Computational Logic

Logic Programming:

Model and Fixpoint Semantics
Towards the Model and Fixpoint Semantics

- We have seen previously the operational semantics (SLD-resolution).
- We now present the (declarative) Model Semantics:
  - We define our semantic domain (Herbrand interpretations).
  - We introduce the Minimal Herbrand Model.
- And the (also declarative) Fixpoint Semantics.
  - We recall some basic fixpoint theory.
  - Present the $T_P$ operator and the classic fixpoint semantics.
Declarative Semantics – Herbrand Base and Universe

• Given a first-order language \( L \), with a non-empty set of variables, constants, function symbols, relation symbols, connectives, quantifiers, etc. and given a syntactic object \( A \),

\[
ground(A) = \{ A\theta | \exists \theta \in \text{Subst}, \var(A\theta) = \emptyset \}
\]

i.e. the set of all “ground instances” of \( A \).

• Given \( L \), \( U_L \) (Herbrand universe) is the set of all ground terms of \( L \).

• \( B_L \) (Herbrand Base) is the set of all ground atoms of \( L \).

• Similarly, for the language \( L_P \) associated with a given program \( P \) we define \( U_P \), and \( B_P \).

Declarative Semantics – Herbrand Base and Universe (example)

- **Program:**
  
  \[ P = \{ p(f(X)) \leftarrow p(X). \\
  p(a). \\
  q(a). \\
  q(b). \} \]

- **Herbrand universe:**
  
  \[ U_P = \{ a, b, f(a), f(b), f(f(a)), f(f(b)), \ldots \} \]

- **Herbrand base:**
  
  \[ B_P = \{ p(a), p(b), q(a), q(b), p(f(a)), p(f(b)), q(f(a)), \ldots \} \]
Herbrand Interpretations and Models

- A **Herbrand Interpretation** is a subset of $B_L$, i.e. the set of all Herbrand interpretations $I_L = \mathcal{P}(B_L)$.
  (Note that $I_L$ forms a **complete lattice** under $\subseteq$ – important for fixpoint operations to be introduced later).

- In previous example: $P = \{ p(f(X)) \leftarrow p(X). \ p(a). \ q(a). \ q(b). \ \}$
  $U_P = \{a, b, f(a), f(b), f(f(a)), f(f(b)), \ldots\}$
  $B_P = \{p(a), p(b), q(a), q(b), p(f(a)), p(f(b)), q(f(a)), \ldots\}$
  $I_P = \text{all subsets of } B_P$

- A **Herbrand Model** is a Herbrand interpretation which contains all logical consequences of the program.

- The **Minimal Herbrand Model** $H_P$ is the smallest Herbrand interpretation which contains all logical consequences of the program. (Theorem: it is unique.)

- Example:
  $H_P = \{q(a), q(b), p(a), p(f(a)), p(f(f(a))), \ldots\}$
• Declarative semantics of a logic program $P$:
  the set of ground facts which are logical consequences of the program (i.e., $H_P$).
  (I.e., the Minimal Herbrand model (or “least model”) of $P$).

• Intended meaning of a logic program $P$:
  the set $I$ of ground facts that the user expects to be logical consequences of the program.

• A logic program is correct if $H_P \subseteq I$.

• A logic program is complete if $I \subseteq H_P$.

• Example:
  father(john,peter).
  father(john,mary).
  mother(mary,mike).
  grandfather(X,Y) ← father(X,Z), father(Z,Y).
  with the usual intended meaning is correct but incomplete.
Towards a Fixpoint Semantics for LP – Fixpoint Basics

• Afixpointfor an operator $T : X \rightarrow X$ is an element of $x \in X$ such that $x = T(x)$.

• If $X$ is a poset, $T$ is monotonic if $\forall x, y \in X, x \leq y \Rightarrow T(x) \leq T(y)$

• If $X$ is a complete lattice and $T$ is monotonic the set of fixpoints of $T$ is also a complete lattice [Tarski]

• The least element of the lattice is the least fixpoint of $T$, denoted $lfp(T)$

• Powers of a monotonic operator (successive applications):
  $T \uparrow 0(x) = x$
  $T \uparrow n(x) = T(T \uparrow (n - 1)(x))(n$ is a successor ordinal)
  $T \uparrow \omega(x) = \sqcup\{T \uparrow n(x)|n < \omega\}$

  We abbreviate $T \uparrow \alpha(\bot)$ as $T \uparrow \alpha$

• There is some $\omega$ such that $T \uparrow \omega = lfp(T)$. The sequence $T \uparrow 0, T \uparrow 1, ..., lfp(T)$ is the Kleene sequence for $T$

• In a finite lattice the Kleene sequence for a monotonic operator $T$ is finite
• A subset $Y$ of a poset $X$ is an (ascending) chain iff $\forall y, y' \in Y, y \leq y' \lor y' \leq y$

• A complete lattice $X$ is *ascending chain finite* (or *Noetherian*) if all ascending chains are finite

• In an ascending chain finite lattice the Kleene sequence for a monotonic operator $T$ is finite
Lattice Structures

finite

finite_depth

ascending chain finite
A Fixpoint Semantics for Logic Programs

- **Semantic domain**: $I_L = \wp(B_L)$.
- I.e., the elements of the semantic domain and interpretations (subsets of the Herbrand base).
- **Semantic operator** (defined on programs): the *immediate consequences operator*, $T_P$:
  - $T_P$ is a mapping: $T_P : I_P \rightarrow I_P$ defined by:
    $$T_P(I) = \{ A \in B_P | \exists C \in \text{ground}(P), C = A \leftarrow L_1, \ldots, L_n \text{ and } L_1, \ldots L_n \in I \}$$
    (in particular, if $(A \leftarrow) \in P$, then every element of $\text{ground}(A)$ is in $T_P(I)$, $\forall I$).
- $T_P$ is monotonic, so:
  - it has a least fixpoint $I^*$ so that $T_P(I^*) = I^*$,
  - this fixpoint can be obtained by applying $T_P$ iteratively starting from the bottom element of the lattice (the empty interpretation).
A Fixpoint Semantics for Logic Programs: Example 1 (finite)

\[ P = \{ \begin{align*}
p(X, a) & \leftarrow q(X). \\
p(X, Y) & \leftarrow q(X), r(Y). \\
q(a). & r(b). \\
q(b). & r(c). \end{align*} \} \]

\[ U_P = \{a, b, c\} \]

\[ B_P = \{ \begin{align*}
p(a, a), & p(a, b), p(a, c), p(b, a), p(b, b), p(b, c), p(c, a), p(c, b), p(c, c), \\
q(a), & q(b), q(c), \\
r(a), & r(b), r(c) \end{align*} \} \]

\[ I_P = \text{all subsets of } B_P \]

\[ H_P = \{q(a), q(b), r(b), r(c), p(a, a), p(b, a), p(a, b), p(b, b), p(a, c), p(b, c)\} \]

\[ T_P \uparrow 0 = \{q(a), q(b), r(b), r(c)\} \]

\[ T_P \uparrow 1 = \{q(a), q(b), r(b), r(c)\} \cup \{p(a, a), p(b, a), p(a, b), p(b, b), p(a, c), p(b, c)\} \]

\[ T_P \uparrow 2 = T_P \uparrow 1 = \text{lfp}(T_P) = H_P \]
A Fixpoint Semantics for Logic Programs: Example 2 (infinite)

\[ P = \{ p(f(X)) \leftarrow p(X). \]
\[ \quad p(a). \]
\[ \quad q(a). \]
\[ \quad q(b). \} \]

\[ U_P = \{ a, b, f(a), f(b), f(f(a)), f(f(b)), \ldots \} \]

\[ B_P = \{ p(a), p(b), q(a), q(b), p(f(a)), p(f(b)), q(f(a)), \ldots \} \]

\[ I_P = \text{all subsets of } B_P \]

\[ H_P = \{ q(a), q(b), p(a) \} \cup \{ p(f^n(a)) \mid n \in \mathbb{N} \} \]

where we define \( f^n(a) \) to be \( f \) nested \( n \) times and then applied to \( a \).

(i.e., \( q(a), q(b), p(a), p(f(a)), p(f(f(a))), p(f(f(f(a)))), \ldots \))

\[ T_P \uparrow 0 = \{ p(a), q(a), q(b) \} \]
\[ T_P \uparrow 1 = \{ p(a), q(a), q(b), p(f(a)) \} \]
\[ T_P \uparrow 2 = \{ p(a), q(a), q(b), p(f(a)), p(f(f(a))) \} \]

\[ \ldots \]

\[ T_P \uparrow \omega = H_P \]
A Fixpoint Semantics for Logic Programs: Example 3 (infinite)

- Example:

  \[ P = \{ \text{nat}(0). \text{nat}(s(X)) \leftarrow \text{nat}(X). \text{sum}(0, X, X). \text{sum}(s(X), Y, s(Z)) \leftarrow \text{sum}(X, Y, Z). \} \]

  \[ U_P = \{0\} \cup \{s(x) \mid x \in U_P\} \]

  (i.e., \{0, s(0), s(s(0)), s(s(s(0))), \ldots\}).

  \[ B_P = \{\text{nat}(x) \mid x \in U_P\} \cup \{\text{sum}(x, y, z) \mid x, y, z \in U_P\} \]

  (i.e., \{\text{nat}(0), \text{nat}(s(0)), \text{nat}(s(s(0))), \ldots\} \cup \{\text{sum}(0, 0, 0), \text{sum}(s(0), 0, 0), \text{sum}(0, s(0), 0), \text{sum}(0, 0, s(0)), \ldots\}).
Constructing the least fixpoint of the $T_P$ operator:

\[
T_P \uparrow 0 = \{\text{nat}(0)\} \cup \{\text{sum}(0, x, x) \mid x \in U_P\}
\]
\[
T_P \uparrow 1 = T_P \uparrow 0 \cup \{\text{nat}(s(0))\}
\]
\[
\quad \cup \{\text{sum}(s(0), y, s(y)) \mid y \in U_P\}
\]
\[
T_P \uparrow 2 = T_P \uparrow 1 \cup \{\text{nat}(s(s(0)))\}
\]
\[
\quad \cup \{\text{sum}(s(s(0)), y, s(s(y))) \mid y \in U_P\}
\]
\[
T_P \uparrow 3 = T_P \uparrow 2 \cup \{\text{nat}(s(s(s(0))))\}
\]
\[
\quad \cup \{\text{sum}(s(s(s(0))), y, s(s(s(y)))) \mid y \in U_P\}
\]

...  
\[
T_P \uparrow \omega = \{\text{nat}(x) \mid x \in U_P\} \cup \\
\quad \{\text{sum}(s^n(0), y, s^n(y)) \mid y \in U_P \land n \in \mathcal{N}\}
\]

where we define $s^x(y)$ to be $s$ nested $x$ times and then applied to $y$. 
Strong Model Semantics – Equivalences

- (Characterization Theorem) [Van Emden and Kowalski]
  A program $P$ has a Herbrand model $H_P$ such that:
  - $H_P$ is the least Herbrand Model of $P$.
  - $H_P$ is the least fixpoint of $T_P$ ($\text{lfp } T_P$).
  - $H_P = T_P \uparrow \omega$.

  I.e., least model semantics ($H_P$) $\equiv$ fixpoint semantics ($\text{lfp } T_P$)

- In addition, there is also an equivalence with the operational semantics (SLD-resolution):
  - SLD-resolution answers “yes” to $a \in B_P \iff a \in H_P$.

- Because it gives us a way to directly build $H_P$ (for finite models), the least fixpoint semantics can in some cases also be an operational semantics (e.g., for datalog in deductive databases).