

CONSTRAINT HANDLING RULES

an introductory tutorial

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von Neumann quote

*"You insist that there is something that a machine can't do. If you will tell me **precisely** what it is that a machine cannot do, then I can always make a machine which will do just that."*



John von Neumann (1903-1957)
Hungarian-American mathematician,
pioneer of computer science

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PART ONE

Introduction

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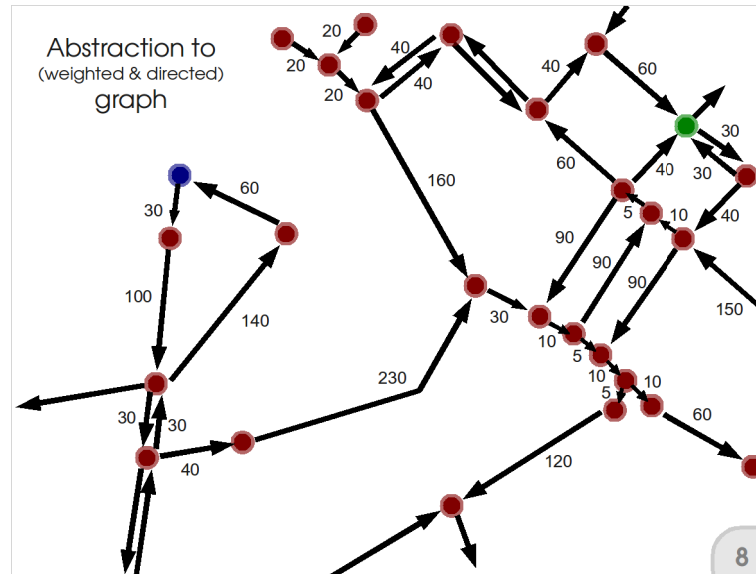
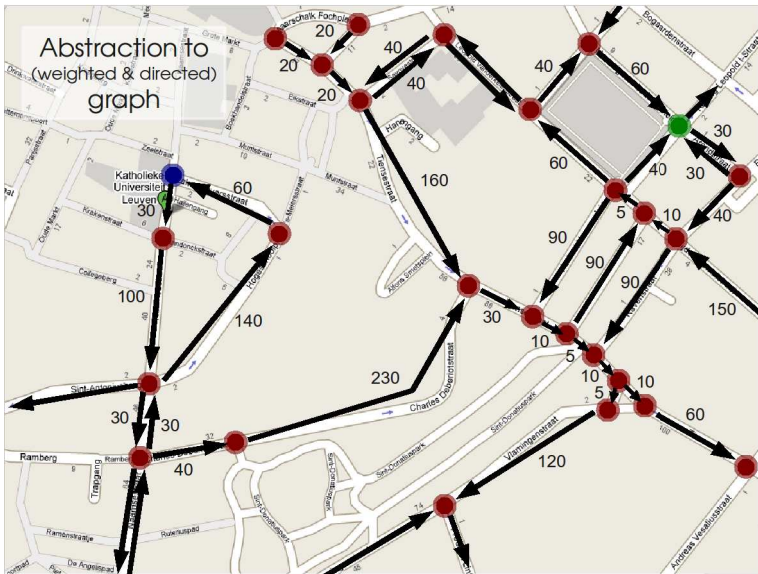
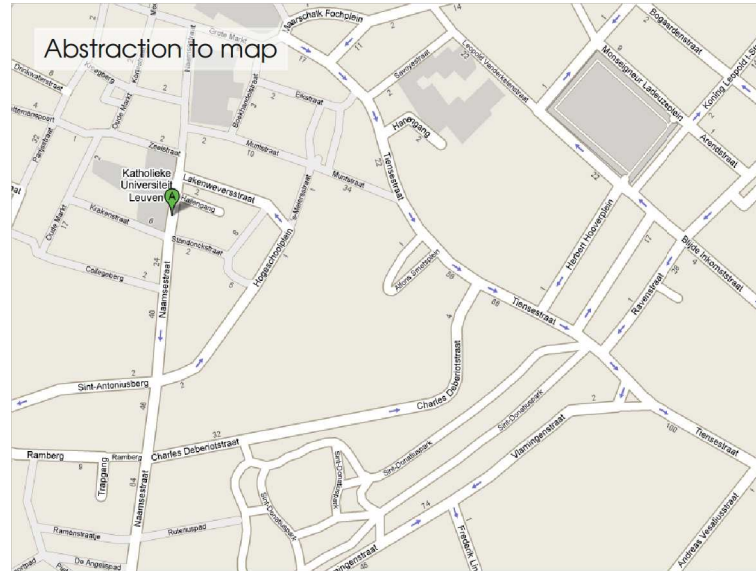
How to get from A to B ?

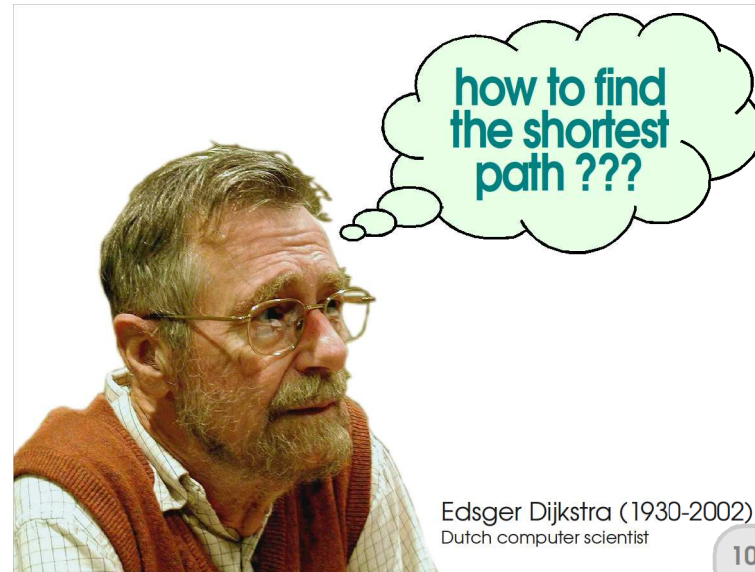
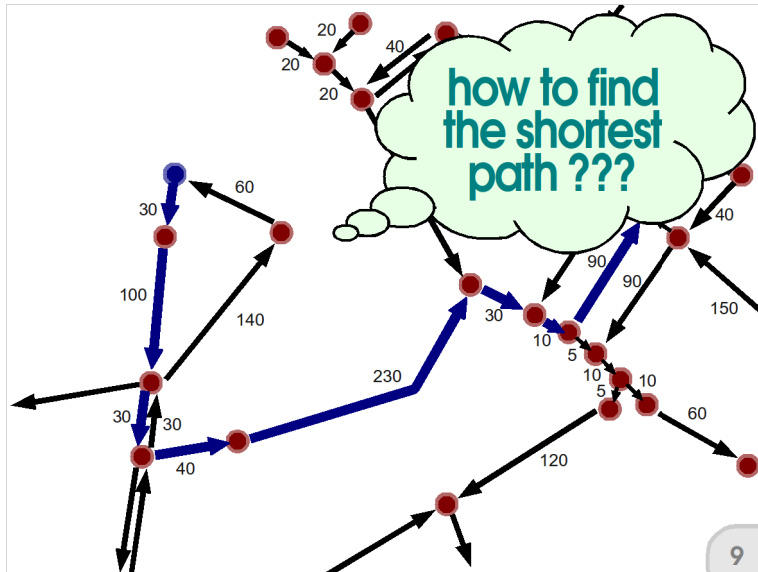


point B : Library
Ladeuzeplein, Leuven

point A : Universiteitshallen
Naamsestraat 22, Leuven, Belgium

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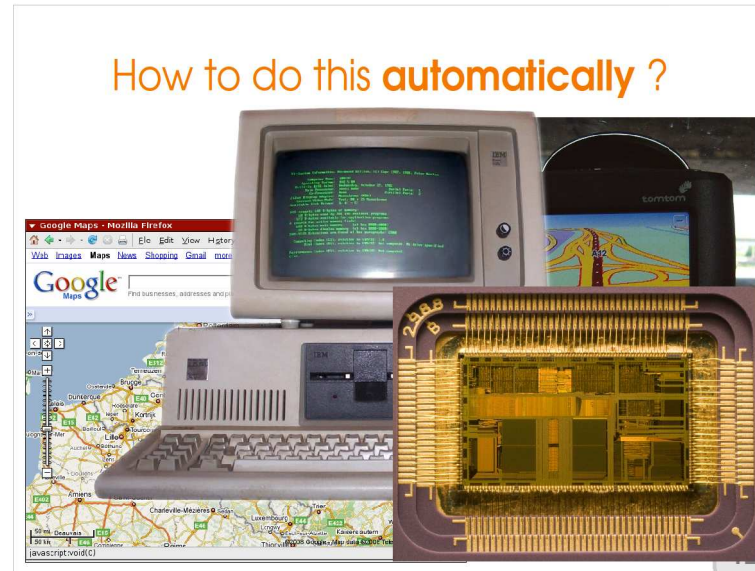
Dijkstra's algorithm:

1. $\text{distance}(\text{start-point}) = 0$
2. pick a (not-yet-considered) point x with smallest distance, $\text{LABEL}(x)$
3. if end-point is considered, stop; otherwise go to step 2

$\text{LABEL}(x)$: for all arrows $x \xrightarrow{a} y$:
set $\text{distance}(y) = \text{distance}(x) + a$
(if the new distance is shorter)

Edsger Dijkstra (1930-2002)
Dutch computer scientist

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Implementing Dijkstra's algorithm

```
dijkstra(Vertex, Ss):-
  create(Vertex, [Vertex, 0]), Ds),
  dijkstra_1(Ds, [Vertex, 0]), Ss),
  dijkstra_1([], Ss, Ss),
  dijkstra_1([D|Ds], Ss, Ss):-
    best(Ds, D, S),
    delete([D|Ds], [S], Ds1),
    Ss1(Vertex, Distance, Path),
    reverse([Vertex|Path], Path1),
    merge(Ss0, [Vertex, Distance, Path1]), Ss1),
    create(Vertex, [Vertex|Path], Ds2),
    delete(Ds2, Ss1, Ds3),
    incr(Ds3, Distance, Ds4),
    merge(Ds1, Ds4, Ds5),
    dijkstra_1(Ds5, Ss1, Ss).

path(Vertex0, Vertex, Path, Dist):-
  dijkstra(Vertex0, Ss),
  member(s(Vertex, Dist, Path), Ss), !.

create(Start, Path, Edges):-
  setof(s(Vertex, Edge, Path),
    e(Start, Vertex, Edge), Edges), !.
create(_, _, []).

best([], Best, Best).
best([Edge|Edges], Best0, Best):-
  shorter(Edge, Best0, !),
  best(Edges, Best0, Best).
shorter(Edge, Best0, !):-
  best([Edge], Best0, Best):-
    best(Edges, Best0, Best).

shorter(s(_X, _), s(_Y, _)):-X < Y.

delete([], []).
delete([X|Xs], [X], [Xs]):-!.
delete([X|Xs], [Y|Ys], Ds):-
  eq(X, Y), !.
```

...in Prolog



Implementing Dijkstra's algorithm

```
:- chr_constraint edge(+node,+node,+length), dijkstra(+node),
  distance(+node,+length), scan(+node,+length),
  relabel(+node,+length).
:- chr_type node == int.
:- chr_type length == number.

dijkstra(A) <=> scan(A, 0).
scan(N, L, edge(N, N2, W) => L2 is L+W, relabel(N2, L2).
scan(N, L) <=> distance(N, L),
  (extract_min(N2, L2) -> scan(N2, L2) ; true).
distance(N, _) \ relabel(N, _) <=> true.
relabel(N, L) <=> decr_or_ins(N, L).

:- chr_constraint insert(+item,+key), extract_min(?item,?key),
  decr_or_ins(+item,+key), decr(-item,+key),
  mark(+item), ch2rt(+item), decr(+item,+key,+item,+item,+mark),
  findmin, min(+item,+key), item(+item,+key,+item,+item,+mark).
:- chr_type item == int.
:- chr_type key == number.
:- chr_type mark ==> u.

insert(I, K) <=> item(I, K, 0, 0, u), min(I, K).
min(_A) \ min(_B) <=> A <= B | !.

extract_min(X, Y), min(I, K), item(I, _, _, _, _)
  <=> ch2rt(I), findmin, X=I, Y=K.
extract_min(_ _) <=> fail.

ch2rt(I) \ item(C, K, R, I, _)#passive
  <=> item(C, K, R, 0, u).
ch2rt(I) <=> true.

findmin, item(I, K, R, 0, u),
  findmin <=> true.
item(I, K1, R, 0, u),
  <=> K1 < K2 | !.
  ; item(I, K2, R, 0, u).
decr(I, K), item(I, 0, K, R, u),
  <=> K < 0 | !.
decr(I, K) <=> fail.
item(I, 0, R, P, M), decr_or_ins(I, K),
  <=> K < 0 | decr(I, K, R, P, M).
item(I, 0, _, _) \ decr_or_ins(I, K) <=> K >= 0 | true.
decr_or_ins(I, K) <=> insert(I, K).

min(I, K),
  min(I, K),
  item(I, K, R, 0, u),
  decr(I, K, R, P, M),
  mark(I) | item(I, K, R, P, M).
decr(I, K),
  item(I, K, R, 0, u), mark(P).
mark(I), item(I, K, R, 0, u) <=> item(I, K, R-1, 0, u).
mark(I), item(I, K, R, P, M)
  <=> item(I, K, R-1, 0, u), mark(P).
mark(I), item(I, K, R, P, u) <=> item(I, K, R-1, P, M).
mark(I) <=> writeln(error_mark), fail.
```

...in CHR



Implementing Dijkstra's algorithm

```
:- chr_constraint edge(+node,+node,+length),
  source(+node),
  distance(+node,+length).
:- chr_type node == int.
:- chr_type length == number.

1 :: source(V) ==> distance(V, 0).
1 :: distance(V, D1) \ distance(V, D2) <=> D1 <= D2 | true.
D+2 :: distance(V, D), edge(V, C, W) ==> distance(W, D+C).
```

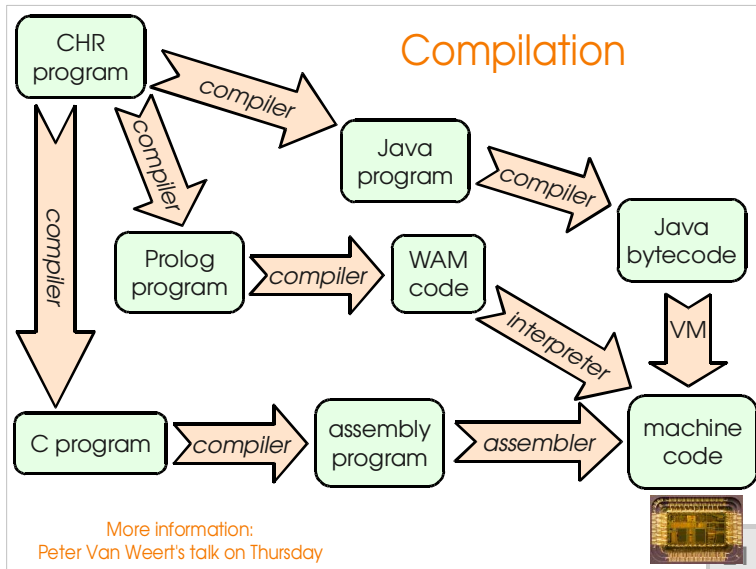
...in CHR^{rp}



CHR = Constraint Handling Rules

- CHR is a very **high level** programming language
- based on **rules**
 - propagation rules:
 - clouds => forecast(rainy).
 - forecast(rainy) => bring(coat).
 - forecast(sunny) => bring(sunscreen).
 - simplification rules:
 - bring(coat), bring(sunscreen) <=> bring(umbrella).
- stand-alone (CHR-only) or extending a **host language**





Syntax of CHR

head:	CHR constraints
guard:	host language (built-in)
body:	CHR constraints + host language

- Propagation rule:

$$\text{head} \Rightarrow \text{guard} \mid \text{body}.$$
 example: $\text{dist}(A,D), \text{road}(A,B,L) \Rightarrow \text{dist}(B,D+L).$
- Simplification rule:

$$\text{head} \Leftrightarrow \text{guard} \mid \text{body}.$$
 example: $\text{dist}(A,X), \text{dist}(A,Y) \Leftrightarrow X \leq Y \mid \text{dist}(A,X).$

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Operational semantics of CHR

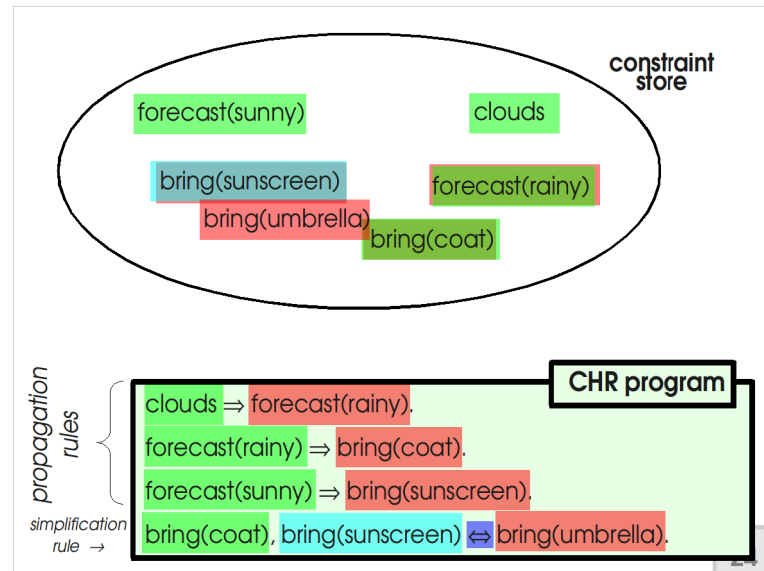
IF head IN STORE (AND guard HOLDS), THEN...

- Propagation rule: ... **ADD body TO STORE**

$$\text{head} \Rightarrow \text{guard} \mid \text{body}.$$
 example: $\text{dist}(A,D), \text{road}(A,B,L) \Rightarrow \text{dist}(B,D+L).$
- Simplification rule: ... **REPLACE head BY body**

$$\text{head} \Leftrightarrow \text{guard} \mid \text{body}.$$
 example: $\text{dist}(A,X), \text{dist}(A,Y) \Leftrightarrow X \leq Y \mid \text{dist}(A,X).$

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Features of CHR

Embedded in a host language

CHR *extends* an existing programming language, e.g.
 CHR(Prolog)
 CHR(Haskell)
 CHR(Java)
 CHR(C)

$\Rightarrow \text{dist}(B,D+L).$

- Simplification rule:

$\text{head} \Leftrightarrow \text{guard} \mid \text{body}.$

example: $\text{dist}(A,X), \text{dist}(A,Y) \Leftrightarrow X \leq Y \mid \text{dist}(A,X).$

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Features of CHR

Multiple heads

The head of a rule consists of an arbitrary number of CHR constraints (1 or more)
 cf. Prolog: single-headed

- Propagation rule:

$\text{head} \Rightarrow \text{guard} \mid \text{body}.$

example: $\text{dist}(A,D), \text{road}(A,B,L) \Rightarrow \text{dist}(B,D+L).$

- Simplification rule:

$\text{head} \Leftrightarrow \text{guard} \mid \text{body}.$

example: $\text{dist}(A,X), \text{dist}(A,Y) \Leftrightarrow X \leq Y \mid \text{dist}(A,X).$

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Features of CHR

- Propagation rule:

$\text{head} \Rightarrow \text{guard} \mid \text{body}.$

example: $\text{dist}(A,D), \text{road}(A,B,L) \Rightarrow \text{dist}(B,D+L).$

Multi-set semantics

The constraint store may contain the same constraint multiple times
 {c} is not the same as {c,c}
 cf. classical logic: $p \leftrightarrow p \wedge p$

- Simplification rule:

$\text{head} \Leftrightarrow \text{guard} \mid \text{body}.$

example: $\text{dist}(A,X), \text{dist}(A,Y) \Leftrightarrow X \leq Y \mid \text{dist}(A,X).$

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Features of CHR

Important remark:

in CHR(Prolog), we can still use Prolog disjunction or nondeterministic predicates in the body of rules!

CHR with disjunction/search is called **CHR^v**

- Propagation rule:

Committed-choice

Once a rule has been applied, it remains applied – no backtracking to try different derivation paths
 cf. Prolog: choice-points and backtracking

$\text{dist}(A,D), \text{road}(A,B,L) \Rightarrow \text{dist}(B,D+L).$

$\text{head} \Leftrightarrow \text{guard} \mid \text{body}.$

example: $\text{dist}(A,X), \text{dist}(A,Y) \Leftrightarrow X \leq Y \mid \text{dist}(A,X).$

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Features of CHR

Logical semantics

CHR has a declarative semantics!

- Propagation rule:

$\text{head} \Rightarrow \text{guard} \mid \text{body}.$

example: $\text{dist}(A,D), \text{road}(A,B,L) \Rightarrow \text{dist}(B,D+L).$

propagation = implication

- Simplification rule:

$\text{head} \Leftrightarrow \text{guard} \mid \text{body}.$

example: $\text{dist}(A,X), \text{dist}(A,Y) \Leftrightarrow X \leq Y \mid \text{dist}(A,X).$

simplification = equivalence

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PART TWO

Writing CHR programs

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CHR(Prolog) by example

- Simple example: color mixing in CHR
- We first declare CHR constraints as follows:

```
:- chr_constraint red, blue, yellow, purple, ...
```
- Then we write the rules:

```
red, blue <=> purple.  
blue, yellow <=> green.  
yellow, red <=> orange.
```

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CHR(Prolog) by example

- Simple example: color mixing in CHR

```
red, blue <=> purple.  
blue, yellow <=> green.  
yellow, red <=> orange.
```
- CHR program execution:
 - user gives a **goal**
 - rules are applied exhaustively
 - the remaining constraints are the **result**

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CHR(Prolog) by example

- Simple example: color mixing
 - red, blue \Leftrightarrow purple.
 - blue, yellow \Leftrightarrow green.
 - yellow, red \Leftrightarrow orange.
- Example interaction:


```
?- blue, red.
purple
?- yellow, blue, red.
green
red
```

Why this answer?

(and not, say, "yellow, purple")

Refined semantics

Execution from left to right and from top to bottom (cf. Prolog)

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Confluence

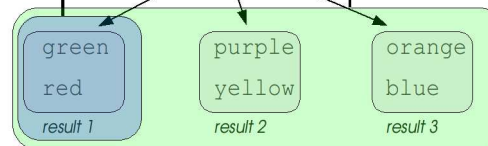
- Simple example: color mixing in CHR

```
r1 @
r2 @
r3 @ yellow, red  $\Leftrightarrow$  orange
```

- ?- yellow, blue, red.

Abstract semantics

allows rule application in any order



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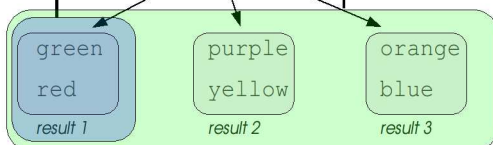
Confluence

A CHR program is called **confluent** if for any given goal, there is only one result, regardless of the order in which rules are applied. (so the color mixing program is not confluent)

- ?- yellow, blue, red.

Abstract semantics

allows rule application in any order



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Constraints with arguments

- Add anything to brown and it remains brown:

```
red, blue  $\Leftrightarrow$  purple.
blue, yellow  $\Leftrightarrow$  green.
yellow, red  $\Leftrightarrow$  orange.
```

```
brown, red  $\Leftrightarrow$  brown.
brown, blue  $\Leftrightarrow$  brown.
brown, yellow  $\Leftrightarrow$  brown.
brown, purple  $\Leftrightarrow$  brown.
```

...

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Constraints with arguments

- This becomes a bit tedious, can't we write something like this instead?

```
brown, _ <=> brown.
```

- The above will not work in CHR (but it does work in a related formalism called ACD term rewriting)
- But we can write our program in a different way...

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Constraints with arguments

- From many 0-ary constraints to one unary constraint:

```
:- chr_constraint red, blue, yellow, purple, ...
```

```
red, blue <=> purple.
```

```
blue, yellow <=> green.
```

```
yellow, red <=> orange.
```

```
:- chr_constraint color/1.
```

```
color(red), color(blue) <=> color(purple).
```

```
...
```

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Constraints with arguments

- Now we can write more general rules:

```
:- chr_constraint color/1.
```

```
color(X), color(Y) <=> mix(X,Y,Z) | color(Z).
```

```
color(brown), color(_) <=> color(brown).
```

```
% host language
```

```
mix(red,blue,purple).
```

```
mix(blue,yellow,green).
```

```
mix(yellow,red,orange).
```

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Type and mode declarations

- Optionally, we can specify types and modes:

```
% no type/mode declaration:
```

```
:- chr_constraint color/1.
```

```
% only mode declaration:
```

```
:- chr_constraint color(+). % ground argument
```

```
% type and mode declaration:
```

```
:- chr_constraint color(+colorname).
```

```
:- chr_type colorname ---> red ; blue ; yellow ;...
```

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Simpagation rules

- So far we have only used simplification rules.
- Simpagation rules can be more concise/efficient:

```
% simplification rule:  
color(brown), color(_) <=> color(brown).
```

"true" ?

In Prolog, "true" is a built-in that does not do anything. We use it to indicate an empty body.

```
% simpagation rule:  
color(brown) \ color(_) <=> true.
```

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Typical pattern #1: flattening lists

- We want to convert "colors([red,green,blue])" to "color(red), color(green), color(blue)"
:- chr_constraint color(+colorname).
:- chr_type colorname ---> red ; blue ; yellow ;...
:- chr_constraint colors(+list(colorname)).
:- chr_type list(T) ---> [] ; [T|list(T)].

```
colors([]) <=> true.  
colors([C|Rest]) <=> color(C), colors(Rest).
```

(just like how you would do this in Prolog)

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More complex color mixing

- Now we also specify the amount of paint:

```
:- chr_constraint color(+colorname,+amount).  
:- chr_type colorname ---> red ; blue ; yellow ;...  
:- chr_type amount == float.    % in liters
```

("float" is a built-in type for floating point numbers)

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Typical pattern #2: "default constructor"

- For backwards compatibility, we still have color/1
:- chr_constraint color(+colorname).
:- chr_constraint color(+colorname,+amount).
:- chr_type colorname ---> red ; blue ; yellow ;...
:- chr_type amount == float.

```
% we assume 1 liter of paint:  
color(C) <=> color(C,1).
```

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Typical pattern #3: maintaining a sum

```
:- chr_constraint color(+colorname,+amount).
```

```
color(C,A1), color(C,A2)
  <=> TA is A1+A2, color(C,TA).
```

```
color(C,0) <=> true.
```

```
color(X,A1), color(Y,A2)
  <=> mix(X,Y,Z) | TA is A1+A2, color(Z,TA).
```

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CHR(Prolog) one-liners (1)

- Finding the minimum:

```
min(A) \ min(B) <=> A <= B | true.
```

```
?- min(8), min(3), min(6), min(7).
min(3)
```

- Computing the sum:

```
sum(A), sum(B) <=> C is A+B, sum(C).
```

```
?- sum(3), sum(5), sum(6).
sum(14)
```

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CHR(Prolog)

- Finding the minimum

```
min(A) \ min(B)
```

```
?- min(8), min(3), min(6), min(7).
min(3)
```

- Computing the sum

```
sum(A), sum(B) <=>
```

```
?- sum(3), sum(5), sum(6).
sum(14)
```

Online algorithm

An online algorithm processes its inputs while they arrive (it does not need to see the full input to get started)

Using CHR often results in online algorithms

Anytime algorithm

An anytime algorithm can be interrupted during the computation to give a partial (approximate) result, from which it can then resume the computation

Using CHR often results in anytime algorithms

Concurrent algorithm

A concurrent algorithm can be executed in parallel (while sequential algorithms are hard to parallelize)

Using CHR often results in concurrent algorithms

CHR(Prolog) one-liners (2)

- Transitive closure

```
:- op(700,xfx,before).
:- chr_constraint before(+any,+any).
```

```
A before B, B before C ==> A before C.
```

```
?- a before b, b before c, c before d.
a before b
b before c
c before d
a before c
a before d
b before d
```

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CHR(Prolog) one-liners (3)

- Naive merge-sort in $O(n^2)$ time

```
:- op(700,xfx,before).
:- chr_constraint before(+any,+any).
```

```
A before B \ A before C <=> B @< C | B before C.
```

```
?- 0 before foo, 0 before bar, 0 before baz, 0 before quux.
0 before bar
bar before baz
baz before foo
foo before quux
```

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CHR(Prolog) two-liners (1)

- Greatest common divisor
(Euclid's algorithm)



```
:- chr_constraint gcd(+int).
```

```
gcd(0) <=> true.
```

```
gcd(N) \ gcd(M) <=> N =< M | L is M mod N, gcd(L).
```

```
?- gcd(94017), gcd(1155), gcd(2035).
gcd(11)
```

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CHR(Prolog) two-liners (2)

- Prime number generator
(sieve of Eratosthenes)



```
:- chr_constraint prime(+int).
```

```
prime(N) ==> N>2 | M is N-1, prime(M).
```

```
prime(A) \ prime(B) <=> B mod A =:= 0 | true.
```

```
?- prime(10).
prime(2)
prime(3)
prime(5)
prime(7)
```

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CHR(Prolog) two-liners (3)

- Fibonacci numbers



```
:- chr_constraint fib(+int,+int), upto(+int).
```

```
upto(_) ==> fib(0,1), fib(1,1).
```

```
upto(Max), fib(N1,M1), fib(N2,M2)
==> Max>N2, N2 is N1+1 |
N is N2+1, M is M1+M2, fib(N,M).
```

```
?- upto(10).
fib(10,89)
fib(9,55)
fib(8,34)
fib(7,21)
fib(6,13)
...
```

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CHR(Prolog) two-liners (4)



- Optimal merge-sort

```
:- op(700,xfx,before).
:- chr_constraint before(+any,+any), sort(+int,+any).
```

```
X before A \ X before B
  <=> A @< B | A before B.
```

```
sort(N,A), sort(N,B)
  <=> A @< B | M is N+1, sort(M,A), A before B.
```

```
?- sort(0,foo), sort(0,bar), sort(0,baz), sort(0,quux).
bar before baz
baz before foo
foo before quux
sort(2,bar)
```

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CHR(Prolog) two-liners (5)

5	3		7		
6		1	9	5	
9	8				6
8			6		3
4		8	3		1
7			2		6
6				2	8
		4	1	9	5
			8		7
					9

- Sudoku puzzle solver in CHR

```
:- chr_constraint given(+pos,+val), maybe(+pos,+list(val)).
```

```
given(P1,V) \ maybe(P2,L)
  <=> sees(P1,P2), select(V,L,L2) | maybe(P2,L2).
```

```
maybe(P,L) <=> member(V,L), given(P,V).
```

```
sees(X_, X_). % same row
sees(_X, _X). % same column
sees(X-Y, A-B) :- X//3 =:= A//3, Y//3 =:= B//3. % same box
```

```
?- given(1-1,5),given(1-2,3), ..., maybe(1-3,[1,2,3,...,9]), ...
given(a-1,5)
given(a-2,3)
given(a-3,7)
...
```

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One last example...



- Simple less-than-or-equal constraint solver

```
:- op(700,xfx,leq).
:- chr_constraint leq/2.
```

```
reflexivity @ X leq X <=> true.
```

```
idempotence @ X leq Y \ X leq Y <=> true.
```

```
antisymmetry @ X leq Y, Y leq X <=> X=Y.
```

```
transitivity @ X leq Y, Y leq Z ==> X leq Z.
```

```
?- A leq B, B leq C, C leq A.
```

```
A = B
B = C
```

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Differences between CHR and Prolog

	Prolog	CHR
<i>basic elements</i>	predicates	constraints
<i>elements are defined by</i>	clauses	rules
<i>syntax</i>	head :- body.	head <=> guard body.
<i>#heads</i>	1	1, 2, 3, ...
<i>definition selection condition</i>	unification	matching + guard
<i>different applicable definitions</i>	try alternatives (backtracking)	committed-choice
<i>no applicable definition</i>	failure	suspension (delay) ↳ partial result

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Committed-choice – different from Prolog!

- In Prolog, **backtracking** (proof search) is used to find a non-failing derivation

- In CHR there is no backtracking

```
:- chr_constraint chr/0, output/1.  
chr <=> output(foo).  
chr <=> output(bar).  
prolog :- output(foo).  
prolog :- output(bar).
```

```
?- prolog.  
output(foo) ;
```

```
?- chr.  
output(foo)
```

```
output(bar)
```

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Head matching – different from Prolog!

- In Prolog, **unification** is used to match clause heads
- In CHR, **matching** (one-way unification) is used

```
:- chr_constraint chr/1, output/1.  
chr(foo) <=> output(bar).  
prolog(foo) :- output(bar).
```

```
?- prolog(foo).  
output(bar)
```

```
?- chr(foo).  
output(bar)
```

```
?- prolog(Variable).  
output(bar)  
Variable = foo
```

```
?- chr(Variable).  
chr(Variable)
```

```
?- prolog(quux).  
No
```

```
?- chr(quux).  
chr(quux)
```

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PART THREE

Theory & Applications

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History of CHR: some milestones

1991 CHR is born, Thom Frühwirth

1995 Christian Holzbaier implements CHR(SICStus)

1998 confluence, program analysis (PhD Slim Abdennadher)

2002 Tom Schrijvers implements Leuven CHR system

2002- optimized compilation (PhDs Gregory Duck, Tom Schrijvers)

2003 First CHR book [Frühwirth&Abdennadher, Essentials of Constraint Programming]

2004 refined semantics, Gregory Duck et al.

2004 First CHR workshop

2005- computational complexity (PhD Jon Sneyers)

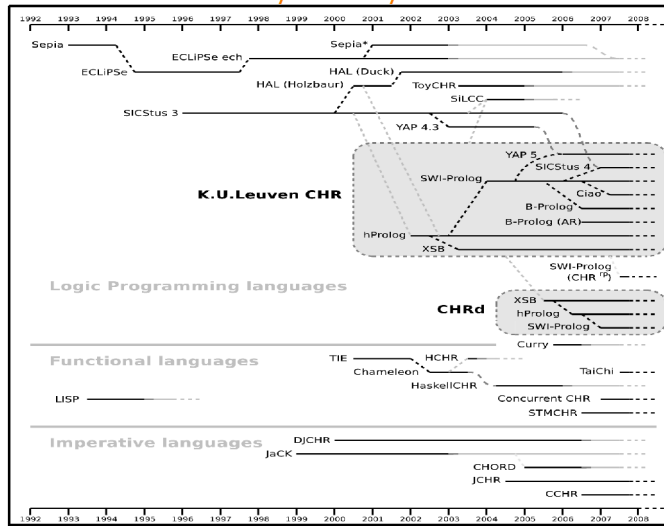
2005- Peter Van Weert implements Leuven JCHR (Java)

2007 Sulzmann & Lam implement first concurrent system

2009 Second CHR book, sixth CHR workshop

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Many CHR systems...



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Theory topics (1)

- Semantics
 - Declarative (logical) semantics
 - Classical logic (Frühwirth)
 - Linear logic (Hariolf Betz)
 - Transaction logic, ...
 - Compositional semantics (Gabbriellini et al)
 - Operational semantics
 - Abstract semantics
 - Refined semantics (Duck et al)
 - Priority semantics (Leslie De Koninck)

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Theory topics (2)

- Extensions / variants of CHR
 - Adaptive CHR (Armin Wolf)
 - Disjunction, search (Abdennadher, Wolf, De Koninck, ...)
 - Negation, aggregates (Van Weert & Sneyers, ...)
 - Modularity, solver hierarchies (Duck et al, Schrijvers et al, Fages et al)
 - Probabilistic CHR (Frühwirth et al, Sneyers et al)
 - ...

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Theory topics (3)

- Relationship to other formalisms
 - Term rewriting (ACD term rewriting, Duck, Stuckey et al)
 - Production rules / business rules (Van Weert)
 - Join-Calculus (Sulzmann and Lam)
 - Logical Algorithms (De Koninck)
 - Graph Transformation Systems (Raiser)
 - Petri nets (Betz)
 - ...

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Theory topics (4)

- Program analysis
 - Confluence (Abdennadher, Duck et al, Raiser&Tacchella, Haemmerlé&Fages, ...)
 - Operational equivalence (Abdennadher&Frühwirth)
 - Termination (Frühwirth, Paolo Pilozzi, Dean Voets)
 - Complexity (Frühwirth&Schrijvers, Sneyers, De Koninck)
 - Abstract interpretation (Schrijvers, Stuckey, Duck)
 - ...

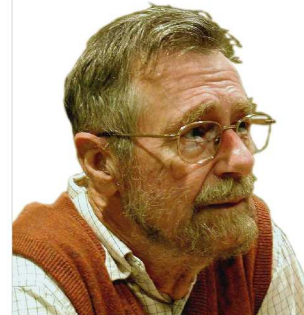
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Back to the shortest path problem...

- How long does it take?

- It depends...

how to find the shortest path ???



- which algorithm is used ?
- how is it implemented ?
- how large is the map (graph) ?

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Computational Complexity Theory

- How does an algorithm **scale** with the input size?

	input size	algorithm A log-linear $O(n \log n)$	algorithm B quadratic $O(n^2)$
Leuven	5000	2 ms	25 ms
Brussels	50000	23 ms	2.5 seconds
New York City	277863	151 ms	1 min 17 seconds
Florida	1228116	747 ms	25 min, 8 seconds
North America	29883886	22 seconds	10 days, 8 hours, 4 min

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What about Dijkstra's algorithm?

- Dijkstra's algorithm is $O(n \log n)$
 - for sparse graphs (in general: $O(m + n \log n)$)
 - if implemented in a good way, e.g. using Fibonacci-heaps
- This is optimal: you cannot do better
- Dijkstra's algorithm can be implemented in CHR (with the optimal complexity)

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Some other examples...



Dijkstra's algorithm
can be implemented efficiently in CHR

Edsger Dijkstra (1930-2002)
Dutch computer scientist

Robert E. Tarjan (1948-)
American computer scientist

Jan van Leeuwen (1946-)
Dutch computer scientist

The Union-Find algorithm
can be implemented efficiently in CHR



John E. Hopcroft (1939-)
American computer scientist



Hopcroft's algorithm
can be implemented efficiently in CHR



... can **everything** be implemented efficiently in CHR?

Can we implement **everything**
efficiently in CHR?

Yes we can!

Complexity-wise completeness result for CHR

More information:
my talk on Thursday

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Application domains

- Constraint solvers
 - CHR was specifically designed for this
 - Some domains where CHR has been used:
 - Scheduling
 - Soft constraints
 - Spatio-temporal reasoning
 - Multi-agent systems
 - Semantic web
- General-purpose programming language
 - Many classical algorithms have been implemented in CHR in a very elegant and natural way - often more concise than pseudocode!

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Application domains

- Programming language development
 - Type systems (e.g. Haskell type classes)
 - Abductive reasoning
 - Computational linguistics (NLP)
 - CHR Grammars (Dahl&Christiansen)
 - Meta-programming
 - Testing & verification
- CHR can be used as a high-performance business rule engine (integrated in your favorite host language!)

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Further reading...

- **Book:** Thom Frühwirth, *Constraint Handling Rules*, Cambridge University Press, July 2009.
- **Introductory survey:** Thom Frühwirth, *Theory and Practice of Constraint Handling Rules*, Special Issue on Constraint Logic Programming (P. Stuckey and K. Marriott, Eds.), *Journal of Logic Programming*, Vol 37(1-3), October 1998.
- **Advanced survey:** Jon Sneyers, Peter Van Weert, Tom Schrijvers and Leslie De Koninck, *As Time Goes By: Constraint Handling Rules — A Survey of CHR Research from 1998 to 2007*, *Theory and Practice of Logic Programming*, 2009, To appear.