Answer Set Programming: Basics

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Slides based on a lecture by Martin Gebser and Torsten Schaub.

Answer Set Programming – Basics: Overview

Outline

KR's shift of paradigm

Theorem Proving based approach (eg. Prolog)

1. Provide a representation of the problem
2. A solution is given by a derivation of a query

Model Generation based approach (eg. SATisfiability testing)

1. Provide a representation of the problem
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LP-style playing with blocks

Prolog program

```
on(a,b). on(b,c).

above(X,Y) :- on(X,Y). above(X,Y) :- on(X,Z), above(Z,Y).
```

Prolog queries

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?- above(a,c). true.  ?- above(c,a). no.
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Prolog queries (testing entailment)

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?- above(a,c). true.  ?- above(c,a). no.
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Shuffled Prolog program

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on(a,b). on(b,c).

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?- above(a,c).  Fatal Error: local stack overflow.
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Prolog queries (answered via fixed execution)

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SAT-style playing with blocks

Formula

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
 & on(a, b) \\
\wedge & on(b, c) \\
\wedge & (on(X, Y) \rightarrow above(X, Y)) \\
\wedge & (on(X, Z) \wedge above(Z, Y) \rightarrow above(X, Y))
\end{array}
$$

Herbrand model

$$
\left\{ \begin{array}{ccccc}
on(a, b), & on(b, c), & on(a, c), & on(b, b), & \\
above(a, b), & above(b, c), & above(a, c), & above(b, b), & above(c, b)
\end{array} \right\}
$$

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Herbrand model (among 426!)

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Herbrand model (among 426!)

$$
\left\{
\begin{array}{ccccc}
on(a,b), & on(b,c), & \color{red}{on(a,c)}, & \color{red}{on(b,b)}, & \\
above(a,b), & above(b,c), & above(a,c), & \color{red}{above(b,b)}, & \color{red}{above(c,b)}
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➥ Answer Set Programming (ASP)

ASP-style playing with blocks

Logic program

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Stable Herbrand model

$\{$ on(a, b), on(b, c), above(b, c), above(a, b), above(a, c) $\}$

ASP-style playing with blocks

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Stable Herbrand model (and no others)

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Stable Herbrand model (and no others)

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ASP versus LP

ASP	Prolog
Model generation	Query orientation
Bottom-up	Top-down
Modeling language	Programming language
Rule-based format	
Instantiation Flat terms	Unification Nested terms
(Turing +) $NP(^{NP})$	Turing

ASP versus SAT

ASP	SAT
Model generation	
Bottom-up	
Constructive Logic	Classical Logic
Closed (and open) world reasoning	Open world reasoning
Modeling language	—
Complex reasoning modes	Satisfiability testing
Satisfiability	Satisfiability
Enumeration/Projection	—
Intersection/Union	—
Optimization	—
(Turing +) $NP(^{NP})$	NP

What is ASP good for?

- Combinatorial search problems in the realm of P, NP, and NP^{NP} (some with substantial amount of data), like
  - Automated Planning
  - Code Optimization
  - Composition of Renaissance Music
  - Database Integration
  - Decision Support for NASA shuttle controllers
  - Model Checking
  - Product Configuration
  - Robotics
  - Systems Biology
  - System Synthesis
  - (industrial) Team-building
  - and many many more

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Outline

Normal logic programs

- A logic program, P, over a set $\mathcal{A}$ of atoms is a finite set of rules
- A (normal) rule, r, is of the form

$$a_0 \leftarrow a_1, \dots, a_m, \sim a_{m+1}, \dots, \sim a_n$$

where $0 \leq m \leq n$ and each $a_i \in \mathcal{A}$ is an atom for $0 \leq i \leq n$

- Notation

$$\begin{aligned} head(r) &= a_0 \\ body(r) &= \{a_1, \dots, a_m, \sim a_{m+1}, \dots, \sim a_n\} \\ body(r)^+ &= \{a_1, \dots, a_m\} \\ body(r)^- &= \{a_{m+1}, \dots, a_n\} \\ atom(P) &= \bigcup_{r \in P} \left(\{head(r)\} \cup body(r)^+ \cup body(r)^-\right) \\ body(P) &= \{body(r) \mid r \in P\} \end{aligned}$$

- A program P is positive if $body(r)^- = \emptyset$ for all $r \in P$

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Rough notational convention

We sometimes use the following notation interchangeably in order to stress the respective view:

	true, false	if	and	or	iff	default negation	classical negation
source code		`:-`	`,`	`|`		`not`	`-`
logic program		$\leftarrow$	$,$	$;$		$\sim$	$\neg$
formula	$\top, \bot$	$\rightarrow$	$\wedge$	$\vee$	$\leftrightarrow$	$\sim$	$\neg$

Outline

Formal Definition

Stable models of positive programs

- A set of atoms X is closed under a positive program P iff for any $r \in P$, $head(r) \in X$ whenever $body(r)^+ \subseteq X$
  - X corresponds to a model of P (seen as a formula)
- The smallest set of atoms which is closed under a positive program P is denoted by $Cn(P)$
  - $Cn(P)$ corresponds to the $\subseteq$-smallest model of P (ditto)
- The set $Cn(P)$ of atoms is the stable model of a *positive* program P

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Basic idea

Consider the logical formula Φ and its three (classical) models:

Φ $\boxed{q \land (q \land \neg r \rightarrow p)}$

$\{p, q\}, \{q, r\},$ and $\{p, q, r\}$

Informally, a set X of atoms is a stable model of a logic program P

- if X is a (classical) model of P and
- if all atoms in X are justified by some rule in P

(rooted in intuitionistic logics HT (Heyting, 1930) and G3 (Gödel, 1932))

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Formula Φ has one stable model, often called answer set:

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} p & \mapsto & 1 \\ q & \mapsto & 1 \\ r & \mapsto & 0 \end{array}$$

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Formal Definition

Stable model of normal programs

- The reduct, P^X, of a program P relative to a set X of atoms is defined by

$$P^X = \{head(r) \leftarrow body(r)^+ \mid r \in P \text{ and } body(r)^- \cap X = \emptyset\}$$

- A set X of atoms is a stable model of a program P, if $Cn(P^X) = X$

- Note $Cn(P^X)$ is the $\subseteq$–smallest (classical) model of P^X
- Note Every atom in X is justified by an *"applying rule from P"*

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A closer look at P^X

- In other words, given a set X of atoms from P,

  P^X is obtained from P by deleting

  1. each rule having $\sim a$ in its body with $a \in X$ and then
  2. all negative atoms of the form $\sim a$ in the bodies of the remaining rules

- Note Only negative body literals are evaluated wrt X

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Outline

A first example

$$P = \{p \leftarrow p,\ q \leftarrow \sim p\}$$

X	P^X	$Cn(P^X)$	
$\{\ \}$	$p \leftarrow p$ $q \leftarrow$	$\{q\}$	✗
$\{p\}$	$p \leftarrow p$	$\emptyset$	✗
$\{q\}$	$p \leftarrow p$ $q \leftarrow$	$\{q\}$	
$\{p, q\}$	$p \leftarrow p$	$\emptyset$	✗

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$\{q\}$	$p \leftarrow p$ $q \leftarrow$	$\{q\}$	✔
$\{p, q\}$	$p \leftarrow p$	$\emptyset$	✘

A second example

$$P = \{p \leftarrow \sim q,\ q \leftarrow \sim p\}$$

X	P^X	$Cn(P^X)$	
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Some properties

- A logic program may have zero, one, or multiple stable models!
- If X is a stable model of a logic program P, then X is a model of P (seen as a formula)
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Outline

Programs with Variables

Let P be a logic program

- Let $\mathcal{T}$ be a set of (variable-free) terms
- Let $\mathcal{A}$ be a set of (variable-free) atoms constructable from $\mathcal{T}$

- Ground Instances of $r \in P$: Set of variable-free rules obtained by replacing all variables in r by elements from $\mathcal{T}$:

$$ground(r) = \{r\theta \mid \theta : var(r) \to \mathcal{T} \text{ and } var(r\theta) = \emptyset\}$$

where $var(r)$ stands for the set of all variables occurring in r; θ is a (ground) substitution

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An example

$$P = \{\ r(a,b) \leftarrow,\ \ r(b,c) \leftarrow,\ \ t(X,Y) \leftarrow r(X,Y)\ \}$$

$$\mathcal{T} = \{a, b, c\}$$

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Outline

Reasoning Modes

- Satisfiability
- Enumeration[†]
- Projection[†]
- Intersection[‡]
- Union[‡]
- Optimization

- and combinations of them

[†] without solution recording

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