

Chapter 1: Introduction

"What" vs "How"

Declarative vs Procedural Programming

Procedural programming

- The programmer has to specify how to get the output for the range of required inputs.
- The programmer must know the appropriate algorithm.

Declarative programming

- Requires a more descriptive style.
- The programmer must know **what** relationships hold between various entities.
- Prolog – the most popular logic programming language.
 - Used in Artificial Intelligence and Natural Language Processing.

Example: List Concatenation

3

In procedural style:

```
list procedure cat(list a,list b)
{
    list t = list u = copylist(a);
    while (t.tail != nil) t = t.tail;
    t.tail = b;
    return u;
}
```

In declarative style:

```
cat([], L, L).
cat([H | T], L, [H | Z]) :- cat(T, L, Z).
```

Contents

4

Basics of PROLOG

Facts

Questions

Variables

Conjunction

Rules

PROLOG

5

- Used to solve problems involving objects, and relationships between objects.
- Program can be thought of as a storehouse of facts and rules.
- Conversational Language: The user can ask questions about the set of facts and rules in the PROLOG program.

Relationships

6

Example

John owns the book

- The relationship: *ownership*
- The objects: *book, John*

Directional:

- John owns the book
- **Not:** The book owns John

PROLOG

7

Sisters Example:

- A rule defining sisters and the facts about the people involved.
- The user would ask:
 - ▣ **Are these two people sisters?**
- The system would answer
 - ▣ **yes** (true) or **no** (false)

Programming in PROLOG

8

- Declaring Facts about objects and their relationships.
- Defining Rules about objects and their relationships.
- Asking Questions about objects and their relationships.

Contents

9

Basics of PROLOG

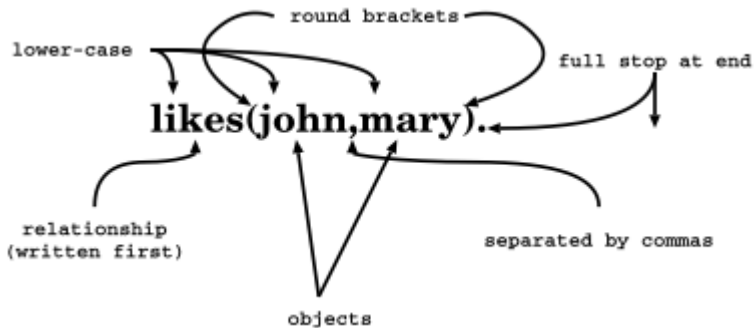
Facts

Questions

Variables

Conjunction

Rules



Order of Objects

11

`likes(mary, john) .`

order defined by programmer

`mary` $\xrightarrow{\text{likes}}$ `john`

The fact says nothing
about how john likes mary

`john . . . no info . . . ► mary`

Examples of Facts

12

Example

Gold is valuable.

valuable(gold)

Jane is a female.

female(jane)

John owns some gold.

owns(john,gold)

John is the father of Mary.

father(john,mary)

Are these expressions really facts? Is there anything missing?

Interpretation of Names

13

The name refers to an object.

- **Semantic Meaning:** Given by the programmer.
- **Syntactic Meaning:** a set of characters, as PROLOG sees it.

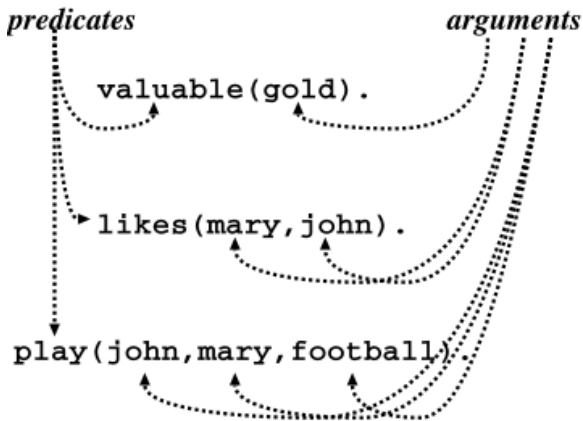
Interpretation of Names

14

- Name refers to an object.
- Name gold can refer to:
 - ▣ a particular lump of gold, or
 - ▣ the chemical element Gold having atomic number .79
- valuable(gold) can mean:
 - ▣ that particular lump of gold, named gold, is valuable, or
 - ▣ the chemical element Gold, named gold, is valuable.
- The programmer decides (in his/her usage) the meaning.

Fact Terminology

15



Database

16

Definition

In PROLOG, **database** is a collection of facts.

- PROLOG draws its knowledge from these facts.
- The programmer is responsible for their accuracy.

Contents

17

Basics of PROLOG

Facts

Questions

Variables

Conjunction

Rules

Questions

18

- The database contains the facts from which the questions are answered.
- A Question can look exactly like a fact:
 - `owns(mary,book).`
- The difference is in which mode one is in

Questions

19

- In the interactive question mode (indicated by the question mark and dash): ? -

- Question: ? - owns(mary,book).
 - Meaning: If mary is interpreted as a person called Mary, and book is interpreted as some particular book, then

- ?- owns(mary,book).
 - means: Does Mary own the book?

Database Search

20

Example

Facts in the database:

likes(joe,fish).

likes(joe,mary).

likes(mary,book).

likes(john,book).

Questions:

?- likes(joe,money). no

?- likes(joe,mary). yes

?- king(john,france).no

Knowledge

21

The questions are always answered with respect to the database.

Example

Facts in the database:

`human(socrates).`

`human(aristotle).`

`athenian(socrates).`

Question:

Is Socrates Greek?

?- `greek(socrates)`

The answer with respect to this database is **No**.

Questions

22

Up until now questions just reflect exactly the database.

Does Mary like the book?
?- likes(mary,book).

More Interesting Question: What
objects does Mary like?

Variables.

Contents

23

Basics of PROLOG

Facts

Questions

Variables

Conjunction

Rules

Question With Variables

24

What does John like?

?- likes(john,X).

or

?- likes(john,SomethingThatJohnLikes).

X and SomethingThatJohnLikes are variables.

Variable begins with a capital letter.

PROLOG Answer

25

Database:

`likes(john,flowers).`

Question:

?- `likes(john,X).`

PROLOG answers:

`X=flowers`

Many Answers

26

Database:

likes(john,flowers).

likes(john,mary).

likes(paul,mary).

Question:

?-likes(john,X).

PROLOG answers:

X=flowers

and the user acknowledges

X=mary

and the user acknowledges

no

Placemaker

27

- The first match is found: $X = \text{flowers}$.
- The user acknowledges.
 - ▣ From that place on the next match is found (the search continues).
 - ▣ From the place of the last instantiation no more match was found.
 - ▣ Thus answer: no.

Contents

28

Basics of PROLOG

Facts

Questions

Variables

Conjunction

Rules

Conjunctions

29

More Complicated Relationships:

Does Mary like John and does John like Mary?

Both Conditions must be fulfilled.

Conjunctions

30

Database:

likes(mary,food).

likes(mary,cola).

likes(john,cola).

likes(john,mary).

Comma means Conjunction:

?- likes(john,mary), likes(mary,john).

Answer: no

A match for likes(john,mary)

but none for likes(mary,john)

Conjunctions with Variables

31

Is there anything that both mary and john like?

Find out what Mary likes and then see if John likes it.

?- likes(mary,X), likes(john,X).

PROLOG answers:

X=cola

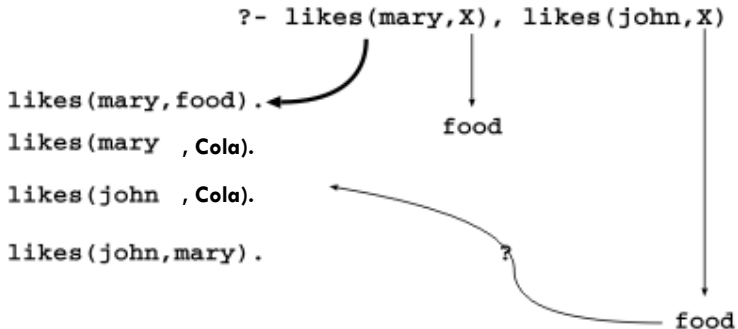
Backtracking

32

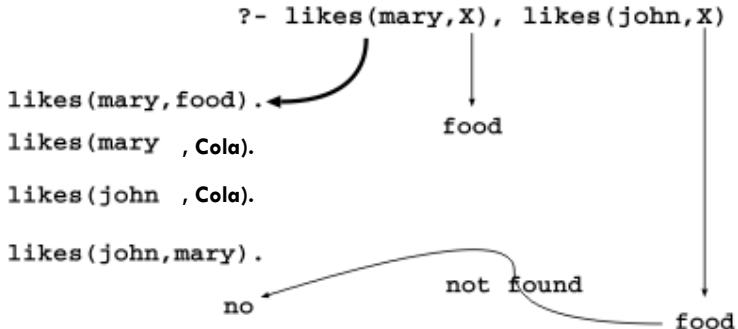
- Find match for the first goal.
- Then see if matches the second.
- If not, find another match for the first.
- See if this matches the second.
- ...etc.

Match First

33

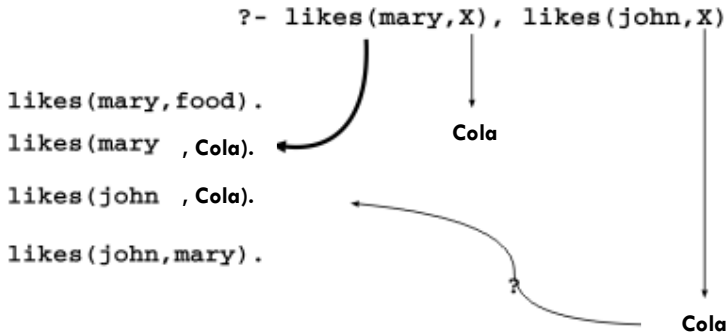


Match Second



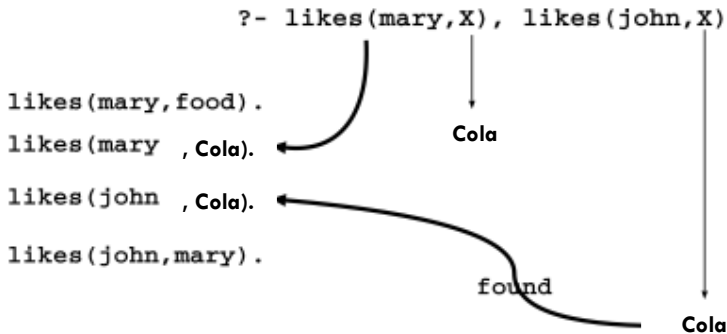
Backtrack

35



Success

36



Contents

37

Basics of PROLOG

Facts

Questions

Variables

Conjunction

Rules

Rules

38

- How to express that John likes all people?
- Listing all people?
 - likes(john, alfred).
 - likes(john, bertrand).
 - likes(john, charles).
 - likes(john, david).
 - etc.
- Not feasible. More compact way: Using **rules**.
John likes any object provided(if) it is a person.

Rule Examples

39

- Rules state Dependence:

I use an umbrella **if** there is rain.

- Rules Define:

X is a bird **if** X is an animal and X has feathers.

Formulating Rules

40

- John likes anyone who likes cola.
- John likes any Something if it likes cola
- John likes X if X likes cola

Rule Syntax

$\underbrace{\text{likes}(\text{john}, X)}_{\text{head}} \quad \underbrace{:-}_{\text{rule delimiter (if)}} \quad \underbrace{\text{likes}(X, \text{Cola})}_{\text{body}}.$

Variable Scope

42

The occurrences of X within a rule refer to the same object:

```
likes(john,X):- likes(X ,cola),likes(X,food).
```

```
likes(john,mary):-
```

```
likes(mary,cola),likes(mary,food).
```

```
likes(john,adam):- likes(adam, cola),likes(adam,  
food).
```

Royal Parents

43

Example

The parents of X are Y and Z.

Y is the mother.

Z is the father.

Database:

`male(albert).`

`male(edward).`

`female(alice).`

`female(victoria).`

`parents(edward,victoria,albert).`

`parents(alice,victoria,albert).`

Sisters

44

Example

X is a sister of Y if:

X is female,

X has parents M and F,

Y has parents M and F.

Rule:

```
sister(X,Y):-female(X),  
               parents(X,M,F),  
               parents(Y,M,F).
```

Sisters Question

45

```
sister(X,Y):-female(X),
               parents(X,M,F),
               parents(Y,M,F)
```

Question:

?- sister(alice,edward).

The question (goal) matches the head of the rule, if one replaces *X* with *alice* and *Y* with *edward*.

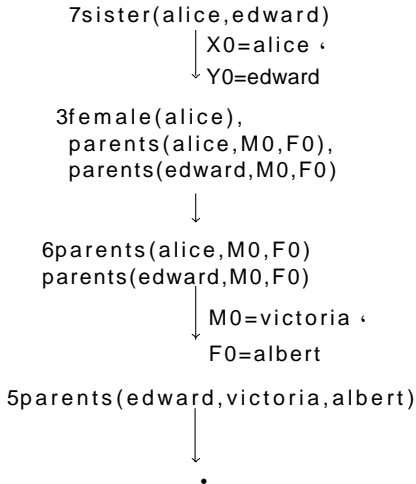
The instance of the body becomes new goal:

```
female(alice), parents(alice,M,F),
parents(edward,M,F).
```

Is Alice Edward's Sister?

46

- (1) male(albert).
- (2) male(edward).
- (3) female(alice).
- (4) female(victoria).
- (5) parents(edward,
victoria, albert).
- (6) parents(alice,
victoria, albert).
- (7) sister(X,Y):-
female(X),
parents(X,M,F),
parents(Y,M,F).



Who's Sister Is Alice?

47

- (1) male(albert).
- (2) male(edward).
- (3) female(alice).
- (4) female(victoria).
- (5) parents(edward,
victoria, albert).
- (6) parents(alice,
victoria, albert).
- (7) sister(X,Y):-
female(X),
parents(X,M,F),
parents(Y,M,F).

```
7sister(alice,X)
  ↓ X0=alice,
  Y0=X
3female(alice),
  parents(alice,M0,F0),
  parents(X,M0,F0).
  ↓
6parents(alice,M0,F0),
  parents(X,M0,F0).
  ↓ M0=victoria
  F0=albert
5parents(X,victoria,albert)
  ↓ X=edward
  •
```

Answer: X = edward.