

Logic Programming – Part II

Programmazione Funzionale

2024/2025

Università di Trento

Chiara Di Francescomarino

When you have time

Join this Wooclap event

You can find the
link also in
Moodle!



1 Go to wooclap.com

2 Enter the event code in the top banner

Event code

DQDQRX

When you have time

- Fill the feedback form about the course:
 - <https://forms.gle/9btC4JBDAWumxeQ29>
- The link is also available in Moodle

Next lectures

- Tomorrow: last tutoring slot
- Thursday May 29: exam simulation
- Last lecture: Tuesday June 3

Agenda



1.

2.

3.

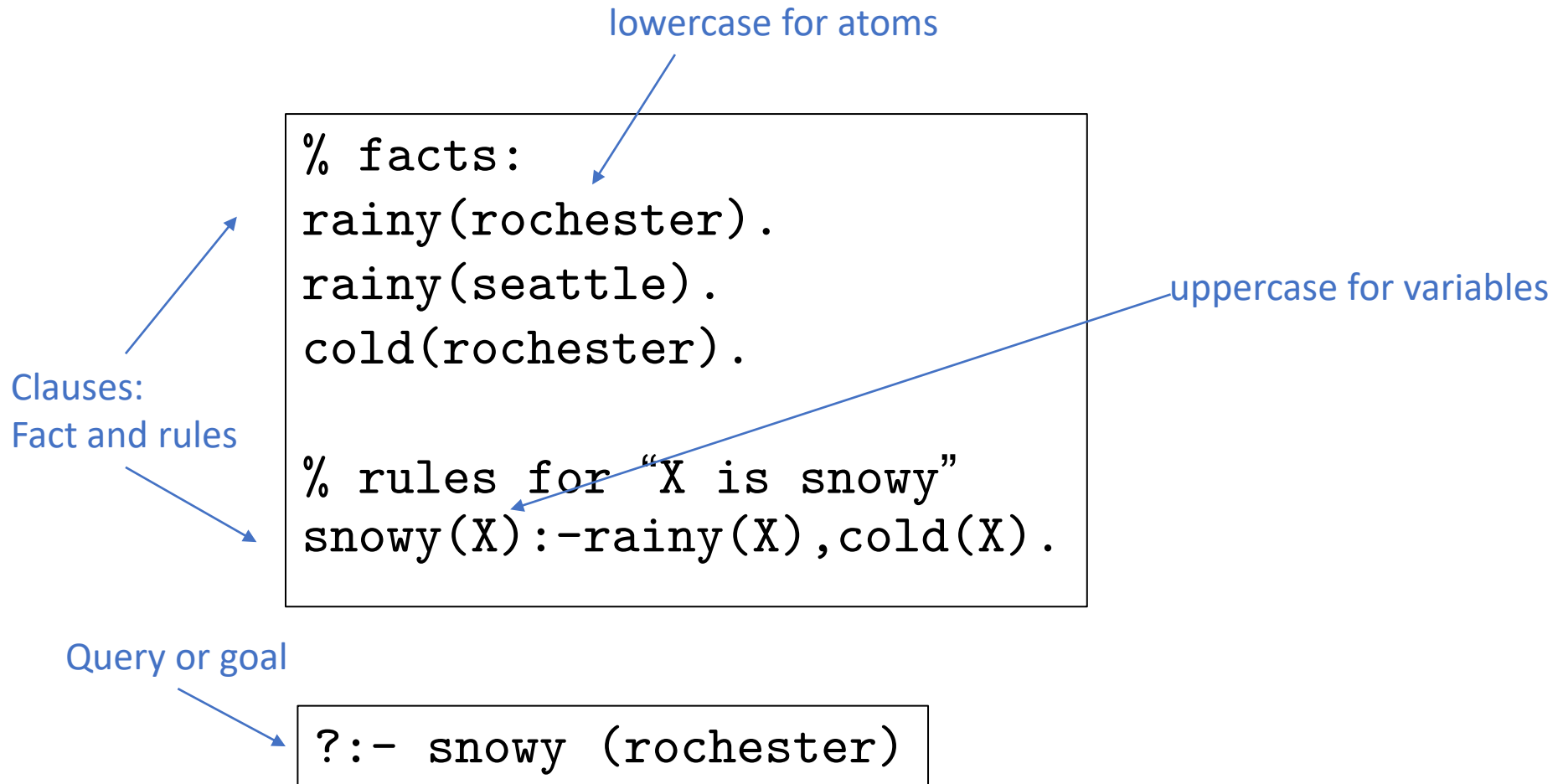
Today

- Prolog
 - Functions
 - Search order and backtracking
 - Operator cut and not
- Clarifications on structures, signatures and functors

LET'S RECAP...

Recap

An example of Prolog program



Unification and resolution in Prolog

- Two terms unify

- if they are **identical**

```
takes(alice, cs254)
takes(bob, cs254)
```

?- takes(alice, cs254). -> unifies directly with the fact

- they can be **made identical** by **substituting variables**

?- takes(alice, X). -> variable X is instantiated with cs254

- **Resolution**: the idea is **unifying the goal with the head of a rule**

- If succeeds, clauses in body become subgoals
- Continue until all subgoals are satisfied
 - If search fails, backtrack and try untried subgoals

Unification in Prolog

- The unification rules for Prolog are as follows:
 - A **constant** unifies only with itself
 - **Two structures** unify if and only if they have the same functor and the same number of arguments, and the corresponding arguments unify recursively
 - A **variable** unifies with anything
 - If the other thing has a value, then the variable is instantiated
 - If the other thing is an uninstantiated variable, then the two variables are associated in such a way that if either is given a value later, that value will be shared by both.

Arithmetic: built-in predicate `is`

- The built-in predicate `is` unifies its first argument with the arithmetic value of its second argument

```
?- is(X, 1+2).           prefix notation  
X=3.
```

```
?- X is 1+2.             infix notation  
X = 3.
```

```
?- 1+2 is 4-1.  
false.
```

```
?- X is Y.  
<error> Arguments are not sufficiently instantiated
```

```
?- Y is 1+2, X is Y.  
Y=X, Y = 3.
```

Function parameters and return value

- `increment(X,Y) :- Y is X+1.`

- `?-increment(1,Z).`

`Z=2.`

- `?-increment (1,2).`

`true.`

- `?-increment(Z,2).`

Arguments are not sufficiently instantiated.

X+1 cannot be evaluated
since X has not yet been
instantiated.

- `addN(X,N,Y):- Y is X+N.`

- `?- addN(1,2,Z)`

`Z = 3.`

Lists: head and Tail

- Differently from ML, all sorts of even heterogenous Prolog terms can be elements of a list, e.g., `[a,c,2,'hi',[W,3]]`
- A non-empty list can be thought of as consisting of two parts
 - The **head**
 - The **tail**
- As in ML, the head is the first item in the list
- The tail is everything else
 - The tail is the list that remains when we take the first element away
 - The tail of a list is always a list

Vertical bar notation |

- Using this notation, $[a, b, c]$ can be expressed as $[a \mid [b, c]]$, $[a, b \mid [c]]$, or $[a, b, c \mid []]$
- $[H \mid T]$ is syntactically similar to ML $h :: t$
 $?- [Head \mid Tail] = [a, b, c].$
 $Head = a.$
 $Tail = [b, c].$

Defining more complex predicates: member and sorted

```
member(X, [X|T]).
```

```
member(X, [H|T]) :- member(X, T).
```

```
sorted([]). % empty list is sorted
```

```
sorted([X]). % singleton is sorted
```

```
sorted([A, B | T]) :- A =< B, sorted([B | T]).
```

```
% compound list is sorted if first two elements  
are in order and the remainder of the list  
(after first element) is sorted
```

- Here `=<` is a built-in predicate that operates on numbers

append (or concatenate)

- `append(L1, L2, L3)` succeeds when `L3` unifies with `L2` appended at the end of `L1`, that is `L3` is the concatenation of `L1` and `L2`.

- Given this definition:

```
append([], L2, L2). /*if L1 is empty,  
then L3 = L2 */
```

```
append([H | L1], L2, [H | L3]) :-  
append(L1, L2, L3) /*prepending a new  
element to L1, means prepending it to L3  
as well*/
```

Examples

- ?- append([a, b, c], [d, e], L).
L = [a, b, c, d, e]
- ?- append(X, [d, e], [a, b, c, d, e]).
X = [a, b, c]
- ?- append([a, b, c], Y, [a, b, c, d, e]).
Y = [d, e]
- ?- append (X,Y,[a,b,c])
X=[], Y=[a,b,c];
X=[a], Y=[b,c]; ...

Without arithmetic operations , we can have variables also as “operands”

Let's try



1

Go to wooclap.com

2

Enter the event code in the top banner

Event code

OSLGGP

Some built-in predicates

- `length(List,Length)`
 `?- length([a, b, [1,2,3]], Length).`
 `Length = 3.`
- `member(Elem,List)`
 `?- member(duey, [huey, duey, luey]).`
 `true.`
 `?- member(X, [huey, duey, luey]).`
 `X = huey; X = duey; X = luey.`
- `append(List1,List2,Result)`
 `?- append([duey], [huey, duey, luey], X).`
 `X = [duey, huey, duey, luey].`

Some built-in predicates

- `sort(List, SortedList)`
 ?- `sort([2,1,3], R).`
 R= `[1,2,3].`
- `findall(Elem, Predicate, ResultList)`
 ?- `findall(E, member(E, [huey, duey, luey]), R).`
 R= `[huey, duey, luey].`
- See documentation for more
 <http://www.swi-prolog.org/pldoc/man?section=builtin>



Search order and backtracking

Ground and nonground terms

- A goal or term where variables do not occur is called **ground**; otherwise it is called **nonground** (if there is at least a nonground variable)
 - `foo(a,b)` is ground;
 - `bar(X)` is nonground
- When resolving nonground goals, the interpreter will unify and instantiate the free variables with terms so that the ground predicate holds.

Substitution

- Two terms unify
 - if they are **identical**
`?- takes(alice, cs254).` -> unifies directly with the fact
 - they can be **made identical** by **substituting free variables**
`?- takes(alice, X).` -> variable X is instantiated with `cs254`
- Unifying two terms s and t means **finding a substitution θ** over their free variables.
- A **substitution θ** is a partial map from variables to terms where $domain(\theta) \cap range(\theta) = \emptyset$
 - Variables are terms, so a substitution can map variables to other variables, but not to themselves
- Variables that are given values as a result of unification are said to be **instantiated**, that is A is an instance of B if there is a substitution such that $A = B \theta$

Question

- Which of these are ground terms?

```
cat(tom)  
mouse(jerry)  
dog(X)
```

```
ground  
ground  
nonground
```

Search/execution order

- How does Prolog answer a query?
- It needs a sequence of resolution steps that will build the goal out of clauses in the database, or a proof that no such sequence exists
- In formal logic, there are two principal search strategies:
 - Start with existing clauses and work forward, attempting to derive the goal. This strategy is known as **forward chaining**.
 - Start with the goal and work backward, attempting to “unresolve” it into a set of preexisting clauses. This strategy is known as **backward chaining**.

Search order: forward or backward?

- If the number of existing rules is very large, but the number of facts is small, it is possible for forward chaining to discover a solution faster than backward chaining
- In most circumstances, however, backward chaining turns out to be more efficient
- Prolog is defined to use **backward chaining**.
- Since resolution is associative and commutative, a backward-chaining theorem prover can limit its search to sequences of resolutions in which terms on the right-hand side of a clause are unified with the heads of other clauses one by one in some particular order (e.g., left to right).
- It can be described in terms of a **tree of subgoals**.

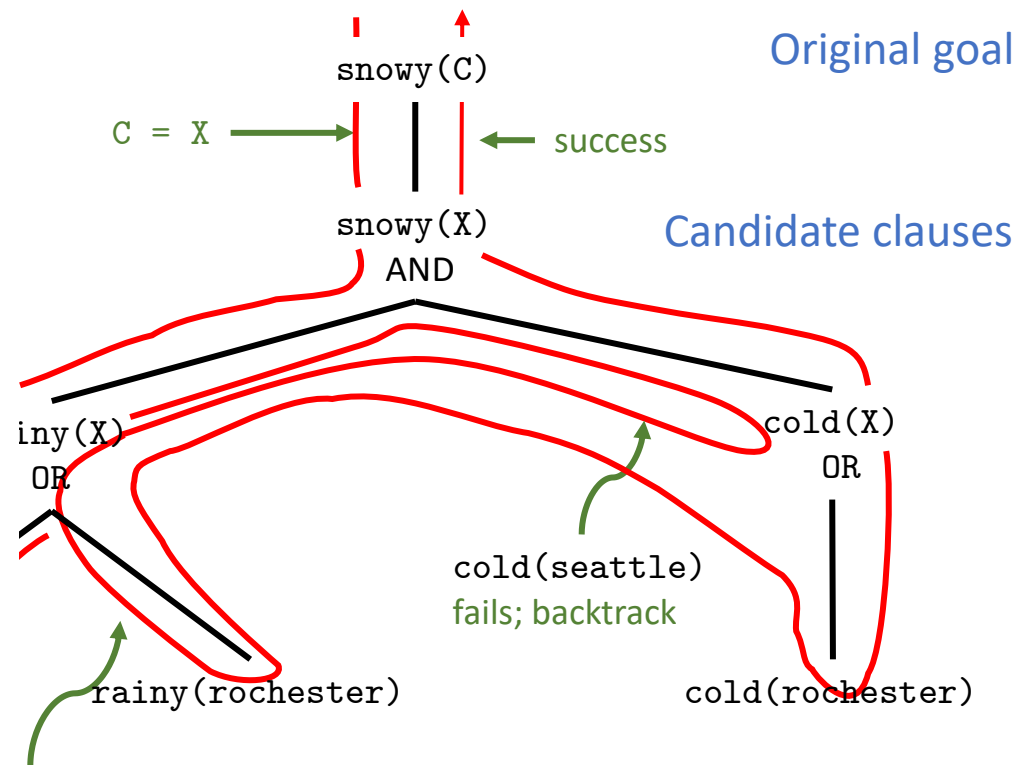
Search order

```
rainy(seattle).
rainy(rochester).
cold(rochester).
snowy(X) :- rainy(X), cold(X).
```

```
?-snowy(C).
```

```
[trace] ?- snowy(C).
Call: (10) snowy(_18738) ? creep
Call: (11) rainy(_18738) ? creep
Exit: (11) rainy(seattle) ? creep
Call: (11) cold(seattle) ? creep
Fail: (11) cold(seattle) ? creep
Redo: (11) rainy(_18738) ? creep
Exit: (11) rainy(rochester) ? creep
Call: (11) cold(rochester) ? creep
Exit: (11) cold(rochester) ? creep
Exit: (10) snowy(rochester) ? creep
C = rochester.
```

X =
rochester



Evaluation

- The Prolog interpreter explores this tree **depth first, from left to right**
- It starts at the beginning of the database, searching for a rule R whose head can be unified with the top-level goal
- It then considers the terms in the body of R as subgoals, and attempts to satisfy them, recursively, left to right
- If at any point **a subgoal fails** (cannot be satisfied), the interpreter returns to the previous subgoal and attempts to satisfy it in a different way (i.e., try to unify it with the head of a different clause).

Evaluation: backtracking

- Whenever a **unification operation** is “undone” in order to pursue a different path through the search tree, **variables** that were given values or associated with another one as a result of that unification **are returned to their uninstantiated or unassociated state**
- In the example, the binding of `X` to `seattle` is broken when we backtrack to the `rainy(X)` subgoal

When does a goal fail?

- **G will not fail unless all of its subgoals**, and all of its siblings to the right in the search tree, **have also failed**
- At the top level of the interpreter, a semicolon typed by the user is treated the same as failure of the most recently satisfied subgoal.

Deterministic and predictable programs

- The fact that clauses are ordered, and that the interpreter considers them from first to last, means that the results of a Prolog program are **deterministic and predictable**
- The combination of ordering and depth-first search means that the Prolog programmer must often **consider the order** to ensure that **recursive programs terminate**

Example

- Suppose the database describes a directed acyclic graph:

```
edge(a, b).
```

```
edge(b, c).
```

```
edge(c, d).
```

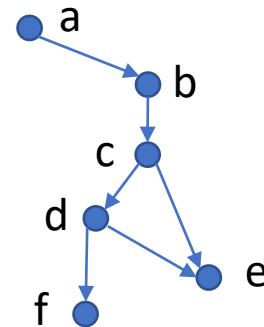
```
edge(d, e).
```

```
edge(b, e).
```

```
edge(d, f).
```

```
path1(X, X).
```

```
path1(X, Y) :- edge(X, Z), path1(Z, Y).
```



These tell us how to determine whether there is a path from X to Y

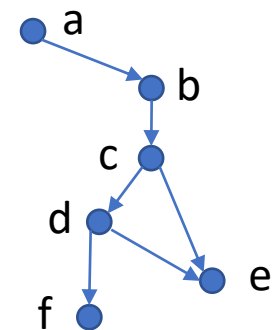
- If we query for `?path1(a,d)`.

```
?- path1(a,d).  
true ;  
false.
```

Backtracking path1

```
[trace] ?- path1(d,B).
  Call: (10) path1(d, _42780) ? creep
  Exit: (10) path1(d, d) ? creep
B = d ;
  Redo: (10) path1(d, _42780) ? creep
  Call: (11) edge(d, _47212) ? creep
  Exit: (11) edge(d, e) ? creep
  Call: (11) path1(e, _42780) ? creep
  Exit: (11) path1(e, e) ? creep
  Exit: (10) path1(d, e) ? creep
B = e ;
  Redo: (11) path1(e, _42780) ? creep
  Call: (12) edge(e, _53592) ? creep
  Fail: (12) edge(e, _53592) ? creep
  Fail: (11) path1(e, _42780) ? creep
  Redo: (11) edge(d, _47212) ? creep
  Exit: (11) edge(d, f) ? creep
  Call: (11) path1(f, _42780) ? creep
  Exit: (11) path1(f, f) ? creep
  Exit: (10) path1(d, f) ? creep
B = f ;
  Redo: (11) path1(f, _42780) ? creep
  Call: (12) edge(f, _62402) ? creep
  Fail: (12) edge(f, _62402) ? creep
  Fail: (11) path1(f, _42780) ? creep
  Fail: (10) path1(d, _42780) ? creep
false.
```

```
edge(a, b).
edge(b, c).
edge(c, d).
edge(d, e).
edge(b, e).
edge(d, f).
path1(X, X).
path1(X, Y) :- edge(X, Z), path1(Z, Y)
```



What if ...

- ... we reverse the order of the terms on the right-hand side of the final clause?

```
path2(X, X).
```

```
path2(X, Y) :- path2(X, Z), edge(Z, Y).
```

- Prolog will search for a node Z that is reachable from X before checking to see whether there is an edge from Z to Y
- The program will work, but it will be less efficient and won't stop if you continue asking paths

```
?- path2(a,d).
true ;
ERROR: Stack limit (1.0Gb) exceeded
ERROR: Stack sizes: local: 0.9Gb, global: 84.2Mb, trail: 0Kb
ERROR: Stack depth: 11,027,909, last-call: 0%, Choice points: 4
ERROR: Probable infinite recursion (cycle):
ERROR: [11,027,908] user:path2(_22065580, d)
ERROR: [11,027,907] user:path2(_22065600, d)
```

- ... we also reverse the order of the last two clauses:

```
path3(X, Y) :- path3(X, Z), edge(Z, Y).
```

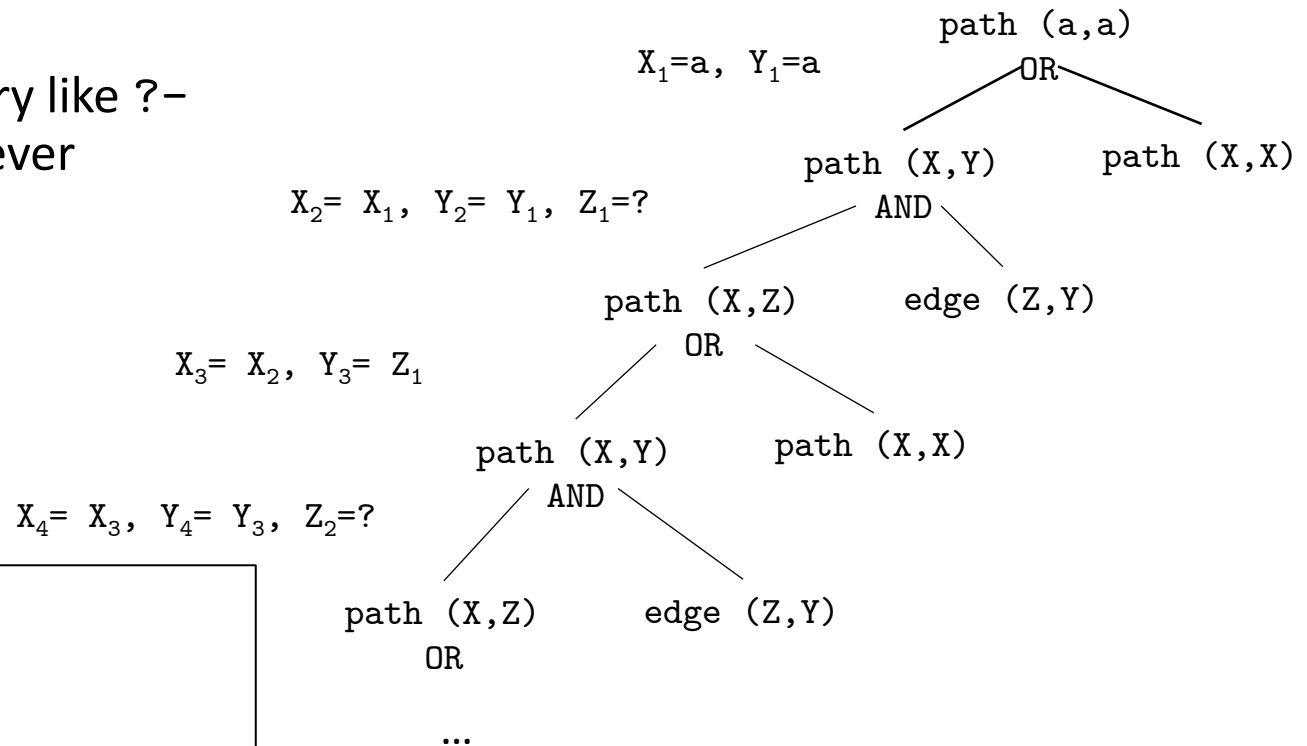
```
path3(X,X).
```

Logically, they are the same, but Prolog will no longer be able to find answers

```
?- path3(a,d).
ERROR: Stack limit (1.0Gb) exceeded
ERROR: Stack sizes: local: 0.9Gb, global: 48.4Mb, trail: 0Kb
ERROR: Stack depth: 6,339,224, last-call: 0%, Choice points: 6,339,217
ERROR: In:
ERROR: [6,339,224] user:path3(_12679480, d)
ERROR: [6,339,223] user:path3(_12679500, d)
ERROR: [6,339,222] user:path3(_12679520, d)
ERROR: [6,339,221] user:path3(_12679540, d)
ERROR: [6,339,220] user:path3(_12679560, d)
ERROR:
ERROR: Use the --stack_limit=size[KMG] command line option or
ERROR: ?- set_prolog_flag(stack_limit, 2_147_483_648). to double the limit.
Exception: (6,339,223) path3(_12679394, d) ?
```

Non-termination

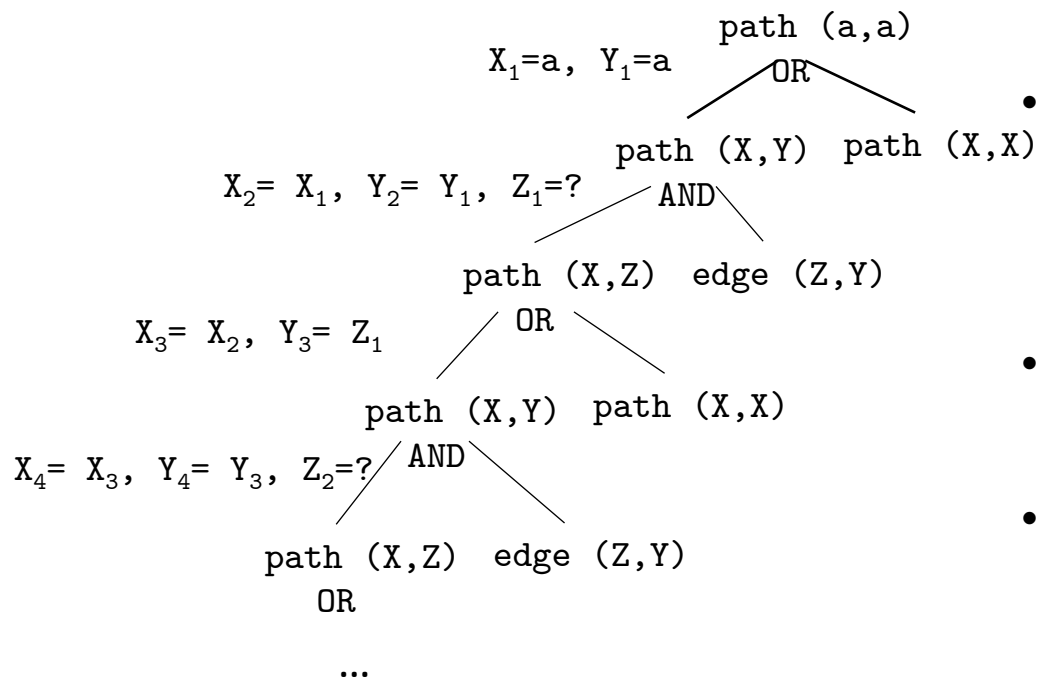
Even a simple query like ?-
path(a, a) will never
terminate



```

edge(a, b).
edge(b, c).
edge(c, d).
edge(d, e).
edge(b, e).
edge(d, f).
path(X, Y) :- path(X, Z),
               edge(Z, Y).
path(X, X).
    
```

Non-termination



- The interpreter first unifies `path(a, a)` with the left-hand side of


```
path(X, Y) :- path(X, Z), edge(Z, Y).
```
- It then considers the goals on the right-hand side, the first of which, `path(X, Z)`, unifies with the left-hand side of the very same rule, leading to an infinite loop
- Prolog gets lost in an **infinite branch of the search tree**, and never discovers the finite branches to the right
- We could avoid this problem by exploring the tree in breadth-first order, but that strategy was rejected by Prolog's designers because of its expense



Cut

Imperative control flow

- Besides simple ordering, Prolog provides the programmer with several explicit control flow features
- The most important is known as the **cut**: a zero-argument predicate written as an exclamation point !
- It allows the programmer to **eliminate some of the possible alternatives** produced during evaluation, so as to improve efficiency
- As a subgoal **it always succeeds**, but with the **crucial side effect** that it commits the interpreter to whatever choices have been made since unifying the parent goal with the left-hand side of the current rule, including the choice of that unification itself.

The cut operator

- In general, if we have n clauses to define the predicate p

$p(S1) \text{ :- } A1.$

...

$p(Sk) \text{ :- } B, \text{ ! }, C.$

...

$p(Sn) \text{ :- } An.$

- If we find the k th clause in the list being used, we have the following cases:
 1. If an evaluation of B fails, then we proceed by trying the $k + 1$ st clause.
 2. If the evaluation of B succeed, then ! is evaluated. It succeeds and the evaluation proceeds with C . In the case of backtracking, however, all the alternative ways of computing B are eliminated, as well as are eliminated all the alternatives provided by the clauses from the k th to the n th to compute $p(t)$.

Why to use the cut operator?

- Let us consider

```
member(X, [X|T]).
```

```
member(X, [H|T]) :- member(X, T).
```

- If a given atom *a* appears in list *L* *n* times, then the goal `?- member(a,L)` can succeed *n* times

```
?- member(a,[a,a,b,c,a]).  
true ;  
true ;  
true ;  
false.
```



What's the problem?

These extra successes may not always be appropriate! ... they can lead to wasted computation, particularly for long lists, when `member` is followed by a goal that may fail.

Why to use the cut operator?

- Let's assume we want to check whether a number is a prime candidate

```
prime_candidate(X) :- member(X, candidates), prime(X).
```

- and `prime(X)` is expensive to compute.
- To determine whether `a` is a prime candidate, we first check whether it is a member of the candidates list, and then check whether it is prime
- If `prime(a)` fails, Prolog backtracks and attempts to satisfy `member(a, candidates)` again
- If `a` is in the candidates list more than once, then the subgoal will succeed again, leading to reconsideration of the `prime(a)` subgoal, even though that subgoal will fail

Saving time with the `cut` operator

- We can save time by cutting off all further searches for `a` after the first is found

```
member1(X, [X|T]) :- !.
```

```
member(X, [H|T]) :- member(X, T)
```

- The cut on the right-hand side of the first rule says that if `X` is the head of `L`, we should not attempt to unify `member(X, L)` with the left-hand side of the second rule; the cut commits us to the first rule

```
?- member(a,[a,a,b,c,a]).  
true.
```



The cut: other examples

- Similarly, if we have

- `minimum2(X, Y, X) :- X < Y, !.`
- `minimum2(X, Y, Y) :- X > Y.`

```
?- minimum2(3,5,X).  
X = 3.
```

the cut expresses the fact that once the first clause has been used, there is no need to consider the second, that would instead result in:

```
?- minimum1(3,5,X).  
X = 3 ;  
false.
```

- Similarly for `fact(X, Y)`

- Using cut

```
fact1(0,1):-!.
```

```
fact1(N,X):-M is N-1,fact1(M,Y),X is Y*N.
```

```
?- fact1(3,X).  
X = 6.
```

- Without cut

```
fact2(0,1).
```

```
fact2(N,X):- M is N-1,fact2(M,Y),X is Y*N.
```

```
?- fact2(3,X).  
X = 6 ;  
ERROR: Stack limit (1.0Gb) exceeded
```

The `not` operator

- An alternative way to ensure that `member(X,L)` succeeds no more than once is to embed a use of `not` in the second clause

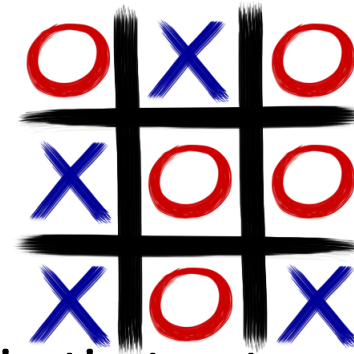
```
member3(X, [X|T]).
```

```
member3(X, [H|T]) :- not(X = H), member(X, T).
```

```
?- member3(a,[a,a,b,c,a]).  
true ;  
false.
```

- This code will do the same, but is slightly less efficient, as Prolog will actually consider the second rule, abandoning it only after (re)unifying `X` with `H` and reversing the sense of the test

Example: Tic-Tac-Toe



- Consider the problem of making a move in tic-tac-toe
- Number the squares from 1 to 9 in row-major order
- We use the Prolog fact $x(n)$ to indicate that player X has placed a marker in square n , and $o(m)$ to indicate that player O has placed a marker in square m
- Assume that the computer is player X , and that it is X 's turn to move
- We want to issue a query $?-move(A)$ that will cause Prolog to choose a good square for the computer to occupy next.

Tic-Tac-Toe

- We need to be able to tell whether three given squares lie in a row.

- This can be expressed as

```
ordered_line(1, 2, 3).
```

```
ordered_line(7, 8, 9).
```

```
ordered_line(2, 5, 8).
```

```
ordered_line(1, 5, 9).
```

```
...
```

```
line(A, B, C) :- ordered_line(A, B, C).
```

```
line(A, B, C) :- ordered_line(A, C, B).
```

```
line(A, B, C) :- ordered_line(B, A, C).
```

```
line(A, B, C) :- ordered_line(B, C, A).
```

```
line(A, B, C) :- ordered_line(C, A, B).
```

```
line(A, B, C) :- ordered_line(C, B, A).
```

- There is no winning strategy for the game

Tic-tac-toe

- Assume that our program is playing against a less-than-perfect opponent.
- Our task is never to lose, and to maximize our chances of winning if our opponent makes a mistake

```
move(A) :- good(A), empty(A).
```

We can satisfy `move(A)` by choosing a good and empty square

```
full(A) :- x(A).
```

```
full(A) :- o(A).
```

```
empty(A) :- not(full(A)).
```

Square `n` is empty if we cannot prove that it is full, that is neither `x(n)` nor `o(n)` are in the db

```
% strategy:
```

```
good(A) :- win(A).
```

```
good(A) :- split(A).
```

```
good(A) :- weak_build(A).
```

```
good(A) :- block_win(A).
```

```
good(A) :- strong_build(A).
```

These are our strategies in order of application

Strategy

```
win(A) :- x(B), x(C), line(A, B, C).
```

```
block_win(A) :- o(B), o(C), line(A, B, C).
```

```
split(A) :- x(B), x(C), different(B, C),  
line(A, B, D), line(A, C, E), empty(D), empty(E).  
same(A, A).  
different(A, B) :- not(same(A, B)).
```

The first choice is to win, i.e., completing a line!

The second is preventing our opponent from winning

The third is creating a split, that is a situation in which our opponent cannot prevent us from winning on the next move

X	X	
1	2	3
X	O	O
4	5	6
7	8	9

Strategy

```
win(A) :- x(B), x(C), line(A, B, C).
```

```
block_win(A) :- o(B), o(C), line(A, B, C).
```

```
split(A) :- x(B), x(C), different(B, C),  
line(A, B, D), line(A, C, E), empty(D), empty(E).  
same(A, A).  
different(A, B) :- not(same(A, B)).
```

```
strong_build(A) :- x(B), line(A, B, C), empty(C),  
not(risky(C)).  
risky(C) :- o(D), line(C, D, E), empty(E).
```

```
weak_build(A) :- x(B), line(A, B, C), empty(C),  
not(double_risky(C)).  
double_risky(C) :- o(D), o(E), different(D, E),  
line(C, D, F),  
line(C, E, G), empty(F), empty(G).
```

The first choice is to win, i.e., completing a line!

The second is preventing our opponent from winning

The third is creating a split, that is a situation in which our opponent cannot prevent us from winning on the next move

The fourth is moving toward three in a row, so that the obvious blocking won't allow our opponent to build toward three in a row

The fifth is moving toward three in a row, so that the obvious blocking won't allow our opponent to create a split

Last part of the strategy

- If none of these goals can be satisfied, our final, default choice is to pick an unoccupied square, giving priority to the center, the corners, and the sides in that order:

`good(5).`

`good(1).`

`good(3).`

`good(7).`

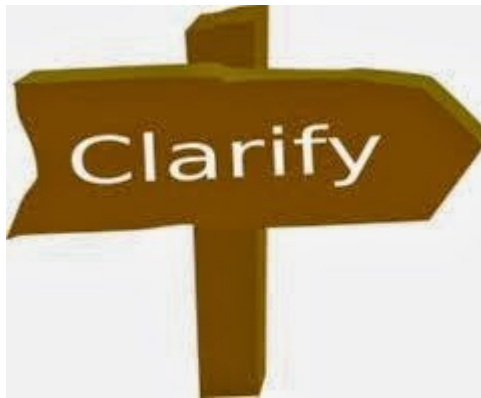
`good(9).`

`good(2).`

`good(4).`

`good(6).`

`good(8).`



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA-NC](#)

Clarifications on ML

Structures

- A **structure** is a module in ML.
- In order to access the structure components you have to use **the name of the structure**
- As an alternative you can use **open structureName**, however you have to be **very careful** opening structures – especially predefined ones, as default functions can be overwritten.

Example: accessing structure components

```
> structure BranchTree =  
  struct  
    datatype 'a T = BTEmpty | Branch of 'a * 'a T * 'a T  
    fun countNodes BTEmpty = 0  
      | countNodes (Branch(a,b,c)) = 1+countNodes(b) + countNodes(c);  
  end;  
  
> val brtree = BTEmpty;  
poly: : error: Value or constructor (BTEmpty) has not been declared Found near  
BTEmpty  
Static Errors  
> val brtree = BranchTree.BTEmpty;  
val brtree = BTEmpty: 'a BranchTree.T  
  
> open BranchTree;  
datatype 'a T = BTEmpty | Branch of 'a * 'a T * 'a T  
val countNodes = fn: 'a T -> int  
> val brtree = BTEmpty;  
val brtree = BTEmpty: 'a T
```

Example: be careful with opening structures!

```
> 2 > 1;  
val it = true: bool
```

```
> open String;  
val < = fn: string * string -> bool  
val <= = fn: string * string -> bool  
val > = fn: string * string -> bool  
...
```

```
> 1 > 2;  
poly: : error: Type error in function application.  
  Function: > : string * string -> bool  
  Argument: (1, 2) : int * int  
  Reason:  
    Can't unify int (*In Basis*) with string (*In Basis*)  
      (Different type constructors)
```

Found near 1 > 2

Static Errors

Signatures

- A **signature** is a kind of interface in ML.
- When we restrict a structure to a signature, we are restricting external access only to types, data and functions in the signature.

Example: signature with abstract type

```
> signature BRANCHTREE =  
    sig  
      type 'a T  
      val countNodes : 'a T -> int  
    end;  
  
> structure BranchTree :> BRANCHTREE =  
struct  
    datatype 'a T = BTEmpty | Branch of 'a * 'a T * 'a T  
    fun countNodes BTEmpty = 0  
      | countNodes (Branch(a,b,c)) = 1+countNodes(b)+countNodes(c);  
end;  
  
> val btree = BranchTree.BTEmpty;  
poly: : error: Value or constructor (BTEmpty) has not been declared in structure  
BranchTree  
Found near BranchTree.BTEmpty  
Static Errors
```

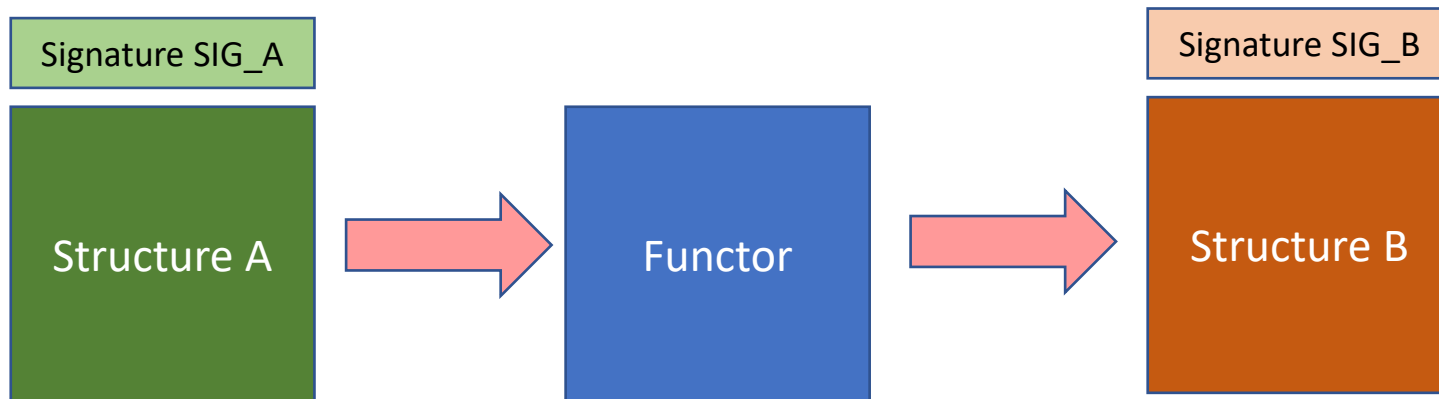
Example: signature with specified type

```
> signature BRANCHTREE =  
    sig  
      datatype 'a T = BTEmpty | Branch of 'a * 'a T * 'a T  
      val countNodes : 'a T -> int  
    end;  
  
> structure BranchTree :> BRANCHTREE =  
struct  
  datatype 'a T = BTEmpty | Branch of 'a * 'a T * 'a T  
  fun countNodes BTEmpty = 0  
    | countNodes (Branch(a,b,c)) = 1+countNodes(b)+countNodes(c);  
end;  
  
> val brtree = BranchTree.BTEmpty;  
val brtree = BTEmpty: 'a BranchTree.T
```


Functors

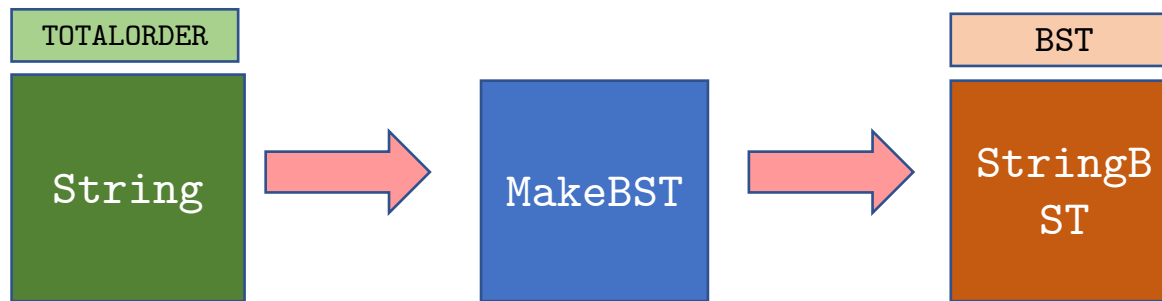
- A **functor** is a structure that takes a structure and returns another structure
 - As a function takes a value and returns a new value a functor takes a structure and returns a new structure

functor <identifier> (<structure name>:
<signature>) = <structure definition>



What we did

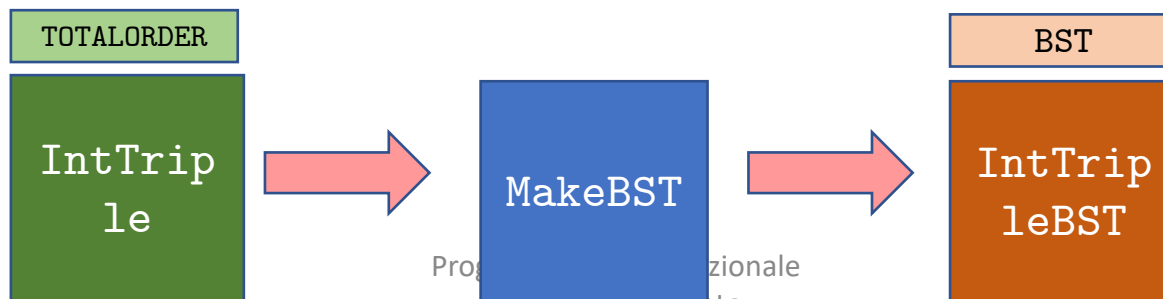
- The steps we took for building a functor MakeBST that allows for building a binary search tree with a customized ordering function:
 - Step 1: define a signature TOTALORDER that is satisfied by our functor inputs
 - Step 2: define a functor MakeBST that takes a structure S with signature TOTALORDER and produces a structure
 - Step 3: define structure String with signature TOTALORDER and with a comparison operator on strings
 - Step 4: apply MakeBST to String to produce the desired structure





Exercise 9.12

- Write a structure `IntTriple` implementing the signature `TOTALORDER` that, in place of `String`, defines the elements of a binary search tree as tuples of 3 integer numbers
- It: $(a, b, c) < (x, y, z)$ iff
 - $a < x$
 - $a = x$ and $b < y$
 - $a = x$, $b = y$ and $c < z$
- Use the functor `MakeBST` to get a structure that stores triples of integers in binary trees





Exercise 9.12

```
> signature TOTALORDER = sig
  type element;
  val lt : element * element -> bool
end;
signature TOTALORDER = sig type element val lt: element * element -> bool end;
```

```
functor MakeBST(Lt: TOTALORDER):
```

```
  sig
    type 'label btree;
    exception EmptyTree;
    val create: Lt.element btree;
    val lookup: Lt.element * Lt.element btree -> bool;
    val insert: Lt.element * Lt.element btree -> Lt.element btree;
    val deletemin : Lt.element btree -> Lt.element * Lt.element btree;
    val delete : Lt.element * Lt.element btree -> Lt.element btree
  end
```

BST

=

Actually you can omit the signature here, although it is better to specify it



Exercise 9.12

```
struct
  open Lt;
  datatype 'label btree
    = Empty
      | Node of 'label * 'label btree * 'label btree;
  val create = Empty;
  fun lookup(x, Empty) = false
    | lookup(x, Node(y, left, right)) =
      if lt(x, y)
      then lookup(x, left)
      else if lt(y, x)
      then lookup(x, right)
      else (* x=y *) true;
```



Exercise 9.12

```
fun insert(x, Empty) = Node(x, Empty, Empty)
  | insert(x, T as Node(y, left, right)) =
    if lt(x, y)
    then Node(y, insert(x, left), right)
    else
      if lt(y, x)
      then Node(y, left, insert(x, right))
      else (* x=y *) T; (* do nothing; x was already there *)
exception EmptyTree;
fun deletemin(Empty) = raise EmptyTree
  | deletemin(Node(y, Empty, right)) = (y, right)
  | deletemin(Node(w, left, right)) = let
    val (y, L) = deletemin(left)
  in
    (y, Node(w, L, right))
  end;
```



Exercise 9.12

```
fun delete(x, Empty) = Empty
  | delete(x, Node(y, left, right)) =
    if lt(x, y)
    then Node(y, delete(x, left), right)
    else if lt(y, x)
    then Node(y, left, delete(x, right))
    else (* x=y *) case (left, right)
      of (Empty, r) => r
      | (l, Empty) => l
      | (l, r) => let
          val (z, r1) = deletemin(r)
          in
            Node(z, l, r1)
          end;
    end;
end;
```

Readings

- Chapter 12 of the reference book
 - Maurizio Gabbrielli and Simone Martini "Linguaggi di Programmazione - Principi e Paradigmi", McGraw-Hill
- Few slides from the University of Maryland



Summary

- Prolog
 - Functions
 - Search order and backtracking
 - Operator cut and not
- Clarifications on structures, signatures and functors

SUMMARY



Next time



- Introduction to Scala