

# Prolog

- Recursive Rules
- List Data structure

## Prolog Features

- Prolog has the power of designing knowledge based systems at very ease.
- Prolog can be interfaced with almost all high level languages. E.g. with Python, C Java etc.;
- <https://wiki.python.org/moin/IntegratingPythonWithOtherLanguages#Prolog>
- Prolog is very much suited for parsing data or parsing other languages (natural and computer ).
- Prolog is also very popular as a Game Description language with very powerful libraries.

For installation of Prolog editor in Eclipse for SWI prolog, see instructions at:

<https://sewiki.iai.uni-bonn.de/research/pdt/docs/download>

<https://sewiki.iai.uni-bonn.de/research/pdt/docs/start>

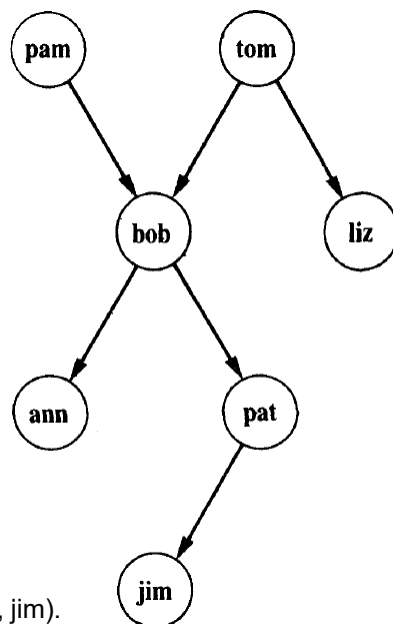
## SWI tutorials

- CLP(FD) Constraint Logic Programming over Finite Domains  
(<http://www.pathwayslms.com/swipltuts/clpfd/clpfd.html>)
- Using Definite Clause Grammar in Prolog  
(<http://www.pathwayslms.com/swipltuts/dcg/>)
- <https://www.swi-prolog.org/features.html>

### Example 2: A Family Tree

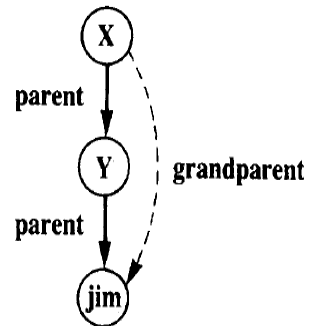
```
parent( pam, bob).
parent( tom, bob).
parent( tom, liz).
parent( bob, ann).
parent( bob, pat).
parent( pat, jim).
female(pam).
male(tom).
male(bob).
female(liz).
female(pat).
female(ann).
male(jim).
```

```
?- parent(Y, jim), parent(X,Y).
?- parent(tom, X), parent(X,Y).
?- parent(pam, X), parent(X,Y), parent(Y, jim).
```

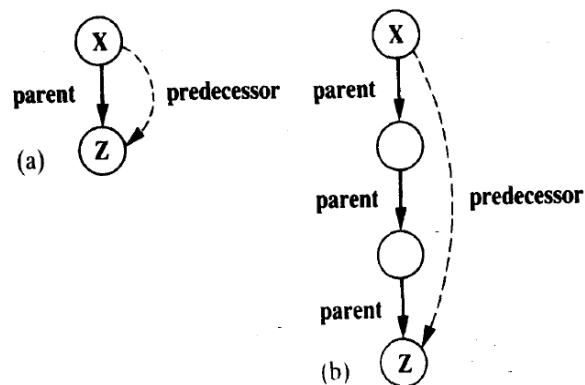


## Recursive Rule

**Figure 1.2** The **grandparent** relation expressed as a composition of two **parent** relations.

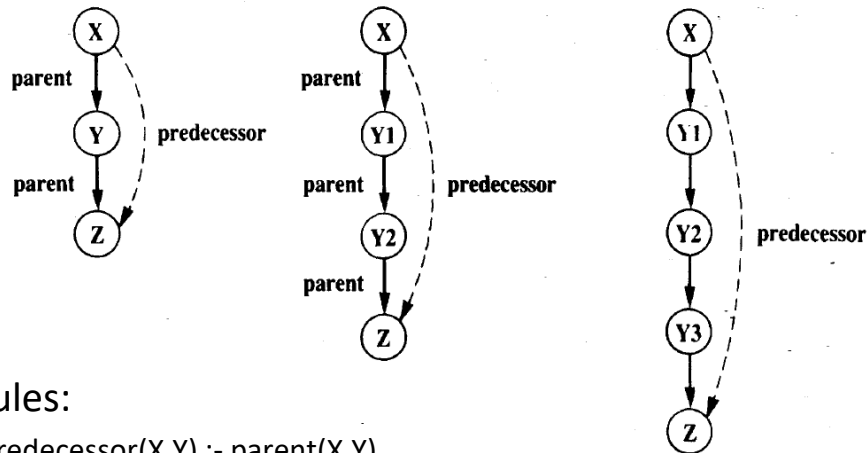


## Recursive Rules



**Figure 1.5** Examples of the **predecessor** relation: (a) X is a *direct* predecessor of Z; (b) X is an *indirect* predecessor of Z.

## Recursive Rules



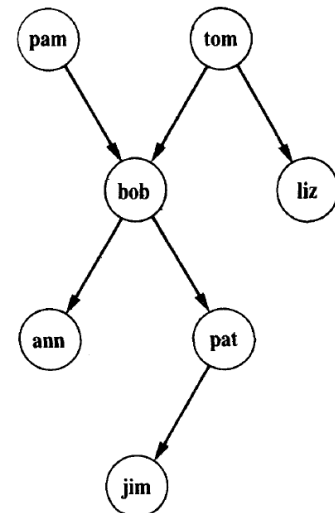
- Rules:

`predecessor(X,Y) :- parent(X,Y).`

`predecessor(X,Y) :- parent(X, Z), predecessor (Z, Y).`

## Recursive Definition

`parent( pam, bob).`  
`parent( tom, bob).`  
`parent( tom, liz).`  
`parent( bob, ann).`  
`parent( bob, pat).`  
`parent( pat, jim).`



- Rules:

`predecessor(X,Y) :- parent(X,Y).`

`predecessor(X,Y) :- parent(X, Z), predecessor (Z, Y).`

`?-predecessor(pam, Y), write(Y).`

`X=bob;`

`ann;`

`pat;`

`jim.`

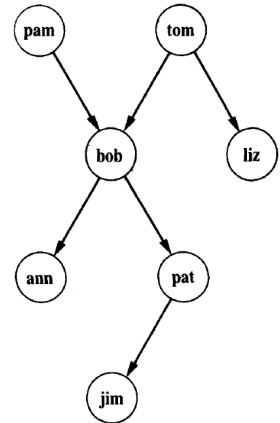
`no.`

~~pred~~ (X, Y) :- ~~parent~~ (X, Y).

~~pred~~ (X, Y) :- ~~parent~~ (X, Z), ~~pred~~ (Z, Y).

?- ~~pred~~ (pam, jim).

parent( pam, bob).  
parent( tom, bob).  
parent( tom, liz).  
parent( bob, ann).  
parent( bob, pat).  
parent( pat, jim).



~~pred~~ (X, Y) :- ~~parent~~ (X, Y).

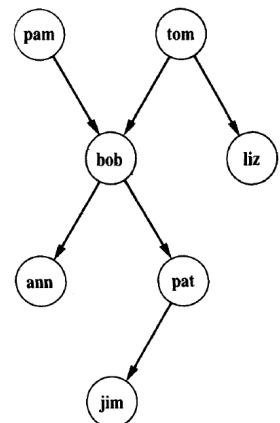
~~pred~~ (X, Y) :- ~~parent~~ (X, Z), ~~pred~~ (Z, Y).

?- ~~pred~~ (pam, jim).

x = pam  
y = jim

~~parent~~ (pam, Z), ~~pred~~ (Z, jim).

parent( pam, bob).  
parent( tom, bob).  
parent( tom, liz).  
parent( bob, ann).  
parent( bob, pat).  
parent( pat, jim).



$\text{pred}(X, Y) :- \text{parent}(X, Y).$

$\text{pred}(X, Y) :- \text{parent}(X, Z), \text{pred}(Z, Y).$

?-  $\text{pred}(\text{pam}, \text{jim}).$

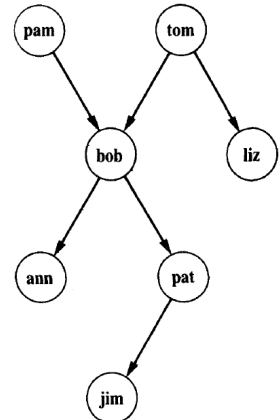
✓  $X = \text{pam}$   
 $Y = \text{jim}$

$\text{parent}(\text{pam}, Z), \text{pred}(Z, \text{jim}).$

✓  $Z = \text{bob}$

$\text{parent}(\text{pam}, \text{bob}), \text{pred}(\text{bob}, \text{jim}).$

$\text{parent}(\text{pam}, \text{bob}).$   
 $\text{parent}(\text{tom}, \text{bob}).$   
 $\text{parent}(\text{tom}, \text{liz}).$   
 $\text{parent}(\text{bob}, \text{ann}).$   
 $\text{parent}(\text{bob}, \text{pat}).$   
 $\text{parent}(\text{pat}, \text{jim}).$



$\text{pred}(X, Y) :- \text{parent}(X, Y).$

$\text{pred}(X, Y) :- \text{parent}(X, Z), \text{pred}(Z, Y).$

?-  $\text{pred}(\text{pam}, \text{jim}).$

✓  $X = \text{pam}$   
 $Y = \text{jim}$

$\text{parent}(\text{pam}, Z), \text{pred}(Z, \text{jim}).$

✓  $Z = \text{bob}$

$\text{parent}(\text{pam}, \text{bob}), \text{pred}(\text{bob}, \text{jim}).$

fail

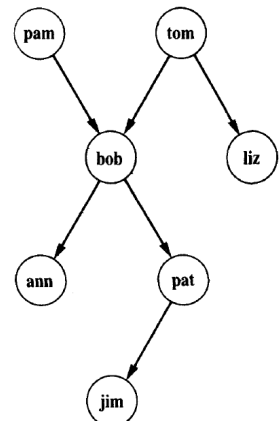
✓  $X = \text{bob}$   
 $Y = \text{jim}$

$\text{parent}(\text{bob}, Z1), \text{pred}(Z1, \text{jim}).$

$Z1 = \text{ann}$

$Z1 = \text{pat}$

$\text{parent}(\text{pam}, \text{bob}).$   
 $\text{parent}(\text{tom}, \text{bob}).$   
 $\text{parent}(\text{tom}, \text{liz}).$   
 $\text{parent}(\text{bob}, \text{ann}).$   
 $\text{parent}(\text{bob}, \text{pat}).$   
 $\text{parent}(\text{pat}, \text{jim}).$



$\text{pred}(X, Y) :- \text{parent}(X, Y).$

$\text{pred}(X, Y) :- \text{parent}(X, Z), \text{pred}(Z, Y).$

?-  $\text{pred}(\text{pam}, \text{jim}).$

$X = \text{pam}$   
 $Y = \text{jim}$

$\text{parent}(\text{pam}, Z), \text{pred}(Z, \text{jim}).$

$Z = \text{bob}$

$\text{parent}(\text{pam}, \text{bob}), \text{pred}(\text{bob}, \text{jim}).$

false

$X = \text{bob}$   
 $Y = \text{jim}$

$\text{parent}(\text{bob}, Z1), \text{pred}(Z1, \text{jim}).$

$Z1 = \text{ann}$

false  $\text{parent}(\text{bob}, \text{ann}),$   
 $\text{pred}(\text{ann}, \text{jim})$   
false

$Z1 = \text{pat}$

$\text{parent}(\text{bob}, \text{pat}), \text{pred}(\text{pat}, \text{jim}).$

false

$\text{parent}(\text{pam}, \text{bob}).$

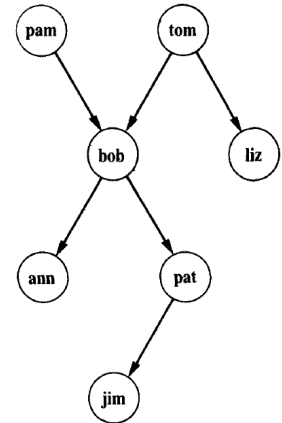
$\text{parent}(\text{tom}, \text{bob}).$

$\text{parent}(\text{tom}, \text{liz}).$

$\text{parent}(\text{bob}, \text{ann}).$

$\text{parent}(\text{bob}, \text{pat}).$

$\text{parent}(\text{pat}, \text{jim}).$



$\text{pred}(X, Y) :- \text{parent}(X, Y).$

$\text{pred}(X, Y) :- \text{parent}(X, Z), \text{pred}(Z, Y).$

?-  $\text{pred}(\text{pam}, \text{jim}).$

$X = \text{pam}$   
 $Y = \text{jim}$

$\text{parent}(\text{pam}, Z), \text{pred}(Z, \text{jim}).$

$Z = \text{bob}$

$\text{parent}(\text{pam}, \text{bob}), \text{pred}(\text{bob}, \text{jim}).$

false

$X = \text{bob}$   
 $Y = \text{jim}$

$\text{parent}(\text{bob}, Z1), \text{pred}(Z1, \text{jim}).$

$Z1 = \text{ann}$

false  $\text{parent}(\text{bob}, \text{ann}),$   
 $\text{pred}(\text{ann}, \text{jim})$   
false

$Z1 = \text{pat}$

$\text{parent}(\text{bob}, \text{pat}), \text{pred}(\text{pat}, \text{jim}).$

false

$\text{parent}(\text{pat}, \text{jim})$   
false

$\text{parent}(\text{pam}, \text{bob}).$

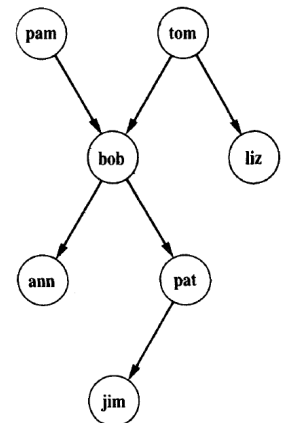
$\text{parent}(\text{tom}, \text{bob}).$

$\text{parent}(\text{tom}, \text{liz}).$

$\text{parent}(\text{bob}, \text{ann}).$

$\text{parent}(\text{bob}, \text{pat}).$

$\text{parent}(\text{pat}, \text{jim}).$




## Lists

- A collection of ordered data.
- Has **zero** or more elements enclosed by **square brackets** ('[]') and **separated by commas** (',').

[a]                      ← a list with one element

[]                      ← an empty list


 [34, tom, [2, 3]]   ← a list with 3 elements where the 3<sup>rd</sup> element is a list of 2 elements.

- Like any object, a list can be unified with a variable

```
|?- [Any, list, 'of elements'] = X.
```

```
X = [Any, list, 'of elements']?
```

```
yes
```

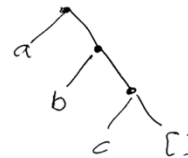
## Recursive nature of List

- ① A list is a data structure that is either empty or consists of 2 parts →
- first element (called head)
  - remaining list

e.g.  $L = [a, b, c]$

can be represented as →

$L = [a | X]$



or  $\bullet (a, X)$

special  
functor

or  $\bullet (a, \bullet (b, \bullet (c, [])))$ .

or

$[a, b, c] = [a | [b, c]] = [a, b | [c]]$   
 $= [a, b, c | []]$



## List Unification

- Two lists unify if they are the same length and all their elements unify.

$| ? - [a, B, c, D] = [A, b, C, d] . \quad | ? - [(a+X), (Y+b)] = [(W+c), (d+b)] .$

$A = a,$

$W = a,$

$B = b,$

$X = c,$

$C = c,$

$Y = d?$

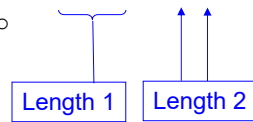
$D = d ?$

yes

yes

$| ? - [[X, a]] = [b, Y] .$

no



$| ? - [[a], [B, c], []] = [X, [b, c], Y] .$

$B = b,$

$X = [a],$

$Y = [] ?$

yes

## Definition of a List

- Lists are *recursively defined* structures.

“An empty list, [], is a list.

A structure of the form [X, ...] is a list if X is a term and [...] is a list, possibly empty.”

- This recursiveness is made explicit by the bar notation
  - `[Head|Rem_list]` (‘|’ = bottom left PC keyboard character)
- Head** must unify with a single term.
- Rem\_list** unifies with a list of any length, including an empty list, [].
  - the bar notation turns everything after the Head into a list and unifies it with Tail.

## Head and rest of list List (in terms of Head and rest of the list)

```

?- [a,b,c,d]=[X|Y].    ?-[a,b,c,d]=[X|[Y|Z]].
X = a,                  X = a,
Y = [b,c,d]?           Y = b,
yes                     Z = [c,d];
                        yes

?-[a] = [H|T].          ?-[a,b,c]=[W|[X|[Y|Z]]].
H = a,                  W = a,
T = [ ];                X = b,
yes                     Y = c,
                        Z = [ ]? yes

?-[ ] = [H|T].          ?-[a | [ b | [c|[ ] ] ] ] = List.
no                      List = [a,b,c]?
                        yes

```

## Identifying a list

- lists: `[a, [], green(bob)]`
- lists are *recursively defined* structures:

“An empty list, `[]`, is a list.

A structure of the form `[X, ...]` is a list if `X` is a term and `[...]` is a list, possibly empty.”

- This can be tested using the `Head` and `Rem_list` notation, `[H|T]`, in a recursive rule.

```

is_a_list([]).          ← A term is a list if it is an empty list.
is_a_list([_|Rem_list]):- ← A term is a list if it has two
    is_a_list(Rem_list).  elements and the second is a list.

```

## Base and Recursive Cases

- A recursive definition, whether in prolog or some other language (including English!) needs two things.
- A definition of when the recursion *terminates*.
  - Without this the recursion would never stop!
  - This is called the *base case*: `is_a_list([]).`
  - *Almost always comes before recursive clause*
- A definition of how we can define the problem in terms of a similar, smaller problem.
  - This is called the *recursive case*: `is_a_list([_|T]):-  
is_a_list(T).`
- There might be more than one base or recursive case.

## Focussed Recursion

- To ensure that the predicate terminates, the recursive case must move the problem closer to a solution.
  - If it doesn't it will loop infinitely.
- With list processing this means stripping away the Head of a list and recursing on the Tail.

```
is_a_list([_|T]):-  
is_a_list(T).
```

Head is replaced with  
an underscore as we  
don't want to use it.

- The same focussing has to occur when recursing to find a property or fact.

```
is_older(Ancestor,Person):-  
    is_older(Someone,Person),  
    is_older(Ancestor,Someone).
```

Doesn't focus

$\text{print}([ ]).$

Printing items in a List

$\text{print}([X; Y]) :- \text{write}(X), \text{print}(Y).$

?-  $\text{print}([1, 2, 3]).$

$\text{print}([ ]).$

Printing items in a List

$\text{print}([X; Y]) :- \text{write}(X), \text{print}(Y).$

?-  $\text{print}([1, 2, 3]).$

$\begin{array}{l} \diagup x=1 \\ \quad y=[2, 3] \\ \text{print}([1; 2, 3]) \end{array}$

$\text{print}([ ]).$

$\text{print}([X; Y]) :- \text{write}(X), \text{print}(Y).$

Printing items in a List

?-  $\text{print}([1, 2, 3]).$

$\swarrow$   
 $X=1$   
 $Y=[2, 3]$

$\text{print}([1; 2, 3])$

$\swarrow$   
 $\text{write}(1), \text{print}([2, 3]).$

$\text{print}([ ]).$

$\text{print}([X; Y]) :- \text{write}(X), \text{print}(Y).$

Printing items in a List

?-  $\text{print}([1, 2, 3]).$

$\swarrow$   
 $X=1$   
 $Y=[2, 3]$

$\text{print}([1; 2, 3])$

$\swarrow$   
 $\text{write}(1), \text{print}([2, 3]).$

$\swarrow$   
 $X=2$   
 $Y=[3]$   
 $\text{print}([2; 3])$

$\text{print}([ ]).$

$\text{print}([X; Y]) :- \text{write}(X), \text{print}(Y).$

Printing items in a List

?-  $\text{print}([1, 2, 3]).$

$X=1$   
 $Y=[2, 3]$

$\text{print}([1; 2, 3])$

$\text{write}(1), \text{print}([2, 3]).$

$X=2$   
 $Y=[3]$

$\text{print}([2; 3])$

$\text{write}(2), \text{print}([3])$

$\text{print}([ ]).$

$\text{print}([X; Y]) :- \text{write}(X), \text{print}(Y).$

Printing items in a List

?-  $\text{print}([1, 2, 3]).$

$X=1$   
 $Y=[2, 3]$

$\text{print}([1; 2, 3])$

$\text{write}(1), \text{print}([2, 3]).$

$X=2$   
 $Y=[3]$

$\text{print}([2; 3])$

$\text{write}(2), \text{print}([3])$

$X=3$   
 $Y=[ ]$

$\text{print}([3; [ ]])$

```

print([ ]).
print([X;Y]) :- write(X), print(Y).

?- print([1,2,3]).
    /  X=1
    /  Y=[2,3]
print([1;2,3])
  / write(1), print([2,3]).
    /  X=2
    /  Y=[3]
    print([2;3])
      / write(2), print([3])
        /  X=3
        /  Y=[]
        print([3;[]])
          / write(3), print([])
            /
            true.

```

Output: 1 2 3

## Printing items in a List

### List Processing Predicates: [Member/2](#)

- `Member/2` is possibly the most used user-defined predicate (i.e. you have to define it every time you want to use it!)
- It checks to see if a term is an element of a list.
  - it returns `yes` if it is
  - and `fails` if it isn't.

```

| ?- member(c,[a,b,c,d]).
yes

```

```

member(H,[H|_]).
member(H,[_|T]) :-
    member(H,T).

```

- It 1<sup>st</sup> checks if the Head of the list unifies with the first argument.
  - If yes then succeed.
  - If no then fail first clause.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> clause ignores the head of the list (which we know doesn't match) and recurses on the Tail.

## member/2

```
member(x, [x | Y]) .
```

```
member(x, [z | Y]) :- member(X, Y) .
```

```
?-member(3, [1, 2, 3, 4]) .
```

## List Processing Predicates: Member/2

```
|?- member(ringo,[john,paul,ringo,george]).
```

```
Fail(1): member(ringo,[john|_]).
```

```
(2): member(ringo,[_|paul,ringo,george]):-
```

```
Call: member(ringo,[paul,ringo,george]).
```

```
Fail(1): member(ringo,[paul|_]).
```

```
(2): member(ringo,[_|ringo,george]):-
```

```
Call: member(ringo,[ringo,george]).
```

```
Succeed(1): member(ringo,[ringo|_]).
```

```
1) member(H, [H | _]).
```

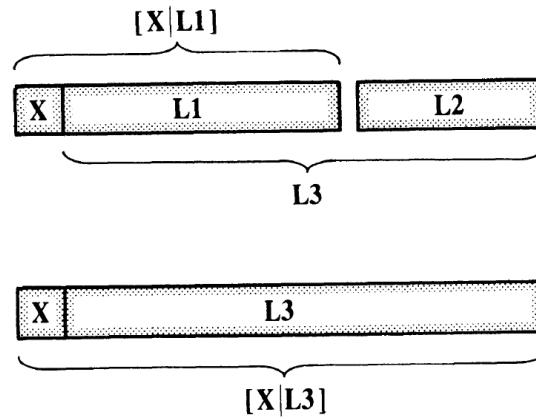
```
2) member(H, [_ | T]) :- member(H, T).
```



## Concatenation of 2 Lists

```
conc( [ ], L, L).
```

```
conc( [ x | L1], L2, [ x | L3] ) :- conc( L1, L2, L3).
```



**Figure 3.2** Concatenation of lists.

```
conc( [], L, L).
```

```
conc( [X|L1], L2, [X|L3] ) :-  
    conc( L1, L2, L3).
```

```
?- conc( [a,b], [1,2,3], L).
```

## Concatenation of 2 Lists

$\text{conc}([], L, L).$

## Concatenation of 2 Lists

$\text{conc}([X|L1], L2, [X|L3]) :-$   
 $\text{conc}(L1, L2, L3).$

$?- \text{conc}([a, b], [1, 2, 3], L).$

$\text{conc}([a|b], [1, 2, 3], [a|L3])$

$\text{conc}([], L, L).$

## Concatenation of 2 Lists

$\text{conc}([X|L1], L2, [X|L3]) :-$   
 $\text{conc}(L1, L2, L3).$

$?- \text{conc}([a, b], [1, 2, 3], L).$

$\text{conc}([a|b], [1, 2, 3], [a|L3])$

$\text{conc}([b], [1, 2, 3], L3)$

$\text{conc}([ ], L, L).$

$\text{conc}(\overset{\nearrow}{[X|L1]}, L2, \overset{\nearrow}{[X|L3]}) :-$   
 $\text{conc}(L1, L2, L3).$

?-  $\text{conc}([a, b], [1, 2, 3], L).$

/  
 $\text{conc}(\overset{\nearrow}{[a|b]}, [1, 2, 3], \overset{\nearrow}{[a|L3]})$

/  
 $\text{conc}([b], [1, 2, 3], L3)$

/  
 $\text{conc}(\overset{\nearrow}{[b|[ ]]}, [1, 2, 3], \overset{\nearrow}{[b|L3]})$

## Concatenation of 2 Lists

$\text{conc}([ ], L, L).$

$\text{conc}(\overset{\nearrow}{[X|L1]}, L2, \overset{\nearrow}{[X|L3]}) :-$   
 $\text{conc}(L1, L2, L3).$

?-  $\text{conc}([a, b], [1, 2, 3], L).$

/  
 $\text{conc}(\overset{\nearrow}{[a|b]}, [1, 2, 3], \overset{\nearrow}{[a|L3]})$

/  
 $\text{conc}([b], [1, 2, 3], L3)$

/  
 $\text{conc}(\overset{\nearrow}{[b|[ ]]}, [1, 2, 3], \overset{\nearrow}{[b|L3]})$

/  
 $\text{conc}([ ], [1, 2, 3], L31)$

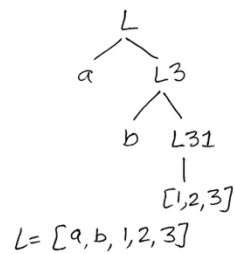
## Concatenation of 2 Lists

## Concatenation of 2 Lists

$\text{conc}([ ], L, L).$   
 $\text{conc}([X:L1], L2, [X:L3]) :-$   
 $\quad \text{conc}(L1, L2, L3).$   
 $?- \text{conc}([a, b], [1, 2, 3], L).$   
 $\quad \text{conc}([a:b], [1, 2, 3], [a:L3])$   
 $\quad \text{conc}([b], [1, 2, 3], L3)$   
 $\quad \text{conc}([b:[ ]], [1, 2, 3], [b:L31])$   
 $\quad \text{conc}([ ], [1, 2, 3], L31)$   
 $\quad \quad L31 = [1, 2, 3]$   
 $\quad \text{conc}([ ], [1, 2, 3], [1, 2, 3]).$   
 $\quad \text{true}$

## Concatenation of 2 Lists

$\text{conc}([ ], L, L).$   
 $\text{conc}([X:L1], L2, [X:L3]) :-$   
 $\quad \text{conc}(L1, L2, L3).$   
 $?- \text{conc}([a, b], [1, 2, 3], L).$   
 $\quad \text{conc}([a:b], [1, 2, 3], [a:L3])$   
 $\quad \text{conc}([b], [1, 2, 3], L3)$   
 $\quad \text{conc}([b:[ ]], [1, 2, 3], [b:L31])$   
 $\quad \text{conc}([ ], [1, 2, 3], L31)$   
 $\quad \quad L31 = [1, 2, 3]$   
 $\quad \text{conc}([ ], [1, 2, 3], [1, 2, 3]).$   
 $\quad \text{true}$



## Concatenating 2 Lists

```
conc( [ ], L, L ).
conc( [ x | L1], L2, [x | L3] )
:- conc( L1, L2, L3 ).
```

- Although the conc program looks rather simple it can be used flexibly in many other ways.
- For example, we can use conc in the inverse direction for decomposing a given list into two lists, as follows:

**?- conc( L1, L2, [a,b,c] ).**

**L1 = []**

**L2 = [a,b,c];**

**L1 = [a]**

**L2 = [b,c];**

**L1 = [a,b]**

**L2 = [c];**

**L1 = [a,b,c]**

**L2 = [];**

**no**

## Concatenating 2 Lists

```
conc( [ ], L, L ).
conc( [ x | L1], L2, [x | L3] ) :- conc( L1, L2, L3 ).
```

- We can also use this program to look for a certain pattern in a list.
- example, we can find the months that precede and the months that follow a given month say may, as in the following goal:

**?- conc( Before, [may | After],  
[jan,feb,mar,apr,may,jun,jul,aug,sep,oct,nov,dec] ).**

**Before = [jan,feb,mar,apr]**

**After = [jun,jul,aug,sep,oct,nov,dec].**

## Concatenating 2 Lists

```
conc( [ ], L, L ).
conc( [ x | L1], L2, [x | L3] ) :- conc( L1, L2, L3 ).
```

- Further we can find the immediate predecessor and the immediate successor of may by asking:

```
?- conc( _, [Month1,may,Month2 | _],
           [jan,feb,mar,apr,may,jun,jul,aug,sep,oct,nov,dec] ).
```

**Month1 = apr**

**Month2 = jun**

## Concatenating 2 Lists

```
conc( [ ], L, L ).
conc( [ x | L1], L2, [x | L3] ) :- conc( L1, L2, L3 ).
```

- we can, for example, delete from some list, L1, everything that follows three successive occurrences of z in L1 together with the three z's. For example:

```
?- L1 = [a,b,z,z,c,z,z,z,d,e],
    conc( L2, [z,z,z | _], L1).
```

**L1 = [a,b,z,z,c,z,z,z,d,e]**

**L2 = [a,b,z,z,c]**

## List processing in Prolog

```
english_spanish("One", "Uno").
english_spanish("Two", "Dos").
english_spanish("Three", "Tres").
english_spanish("Four", "Cuatro").
english_spanish("Five", "Cinco").
english_spanish("Six", "Seis").
english_spanish("Seven", "Siete").
english_spanish("Eight", "Ocho").
english_spanish("Nine", "Nueve").
english_spanish("Ten", "Diez").
translate_td([], []).
```

```
%Traditional top-down iteration
%% translate_td(?EnglishList,
?SpanishList) is det
```

- ❖ One of the advantages is its bidirectionality.
- ❖ We can either put in a list of English numbers and get Spanish numbers, or vice versa.

```
translate_td([English|EnglishList], [Spanish|SpanishList]) :-
    english_spanish(English, Spanish), translate_td(EnglishList, SpanishList).

?- translate_td(["One", "Two", "Three", "Four", "Five", "Six", "Seven", "Eight",
"Nine", "Ten"], S).
?- translate_td(E, ["Uno", "Dos", "Tres", "Cuatro", "Cinco", "Seis", "Siete", "Ocho",
"Nueve", "Diez"])
```