

# Functional and Logic Programming

*Bachelor in Informatics and Computing Engineering*  
2025/2026 - 1<sup>st</sup> Semester

Prolog

Collecting Solutions

Graphs

Trees

# Agenda

- Collecting Solutions
- Graphs and Search
- Binary Trees
- Puzzles and Games

# Collecting Solutions

- So far, we obtained multiple solutions to a query interactively, in the terminal, one by one
- Or by accumulating the results of a query in a list

```
get_all_children(Parent, Children) :-  
    get_children(Parent, Children, []).
```

```
get_children(Parent, Children, Temp) :-  
    parent(Parent, Child),  
    not(member(Child, Temp)), !,  
    get_children(Parent, Children, [Child|Temp]).
```

Is the cut necessary?

```
get_children(_Parent, Children, Temp) :-  
    reverse(Temp, Children).
```

Why is this approach inefficient?

# Collecting Solutions

- Prolog provides three predicates to obtain multiple solutions to a query: *findall*, *bagof*, and *setof*
  - They allow systematic collection of answers to any goal
  - The template is similar to all three predicates

```
findall(?Term, :Goal, -List) .
```

- Returns the list *List* of all instances of *Term* such that *Goal* is provable
- *Goal* specifies a goal to be called
- *List* is a list of terms

See section 4.13 of the SICStus Manual for more information on collecting solutions

# *findall*

- ***findall*** finds all solutions, including repetitions if present
  - If there are no solutions, an empty list is returned

```
| ?- findall(Child, parent(homer, Child), Children).  
Children = [lisa, bart, maggie] ? ;  
no
```

```
| ?- findall(Parent, parent(Parent, _Child), List).  
List = [homer,homer,homer,marge,marge,marge] ? ;  
no
```

```
| ?- findall(Child, parent(bart, Child), List).  
List = [] ? ;  
no
```

## *findall*

- We can use a conjunctive goal (parentheses are required)

```
| ?- findall(C, ( parent(homer, C), female(C) ), Daughters).  
Daughters = [lisa, maggie] ? ;  
no
```

- We can obtain more than one variable using a compound term

```
| ?- findall(Parent-Child, parent(Parent, Child), L).  
L = [homer-lisa, homer-bart, homer-maggie, marge-lisa, ...] ? ;  
no
```

- If all we want is a count, we can use anything

```
| ?- findall(_, parent(homer, _C), _L), length(_L, N).  
N = 3 ? ;  
no
```

*bagof*

- *bagof* has similar behavior, but results are grouped by variables appearing in Goal but not in the search Term

```
| ?- findall(Child, parent(Parent, Child), Children).  
Children = [lisa, bart, maggie, lisa, bart, maggie] ? ;  
no
```

```
| ?- bagof(Child, parent(Parent, Child), Children).  
Parent = homer, Children = [lisa, bart, maggie] ? ;  
Parent = marge, Children = [lisa, bart, maggie] ? ;  
no
```

## *bagof*

- While *findall* returns an empty list if there are no results, *bagof* fails

```
| ?- findall(Child, parent(bart, Child), L).  
L = [] ? ;  
no
```

```
| ?- bagof(Child, parent(bart, Child), L).  
no
```

# Existential Quantifier

- We can direct *bagof* to ignore additional variables in *Goal* by using existential quantifiers:  $\text{Var}^{\wedge}\text{Goal}$

```
| ?- bagof(Child, parent(Parent, Child), Children).  
Parent = homer, Children = [lisa, bart, maggie] ? ;  
Parent = marge, Children = [lisa, bart, maggie] ? ;  
no
```

```
| ?- bagof(Child, Parent^parent(Parent, Child), Children).  
Children = [lisa, bart, maggie, lisa, bart, maggie] ? ;  
no
```

- If all variables appearing in *Goal* but not in the search *Term* are existentially quantified, then *bagof* behaves like *findall*

# *bagof* Existential Quantifier

teaches(ann,	databases) .	attends(sue,	databases) .
teaches(ann,	ai) .	attends(sue,	ai) .
teaches(bob,	databases) .	attends(tom,	databases) .
teaches(bob,	compilers) .		

```
| ?- bagof(Course, ((teaches(Teacher, Course), attends(Student, Course))), L).  
Teacher = ann,  
Student = sue,  
L = [databases,ai] ?  
  
| ?- bagof(Course, (Teacher^(teaches(Teacher, Course), attends(Student, Course))), L).  
Student = sue,  
L = [databases,ai,databases]  
  
| ?- bagof(Course, (Teacher^Student^(teaches(Teacher, Course), attends(Student, Course))), L).  
L = [databases,databases,ai,databases,databases]  
  
| ?- findall(Course, ((teaches(Teacher, Course), attends(Student, Course))), L).  
L = [databases,databases,ai,databases,databases]
```

---

*setof*

- *setof* has similar behavior to *bagof*, but results are ordered and without repetitions

```
| ?- bagof(Child, parent(Parent, Child), Children).  
Parent = homer, Children = [lisa, bart, maggie] ? ;  
Parent = marge, Children = [lisa, bart, maggie] ? ;  
no
```

```
| ?- setof(Child, parent(Parent, Child), Children).  
Parent = homer, Children = [bart, lisa, maggie] ? ;  
Parent = marge, Children = [bart, lisa, maggie] ? ;  
no
```

- The standard order of terms is used (see section 4.8.8.2)

*setof*

- Existential quantifiers can also be used with *setof*, with the same effect as with *bagof* (results will remain ordered and without repeats)

```
| ?- bagof(Child, Parent^parent(Parent, Child), Children).  
Children = [lisa, bart, maggie, lisa, bart, maggie] ? ;  
no
```

```
| ?- setof(Child, Parent^parent(Parent, Child), Children).  
Children = [bart, lisa, maggie] ? ;  
no
```

- If all variables in *Goal* but not in search *Term* are existentially quantified, then *setof* behaves like *findall* followed by *sort*

# Collecting Solutions

- Note that the Goal must be able to generate answers

```
| ?- findall(X, (X > 0, X < 6), L).  
! instantiation error in argument 1 of (>)/2  
! goal: _321>0
```

```
| ?- findall(X, between(1, 5, X), L).  
L = [1,2,3,4,5] ? ;  
no
```

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# Agenda

- Collecting Solutions
- Graphs and Search
- Binary Trees
- Puzzles and Games

# Data Structures

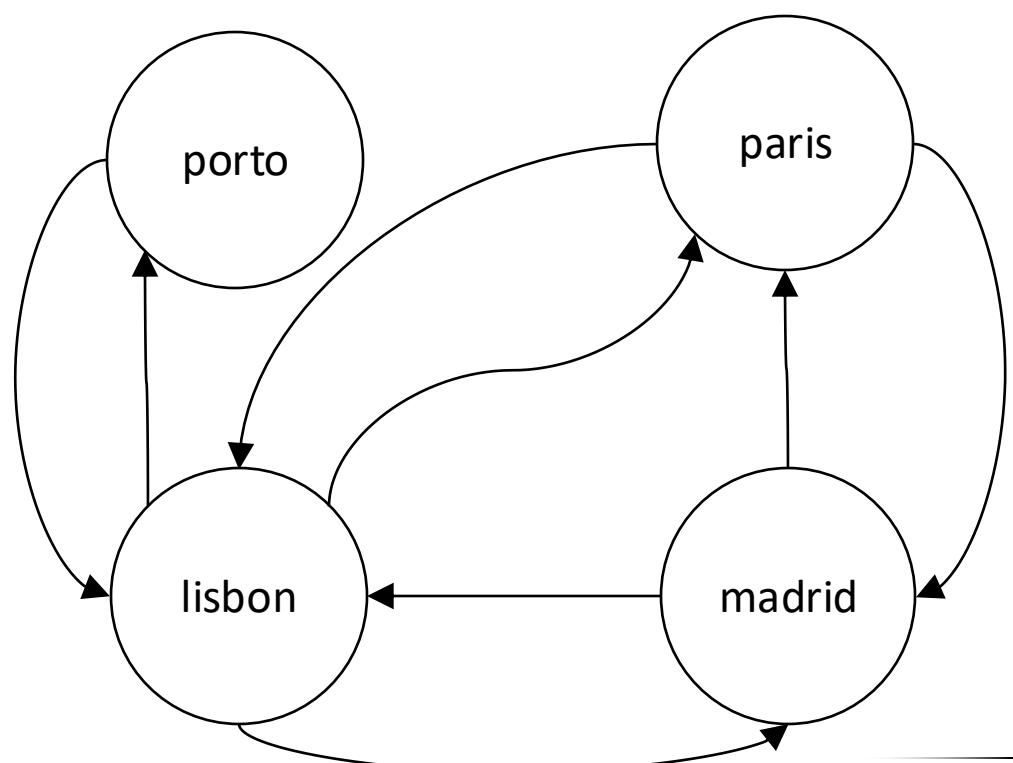
- Even though Prolog doesn't explicitly define types or data structures, terms can be used to do so
  - Unary predicates can be used to 'define a type'
    - The type *male* can be defined as the set of terms *X* such that *male(X)* is true
  - Simple types can be defined recursively
    - Lists, Trees, ...
  - *Pairs* are typically represented as *X-Y*
  - *Tuples* can be represented as *(X, Y, Z)*
    - However, a properly named functor should be used
  - More complex terms can be used to represent data structures

```
person(name(alice), age(20), city(porto)).
```

# Graphs and Search

Graphs can be represented as the connections between nodes - set of facts representing [directed] edges

```
connected(porto, lisbon).  
connected(lisbon, madrid).  
connected(lisbon, paris).  
connected(lisbon, porto).  
connected(madrid, paris).  
connected(madrid, lisbon).  
connected(paris, madrid).  
connected(paris, lisbon).
```



# Depth-First Search

Searching for a possible connection between nodes is made easy by Prolog's standard depth-first search mechanism

```
connected(porto, lisbon).  
connected(lisbon, madrid).  
connected(lisbon, paris).  
connected(lisbon, porto).  
connected(madrid, paris).  
connected(madrid, lisbon).  
connected(paris, madrid).  
connected(paris, lisbon).
```

```
connects_dfs(S, F) :-  
    connected(S, F).  
connects_dfs(S, F) :-  
    connected(S, N),  
    connects_dfs(N, F).  
  
| ?- connects_dfs(porto, madrid).  
yes  
| ?- connects_dfs(madrid, porto).
```

When does this approach fail?

# Depth-First Search

- Adapted solution with an accumulator to avoid loops

```
connected(porto, lisbon).  
connected(lisbon, madrid).  
connected(lisbon, paris).  
connected(lisbon, porto).  
connected(madrid, paris).  
connected(madrid, lisbon).  
connected(paris, madrid).  
connected(paris, lisbon).
```

```
connects_dfs(S, F) :-  
    connects_dfs(S, F, [S]).  
  
connects_dfs(F, F, _Path).  
connects_dfs(S, F, T) :-  
    connected(S, N),  
    not(memberchk(N, T)),  
    connects_dfs(N, F, [N|T]).  
  
| ?- connects_dfs(madrid, porto).  
yes  
What would we have to change to  
return the connecting path (route)?
```

# Breadth-First Search

- We can also easily create a BFS solution using *findall*

```
connected(porto, lisbon).      connects_bfs([F|_], F, _V) .  
connected(lisbon, madrid).     connects_bfs([S|R], F, V) :-  
connected(lisbon, paris).       findall( N,  
connected(lisbon, porto).       ( connected(S, N) ,  
connected(madrid, paris).      not(memberchk(N, V)) ,  
connected(madrid, lisbon).     not(memberchk(N, [S|R])) ) ,  
connected(paris, madrid).      L) ,  
connected(paris, lisbon).      append(R, L, NR) ,  
                                connects_bfs(NR, F, [S|V]) .
```

What would we have to change to *return* the connecting path (route)?

# Agenda

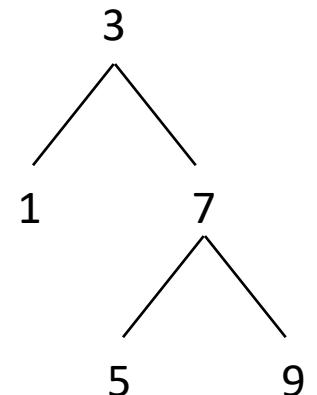
- Collecting Solutions
- Graphs and Search
- Binary Trees
- Puzzles and Games

# Binary Trees

- A binary tree can be recursively defined using node elements
  - Empty node represented as null
  - Other nodes as node (Value, Left, Right)
- Definition of a binary tree

```
binary_tree(null).
```

```
binary_tree( node(Value, Left, Right) ) :-  
    binary_tree(Left),  
    binary_tree(Right).
```



```
node(3, node(1, null, null),  
     node(7, node(5, null, null),  
          node(9, null, null) ) ) .
```

# Binary Trees

- Tree operations are easily implemented from this definition
  - Check if value is a member of the tree

```
tree_member(Val, node(Val, _L, _R) ).  
tree_member(Val, node(V, L, _R) ) :-  
    [Val < V,] tree_member(Val, L) .  
tree_member(Val, node(V, _L, R) ) :-  
    [Val > V,] tree_member(Val, R) .
```

[code] if we consider the tree  
to be a binary search tree

- List all tree elements (in-order traversal)

```
tree_list( null, [] ).  
tree_list( node(Val, L, R), List ) :-  
    tree_list(L, Left),  
    tree_list(R, Right),  
    append(Left, [Val|Right], List) .
```

# Binary Trees

- Verify if tree is ordered

```
tree_is_ordered(Tree) :-  
    tree_list(Tree, List),  
    sort(List, List).
```

- Insert an element into the tree

```
tree_insert( null, V, node(V, null, null) ).  
tree_insert( node(V, L, R), V, node(V, L, R) ).  
tree_insert( node(V, L, R), Val, node(V, NL, R) ) :-  
    Val < V, tree_insert( L, Val, NL ).  
tree_insert( node(V, L, R), Val, node(V, L, NR) ) :-  
    Val > V, tree_insert( R, Val, NR ).
```

# Binary Trees

- Determine the height of the tree

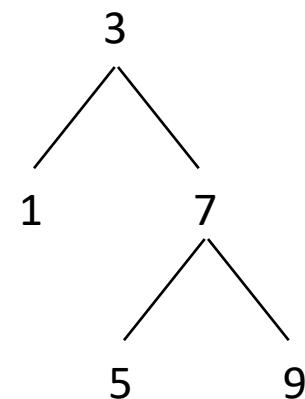
```
tree_height( null, 0 ).  
tree_height( node(Val, L, R), H) :-  
    tree_height(L, HL),  
    tree_height(R, HR),  
    H is 1 + max(HL, HR) .
```

- Check whether the tree is balanced

```
tree_is_balanced( null ).  
tree_is_balanced( node(Val, L, R) ) :-  
    tree_is_balanced(L),  
    tree_is_balanced(R),  
    tree_height(L, HL),  
    tree_height(R, HR),  
    abs(HL-HR) =< 1 .
```

# Binary Trees

```
| ?- test_tree(_T), tree_member(5, _T).  
yes  
| ?- test_tree(_T), tree_member(4, _T).  
no  
| ?- test_tree(_T), tree_list(_T, L).  
L = [1,3,5,7,9] ?  
yes  
| ?- test_tree(_T), tree_is_ordered(_T).  
yes  
| ?- test_tree(_T), tree_height(_T, H).  
H = 3 ?  
yes  
| ?- test_tree(_T), tree_is_balanced(_T).  
yes  
| ?- test_tree(_T), tree_insert(_T, 2, NT).  
NT = node(3,node(1,null,node(2,null,null)),node(7,node(5,null,null),node(9,null,null))) ?  
yes  
| ?- test_tree(_T), tree_insert(_T, 6, NT), tree_is_balanced(NT).  
no
```



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# Games and Puzzles

- Prolog (and search) can easily be used to search for a solution to one-person games or puzzles
- States are represented as the nodes of a graph
  - Initial state is the starting node
  - Winning conditions define the final nodes
- Movements are represented as the transitions between nodes
  - States don't need to be represented in extension
  - Transitions can specify new states based on the previous one and the move made

# Generic Solver

A generic [abstract] solver to one-person games/puzzles

```
initial(InitialState).  
  
final(State) :- winning_condition(State).  
  
move(OldState, NewState) :- valid_move(OldState, NewState).  
  
play(CurrSt, Path, Path) :- final(CurrSt), !.  
play(CurrSt, Path, States) :- move(CurrSt, Next),  
                           not(member(Next, Path)),  
                           play(Next, [Next|Path], States).  
  
play :- initial(Init),  
       play(Init, [Init], States),  
       reverse(States, Plays),  
       write(Plays).
```

# Games and Puzzles

Example: fill a 5-gallon jug with 4 gallons of water, using the 5-gallon jug and a 3-gallon jug

```
initial(0-0).  % Jug5-Jug3
```

```
final(4-_).
```

```
move(_-S, 5-S).  % fill jug 1
```

```
move(F-, F-3).  % fill jug 2
```

```
move(_-S, 0-S).  % empty jug 1
```

```
move(F-, F-0).  % empty jug 2
```

```
move(F-S, NF-NS) :- NF is max(0, F+S-3), NS is min(3, F+S).  % 1->2
```

```
move(F-S, NF-NS) :- NF is min(5, F+S), NS is max(0, F+S-5).  % 2->1
```



# Shortest Path

- To find the smallest set of plays we just need to find all paths and select the shortest one
  - Easily accomplished using *setof*

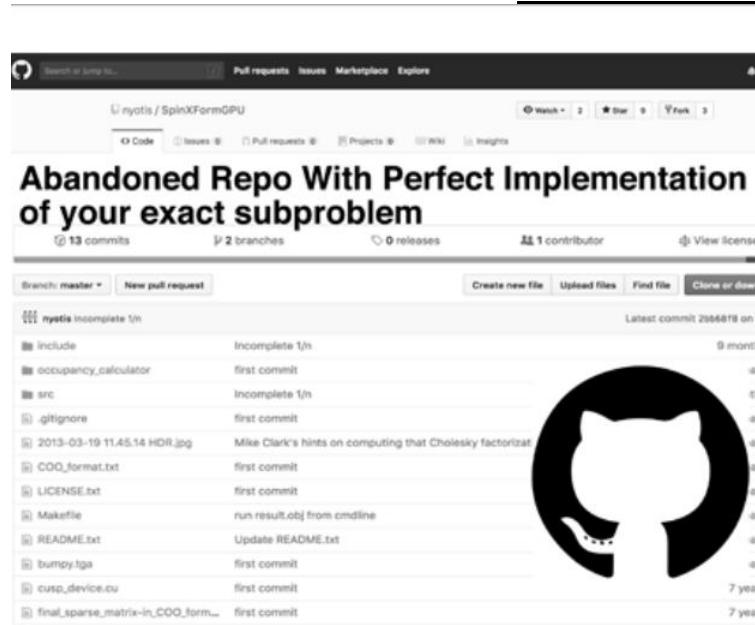
Is DFS the best way of doing this?

```
play:-    initial(Init),  
          setof(  
                  Length-Path,  
                  ( play(Init, [Init], Path),  
                    length(Path, Length) ),  
                  [_ShortestLength-States|_] ) ,  
          reverse(States, Path),  
          write(Path).
```

What if we wanted the path with the lowest cost?

How could we obtain all paths with shortest length?

# Q & A



But it is  
written in  
Prolog