# Prolog and declarative programming, pt 3



```
partition([], _, [], []).
partition([X|Xs], Pivot, Smalls, Bigs) :-
    ( X @< Pivot ->
       Smalls = [X|Rest],
        partition(Xs, Pivot, Rest, Bigs)
    ; Bigs = [X|Rest],
       partition(Xs, Pivot, Smalls, Rest)
    ) .
quicksort([]) --> [].
quicksort([X|Xs]) -->
    { partition(Xs, X, Smaller, Bigger) },
    quicksort(Smaller), [X], quicksort(Bigger).
```

```
*/
/* start with ?- go. Answer with yes or no.
go :- hypothesize(Animal),
     write('I guess that the animal is: '),
     write(Animal),
     nl,
     undo.
/* hypotheses to be tested */
hypothesize(cheetah) :- cheetah.
hypothesize(tiger) :- tiger.
hypothesize(giraffe) :- giraffe.
hypothesize(zebra) :- zebra.
hypothesize(ostrich) :- ostrich.
hypothesize(penguin) :- penguin.
hypothesize(albatross) :- albatross.
hypothesize(unknown).
                                 /* no diagnosis */
```

```
/* animal identification rules */
                                        ostrich :- bird,
cheetah :- mammal,
                                                    verify(does not fly),
           carnivore,
                                                    verify(has long neck).
           verify(has_tawny_color),
                                        penguin :- bird,
           verify(has dark spots).
                                                    verify(does not fly),
tiger :- mammal,
                                                    verify(swims),
         carnivore,
                                                    verify(is black and white).
         verify(has tawny color),
                                        albatross :- bird,
         verify(has_black_stripes).
                                                      verify(appears in story
giraffe :- ungulate,
                                                             Ancient Mariner),
           verify(has long neck),
                                                      verify(flys well).
           verify(has long legs).
zebra :- ungulate,
         verify(has_black_stripes).
```

```
/* classification rules */
mammal :- verify(has hair).
mammal :- verify(gives_milk).
bird :- verify(has feathers).
bird :- verify(flys),
            verify(lays eggs).
carnivore :- verify(eats meat).
carnivore :- verify(has_pointed_teeth),
            verify(has claws),
            verify(has forward eyes).
ungulate :- mammal,
           verify(has hooves).
ungulate :- mammal,
           verify(chews cud).
```

```
/* how to ask questions */
ask(Question) :-
   write('Does the animal have the following attribute: '),
   write(Question),
   write('?'),
    read(Response),
   nl,
    ( (Response == yes ; Response == y)
      ->
       assert(yes(Question));
       assert(no(Question)), fail).
:- dynamic yes/1, no/1.
```

```
/* How to verify something */
verify(S) :-
   (yes(S)
    ->
    true ;
    (no(S)
     ->
     fail;
     ask(S)).
/* undo all yes/no assertions */
undo :- retract(yes(_)),fail.
undo :- retract(no(_)),fail.
undo.
```

## Discussion

- What do:
  - DFA checkers
  - The chess queen problem
  - Natural language processing
  - Robotic planning
  - etc.
  - Have in common?

## How does it work?

- Short answer: depth-first backtracking search
- Given a query and knowledge base, for each top-level term in the query, Prolog:
  - Tries to match the term against the head of a clause in the KB.
  - If it fails to find one it returns failure.
  - If it finds one then the body of the clause becomes the current query and this process recurses.
  - If that process succeeds then Prolog returns success along with any bindings used to succeed.
  - If it fails then Prolog tries this loop again (i.e., tries to match the term against the head of a different clause in KB).
- This process bottoms out either when a term matches a fact
  - or when a term matches certain system relations that are guaranteed to succeed

# Prolog also allows complex terms

• What we've seen so far is called Datalog: "databases in logic."

• Prolog is "programming in logic." It goes a little bit further by allowing complex terms, including records, lists and trees.

• These complex terms are the source of the only hard thing about Prolog, "unification."

## Properties of Prolog

#### Homoiconic

```
solve(true).
solve((Subgoal1,Subgoal2)) :-
    solve(Subgoal1),
    solve(Subgoal2).
solve(Head) :-
    clause(Head, Body),
    solve(Body).
```

#### Turing complete

```
turing(Tape0, Tape) :-
    perform(q0, [], Ls, Tape0, Rs),
    reverse(Ls, Ls1),
    append(Ls1, Rs, Tape).
perform(qf, Ls, Ls, Rs, Rs) :- !.
perform(Q0, Ls0, Ls, Rs0, Rs) :-
    symbol(Rs0, Sym, RsRest),
    once(rule(Q0, Sym, Q1, NewSym, Action)),
    action(Action, Ls0, Ls1, [NewSym|RsRest], Rs1),
    perform(Q1, Ls1, Ls, Rs1, Rs).
symbol([], b, []).
symbol([Sym Rs], Sym, Rs).
action(left, Ls0, Ls, Rs0, Rs) :- left(Ls0, Ls, Rs0, Rs).
action(stay, Ls, Ls, Rs, Rs).
action(right, Ls0, [Sym|Ls0], [Sym|Rs], Rs).
left([], [], Rs0, [b|Rs0]).
left([L|Ls], Ls, Rs, [L|Rs]).
```