

Functional and Logic Programming

Bachelor in Informatics and Computing Engineering
2025/2026 - 1st Semester

Lists

Agenda

- Lists

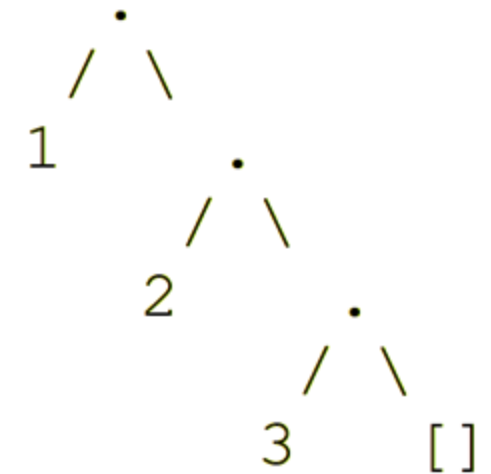
Lists

- Lists are the quintessential data structure in Prolog
- Empty list represented as []
- Elements separated by commas within square brackets
 - [a, b, c]
 - [4, 8, 15, 16, 23, 42]
- Lists elements can be anything, including other lists
 - [1, [a, b, v], g, [2, [D, y], 3], 4]

Lists

- The internal representation uses the `.` functor and two arguments - the head and tail of the list
 - Ex.: `[1, 2, 3] = .(1, .(2, .(3, []))) .`

```
| ?- A = .(1, .(2, .(3, []) ) ) .
A = [1,2,3] ?
yes
```



- Strings are a representation of lists of character ASCII codes

```
| ?- A = "Hello".
A = [72,101,108,108,111] ?
yes
```

Lists

- Easily separate the head of the list from the rest of the list
 - The head of the list can separate more than one element

```
[ H | T ] % where T is a list with the remaining elements of the list
[ 4 ] = [ 4 | [ ] ] % tail of list with one element is empty list
[4, 8, 15, 16, 23, 42] = [4 | [8, 15, 16, 23, 42] ]
[4, 8, 15, 16, 23, 42] = [ 4, 8 | [ 15, 16, 23, 42] ]
```

- Definition of what is a list

- An empty list
- A list construct where tail is a list

```
is_list( [ ] ).
```

```
is_list( [H|T] ):- is_list(T).
```

wooclap

List Length

- There are several useful built-in predicates to work with lists
 - ***length(?List, ?Size)***
 - Size of a list (very flexible)

Can also be easily implemented recursively

```
length( [], 0 ).  
length( [_|T], L ):-  
    length(T, L1),  
    L is L1+1.
```

```
| ?- length([1,2,3], 3).  
yes  
| ?- length([1,2,3], L).  
L = 3 ?  
yes  
| ?- length(L, 3).  
L = [_A,_B,_C] ?  
yes  
| ?- length(L, S).  
L = [],  
S = 0 ? ;  
L = [_A],  
S = 1 ? ;  
L = [_A,_B],  
S = 2 ? ;  
L = [_A,_B,_C],  
S = 3 ?  
yes
```

List Membership

- ***member(?Elem, ?List)***
 - List member (very flexible)
- ***memberchk(?Elem, ?List)***
 - Member verification (deterministic, no backtracking because of $X \neq Y$)

Can also be easily implemented recursively

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

```
memberchk( X, [X|_] ).
memberchk( X, [Y|T] ) :-
    X \= Y,
    memberchk( X, T ).
```

```
| ?- member(2, [1,2,3]).
true ?
yes
| ?- member(2, L).
L = [2|_A] ? ;
L = [_A,2|_B] ?
yes
| ?- member(M, [1,2]).
M = 1 ? ;
M = 2 ? ;
no
| ?- member(M, L).
L = [M|_A] ? ;
L = [_A,M|_B] ?
yes
```


Appending Lists

- ***append(?L1, ?L2, ?L3)***
 - Appends two lists into a third (very flexible)

Can also be easily implemented recursively

```
append( [ ], L2, L2 ).  
append( [H|T], L2, [H|T3] ) :-  
    append(T, L2, T3) .
```

```
| ?- append([1,2], [3,4], [1,2,3,4]) .  
yes  
| ?- append([1,2], [3,4], L) .  
L = [1,2,3,4] ?  
yes  
| ?- append([1,2], L, [1,2,3,4]) .  
L = [3,4] ?  
yes  
| ?- append(L, [3,4], [1,2,3,4]) .  
L = [1,2] ?  
yes  
| ?- append(L1, L2, [1,2,3]) .  
L1 = [ ],  
L2 = [1,2,3] ? ;  
L1 = [1],  
L2 = [2,3] ? ;  
L1 = [1,2],  
L2 = [3] ? ;  
L1 = [1,2,3],  
L2 = [ ] ? ;  
no
```

Sorting Lists

- ***sort(+List, -SortedList)***
 - Sorts a (proper) list
- ***keysort(+PairList, -SortedList)***
 - Sorts a (proper) key-value pair list
 - If a key appears more than once, elements retain original order

```
| ?- sort([4,2,3,1], [1,2,3,4]).  
yes  
| ?- sort([4,2,3,1], SL).  
SL = [1,2,3,4] ?  
yes  
| ?- keysort([2-1, 1-2, 4-3, 3-4], SL).  
SL = [1-2,2-1,3-4,4-3] ?  
yes  
| ?- keysort([2-1, 1-2, 4-3, 3-4, 1-1], SL).  
SL = [1-2,1-1,2-1,3-4,4-3] ?  
yes
```

Can also be implemented recursively
Homework!

wooclap

Lists Library

- The Lists library has numerous predicates to work with lists
- Libraries can be imported using the *use_module* directive:

```
:-use_module(library(lists)).
```

See section 10.25 of the SICStus Manual for a complete description of available predicates

You

- Choose any slide (add a letter to the slide so the others know it's already chosen)
- You don't need to identify yourself, can be anonymous
- Learn about the predicate(s) in that slide (documentation, testing it, LLM, google, etc.)
- Explain in 1 or 2 slides the predicate
 - Make sure what you write is correct
- You have 15 minutes
- In the end, you can choose to present your predicate (preferable) or leave it to the professor

Lists Library

- Some useful predicates from the lists library
 - `nth0(?Pos, ?List, ?Elem) / nth1(?Pos, ?List, ?Elem)`
 - `nth0(?Pos, ?List, ?Elem, ?Rest) / nth1(?Pos, ?List, ?Elem, ?Rest)`

```
| ?- nth1(3, R, c, [a,b,d]).  
R = [a,b,c,d] ?  
yes  
| ?- nth1(3, [a,b,c,d], X, R),  
      nth1(3, Res, e, R).  
X = c,  
R = [a,b,d],  
Res = [a,b,e,d] ?  
yes
```

```
| ?- nth1(3, [a,b,c,d], X).  
X = c ?  
yes  
| ?- nth1(3, [a,b,c,d], X, R).  
X = c,  
R = [a,b,d] ?  
yes
```

Can be used to remove, insert or replace
(when used twice) list elements

nth0 and nth1

Predicate	Indexing starts at	Example
<code>nth0(Index, List, Elem)</code>	0 (zero-based)	<code>nth0(0, [a,b,c], X) . % X = a</code>
<code>nth1(Index, List, Elem)</code>	1 (one-based)	<code>nth1(1, [a,b,c], X) . % X = a</code>

Form	Meaning	Example
<code>nth0(I, L, E)</code>	Get element E at position I	<code>nth0(2, [a,b,c,d], X) . % X=c</code>
<code>nth1(I, L, E)</code>	Same using 1-based index	<code>nth1(4, [a,b,c,d], X) . % X=d</code>
<code>nth0(I, L, E)</code> with E known	Find index I	<code>nth0(I, [a,b,c], b) . % I=1</code>
<code>nth0(Index, List, Elem, Rest)</code>	Get element and list without it (delete elem.)	<code>nth0(2, [a,b,c,d], X, R) . % X=c, R=[a,b,d]</code>
<code>nth0(Index, List, Elem, Rest)</code>	Add an element	<code>nth0(2, X, c, [a,b,d]) . % X=[a,b,c,d]</code>
<code>nth0(Index, List, Elem, Rest)</code>	Replace an element	<code>nth0(1, [a,b,c], X, R), nth0(1, S, f, R) . % X=b, R=[a,c], S=[a,f,c]</code>

Lists Library

- `select(?X, ?XList, ?Y, ?YList)`
 - finds an occurrence of X in XList, replaces it with Y, and produces YList
- `delete(+List, +ToDel, -R)`
- `delete(+List, +ToDel, +Count, -R)`
 - Deletes Count occurrences of ToDel in List, result R
- `last(?Init, ?Last, ?List)`
 - Last element of List and the rest in Init

```
| ?- select(g, [a,g,a,g,a], r, X) .  
X = [a,r,a,g,a] ? ;  
X = [a,g,a,r,a] ? ;  
no  
| ?- delete([a,b,b,a], a, X) .  
X = [b,b] ?  
yes  
| ?- delete([a,b,b,a], a, 1, X) .  
X = [b,b,a] ? ;  
no  
| ?- last(I, L, [1,2,3,4]) .  
I = [1,2,3],  
L = 4 ?  
yes
```


Lists Library

- `segment(?List, ?Segment)`
 - succeed when Segment is a contiguous subsequence of List.
- `sublist(+List, ?Part, ?Before, ?Length, ?After)`
 - extract a contiguous Part of List with Length size and Before/After pre/suffix

```
| ?- segment([a,b,c], S).  
S = [a] ? ;  
S = [a,b] ? ;  
S = [a,b,c] ? ;  
S = [b] ? ;  
S = [b,c] ? ;  
S = [c] ? ;  
S = [] ? ;  
no
```

```
| ?- sublist([a,b,c], Part, Bef, Len, Aft).  
Part = [],  
Bef = 0,  
Len = 0,  
Aft = 3 ? ;  
Part = [a],  
Bef = 0,  
Len = 1,  
Aft = 2 ? ;  
Part = [a,b],  
Bef = 0,  
Len = 2,  
Aft = 1 ? ;
```

```
| ?- sublist([a,b,c], S, _, _, _).  
S = [] ? ;  
S = [a] ? ;  
S = [a,b] ? ;  
S = [a,b,c] ? ;  
S = [] ? ;  
S = [b] ? ;  
S = [b,c] ? ;  
S = [] ? ;  
S = [c] ? ;  
S = [] ? ;  
no
```

Lists Library

- `append(+ListOfLists, -List)`

- concate of Haskell

```
| ?- append([[1,2,3], [4,5,6], [7,8,9]], L) .  
L = [1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9] ? ;  
no
```

- `reverse(?List, ?Reversed)`

- `rotate_list(+Amount, ?List, ?Rotated)`

- cyclically shifts (rotates) List by Amount number of positions

```
| ?- reverse([1,2,3], L) .  
L = [3,2,1] ? ;  
no  
| ?- reverse(L, [3,2,1]) .  
L = [1,2,3] ? ;  
no
```

```
| ?- rotate_list(1, [a,b,c,d], L) .  
L = [b,c,d,a] ? ;  
no  
| ?- rotate_list(1, L, [a,b,c,d]) .  
L = [d,a,b,c] ? ;  
no
```

Lists Library

- `transpose(?Matrix, ?Transposed)`
 - converts rows into columns (and vice-versa)
- `remove_dups(+List, ?PrunedList)`
- `permutation(?List, ?Permutation)`
 - List permutations, with backtracking

```
| ?- transpose([[1,2,3],[4,5,6],[7,8,9]],T) .  
T = [[1,4,7],[2,5,8],[3,6,9]] ? ;  
no  
| ?- remove_dups([a,b,b,a], L) .  
L = [a,b] ? ;  
no
```

```
| ?- permutation([a,b,c], P) .  
P = [a,b,c] ? ;  
P = [b,a,c] ? ;  
P = [b,c,a] ? ;  
P = [a,c,b] ? ;  
P = [c,a,b] ? ;  
P = [c,b,a] ? ;  
no
```

Lists Library

- `sumlist(+ListOfNumbers, ?Sum)`
- `max_member(?Max, +List)`
- `min_member(?Min, +List)`
- `max_member(:Comp, ?Max, +List)`
 - `Comp` is a comparison predicate of arity 2 used to compare elements
- `min_member(:Comp, ?Min, +List)`

```
| ?- sumlist([1,2,3,4,5], S).  
S = 15 ? ;  
no  
| ?- max_member(Max, [4,5,3,2,6,1]).  
Max = 6 ? ;  
no
```

Lists Library

- `maplist(:Pred, +L) / maplist(:Pr, +L1, ?L2) / maplist(:Pr, +L1, ?L2, ?L3)`
 - Applies predicate to each element / map / zipWith
- `map_product(:Pred, +Xs, +Ys, ?List)`
 - Cartesian product

```
| ?- maplist(even, [2,3,4,5]).
no
| ?- maplist(even, [2,4]).
yes
| ?- maplist(write, [a,b,b,a]).
abba
yes
| ?- maplist(square, [2,3,4,5], L).
L = [4,9,16,25] ? ;
no
```

```
even(X) :-
    X mod 2 == 0.

square(X, Y) :-
    Y is X*X.

pow(X, Y, Z) :-
    Z is X**Y.
```

```
| ?- maplist(pow, [2,3,4], [2,3,4], L).
L = [4.0,27.0,256.0] ? ;
no
| ?- map_product(pow, [2,3,4], [2,3,4], L).
L = [4.0,8.0,16.0,9.0,27.0,81.0,16.0,64.0,256.0] ? ;
no
```

Lists Library

- `scanlist(:Pred, +Xs, ?Start, ?Final)`
 - `foldl`
- `cumlist(:Pred, +Xs, ?Start, ?List)`
 - Similar to `accumulate` in python

```
soma(A, B, C) :-
    C is A+B.

soma2(A, B, A+B).
soma3(A, B, B+A).
```

```
| ?- cumlist(soma, [2,3,4,5], 1, F).
F = [3,6,10,15] ? ;
no
| ?- cumlist(soma2, [2,3,4,5], 1, F).
F = [2+1,3+(2+1),4+(3+(2+1)),5+(4+(3+(2+1)))] ?
yes
| ?- cumlist(soma3, [2,3,4,5], 1, F).
F = [1+2,1+2+3,1+2+3+4,1+2+3+4+5] ?
yes
```

```
| ?- scanlist(soma, [2,3,4,5], 1, F).
F = 15 ?
yes
| ?- scanlist(soma2, [2,3,4,5], 1, F).
F = 5+(4+(3+(2+1))) ?
yes
| ?- scanlist(soma3, [2,3,4,5], 1, F).
F = 1+2+3+4+5 ?
yes
```

Lists Library

- `some(:Pred, +List)`
 - any
- `include(:P, +X, ?L)` / `include(:P, +X, +Y, ?L)` / `include(:P, +X, +Y, +Z, ?L)`
 - filter / $P(x, y)$ succeeds, $L \subseteq X$ / $P(x, y, z)$ succeeds, $L \subseteq X$
- `exclude(:P, +X, ?L)` / `exclude(:P, +X, +Y, ?L)` / `exclude(:P, +X, +Y, +Z, ?L)`
 - not include
- `group(:Pred, +List, ?Front, ?Back)`
 - Group until predicate fails, splitting the list at that point

```
| ?- some(even, [3,5,7]).
no
| ?- some(even, [3,4,5]).
true ?
yes
```

```
| ?- include(even, [1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8], L).
L = [2,4,6,8] ?
yes
| ?- exclude(even, [1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8], L).
L = [1,3,5,7] ?
yes
```

```
| ?- group(even, [2,4,6,1,2,3,4], F, B).
F = [2,4,6],
B = [1,2,3,4] ?
yes
```

Lists

- Several of these predicates can be implemented using append
 - However, sometimes we can find more efficient versions
- Example: list reverse

```
reverse([], []).  
reverse([X|Xs], Rev) :-  
    reverse(Xs, Ys),  
    append(Ys, [X], Rev).
```

Lists

- We can use an accumulator (tail recursion) to reverse the list

```
reverse(Xs, Rev) :- reverse(Xs, [], Rev).  
reverse([X|Xs], Acc, Rev) :-  
    reverse(Xs, [X|Acc], Rev).  
reverse([], Rev, Rev).
```

- The accumulator holds the reversed list in the last step of the recursion

Q & A

≤ in different programming languages

