

# **Synthesizing Strongly Equivalent Logic Programs: Beth Definability for Answer Set Programs via Craig Interpolation in First-Order Logic**

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## Beth Definability and Craig Interpolation in a Nutshell

**Definition.**  $Q$  is *implicitly definable* in terms of vocabulary  $V$  within  $K$  iff

$$K \wedge K' \models Q \leftrightarrow Q',$$

where  $K'$  and  $Q'$  are copies of  $K$  and  $Q$  with all symbols not in  $V$  replaced by fresh symbols

This says: If two models of  $K$  agree on values of symbols in  $V$ , then they agree on the value of  $Q$

**Definition.**  $Q$  is *explicitly definable* in terms of vocabulary  $V$  within  $K$  iff

there exists a formula  $R$  in vocabulary  $V$  s.th.  $K \models Q \leftrightarrow R$

[Beth 1953] In first-order logic implicit and explicit definability are equivalent

**Definition.** A *Craig interpolant* of  $F$  and  $G$  s.th.  $F \models G$  is a formula  $H$  s.th.

(1.)  $F \models H$  (2.)  $H \models G$  (3.) The vocabulary of  $H$  is in the common vocabulary of  $F$  and  $G$

[Craig 1957] In first-order logic  $H$  exists and can be extracted from a proof of  $F \models G$

**Proof of [Beth] via [Craig].**

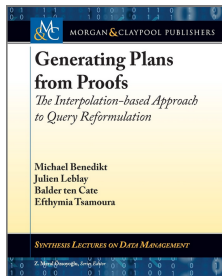
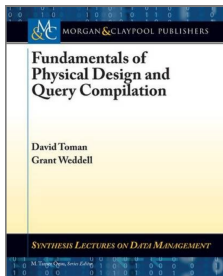
Write implicit definability as  $K \wedge Q \models K' \rightarrow Q'$

Obtain  $R$  as Craig interpolant of  $K \wedge Q$  and  $K' \rightarrow Q'$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & K \models Q \leftrightarrow R & \\ K \models Q \rightarrow R & & K \models R \rightarrow Q \\ K \wedge Q & \models R \models & K' \rightarrow Q' \end{array}$$

$$K \models Q \leftrightarrow R$$
$$K \wedge Q \models R \models K' \rightarrow Q'$$

- Synthesis of definitions by Craig interpolation is a logic-based technique for **query reformulation**



[Nash/Segoufin/Vianu 2005, 2010]

[Toman/Weddell 2011]

[Benedikt et al. 2016]

- Strengthened variations of Craig interpolation preserve criteria for domain independence, e.g., through **relativized quantifiers** [Benedikt et al. 2015] or **range-restriction** [W 2023]

## Our Question: Beth via Craig to Synthesize Answer Set Programs?

$$P \models Q \leftrightarrow R$$
$$P \wedge Q \models R \models P' \rightarrow Q'$$

- Idea: For given logic programs  $P, Q$  and vocabulary  $V$  **synthesize** a program  $R$  in  $V$  that is **“equivalent”** to  $Q$  under assumptions  $P$
- But: Logic programs are considered under **nonmonotonic semantics**



From the cover of Matthew L. Ginsberg (ed.): Readings in Nonmonotonic Reasoning, 1987

## Answer Set Programming with the Stable Model Semantics

- A **logic program** is a set of **rules** of the form

$$A_1; \dots; A_k; \text{not } A_{k+1}; \dots; \text{not } A_l \leftarrow A_{l+1}, \dots, A_m, \text{not } A_{m+1}, \dots, \text{not } A_n$$

- I.e., we consider disjunctive logic programs with negation in the head
- Atoms can have argument terms built from variables, constants and function symbols
- An **answer set solver** computes **answer sets** (stable models [Gelfond/Lifschitz 1988]) of a program
  - These are minimal Herbrand models in which all facts are properly justified in a non-circular way

```
a ← not b
b ← not c
d
{d, b}
```

```
fly(X) ← bird(X), not ab(X)
ab(X) ← penguin(X)
bird(X) ← penguin(X)
bird(tweety)
penguin(skippy)

{penguin(skippy), bird(tweety),
 bird(skippy), ab(skippy), fly(tweety)}
```

```
p ← a
a ← not b
b ← not a
{p, a}, {b}
```

```
p ← p
q ← not p
{q}
```

**Definition.** [Lifschitz/Pearce/Valverde 2001]

Programs  $P$  and  $Q$  are **strongly equivalent** iff

for all programs  $X$  it holds that  $P \cup X$  and  $Q \cup X$  have the same answer sets

- Justifies **replacing a subset of rules** while preserving overall semantics

$p \leftarrow \text{not } q$

$p$

- Equivalent: both have the same single answer set  $\{p\}$
- But not strongly equivalent: if we **add**  $q$  we get  $\{q\}$  and  $\{p, q\}$ , rsp.

$p \leftarrow q$   
 $q$

$p$

$q$

- These are strongly equivalent

$p \leftarrow q, \text{not } q$

- Strongly equivalent to the empty program

## Strong Equivalence can be Represented as Classical First-Order Equivalence

- For each **program predicate**  $p$  we have two **logic predicates**  $p^0, p^1$
- Representing a logic with two worlds:  
*here*  $p^0$  and *there*  $p^1$
- Representing a three valued logic:  
 $p$  is false       $\neg p^0 \wedge \neg p^1$   
 $p$  is not false     $\neg p^0 \wedge p^1$   
 $p$  is true          $p^0 \wedge p^1$

**Definition (Sketch).** For a rule

$$R = p(X); \text{not } q(X) \leftarrow r(X), \text{not } s(X)$$

define

$$\gamma^0(R) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \forall x (r^0(x) \wedge \neg s^1(x) \rightarrow p^0(x) \vee \neg q^1(x))$$

$$\gamma^1(R) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \forall x (r^1(x) \wedge \neg s^1(x) \rightarrow p^1(x) \vee \neg q^1(x))$$

For a program  $P$  define

$$\gamma(P) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \bigwedge_{R \in P} \gamma^0(R) \wedge \bigwedge_{R \in P} \gamma^1(R)$$

For a program  $P$  define

$$S_P \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \bigwedge_{p \in \text{Pred}(P)} \forall \mathbf{x} (p^0(\mathbf{x}) \rightarrow p^1(\mathbf{x}))$$

**Proposition.** [Lin 2002, Pearce/Tompits/Woltran 2009, Ferraris/Lee/Lifschitz 2011, Heuer 2020]

Programs  $P$  and  $Q$  are **strongly equivalent** iff

$$S_{P \cup Q} \wedge \gamma(P) \equiv S_{P \cup Q} \wedge \gamma(Q)$$

## Making Precise Our Question for Synthesis of Logic Programs

$$P \models Q \leftrightarrow R$$
$$P \wedge Q \models R \models P' \rightarrow Q'$$

- Idea: For given logic programs  $P, Q$  and vocabulary  $V$  **synthesize** a program  $R$  in  $V$  that is “**equivalent**” to  $Q$  under assumptions  $P$
- But: Logic programs are considered under **nonmonotonic semantics**

**Task.** For given programs  $P, Q$  and vocabulary  $V$  (a set of predicates) compute a program  $R$  in  $V$  s.th.  $P \cup R$  is **strongly equivalent** to  $P \cup Q$

- We consider strong equivalence wrt. a “background program”  $P$ , which may be empty
- $R$  in  $V$  and for all programs  $X$  it holds that  $X \cup P \cup Q$  and  $X \cup P \cup R$  have the same answer sets



**Task.** For given programs  $P, Q$  and vocabulary  $V$  (a set of predicates) compute a program  $R$  in  $V$  s.th.  $P \cup R$  is **strongly equivalent** to  $P \cup Q$

1. Develop a first-order **characterization of first-order formulas that encode a logic program**
2. Develop a **method to decode such a formula** into a program, up to strong equivalence
3. Develop a variation of **Craig interpolation for formulas that encode logic programs**
4. On its basis, show a **projective Beth theorem for logic programs**
  - It inherits **effectivity** and **practical implementations** from Craig interpolation
  - Its effective version realizes the considered task
5. A refinement gives some control on allowed **positions in rule components** of predicates in  $R$   
(head | body)  $\times$  (positive | negated)

**Definition.**  $\text{rename}_{0 \mapsto 1}(F)$  is  $F$  with 0-superscripted predicates  $p^0$  replaced by the corresponding 1-superscripted predicates  $p^1$

**Definition.**  $F$  *encodes a program* iff  $F$  is universal and  $S_F \wedge F \models \text{rename}_{0 \mapsto 1}(F)$

**Theorem: Formulas Encoding a Logic Program.**

- (i) For all programs  $P$ :  $\gamma(P)$  *encodes a program*
- (ii) **If  $F$  encodes a program, then there is a program  $P$  s.th.**

- (1)  $S_F \models \gamma(P) \leftrightarrow F$
- (2)  $\text{Pred}(P) \subseteq \text{Pred}^{LP}(F)$
- (3)  $\text{Fun}(P) \subseteq \text{Fun}(F)$

Moreover, such a program  $P$  can be **effectively constructed** from  $F$

**Proof.** Procedure that extracts  $P$  from given  $F$

## On the Decoding Procedure

- For given  $F$  that encodes a program ( $S_F \wedge F \models \text{rename}_{0 \mapsto 1}(F)$ ), returns a program  $P$  s.th.

$$S_F \models \gamma(P) \leftrightarrow F$$

- Converts the formula to CNF and **basically converts each clause to a program rule**
- Clauses that meet a **special criterion can be omitted** in the rule conversion
- Optional preprocessing where strong equivalence of the represented program is preserved

$F$	$P$
$\neg p^0 \vee q^1 \vee r^0$	$r \leftarrow p, \text{not } q$
$\neg p^1 \vee q^1 \vee r^1$	$\text{not } p \leftarrow \text{not } q, \text{not } r$
$\neg s^1 \vee t^1 \vee u^1$	$\text{not } s \leftarrow \text{not } t, \text{not } u$

Rule can be omitted

$F$	Does not encode a logic program
$\neg p^0 \vee q^1 \vee r^0$	

**Definition.** A *Craig-Lyndon interpolant* of  $F$  and  $G$  s.th.  $F \models G$  is a formula  $H$  s.th.

1.  $F \models H$
2.  $H \models G$
3.  $\text{Voc}(H) \subseteq \text{Voc}(F) \cap \text{Voc}(G)$ , taking also **polarity** of predicate occurrences into account

**Theorem: LP-Interpolation.** Let  $F$  encode a logic program, and let  $G$  be s.th.  $\mathcal{F}un(F) \subseteq \mathcal{F}un(G)$  and  $S_F \wedge F \models S_G \rightarrow G$ . Then there exists a first-order formula  $H$ , the *LP-interpolant* of  $F$  and  $G$ , s.th.

1.  $S_F \wedge F \models H$
2.  $H \models S_G \rightarrow G$
3.  $\text{Pred}^\pm(H) \subseteq S \cup \{+p^1 \mid +p^0 \in S\} \cup \{-p^1 \mid -p^0 \in S\}$ , where  $S = \text{Pred}^\pm(S_F \wedge F) \cap \text{Pred}^\pm(S_G \rightarrow G)$
4.  $\mathcal{F}un(H) \subseteq \mathcal{F}un(F)$
5.  $H$  encodes a logic program

Moreover, such an  $H$  can be effectively constructed via Craig-Lyndon interpolation applied to  $S_F \wedge F$  and  $S_G \rightarrow G$

**Proof.** Let  $H'$  be a Craig-Lyndon interpolant of  $S_F \wedge F$  and  $S_G \rightarrow G$ . Define  $H \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} H' \wedge \text{rename}_{0 \mapsto 1}(H')$

**Theorem: Effective Projective Definability of Logic Programs.** Let  $P$  and  $Q$  be programs and let  $V \subseteq \text{Pred}(P) \cup \text{Pred}(Q)$  be a set of predicates. The **existence** of a program  $R$  s.th.

1.  $\text{Pred}(R) \subseteq V$
2.  $\text{Fun}(R) \subseteq \text{Fun}(P) \cup \text{Fun}(Q)$
3.  $P \cup R$  and  $P \cup Q$  are **strongly equivalent**

is **expressible as entailment between two first-order formulas**

Moreover, such a program  $R$  can be **effectively constructed** via Craig-Lyndon interpolation applied to both sides of the entailment

**Proof.** The entailment that characterizes existence of a logic program  $R$  is

$$S_P \wedge S_Q \wedge \gamma(P) \wedge \gamma(Q) \models \neg S_{P'} \vee \neg S_{Q'} \vee \neg \gamma(P') \vee \gamma(Q'),$$

where the primed  $P'$  and  $Q'$  are like  $P$  and  $Q$ , except that predicates not in  $V$  are replaced by fresh predicates

If the entailment holds, we can construct a program  $R$  as follows: Let  $H$  be the LP-interpolant of  $\gamma(P) \wedge \gamma(Q)$  and  $\neg \gamma(P') \vee \gamma(Q')$  and extract the program  $R$  from  $H$  with our procedure

## Effective Projective Definability of Logic Programs – Basic Examples

For given  $P, Q, V$ , find a program  $R$  s.th.

1.  $\text{Pred}(R) \subseteq V$
2.  $\text{Fun}(R) \subseteq \text{Fun}(P) \cup \text{Fun}(Q)$
3.  $P \cup R$  and  $P \cup Q$  are strongly equivalent

$$\begin{aligned} Q &= p \leftarrow q, r & V &= \{p, r\} \\ & p; q \leftarrow r \\ & q \leftarrow q, s \\ R &= p \leftarrow r \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} P &= p(X) \leftarrow q(X) & Q &= r(X) \leftarrow p(X) & V &= \{p, r\} \\ & & & r(X) \leftarrow q(X) \\ R &= r(X) \leftarrow p(X) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} P &= \leftarrow p(X), q(X) & Q &= r(X) \leftarrow p(X), \text{not } q(X) & V &= \{p, r\} \\ R &= r(X) \leftarrow p(X) \end{aligned}$$

## Effective Projective Definability of Logic Programs – “Schema Mapping” Examples

For given  $P, Q, V$ , find a program  $R$  s.th.

1.  $\text{Pred}(R) \subseteq V$
2.  $\text{Fun}(R) \subseteq \text{Fun}(P) \cup \text{Fun}(Q)$
3.  $P \cup R$  and  $P \cup Q$  are strongly equivalent

$P =$   $p(X) \leftarrow q(X), \text{not } r(X)$   
 $p(X) \leftarrow s(X)$   
 $\text{not } r(X); s(X) \leftarrow p(X)$   
 $q(X); s(X) \leftarrow p(X)$

$Q = t(X) \leftarrow p(X)$

$R = t(X) \leftarrow q(X), \text{not } r(X)$   
 $t(X) \leftarrow s(X)$

$V = \{q, r, s, t\}$

- Idea:  $P$  expresses a schema mapping from client predicate  $p$  to KB predicates  $q, r, s$   
The result  $R$  is a rewriting of the client query  $Q$  in terms of KB predicates
- Only the first two rules of  $P$  actually describe the mapping, the other two complete them
- Effects unfolding of  $p$
- Also works with  $R$  and  $Q$  switched and  $V = \{p, t\}$ : then it effects folding into  $p$

## Constraining Positions of Predicates within Rules

**Corollary: Position-Constrained Effective Projective Definability of Logic Programs.** Our definability theorem holds in a strengthened variation where three sets  $V_+$ ,  $V_{+1}$ ,  $V_-$  of predicates are given to the effect that a predicate  $p$  can occur in the respective component of a rule of  $R$  only if it is a member of a set of predicates according to the following table

$p$ is allowed in	only if $p$ is in
Positive heads	$V_+$
Negative bodies	$V_+ \cup V_{+1}$
Negative heads	$V_-$
Positive bodies	$V_-$

$$\begin{array}{lll}
 P = p \leftarrow q & Q = r \leftarrow p & V_+ = \{p, q, r, s\} \\
 & r \leftarrow q & V_{+1} = \{\} \\
 & q \leftarrow s & V_- = \{p, r, s\} \\
 R = r \leftarrow p & & \\
 & q \leftarrow s & 
 \end{array}$$

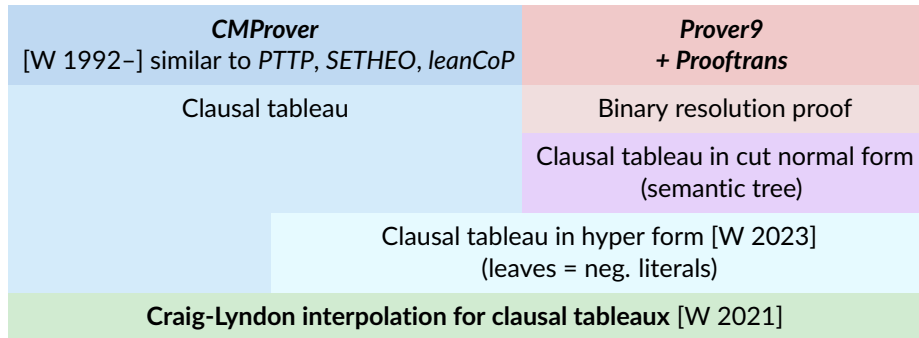
$$\begin{array}{lll}
 P = p \leftarrow q & Q = \leftarrow q, \text{not } p & V_+ = \{q, r, s\} \\
 & r \leftarrow q & V_{+1} = \{\} \\
 & s \leftarrow p & V_- = \{p, q, r, s\} \\
 R = r \leftarrow q & & \\
 & s \leftarrow p & 
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{lll}
 P = p \leftarrow q & Q = s \leftarrow \text{not } r & V_+ = \{s\} \\
 & r \leftarrow p & V_{+1} = \{r\} \\
 R = s \leftarrow \text{not } r & & V_- = \{p, q, r, s\}
 \end{array}$$



## Prototypical Implementation

- Implemented in **PIE (Proving, Interpolating, Eliminating)** [W 2016], embedded in **SWI-Prolog**
- Craig-Lyndon interpolation is done with first-order provers



- *Vampire* and *E* do not emit gap-free resolution proofs suited for interpolation, but proof tasks underlying interpolation can be tried with any prover supporting TPTP FOF
- Simplifications are important at all stages
- Nice Skolemization is useful:  $\forall \bar{y} P(\bar{y}) \wedge \forall \bar{y} Q(\bar{y}) \wedge \forall \bar{y} P'(\bar{y}) \wedge \exists \bar{x} \neg Q'(\bar{x})$   
Not by default CNF trafos of *PIE*, *Prover9*, *E*, *Vampire* (but no problem for *Vampire*)



## Agenda (I): Relate to Direct Interpolation for Non-Classical Logics

- Related works: [Applications of] Craig interpolation and Beth definability for **equilibrium logic**, based on earlier (mostly existential) results on interpolation in non-classical logics [Gabbay/Pearce/Valverde 2011, Pearce/Valverde 2012]
- The logic underlying strong equivalence is HT, aka Gödel's  $G_3$  – does it have **feasible** interpolation?
- Our LP-interpolation theorem can be rephrased in terms of **interpolation for logic programs** (see current version of implementation)
- Can our approach be transferred to obtain a feasible interpolation method for HT/ $G_3$ ?
- Known: Uniform interpolation for  $G_3$  [Baaz/Veith 1999]
- In principle related, but apparently so far completely Beth-unaware: forgetting in ASP

## Agenda (II): Generalizations and Refinements

- **Safety** (roughly: all variables of a rule have an occurrence in the positive body)
  - related to range-restriction [W 2023]
- Disallowing constants or **function** symbols
  - but Craig interpolation introduces existential quantifiers for “left-only” such symbols
- **Arithmetics, theories, aggregation**
  - current topics in verification of strong equivalence
- **Restrictions on rule form** (e.g. no negative head, a single positive head)
  - related to Horn [W 2023]
- Transfer to **completion-based program encodings**
- **Hidden predicates** (which may have an arbitrary extension in  $R$ )
  - relative equivalence [Lin 2002], projected answer sets [Eiter et al. 2005], external behavior [Fandinno et al. 2023]
- **“Schema mappings”** with the involved completion
  - possibly related to [Toman/Wedell 2023]
- Applying our encoding/decoding to **program simplification** via first-order formula simplification

## Conclusion – Generalizing Summary

**Task.** For given programs  $P, Q$  and vocabulary  $V$  (a set of predicates) compute a program  $R$  in  $V$  s.th.  $P \cup R$  is **strongly equivalent** to  $P \cup Q$

$$P \vDash Q \leftrightarrow R$$
$$P \wedge Q \vDash R \vDash P' \rightarrow Q'$$

- **Equivalence notion in the target logic** (strong equivalence), **expressed as classical equivalence**
  - Target expressions are **encoded** as classical representation (of a logic with two worlds,  $p^0$  and  $p^1$  for each  $p$ )
  - The classical equivalence is modulo certain axioms ( $p^0 \rightarrow p^1$ )
- Encoded target expressions can be **decoded**, modulo the equivalence notion, without enriching the vocabulary
- **Classical Craig interpolation on encoded target expressions plus postprocessing yields an encoded target expression**
- Together with the decoding we obtain a **projective Beth property for the target logic**
- I.e. we can **synthesize target expressions**  $R$  from given target expressions  $P, Q$  and vocabulary  $V$
- **Effectivity, feasibility, also practical, is inherited from Craig interpolation for classical logic**

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## On the Decoding Procedure

- For given  $F$  that encodes a program ( $S_F \wedge F \models \text{rename}_{0 \mapsto 1}(F)$ ), returns a program  $P$  s.th.

$$S_F \models \gamma(P) \leftrightarrow F$$

- Converts the formula to CNF and **basically converts each clause to a program rule**
- Clauses that meet a **special criterion can be omitted** in the rule conversion
- Optional preprocessing where strong equivalence of the represented program is preserved

$F$	$P$
$\neg p^0 \vee q^1 \vee r^0$	$r \leftarrow p, \text{not } q$
$\neg p^1 \vee q^1 \vee r^1$	$\text{not } p \leftarrow \text{not } q, \text{not } r$
$\neg s^1 \vee t^1 \vee u^1$	$\text{not } s \leftarrow \text{not } t, \text{not } u$

Rule can be omitted

$F$	Does not encode a logic program
$\neg p^0 \vee q^1 \vee r^0$	

## The Decoding Procedure

### Procedure: Extracting a Program from a Formula.

1. **Bring the input  $F$  into a CNF  $\forall x (M_0 \wedge M_1)$  s.th.**

- all clauses of  $M_0$  have a 0-literal and
- all clauses of  $M_1$  have only 1-literals

2. **Partition  $M_1$  into  $M_1', M_1''$  s.th.**

$$\forall x \text{ rename}_{0 \rightarrow 1}(M_0) \models \forall x M_1''$$

E.g. take  $M_1' = M_1$  and  $M_1'' = \top$

Or place each clause  $C$  in  $M_1$  into  $M_1''$  or  $M_1'$  depending on whether there is a  $D$  in  $M_0$  s.th.  $\text{rename}_{0 \rightarrow 1}(D)$  subsumes  $C$

3. **Return as  $P$  the set of rules**

$A$ ; **not**  $B \leftarrow C$ , **not**  $D$  for each clause

$$C^0 \wedge \neg D^1 \rightarrow A^0 \vee \neg B^1 \text{ in } M_0 \wedge M_1'$$

**Option: Preprocess the input  $F$  to  $F'$  s.th.**

$$\text{Voc}(F') \subseteq \text{Voc}(F) \text{ and } S_F \models F' \leftrightarrow F$$

$F$	$P$
$\neg p^0 \vee q^1 \vee r^0$	$r \leftarrow p$ , <b>not</b> $q$
$\neg p^1 \vee q^1 \vee r^1$	<b>not</b> $p \leftarrow$ <b>not</b> $q$ , <b>not</b> $r$
$\neg s^1 \vee t^1 \vee u^1$	<b>not</b> $s \leftarrow$ <b>not</b> $t$ , <b>not</b> $u$

$$C_1 = \neg p^0 \vee q^1 \vee r^0 \quad R_1 = r \leftarrow p, \text{ not } q$$
$$C_2 = \neg p^0 \vee q^1 \vee r^1 \quad R_2 = \leftarrow p, \text{ not } q, \text{ not } r$$
$$C_3 = \neg p^1 \vee q^1 \vee r^1$$

By **preprocessing**  $F$  we can **eliminate**  $C_2$

The rule for  $C_3$  can be omitted.