Logic Programming

The Basics

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Contents

PROLOG

Used to solve problems involving

- objects, and
- relationships between objects.

The basics:

- Facts
- Questions
- Variables
- Conjunctions
- Rules

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 rules, 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

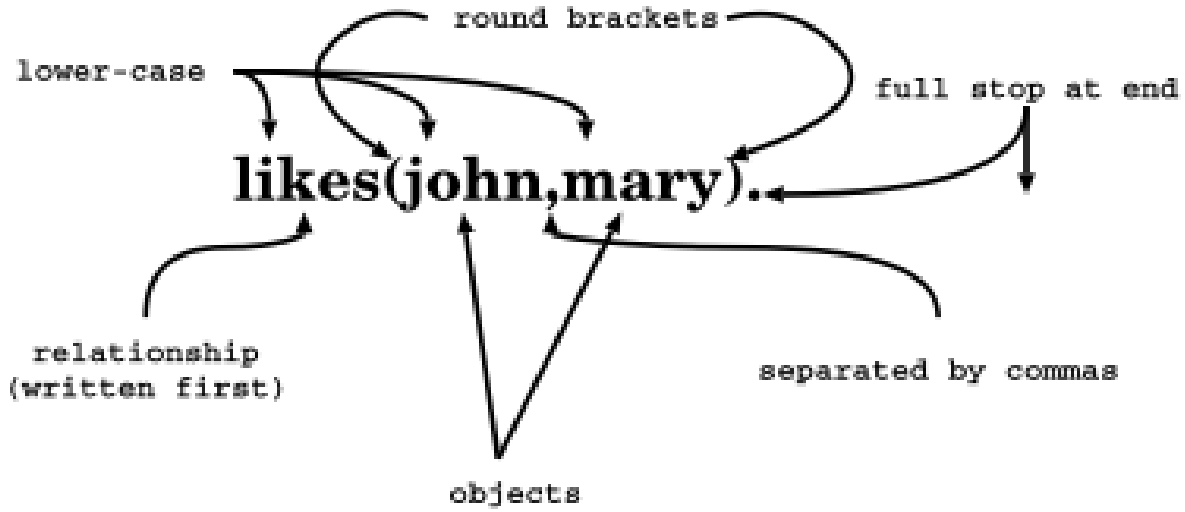
- Program can be thought of as a storehouse of facts and rules.
- Conversational Language: The user can ask questions about the set of facts and rules in the PROLOG program.

PROLOG

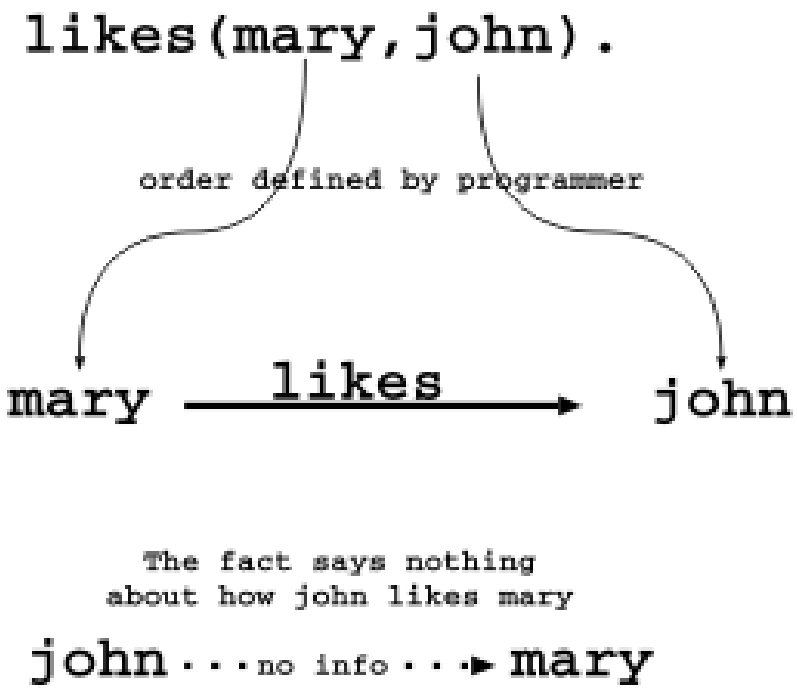
Sisters Example:

- 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.

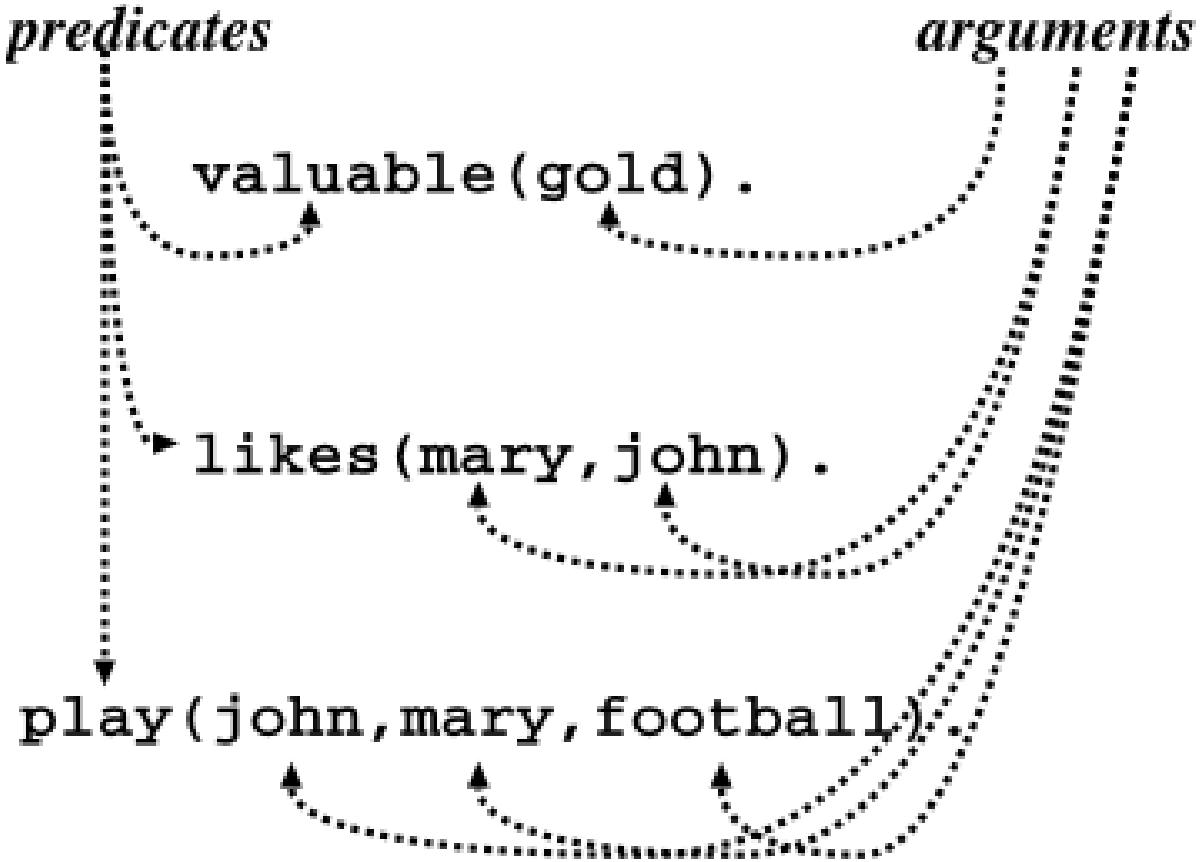
Interpretation of Names

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
Does John like X?
(i.e. use variables)

Question With Variables

Does 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
```

Place-Marker

- 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?

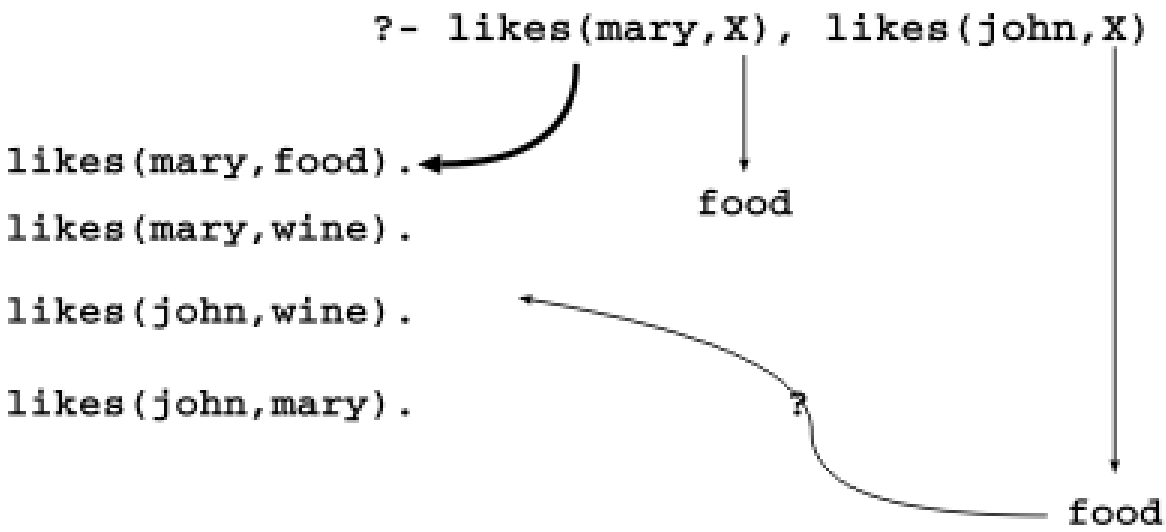
Find out what Mary likes and then see if John likes it.

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

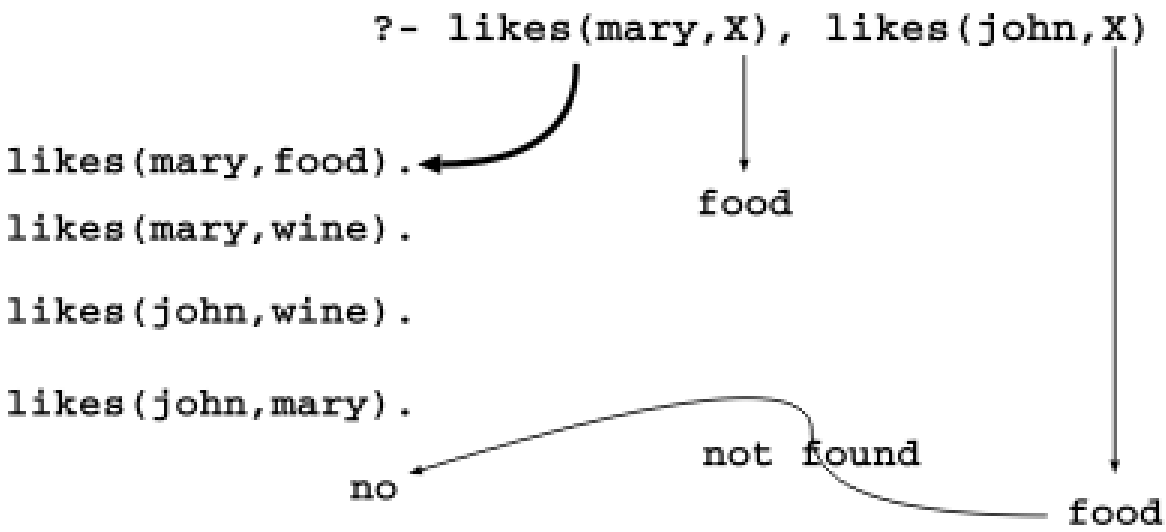
Backtracking

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

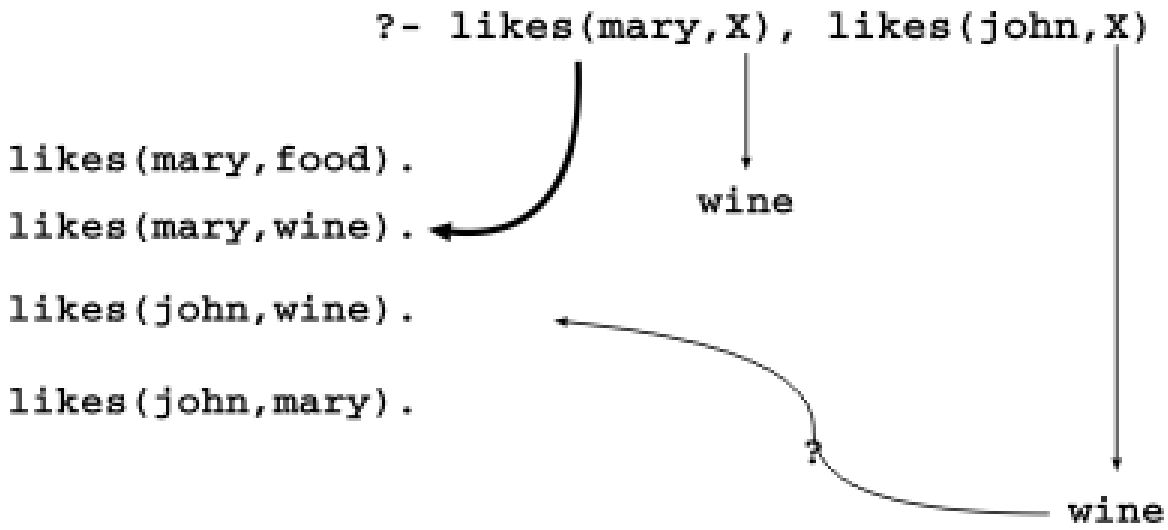
Match First


?- likes(mary,X), likes(john,X)
likes(mary,food).
likes(mary,wine).
likes(john,wine).
likes(john,mary).
food
?
food

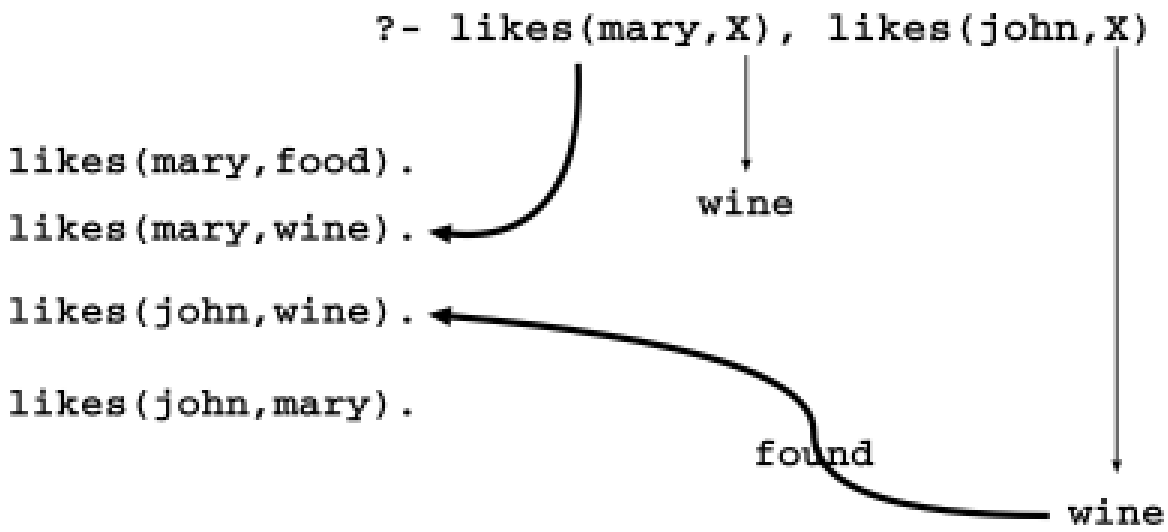
Match Second



Backtrack


?- likes(mary,X), likes(john,X)
likes(mary,food).
likes(mary,wine).
likes(john,wine).
likes(john,mary).
wine
wine

Success


?- likes(mary,X), likes(john,X)
likes(mary,food).
likes(mary,wine).
likes(john,wine).
likes(john,mary).
wine
found
wine