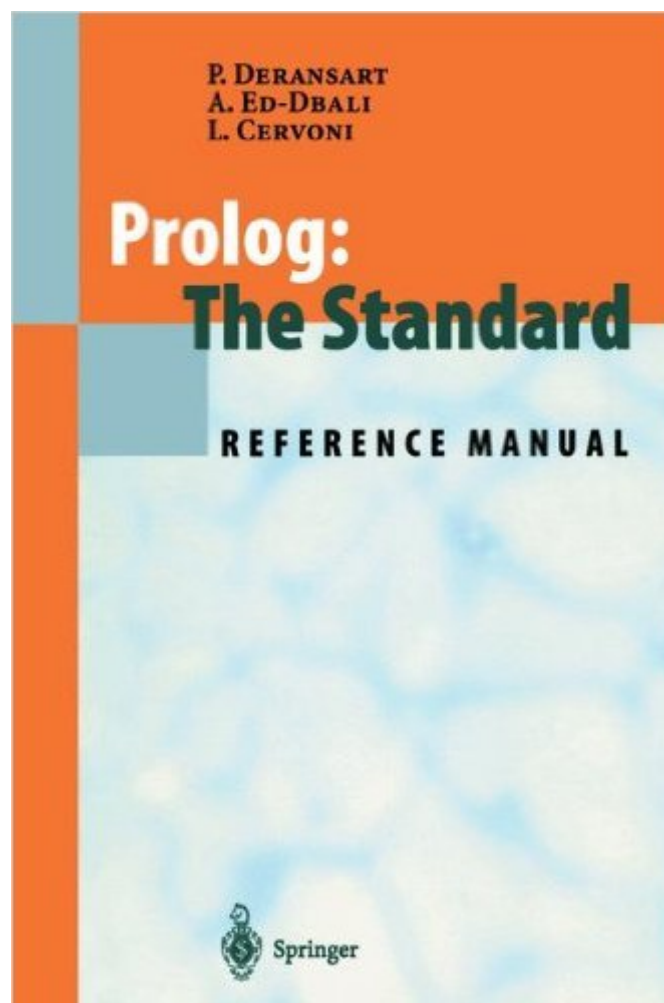


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# Prolog: The Standard: Reference Manual



## Synopsis

From the viewpoint of an "industrial" this book is most welcome, as one of the most significant demonstrations of the maturity of Prolog. Logic programming is a fascinating area in computer science, which held for years - and still does - the promise of freeing ourselves from programming based on the "Von Neumann" machine. In addition computer programming has long been for solid theoretical foundations. While conventional engineering, dealing mainly with "analogical complexity", developed over some hundred years a complete body of mathematical tools, no such toolset was available for "digital complexity". The only mathematical discipline which deals with digital complexity is logic and Prolog is certainly the operational tool which comes closest to the logical programming ideal. So, why does Prolog, despite nearly twenty years of development, still appear to many today to be more of a research or academic tool, rather than an industrial programming language? A few reasons may explain this: First, I think Prolog suffers from having been largely assimilated into - and thus followed the fate of - Artificial Intelligence. Much hype in the late 1980 created overexpectations and failed to deliver, and the counterreaction threw both AI and Prolog into relative obscurity. In a way, maybe this is a new chance for the Prolog community: the ability to carry out real work and progress without the disturbance of limelights and the unrealistic claims of various gurus. Second, programming in Prolog is a new experience for computer professionals.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The title of this book accurately describes its organization and content. Although numerous examples of each language feature are given throughout the book, it is definitely not intended to be a tutorial. For that purpose, a beginning user of PROLOG should look elsewhere. However, the book fills a definite need in the PROLOG programming community. Many dialects of this language exist in the academic world and this book provides standard definitions and usage of PROLOG syntax and functionality. Hopefully, it will provide more uniformity for the various implementations of PROLOG when referenced by the compiler writers. But it is definitely useful for programmers who are writing PROLOG programs.

This book is a must for anyone doing serious Prolog programming. The book itself is a standard in clarity, concision and rigor. There are minor drawbacks: 1. Poor paper quality and binding. Any programmer striving to write portable Prolog programs would use it heavily and the poor quality shows off in just a month of daily use. Unfortunately, the form is not at the same level as the content. 2. The predefined predicates lack a listing by page (although they are listed by topic). This makes finding a certain particular predicate rather cumbersome when looked up frequently. 3. Minor typos. Otherwise, no one serious about Prolog can afford to overlook this book.

The best Prolog reference work I have found. Well organized and concise, but with helpful examples. Not cluttered up with commands and options for a specific Prolog interpreter.

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