Programming Languages (Langages Evolués)

Roel Wuyts Prolog

History of Prolog

- 1965: Unification and resolution principles
 - by Robinson
- 1973: Introduction of Prolog
 - by Colmerauer and Roussel, Université de Marseille
- 1980: Efficient implementation of Prolog
 - Edinburgh Prolog, University of Edinburgh

Meet Prolog

- Prolog
 - is interpreted
 - garbage collected
 - dynamically typed
- and... is a logic programming language

(Abstract) Prolog Interpreter

```
Input: A query Q and a logic program P
Output: yes if Q 'implied' by P, no otherwise
   Initialise current goal set to {Q};
   While the current goal is not empty do
     Choose a G from the current goal;
     Choose instance of a rule
        G :- BI, ..., Bn from P;
        (if no such rule exists, exit while loop)
     Replace G by BI, ..., Bn in current goal set;
     If current goal set is empty,
        output yes;
     else output no;
```

Programming Overview

• make database of facts and rules:

```
mother(inge, bram).
mother(nicole, inge).
grandMother(G, X) := mother(G, M), mother(M, X)
```

• Then we can pose queries:

```
?- mother(Who, bram)
Who = inge
?- grandMother(nicole, GrandChild)
GrandChild = bram
?- mother(M, C)
M = inge
C = bram
...
```

Solving queries

- Prolog uses SLD resolution, backtracking and depth-first search to answer queries
- Important to know:
 - subgoals are treated left to right
 - the database is traversed top to bottom

Solving Queries: example

```
male(charles).
male(philip).
parent(charles, elizabeth).
parent(charles, philip).
father(X, M) := parent(X, M), male(M).
?- trace(father(charles,F)).
 + 1 1 Call: father(charles,_67) ?
  + 2 2 Call: parent(charles, 67) ?
  + 2 2 Exit: parent(charles, elizabeth) ?
  + 3 2 Call: male(elizabeth) ?
  + 3 2 Fail: male(elizabeth) ?
  + 2 2 Redo: parent(charles,elizabeth) ?
  + 2 2 Exit: parent(charles,philip) ?
  + 3 2 Call: male(philip) ?
  + 3 2 Exit: male(philip) ?
  + 1 1 Exit: father(charles,philip) ? ...
```

Closed World Assumption

- Prolog adopts a closed world assumption: whatever cannot be proved to be true, is assumed to be false.
- Example

```
mother(inge, bram).
mother(nicole, inge).
grandMother(G, X) :- mother(G, M), mother(M, X)
?-mother(inge, roel).
NO
```

- Has a lot of implications
 - especially regarding negation...

Prolog Concepts

- Facts, relations
- Queries, variables
- Clauses
- Recursion
- Functors and Lists
- Controlling Backtracking: Cut and negation
- Higher-order predicates
- Prolog Meta-Programming

Facts

```
female(anne).
male(filip).
male(pierre).
parent(anne,pierre).
parent(filip,pierre).
```

describe information that is always true

Relations

- Collections of facts with the same name (/x represents the arity of the relation)
- Example

```
female/1
     { anne }
male/1
     { filip, pierre }
parent/2
     { (anne,pierre), (filip,pierre) }
```

Queries and variables

```
?- male(filip).
Yes
                                    logic variables
?- male(X).
                                  (start with capital)
X = filip
X = pierre
No
?- parent(P,pierre).
P = anne;
P = filip;
No
?- parent(P,E).
  = anne
E = pierre;
 = filip
                          an answer of a query is a set of
E = pierre;
                         values that, when substituted for
No
                        variables make the expression true
```

Anonymous variables

```
?- parent(P,E).
P = anne
E = pierre;
P = filip
E = pierre;
No
?- parent(P,_).
P = anne;
P = filip;
No
?- parent(P,_T).
P = anne;
                                       anonymous logic variables
P = filip;
                                         (start with underscore)
No
```

More on logic variables...

- In imperative languages, a variable is:
 - a name for a memory location that holds data of a certain type:
 - a variable always points to the same location
 - the contents of that position can change
- In logic programming languages, a variable is:
 - a substitutable parameter that can hold any kind of value
 - real variable, in a mathematical sense

Scoping

- variables do not have a scope outside the clause in which they occur
- Prolog does not support global datastructures
 - using meta-programming tricks one can assert and retract clauses from the database to have global information

Conjunction and disjunction

Logic Conjunction: , (comma)

```
?- male(P), parent(P,E).
P = filip
E = pierre;
No
```

Logic disjunction; (semi-colon)

```
?- male(X); female(X).
X = filip;
X = pierre;
X = anne;
No
```

Clauses

HEAD: BODY

```
father(P) :-
   male(P),
   parent(P,_).
mother(P) :-
   female(P),
   parent(P, _).
grandparent(X,Y) :-
   parent(X,Z),
   parent(Z,Y).
grandma(X,Y) :=
   grandparent(X,Y),
   female(X).
sibling(X, Y) :-
   parent(Z,X),
   parent(Z,Y), X = Y.
```

Queries

```
?- father(X).
X = filip;
No
?- mother(X).
X = anne;
No
?- grandparent(X,Y).
No
```

Functors

- Functors are structured terms that can be nested
 - Example: a tree to represent the expression 5*3
 tree('*',leaf(5),leaf(3))
 - Example: to represent (5+6)*(3-(2/2))

Functors

- Recursive data structures can be manipulated
- Example:

```
operation(tree(Op,L,R),Op).
operation(tree(Op,L,R),T) :-
    L = tree(_,_,_), operation(L,T).
operation(tree(Op,L,R),T) :-
    R = tree(_,_,_), operation(R,T).

:- operation(tree('*', tree('+',leaf(5),leaf(6)), tree('-',leaf(3), tree('/',leaf(2),leaf(2)))), X)
    X = *;
    X = +;
    X = -;
    X = -;
    No
```

Functors and equality

- Three ways for testing equality:
 - identity

```
?- tree(X,Y) == tree(leaf(5),leaf(Z)).
No
```

equality

```
?- tree(X,Y) = tree(leaf(5),leaf(Z)).
X = leaf(5)
Y = leaf(_G162)
Z = _G162
```

mathematical equality

```
?- tree(X,Y) is tree(leaf(5),leaf(Z)).
ERROR: Arithmetic 'tree/2' is not a function
```

Recursion

- Recursion is the sole control mechanism for loops
 - There is no other iteration mechanism
- Example: factorial:

```
factorial(0,1).
factorial(N,Fac) :-
    M is N-1,
    factorial(M,P),
    Fac is N*P.

?- factorial(3,X).
    X= 6
```

Recursion (ctd)

- Take care! Always put non-recursive clauses before recursive ones!
- Example:

```
factorial(N,Fac) :-
   N]0,
   M is N-1,
   factorial(M,P),
   Fac is N*P.
factorial(0,1).

?- factorial(5,X).
   ERROR: Out of local stack
```

Lists

• Finite list:

```
[monday, tuesday, wednesday, thursday, friday]
```

Infinite list:

```
[ monday | Rest ]
[ monday, tuesday | Rest ]
```

 after the | is a variable that represents the rest of the list

Lists: Internally

- Empty lists: special symbol: []
- Predefined functor .()

```
.(First, Rest) = [First | Rest]
.(a,.(b,.(c,[]))) = [a, b, c]
```

Following terms are all equal:

```
[ a, b, c ]
[ a | [b, c] ]
[ a | [b | [c|[]]] ]
```

Lists and equality

```
?-[1,2] == [1,2].
 YES
?-[X,2] = [1,Y].
 X = 1
  Y = 2
?-[X|Y] = [1,2,3].
 X = 1
  Y = [2,3]
?-[X|[2|Y]] = [1,2,Z].
X = 1
  Y = [\_G169]
  Z = G169
?-[[1,2],3,4] = [X|Y].
 X = [1,2]
  Y = [3,4]
```

Appending lists

Appending lists:
 append([],X,X).
 append([H|T],Y,[H|Z]) :- append(T,Y,Z).

Now how does this work ?!

Example: append

```
append([],X,X).
append([H|T],Y,[H|Z]) := append(T,Y,Z).
                                                      append two lists
append([a,b,c], [x,y], L)
     H=a, T=[b, c], Y=[x,y], L=[a|Z]
  append([b,c], [x,y], Z)
        H'=b, T'=[c], Y'=[x,y], Z=[b|Z']
     append([c], [x,y], Z')
           H''=c, T''=[], Y''=[x,y], Z'=[c|Z'']
        append([], [x,y], Z'')
              X=Z''=[x,y]
           H''=C, T''=[], Y''=[x,y], Z'=[c,x,y]
        H'=b, T'=[c], Y'=[x,y], Z=[b,c,x,y]
     H=a, T=[b, c], Y=[x,y], L=[a,b,c,x,y]
```

Example: append (ctd)

```
append([],X,X).
append([H|T],Y,[H|Z]) := append(T,Y,Z).
append([a,b,c], L, [a,b,c,x,y])
     H=a, T=[b,c], Y=L, Z=[b,c,x,y]
  append([b,c], L, [b,c,x,y])
        H'=b, T'=[c], Y'=L, Z'=[c,x,y]
     append([c], L, [c,x,y])
           H''=C, T''=[], Y''=L, Z''=[x,y]
        append([], L, [x,y])
              X=L=[x,y]
           H''=C, T''=[], Y''=L=[x,y], Z''=[x,y]
        H'=b, T'=[c], Y'=L=[x,y], Z'=[c,x,y]
     H=a, T=[b,c], Y=L=[x,y], Z=[a,b,c,x,y]
```

what list can be appended to [a,b,c] to produce [a,b,c,x,y]?

Example: append (ctd)

```
append([],X,X).
append([H|T],Y,[H|Z]) := append(T,Y,Z).
                                                       what list can be
                                                      prepended to [x,y]
append(L, [x,y], [a,b,c,x,y])
                                                          to produce
     L=[H|T], Y=[x,y], H=a, Z=[b,c,x,y]
  append([T, [x,y], [b,c,x,y])
                                                          [a,b,c,x,y] ?
        T=[H'|T'], Y'=[x,y], H'=b, Z'=[c,x,y]
     append(T', [x,y], [c,x,y])
           T' = [H''|T''], Y'' = [x,y], H'' = c, Z'' = [x,y]
        append(T'', [x,y], [x,y])
              T''=[]
           T' = [C], Y'' = [X, Y], H'' = C, Z'' = [X, Y]
        T=[b,c], Y'=[x,y], H'=b, Z'=[c,x,y]
     L=[a,b,c], Y=[x,y], H=a, Z=[b,c,x,y]
```

member/2

X is a member of a list whose first element is X.
 X is a member of a list whose tail is R if X is a member of R:

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

• Test membership:

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

Generate members of a list:

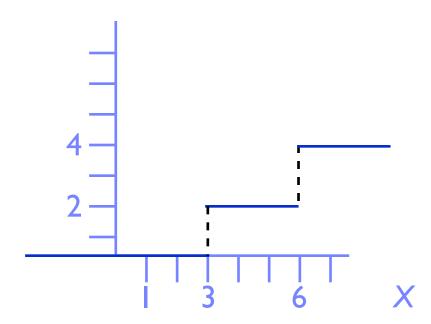
```
?- member(X,[1,2,3]).
X = 1;
X = 2;
X = 3;
No
```

Controlling Backtracking

- Automatic backtracking is very handy
 - implicit control structure
- But can be very costly
 - unnecessary search branches are traversed
- Mechanisms to control backtracking manually
 - cut (green cut and red cut)
 - negation and explicit failure

Example program

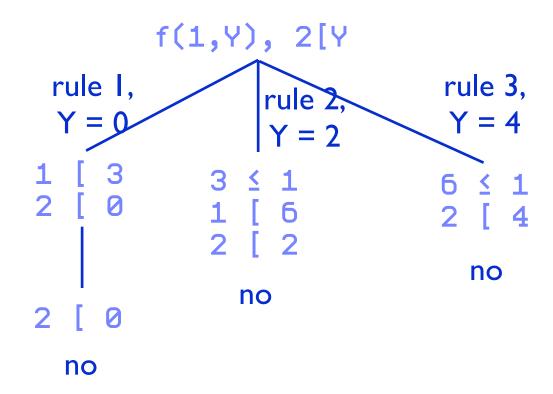
Double-step function:



Green cut

Suppose we ask:

• In order to do this, the three rules were tried!



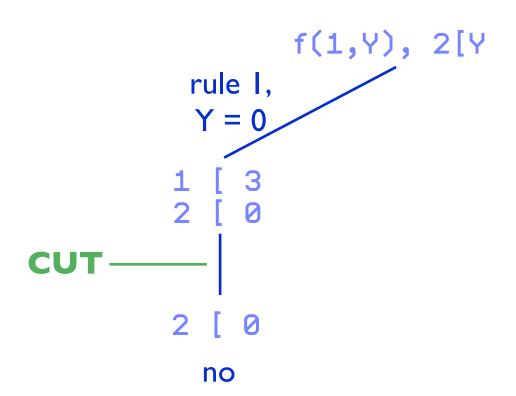
Making the rules exclusive

Add a cut to prevent backtracking:

```
f(X, 0) := X [ 3, !. %Rule 1

f(X, 2) := 3 = [ X, X [ 6, !. %Rule 2

f(X, 4) := 6 = [ X. %Rule 3
```



Optimize further: red cut

 If the rules are exclusive, then we can optimize more, since some conditions are no longer needed

```
f(X, 0):- X [ 3, !. %Rule 1
f(X, 2):- X [ 6, !. %Rule 2
f(X,4). %Rule 3
```

Red vs. Green cut

- The cut operator (!) commits Prolog to a particular search path.
 - Says to Prolog: "This is the right answer to this query. If later you are forced to backtrack, please do not consider any alternatives to this decision.
- Green cut: does not change declarative semantics
 - if you remove it, the program does the same
- Red cut: changes declarative semantics
 - remove it, and you have a different program

Problems with cut

- Have to take care of procedural aspects
 - With a cut, the order of clauses can change the declarative semantic of a program
- Example

```
P:- a, b.

p:- c.

p \Leftrightarrow (a \land b) \lor c

p:- a, !, b.

p:- c.

p \Leftrightarrow (a \land b) \lor (\sima \land c)

p:- c.

p:- a, !, b.

p \Leftrightarrow c \lor (a \land b)
```

Failure

- How do we express
 "mary likes all animals but snakes"
- We can if we use *fail*, a special goal that always fails, thus forcing the parent goal to fail as well.
- The implementation becomes:

```
likes(mary, X) :-
    snake(X), !, fail.
likes(mary, X) :-
    animal(X).
```

Negation as failure

Prolog defines not as:

```
not(P) :-
    P, !, fail
    true
```

We can rephrase our example more cleanly as:

```
likes(mary, X):-
  not(snake(X)), fail.
likes(mary, X):-
  animal(X).
```

Negation: failure vs. mathematical

- negation as failure does not correspond to negation in mathematical logic
 - remember the close world assumption...
- Example

Second-order predicates

- In Prolog we have second-order predicates
 - Predicates taking other predicates as argument
- Two well-known examples:
 - forall(+Cond, +Action): For all alternative bindings of Cond Action can be proven.
 - findall(+Template, +Goal, -Bag): Creates a list of the instantiations Template gets successively on backtracking over Goal and unifies the result with Bag.

forall example

```
posList(L) :- forall( member(E,L), (number(E),E]0) ).

?- posList([1,2,3]).
Yes
?- posList([1,a,3]).
No
?- posList([1,2,-3]).
No
?-posList([]).
Yes
```

findall example

Prolog Meta-programming

- One can write Prolog programs that manipulate Prolog programs
- Often-used predicates for meta-programming:
 - call
 - assert
 - retract

call

- call(Term): succeeds if and only if the execution of Term succeeds
 - needed for treating functors as procedures
- Example: validate syntax of abstract syntax tree

```
tree(Op,X,Y):-
    arithmeticOp(Op), treeOrLeaf(X), treeOrLeaf(Y).
arithmeticOp(Op):-
    member(Op,['*','+','-','*','/']).
treeOrLeaf(X):-
    X = tree(_,_,_), call(X).
treeOrLeaf(leaf(L)):-
    member(L,[0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9]).
?- call(tree('*',leaf(5),leaf(6))).
Yes
```

Lists and functors

- =..: Convert between functors and lists
- Example

```
?-\text{X} = ... [tree, '*', leaf(5), leaf(6)]

X = tree(*, leaf(5), leaf(6))

?- tree('*',X,Y) = .. Z.

X = _G158

Y = _G159

Z = [tree, *, _G158, _G159]
```

assert and retract

- allow a program to change itself dynamically by adding new facts or rules, or remove existing ones.
- Definitions:
 - assert(Clause): add Clause in the database as the last fact or clause of the corresponding predicate.
 - retract(Clause): The first fact or clause in the database that unifies with Clause is removed from the database.
 - Also exists: asserta, assertz, retractall

dynamic

- Clauses that are used with assert or retract have to be marked dynamic
 - Otherwise an error message is generated ERROR: No permission to modify static_procedure `foo/2'
- Example: to mark foo/2 as dynamic:

```
:- dynamic mere/2.
```

Example

```
:-dynamic cachedProduct/1.
computer(g5-d2).
computer(amd64).
keyboard(diNuovo).
product(X) :- cachedProduct(X).
product(X) :-
        not(cachedProduct(X)),
        (computer(X); keyboard(X)),
        assert(cachedProduct(X)).
resetProductCache :- retractall(cachedProduct( P)).
?- cachedProduct(g5-d2).
  No
?- product(g5-d2).
  Yes
?- cachedProduct(g5-d2).
  Yes
?- resetProductCache.
  Yes
```

Some Prolog Examples

- Some string manipulation examples
 - playing with whitespace
- Reasoning on class hierarchies
 - extracted from a Smalltalk system

Array of char vs. string

- Array of char codes: between double quotes
- string: between single quotes
- conversion between two: name predicate

```
Example
```

```
?- name('hello', CCList).
  N = [104, 101, 108, 108, 111]
?- name(A, "hello").
  A = hello.
?- name(A, CCList).
  ERROR: name/2: Arguments are not sufficiently instantiated
```

whitespace

Let's write a predicate that relates two arrays of characters, Rest and String, such that Rest is String with all possible whitespace characters removed.

```
whitespaceChar(C) :-
   member(C, " \t\n\r").
strippedspace([], []).
strippedspace([S | Srest], Rrest) :-
   whitespaceChar(S),
   strippedspace(Srest, Rrest).
strippedspace([S|Srest], [S|Rrest]) :-
   not(whitespaceChar(S)),
   strippedspace(Srest, Rrest).
?- strippedspace(" hello", R).
   [104, 101, 108, 108, 111]
?- strippedspace(" hel lo ", R).
   [104, 101, 108, 108, 111]
```

whitespace

Let's write a predicate that relates two arrays of characters, Rest and String, such that Rest is a proper suffix of String with one or more whitespace characters removed.

```
whitespace0([], []).
whitespace0([S|Srest], Rrest):-
    whitespaceChar(S),
    whitespace0(Srest, Rrest).
whitespace0([S|Rest], [S|Rest]):-
    not(whitespaceChar(S)).

?- whitespace0(" hello", R).
    [104, 101, 108, 108, 111]
?- whitespace0(" hello ", S).
    S = [104, 101, 108, 108, 111, 32]
?- whitespace0(" hel lo ", R).
    [104, 101, 108, 32, 32, 108, 111, 32, 32]
```

Reasoning over class hierarchies

- Let's reason over classes and inheritance:
 - I. dump some information in a file classes inheritance relationships
 - 2. write predicates to query this information:

```
classList
superclassOfList
classChain
inverseClassChain
classInHierarchyOf
sibling
```

Dumping information

```
class superclassOf classes inheritance selectBlock
class := 'class(''\langle 1s \rangle'').\langle n \rangle'.
superclassOf := 'superclassOf(''\langle 1s \rangle'', ''\langle 2s \rangle'').\langle n \rangle'.
classes := WriteStream on: String new.
inheritance := WriteStream on: String new.
classes nextPutAll: 'rootclass(''Object'').'; cr; cr.
selectBlock := [:cl |
   classes nextPutAll: (class expandMacrosWith: cl name).
   cl subclasses do: [:each |
       inheritance nextPutAll: (superclassOf expandMacrosWith: cl name
                                                                with: each name).
       selectBlock value: eachll.
selectBlock value: Object.
'classData.pl' asFilename writeStream
   nextPutAll: classes contents;
   nextPutAll: inheritance contents;
   close
```

Dump result

```
rootclass('Object').
class('Object').
class('Layout').
class('LayoutOrigin').
class('LayoutFrame').
class('AlignmentOrigin').
class('LayoutSizedOrigin').
class('NameScope').
class('LocalScope').
superclassOf('Object', 'Layout').
superclassOf('Layout','LayoutOrigin').
superclassOf('LayoutOrigin','LayoutFrame').
superclassOf('LayoutOrigin', 'AlignmentOrigin').
superclassOf('LayoutOrigin','LayoutSizedOrigin').
superclassOf('Object', 'NameScope').
superclassOf('NameScope', 'LocalScope').
superclassOf('LocalScope', 'HintedScope').
superclassOf('NameScope','NullScope').
```

Consulting a file

```
% To read in a file with Prolog code: the consult predicate.
:- consult('~/Documents/Development/swiProlog/classData').
% Or shorter:
:- consult(classData).
% Once this is done, we can query!
?- class(C)
      C = 'Object';
      C = 'Layout';
      C = 'LayoutOrigin';
      C = 'LayoutFrame';
      . . .
```

Assembling facts into lists

```
classList(L) :-
   findall(C,
            class(C),
            L).
superclassOfList(L) :-
   findall( superclassOf(Super,Sub),
            superclassOf(Super,Sub),
            L).
?- classList(L)
     L = ['Object', 'Layout', 'LayoutOrigin', 'LayoutFrame',
      'AlignmentOrigin', 'LayoutSizedOrigin', 'NameScope', 'LocalScope',
      'HintedScope' | ....]
?- superclassOfList(L)
     L = [superclassOf('Object', 'Layout'), superclassOf('Layout',
      'LayoutOrigin'), superclassOf('LayoutOrigin', 'LayoutFrame'),
      superclassOf(..., ...)|...]
?- classList(CL), superclassOfList(SCL),
     length(CL, NCL), length(SCL, NSCL), NCL is NSCL + 1
```

classChain

```
% Class is a class. The classchain is the list consisting of class,
% and the subsequent superclasses all the way until a root class.
classChain(Class, [Class]) :-
   rootclass(Class).
classChain(Class, [Class | Rest]) :-
   superclassOf(Super, Class),
   classChain(Super, Rest).
?- classChain('Object', ['Object']).
   Yes
?- classChain('Array', Chain).
   Chain = ['Array', 'ArrayedCollection',
                         'SequenceableCollection', 'Collection', 'Object']
?- classChain(C, ['Collection', 'Object']).
     C = 'Collection'
?- classChain('ExceptionSet', ['Collection', 'Object'])
   No
```

inverseClassChain

```
% Class is a class. The inverse classchain is the list consisting of the
root class and the inheritance chain down to Class.
inverseClassChain(Class, InverseChain) :-
   inverseClassChain(Class, [], InverseChain).
inverseClassChain(Class, Result, [Class | Result]) :-
   rootclass(Class).
inverseClassChain(Class, CurrentChain, Result) :-
   superclassOf(Super, Class),
   inverseClassChain(Super, [Class | CurrentChain], Result).
?- inverseClassChain('Array', Chain)
     Chain = ['Object', 'Collection', 'SequenceableCollection',
                                             'ArrayedCollection', 'Array']
```

classInHierarchyOf

```
Sub is a class somewhere in the class hierarchy of Root (it is a direct or
indirect subclass of Root).
classInHierarchyOf(Sub, Root) :-
   superclassOf(Root, Sub).
classInHierarchyOf(Sub, Root) :-
   superclassOf(Super, Sub),
   classInHierarchyOf(Super, Root).
?- classInHierarchyOf('OrderedCollection', 'Object')
     Yes
?- classInHierarchyOf('OrderedCollection', C).
      C = 'SequenceableCollection';
      C = 'Collection';
      C = 'Object':
      No
```

lastInCommon

```
% Given two lists L1 and L2, E is the last element where the two
% lists are the same.
lastInCommon(L1, L2, E) :-
   lastInCommon(L1, L2, _, E),
   nonvar(E).
lastInCommon([], [], R, R).
lastInCommon([S | Rest1], [S | Rest2], Result, T) :-
   lastInCommon(Rest1, Rest2, S, T).
lastInCommon([S | _Rest1], [T | _Rest2], Result, Result) :-
   S = T.
?-lastInCommon([1, 2, 3, 4], [1, 2, 3, 5], 3).
      Yes
?-lastInCommon([1, 2, 3, 4], [1, 2, 3, 4], E).
      E = 4
?- lastInCommon([1, 2], [4, 2], E).
      No
```

sibling

```
XTwo classes C1 and C2 are sibling if they share a common ancestor Common
sibling(C1, C2) :-
   sibling(C1, C2, _).
sibling(C1, C2, Common):-
   inverseClassChain(C1, L1),
   inverseClassChain(C2, L2),
   lastInCommon(L1, L2, Common).
?-sibling('SortedCollection', 'Graph').
      Yes
?- sibling('SortedCollection', 'Graph', 'OrderedCollection').
      Yes
?- sibling('SortedCollection', 'LinkedList', C).
      C = 'SequenceableCollection')).
```

Cherry on the cake..

```
check(Goal) :- Goal, !.
check(Goal) :-
   write('TEST FAILED: '),
   write(Goal), nl.
classChainTests :-
   check(classChain('Object', ['Object'])),
   check(classChain('Collection', ['Collection', 'Object'])),
   check((classChain(C, ['Collection', 'Object']), C = 'Collection')),
   check(not(classChain('ExceptionSet', ['Collection', 'Object']))).
classInHierarchuOfTests :-
   check(classInHierarchyOf('Collection', 'Object')),
   check(classInHierarchyOf('OrderedCollection', 'Collection')),
   check(classInHierarchyOf('OrderedCollection', 'Object')).
test :-
   write('TESTING ...\n'),
   classChainTests,
   classInHierarchyOfTests,
      8...
   write('DONE'), nl,
   true.
```

Wrap-up

- You now know:
 - what this course is about
 - who I am and how to contact me

References

- http://www.ulb.ac.be/di/rwuyts/INFO020_2003/
- The Ciao Prolog System Reference Manual, Technical Report CLIP 3/97.1, www.clip.dia.fi.upm.es