\text{bird}(x) \wedge \neg \text{abnormal}_o(x) \Rightarrow \text{flies}(x)$

• $\text{ostrich}(x) \wedge \neg \text{abnormal}_o(x) \Rightarrow \neg \text{flies}(x)$

• $\text{flying-ostrich}(x) \Rightarrow \text{flies}(x)$

## Taxonomic hierarchies and defaults (4)

- This kind of formulae can be used to deduce properties of objects, if we can also supply the completion. For example, does Tweety fly?
- The completion:
- $\text{thing}(x) \Rightarrow \text{bird}(x) \vee x = \text{Tweety}$
- $\text{bird}(x) \Rightarrow \text{ostrich}(x)$
- $\text{ostrich}(x) \Rightarrow \text{flying-ostrich}(x)$
- $\text{abnormal}_t(x) \Rightarrow \text{bird}(x)$
- $\text{abnormal}_b(x) \Rightarrow \text{ostrich}(x)$
- $\text{abnormal}_o(x) \Rightarrow \text{flying-ostrich}(x)$
- $\neg \text{flying-ostrich}(x)$

## Taxonomic hierarchies and defaults (5)

- The last formula is equivalent to
- $\text{flying-ostrich}(x) \Rightarrow \text{false}$
- which reflects the fact that no taxonomical rule has  $\text{flying-ostrich}$  as a conclusion.
- We can now prove all of these:
- $\neg \text{flying-ostrich}(\text{Tweety})$
- $\neg \text{ostrich}(\text{Tweety})$
- $\neg \text{bird}(\text{Tweety})$
- $\neg \text{abnormal}_t(\text{Tweety})$
- so we can show that
- $\neg \text{flies}(\text{Tweety})$

## Taxonomic hierarchies and defaults (6)

- This hierarchy again can be changed non-monotonically. Suppose that we add
  - $\text{bird}(\text{Tweety})$
  - to the taxonomy.
- The new completion of the predicate  $\text{bird}$  will be:
  - $\text{bird}(x) \Rightarrow \text{ostrich}(x) \vee x = \text{Tweety}$
  - instead of
  - $\text{bird}(x) \Rightarrow \text{ostrich}(x)$
- We will not be able to prove
  - $\neg \text{abnormal}_t(\text{Tweety})$
  - any more. We will, however, be able to prove
  - $\neg \text{abnormal}_b(\text{Tweety})$

## A quaker and a republican

- Quakers are pacifists. Republicans are not pacifists. Richard is a republican and a quaker. Is he a pacifist?
- These rules are ambiguous. Let us clarify:
- Only a typical quaker is a pacifist. Only a typical republican is not a pacifist.
- This can be expressed in terms of consistency:
- $\forall x \text{ quaker}(x) \wedge \text{CONSISTENT}(\text{pacifist}(x)) \Rightarrow \text{pacifist}(x)$
- $\forall x \text{ republican}(x) \wedge \text{CONSISTENT}(\neg \text{pacifist}(x)) \Rightarrow \neg \text{pacifist}(x)$
- If we apply the first rule to Richard, we find he is a **pacifist** (nothing contradicts this conclusion), but then the second rule cannot be used—and vice versa. In effect, neither **pacifist(x)** nor  **$\neg \text{pacifist}(x)$**  can be proven.

## Abduction ... demonstrated on one example

- Abduction means systematic guessing: "infer" an assumption from a conclusion. For example, the following formula:

- $\forall x \text{ rainedOn}(x) \Rightarrow \text{wet}(x)$

- could be used "backwards" with a specific  $x$ :

- if  $\text{wet}(\text{Tree})$  then  $\text{rainedOn}(\text{Tree})$

- This, however, would not be logically justified. We could say:

- $\text{wet}(\text{Tree}) \wedge \text{CONSISTENT}(\text{rainedOn}(\text{Tree})) \Rightarrow \text{rainedOn}(\text{Tree})$

- We could also attach probabilities, for example like this:

- $\text{wet}(\text{Tree}) \Rightarrow \text{rainedOn}(\text{Tree}) \quad || \quad 70\%$

- $\text{wet}(\text{Tree}) \Rightarrow \text{morningDewOn}(\text{Tree}) \quad || \quad 20\%$

- $\text{wet}(\text{Tree}) \Rightarrow \text{sprinkled}(\text{Tree}) \quad || \quad 10\%$



# Truth maintenance

- ... demonstrated on one example

The first formula arrives:  
we build a partial network.

$\text{happy}(a) \Rightarrow \text{happy}(b)$

$\text{happy}(a)$

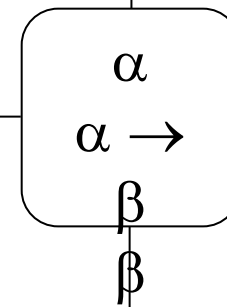
truth value: UNKNOWN

justification: none

$\text{happy}(a) \rightarrow \text{happy}(b)$

truth value: TRUE

justification: given



$\text{happy}(b)$

truth value: UNKNOWN

justification: none

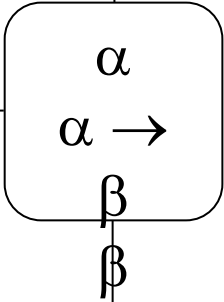
# Truth maintenance (2)

A new fact: incorporate it into the network.

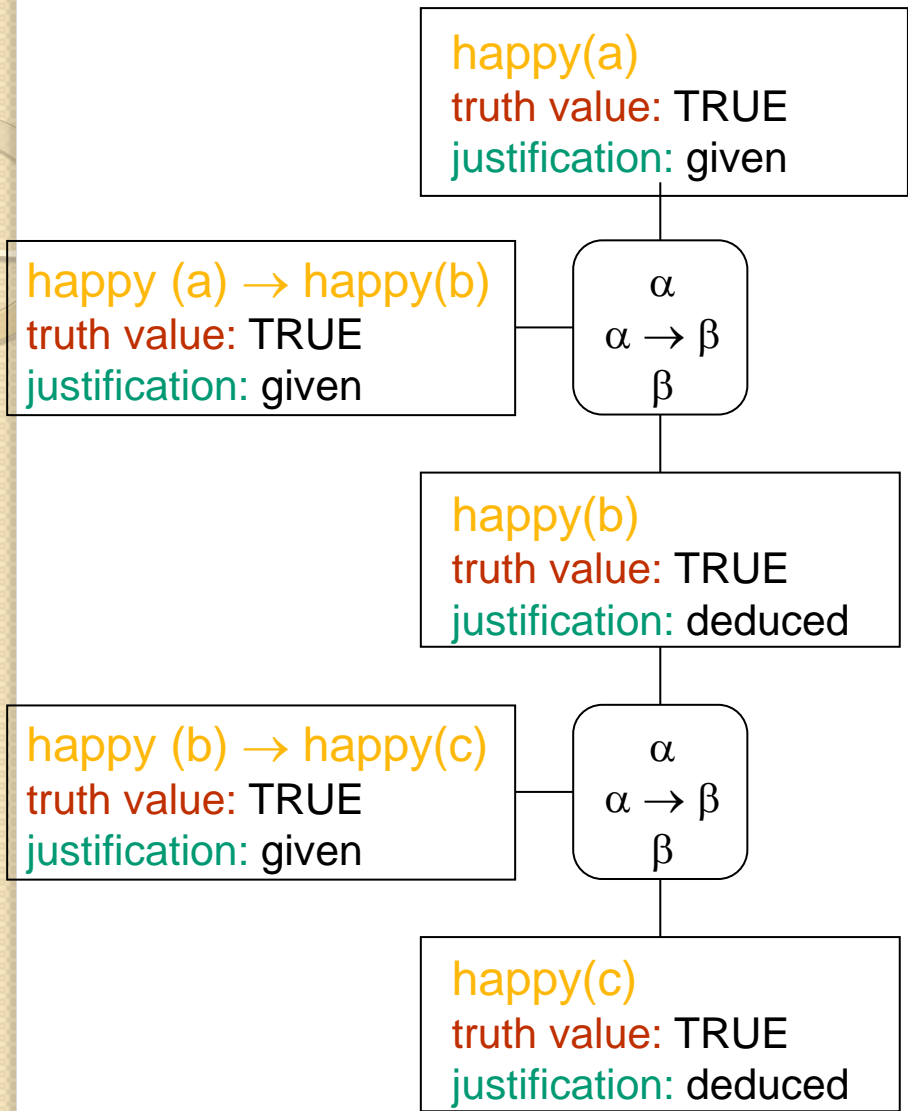
happy(a)

happy(a)  
truth value: TRUE  
justification: given

happy (a)  $\rightarrow$  happy(b)  
truth value: TRUE  
justification: given



happy(b)  
truth value: TRUE  
justification: deduced



## Truth maintenance (3)

A new rule and a new fact:

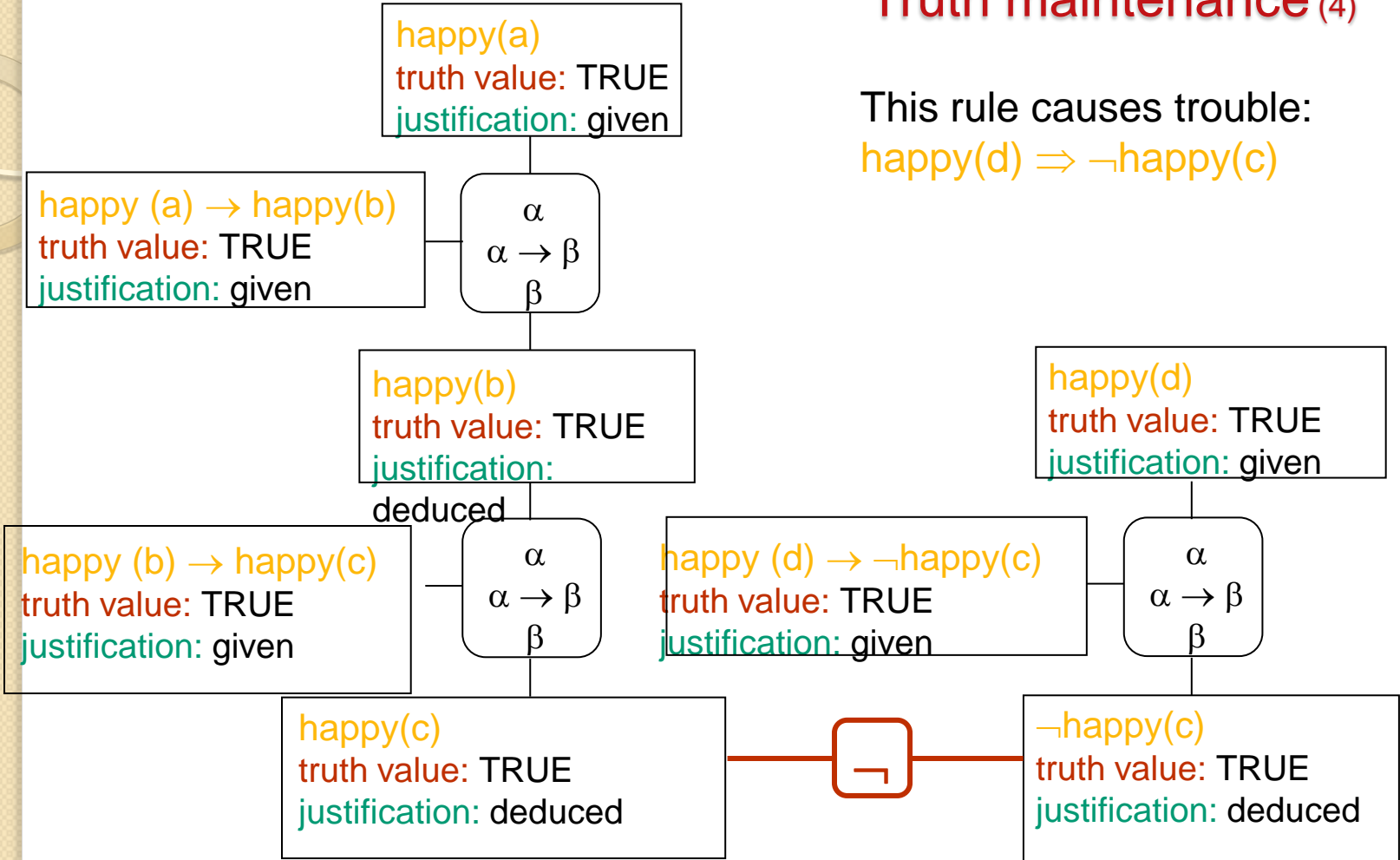
happy(b)  $\Rightarrow$  happy(c)

happy(d)

happy(d)  
truth value: TRUE  
justification: given

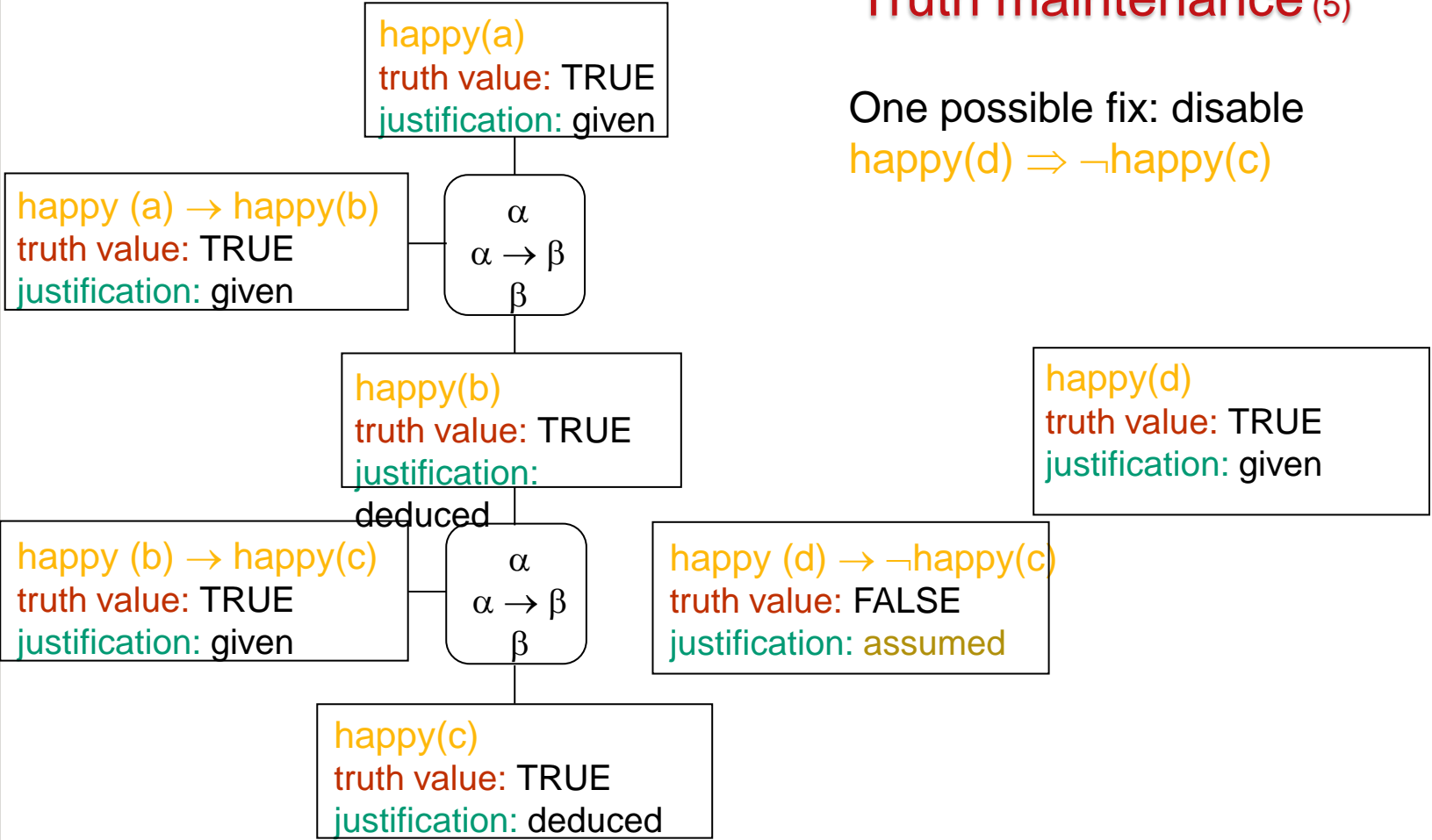
# Truth maintenance (4)

This rule causes trouble:  
 $\text{happy}(d) \Rightarrow \neg\text{happy}(c)$



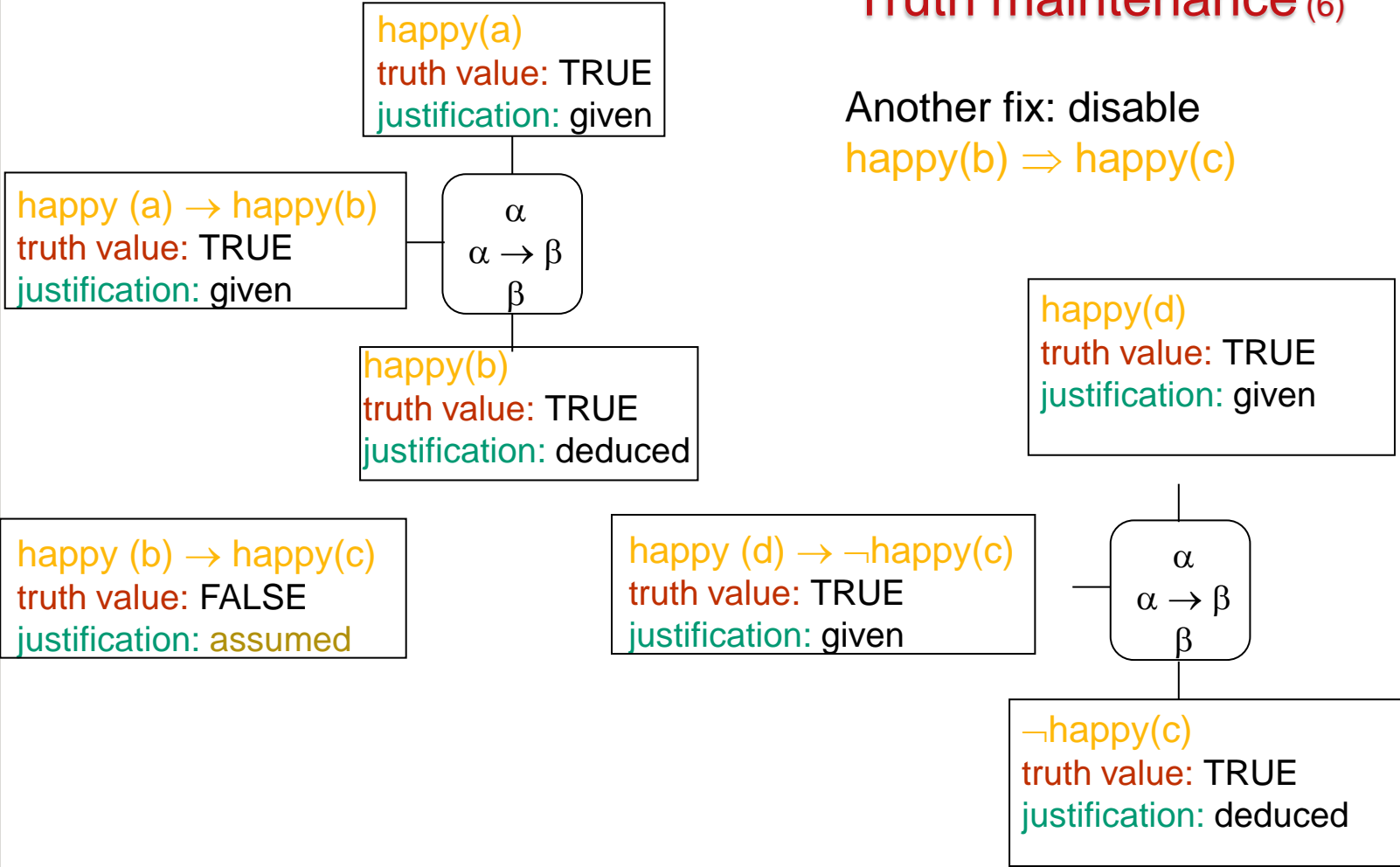
# Truth maintenance (5)

One possible fix: disable  
 $\text{happy}(d) \Rightarrow \neg\text{happy}(c)$



# Truth maintenance (6)

Another fix: disable  
 $happy(b) \Rightarrow happy(c)$



## Bayes's theorem

- Bayesian probability theory.
- Fuzzy logic (only signalled here).
- Dempster-Shafer theory (not discussed here).
- Bayes's theorem allows us to compute how probable it is that a hypothesis  $H_j$  follows from a piece of evidence  $E$  (for example, from a symptom or a measurement).
- The required data: the probability of  $H_j$  and the probability of  $E$  given  $H_j$  for all possible hypotheses.

## Bayes's theorem (2)

- Medical diagnosis is a handy example. A patient may have a cold, a flu, pneumonia, rheumatism, and so on. The usual symptoms are high fever, short breath, runny nose, and so on.
- We need the probabilities (based on statistical data?) of all diseases, and the probabilities of high fever, short breath, runny nose in the case of a cold, a flu, pneumonia, rheumatism. [This is asking a lot!]
- We would also like to assume that all relationships between  $H_j$  and  $E$  are mutually independent. [This is asking even more!]



## Bayes's theorem (3)

- The probability data:
- $p( \mathbf{H}_i | \mathbf{E} )$  the probability of  $\mathbf{H}_i$  given  $\mathbf{E}$ .
- $p( \mathbf{H}_i )$  the overall probability of  $\mathbf{H}_i$ .
- $p( \mathbf{E} | \mathbf{H}_i )$  the probability of observing  $\mathbf{E}$  given  $\mathbf{H}_i$ .
- Bayes' theorem

$$p( \mathbf{H}_i | \mathbf{E} ) = \frac{p( \mathbf{E} | \mathbf{H}_i ) * p( \mathbf{H}_i )}{\sum_j p( \mathbf{E} | \mathbf{H}_j ) * p( \mathbf{H}_j )}$$

## Bayes's theorem (4)

- If we assume that all the conditional probabilities under summation are independent, we can simplify the formula:

$$p( \mathbf{H}_i | \mathbf{E} ) = \frac{p( \mathbf{E} | \mathbf{H}_i ) * p( \mathbf{H}_i )}{p( \mathbf{E} )}$$

## Example

## Bayes's theorem (5)

- "A poker player closes one eye 9 times out of 10 before passing a hand. He passes 50% of the hands, and closes one eye during 60% of the hands. What is the probability that he will pass a hand given that he closes one eye?"
- $H_j$ : the player passes a hand.
- $E$ : the player closes one eye.
- $p(E | H_j) = 0.9$
- $p(E) = 0.6$
- $p(H_j) = 0.5$
- $p(H_j | E) = 0.9 * 0.5 / 0.6 = 0.75$

## Odds calculation

- Yet another version of Bayes's formula is based on the concepts of odds and likelihood.

$$p(\mathbf{H} | \mathbf{E}) = \frac{p(\mathbf{E} | \mathbf{H}) * p(\mathbf{H})}{p(\mathbf{E})}$$

$$p(\neg\mathbf{H} | \mathbf{E}) = \frac{p(\mathbf{E} | \neg\mathbf{H}) * p(\neg\mathbf{H})}{p(\mathbf{E})}$$

## Odds calculation (2)

- These two formulae give this:

$$\frac{p(\mathbf{H} | \mathbf{E})}{p(\neg\mathbf{H} | \mathbf{E})} = \frac{p(\mathbf{E} | \mathbf{H}) * p(\mathbf{H})}{p(\mathbf{E} | \neg\mathbf{H}) * p(\neg\mathbf{H})}$$

The odds of event  $\mathbf{e}$ :

$$O(\mathbf{e}) = \frac{p(\mathbf{e})}{p(\neg\mathbf{e})} = \frac{p(\mathbf{e})}{1 - p(\mathbf{e})}$$

We note that  $p(\mathbf{H} | \mathbf{E}) + p(\neg\mathbf{H} | \mathbf{E}) = 1$ .

## Odds calculation (3)

$$O(\mathbf{H} | \mathbf{E}) = \frac{p(\mathbf{E} | \mathbf{H})}{p(\mathbf{E} | \neg\mathbf{H})} * O(\mathbf{H})$$

Define the fraction as the likelihood ratio  $\lambda(\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{H})$  of a piece of evidence  $\mathbf{E}$  with respect to hypothesis  $\mathbf{H}$ :

$$O(\mathbf{H} | \mathbf{E}) = \lambda(\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{H}) * O(\mathbf{H})$$

An intuition: how to compute the new odds of  $\mathbf{H}$  (given additional evidence  $\mathbf{E}$ ) from the previous odds of  $\mathbf{H}$ .  
 $\lambda > 1$  strengthens our belief in  $\mathbf{H}$ .

## Example

## Odds calculation (4)

25% of students in the AI course get an A.

80% of students who get an A do all homework.

60% of students who do not get an A do all homework.

75% of students who get an A are CS majors.

50% of students who do not get an A are CS majors.

Irene does all her homework in the AI course.

Mary is a CS major and does all her homework.

What are Irene's and Mary's odds of getting an A?

Let  $A$  = "gets an A".

$C$  = "is a CS major".

$W$  = "does all homework".

## Example

## Odds calculation (5)

$$p(A) = 0.25$$

$$p(W | A) = 0.8$$

$$p(W | \neg A) = 0.6$$

$$p(C | A) = 0.75$$

$$p(W | \neg A) = 0.6$$

$$p(C | \neg A) = 0.5$$

$$\begin{aligned} O(A | W) &= \frac{p(A | W)}{p(\neg A | W)} = \frac{p(W | A) * p(A)}{p(W | \neg A) * p(\neg A)} \\ &= \frac{0.8 * 0.25}{0.6 * 0.75} = \frac{4}{9} \end{aligned}$$



## Example

## Odds calculation (6)

$$p(A) = 0.25$$

$$p(W | A) = 0.8$$

$$p(\neg A) = 0.6$$

$$p(C | A) = 0.75$$

$$p(C | \neg A) = 0.5$$

$$p(W | \neg A) = 0.6$$

$$p(C | \neg A) = 0.5$$

$$O(A | C \wedge W) = \frac{p(A | C \wedge W)}{p(\neg A | C \wedge W)} = \frac{p(C \wedge W | A) * p(A)}{p(C \wedge W | \neg A) * p(\neg A)}$$

$$= \frac{p(C | A) * p(W | A) * p(A)}{p(C | \neg A) * p(W | \neg A) * p(\neg A)} = \frac{0.75 * 0.8 * 0.25}{0.5 * 0.6 * 0.6} = \frac{2}{3}$$

# The Stanford certainty factor algebra

Textbook, section 9.2.1

- $MB(H | E)$ : the measure of belief in  $H$  given  $E$ .
- $MD(H | E)$ : the measure of disbelief in  $H$  given  $E$ .
- Each piece of evidence must be either for or against a hypothesis:
  - either  $0 < MB(H | E) < 1$  while  $MD(H | E) = 0$ ,
  - or  $0 < MD(H | E) < 1$  while  $MB(H | E) = 0$ .
- The certainty factor is:
  - $CF(H | E) = MB(H | E) - MD(H | E)$

## The Stanford certainty factor algebra (2)

- Certainty factors are attached to premises of rules in production systems (it started with MYCIN). We need to calculate the CF for conjunctions and disjunctions:

- $CF(P_1 \wedge P_2) = \min( CF(P_1), CF(P_2) )$

- $CF(P_1 \vee P_2) = \max( CF(P_1), CF(P_2) )$

- We also need to compute the CF of a result supported by two rules with factors  $CF_1$  and  $CF_2$ :

- $CF_1 + CF_2 - CF_1 * CF_2$  when  $CF_1 > 0, CF_2 > 0,$

- $CF_1 + CF_2 + CF_1 * CF_2$  when  $CF_1 < 0, CF_2 < 0,$

$$CF_1 + CF_2$$

---

when signs

differ.

$$1 - \min(|CF_1|, |CF_2|)$$

## Fuzzy sets

A crisp set  $C \subseteq S$  is defined by a characteristic function  $\chi_C(s): S \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ .

$$\chi_C(s) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } s \notin C \\ 1 & \text{if } s \in C \end{cases}$$

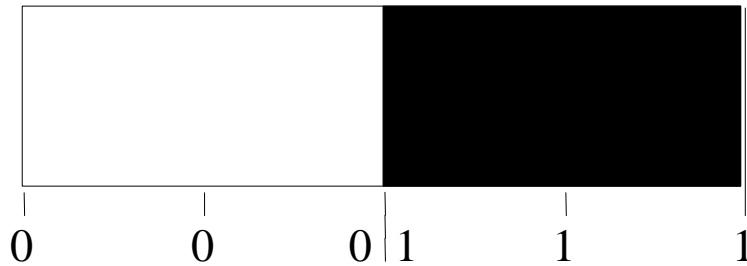
$$\mu_F(s) = \begin{cases} 0.0 & \text{if } s \text{ is not in } F \\ 0.0 < m < 1.0 & \text{if } s \text{ is partially in } F \\ 1.0 & \text{if } s \text{ is totally in } F \end{cases}$$

A fuzzy set  $F \subseteq S$  is defined by a membership function  $\mu_F(s): S \rightarrow [0.0, 1.0]$ .

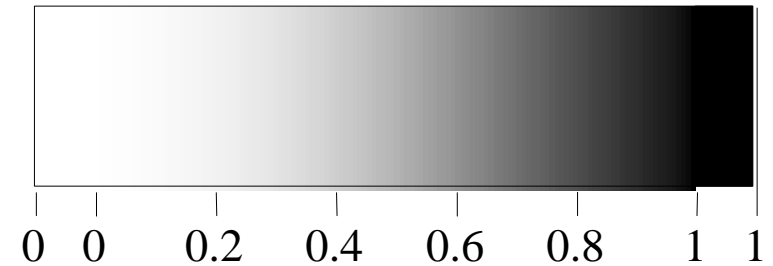
$\mu_F(s)$  describes to what *degree*  $s$  belongs to  $F$ : 1.0 means "definitely belongs", 0.0 means "definitely does not belong", other values indicate intermediate "degrees" of belonging.

## Fuzzy sets (2)

Range of logical values in Boolean and fuzzy logic



(a) Boolean Logic.



(b) Multi-valued Logic.

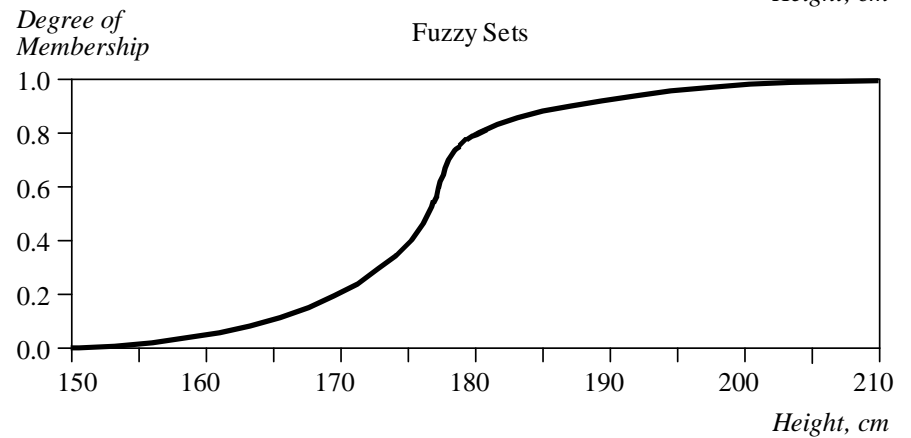
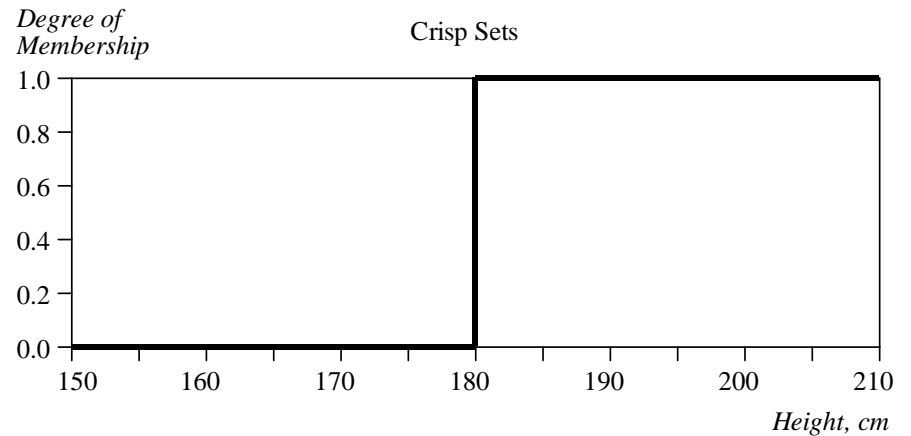
## Fuzzy sets (3)

- Consider  $N$ , the set of positive integers.
- Let  $F \subset N$  be the set of "small integers".
- Let  $\mu_F$  be like this:
  - $\mu_F(1) = 1.0$
  - $\mu_F(2) = 1.0$
  - $\mu_F(3) = 0.9$
  - $\mu_F(4) = 0.8$
  - ...
  - $\mu_F(50) = 0.001$
  - ...
- $\mu_F$  defines a probability distribution for statements such as "X is a small integer".

## Fuzzy sets (4)

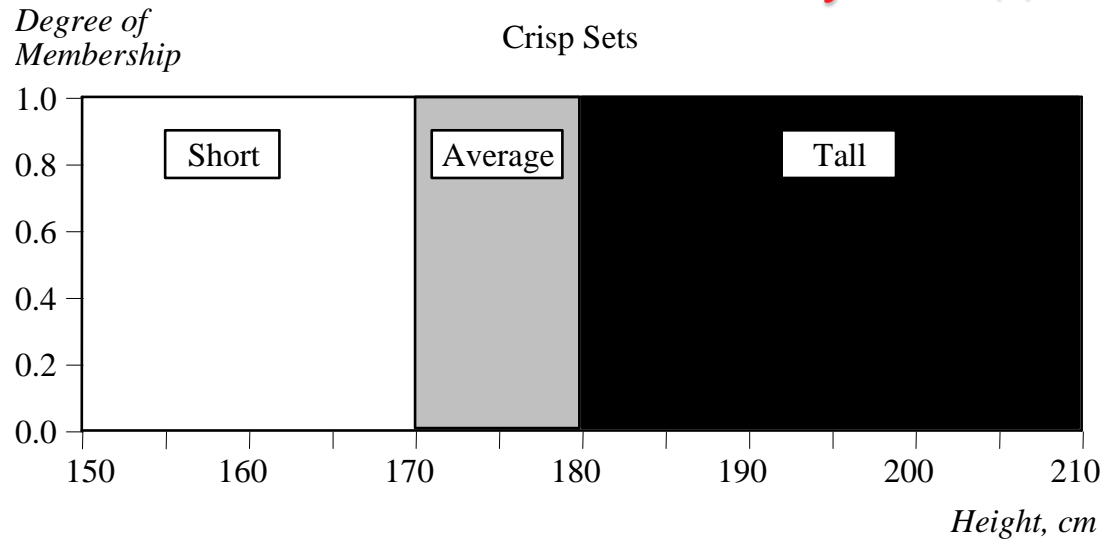
### Tall men

Name	Height, cm	Degree of Membership	
		<i>Crisp</i>	<i>Fuzzy</i>
Chris	208	1	1.00
Mark	205	1	1.00
John	198	1	0.98
Tom	181	1	0.82
David	179	0	0.78
Mike	172	0	0.24
Bob	167	0	0.15
Steven	158	0	0.06
Bill	155	0	0.01
Peter	152	0	0.00

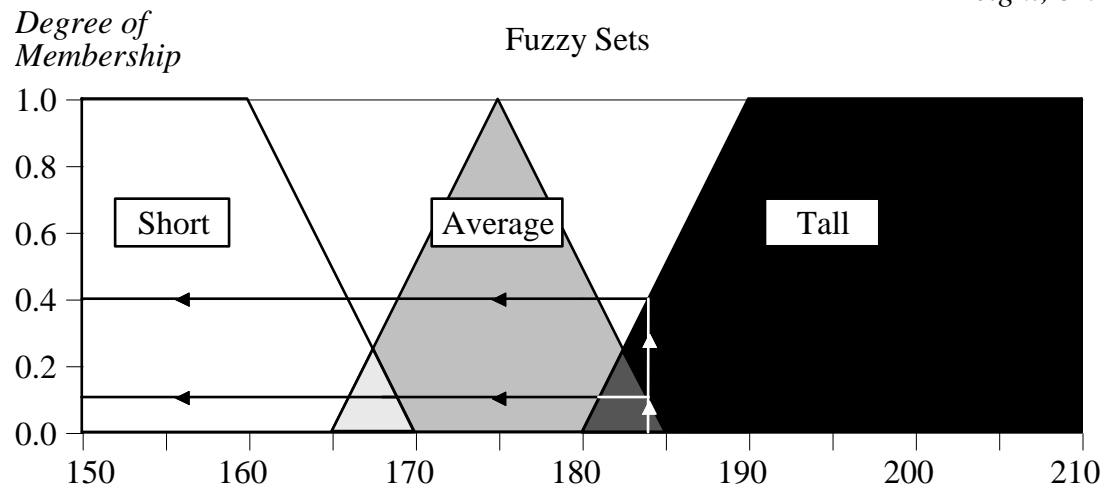


# Fuzzy sets (5)

Sets of short, average and tall men



.. and a man 184 cm tall





## Fuzzy sets (6)

### Basic operations on fuzzy sets

$$\mu_{\neg A}(x) = 1 - \mu_A(x)$$

$$\mu_{A \cap B}(x) = \min(\mu_A(x), \mu_B(x)) = \mu_A(x) \cap \mu_B(x)$$

$$\mu_{A \cup B}(x) = \max(\mu_A(x), \mu_B(x)) = \mu_A(x) \cup \mu_B(x)$$

This is the tip of a (fuzzy) iceberg. We have fuzzy “logic” and fuzzy rules, fuzzy inference, fuzzy expert systems, and so on.

Even fuzzy cubes...

[http://ceeserver.cee.cornell.edu/asce/ConcreteCanoe/Icebreaker/pics/nonraceday/fuzzy\\_cubes.JPG](http://ceeserver.cee.cornell.edu/asce/ConcreteCanoe/Icebreaker/pics/nonraceday/fuzzy_cubes.JPG)