

Lab 9: Unification & Backtracking

Prolog first calls the functor `murderer(X)` which is unified with `hair(X, brown)`. Next, Prolog calls `hair(X, brown)` which is unified with `attire(X, pincenez)`. From there, Prolog goes to check the first attire functor which is `attire(mr_woodley, pincenez)`, and it unifies with `attire(sir_raymond, tattered_cuffs)`. Then, Prolog calls `attire(X, tattered_cuffs)` where `X` is `sir_raymond`, and Prolog checks if `sir_raymond` was in room 16. The result of this check comes out to be false since `sir_raymond` was in room 10. Then Prolog backtracks to `attire(sir_raymond, tattered_cuffs)` where it is now false, and it backtracks all the way to `attire(X, pincenez)` to redo the procedure. Now Prolog checks the second attire functor which is `attire(sir_raymond, pincenez)` where it unifies with `attire(mr_woodley, tattered_cuffs)`. Prolog then checks if `mr_woodley` was in room 16 which comes out to be true which means that `attire(mr_woodley, tattered_cuffs)` is true and `attire(sir_raymond, pincenez)` is true. Prolog instantiates the variable `X` to `sir_raymond`, and it backtracks to the hair functor where `X` is now `sir_raymond` where it comes out to be true since the murderer had brown hair which now means that `murderer(sir_raymond)` is now true, thus; `sir_raymond` was the murderer.