

# Inverse Narrowing for the Induction of Functional Logic Programs<sup>1</sup>

**J. Hernandez-Orallo & M.J. Ramirez-Quintana**

*DSIC, Universitat Politècnica de València  
Camí de Vera s/n, 46022 València, Spain.  
Email: {jorallo,mramirez}@dsic.upv.es*

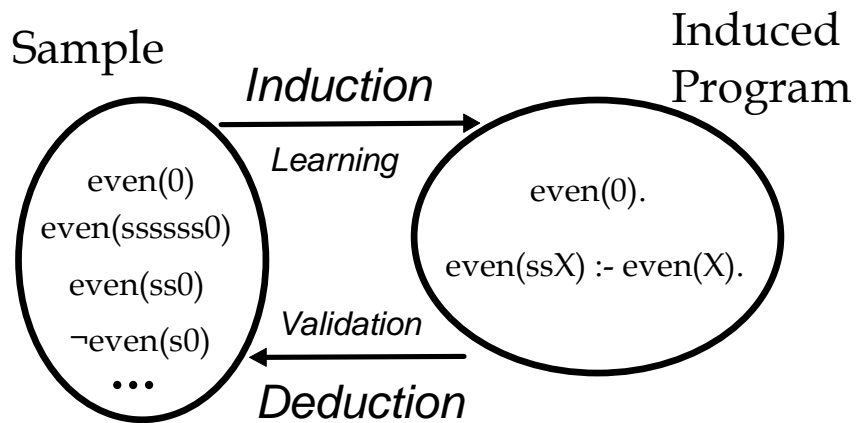
APPIA-GULP-PRODE 1998 (AGP'98)  
Joint Conference on Declarative Programming  
Corunna, Spain, July 20-23

---

<sup>1</sup> Work partially supported by CICYT under grant TIC 95-0433-C03-03.

# Wide Context

## *Inductive Synthesis of Declarative Programs*



### Applications:

- Established: *Scientific Theory Formation, Data Mining, Specific Industrial Applications (Traffic Control).*
- Promising: *NLP, Modelling, Program Synthesis.*

# Specific Trend

## *LP Extensions & Combinations*

CLP, AILP, Planification (EvC, SitC), RL

## *Extend ILP to other Declarative Paradigms*

- **Functional Programming**  
Based on rewriting (e.g. Haskell, ML). → Olson95
- **Functional Logic Programming**  
Based on residuation (e.g. Escher) → FlaGirLlo98  
Based on narrowing (e.g. Curry) → \*
- **Higher-Order Frameworks**  
Different rewriting or unification mechanisms.

## 👉 Advantages:

- *Background knowledge can be richer: schemata, biases...*
- *More expressive power → More compact theories*
- *The relation between deduction & induction can be more deeply considered (incompleteness, information-gain...)*

## 👉 Drawbacks:

- *Similar efforts and techniques could be scattered among different representation mechanisms.*
- *In general\*, the deduction methods are less efficient or less well-established than resolution.*

# Language:

Inductive Functional Logic Programs:

Conditional Rewriting Systems (CRT)  
with rules of the form:  
 $l = r \Leftarrow e_1, \dots, e_n$  with  $n \geq 0$

+

$\varepsilon$ -unification

Subsumes LP and Functional Programming.

## Narrowing:

- *Sound and complete  $\varepsilon$ -unification method.*
- *More expressive power in comparison to functional languages.*
- *Better operational behavior in comparison to logic languages.*
- *Migration to HOL will be easier than directly from ILP.*

# Narrowing

This work  $\rightarrow$  unconditional case:

- unrestricted (ordinary) narrowing:

**Narrowing** ( $\hookrightarrow$ )     *pattern-matching  $\rightarrow$  unification*

$t$  ‘narrows’ into  $t'$  ( $t \hookrightarrow_{\theta} t'$ ) using program  $P$  iff

- $u \in O_{nv}(t)$ ,
- $l = r$  is a new variant of a rule from  $P$ ,
- $\theta = mgu(t|_u, l)$ , and
- $t' = \theta(t[r]_u)$ .

**Example:** program  $P_1 = \{r_1: X+0=X. \ r_2: X+sY=s(X+Y) \}$

$\Leftarrow \underline{s0 + Z} = ss0 \quad u = \text{lhs}|_{\varepsilon}, \text{ rule } r_2, \theta = \{X/s0, Z/sY\}$

$\Leftarrow s(\underline{s0 + Y}) = ss0 \quad u = \text{lhs}|_1, \text{ rule } r_1, \theta = \{X'/s0, Y/0\}$

$\Leftarrow ss0 = ss0 \quad X'' = X'' \ \theta = \{X''/ss0\}$

$\Leftarrow true \quad \mathbf{SOL: \{ Z/s0 \}}$

Unrestricted narrowing is sound and complete wrt. canonical programs.

*For this work, we shall only induce canonical programs.*

# Inductive framework

- Evidence  $E$ :  
    *Positive sample  $E^+$*   
    *Negative sample  $E^-$*
- Background Knowledge Theory  $B$ :

A program  $P$  is a solution to the inductive (or learning) problem generated from  $E$  iff:

$B \cup P \models E^+$  (*posterior sufficiency or completeness*)

$B \cup P \not\models E^-$  (*posterior satisfiability or consistency*)

Additionally, it is usually supposed

$B \not\models E^+$  (*prior necessity*)

$B \not\models E^-$  (*prior satisfiability*)

Also, to approach abduction in an ILP framework:

$P \not\models E^+$  and only facts can be in  $P$ .

# Hypotheses Selection

*For every E there are infinite many solutions*

*Criteria for generation and selection:*

- The shortest one (*the MDL principle*)  
*problems*  $\rightarrow$  *Non-computable.*  
 $\rightarrow$  *It can leave extensional parts.*
- The most specific one (Plotkin's lgg):  
*problem*  $\rightarrow$   $P = E^+$  *is a solution.*
- The least specific one:  
*problem*  $\rightarrow$   $P = T - E^-$  *is a solution.*
- The most efficient one:  
*problem*  $\rightarrow$   $P = E^+$  *is usually the most efficient.*
- The most 'coherent' one. No part must be left in an extensional way, i.e., all the data must be produced by the same 'main set of rules'.  
*problem*  $\rightarrow$  *it must be combined with other criteria to avoid 'fantastic' inductions.*

# Example 1

- Background Knowledge Theory  $B$ :

$$s(X) < s(Y) = X < Y$$

$$0 < s(Y) = \text{true}$$

$$X < 0 = \text{false}$$

- Evidence  $E$ :

$$(E_1^+) \quad 0 + 0 = 0$$

$$(E_2^+) \quad s0 + s0 = ss0 \quad \leftarrow \neg$$

$$(E_3^+) \quad 0 + s0 = s0 \quad \left| =$$

$$(E_4^+) \quad s(s0 + s0) = sss0 \quad \left| =$$

$$(E_5^+) \quad s(ss0 + s0) = ssss0$$

$$(E_1^-) \quad s0 + 0 = 0$$

$$(E_2^-) \quad 0 + 0 = s0$$

$$(E_3^-) \quad s0 + s0 = s0$$

$$(E_4^-) \quad s0 + 0 = ss0$$

$$(E_5^-) \quad \cancel{s(0 + 0)} = \cancel{ss0}$$

$$(E_6^-) \quad ss0 + s0 = 0$$

$$(E_7^-) \quad s0 = 0$$

- Possible solutions:

$$P_1 = E^+$$

*Very specific*

$$P_2 = \{X+0 = X, 0+X = X, sX+s0 = ssX\}$$

$$P_3 = \{X+0 = X, X+sY = s(X+Y)\}$$

*Short and Coherent*

$$P_4 = \{X+0 = X, X+s0 = sX\}$$

*Short*

$$P_5 = \{X+Y = X \Leftrightarrow Y = 0, X+sY = sX \Leftrightarrow Y = 0\}$$

$$P_6 = \{X+0 = X, X+Y = Y+X \Leftrightarrow X < Y, sX+sY = ss(X+Y)\}$$

*Coherent*

$$P_7 = \{X+0 = X, 0+X = X, sX+sY = ss(X+Y)\}$$

*Efficient*

$$P_8 = \{X+0 = X, 0+X = X, sX+sY = s(X+sY)\}$$

...



# General heuristics

No unified criterion for all the applications.

There is no such thing as “the right hypothesis”

The stop-criteria should be parametrised.



The search is guided by an optimality factor weighting some selected criteria.

$$Opt(P) = \alpha \cdot LenF(P) + \beta \cdot CovF^+(P) + \gamma \cdot ConF(P) + \delta \cdot \dots$$

👍 Advantages:

- *The same generic algorithm can be used for different applications.*
- *Any information about the supposed ‘true’ hypothesis can help to select the different criteria and speed up the search.*

👎 Drawbacks:

- *The search cannot be fully optimised (it is difficult to prune if the search heuristics are variable)*

- *Hard-completeness results are difficult.*

# Used Criteria

$$\boxed{Opt(P) = LenF(P) + CovF^+(P) + ConF(P)}$$

**LenF** = syntactical length of rhs.

Different 'weight': 1 : constants and functors  
0.5 : variables

Example:  $Weight(\{ ssX + sX \rightarrow s(ssX + 0) \}) = 5.5$

$$LenF(P) = -\sum_{e \in P} \log_2 Weight(e)$$

$$CovF^+(P) = \text{card}(e \in E^+ : P \models e) / \text{card}(E^+)$$

It allows approximate learning.

**ConF(P)** = 1 if  $P$  has only an equation, otherwise

$$ConF(P) = 1 - \max(\text{card}(e \in E^+ : P_i \subset P \wedge P_i \models e)) / \text{card}(E^+)$$

Example:

$P_1 = \{ r_1, r_2, r_3 \}$  Suppose  $\{ r_3 \}$  covers  $e_5$   
and  $\{ r_1, r_2 \}$  covers  $e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4$

$ConF(P_1) = 1/5 \rightarrow e_5$  is clearly an exception.

Different Stop Criteria for different applications:

- If  $CovF^+ = 1$  and  $ConF > dc$  (desired consilience)  $\rightarrow$  Appropriate for **program synthesis** (perfect data and coherent programs)
- If  $dc = 0$  and  $CovF^+ = 1$  the criterion  $\approx$  MDL principle  $\rightarrow$  No information at all about the source.
- If  $dc = 0.5$  and  $CovF^+ = 0.8$ , learning a consilient theory in the presence of errors (with known error ratio = 0.2).

# Main mechanisms

Inverse of matching/substitution  $\rightarrow$  generalisation

Inverse of narrowing  $\rightarrow$  "inverse narrowing"

## Def. 1. Restricted Generalisation (RG)

Given an equation  $e \equiv \{ t = s \}$ , the equation  $t' = s'$  is a restricted generalisation of  $e$  iff it is a generalisation, i.e.

$$\exists \theta : t' \theta = t \wedge s' \theta = s$$

and it does not include fresh variables in the rhs.

$$\forall x (x \in \text{Var}(s') \Rightarrow x \in \text{Var}(t'))$$

## Def. 2. Consistent Restricted Generalisation (CRG)

The equation  $e = \{ l_1 = r_1 \}$  is a CRG w.r.t.  $E^+$  and  $E^-$  and the theory  $T = B \cup P$  iff  $e$  is a RG for some equation of  $E^+$

and there does not exist a narrowing chain  $(s \xrightarrow{*}_{T \cup e} t)$  such that:

$$s=t \in E^-. \quad (\text{consistency wrt. } E^-)$$

**Example:** (following Example 1)

Clause  $\{ X' + 0 = X' \}$  is a CRG of  $E^+_1$

Clause  $\{ X + s0 = sX \}$  is a CRG of  $E^+_2, E^+_3, (E^+_4), E^+_5$

# Inverse Narrowing

## Def.3 Inverse Narrowing ( $\leftarrow\supset$ )

$t$  'conversely narrows' into  $t'$  ( $t \leftarrow\supset_{\theta} t'$ ) iff

- $u \in O(t)$ ,
- $l = r$  is a new variant of a rule from  $P$ ,
- $\theta = mgu(t|_u, r)$ , and
- $t' = \theta(t[l]_u)$ .

Reversed Narrowing + CRG = Inverse Narrowing.

### Example:

From the equation  $e_a = \{X + s0 = \underline{sX}\}$  select  $t = sX$

We find a new variant  $\{X' + 0 = \underline{X'}\}$  from  $P$ .

Two occurrences:  $u_1 = 1$  gives  $t'_1 = s(X + 0)$   
 $u_2 = \varepsilon$  gives  $t'_2 = sX + 0$

giving two equations

$$e_{a,1} = \{X + s0 = \underline{s(X+0)}\}$$

$$e_{a,2} = \{X + s0 = \underline{sX+0}\}$$

It is obvious that both narrow into  $e_a$  using  $P$ .

The same holds after CRG:  $e'_{a,1} = \{X + sY = \underline{s(X+Y)}\}$

# Non-incremental Algorithm

Two main sets:

*EH: Set of equations, generated from all CRG of  $E^+$ .*

*$PH \subset \wp(EH)$  : set of programs constructed from EH.*

Initially,  $PH = \{ \{e\} : e \in EH \}$

Programs are *merged* using inverse narrowing followed by a CRG.

On each iteration, until all the data are 'consiliated':

- *The two most optimal programs are selected, provided they cover most of the examples, and they have not been merged before.*
- *Inverse narrowing is made between all the possible occurrences using one equation of each program.*
- *The resulting programs which are consistent and canonical are added to PH. If not, they can be split.*

Several parameters: *min, step, inarcomb* are introduced to temporarily prune the search tree.

Condition for using *B*: some example does not have any program which covers it with good optimality.

# Example (non-incremental)

- Evidence  $E$ :

$(E_1^+)$   $\text{append}([1,2],[3]) = [1,2,3]$      $(E_1^-)$   $\text{append}([3],[4])=[4,3]$   
 $(E_2^+)$   $\text{append}([c],[a])=[c,a]$      $(E_2^-)$   $\text{append}([1,2],[1])=[1]$   
 $(E_3^+)$   $\text{append}([], [4])=[4]$      $(E_3^-)$   $\text{append}([1,2,3],[4])=[1,2,3,4,5]$   
 $(E_4^+)$   $\text{append}([a,b],[1])=[a,b]$      $(E_4^-)$   $\text{append}([], [a,b])=[b,a]$   
 $(E_5^+)$   $\text{append}([a,b,c],[d,e])=[a,b,c,d,e]$

- From each example, two ( $\text{min}=2$ ) CRG's are generated with the best optimality:

$\text{CRG}(E_1^+) = \{ e_1: \text{append}(. (X, . (Y, [])), Z) = . (X, . (Y, Z)),$   
 $e_2: \text{append}(. (X, . (Y, Z)), . (W, Z)) = . (X, . (Y, . (W, Z))) \}$

$\text{CRG}(E_2^+) = \{ e_3: \text{append}(. (X, []), Y) = . (X, Y),$   
 $e_4: \text{append}(. (X, Y), . (Z, Y)) = . (X, . (Z, Y)) \}$

$\text{CRG}(E_3^+) = \{ e_5: \text{append}([], X) = X,$   
 $e_6: \text{append}(X, . (Y, X)) = . (Y, X) \}$

$\text{CRG}(E_4^+) = \{ e_7: \text{append}(X, []) = X,$   
 $e_8: \text{append}(. (X, . (Y, Z)), Z) = . (X, . (Y, Z)) \}$

$\text{CRG}(E_5^+) = \{ e_9: \text{append}(. (Y, . (Z, . (W, V))), X) = . (Y, . (Z, . (W, X))),$   
 $e_{10}: \text{append}(. (Y, . (Z, . (W, []))), X) = . (Y, . (Z, . (W, X))) \}$

Constructed  $EH$  and  $PH$ , the best solution is  $\{e_1, e_3, e_5, e_9\}$  covering  $E^+$  (with dreadful optimality and no consilience at all).

## Example (cont)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Iteration. 1st Inverse Narrowing Combination.

There is no pair of programs covering 5 or 4 examples.  
Thus, from those programs covering 3 examples, the most optimal ones are:

$$P_1 = \{ \text{append}(X,.(Y,[])),Z) = .(X,.(Y,Z)) \} \text{ covering } E_1^+, E_4^+$$

$$P_2 = \{ \text{append}([],X) = X \} \text{ covering } E_3^+$$

giving 3 consistent programs:

$$P_a = \{ \text{append}(. (X,.(Y,W)), Z) = .(\text{append}(W,X),.(Y,Z)), \\ \text{append}([],X)=X \}$$

$$P_b = \{ \text{append}(. (X,.(Y,W)), Z) = .(X,.( \text{append}(W,Y),Z)), \\ \text{append}([],X)=X \}$$

$$P_c = \{ \text{append}(. (X,.(Y,W)), Z) = .(X,.(Y, \text{append}(W,Z))), \\ \text{append}([],X)=X \}$$

Added to *PH*. The best solution is the same as before.



## Example (cont)

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Iteration. 2<sup>nd</sup> Inverse Narrowing Combination.

Now, we find two programs covering 4 examples:

$$P'_1 = P_a = \{ e_{1,1}: \text{append}(. (X, . (Y, W)), Z) = . (\text{append}(W, X), . (Y, Z)), \\ e_{1,2}: \underline{\text{append}([], X)} = X \} \text{ covering } E_1^+, E_3^+, E_4^+$$

$$P'_2 = \{ e_{2,1}: \text{append}(. (X, []), Y) = . (X, \underline{Y}) \} \text{ covering } E_2^+$$

Select the two rules with the highest optimality:  $e_{1,2}$  and  $e_{2,1}$ .

After inverse narrowing and CRG, most of them are inconsistent. After 'splitting', only one of them results consistent and confluent ( $e_{1,1}$  is removed):

$$P_d = \{ \text{append}(. (X, Z), Y) = . (X, \text{append}(Z, Y)), \\ \text{append}([], X) = X \}$$

which covers  $E^+$  and has good optimality.

Best Solution:  $P_d$  with consilience  $> 0.5$ , the stop criterion.

*The example shows that if optimality is not used heuristically, the method is not feasible in practice.*

# Incremental Algorithm

*More interactive (the user can stop the sample).*

For each new example which is being presented:

- *If it is a positive example:  $E_n^+$ , check for every program  $P_i \in PH$ :*
  1. HIT ( $P_i \models E_n^+$ ): Just recompute the optimalities.
  2. NOT COVERED ( $P_i \not\models E_n^+ \wedge \text{lhs}(E_n^+)$  is  $\downarrow$ ): = HIT
  3. ANOMALY: Remove all non confluent and inconsistent  $P_i$  from  $PH$  and prune  $EH$ .

*and we generate all the CRG's of  $E_n^+$  in  $EH$  and extend  $PH$  with all the new unary programs.*
- *If it is a negative example:  $E_n^-$ , we check the consistency for every program  $P_i \in PH$  and we act as in either the HIT or as in the ANOMALY cases.*

*In any case, the iteration can be 'reactivated' until the best solution complies with the stop-criterion (or an iteration limit is exhausted).*

The consilience criterion avoids extensional 'patches' for the NOT-COVERED case.

# Example (incremental & BK)

Induce the power function from the product function:

$$B = \{0 \times X = 0, sX \times Y = X \times Y + Y, X + 0 = X, X + sY = s(X + Y)\}$$

$$BF = \{ \times \} // \text{ Only use } \times \text{ and the functors which appear in } E.$$

Example of 9 steps of an interactive session:

1. The first example  $E_1^+ = \{ss0 \uparrow ss0 = ssss0\}$  is processed. The first  $EH$  could be enormous and must be pruned.
2. The second example  $E_1^- = \{ss0 \uparrow sss0 = sssssss0\}$  does not make any program inconsistent.
3. The third example  $E_2^+ = \{sss0 \uparrow ss0 = ssssssss0\}$  is a NOT COVERED case and generates new equations, like  $\{X \uparrow Y = ssssssX\}$  or  $\{sX \uparrow X = ssssssX\}$ .  
Poor optimality  $\rightarrow$  inverse narrowing between  $\{E_2^+\}$  and  $B$ .  
Program  $P_a = \{X \uparrow ss0 = X \times X\}$  is generated covering all  $E^+$  and with good optimality over other solutions.  
It is offered to the user. The user deems it to be too hasty.
4. Example  $E_2^- = \{sss0 \uparrow sss0 = ssssssss0\}$  prunes some programs but  $P_a$  is still the best solution.

5. Example  $E_3^+ = \{sss0 \uparrow s0 = sss0\}$  is NOT COVERED by all programs. New CRG's are generated like  $\{X \uparrow s0 = X\}$  and  $\{ssX \uparrow X = ssX\}$ . Until some limit of iterations, the algorithm stops because it does not find a consilient program. The best one is  $P_5 = \{X \uparrow s0 = X, X \uparrow ss0 = X \times X\}$ .
6. Example  $E_3^- = \{ss0 \uparrow sss0 = ssss0\}$  eliminates some uninteresting programs.
7. Example  $E_4^+ = \{0 \uparrow sss0 = 0\}$  is NOT COVERED by all programs. New CRG's are generated like  $\{0 \uparrow X = 0\}$ .
8. Example  $E_4^- = \{sss0 \uparrow ss0 = ssss0\}$  eliminates some uninteresting programs.
9. Example  $E_5^+ = \{ss0 \uparrow 0 = s0\}$  is NOT COVERED by all programs. New CRG's are generated like  $\{X \uparrow 0 = s0\}$  or  $\{ss0 \uparrow 0 = s0\}$ . The first one is combined with  $P_5$  which contained  $\{X \uparrow ss0 = X \times X\}$ . This gives equations like  $\{\underline{X \uparrow sY = (X \uparrow Y) \times X}\}$ ,  $\{X \uparrow sY = X \times (X \uparrow Y)\}$  and  $\{X \uparrow sY = (X \uparrow X) \times Y\}$ . Some new programs are constructed using them. One has very good optimality  $\rightarrow$  the algorithm offers it to the user...

Solution guessed at step 9:

$$\begin{cases} X \uparrow sY = (X \uparrow Y) \times X \\ X \uparrow s0 = s0 \end{cases}$$

The user now considers it's time to stop.

*Obviously, any future example can be NOT COVERED or even can make it inconsistent.*

# Conclusions and Future Work

**General framework for the induction  
of functional logic programs.**

- ★ Two basic operators are introduced:
  - *Consistent Restricted Generalisation*
  - *Inverse Narrowing*
- ★ The selection criterion is parametrisable.
- ★ Adaptation to the *incremental* case is immediate due to the notion of consilience (a good solution is sought earlier than the MDL principle suggests).

## **Current work:**

- *conditional extension: based on balanced reinforcement to avoid exceptions as conditions.*
- *comparison with other ILP systems.*

## **Future work:**

- *theoretical results on 'completeness' and complexity.*
- *study of different narrowing techniques (especially needed narrowing) to possibly integrate with Curry.*
- *higher-order logic.*