

# ASP – Answer Set Programming

## An operational formalism (*Baral 2003*)

A program  $\Pi$  is a set of expression  $\rho$

$$\rho : L_0 \text{ or } L_1 \text{ or } \dots L_k \leftarrow L_{k+1}, L_{k+2}, \dots L_m, \text{not } L_{m+1}, \dots, \text{not } L_n$$

where

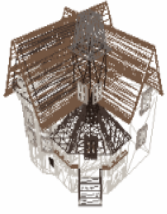
- the  $L_i$  are literals (*atoms or atom negations*)
- The « not » is a negation by failure

Intuitive meaning: for all Herbrand interpretation such that





$\{L_{k+1}, L_{k+2}, \dots, L_m\}$  is true

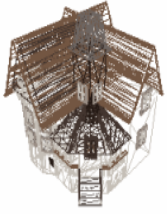
while  $\{L_{m+1}, \dots, L_n\}$  failed to be proved

one can derive  $\{L_0, L_1, \dots L_k\}$



# An Artificial Agent

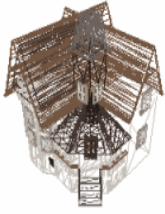
$act(P, S, \mathbf{G}, A) \leftarrow person(P),$   
 $situation(S), goal(G), action(A),$   
 $will(P, S, \mathbf{G}),$     
 $solve\_goal(P, S, G, A).$     
 $\leftarrow act(P, S, G, A), act(P, S, G, B), A \neq B.$



# An Ethical Artificial Agent

$act(P, S, G, A) \leftarrow person(P),$   
 $situation(S), goal(G), action(A),$   
 $will(P, S, G),$   
 $solve\_goal(P, S, G, A),$   
 $moral(P, S, G, A).$

$\leftarrow act(P, S, G, A), act(P, S, G, B), A \neq B.$



# An “Aristotelian” Perspective

*Predicates:*

$csq(A, S, C) : \text{consequence}$

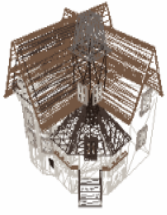
$worse(A, B) : \text{comparison of action}$

$worst\_csq(A, S, C) : \text{worst consequence}$

$good(P, S, \mathbf{G}, A) \leftarrow will(P, S, \mathbf{G}),$   
 $solve\_goal(P, S, G, A), worst\_csq(A, S, C),$   
 $will(\bar{P}, \bar{S}, U), solve\_goal(P, \bar{S}, U, B),$   
 $csq(B, S, D), worse(\bar{D}, C).$

$bad(P, S, \mathbf{G}, A) \leftarrow will(P, S, \mathbf{G}),$   
 $solve\_goal(P, S, G, A), worst\_csq(A, S, C),$   
 $will(\bar{P}, \bar{S}, U), solve\_goal(P, \bar{S}, U, B), A \neq B, csq(B, S, D),$   
**not**  $worse(D, C).$

The same action may be both good and bad!

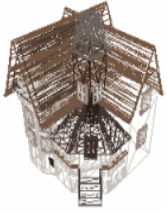


# Moral and immoral

*moral(P, S, **G**, A) ← **not** bad(P, S, G, A).*

*moral(P, S, **G**, A) ← good(P, S, G, A),  
**not** immoral(P, S, G, A).*

*immoral(P, S, **G**, A) ← bad(P, S, G, A),  
**not** moral(P, S, G, A).*



# The Lying Example

- Three persons: “I”, Peter and Paul
- Two possibilities: tell(P, truth) or tell(P, lie)
- Consequence: tell(“I”, truth) generates a murder

$csq(A, S, A) \leftarrow .$

$csq(A, S, B) \leftarrow csq(A, S, C), csq(C, S, B).$

$csq(tell(\text{“I”}, truth), s0, murder) \leftarrow .$

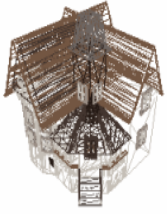
$worse(A, B) \leftarrow better(B, A), \text{not } better(A, B).$

$worse(A, B) \leftarrow worse(A, C), worse(C, B).$

$better(A, tell(P, lie)) \leftarrow .$

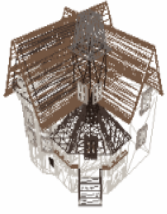
$better(A, murder) \leftarrow .$

$better(A, A) \leftarrow .$



# The Lying Example

- Half of the answer sets contain:  
 $act("I", answer("I"), s0, tell("I", truth))$
- And half of the answer sets contain:  
 $act("I", answer("I"), s0, tell("I", lie))$
- If we add  $worse(murder, lie)$  then all the answer sets that contain  
 $act("I", answer("I"), s0, tell("I", truth))$  are removed.



# Torture example

- Three persons: “I”, Peter and Paul
- Two possibilities:  $\text{interrogate}(P, \text{torture})$  or  $\text{interrogate}(P, \text{soft})$
- Consequence:  $\text{interrogate}(\text{“I”}, \text{soft})$  generates an attack

$\text{csq}(A, S, A) \leftarrow .$

$\text{csq}(A, S, B) \leftarrow \text{csq}(A, S, C), \text{csq}(C, S, B).$

$\text{csq}(\text{interrogate}(\text{“I”}, \text{soft}), s0, \text{attack}) \leftarrow .$

$\text{worse}(A, B) \leftarrow \text{better}(B, A), \text{ **not** } \text{better}(A, B).$

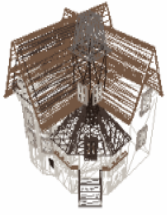
$\text{worse}(A, B) \leftarrow \text{worse}(A, C), \text{worse}(C, B).$

$\text{better}(A, \text{interrogate}(P, \text{torture})) \leftarrow .$

$\text{better}(A, \text{attack}) \leftarrow .$

$\text{better}(A, A) \leftarrow .$





# The Torture Example

- Half of the answer sets contain:  
*act("I", question("I"), s0, interrogate("I", torture))*
- And half of the answer sets contain:  
*act("I", question("I"), s0, interrogate("I", soft))*
- If we add *worse(attack, torture)* then all the answer sets that contain  
*act("I", question("I"), s0, interrogate("I", soft))* are removed.