

Elpi: the language you already know without knowing it

Enrico Tassi – Xmas 2023 / Nantes

The workflow of a poor soul

Code, play, validate...

```
Lambda (name,src,body) ->
  let sigma, _ = typecheck env sigma src in
  let decl = LocalAssum(name,src) in
  let env = push_rel decl env in
  let sigma, tgt = typecheck env sigma body in
  sigma, Prod(name,src,tgt)
```

• ... and then communicate ...

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : \tau \vdash e : \tau'}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x.e : \tau \to \tau'}$$



The workflow of a poor soul

... cheating ...

All rules work on a signature Σ , containing previously defined constants, metavariables, and guarded constants. In other words, we can write all judgements on the form $\langle \Sigma \rangle J \Longrightarrow \langle \Sigma' \rangle$. To make the rules easier to read we first define a set of operations reading and modifying the signature and when presenting the algorithm simply write J for the judgement above. In rules with multiple premisses the signature is threaded top-down, left-to-right. For instance,

$$\begin{array}{c|c} P_1 \\ P_2 & P_3 \\ \hline J & \text{is short-hand for} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \langle \Sigma_1 \rangle \ P_1 \Longrightarrow \langle \Sigma_2 \rangle \\ \langle \Sigma_2 \rangle \ P_2 \Longrightarrow \langle \Sigma_3 \rangle \quad \langle \Sigma_3 \rangle \ P_3 \Longrightarrow \langle \Sigma_4 \rangle \\ \hline \langle \Sigma_1 \rangle \ J \Longrightarrow \langle \Sigma_4 \rangle \end{array}$$



The workflow of a poor soul

• ... scaring

$$(I_l: \Pi\overline{x_l}: \overrightarrow{F_l}. \Pi \overline{y_r}: \overrightarrow{G_r}.s) \in \mathsf{Env} \\ (k_j: \Pi\overline{x_l}: \overrightarrow{F_l}. \Pi y_{n_j}^j: T_{n_j}^j. I_l \ \overrightarrow{x_l} \ \overrightarrow{M_r^j}) \in \mathsf{Env} \qquad j \in \{1 \dots n\}$$

$$\Sigma \leadsto \Sigma \cup \{\Gamma \vdash ?u_i: F_i[\overline{x_{i-1}/?u_{i-1}}]\} \qquad i \in \{1 \dots l\} \\ \Sigma \leadsto \Sigma \cup \{\Gamma \vdash ?v_i: G_i[\overline{x_l/?u_l}; \overline{y_{i-1}/?v_{i-1}}]\} \qquad i \in \{1 \dots l\} \\ \Gamma \vdash t: I_l \ \overrightarrow{?v_l} \ \overrightarrow{?v_r} \ \overset{\mathbb{R}^{\Downarrow}}{\leadsto} \ t' \qquad \qquad i \in \{1 \dots r\} \\ T_i^j = T_i^j [\overline{x_l/?u_l}] \qquad \qquad j \in \{1 \dots n\}, i \in \{1 \dots n_j\} \\ M_i^j = M_i^j [\overline{x_l/?u_l}] \qquad \qquad j \in \{1 \dots n\}, i \in \{1 \dots r\} \\ \Sigma \leadsto \Sigma \cup \{\Gamma' \vdash ?_1: \mathbf{Type}_{\top}\} \\ \Gamma \vdash T: \Pi \overrightarrow{y_r}: \overrightarrow{G_r}. \Pi x: I_l \ \overrightarrow{?u_l} \ \overrightarrow{y_r}.?_1[] \ \overset{\mathbb{R}^{\Downarrow}}{\leadsto} T' \\ (s, \Phi(?_1)) \in \mathsf{elim}(\mathsf{PTS}) \qquad \qquad j \in \{1 \dots n\} \\ T; \overrightarrow{y_{n_j}^j: P_{n_j}^j} \vdash P_i^j \ \overrightarrow{=} T_{n_j}^j \ \overrightarrow{=} T_{n_j}^j \ \overset{\mathcal{U}}{\leadsto} T' \\ \gamma \overrightarrow{y_n} \ \overrightarrow{y_n} \$$



Inference rule(s)!

 One key ingredient in the Odd Order Theorem is that we could program the elaborator by adding rules like:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} {\tt nat} \sim {\tt EQ.obj\ nat_EQty} & ?x \sim {\tt nat_EQty} \\ & {\tt nat} \sim {\tt EQ.obj\ }?x \end{array}$$

$$t_1 \sim exttt{EQ.obj } ?y \qquad t_2 \sim exttt{EQ.obj } ?z \qquad ?x \sim exttt{pair_EQty } ?y ?z \ t_1 * t_2 \sim exttt{EQ.obj } ?x$$



Can we turn \frac into a programming language?

- ADTs with binders and holes
- A context (for the bound variables)
- A sigma (for the hole's metadata)
- (obviously) rule-based



Elpi = λ Prolog + CHR

- λProlog for ...
 - Context, substitution, assignment
 - programming with binders, recursively
- CHR for ...
 - State and metadata management
 - manipulate unification variables
 - non-local deductions



Outline

- Elpi 101
 - λ Prolog 101: type checker for λ
 - λProlog + CHR 101: even & odd
- Demo: j.elpi / hm.elpi
 - HM type inference + equality types
- Coq-Elpi



% HOAS of terms

$$e = x$$

$$| e_1 e_2 |$$

$$| \lambda x.e$$

% HOAS of types

$$\tau = C$$

$$\mid \tau \to \tau$$

type arrow ty
$$\rightarrow$$
 ty \rightarrow ty.

% Example: identity function

lam(x|x)

% Example: fst lam x\ lam y\ x



pred of i:term, o:ty.

$$\frac{x:\tau\in\Gamma}{\Gamma\vdash x:\tau}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau \to \tau' \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 \ e_2 : \tau'}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : \tau \vdash e : \tau'}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x.e : \tau \to \tau'}$$

% Convention

X % universally quantified around the rule

X, % not quantified (existentially quantified, globally)



 $\vdash \lambda x.\lambda y.x \ y:Q$

Goal

of (lam x\ lam y\ app x y) Q_0 .

Program

```
of (app H A) T :- of H (arrow S T), of A S. of (lam F) (arrow S T) :- pi x\ of x S => of (F x) T.
```

$$Q_0 = ...$$



$$\vdash \lambda x.\lambda y.x \ y:Q$$

Goal

of ((x\ lam y\ app x y) c_1) T_1

Program

```
of (app H A) T :- of H (arrow S T), of A S.
of (lam F) (arrow S T) :-
pi x\ of x S => of (F x) T.
of c_1 S_1.
```

$$Q_0 = \operatorname{arrow} S_1 T_1$$

 $F_1 = (x \setminus \operatorname{lam} y \setminus \operatorname{app} x y)$



$$\vdash \lambda x.\lambda y.x \ y:Q$$

Goal

```
of (lam y\ app c_1 y) T_1.
```

Program

```
of (app H A) T :- of H (arrow S T), of A S.
of (lam F) (arrow S T) :-
pi x\ of x S => of (F x) T.
of c_1 S_1.
```

$$Q_0 = \operatorname{arrow} S_1 T_1$$

 $F_1 = (x \setminus \operatorname{lam} y \setminus \operatorname{app} x y)$



$$\vdash \lambda x.\lambda y.x \ y:Q$$

Goal

```
of ((y\ app c_1 y) c_2) T_2.
```

Program

```
of (app H A) T :- of H (arrow S T), of A S.
of (lam F) (arrow S T) :-
pi x\ of x S => of (F x) T.
of c_1 S_1.
of c_2 S_2.
```

```
Q_0 = \operatorname{arrow} S_1 (\operatorname{arrow} S_2 T_2)
F_1 = (x \setminus \operatorname{lam} y \setminus \operatorname{app} x y)
F_2 = (y \setminus \operatorname{app} c_1 y)
```



$$\vdash \lambda x.\lambda y.x \ y:Q$$

Goal

```
of (app c_1 c_2) T_2.
```

Program

```
of (app H A) T :- of H (arrow S T), of A S.
of (lam F) (arrow S T) :-
pi x\ of x S => of (F x) T.
of c_1 S_1.
of c_2 S_2.
```

```
Q_0 = \operatorname{arrow} S_1 (\operatorname{arrow} S_2 T_2)
F_1 = (x \setminus \operatorname{lam} y \setminus \operatorname{app} x y)
F_2 = (y \setminus \operatorname{app} c_1 y)
```



 $\vdash \lambda x.\lambda y.x \ y:Q$

Goal

```
of c_1 (arrow S_3 T_2).
of c_2 S_3.
```

Program

```
of (app H A) T :- of H (arrow S T), of A S.
of (lam F) (arrow S T) :-
pi x\ of x S => of (F x) T.
of c_1 S_1.
of c_2 S_2.
```

```
Q_0 = \operatorname{arrow} S_1 \text{ (arrow } S_2 T_2)
F_1 = (x \cdot \operatorname{lam} y \cdot \operatorname{app} x y)
F_2 = (y \cdot \operatorname{app} c_1 y)
H_3 = c_1
A_3 = c_2
```



$$\vdash \lambda x.\lambda y.x \ y:Q$$

Goal

```
of c<sub>2</sub> S<sub>3</sub>.
```

Program

```
of (app H A) T :- of H (arrow S T), of A S.
of (lam F) (arrow S T) :-
pi x\ of x S => of (F x) T.
of c_1 (arrow S_3 T_2).
of c_2 S_2.
```

```
Q_0 = \operatorname{arrow} (\operatorname{arrow} S_3 T_2) (\operatorname{arrow} S_2 T_2)
F_1 = (x \setminus \operatorname{lam} y \setminus \operatorname{app} x y)
F_2 = (y \setminus \operatorname{app} c_1 y)
H_3 = c_1 \qquad S_1 = (\operatorname{arrow} S_3 T_2)
A_3 = c_2
```



$$\vdash \lambda x.\lambda y.x \ y:(S\to T)\to S\to T$$

Goal

Program

```
of (app H A) T :- of H (arrow S T), of A S.
of (lam F) (arrow S T) :-
pi x\ of x S => of (F x) T.
of c_1 (arrow S_2 T_2).
of c_2 S_2.
```

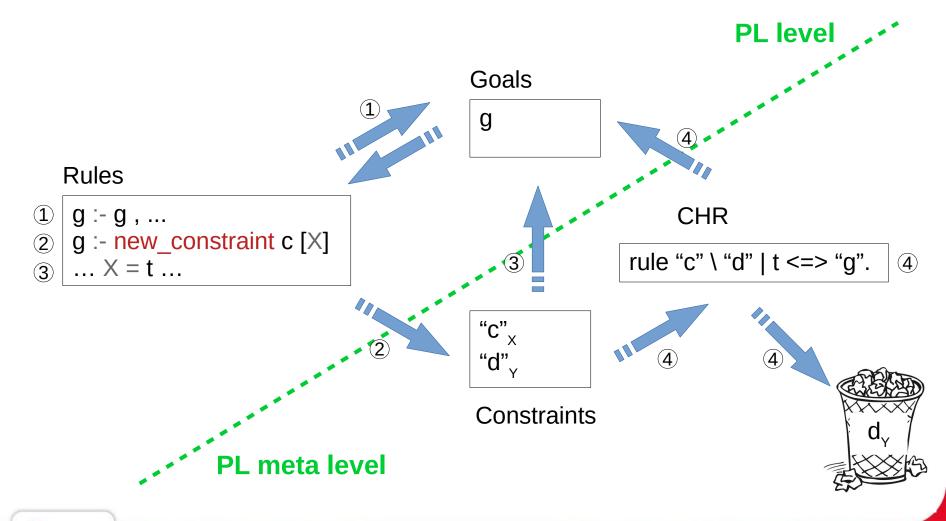
$$Q_0 = \operatorname{arrow} (\operatorname{arrow} S_2 T_2) (\operatorname{arrow} S_2 T_2)$$

$$F_1 = (x \setminus \operatorname{lam} y \setminus \operatorname{app} x y)$$

$$F_2 = (y \setminus \operatorname{app} c_1 y)$$

$$H_3 = c_1 \qquad S_1 = (\operatorname{arrow} S_3 T_2)$$

$$A_3 = c_2 \qquad S_3 = S_2$$





```
type zero nat. type succ nat -> nat.
pred odd i:nat. pred even i:nat. pred double i:nat, o:nat.
even zero.
odd (succ X) :- even X.
even (succ X) :- odd X.
even X :- var X, new constraint (even X) [X].
odd X :- var X, new constraint (odd X) [X].
double zero zero.
double (succ X) (succ (succ Y)) :- double X Y.
double X Y :- var X, new constraint (double X Y) [X].
constraint even odd double {
 rule (even X) (odd X) <=> fail.
 rule (double X) <=> (even X).
```



even X, X = succ Y, not (double Z Y)

Goals

```
even X
X = succ Y
not (double Z Y)
```

Constraint store

Program

```
even zero.
odd (succ X):- even X.
even (succ X):- odd X.
even X:- var X, new_constraint (even X) [X].
odd X:- var X, new_constraint (odd X) [X].
double zero zero.
double (succ X) (succ (succ Y)):- double X Y.
double X Y:- var X, new_constraint (double X Y) [X].
```

```
(even X) (odd X) <=> fail.
(double _ X) <=> (even X).
```



even X, X =succ Y, not (double Z Y)

Goals

```
X = succ Y
not (double Z Y)
```

Constraint store

even \mathbf{f}_{χ}

Program

```
even zero.
odd (succ X):- even X.
even (succ X):- odd X.
even X:- var X, new_constraint (even X) [X].
odd X:- var X, new_constraint (odd X) [X].
double zero zero.
double (succ X) (succ (succ Y)):- double X Y.
double X Y:- var X, new_constraint (double X Y) [X].
```

```
(even X) (odd X) <=> fail.
(double _ X) <=> (even X).
```



even X, X = succ Y, not (double Z Y)

Goals

even (succ Y)
not (double Z Y)

Constraint store

Program

```
even zero.
odd (succ X):- even X.
even (succ X):- odd X.
even X:- var X, new_constraint (even X) [X].
odd X:- var X, new_constraint (odd X) [X].
double zero zero.
double (succ X) (succ (succ Y)):- double X Y.
double X Y:- var X, new_constraint (double X Y) [X].
```

```
(even X) (odd X) <=> fail.
(double _ X) <=> (even X).
```

even X, X = succ Y, not (double Z Y)

Goals

odd Y not (double Z Y)

Constraint store

Program

even zero.
odd (succ X):- even X.
even (succ X):- odd X.
even X:- var X, new_constraint (even X) [X].
odd X:- var X, new_constraint (odd X) [X].
double zero zero.
double (succ X) (succ (succ Y)):- double X Y.
double X Y:- var X, new_constraint (double X Y) [X].

Rules

(even X) (odd X) <=> fail. (double _ X) <=> (even X).



even X, X =succ Y, not (double Z Y)

Goals

not (double Z Y)

Constraint store

odd \mathbf{F}_{Y}

Program

```
even zero.
odd (succ X):- even X.
even (succ X):- odd X.
even X:- var X, new_constraint (even X) [X].
odd X:- var X, new_constraint (odd X) [X].
double zero zero.
double (succ X) (succ (succ Y)):- double X Y.
double X Y:- var X, new_constraint (double X Y) [X].
```

```
(even X) (odd X) <=> fail.
(double _ X) <=> (even X).
```



even X, X =succ Y, not (double Z Y)

Goals

```
not ()
```

Constraint store

```
odd \mathbf{f}_{Y} double \mathbf{f}_{Z} \mathbf{f}_{Y}
```

Program

```
even zero.
odd (succ X):- even X.
even (succ X):- odd X.
even X:- var X, new_constraint (even X) [X].
odd X:- var X, new_constraint (odd X) [X].
double zero zero.
double (succ X) (succ (succ Y)):- double X Y.
double X Y:- var X, new_constraint (double X Y) [X].
```

```
(even X) (odd X) <=> fail.
(double _ X) <=> (even X).
```



even X, X =succ Y, not (double Z Y)

Goals

not (even Y)

Constraint store

odd \mathbf{f}_{Y} double $\mathbf{f}_{Z} \mathbf{f}_{Y}$

Program

```
even zero.

odd (succ X):- even X.

even (succ X):- odd X.

even X:- var X, new_constraint (even X) [X].

odd X:- var X, new_constraint (odd X) [X].

double zero zero.

double (succ X) (succ (succ Y)):- double X Y.

double X Y:- var X, new_constraint (double X Y) [X].
```

```
(even X) (odd X) <=> fail.
(double _ X) <=> (even X).
```



even X, X =succ Y, not (double Z Y)

Goals

```
not ()
```

Constraint store

```
odd \mathbf{f}_{Y} double \mathbf{f}_{Z} \mathbf{f}_{Y} even \mathbf{f}_{Y}
```

Program

```
even zero.

odd (succ X):- even X.

even (succ X):- odd X.

even X:- var X, new_constraint (even X) [X].

odd X:- var X, new_constraint (odd X) [X].

double zero zero.

double (succ X) (succ (succ Y)):- double X Y.

double X Y:- var X, new_constraint (double X Y) [X].
```

```
(even X) (odd X) <=> fail.
(double _ X) <=> (even X).
```

even X, X = succ Y, not (double Z Y)

Goals

```
not (fail)
```

Constraint store

```
odd \mathbf{f}_{Y} double \mathbf{f}_{Z} \mathbf{f}_{Y} even \mathbf{f}_{Y}
```

Program

```
even zero.

odd (succ X):- even X.

even (succ X):- odd X.

even X:- var X, new_constraint (even X) [X].

odd X:- var X, new_constraint (odd X) [X].

double zero zero.

double (succ X) (succ (succ Y)):- double X Y.

double X Y:- var X, new_constraint (double X Y) [X].
```

```
(even X) (odd X) <=> fail.
(double _ X) <=> (even X).
```



even X, X =succ Y, not (double Z Y)

Goals

Constraint store

```
odd \mathbf{F}_{Y}
```

Program

```
even zero.
odd (succ X):- even X.
even (succ X):- odd X.
even X:- var X, new_constraint (even X) [X].
odd X:- var X, new_constraint (odd X) [X].
double zero zero.
double (succ X) (succ (succ Y)):- double X Y.
double X Y:- var X, new_constraint (double X Y) [X].
```

```
(even X) (odd X) <=> fail.
(double _ X) <=> (even X).
```



Elpi = λ Prolog + CHR

- λProlog for ...
 - Context, substitution, assignment
 - programming with binders, recursively
- CHR for ...
 - State and metadata management
 - manipulate unification variables
 - non-local deductions



Demo: HM in Elpi

Hindley–Milner type system

文 3 languages v

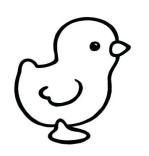
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From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

A **Hindley-Milner** (**HM**) **type system** is a classical type system for the lambda calculus with parametric polymorphism. It is also known as **Damas-Milner** or **Damas-Hindley-Milner**. It was first described by J. Roger Hindley^[1] and later rediscovered by Robin Milner.^[2] Luis Damas contributed a close formal analysis and proof of the method in his PhD thesis.^{[3][4]}

Among HM's more notable properties are its completeness and its ability to infer the most general type of a given program without programmer-supplied type annotations or other hints. Algorithm W is an efficient type inference method in practice and has been successfully applied on large code bases, although it has a high theoretical complexity. [note 1] HM is preferably used for functional languages. It was first implemented as part of the type system of the programming language ML. Since then, HM has been extended in various ways, most notably with type class constraints like those in Haskell.





HM: syntax

$$e = x$$

$$| e_1 e_2$$

$$| \lambda x.e$$

$$| \mathbf{let} \ x = e_1 \ \mathbf{in} \ e_2$$

$$| e_1 = e_2$$

mono
$$\tau = \alpha$$

$$| \tau \to \tau$$

$$| \text{boolean}$$

$$| \text{integer}$$

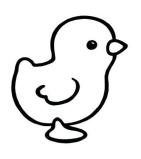
$$| \text{pair } \tau \tau$$

$$| \text{list } \tau$$

$$| \text{poly } \rho = \tau$$

$$| \forall \alpha. \rho$$

$$| \forall \overline{\alpha}. \rho$$



Typing rules

$$\frac{x:\rho\in\Gamma\quad\rho\sqsubseteq_{\Theta}\tau}{\Gamma\vdash_{\Theta}x:\tau}$$

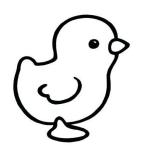
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\Theta} e_1 : \tau \to \tau' \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\Theta} e_2 : \tau}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Theta} e_1 \ e_2 : \tau'}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : \tau \vdash_{\Theta} e : \tau'}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Theta} \lambda x.e : \tau \to \tau'}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\Theta} e_1 : \tau \quad \Gamma, x : \overline{\Gamma}_{\Theta}(\tau) \vdash_{\Theta} e_2 : \tau'}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Theta} \mathbf{let} \ x = e_1 \ \mathbf{in} \ e_2 : \tau'}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\Theta} e_1 : \tau \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\Theta} e_2 : \tau \quad \overline{eq}_{\Theta}(\tau)}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Theta} e_1 = e_2 : \text{boolean}}$$





Type schema: elimination

$$\frac{\overline{\tau} \sqsubseteq_{\Theta} \tau}{\frac{\rho[\alpha := \tau'] \sqsubseteq_{\Theta} \tau}{\forall \alpha . \rho \sqsubseteq_{\Theta} \tau}}$$

$$\underline{\rho[\alpha := \tau'] \sqsubseteq_{\Theta} \tau}$$

$$\underline{\rho[\alpha := \tau'] \sqsubseteq_{\Theta} \tau}$$

$$\underline{\sigma[\alpha := \tau'] \sqsubseteq_{\Theta} \tau}$$

$$\underline{\sigma[\alpha := \tau'] \sqsubseteq_{\Theta} \tau}$$

$$\overline{eq}_{\Theta}(boolean)$$

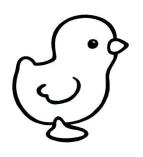
$$\overline{eq}_{\Theta}(integer)$$

$$\overline{eq}_{\Theta}(list \ \tau) \text{ if } \overline{eq}_{\Theta}(\tau)$$

$$\overline{eq}_{\Theta}(pair \ \tau_1 \ \tau_2) \text{ if } \overline{eq}_{\Theta}(\tau_1) \text{ and } \overline{eq}_{\Theta}(\tau_2)$$

$$\overline{eq}_{\Theta}(\alpha) \text{ if } \alpha \in \Theta$$





Type schema: introduction

$$\overline{\Gamma}_{\Theta}(\tau) = \overrightarrow{\forall} \widehat{\alpha}.\tau$$

$$\hat{\alpha} = \overline{\alpha} \text{ if } \alpha \in \Theta$$

$$\hat{\alpha} = \alpha \text{ otherwisie}$$
where $\alpha \in \text{free}(\tau) - \text{free}(\Gamma)$

$$free(\Gamma) = \bigcup_{x:\rho \in \Gamma} free(\rho)$$

. . .



Elpi → Coq-Elpi

- Elpi is not a general purpose PL
 - It is a DSL
- Elpi finds his place inside a larger software, e.g. Coq
 - Only used for tasks that fit well
 - Needs (a lot of) glue code



Coq-Elpi

Elpi is 12KLOC, Coq-Elpi is 12KLOC

```
MLCode(Pred("coq.typecheck",
  CIn(term, "T",
  CInOut(B.ioargC term, "Ty",
 InOut(B.ioarg B.diagnostic, "Diagnostic",
  Full (proof context, {|...doc...|})))),
(fun t ety diag ~depth proof context state ->
   try
    let sigma = get sigma state in
    let sigma, ty = Typing.type of proof context.env sigma t in
    (*...*)
    let state, assignments = set current sigma ~depth state sigma in
     state, !: ty +! B.mkOK, assignments
  with Pretype errors.PretypeError (env, sigma, err) ->
     let error = string of ppcmds proof context.options @@ Himsg.explain
     state, ?: None +! B.mkERROR error, [])),
DocAbove);
```



Good, Bad and Ugly

- Users!
- Complete apps written in Coq-Elpi
- Debugger
- Constraints are hard to program with
- Tutorials but no refman
- No proper language-server



Future

- Type Class solver / Elaborator
 - HB hides the inference engine of MC2
- Automation (eg Diaframe)
 - Indexing techniques from ATP
 - Memoization techniques from LP



Thanks for listening!



Elpi! logic programming

- high level with an operational meaning
 - yummy!
- Fact of life: 90% compute, 10% search
 - wrong default (who needs backtracking?)
- extensibility of programs (rule based)
 - a miracle



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STRONG