

Executable English Specifications

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Most people agree on the importance of natural language for human readers, but there's widespread reluctance to use English to specify complex tasks for the computer.

The resulting situation can be described as leaving a semantic gap, between (a) what we have in mind for the computer to do and (b) the code that we hope will do it.

The good news is, there's progress that allows us to specify how we want the computer to answer questions over data. We write specifications in the form of syllogism -like rules in open vocabulary English.

This progress is embodied in a working system, called Executable English, that's live online. There are many provided examples that you can run using a browser.

Here's one of the provided example syllogisms

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some-person is a man
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that-person is mortal
```

Here's another syllogism

```
the number of generations is some-ng
the replacement rate is some-r
for rate that-r the per generation multiplier is some-m
at generation some-g the population is some-p
that-g is less than that-ng
that-g + 1 = some-g1
that-m * that-p = some-p2
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at generation that-g1 the population is that-p2
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You are cordially invited to write and run your own examples too. You will see English explanations of your results. All you need is a browser pointed to www.executable-english.com.

If you are reading this, you already know most of the Executable English language!

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