

A Framework for Easing the Development of Applications Embedding Answer Set Programming

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Introduction

Answer Set Programming (ASP)

The Framework

- Abstract Architecture

- Implementing EMBASP

Embedding ASP Programs

ASP-based Applications

Related Work

Conclusions

Introduction

Motivations

- *Declarative* and *Imperative* languages integration
- *Answer Set Programming (ASP)* is mature for practical applications and it is used all around the world
- Ease the development of *ASP-based applications*, in both educational and real-world contexts
- Separation of Concerns (or Levels of Analysis)
- ICT industry is moving towards the mobile scenario
- Lack of works about ASP systems natively running on *mobile devices*

- **EMBASP**: an abstract framework for the integration of ASP in external systems for generic applications
- An actual Java implementation of the framework with specialized libraries for two state-of-the-art ASP systems
- Some fully functional applications developed in the educational context

Freely available at

<https://www.mat.unical.it/calimeri/projects/embasp/>

Answer Set Programming (ASP)

A purely *declarative* AI formalism for *Knowledge Representation and Reasoning* developed in the field of *Logic Programming and Nonmonotonic Reasoning*

- language based on *rules*, allowing for both *disjunction in rule heads* and *nonmonotonic negation in the body*
- use *logic program* to represent a given computational problem
- an *answer set solver* is used to find the *models*, called *answer sets*, which correspond one-to-one to solutions of the computational problem

As in the ASP-Core-2 standard [CFG+12]

- A *term* is a variable or a constant
- An *atom* is $a(t_1, \dots, t_n)$, where
 - a is a *predicate* of arity n
 - t_1, \dots, t_n are *terms*
- A *literal* is either
 - *positive literal* p
 - or a *negative literal* **not** pwhere p is an *atom*.

A (*disjunctive*) rule r is of the form

$$a_1 \mid \cdots \mid a_n \text{ :- } b_1, \cdots, b_k, \text{ not } b_{k+1}, \cdots, \text{ not } b_m.$$

where:

- $a_1, \cdots, a_n, b_1, \cdots, b_m$ are atoms and $n \geq 0, m \geq k \geq 0$
- $a_1 \mid \cdots \mid a_n$ is the *head* of r
- $b_1, \dots, b_k, \text{ not } b_{k+1}, \dots, \text{ not } b_m$ is the *body* of r
- If the *head* is empty (i.e. $n = 0$), it is called an *integrity constraint*
- If the *body* is empty (i.e. $k = m = 0$), it is called a *fact*
- $H(r)$ denotes the set $\{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$ of the head atoms
- $B(r)$ the set $\{b_1, \dots, b_k, \text{ not } b_{k+1}, \dots, \text{ not } b_m\}$ of the body literals
- $B^+(r)$ (resp., $B^-(r)$) denotes the set of atoms occurring positively (resp., negatively) in $B(r)$
- A rule r is *safe* if each variable appearing in r appears also in $B^+(r)$

One of the most common ASP programming methodology is the “Guess&Check” (*GC*) paradigm [EFLP00]

- a **Guessing Part**, that defines the search space (for instance, by means of disjunctive rules)
- a **Checking Part** (optional), that checks solution admissibility (usually, by means of *integrity constraints*)

One of the most common ASP programming methodology is the “Guess&Check” (*GC*) paradigm [EFLP00]

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That can be further extended to match the “Guess/Check/Optimize” (*GCO*) paradigm [BLR97]

- **Optimizing Part** (optional), that specifies preference criteria (usually, by means of *weak constraints* [BLR97, CFG⁺12])

A set of facts F is given representing the *schema* to be completed:

- a binary predicate *pos* encoding possible position coordinates;
- a unary predicate *symbol* encoding possible symbols (numbers);
- facts of the form *sameblock*($x1, y1, x2, y2$) state that two positions ($x1, y1$) and ($x2, y2$) are within the same block;
- facts of the form *cell*(x, y, n) represent that a position (x, y) is filled with symbol n .

ASP example - SUDOKU - logic program

An ASP program P_{sudoku} such that the answer sets of $P_{sudoku} \cup F$ correspond to the solutions of the Sudoku *schema* at hand:

r_1 : $cell(X, Y, N) \mid nocell(X, Y, N) :- pos(X), pos(Y), symbol(N).$

r_2 : $:- cell(X, Y, N), cell(X, Y, N1), N1 \langle \rangle N.$

r_3 : $assigned(X, Y) :- cell(X, Y, N).$

r_4 : $:- pos(X), pos(Y), not assigned(X, Y).$

r_5 : $:- cell(X, Y1, Z), cell(X, Y2, Z), Y1 \langle \rangle Y2.$

r_6 : $:- cell(X1, Y, Z), cell(X2, Y, Z), X1 \langle \rangle X2.$

r_7 : $:- cell(X1, Y1, Z), cell(X2, Y2, Z), Y1 \langle \rangle Y2,$
 $sameblock(X1, Y1, X2, Y2).$

r_8 : $:- cell(X1, Y1, Z), cell(X2, Y2, Z), X1 \langle \rangle X2,$
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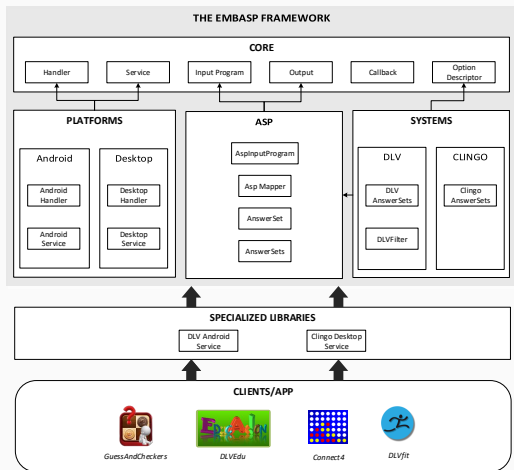
r_6 : $:- cell(X1, Y, Z), cell(X2, Y, Z), X1 \langle \rangle X2.$

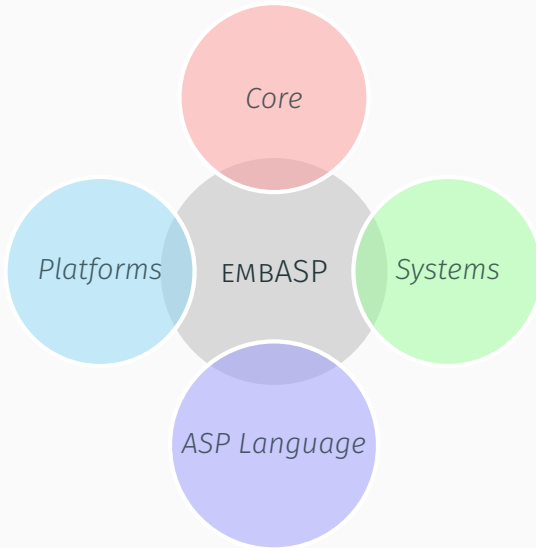
r_7 : $:- cell(X1, Y1, Z), cell(X2, Y2, Z), Y1 \langle \rangle Y2,$
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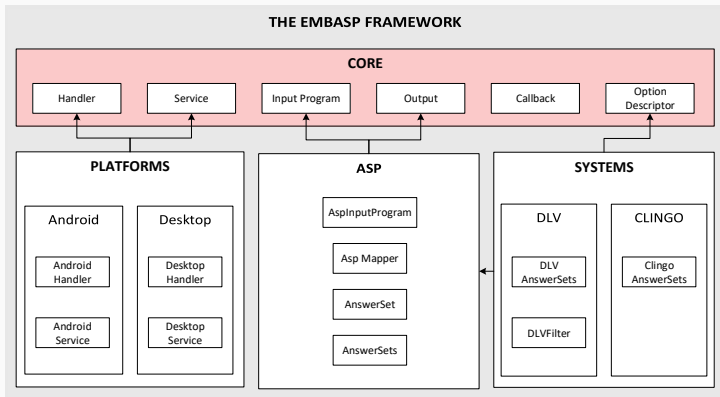
r_8 : $:- cell(X1, Y1, Z), cell(X2, Y2, Z), X1 \langle \rangle X2,$
 $sameblock(X1, Y1, X2, Y2).$

The Framework

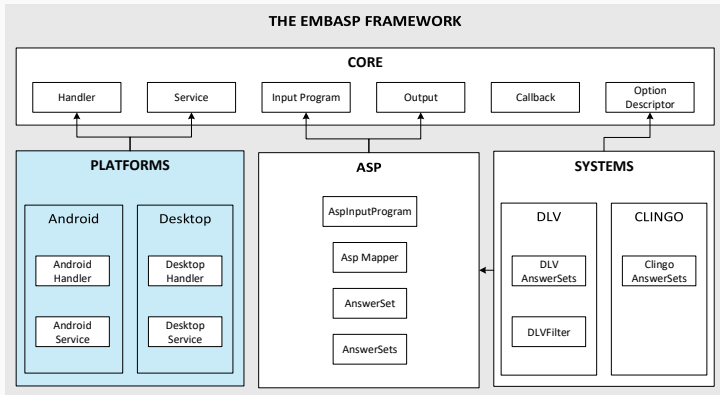
EMBASP - A visual overview



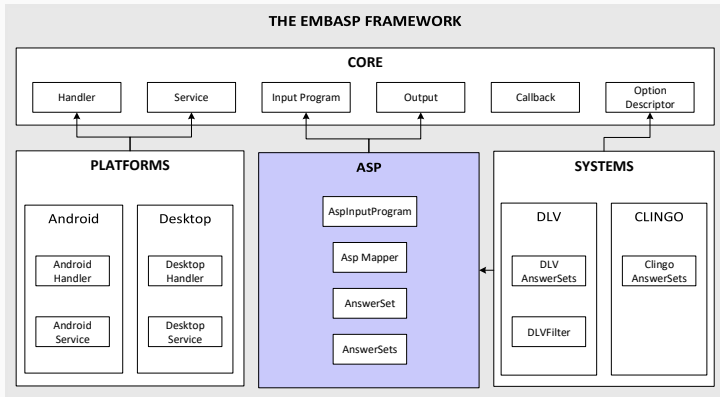




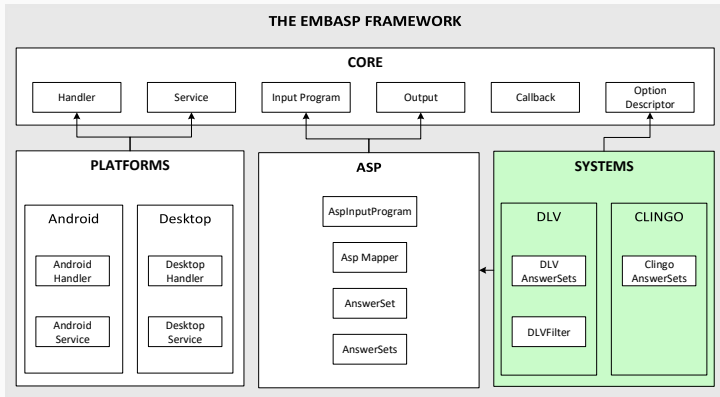
Defines the basic components of the *Framework*



Contains what is platform-dependent



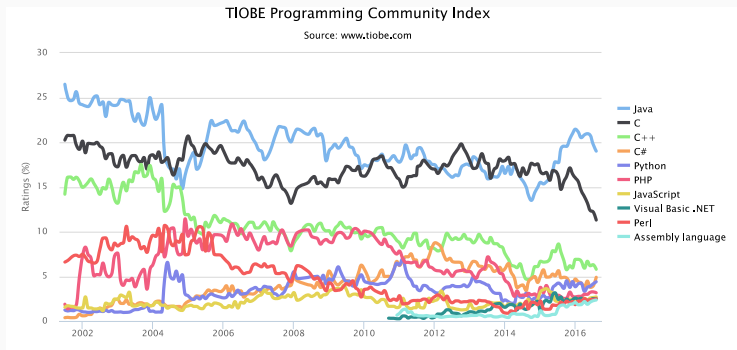
Defines specific facilities for ASP



Defines what is system-dependent

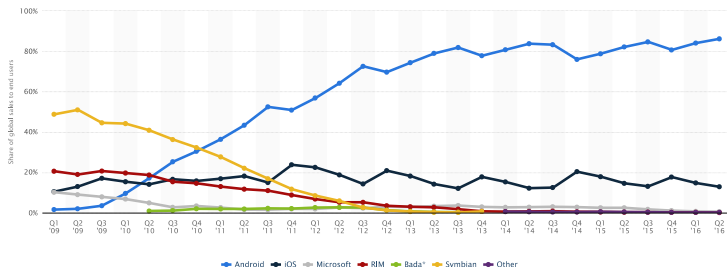
- Java implementation of the Framework
- Specializations for two of the state-of-the-art ASP systems

Why Java? I



Why Java? II

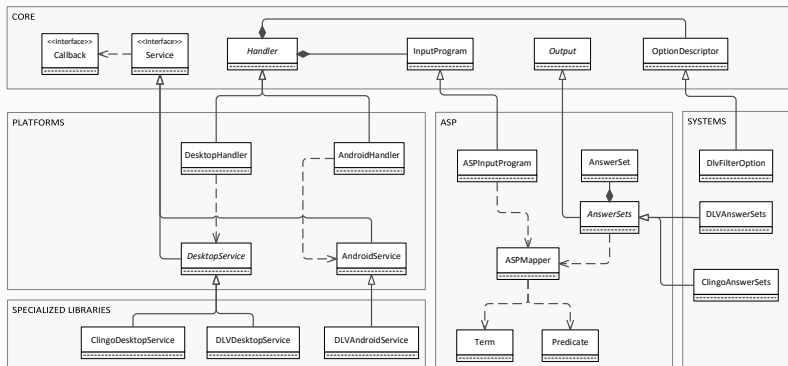
Global mobile OS market share in sales to end users from 1st quarter 2009 to 1st quarter 2016

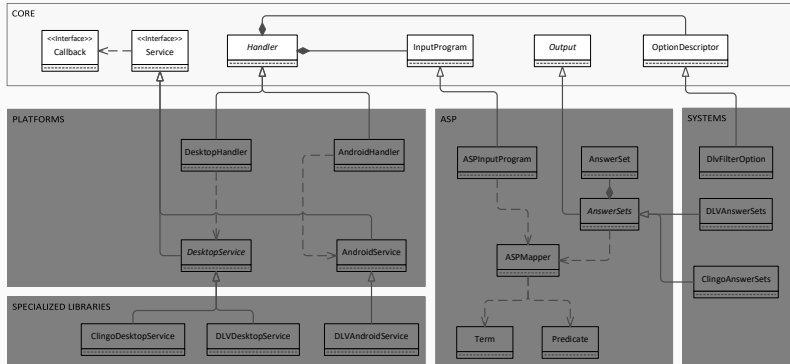


Additional Information:
Worldwide; Gartner

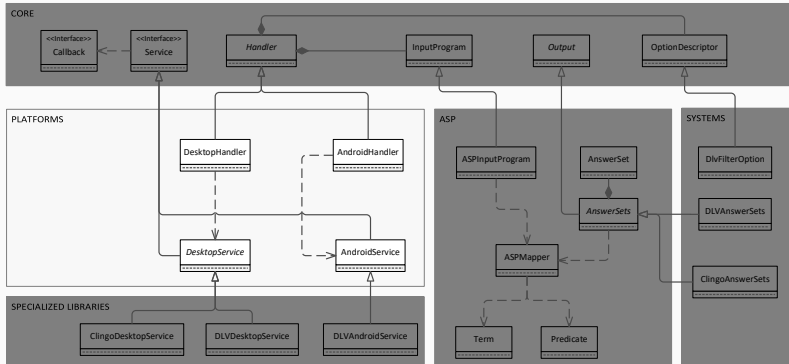
© Statista 2016
Source:
Gartner

Architecture

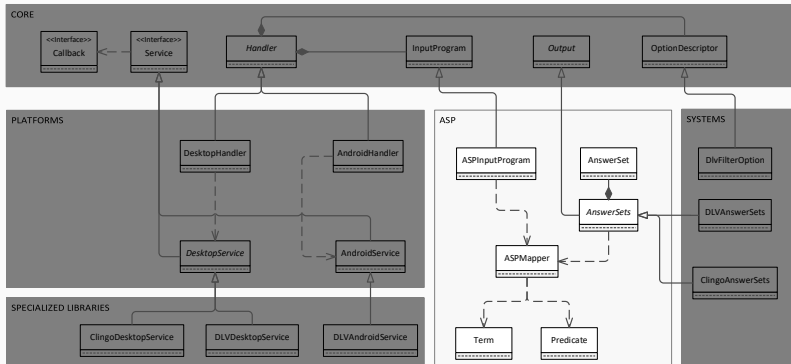




EMBASP - Platforms



EMBASP - ASP Language



Two-way “translator” between strings recognizable by the ASP solver at hand and Java objects directly employable within the application

- Guided by the following Java Annotations:

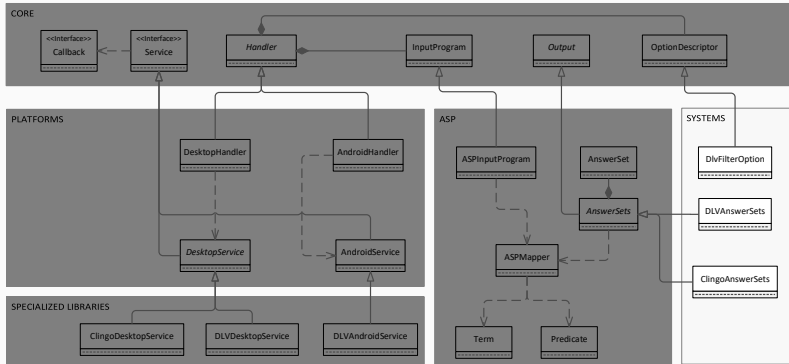
@Predicate (string_name)

Defines the predicate name a class is mapped to

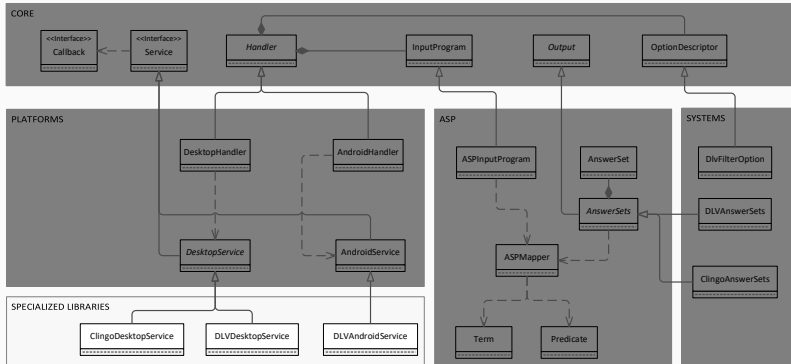
@Term (integer_position)

Defines the term (and its position) in the ASP atom the field is mapped to

- Uses the Java Reflection mechanisms to examine the Annotation at run-time and perform the translation
- Give developers the possibility to work separately on the ASP-based modules and on the Java side



EMBASP - Specialized Libraries



JNI (Java Native Interface) [Ora] and *Android NDK (Native Development Kit)* [Gooa]

- The use of *JNI* grants the access to the API provided by the *Android NDK*, and to the exposed DLV functionalities directly from the Java code of an Android application
- The *NDK* allows developers to implement parts of an Android application as “native-code” languages, such as C and C++
- These technologies represent the general and standard way to realize the porting of a C++ software in an Android context

Embedding ASP Programs

How to use EMBASP to build an app

Build an (Android) app for solving Sudoku puzzles using EMBASP

- We have a proper logic program to solve a sudoku puzzle
- We have also an initial schema

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

Full code available at:

<https://www.mat.unical.it/calimeri/projects/embasp/>

The class `Cell`

```
1 @Predicate("cell")
2 public class Cell {
3
4     @Term(1)
5     private int row;
6
7     @Term(2)
8     private int column;
9
10    @Term(3)
11    private int value;
12
13    [...]
14
15 }
```

Thanks to the *annotations* the **ASPMapper** will be able to map `Cell` objects into strings properly recognizable from the ASP solver as *logic facts* of the form:

cell(Row, Column, Value)

How to use EMASP to build an app - The Activity I

```
1 public class MainActivity extends AppCompatActivity {
2     [...]
3
4     private Handler handler;
5
6     @Override
7     protected void onCreate(Bundle bundle) {
8         handler = new AndroidHandler(getApplicationContext(),
9             DLVAndroidService.class);
10        [...]
11    }
12
13    public void onClick(final View view){
14        [...]
15        startReasoning();
16    }
17    [...]
18 }
```

How to use EMBASP to build an app - The Activity II

```
17 [...]
18     public void startReasoning() {
19
20         InputProgram inputProgram = new ASPInputProgram();
21         for (int i = 0; i < 9; i++)
22             for (int j = 0; j < 9; j++)
23                 try {
24                     if(sudokuMatrix[i][j] != 0)
25                         inputProgram.addObjectInput(new Cell(i, j,
26                             sudokuMatrix[i][j]));
27                 } catch (Exception e) { // Handle Exception }
28             handler.addProgram(inputProgram);
29
30         String sudokuEncoding = getEncodingFromResources();
31         handler.addProgram(new ASPInputProgram(sudokuEncoding));
32
33         Callback callback = new MyCallback();
34         handler.startAsync(callback);
35     }}
```


How to use EMASP to build an app - The Callback

```
1 private class MyCallback implements Callback {
2     @Override
3     public void callback(Output o) {
4         if(!(o instanceof AnswerSets)) return;
5
6         AnswerSets answerSets = (AnswerSets)o;
7         if(answerSets.getAnswersets().isEmpty()) return;
8
9         AnswerSet as = answerSets.getAnswersets().get(0);
10        try {
11            for(Object obj : as.getAtoms()) {
12                Cell cell = (Cell) obj;
13                sudokuMatrix[cell.getRow()][cell.getColumn()] = cell.
                    getValue();
14            }
15        } catch (Exception e) { // Handle Exception }
16
17        displaySolution();
18    }}
```

The *abstract architecture* of EMBASP can be made concrete by means of other *object-oriented* programming languages

- It uses features that are typical of any object-oriented language, such as *inheritance* and *polymorphism*
- The unique exception is the *ASPMapper* component which uses *annotations* and *reflection*
 - Some languages have similar constructs
 - In other these constructs can be simulated applying typical *Software Engineering patterns* [GHJV94]

ASP-based Applications: some Examples in the Educational Setting

ASP-based applications developed by means of EMBASP for educational purposes, and, in particular, in the context of a university course that covers ASP topics

- Engagement of university undergraduate students in ASP capabilities
- ASP looks well-fitted for the use in the development of educational/training software

A native mobile application that works as an helper for users that play “live” games of the (Italian) checkers (i.e., by means of physical board and pieces)



A native mobile application that works as an helper for users that play “live” games of the (Italian) checkers (i.e., by means of physical board and pieces)



- by means of the device camera a picture of the board is taken
- the information about the current status of the game is properly inferred thanks to the *OpenCV* library
- an ASP-based artificial intelligence module then suggests the move

An educational Android App for children, that is able to guide the child throughout the learning tasks, by proposing a series of educational games

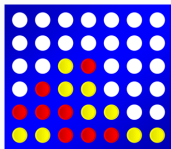


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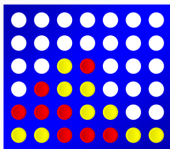


- dynamically builds and updates a customized educational path along the different games
- uses well-known mobile technologies, such as voice or drawn text recognition
- features a “Parent Area”, that allows parents to monitor child’s achievements and to express some preferences

An Android application that allows a user to play the game against an ASP-based artificial player



An Android application that allows a user to play the game against an ASP-based artificial player



- different AIs designed and implemented
 - from the most powerful one (with advanced techniques for the perfect play)
 - to the simplest one (with some classical heuristic strategies)
- using EMBASP, two different versions of the same app have been built:
 - one for Android, making use of DLV
 - one for Java-enabled desktop platforms, making use of clingo.

A health app that aims at suggesting the owner of a mobile device the “best” way to achieve some fitness goals



A health app that aims at suggesting the owner of a mobile device the “best” way to achieve some fitness goals



- goals and preferences about habits and activities can be expressed in a customizable way
- using the Google Activity Recognition APIs [Goob], the app, in the background, constantly detects the current user activity
- at any time, the user might ask for a suggestion about a workout plan for the rest of the day

- Wide range of customization possibilities thanks to the modelling capabilities and the declarative nature of ASP
- Flexibility and possibility to build the ASP program(s) at runtime and to customize the modules ease the developer's job of make the app comply to the user's desiderata

Related Work

Clingo4 [GKKS14]

- Enables a form of control over the computational tasks of the embedded ASP solver *Clingo* with scripting languages *lua* and *python*
- The main purpose is the support of dynamic and incremental reasoning

Java Wrapper [Ric03]

- Acts like a versatile wrapper wherewith the Java developers can interact with the ASP solver (DLV)
 - Differently, *EMBASP* makes use of Java Annotations, allowing an easy mapping of input/output to Java Objects

JDLV [FGLR12]

- Based on JASP, an hybrid language that allows a bilateral interaction between ASP and Java
- Uses JPA annotations to define how Java classes map to relations, similarly to ORM frameworks
 - Differently, *EMBASP* exploits custom annotations, almost effortless to define, in order to deal with the mapping

Moreover, *EMBASP* is not specifically bound to a single or specific solver and it can be easily extended to deal with any solver, and with different solvers at the same time.

Tweety [Thi14]

- A set of Java libraries that allow to make use of several knowledge representation systems supporting different logic formalisms
- The use is very similar to *EMBASP*, both provide libraries to incorporate proper calls to external declarative systems from within “traditional” applications
- *Tweety* implementation is very rich, covering a wide range of KR formalisms, yet looking less general
 - Differently, *EMBASP* is mainly focused on fostering the use of ASP in the widest range of contexts and supports the mobile setting

Conclusions

Conclusions

- A general framework for embedding the reasoning capabilities of ASP into external systems
- The fully abstract architecture makes the framework general enough to be adapted to a wide range of scenarios
- Actual Java implementation and two specialized libraries for embedding *DLV* on Android applications and *clingo* on any Java-based desktop application are provided
- Has been tested within some university courses featuring ASP topics, for implementing a set of applications, ranging from AI-based games to educative apps

The framework, documentation, an application showcase and further details are freely available at:

<https://www.mat.unical.it/calimeri/projects/embasp/>

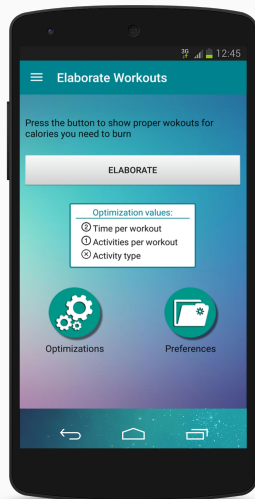
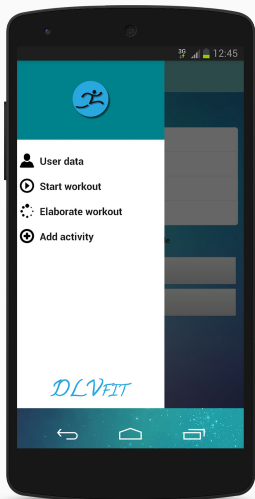
Questions?



Questions?

Thank you for your attention.





- The app *dynamically* builds a suitable ASP program whose answer sets represent workout plans that comply with the *very personal goals* and *preferences* previously expressed
- A classic *Guess/Check/Optimize* paradigm is used:
 - Guess** Compute how much time should be spent on each exercise
 - Check** Find only admissible workout plans
 - Optimize** Try to satisfy the user's preferences to the largest possible extent

calories_burnt_per_activity(A, C)

the calories burnt (C), in each unit of time, per each Activity (A)

calories_burnt_per_activity(A, C)

the calories burnt (C), in each unit of time, per each Activity (A)

remaining_calories_to_burn(R)

the calories that remain to burnt in the current day

calories_burnt_per_activity(A, C)

the calories burnt (C), in each unit of time, per each Activity (A)

remaining_calories_to_burn(R)

the calories that remain to burnt in the current day

how_long(A, D)

the amount of the time that can be spent for each activity

calories_burnt_per_activity(A, C)

the calories burnt (C), in each unit of time, per each Activity (A)

remaining_calories_to_burn(R)

the calories that remain to burnt in the current day

how_long(A, D)

the amount of the time that can be spent for each activity

max_time(T)

the duration of the workout

calories_burnt_per_activity(A, C)

the calories burnt (C), in each unit of time, per each Activity (A)

remaining_calories_to_burn(R)

the calories that remain to burnt in the current day

how_long(A, D)

the amount of the time that can be spent for each activity

max_time(T)

the duration of the workout

surplus(C)

the maximum surplus of calories to burn of the suggested workouts

calories_burnt_per_activity(A, C)

the calories burnt (C), in each unit of time, per each Activity (A)

remaining_calories_to_burn(R)

the calories that remain to burnt in the current day

how_long(A, D)

the amount of the time that can be spent for each activity

max_time(T)

the duration of the workout

surplus(C)

the maximum surplus of calories to burn of the suggested workouts

optimize(T, W, P)

the specific optimization operation(s) that the user wants to perform

DLVFIT - An example of Input I (Basic Concepts)

```
calories_burnt_per_activity("ON_BICYCLE", 5).  
calories_burnt_per_activity("WALKING", 2).  
calories_burnt_per_activity("RUNNING", 11).
```

```
remaining_calories_to_burn(200).
```

```
how_long("ON_BICYCLE", 10).  
how_long("ON_BICYCLE", 20).  
how_long("WALKING", 10).  
how_long("WALKING", 20).  
how_long("RUNNING", 10).  
how_long("RUNNING", 20).
```

```
max_time(20).
```

```
surplus(100).
```

DLVFIT - An example of Input II (Custom Optimizations)

```
optimize("RUNNING", 1, 3).
```

```
optimize("WALKING", 2, 3).
```

```
optimize("ON_BICYCLE", 3, 3).
```

maximize the number of favourite activities to perform

DLVFIT - An example of Input II (Custom Optimizations)

```
optimize("RUNNING", 1, 3).
```

```
optimize("WALKING", 2, 3).
```

```
optimize("ON_BICYCLE", 3, 3).
```

maximize the number of favourite activities to perform

```
optimize(time, 0, 2).
```

minimize total time spent exercising

DLVFIT - An example of Input II (Custom Optimizations)

```
optimize("RUNNING", 1, 3).
```

```
optimize("WALKING", 2, 3).
```

```
optimize("ON_BICYCLE", 3, 3).
```

maximize the number of favourite activities to perform

```
optimize(time, 0, 2).
```

minimize total time spent exercising

```
optimize(activities, 0, 1).
```

minimize total number of activities to perform

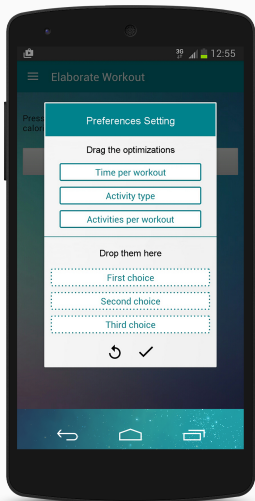


Figure 1: Expressing priorities

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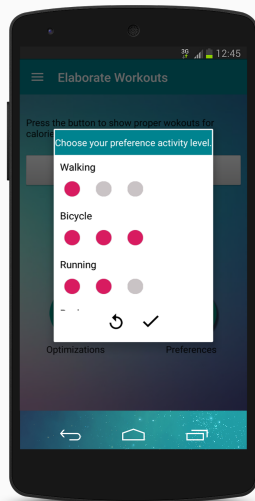


Figure 2: Expressing preferences

DLV_{FIT} - Logic rules composing the ASP program

```
activity_to_do(A, HL) | not_activity_to_do(A, HL) :- how_long(A, HL).
```

DLVFIT - Logic rules composing the ASP program

```
activity_to_do(A, HL) | not_activity_to_do(A, HL) :- how_long(A, HL).
```

```
:- activity_to_do(A, HL1), activity_to_do(A, HL2), HL1 != HL2.
```

```
:- remaining_calories_to_burn(RC), total_calories_activity_to_do(CB),  
   RC > CB.
```

```
:- remaining_calories_to_burn(RC), total_calories_activity_to_do(CB),  
   CB > RCsurplus, RCsurplus = RC + surplus.
```

```
:- max_time(MTS), total_time_activity_to_do(TS), MTS < TS.
```

DLVFiT - Logic rules composing the ASP program

```
activity_to_do(A, HL) | not_activity_to_do(A, HL) :- how_long(A, HL).
```

```
:- activity_to_do(A, HL1), activity_to_do(A, HL2), HL1 != HL2.
```

```
:- remaining_calories_to_burn(RC), total_calories_activity_to_do(CB),  
RC > CB.
```

```
:- remaining_calories_to_burn(RC), total_calories_activity_to_do(CB),  
CB > RCsurplus, RCsurplus = RC + surplus.
```

```
:- max_time(MTS), total_time_activity_to_do(TS), MTS < TS.
```

```
:~ optimize(A, W, P), activity_to_do(A, _). [W:P]
```

```
:~ optimize(time, _, P), activity_to_do(_, HL). [HL:P]
```

```
:~ optimize(activities, _, P), #int(HM),
```

```
HM = #count{A, HL : activity_to_do(A, HL)}. [HM:P]
```

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