

Dyna 2: Towards a General Weighted Logic Language

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Outline

Arithmetic Circuits

The Dyna Project

Solving Circuits

Circuits From Dyna

Arithmetic Circuits

What?

Arithmetic circuits are *abstract data types* generalizing *key-value stores*.

- ▶ K-V interface:
 - ▶ *store*, *update*, and *retrieve* items (pair of key and value).
- ▶ Circuit interface:
 - ▶ *store*, *update*, and *retrieve* *input* items.
 - ▶ query *derived* items' values (computed from input).

Arithmetic Circuits

Why care about circuits?

Pervasive! Can describe:

- ▶ data structures' interfaces
- ▶ database interface
- ▶ database internal data structures
- ▶ **Statistical AI systems** interfaces

Powerful abstraction:

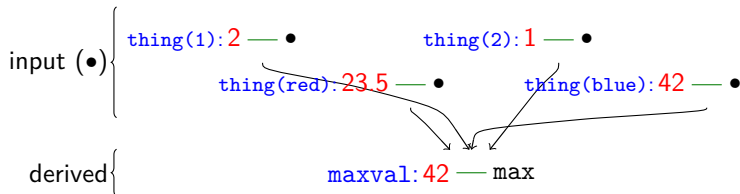
- ▶ Kowalski's observation: "Algorithm = Logic + Control"
- ▶ Circuit describes *logic*; a solver implements control.

Arithmetic Circuits

Why care about circuits?

Describe a priority queue as a circuit?

- ▶ Input: dynamic collection of keys with associated priorities
- ▶ Derived output: maximum of priorities

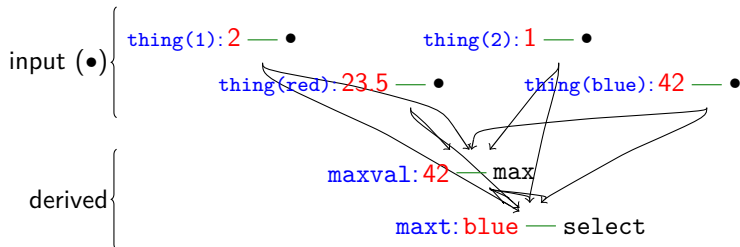


Arithmetic Circuits

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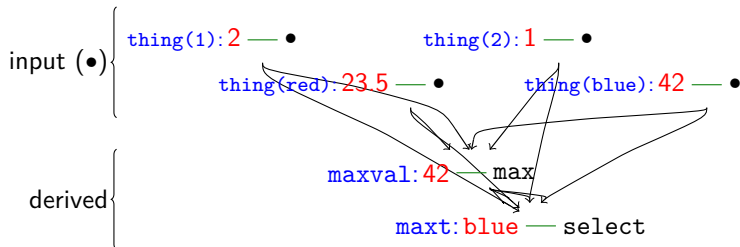


Arithmetic Circuits

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In Dyna:

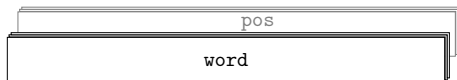
```
1 maxval max= thing(X).  
2 maxt ?= X for maxval == thing(X).
```

Arithmetic Circuits

Why care about circuits?

More interesting example: (CNF) parser!

- ▶ Input: sentence (words)
- ▶ Input: grammar (binary rewrites, unary pos preterminal rules)
- ▶ Output: parse(s) (or statistics) for each span.

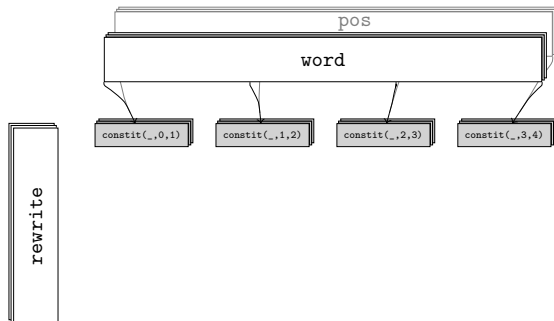


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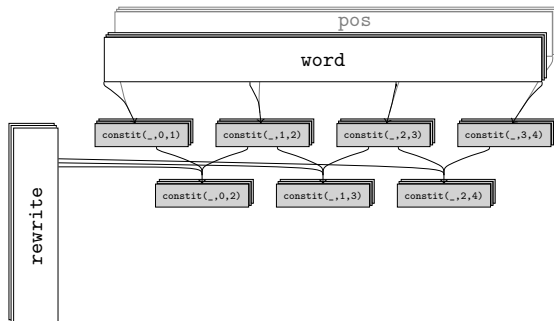
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Arithmetic Circuits

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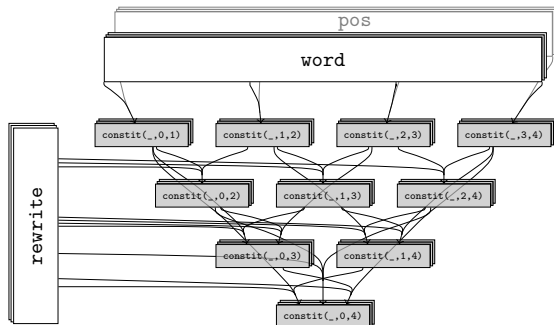
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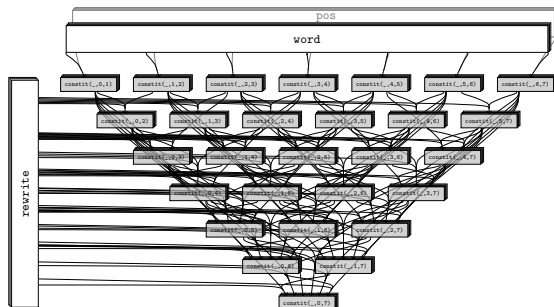
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Arithmetic Circuits

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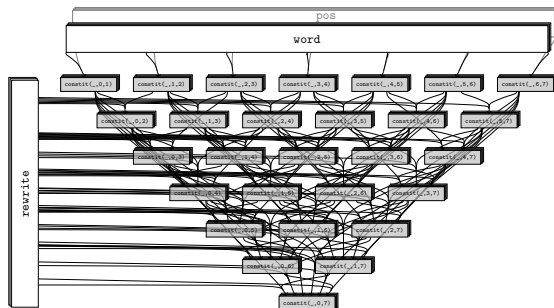
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- ▶ And so on
- ▶ Circuit structure is data-dependent:
 - ▶ Longer sentence.
 - ▶ Regularity of sketch is misleading.

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 - ▶ Regularity of sketch is misleading.

```
1 constit(X,I,J) += word(W,I,J) * pos(W,X).
2 constit(X,I,K) += constit(Y,I,J) * constit(Z,J,K) * rewrite(X,Y,Z).
```

The Dyna Project

Motivation

CLSP does lots of diverse research in AI. Repeated pain points:

- ▶ Systems are large! (Take “a while” to construct or modify.)

The Dyna Project

Motivation

As of 2011, some examples for scale:

Package	Files	SLOC	Language	Application area
SRILM	285	48967	C++	Language modeling
Charniak parser	266	42464	C++	Parsing
Stanford parser	417	134824	Java	Parsing
cdec	178	21265	C++	Machine translation
Joshua	486	68160	Java	Machine translation
MOSES	351	37703	C++	Machine translation
GIZA++	122	15958	C++	Bilingual alignment
OpenFST	157	20135	C++	Weighted FSAs & FSTs
NLTK	200	46256	Python	NLP education
HTK	111	81596	C	Speech recognition
MALLET	620	77155	Java	Conditional Random Fields
GRMM	90	12926	Java	Graphical model add-on
Factorie	164	12139	Scala	Graphical models

The Dyna Project

Motivation

CLSP does lots of diverse research in AI. Repeated pain points:

- ▶ Systems are large! (Take “a while” to construct or modify.)
- ▶ Systems are fast from specialized hand-tuning.
 - ▶ Extensions break assumptions made in hand-tuning.
 - ▶ Even *toolkits* can be hard to take in new directions.

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- ▶ Systems are fast from specialized hand-tuning.
 - ▶ Extensions break assumptions made in hand-tuning.
 - ▶ Even *toolkits* can be hard to take in new directions.
- ▶ Lots of code and data out there!
 - ▶ Systems are hard to integrate.
 - ▶ Lots of data formats (and quadratically many Perl scripts).

The Dyna Project

Motivation

Especially frustrating, because

- ▶ AI systems' cores are *circuits*!
 - ▶ Behavior specified by a handful of equations.
 - ▶ Given a series of facts (input data).
 - ▶ Queried on results of applying equations.

The Dyna Project

Motivation

Especially frustrating, because

- ▶ AI systems' cores are *circuits*!
 - ▶ Behavior specified by a handful of equations.
 - ▶ Given a series of facts (input data).
 - ▶ Queried on results of applying equations.
- ▶ it is as if we are building
 - ▶ databases before DBMS and SQL.
 - ▶ file processing before regexps / parser generators.

The Dyna Project

Motivation

For scale, some example Dyna 2 program sizes:

Lines	Program
2-3	Dijkstra's shortest-path algorithm
4	Feed-forward neural network
11	Bigram language model with Good-Turing backoff smoothing
6	Arc-consistency constraint propagation
+6	With backtracking search
+6	With branch-and-bound
6	Loopy belief propagation
3	Probabilistic context-free parsing
+3	Earley's algorithm
+7	Conditional log-linear model of grammar weights (toy example)
+10	Coarse-to-fine A* parsing
4	Value computation in a Markov Decision Process
5	Weighted edit distance
3	Markov chain Monte Carlo (toy example)

(See our 2011 position paper for most of these programs.)

The Dyna Project

Motivation

Additional historical precedent: Logic-based AI efforts give rise to Prolog in 1970-72.

- ▶ A *logic programming language*.
- ▶ Simplifies specification of logic-based AI.
 - ▶ Factors much of *control* aspect into language and runtime.

The Dyna Project

Motivation

Additional historical precedent: Logic-based AI efforts give rise to Prolog in 1970-72.

- ▶ A *logic programming language*.
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1976: Fred Jelinek at IBM introduces information theory for speech recognition.

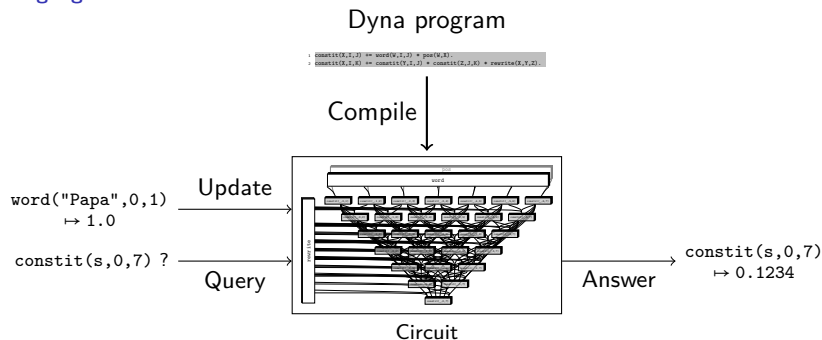
- ▶ Birth of *statistical AI* approach, now the dominant paradigm.

No single Prolog-like substrate has emerged for this new era.

- ▶ Prolog, even with answer subsumption, only handles a subset of needs.
- ▶ PRISM, Dyna 1: restricted expressiveness
- ▶ Problog: enforces particular probabilistic semantics
- ▶ TensorFlow: static circuit (but fast!), no updates
- ▶ (py)Torch, Dynet: *procedural* description of circuits, no updates

The Dyna Project

The Language



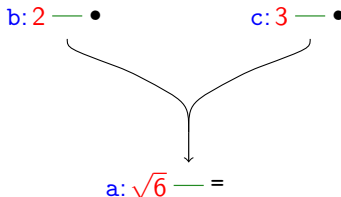
- ▶ Dyna is *narrowly scoped* to describe *data interdependence*.
 - ▶ It is a *domain-specific language* for circuit specification.
 - ▶ No user control of I/O.
 - ▶ No (explicit) reference cells, no threads, ...
 - ▶ Goal: let the *compiler* figure out how to make things fly.
- ▶ Generated circuit does not stand alone: requires a “driver program”
 - ▶ Driver intermediates all exchanges with the real world

The Dyna Project

The Language

Basic units of Dyna: *items* and *rules*.

- ▶ Rule `a = sqrt(b * c)` relates several items.
- ▶ `a` is the *head*, `sqrt(b * c)` the *body*.
- ▶ Not an *assignment*, but a live relationship.
- ▶ *Feed-forward*: specifies how to compute `a` from `b` and `c`.
 - ▶ No backward constraint: `b` defined elsewhere, used here.



The Dyna Project

The Language

Items have *structured names*:

- ▶ Like arrays, `f(3) = "hello"`
- ▶ Or maps, `edge("bal", "was") = 35`
- ▶ Deep structure, too: `color(edge("bal", "was")) = red`

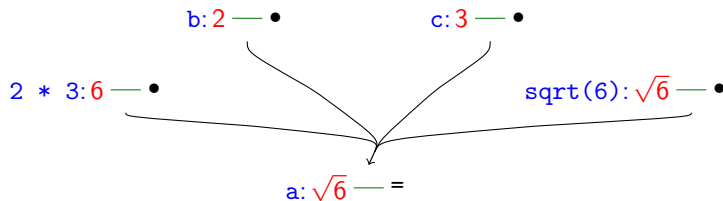
The Dyna Project

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Used for arithmetic, too! `a = sqrt(b * c)`

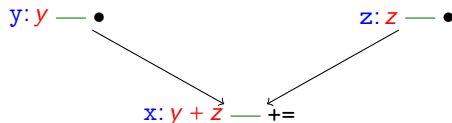


The Dyna Project

The Language

Aggregation combines contributions from several rules:

- Two rules with same head: $x += y$ and $x += z$ ($x = y + z$)

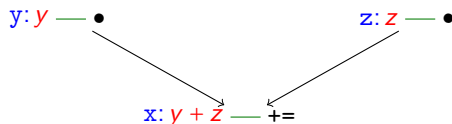


The Dyna Project

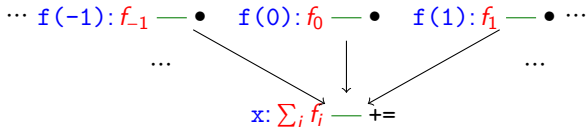
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- ▶ A single rule with *variable(s)* in body: $x += f(I)$ ($x = \sum_i f_i$)
("Fan-in" to x .)

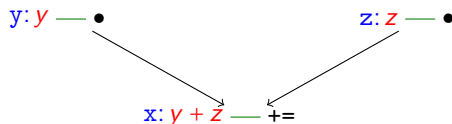


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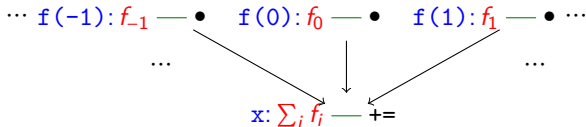
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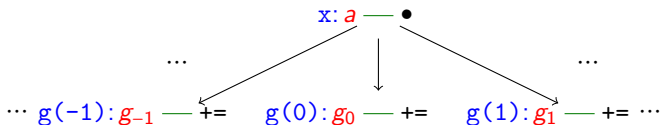
- ▶ Given all three rules, $x = y + z + \sum_i f_i$.

The Dyna Project

The Language

Rules are *schemata* for data relationships:

- Defaults (fan-out): $g(X) += a$.

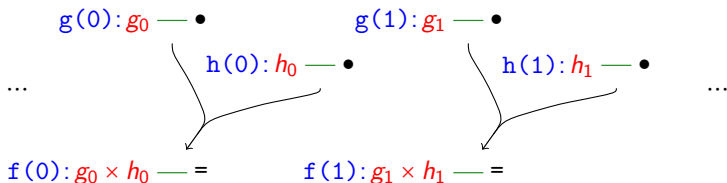


The Dyna Project

The Language

Rules are *schemata* for data relationships:

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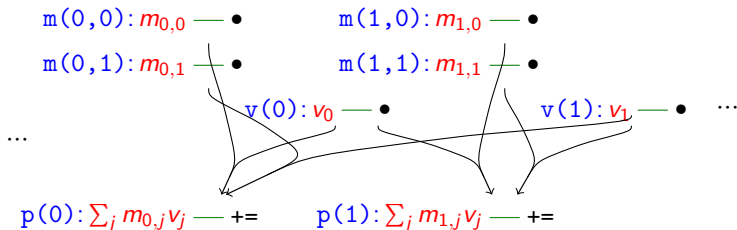


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- ▶ Matrix-vector products: $p(I) += m(I, J) * v(J)$ ($p_i = \sum_j m_{ij} * v_j$).



The Dyna Project

The Challenge

Several challenges for bringing vision to reality:

- ▶ Need a good solver for Dyna programs (§2).
- ▶ Solver should handle as many programs as possible (§3, §4).
- ▶ Static analysis for checking programs to be well-defined & feasible (§5).
 - ▶ Also useful for optimization!
- ▶ Features for “programming in the large” (module system §6.2).

Entr'acte 1

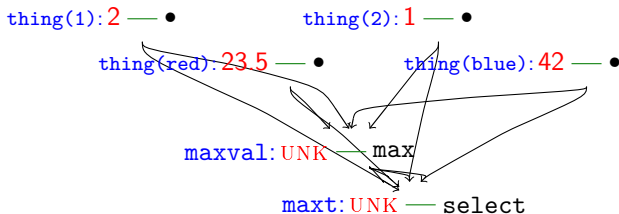
Before we continue, questions so far?

Solving Circuits

- ▶ Circuits just describe relation among values.
 - ▶ No hint of execution.
- ▶ Multiple options for how to execute!
 - ▶ Different space/time trade-offs.
 - ▶ Different performance under different workloads.
 - ▶ Want to support *as many as possible!*
 - ▶ (And let an optimizer select!)

Solving Circuits

Backward Chaining

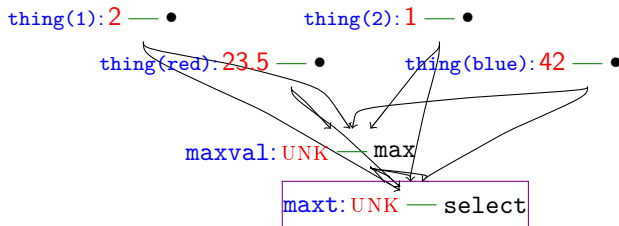


“Laziest” extreme: store values of input items, do nothing else until queried.

- ▶ Introduce “non-value” UNK for unknown values.
- ▶ Upon query, if item is UNK, must *compute from parents*.

Solving Circuits

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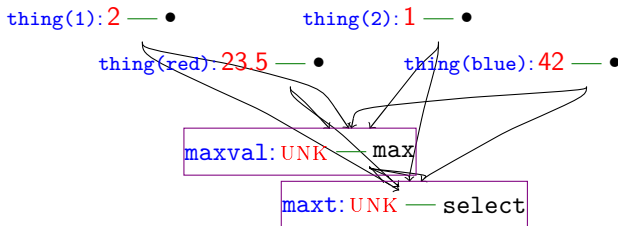


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Solving Circuits

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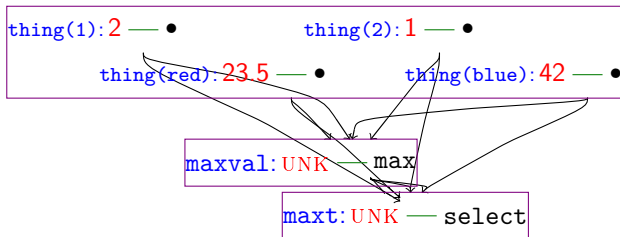


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Solving Circuits

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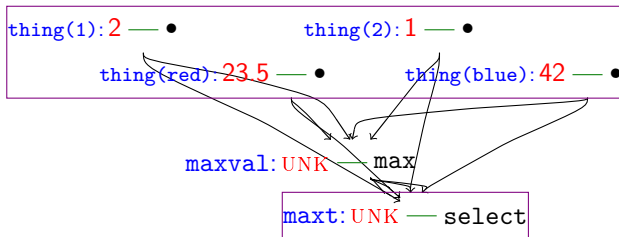


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Solving Circuits

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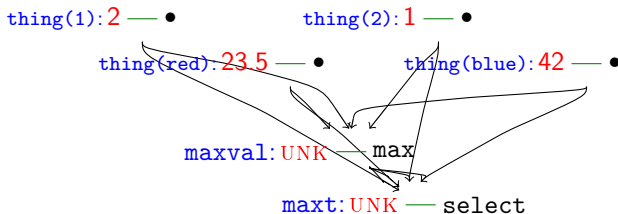


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 - ▶ Internal query for `thing(X)` with value 42 from `maxt`.

Solving Circuits

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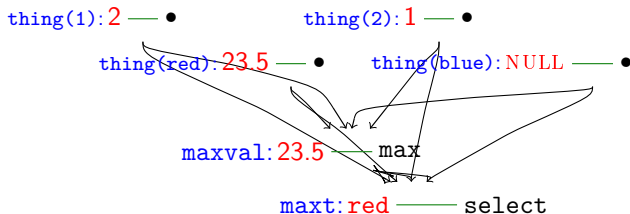


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 - ▶ Internal query for value of maxval from maxt.
 - ▶ Internal query all values of thing(X) from maxval.
 - ▶ Internal query for thing(X) with value 42 from maxt.
 - ▶ Finish; return answer blue.

Solving Circuits

Forward Chaining

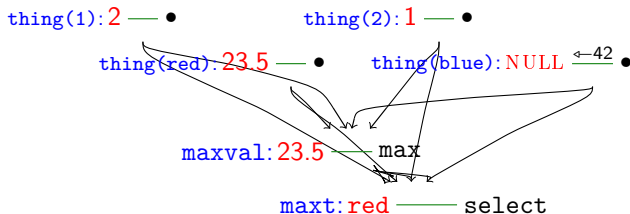


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- ▶ Define NULL for the aggregation of \emptyset (roughly, “item not present”)

Solving Circuits

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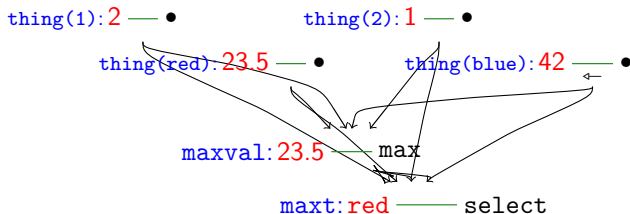


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Solving Circuits

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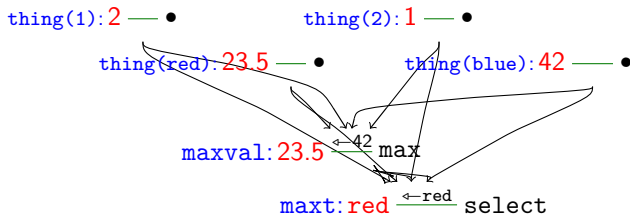


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Solving Circuits

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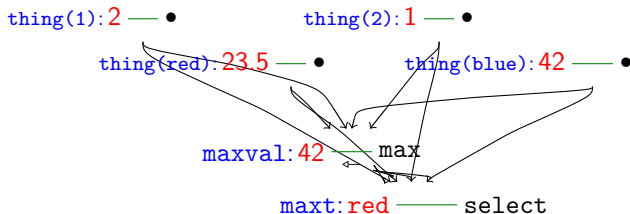


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Solving Circuits

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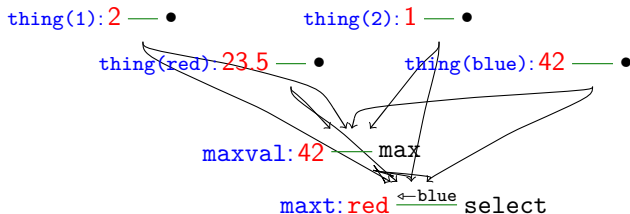


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Solving Circuits

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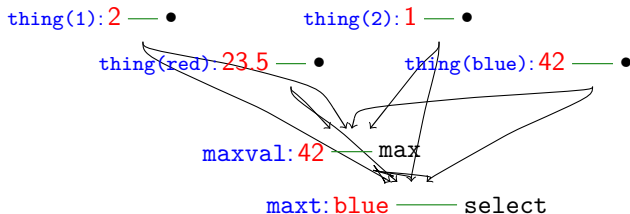


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Solving Circuits

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 - ▶ propagate notification to update children
 - ▶ repeat until no work left
 - ▶ ready to be queried (or updated again)

Solving Circuits

Hybridized Chaining

- ▶ Forward and backward chaining typically viewed as *alternatives*.
- ▶ Have complementary jobs:
 - ▶ Backward chaining computes values for items missing memos.
 - ▶ Forward chaining refreshes (potentially) stale memos.
- ▶ Extremes of a spectrum:
 - ▶ Pure BC never creates memos: no refresh ever necessary.
 - ▶ Pure FC always memoizes: no recursive computation necessary.

Solving Circuits

Hybridized Chaining

§2.2 contains a hybridized algorithm for solving *finite*, acyclic circuits.

- ▶ finiteness: steps involving “all children” OK.
- ▶ acyclicity: backward-chaining never loops.
- ▶ many subtleties when forward-chaining through un-memoized items!

Several extensions considered:

- ▶ Increased efficiency via “obligation” (§2.2.4.3, §2.3.5)
- ▶ Parallel processing, viewing items as actors (§2.3)
- ▶ Large taxonomy of update and notification messages (§2.4)
- ▶ Cyclicity: on-demand conversion of backward to forward reasoning (§2.5)

Entr'acte 2

Circuitous questions before more programmatic concerns?

Circuits From Dyna

§3 to §5 address the challenge of deriving a circuit from a Dyna program.

- ▶ Dyna programs typically specify *infinite* circuits!
- ▶ Some programs must be rejected: might take infinite time to solve (§5.3)
- ▶ Can handle *piecewise-constant* infinite circuits (§3)
 - ▶ Given a runtime vocabulary for item sets (§4)

Circuits From Dyna

Rule Planning

CNF parser binary rule defines infinitely many edges in an infinite circuit.

```
constit(X,I,K) += constit(Y,I,J) * constit(Z,J,K) * rewrite(X,Y,Z).
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- ▶ Literal implementation of algorithm from §2 will run forever.

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- ▶ Instead: find subset of “active” edges.
 - ▶ Merge *finite descriptions* of values for parent item sets.
 - ▶ Here: all `constit(_,_,_)`, `rewrite(_,_,_)`, and `_ * _` items.
 - ▶ If only finitely many such items with values, this would be especially easy.

Circuits From Dyna

Rule Planning

CNF parser binary rule defines infinitely many edges in an infinite circuit.

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Informally, still expect finite set of edges because:

- ▶ Given `constit(_,_,_)` and `rewrite(_,_,_)` items,
- ▶ only need *particular* `_ * _` items (e.g. `2 * 3`)

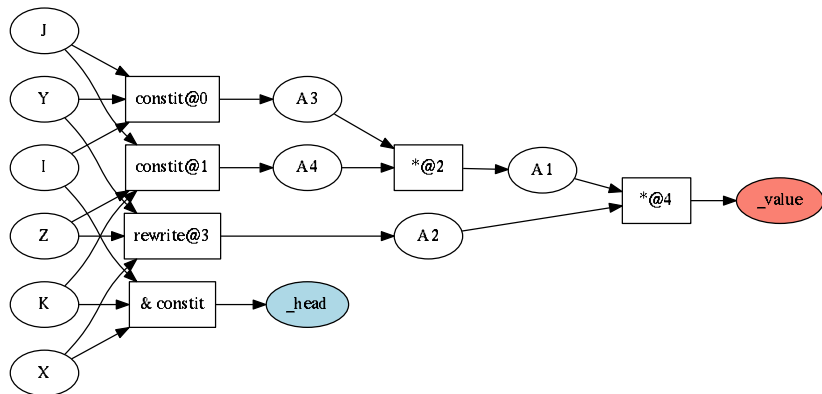
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Can think of this rule as having a *factor graph*:



This is *not* an arithmetic circuit. It is a useful formalism for considering how to find the *active subset* of edges created by this rule.

Circuits From Dyna

Rule Planning

Looking for active subset of edges:

- ▶ those for which *all parents* are non-NULL.
- ▶ want a *finite description* of these (infinitely many) edges.

Assume *procedures* that enumerate finite descriptions of subgoals' answers.

- ▶ Assume finitely many **words**, so finitely enumerable.
- ▶ Multiplication only can when two of the three components are known.
 - ▶ $\{x \mid 2 * 3 = x\}$ or $\{x \mid x * 7 = 42\}$, but not $\{\langle x, y \rangle \mid x * y = 23.5\}$.
- ▶ **rewrite** might be of either flavor (input or derived).
- ▶ **constit** inductively finite.

Need to track *instantiation state*:

- ▶ “At runtime, this variable is still unknown.”
- ▶ “At runtime, we will know the value of this variable.”

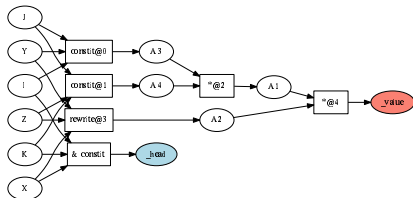
Circuits From Dyna

Rule Planning

Example: Looking for active subset of edges

- Given *known* head, e.g. `constit("s",0,7)`.

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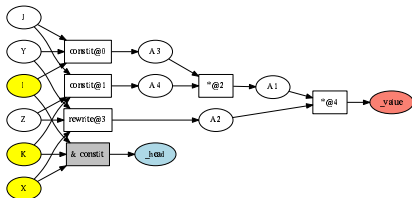
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- Backward chain w/ head known
- Unpack head; `X`, `I`, `K` known

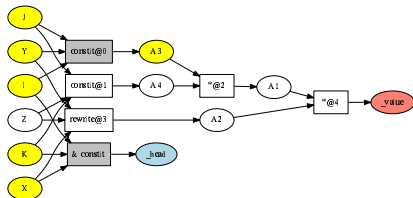
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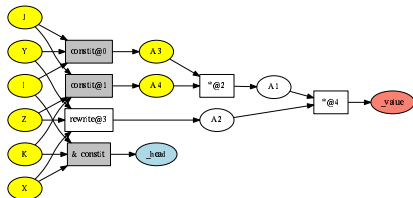
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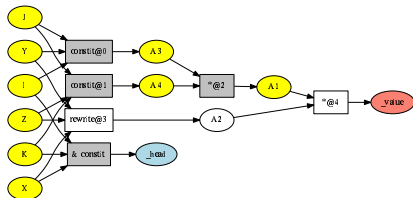
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- Backward chain w/ head known
- Unpack head; `X`, `I`, `K` known
- Iterate `Y`, `J` from `constit(Y,I,J)`
- Iterate `Z` from `constit(Z,J,K)`
- Multiply

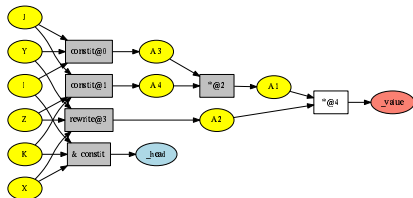
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- Probe grammar at `rewrite(X,Y,Z)`

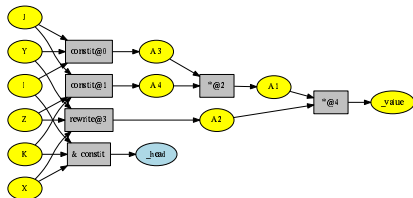
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Circuits From Dyna

Rule Planning

This simple example well within reach of existing systems.

Thesis (§5.3) adds:

- ▶ Ability to track “partially known” structure.
 - ▶ Also within reach of existing systems
- ▶ *Type-aware* planning: variables’ ranges are explicitly tracked.
- ▶ More versatile procedure selection (e.g., upcasts, case analysis)
- ▶ Result-dependent forks in plans.

Circuits From Dyna

Default Reasoning

Often, want to say “unless otherwise specified.”

- ▶ Sparse arithmetic objects (“elements are zero, unless...”)

```
f(X,Y) += 0. % all cells
```

```
f(2,X) += 2. % a column
```

```
f(X,X) += 1. % the diagonal
```

```
f(2,2) += 4. % a particular cell
```

- ▶ Default arcs in finite state machines:

```
trans(state(4), _ ) := state(6). % every input but 'a'
```

```
trans(state(4), 'a') := state(5).
```

- ▶ Ontologies

```
fly(X : bird) := true . % absent other data...
```

```
fly(X : penguin) := false. % but not these birds
```

```
fly(bigbird) := false. % nor that one in particular
```

- ▶ Lifted inference in MLN

- ▶ Identify all nodes in a graph until reason to split

All of these have one very important thing in common:

- ▶ *Finitely many* rules with *constant* values.
- ▶ A *pointwise-constant* function of (in)finitely many things.

Circuits From Dyna

Conjoining Defaults

- Define two sparse vectors (\Rightarrow means “most-specific wins”):

```
1 r(X : int)           => 1.
2 r(X : nonneg int) => 2.
3 r(-1)                => 3.
```

```
1 s(X : int)           => 1.
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X	...	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	...
r(X)	...	1	1	3	2	2	2	2	...
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 - See thesis for more complex examples.

Circuits From Dyna

Aggregating Defaults

- ▶ Intra-rule aggregation is complicated!
 - ▶ Relies on set representation for computing *cardinality of set subtraction*.
- ▶ Cross-rule aggregation of defaults is relatively straightforward:
 - ▶ Rather like the simple *conjunction* on previous slide.
 - ▶ A cross-product construction, with set intersections at each.
- ▶ Too hard & not sufficiently interesting for talk; see thesis for details.

Circuits From Dyna

Interaction of Defaults with Planning

Defaults make planning more challenging:

- ▶ May only partially specify variables in rules.
 - ▶ May want *different loop orders* for defaults vs. overrides.
- ▶ Combination of defaults may result in *sets* of aggregands.
 - ▶ Despite having visited each subgoal.
 - ▶ Must ensure that we can manipulate the result (e.g., count it).

Piecewise constancy is, indeed, a constraint on the system:

- ▶ We will reject `f(X) += X` for default reasoning.
 - ▶ (But is OK for individual queries, like `f(3)`.)
- ▶ Is a sweet spot between expressiveness of program and complexity of solver.
- ▶ Generalizes existing system: all items' values `NULL`, unless otherwise specified.

What next?

This thesis: foundational work for Dyna 2.

§2 Flexible solver designs enable as many runtime strategies as possible.

§3 Default-based reasoning enlarges the space of acceptable programs.

§4 Discussion of representations of sets within solver.

§5 Static analysis of Dyna programs

- Finds space of strategies for solver.

§6 Extensions, including declarative module system.

- (Much of the work is not *specific* to Dyna; applicable to other systems.)

Proof of concept work along the way:

- 2013 implementation of a solver for finite programs (no default reasoning).
- Used at Linguistic Institute summer program at University of Michigan.

What next?

Enough foundational theory done, serious building underway.

- ▶ Tim Vieira: Exploring machine learning for solver policies.
- ▶ Matthew Francis-Landau: aggressively-optimizing, JIT Dyna on Java.
- ▶ Dr. Vivek Sarkar and Farzad Khorasani: *parallel* and *GPU* runtime.

What next?

Thank you. Questions?

Proof Search

- ▶ Computations often amount to search for justification.
 - ▶ Reachability in a graph: edges forming a path.
 - ▶ Parsing a sentence: grammatical expansions.
 - ▶ (co-)NP complexity classes: witness.
 - ▶ Post Correspondence: sequence of tiles.
- ▶ These justifications can be recast as proofs in a logic.
 - ▶ Enter *logic programming*.
- ▶ More generally, we might want *quantifier alternation*: $\forall_a \exists_b \forall_c \dots$

Proof Search

What's in a proof, anyway?

- ▶ Inference rules: “R proves a given proofs of b and c ,” written

$$\frac{b \quad c}{a} R$$

- ▶ Axioms: inference rules without conditions: \overline{f} .
- ▶ Proof combines rules into a *tree*:

- ▶ Given the rules

$$\overline{\text{bal} \rightarrow \text{was}} \quad \overline{\text{phl} \rightarrow \text{bal}} \quad \overline{\text{nyc} \rightarrow \text{phl}} \quad \overline{s \rightarrow^* s} \text{ END} \quad \frac{s \rightarrow t \quad t \rightarrow^* u}{s \rightarrow^* u} \text{ STEP}$$

- ▶ A proof of $\text{nyc} \rightarrow^* \text{was}$ is

$$\frac{\overline{\text{nyc} \rightarrow \text{phl}} \quad \frac{\overline{\text{phl} \rightarrow \text{bal}} \quad \frac{\overline{\text{bal} \rightarrow \text{was}} \quad \overline{\text{was} \rightarrow^* \text{was}}}{\text{bal} \rightarrow^* \text{was}} \text{ STEP}}{\text{phl} \rightarrow^* \text{was}} \text{ STEP}}{\text{nyc} \rightarrow^* \text{was}} \text{ STEP}$$

Proof Search

Grammaticality of a sentence can be expressed as inference rules, too:

- ▶ Core rules:

$$\frac{X \rightarrow w \quad i w_j}{i X_j} \quad \frac{i Y_j \quad j Z_k \quad X \rightarrow Y Z}{i X_k}$$

- ▶ $i w_j$: word w from position i to j .
- ▶ $i X_k$: nonterminal X from position i to k .
- ▶ $X \rightarrow w$: word w has PoS (preterminal) X (e.g. $\overline{\text{Noun} \rightarrow \text{time}}$).
- ▶ $X \rightarrow YZ$: combine Y and Z to make X (e.g. $\overline{\text{PP} \rightarrow \text{P NP}}$).
- ▶ Goal: ${}_0 S_k$ (for sentence of length k).

Proof Search

Core rules:

$$\frac{X \rightarrow w \quad i w_j}{i X_j} \quad \frac{i Y_j \quad j Z_k \quad X \rightarrow Y Z}{i X_k}$$

Consider the sentence “0time1 1flies2 2like3 3an4 4arrow5.” If we consider all ways of combining our inference rules (core and grammar), we find *several* proofs of grammaticality, which correspond to *readings*:

$$\frac{\frac{N \rightarrow \text{time} \quad \overline{0 \text{time}_1}}{0 N_1} \quad \frac{\frac{V \rightarrow \text{flies} \quad \overline{1 \text{flies}_2}}{1 V_2} \quad \frac{\frac{\frac{\vdots}{2 P_3} \quad \frac{\vdots}{3 NP_5} \quad \overline{PP \rightarrow P NP}}{2 PP_5} \quad \overline{VP \rightarrow V PP}}{1 VP_5}}{0 S_5}}{S \rightarrow N VP}}$$

Pertains to
passage of time

$$\frac{\frac{N \rightarrow \text{time} \quad \overline{0 \text{time}_1}}{0 N_1} \quad \frac{\frac{N \rightarrow \text{flies} \quad \overline{1 \text{flies}_2}}{1 N_2} \quad \frac{\overline{NP \rightarrow N N} \quad \frac{\frac{\vdots}{2 V_3} \quad \frac{\vdots}{3 NP_4} \quad \overline{VP \rightarrow V NP}}{2 VP_5}}{0 NP_2}}{0 S_5}}{S \rightarrow NP VP}}$$

“Time flies,”
like “fruit flies.”

Proof Search

Pure Prolog

Core rules:

$$\frac{X \rightarrow w \quad iW_j}{iX_j} \qquad \frac{iY_j \quad jZ_k \quad X \rightarrow Y Z}{iX_k}$$

Recast these in Prolog. Item names:

- ▶ `word(W,I,J)` for iW_j
- ▶ `constit(X,I,K)` for iX_k
- ▶ `pos(W,X)` for $X \rightarrow W$
- ▶ `rewrite(X,Y,Z)` for $X \rightarrow Y Z$

And rules:

```
1 constit(X,I,J) :- word(W,I,J), pos(W,X).  
2 constit(X,I,K) :- constit(Y,I,J), constit(Z,J,K),  
3 rewrite(X,Y,Z).
```

Equivalent formulation in more traditional logic (first rule):

$$\forall_{i,j,x} (c_{x,i,j} \Leftarrow \exists_w (w_{w,i,j} \wedge p_{w,x})) \Leftrightarrow \underbrace{\forall_{i,j,w,x} (c_{x,i,j} \vee \neg w_{w,i,j} \vee \neg p_{w,x})}_{\text{Horn clause}}$$

Proof Search

Boolean Circuits

Can think of Prolog program as specifying a hypergraph with:

- ▶ items as nodes, rules as hyperedges
- ▶ the value of a hyperedge is the AND (\wedge) of its tails
- ▶ the value of an item is the OR (\vee) of its incident hyperedges

(Have not discussed negation, but could add w/ more hyperedge types.)

Proof Search

Dyna 1: Semirings and Horn Equations

A little algebra. Let $B = \{t, f\}$.

- ▶ AND: $x \wedge y = t$ iff $x = y = t$
 - ▶ OR: $x \vee y = f$ iff $x = y = f$
 - ▶ Distributivity: $a \wedge (b \vee c) = (a \wedge b) \vee (a \wedge c)$.
- ▶ $t \wedge x = x$
 - ▶ $f \vee x = x$

Proof Search

Dyna 1: Semirings and Horn Equations

A little algebra. Let $B = \{\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{f}\}$.

- ▶ AND: $x \wedge y = \mathbf{t}$ iff $x = y = \mathbf{t}$ ▶ $\mathbf{t} \wedge x = x$
- ▶ OR: $x \vee y = \mathbf{f}$ iff $x = y = \mathbf{f}$ ▶ $\mathbf{f} \vee x = x$
- ▶ Distributivity: $a \wedge (b \vee c) = (a \wedge b) \vee (a \wedge c)$.

$\langle B, \vee, \wedge, \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{t} \rangle$ is a *semiring (rig)*. This kind of structure abounds!

- ▶ Numbers with $+$ and $*$: $\langle \mathbb{R}, +, 0, *, 1 \rangle$.
 - ▶ $a * (b + c) = (a * b) + (a * c)$.
- ▶ “Tropical” semiring: $\langle \mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\}, \min, \infty, +, 0 \rangle$.
 - ▶ $a + \min(b, c) = \min(a + b, a + c)$.
- ▶ Formal languages, probabilities, provenance, expectations, ...

Proof Search

Dyna 1: Semirings and Horn Equations

Consider again our Prolog parsing program:

```
1 constit(X,I,J) :- word(W,I,J), pos(W,X).  
2 constit(X,I,K) :- constit(Y,I,J), constit(Z,J,K),  
3                   rewrite(X,Y,Z).
```

Can see that it uses **OR** and **AND** operations. That's *all* it does!

Could use *different* **semiring addition** and **semiring product** operations:

```
1 constit(X,I,J) += word(W,I,J) * pos(W,X).  
2 constit(X,I,K) += constit(Y,I,J) * constit(Z,J,K)  
3                   * rewrite(X,Y,Z).
```

(Tarjan '81, "A Unified Approach to Path Problems")

Proof Search

Dyna 2: Generalized Expressions

Dyna 2 moves us beyond semirings:

- ▶ Different aggregators for different items.
- ▶ Generalized expressions in the body:
 - ▶ Mix weights and booleans: `a += 1 for f(X)`.
 - ▶ Values can become keys: `goal += constit("s",0,length)` *evaluates* length in place.
 - ▶