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**UNIVERSITÄT  
BERN**

# 11. Logic Programming Applications

Nataliia Stulova



## roadmap

- Efficiency in computations ➡
- Datalog
- CLP and numeric computations
- Assertions and program verification
- Natural language and parsing with DCGs

# Green and red cuts revised: optimize the search

**Green cuts** (discarding solutions we do not need)

E.g., personnel management software: one address is enough

```
address(X, Add) :- home_address(X, Add), !.  
address(X, Add) :- business_address(X, Add).
```

- pay attention to variable unifications
- pay attention to declarative semantics
- solutions with and without green cuts should match

# Green and red cuts revised: optimize the search

**Red cuts** (manipulating the search in a wrong way, **avoid**)

E.g., for a given year return a number of days (but *forgot to account for unification in the head*)

```
leap_year(Y) :- number(Y), 0 is Y mod 4.  
  
days_in_year(Y,366) :- leap_year(Y),!.  
days_in_year(_,365).           % return 365 for any term?
```

queries that will succeed: `?- days_in_year(4, 365).`

```
?- days_in_year(a, D)
```

# Think sets, use lists

A lot of Prolog computations is producing sets of possible solutions to a query/goal, like with `printall/1` 

*Lists* are the native data structure that most intuitively represents sets.

```
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ancestor(A, D) :- parent(A, D).
ancestor(A, D) :- parent(P, D), ancestor(A, P).

printall(X) :- X, print(X), nl, fail.
printall(_).

-:--- family.pl Bot L26 Git:master (Ciao)
?- printall(female(_)).
female(anne)
female(diana)
female(elizabeth)

yes
?- printall(ancestor(_, _)).
ancestor(elizabeth, andrew)
ancestor(elizabeth, anne)
ancestor(elizabeth, charles)
ancestor(elizabeth, edward)
ancestor(diana, harry)
ancestor(diana, william)
ancestor(charles, harry)
ancestor(charles, william)
ancestor(elizabeth, harry)
ancestor(elizabeth, william)

yes
?-
```

U:\*\*- \*Ciao\* Bot L274 (Ciao Listener: run

## Lists and aggregates

A number of system predicates is available to return sets of answers collected with backtracking:

- `setof/3` (and `bagof/3`) 

```
parent(diana, harry).
parent(diana, william).
parent(charles, harry).
parent(charles, william).
parent(elizabeth, andrew).
parent(elizabeth, anne).
parent(elizabeth, charles).

-:--- family.pl Bot L14 (Ciao)
?- ensure_loaded('family.pl').

yes
?- use_module(library(aggregate)).
Note: module aggregates already in executable, just made visible

yes
?- setof(C,parent(P,C),S).

P = charles,
S = [harry,william] ? ;

P = diana,
S = [harry,william] ? ;

P = elizabeth,
S = [andrew,anne,charles,edward] ? ;

no
H:** *Ciao* 74% 1.236 (Ciao)
```

# Lists and aggregates

A number of system predicates is available to return sets of answers collected with backtracking:

- `setof/3` (and `bagof/3`)
- `findall/3` →
- `findnsols/4` →
- 

 [Ciao Aggregates](#)

```
parent(diana, harry).
parent(diana, william).
parent(charles, harry).
parent(charles, william).
parent(elizabeth, andrew).
parent(elizabeth, anne).
parent(elizabeth, charles).
```

```
-:--- family.pl Bot L14 (Ciao)
```

```
}
?-
?- findall(X, parent(elizabeth,X),All).

All = [andrew,anne,charles,edward] ?

yes
?- findnsols(2,X,parent(elizabeth,X),All).

All = [andrew,anne] ? ;

no
?-
```

# Higher-order

Processing *parallel* lists is very common, especially when using higher-order predicates like `maplist/N` 

HO predicates accept other predicates (`inc/2`, `sum/3`) as arguments natively in Prolog, just make them visible in the scope (interpreter, module).

 [Ciao HO predicates](#)

```
inc(X,X1) :- X1 is X + 1.
```

```
sum(X,Y,Z) :- Z is X + Y.
```

```
even(X) :- 0 is X mod 2.
```

```
U:---  eff.pl          All L4      (Ciao)
```

```
?- ensure_loaded('eff.pl').
```

```
yes
```

```
?- use_module(library(hiordlib)).
```

```
Note: module hiordlib already in execution table, just made visible
```

```
yes
```

```
?- maplist(inc,[1,2],L).
```

```
L = [2,3] ?
```

```
yes
```

```
?- maplist(sum,[1,2,3],[4,5,6],L).
```

```
L = [5,7,9] ?
```

```
yes
```

```
U:**-  *Ciao*          7% L16      (Ciao Li
```

# Higher-order

Processing *parallel* lists is very common, especially when using higher-order predicates like `filter/3`, `partition/4` 

```
inc(X,X1) :- X1 is X + 1.
```

```
sum(X,Y,Z) :- Z is X + Y.
```

```
even(X) :- 0 is X mod 2.
```

```
U:---  eff.pl          All L4      (Ciao)
```

```
?- filter(even,[1,2,3,4,5],L).
```

```
L = [2,4] ?
```

```
yes
```

```
?- partition(even,[1,2,3,4,5],L,R).
```

```
L = [2,4],
```

```
R = [1,3,5] ?
```

```
yes
```

```
?-
```

```
U:**-  *Ciao*          Bot L21      (Ciao Li
```

## roadmap

- ✓ Efficiency in computations
- ☐ Datalog 🖱️
- ☐ CLP and numeric computations
- ☐ Assertions and program verification
- ☐ Natural language and parsing with DCGs

# Logic Programming + Relational Databases = Deductive Databases

Origins: the 1977 Symposium on Logic and Data Bases

**Deductive databases** have the advantage of making inference (*deduction*) of additional facts based on relations (facts and rules) already present in the database.

- data representation: relations (based on Horn clauses)
- query language: Datalog

# Datalog VS Prolog

- recursion is allowed
- negation is allowed, but *only for facts*
- clause order does not matter
- not cut `!/0` operator to control search
- function symbols not allowed - cannot construct complex terms  
(e.g. `person(name(elisabeth), age(inf), ...)` has to be expressed  
as `person(elisabeth, inf, ...)`)
- queries are made on finite sets of values, so termination is guaranteed

# Datalog queries and database operations

consider relations  $P(x, y)$ ,  $Q(x, y, z)$ :

- intersection  $I(x, y) :- P(x, y), Q(x, y, _).$  (logical AND)
- union  $U(x, y) :- P(x, y). ; U(x, y) :- Q(x, y, _).$  (logical OR)
- difference  $D(x, y) :- P(x, y), \text{not } Q(x, y, _).$
- projection  $P_x(x) :- P(x, _).$
- selection  $S(x, y) :- Q(x, y, _), x > 10.$
- product  $PR(x, y, z, v, w) :- P(x, y), Q(z, v, w).$
- join  $J(x, y, z) :- P(x, y), Q(y, z, _).$
- ...

## Datalog systems - few examples



[🔗 logicblox.com](https://logicblox.com) - a commercial implementation of Datalog used for web-based retail planning and optimization



**Datomic**  
Data, meet Simple

[🔗 datomic.com](https://datomic.com) - a transactional database with a flexible data model, elastic scaling, and rich queries

... and many more systems with Datalog components

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# Constraint satisfaction problems

In the fields of *artificial intelligence* and *operations research* there is a need in answering questions in different domains that specify a number of **constraints** for an answer:

- route planning with time or price budget
- diet meal preparation accounting for calories intake
- solving chess problems (e.g. N-queens)
- map coloring

Constraint satisfaction problems are typically solved using a form of **search**.

# Constraint Logic Programming (CLP)

CLP is an extension of logic programming that includes **constraint satisfaction** in the computations:

**CLP = Prolog + Solver**(for a given domain)

Some domains:

- finite (CLPFD) - *e.g.* the family tree
- rational numbers (CLP(Q))
- real numbers (CLP(R))





## roadmap

- ✓ Efficiency in computations
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# Program correctness: testing and verification

Two (complementary) approaches to checking correctness of program behavior

## Testing

- at run time
- for specific inputs (e.g. `min(-2, 5, -2)`)

## Verification

- at *compile* or run time (or both)
- for classes of inputs (e.g., `min(+, -, -)`)

# Software verification

- define **properties** in a domain of interest: memory addresses, numeric ranges of array indices, dangling pointers, energy consumption constraints...
- write program **specifications** using these properties (often in some formal language)
- **check** the specifications with some technique: code instrumentation, theorem proving, logical inference

# Specification examples

```
int magic ( int size , char *format )  
    assert ( size <= LIMIT ) ;
```

C

```
( define / contract ( our-div num denom )  
  ( number ? ( and / c number ? ( not / c zero ? ) ) . -> . number ? )  
  ( / num denom ) )
```

Racket

```
:- pred append(A,B,C) : list(A), list(B), var(C)  
    => size(ub,C,length(B)+length(A))  
    + cost(ub,steps,length(A)+1).
```

Prolog

# Horn clause-based program verification

- programming language and its specification are based on same formal representation
- nowadays a number of mature analysis techniques and tools exist for logic programs analysis and verification
- for several high-level languages (C/C++, Java) their *intermediate representation* (produced by the compiler) can be straightforwardly translated to Horn clauses

## Example: factorial (1/2)

Consider the factorial function in XC, a dialect of C for microcontroller programming:

```
#pragma check fact(n): (1 <= n) ==> (6.0 <= energy_nJ <= 2.3*n+9.0)

int fact(int N) {
    if (N <= 0) return 1;
    return N * fact(N - 1);
}
```

Properties of interest: energy consumption estimates.

## Example: factorial (2/2)

```

1  .
2  .
3  .
4  .

6  <fact>:
7  001:  entsp  0x2
8  002:  stw    r0,  sp[0x1]
9  003:  ldw    r1,  sp[0x1]
10 004:  ldc    r0,  0x0
11 005:  lss    r0,  r0,  r1
12 006:  bf     r0,  <008>
    
```

```

1  :-  check  pred  fact(N, Ret)
2      :  intervals(nat(N), [i(1, inf)])
3      +  costb(energy_nJ, 6.0,
4          2.3*nat(N)+9.0) .

6  fact(R0, R0_3) :-
7      entsp(0x2),
8      stw(R0, Sp0x1),
9      ldw(R1, Sp0x1),
10     ldc(R0_1, 0x0),
11     lss(R0_2, R0_1, R1),
12a    bf(R0_2, 0x8),
12b    fact_aux(R0_2, Sp0x1, R0_3, R1_1) .
    
```

ISA (instruction set architecture) instructions for the XC program and respective Horn clause representation with a specification

## Some HC-based verification tools



for Java, XC, C and C++ the Ciao preprocessor - [CiaoPP](#) - offers *abstract interpretation*-based analyses over several domains: types, variable instantiation, bounds on computational and energy costs *etc*



**JayHorn**

[JayHorn](#) is a software *model checking* tool for Java that tries to find a proof that certain bad states in a Java program are never reachable.

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# IBM Watson

```
POETS & POETRY: He was a bank clerk in the Yukon before he published
"Songs of a Sourdough" in 1907
```

"We required a language in which we could conveniently express pattern matching rules over the parse trees and other annotations"

```
lemma(1, "he").           partOfSpeech(1, pronoun).   subject(2, 1).
lemma(2, "publish").      partOfSpeech(2, verb).      object(2, 3).
lemma(3, "Songs of a Sourdough"). partOfSpeech(3, noun).     ...
```

 [Natural Language Processing With Prolog in the IBM Watson System](#)

# Languages and grammars (1/2)

Every language has a grammar - a set of elements and rules on combining those elements.

Consider English language and some of its elements (parts of speech):

- articles: *definite* **the**, and *indefinite* **a** and **an**
- nouns: *proper* **alice**, and *common* **cat**, **fish**, **bat**
- pronouns: **she**, **whose**, **their**
- verbs: **play**, **eats**
- ...

## Languages and grammars (2/2)

We need to add some rules to combine language elements:

*sentence*  $\rightarrow$  *noun\_phrase*, *verb\_phrase*

*noun\_phrase*  $\rightarrow$  *article*, *noun*

*verb\_phrase*  $\rightarrow$  *verb*, *noun\_phrase*

Let's try to build sentences with the elements we have defined so far:

```
a  cat  eats  a  bat      s = sentence
\  \_np_/  \  \_np_/ / /  np = noun_phrase
\          \_vp_/ / /    vp = verb_phrase
\_____s_____/
```

## Sentences as lists

We can express sentences as lists of elements provided by Prolog facts and rules:

```
s(C) :- np(A), vp(B), append(A, B, C).  
np(C) :- det(A), n(B), append(A, B, C).  
vp(C) :- v(A), np(B), append(A, B, C).  
  
det([a]).      n([cat]).  
det([the]).    n([fish]).    v([eats]).
```

Why lists? Sentences can be of arbitrary length and designing terms for each possible structure is not feasible.

# Grammar in Prolog v1

We can both parse and generate sentences with this implementation 

However, this is a computation-heavy implementation.

Alternative specialized representation:  
**difference lists**

```
s(C) :- np(A), vp(B), append(A,B,C).
np(C) :- det(A), n(B), append(A,B,C).
vp(C) :- v(A), np(B), append(A,B,C).

det([a]).      n([cat]).
det([the]).    n([fish]).      v([eats]).
```

```
U: --- dcg.pl All L6 (Ciao)
```

```
?- s(S).

S = [a,cat,eats,a,cat] ? ;
S = [a,cat,eats,a,fish] ?

yes
?- s([a,fish,eats,a,fish]).

yes
?- s([a,bat,eats,a,fish]).

no
?-
```

```
U: **- *Ciao* Bot L191 (Ciao Liste
```

## Difference lists

Prolog's special way of representing lists for language parsing and generation tasks:

- `X-X` is the empty list `[]`
- `[a,b,c]-[]` is the list `[a,b,c]`
- `[a,b,c,d]-[d]` is the list `[a,b,c]`
- `[a,b,c|T]-[T]` is the list `[a,b,c]` - with a free tail

Think of it as a literal difference between the first and the second list.

## Definite clause grammars

In addition to difference lists, Prolog has a special notation for grammar representation, that implicitly uses difference lists:

```
s --> np, vp.
```

is an expansion of a difference lists version:

```
s(A-C) :- np(A-B), vp(B-C). (or s(S-[]) :- np(S-VP), vp(VP-[]).)
```

which is in turn a from of:

```
s(S) :- np(NP), vp(VP), append(NP, VP, S).
```

# Grammar in Prolog v2

Notice how we still need to provide the two list arguments in the query 

```
?-s([a,cat,eats,a,fish],[ ]).
```

```
File Edit Options Buffers Tools Ciao
:- use_package(dcg).

s --> np, vp.
np --> det, n.
vp --> v, np.
[]
det --> [the]. det --> [a].
n --> [cat]. n --> [fish].
v --> [eats].

U:--- dcg2.pl All L6 (Ciao)
?- ensure_loaded('dcg2.pl').

yes
?- s([a,cat,eats,a,fish],[ ]).

yes
?- s([a,cat|Y],[ ]).

Y = [eats,the,cat] ? ;

Y = [eats,the,fish] ?

yes
?-

U:**- *Ciao* Bot L328 (Ciao Liste 36
```

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