

*"Learning to program has no more to do with designing interactive software than learning to touch type has to do with writing poetry."*

*- T. Nelson.*

# CSE341

## Programming Languages

Lecture 9 – November 2019

Prolog

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Slides are taken from C. Li & W. He

## SWI-Prolog

- <http://www.swi-prolog.org/>
- Available for:  
Linux, Windows, MacOS

## Prolog

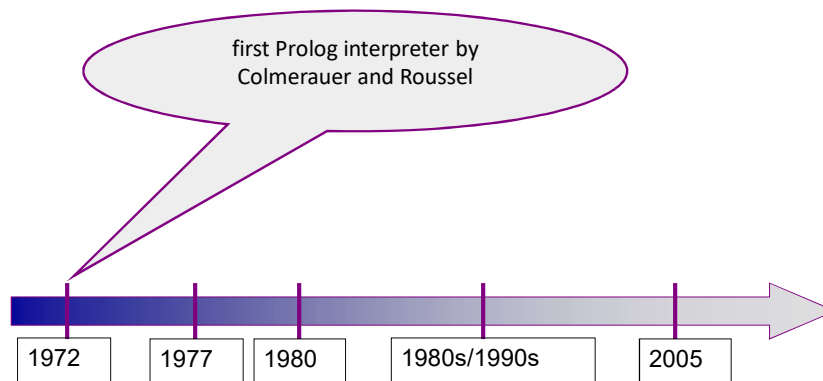
- Prolog:  
“Programming in Logic” (PROgrammation en LOGique)
- One (and maybe the only one) successful logic programming languages
- Useful in AI applications, expert systems, natural language processing, database query languages
- Declarative instead of procedural: “What” instead of “How”

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## History of Prolog

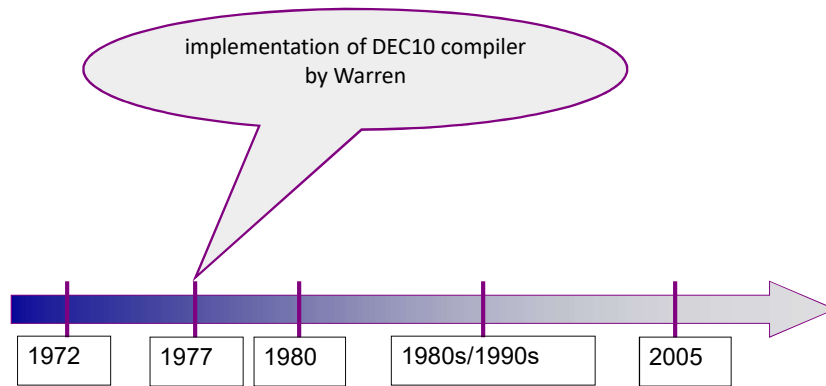


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## History of Prolog

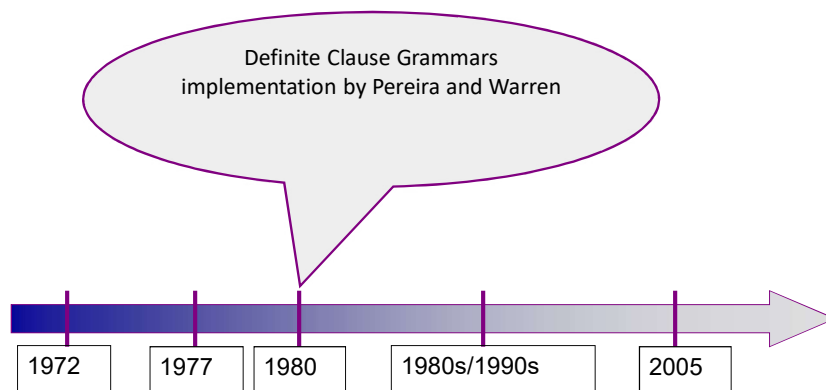


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## History of Prolog

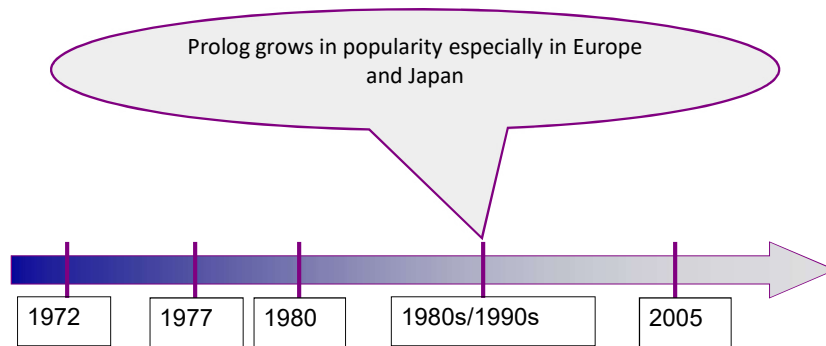


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## History of Prolog

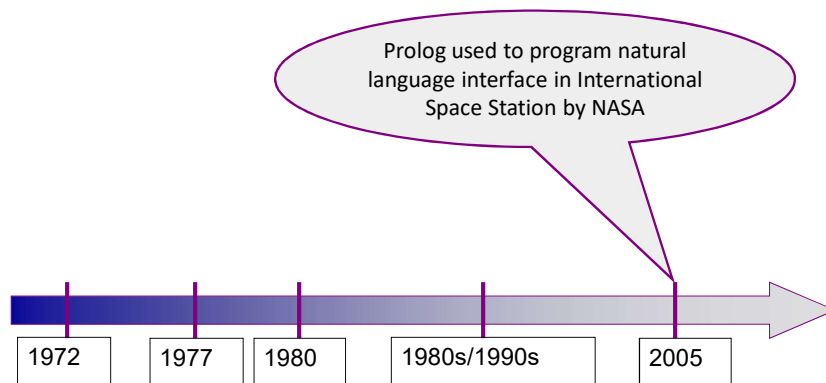


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## History of Prolog

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## Logic Programming

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- **Program**  
Axioms (facts): true statements
- **Input to Program**  
query (goal): statement true (theorems) or false?
- **Thus**  
Logic programming systems = deductive databases  
datalog

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## Example

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- **Axioms:**  
0 is a natural number. (Facts)  
For all  $x$ , if  $x$  is a natural number, then so is the successor of  $x$ .
- **Query (goal).**  
Is 2 natural number?      (can be proved by facts)  
Is -1 a natural number?    (cannot be proved)

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## Another Example

- **Axioms:**

The factorial of 0 is 1. (Facts)

If m is the factorial of n - 1, then n \* m is the factorial of n.

- **Query:**

The factorial of 2 is 3?

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## First-Order Predicate Calculus

- **Logic used in logic programming:**

First-order predicate calculus

First-order predicate logic

Predicate logic

First-order logic

$$\forall x (x \neq x+1)$$

- **Second-order logic**

$$\forall S \forall x (x \in S \vee x \notin S)$$

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# First-Order Logic: Review

Slides from Tuomas Sandholm of CMU

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## First-order Logic

- First-order logic (FOL) models the world in terms of
  - **Objects**, which are things with individual identities
  - **Properties** of objects that distinguish them from other objects
  - **Relations** that hold among sets of objects
  - **Functions**, which are a subset of relations where there is only one “value” for any given “input”
- Examples:
  - Objects: Students, lectures, companies, cars ...
  - Relations: Brother-of, bigger-than, outside, part-of, has-color, occurs-after, owns, visits, precedes, ...
  - Properties: blue, oval, even, large, ...
  - Functions: father-of, best-friend, second-half, one-more-than ...

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## User Provides

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- **Constant symbols**, which represent individuals in the world
  - Mary
  - 3
  - Green
- **Function symbols**, which map individuals to individuals
  - father-of(Mary) = John
  - color-of(Sky) = Blue
- **Predicate symbols**, which map individuals to truth values
  - greater(5,3)
  - green(Grass)
  - color(Grass, Green)

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## FOL Provides

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- **Variable symbols**
  - E.g.,  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $foo$
- **Connectives**
  - Same as in PL: not ( $\neg$ ), and ( $\wedge$ ), or ( $\vee$ ), implies ( $\rightarrow$ ), if and only if (biconditional  $\leftrightarrow$ )
- **Quantifiers**
  - Universal  $\forall x$  or (**Ax**)
  - Existential  $\exists x$  or (**Ex**)

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## Sentences built from Terms and Atoms

- A **term** (denoting a real-world individual) is a constant symbol, a variable symbol, or an n-place function of n terms.  
 $x$  and  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  are terms, where each  $x_i$  is a term.  
 A term with no variables is a **ground term**
- An **atomic sentence** (which has value true or false) is an n-place predicate of n terms
- A **complex sentence** is formed from atomic sentences connected by the logical connectives:  
 $\neg P, P \vee Q, P \wedge Q, P \rightarrow Q, P \leftrightarrow Q$  where  $P$  and  $Q$  are sentences
- A **quantified sentence** adds quantifiers  $\forall$  and  $\exists$
- A **well-formed formula (wff)** is a sentence containing no "free" variables. That is, all variables are "bound" by universal or existential quantifiers.  
 $(\forall x)P(x,y)$  has  $x$  bound as a universally quantified variable, but  $y$  is free.

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## A BNF for FOL

```

S := <Sentence> ;
<Sentence> := <AtomicSentence> |
    <Sentence> <Connective> <Sentence> |
    <Quantifier> <Variable>, ... <Sentence> |
    "NOT" <Sentence> |
    "(" <Sentence> ")";
<AtomicSentence> := <Predicate> "(" <Term>, ... ")" |
    <Term> "=" <Term>;
<Term> := <Function> "(" <Term>, ... ")" |
    <Constant> |
    <Variable>;
<Connective> := "AND" | "OR" | "IMPLIES" | "EQUIVALENT";
<Quantifier> := "EXISTS" | "FORALL" ;
<Constant> := "A" | "X1" | "John" | ... ;
<Variable> := "a" | "x" | "s" | ... ;
<Predicate> := "Before" | "HasColor" | "Raining" | ... ;
<Function> := "Mother" | "LeftLegOf" | ... ;

```

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## Quantifiers

- **Universal quantification**

- $(\forall x)P(x)$  means that  $P$  holds for **all** values of  $x$  in the domain associated with that variable
- E.g.,  $(\forall x) \text{dolphin}(x) \rightarrow \text{mammal}(x)$

- **Existential quantification**

- $(\exists x)P(x)$  means that  $P$  holds for **some** value of  $x$  in the domain associated with that variable
- E.g.,  $(\exists x) \text{mammal}(x) \wedge \text{lays-eggs}(x)$
- Permits one to make a statement about some object without naming it

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## Translating English to FOL

**Every gardener likes the sun.**

$\forall x \text{gardener}(x) \rightarrow \text{likes}(x, \text{Sun})$

**You can fool some of the people all of the time.**

$\exists x \forall t \text{person}(x) \wedge \text{time}(t) \rightarrow \text{can-fool}(x, t)$

**You can fool all of the people some of the time.**

$\forall x \exists t (\text{person}(x) \rightarrow \text{time}(t) \wedge \text{can-fool}(x, t))$

$\forall x (\text{person}(x) \rightarrow \exists t (\text{time}(t) \wedge \text{can-fool}(x, t)))$

← Equivalent

**All purple mushrooms are poisonous.**

$\forall x (\text{mushroom}(x) \wedge \text{purple}(x)) \rightarrow \text{poisonous}(x)$

**No purple mushroom is poisonous.**

$\neg \exists x \text{purple}(x) \wedge \text{mushroom}(x) \wedge \text{poisonous}(x)$

$\forall x (\text{mushroom}(x) \wedge \text{purple}(x)) \rightarrow \neg \text{poisonous}(x)$

← Equivalent

**There are exactly two purple mushrooms.**

$\exists x \exists y \text{mushroom}(x) \wedge \text{purple}(x) \wedge \text{mushroom}(y) \wedge \text{purple}(y) \wedge \neg(x=y) \wedge \forall z (\text{mushroom}(z) \wedge \text{purple}(z)) \rightarrow ((x=z) \vee (y=z))$

**Clinton is not tall.**

$\neg \text{tall}(\text{Clinton})$

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## First-Order Predicate Calculus: Example

- `natural(0)`  
 $\forall X, \text{natural}(X) \rightarrow \text{natural}(\text{successor}(x))$
- $\forall X \text{ and } Y, \text{parent}(X,Y) \rightarrow \text{ancestor}(X,Y).$   
 $\forall A, B, \text{ and } C, \text{ancestor}(A,B) \text{ and } \text{ancestor}(B,C) \rightarrow \text{ancestor}(A,C).$   
 $\forall X \text{ and } Y, \text{mother}(X,Y) \rightarrow \text{parent}(X,Y).$   
 $\forall X \text{ and } Y, \text{father}(X,Y) \rightarrow \text{parent}(X,Y).$   
`father(bill,jill).`  
`mother(jill,sam).`  
`father(bob,sam).`
- `factorial(0,1).`  
 $\forall N \text{ and } M, \text{factorial}(N-1,M) \rightarrow \text{factorial}(N,N*M).$

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## First-Order Predicate Calculus: Example

```
factorial(0,1).
factorial(1,1).
factorial(2,2).
factorial(3,6).
factorial(4,24).
factorial(5,120).
...
Factorial(100,...).
```

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## First-Order Predicate Calculus: Statements

### Symbols in statements:

- **Constants (a.k.a. atoms)**  
numbers (e.g., 0) or names (e.g., bill).
- **Predicates**  
Boolean functions (true/false) . Can have arguments. (e.g. `parent (X, Y)` ).
- **Functions**  
non-Boolean functions (`successor (X)` ).
- **Variables**  
e.g., `X`.
- **Connectives (operations)**  
and, or, not  
implication ( $\rightarrow$ ): `a  $\rightarrow$  b` (`b or not a`)  
equivalence ( $\leftrightarrow$ ): `a  $\leftrightarrow$  b` (`a  $\rightarrow$  b and b  $\rightarrow$  a`)

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## First-Order Predicate Calculus: Statements

- **Quantifiers**  
*universal quantifier* "for all"  $\forall$   
*existential quantifier* "there exists"  $\exists$   
*bound variable* (a variable introduced by a quantifier)  
*free variable*
- **Punctuation symbols**  
parentheses (for changing associativity and precedence.)  
comma  
period
- **Arguments to predicates and functions can only be *terms*:**
  - Contain constants, variables, and functions.
  - Cannot have predicates, qualifiers, or connectives.

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## Problem Solving

- Program = Data + Algorithms
- Program = Object.Message(Object)
- Program = Functions Functions
- Algorithm = Logic + Control

Programmers:  
facts/axioms/statements

Logic programming systems:  
prove goals from axioms

- We specify the logic itself, the system proves.
  - Not totally realized by logic programming languages. Programmers must be aware of how the system proves, in order to write efficient, or even correct programs.
- Prove goals from facts:
  - Resolution and Unification

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## Proving things

- A **proof** is a sequence of sentences, where each sentence is either a premise or a sentence derived from earlier sentences in the proof by one of the rules of inference.
- The last sentence is the **theorem** (also called goal or query) that we want to prove.
- Example for the “weather problem”

1 Hu	Premise	“It is humid”
2 $Hu \rightarrow Ho$	Premise	“If it is humid, it is hot”
3 Ho	Modus Ponens(1,2)	“It is hot”
4 $(Ho \wedge Hu) \rightarrow R$	Premise	“If it’s hot & humid, it’s raining”
5 $Ho \wedge Hu$	And Introduction(1,3)	“It is hot and humid”
6 R	Modus Ponens(4,5)	“It is raining”

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## Horn Clause

- First-order logic too complicated for an effective logic programming system.

- Horn Clause: a fragment of first-order logic

$b \leftarrow a_1 \text{ and } a_2 \text{ and } a_3 \dots \text{ and } a_n.$

head

body

no "or" and no quantifier

$b \leftarrow .$  fact

$\leftarrow b.$  query

- Variables in head: universally quantified  
Variables in body only: existentially quantified
- Need "or" in head? Multiple clauses

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## Horn Clauses: Example

- First-Order Logic:

$\text{natural}(0).$

$\forall X, \text{natural}(X) \rightarrow \text{natural}(\text{successor}(X)).$



- Horn Clause:

$\text{natural}(0).$

$\text{natural}(\text{successor}(X)) \leftarrow \text{natural}(X).$

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## Horn Clauses: Example

- **First-Order Logic:**

```
factorial(0,1).
 $\forall N \text{ and } \forall M, \text{ factorial}(N-1,M) \rightarrow \text{factorial}(N,N*M).$ 
```



- **Horn Clause:**

```
factorial(0,1).
factorial(N,N*M)  $\leftarrow$  factorial(N-1,M).
```

## Horn Clauses: Example

- **Horn Clause:**

```
ancestor(X,Y)  $\leftarrow$  parent(X,Y).
ancestor(A,C)  $\leftarrow$  ancestor(A,B) and ancestor(B,C).
parent(X,Y)  $\leftarrow$  mother(X,Y).
parent(X,Y)  $\leftarrow$  father(X,Y).
father(bill,jill).
mother(jill,sam).
father(bob,sam).
```

## Horn Clauses: Example

- First-Order Logic:

$\forall X, \text{mammal}(X) \rightarrow \text{legs}(X, 2) \text{ or } \text{legs}(X, 4).$



- Horn Clause:

$\text{legs}(X, 4) \leftarrow \text{mammal}(X) \text{ and not } \text{legs}(X, 2).$

$\text{legs}(X, 2) \leftarrow \text{mammal}(X) \text{ and not } \text{legs}(X, 4).$

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## Prolog syntax

- `:-` for `←`  
`,` for `and`

```
ancestor(X,Y) :- parent(X,Y).
ancestor(X,Y) :- ancestor(X,Z), ancestor(Z,Y).
parent(X,Y) :- mother(X,Y).
parent(X,Y) :- father(X,Y).
father(bill,jill).
mother(jill,sam).
father(bob,sam).
```

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## Prolog BNF Grammar

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```

<program> ::= <clause list> <query> | <query>
<clause list> ::= <clause> | <clause list> <clause>
<clause> ::= <predicate> . | <predicate> :- <predicate list> .
<predicate list> ::= <predicate> | <predicate list> , <predicate>
<predicate> ::= <atom> | <atom> ( <term list> )
<term list> ::= <term> | <term list> , <term>
<term> ::= <numeral> | <atom> | <variable> | <structure>
<structure> ::= <atom> ( <term list> )
<query> ::= ?- <predicate list> .
<atom> ::= <small atom> | ' <string> '
<small atom> ::= <lowercase letter> | <small atom> <character>
<variable> ::= <uppercase letter> | <variable> <character>
<lowercase letter> ::= a | b | c | ... | x | y | z
<uppercase letter> ::= A | B | C | ... | X | Y | Z | _
<numeral> ::= <digit> | <numeral> <digit>
<digit> ::= 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9
<character> ::= <lowercase letter> | <uppercase letter> |
    <digit> | <special>
<special> ::= + | - | * | / | \ | ^ | ~ | : | . | ? | | # | $ | &
<string> ::= <character> | <string> <character>

```

---

## Resolution and Unification

## Resolution

- Resolution: Using a clause, replace its head in the second clause by its body, if they “match”.

- $a \leftarrow a_1, \dots, a_n.$   
 $b \leftarrow b_1, \dots, b_i, \dots, b_m.$

if  $b_i$  matches  $a$ ;

$b \leftarrow b_1, \dots, a_1, \dots, a_n, \dots, b_m.$

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## Resolution: Another view

- Resolution: Combine two clauses, and cancel matching statements on both sides.

- $a \leftarrow a_1, \dots, a_n.$   
 $b \leftarrow b_1, \dots, b_i, \dots, b_m.$

~~$a$~~ ,  $b \leftarrow a_1, \dots, a_n, b_1, \dots, \del{b_i}, \dots, b_m.$

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## Problem solving in logic programming systems

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- **Program:**
  - Statements/Facts (clauses).
- **Goals:**
  - Headless clauses, with a list of **subgoals**.
- **Problem solving by resolution:**
  - Matching subgoals with the heads in the facts, and replacing the subgoals by the corresponding bodies.
  - Cancelling matching statements.
  - Recursively do this, till we eliminate all goals. (Thus original goals proved.)

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## Example

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- **Program:**

```
mammal (human) .
```
- **Goal:**

```
← mammal (human) .
```
- **Proving:**

```
mammal/(human) ← mammal/(human) .
      ← .
```

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## Example

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- Program:

```
legs(X,2) ← mammal(X), arms(X,2).
legs(X,4) ← mammal(X), arms(X,0).
mammal(horse).
arms(horse,0).
```

- Goal:

```
← legs(horse,4).
```

- Proving: ?

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## Unification

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- Unification: Pattern matching to make statements identical (when there are variables).
- Set variables equal to patterns: **instantiated**.
- In previous example:  
**legs(X,4) and legs(horse,4) are unified.**  
**(X is instantiated with horse.)**

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## Unification: Example

- Euclid's algorithm for greatest common divisor

- Program:

```
gcd(U, 0, U) .
gcd(U, V, W) ← not zero(V), gcd(V, U mod V, W) .
```

- Goals:

```
← gcd(15, 10, X) .
```

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## Unification: Example

```
gcd(U, 0, U) .
gcd(U, V, W) ← not zero(V), gcd(V, U mod V, W) .
```

1. `gcd(15, 10, X)` does not match the first clause...

2. `gcd(15, 10, X)` matches the second clause

1. `← not zero(10), gcd(10, 15 mod 10, X)`
2. `← gcd(10, 5, X)`
3. `← not zero(5), gcd(5, 10 mod 5, X)`
4. `← gcd(5, 0, X)`

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## Things unspecified

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- The order to resolve subgoals.
- The order to use clauses to resolve subgoals.
- Possible to implement systems that don't depend on the order, but too inefficient.
- Thus programmers must know the orders used by the language implementations. (Search Strategies)

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## Example

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- **Program:**

```

ancestor(X,Y) :- ancestor(X,Z), parent(Z,Y).
ancestor(X,Y) :- parent(X,Y).
parent(X,Y) :- mother(X,Y).
parent(X,Y) :- father(X,Y).
father(bill,jill).
mother(jill,sam).
father(bob,sam).

```
- **Goals:**

```

← ancestor(bill,sam).
← ancestor(X,bob).

```

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## Prolog Search Strategy

- Applies resolution in strictly linear fashion
  - Replacing goals left to right
  - Considering clauses top to bottom order
- ➔ A depth-first search on a tree of possible choices...

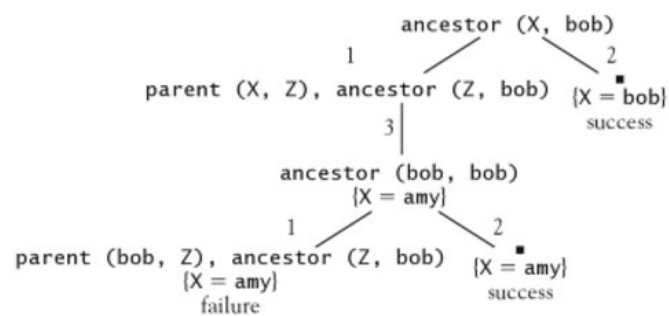
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## Prolog Search Strategy

```
(1) ancestor(X, Y) :- parent(X, Z), ancestor(Z, Y).
(2) ancestor(X, X).
(3) parent(amy, bob).
```



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## Prolog Loops and Controls...

```
printpieces(L) :-append(X, Y, L),
                write(X),
                write(Y),
                nl,
                fail.
```

```
?- printpieces([1, 2]).
```

```
[] [1,2]
[1] [2]
[1,2] []
no
```

Backtracking...

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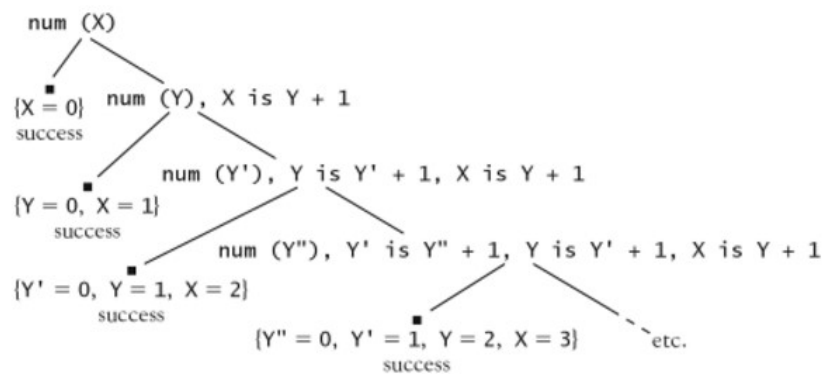
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## Prolog Loops and Controls...

(1) num(0) .

(2) num(X) :- num(Y), X is Y + 1.



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