PL 2.0 User Guide

Introduction

PL 2.0 is the second generation of a module that adds Prolog style logic programming capabilities to Python. PL was designed for users who are already very familiar with both Python and Prolog, and who seek a closer integration of the two languages. This reference manual explains how users can use each of PL's features to implement Prolog functionality in Python. In each case, it provides brief examples of translating Prolog code to the PL equivalent. Readers seeking additional information are referred to the Appendix, which provides several detailed examples of complete Prolog programs and their equivalent PL versions.

Predicates

All predicates that the user plans to work with must initially be declared by creating instances of the PL.Predicate class, using the following format:

```
PredName = Predicate(stringOfName)
```

Below is an example of defining the predicate child:

```
child = Predicate("child")
```

Once defined, a predicate can be used in the form of PredName (args).

Variables

PL treats variables identically to Prolog. Ordinary variables are represented by non-zero length strings beginning with an uppercase character. For example, valid variables would include "X" and "Madonna". PL also fully implements Prolog's *anonymous variable* feature, in which variables starting with an "_" serve as temporary placeholder variables.

Constants

Constants in PL comprise any numbers or strings without spaces that do not begin with an uppercase character or "_". Examples of constants include "apple", "++PLUS", "'Bubble'", and 19.2. To include blank spaces within a constant, there must be single quotes within the string, e.g., "'Hello, World!'".

Lists

PL lists can be written in one of two formats:

- 1. As a collection of terms in square brackets, e.g.: ["X", "banana", "orange", 7]
- 2. In the form of [Head, "|", Tail], which works equivalently to the Prolog [Head|Tail] format. Examples include:

```
["H1", "H2", "|", "T"]
["a", "b", "|", ["c"]]
```

Facts

To declare a *fact* in PL, use a predicate followed by the symbols ">> []". The [] represents an empty list, and is used to differentiate facts from rules (which, see below). The full format for creating facts is shown below:

```
PredName(args) >> []
```

The following table provides examples of Prolog facts along with their corresponding PL equivalents.

Prolog	PL
male(X).	male("X") >> []
child(finn, kyle).	<pre>child("finn", "kyle") >> []</pre>

Rules

Rules are added similarly to facts. However, rather than an empty list following the >>, rules must include a list of the goals that must be completed to satisfy the rule.

```
PredName(args) >> [goalPred1(args), goalPred2(args), ...]
```

The following table provides examples of Prolog rules along with their corresponding PL equivalents.

Prolog	PL
parent(A, B) :- child(B, A).	parent("A", "B") >> [child("B", "A")]
<pre>father(A, B) :- male(A), parent(A, B).</pre>	<pre>father("A", "B") >> [male("A"), parent("A", "B")]</pre>

Queries

PL *queries* consist of the keyword "query" followed by the << symbol and a list containing the goals being queried, as shown here:

```
query << [goalPred1(args), goalPred2(args), ...]</pre>
```

Once the query is made, query is set to a list of all the results, where each element of the list is either a dictionary of the unified values or the boolean value True.

The user may optionally choose to return only a specified number of results by adding a parameter numResults to the query as shown here:

```
query(numResults) << [goalPred1(args), goalPred2(args), ...]</pre>
```

This limited form of guery can be especially useful in cases where a guery has infinite results.

```
# Add a predicate.
color = Predicate("color")

# Add facts.
color("blue") >> []
color("red") >> []
color("green") >> []

# Run a query.
query << [color("X")]
print(query) # Prints [{'X': 'blue'}, {'X': 'red'}, {'X': 'green'}]

# Run the same query, limited to two results.
query(2) << [color("X")]
print(query) # Prints [{'X': 'blue'}, {'X': 'red'}]</pre>
```

While query is the default keyword to begin queries, it is possible to create queries with other names by creating a new Query () object. This can be useful for users who wish to query multiple things at once.

```
colorQuery = Query()
colorQuery << [color("X")]</pre>
```

Math

PL supports the standard Prolog math operators: +, -, *, /, //, ^, **, mod, and %. Note that some of these operators are equivalent, such as ^ with ** and % with mod. This allows users to type math in their choice of Python or Prolog style. PL also supports the standard mathematical use of parentheses for grouping. Mathematical expressions must be input in the form of a string.

equals/2 Predicate

The equals/2 predicate evaluates its arguments and tries to unify them. This works similarly to the Prolog is/2 predicate, but unlike is/2, equals works with either argument unbound.

```
# Two example cases with their results.
query << [equals("X", "(4 + 5) * 2")] # [{'X': '18'}]
query << [equals(4, "X")] # [{'X': '4'}]</pre>
```

format /2 Predicate

The format_/2 predicate in PL combines the Python format() function with the Prolog format/2 predicate. The PL predicate takes two arguments: i) a string of what the user wishes to print with {} (curly braces) representing places for variables to be inserted, and ii) a list of corresponding variables to fill the braces. There must be the same number of variables as curly braces. When the string is printed, the variables will be filled in for each of the placeholder braces.

Prolog	PL
<pre>format("~w's brother is ~w.", [Child1, Child2]).</pre>	<pre>format_("{}'s brother is {}.",</pre>

Built-In Predicates

PL implements many of the standard Prolog built-in predicates.

A full list is below:

fail # fail/0 # write/1 write **# nl**/0 nl # member/2 member # append/3 append # !/0 setEqual # = /2notEqual # \=/2 call # call/1 # \+/1 not # </2 lt # =</2 le # >/2 gt **# >=**/2 ge # between/3 between # len/2 length # permutation/2 permutation reverse # reverse/2 # Explanation above. equals # Explanation above. format

All predicates above must be written in the form predName(args). In the case where the predicate has an arity of 0, args may be empty, but the parenthesis are still needed. For example, the failure predicate fail/2 is used in the form fail().

Appendix

This appendix contains selected examples of full Prolog programs, followed by their PL equivalents. For brevity, some portions of code have been shortened, but the full code for every model is available at the PL GitHub: <u>LordAsterisk/PL (github.com)</u>

Programs include:

- 1. Collatz conjecture
- 2. Family relationship model
- 3. Flight-Planning System
- 4. Maze traversal

1a. Collatz conjecture in Prolog

```
% This code can be found in the following GitHub file:
% PL/collatz.pl at master · LordAsterisk/PL (github.com)
collatz(N, N).
collatz(N0, N) :-
    0 is mod(N0, 2),
    N1 is N0 / 2,
    collatz(N1, N).
collatz(N0, N) :-
    1 is mod(N0, 2),
    N1 is 3 * N0 + 1,
    collatz(N1, N).
% Example query:
% ?- collatz(10, L).
```

1b. Collatz conjecture in PL

2a. Family Relationship Model code written in Prolog

```
male(bob).
male(john).
male(alphonse).
male(jiri).
female(kathryn).
female (beatrice).
female (bertha).
female(fergie).
child(bob, john).
child(bob, kathryn).
child(jiri, alphonse).
child(jiri, emma).
parent(A, B) :- child(B, A).
father(A, B) :- male(A), parent(A, B).
mother(A, B) :- female(A), parent(A, B).
sibling(A, B) :- parent(X, A), parent(X, B), A = B.
uncle(A, B) :- parent(X, B), sibling(A, X), male(A).
aunt(A, B) :- parent(X, B), sibling(A, X), female(A).
ancestor(A, B) :- parent(A, B).
ancestor(A, B) :- parent(A, X), ancestor(X, B).
first_cousin(A, B) :- parent(X, A), sibling(Y, X), parent(Y, B).
```

2b. Family Relationship Model code written in PL

```
male = Predicate("male")
female = Predicate("female")
child = Predicate("child")
parent = Predicate("parent")
father = Predicate("father")
mother = Predicate("mother")
sibling = Predicate("sibling")
uncle = Predicate("uncle")
aunt = Predicate("aunt")
ancestor = Predicate("ancestor")
first cousin = Predicate("first cousin")
male("bob") >> []
male("john") >> []
male("alphonse") >> []
female("kathryn") >> []
female("beatrice") >> []
female("bertha") >> []
female("fergie") >> []
child("bob", "john") >> []
child("jiri", "alphonse") >> []
child("jiri", "emma") >> []
parent("A", "B") >> [child("B", "A")]
father("A", "B") >> [male("A"), parent("A", "B")]
```

```
mother("A", "B") >> [female("A"), parent("A", "B")]

sibling("A", "B") >> [parent("X", "A"), parent("X", "B"), notEqual("A", "B")]

uncle("A", "B") >> [parent("X", "B"), sibling("A", "X"), male("A")]

aunt("A", "B") >> [parent("X", "B"), sibling("A", "X"), female("A")]

ancestor("A", "B") >> [parent("A", "B")]

ancestor("A", "B") >> [parent("A", "X"), ancestor("X", "B")]

first_cousin("A", "B") >> [parent("X", "A"), sibling("Y", "X"), parent("Y", "B")]

# Example query:
query << [ancestor("ben", "X")]
print(query) # Prints [{'X': 'john'}, {'X': 'lillian'}, {'X': 'bob'}, {'X': 'beatrice'}, {'X': 'marjorie'}, {'X': 'david'}]</pre>
```

3a. Simple Flight-Planning System written in Prolog.

Code directly taken from here, and will be removed if requested by the owner:

www.csci.viu.ca/~wesselsd/courses/csci330/code/prolog/flights.pl

```
airport('Nanaimo', 'YCD').
airport('Vancouver', 'YVR').
airport('Victoria', 'YYJ').
airport('Calgary', 'YYC').
airport('Lethbridge', 'YQL').
airport('Kamloops', 'YKA').
flight('YCD', 'YYC').
flight('YKA', 'YQL').
flight('YYC', 'YYJ').
flight('YYC', 'YVR').
flights(D,A) :- airport(Dname,D), airport(Aname,A),
   flight(D,A), format("Direct flight \sim w(\sim w) to \sim w(\sim w) \sim n", [Dname,D,Aname,A]).
```

3b. Simple Flight-Planning System written in PL

```
airport = Predicate("airport")
flight = Predicate("flight")
flights = Predicate("flights")
airport("'Nanaimo'", "'YCD'") >> []
airport("'Vancouver'", "'YVR'") >> []
airport("'Victoria'", "'YYJ'") >> []
airport("'Calgary'", "'YYC'") >> []
airport("'Lethbridge'", "'YQL'") >> []
airport("'Kamloops'", "'YKA'") >> []
flight("'YCD'", "'YYC'") >> []
flight("'YCD'", "'YVR'") >> []
flight("'YKA'", "'YQL'") >> []
flight("'YYC'", "'YYJ'") >> []
flight("'YYC'", "'YVR'") >> []
```

```
flights("D", "A") >> [
   airport("Dname", "D"),
   airport("Aname", "A"),
   flight("D", "A"),
   format ("Direct flight {}({}) to {}({})\n", ["Dname", "D", "Aname", "A"])]
flights("D", "A") >> [
   flight("D", "I"), notEqual("I", "A"), flight("I", "A"),
   airport("Dname", "D"), airport("Iname", "I"), airport("Aname", "A"),
flights("D", "A") >> [
   flight("D", "I"), notEqual("I", "A"), flight("I", "J"), notEqual("J", "A"),
   notEqual("J", "D"), flight("J", "A"), airport("Dname", "D"),
   airport("Aname", "A"), airport("Iname", "I"), airport("Jname", "J"),
"Aname", "A", "Iname", "I", "Jname", "J"])]
flights("DC", "AC") >> [airport("DC", "D"), airport("AC", "A"), flights("D", "A")]
```

4a. Maze traversal written in Prolog

```
maxeWall(0,0).
maxeWall(0,1).
maxeWall(0,2).
maxeWall(0,3).
maxeWall(0,4).
maxeWall(14,7).
maxeWall(14,8).
maxeWall(14,9).
maxeWall(14,10).
mazeWall(14,11).
mazeDimension(15,12).
mazeStartPos(13,6).
mazeEndPos(0,10).
```

```
mazeElement(R,C,'.',V) := member([R,C],V), !.
mazeNewLine(C) :- mazeDimension( ,C), nl.
printMaze(WinningPath) :-
    mazeDimension(Rows, Cols),
   between (0, Rows, Row),
   between(0, Cols, Col),
   mazeElement(Row, Col, Appearance, WinningPath),
   write(Appearance),
   mazeNewLine(Col),
printUnsolvedMaze :-
   printMaze([]).
printSolvedMaze :-
   mazeStartPos(StartR, StartC),
   printMaze(Visited).
winningPath(Path) :-
   reverse (Path1, Path).
```

```
direction(n).
direction(s).
direction(e).
direction(w).
   NewCol is OldCol + 1,
   NewCol < Y,
   NewCol >= 0.
    NewCol is OldCol - 1,
   not(mazeWall(OldRow, NewCol)),
   mazeDimension( , Y),
   NewCol < Y,
   NewCol >= 0.
   not(mazeWall(NewRow, OldCol)),
   NewRow < X,
   NewRow >= 0.
newPos(OldRow, OldCol, s, NewRow, OldCol) :-
   NewRow is OldRow + 1,
   not(mazeWall(NewRow, OldCol)),
   NewRow < X,
   NewRow >= 0.
move (CurrentR, CurrentC, NewR, NewC, PosVisitedIn, PosVisitedOut, MoveListIn,
MoveListOut) :-
   direction(D),
   newPos(CurrentR, CurrentC, D, NewR, NewC),
   not(member([NewR, NewC], PosVisitedIn)),
   append([[NewR, NewC]], PosVisitedIn, PosVisitedOut),
    append([D], MoveListIn, MoveListOut).
```

```
% Solve the maze by repeatedly calling move. Stops when
% we reach the maze ending position.
solve(R,C,_NextR,_NextC,VisitedIn,VisitedIn,MoveListIn,MoveListIn) :-
    mazeEndPos(R, C), !.
solve(R,C,_NextR,_NextC,VisitedIn,VisitedOut,MoveListIn,MoveListOut) :-
    move(R, C, NewR, NewC, VisitedIn, V2, MoveListIn, M2),
    solve(NewR, NewC, _, _, V2, VisitedOut, M2, MoveListOut).
```

4b. Maze traversal written in PL

```
mazeWall = Predicate("mazeWall")
solve = Predicate("solve")
mazeDimension = Predicate("mazeDimension")
mazeStartPos = Predicate("mazeStartPos")
mazeEndPos = Predicate("mazeEndPos")
mazeElement = Predicate("mazeElement")
mazeNewLine = Predicate("mazeNewLine")
printMaze = Predicate("printMaze")
printUnsolvedMaze = Predicate("printUnsolvedMaze")
printSolvedMaze = Predicate("printSolvedMaze")
winningPath = Predicate("winningPath")
direction = Predicate("direction")
newPos = Predicate("newPos")
move = Predicate("move")
#####################
######################
maxeWall(0, 0) >> []
maxeWall(0, 1) \gg []
maxeWall(0, 2) \gg []
maxeWall(0, 3) \gg []
maxeWall(0, 4) \gg []
maxeWall(0, 5) \gg []
mazeWall(14, 7) \gg []
mazeWall(14, 8) >> []
mazeWall(14, 9) >> []
mazeWall(14, 10) >> []
mazeWall(14, 11) >> []
```

```
maxeDimension(15, 12) >> []
mazeStartPos(13, 6) >> []
mazeEndPos(0, 10) >> []
#####################
######################
mazeElement("R", "C", "'E'", " ") >> [mazeEndPos("R", "C"), cut()]
mazeElement("R", "C", "'*'", " ") >> [mazeWall("R", "C"), cut()]
mazeElement(" ", " ", "' '", " ") >> []
mazeNewLine("C") >> [mazeDimension(" ", "C"), nl()]
printMaze("WinningPath") >> [
   mazeDimension("Rows", "Cols"),
   between (0, "Rows", "Row"),
   between(0, "Cols", "Col"),
   mazeElement("Row", "Col", "Appearance", "WinningPath"),
   write("Appearance"),
   mazeNewLine("Col"),
    fail()]
printUnsolvedMaze() >> [printMaze([])]
```

```
printSolvedMaze() >> [
   mazeStartPos("StartR", "StartC"),
   solve("StartR", "StartC", " ", " ", [["StartR", "StartC"]], "Visited", [],
" "),
   printMaze("Visited")]
winningPath("Path") >> [
   mazeStartPos("StartR", "StartC"),
   solve("StartR", "StartC", " ", " ", [["StartR", "StartC"]], " ", [], "Path1"),
   reverse("Path1", "Path")]
#######################
######################
direction("n") >> []
direction("s") >> []
direction("e") >> []
direction("w") >> []
newPos("OldRow", "OldCol", "e", "OldRow", "NewCol") >> [
    equals("NewCol", "OldCol + 1"),
   not (mazeWall("OldRow", "NewCol")),
    lt("NewCol", "Y"),
   ge("NewCol", 0)]
newPos("OldRow", "OldCol", "w", "OldRow", "NewCol") >> [
    equals("NewCol", "OldCol - 1"),
   not (mazeWall("OldRow", "NewCol")),
   mazeDimension(" ", "Y"),
   lt("NewCol", "Y"),
    ge("NewCol", 0)]
newPos("OldRow", "OldCol", "n", "NewRow", "OldCol") >> [
    equals("NewRow", "OldRow - 1"),
```

```
mazeDimension("X", " "),
   ge("NewRow", 0)]
newPos("OldRow", "OldCol", "s", "NewRow", "OldCol") >> [
   equals("NewRow", "OldRow + 1"),
   not (mazeWall("NewRow", "OldCol")),
   lt("NewRow", "X"),
   ge("NewRow", 0)]
move("CurrentR", "CurrentC", "NewR", "NewC", "PosVisitedIn", "PosVisitedOut",
   append([["NewR", "NewC"]], "PosVisitedIn", "PosVisitedOut"),
   append(["D"], "MoveListIn", "MoveListOut")]
solve("R", "C", " NextR", " NextC", "VisitedIn", "VisitedIn", "MoveListIn",
   mazeEndPos("R", "C"), cut()]
solve("R", "C", " NextR", " NextC", "VisitedIn", "VisitedOut", "MoveListIn",
"MoveListOut") >> [
```