

Back-Chaining: Discuss in your group how the back-chaining procedure will answer questions from a given knowledge-base.

Consider the back-chaining procedure:

To establish a sentence Q:

1. Try to locate Q itself in the KB. If you can then return *success*.
2. Otherwise, try to locate a conditional sentence of the form
if P₁ and ... and P_n then Q
in the KB. If you cannot, then return *failure*.
3. Otherwise, use back-chaining to try to establish each of *P₁ and P₂, and ... P_n*.
If all are successful the return *success*.
4. Otherwise, go back to step 2 and look for another conditional.

Given the KB:

Zork flibbers Zeek.

Quonk blubs Zeek.

Xylk blubs Zeek.

Queek burbles Zork.

Zax burbles Zeek.

If X blubs Y then Y flibbers X.

If X burbles Y and Y flibbers Z then X flibbers Z.

1. What steps are performed in the back-chaining procedure to answer the question “*Does Zork flibber Zeek?*”
2. What steps are performed in the back-chaining procedure to answer the question “*Does Zeek flibber Quonk?*”
3. What steps are performed in the back-chaining procedure to answer the question “*Does Queek flibber Zeek?*”
4. What steps are performed in the back-chaining procedure to answer the question “*Does Zax flibber Xylk?*”
5. What steps are performed in the back-chaining procedure to answer the question “*Does Zax flibber Zax?*”
6. If we change the rule *If X burbles Y and Y flibbers Z then X flibbers Z* to *If Y flibbers Z and X burbles Y and the X flibbers Z* then the back-chaining procedure to the question “*Does Zax flibber Zax?*” goes into an infinite loop. Why does that happen?