Logic Programming and Prolog

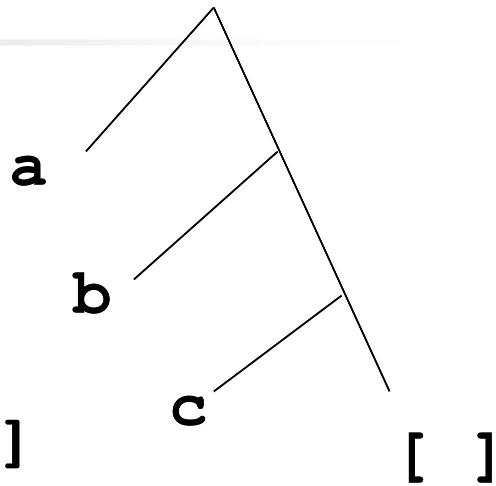
Keep reading: Scott, Chapter 12

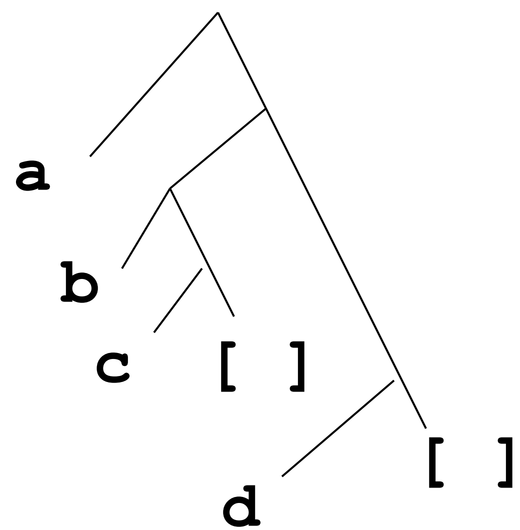
Lecture Outline

- Prolog
  - Lists
  - Programming with lists
  - Arithmetic

Lists

list	head	tail
`[a,b,c]`	`a`	`[b,c]`
`[X,[cat],Y]`	`X`	`[[cat],Y]`
`[a,[b,c],d]`	`a`	`[[b,c],d]`
`[X | Y]`	`X`	`Y`





Lists: Unification

- `[ H1 | T1 ] = [ H2 | T2 ]`
  - Head `H1` unifies with `H2`, possibly recursively
  - Tail `T1` unifies with `T2`, possibly recursively

- E.g., `[ a | [b, c] ] = [ X | Y ]`
  - `X = a`
  - `Y = [b, c]`
- NOTE: In Prolog, = denotes unification, not assignment!

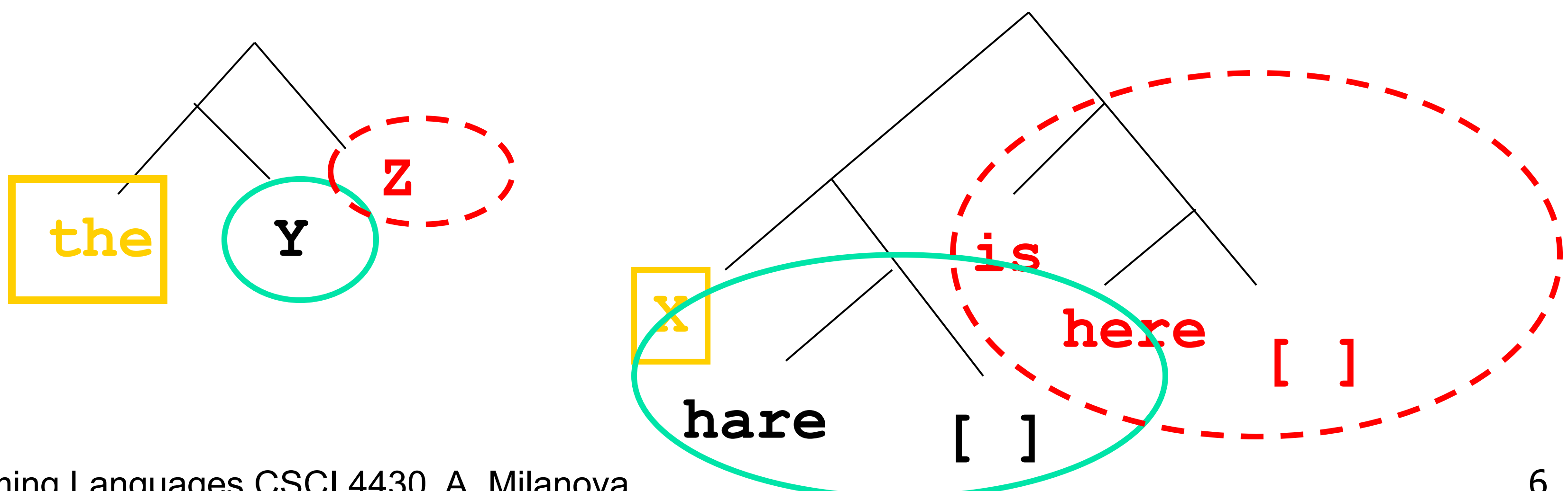
Question

- `[X,Y,Z] = [john, likes, fish]`
  - `X = john, Y = likes, Z = fish`
- `[cat] = [X | Y]`
  - `X = cat, Y = [ ]`
- `[[the, Y]|Z] = [[X, hare]|[is,here]]`
  - `X = the, Y = hare, Z = [is, here]`

Lists: Unification

- Sequence of comma separated terms, or
- [first term | rest_of_list]

```
[ [the | Y] | Z ]   = [ [X, hare] | [is, here] ]
```



Lists Unification

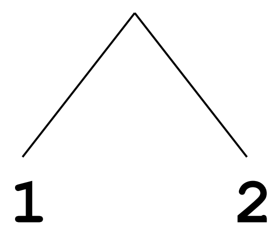
- Look at the trees to see how this works!

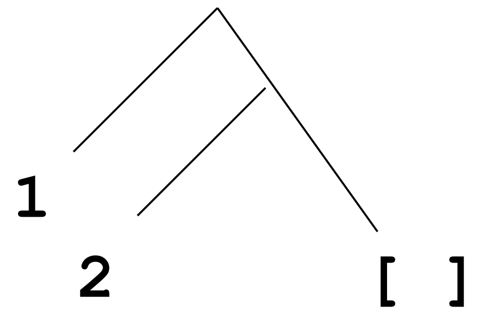
```
[ a, b, c ] = [ X | Y ]
  X = a, Y = [b,c].
```

```
[a | Z ] =? [ X | Y ]
  X = a, Y = Z.
```

Improper and Proper Lists

`[1 | 2]` versus `[1, 2]`





Question. Can we unify these lists?

`[abc, Y]   =?   [ abc | Y ]`

Answer: No. There is no value binding for **`Y`** that makes these two trees isomorphic

Aside: The Occurs check

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Member_of

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

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

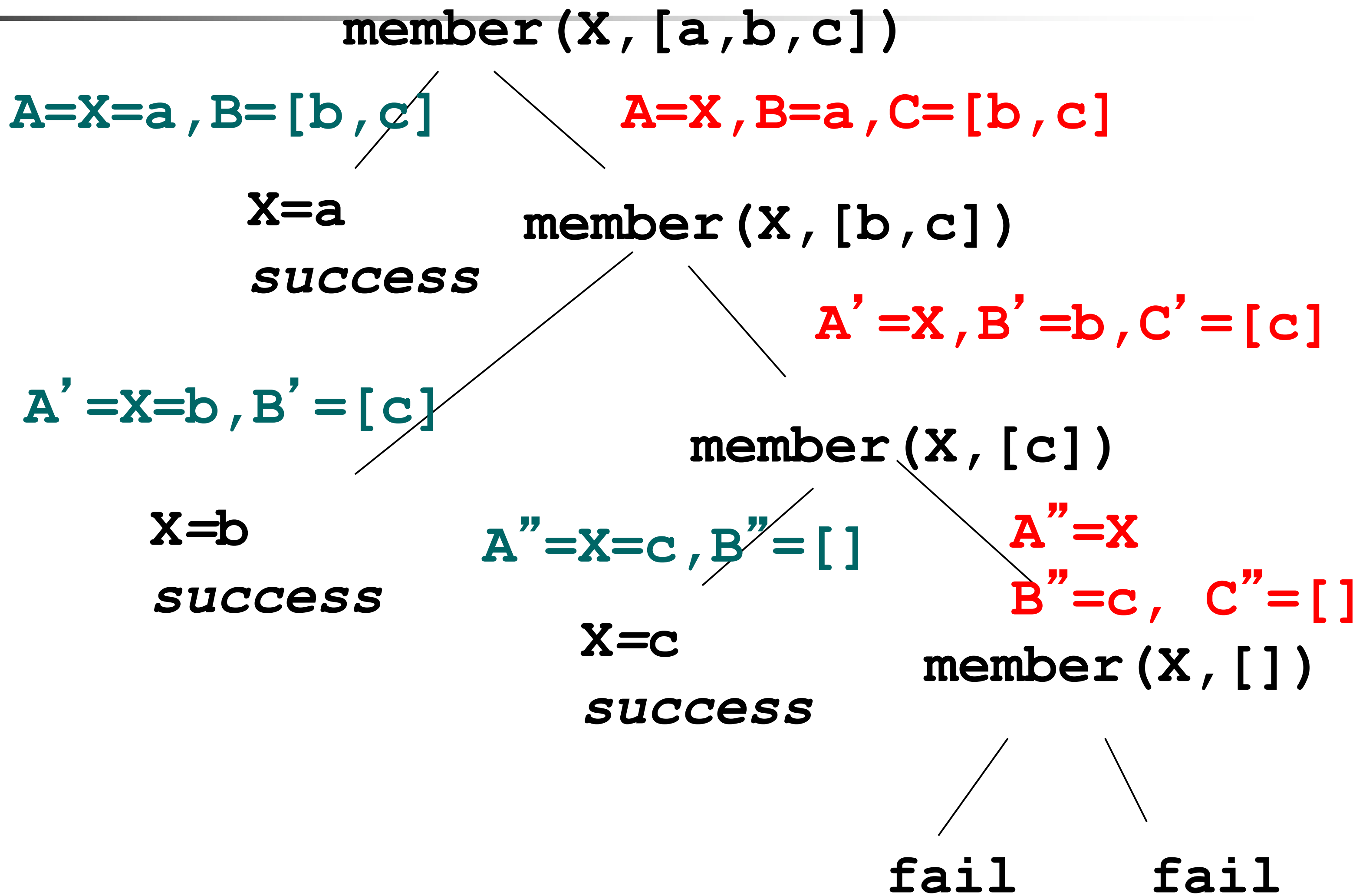
```
1. member(A, [A | B]).
2. member(A, [B | C]) :- member(A, C).
```

Member_of

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

```
1. member(A, [A | B]).
2. member(A, [B | C]) :- member (A, C).
```

Prolog Search Tree (OR levels only)




```
1. member(A, [A | B]).
2. member(A, [B | C]) :- member (A, C).
```

Member_of

```
member(A, [A|B]).
member(A, [B|C]) :- member(A,C).
```

logical semantics: For every **A,B** and **C** `member(A,[B|C])` if `member(A,C);`

procedural semantics: Head of clause is procedure entry. Tail of clause is procedure body; subgoals correspond to <u>calls</u>.

“Procedural” Interpretation

```
member(A, [A|B]).
member(A, [B|C]) :- member(A,C).
```

- **`member`** is a recursive “procedure”
- **`member(A, [A|B]).`** is the base case. “Procedure” exits with true if the element we are looking for, **`A`**, is the first element in the list. It exits with false if we have reached the end of the list
- **`member(A, [B|C]) :- member(A,C).`** is the recursive case. If element **`A`** is not the first element in the list, call member recursively with arguments **`A`** and tail **`C`**

Question

```
1. member(A, [A | B]).
2. member(A, [B | C]) :- member(A, C).
```

Give all answers to the following query:

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

Answer:

```
true ;
X = a ;
false.
```

Question

```
1. member(A, [A | B]).
2. member(A, [B | C]) :- member(A, C).
```

Give all answers to the following query:

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

Answer:

```
false.
```

Append

```
append([ ], A, A).
append([A|B], C, [A|D]) :- append(B,C,D).
```

- Build a list:

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

- Break a list into constituent parts:

```
?- append(X,Y,[a,b]).
  X = [], Y = [a,b]; X = [a], Y = [b];
  X = [a,b], Y = []; false.
```

More Append

```
append([ ], A, A).
append([A|B], C, [A|D]) :- append(B,C,D).
```

- Break a list into constituent parts

```
?- append(X,[b],[a,b]).
X = [ a ]
?- append([a],Y,[a,b]).
Y = [ b ]
```

More Append

```
? - append(X,Y,[a,b]).
X = [ ]
Y = [a,b] ;
X = [a]
Y = [b]   ;
X = [a,b]
Y = [ ]   ;
false.
```

Unbounded Arguments

- Generating an unbounded number of lists

```
?- append(X,[b],Y).
X = [ ]
Y = [b]   ;
X = [ _G604]
Y = [ _G604, b]    ;
X = [ _G604, _G610]
Y = [ _G604, _G610, b]   ;
Etc.
```

An underscore, “don’t care” variable.
Unifies with anything.
E.g., `bad(Dog) :- bites(Dog,_).`

- Be careful when using append with 2 unbounded arguments!

Question

- What does this “procedure” do:

```
p([],[]).
p([A|B],[[A]|Rest]) :- p(B,Rest).

   ?- p([a,b,c],Y).
   Y = [ [a],[b],[c] ]
```

- Can also “flatten” a list:

```
   ?- p(X,[[a],[b],[c]]).
   X = [ a,b,c ]
```

Common Structure

- “Processing” a list:

```
proc([],[]).
proc([H|T],[H1|T1]) :- f(H,H1),proc(T,T1).
```

- Base case: we have reached the end of list. In our case, the result for `[ ]` is `[ ]`.
- Recursive case: result is `[H1|T1]`. `H1` was obtained by calling `f(H,H1)` --- processes element `H` into result `H1`. `T1` is the result of recursive call of `proc` on `T`.

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Arithmetic

- Prolog has all arithmetic operators
- Built-in predicate `is`
  - `is(X, 1+3)` or more commonly we write
  - `X is 1+3`

  `is` forces evaluation of `1+3`:

  ```
  ?- X is 1+3
  X = 4
  ```
- `=` is unification not assignment!

  ```
  ?- X = 4-1.
  X = 4-1 % unifies X with 4-1!!!
  ```

Arithmetic: Pitfalls

- `is` is not invertible! That is, arguments on the right cannot be unbound!
  - `3 is 3 - X.`

```
ERROR: is/2: Arguments are not
  sufficiently instantiated
```

- This doesn't work either:

```
?- X is 4, X = X+1.
false.
```

Why? What's going on here?

Exercise

- Write **`sum`**, which takes a list of integers and computes the sum of the integers. E.g.,

  ```
  sum([1,2,3],R).
  ?- R = 6.
  ```

- How about if the integers are arbitrarily nested? E.g.,

  ```
  sum([[1],[[[2]],3]],R).
  ?- R = 6.
  ```

Exercise

Exercise

- Write `plus10`, which takes a list of integers and computes another list, where all integers are shifted +10. E.g.,

```
plus10([1,2,3],R).
?- R = [11,12,13].
```

- Write `len`, which takes a list and computes the length of the list. E.g.,

```
len([1,[2],3],R).
?- R = 3.
```

Exercise

- Write **`atoms`**, which takes a list and computes the number of atoms in the list. E.g.,

  ```
  atoms([a,[b,[[c]]]],R).
  ?- R = 3.
  ```

- Hint: built-in predicate **`atom(X)`** yields true if **`X`** is an atom (i.e., symbolic constant such as **`x`**, **`abc`**, **`tom`**).

The End