1 Introduction

Over the semester, we have been using imperative programming – a programming style where code is written as a set of instructions for the computer. In this section, we introduce declarative programming – code that declares what we want, not how to do it. Logic programming (what we are learning) is a type of declarative programming.

In this class, we will be using a language called Logic. The Logic language was based on the Scheme project and also borrows a few ideas from Prolog.

2 Simple Facts and Queries

In Logic, you can define facts. Facts are simply Scheme lists of relations and relations are simply Scheme lists of symbols. Remember, relations are NOT call expressions; instead, relations are used to express relationships between symbols.

Here’s an example of a fact:

> (fact (sells supermarket groceries))

This line of code says: “This is a fact: supermarkets sell groceries”. When we declare something as a fact, we are simply saying that it is a true statement. You can think of a fact as an axiom, i.e., something that is fundamentally true.

“sells” is a quality that relates two things, “supermarket” and “groceries.” What are the values of “supermarket” and “groceries”? They have no values! They are symbols – symbols are Logic’s primitives.

Having defined some facts, we can make queries – in other words, we can ask Logic for information based on the facts that we’ve defined:
The first query asks, “Is it a fact that supermarkets sell groceries?” and the second query asks, “Is it a fact that supermarkets sell books?” The third query above is equivalent to asking “What do supermarkets sell?” Logic replies that supermarkets sell groceries, based on the previously defined fact.

Note that ?stuff is a variable in Logic, whereas supermarket is a symbol. supermarket is always going to be supermarket, but ?stuff is unknown – it is only after the query that we know what the value of ?stuff is.

A similar query is
> (query (sells ?place groceries))
Success!
place: supermarket

This query is equivalent to asking “Which places sell groceries?” Once again, Logic replies based on the previously defined fact.

We can also query both multiple elements of a relation:
> (query (sells ?place ?stuff))
Success!
place: supermarket stuff: groceries

This is equivalent to asking “What are places that sell stuff, and what stuff do they sell?” Logic will tell you what each variable should be based on previously defined facts.

In Logic, we can also model hierarchical data by nesting relations inside of other relations. For example:
(fact (person (name bob) (age 49)))
(fact (person (name alice) (age 20)))

declares two facts. The first fact asserts that there exists a person whose name is Bob and whose age is 49. The second fact asserts that there exists a person whose name is Alice and whose age is 20.

Moreover, we can query the facts that we previously defined:
> (query (person (name ?first-name) (age 49)))
Success!
first-name: bob
> (query (person (name bob) ?age))
The first query asks, “What is the name of a person whose age is 49?” and the second query asks, “What is the age of a person named Bob?”.

2.1 Questions

1. Write a fact that checks if two elements are equal.

2. Define a set of facts about complementary nucleotides. Remember from biology that
   • Adenine and Thymine are complementary to each other
   • Cytosine and Guanine are complementary to each other

2. Define a set of facts to model the table of data below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bulbasaur</td>
<td>001</td>
<td>Green</td>
<td>Grass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charmander</td>
<td>004</td>
<td>Red</td>
<td>Fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squirtle</td>
<td>007</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caterpie</td>
<td>010</td>
<td>Green</td>
<td>Bug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pikachu</td>
<td>025</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>Electric</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In Logic, you can also define more complex facts. For example:
> (fact (sells-same ?store1 ?store2)
  (sells ?store1 ?item)
  (sells ?store2 ?item))

Here is the basic syntax of a complex fact:
> (fact (<conclusion>)
  (<hypothesis 1>)
  (<hypothesis 2>)
  ...
  (<hypothesis n>))

This is equivalent to saying “the conclusion is true if all the hypotheses are true.” If even one of the hypotheses is false, the conclusion cannot be proven using this fact.

For example, the sells-same complex fact is equivalent to saying “store1 and store2 sell the same thing if store1 sells item and store2 also sells the same item.”

You can perform fact-checking with complex facts, just like with simple facts:
> (fact (sells farmers-market groceries))
> (fact (sells starbucks coffee))
> (query (sells-same supermarket farmers-market))
Success!
> (query (sells-same supermarket starbucks))
Failed.

We can also do querying:
> (query (sells-same ?store supermarket))
Success!
  store: farmers-market

This is equivalent to asking “what store sells the same thing as a supermarket?”

We can also ask “what stores sell the same thing?”
> (query (sells-same ?store1 ?store2))
Success!
  store1: supermarket store2: farmers-market
  store1: farmers-market store2: supermarket
  store1: supermarket store2: supermarket
  store1: farmers-market store2: farmers-market
3.1 Questions

1. Write simple and complex facts for `member`, a relation between a symbol and a list that is satisfied if and only if that symbol is in the list.

   > (query (member a (a b c)))
   Success!
   > (query (member d (a b c)))
   Failed.
   > (query (member ?elem (a b c)))
   Success!
   elem: a
   elem: b
   elem: c

   Hint: Think about how you would write this in Scheme!

2. Write simple and complex facts for `every-other`, a relation between two lists that is satisfied if and only if the second list is the same as the first list, but with every other element removed.

   > (query (every-other (frodo merry sam pippin) ?x))
   Success!
   x: (frodo sam)
   > (query (every-other (gandalf) ?x))
   Success!
   x: (gandalf)
3. Write simple and complex facts for mapped, a relation between a relation and two lists that is satisfied if and only if each element of the second list satisfies the relation with the corresponding element of the first list. (The example uses the complementary fact you defined at the beginning of discussion.)

> (query (mapped complementary (g t a g t a g t a) ?nyan))
Success!
nyan: (c a t c a t c a t)

4. Write facts for prefix, a relation between two lists that is satisfied if and only if elements of the first list are the first elements of the second list, in order.

> (query (prefix (being for the) (being for the benefit of mister kite)))
Success!
> (query (prefix (for no one) (for no one)))
Success!
> (query (prefix () (got to get you into my life)))
Success!
> (query (prefix (want i to) (i want to hold your hand)))
Failed.
5. Write facts for sublist, a relation between two lists that is satisfied if and only if the first is a consecutive sublist of the second. For example:

> (query (sublist (give) (never gonna give you up)))
Success!

> (query (sublist (you up) (never gonna give you up)))
Success!

> (query (sublist () (never gonna give you up)))
Success!

> (query (sublist (never give up) (never gonna give you up)))
Failed.

> (query (sublist (let you down) (never gonna give you up)))
Failed.

Hint: You will want to use the prefix fact that you previously defined.