Chapter 2

A Quick Overview

The Nuprl 5 system is organized as a collection of communicating processes that are centered around a library, which contains definitions, theorems, inference rules, tactics, structure objects, comments, etc. Inference engines (refiners), user interfaces (editors), rewrite engines (evaluators), and translators are started as independent processes that can connect to the library at any time.

2.1 Preparation

We assume that the Nuprl 5 system has already been installed (see Section 3.2.1) and can be found in the directory /home/nuprl/nuprl5. We also assume that the Nuprl 5 binaries can be found in /home/nuprl/bin/ and that the Nuprl fonts are installed in the directory /home/nuprl/fonts/bdf.

Make sure that your Unix path includes /home/nuprl/bin/ and that the X-server has Nuprl's fonts loaded. Create a file .nuprl.config in your home directory with the following entries:

(sockets 6000 3000)
(libhost "HOSTNAME")
(dbpath "/home/nuprl/nuprl5/NuprlDB")
(libenv "standard")
(foreground "blue")
(background "white")

As sockets you may select any unused socket numbers. The libhost should be the name of the host running the library. The dbpath and the libenv describe the location of the standard library. The foreground and background colors set the colors for the Nuprl windows.

Copy the file /home/nuprl5/mykeys.macro to your home directory. Nuprl reads the file ~/mykeys.macro to determine the key bindings that will be used in various windows. You need it to initialize the key combinations described in this manual and to customize them according to your own preferences later.

2.2 Running Nuprl 5

For the basic Nuprl 5 configuration you need to run three processes: a library, an editor, and a refiner. The library (nulib) should be started first. The editor (nuedd) and the refiner (nuref) can then be started in any order. Generally it is a good idea to run these processes in separate emacs frames: there will be interactive top loops, so editing capabilities are sometimes useful.
Once the processes have started, entering \texttt{(top)} at the Lisp prompt will start the ML system.

\texttt{USER(1): (top)}
Enter \texttt{go}. at the prompt to initialize the corresponding Nuprl process.

\texttt{ML[(ORB)]> go}.

It is important to initialize the library before the editor and the refiner. The editor process will take few minutes and then pop up three windows: a \textit{navigator}, an \textit{editor top loop}, and a \textit{refiner top loop}.

Figure 2.1 shows a typical initial Nuprl 5 screen. The window on the left is the Nuprl 5 navigator. The three \textit{emacs} windows on the upper right run interactive top loops for the library, editor and the refiner. The Nuprl 5 editor top loop and the Nuprl 5 refiner top loop are shown in the two windows below. In contrast to the corresponding \textit{emacs} top loops, the Nuprl 5 top loops incorporate the Nuprl 5 term editor. They are better suited for editing object-level terms but do not support the full editing capabilities of \textit{emacs}. Unless there is a need to interact with the top ML level, one usually iconifies these five windows to create some space for the windows that will pop up while working with the system.

2.3 Using the Navigator

The navigator is the main user interface of Nuprl 5. It can be used to browse the library and to create, delete, or edit objects by initiating the appropriate editors. Figure 2.2 shows navigator window shown in its initial state. As in most Nuprl 5 windows, the upper part of the navigator window contains several \textit{buttons}, which are indicated by a * at the end of a word. Clicking a button with the left mouse will trigger some action or pop up a template to be filled in. The lower part of the navigator window shows the \textit{current directory} (here ROOT) and a listing of the \textit{type}, \textit{status}, and \textit{name} of some of the objects in the directory. There is also a distinguished object, the \textit{nav point}, which is marked by an arrow. When the \textit{edit point} is in the \textit{Scroll position} field (use the left
mouse), the arrow keys on the keyboard can be used to move through the directory tree.

\[
\begin{align*}
\uparrow & : \text{move the nav point up one step} \\
\downarrow & : \text{move the nav point down one step} \\
\leftarrow & : \text{move up to the parent directory} \\
\rightarrow & : \text{move down to a sub-directory if the nav point is a directory, otherwise pop up the object's contents in a new window.}
\end{align*}
\]

In addition to buttons and arrow keys, there are also a variety of special key combinations that can be used to manipulate objects in the library. These are described in Chapter 4.

To begin working with the Nuprl system, one will usually move into the theories directory. Leaving the initial state will cause additional buttons to become visible. In particular there will be arrow buttons for faster navigation through a directory. \(\uparrow\uparrow\) and \(\downarrow\downarrow\) scroll half a screen, \(\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\) and \(\downarrow\downarrow\downarrow\downarrow\) scroll a full screen, and \(\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\) and \(\downarrow\downarrow\downarrow\downarrow\downarrow\) move to the top and bottom of the directory.

Usually, Nuprl users will work within their own sub-directory and occasionally browse the standard sub-directory, which contains the Nuprl type theory and a few standard libraries of formalized mathematical knowledge.
A new user-directory can be created by clicking the **MkDir** button. This will open a template for entering the name of the new directory and move the edit point to the [name] slot.

Enter the name of the directory and click **OK** (or press ↓ twice). This will create the new directory, place it immediately below the previous nav point, and move the nave point to it.
2.4 Creating Objects

Before one can prove a theorem in Nuprl one has to create an object that contains it. Clicking the MkObj* button (after moving into the user directory) will open a template for entering the name and kind of a new library object. The edit point will be in the [name] slot.

As an example theorem we take \( \forall A, B : \mathbb{P}. \, (\neg A) \lor (\neg B) \Rightarrow \neg (A \land B) \), one of the DeMorgan laws for propositional logic. Enter the name of the theorem not_over_and and press the return key. The edit point now is in the [kind] slot. Enter stm (for “statement”) and click OK*, or press \( \leftarrow \uparrow \) twice. This will create a new statement object named not_over_and.

2.5 Proving Theorems

To state and prove a theorem, one has to open the corresponding object. Pressing the right arrow key when the nav point is a statement object pops up a new window that shows the contents of
this object. If the theorem has not been stated yet, there will be a [goal] slot in the upper part of the window and the rule slot next to the keyword BY below will be empty. The # in the upper left corner means that the theorem is not complete yet, while the top next to it indicates that the top node of the proof tree is being displayed.

Move the mouse cursor into the new window and click left in the [goal] slot. This initializes the Nuprl 5 term editor in this slot. The goal is now entered in a structural top-down fashion. Entering all creates the template for the universal quantifier.

The [var] slot of the all template is a text slot and will not be interpreted. Entering \( A \), inserts the character ‘A’ in the variable slot and moves the edit point to the next slot.

The [type] and [prop] slots are term slots, which means that input will be interpreted and may open new templates. Entering prop all, inserts the propositional universe term (whose name prop has nothing to do with the prop in the [prop] place-holder) into the [type] slot, and another template for the universal quantifier in the [prop] slot.

Entering \( B \) prop fills the second quantifier. Notice that the two quantifiers get contracted, as \( A \) and \( B \) have the same type \( P \).
Entering the rest of the theorem is straightforward. Typing [impliedimesarrow] creates the implication template. Entering [xorarrow] generates (¬A) ∨ (¬B) and ¬(A ∧ B) is generated by [notand].

Before a statement can be used in a proof it must be committed to the permanent library. This can be done by using the key combination \( \text{C-M-g} \).¹

To begin with the proof, press the down arrow key once or use the left mouse to move the edit point into the empty rule slot next to the \BY.\]

The most common proof tactic is the single step decomposition tactic D (see chapter 9 for details). It requires as argument the index of the proof hypothesis to which it shall be applied or a zero if it shall be applied to the conclusion. To enter this tactic, type \( \text{D 0 C-M-g} \).

Pressing \( \text{C-M-g} \) when in a rule slot refines the goal at current node with the corresponding tactic. In this (synchronous) mode you have to wait for the refinement process to be complete. Pressing \( \text{C-M-g} \) instead initializes asynchronous refinement, which allows you to continue working while the proof goal is being refined. Once a refinement is completed and the proof window gets updated and shows the subgoals that were generated by applying the tactic.

To prove the first subgoal, press the down arrow key. This will move into the first sub-node of the theorem, indicated by a \text{top 1}.\]

¹Actually, pressing \( \text{C-M-g} \) is not necessary when entering a statement for the first time, since it will be committed after the first execution of a proof tactic. However, subsequent modifications of the statement will not be committed without pressing \( \text{C-M-g} \). Thus it is better to make using this key combination a habit.
To move into the second subgoal, press the right arrow key. As indicated by the \text{.\textbf{\texttt{\textit{\textbullet\textbullet\textbullet\textbullet\textbullet\textbullet}}}}\text{.\textbf{\texttt{\textit{\textbullet\textbullet\textbullet\textbullet\textbullet\textbullet}}}} annotation, the second subgoal is a \textit{wellformedness goal}, stating that $P$ is a well-formed type theoretical expression. Most goals of this kind can be dealt with automatically. Typing \texttt{\texttt{\texttt{\textbf{\texttt{\texttt{\texttt{Auto}}}}}}}, will complete this subproof: no subgoals are generated and the status marker changes into a *.

Pressing the left arrow key will bring you back into the first subgoal. Alternatively you can press [C-M-j], which causes the editor to jump to the next unproven subgoal.

Proving the first subgoal requires more efforts. Typing \texttt{\texttt{\texttt{\textbf{\texttt{\texttt{Auto}}}}}} will decompose the universal quantifier, the implication, and deal with the corresponding well-formedness subgoals. The result will be a subgoal with two additional hypotheses: a declaration of the variable $B$ and the assumption $\neg A \lor \neg B$.

To prove this goal both the conclusion (D 0) and the third hypothesis (D 3) need to be decomposed. \texttt{\texttt{\texttt{\textbf{\texttt{Auto}}}}} does neither of these two steps automatically but can deal with the resulting subgoals. These steps can be combined into a single one by using the tactical THEN.

Clicking the left mouse next to the \texttt{\texttt{\texttt{\textbf{\texttt{BY}}}}} allows you to enter the tactic into an empty rule slot without having to move into the corresponding sub-node. Typing \texttt{D 0 THEN D 3 THEN Auto} results in a complete proof of the subgoal.
Using the up arrow key will get you back to the parent node, which now shows the complete proof.

\[
\forall A, B : P, (\neg A \lor \neg B) \Rightarrow \neg (A \land B)
\]

BY D 0
* 1
1. \( A : P \)
   \[
   \vdash \forall B : P, (\neg A \lor \neg B) \Rightarrow \neg (A \land B)
   \]
   BY Auto
* 1 1
2. \( B : P \)
3. \( \neg A \lor \neg B \)
   \[
   \vdash \neg (A \land B)
   \]
   BY D 0 THEN D 3 THEN Auto
* 2
.....wf.....
\( \neg P \) in \( \exists \)
BY Auto

The proof has already been saved in the library. To close the proof window press (C-q). This key combination will always close the current window.

If a theorem shall be used as lemma in other proofs, it has to be activated. Many tactics use a list of active theorems which are searched through when attempting to prove a theorem automatically. For this purpose you have to click the Activate* button, which changes the object status of not_over_and from FFF to TFF.
2.6 Adding Definitions

Besides proving theorems, the most common activity in mathematics is introducing new concepts, which are defined in terms of already existing ones. This makes the formulation of theorems crisper and easier to comprehend. Nuprl supports such an enhancement of the formal language through a definition mechanism. This mechanism allows a user to introduce new terms that are definitionally equal to other terms.

As an example consider the $\exists!$ quantifier, which states the existence of a unique element $x \in T$ that satisfies a property $P$. A typical definition for this quantifier is the following:

$$\exists!x:T. P[x] \equiv \exists x:T. P[x] \land (\forall y:T. P[y] \Rightarrow y = x \in T).$$

This definition actually presents two aspects of a newly defined term. It first states that a new abstract term, say $\text{exists}\_\text{uni}$ is to be introduced, which has two subterms ($T$ and $P$) and binds occurrences of $x$ in $P$. Secondly, it states that the term is to be presented as $\exists!x:T. P$.

In Nuprl a formal definition requires the creation of two new objects: an abstraction, which defines the abstract term, and a display form, which defines its syntactical appearance (see Chapters 7 and 8). In addition to that, it is advisable to prove a well-formedness theorem, which describes the type of the newly introduced term. All three objects can be created with the AddDef mechanism.

To initialize this mechanism, click the AddDef* button with the left mouse. This will open a template for defining the abstract term.

To enter the new term on the left hand side of the definition, you have to provide its name (or object identifier) and a list of subterms. The $\exists!$ has two subterms, $T$ and $P$, and binds one variable in the second. To create a template for entering the details, type $\text{exists}_\text{uni}(0;1)$.
This tells the system to create a term called \( \text{exists}_{\text{uni}} \), whose first term has no bound variable and whose second term has one bound variable. The template appears as soon as you have enter the right parenthesis that closes the subterm list.

Pressing \( \leftarrow \) moves the edit point into the first term slot.

Enter \( \{T \} x \quad \text{so}_{\text{var1}} \). This puts \( T \) into the first term slot, makes \( x \) the binding variable in the second, and states that the second term will be a second order variable of arity 1 (see Chapter 7).

Note that Nuprl’s term editor treats any unknown name as variable name, while names that can be linked to (active) object identifiers (and display forms) will cause the corresponding template to appear. Thus \( T \) will be inserted as variable name, while \( \text{so}_{\text{var1}} \) creates a new template. \( x \) had been entered into a binding slot and is thus viewed as variable.

Should you mistype \( \text{so}_{\text{var1}} \) and actually enter an identifier that is unknown to Nuprl, say \( \text{so}_{\text{var1}} \), the identifier will appear as variable name in the term slot.

To replace \( \text{so}_{\text{var1}} \) by the second order variable template, click the left mouse over \( \text{so}_{\text{var1}} \), press \( \langle \text{M-p} \rangle \) to mark the full term, \( \langle \text{C-k} \rangle \) to cut it, and then \( \text{so}_{\text{var1}} \langle \rangle \) to get the correct template. Note that \( \langle \text{C-k} \rangle \) saves the term in a cut buffer and that you can paste this term with \( \langle \text{C-y} \rangle \). To delete a term without saving it, you need to press \( \langle \text{C-c} \rangle \).

Next, you need to enter \( \{P \} x \), which generates \( P[x] \) and moves the edit point into the right hand side of the definition.
To enter the right hand side, you have to proceed in a structural top-down fashion. Type

\[ \exists x \in T . \text{and} \left( \forall \text{var1} \in P . x \in x \right) \]

\[ \exists x \in T . \text{and} \left( \forall \text{var1} \in P . x \in x \right) \]

and then \[ \forall y \in T . \text{implies} \left( \forall \text{var1} \in P . y \in y \right) \text{equal} \left( x \in y \right) \in T . \]

The definition is now complete. To save it to the library click OK* or press \[ \rightarrow \] again. This closes the AddDef template and creates a display form \( \exists \text{uni} . \text{df} \) of kind DISP, an abstraction object \( \exists \text{uni} . \text{ABS} \), and a well-formedness theorem \( \exists \text{uni} . \text{wf} \) of kind STM. The nav point is still where it has been before.

The abstraction object contains exactly what has been typed into the AddDef template and usually does not have to be edited anymore. The display form has been generated from the left hand side of the AddDef template and currently causes the term \( \exists \text{uni} \) to be displayed in exactly this way. The well-formedness theorem is empty but already activated, which enables the general tactics to access it whenever they have to deal with \( \exists \text{uni} \).

To view the abstraction, move the nav point down 2 steps then open the object \( \exists \text{uni} \) by pressing the right arrow key.
The abstraction object shows on the right hand side the term that defines the meaning of \( \exists \text{uni}(T;x.P[x]) \) and on the left hand side the form in which \( \exists \text{uni}(T;x.P[x]) \) is currently displayed. Right now, this is identical to the abstract term form. To close the abstraction object again press (C-q).

To change the appearance of the term \( \exists \text{uni}(T;x.P[x]) \) to \( \exists !x:T. P[x] \) you have to edit the accompanying display form. For this purpose, move the nav point one step up and open the object \( \exists \text{uni}\_df \).

The display form consists of a list of attributes (in this case only the name that can be used to open the template), a template that determines the outer appearance of a term, and the term that is to be represented by that template. Both the template and the term contain slots that are marked with <..> and describe the name of a placeholders, a description that will appear whenever the template is initiated, and information about parenthesizing. Chapter 8 describes how to create display forms from scratch, but usually copying and pasting is sufficient.
To edit the template click mouse over the `exist Uni` in the second line and erase the text `exist Uni` using backspace and delete keys. Notice that you can’t delete the slot `<T : T : * >` with these keys. Type `\( \exists \)` to generate the existential quantifier symbol (see table ?? on page ?? for a list of all special characters) and the exclamation mark. Delete the semicolon and the dot between the term slots and the right parenthesis.

```
EdAlias exists Uni ::
\[ \exists ! T ; T ; * \] \[ x ; v a r ; \] \[ P ; P ; * \]
== exists Uni \langle T ; \langle x ; \rangle , \langle P \rangle \rangle
```

To rearrange the order of the slots click left over `<T : T : * >` press (M-p) to mark the full slot, and (C-k) to cut it. Then move the mouse to the immediate right of `<x : v a r ; * >` and press (C-y). Add a colon between `<x : v a r ; * >` and `<T : T ; * >`, a dot and a space between `<T : T ; * >` and `<P : P ; * >`.

```
EdAlias exists Uni ::
\[ \exists ! x ; T ; * \] \[ P ; P ; * \]
== exists Uni \langle T ; \langle x ; \rangle , \langle P \rangle \rangle
```

In principle, the display form is now complete. However it is advisable to edit the slot description of `T` and `P`. Click right of the second `T` in `<T : T : * >`, remove it and enter `type` instead. In the same way change the second `P` in `<P : P : * >` to `prop`. This makes sure that meaningful descriptions for these slots will show up whenever the template for `exists Uni` is opened.

```
EdAlias exists Uni ::
\[ \exists ! x ; T ; * \] \[ P ; prop ; * \]
== exists Uni \langle T ; \langle x ; \rangle , \langle P \rangle \rangle
```

To commit the completed display form to the library, press (C-z). This will also close the window again. Do not use (C-q) unless you want all your changes to be ignored. (C-q) will always close a window without saving its contents to the library.

To check the display form, open the abstraction `exists Uni` again. You will notice that `exists Uni( T ; x . P [ x ] )` has now been replaced by `\( \exists ! x : T . P [ x ] \)`. 

```
exists Uni(T;x.P[x]) == \exists ! x : T . P [ x ]
```
The abstraction and the display form are sufficient for using a newly defined term in formal theorems and other abstractions. However, many proofs involving an instance of \texttt{exists_uni} will involve checking the type of this term. This can be done automatically if \textit{well-formedness theorem} is provided describes the type of the newly defined term.

A unique existence quantifier $\exists!x:T. P[x]$ is a proposition, provided that $T$ is a type and $P$ is a predicate on $T$. In other words, the type of $\exists!x:T. P[x]$ is $P$ if $T$ is an element of the universe $U$ of types and $P \in T \rightarrow P$. Formally, you need to prove $\forall T:U. \forall P:T \rightarrow P. \exists!x:T. P[x] \in P$.

To state this theorem, open the object \texttt{exists_uni_wf} and enter
\begin{verbatim}
\( \texttt{all\_T\_univ\_i\_all\_P\_fun\_T\_prop\_member\_} \)
\end{verbatim}
into the goal template.

```
# top
\forall T:U, \forall P:T \rightarrow P. \langle [\text{term}] \in [\text{type}] \rangle
```

Continue with \texttt{exists_uni\_x\_T\_so\_apply\_P\_x\_prop\_} (C-M-g), to complete the goal and commit it to the library.

The proof of this theorem is fairly simple, since it can be handled almost completely by Nuprl’s tactic Auto. However, since Auto does not unfold a definition unless it is explicitly declared as automatically unfoldable, you need to unfold the definition of \texttt{exists_uni} in the first step.

Typing \texttt{Unfold ‘exists\_uni’ O THEN Auto,} into the rule slot will result in a proof of the well-formedness theorem for \texttt{exists_uni}.

```
* PM: exists_uni_wf (auto-standard) (opened)
```

```
PrintThyShort* PrintThyLong* PrintObj*
AddDef* AddDefDisp* ClearCaches*
Activate* DeActivate* NameSearch* PathStack*
MkLink* MkObj* MkDr* CpObj* ReNameObj* SaveObj*
RwLink* RwObj* RwDr*
```

```
Navigator: [kreitz: theories; ROOT]
Scroll position: 3
List Scroll: Total 4, Point 3, Visible: 4
```

```
STM TFF not_over_end
DISP TFF exists_uni
```

```
STM TFF exists_uni.df
```

```
STM TFF exists_uni.wf
```

This completes all necessary steps for adding a unique existence quantifier to the formal language of Nuprl. Close the well-formedness theorem with (C-q).

### 2.7 Printing Snapshots

To print a snapshot of a particular object, simply click the \texttt{PrintObj*} button. This will create a print representation of the object at the nav point and write it into a file `/nuprlprint/OBJECT-NAME.prl`. This file can be inspected with any 8bit capable editor that has the Nuprl fonts loaded.
It will also create a \LaTeX{}-version and write it to \texttt{~/nuprlprint/OBJECT-NAME.tex}. The directory \texttt{~/nuprlprint} must already exist. Otherwise clicking the \texttt{PrintObj*} button will result in an error.

The button \texttt{PrintCollection} will create a print representation of a whole range of objects, while the buttons \texttt{PrintThyLong} and \texttt{PrintThyShort} will create a print representation of the directory at the nav point. The long version shows the complete proofs of theorems while the short version only prints the theorem statement and the extract of the proof, that is a term representing its computational content.

### 2.8 Troubleshooting

Should you accidentally close the navigator window with \texttt{(C-q)} you may open it again by typing the command \texttt{win.} into the editor top loop. This will open all the windows of the initial screen.

If the editor hangs for an unusually long time, one of the three main processes (editor, refiner, or library) may be broken. In this case there will be an error message in the corresponding (Lisp) top loop. Often, evaluating the expression \texttt{(fooe)} will recover the process. Sometimes, typing the Lisp command \texttt{:cont} will help as well. In the worst case, kill the process and then restart it. The library process will detect the link going dead and clean it up automatically.

### 2.9 Shutting Nuprl down

In principle, there is no need to shutdown Nuprl, as all data are saved immediately and updates may be integrated by by loading patches into the running process. However the Nuprl 5 are quite demanding as far as cpu and memory are concerned.

To shutdown gracefully you should first close the refiner and the editor and then the library. Enter \texttt{stop.} at the corresponding ML prompt.

\texttt{ML[(ORB)]> stop.}

As a result, the editor and refiner will communicate to the library that they will disconnect now and then stop the respective ML processes. The library process will cleanly shut down the knowledge base and then stop as well. You are now back to the Lisp mode. To quit, enter \texttt{(excl:exit)}.

\texttt{NUPRL5(5): (excl:exit)}

Instead of shutting down gracefully you may also simply kill all three processes to stop Nuprl 5, although this is not recommended.