

Coursework PG1 (Questions on Prolog)

Deadline: 1 December 2017

Important note: In all cases code should be clearly-written and should include a brief explanation in English explaining the design of your code.

Your answer must take the form of a plaintext file including the program and a nontrivial collection of tests.

You may not use a library function if it renders the question trivial.

1. Complex number arithmetic

The **complex numbers** are explained here (and elsewhere):

<http://www.mathsisfun.com/algebra/complex-number-multiply.html>

Represent a complex integer as a two-element list of integers, so $[4, 5]$ represents $4+5i$.

Write Prolog predicates

`cadd/3`

`cmult/3`

representing complex integer addition and multiplication. Thus for instance,

`cadd([X1, X2], [Y1, Y2], [Z1, Z2])`

succeeds if and only if $Z1=X1+Y1$ and $Z2=X2+Y2$.

Note that complex number multiplication is not just like complex number addition. Check the link and read the definition.

2. Sequence arithmetic

An **integer sequence** is a list of integers. Write a Prolog predicate

`seqadd/3`

such that `seqadd(X, Y, Z)` succeeds when X and Y are lists of integers of the same length and Z is their sequence sum.

3. Matrices (unmarked)

Explain how you would implement matrix addition and multiplication, starting from the Prolog prompt.

(Hint: the answer starts with “`^D, rlwrap python3`”)

4. Essay-style question

4a. Explain what **backtracking** has to do with Prolog. You might find this webpage helpful:
https://www.doc.gold.ac.uk/~mas02gw/prolog_tutorial/prologpages/search.html

4b. Explain to what extent Prolog can be viewed as a logic programming language, and to what extent it cannot be so viewed. Include example code fragments as appropriate.

5. Cool question

Write a database for a predicate `cycleoflife/1` such that the query
`cycleoflife(X)`

returns the instantiations

`X = eat`

`X = sleep`

`X = code`

`X = eat`

`X = sleep`

`X = code`

`...`

in an endless cycle.

(This question has a beautiful and simple answer. If you find yourself writing lines and lines of complex code, there's probably something amiss.)