

# Interactive Proofs for Logic Programs

Fred Mesnard

LIM, université de La Réunion, France

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# Plan

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LPTP by Robert Stärk

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# Intro: which *implemented tool* for Prolog verification?

- ▶ Type system for Prolog

*Many papers, a book (Frank Pfenning), which tool today?*

A Hindley-Milner SWI add-on written by Tom Schrijvers *et al.*

Towards Typed Prolog, ICLP 2008

- ▶ Automated program properties by abstract interpretation

*Many papers, which tool today?*

Ciao Prolog & CiaoPP

- ▶ Automated termination analysis

*Many papers, which tool today?*

E.g., ours for pure Prolog

NTI+cTI ranked 1st at TermComp since 2022

- ▶ Partial correctness

*A few papers, which tool today?*

LPTP: Logic Program Theorem Prover

Robert Stärk, mid-1990's

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# Robert Stärk:

- ▶ Swiss citizen
- ▶ Master in mathematics, ETH Zurich
- ▶ PhD in logic, Univ. Bern (92):  
*The Proof Theory of Logic Programs with Negation*
- ▶ Post-docs: Munich, Stanford, Pennsylvania
- ▶ Senior assistant, Univ. Fribourg (96-99)
- ▶ Assistant professor, ETH Zurich (99-05)

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# Summary<sup>1</sup>: LPTP – A Logic Program Theorem Prover

- ▶ LPTP is an interactive theorem prover for the formal verification of pure Prolog programs
- ▶ Designed and implemented (1994/1999) by Robert Stärk
- ▶ Programs may contain negation, if-then-else and built-in predicates like `is/2`, `integer/1`, `call/n+1`, `arg/3`
- ▶ Non-logical predicates and control operators like `cut (!)`, `assert /1`, `retract/1`, `var/1` are forbidden
- ▶ Hypothesis: occurs check during unification at runtime  
SWI-Prolog: `?- set_prolog_flag(occurs_check,true).`

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<sup>1</sup>borrowed from Robert Stärk

# Summary: LPTP – A Logic Program Theorem Prover

- ▶ Provable properties of programs:
  - ▶ universal left-termination
  - ▶ equivalence of predicates
  - ▶ existence of solutions, uniqueness of solutions
  - ▶ functional correctness, types, ...
- ▶ LPTP's notion of termination includes non-floundering:
  - ▶ negative goals are ground when called
  - ▶ built-in predicates are instantiated the right way when called
- ▶ each user-defined predicate defines its *own* induction scheme, automatically generated by LPTP
- ▶ The proof format of LPTP is natural deduction (ND)
- ▶ Proofs are written in a text editor and LPTP checks the correctness of the proofs

The distribution of LPTP<sup>2</sup> includes the source code, a user manual (130 pages) and 47 klop<sup>3</sup> including:

- ▶ the verification of various sorting algorithms
- ▶ the correctness of a tautology checker
- ▶ the verification of algorithms for AVL trees
- ▶ the correctness of alpha-beta pruning with respect to min-max
- ▶ the correctness of a fast union-find based unification algorithm
- ▶ the correctness of a deterministic parser for ISO Prolog

The parser with its specification is 635 lines long. The correctness proof of the ISO standard parser is 13 klop (3 weeks). Hence:

- ▶ Proof size  $\simeq 20 \times$  Prolog code size
- ▶  $\sim 4$  klop/week for *the expert*

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<sup>2</sup>e.g., <https://github.com/FredMesnard/lptp>

<sup>3</sup>klop = kilo lines of proof

# So LPTP is both a research project ...

-  R. F. Stärk  
First-order theories for pure Prolog programs with negation  
*Arch. Math. Log.*, 34(2):113–144, 1995
-  R. F. Stärk  
Total correctness of logic programs: A formal approach  
ELP'96, *LNCS* 1050, 237–254. Springer, 1996
-  R. F. Stärk  
Formal Verification of Logic Programs: Foundations and Implementation  
LFCS'97, *LNCS* 1234, 354–368. Springer, 1997
-  R. F. Stärk  
**The theoretical foundations of LPTP  
(a logic program theorem prover)**  
*Journal of Logic Programming (JLP)*, 36(3):241–269, 1998

... and an interactive theorem prover (ITP)

- ▶ An Emacs user-interface
  - ▶ ND tactic-based ITP
  - ▶ A *limited* auto tactic
  - ▶ A proof checker written in ISO-Prolog
  - ▶ A library for usual relations on natural numbers, lists, ...
  - ▶ A proof manager based on  $\text{\TeX}$  and HTML

Runs out of the box 25 years later:

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# A LPTP primer

- ▶ Object language
  - ▶ Pure Prolog, finite terms, negation as failure
  - ▶ Operational semantics: ISO-Prolog with the occurs check<sup>4</sup>
- ▶ Specification language
  - ▶ Classical first order logic
  - ▶  $gr/1$ , a constraint defined as  $gr(x) \leftrightarrow x \text{ is ground}$
  - ▶ For each user-defined atom  $G$ 
    - ▶ **SG** means  $G$  succeeds
      - The breadth-first evaluation of  $G$  succeeds
      - One or more infinite branches may exist
    - ▶ **FG** means  $G$  fails
      - The breadth-first evaluation of  $G$  fails
      - One or more infinite branches may exist
    - ▶ **TG** means  $G$  terminates
      - The ISO-Prolog evaluation produces a finite number ( $\geq 0$ ) of answers then stops without floundering
      - No infinite branch

---

<sup>4</sup>SWI-Prolog:

```
?- set_prolog_flag(occurs_check,true).
```

## A LPTP primer: an example

```
nat(0).                                add(0,Y,Y).  
nat(s(X)) :- nat(X).      add(s(X),Y,s(Z)) :- add(X,Y,Z).
```

**Lemma** [*nat:ground*]  $\forall x (\mathbf{S} \text{nat}(x) \rightarrow gr(x))$ .

**Lemma** [*add:term:1*]  $\forall x, y, z (\mathbf{S} \text{nat}(x) \rightarrow \mathbf{T} \text{add}(x, y, z))$ .

**Lemma** [*add:term:3*]  $\forall x, y, z (\mathbf{S} \text{nat}(z) \rightarrow \mathbf{T} \text{add}(x, y, z))$ .

**Lemma** [*add:existence*]  $\forall x, y (\mathbf{S} \text{nat}(x) \rightarrow \exists z \mathbf{S} \text{add}(x, y, z))$ .

**Lemma** [*add:uniqueness*]

$\forall x, y, z_1, z_2 (\mathbf{S} \text{add}(x, y, z_1) \wedge \mathbf{S} \text{add}(x, y, z_2) \rightarrow z_1 = z_2)$ .

**Theorem** [*add:commutative*]

$\forall x, y, z (\mathbf{S} \text{nat}(x) \wedge \mathbf{S} \text{nat}(y) \wedge \mathbf{S} \text{add}(x, y, z) \rightarrow \mathbf{S} \text{add}(y, x, z))$ .

# A LPTP primer: a proof, source and PDF

```
:- lemma(add:exist,
  all [x,y]: succeeds nat(?x) => (ex z: succeeds add(?x,?y,?z)),
  induction(
    [all x: succeeds nat(?x) => (all y: ex z: succeeds add(?x,?y,?z))],
    [step([]),
      [],
      [succeeds add(0,?y,?y),
       ex z: succeeds add(0,?y,?z)],
      all y: ex z: succeeds add(0,?y,?z)),
    step([x],
      [all y: ex z: succeeds add(?x,?y,?z),
       succeeds nat(?x)],
      [ex z: succeeds add(?x,?y,?z),
       exist(z0, succeeds add(?x,?y,?z0),
         [succeeds add(s(?x),?y,s(?z0)) by sld],
         ex z1: succeeds add(s(?x),?y,?z1))],
      all y: ex z: succeeds add(s(?x),?y,?z))))).
```

**Lemma 1** [*add:exist*]  $\forall x, y (\mathbf{S} \text{nat}(x) \rightarrow \exists z \mathbf{S} \text{add}(x, y, z))$ .

**Proof.**

Induction<sub>0</sub>:  $\forall x (\mathbf{S} \text{nat}(x) \rightarrow \forall y \exists z \mathbf{S} \text{add}(x, y, z))$ .

Hypothesis<sub>1</sub>: none.  $\mathbf{S} \text{add}(0, y, y)$ .  $\exists z \mathbf{S} \text{add}(0, y, z)$ .

Conclusion<sub>1</sub>:  $\forall y \exists z \mathbf{S} \text{add}(0, y, z)$ .

Hypothesis<sub>1</sub>:  $\forall y \exists z \mathbf{S} \text{add}(x, y, z)$  and  $\mathbf{S} \text{nat}(x)$ .  $\exists z \mathbf{S} \text{add}(x, y, z)$ .

Let<sub>2</sub>  $z_0$  with  $\mathbf{S} \text{add}(x, y, z_0)$ .  $\mathbf{S} \text{add}(s(x), y, s(z_0))$  by sld.

Thus<sub>2</sub>:  $\exists z_1 \mathbf{S} \text{add}(s(x), y, z_1)$ .

Conclusion<sub>1</sub>:  $\forall y \exists z \mathbf{S} \text{add}(s(x), y, z)$ .  $\square$

# A LPTP primer: let's play!

- ▶ the [Ciao Prolog Playground for LPTP](#)  
<https://ciao-lang.org/playground/lptp.html>
- ▶ Work in progress!
- ▶ Best user experience with Google Chrome

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# The object language

Pure Prolog, finite terms, negation as failure

- ▶ Let  $P$  be a pure logic program with negation and  $\mathcal{L}$  the first-order language associated to  $P$
- ▶ The *goals* of  $\mathcal{L}$  are:

$G, H ::= \text{true} \mid \text{fail} \mid s = t \mid A \mid \backslash+ G \mid (G, H) \mid (G; H) \mid \text{some } x \mid G$

$s$  and  $t$  are terms,  $x$  is a variable and  $A$  is an atomic goal

- ▶ Operational semantics: ISO-Prolog with the occurs check

SWI-Prolog: `?- set_prolog_flag(occurs_check,true).`

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# The specification language

## Classical first order logic

- ▶  $\hat{\mathcal{L}}$  is the specification language of LPTP
- ▶ For each user-defined predicate symbol  $R$ ,  $\hat{\mathcal{L}}$  contains three predicate symbols  $R^s$ ,  $R^f$ ,  $R^t$  of the same arity as  $R$  which respectively express *success*, *failure* and *termination* of  $R$
- ▶ The *formulas* of  $\hat{\mathcal{L}}$  are:

$$\phi, \psi ::= \top | \perp | s = t | R(\vec{t}) | \neg\phi | \phi \wedge \psi | \phi \vee \psi | \phi \rightarrow \psi | \forall x\phi | \exists x\phi$$

where  $\vec{t}$  is a sequence of  $n$  terms and  $R$  denotes a  $n$ -ary predicate symbol of  $\hat{\mathcal{L}}$

- ▶ The semantics of  $\hat{\mathcal{L}}$  is classical first order logic (FOL)
- ▶ LPTP reasons with the Clark's *if-and-only-if* completed definition of  $R^s$ ,  $R^f$ ,  $R^t$  for each user-defined predicate  $R$

# The specification language

For defining the declarative semantics of LP, three syntactic operators **S**, **F** and **T** which map goals of  $\mathcal{L}$  into  $\hat{\mathcal{L}}$ -formulas

Intuitively:

- ▶ **SG** means *G succeeds*
  - The breadth-first evaluation of *G* succeeds
  - One or more infinite branches may exist
- ▶ **FG** means *G fails*
  - The breadth-first evaluation of *G* fails
  - One or more infinite branches may exist<sup>5</sup>
- ▶ **TG** means *G terminates*
  - The ISO-Prolog evaluation produces a finite number of answers then stops without floundering
  - No infinite branch

---

<sup>5</sup>As  $\mathbf{F}\backslash+G := \mathbf{S}G$ , see next slide.

# The specification language

Formally:

$$\mathbf{S}R(\vec{t}) := R^s(\vec{t})$$

$$\mathbf{S}\setminus+G := \mathbf{F}G$$

$$\mathbf{S}(s = t) := (s = t)$$

$$\mathbf{S} \text{ true} := \top$$

$$\mathbf{S}(G, H) := \mathbf{S}G \wedge \mathbf{S}H$$

$$\mathbf{S}(\text{some } x \text{ } G) := \exists x \mathbf{S}G$$

$$\mathbf{S} \text{ fail} := \perp$$

$$\mathbf{S}(G; H) := \mathbf{S}G \vee \mathbf{S}H$$

$$\mathbf{F}R(\vec{t}) := R^f(\vec{t})$$

$$\mathbf{F}\setminus+G := \mathbf{S}G$$

$$\mathbf{F}(s = t) := \neg(s = t)$$

$$\mathbf{F} \text{ true} := \perp$$

$$\mathbf{F}(G, H) := \mathbf{F}G \vee \mathbf{F}H$$

$$\mathbf{F}(\text{some } x \text{ } G) := \forall x \mathbf{F}G$$

$$\mathbf{F} \text{ fail} := \top$$

$$\mathbf{F}(G; H) := \mathbf{F}G \wedge \mathbf{F}H$$

$$\mathbf{T}R(\vec{t}) := R^t(\vec{t})$$

$$\mathbf{T} \text{ fail} := \top$$

$$\mathbf{T}\setminus+G := \mathbf{T}G \wedge gr(G)$$

$$\mathbf{T}(G; H) := \mathbf{T}G \wedge \mathbf{T}H$$

$$\mathbf{T} \text{ true} := \top$$

$$\mathbf{T}(s = t) := \top$$

$$\mathbf{T}(G, H) := \mathbf{T}G \wedge (\mathbf{F}G \vee \mathbf{T}H)$$

$$\mathbf{T}(\text{some } x \text{ } G) := \forall x \mathbf{T}G$$

$$gr(\text{true}) := \top$$

$$gr(\text{fail}) := \top$$

$$gr(s = t) := gr(s) \wedge gr(t)$$

$$gr(R(t_1, \dots, t_n)) := gr(t_1) \wedge \dots \wedge gr(t_n)$$

$$gr((G, H)) := gr(G) \wedge gr(H)$$

$$gr((G; H)) := gr(G) \wedge gr(H)$$

$$gr(\setminus+G) := gr(G)$$

$$gr(\text{some } x \text{ } G) := \exists x \text{ } gr(G)$$

# $\text{IND}(P)$

Given a logic program  $P$ ,  $\text{IND}(P)$  is the following set of nine first order axioms that models the operational semantics of  $P$ .

## The axioms of Clark's equality theory

1.  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = f(y_1, \dots, y_n) \rightarrow x_i = y_i$  [if  $f$  is  $n$ -ary and  $1 \leq i \leq n$ ]
2.  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n) \neq g(y_1, \dots, y_m)$  [if  $n \neq m$  or  $f \not\equiv g$ ]
3.  $t \neq x$  [if  $x$  occurs in  $t$  and  $t \not\equiv x$ ]

The first two axioms specify the usual properties of the trees built from the function symbols extracted from  $P$ .

The third axiom forbids infinite trees. It is an axiom schema, i.e., an infinite set of first order axioms.

## The predefined constraint $gr/1$

The specification language of LPTP includes a predefined constraint  $gr/1$ , similar to  $ground/1$ .

### Axioms for $gr/1$

4.  $gr(c)$  [if  $c$  is a constant]
5.  $gr(x_1) \wedge \dots \wedge gr(x_m) \leftrightarrow gr(f(x_1, \dots, x_m))$  [ $f$  is  $m$ -ary]

Axiom 6 says that for any tuple of (possibly non-ground) terms, we cannot have at the same time success and failure of  $R$ .

Axiom 7 states that given termination, we have success or failure

### Uniqueness axioms and totality axioms

6.  $\neg(R^s(\vec{x}) \wedge R^f(\vec{x}))$  [if  $R$  is a user-defined predicate]
7.  $R^t(\vec{x}) \rightarrow (R^s(\vec{x}) \vee R^f(\vec{x}))$  [if  $R$  is a user-defined predicate]

Let  $D_R^P(\vec{x})$  denote the definition of the completion of the user-defined procedure  $R(\vec{x})$  in the logic program  $P$ . We know how to apply the operator **S**, **F** and **T** to formulas. So for instance, the first equivalence  $R^s(\vec{x}) \leftrightarrow SD_R^P(\vec{x})$  defines  $R^s(\vec{x})$ .

#### Fixed point axioms for user-defined predicates $R$

8. [for any user-defined predicate  $R$ ]

$$R^s(\vec{x}) \leftrightarrow SD_R^P(\vec{x})$$

$$R^f(\vec{x}) \leftrightarrow FD_R^P(\vec{x})$$

$$R^t(\vec{x}) \leftrightarrow TD_R^P(\vec{x})$$

Finally, for any property of the form  $\forall \vec{x}[R^s(\vec{x}) \rightarrow \phi(\vec{x})]$ , where  $R(\vec{x})$  is a user-defined procedure and  $\phi(\vec{x})$  an  $\hat{\mathcal{L}}$ -formula, we have a specific induction schema. We examine the simple case of *directly recursive user-defined predicate*.

### A simplified induction schema for a user-defined predicate $R$

Let  $R$  be a directly recursive user-defined predicate and let  $\phi(\vec{x})$  be an  $\hat{\mathcal{L}}$ -formula such that the length of  $\vec{x}$  is equal to the arity of  $R$ . Let  $sub(\phi(\vec{x})/R)$  be the formula to be proven  $\forall \vec{x}(R^s(\vec{x}) \rightarrow \phi(\vec{x}))$ . Let  $closed(\phi(\vec{x})/R)$  be the formula obtained from  $\forall \vec{x}(\mathbf{SD}_R^P(\vec{x}) \rightarrow R^s(\vec{x}))$  by replacing

- ▶  $R^s(\vec{x})$  by  $\phi(\vec{x})$  on the right of  $\rightarrow$ ,
- ▶ all occurrences of  $R(\vec{t})$  appearing on the left of  $\rightarrow$  by  $\phi(\vec{t}) \wedge R(\vec{t})$ .

Then the induction axiom is the following formula:

9.  $closed(\phi(\vec{x})/R) \rightarrow sub(\phi(\vec{x})/R)$

# Main theoretical results from the JLP paper

## Adequacy of $\text{IND}(\cdot)$

The inductive extension  $\text{IND}(\cdot)$  is always consistent, and is a sound and complete axiomatization of the operational semantics of pure Prolog.

Let  $Q$  be a query  $(G_1, \dots, G_{n+1})$ :

- ▶ If  $\text{IND}(P) \vdash \mathbf{T}Q$  then  $Q$  terminates
- ▶ If  $Q$  terminates then  $\text{IND}(P) \vdash \mathbf{T}Q$
- ▶ If  $\text{IND}(P) \vdash \mathbf{T}Q \wedge \mathbf{S}Q\sigma$  then  $Q$  terminates and one of its answers includes  $\sigma$
- ▶ If  $Q$  breadth-first succeeds with answer  $\sigma$  then  $\text{IND}(P) \vdash \mathbf{S}Q\sigma$
- ▶ If  $\text{IND}(P) \vdash \mathbf{T}Q \wedge \mathbf{F}Q$  then  $Q$  finitely fails
- ▶ If  $Q$  finitely fails then  $\text{IND}(P) \vdash \mathbf{T}Q \wedge \mathbf{F}Q$

NB: Termination is *ubiquitous*

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A LPTP-derivation is a finite list of derivation steps:

```
derivation_step → formula
| formula by tag
| assume(formula, derivation, formula)
| cases(formula, derivation, formula, derivation, formula)
| cases([case(formula, derivation), ...], formula)
| exist(name, formula, derivation, formula)
| exist([name, ...], formula, derivation, formula)
| induction([formula, ...],
|           [step([name, ...], [formula, ...], derivation, formula), ...])
| contra(formula, derivation)
| indirect(~formula, derivation)
```

# The LPTP-proof format is based on natural deduction (1)

The basic rules of natural deduction:

	<i>introduction</i>	<i>elimination</i>
Λ	$\frac{\phi \quad \psi}{\phi \wedge \psi} \wedge i$	$\frac{\phi \wedge \psi}{\phi} \wedge e_1 \quad \frac{\phi \wedge \psi}{\psi} \wedge e_2$
	<pre>:- lemma(dnprop:conj:intro, p &amp; q =&gt; (p &amp; q), []).</pre>	<pre>:- lemma(dnprop:conj:elim:1, (p &amp; q) =&gt; p, []).</pre>
	<pre>:- lemma(dnprop:disj:intro:1, p =&gt; (p ∨ q), []).</pre>	$\frac{\phi \vee \psi}{\begin{array}{c} \phi \\ \vdots \\ \psi \end{array}} \vee e$
∨	$\frac{\phi}{\phi \vee \psi} \vee i_1 \quad \frac{\psi}{\phi \vee \psi} \vee i_2$	$\frac{\phi \vee \psi}{\chi} \quad \frac{\psi}{\chi}$
		<pre>:- lemma(dnprop:disj:elim, ((p ∨ q) &amp; (p =&gt; r) &amp; (q =&gt; r)) =&gt; assume((p ∨ q) &amp; (p =&gt; r) &amp; (q =&gt; r), [p ∨ q, cases(p,r,q,r,r)], r)).</pre>
→	$\frac{\phi}{\phi \rightarrow \psi} \rightarrow i$	$\frac{\phi \quad \phi \rightarrow \psi}{\psi} \rightarrow e$
	<pre>:- lemma(dnprop:nega:intro, (p =&gt; ff) =&gt; ~ p, assume(p =&gt; ff, contra(p,ff),~ p)).</pre>	<pre>:- lemma(dnprop:impl:elim, (p &amp; (p =&gt; q)) =&gt; q, []).</pre>
¬	$\frac{\phi}{\perp} \neg i$	$\frac{\phi \quad \neg\phi}{\perp} \neg e$
		<pre>:- lemma(dnprop:nega:elim, (p &amp; ~ p) =&gt; ff, []).</pre>

## The LPTP-proof format is based on natural deduction (2)

Some useful derived rules:

```
:- lemma(dnprop:modus_tollens,
        ((p => q) & ~ q) => ~ p,
        assume((p => q) & ~ q,
               contra(p,[p => q, q, ~q, ff]),~ p)).
```

```
:- lemma(dnprop:proof_by_contradiction,
        (~ p => ff) => p,
        assume(~ p => ff,indirect(~ p,ff),p)).
```

$$\frac{\neg\neg\phi}{\phi} \text{ nege}$$

```
:- lemma(dnprop:neganega:elim, (~ ~ p) => p,
        assume(~ ~ p,indirect(~ p, ff),p)).
```

$$\frac{\phi}{\neg\neg\phi} \text{ negi}$$

```
:- lemma(dnprop:neganega:intro,p => (~ ~ p),
        assume(p,contra(~ p,ff),~ ~ p)).
```

$$\frac{\neg\phi}{\phi} \text{ PBC}$$

```
:- lemma(dnprop:law_of_excluded_middle, p \vee \neg p, \Box)
```

$$\frac{}{\phi \vee \neg\phi} \text{ LEM}$$

Adapted from:

Logic in computer science - modelling and reasoning about systems  
Huth & Ryan – Cambridge University Press 2000

## The LPTP-proof format is based on natural deduction (3)

```
:‐ lemma(dnpred:forall:elim,(all x:p(?x)) => p(a),[]).
```

$$\frac{x_0 \quad \vdots \quad \phi[x_0/x]}{\forall x \phi} \forall i.$$

```
:‐ lemma(dnpred:forall:intro,(all x:p(?x)) => (all y:p(?y)),  
assume(all x:p(?x),[p(?y)],all y: p(?y))).
```

```
:‐ lemma(dnpred:exist:intro,p(a) => (ex x:p(?x)),[]).
```

$$\frac{\exists x \phi \quad \boxed{x_0 \phi[x_0/x] \quad \vdots \quad \chi}}{\chi} \exists e.$$

```
:‐ lemma(dnpred:exist:elim,(ex x:p(?x)) => (ex z:p(?z)),  
assume(ex x:p(?x), exist(x0,p(?x0),[],ex z:p(?z)),  
ex z:p(?z))).
```

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The two languages of LPTP

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Recent research works involving LPTP

ATP for Prolog Verification - ICLP'25

Auto. Certification of LP Groundness Analysis - LOPSTR'25

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# ATP for Prolog Verification

ICLP'25

Observation:

- ▶ Within LPTP, we prove properties of a Prolog program  $P$  using a natural-deduction tactic-based ITP where the axioms  $\text{IND}(P)$  of the theoretical framework are *hardwired* in the IDE

Idea:

- ▶ Go back to FOL by translating  $\text{IND}(P)$  in TPTP FOF (*First Order Form*) and invoke *any* FOF-compatible ATP
- ▶ *i.e.*,  
LPTP for Prolog verification  
& ATP for automating LPTP  
 $\Rightarrow$  ATP for Prolog Verification

Experimentation:

- ▶ Try with E and Vampire on the LPTP lib

# Plan

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# Automated Certification of LP Groundness Analysis

LOPSTR'25

Observation:

- ▶ Abstract interpreters automatically generates invariants  
E.g.,  $\forall x (\mathbf{S} \ nat(x) \Rightarrow gr(x))$
- ▶ But abstract interpreters are complex pieces of software
- ▶ Bugs?

Idea:

- ▶ Certify the invariants *a fortiori* using LPTP instead of trying to prove correctness of the abstract interpreter

Experimentation:

- ▶ Apply this to LP groundness analysis

Compare:

- ▶ the *ATP for Prolog Verification* approach
- ▶ the automatic construction of propositional LPTP proofs

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# Project ideas:

- ▶ Exercises:
  - ▶ Read the first chapter of the LPTP manual
  - ▶ Prove in LPTP some of the [P-99 Prolog Problems](#)
- ▶ Intermediate problems:
  - ▶ Prove in LPTP that  $\sqrt{2}$  is irrational
  - ▶ Prove in LPTP that the set of prime numbers is infinite
  - ▶ Implement a  $\text{\LaTeX}$  output module for LPTP
  - ▶ Implement a Markdown output module for LPTP
  - ▶ Compile propositional resolution proofs to LPTP
  - ▶ Instrument the LPTP source code with [Ciao-PP declarations](#)
- ▶ Advanced problems:
  - ▶ Prove in LPTP the following [case studies](#) and compare the Pedreschi & Ruggieri's [framework](#) with the LPTP approach
  - ▶ Experiment logic-based abstract interpretation with LPTP
  - ▶ QuickCheck and counter model generation for LPTP
  - ▶ Rewrite FOL Vampire/E proofs into LPTP proofs
  - ▶ Prove LPTP in LPTP
  - ▶ Add SMT-solvers to LPTP - Generalize the JLP paper in Rocq
  - ▶ Adapt Curry-Howard to LPTP

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## Summary:

- ▶ LPTP is a FOL ITP for pure Prolog
- ▶ LPTP has an Emacs-based IDE with T<sub>E</sub>X/HTML output
- ▶ LPTP now runs directly in any modern web browser:
  - ▶ the [Ciao Prolog Playground for LPTP](#)
- ▶ LPTP provides a *unified framework* for natural deduction proofs applied to propositional logic, FOL, and pure Prolog
- ▶ Blending LPTP with modern technologies opens research opportunities

Please share your comments, bug reports and ideas about these slides: [frederic.mesnard@univ-reunion.fr](mailto:frederic.mesnard@univ-reunion.fr)

Thank you!

## Example 1

Let  $P_1$  be:

$p :- p.$

$\text{IND}(P_1)$  contains:

$$\mathbf{S}p \leftrightarrow \mathbf{S}p \quad (1)$$

$$\mathbf{F}p \leftrightarrow \mathbf{F}p \quad (2)$$

$$\mathbf{T}p \leftrightarrow \mathbf{T}p \quad (3)$$

$$\neg(\mathbf{S}p \wedge \mathbf{F}p) \quad (4)$$

$$\mathbf{T}p \rightarrow (\mathbf{S}p \vee \mathbf{F}p) \quad (5)$$

There are five models of  $\text{IND}(P_1)$ :

```
?- sat(\~(S*F)*(T =< (S+F))), labeling([S,F,T]).
```

```
S = F, F = T, T = 0 ; % 0 0 0
```

```
S = T, T = 0, F = 1 ; % 0 1 0
```

```
S = 0, F = T, T = 1 ; % 0 1 1
```

```
S = 1, F = T, T = 0 ; % 1 0 0
```

```
S = T, T = 1, F = 0. % 1 0 1
```

## Example 2

Let  $P_2$  be:

```
p :- \+ p.
```

$\text{IND}(P_2)$  contains:

$$\mathbf{S}p \leftrightarrow \mathbf{F}p \quad (6)$$

$$\mathbf{T}p \leftrightarrow \mathbf{T}p \quad (7)$$

$$\neg(\mathbf{S}p \wedge \mathbf{F}p) \quad (8)$$

$$\mathbf{T}p \rightarrow (\mathbf{S}p \vee \mathbf{F}p) \quad (9)$$

There is only one model of  $\text{IND}(P_2)$ :

```
?- sat((S =:= F)* \~(S*F)*(T =< (S+F))), labeling([S,F,T]).  
S = F, F = T, T = 0. % 0 0 0  
?-
```

## Example 2

Here are the proofs:

```
:‐ lemma(not_s_p, ~ succeeds p,  
contra(succeeds p, [fails p, ff])).
```

```
:‐ lemma(not_f_p, ~ fails p,  
contra(fails p, [succeeds p, ff])).
```

```
:‐ lemma(not_t_p, ~ terminates p,  
contra(terminates p,  
[succeeds p \/\ fails p,  
cases(succeeds p,  
      [~ succeeds p by lemma(not_s_p), ff],  
      fails p,  
      [~ fails p by lemma(not_f_p), ff],  
      ff),  
ff))).
```

## Example 3

Let  $P_3$  be:

$$p \coloneqq q. \quad p \coloneqq \text{\textbackslash}+ q. \quad q \coloneqq q.$$

$\text{IND}(P_3)$  contains:

$$\mathbf{S}p \leftrightarrow \mathbf{S}q \vee \mathbf{F}q \tag{10}$$

$$\mathbf{F}p \leftrightarrow \mathbf{F}q \wedge \mathbf{S}q \tag{11}$$

$$\mathbf{T}p \leftrightarrow \mathbf{T}q \wedge \mathbf{T}q \tag{12}$$

$$\neg(\mathbf{S}p \wedge \mathbf{F}p), \neg(\mathbf{S}q \wedge \mathbf{F}q) \tag{13}$$

$$\mathbf{T}p \rightarrow (\mathbf{S}p \vee \mathbf{F}p), \mathbf{T}q \rightarrow (\mathbf{S}q \vee \mathbf{F}q) \tag{14}$$

## Example 3

There are five models for  $\text{IND}(P_3)$ :

```
?- sat((Sp =:= Sq+Fq)*(Fp =:= Fq*Sq)*(Tp =:= Tq)*  
~(Sp*Fp)* ~ (Sq*Fq)*(Tp <= (Sp+Fp))*(Tq <= (Sq+Fq))),L=  
[Sp,Fp,Tp,Sq,Fq,Tq],labeling(L),writeln(L),fail.  
[0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0]  
[1, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0]  
[1, 0, 1, 0, 1, 1]  
[1, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0]  
[1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 1]  
false.  
?-
```

Note that  $\text{IND}(P_3)$  models  $\neg \mathbf{F}p$  and  $\mathbf{T}q \rightarrow \mathbf{S}p$ .

## Example 3

Here are the proofs:

```
:-
    lemma(n_f_p, ~ fails p,
contra(fails p, [def fails p by completion,
                  fails q & succeeds q, ff])).
:-
    lemma(t_q_imp_s_p, terminates q => succeeds p,
assume(terminates q,
       [succeeds q \vee fails q,
        cases(succeeds q, succeeds p by sld,
              fails q, succeeds p by sld,
              succeeds p)],
       succeeds p)).
:-
    lemma(t_q_imp_s_p:alt, terminates q => succeeds p, []).
```