

# More **ALS Prolog Tools**





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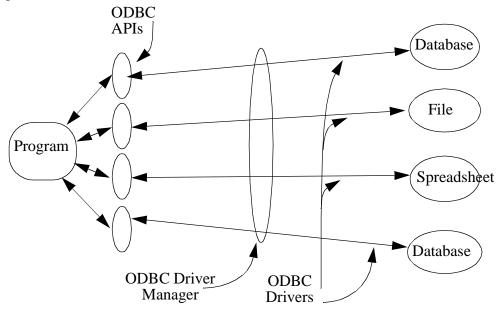
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## 1 Using ODBC<sup>1</sup>

ODBC (Open DataBase Connectivity) is a standardized approach to accessing and manipulating external data from programs. It provides an API (Application Programming Interface) based on the SQL data query language. ODBC is principally oriented towards relational databases, though it can be utilized with data sources a diverse as flat files, relational databases managed by systems such as ORACLE, Postgres, Access, and SYBASE, and spreadsheets created by systems such as EXCEL.

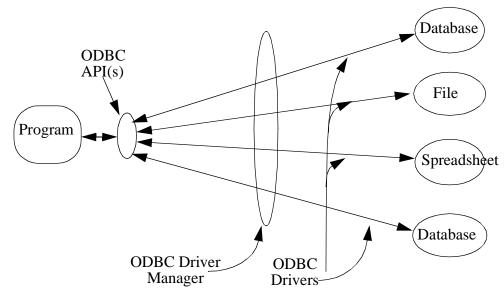
The ODBC standard *specifies* the API a program may use. This API is *realized* by a combination of ODBC drivers and ODBC driver managers, as suggested in this diagram:



Note that in principle, the various ODBC APIs should all be identical, and so the

 $<sup>{\</sup>it 1.} \ \ ALS\ Prolog\ ODBC\ Interface\ was\ developed\ by\ Chuck\ Houpt.$ 

diagram could just as well have been drawn this way:



There is normally just one ODBC Driver Manager resident in each computing environment. As it's name indicates, it *manages* the various ODBC drivers for connecting to diverse data sources. Typically, there is one ODBC driver for each class of data source. Thus, there will be an ODBC driver for ORACLE databases, a different ODBC driver for SYBASE databases, a different driver for EXCEL spreadsheets, etc., etc. Each of these drivers is capable of providing access to all of the specific data sources in that class. Thus, the ORACLE ODBC driver provides access to all ORACLE-managed databases, while the EXCEL ODBC driver provides access to all EXCEL spreadsheets.

So, to use ODBC, you must obtain (if necessary), both an ODBC Driver Manager, together with ODBC Drivers for the various classes of data you wish to access.

The ALS Prolog ODBC Interface makes the function calls in the ODBC API available to ALS Prolog programs. The interface is implemented as a *shared prolog library* (a "\*.psl" file) which can be dynamically loaded whenever your program needs to utilize ODBC. The direct interface between ALS Prolog and ODBC is rather ugly and difficult to use, and so several files are included in the interface to make using the ODBC interface considerably simpler. These files define prolog

predicates making the use of the underlying raw ODBC interfaces, but which are more oriented towards the ordinary Prolog point of view. Here is a list of the files together with brief descriptions of their roles:

odbcintf.psl The shared prolog library providing linkage to the ODBC li-

brary functions.

odbc.pro The "prolog-visible" side of the the odbcintf.psl linkage; the

"raw" interface; very ugly.

prolog\_odbc.pro Predicates providing access to the basic odbc.pro-level pred-

icates, but with appropriate type conversions and error han-

dling support.

meta\_odbc.pro An abstraction layer above the prolog\_odbc.pro-level predi-

cates. Most programs using ODBC will want to work at this

level, only dipping into the prolog\_odbc.pro-level as needed.

There are many books describing SQL; see, for example, C.J. Date, *A Guide to DB2*, Addison-Wesley, 1984, the crisp introduction on pp. 210-239 of J.D. Ullman, *Principles of Database and Knowledge-Base Systems, Volume I*, Computer Science Press, 1988, or the web-based tutorials at

http://www.willcam.com/sql/

 $http://www.soc.staffs.ac.uk/{\sim}cmntrk/4gl/99/sql\_tut.htm$ 

(also at http://www.vetmed.auburn.edu/~campbj3/sql\_tut.htm

ODBC is discussed at length in K.Geiger, Inside ODBC, Microsoft Press, 1995, and also in the ODBC.hlp on-line help reference contained in the Microsoft SDK for ODBC.

## 2 An Example: SQL\_Shell.

In addition to the files listed in the previous section, the distribution contains another file, sql\_shell.pro, which implements a Prolog-ODBC program providing interactive SQL access to data sources via whatever ODBC drivers are resident where the program runs. Note that the ALS Prolog project sql\_shell.ppj contains all of the four prolog (\*.pro) files discussed above. The shared library, odbcintf.psl, must be separately loaded. The file 'odbcintf.psl' should normally reside in the directory

```
alsdir/shared {or alsdir\shared or :alsdir:shared }
```

in the ALS Prolog installation directory. Use consult('odbcintf.psl') to load it.

Here is a sample of the execution of sql\_shell:

ALS Prolog (Byte) Version 3.1.2 [mswinnt]

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Attempting to consult odbcintf.psl...

 $...\ consulted\ C:\PROGRA~1\ALSPRO~1\alsdir\shared\odbcintf.psl\ yes.$ 

Load the project 'sql\_shell.ppj' (or consult all of the files in the project).

?- Attempting to consult sql\_shell.pro...

Attempting to consult odbc...

... consulted D:\odbc\mswinnt\odbc.obp

Attempting to consult prolog\_odbc...

... consulted D:\odbc\mswinnt\prolog\_odbc.obp

Attempting to consult meta\_odbc...

... consulted D:\odbc\mswinnt\meta\_odbc.obp

... consulted D:\odbc\sql\_shell.pro

Attempting to consult odbc.pro...

... consulted D:\odbc\odbc.pro

Attempting to consult prolog\_odbc.pro...

... consulted D:\odbc\prolog\_odbc.pro

Attempting to consult meta\_odbc.pro...

... consulted D:\odbc\meta\_odbc.pro

yes.

?- sql\_shell. One of several ways of starting this example; defined in sql\_shell.pro. This way of starting causes the ODBC driver manager to prompt the user for a data source to which to connect. (The data source must have been previously specified to the ODBC driver manager.) The output below is the ODBC Driver Manager's reponse when the user selected the sample Access database "Northwind.mdb".

Sample program(sql\_shell.pro) prompt

User input SQL statement

**SQL> SELECT \* from customers** 

['ALFKI', 'Alfreds Futterkiste', 'Maria Anders', 'Sales Representative',

'Obere Str. 57', 'Berlin', ", '12209', 'Germany', '030-0074321', '030-0076545']

['ANATR','Ana Trujillo Emparedados y helados','Ana Trujillo','Owner',

'Avda. de la Constituci\363n 2222','M\351xico D.F.',",'05021','Mexico',

'(5) 555-4729','(5) 555-3745']

.....

['WOLZA', 'Wolski Zajazd', Zbyszek Piestrzeniewicz', 'Owner', 'ul. Filtrowa 68', 'Warszawa', ", '01-012', 'Poland', '(26) 642-7012',

'(26) 642-7012']

SOL> ^**D** Control-D exits from this sample program.

yes.

**?- sql\_shell.** Start sql\_shell again, and connect to the :economics.mdb Access datasource.

Connected to DSN=Economics;DBQ=D:\databases\odbc\economics.mdb;Driver-Id=25;FIL=MS Access;MaxBufferSize=512;PageTimeout=5;UID=admin;

Sample program(sql\_shell.pro) prompt

User input SQL statement

SQL> SELECT \* from cpi

[1.0,'All items (1967=100)',100.0,164.5,165.0,1.7,0.3,0.1,0.1,0.2]

[2.0, Food and beverages', 16.408, 163.8, 163.7, 2.2, -0.1, 0.4, 0.2, -0.2]

.....

[90.0, Energy commodities', 2.72, 83.9, 86.4, -5.4, 3.0, 0.0, -0.5, 3.5]

[91.0,'Services less energy services',54.316,194.0,194.7,2.8,0.4,0.2,0.2,0.3]

SQL> **^D** Control-D exits from this sample program.

yes.

## 3 Accessing Catalog Information.

Catalog information is easily obtained. Consider this predicate defined by meta\_odbc (DS for 'DataSource')

```
ds_tables(DS, TL)
:-
sql_open_connection(, '', '', C),
sql tables(C, TL).
```

We obtain information on the tables in datasource 'Economics' as follows:

```
?- ds_tables('Economics',X).
x=[
```

- ['D:\\databases\\odbc\\economics',",'MSysACEs','SYSTEM TABLE',"],
- ['D:\\databases\\odbc\\economics',",'MSysIMEXColumns','SYSTEM TABLE',"],
- ['D:\\databases\\odbc\\economics',",'MSysIMEXSpecs','SYSTEM TABLE',"],
- ['D:\\databases\\odbc\\economics',",'MSysModules','SYSTEM TABLE',"],
- ['D:\\databases\\odbc\\economics',",'MSysModules2','SYSTEM TABLE',"],
- ['D:\\databases\\odbc\\economics',",'MSysObjects','SYSTEM TABLE',"],
- ['D:\\databases\\odbc\\economics',",'MSysQueries','SYSTEM TABLE',"],
- ['D:\\databases\\odbc\\economics',",'MSysRelationships','SYSTEM TABLE',"],
- ['D:\\databases\\odbc\\economics',",'Cpi','TABLE',"],
- ['D:\\databases\\odbc\\economics',",finished\_goods,'TABLE',"]] yes.

Information about the columns of a table is also easily obtained. Here is the definition:

```
ds_table_cols(DS, Table, ColsList)
```

```
sql_open_connection('Economics', '', '', C),
sql_columns(C, Table, ColsList0),
cvrt to tms(ColsList0, c, ColsList).
```

The basic access predicate, sql\_columns/3, returns information as a list of 13-element sublists. To make access to the elements of the individual row information simple, the predicate ds\_cols converts these lists to terms with functor 'c). Then the individual elements can easily be accessed using arg/3. In particular, the column name appears in position arg 4, and the column type appears in position arg 6.

```
?- ds_table_cols('Economics', cpi, X).
X=[
c('D:\\databases\\odbc\\economics',",cpi,'ID',4.0,
    'COUNTER',10.0,4.0,0.0,10.0,1.0,",0.0),
c('D:\\databases\\odbc\\economics',",cpi,'Expenditure category',12.0,
    'TEXT',255.0,255.0,0.0,10.0,1.0,",1.0),
```

- c('D:\\databases\\odbc\\economics',",cpi,'RelImpDec-99',8.0,'DOUBLE', 15.0,8.0,0.0,10.0,1.0,",2.0),
- c('D:\\databases\\odbc\\economics',",cpi,'UadjIdx2-99',8.0,'DOUBLE', 15.0,8.0,0.0,10.0,1.0,",3.0),
- c('D:\\databases\\odbc\\economics',",cpi,'Uadjldx3-99',8.0,'DOUBLE', 15.0,8.0,0.0,10.0,1.0,",4.0),
- c('D:\\databases\\odbc\\economics',",cpi,'UadjPctChg3-98to3-99',8.0, 'DOUBLE',15.0,8.0,0.0,10.0,1.0,",5.0),
- c('D:\\databases\\odbc\\economics',",cpi,'UadjPctChg2-99to3-99',8.0, 'DOUBLE',15.0,8.0,0.0,10.0,1.0,",6.0),
- c('D:\\databases\\odbc\\economics','',cpi,'SeasAdjPctDec-Jan',8.0, 'DOUBLE',15.0,8.0,0.0,10.0,1.0,'',7.0),
- c('D:\\databases\\odbc\\economics','',cpi,'SeasAdjPctJan-Feb',8.0, 'DOUBLE',15.0,8.0,0.0,10.0,1.0,'',8.0),
- c('D:\\databases\\odbc\\economics','',cpi,'SeasAdjPctFeb-Mar',8.0, 'DOUBLE',15.0,8.0,0.0,10.0,1.0,'',9.0)]

Finally, meta\_odbc includes two calls for obatining all the information the ODBC driver manager knows about ODBC drivers, and about datasources, as follows:

```
?- sql_all_drivers(DriversList).
DriversList=
[['Microsoft Access Driver (*.mdb)', 'UsageCount=1'],
 ['Microsoft dBase Driver (*.dbf)', 'UsageCount=1'],
 ['Microsoft Excel Driver (*.xls)', 'UsageCount=1'],
 ['Microsoft FoxPro Driver (*.dbf)', 'UsageCount=1'],
 ['Microsoft Text Driver (*.txt; *.csv)', 'UsageCount = 1'],
 ['SQL Server', 'DSNConverted=F'],
 ['PostgreSQL','APILevel=1']]
yes.
?- sql all data sources(SourcesList).
SourcesList=[
['dBASE Files', 'Microsoft dBase Driver (*.dbf)'],
['Excel Files','Microsoft Excel Driver (*.xls)'],
['FoxPro Files','Microsoft FoxPro Driver (*.dbf)'],
['Text Files','Microsoft Text Driver (*.txt; *.csv)'],
['MS Access 97 Database', 'Microsoft Access Driver (*.mdb)'],
['Test Contacts', 'Microsoft Access Driver (*.mdb)'],
['Economics','Microsoft Access Driver (*.mdb)']]
yes.
```

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#### 4 Directly Accessing Tables from Prolog.

Consider the following example which illustrates a method for making an ODBC data source table appear as a set of facts in Prolog. The datasource 'Economics' contains a table cpi holding current Consumer Price Index information.

```
cpi_row_view(Row) :-
     sql_open_connection('Economics', '', '', C),
     printf('Connected to: %s\n', ['Economics']),
     sql open statement(C,
       'select "Expenditure Category",
               "RelImpDec-99",
               "UadjPctChg3-98to3-99",
               "SeasAdjPctJan-Feb"
                from cpi', S),
     sql_execute_statement(S),
     get a row(S, Row).
   get_a_row(S, Row)
     : -
     sql_fetch_row(S, Row).
   get_a_row(S, Row)
     get_a_row(S, Row).
Executing this, we get:
    ?- cpi_row_view(X).
    Connected to: Economics
    X=['All items (1967=100)', 100.0, 1.7, 0.1];
    X=['Food and beverages',16.408,2.2,0.2];
    X=['Food', 15.422, 2.3, 0.1];
    X=['Food at home', 9.691, 2.0, 0.1];
    .....etc......
```

Next, suppose we desire a simple 4-place predicate corresponding to cpi\_row\_view/1. It can be defined as follows:

This predicate was called "simple" because it does not pass coniditions on its arguments down to the database retrieval mechanism. That is, if any of its arguments are instantiated, this information is not utilized until the call to get\_a\_row/2, long after the data has been retrieved from the database and passed back into the application. To force information about instantiated variables down to the database retrieval mechanism, one would add a WHERE clause in the SQL SELECT statement. This begins to get quite complicated to carry out by hand. In Chapter 6 (*Generating Predicate Interfaces*) we introduce meta-level predicates which automatically create such definitions.

Finally, assume that another table with the following columns has been added to the Economics database as follows:

#### datatable1:

```
text1 - text
value1 - number
```

Consider the following two code samples which insert and retrieve values from this table:

```
sql execute statement(S).
    do retrievel(Rows) :-
       sql open connection('Economics', '', '', C),
       printf('Connected to: %s\n', ['Economics']),
       sql_open_statement(C, 'SELECT ALL * FROM datatable1', S),
       sql_execute_statement(S),
       sql_fetch_all_rows(S, Rows).
Here are some sample executions:
?- do_retrieve1(X).
Connected to: Economics
X = []
yes.
?-do_insert1('Some kind of thing', 23.456).
Connected to: Economics
yes.
?- do_insert1('And another', 6767676).
Connected to: Economics
yes.
?-do retrievel(X).
Connected to: Economics
X=[['Some kind of thing', 23.0],
   ['And another',6767676.0]]
```

yes.

#### 5 Predicates Defined in meta\_odbc.pro

Here is a schematic example of using the meta-ODBC interfa

```
sql_init.
sql_open_connection('sdk21-Access32', '', '', C),
sql_open_statement(C, 'select * from customer', S),
sql_execute_statement(S),
sql_fetch_row(S, R),
sql_close_statement(S),
sql_close_connection(C),
sql_shutdown.
R = ['bob', '203 Main St.', ...]
```

The predicates in meta\_odbc.pro are all defined in the module odbc, and are exported for use in other modules which "use odbc."

```
sql_init/0
sql_init
sql_init
```

Alocate a global environment for ODBC. Defined by:

```
sql_init :- sql_init(_).
sql_init/1
sql_init(Env)
sql_init(-)
```

Allocate and return a global environment for ODBC. Calls sql\_alloc\_env(Environment) to set this global, obtains a handle Environment to it, and stores this in the prolog global variable "\_odbc\_environment":

```
set_odbc_environment(Environment)
get_odbc_environment(Environment)
```

If there is an existing non-zero value for Environment in

```
get_odbc_environment(Environment),
sql_init/1 does nothing.
sql_shutdown/0
sql_shutdown
sql_shutdown
```

Deallocates the currently allocated ODBC global environment.

The are several ODBC approaches to connecting to a datasource.

```
sql_open_connection/4
sql_open_connection(DataSource, User, Password, Connection)
sql_open_connection(+, +, +, -)
```

Opens a connection to a DataSource, supplying User and Password as appropriate; returns an ODBC connection. Example:

```
sql_open_connection('Economics', '', '', C),
sql_open_connection/3
sql_open_connection(ConString, OutString, Connection)
sql_open_connection(+, -, -)
- open a connection to a data source
sql_open_connection/2
sql_open_connection(Connection, ConnectionString)
sql_open_connection(-, -)
```

Open a connection to a data source; ODBC Driver Manager prompt user for connection information.

```
sql_close_connection/1
sql_close_connection(Connection)
sql_close_connection(+)
```

Deallocate an SQL/ODBC connection.

```
sql_commit
sql_commit(Connection)
sql_commit(+)
```

Submit a statement 'SQL\_COMMIT' to a data source.

```
sql_open_statement/3
sql_open_statement(Connection, SQLQuery, StatementTerm)
sql_open_statement(+, +, -)
```

Allocate a Prolog-level statement data structure, and appropriately prepare the data structure for SQLQuery. StatementTerm is a Prolog term of the form

```
statement(StatementHandle, ColumnInfoList, ParamInfoList)
```

where StatementHandle refers to the allocated ODBC Statement entity, and ColumnInfoList and ParamInfoList are Prolog lists of terms containing information corresponding to the columns and parameters occurring in SQLQuery.

```
sql_close_statement/1
sql_close_statement(StatementTerm)
sql_close_statement(+)
```

Deallocate an SQL statement data structure. StatementTerm must be a term returned by a call to

```
sql_open_statement/3
```

and is of the form

```
statement(StatementHandle, ColumnInfoList, ParamInfoList)
```

Also deallocates the associated column info structures.

```
sql execute statement/1
```

```
sql_execute_statement(StatementTerm)
sql_execute_statement(+)
```

Executes an SQL/ODBC statement term. StatementTerm must be a term returned by a call to

```
sql_open_statement/3
```

and is of the form

statement(StatementHandle, ColumnInfoList, ParamInfoList).

```
sql_fetch_row/2
sql_fetch_row(StatementTerm, Row)
sql_fetch_row(+, -)
```

Fetches a row of returned data from a StatementTerm. Row will be a Prolog list of the values.

```
sql_fetch_all_rows/2.
sql_fetch_all_rows(StatementTerm, RowList).
sql_fetch_all_rows(+, -).
```

Returns the list of a rows which can be fetched from StatementTerm

```
sql_tables/2.
sql_tables(Connection, TablesList)
sql_tables(+, -)
```

Returns information about all the tables contained in the DataSource attached to Connection.

```
sql_columns/3.
sql_columns(Connection, Table, ColsList)
sql columns(Connection, Table, ColsList)
```

Returns information about all the columns of Table, which must be a table contained in the DataSource attached to Connection.

```
sql_all_drivers/1
sql_all_drivers(DriversList)
sql_all_drivers(-)
```

Obtain the list, DriversList, of descriptions of all ODBC drivers known by the ODBC Driver Manager. The elements of the list are of the form

```
[Desc, Attrib],
```

where Desc and Attrib are both atoms.

```
sql_all_data_sources(1
sql_all_data_sources(SourcesList)
sql_all_data_sources(-)
```

Obtains the list, SourcesList, of descriptions of all data sources known by the ODBC Driver Manager. The elements of the list are of the form

```
[Name, Desc],
```

where Name and Desc are both atoms.

## **6 Generating Predicate Interfaces**

The creation of the access and insertion routines for individual predicates described in Chapter 4 (*Directly Accessing Tables from Prolog.*), including WHERE clauses to pass variable instatiation information to the database retrieval mechanism, can be encapsulated in a meta-level routine. One provides a specification, Spec, describing the desired interface, and then utilizes the call

```
defSQLview(Spec)
```

to cause the code to be created and asserted . defSQLview/1 is implemented as a metapredicate (module\_closure), so that the generated code is asserted in whatever module the call is made to defSQLview/1. Consider the predicate simple\_cpi\_view/4 created in Chapter 4 (*Directly Accessing Tables from Prolog.*). Suppose that we desire a related predicate my\_cpi/4 with four arguements, but which passes variable instantiation to the database mechanism, together with a predicate insert\_my\_cpi/4 which inserts new rows in the table cpi. The appropriate Spec to use is:

```
Spec = [
    ds = 'Economics',
    table = 'cpi',
    cols_list = [
        'Expenditure category','RelImpDec-99',
        'UadjPctChg3-98to3-99','SeasAdjPctJan-Feb'],
    pred=my_cpi
]
```

Thus, at the prolog command line:

```
?- Spec = [
    ds = 'Economics',
    table = 'cpi',
    cols_list = [
        'Expenditure category','RelImpDec-99',
        'UadjPctChg3-98to3-99','SeasAdjPctJan-Feb'],
    pred=my_cpi
],
```

```
yes.
Then:
    ?- listing(my cpi/_).
    % user:my_cpi/4
    my_cpi(_A,_B,_C,_D) :-
             sql open connection(Economics, , , E),
             odbc:
                 where_conds([_A,_B,_C,_D],
                    [Expenditure category, RelImpDec-99, UadjPctChq3-
       98to3-99,
                         SeasAdjPctJan-Feb],
                     [TEXT, DOUBLE, DOUBLE, DOUBLE],
                     SELECT Expenditure category, RelImpDec-
        99, UadjPctChq3-98to3-99, SeasAdjPctJan-Feb FROM cpi WHERE %t
                     F),
             sql open statement (E, F, G),
        sql execute statement(G),!,
             get_a_row(_G,[_A,_B,_C,_D]).
    ?- listing(insert my_cpi/_).
    % user:insert_my_cpi/4
    insert_my_cpi(_A,_B,_C,_D) :-
             sql open connection(Economics, , , E),
             sprintf(atom(_F),
                 INSERT INTO cpi(Expenditure category, RelImpDec-
        99, UadjPctChg3-98to3-99, SeasAdjPctJan-Feb) VALUES ('%t', %t,
       %t, %t),
                 [ A, B, C, D]),
             sql_open_statement(_E,_F,_G), !,
        sql_execute_statement(_G).
```

defSQLview(Spec).

Note that it is important that in the Spec, the table and column names are type exactly as they appear in the datasource; no conversion or normalization is performed by defSQLview.

Finally, calls to defSQLview can appear in files which are consulted. There are two provisions you must make in order to do this. First, meta\_odbc must be loaded before the file is consulted, and the initialization goal sql\_init must have been run. Secondly, if your call to defSQLview occurs within any module other than module user, you must guarantee that the module "uses" the module odbc. Here is an example:

Assuming that meta\_odbc has been loaded and the sql\_init has been run,

consulting the file containing the code above will have the following effect:

```
?- [odbc_samples].
?- Attempting to consult D:\databases\odbc\odbc samples.pro...
... consulted D:\databases\odbc\odbc samples.pro
?- listing(zap:_/_).
% zap:my cpi/4
my_cpi(_A,_B,_C,_D) :-
        sql_open_connection(Economics,,,_E),
        odbc:
            where_conds([_A,_B,_C,_D],
                [Expenditure category, RelImpDec-99,
                   UadjPctChq3-98to3-99,
               SeasAdjPctJan-Feb],
                [TEXT, DOUBLE, DOUBLE, DOUBLE],
                SELECT Expenditure category, RelImpDec-
   99, UadjPctChg3-98to3-99, SeasAdjPctJan-Feb FROM cpi WHERE %t
                F),
        sql open statement( E, F, G),
   sql_execute_statement(_G), !,
        get a row( G,[ A, B, C, D]).
% zap:simple my cpi/4
simple_my_cpi(_A,_B,_C,_D) :-
        sql_open_connection(Economics,,,_E),
        sql open statement (E,
            SELECT ALL Expenditure category, RelImpDec-
   99, UadjPctChg3-98to3-99, SeasAdjPctJan-Feb FROM cpi,
            _F),
        sql execute statement(F), !,
   get_a_row(_F,[_A,_B,_C,_D]).
% zap:insert_my_cpi/4
```