The first programmer ever

Ada Augusta, the Countess of Lovelace, the daughter of the poet Lord Byron

Circa 1843

Using Babbage’s Analytical Engine

The first “high-level” (compiled) programming language

FORTRAN

1954

Backus at IBM

It was called “an automatic coding system”, not a “programming language”

Used for numerical computing

The first functional programming language

Lisp

1958

McCarthy at Stanford

For LISTs Processing—lists represent both code and data

Used for symbolic manipulation

The first object oriented programming language

Simula

1962

Dahl and Nygaard at University of Oslo, Norway

Used for computer simulations

The first logic programming language

Prolog

1972

Roussel and Colmerauer at Marseilles University, France

For “PRogrammation en LOGique”.

Used for natural language processing and automated theorem proving
The first concurrent programming language

Concurrent Pascal
1974
Hansen at Caltech
Used for operating systems development

The first scripting language

REXX
1982
Cowlishaw at IBM
Only one data type: character strings
Used for “macro” programming and prototyping

The first multi-paradigm programming language

Oz
1995
Smolka at Saarland University, Germany
A logic, functional, imperative, object-oriented, constraint, concurrent, and distributed programming language
Used for teaching programming and prototyping

Other programming languages

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<th>Imperative</th>
<th>Functional</th>
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<td>Cobol (Hopper 1959)</td>
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<td>Pascal (Wirth 1970)</td>
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<td>C (Kernighan and Ritchie 1971)</td>
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<td>Ada (Whitaker 1979)</td>
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<th>Object-Oriented</th>
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<td>Smalltalk (Kay 1980)</td>
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<td>Eiffel (Meyer 1986)</td>
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<td>Java (Gosling 1996)</td>
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<td>Objective C</td>
<td>E (Miller et al 1998)</td>
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<td>SASSA (Varela and Agha 1999)</td>
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Logic Programming (PLP 11)
Horn Clauses
Introduction to Prolog: Resolution, Unification

An Early (1971) “Conversation”

USER: Cats kill mice.
Tom is a cat who does not like mice who eat cheese.
Jerry is a mouse who eats cheese.
Max is not a mouse.
What does Tom do?
COMPUTER: Tom does not like mice who eat cheese.
Tom kills mice.
USER: Who is a cat?
COMPUTER: Tom.
USER: What does Jerry eat?
COMPUTER: Cheese.
USER: Who does not like mice who eat cheese?
COMPUTER: Tom.
USER: What does Tom eat?
Another Conversation

USER:
Every psychiatrist is a person.
Every person he analyzes is sick.
Jacques is a psychiatrist in Marseille.
Is Jacques a person?
Where is Jacques?
Is Jacques sick?

COMPUTER:
Yes.
In Marseille.
I don’t know.

Logic programming

• A program is a collection of axioms, from which theorems can be proven.
• A goal states the theorem to be proved.
• A logic programming language implementation attempts to satisfy the goal given the axioms and built-in inference mechanism.

Horn clauses

• A standard form for writing axioms, e.g.:
father(X,Y) :− parent(X,Y), male(X).

• The Horn clause consists of:
  – A head or consequent term H, and
  – A body consisting of terms B_i

H :≡ B_1, B_2, ... B_n

• The semantics is:
 « If B_1, B_2, ... B_n, then H »

Terms

• Constants
  rpi
troy

• Variables
  University
City

• Predicates
  located_at(rpi,troy)
pair(a, pair(b,c))

Resolution

• To derive new statements, Robinson’s resolution principle says that if two Horn clauses:

H_i :≡ B_1, B_2, ... B_m
H_j :≡ B_1, B_2, ... B_n

are such that H_i matches B_j, then we can replace B_j with B_1, B_2, ..., B_m:

H_j :≡ B_1, B_2, ... B_m/B_j B_1, B_2, ... B_n

• For example:

C :≡ A, B
D :≡ C
D :≡ A, B

Resolution Example

father(X,Y) :− parent(X,Y), male(X).
ancestor(X,Y) :− father(X,Y).
ancestor(X,Y) :− parent(X,Y), male(X).

:− in Prolog’s notation (syntax) for «
Unification

- During resolution, free variables acquire values through unification with expressions in matching terms.
- For example:
  
  male(carlos).
  parent(carlos, tatiana).
  father(X,Y) :- parent(X,Y), male(X).
  father(carlos, tatiana).

Unification Process

- A constant unifies only with itself.
- Two predicates unify if and only if they have
  - the same functor,
  - the same number of arguments, and
  - the corresponding arguments unify.
- A variable unifies with anything.
  - If the other thing has a value, then the variable is instantiated.
  - If it is an uninstantiated variable, then the two variables are associated.

Backtracking

- Forward chaining goes from axioms forward into goals.
- Backward chaining starts from goals and works backwards to prove them with existing axioms.

Backtracking example

rainy(seattle).
rainy(rochester).
cold(rochester).
snowy(X) :- rainy(X), cold(X).

_\text{C} = \_X\quad \text{X} = \text{seattle}

cold(seattle) fails; backtrack.

_\text{C} = \_X\quad \text{X} = \text{rochester}

cold(rochester)
### Backtracking example

```prolog
rainy(seattle).
rainy(rochester).
cold(rochester).
snowy(X) :- rainy(X), cold(X).
```

- **C = X**
  - success
  - cold(seattle)
  - backtracking
  - X = seattle
  - And
  - cold(seattle)
  - fails
  - X = rochester
  - succeeds

### Exercises

1. Download SWI Prolog and install it in your laptop.
2. Execute the “snowy(City)” example. Use “tracing” to follow backtracking step by step.
3. Create a knowledge base with Prolog facts about your family members using predicates and constants. Create Prolog rules using variables to define the following: brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, grandfather, grandmother, etc. Query your program for family relationships.