



DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATICS ENGINEERING

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

# Functional and Logic Programming

Bachelor in Informatics and Computing Engineering 2021/2022 - 1st Semester

Introduction to Prolog

# Agenda

- Prolog
- Facts and Rules
- Queries
- How Prolog works
- Arithmetic
- Recursion
  - Recursion
    - Recursion
      - Recursion
- Lists

# Prolog

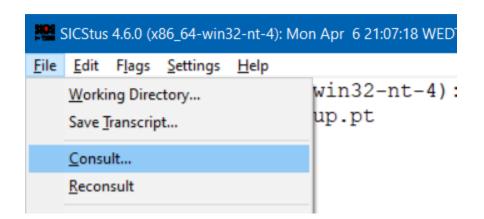
- Prolog is the most widely used logic programming language
  - There are some language dialects, such as Edinburgh Prolog, and also a standardization ISO Prolog
- There are several Prolog systems, both free and commercial
  - Some of the most popular are SICStus Prolog and SWI-Prolog
  - Another notable system is YAP, developed at DCC, FCUP

In this course, we'll be using SICStus Prolog v 4.7 (link to installer and keys are available in Moodle)

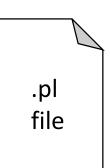
# Prolog

- Write your code in a text file with a .pl extension
  - Use the text editor of your choice
- In SICStus, load it using the File -> Consult... Menu
  - Or call directly on SICStus:

```
| ?- consult('path/to/file.pl').
```



Alternatively, you can use SPIDER (SICStus Prolog IDE, based on Eclipse)



## **Prolog Programs**

- A Prolog program is a finite set of predicates
  - Predicates use facts and rules to express knowledge as relations
  - Relations are generalizations of functions
    - Usually more versatile, usable in multiple directions
- A computation is a proof of a goal from a program
  - Using [a form of] SLD resolution with a unification algorithm
- A correct program does not allow the deduction of unwanted facts
- A complete program allows the deduction of everything intended

#### **Terms**

- Everything in Prolog is a *term*, which can be a *constant*, a *variable* or a *compound term*
- Constants represent elementary objects
  - Numbers
    - Integers (eg. 4, -8) (bases other than decimal can also be used, eg. 8'755)
    - Floats (eg. 1.5, -1.6) (also supports exponent, eg. 23.4E-2)

#### Atoms

- Start with lower-case letter (eg. john\_doe, johnSmith42)
- String within single quotes (eg. 'John Doe', 'John Smith 42')

#### **Terms**

- Variables act as placeholders for arbitrary terms
  - Start with a capital letter (eg. Variable1)
  - Start with an underscore (eg. \_Var2)
  - Single underscore (\_) (anonymous variable)
- Compound terms are comprised of a *functor* and *arguments* (which are terms)
  - The functor is characterized by its *name* (an atom) and *arity* (the number of arguments), usually represented as *name/arity*
  - Eg. point/2 represents a functor named *point* with two arguments
    - point(4, 2) is a possible instance of point/2, and so is point(foo, point(3, bar))

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#### **Facts**

- Facts express a relation that is true
  - You can (kind of) interpret them as lines in a database table

```
male(homer). % homer is a male
female(marge). % marge is a female
father(homer, bart). % homer is the father of bart
mother(marge, bart). % marge is the mother of bart
```

Arguments between parentheses and separated by commas

Predicate (relation) names start with lowercase letter

#### **Semantics**

• The semantics (interpretation) needs to be defined and shared

```
father(homer, bart). % homer is the father of bart
father(homer, bart). % the father of homer is bart
```

 This inherent ambiguity only highlights the importance of using appropriate and descriptive names as well as code comments

```
% single-line comment
/* multi-line
   comment */
```

Naming conventions and code comments represent a part of the evaluation of the practical assignment

#### Rules

- Rules allow for the deduction of new knowledge from existing knowledge (facts and other rules)
  - Rules are expressed in the form of Horn Clauses:
    - Head :- Body

```
grandfather(X, Y):- father(X, Z), parent(Z, Y). % X is the grandfather of Y
% if X is the father of Z
neck and % and Z is a parent of Y
```

%multiple definitions of a rule with the same head: rule one **or** rule two **or**... parent(X, Y):- father(X, Y). % X is a parent of Y if X is the father of Y parent(X, Y):- mother(X, Y). % X is a parent of Y if X is the mother of Y

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## Disjunction

• Disjunction can also be expressed with the; operator

- The disjunction operator (;) should be used sparingly
  - Always use parentheses to clarify

#### Rules

- Rules have both a declarative and a procedural interpretation
  - Declarative interpretation

```
grandfather(X, Y):- % X is the grandfather of Y father(X, Z), % if X is the father of Z parent(Z, Y). % and Z is a parent of Y
```

Procedural interpretation

```
grandfather(X, Y):- % to solve grandfather(X,Y)
  father(X, Z), % first solve father(X, Z)
  parent(Z, Y). % and then parent(Z, Y)
  % (solve = execute)
```

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### Rules

• The head of a rule can have 0 or more arguments

```
parent(X, Y):- father(X, Y). % X is a parent of Y if X is the father of Y
fathers:- father(X, Y). % fathers is true if there is a(t least one)
% father/child relation
```

A rule with no arguments is a good entry point to a program

## Variables in Programs

Variables are universally instantiated in logic programs

```
plus(0, S, S). % 0 is the neutral element of addition mult(1, V, V). % 1 is the neutral element of multiplication human(Homer). % everything is human father(homer, Bart) % homer is the father of everything grandfather(X, Y):- father(X, Z), parent(Z, Y).
```

Variables occurring only in the body of a rule can be seen as existentially quantified

We need to be careful when using variables with facts

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## Queries

- Computations in Prolog start with a question, which has two possible answers:
  - Yes (possible with answer substitution variable binding)
  - No
- The attempt to prove the question right/wrong (is it a consequence of the program?) produces the computations

```
| ?- male(homer).
yes
| ?- female(marge).
yes
| ?- father(homer, bart).
yes
| ?- father(marge, bart).
yes
```

## Variables in Queries

- Queries can include variables
  - Variables are existentially quantified in queries
- A variable starting with an underscore is a 'don't care'

If satisfied with the answer, just hit enter If you want another answer, type 'n', 'no' or ';'

## Variables and Compound Queries

- Queries can be more complex, combining goals
- Variables are used to glue together the different goals
  - Underscore alone (\_) is the exception

Why the duplicates?

Just wait a few slides!

## **Closed World Assumption**

- Assumption that everything that is true is known to be true (ie, is represented as a clause in the program)
- Therefore, everything that cannot be deduced from the clauses in the program is assumed to be false

```
| ?- male(donald).
no
```

 Requires attention to make sure everything we want to deduce can be deduced from the program clauses

## **Coding Efficiency Considerations**

Use implicit unification instead of additional variables

```
change_player(X, Y):- X = 1, Y = 2.
change_player(X, Y):- X = 2, Y = 1.
```

Should instead be written as

```
change_player(1, 2).
change player(2, 1).
```

- Always place input arguments before output arguments
  - SICStus indexes predicates by their first argument

= is the unification operator (kind of '[possibly] equal');
\= (not unifiable) can be interpreted as 'can't be equal'

## Coding Style Considerations

- Although white space and code indentation are meaningless, there are some coding style guidelines you should consider following, to increase code readability:
  - Indent the code consistently
  - Put each sub-goal on a separate, indented line
  - Use human-readable names for predicates and variables
  - Try to limit the length of code lines and number of lines per clause
  - ...

See Covington et al. (2012). Coding Guidelines for Prolog. Theory and Practice of Logic Programming, 12(6): 889-927

#### Horn Clauses

- Everything in Prolog is expressed as a Horn Clause
  - Rules are complete horn clauses (head :- body)

```
parent (X, Y) := father(X, Y).
```

• Fact are horn clauses where the body is always true (just the head)

```
male(homer):-true \Leftrightarrow male(homer).
```

Queries are horn clauses without a head (just the body)

```
?- father(X, bart).
```

#### **Predicates**

- A predicate is a set of clauses for the same functor
  - Clauses are either facts or rules
- Functors with the same name but different arity are different predicates

```
father(X):- father(X, Y). % X is a father
% if X is the father of some Y
```

#### **Documentation**

- Documentation should include a mode declaration for each argument:
  - + (input): the argument is instantiated when the predicate is called
  - - (output): the argument is not instantiated in the predicate call
  - ? (in/out): the argument can be instantiated or not

```
% square(+number, -square) % calculates the square
% of a given number
% parent(?parent, ?child) % parent/child relation
```

One of the most powerful properties of Prolog is its versatility

## **Prolog Versatility**

- The versatility of Prolog can be seen in most predicates:
  - For instance, parent/2 allows:
    - Confirming that two given people are parent/child
    - Obtaining the children of a given person
    - Obtaining the parents of a given person
    - Obtaining all parent/child pairs
  - In most other languages, we would need to implement four different functions to achieve this, or include extra logic to test instantiation

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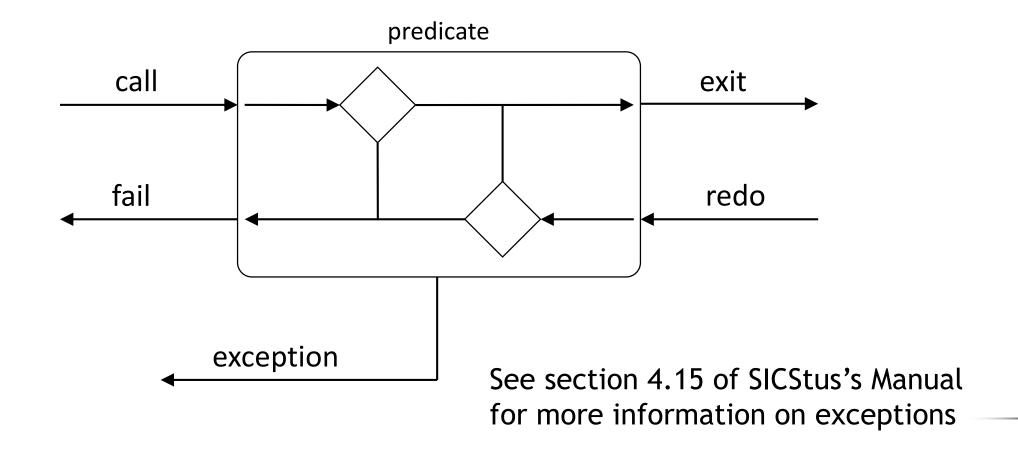
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## How Prolog Works

- Prolog's mechanics work
  - Top to bottom
    - The order of clauses is important
  - Left to right
    - In rules, prove sub-goals in left-to-right order
  - With backtracking
    - If a sub-goal fails, go back to previous decision point

## The Prolog Box Model

Each call to a goal can be modelled as a four-gate box model



## Tracing

- Trace mode allows us to follow the computations step by step
  - Can be activated from the menu Flags -> Debugging -> trace
  - Or in the code, by calling *trace* 
    - Disable it by calling notrace

See section 5 of SICStus's Manual for more information on Trace and Debugging

## Tracing

Trace message format:

```
N S InvID Depth Port: Goal ?
```

- N (only visible at Exit ports) indicates that the goal call may backtrack to find alternative solutions
- S indicates the existence of a spypoint
- InvID (Invocation ID) is a unique identifier for each goal (can be used to match messages from the various ports)
- Depth is an indication of the general call depth
- Port is one of Call, Exit, Redo, Fail or Exception
- Goal is the current goal of the computation

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#### Arithmetic

- Arithmetic expressions are not evaluated immediately
  - Example: A = 4+2 unifies A with the term +(4, 2), not the value 6
- The *is* predicate can be used to evaluate an arithmetic expression

• The right-side of is needs to be instantiated

```
| ?- C is 4+B.
! Instantiation error in argument 2 of (is)/2
! goal: _419 is 4+_427
```

```
| ?- A = 4+2.

A = 4+2 ?

yes

| ?- B is 4+2.

B = 6 ?

yes

| ?- 6 is 4+2.

yes

| ?- 4+2 is 4+2.
```

See section 4.7 of the SICStus Manual for more information on Arithmetic

#### Arithmetic

- Arithmetic expressions can be compared for (in)equality
  - Expr1 =:= Expr2 evaluates both expressions and if they are equal
  - Expr1 =\= Expr2 evaluates both expressions and if they are different
  - Comparison

$$E1 = < E2$$

Prolog can also compare and order terms

- Term1 == Term2 verifies whether the two terms are literally identical
- Term1 \== Term2 checks if the two terms are not literally identical

#### Arithmetic

- There are several functions available
  - X+Y, X-Y, X\*Y, X/Y (float quotient)
  - X//Y is the integer quotient, truncated towards 0
  - X div Y is the integer quotient (rounded down)
  - X rem Y is integer remainder: X-Y\*(X//Y)
  - X mod Y is integer remainder: X-Y\*(X div Y)
  - Many other functions
    - round(X), truncate(X), floor(X), ceiling(X)
    - abs(X), sign(X), min(X, Y), max(X, Y)
    - sqrt(X), log(X), exp(X), X \*\* Y, X ^ Y
    - sin(X), cos(X), tan(X), ...

```
| ?- A is 5 // 2.
yes
| ?- A is -5 // 2.
A = -2 ?
yes
| ?- A is 5 div 2.
A = 2?
yes
| ?- A is -5 div 2.
A = -3?
yes
| ?- A is 5 rem 2.
A = 1 ?
yes
| ?- A is -5 rem 2.
A = -1 ?
yes
| ?- A is 5 mod 2.
A = 1 ?
yes
 | ?- A is -5 mod 2.
A = 1 ?
yes
```

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#### Natural Numbers

- Arithmetic in Prolog deviates from pure Logic Programming
  - It is, however, necessary for efficiency
- A more 'logical' representation of (natural) numbers
  - 0 is natural
  - The successor of X s(X) is natural if X is natural
    - 0, s(0), s(s(0)), s(s(s(0))), ...

```
natural_number(0).
natural_number(s(X)):- natural_number(X).
```

## Adding Natural Numbers

• Addition can then be seen as a ternary relation

```
| ?- plus(s(s(0)), s(0), Z).

Z = s(s(s(0))) ?
| ?- plus(s(s(0)), Y, s(s(s(0)))).
Y = s(0) ?
| ?- plus( X, s(0), s(s(s(0)))).
X = s(s(0)) ?
| ?- plus(X, Y, s(s(0))).
X = 0,
Y = s(s(0)) ?;
X = s(s(0)),
Y = 0 ? :
no
```

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Some relations are recursive

- Recursion is based on the inductive proof
  - One or more base clauses
  - One or more recursion clauses

The order of clauses and goals may influence performance, or even cause infinite computations

 Example: sum all numbers between 1 and N

```
% Base clause
```

- % Guard make sure we don't
- % have infinite recursion
- % Recursive call

 Example: sum all numbers between 1 and N

```
sumN(0, 0).
sumN(N, Sum):- N > 0,

N1 is N-1,
sumN(N1, Sum1),
Sum is Sum1 + N.
```

```
?- sumN(2, Sum).
               1 Call: sumN(2, 925) ?
               2 Call: 2>0 ?
               2 Exit: 2>0 ?
               2 Call: 1935 is 2-1 ?
               2 Exit: 1 is 2-1 ?
               2 Call: sumN(1, 1955) ?
               3 Call: 1>0 ?
               3 Exit: 1>0 ?
               3 Call: 6589 is 1-1 ?
               3 Exit: 0 is 1-1 ?
               3 Call: sumN(0,_6609) ?
               3 Exit: sumN(0,0) ?
               3 Call: 1955 is 0+1 ?
               3 Exit: 1 is 0+1 ?
               2 Exit: sumN(1,1) ?
               2 Call: 925 is 1+2 ?
               2 Exit: 3 is 1+2 ?
               1 Exit: sumN(2,3) ?
Sum = 3?
```

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#### Tail Recursion

- Tail Recursion can increase efficiency
  - Add a new argument to the predicate: the accumulator
  - Make the recursive call the last call

To increase efficiency, we actually need to add a *cut* in the base clause - we'll see this operator 'next' week

#### Tail Recursion

```
?- trace, sumN(2, S), notrace.
% The debugger will first creep -- showing everything
               1 Call: sumN(2, 941) ?
               2 Call: 2>0 ?
               2 Exit: 2>0 ?
               2 Call: 2067 is 2-1 ?
               2 Exit: 1 is 2-1 ?
               2 Call: sumN(1,_2087) ?
               3 Call: 1>0 ?
               3 Exit: 1>0 ?
               3 Call: 6721 is 1-1 ?
               3 Exit: 0 is 1-1 ?
               3 Call: sumN(0, 6741) ?
               3 Exit: sumN(0,0) ?
               3 Call: 2087 is 0+1 ?
               3 Exit: 1 is 0+1 ?
               2 Exit: sumN(1,1) ?
               2 Call: 941 is 1+2 ?
               2 Exit: 3 is 1+2 ?
               1 Exit: sumN(2,3) ?
       10
               1 Call: notrace ?
% The debugger is switched off
S = 3 ?
yes
```

```
?- trace, sumN(2, S, 0), notrace.
% The debugger will first creep -- showing
               1 Call: sumN(2,_941,0) ?
               2 Call: 2>0 ?
               2 Exit: 2>0 ?
               2 Call: 2111 is 2-1 ?
               2 Exit: 1 is 2-1 ?
               2 Call: 2129 is 0+2 ?
               2 Exit: 2 is 0+2 ?
               2 Call: sumN(1, 941,2) ?
               3 Call: 1>0 ?
               3 Exit: 1>0 ?
               3 Call: 8679 is 1-1 ?
               3 Exit: 0 is 1-1 ?
               3 Call: 8697 is 2+1 ?
               3 Exit: 3 is 2+1 ?
               3 Call: sumN(0, 941,3) ?
               3 Exit: sumN(0,3,3) ?
               2 Exit: sumN(1,3,2) ?
               1 Exit: sumN(2,3,0) ?
       10
               1 Call: notrace ?
% The debugger is switched off
S = 3 ?
yes
```

# Agenda

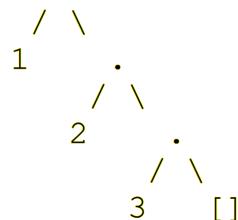
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- Lists are the quintessential data structure in Prolog
- Empty list represented as []
- Elements separated by commas within square brackets
  - [a, b, c]
  - [4, 8, 15, 16, 23, 42]
- Lists elements can be anything, including other lists
  - [2, [a, b, c], [3, [x, y], 4], 5]

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 The internal representation uses the . functor and two arguments - the head and tail of the list



Strings are a representation of lists of character ASCII codes

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

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- 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).
```

## 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

Actually, there's a small caveat with this solution. Can you find it? (homework)

```
| ?- 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, B],
S = 2 ? :
L = [A, B, C],
s = 3?
yes
```

## List Membership

- member(?Elem, ?List)
  - List member (very flexible)
- memberchk(?Elem, ?List)
  - Member verification (determinate)

Can also be easily implemented recursively

```
| ?- member(2, [1,2,3]).

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!

• 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 10.24 of the SICStus Manual for a complete description of available predicates

- 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)
  - select(?X, ?XList, ?Y, ?YList)
  - delete(+List, +ToDel, -Rest) / delete(+List, +ToDel, + Count, -Rest)
  - last(?Init, ?Last, ?List)
  - segment(?List, ?Segment)
  - sublist(+List, ?Part, ?Before, ?Length, ?After)

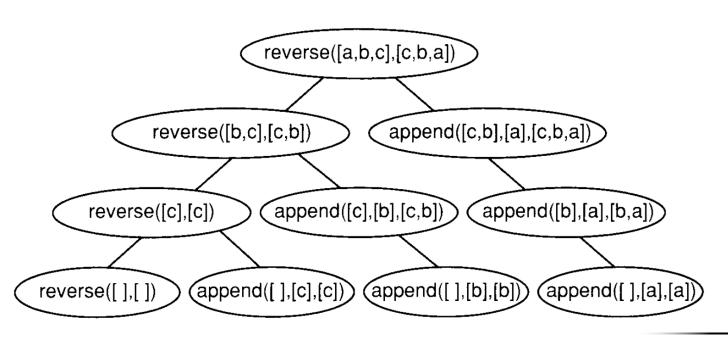
- append(+ListOfLists, -List)
- reverse(?List, ?Reversed)
- rotate\_list(+Amount, ?List, ?Rotated)
- transpose(?Matrix, ?Transposed)
- remove\_dups(+List, ?PrunedList)
- permutation(?List, ?Permutation)
- sumlist(+ListOfNumbers, ?Sum)
- max\_member(?Max, +List) / min\_member(?Min, +List)
- max\_member(:Comp, ?Max, +List) / min\_member(:Comp, ?Min, +L)

- maplist(:Pred, +L) / maplist(:Pr, +L1, ?L2) / maplist(:Pr, +L1, ?L2, ?L3)
- map\_product(:Pred, +Xs, +Ys, ?List)
- scanlist(:Pred, +Xs, ?Start, ?Final)
- cumlist(:Pred, +Xs, ?Start, ?List)
- some(:Pred, +List) / some(:Pred, +Xs, ?Ys) / some(:Pr, +Xs, ?Ys, ?Zs)
- include(:P, +X, ?L) / include(:P, +X, +Y, ?L) / include(:P, +X, +Y, +Z, ?L)
- exclude(:P, +X, ?L) / exclude(:P, +X,+Y, ?L) / exclude(:P, +X,+Y,+Z, ?L)
- group(:Pred, +List, ?Front, ?Back)

- 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).
```

 Size of proof tree is <u>quadratic</u> to the number of elements in the list

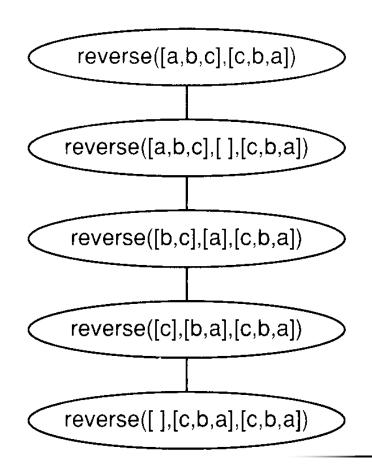


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• We can use an accumulator (tail recursion) to reverse the list

```
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
- Now the process is <u>linear</u> to the number of elements in the list



# **Additional Readings**

## Prolog

- Leon Sterling and Ehud Shapiro (1994). The Art of Prolog. The MIT Press (2<sup>nd</sup> ed). ISBN: 978-0262691635
- Krzysztof R. Apt (1996). From Logic Programming to Prolog. Prentice Hall. ISBN: 978-0132303682
- Patrick Blackburn, Johan Bos and Kristina Striegnitz (2006). Learn Prolog Now! College Publications. ISBN: 978-1904987178
- Max Bramer (2013). Logic Programming with Prolog. Springer (2<sup>nd</sup> ed). ISBN: 978-1447154860

# Q & A

