

Arithmetic in Prolog

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M. Arzaki

Computing Laboratory, School of Computing
Telkom University

SoC Tel-U

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Acknowledgements

This slide is compiled using the materials in the following sources:

Books:

- ① P. Blackburn, J. Bos, K. Striegnitz, *Learn Prolog Now!* (Chapter 1-6, 10,11), London: College Publications ([available online](#)), 2006. **[LPN]**
- ② M. Bramer, *Logic Programming with Prolog* (Chapter 1-9), 2nd Edition, Springer, 2013. **[LPwP]**
- ③ I. Bratko, *Prolog Programming for Artificial Intelligence* (Chapter 1-3, 5,6,8,9), Pearson Education, 2001. ([advanced reference](#)). **[PPAI]**
- ④ K. H. Rosen, *Discrete Mathematics and Its Applications* (Chapter1), 7th Edition, 2012.
- ⑤ M. Ben-Ari, *Mathematical Logic for Computer Science* (Logic Programming Sections), 2nd Edition, 2000.

Lecture slides and lecture notes:

- ➊ *Prolog Programming* by Kristina Striegnitz.
- ➋ *Learn Prolog Now!* by Patrick Blackburn, Johan Bos, and Kristina Striegnitz.
- ➌ *Logic Programming* at Fasilkom UI by A. A. Krisnadhi and A. Saptawijaya.
- ➍ *Computational Logic Part 2: Logic Programming* at Fasilkom UI by L. Y. Stefanus.
- ➎ *Logic Programming* at ILLC, University of Amsterdam by U. Endriss.
- ➏ *Functional Programming* at Fasilkom UI by A. Azurat.
- ➐ *Bahasa Prolog* at FPMIPA UPI by Munir.
- ➑ Other available sources online.

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Basic Arithmetic in Prolog

- Prolog provides a number of basic arithmetic tools for integers and real numbers.
- The general arithmetic predicates all handle expressions.
- An expression is either a simple number or a function. The arguments of a function are expressions.
- Note that '=' does not cause any arithmetic operation.
- Arithmetic computation is achieved using the [built-in predicate is/2](#), which is predefined as an infix operator and thus is written between its two arguments.

Arithmetic Notations in Prolog

Arithmetic examples	Prolog Notation
$6 + 2 = 8$	<code>8 is 6+2.</code>
$6 * 2 = 12$	<code>12 is 6*2.</code>
$6 - 2 = 4$	<code>4 is 6-2.</code>
$6 - 8 = -2$	<code>-2 is 6-8.</code>
$6 \div 2 = 3$	<code>3 is 6/2.</code>
$7 \div 2 = 3$	<code>3 is 7/2.</code>
1 is the remainder when 7 is divided by 2	<code>1 is mod(7,2) .</code>

Arithmetic Using Variables

In Prolog, we can work out the answers to arithmetic questions by using variables.

Exercise

Try to pose the following queries in your Prolog interpreter:

① `?- X is -7+2.`

② `?- X is -7*2.`

③ `?- X is -7/2.`

④ `?- X is mod(-7,2).`

⑤ `?- X is div(-7,2).`

⑥ `?- X is -7//2.`

`% a//b` gives the integer part of `a` divided by `b`.

⑦ `?- X is 2^(-7).`

⑧ `?- X is 2**7.`

⑨ `?- X is 2+7*3.`

⑩ `?- X is (2+7)*3.`

Defining Predicates with Arithmetic

- We can use arithmetic operations when we define predicates.
- Let's define a predicate `add3andtimes2/2`
- `add3andtimes2` has two arguments, both are numbers.
- `add3andtimes2` takes its first argument, adds three to it, doubles the result, and returns the number obtained as the second argument.
- We can define `add3andtimes2` as follows:

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- We can define `add3andtimes2` as follows:
`add3andtimes2(X,Y):- Y is (X+3)*2.`

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Important Remarks

- It is important to know that $+$, $-$, $*$, and $/$ do not carry out any arithmetic.
- Expressions such as $3+2$, $4-7$, $5/5$ are ordinary Prolog terms:
 - Functor: $+$, $-$, $/$.
 - Arity: 2.
 - Arguments: integers.

Exercise

Try to pose the following queries in your Prolog interpreter:

- 1 $?- X = -7+2.$
- 2 $?- -7+2 = X.$

Remark

To force Prolog to actually evaluate arithmetic expressions, we have to use the predicate `is/2`.

- This is an instruction for Prolog to carry out calculations.
- **Because this is not an ordinary Prolog predicate, there are some restrictions.**

Limitation of is/2 Predicate

Exercise

Try to pose the following queries in your Prolog interpreter:

- ① `?- X is -7+2.`
- ② `?- -7+2 is X.`
- ③ `?- X is 3+3+3.`
- ④ `?- X is +(+(3,3),3).`
- ⑤ `?- X is 3+3*3.`
- ⑥ `?- X is *(+(3,3),3).`

Remark

Limitation of is/2 Predicate

Exercise

Try to pose the following queries in your Prolog interpreter:

- ❶ `?- X is -7+2.`
- ❷ `?- -7+2 is X.`
- ❸ `?- X is 3+3+3.`
- ❹ `?- X is +(+(3,3),3).`
- ❺ `?- X is 3+3*3.`
- ❻ `?- X is *(+(3,3),3).`

Remark

- ❶ We are free to use variables on the **right hand side** of the `is/2` predicate.
- ❷ But when Prolog actually carries out the evaluation, the variables must be instantiated with a variable-free Prolog term.
- ❸ This Prolog term must be an arithmetic expression.

Arithmetic Functors

$3+2$, $4/2$, $4-5$ are just ordinary Prolog terms in a user-friendly notation:

- $3+2$ can be expressed as $+(3,2)$.
- $4/2$ can be expressed as $/(4,2)$.
- $4-5$ can be expressed as $-(4,5)$.

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between/3, succ/2, and plus/3

- `between(+Low, +High, ?Value)`

Low and High are integers. $\text{High} \leq \text{Low}$. If Value is an integer, then `between(+Low, +High, ?Value)` is true if $\text{Low} \leq \text{Value} \leq \text{High}$. When Value is a variable, it is successively bound to all integers between Low and High. The +Low and +High notations mean **both arguments must be instantiated**.

- `succ(?Int1, ?Int2)`

The predicate succeeds if Int2 is equal to $\text{Int1} + 1$ (i.e., Int2 is the successor of Int1). **At least one of the arguments must be instantiated to an integer.**

- `plus(?Int1, ?Int2, ?Int3)`

The predicate succeeds if Int3 is equal to $\text{Int1} + \text{Int2}$. **At least two of the three arguments must be instantiated to integers.**

Exercise

Try to pose the following queries in your Prolog interpreter:

- ❶ `?- between(10,20,X) .`
- ❷ `?- succ(2018,X) .`
- ❸ `?- succ(X,2018) .`
- ❹ `?- plus(2018,X,2020) .`
- ❺ `?- plus(X,2017,2020) .`

Other Arithmetic Predicates (Relational Operators)

- $\text{Expr1} > \text{Expr2}$

The predicate succeeds when expression Expr1 evaluates to a larger number than Expr2 .

- $\text{Expr1} < \text{Expr2}$

The predicate succeeds when expression Expr1 evaluates to a smaller number than Expr2 .

- $\text{Expr1} \leq \text{Expr2}$

The predicate succeeds when expression Expr1 evaluates to a number that is smaller than or equal to Expr2 .

- $\text{Expr1} \geq \text{Expr2}$

The predicate succeeds when expression Expr1 evaluates to a number that is larger than or equal to Expr2 .

Remark

We must avoid using $=>$ and $<=$ in Prolog as a relational operators.

Arithmetic Equality and Inequality

- $\text{Expr1} \neq \text{Expr2}$
The predicate succeeds when expression Expr1 evaluates to a number not equal to Expr2 .
- $\text{Expr1} =:= \text{Expr2}$
The predicate succeeds when expression Expr1 evaluates to a number equal to Expr2 .

Arithmetic Functions

Arithmetic functions are terms which are evaluated by the arithmetic predicates, such as `is/2`.

- `-Expr` denotes minus.
- `Expr1 + Expr2` denotes addition.
- `Expr1 - Expr2` denotes subtraction.
- `Expr1 * Expr2` denotes multiplication.
- `Expr1 / Expr2` denotes division.
- `Expr1 // Expr2` denotes integer division, `Expr1 // Expr2` gives the integer part of `Expr1` divided by `Expr2`.
- `Expr1 ^ Expr2` denotes power operation. This notation is also equivalent to `Expr1 ** Expr2`.
- `IntExpr1 mod IntExpr2` denotes mod operation, both arguments `IntExpr1` and `IntExpr2` must be integers and `IntExpr2` cannot be zero.
- `IntExpr1 div IntExpr2` denotes div operation, both arguments `IntExpr1` and `IntExpr2` must be integers and `IntExpr2` cannot be zero.
- `IntExpr1 rem IntExpr2` gives the remainder the division.

- `exp(Expr)` gives e^{Expr} where $e = 2.7182\dots$
- `abs(Expr)` gives the absolute value of `Expr`.
- `sin(Expr)` gives the sine of `Expr` (`Expr` is measured in radian).
- `cos(Expr)` gives the cosine of `Expr` (`Expr` is measured in radian).
- `asin(Expr)` gives the `arcsin(Expr)`, i.e., the angle (measured in radian).
- `acos(Expr)` gives the `arccos(Expr)`, i.e., the angle (measured in radian).
- `max(Expr1, Expr2)` gives the maximum value between `Expr1` and `Expr2`.
- `round(Expr)` returns the nearest integer of `Expr`.
- `sqrt(Expr)` returns the square root of `Expr`.
- `log(Expr)` returns $\ln(\text{Expr})$.
- `log10(Expr)` returns $\log_{10}(\text{Expr})$.
- `pi` returns the mathematical constant $\pi = 3.1415\dots$
- `e` returns the mathematical constant $e = 2.7182\dots$

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Elementary Exercise

Exercise

Construct a predicate `double(X,Y)` that returns true whenever X is equal to $2Y$. The predicate succeeds whenever one of its argument is instantiated. For example:

- ① `double(3,6)` returns **true** (there might be some side effects though).
- ② `double(3,X)` returns $X = 6$ (there might be some side effects though).
- ③ `double(X,6)` returns $X = 3$ (there might be some side effects though).

Exercise

Construct a predicate `average(X,Y,Z)` that returns true whenever Z is the average of X and Y . The predicate succeeds whenever two of its argument are instantiated. For example:

- ① `average(3,5,4)` returns **true** (there might be some side effects though).
- ② `average(3,5,X)` returns $X = 4$. (there might be some side effects though).
- ③ `average(3,X,4)` returns $X = 5$. (there might be some side effects though).
- ④ `average(X,5,4)` returns $X = 3$. (there might be some side effects though).

Exercise

Given two points $(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2$, the Euclidean distance between these points, denoted by d , is defined as

$$d = \sqrt{(x_1 - x_2)^2 + (y_1 - y_2)^2}.$$

Construct a predicate `distance(point(A,B),point(C,D),Distance)` that is true whenever `Distance` is the euclidean distance between *point* (A, B) and *point* (C, D) , both of `point(A,B)` and `point(C,D)` must be instantiated. For example, we have:

- `distance(point(0,0),point(3,4),Distance)` returns `Distance = 5`.
- `distance(point(1,2),point(2,1),Distance)` returns `Distance = 1.414...`

Strange Squares

Exercise

Observe the following phenomenon:

- $45^2 = 2025$
- If we split 2025 into two parts, we have 20 and 25.
- If we add $20 + 25$, we get 45.

Find other **four digit pefect squares** that exhibit the same peculiarity!
Construct a predicate `strange_square(M,N)` that is true whenever M is a “strange square” and N is equal to M^2 . For example:

- `strange_square(45,2025)` returns **true**.
- `strange_square(45,N)` returns $N = 2025$.
- `strange_square(M,2025)` returns $M = 45$.
- `strange_square(25,N)` returns **false**.

Exercise

Construct a predicate `sumseries(M,N)` that returns true whenever N is equal to the sum $1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + M$. For instance:

- ① `sumseries(1,1)` returns **true**
- ② `sumseries(10,N)` returns $N = 55$ because $1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + 10 = 55$.

You may define the predicate `sumseries/2` recursively. Notice that `sumseries(1,1)` is the base case. You have to define the recursive predicate `sumseries(M,N)` for the case $M \neq 1$. You may complete the following rule:
`sumseries(M,N):- M > 1,....`

Ignoring the side effect, you must obtain:

- ① `sumseries(10,N)` returns $N = 55$
- ② `sumseries(100,N)` returns $N = 5050$.

(Note: the first argument, i.e., M , must be instantiated).