Robinson Crusoe's Prolog Adventure

Course of Methods in Computer Science Education: Analysis

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Introduction

The purpose of this report is to outline the process of creating a learning unit that integrates the story of Robinson Crusoe through the use of Prolog, drawing inspiration from the famous game created in 1976 called Colossal Cave Adventure (also known as Adventure or ADVENT). Advent is a text-based adventure game, released by developer Will Crowther for the PDP-10 mainframe computer. The game consists of several environments through which the player moves and interacts using one- or two-word commands, interpreted by the game's natural language input system.

So, as already mentioned, the main goal of this learning unit is to integrate educational concepts by involving students in the story of Robinson Crusoe, while also leveraging the capabilities of Prolog.

Prerequisites and Class

The proposed learning unit is designed to align with the fourth-year program of the "Liceo Scientifico ind. Scienze Applicate." There are two reasons why this decision was made. Firstly, it follows the ministerial programs for English, where Robinson Crusoe is studied during the fourth year. Secondly, it considers the appropriateness of introducing Prolog during this year, emphasizing the need for students to have a solid foundation in programming basics before delving into a language with relatively complex logic programming paradigms. While getting started with Prolog can be a little difficult, once students understand its basic operation, writing a program should be fairly simple.

In terms of **Computer Science** prerequisites, students need to have basic programming knowledge and logical reasoning skills. The transition to Prolog is highlighted by the focus on declarative programming, especially in the context of logical programming. In order to proceed, it is recommended to have the ability to solve problems and think critically which will be useful to the student in the development of the game and actions to be carried out.

The **Prolog prerequisites** focus on the language's syntax, including facts, rules, and predicates. In detail, during the Prolog-based programming phase, students need to possess the skills to interpret and modify Prolog code that involves clauses and relationships and a proficiency in list manipulation, dynamic predicates using "dynamic" and "assert" for data management.

As regards the **English literature** topics, students are required to have studied Daniel Defoe, specifically his famous plot named *Robinson Crusoe*. This prior knowledge is crucial for applying logic programming concepts, modeling situations and interactions within the narrative, and implementing Prolog predicates that mirror the actions and decisions in the story.

Learning Objectives and Motivations

Analyzing key aspects of Robinson Crusoe's history and subsequently translating them into Prolog structures offers students the chance to improve their understanding of Computer Science and English Literature topics. So, at the end of the Learning Unit, students will acquire basic knowledge of Prolog, the logical programming paradigm style. In the context of Robinson Crusoe, the learning unit will help facilitate a deeper understanding of the plot and characters through programming.

The guidelines given to students are as follows:

"After studying Daniel Defoe, in particular his work "Robinson Crusoe", identify the key elements of the plot to create an adventure game inspired by the famous game "Colossal Cave Adventure"

using Prolog which we saw during the course. To progress through the game's narrative, the player must make the correct choices that will lead to win.

Furthermore, as illustrated in Defoe's work, faith played a crucial role. Therefore, you have to incorporate puzzles into the game that allow the player to unlock the Bible, which played a vital role for Robinson.

Note: You must work in pairs with a classmates."

Rules given:

- The students can use the plot to consult during the programming session and use all the creativity to create situations and enigmi;
- Additionally, students can use all online documentation and the slides to create Prolog-related code.

Structure of the Lectures

The teaching unit will be delivered in the last month of the first semester of the fourth year. In fact, students at the end of the semester will have acquired the necessary skills in Computer Science. The students will work in pairs in order to help each other. This choice also lies in teaching students to work in teams during a programming session using pair programming. To complete the learning unit, it will take 3 weeks. The students will work in the computer laboratory where Prolog and the SWI-Prolog IDE will already be installed. Considering 2 hours per week, it was decided to divide the lessons as follows:

- Les. 1: Introduction to the novel and preliminary discussion;
- Les. 2-4: Step-by-step guide to creating your own game using Prolog;
- Les 5: Test and debug the game;
- Les. 6: Presentation of student projects and final discussion.

During the last lesson students will receive their grades. In the following paragraph we find the related evaluation grid.

Evaluation Grid

Criteria	Well Done	Good	Sufficient	Insufficient
Understanding	Thorough un-	Clear and com-	Basic understand-	Limited under-
of Robinson	derstanding with	prehensive un-	ing of the novel's	standing of key
Crusoe*	critical analysis	derstanding with	plot and charac-	elements. The
	and insightful	accurate identifica-	ters, with some in-	students are not
	interpretations.	tion of keys parts	accuracies.	able to understand
		of the plot and		the plot.
		characters.		
Prolog	Advanced capaci-	Good use of Pro-	Basic application of	Difficulty in apply-
Programming*	ties with creative	log, demonstrating	Prolog, with some	ing basic Prolog
	and efficient use of	understanding of	errors and limita-	concepts, frequent
	the language.	logical program-	tions in complexity.	errors, and lack of
		ming and effective		understanding.
		implementation.		
Game Design	Excellent creativity	Effectively incorpo-	Basic attempts at	The students used
and Creativity	and good integra-	rating creative ele-	creativity, but the	minimal effort to
	tion of Robinson	ments from Robin-	code lacks depth	incorporate novel
	Crusoe elements.	son Crusoe.	and effective inte-	elements.
			gration of novel el-	
			ements.	
Final	Excellent presen-	Clear and orga-	Basic presentation	Ineffective presen-
Presentation	tation, confidently	nized presentation,	skills, with some	tation, lack of clar-
	conveying all	the students were	difficulty in explain	ity, and difficulty
	aspects of the	able to explain the	key aspects.	in explaining im-
	project. Also	features and design		plemented features.
	the code is well	choices.		
	commented.			

(*) Please Note: The final grade will be a combination of performance in each criterion, and the criteria are not equally weighted. Emphasis will be placed on Prolog programming skills and understanding of Robinson Crusoe.

Development

For the development of the LU the students will be followed step-by-step in the laboratory to create a functioning and coherent code in pairs. Two versions of the code were created: one version that contains the optimal solution to obtain the highest score from the students and a sufficient solution of minimum requirements for the lowest grade to pass the Lu.

Optimal Solution

The LU with the highest mark has been realized through the implementation of the code of several functionalities that are summarized as follow:

- Story Steps: The story is divided into different steps, each with a title and a detailed description;
- Choices: For each step, the player is presented with a set of choices to make.
- Correct Choices: Valid choices are explicitly defined for each step;
- Consequences: Consequences are provided for each combination of step and choice, describing the outcome of the player's decision;
- Puzzles: Some steps involve puzzles that the player needs to solve by providing correct answers;
- Inventory System:Implements an inventory system to track collected items.
- Game Logic: At least, students have to develop the main logic of the game, including starting the game, handling user choices, progressing through steps, managing puzzles and inventory, and restarting the game.

In the following screenshot, it's possible to see how the code work. The user has to choose between two options to continue the story. When they make a wrong choice, they go back to step 1. This choice is based on making the student memorize the important passages of the story of Robinson Crusoe and on remembering the correct order of events in the plot. Keep in mind that the user has to use the predicate 'start_game.' in order to initiate the game and make their initial choices for progression.

```
SWI-Prolog -- c/Users/user/vscode/extensions/arthurwang.vsc-prolog-0.8.23/out/src/utils/findmodule.pl

-- start_game.

Welcome to the Adventure of Robinson Crusoe!
Robinson Crusoe, a young Englishaan, decides to defy his father's will and sets out on a sea voyage against his advice.

In this game, you will be Robinson and aust make the right decisions to save yourself.

Current Step: 1 - Escape, sea voyage
Description: At the age of 19. I decided to leave the house in search of sea adventures.
Choose an option by entering the corresponding number: [Board the ship to begin the journey, Stay at home and give up the adventure]
Deciding to embark on the adventure, I boarded the ship. The journey into the unknown began.

Inventory Progress: 0/2 pieces collected.

Choose your next step:

Current Step: 2 - Captured by a Turkish pirate, imprisonment
Description: After an initial shipwreck, I was captured by a Turkish pirate.

Choose an option by entering the corresponding number: [Accept your fate as a prisoner, Try to escape from prison]

[1] 1.

I accepted my fate and tried to adapt to prisoner life. My thirst for adventure was quelled.

Invalid choice! Restart.

Current Step: 1 - Escape, sea voyage
Description: At the age of 19, I decided to leave the house in search of sea adventures.

Choose an option by entering the corresponding number: [Board the ship to begin the journey, Stay at home and give up the adventure]

I consider the search of the ship to begin the journey, Stay at home and give up the adventure]
```

Figure 1: Starting the game

Puzzle point

During the game, players will be presented with questions, to which they must provide answers. If the answer is correct, the player will obtain an item that will be added to their inventory. When two questions are answered correctly, they unlock the Bible, which holds crucial value for Robinson in the novel.

- 1. **The Authenticity of the Story**: This puzzle questions whether the story is based on real events. The correct answer is "yes"
- 2. **Answer Friday's Questions**: Friday poses questions about your life on the island. Reflect on the most challenging aspect of your early days in solitude and how you overcame it. The answer to this puzzle is a single word: "faith"
- 3. **The Famous Parrot**: In the story, what is the name of the famous parrot that accompanies the protagonist on the deserted island? The correct answer to this puzzle is "poll"

Consequences:

- If the puzzle regarding the Authenticity of the Story is solved correctly, the special item "Map" is unlocked.
- If the puzzle regarding Friday's Questions is solved correctly, the player collects a piece of the Bible that will be useful for unlocking the Bible.
- If the puzzle regarding the Famous Parrot is solved correctly, the player obtains the special item "Knife."

Special Items:

- Map: leads to the discovery of a secret cave full of treasures or may lead to unexpected events like falling into a pit, depending on a random roll.
- Knife: an image of a knife will be shown and the story will skip two steps.
- Bible: once unlock the Bible the story will move on to Step 9.



Figure 2: Puzzle point

The special item: The map

When the user correctly answers the first puzzle about the truthfulness of the story, they will unlock the map. Then, as they explore, they will discover some strange indications leading to a secret cave. Upon entering the dark cavern, they stumble upon an old hidden chest in a crevice. The user is asked whether to open it or not. If the user chooses to open the chest, the consequence they receive will be randomly selected, either positive or negative. If they receive a positive consequence, they find a valuable treasure that advances them two steps in the story. However, if they receive a negative consequence, they fall into a pit, delaying their progress and causing them to step back one stage in the story.



Figure 3: The map

The special item: The knife

In that case an image of a knife will be shown and the story will skip two steps.

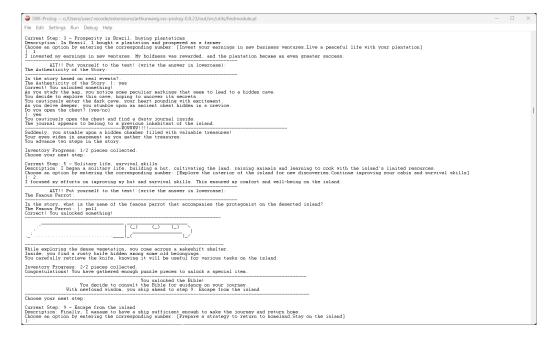


Figure 4: The knife

The special item: The Bible

A feature added concerns the addition of the Bible to the inventory. in fact when the user gets two puzzle pieces in the game he will unlock a special object that represents the bible.

The Bible in the game represents a significant turning point for the character, Robinson Crusoe. With newfound wisdom and guidance from the Bible, Robinson gains clarity and direction for his journey.

The Bible symbolizes a source of strength and spiritual guidance, which provides Robinson with the determination to continue his search for him. Once you unlock the Bible as a result, you will move on to Step 9: "Escape from the Island". This means that the wisdom gained from the Bible allows Robinson to accelerate his efforts to escape the island and return home. The screen below show how it works:

```
    I. Deciding to embark on the adventure, I boarded the ship. The journey into the unknown began.
Inventory Progress: 0/2 pieces collected.
    Choose your next step:

Current Step: 2 - Captured by a Turkish pirate, iaprisonment
Beacription: After an initial shippreck, I was captured by a Turkish pirate.
[Choose on option by entering the corresponding number: [Accopt your fate as a prisoner.Try to escape from prison]
1: 2. With courage, I attempted to escape from the prison. Through cleverness and determination, I managed to break free, gaining a valuable lesson in survival Inventory Progress: 0/2 pieces collected.
Choose your next step:
Current Step: 3 - Prosperity in Brazil, buying plantations
Description. In Brazil, I bought a plantation and prospered as a farmer.
Phonose on cynion by entering the corresponding number [Invest your earnings in new business wentures.Live a peaceful life with your plantation]

    1.
    I invested my earnings in new ventures. My boldness was rewarded, and the plantation became an even greater success

ALT!! Fut yourself to the test! (write the answer in lowercase)
The Authenticity of the Story:
Is the story based on real events?.

|: yes.
|Correct! You unlocked a piece of the puzzle.
|Inventory Progress: 1/2 pieces collected.
|Choose your next step:
Current Step: 4 - Shipwreck on a Desert Island
Description: While traveling to Guinea to purchase slaves for the company, the ship was wrecked on a desert island.
Choose an option by entering the corresponding number: [Explore the island for resources, Try to build a boat to leave the island]
1. I explored the island in search of resources. I encountered new challenges and opportunities that contributed to my survival.
Inventory Progress: 1/2 pieces collected.
Choose your next step:
Current Step: 5 - Solitary life, survival skills
Description I began a solitary life, building a but, cultivating the land, raising animals and learning to cock with the island's limited resources.
Choose an option by entering the corresponding number: [Explore the interior of the island for new discoveries, Continue improving your cabin and survival skills]
        cused my efforts on improving my hut and survival skills. This ensured my comfort and well-being on the island
ALTI| Put yourself to the test| (write the answer in lowercase):
The Famous Parrot:
In the story, what is the mame of the famous parrot that accompanies the protagonist on the deserted island? [i poll]
   rect! You unlocked a piece of the puzzle.
ventory Progress: 2/2 pieces collected.
mgratulations! You have gathered enough puzzle pieces to unlock a special item.
                        You unlocked the Bible!
You decide to consult the Bible for guidance on your journey.
With newfound wisdom, you skip shead to step 9: Escape from the island
Current Step: 9 - Escape from the island Description: Finally, I manage to have a ship sufficient enough to make the journey and return home. Choose an option by entering the corresponding number: [Prepare a strategy to return to homeland.Stay on the island]
```

Figure 5: The Bible

Finally, when the user has chosen all the correct answers, the game will end and the user will win, as we can see in the following screen:

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Figure 6: The winner

Sufficient Solution

As for the solution to achieve a sufficient mark grade, students are not required to implement inventory management and related puzzles, but it is mandatory for them to be able to implement choice management for the conclusion of the game.

Below, some screens will be shown regarding the functioning:

```
SWI-Prolog -- c/Users/user/.vscode/extensions/arthurwang.vsc-prolog-0.8.23/out/src/utils/findmodule.pl
File Edit Settings Run Debug Help
7- start_game.
Welcome to the Adventure of Robinson Crusoe!
Welcome to the Adventure of Robinson Crusoe!
Robinson Crusoe. a young Englishman. decides to defy his father's will and sets out on a sea voyage against his advice
In this game, you will be Robinson and nust make the right decisions to save yourself.
Current Step: 1 - Escape, sea voyage
Description: At the age of 19, I decided to leave the house in search of sea adventures.
Choose an option by entering the corresponding number: [Board the ship to begin the journey.Stay at home and give up the adventure]

    t.
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Description: After an initial shipwreck, I was captured by a Turkish pirate.
Choose an option by entering the corresponding number: [Accept your fate as a prisoner.Try to escape from prison]
1: 2. With courage, I attempted to escape from the prison. Through cleverness and determination, I managed to break free, gaining a valuable lesson in survival Choose your next step:
Current Step: 3 - Prosperity in Brazil, buying plantations
Description: In Brazil, I bought a plantation and prospered as a farmer.
Choose an option by entering the corresponding number: [Invest your earnings in new business ventures.Live a peaceful life with your plantation]
 [: 1.] I invested my earnings in new ventures. My boldness was revarded, and the plantation became an even greater success
Choose your next step:
Current Step: 4 - Shipwreck on a Desert Island
Description: While traveling to Guinea to purchase slaves for the company, the ship was vrecked on a desert island.
Choose an option by entering the corresponding number: [Explore the island for resources.Try to build a boat to leave the island]

    1.1
explored the island in search of resources. I encountered new challenges and opportunities that contributed to my survival
choose your next step:

Current Step: S - Solitary life, survival skills
Description: I began a solitary life, building a hut, cultivating the land, raising animals and learning to cook with the island's limited resources.
Choose an option by entering the corresponding number: [Explore the interior of the island for new discoveries. Continue improving your cebin and survival skills]
    : 2. focused my efforts on improving my hut and survival skills. This ensured my comfort and well-being on the island hoose your next step:
Current Step: 6 - The discovery of the cannibals
Description: After anny years, I discovered the presence of cannibals on the island
Choose an option by entering the corresponding number: [Stablish contact with cannibals, Keep your distance and try to avoid cannibals]
 |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. |: 1. 
Current Step: 7 - Meeting Friday
Description: Friday and I became friends, after many years in solitude finally I wesn't
Choose an option by entering the corresponding number: [Teach Friday your customs and habits,Let Friday follow his traditions]
     respected Friday's traditions and let him follow his own path. However, this did not help me in trying to escape from the island availd choice! Restart.
         rent Step: 1 - Escape, sea upyage
cription: At the age of 19, I decided to leave the house in search of sea adventures.
ose an option by entering the corresponding number: [Board the ship to begin the journey.Stay at home and give up the adventure]
```

Figure 7: Starting Game

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Figure 8: End Game