Deductive Databases and Logic Programming (Winter 2007/2008)

Chapter 7: Magic Sets

- SIP-Strategies ("Sideways Information Passing")
- Adorned Program, Magic Predicates
- Correctness and Efficiency
- Problems and Improvements

Objectives

After completing this chapter, you should be able to:

- perform the magic set transformation for a given input program (and explain how it works)
- name different SIP strategies
- compare magic sets with SLD resolution
- name some problems of the magic set method and sketch possible solutions.





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 \diamond mother



Problem:

- Naive/Seminaive Bottom-Up Evaluation computes all parent- and grandparent-relationships of all persons in the database.
- Until now, the actual query is considered only at the very end of query evaluation after the entire minimal model was computed.
- Therefore, the method is not goal-directed: It computes many superfluous facts, which are not relevant for the query.



Solution:

- The "Magic Set" Transformation rewrites the program such that the rules can only "fire" when their result (the derived fact) is relevant for the query.
- This is done by making the occurring queries and subqueries explicit. They are encoded as facts of "magic predicates". E.g. the query

? grandparent(julia, X)

is represented as

```
m_grandparent_bf(julia).
```







- In addition, magic facts corresponding to the occurring subqueries must be derivable.
- Example: To compute the grandparents of X, one must first compute the parents of X.



• But often the minimal model of the transformed program is much smaller than the minimal model of the original program.

It contains only IDB-facts that are relevant for the given query.

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- abstraction (Herbrand models instead of internal data structures).
- However, it is probably advantageous for an implementation to treat the magic predicates specially.





extended later.

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 However, for the query "? grandparent(X, arno)", it is more efficient to start the evaluation of grandparent(X,Z) ← parent(X,Y) ∧ parent(Y,Z)

with the second body literal.

- \diamond Then the binding Z = arno can be used.
- ♦ This gives bindings for Y, which can be passed to the first body literal.
- If instead one evaluates the first body literal first, this is done with the binding pattern ff, and one has to compute the complete extension of parent.



Definition:

- Given a rule $A \leftarrow B_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge B_m$ and a binding pattern β for pred(A),
- a SIP-strategy defines an evaluation sequence for the body literals, i.e. a permutation

$$\pi: \{1,\ldots,m\} \to \{1,\ldots,m\},\$$

• and for every $k \in \{1, ..., m\}$ a valid binding pattern $\beta_{\pi(k)} \in valid(pred(B_{\pi(k)}))$ such that $input(B_{\pi(k)}, \beta_{\pi(k)}) \subseteq input(A, \beta) \cup \bigcup_{j=1}^{k-1} vars(B_{\pi(j)}).$



Note:

- This is the same condition for π and $\beta_{\pi(k)}$ as in the definition of "range restricted rule".
- A given evaluation sequence determines "maximally bound" binding patters for the body literals:
 - ◊ Values for variables in "bound" argument positions in the head literal are known.
 - Values for variables in body literals that were evaluated earlier are known.
 - ◇ All other variables do not have a known value yet, thus they lead to "free" argument positions.

SIP-Strategies (5)

- Most SIP-strategies choose the above "maximal" binding pattern that uses all existing bindings.
- Therefore, the real decision is the evaluation sequence for the body literals. The binding patterns are then often automatically determined.

However, the possible evaluation sequences depend on the valid binding patterns for the body literal: Some predicates can only be evaluated if certain arguments are bound.

• A SIP-strategy can ignore existing bindings and choose a more general binding pattern.

Possible reasons are explained on the next slide.





- Select a good evaluation sequence for each of the following calls, and state the binding patterns:
 - ◇ ship_to(X, 'Halle').

◇ ship_to('Van Tastic', 'Halle').





Example:

- Consider the following rule is called with p(X, 3): $p(X, Y) \leftarrow X < Y \land q(X).$
- At the beginning, only the second body literal is evaluable (with binding pattern f).

The only valid binding pattern for < is bb, therefore the first body literal cannot be evaluated at this point (although it has more bound arguments than q(X): the value for Y is already known).

- Thus, all SIP-strategies must select $\pi(1) = 2$.
- After q(X) is evaluated, the value of X is known, and the first literal becomes evaluable: $\pi(2) = 1$.



Common SIP-Strategies:

- Among all possible (i,β) , choose one such that β has the smallest number of free argument positions.
- Among all possible (i,β) , choose one such that β has the largest number of bound arguments.
- Among all possible (i, β) , choose one such that i is minimal, and among those one such that β has the largest number of bound argument positions.

This strategy evaluates body literals in the sequence given by the programmer as far as possible.



- A SIP-strategy that tries to maximize the humber of bound argument positions begins the evaluation with the second body literal: $r(X_1, X_2, Z_1, Z_2)$.
- A SIP-strategy that minimizes the number of free argument positions chooses $q(X_1, Y)$ first.







Exercises:

- $p(X,Z) \leftarrow q(X,Y_1,Y_2,Y_3) \wedge r(Y_1,Z)$, with call p(a,b), when the first argument of q and r is a key.
- Suppose p is defined by $p(X) \leftarrow q_1(X) \land q_2(X)$ and is called with binding pattern f. Cost estimates:
 - \diamond q_1 : f produces 100 tuples in 100 ms.
 - ♦ q_1 : b checks a single value in 3 ms (index).
 - \diamond q_2 : f produces 1000 tuples in 200 ms.
 - ♦ q_2 : b checks a single value in 100 ms (FT scan).
 - ◊ Sorting/intersecting the two sets costs 1000 ms.



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In this way, the information from the SIP-strategy is encoded in the program.






E.g. one manages a set of all combinations (p,β) that still have to be processed. This is intialized with $\{(answer, f...f)\}$. In each step, one takes an element from this set and generates the rules for $p_{-\beta}$. If the rule bodies contain new combinations of predicates and binding patterns, one inserts them into the set.





- Binding patterns chosen by the SIP-strategy for EDB-/builtin predicates are important to determine which index/implementation variant is to be used.
- But the names of these predicates are determined in the database/the system, they cannot be changed.

In contrast, names of IDB-predicates (\neq answer) are only important within the program.

• Furthermore, the explicit binding patterns are a preparation for the magic set transformation. This is not useful for EDB-predicates, because their complete extensions are already stored.











 $magic[B_i] \leftarrow magic[A] \land B_1 \land \cdots \land B_{i-1}.$







Lemma:

- Let \mathcal{I}_{AD} be the minimal model of $AD(P) \cup EDB(P)$, \mathcal{I}_{MAG} be the minimal model of $MAG(P) \cup EDB(P)$.
- For all non-magic facts A the following holds:
 - $\diamond \text{ If } \mathcal{I}_{MAG} \models A, \text{ then } \mathcal{I}_{AD} \models A.$

Proof Sketch: Induction on the number of derivation steps. A nonmagic fact can only be derived by a "modified rule", but this is only a restricted version of the corresponding rule in AD(P).

♦ If $\mathcal{I}_{AD} \models A$ and $\mathcal{I}_{MAG} \models magic[A]$, then $\mathcal{I}_{MAG} \models A$.

Proof Sketch: Induction on the number of derivation steps of A from \mathcal{I}_{AD} .



Theorem:

• Let \mathcal{I}_{AD} and \mathcal{I}_{MAG} be as above, and \mathcal{I} be the minimal model of $EDB(P) \cup IDB(P)$. Then the following holds:

 $\mathcal{I}_{MAG}[[\texttt{answer}]] = \mathcal{I}_{AD}[[\texttt{answer}]] = \mathcal{I}[[\texttt{answer}]].$

• I.e. the transformed program is equivalent to the original program in the sense that it returns the same answers.

The two programs are not logically equivalent. Actually, that is not even defined, because the programs are based on different signatures. The programs could be called "answer-equivalent".

Correctness (3)

Theorem:

- Let P be range-restricted with respect to valid.
- Then MAG(P) is range-stricted with respect to valid', where

 $valid'(q) := \begin{cases} \{\mathbf{f} \dots \mathbf{f}\} & \text{if } q \text{ has the form } p_-\beta/m_-p_-\beta \\ valid(q) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$

• I.e. the transformed program can be evaluated by iteration of the T_P -Operator.



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• The arguments of the S_i are those variables from $magic[A] \wedge B_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge B_i$, that are still needed, i.e. that occur in B_{i+1}, \ldots, B_m, A .



on the next slide. Facts are written outside modules, e.g. into *.Ffiles. The files are processed with, e.g., consult(sg.P). For modules, this does the magic set transformation, the result is stored in sg.P.M (quite readable, i.e. one can look at the result of the transformation).

Strings are written, e.g., "abc". If it has the form [a-z][a-zA-ZO-9_.]*, no " is needed. Computation: Y = X+1. Query syntax: ? sg(julia, X). To get all answers immediately: clear(interactive_mode). Also useful: help., quit., list_rels.



export also works with several binding patterns, e.g. sg(bf,ff). More
bound arguments in the call are possible, but not so efficient.



n-th rule is named " sup_n_i ".



Supplementary Predicates (7)

Note:

- In this method, magic sets are always directly derived from supplementary predicates.
- One can try to replace the magic predicates by the supplementary predicates.
- If a magic predicate is defined by only one rule (only one call of $p_{-}\beta$), this is simply a macro-expansion.
- Otherwise, one would have to duplicate rules.
- Depending on the application, it might be an advantage to distinguish different calls of a predicate.





• Since the body of the first rule is not unifiable with the head of the second rule, SLD-resolution would immediately stop (without looking at the *r*-facts).

Such a situation probably does not happen often in practice. But since one wants to prove that magic sets are (in some sense) as efficient as (or really as goal-directed as) SLD-resolution, this is a problem.

- The magic set method can pass only concrete values for the arguments to a called predicate.
- The basic method cannot pass the information to q that the first two arguments must be equal.



• In the magic predicates, free argument positions are projected away (not represented). If the program is rectified, this does not lead to a loss of information.



• Every logic program that does not contain function symbols (structured terms) can be transformed into an equivalent, rectified program.

Again, equivalent means that it produces the same answer.

The rectification is done by introducing predicate variants that contain at different argument positions the same arguments: p^(i₁,...,i_n)(t₁,...,t_k) corresponds to p(t_{i1},...,t_{in}), e.g.
 ◊ q^(1,1,2,3,4)(X,Y₁,Y₂,Y₃) means q(X, X, Y₁, Y₂,Y₃).





- As explained above, rectification is applied before the adorned program is computed and the SIPstrategy is applied.
- However, one could do the rectification also together with the adornment.
- Then binding patterns consist not of b and f, but of "constant", "variable-1", "variable-2", and so on.

Note that it is no problem if a bound variable appears twice in a body literal. So one might need fewer predicate variants in this way. Note also that if one wants to come close to SLD-resolution, only SIP-strategies are interesting that do not ignore existing bindings.



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Historical Note:

- A paper "Bottom-Up Beats Top-Down for Datalog" from Jeffrey Ullman appeared in PODS'89.
- It proves that seminaive evaluation of the magic set transformed program is always at least as efficient as "top-down evaluation".
- However, "top-down evaluation" as used in this paper is not SLD-resolution.

It is a top-down query evaluation algorithm defined by Ullman himself (QRGT: Queue-Based Rule/Goal Tree Expansion). He even states that "this algorithm is easily seen to mimic the search performed by Prolog's SLD resolution strategy".



Historical Note, continued:

- The paper contains a footnote that Prolog *implementations* usually contain a form of tail-recursion optimization that makes them faster than QRGT in certain cases.
- As shown here, it is not necessary to go down to the implementation level (e.g., the WAM). The efficient treatment of tail recursion is inherent in SLDresolution.

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Efficiency of Magic Sets (1)

Theorem:

- Let P be a rectified program.
- Let the standard left-to-right SIP-strategy and SLD selection function be used.
- Then for each magic fact $m_-p_-\beta(c_1, \ldots, c_k)$ that is derivable from $MAG(P) \cup EDB(P)$, there is a node in the SLD-tree with selected literal A, such that $magic[A] = m_-p_-\beta(c_1, \ldots, c_k).$

Efficiency of Magic Sets (2)

Example:

 For each m_path_bf(i) there is a node path(i, X) in the SLD-tree.

Note:

- I.e. magic facts correspond to selected literals in the SLD-tree.
- Since both encode subqueries or predicate calls, there is a strong relation between both methods.
Efficiency of Magic Sets (3)

Definition:

• If a node $A \wedge B_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge B_n$ in the SLD-tree has a descendant node $(B_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge B_n)\theta$, where θ is the composition of the MGUs on this path, one says that $A\theta$ was proven as a lemma.

Theorem:

- Let P be a rectified program.
- Every non-magic fact about an IDB-predicate that is derivable from $MAG(P) \cup EDB(P)$ is proven in the SLD-tree as a lemma.





is O(number of nodes in the SLD-tree).



- There are variants of SLD-resolution that use tabellation to avoid these problems (e.g. in XSB).
- But these methods have the same problem with tail recursions (they are equivalent to magic sets).





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- If the bottom-up machine cannot process recursive programs (e.g., a classical SQL-DBMS), this is a real problem.
 - Otherwise, magic sets can be used for query optimzation in SQL-systems, when the query refers to views.
- Even if recursive programs can be processed, the recursion causes a significant overhead.

Multiple relation variants are needed for the seminaive iteration, one cannot do a simple unfolding/expansion of the resulting relational algebra expressions, duplicate checks are necessary.





Since the magic set method does not distinguish

between both calls, one gets a recursion.





 Although this is syntactically a recursion, one can prove that a single application of the recursive rule about m_parent_bf, and two applications of the (recursive) rules about parent suffice.

See evaluation sequence on the next page. The important point is that no new facts about m_grandparent_bf can be derived.

- No new facts will be derived if the recursive rules are iterated further.
- This is an example of a "bounded recursion". If the bottom-up "machine" detects and optimizes bounded recursions, there is no problem.



 $m_grandparent_bf(julia) \leftarrow true.$ $m_parent_bf(X) \leftarrow m_grandparent_bf(X).$ $parent(X,Y) \leftarrow m_parent_bf(X) \land$

$$m_parent_bf(Y) \leftarrow$$

parent(X, Y)

parent(X, Y)

 $\leftarrow m_grandparent_bf(X). \\ \leftarrow m_parent_bf(X) \land \\ mother(X, Y). \\ \leftarrow m_parent_bf(X) \land \\ father(X, Y). \\ \leftarrow m_grandparent_bf(X) \land \\ parent(X, Y).$

$$\leftarrow \texttt{m_parent_bf}(\texttt{X}) \land \\ \texttt{mother}(\texttt{X},\texttt{Y}).$$

- m_parent_bf(X)
$$\land$$
father(X,Y).









- When the magic set for calling mtime is constructed, the bindings for Last_Visit are projected away.
- Later, these bindings must be reconstructed (with an expensive join) for evaluating Modif > Last_Visit.









- Note that the source of the problem is again that different calls to a predicate are to be collected in a single magic predicate.
- Therefore, the context of the specific call must be forgotten when the input arguments are entered into the table for the magic predicate.
- This can also have advantages: Several identical calls are merged, the result is computed only once.
- In the example, if URL were not a key in my_links, the projection would eliminate duplicates.







• In this way, only pages of the server 'www.pitt.edu' must be accessed.







a single framework.



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Note:

• François Bry explained magic sets in this way.











- Let P be at most tail-recursive and let P, the DB, and Q be finite and without structured terms.
- Then bottom-up evaluation of the meta-interpreter terminates.









query-facts correspond to facts about magic predicates, answer-facts correspond to derived IDB-predicates, and node-facts correspond to facts about the supplementary predicates.





- With the possibility to select magic set behaviour, one can also overcome the termination problems of the pure SLD-meta-interpreter:
 - ♦ For every recursive call that is not tail-recursive, one uses: call(...).
- For other body literals with IDB predicates, it is an intersting problem for the optimizer to choose between the two evaluation strategies.

It must try to find out how often the same call will be repeated. The strength of magic sets is that it avoids repeated calls (at the cost explained above).

















```
p1(X1) := p3(X2), edge(X2,X1).
```

path(0, X0) := p0(X0).

• In the version shown above already "copy rules" were eliminated.

As can be seen, further optimizations are possible, but already this program does not more steps than SLD-resolution.