\mathcal{SPARC} manual

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1 System installation

For using the system, you need to have the following installed:

1. Java Runtime Environment (JRE) can be found at http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/java/javase/downloads/index.html. The system was tested on Java versions 1.6.0_37 and 1.7.0_25.

https://github.com/iensen/sparc/blob/master/sparc.jar?raw=true.

2. The SPARC to ASP translator. It can be downloaded at

- 3. An ASP solver. It can be one of the following:
 - (a) DLV (recommended). http://www.dlvsystem.com/dlv/#1. You need to download the *static* version of the executable file.
 - (b) Clingo http://sourceforge.net/projects/potassco/files/clingo/4.2.1.
- 4. (*optional*) Swi-Prolog. http://www.swi-prolog.org/. This item is only required if option -wcon is used for type warning detection. (See sections 3 and 6.2.2).

If you are using the dlv solver, rename the solver executable file to *dlv* (*dlv.exe* for windows).

Be sure the PATH system variable includes the directory where the solver executable is located. For instructions on how to view/modify the PATH system variable, see either of the following links:

```
http://www.java.com/en/download/help/path.xml
http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/appleosx-bash-unix-change-set-path-environment-variable/
To check if the solver is installed correctly, run the command dlv -v (for dlv) or clingo -v (for clingo). See figures 1 for dlv and 2 for clingo.
```

2 System usage

To demonstrate the usage of the system we will use the program Π below.

```
sorts
#person={bob,tim,andy}.
predicates
teacher(#person).
rules
teacher(bob).
```

The system can work in one of the two modes: *querying mode* and *answer set mode*.

```
username@machine:~$ dlv -v
DLV [build BEN/Dec 16 2012 gcc 4.6.1]

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For further information (including commercial use and evaluation licenses) please contact leone@unical.it, gerald@pfeifer.com, and wf@wfaber.com.

username@machine:~$ ■
```

Figure 1: Checking the version of DLV solver

```
weenme@machine:~$ clingo -v
clingo version 4.2.1
Address model: 32-bit

libgringo version 4.2.1
Copyright (C) Roland Kaminski
License GPLv3+: GNU GPL version 3 or later <http://gnu.org/licenses/gpl.html>
Gringo is free software: you are free to change and redistribute it.
There is NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by law.

libclasp version 2.2-TP (Rev. 38341)
Configuration: WITH_THREADS=0
Copyright (C) Benjamin Kaufmann
License GPLv2+: GNU GPL version 2 or later <http://gnu.org/licenses/gpl.html>
clasp is free software: you are free to change and redistribute it.
There is NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by law.
username@machine:~$ ■
```

Figure 2: Checking the version of Clingo solver

2.1 Querying mode

In this mode we can ask queries about a SPARC program loaded into the system. The general command line syntax for this mode is java-jar sparc.jar $program_file$. Queries in SPARC are positive or negative literals of the forms $p(t1, t2, \ldots, tn)$ or $-p(t1, t2, \ldots, tn)$ correspondingly, where $p(t1, t2, \ldots, tn)$ is an atom of the loaded program Π (note that n can be equal to zero, in this case the query will be of the form p or -p).

The queries are answered as follows:

- The answer to a query l not containing variables is yes, if l(with all arithmetic expressions evaluated) belongs to all answer sets of Π .
- The answer to a query l not containing variables is no, if -l(with double classical negation removed and all arithmetic expressions evaluated) belongs to all answer sets of Π .
- The answer to a query *l* not containing variables is *unknown*, if it is not *yes* or *no*.
- The answer to a query of the form l(l) is an atom of the form $p(t1, \ldots, tn)$ possibly preceded by a negation sign) is a collection of assignments $X_1 = t_1, \ldots, X_n = t_n$, where X_1, \ldots, X_n are all variables in $p(t1, \ldots, tn)$, t_1, \ldots, t_n are ground terms, and the answer to the query $p(t1', \ldots, tn')$, obtained from $p(t1, \ldots, tn)$ by replacing each variable X_i by a ground term t_i , is yes.

To run \mathcal{SPARC} on the program above, we change current directory to a directory having the file program. sp with the program written in it, and the downloaded file sparc. jar. Then, we run the command:

The answer to the first query ?- teacher (bob) is *yes*, because the atom *teacher(bob)* belongs to the only answer set of Π .

The answer to the second query ?- teacher (tim) is *unknown*, because neither the atom *teacher(bob)* nor its negation belongs to the answer set of Π .

The answer to the query ?- teacher (X) is X = bob, because there is only one replacement (bob) for X, such that teacher(X) belongs to the answer set of Π .

For the fourth query, we see an error, because teacher(john) is not an atom of Π . To quit the querying engine, use **exit** command.

2.2 Answer Set Mode

In this mode we can see the computed answer sets of the loaded program. The general command line syntax for this mode is *java -jar sparc.jar program_file -A*.

For the program Π , the answer set may be computed as it is shown below:

```
username@machine: $ java -jar sparc.jar program.sp -A
SPARC V2.25
program translated
DLV [build BEN/Dec 16 2012 gcc 4.6.1]
{teacher(bob)}
```

3 Command Line Options

In this section we describe the meanings of command line options supported by SPARC. Some options(flags) do not take an argument and have the form *-option*, while others require arguments and can be written in the form *-option arg*. For each command line option, we indicate whether it requires an argument, and if so, we describe its meaning.

• -A

Compute answer sets of the loaded program.

• -wcon

Show warnings determined by CLP-based algorithm. See section 6.2.2

• -wasp

Show warnings determined by ASP-based algorithm. See section 6.2.1

-solver arg

Specify the solver which will be used for computing answer sets. *arg* can have two possible values: *dlv* and *clingo*.

-solveropts arg

Pass command line arguments to the ASP solver (DLV or Clingo).

```
Example: -solveropts "-pfilter=p".
```

For the complete list of dlv options, see $http://www.dlvsystem.com/html/DLV_User_Manual.html$

For the complete list of clingo options, see http://sourceforge.net/projects/potassco/files/potassco_guide/ Note that the options "0" is passed to clingo solver by default.

• -Help, -H, -help, -Help, -help, -h

Show help message.

• -o arg

Specify the output file where the translated ASP program will be written. *arg* is the path to the output file. Note that if the option is not specified, the translated ASP program will not be stored anywhere.

• input_file

Specify the file where the sparc program is located.

4 Syntax Description

4.1 Directives

Directives should be written before sort definitions, at the very beginning of a program. SPARC allows two types of directives:

#maxint

Directive #maxint specifies the maximum nonnegative number that could be used in arithmetic calculations. For example,

```
\#maxint=15.
```

limits integers to [0,15].

#const

Directive #const allows one to define constant values. The syntax is:

```
#const constantName = constantValue.
```

where constantName must begin with a lowercase letter and may be composed of letters, underscores and digits, and constantValue is either a nonnegative number or the name of another constant defined before it.

4.2 Sort definitions

This section starts with a keyword *sorts* followed by a collection of sort definitions of the form:

```
sort\_name = sort\_expression.
```

sort_name is an identifier preceded by the pound sign (#). sort_expression on the right hand side denotes a collection of strings called a sort. We divide all the sorts into basic sorts and non-basic sorts.

Basic sorts are defined as named collections of numbers and *identifiers*, i.e, strings consisting of

- letters: $\{a, b, c, d, ..., z, A, B, C, D, ..., Z\}$
- digits: $\{0, 1, 2, ..., 9\}$
- underscore: _

and starting with a lowercase letter.

A *non-basic sort* also contains at least one *record* of the form $id(\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n)$ where id is an identifier and

 $\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n$ are either identifiers, numbers or records.

We define sorts by means of expressions (in what follows sometimes referred to as statements) of six types:

1. **numeric range** is of the form:

```
number_1..number_2 \\
```

where $number_1$ and $number_2$ are non-negative numbers such that $number_1 \leq number_2$. The expression defines the set

```
of sequential numbers
```

```
{number_1, number_1 + 1, \dots, number_2}.
```

Example:

```
#sort1=1..3.
```

#sort1 consists of numbers $\{1, 2, 3\}$.

2. **identifier range** is of the form:

$$id_1..id_2$$

where id_1 and id_2 are identifiers both starting with a lowercase letter.

 id_1 should be lexicographically ¹ smaller than or equal to id_2 , and the length of id_1 must be less than or equal to the length of id_2 . That is, $id_1 \le id_2$ and $|id_1| \le |id_2|$.

The expression defines the set of strings $\{s: id_1 \leq s \leq id_2 \land |id_1| \leq |s| \leq |id_2|\}$. *Example:*

```
#sort1=a..f.
```

#sort1 consists of letters $\{a, b, c, d, e, f\}$.

3. **set of ground terms** is of the form:

$$\{t_1, ..., t_n\}$$

The expression denotes a set of *ground terms* $\{t_1, ..., t_n\}$, defined as follows:

- numbers and identifiers are ground terms;
- If f is an identifier and $\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n$ are ground terms, then $f(\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n)$ is a ground term.

Example:

$$\#sort1 = \{f(a), a, b, 2\}.$$

4. **set of records** is of the form:

$$f(sort_name_1(var_1), ..., sort_name_n(var_n)) : condition(var_1, ..., var_n)$$

where f is an identifier, for $1 \le i \le m \ sort_name_i$ occurs in one of the preceding sort definitions and the condition on variables $var_1, ..., var_n$ (written as $condition(var_1, ..., var_n)$) is defined as follows:

- if var_i and var_j occur in the sequence $var_1, ..., var_n$ and \odot is an element of $\{>, <, \leq, \geq\}$, then $var_i \odot var_j$ is a condition on $var_1, ..., var_n$.
- if C_1 and C_2 are both conditions on $var_1, ..., var_n$, and \oplus is an element of $\{\cup, \cap\}$, then $(C_1 \oplus C_2)$ is a condition on $var_1, ..., var_n$.
- if C is a condition on $var_1, ..., var_n$, then not(C) is also a condition on $var_1, ..., var_n$.

¹ The system default encoding is used for ordering of individual characters

Variables $var_1, ..., var_n$ occurring in parenthesis after sort names are optional as well as the condition $(var_1, ..., var_n)$.

If a condition contains a subcondition $var_i \odot var_j$, then the sorts $sortname_i$ and $sortname_j$

must be defined by basic statements (the definition of a basic statement is given below after the definition of a concatenation statement).

The expression defines a collection of ground terms

$$\{f(t_1,\ldots,t_n):t_1\in s_i\wedge\cdots\wedge t_n\in s_n\wedge(condition(X_1,\ldots,X_n)|_{X_1=t_1,\ldots,X_n=t_n})\}$$

Example

```
\#s=1..2.
\#sf=f(s(X),s(Y),s(Z)): (X=Y or Y=Z).
```

The sort #sf consists of records $\{f(1,1,2), f(1,1,1), f(2,1,1)\}$

- 5. **set-theoretic expression** can be in one of the following forms:
 - $\#sort_name$
 - an expression of the form (3), denoting a set of ground terms
 - an expression of the form (4), denoting a set of records
 - $(S_1 \nabla S_2)$, where $\nabla \in \{+, -, *\}$ and both S_1 and S_2 are set theoretic expressions

 $\#sort_name$ must be a name of a sort occurring in one of the preceding sort definitions. The operations +* and - stand for union, intersection and difference correspondingly.

Example:

```
\#sort1={a,b,2}.
\#sort2={1,2,3} + {a,b,f(c)} + f(\#sort1).
```

#sort2 consists of ground terms $\{1,2,3,a,b,f(c),f(a),f(b),f(2)\}.$

6. **concatenation** is of the form

$$[b_stmt_1]...[b_stmt_n]$$

 $b_stmt_1, \dots, b_stmt_n$ must be basic statements, defined as follows:

- statements of the forms (1)-(3) are basic
- statement *S* of the form (5) is basic if:
 - it does not contain sort expressions of the form (4), denoting sets of records
 - none of curly brackets occurring in S contains a record

- all sorts occurring in S are defined by basic statements

Note that basic statement can only define a basic sort. $Example^2$.:

```
#sort1=[b] [1..100].
sort1 consists of identifiers \{b1, b2, \dots, b100\}.
```

4.3 Predicate Declarations

The second part of a SPARC program starts with the keyword predicates

and is followed by statements of the form

$$pred_symbol(\#sortName_1, \dots, \#sortName_n)$$

Where $pred_symbol$ is an identifier (in what follows referred to as a predicate symbol) and $\#sortName_1, ..., \#sortName_n$ are sorts defined in sort definitions section of the program.

Multiple declarations containing the same predicate symbol are not allowed. 0-arity predicates must be declared as $pred_symbol()$. For any sort name #s, the system in-

cludes declaration #s(#s) automatically.

4.4 Program Rules

The third part of a SPARC program starts with the keyword *rules* followed by standard ASP rules(supported by the specified ASP solver ³), possibly enchanced by arithmetic expressions of arbitrary depth (e.g, p(X*X*X*X+1).) and/or consistency restoring (cr)-rules. CR-rules are of the following form:

$$[label:]l_0 \stackrel{+}{\leftarrow} l_1, \dots, l_k, not \ l_{k+1} \dots not \ l_n. \tag{1}$$

where *l*'s are literals. Literals occurring in the heads of the rules must not be formed by predicate symbols occurring as sort names in sort definitions. In addition, rules must not contain *unrestricted variables*.

²We allow a shorthand 'b' for singleton set {b}

³Currently, only DLV solver is fully supported(excluding #import directives). Clingo's choice rules and minimize statements will be added later

Definition 1 (Unrestricted Variable) A variable occurrung in a rule of a SPARC program is called unrestriced if all its occurrences in the rule either belong to some relational atoms of the form term1 rel term2 (where $rel \in \{>,>=,<,<=,=,!=\}$) and/or some term appearing in a head of a choice or aggregate element.

Example 1 Consider the following SPARC program:

```
sorts \#s=\{f(a),b\}. predicates p(\#s). rules p(f(X)):-Y<2,2=Z,F>3,\#count\{Q:Q<W,p(W),T<2\},p(Y).
```

Variables F,T,Z,Q are unrestricted.

5 Answer Sets

A set of ground literals S is an answer set of a SPARC program Π with regular rules only if S is an answer set of an ASP program consisting of the same rules.

To define the semantics of a general SPARC program, we need notation for abductive support. By $\alpha(r)$ we denote a regular rule obtained from a consistency restoring rule r by replacing $\stackrel{+}{\leftarrow}$ by \leftarrow ; α is expanded in the standard way to a set X of CR-rules, i.e., $\alpha(A) = \{\alpha(r) : r \in A\}$. A collection A of CR-rules of Π such that

- 1. $R \cup \alpha(X)$ is consistent (i.e., has an answer set), and
- 2. any R_0 satisfying the above condition has cardinality which is greater than or equal to that of R

is called an *abductive support* of Π . A set of ground literals S is an *answer set* of a SPARC

program Π if S is an answer set of $R \cup \alpha(A)$, where R is the set of regular rules of Π, for some abductive support A of Π.

Example

```
sorts
#s1={a}. % term "a" has sort "s1"

predicates
p(#s1). %predicate "p" accepts terms of sort s1
q(#s1). %predicate "q" accepts terms of sort s1
```

```
rules
p(a) :- not q(a).
-p(a).
q(a):+. % this is a CR-RULE.
```

Result:

```
username@machine:~$ java -jar sparc.jar program -A
SPARC V2.25
program translated
DLV [build BEN/Dec 16 2012 gcc 4.6.1]
Best model: {-p(a), appl(r_0), q(a)}
Cost ([Weight:Level]): <[1:1]>
```

Additional literal $appl(r_0)$ was added to the answer set, which means that the first crrule from the program was applied.

6 Typechecking

If no syntax errors are found, a static check of the program is performed. Any typerelated problems found during this check are classified into type errors and type warnings.

6.1 Type errors

Type errors are considered as serious issues which make it impossible to compile and execute the program. Type errors can occur in all four sections of a SPARC program.

6.1.1 Sort definition errors

The following are possible causes of a sort definition error that will result in a type error message from SPARC:

1. A set-theoretic expression (statement 5 in section 4.2) containing a sort name that has not been defined.

Example:

```
sorts
#s={a}.
#s2=#s1-#s.
```

2. Declaring a sort more than once.

Example:

```
sorts
#s={a}.
#s={b}.
```

3. An identifier range $id_1..id_2$ (statement 2 in section 4.2) where id_1 is greater than id_2 . *Example:*

```
sorts
#s=zbc..cbz.
```

4. A numeric range $n_1..n_2$ (statement 1 in section 4.2) where n_1 is greater than n_2 .

Example:

```
sorts
#s=100500..1.
```

5. A numeric range (statement 2 in section 4.2) $n_1...n_2$ that contains an undefined constant.

Example:

```
#const n1=5.
sorts
#s=n1..n2.
```

6. An identifier range $id_1..id_2$ (statement 3 in section 4.2) where the length of id_1 is greater than the length of id_2 .

Example:

```
sorts
#s=abc..a.
```

7. A concatenation (statement 4 in section 4.2) that contains a non-basic sort.

Example:

```
sorts
#s={f(a)}.
#sc=[a][#s].
```

8. A record definition (statement 5 in section 4.2) that contains an undefined sort.

Example:

```
sorts
#s=1..2.
#fs=f(s,s2).
```

9. A record definition (statement 5 in section 4.2) that contains a condition with relation >, <, \ge , \le such that the corresponding sorts are not basic.

Example:

```
#s={a,b}.
#s1=f(#s).
#s2=g(s1(X),s2(Y)):X>Y.
```

10. A variable that is used more than once in a record definition (statement 5 in section 4.2).

Example:

```
sorts
#s1={a}.
#s=f(#s1(X), #s1(X)):(X!=X).
```

11. A sort that contains an empty collection of ground terms.

Example

```
sorts
#s1={a,b,c}
#s=#s1-{a,b,c}.
```

6.1.2 Predicate declarations errors

1. A predicate with the same name is defined more than once. *Example:*

```
sorts
#s={a}.
predicates
p(#s).
p(#s,#s).
```

2. A predicate declaration contains an undefined sort. *Example:*

```
sorts
#s={a}.
predicates
p(#ss).
```

6.1.3 Program rules errors

In program rules we first check each atom of the form $p(t_1, \ldots, t_n)$ and each term occurring in the program Π for satisfying the definitions of program atom and program term correspondingly[1]. Moreover, we check that no sort occurs in a head of a rule of Π .

6.2 Type warnings

During this phase each rule in input SPARC program is checked for having at least one ground instance. Warnings are reported if no ground instance for a SPARC rule was found. Two options are available:

- -wcon: find warnings using constraint solver algorithm described in [1].
- -wasp: find warnings using ASP-based algorithm.

While both algorithms are intended to produce same results, their execution time may vary. We recommend using constraint solver based option for programs involving many arithmetic terms and numeric sorts and ASP-based checker for programs with many deeply-nested records and symbolic terms.

6.2.1 ASP based warning checking

The option -wasp should be passed to the system to detect and display warnings using a simple ASP based algorithm. For example, consider the SPARC program below.

```
sorts
#s1={a}.
#s2=f(#s1).
#s3={b}.

predicates
p(#s2).
q(#s3).

rules
p(f(X)):-q(X).
```

The only rule of the program has no ground instances with respect to defined sorts. The execution trace is provided below

The atom warning ("p(f(X)):-q(X). (line: 11, column: 1)") is included into the answer set as an indicator of potential problem.

In general, when the <code>-wasp</code> is passed to \mathcal{SPARC} system, each answer set will contain

```
warning("rule description")
```

for each rule which has no ground instances⁴ and

```
has_ground_instance("rule description")
```

for all other rules of the input program.

6.2.2 Constraint solver based warning checking

The option -wcon must be passed to the system in order to detect and display warnings using the algorithm described in [1]. Consider the following SPARC program:

```
#maxint = 1000.
sorts
#s = 1..1000.
predicates
p(#s).
q(#s).
rules
p(X-600):- q(X+600).
```

The only rule of the program has no ground instances with respect to defined sorts. The execution trace is provided below

The message

```
WARNING: Rule p(f(X)):-q(X). at line 8, column 1 is an empty rule is an indicator of a potential problem.
```

⁴in current version, aggregates are skipped by this algorithm

7 SPARC and ASPIDE

7.1 Installation

For using \mathcal{SPARC} in ASPIDE, you will need to install ASPIDE(version 1.42 or greater). The installer is available from <code>https://www.mat.unical.it/ricca/aspide/download.html</code>. See the instructions here: <code>https://www.mat.unical.it/ricca/aspide/documentation.html</code>. Once ASPIDE is installed, go to File ->Plug-ins ->Available plugins menu, and press install button in the row containing \mathcal{SPARC} plug-in (see Fig.3).

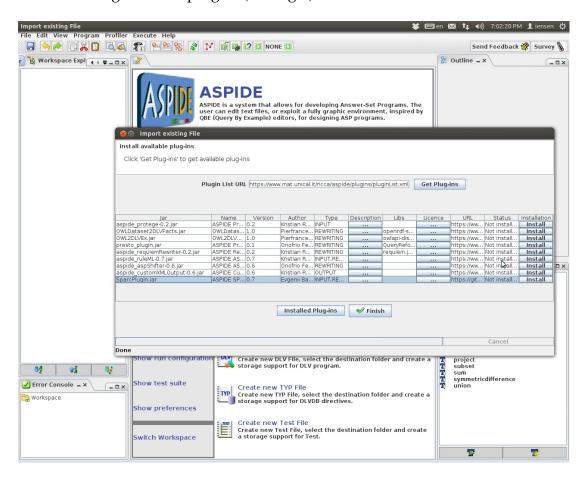


Figure 3: Installing SPARC plugin

7.2 Creating Projects and Adding SPARC source files

ASPIDE uses *workspaces* to store projects. Workspace is a folder that can contain multiple projects. ASPIDE can have only one workspace opened, that is selected by a user when ASPIDE starts. Source files should belong to a project to be used by ASPIDE query engine and answer set computation tools.

- To create a new project, go to the menu *File ->New* and select *New Project* submenu. Specify the project name in the pop-up window and click on **Finish** button. You should see a new project appeared in **workspace explorer**.
- To add a new SPARC file, right click on the project to display context menu and select *New ->File ->SPARC File* as it is shown on Figure 4. Choose the file name in the pop-up window. You should see a new file added under the project in workspace explorer and displayed in ASPIDE editor window.

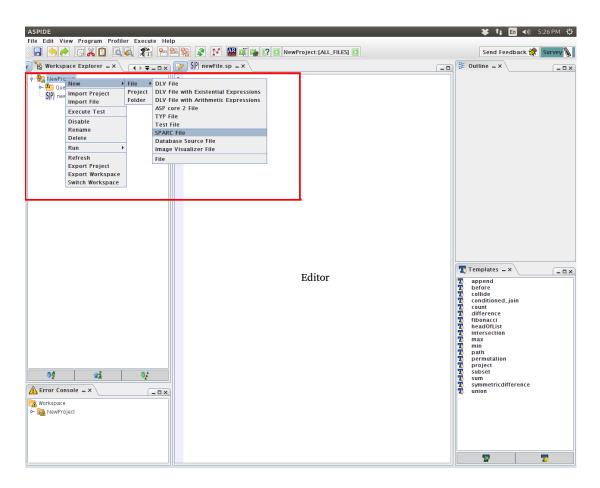


Figure 4: Adding SPARC source file

7.3 Executing queries and computing Answer sets

You can execute queries and compute answer sets as for usual ASP file. To execute a query, open a sparc file in the ASPIDE editor and click on the button with a question mark in the toolbar:

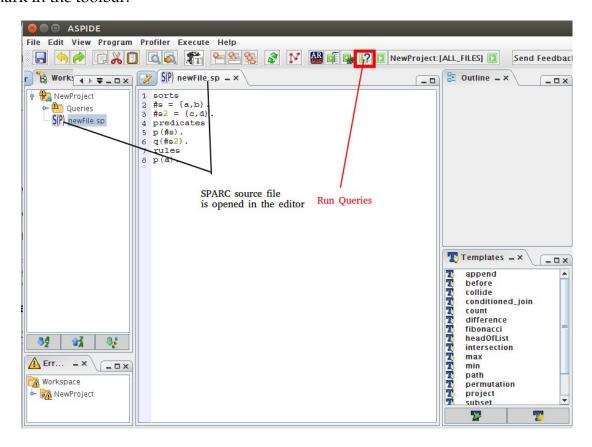


Figure 5: Open Query Interface

A window will appear where you can input and run queries. To run a query,

- mark **Epistemic Mode** checkbox (this is to follow the definition of query given in the class)
- input your query into editbox named Query or select one from history

The results will appear in the listview named **Results**. See fig 6 for details.

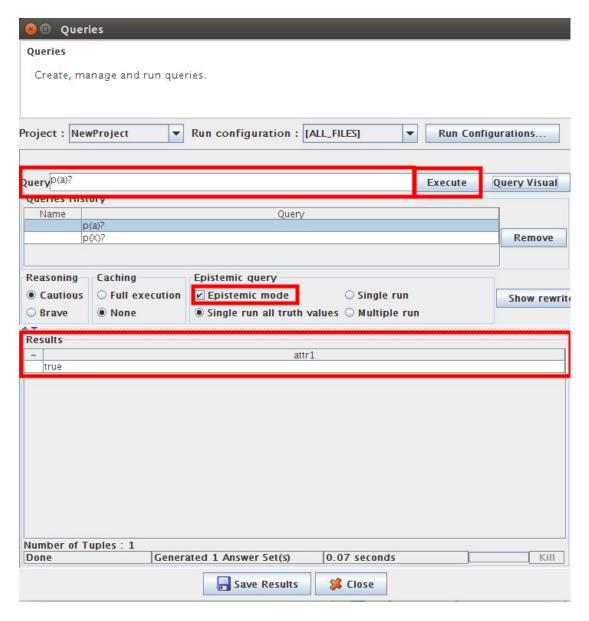


Figure 6: Execute a query

To compute answer sets of the program, press the button with green arrow marked on figure 7.



Figure 7: Open answer sets window

In the appeared **Run Configurations** window:

- make sure a correct path to dlv in selected in **Executable** listbox.
- press **Run** button to see the answer sets

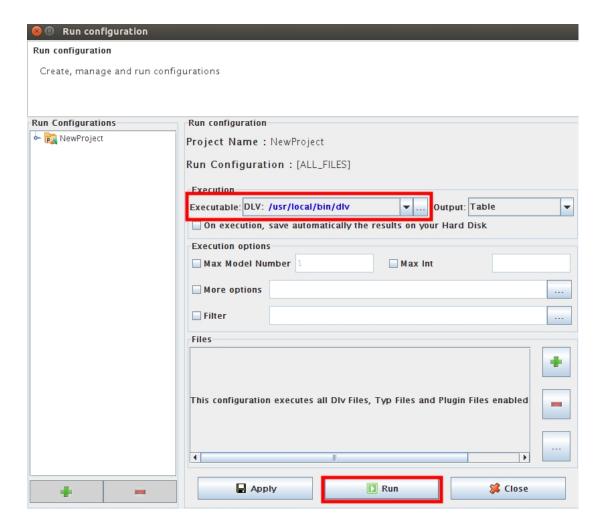


Figure 8: Run configurations window

In the displayed window, answer sets are grouped by predicate symbols in their literals. On figure 9, two answer sets are shown. The first one contains two literals p(a,b) and p(e,f) and some literals with predicate symbol q.

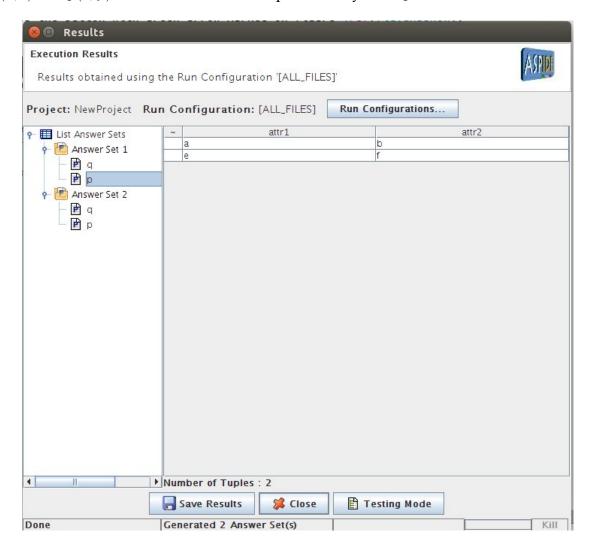


Figure 9: Answer Sets

7.4 Warnings Checking

To see allow ASPIDE to show warnings (section 6.2), you need to install swi-prolog on your system. Swi-prolog is available from http://www.swi-prolog.org/Download.html

After swi-prolog is installed, go to the ASPIDE menu *File ->Preferences*. In the appeared window select the tab **Executables/Solvers** and add a new *executable* named *swipl* with a path pointing to the swi-prolog executable. Usually, it is named *swipl* in Unix/MacOS operating system and *swipl.exe* in Windows. Click on **Save** button to close the window. See the details on figure 10. After the executable is added, you need to

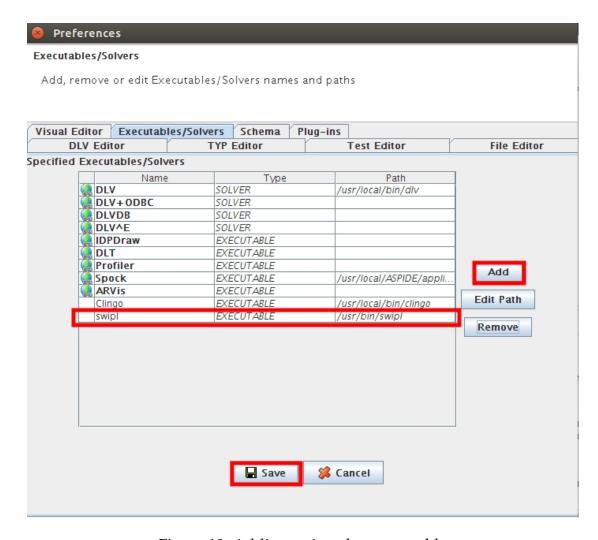


Figure 10: Adding swi-prolog executable

specify a flag property for the *SPARC* plug-in to make it check warnings. Go to AS-PIDE menu *File* -> *Plug-ins* -> *Manage Plug-ins*. In the appeared window click on the cell Properties in SPARC plug-in line and add a new property CHECK_WARNINGS=TRUE as it is shown on figure 11. Click on **Close** button to save the results. **RESTART ASPIDE FOR THE NEW CHANGES TO TAKE EFFECT**.

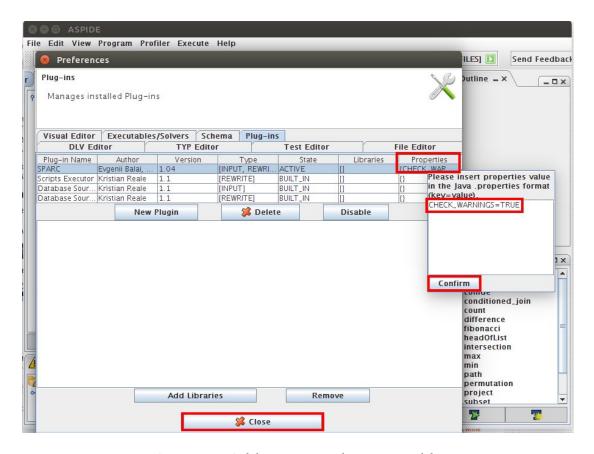


Figure 11: Adding swi-prolog executable

After the restart, you should be able to see the warnings in the left lower corner of aspide interface (**Error Console**).

References

[1] Evgenii Balai, Michael Gelfond, and Yuanlin Zhang. Towards answer set programming with sorts. In *Logic Programming and Nonmonotonic Reasoning*, pages 135–147. Springer, 2013.