

**Imperial College**  
London

Meta-Interpretive Learning: achievements and  
challenges

Stephen Muggleton

Department of Computing  
Imperial College, London

## Motivation

Logic Program [Kowalski, 1980]

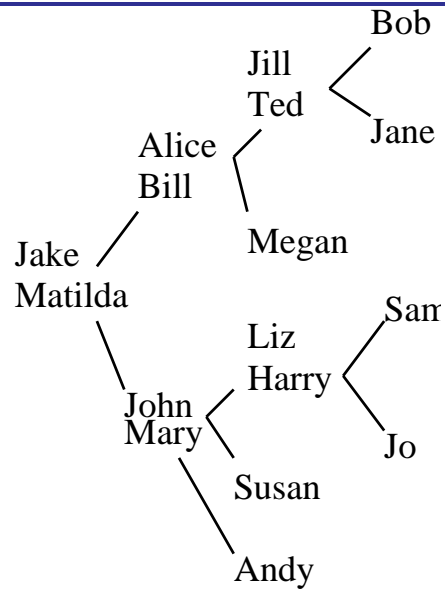
Inductive Logic Programming [Muggleton, 1991]

Machine Learn arbitrary programs

State-of-the-art ILP systems lacked Predicate Invention and  
Recursion [Muggleton et al, 2011]

## Family relations (Dyadic)

### Family tree



### Target Theory

$father(ted, bob) \leftarrow$

$father(ted, jane) \leftarrow$

$parent(X, Y) \leftarrow mother(X, Y)$

$parent(X, Y) \leftarrow father(X, Y)$

$ancestor(X, Y) \leftarrow parent(X, Y)$

$ancestor(X, Y) \leftarrow parent(X, Z),$

$ancestor(Z, Y)$

## Generalised Meta-Interpreter

*prove*([], *BK*, *BK*).

*prove*([*Atom*|*As*], *BK*, *BK\_H*) : –

*metarule*(*Name*, *MetaSub*, (*Atom* :- *Body*), *Order*),  
*Order*,

*save\_subst*(*metasub*(*Name*, *MetaSub*), *BK*, *BK\_C*),

*prove*(*Body*, *BK\_C*, *BK\_Cs*),

*prove*(*As*, *BK\_Cs*, *BK\_H*).

## Metarules

Name	Meta-Rule	Order
Instance	$P(X, Y) \leftarrow$	<i>True</i>
Base	$P(x, y) \leftarrow Q(x, y)$	$P \succ Q$
Chain	$P(x, y) \leftarrow Q(x, z), R(z, y)$	$P \succ Q, P \succ R$
TailRec	$P(x, y) \leftarrow Q(x, z), P(z, y)$	$P \succ Q,$ $x \succ z \succ y$

## Meta-Interpretive Learning (MIL)

First-order	Meta-form
<p><b>Examples</b></p> <p>ancestor(jake,bob) ←            ancestor(alice,jane) ←</p>	<p><b>Examples</b></p> <p>prove([ancestor(jake,bob),            ancestor(alice,jane)], ..) ←</p>
<p><b>Background Knowledge</b></p> <p>father(jake,alice) ←            mother(alice,ted) ←</p>	<p><b>Background Knowledge</b></p> <p>instance(father,jake,john) ←            instance(mother,alice,ted) ←</p>
<p><b>Instantiated Hypothesis</b></p> <p>father(ted,bob) ←            father(ted,jane) ←            p1(X,Y) ← father(X,Y)            p1(X,Y) ← mother(X,Y)            ancestor(X,Y) ← p1(X,Y)            ancestor(X,Y) ← p1(X,Z), ancestor(Z,Y)</p>	<p><b>Abduced facts</b></p> <p>instance(father,ted,bob) ←            instance(father,ted,jane) ←            base(p1,father) ←            base(p1,mother) ←            base(ancestor,p1) ←            tailrec(ancestor,p1,ancestor) ←</p>

## Logical form of Metarules

General form

$$P(X, Y) \leftarrow Q(X, Y)$$

$$P(X, Y) \leftarrow Q(X, Z), R(Z, Y)$$

Metarule general form used in Family Relations

$$\exists P, Q, \dots \forall X, Y, \dots P(X, \dots) \leftarrow Q(Y, \dots), \dots$$

Supports predicate/object invention and recursion.

In Family Relations we consider hypotheses in  $H_2^2$ , which contains predicates with arity at most 2 and has at most 2 atoms in the body.

## Expressivity of $H_2^2$

Given an infinite signature  $H_2^2$  has Universal Turing Machine expressivity [Tarnlund, 1977].

$\text{utm}(S,S)$	$\leftarrow$	$\text{halt}(S).$
$\text{utm}(S,T)$	$\leftarrow$	$\text{execute}(S,S1), \text{utm}(S1,T).$
$\text{execute}(S,T)$	$\leftarrow$	$\text{instruction}(S,F), F(S,T).$

Q: How can we limit  $H_2^2$  to avoid the halting problem?



## Minimising sets of Metarules [ILP 2014]

Set of Metarules	Reduced Set
$P(X, Y) \leftarrow Q(X, Y)$	
$P(X, Y) \leftarrow Q(Y, X)$	$P(X, Y) \leftarrow Q(Y, X)$
$P(X, Y) \leftarrow Q(X, Y), R(Y, X)$	
$P(X, Y) \leftarrow Q(X, Y), R(Y, Z)$	
$P(X, Y) \leftarrow Q(X, Y), R(Z, Y)$	
$P(X, Y) \leftarrow Q(X, Z), R(Z, Y)$	$P(X, Y) \leftarrow Q(X, Z), R(Z, Y)$
..	
$P(X, Y) \leftarrow Q(Z, Y), R(Z, X)$	

## Metagol<sub>D</sub> implementation

- Ordered Herbrand Base [Knuth and Bendix, 1970; Yahya, Fernandez and Minker, 1994] - guarantees termination of derivations. Lexicographic + interval.
- Episodes - sequence of related learned concepts.
- 0, 1, 2, .. clause hypothesis classes tested progressively.
- Log-bounding (PAC result) -  $\log_2 n$  clause definition needs  $n$  examples.
- YAP implementation - [http://ilp.doc.ic.ac.uk/metagoID\\_MLJ/](http://ilp.doc.ic.ac.uk/metagoID_MLJ/)

.

## MIL's relationship to Inverse Entailment

**Definition ( $\succeq_{B,E}$  relation in MIL)** Within the MIL setting we say that

$H \succeq_{B,E} H'$  in the case that  $H, H' \in \mathcal{H}_{B,E}$  and  $\neg H' \succeq_{\theta} \neg H$ .

**Proposition (Lattice)**  $\langle \mathcal{H}_{B,E}, \succeq_{B,E} \rangle$  forms a lattice.

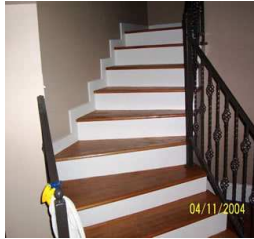
**Proposition (Unique  $\top$ )** There exists  $\top \in \mathcal{H}_{B,E}$  such that

$\top \succeq_{B,E} H$  for each  $H \in \mathcal{H}_{B,E}$  and  $\top$  is unique up to renaming of Skolem constants.

**Proposition (Unique  $\perp$ )** For finite  $\mathcal{H}_{B,E}$  there exists  $\perp$  such that

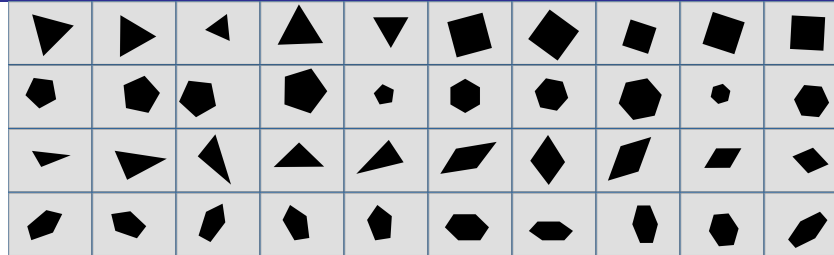
$H \succeq_{B,E} \perp$  for each  $H \in \mathcal{H}_{B,E}$  and  $\perp$  is unique up to renaming of Skolem constants.

## Vision applications



Staircase

ILP 2013



Regular Geometric

ILP 2015

```
stair(X,Y) :- a(X,Y).
```

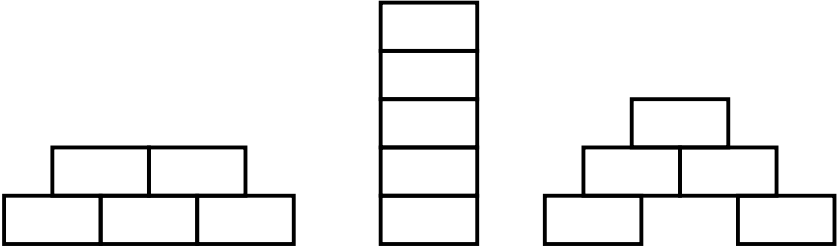
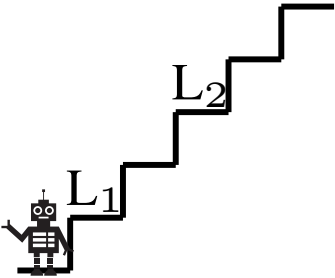
```
stair(X,Y) :- a(X,Z), stair(Z,Y).
```

```
a(X,Y) :- vertical(X,Z), horizontal(Z,Y).
```

Learned in 0.08s on laptop from single image.

Note Predicate invention and recursion.

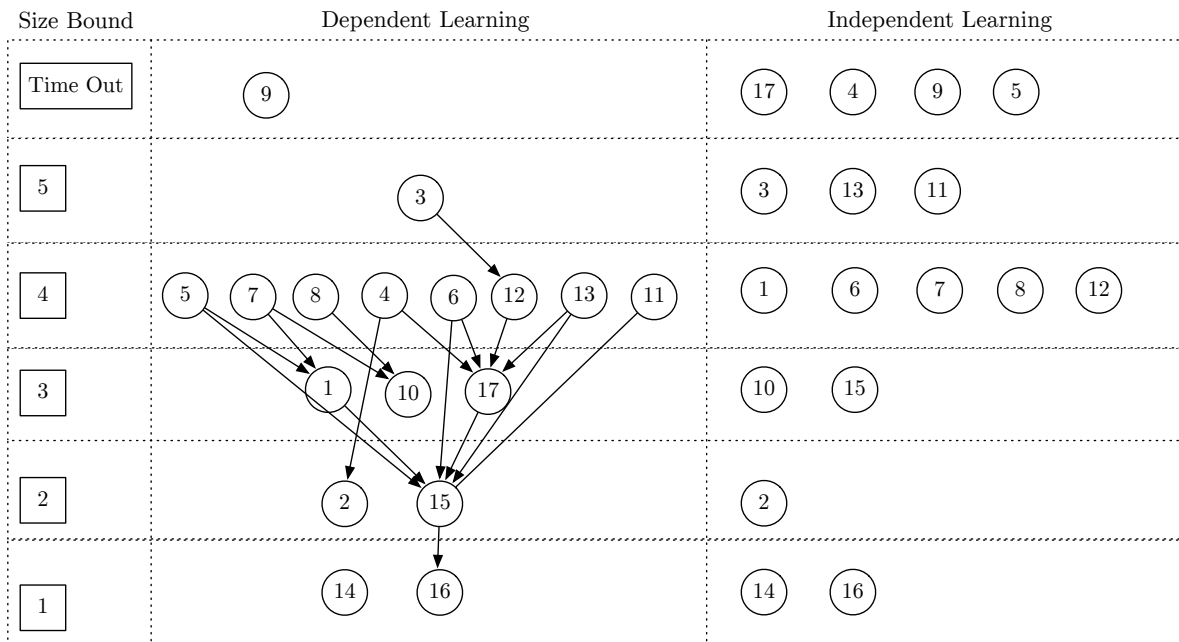
## Robotic applications

 <p>a)                      b)                      c)</p>	
<p><b>Building a Stable Wall</b> IJCAI 2013</p>	<p><b>Learning Efficient Strategies</b> IJCAI 2015</p>

## Language applications

Formal grammars [MLJ 2014]

Dependent string transformations [ECAI 2014]



## Chain of programs from dependent learning

$f_{03}(A,B) :- f_{12.1}(A,C), f_{12}(C,B).$

$f_{12}(A,B) :- f_{12.1}(A,C), f_{12.2}(C,B).$

$f_{12.1}(A,B) :- f_{12.2}(A,C), skip1(C,B).$

$f_{12.2}(A,B) :- f_{12.3}(A,C), write1(C,B,',').$

$f_{12.3}(A,B) :- copy1(A,C), f_{17.1}(C,B).$

$f_{17}(A,B) :- f_{17.1}(A,C), f_{15}(C,B).$

$f_{17.1}(A,B) :- f_{15.1}(A,C), f_{17.1}(C,B).$

$f_{17.1}(A,B) :- skipalphanum(A,B).$

$f_{15}(A,B) :- f_{15.1}(A,C), f_{16}(C,B).$

$f_{15.1}(A,B) :- skipalphanum(A,C), skip1(C,B).$

$f_{16}(A,B) :- copyalphanum(A,C), skiprest(C,B).$

## Other applications

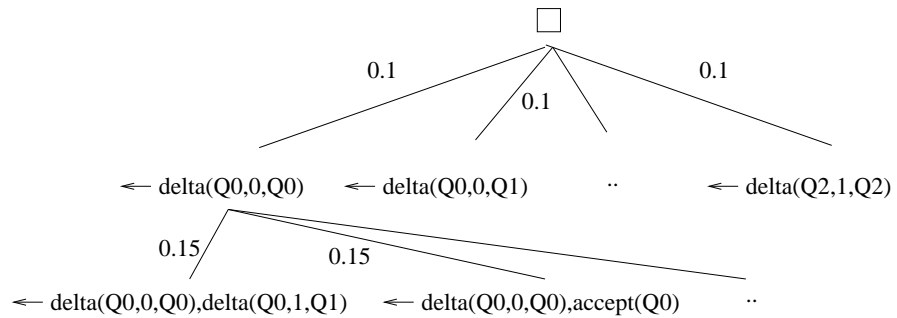
**Learning proof tactics** [ILP 2015]

**Learning data transformations** [ILP 2015]

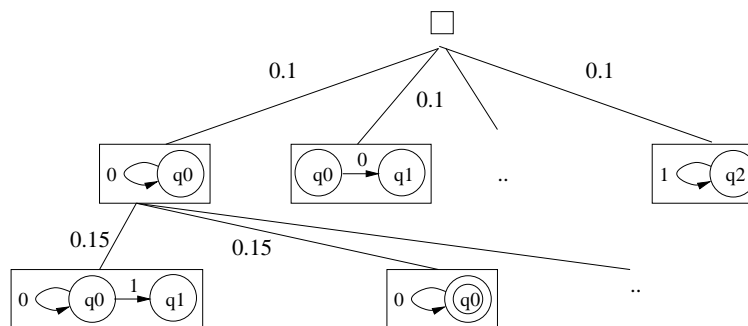


# Bayesian Meta-Interpretive Learning

**Clauses**



**Finite  
State  
Acceptors  
(FSAs)**



## Related work

**Predicate Invention.** Early ILP [Muggleton and Buntine, 1988; Rouveirol and Puget, 1989; Stahl 1992]

**Abductive Predicate Invention.** Propositional Meta-level abduction [Inoue et al., 2010]

**Meta-Interpretive Learning.** Learning regular and context-free grammars [Muggleton et al, 2013]

**Higher-order Logic Learning.** Without background knowledge [Feng and Muggleton, 1992; Lloyd 2003]

**Higher-order Datalog.** HO-Progol learning [Pahlavi and Muggleton, 2012]

## Conclusions and Challenges

- New form of Declarative Machine Learning [De Raedt, 2012]
- $H_2^2$  is tractable and Turing-complete fragment of High-order Logic
- Knuth-Bendix style ordering guarantees termination of queries
- Beyond classification learning - strategy learning

### Challenges

- Generalise beyond Dyadic logic
- Deal with classification noise
- Active learning
- Efficient problem decomposition
- Meaningful invented names and types

## Bibliography

- A. Cropper, S.H. Muggleton. Learning efficient logical robot strategies involving composable objects. IJCAI 2015.
- W-Z Dai, S.H. Muggleton, Z-H Zhou. Logical vision: Meta-interpretive learning for simple geometrical concepts. ILP 2015.
- S.H. Muggleton, D. Lin, A. Tamaddoni-Nezhad. Meta-interpretive learning of higher-order dyadic datalog: Predicate invention revisited. Machine Learning, 2015.
- D. Lin, E. Dechter, K. Ellis, J.B. Tenenbaum, S.H. Muggleton. Bias reformulation for one-shot function induction. ECAI 2014.