Applications of Answer Set Programming

Martin Gebser



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Linux Package Configuration

Outline

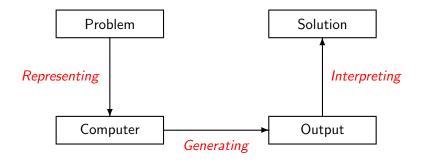
Motivation

ASP in a Nutshell

3 Linux Package Configuration

4 Conclusion

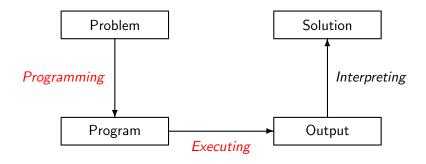
Computer Programming



"How to solve the problem?"

"What is the problem?"

"Traditional" Programming



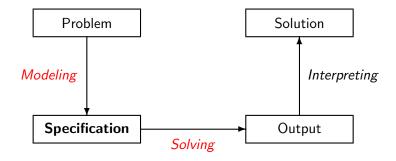
"How to solve the problem?"

"What is the problem?"

Declarative Programming

Motivation

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"How to solve the problem?"

versus

"What is the problem?"

Motivation

- Attractive tool for Knowledge Representation and Reasoning
 - Integration of deductive database, logic programming, knowledge representation and satisfiability solving techniques
 - Combinatorial search problems in the realm of NP and NP^{NP}
 - decision, optimization and query answering tasks
 - Succinct, elaboration-tolerant problem representations
 - rapid application development tool
 - Easy handling of knowledge-intensive applications
 - data, defaults, exceptions, frame axioms, reachability, etc.
- ► Efficient and versatile off-the-shelf solving technology
 - https://potassco.org/
 - https://www.mat.unical.it/DLV2/
- ► ASP has a growing range of applications, and it's good fun!

Answer Set Programming (ASP)

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Motivation

- Airport infrastructure planning
- Business partner matchmaking
- Call routing
- Embedded system design
- Nurse rostering
- Production process scheduling
- Radio spectrum reallocation
- Safety system configuration
- Shift planning
- Software package management
- Space shuttle maneuvering
- Train timetabling
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- Workforce management

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Planning context	"Hard" constraints	"Soft" constraints
Workload	4	1
Shift sequence	6	1
Times of absence	2	2
Quality of service	0	3
Free days	0	5
Total	12	12

- ► Each solution/shift plan must satisfy all hard constraints
- Soft constraints distinguish/select preferred solutions
 - Successive improvement through "anytime" solving algorithms
 - Guaranteed optimality on termination
- ► Monthly shift planning
 - Manual: about one person-week of work
 - Automated: "good-quality" shift plans within one hour

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[&]quot;The weekly working hours must stay in the legal limit."

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"Single free days in-between two workdays shall be avoided."

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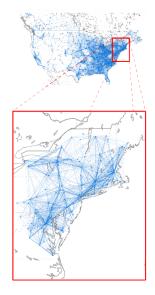
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Radio Spectrum Reallocation

Motivation

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- Complex incentive auction by the US Federal Communications Commission
 - \sim 3000 sending stations
 - ~ 3 million interference restrictions

Radio Spectrum Reallocation

Motivation



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 - ~ 3000 sending stations
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Over 13 months in 2016–17 the US Federal Communications Commission conducted an "incentive auction" to repurpose radio spectrum from broadcast television to wireless internet. In the end, the auction yielded \$19.8 billion, \$10.05 billion of which was paid to 175 broadcasters for voluntarily relinquishing their licenses across 14 UHF channels. Stations that continued broadcasting were assigned potentially new channels to fit as densely as possible into the channels that remained. The government netted more than \$7 billion (used to pay down the national debt) after covering costs. A crucial element of the auction design was the construction of a solver, dubbed SATFC, that determined whether sets of stations could be "repacked" in this way; it needed to run every time a station was given a price quote. This

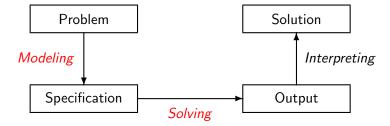
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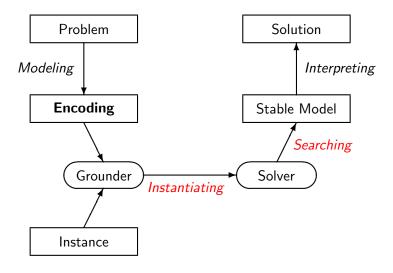
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Basic Workflow



Basic Workflow



Facts

Motivation

- Normal rules
- Choice rules
- Integrity constraints
- Default negation
- First-order variables
- Arithmetics
- Conjunctions
- Aggregates
- Conditional literals
- Optimization

p(0).

p(1) := p(0).

 $\{p(2); p(3)\} = 1 :- p(1).$

:= not p(2).

:- p(3).

q(X) := p(X).

r(X+1) := p(X).

s(X) := q(X), r(X).

 $t(N) :- \#sum\{X : s(X)\} = N.$

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 - r(3) := p(2).
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Conditional literals

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Optimization

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Aggregates
  (Relevant) Instantiation
```

```
 \begin{array}{l} t(0) :- \# sum \{1 : s(1); 2 : s(2); 3 : s(3)\} = 0. \\ t(1) :- \# sum \{1 : s(1); 2 : s(2); 3 : s(3)\} = 1. \\ t(2) :- \# sum \{1 : s(1); 2 : s(2); 3 : s(3)\} = 2. \\ t(3) :- \# sum \{1 : s(1); 2 : s(2); 3 : s(3)\} = 3. \\ t(4) :- \# sum \{1 : s(1); 2 : s(2); 3 : s(3)\} = 4. \end{array}
```

 $t(5) :- \#sum\{1 : s(1); 2 : s(2); 3 : s(3)\} = 5.$ $t(6) :- \#sum\{1 : s(1); 2 : s(2); 3 : s(3)\} = 6.$

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Aggregates
Conditional literals
                         \{u(X) : r(X), X < N\} :- t(N).
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(Relevant) Instantiation

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 \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \{u(1)\,:\,r(1)\}\,:-\,t(2).\\ \\ \{u(1)\,:\,r(1);\,u(2)\,:\,r(2)\}\,:-\,t(3).\\ \\ \{u(1)\,:\,r(1);\,u(2)\,:\,r(2);\,u(3)\,:\,r(3)\}\,:-\,t(4).\\ \\ \{u(1)\,:\,r(1);\,u(2)\,:\,r(2);\,u(3)\,:\,r(3);\,u(4)\,:\,r(4)\}\,:-\,t(5).\\ \\ \{u(1)\,:\,r(1);\,u(2)\,:\,r(2);\,u(3)\,:\,r(3);\,u(4)\,:\,r(4)\}\,:-\,t(6). \end{array} \right.
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:∼ u(1). [1]

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$$lackbox{ Optimization } :\sim \mathtt{u}(\mathtt{X})$$
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Multi-criteria Optimization
$$:\sim u(X)$$
. [X@1] $:\sim \#count\{X:u(X)\}=0$. [1@2]

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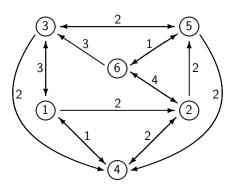
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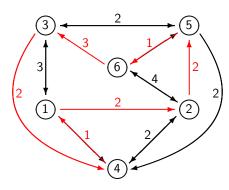
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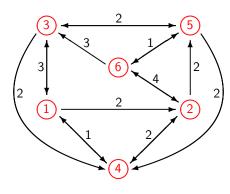
Optimum
$$\{p(0), p(1), p(2), q(0), ..., s(1), s(2), t(3), u(1)\}$$



Total Cost: 11

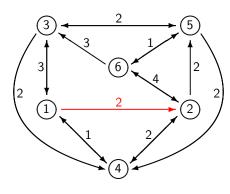


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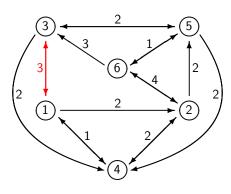
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```
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node(4). node(5). node(6).
edge(1,2,2).
edge(1,3,3). edge(3,1,3).
edge(1,4,1). edge(4,1,1).
edge(2,4,2). edge(4,2,2).
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edge(5,4,2).
edge(5,6,1). edge(6,5,1).
edge(6,3,3).
```

- Exactly one outgoing edge per node
- Exactly one incoming edge per node
- All nodes reached from (arbitrary) start node
- Minimum sum of edge costs

Problem Encoding

```
{cycle(X,Y) : edge(X,Y,C)} = 1 :- node(X).
{cycle(X,Y) : edge(X,Y,C)} = 1 :- node(Y).

reached(X) :- #min{Y : node(Y)} = X.
reached(Y) :- cycle(X,Y), reached(X).
:- node(Y), not reached(Y).

:~ cycle(X,Y), edge(X,Y,C). [C,X,Y]
```

More encoding "optimization" feasible

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Motivation

- Exactly one outgoing edge per node
- Exactly one incoming edge per node
- 4 All nodes reached from (arbitrary) start node
- Minimum sum of edge costs

Problem Encoding

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```

More encoding "optimization" feasible

```
node(1). node(2). node(3). node(4). node(5). node(6).
edge(1,2,2).
edge(1,3,3). edge(3,1,3).
edge(1,4,1). edge(4,1,1). ...
\{cycle(X,Y) : edge(X,Y,C)\} = 1 :- node(X).
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reached(X) := \#min\{Y : node(Y)\} = X.
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\sim \text{cycle}(X,Y), \text{edge}(X,Y,C). [C,X]
```

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edge(1,4,1). edge(4,1,1). ...
{cycle(1,2); cycle(1,3); cycle(1,4)} = 1.
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Motivation

(Intelligent) Grounding

```
node(1). node(2). node(3). node(4). node(5). node(6).
edge(1,2,2).
edge(1,3,3). edge(3,1,3).
edge(1,4,1). edge(4,1,1). ...
\{cycle(1,2); cycle(1,3); cycle(1,4)\} = 1.
\{cycle(X,1) : edge(X,1,C)\} = 1 :- node(1).
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reached(Y) := cycle(X,Y), reached(X).
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\sim \text{cycle}(X,Y), \text{edge}(X,Y,C). [C,X]
```

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node(1). node(2). node(3). node(4). node(5). node(6).
edge(1,2,2).
edge(1,3,3). edge(3,1,3).
edge(1,4,1). edge(4,1,1). ...
{cycle(1,2); cycle(1,3); cycle(1,4)} = 1.
{cycle(3,1); cycle(4,1)} = 1.
reached(X) := \#min\{Y : node(Y)\} = X.
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reached(X) :- \#\min\{1 : ; 2 : ; 3 : ; 4 : ; 5 : ; 6 : \} = X.
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reached(1): - \#\min\{1:;2:;3:;4:;5:;6:\} = 1.
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\sim \text{cycle}(1,2). [2,1] ... \sim \text{cycle}(1,4). [1,1]
```

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:\sim cycle(1,2). [2,1] ... :\sim cycle(1,4). [1,1] ...
```

Model-guided Approach

Conflicts: 12

```
$ clingo <instance> <encoding>
Answer: 1
cycle(1,4) cycle(4,2) cycle(2,6) cycle(6,5) cycle(5,3) cycle(3,1)
Optimization: 13
Answer: 2
cycle(1,4) cycle(4,2) cycle(2,5) cycle(5,6) cycle(6,3) cycle(3,1)
Optimization: 12
Answer: 3
cycle(1,2) cycle(2,5) cycle(5,6) cycle(6,3) cycle(3,4) cycle(4,1)
Optimization: 11
Time: 0.002s
```

Model-guided Approach

```
$ clingo <instance> <encoding>
Answer: 1
cycle(1,4) cycle(4,2) cycle(2,6) cycle(6,5) cycle(5,3) cycle(3,1)
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Time: 0.002s
```

Core-guided Approach \$ clingo <instance> <encoding> --opt-strategy=usc

```
Progression: [3;inf]
Progression: [5;inf]
Progression: [6;inf]
Progression: [7;inf]
Progression: [8;inf]
Progression: [9;inf]
Progression: [10;inf]
Progression: [11;inf]
```

```
Answer: 1
```

cycle(1,2) cycle(2,5) cycle(5,6) cycle(6,3) cycle(3,4) cycle(4,1)

Optimization: 11

Time: 0.002sConflicts: 10

Core-guided Approach

```
$ clingo <instance> <encoding> --opt-strategy=usc
Progression: [3;inf]
Progression: [5;inf]
Progression: [6;inf]
Progression: [7;inf]
Progression: [8;inf]
Progression: [9;inf]
Progression: [10;inf]
Progression: [11;inf]
Answer: 1
cycle(1,2) cycle(2,5) cycle(5,6) cycle(6,3) cycle(3,4) cycle(4,1)
Optimization: 11
Time: 0.002s
Conflicts: 10
```

Core-guided Approach \$ clingo <instance> <encoding> --opt-strategy=usc

```
Progression: [3;inf]
Progression: [5;inf]
Progression: [6;inf]
Progression: [7;inf]
Progression: [8;inf]
Progression: [9;inf]
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Answer: 1
cycle(1,2) cycle(2,5) cycle(5,6) cycle(6,3) cycle(3,4) cycle(4,1)
Optimization: 11
```

Time: 0.002sConflicts: 10

Outline

Motivation

2 ASP in a Nutshell

- 3 Linux Package Configuration
- 4 Conclusion

Free and Open Source Software Management

- Maintaining packages in modern Linux distributions is difficult
 - Complex dependencies
 - Large package repositories
 - Ever changing in view of software development
- Challenges for package configuration tools
 - Large problem size
 - Soft (and hard) constraints
 - Multiple optimization criteria
- Targeted in the EU research project Mancoosi
 - Contributions of ASP
 - Uniform modeling by encoding plus instances
 - Solving techniques for (multi-criteria) optimization

Free and Open Source Software Management

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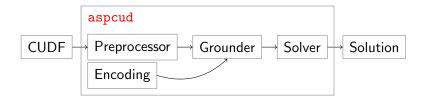
Motivation

Free and Open Source Software Management

- Maintaining packages in modern Linux distributions is difficult
 - Complex dependencies
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 - Contributions of ASP
 - Uniform modeling by encoding plus instances
 - Solving techniques for (multi-criteria) optimization
- Is Instead of the standard apt-get install libreoffice that failed to propose a decent upgrade, as detailed later, I typed apt-get --solver aspcud install libreoffice that returned this pretty good solution ...

Linux Package Configurator aspcud

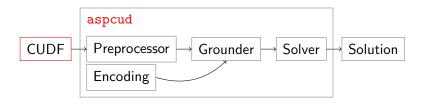
Motivation



Preprocessor Converts CUDF input to ASP instance **Encoding** First-order problem specification Grounder Instantiates first-order variables Solver Searches for (optimal) answer sets

https://potassco.org/aspcud/

Linux Package Configurator aspcud: Input



https://potassco.org/aspcud/

Common Upgradability Description Format (CUDF)

- Language to represent package interdependencies
 - Conflicts
 - Dependencies
 - Recommendations
- and user goals
 - Installation
 - Removal
 - Upgrade
- subject to optimization
 - Package deletions
 - Package additions
 - Package recommendations
 - Version changes
 - Version up-to-dateness
 - Version coherence
 - Installation size

CUDF Input

package: firefox

version:

conflicts: firefox

depends: xserver > 2

recommends: thunderbird

Motivation

Common Upgradability Description Format (CUDF)

- Language to represent package interdependencies
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 - Installation size

CUDF Input

package: firefox

version:

conflicts: firefox

depends: xserver > 2

recommends: thunderbird

request:

install: firefox

firefox < 3remove:

upgrade: firefox > 2

Common Upgradability Description Format (CUDF)

- Language to represent package interdependencies
 - Conflicts
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- and user goals
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CUDF Input

firefox package:

version:

Linux Package Configuration

conflicts: firefox

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request:

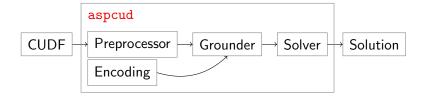
install: firefox

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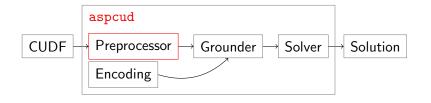
Linux Package Configurator aspcud

Motivation



Preprocessor Converts CUDF input to ASP instance **Encoding** First-order problem specification Grounder Instantiates first-order variables Solver Searches for (optimal) answer sets

Linux Package Configurator aspcud: Preprocessor



Preprocessor Converts CUDF input to ASP instance

Setting the Focus

Scenario

► Modern Linux distributions are large (50K packages or more)

Linux Package Configuration

Problem representation and search space are of significant size

- ► Some packages can't be installed (remove or upgrade goals)

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Observations

- Some packages can't be installed (remove or upgrade goals)
- An empty installation is conflict-free and thus valid
- Packages to install should serve (hard) install or upgrade goals, or satisfy (soft) constraints

Approach

- Identify packages whose installation may be of direct use
- Saturate such packages wrt. dependencies and soft constraints
- Restrict the ASP instance to closure of "interesting" packages
- (Greedily) partition these packages into mutual conflict cliques

Setting the Focus

Scenario

Modern Linux distributions are large (50K packages or more)

Linux Package Configuration

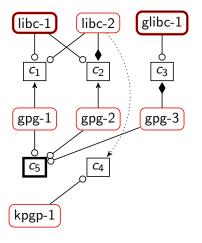
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Installable Packages

package(libc,1). package(libc,2).

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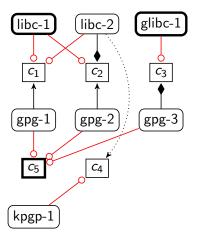
package(glibc,1).

package(gpg,1).

package(gpg,2).

package(gpg,3).

package(kpgp,1).



Package Conditions

satisfies(libc,1,c1).

satisfies(libc,2,c1).

satisfies(libc,1,c2).

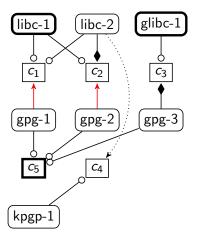
satisfies(glibc,1,c3).

satisfies(kpgp,1,c4).

satisfies(gpg,1,c5).

satisfies(gpg,2,c5).

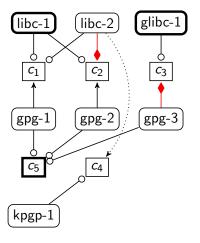
satisfies(gpg,3,c5).



Package Dependencies

depends (gpg, 1, c1).

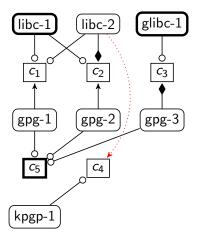
depends (gpg, 2, c2).



Package Conflicts

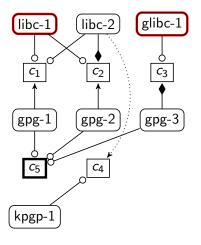
conflicts(libc,2,c2).

conflicts(gpg,3,c3).



Package Recommendations

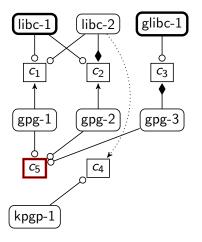
recommends(libc,2,c4).



Installed Packages

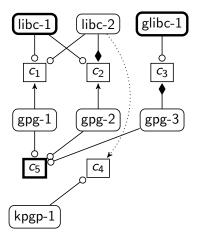
installed(libc,1).

installed(glibc,1).



User Goals

request(c5).



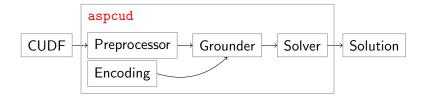
Optimization Criteria

utility(delete,1).

utility(change, 2).

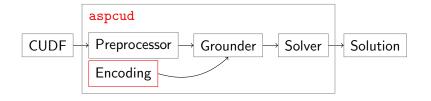
Linux Package Configurator aspcud

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Preprocessor Converts CUDF input to ASP instance **Encoding** First-order problem specification Grounder Instantiates first-order variables Solver Searches for (optimal) answer sets

Linux Package Configurator aspcud: Encoding



Encoding First-order problem specification

Hard Constraints

- Can install any installable package
- Excluded, included, and satisfied conditions (packages) follow

Linux Package Configuration

Respective conditions and user goals must be fulfilled

Problem Encoding

```
\{install(P,V)\}:-package(P,V).
exclude(C) :- install(P,V), conflicts(P,V,C).
include(C) :- install(P,V), depends(P,V,C).
satisfy(C) :- install(P,V), satisfies(P,V,C).
:- exclude(C), satisfy(C).
:- include(C), not satisfy(C).
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- Package additions and deletions
- Version changes

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install(P) :- install(P,V).
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violate(newpkg,L,P) :-
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violate(delete.L.P) :-
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violate(change,L,P) :-
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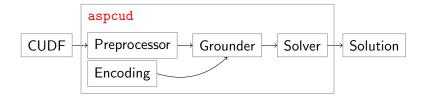
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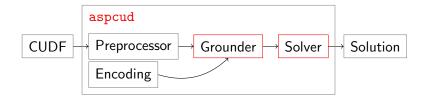
Linux Package Configurator aspcud

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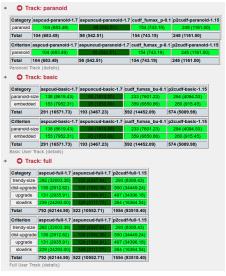
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Linux Package Configurator aspcud: Reasoning



Linux Package Configuration

Grounder Instantiates first-order variables Solver Searches for (optimal) answer sets Encoding using conflict cliques and core-guided optimization



Outline

Motivation

2 ASP in a Nutshell

3 Linux Package Configuration

4 Conclusion

Further Remarks

- Virtually all application problems require optimization
 - objective functions
 - lexicographic (multi-)criteria
- ► Complex criteria like ⊆-minimality or Pareto efficiency by
 - meta-programming (disjunctive ASP)
 - asprin framework
- Multi-shot solving, domain heuristics and theory reasoning
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 - clingcon
 - DLV2
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 - EZCSP
 - EZSMT
 - IDP
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 - ASP tools (by Aalto SCI)

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Thanks!

- ▶ to Roland Kaminski and Torsten Schaub for part of the slides
- to you for your attention and . . .

Questions?