Logic Programming

The Basics

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Contents

PROLOG

Used to solve problems involving

- objects, and
- relationships between objects.

Relationships

Example

John owns the book

- The relationship: *ownership*
- The objects: *book, John*

Directional:

- John owns the book
- Not: The book owns John

Questions

Example

Does John own the book?

Asks a question about a relationship already established.

Rules

Describe Relationships Using other Relationships.

Example

Two people are sisters if they are both female and have the same parents.

Gives a definition of one relationship given other relationships.

- Both must be females.
- Both must have the same parents.
- If two people satisfy these conditions, then they are sisters (according to our simplified relationship)

Programming in PROLOG

- Declaring Facts about objects and their relationships.
- Defining Rules about objects and their relationships.
- Asking Questions about objects and their relationships.

PROLOG

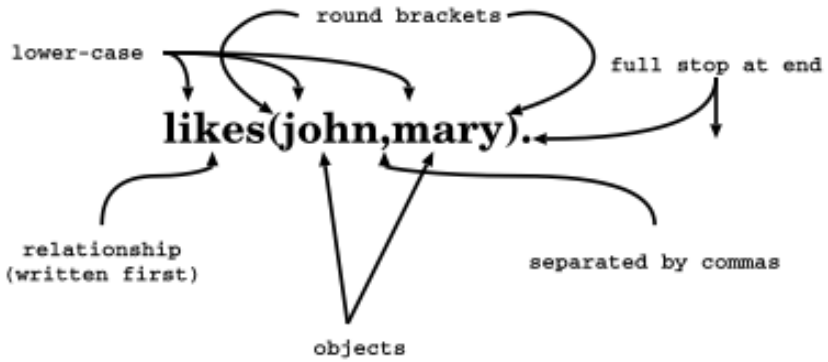
- Program can be thought of as a storehouse of facts and rules.
- Conversational Language: The user can ask questions about the set of facts and rules in the PROLOG program.

PROLOG

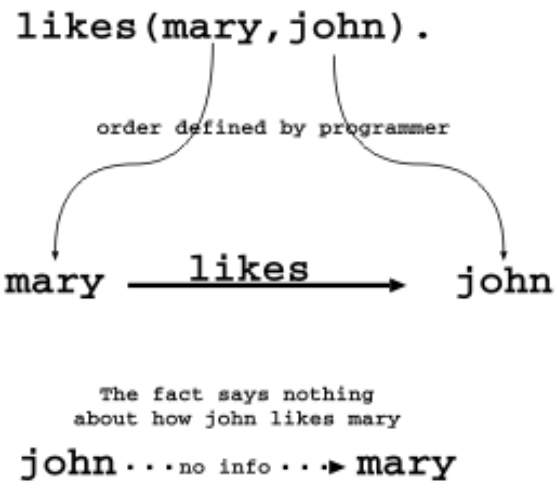
Sisters Example:

- A rule defining sisters and the facts about the people involved.
- The user would ask:
  Are these two people sisters?
- The system would answer
  yes (true) or **no** (false)

Parts of Fact



Order of Objects



Examples of Facts

Example

Gold is valuable.

```
valuable(gold)
```

Jane is a female.

```
female(jane)
```

John owns some gold.

```
owns(john, gold)
```

John is the father of Mary.

```
father(john, mary)
```

Are these expressions really facts? Is there anything missing?

Interpretation of Names

The name refers to an object.

- Semantic Meaning: Given by the programmer.
- Syntactic Meaning: a set of characters, as PROLOG sees it.

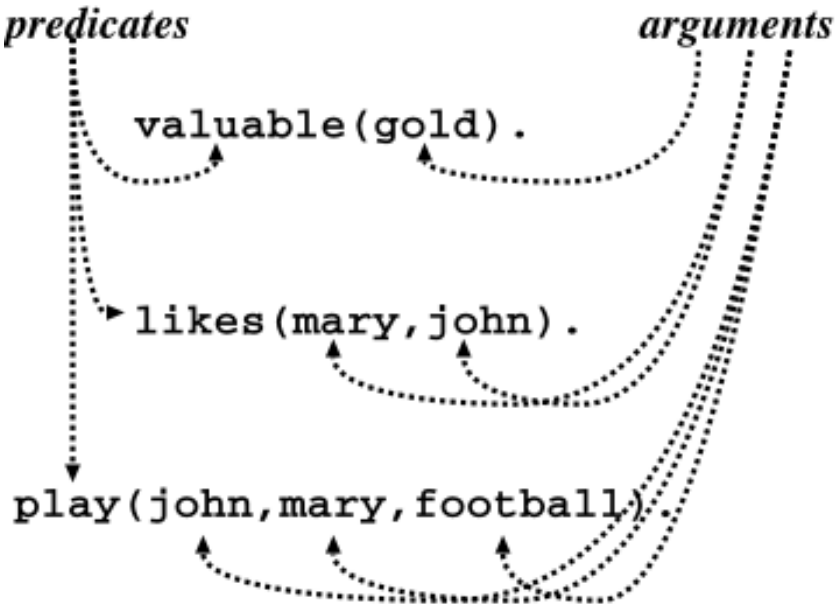
Interpretation of Names

Name refers to an object.

- Name `gold` can refer to:
  - a particular lump of gold, or
  - the chemical element Gold having atomic number 79.
- `valuable(gold)` can mean:
  - that particular lump of gold, named `gold`, is valuable, or
  - the chemical element Gold, named `gold`, is valuable.

The programmer decides (in her usage) the meaning.

Fact Terminology



Database

Definition

In PROLOG, database is a collection of facts.

- PROLOG draws its knowledge from these facts.
- The programmer is responsible for their accuracy.

Questions

- The database contains the facts from which the questions are answered.
- A question can look exactly like a fact:
  `owns(mary, book).`
- The difference is in which mode one is in.

Questions

In the interactive question mode (indicated by the question mark and dash `?-`):

- Question: `?- owns(mary, book).`
- Meaning:
  - If `mary` is interpreted as a person called Mary, and `book` is interpreted as some particular book, then
  - `?- owns(mary, book).` means: Does Mary own the book?

Database Search

Example

Facts in the database:

```
likes(joe, fish).
likes(joe, mary).
likes(mary, book).
likes(john, book).
```

Questions:

```
?- likes(joe, money).
no
?- likes(joe, mary).
yes
?- king(john, france).
no
```


Knowledge

The questions are always answered with respect to the database.

Example

Facts in the database:

```
human(socrates).
human(aristotle).
athenian(socrates).
```

Question:
Is Socrates Greek?

```
?- greek(socrates).
```

The answer with respect to this database is **No**.

Questions

Up until now questions just reflect exactly the database.

Does Mary like the book?

```
?- likes(mary, book).
```

More Interesting Question:
What objects does Mary like?

Variables.

Variables

Tiresome to ask about every object:

```
likes(john, this).
likes(john, that).
```

Better to ask:

What does John like?
or
What is an X such that John like X?
(i.e. use variables)

Question With Variables

What is an X such that John like X?

```
?- likes(john, X).
```
or
```
?- likes(john, SomethingThatJohnLikes).
```

`X` and `SomethingThatJohnLikes` are variables.

Variable begins with a capital letter.

PROLOG Answer

Database:
```
likes(john, flowers).
```

Question:
```
?- likes(john, X).
```

PROLOG answers:
```
X=flowers
```

Many Answers

Database:

```
likes(john, flowers).
likes(john, mary).
likes(paul, mary).
```

Question:

```
?- likes(john, X).
```

PROLOG answers:

```
X=flowers
```

and the user acknowledges

```
X=mary
```

and the user acknowledges

```
no
```


Placemarker

- The first match is found: `X=flowers`.
- The user acknowledges.
- From that place on the next match is found (the search continues).
- From the place of the last instantiation no more match was found.
- Thus answer: `no`.

Conjunctions

More complicated relationships:

Does Mary like John and does John like Mary?

Both conditions must be fulfilled.

Conjunctions

Comma means conjunction:

```
?- likes(john, mary), likes(mary, john).
```

```
likes(mary, food).
likes(mary, wine).
likes(john, wine).
likes(john, mary).
```

Answer: `no`

A match for `likes(john, mary)`
but none for `likes(mary, john)`

Conjunctions with Variables

Is there anything that both mary and john like?

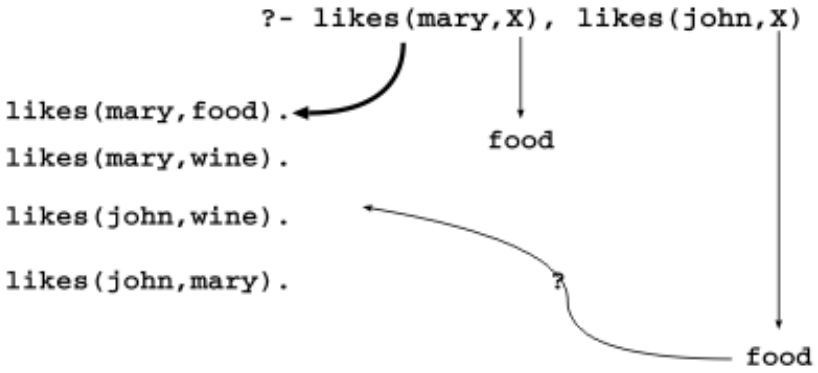
Find out what Mary likes and then see if John likes it.

```
?- likes(mary, X), likes(john, X).
```

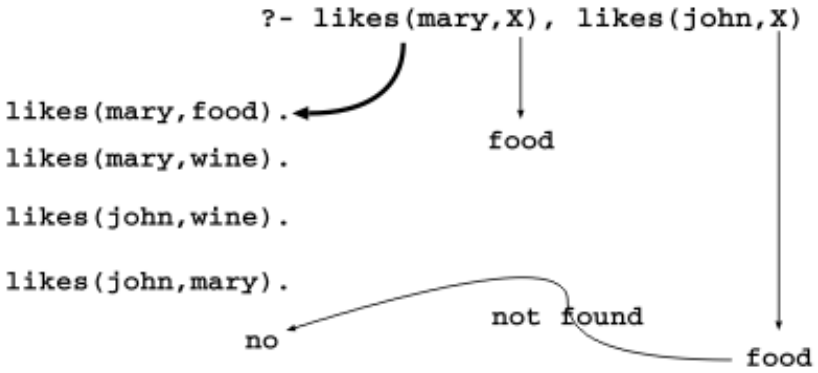

Backtracking

- Find match for the first goal.
- Then see if it matches the second.
- If not, find another match for the first.
- See if this matches the second.
- etc.

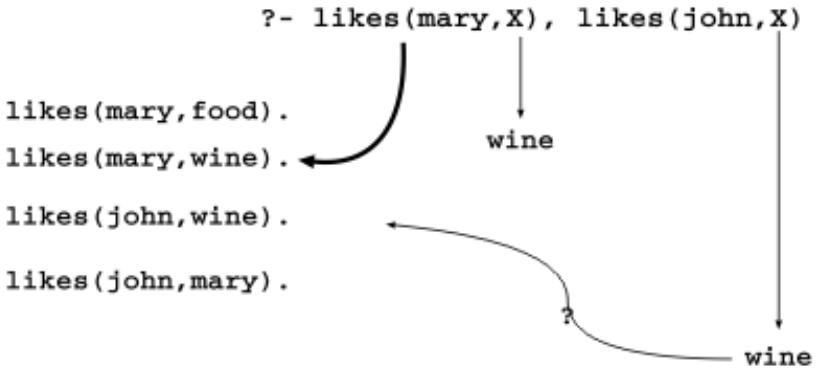
Match First



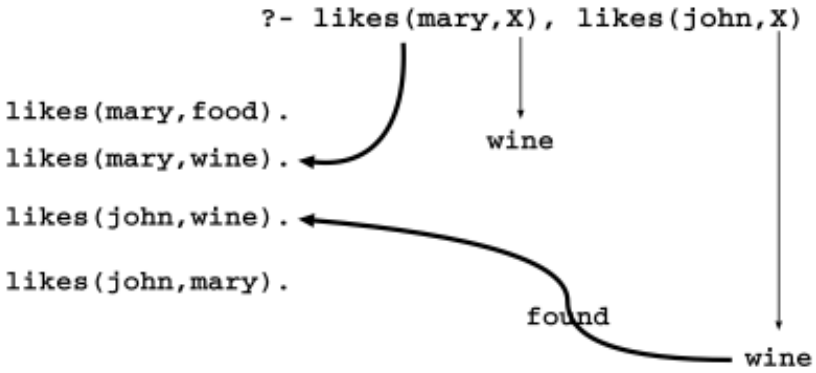
Match Second



Backtrack



Success



Rules

How to express that John likes all people?

Listing all people?

- `likes(john, alfred).`
- `likes(john, bertrand).`
- `likes(john, charles).`
- `likes(john, david).`
- etc.

Not feasible. More compact way: Using rules.

John likes any object provided it is a person.

Rule Examples

Rules state Dependence:

- I use an umbrella **if** there is rain.

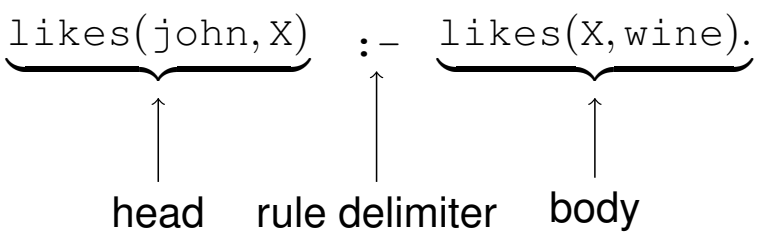
Rules Define:

- X is a bird **if** X is an animal and X has feathers.

Formulating Rules

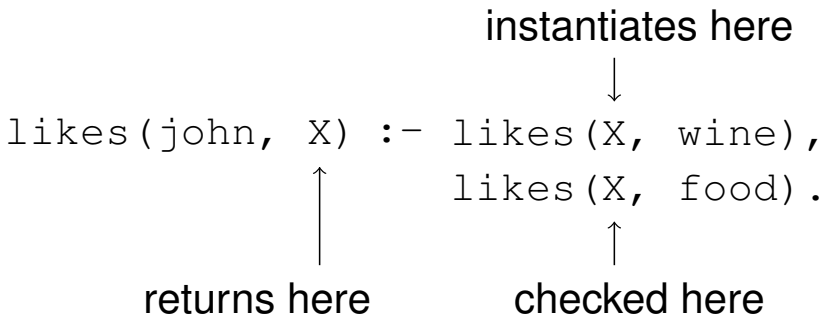
- John likes anyone who likes wine.
- John likes any something if it likes wine.
- John likes X if X likes wine.

Rule Syntax



Variable Scope

The occurrences of `X` within a rule:



Royal Parents

Example

- The parents of X are Y and Z.
- Y is the mother.
- Z is the father.

Database:

```
male(albert).
male(edward).
female(alice).
female(victoria).
parents(edward, victoria, albert).
parents(alice, victoria, albert).
```

Sisters

Example

X is a sister of Y if:

- X is female,
- X has parents M and F,
- Y has parents M and F.

Rule:

```
sister(X, Y) :-
    female(X),
    parents(X, M, F),
    parents(Y, M, F).
```


Sisters Question

Rule:

```
sister(X, Y) :-
    female(X),
    parents(X, M, F),
    parents(Y, M, F).
```

Question:

```
sister(alice, edward).
```

- The question (goal) matches the head of the rule, if one replaces `X` with `alice` and `Y` with `edward`.
- The instance of the body becomes a new goal:

```
female(alice),
parents(alice, M, F),
parents(edward, M, F).
```

The Complete Program

```
(1) male(albert).
(2) male(edward).
(3) female(alice).
(4) female(victoria).
(5) parents(edward, victoria, albert).
(6) parents(alice, victoria, albert).
(7) sister(X, Y):-
        female(X),
        parents(X, M, F),
        parents(Y, M, F).
```


Complete Derivation Tree