VNU-HUS MAT1206E/3508: Introduction to Al

Logic Programming with PROLOG In-class Discussion

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Learn Prolog Now!

■ https://www.let.rug.nl/bos/lpn//index.php



- PROLOG = **Pro**gramming in **Log**ic
- PROLOG is used in many projects, primarily in AI and computational linguistics.
- We will now give a short introduction to this language, present the most important concepts, show its strengths, and compare it with other programming languages and theorem provers.
- Those looking for a complete programming course are directed to textbooks such as [Bratko 2011]; [Clocksin and Mellish 2013] and the documentations at https://www.swi-PROLOG.org/ and http://www.gPROLOG.org/.
- PROLOG systems interpret Warren Abstract Machine code (WAM).
- PROLOG source code is compiled into so-called WAM code, which is then interpreted by the WAM.
- **Performance:** up to 10 million logical inferences per second (LIPS) on a 1 Gigahertz PC

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- PROLOG is a *declarative programming language*, i.e., the programmer declares *what* the program should accomplish without specifying *how* to achieve the result.
- PROLOG is based on Horn clauses.
- A PROLOG program consists of a knowledge base (database), which is simply a set of facts and rules about some problem domain.
 - A knowledge base KB of family relationships is coded as a PROLOG program

```
child(oscar, karen, frank).
child(mary, karen, frank).
child(eve, anne, oscar).
child(henry, anne, oscar).
child(isolde, anne, oscar).
child(clyde, mary, oscar).
```

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The execution of a PROLOG program is initiated by a query, which is answered by proving that the query logically follows from the facts and rules in the program.

Example query

?- child(eve, anne, oscar).

- The query asks whether eve is a child of anne and oscar.
- The expected answer is true (because it is a fact in the knowledge base *KB*).
- How does PROLOG find the answer?
 - PROLOG tries to unify the query with the facts in the knowledge base KB.
 - There are six facts in the knowledge base.
 - Unification is attempted between the query and each of the complementary literals in the input data in order of occurrence. (In this example, the query unifies with the third fact.)
 - If one of the alternatives fails, this results in backtracking to the last branching point, and the next alternative is tested.

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Variables

- Variables begin with a Capital letter, or "_"
 - For example, X, Tom, _result
- "_" is a nameless (anonymous) variable. We use it when we need to use a variable, but we're not interested in what PROLOG instantiates the variable to
- A variable can have a value



Atoms

- An *atom* is a constant in terms; it just stands for itself.
- Atoms do not begin with a capital letter
 - For example, x, tom
- Atomic formulas are called *structures in PROLOG*.
- You can make an atom containing any characters at all by enclosing it in *single quotes*:
 - For example, 'C:\\My Documents\\examples.pl'
 - If you use double quotes, you will get a list of ASCII values, which is probably not what you want
 - ?- X = "Hello". results X = [72, 101, 108, 108, 111].
 - In a quoted atom, a single quote must be doubled or backslashed
 - For example, 'Can''t, or won\'t?'
 - Backslashes in file names must also be doubled
 - For example, 'C:\\My Documents\\examples.pl'
 - Better yet, use forward slashes in paths; every OS, including Windows, understands this

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Predicates

- A predicate is a definition of a functor (predicate symbol), which is collection of clauses with the same functor and arity (number of arguments).
 - loves(john, mary).
 - loves(mary, bill).
 - loves(chuck, X) :- female(X), rich(X).
- These clauses should stay together.
- The scope of a variable (such as X) is the single clause in which it occurs.
- A PROLOG program is just a collection of predicates.

Common Problems

- Capitalization is *meaningful*!
- No space is allowed between a functor and its argument list:
 - man(tom), not man (tom).
- Double quotes indicate a list of ASCII character values, not a string
- Don't forget the period! (But if you do, you can put it on the next line.)

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Central Ideas of PROLOG

■ SUCCESS (true) / FAILURE (false)

 any computation can "succeed" or "fail", and this is used as a 'test' mechanism.

■ UNIFICATION (2-WAY MATCHING)

 any two data items can be compared for similarity, and values can be bound to variables in order to allow a match to succeed.

SEARCHING

 the whole activity of the PROLOG system is to search through various options to find a combination that succeeds.

BACKTRACKING

 when the system fails during its search, it returns to previous choices to see if making a different choice would allow success. Logic Programming with PROLOG Hoàng Anh Đức

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Let's try some examples from "Learn PROLOG Now!" (https://www.let.rug.nl/bos/lpn//lpnpage.php?pageid=top) by Patrick Blackburn, Joost Bos, and Kristina Striegnitz.



Exercise 1

Given the following KB

```
woman(mia).
woman(jody).
woman(yolanda).
playsAirGuitar(jody).
party.
```

What is the expected answer to the following queries? Why?

```
?- woman(mia).
```

```
?- playsAirGuitar(mia).
```

```
?- playsAirGuitar(vincent).
```

```
?- tatooed(jody)
```

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Exercise 2

Given the following KB

- happy(yolanda).
- 2 listens2Music(mia).
- listens2Music(yolanda):- happy(yolanda).
- 4 playsAirGuitar(mia):- listens2Music(mia).
- 5 playsAirGuitar(yolanda):- listens2Music(yolanda).

What is the expected answer to the following queries? Why?

- ?- playsAirGuitar(mia).
- ?- playsAirGuitar(yolanda).

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Exercise 3

Given the following KB

```
happy(vincent).
listens2Music(butch).
playsAirGuitar(vincent):- listens2Music(vincent),
happy(vincent).
playsAirGuitar(butch):- happy(butch).
playsAirGuitar(butch):- listens2Music(butch).
```

What is the expected answer to the following queries? Why?

```
 ?- \quad {\tt playsAirGuitar(vincent)}\,.
```

```
?- playsAirGuitar(butch).
```

Explain why we can replace the two rules in lines 6–7 by the single rule. (Note: Look up the meaning of the semicolon; in PROLOG.)

```
playsAirGuitar(butch):- happy(butch);
     listens2Music(butch).
```

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Exercise 4

Given the following KB

```
woman(mia).
woman(jody).
woman(yolanda).

loves(vincent,mia).
loves(marsellus,mia).
loves(pumpkin,honey_bunny).
loves(honey_bunny,pumpkin).
```

What is the expected answer to the following queries? Why?

loves(marsellus,X),

```
?- woman(X).
```

woman(X).

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Exercise 5

Given the following KB

```
loves(vincent,mia).
loves(marsellus,mia).
loves(pumpkin,honey_bunny).
loves(honey_bunny,pumpkin).

jealous(X,Y):- loves(X,Z), loves(Y,Z).
```

What is the expected answer to each of the following queries? Why?

```
?- jealous(marsellus,W).
```

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- In PROLOG, we can define predicates recursively.
- A recursive definition requires:
 - At least one *base case* (non-recursive)
 - At least one *recursive case*
- Let's look at a classic example from "Learn PROLOG Now!": Eating and Digestion

Example: Eating



Consider the following knowledge base:

```
is_digesting(X,Y) :- just_ate(X,Y).
is_digesting(X,Y) :-
just_ate(X,Z),
is_digesting(Z,Y).

just_ate(mosquito,blood(john)).
just_ate(frog,mosquito).
just_ate(stork,frog).
```

- The definition of is_digesting/2 is recursive
- It appears in both head and body of the second rule
- The first rule (base case) provides an "escape" from circularity

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Declarative Meaning



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- Declarative meaning: The logical meaning of the PROLOG knowledge base
- Base clause (non-recursive):
 - "If X has just eaten Y, then X is now digesting Y"
- Recursive clause:
 - "If X has just eaten Z and Z is digesting Y, then X is digesting Y too"
- This captures the intuition of indirect digestion through food chains

Procedural Meaning



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- Procedural meaning: How PROLOG actually executes the queries
- For a query is digesting(X,Y), PROLOG:
 - First tries the base rule: "Has X just eaten Y?"
 - If that fails, tries the recursive rule by finding some Z where:
 - X has just eaten Z, AND
 - Z is digesting Y (recursive subgoal)

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Example Execution



For the query:

?- is_digesting(stork,mosquito).

PROLOG's execution:

- Try base rule with X=stork, Y=mosquito: just_ate(stork,mosquito) ⇒ fails
- 2. Try recursive rule:
 - Find Z where just_ate(stork,Z) \Rightarrow Z = frog
 - New subgoal: is_digesting(frog,mosquito)
 - Try base rule: just_ate(frog,mosquito) ⇒ succeeds!
- 3. Query succeeds: Yes, stork is digesting mosquito

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The Importance of Base Cases



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Warning

Always include a base case in recursive definitions! Consider this dangerous rule:

- Declaratively: "If property p holds, then property p holds" (logical)
- Procedurally: Creates an *infinite loop*
 - To prove p, I need to prove p
 - To prove p, I need to prove p
 - ...and so on, forever
- Without a base case, PROLOG won't terminate

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Another Example: Family Relationships



Consider the following knowledge base:

```
child(oscar, karen, frank).
child(mary, karen, frank).
child(eve, anne, oscar).
child(henry, anne, oscar).
child(isolde, anne, oscar).
child(clyde, mary, oscarb).

child(X,Z,Y) :- child(X,Y,Z).

descendant(X,Y) :- child(X,Y,Z).
descendant(X,Y) :- child(X,U,V), descendant(U,Y).
```

The following query is not answered:

```
?- descendant(clyde,karen).
```

The clause in line 8, which specifies symmetry of the child predicate, calls itself recursively without the possibility of termination.

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Another Example: Family Relationships



This problem can be solved with the following new program.

```
rel01.pl

child(oscar, karen, frank).
child(mary, karen, frank).
child(eve, anne, oscar).
child(isolde, anne, oscar).
child(clyde, mary, oscarb).

descendant(X,Y) :- child(X,Y,Z).
descendant(X,Y) :- child(X,Z,Y).
descendant(X,Y) :- child(X,U,V), descendant(U,Y).
```

But now the query

```
?- child(eve,oscar,anne).
```

is no longer correctly answered because the symmetry of child in the last two variables is no longer given.

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Another Example: Family Relationships



A solution to both problems is found in the program.

```
rel02.pl

child_fact(oscar, karen, frank).

child_fact(mary, karen, frank).

child_fact(eve, anne, oscar).

child_fact(henry, anne, oscar).

child_fact(isolde, anne, oscar).

child_fact(clyde, mary, oscarb).

child_fact(clyde, mary, oscarb).

child(X,Z,Y) :- child_fact(X,Y,Z).

child(X,Z,Y) :- child_fact(X,Z,Y).

descendant(X,Y) :- child(X,Y,Z).

descendant(X,Y) :- child(X,Y,Z).
```

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Another Example: Family Relationships



A solution to both problems is found in the program.

```
rel02.pl
```

```
child_fact(oscar, karen, frank).
child_fact(mary, karen, frank).
child_fact(eve, anne, oscar).
child_fact(henry, anne, oscar).
child_fact(isolde, anne, oscar).
child_fact(clyde, mary, oscarb).

child_fact(clyde, mary, oscarb).

child(X,Z,Y) :- child_fact(X,Y,Z).
child(X,Z,Y) :- child_fact(X,Z,Y).

descendant(X,Y) :- child(X,Y,Z).
```

descendant(X,Y) :- child(X,U,V).

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The PROLOG programmer must pay attention to processing and avoid infinite loops

The program is no longer as elegant and simple as the—logically correct—first variant

descendant(U,Y).

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Note

As we have seen in the previous examples, it is important to control the execution of PROLOG.

- Avoiding unnecessary backtracking especially can lead to large increases in efficiency. One means to this end is the cut operator. By inserting an exclamation mark into a clause, we can prevent backtracking over this point.
- Another possibility for execution control is the built-in predicate fail, which is never true.



Example 1 (Cut operator in PROLOG)

 $\max(X, Y, Max)$ means "the maximum of two numbers X and Y is Max"

```
max(X,Y,X) :- X >= Y.
max(X,Y,Y) :- X < Y.
```

```
max(X,Y,X) :- X >= Y, !.
max(X,Y,Y).
```

- Without cut.
- In query ?- max(2,3,Z), Z > 10., backtracking is employed because Z = 3 and the second clause is tested for max, which is doomed to failure
- With cut.
- The second clause is only called if it is really necessary, that is, if the first clause fails.
- However, this optimization makes the program harder to understand.

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Example 2 (Predicate fail in PROLOG)

In the family relationship example we can quite simply print out all children and their parents with the query

```
?- child_fact(X,Y,Z), write(X),
write(' is a child of '), write(Y),
write(' and '), write(Z), write('.'),
nl, fail.
```

■ The corresponding output is

```
oscar is a child of karen and frank.
mary is a child of karen and frank.
eve is a child of anne and oscar.
henry is a child of anne and oscar.
isolde is a child of anne and oscar.
clyde is a child of mary and oscarb.
false.
```

where the predicate nl causes a line break in the output. What would be the output in the end without use of the fail predicate?

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Example 3 (Negation as Failure)

In the family relationship example, the query

?- child fact(ulla,X,Y).

would result false, because there are no facts about ນໄໄລ

- This answer is *not logically correct*. Specifically, *it is not* possible to prove that there is no object with the name ulla. Here the prover E would correctly answer "No proof found."
- Thus if *PROLOG answers* false., this only means that the query Q cannot be proved. For this, however, $\neg Q$ must not necessarily be proved.

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

Example	Description
[A]	A list with one element
	An empty list
[34,tom,[2,3]]	A list with three elements
	where the third element is
	a list of two elements
[mia, love(honey), mia]	
	where the first and last
	elements are identical

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

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

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- A list can be decomposed into its head (first element) and tail (remaining elements) using the vertical bar operator ('|').
- For example, the list [A, B, C] can be decomposed as follows:

```
?- [Head|Tail] = [A, B, C].
Head = A,
Tail = [B, C].
```

- What are the head and the tail of the list [dead(z)]?
- Note: The empty list has neither a head nor a tail. That is, the empty list has no internal structure; for PROLOG, [] is a special, particularly simple, list.
 - What is the output of the following query?

```
?-[H|T] = [].
```

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Exercise 6

Explain the purpose of each query and give PROLOG's expected answer. For each query below, state (1) what the query asks, (2) the expected result (true/false or variable bindings), and (3) a brief justification.

```
?- [X|Y] = [[], dead(z), [2, [b, c]], [], Z].
```

```
?- [X,Y \mid W] = [[], dead(z), [2, [b, c]], [], Z].
```

```
?- [X1,X2,X3,X4 | Tail] = [[], dead(z), [2, [b, c]], [], Z].
```

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Lists First recursive list program



It's time to look at an example (from "Learn Prolog Now!") of a recursive PROLOG program for lists: the predicate member/2.

- Goal: given an object X and a list L, decide whether X belongs to L.
- The standard definition (one fact and one recursive rule):

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

- First clause (fact): "X is a member of a list if X is the head of that list." (uses the | operator)
- Second clause (recursive rule): "X is a member of a list if X is a member of the tail of the list."
- Declaratively this is straightforward: the two clauses capture membership directly from the structure of lists.

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Consider how PROLOG answers queries.

Immediate success:

?- member(yolanda,[yolanda,trudy,vincent,jules]

PROLOG succeeds immediately by unifying with the first clause.

■ Requires recursion/backtracking:

?- member(vincent,[yolanda,trudy,vincent,jules]

PROLOG tries the first clause (fails), uses the recursive clause repeatedly until the subgoal

member(vincent,[vincent,jules])

unifies with the first clause and succeeds.

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If the queried element is not in the list, recursion eventually reaches the empty list and cannot proceed:

```
?- member(zed,[yolanda,trudy,vincent,jules]).
```

■ PROLOG will derive successive goals

```
member(zed,[trudy,vincent,jules])
member(zed,[vincent,jules])
member(zed,[jules])
member(zed,[])
```

and at member(zed, []), neither clause applies (empty list cannot be split), so search stops and the answer is no.

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member/2 can be used with variables to enumerate elements:

```
?- member(X,[yolanda,trudy,vincent,jules]).
X = yolanda;
X = trudy;
X = vincent;
X = jules;
no
```

Small stylistic improvement: use anonymous variables for irrelevant parts

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

Semantically identical, but clearer because each clause names only what matters.

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When VI DON'S

- PROLOG programs are not fully compiled, rather, they are interpreted by the WAM. Therefore it is possible to modify programs at runtime. A program can even modify itself.
- With commands such as assert and retract, facts and rules can be added to the knowledge base or taken out of it
- Assert predicates
 - assert (X): Adds a new fact or clause to the database.
 Term is asserted as the last fact or clause with the same key predicate.
 - asserta(X): Same as assert, but adds a clause at the beginning of the database.
 - assertz(X): Exactly same as assert(X).
- Retract predicates
 - retract(X): Removes fact or clause X from the database.
 - retractall(X): Removes all facts or clauses from the database for which the head unifies with X.

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A simple application of asserta is the addition of derived facts to the beginning of the knowledge base with the goal of avoiding a repeated, potentially time-expensive derivation.

Example 4 (Family Relationship)

```
dynamic rel.pl
    child fact(oscar, karen, frank).
    child fact(marv, karen, frank).
    child fact(eve, anne, oscar).
    child_fact(henry, anne, oscar).
    child fact(isolde, anne, oscar).
    child fact(clyde, mary, oscarb).
    child(X,Z,Y) := child fact(X,Y,Z).
    child(X,Z,Y) :- child fact(X,Z,Y).
10
    :- dynamic descendant/2.
11
    descendant(X,Y) := child(X,Y,Z), asserta(descendant(X,Y)).
12
    descendant(X,Y) := child(X,U,V), descendant(U,Y),
13
                         asserta(descendant(X,Y)).
14
```

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Additional Materials

Self-modifying Programs

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```

```
?- [dynamic_rel].
?- descendant(clyde, karen).
true .
?- listing(descendant).
:- dynamic descendant/2.
descendant(X, Y) :-
child(X, Y, Z),
asserta(descendant(X, Y)).
descendant(X, Y) :-
child(X, U, V),
descendant(U, Y),
asserta(descendant(X, Y)).
true.
```

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- By manipulating rules with assert and retract, even programs that change themselves completely can be written. This idea became known under the term *genetic programming*. It allows the construction of arbitrarily flexible learning programs.
- In practice, however, it turns out that, due to the *huge* number of senseless possible changes, changing the code by trial and error rarely leads to a performance increase.
- Systematic changing of rules, on the other hand, makes programming so much more complex that, so far, such programs that extensively modify their own code have not been successful.
- Machine learning has been quite successful. However, only very limited modifications of the program code are being conducted here.

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Exercise 7

Understand how to solve this problem using PROLOG.

A farmer wants to bring a cabbage, a goat, and a wolf across a river, but his boat is so small that he can only take them across one at a time. The farmer thought it over and then said to himself: "If I first bring the wolf to the other side, then the goat will eat the cabbage. If I transport the cabbage first, then the goat will be eaten by the wolf. What should I do?"



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- The programming of scheduling systems, in which many (sometimes complex) logical and numerical conditions must be fulfilled, can be very expensive and difficult with conventional programming languages.
- This is precisely where *logic could be useful*.
- An approach is to simply write all logical conditions in PL1 and then enter a query. Usually this approach fails miserably. The reason is the penguin problem discussed in "Limitations of Logic". The fact penguin (tweety) does ensure that penguin (tweety) is true but does not rule out that raven (tweety) is also true. To rule this out with additional axioms is very inconvenient.
- Constraint Logic Programming (CLP) [Jaffar and Lassez 1987], which allows the explicit formulation of constraints for variables, offers an elegant and very efficient mechanism for solving this problem.
 - The interpreter constantly monitors the execution of the program for adherence to all of its constraints.
 - The programmer is fully relieved of the task of controlling the constraints, which in many cases can greatly simplify programming.

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Example 5 (Applying the CLP mechanism of GNU-PROLOG (The finite domain (FD) constraint solver))

The secretary of Albert Einstein High School has to come up with a plan for allocating rooms for final exams. He has the following information: the four teachers Mayer, Hoover, Miller and Smith give tests for the subjects German, English, Math, and Physics in the ascendingly numbered rooms 1, 2, 3 and 4. Every teacher gives a test for exactly one subject in exactly one room. Besides that, he knows the following about the teachers and their subjects.

- (1) Mr. Mayer never tests in room 4.
- (2) Mr. Miller always tests German.
- (3) Mr. Smith and Mr. Miller do not give tests in neighboring rooms.
- (4) Mrs. Hoover tests Mathematics.
- (5) Physics is always tested in room number 4.
- (6) German and English are not tested in room 1.

Who gives a test in which room?

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```
raumplan.pl
    %%% Run in GNU-PROLOG
    start :-
        fd domain([Mayer, Hoover, Miller, Smith],1,4),
3
        fd_all_different([Mayer, Miller, Hoover, Smith]),
5
        fd_domain([German, English, Math, Physics],1,4),
        fd_all_different([German, English, Math, Physics]),
        fd_labeling([Mayer, Hoover, Miller, Smith]),
10
        Mayer \#=4,
                                       % Mayer not in room 4
11
        Miller #= German,
                                      % Miller tests German
12
        dist(Miller, Smith) #>= 2,
                                      % Distance Miller/Smith >= 2
13
        Hoover #= Math,
                                      % Hoover tests mathematics
14
        Physics #= 4,
                                       % Physics in room 4
15
        German \# = 1,
                                      % German not in room 1
16
        English \# = 1.
                                       % English not in room 1
17
        nl.
18
        write([Mayer, Hoover, Miller, Smith]), nl,
19
        write([German, English, Math, Physics]), nl.
20
```

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- GNU-PROLOG built-in predicates:
 - fd_domain(Vars, Lower, Upper) constraints each element X of Vars to take a value in Lower..Upper.
 - fd_all_different(List) constrains all variables in List to take distinct values
 - fd_labeling(Vars, Options) assigns a value to each variable X of
 the list Vars according to the list of labeling options given by Options.
 This predicate is re-executable on backtracking. fd_labeling(Vars) is
 equivalent to fd_labeling(Vars, []).
- The variables Mayer, Hoover, Miller, Smith as well as German, English, Math, Physics can each take on an integer value from 1 to 4 as the room number. (Lines 3–6.)
- A binding Mayer = 1 and German = 1 means that Mr. Mayer gives the German test in room 1.
- Lines 4 and 7 ensure that the four particular variables take on different values.
- Line 9 ensures that all variables are assigned a concrete value in the case of a solution. This line is not absolutely necessary here. If there were multiple solutions, however, only intervals would be output.
- In lines 11–17 the constraints are given, and the remaining lines output the room numbers for all teachers and all subjects in a simple format.

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The program is loaded into GNU-PROLOG with ['raumplan.pl']., and with start. we obtain the output

```
[3,1,2,4]
[2,3,1,4]
true ?
yes
```

This output corresponds to the plan

Room num.	1	2	3	4
Teacher	Hoover	Miller	Mayer	Smith
Subject	Math	German	English	Physics

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Execution Control and

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