

A NET STRUCTURE BASED RELATIONAL QUESTION  
ANSWERER: DESCRIPTION AND EXAMPLES

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ABSTRACT

A question answering system is described which uses a net structure for storage of information. The net structure consists of nodes and labelled edges, which represent relations between the nodes. The labels are also nodes, and therefore definitions of relations may be stored in the net. It is demonstrated that the generality and complexity of this memory structure allows a surprisingly powerful question answering system to be constructed using comparatively simple executive routines. Output from the question answerer, which is currently running on an interactive, time sharing system, is included, showing its range of applicability including question answering, inductive and deductive inference, simple theorem proving and problem solving.

Key words and phrases: relational question answering, question answering, memory net, memory structure, data structure, semantic memory, semantic information retrieval, deductive inference, inductive inference, problem solving, concept formation, relational logic, learning, theorem proving, fact retrieval.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Our main research interest has been in the organization of data structures for question answering systems, systems that retrieve facts and have deductive and inductive capabilities to derive new information from the facts explicitly given them. Our two main aims have been to maintain as much generality as possible so that no additional programming be needed regardless of the domain of knowledge for which the system is used and to put as much question answering power as possible into the memory structure itself rather than in the executive routines. This latter aim supports the first in that it would allow special instructions for particular domains to be entered into the memory in the same way as any other information. SAMENLAQ II, the system described in this paper represents progress toward reaching these aims. Further progress is being made in a later system (see Section 5).

SAMENLAQ II is based upon binary relations. This was a natural starting point because of the generality of binary relations, and the fact that they provide a reasonable test environment for our ideas. Since our major interest is the memory structure, we have not used natural language input, thus avoiding the attendant problems. Instead, all statements input to the system are in the form  $x R y$ . We hope it will become evident that even with this restriction to binary relations and with basically simple executive routines the system attains a surprising

amount of power and range of applicability. This derives from the following characteristics of the system:

1. The memory is a net structure, with the relations serving as labels on directed edges. Each statement  $x R y$  is also stored in the converse form  $y R(CNV) x$  so that all the information about a name is reachable from the node in the net which represents it.
2. The relations, though used as labels on the edges, are actually also nodes themselves, so information about them may be stored in the memory structure. The major use of this capability is to define a relation in terms of other relations.
3. The system has the ability to use the information stored about a relation when searching memory. Such information may be entered at any time and in the same manner as any other type of data or it may be constructed and entered by the system itself. In our system, any relation may be used as an undefined term, may be defined in terms of other relations, or may be defined recursively. Any single relation may be used in any or all of these ways. Complex relations may be built out of simple relations using the relative product operation and node restrictions to restrict the domains or ranges of the simple relations. Thus, quite complicated relations may be defined.

The following sections give more detailed information about and examples of the SAMENLAQ II system. The final section describes a later system which is being developed to satisfy more completely the goals discussed above.

## 2. IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATION

SAMENLAQ II is a revision of SAMENLAQ, "A Semantic Association Memory Net that Learns and Answers Questions"<sup>10</sup>. Both programs are written in SNOBOL3 as interactive question answering systems, but SAMENLAQ II, unlike SAMENLAQ which was run in batch mode with simulated interaction on a CDC 3600, is fully interactive and is currently running under the University of Wisconsin B5500 time sharing system. SAMENLAQ II differs from SAMENLAQ in that it provides aids to the user, who inputs data directly via a teletype, allows for storage of input files and memories in disk files, and, most importantly, allows for recursive definitions of relations and allows the user to control in real time how much effort the system should spend searching its memory to discover more information for use in answering a question.

Figures 2a and 2b depict the overall flow of control in SAMENLAQ II. Figure 1 demonstrates its operation. At the top level of operation, three types of input are allowable: statements, questions and requests to the system executive. [B1,2a]\* Representative examples are given in fig. 1

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\*Bracketed references refer to the flow charts in fig. 2. E.g. "[B1,2a]" refers to Box 1 in fig. 2a.

- a ALBANY,BUFFALO,NEW.YORK,POUGHKEEPSIE IN NEW.YORK.STATE←  
 STATEMENT - ALBANY,BUFFALO,NEW.YORK,POUGHKEEPSIE IN NEW.  
 YORK.STATE  
 OK?...YES←  
 WAIT...  
 READY  
 BOSTON,WORCESTER IN MASSACHUSETTS←  
 STATEMENT - BOSTON,WORCESTER IN MASSACHUSETTS  
 OK?...YES←  
 WAIT...  
 READY
- b FLAG ECHO OFF @←  
 REQUEST - FLAG ECHO OFF  
 READY
- c BOSTON EAST.OF WORCESTER←  
 READY  
 WORCESTER EAST.OF ALBANY←  
 READY  
 ALBANY EAST.OF BUFFALO←  
 READY  
 ALBANY NORTH.OF POUGHKEEPSIE←  
 READY  
 POUGHKEEPSIE NORTH.OF NEW.YORK←  
 READY  
 IN MEMBER LOCATION.RELS←  
 READY
- d NORTH.OF,EAST.OF MEMBER COMPASS.RELS←  
 READY
- e SOUTH.OF IMPLBY NORTH.OF(CNV)←  
 READY  
 WEST.OF IMPLBY EAST.OF(CNV)←  
 READY  
 WHAT,HAS.WHAT.RELATIONSHIP.TO IS QUESTION←  
 READY
- f BOSTON EAST.OF WHAT\*←  
 I WILL USE THE FOLLOWING RELATIONS:  
 EAST.OF/  
 I FIGURE BOSTON EAST.OF/ WORCESTER  
 IF THIS IS SUFFICIENT, RESPOND - OK  
 OTHERWISE TYPE AN INTEGER FOR FURTHER SEARCH  
 OR - LIST TROUBLES OR AN INPUT STATEMENT OR - EXAMPLES
- g 1←  
 I WILL USE THE FOLLOWING RELATIONS:  
 NO FURTHER RELATIONS FOUND.

Fig. 1a A Conversation With SAMENLAQ II.

I FIGURE BOSTON EAST.OF/ WORCESTER  
 IF THIS IS SUFFICIENT, RESPOND - OK  
 OTHERWISE TYPE AN INTEGER FOR FURTHER SEARCH  
 OR - LIST TROUBLES OR AN INPUT STATEMENT OR - EXAMPLES  
 h EAST.OF IMPLBY EAST.OF/EAST.OF←  
 STATEMENT - EAST.OF IMPLBY EAST.OF/EAST.OF  
 OK?...YES←  
 WAIT  
 ENTER ANY OF THE ABOVE OPTIONS.  
 2←  
 I WILL USE THE FOLLOWING RELATIONS:  
 EAST.OF/EAST.OF/  
 AND EAST.OF/EAST.OF/EAST.OF/  
 I FIGURE BOSTON EAST.OF/WORCESTER AND ALBANY AND BUFFALO  
 IF THIS IS SUFFICIENT, RESPOND - OK  
 OTHERWISE TYPE AN INTEGER FOR FURTHER SEARCH  
 OR - LIST TROUBLES OR AN INPUT STATEMENT OR - EXAMPLES  
 OK←  
 WAIT...  
 i ANSWER - WORCESTER [Answer to Question posed at line "f".]  
 AND ALBANY  
 AND BUFFALO  
 READY  
 j BUFFALO HAS.WHAT.RELATIONSHIP.TO NEW.YORK\*2←  
 ENTER COMMA LIST OF RELATION CLASSES TO BE USED OR - " ANY."  
 ANY←  
 BUFFALO IN NEW.YORK.STATE IN(CNV) NEW.YORK  
 ENTER - OK - OR AN INTEGER INDICATING NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL  
 PATH LINKS.  
 1←  
 WAIT...  
 BUFFALO EAST.OF(CNV) ALBANY NORTH.OF POUGHKEEPSIE NORTH.OF  
 NEW.YORK  
 ENTER - OK - OR AN INTEGER INDICATING NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL  
 PATH LINKS.  
 OK←  
 READY  
 FLAG ASK OFF@←  
 READY  
 FLAG TRACE OFF@←  
 READY  
 k WHAT (IN-NEW.YORK.STATE,)SOUTHWEST.OF BOSTON\*←  
 I FIGURE BOSTON SOUTHWEST.OF(CNV)/(IN-NEW.YORK.STATE,)  
 UNKNOWN

Fig. 1b A Conversation With SAMENLAQ II

WHAT NOW?  
 LIST TROUBLES←  
 AT THE FOLLOWING NAMES COULD NOT APPLY THE LISTED RELATIONS.  
     BOSTON - SOUTHWEST.OF(CNV)  
 WHAT NOW?  
 SOUTHWEST.OF IMPLBY SOUTH.OF/WEST.OF, WEST.OF/SOUTH.OF←  
 STATEMENT - SOUTHWEST.OF IMPLBY SOUTH.OF/WEST.OF, WEST.  
 OF/SOUTH.OF  
 OK?...YES←  
 WAIT...  
 WHAT NOW?  
 3←  
 I FIGURE BOSTON SOUTHWEST.OF(CNV)/(IN-NEW.YORK.STATE,) )  
 POUGHKEEPSIE  
 WHAT NOW?  
 SOUTH.OF IMPLBY SOUTH.OF/SOUTH.OF←  
 STATEMENT - SOUTH.OF IMPLBY SOUTH.OF/SOUTH OF  
 OK?...YES←  
 WAIT...  
 WHAT NOW?  
 3←  
 I FIGURE BOSTON SOUTHWEST.OF(CNV)/(IN-NEW.YORK.STATE,) )  
 POUGHKEEPSIE  
 AND NEW.YORK  
 WHAT NOW?  
 OK←  
 ANSWER - POUGHKEEPSIE [Answer to question posed at line "k".]  
     AND NEW.YORK  
 READY

Fig. 1c A Conversation With SAMENLAQ II.



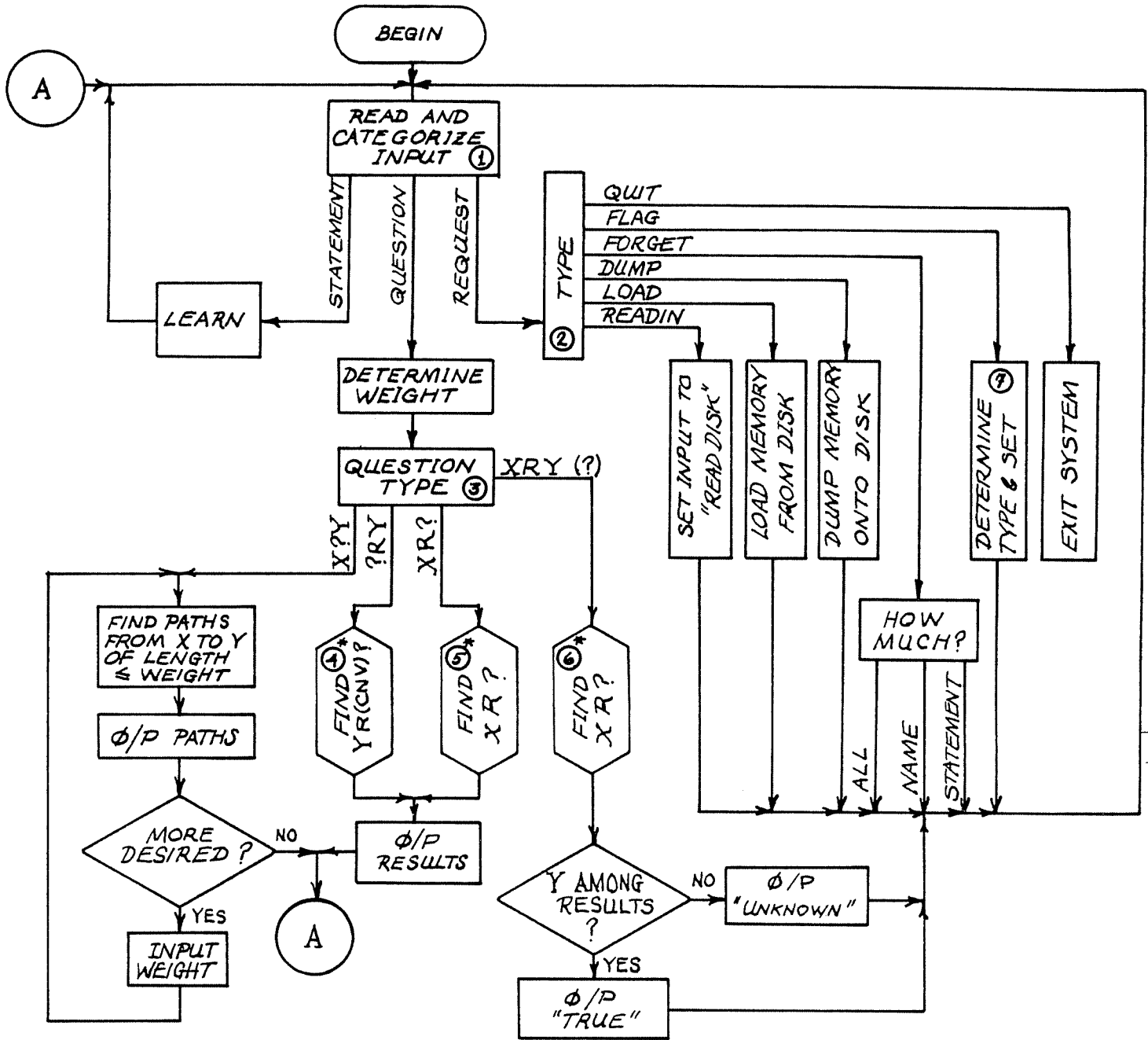


Fig. 2a Overall Flow of Control

\*See figure 2b.

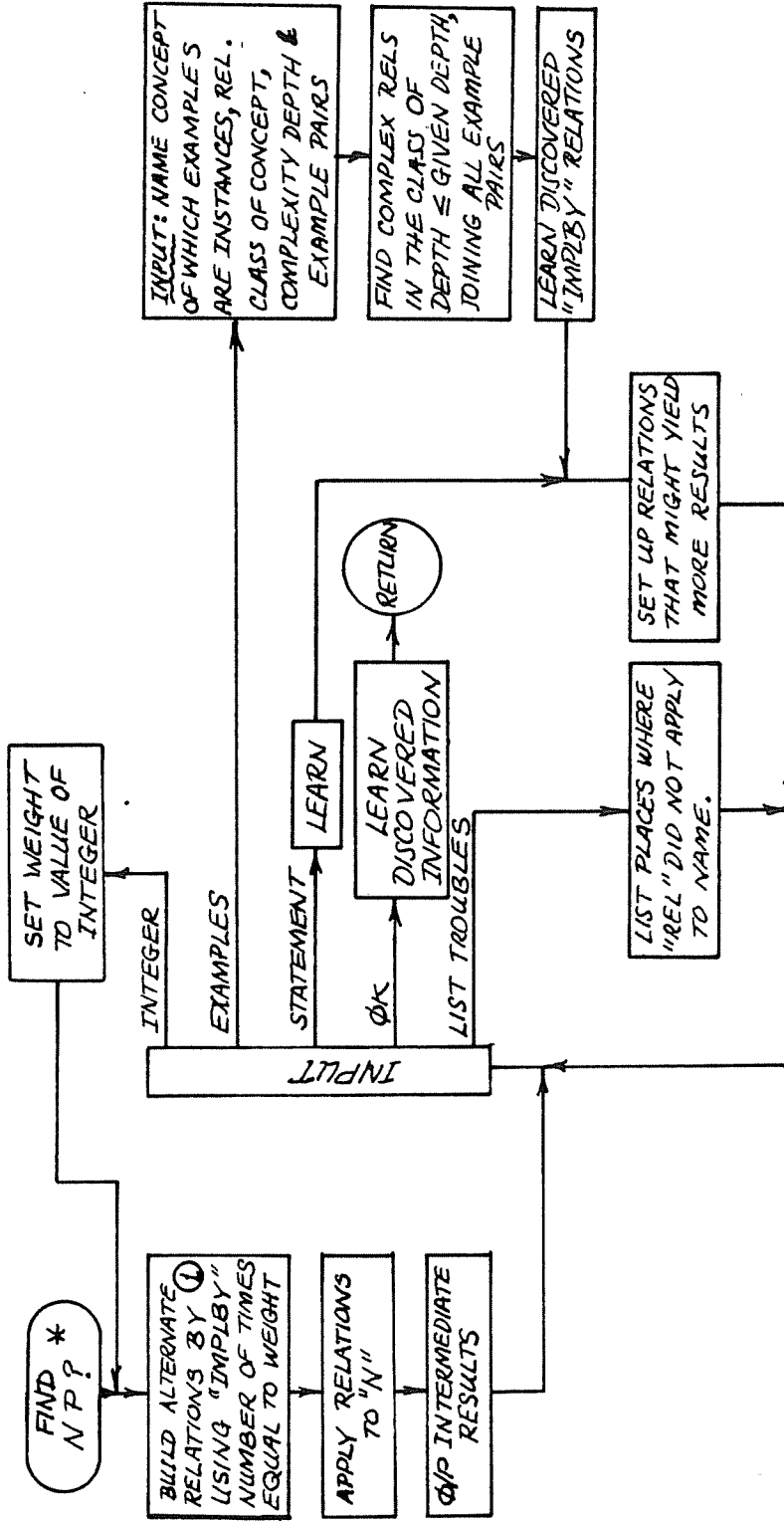


Fig. 2b Flow Chart of Main Question Answering Routines

\*This routine is used at [B4,2a], [B5,2a] and [B6,2a].

by lines "a," "f," and "b" respectively. Notice that user inputs are indicated by terminal left arrows whereas unterminated lines indicate SAMENLAQ II responses. The simple statement at line "c" results in the construction of a net substructure containing the nodes "BOSTON", "EAST.OF", "EAST.OF(CNV)", and "WORCESTER" in which "BOSTON" and "WORCESTER" are tied together via the "EAST.OF" node and "WORCESTER" and "BOSTON" are tied together via the "EAST.OF(CNV)" node. This structure is considered in more detail in the next section. More complicated statements such as line "a" are interpreted by the system as a series of simple statements.

The system provides the user with various types of feedback, some of which may be turned off by appropriate requests to the executive.[B7,2a] Lines prior to "f" demonstrate input in the full and limited response modes. Line "b" requests that the full response mode be turned off. Requests are identified by a terminating "@". Other request options are indicated in fig. 2.[B2,2a]

Several relation words are built into the system. "MEMBER" allows a particular net search to be limited to a subclass of all the relations represented in the net. Subclass definition may take place at any point during a conversation and is determined solely by the user. Line "d" represents the introduction of the subclass "COMPASS.RELS". Such classes are useful for handling questions involving paths in the net which connect prescribed nodes.

"IMPLBY" allows a given relation to be defined in terms of other relations. It is one of the most important features of SAMENLAQ II. The system has the ability to utilize "IMPLBY" information about a relation during the question answering process by using it as a generalized substitution rule.

Line "e" demonstrates the use of IMPLBY to introduce NORTH.OF(CNV) as an acceptable replacement for SOUTH.OF. The line also results in SOUTH.OF(CNV) IMPLBY NORTH.OF being incorporated in memory.

To enhance readability, the system allows the user to introduce his own interrogatives by means of the form "x IS QUESTION".

Questions are terminated by "\*". There are four possible types -- one verification type  $(x R y *)$  and three fill in the blank types  $(x R \_ *)$ ,  $(\_ R y *)$  and  $(x \_ y *)$ . [B3,2a] Line "f" illustrates the  $x R \_ *$  type, line "j" the  $X \_ Y*$  type and line "k" the  $\_ R Y*$  type. Notice that non-simple relations can be handled by the system. There are three types of relations used in SAMENLAQ II, simple, compound and complex. A simple relation is of the form  $R$  or  $R(CNV)$  where the character string  $R$  is not meaningfully decomposable and  $Y R(CNV) X$  if and only if  $X R Y$ . A compound relation is a simple relation or a relative product of simple relations and is of the form  $R1/R2/R3$ , (or sometimes, as a stylistic variant,  $R1/R2/R3/$ ).  $X R1/R2/R3 Y$  holds if and only if there exists some  $z$  and  $w$  such

that  $X R_1 z$ ,  $z R_2 w$  and  $w R_3 Y$ . A complex relation is a compound relation or a compound relation with node restrictions. A node restriction is of the form  $(R-\emptyset)$  where  $R$  is a simple relation and  $\emptyset$  is a string of names, each one followed by a comma. Node restrictions are used to restrict the domain or range of a simple relation which forms part of the complex relation. For example,  $(R-\emptyset)R_1$  is the relation  $R_1$  with a restricted domain, and  $R_1(R-\emptyset)$  is  $R_1$  with a restricted range.

$$x \overbrace{(R_1-\emptyset_1)(R_2-\emptyset_2)R_3}^{\text{Domain of } R_3} / \overbrace{(R_4-\emptyset_3)(R_5-\emptyset_4)R_6}^{\text{Domain of } R_6} / \underbrace{(R_7-\emptyset_5)}_{\text{Range of } R_6} y$$

Range of  $R_3$                       Range of  $R_6$

A name  $x$ , satisfies the node restriction  $(R-\emptyset)$  if for all  $y$  in the string  $\emptyset xRy$  is explicitly stored in memory. Thus the relational statement above holds if  $x$  satisfies  $(R_1-\emptyset_1)$  and  $(R_2-\emptyset_2)$ ,  $y$  satisfies  $(R_7-\emptyset_5)$  and there exists some  $z$  such that  $z$  satisfies  $(R_4-\emptyset_3)$  and  $(R_5-\emptyset_4)$ ,  $xR_3z$ , and  $zR_6y$ .

A complex relation may also consist solely of node restrictions, in which case it is an identity relation on a restricted domain (viz. the set of all names which satisfy all the node restrictions) and is the statement of a conjunctive concept. The executive routines have built into them the ability to deal with converse relations and with compound and complex relations. When a relation serves to label an edge of the net, i.e. in its appearance in the value of a name, it is treated as a

simple relation. Compound and complex relations are used when defining other relations and may themselves have definitions. Lines beginning at "k" illustrate these ideas.

Line "f" represents one of the four question types. To answer it, SAMENLAQ II attempts to apply "EAST.OF" to "BOSTON". Since the system has the statement "BOSTON EAST.OF WORCESTER" represented explicitly in its memory, EAST.OF can be successfully applied - yielding "WORCESTER." Since the system does not know explicitly that "BOSTON EAST.OF ALBANY" or that EAST.OF is a transitive relation, it is incapable of finding further nodes satisfying "BOSTON EAST.OF X". This is illustrated in line "g" where "1" indicates that SAMENLAQ II is to execute one substitution cycle - i.e. substitute for each relation it is currently attempting to apply to a node, all acceptable replacements contained on the relations IMPLBY list.[B1,2b] (The IMPLBY list for a relation R is a list of all relations, X, such that R IMPLBY X.) In line "h" the system is informed that EAST.OF is transitive. Two additional IMPLBY substitution cycles are then requested by typing in "2".

Figure 3 illustrates an application of SAMENLAQ to rudimentary conjunctive concept formation. The statements presented in Fig. 3a supply the system with a small data base concerning the relations of various objects in a room. Note, in line "a" two of these are grouped into the class "SPLREL". In line "b" SAMENLAQ is asked to answer a question concerning a relation it has never seen before. Failing to

CHAIR,SHELF,TABLE HAS.PART ELEVATED.HORIZONTAL.SUPPORTING.  
 SURFACE←  
 READY  
 DRESSER,BENCH HAS.PART ELEVATED.HORIZONTAL.SUPPORTING.SURFACE←  
 READY  
 SHELF HAS.PART BRACKET.SUPPORTS←  
 READY  
 CHAIR,TABLE,DRESSER,BENCH HAS.PART LEGS←  
 READY  
 DRESSER HAS.PART DRAWERS←  
 READY  
 BENCH,CHAIR,SHELF,TABLE,DRESSER ELEMENT FURNITURE←  
 READY  
 TV1,TTY1,TEL1,TEL3,PEN1,SIGNAL.LIGHT1,RADIO1 USED.FOR  
 COMMUNICATION←  
 READY  
 TV1,TTY1,TEL3,TEL1,TEL2,SIGNAL.LIGHT1,RADIO1 CONSTRUCTION  
 ELECTRICAL←  
 READY  
 PEN1 CONSTRUCTION MECHANICAL←  
 READY  
 CHAIR1,CHAIR2 ELEMENT CHAIR←  
 READY  
 SHELF1,SHELF2,SHELF3 ELEMENT SHELF←  
 READY  
 TABLE1,TABLE2 ELEMENT TABLE←  
 READY  
 DRESSER1 ELEMENT DRESSER←  
 READY  
 CHAIR1,CHAIR2,SHELF2 CONSTRUCTION METAL←  
 READY  
 BENCH1,SHELF1,TABLE1,TABLE2,DRESSER1 CONSTRUCTION WOOD←  
 READY  
 RADIO1,PEN1 ON.TOP DRESSER1←  
 READY  
 SIGNAL.LIGHT1,PICTURE1 ON.TOP SHELF1←  
 READY  
 TV1 ON.TOP TABLE2←  
 READY  
 TTY1 ON.TOP BENCH1←  
 READY  
 BENCH1 ELEMENT BENCH←  
 READY

Fig. 3a A Conjunctive Concept Formation Example: Data Base Input.

PICTURE3, TEL3 ATTACHED. TO WALL1←  
 READY  
 TEL1 ON. TOP TABLE1←  
 READY  
 WHAT IS QUESTION←  
 READY  
 a ON. TOP, ELEMENT MEMBER SPLREL←  
 READY  
 b WHAT IS. AN. ELECTRICAL. COMMUNICATION. DEVICE. THAT. IS. ON.  
 TOP. OF. A. PIECE. OF. WOODEN FURNITURE\*←  
 I FIGURE FURNITURE  
 IS. AN. ELECTRICAL. COMMUNICATION. DEVICE. THAT. IS. ON. TOP. OF.  
 A. PIECE. OF. WOODEN(CNV)/ UNKNOWN  
 WHAT NOW?  
 EXAMPLES←  
 RELATION WHOSE DEFINITION IS TO BE FOUND... CONCEPT1←  
 RELATION CLASS CONCEPT1 IS A MEMBER OF... SPLREL←  
 DEPTH OF ALTERNATE DEFINITIONS... 2←  
 TYPE PAIRS X Y SUCH THAT X CONCEPT1 Y.  
 WHEN FINISHED, TYPE - END.  
 TEL1 TABLE←  
 RADIO1 DRESSER←  
 SIGNAL. LIGHT1 SHELF←  
 END←  
 OK?... YES←  
 THANK YOU.  
 WAIT...  
 FROM THE EXAMPLES YOU HAVE GIVEN ME, I WOULD GUESS THAT  
 CONCEPT1/ IS THE SAME AS  
 (CONSTRUCTION-ELECTRICAL, )(USED. FOR-COMMUNICATION, ) ON. TOP/  
 (CONSTRUCTION-WOOD, ) ELEMENT/HAS. PART-ELEVATED. HORIZONTAL.  
 SUPPORTING. SURFACE, )  
 WHAT NOW?  
 IS. AN. ELECTRICAL. COMMUNICATION. DEVICE. THAT. IS. ON. TOP. OF.  
 A. PIECE. OF. WOODEN IMPLBY CONCEPT1/ELEMENT←  
 STATEMENT -  
 IS. AN. ELECTRICAL. COMMUNICATION. DEVICE. THAT. IS. ON. TOP. OF.  
 A. PIECE. OF. WOODEN IMPLBY CONCEPT1/ELEMENT  
 OK?... YES←  
 WAIT...  
 WHAT NOW?  
 2←

Fig. 3b A Conjunctive Concept Formation Example: Interrogation.



I FIGURE FURNITURE  
IS.AN.ELECTRICAL.COMMUNICATION.DEVICE.THAT.IS.ON.TOP.OF.  
A.PIECE.OF.WOODEN(CNV)/ TTY1 AND SIGNAL.LIGHT1 AND TEL1  
AND TV1 AND RADIO1  
WHAT NOW?  
OK—  
WAIT...  
ANSWER - TTY1 [Answer to Question posed at line "b".]  
AND SIGNAL.LIGHT1  
AND TEL1  
AND TV1  
AND RADIO1  
READY

Fig. 3c A Conjunctive Concept Formation Example: Interrogation.

apply this relation, it is given a series of examples whose relationship to one another is arbitrarily designated CONCEPT1. Restricting its search to the relation class SPLREL, the system obtains all paths of length 2 or less connecting the example pairs. The properties common to each class of nodes at the same level along the path are also calculated. For example (CONSTRUCTION-ELECTRICAL,), (CONSTRUCTION-WOOD,) and (HAS.PART-ELEVATED.HORIZONTAL.SUPPORTING SURFACE,) are node properties common to the first, second, and third levels respectively. The path connecting the example pairs is "ON.TOP/ELEMENT". This relation is then placed upon the IMPLBY list for CONCEPT1. Finally CONCEPT1 is used to define the original concept IS.AN.ELECTRICAL.COMMUNICATION.DEVICE.THAT.IS.ON.TOP.OF.A.PIECE.OF.WOODEN. The system then has sufficient information to answer the question and responds with the correct answer.

### 3. SAMENLAQ II DESCRIPTION

Statements entered into the memory are of the form "NAME1 RELATION NAME2" where NAME1 and NAME2 are non-decomposable names and RELATION is a simple relation. Information contained in such statements is stored on paren lists associated with NAME1 and NAME2. Thus, the above statement produces the following paren list for "NAME1": "(RELATION-/1)" where the contents of the slash name "/1" is the comma list "NAME2,". In the example below, the paren pair (WEST.OF-/3) on the paren list for

WORCESTER indicates that Worcester is West of each of the elements found on the comma list named /3. Note that the value of a slash name is a comma list, similarly the value of a name is its paren list.

```

BOSTON      = (EAST.OF-/1)
/1          = WORCESTER,ALBANY,BUFFALO,
WORCESTER   = (EAST.OF-/2)(WEST.OF-/3)
/2          = ALBANY,BUFFALO,
/3          = BOSTON,
EAST.OF     = (IMPLBY-/4)(MEMBER-/5)
/4          = EAST.OF/EAST.OF/,
/5          = COMPASS.RELS,

```

Although the paren list looks like a conventional attribute - value list it differs in that both the relations (attributes) and the names on the comma lists (values) are themselves names of paren lists and these various paren lists mutually occur as elements of each other. The memory may be thought of as a directed graph whose nodes are the names (BOSTON,WORCESTER, etc.) and whose edges are labelled by the relations. Since, however, the relations are also names and thus should be thought of as nodes in the graph, we should, perhaps, think of the edges as being labelled by passing through a node, and all edges bearing the same label as passing through the same node.

The statement NAME1 RELATION NAME2 is not only stored as such on NAME1's paren list, but its converse, NAME2 RELATION(CNV) NAME1 is stored on NAME2's paren list. This is done so that the information contained in the statement is recoverable from either name. Although this involves duplicate storage of information, changing the statement

to its converse form for storage under the second argument allows all statements about a name to be stored in the same place (the name's value) regardless of whether the name was the first or second argument in the original statements. This contrasts with the methods for retrieving a relational statement from either argument used by the Relational Data File<sup>4</sup> (RDF) and by DEACON<sup>1,6</sup>. In RDF, statements are stored in only one direction, but in different files which are ordered on different parts of the statement. Thus to get all information about a single name, either one file must be searched exhaustively or the name must be looked up in all files. In DEACON, the statements are stored in the form of closed "connecting rings" through the three parts of the statement. Thus the statement is reachable from any part of it without recourse to several files, but it is impossible to tell from a connecting ring where the statement should begin, i.e. whether the ring through  $x$ ,  $R$ , and  $y$  represents the statement  $xRy$ ,  $Ryx$ , or  $yxR$ .

The generality of SAMENLAQ derives largely from the ability to introduce new relations at any time, to introduce definitions of new relations or relations that had previously been undefined and to extend the definition of a relation. Definitions may also be added at any time and are stored in the memory net structure just like any other data. Definitions are not given in terms of relation properties that have been built into the system, but in terms of other relations. Nevertheless, various standard relation properties can be dealt with, for example:

1. Entering the statement, "R1 IMPLBY R1/R1" causes R1 to be transitive.
2. Entering "R1 IMPLBY R1(CNV)" causes R1 to be symmetric.
3. It was previously pointed out (section 2) that the complex relation consisting only of a node restriction (R- $\emptyset$ ) serves as an identity relation for all names x such that for every name y in the string  $\emptyset$ , xRy is explicitly in memory. If  $\emptyset$  were the string consisting only of the delimiter ",", (R- $\emptyset$ ) would be the identity relation for all x such that for any y, xRy were explicitly stored. If this were true for all x in memory, (R-,) would be the universal identity relation. In that case entering, the statement "R1 IMPLBY (R-,)" would cause R1 to be reflexive.

Thus, R1 might be defined to be an equivalence relation by entering "R1 IMPLBY (MEMBER-,), R1(CNV), R1/R1/". In addition to these forms of definition, a relation may be defined a) by using only other relations, and b) by combining other relations along with the relation being defined thus forming a general recursive definition. A wide range of relations may thus be used without programming them into the executive routines as it is done in Raphael's SIR<sup>8</sup>. This method of defining relations also contrasts with that used by Elliott<sup>2</sup> in "GRAIS". In "GRAIS" relational properties are built into the executive routines. In fact, this is done in such a way as to provide

specific routines for 32 classes of relations. The user introduces a new relation by specifying which of the 32 classes it belongs in and this determines how it will be handled. This does not allow a user to use a relation whose properties he either does not know completely or does not wish to make specific initially. A user may also define a relation in terms of a Boolean function of previously introduced relations. However, these relations may not be stored in the data structure, only used for question answering.

It is interesting to note that the user builds his own logic system into SAMENLAQ II when he specifies IMPLBY information (used as the rules of inference) and other statements (the axioms). The only logical structure imposed on the user is the metatheoretic substitution rule embodied in the procedures which apply IMPLBY, and the limits on the form of a rule of inference imposed by the syntax of complex relations. If the user specifies a strange or even self-contradictory "logic" SAMENLAQ II will produce deductions that are equally strange or contradictory; interpretation is in the mind of the user. (For example, in section 4, deductions arising from the relation "IS.PART.OF" only make sense if the interpretation of "x IS.PART.OF y" motivating the rule of inference "IS.PART.OF IMPLBY IS.PART.OF/IS(CNV)" is that every member of y has a part which is a member of x and the interpretation of "IS" is "is subset of.")

It would be possible to append an executive to SAMENLAQ II which would constrain the type of logical system to one with certain prescribed properties.

#### 4. SOME VARIED APPLICATIONS OF SAMENLAQ II

The following sample conversations demonstrate SAMENLAQ II's ability to deal with relations arising from a variety of problem areas.

The first conversation (Figure 4a-d) involves a modified subdialogue from SIR<sup>8</sup>. It demonstrates SAMENLAQ's ability to handle relations such as part, subset, owns and element and the interdependence between such relations. Although specific relations and relational properties are not built into the system, SAMENLAQ can utilize the information  $(x)(Y)(Z)$   $(x \text{ IS.PART.OF } Y \ \& \ Z \subset Y \rightarrow x \text{ IS.PART.OF } Z)$  via the IMPLBY statement  $\text{IS.PART.OF IMPLBY IS.PART.OF/IS(CNV)}$ . (See comments at the end of section 3.)

In attempting to answer a question, it may be necessary to supply further information to the system. Such a situation is illustrated by line "b" in the conversation starting at line "a".

Notice that in the case of a "WHAT R Y" question, SAMENLAQ II proceeds by attempting to apply the R(CNV) relation to the node Y.

[B4,2a]

Figure 5 shows an application of SAMENLAQ II to census, airplane and airline flight data. Note especially that even though the

IS.PART.OF IMPLBY IS.PART.OF/IS.PART.OF,IS.PART.OF/IS(CNV)←  
 READY  
 SOMETIMES IMPLBY IS(CNV)←  
 READY  
 IS IMPLBY IS/IS←  
 READY  
 NOSE IS.PART.OF PERSON←  
 READY  
 NOSTRIL IS.PART.OF NOSE←  
 READY  
 PROFESSOR IS TEACHER←  
 READY  
 TEACHER IS PERSON←  
 READY  
 NOSTRIL IS.PART.OF PROFESSOR\*1←  
 I FIGURE NOSTRIL IS.PART.OF/ NOSE AND PERSON  
 WHAT NOW?  
 1←  
 I FIGURE NOSTRIL IS.PART.OF/ NOSE AND PERSON AND TEACHER  
 WHAT NOW?  
 1←  
 I FIGURE NOSTRIL IS.PART.OF/ NOSE AND PERSON AND TEACHER  
 AND PROFESSOR  
 WHAT NOW?  
 OK←  
 WAIT...  
 ANSWER - TRUE  
 READY  
 PERSON IS LIVING CREATURE←  
 BAD INPUT. TRY AGAIN.  
 READY  
 PERSON IS LIVING.CREATURE←  
 READY  
 HAS.AS.PART IMPLBY IS.PART.OF(CNV)←  
 READY  
 LIVING.CREATURE SOMETIMES/HAS.AS.PART NOSTRIL\*3←  
 I FIGURE LIVING.CREATURE SOMETIMES/HAS.AS.PART/ NOSTRIL  
 WHAT NOW?  
 OK←  
 ANSWER - TRUE  
 READY  
 CRT IS DISPLAY.DEVICE←  
 READY

Fig. 4a Learning and Deduction Using Several Relations From SIR



CRT IS.PART.OF B5500←  
 READY  
 BRUTUS IS B5500←  
 READY  
 SCREEN IS.PART.OF DISPLAY.DEVICE←  
 READY  
 d SCREEN IS.PART.OF BRUTUS\*1←  
 I FIGURE SCREEN IS.PART.OF/ DISPLAY.DEVICE AND CRT  
 WHAT NOW?  
 I←  
 I FIGURE SCREEN IS.PART.OF/ DISPLAY.DEVICE AND CRT AND B5500  
 WHAT NOW?  
 I←  
 I FIGURE SCREEN IS.PART.OF/ DISPLAY.DEVICE AND CRT AND  
 B5500 AND BRUTUS  
 WHAT NOW?  
 OK←  
 WAIT...  
 ANSWER - TRUE [Answer to question posed at line "d" above]  
 READY  
 OWNS IMPLBY IS/OWNS←  
 READY  
 FIREMAN OWNS PAIR.OF.RED.SUSPENDERS←  
 READY  
 DOCTOR OWNS PAIR.OF.RED.SUSPENDERS\*1←  
 I FIGURE DOCTOR OWNS/ UNKNOWN  
 WHAT NOW?  
 OK←  
 WAIT...  
 ANSWER - UNKNOWN  
 READY  
 FIRECHIEF IS FIREMAN←  
 READY  
 FIRECHIEF OWNS PAIR.OF.RED.SUSPENDERS\*1←  
 I FIGURE FIRECHIEF OWNS/ PAIR.OF.RED.SUSPENDERS  
 WHAT NOW?  
 OK←  
 WAIT...  
 ANSWER - TRUE  
 READY  
 a EXAMPLE.OF IMPLBY EXAMPLE.OF/IS←  
 READY  
 A IMPLBY EXAMPLE.OF←  
 READY

Fig. 4b Learning and Deduction Using Several Relations From SIR

STU OWNS LOG.LOG.DECITRIG1←  
 READY  
 LOG.LOG.DECITRIG1 EXAMPLE.OF LOG.LOG.DECITRIG←  
 READY  
 LOG.LOG.DECITRIG IS SLIDE.RULE←  
 READY  
 STU OWNS/A SLIDE RULE\*1←  
 I FIGURE STU OWNS/A/ LOG.LOG.DECITRIG  
 WHAT NOW?  
 1←  
 I FIGURE STU OWNS/A/ LOG.LOG.DECITRIG AND SLIDE.RULE  
 WHAT NOW?  
 OK←  
 ANSWER TRUE  
 READY  
 ENGINEERING.STUDENT OWNS SLIDE.RULE←  
 READY  
 GEORGE EXAMPLE.OF TECH.MAN←  
 READY  
 TECH.MAN IS ENGINEERING.STUDENT←  
 READY  
 GEORGE OWNS/A SLIDE.RULE\*1←  
 I FIGURE GEORGE OWNS/A/ UNKNOWN  
 WHAT NOW?  
 1←  
 I FIGURE GEORGE OWNS/A/ UNKNOWN  
 WHAT NOW?  
 OK←  
 ANSWER - UNKNOWN  
 READY  
 c ENGINEERING.STUDENT EXAMPLE.OF(CNV)/OWNS/EXAMPLE.OF LOG.  
 LOG.DECITRIG\*1←  
 I FIGURE ENGINEERING.STUDENT EXAMPLE.OF(CNV)/OWNS/EXAMPLE.  
 OF/ UNKNOWN  
 WHAT NOW?  
 b STU EXAMPLE.OF TECH.MAN← [Provide additional information necessary  
 STATEMENT - STU EXAMPLE.OF TECH.MAN to answer question.]  
 OK?...YES←  
 WAIT...  
 WHAT NOW?  
 2←  
 I FIGURE ENGINEERING.STUDENT EXAMPLE.OF(CNV)/OWNS/EXAMPLE.  
 OF/ LOG.LOG.DECITRIG AND SLIDE.RULE

Fig. 4c Learning and Deduction Using Several Relations From SIR.

WHAT NOW?

OK←

ANSWER - TRUE [Answer to question posed at line "c".]

READY

Fig. 4d Learning and Deduction Using Several Relations From SIR

NEW.YORK,LOS.ANGELES,SANTA.BARBARA,ORLANDO IS CITY←  
 READY  
 NEW.YORK HAS.POPULATION 7781984←  
 READY  
 LOS.ANGELES HAS.POPULATION 2479015←  
 READY  
 ORLANDO HAS.POPULATION 88135←  
 READY  
 SANTA.BARBARA HAS.POPULATION 58768←  
 READY  
 7781984,2479015 IS.GREATER.THAN 100000←  
 READY  
 88135,58768 IS.LESS.THAN 100000←  
 READY  
 BOEING.707,BOEING.727,DC8 IS JET.PLANE←  
 READY  
 CONVAIR.240 IS PROP.PLANE←  
 READY  
 JET.PLANE,PROP.PLANE SUBSET AIRPLANE←  
 READY  
 IS IMPLBY IS/SUBSET←  
 READY  
 BOEING.707,DC.8 CARRIES 150←  
 READY  
 BOEING.727 CARRIES 120←  
 READY  
 CONVAIR.240 CARRIES 50←  
 READY  
 150 IS.GREATER.THAN 120←  
 READY  
 50 IS.LESS.THAN 120←  
 READY  
 a IS.LARGE IMPLBY (IS-CITY,)HAS.POPULATION/(IS.GREATER.THAN-  
 100000,)HAS.POPULATION(CNV)/IS←  
 READY  
 b IS.LARGE IMPLBY (IS-AIRPLANE,)CARRIES/(IS.GREATER.THAN-120,)←  
 CARRIES(CNV)/IS←  
 READY  
 WHAT IS QUESTION←  
 WHAT IS AIRPLANE\*1←  
 I FIGURE AIRPLANE IS(CNV)/ BOEING.707 AND BOEING.727 AND  
 DC.8 AND CONVAIR.240

Fig. 5a Application to census, airplane and airline flight data with an ambiguous relation.

WHAT NOW?  
 OK←  
 WAIT...  
 ANSWER - BOEING.707  
           AND BOEING.727  
           AND DC.8  
           AND CONVAIR.240  
 READY  
 c DC.8 IS.LARGE WHAT\*1←  
 I FIGURE DC.8 IS.LARGE/ JET.PLANE AND AIRPLANE  
 WHAT NOW?  
 OK←  
 WAIT...  
 ANSWER - JET.PLANE  
           AND AIRPLANE  
 READY  
 WHAT IS.LARGE CITY\*1←  
 I FIGURE CITY IS.LARGE(CNV)/ NEW.YORK AND LOG.ANGELES  
 WHAT NOW?  
 OK←  
 WAIT...  
 ANSWER - NEW.YORK  
           AND LOS.ANGELES  
 READY  
 SANTA.BARBARA,ORLANDO HAS.POPULATION WHAT\*←  
 I FIGURE SANTA.BARBARA,ORLANDO HAS.POPULATION/ 58768 AND 88135  
 WHAT NOW?  
 OK←  
 WAIT...  
 ANSWER - 58768  
           AND 88135  
 READY  
 FLT.207 FLIES.FROM NEW.YORK←  
 READY  
 FLT.207 FLIES.TO LOS.ANGELES←  
 READY  
 DC.8 USED.ON FLT.207←  
 READY  
 FLT.207 DEPARTS.AT 10:00AM←  
 READY  
 FLT.207 ARRIVES.AT 12:30PM←  
 READY  
 FLT.308 FLIES.FROM NEW.YORK←

Fig. 5b Application to census, airplane and airline flight data with an ambiguous relation.

READY  
 FLT.308 FLIES.TO ORLANDO←  
 READY  
 BOEING.727 USED.ON FLT.308←  
 READY  
 FLT.45 FLIES.FROM LOS.ANGELES←  
 READY  
 FLT.45 FLIES.TO SANTA.BARBARA←  
 READY  
 CONVAIR.240 USED.ON FLT.45←  
 READY  
 FLT.45 DEPARTS.AT 1:30PM←  
 READY  
 FLT.45 ARRIVES.AT 2:15PM←  
 READY  
 1:30PM IS.LATER.THAN 12:30PM←  
 READY  
 CONNECTS.WITH IMPLBY ARRIVES.AT/IS.LATER.THAN(CNV)/DEPARTS.  
 AT(CNV)←  
 READY  
 WHAT (FLIES.FROM-NEW.YORK,)CONNECTS.WITH/FLIES.TO SANTA.  
 BARBARA\*1←  
 I FIGURE SANTA.BARBARA  
 FLIES.TO(CNV)/CONNECTS.WITH(CNV)/(FLIES.FROM-NEW.YORK,)  
 FLT.207  
 WHAT NOW?  
 OK←  
 ANSWER - FLT.207  
 READY  
 FLT.207 USED.ON(CNV)/IS.LARGE AIRPLANE\*←  
 I FIGURE FLT.207 USED.ON(CNV)/IS.LARGE/ JET.PLANE AND AIRPLANE  
 WHAT NOW?  
 OK←  
 ANSWER - TRUE  
 READY

Fig. 5c Application to census, airplane and airline flight data with an ambiguous relation.

relation "IS.LARGE" is defined ambiguously in lines "a" and "b" as to its application to cities or airplanes, SAMENLAQ II can disambiguate it from context (lines "c" and "d").

In figure 6, SAMENLAQ II works with simple logic and set theory. The rule of inference Modus Ponens is entered in 6a line "a", and with this and the transitivity of IMPLIES given in line "b", simple "chain implication" problems can be solved. In 6b the relations SUBSET and ELEMENT are introduced along with the rule  $(x)(x \in A \ \& \ A \subset B \rightarrow x \in B)$ . Then some set membership problems are solved, and finally, a simple proof is constructed.

Figure 7 shows SAMENLAQ II being taught its first lesson in arithmetic. Although neither numbers nor arithmetic functions have been built into the SAMENLAQ II structure or executive routines, SAMENLAQ II is capable of being taught arithmetic the way school children used to be taught: by first memorizing tables, and then being taught certain rules. Notice especially that divisibility by 2 was defined recursively in lines "a", "b" and "c". Similarly, SAMENLAQ II could have been taught multiplication, division, the recursive definitions for less than and greater than as well as other arithmetic relations.

Figure 8 shows SAMENLAQ II solving the Missionary - Cannibal Problem, with three missionaries, three cannibals and a boat that holds a maximum of two people. The problem was described to SAMENLAQ II as a set of all the legal states in the problem with all the possible

a TRUE IMPLBY IMPLIES(CNV)/TRUE←  
 READY  
 FALSE IMPLBY IMPLIES/FALSE←  
 READY  
 A IMPLIES B←  
 READY  
 A TRUE PROPOSITION←  
 READY  
 B TRUE PROPOSITION\*1←  
 I FIGURE B TRUE/ PROPOSITION  
 WHAT NOW?  
 OK←  
 WAIT...  
 ANSWER - TRUE  
 READY  
 FOLLOWS.FROM IMPLBY IMPLIES(CNV)←  
 READY

b IMPLIES IMPLBY IMPLIES/IMPLIES←  
 READY  
 C IMPLIES D←  
 READY  
 D FALSE PROPOSITION←  
 READY  
 C FALSE PROPOSITION\*1←  
 I FIGURE C FALSE/ PROPOSITION  
 WHAT NOW?  
 OK←  
 WAIT...  
 ANSWER - TRUE  
 READY  
 FORGET PROPOSITION @←  
 FORGET - PROPOSITION  
 OK?...YES←  
 WAIT...  
 READY  
 B IMPLIES C←  
 READY  
 D FALSE PROPOSITION←  
 READY  
 A FALSE PROPOSITION\*1←  
 I FIGURE A FALSE/ UNKNOWN  
 WHAT NOW?  
 2←

Fig. 6a A Simple Problem in Logic Using Modus Ponens



I FIGURE A FALSE/ PROPOSITION  
 WHAT NOW?  
 OK←  
 WAIT...  
 ANSWER - TRUE  
 READY  
 ELEMENT IMPLBY ELEMENT/SUBSET←  
 READY  
 S1 SUBSET S2←  
 READY  
 S2 SUBSET S3←  
 READY  
 E1 ELEMENT S1←  
 READY  
 WHAT IS QUESTION←  
 READY  
 E1 ELEMENT WHAT\*1←  
 I FIGURE E1 ELEMENT/ S1 and S2  
 WHAT NOW?  
 1←  
 I FIGURE E1 ELEMENT/ S1 AND S2 AND S3  
 WHAT NOW?  
 OK←  
 WAIT...  
 ANSWER - S1  
           AND S2  
           AND S3  
 READY  
 c D FOLLOWS.FROM A\*2←  
 I FIGURE D FOLLOWS.FROM/ C AND B  
 WHAT NOW?  
 1←  
 I FIGURE D FOLLOWS.FROM/ C AND B AND A  
 WHAT NOW?  
 OK←  
 WAIT...  
 ANSWER - TRUE [Answer to question posed at line "c".]  
 READY  
 F IS AXIOM←  
 READY  
 FIND.PROOF.FROM IS QUESTION←  
 READY

Fig. 6b Set Theory and Simple Theorem Proving

A DERIVABLE.FROM F←  
READY  
D FIND.PROOF.FROM AXIOM\*6←  
ENTER COMMA LIST OF RELATION CLASSES TO BE USED OR - " ANY "  
ANY←  
D FOLLOWS.FROM A DERIVABLE.FROM F IS AXIOM  
WHAT NOW?  
OK←  
READY

Fig. 6c Set Theory and Simple Theorem Proving

```

1 PLUS.1.IS 2←
READY
2 PLUS.1.IS 3←
READY
3 PLUS.1.IS 4←
READY
PLUS.2.IS IMPLBY PLUS.1.IS/PLUS.1.IS←
READY
WHAT IS QUESTION←
READY
2 PLUS.2.IS WHAT*1←
I FIGURE 2 PLUS.2.IS/ 4
WHAT NOW?
OK←
WAIT...
ANSWER - 4
READY
MINUS.2.IS IMPLBY PLUS.2.IS(CNV)←
READY
a 1 DIVISIBLE.BY.2 FALSE←
READY
b 2 DIVISIBLE.BY.2 TRUE←
READY
c DIVISIBLE.BY.2 IMPLBY MINUS.2.IS/DIVISIBLE.BY.2←
READY
4 DIVISIBLE.BY.2 WHAT*2←
I FIGURE 4 DIVISIBLE.BY.2/ TRUE
WHAT NOW?
OK←
WAIT...
ANSWER - TRUE
READY
3 DIVISIBLE.BY.2 WHAT*3←
I FIGURE 3 DIVISIBLE.BY.2/ FALSE
WHAT NOW?
OK←
WAIT...
ANSWER - FALSE
READY

```

Fig. 7 Arithmetic and Handling Recursive Definitions

```

3M3CL 1C 0M1CR←
READY
3M3CL 1M1C 1M1CR←
READY
3M3CL 2C 0M2CR←
READY
3M3CL 1C 0M1CR←
READY
3M2CL 1M 1M1CR←
READY
3M2CL 2C 0M3CR←
READY
3M1CL 1C 0M3CR←
READY
3M1CL 2M 2M2CR←
READY
2M2CL 1M1C 2M2CR←
READY
2M2CL 2M 3M1CR←
READY
1M1CL 1M 3M2CR←
READY
1M1CL 1M1C 3M3CR←
READY
0M3CL 1C 3M1CR←
READY
0M3CL 2C 3M2CR←
READY
0M2CL 1C 3M2CR←
READY
0M2CL 2C 3M3CR←
READY
0M1CL 1C 3M3CR←
READY
GET.TO IS QUESTION←
READY
3M3CL GET.TO 3M3CR*11←
ENTER COMMA LIST OF RELATION CLASSES TO BE USED OR - " ANY "
ANY←      [First solution follows:]
  3M3CL 2C 0M2CR 1C(CNV) 3M2CL 2C 0M3CR 1C(CNV) 3M1CL 2M 2M2CR
1M1C(CNV) 2M2CL 2M 3M1CR 1C(CNV) 0M3CL 2C 3M2CR 1M(CNV) 1M1CL
1M1C 3M3CR      [Second solution follows:]
  3M3CL 2C 0M2CR 1C(CNV) 3M2CL 2C 0M3CR 1C(CNV) 3M1CL 2M 2M2CR
1M1C(CNV) 2M2CL 2M 3M1CR 1C(CNV) 0M3CL 2C 3M2CR 1C(CNV) 0M2CL
2C 3M3CR

```

Fig. 8a Solving the Missionary-Cannibal Problem

WHAT NOW?  
OK←  
READY

Fig. 8b Solving the Missionary-Cannibal Problem

transitions between the states. For example, the first line represents the fact that if 3 missionaries and 3 cannibals are on the left bank with the boat on the left bank, then 1 cannibal can take the boat to the right bank, which will result in there being 0 missionaries and 1 cannibal on the right bank with the boat on the right bank. SAMENLAQ II solves the problem by showing how the boat should be used to get from the initial state, 3M3CL, to the final state, 3M3CR. Any problem solving task that can be represented as finding a path from an initial state to a final state through a state transition graph can in theory be solved similarly by SAMENLAQ II.\*

## 5. EXTENSION OF THE SAMENLAQ STRUCTURE

Work is now proceeding on the design and implementation of a memory net structure, MENS<sup>9</sup>, which goes further than SAMENLAQ II toward satisfying goals discussed in the first section of this paper. The two major improvements needed in the SAMENLAQ structure are:

1. the ability to deal with a name which is itself a statement
2. the ability to store names which represent some unspecified other names, i.e. act as variables.

---

\*Since SAMENLAQ II exhaustively searches the state transition graph, the threat of exponential growth is ever present. Thus in certain interesting problems exhaustive search would be infeasible and heuristic search techniques would be necessary.

The first would facilitate the handling of n-ary relations and statements which serve to modify or give further information about other statements. The second would allow generalizations to be stored, and would also permit the storage of statements of the predicate calculus directly in the memory structure. These statements could then be interpreted by the executive and used as rules of inference to direct the memory search routines in a manner similar to the way SAMENLAQ II deals with IMPLBY definitions. The currently extant implementation of MENS (which is programmed in Burroughs Extended ALGOL and uses ASLIP, a SLIP like package of list processing routines) incorporates the first improvement, and work is progressing on the design of the implementation of the second improvement.

The main generalization involved in going from SAMENLAQ to MENS was to let xRy statements be nodes in the net along with arguments and relations. The basic element of the MENS structure is called an item, which may be an unstructured unit or may be a structure consisting of a pair or triple of items. Thus, items are similar to the "events" used by Simmons et al in Protosynthex II<sup>11</sup>. As in SAMENLAQ, a major characteristic of the MENS structure is that there is no duplication of items or structures; the physically same item is used everywhere that the structure it represents is referred to in a containing structure. Several implications of this uniqueness of items are: (1) two structures which have a substructure in common actually overlap in

the net, (2) if there is an item representing logical implication, all structures interpretable as rules of inference will be discoverable directly from that item since it will be a central substructure of all of them, (3) in general statements involving a quantified variable, the separate occurrences of the variable will all be pointers to a single item, so that a substitution attached to that item will serve as a substitution for all occurrences of the variable.

Allowing a structure to be formed from a pair of substructures provides for the representation of unary relations such as negation and quantification. Allowing a structure to be formed from a triple of substructures provides for the representation of binary relation, and since any of the substructures may in fact be structures as well as unstructured items provides for the representation of n-ary relations. A more direct representation of n-ary relations is provided in another version of MENS being implemented\*, which will allow any structure to consist of any number of substructures.

It is demonstrated in the examples given in Section 4 that SAMENLAQ II is capable of answering questions in formal logic involving simple chains of inference and basic set theory. With its ability to store statements of the predicate calculus, the MENS structure

---

\*A paper describing this version of MENS and the natural language question answering system which will use it is forthcoming from the RAND Corporation as a RAND Memorandum by Martin Kay, Ronald M. Kaplan, and Stuart C. Shapiro.



should enable simple question answering routines to perform more complicated theorem proving. Although we should perhaps not expect a high powered theorem prover to be developed in this way, the MENS extension of SAMENLAQ will provide an interesting contrast to systems, such as Green and Raphael's QA2<sup>3</sup>, which use theorem proving techniques to answer questions.

## APPENDIX - MEMORY STRUCTURE

READY

DUMP MEMORY ON TELETYPE@←

THE MEMORY IS ---

2 = (DIV.BY.2-/20)(PLUS.2.IS-/13)(PLUS.1.IS-/4)(PLUS.1.IS(CNV)-/1)  
 /1 = 1,  
 1 = (DIV.BY.2-/18)(PLUS.1.IS-/2)  
 /2 = 2,  
 3 = (DIV.BY.2-/25)(PLUS.1.IS-/6)(PLUS.1.IS(CNV)-/3)  
 /3 = 2,  
 /4 = 3,  
 4 = (DIV.BY.2-/24)(PLUS.2.IS(CNV)-/12)(PLUS.1.IS(CNV)-/5)  
 /5 = 3,  
 /6 = 4,  
 PLUS.1.IS/PLUS.1.IS = (IMPLBY(CNV)-/7)  
 /7 = PLUS.2.IS,  
 PLUS.2.IS(CNV) = (IMPLBY(CNV)-/14)(IMPLBY-/8)  
 /8 = PLUS.1.IS(CNV)/PLUS.1.IS(CNV)/,  
 PLUS.2.IS = (IMPLBY-/9)  
 /9 = PLUS.1.IS/PLUS.1.IS/  
 QUESTION = (IS(CNV)-/10)  
 /10 = WHAT  
 WHAT = (IS-/11)  
 /11 = QUESTION,  
/12 = 2,  
/13 = 4,  
 /14 = MINUS.2.IS,  
 MINUS.2.IS(CNV) = (IMPLBY-/15)  
 /15 = PLUS.2.IS/  
 MINUS.2.IS = (IMPLBY-/16)  
 /16 = PLUS.2.IS(CNV)/,  
 FALSE = (DIV.BY.2(CNV)-/17)  
 /17 = 1,3,  
 /18 = FALSE,  
 TRUE = (DIV.BY.2(CNV)-/19)  
 /19 = 2,4,  
 /20 = TRUE,

Fig. 9 Shows SAMENLAQ II's actual memory structure after its arithmetic lesson, which was shown in figure 7. The underlined material was learned after being discovered as implicit information while answering questions.

```
MINUS.2.IS/DIV.BY.2 = (IMPLBY(CNV)-/21)
/21 = DIV.BY.2,
DIV.BY.2(CNV) = (IMPLBY-/22)
/22 = DIV.BY.2(CNV)/MINUS.2.IS(CNV)/,
DIV.BY.2 = (IMPLBY-/23)
/23 = MINUS.2.IS/DIV.BY.2/,
/24 = TRUE,
/25 = FALSE,
READY
```

Fig. 9 (Cont.)

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