

# Prolog

Built-ins

- $X \text{ is } Y$  the value of  $X$  is unified with  $Y$
- $X ::= Y$  the values of  $X$  and  $Y$  are equal
- $X \neq Y$  the values of  $X$  and  $Y$  are different
- $X > Y$  the value of  $X$  is greater than the one of  $Y$
- $X < Y$  the value of  $X$  is lower than the one of  $Y$
- $X \geq Y$  the value of  $X$  is greater than or equal to the one of  $Y$
- $X \leq Y$  the value of  $X$  is lower than or equal to the one of  $Y$

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- $!$  *Cut* predicate, allows us to prune useless paths

# An example of the use of !

compare(X, Y, lower) :- X < Y.

compare(X, Y, equal) :- X == Y.

compare(X, Y, greater) :- X > Y.

?- compare(3, 5, lower).

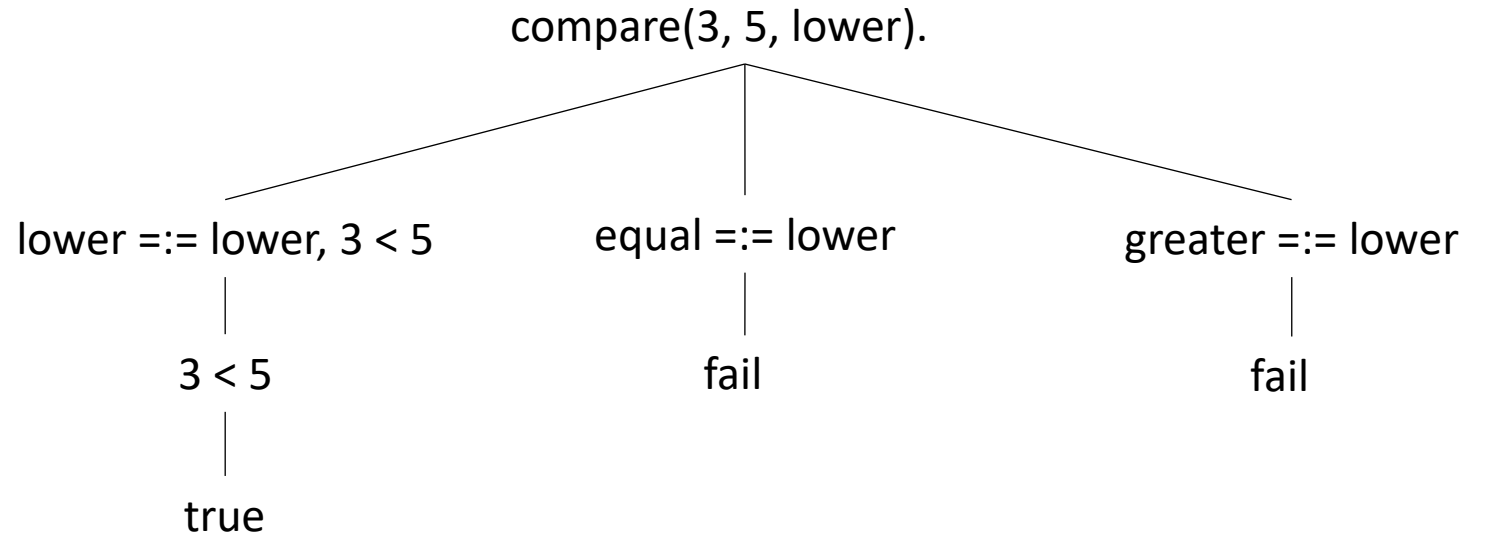
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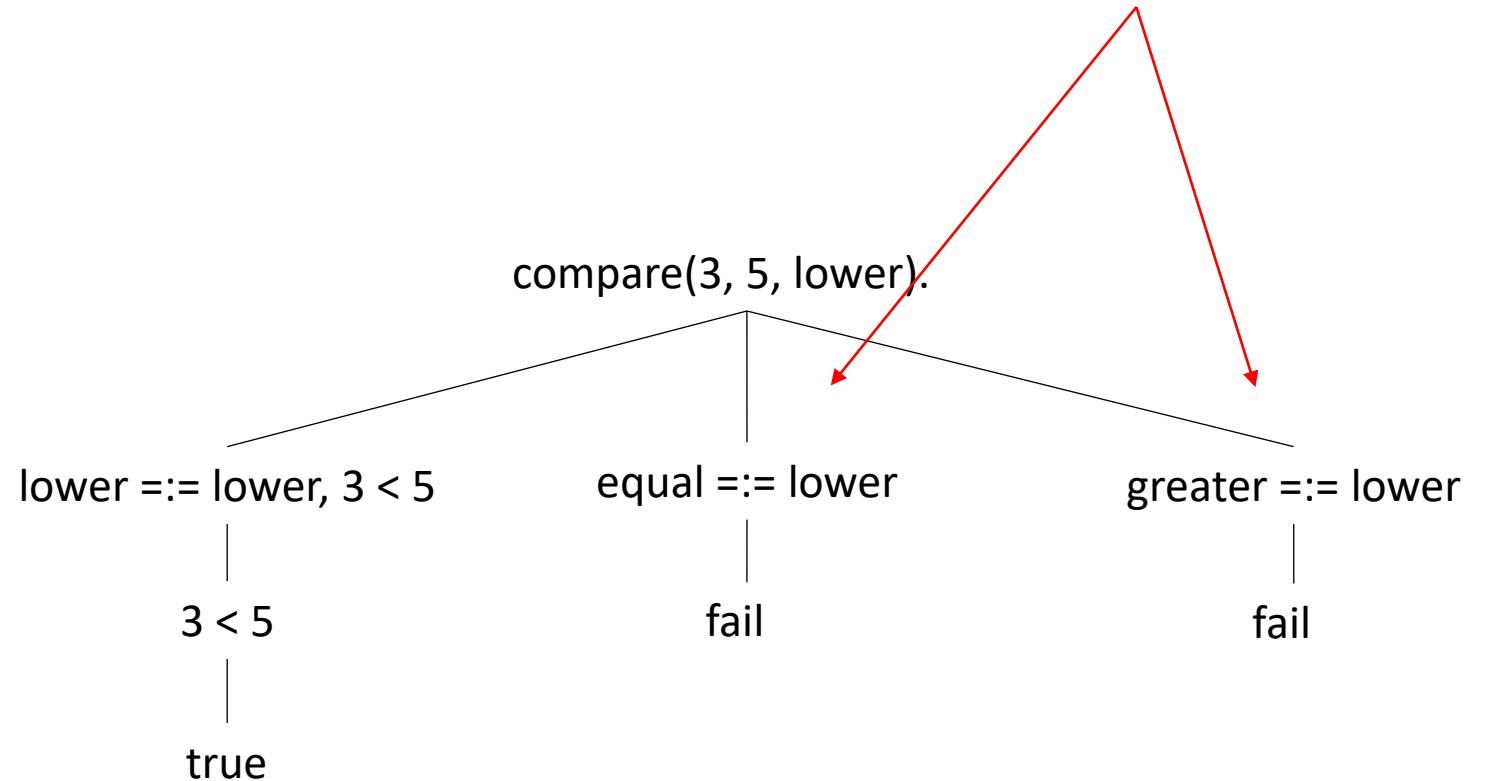
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Prolog can return multiple results, leaving open choice points will lead to this derivation, where useless branches are tested too.



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compare(3, 5, lower).

lower ::= lower, 3 < 5

3 < 5

fail

# Prolog

Exercises



1) Compute the absolute value of a number

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$\text{abs}(X,X) \text{ :- } X \geq 0.$

$\text{abs}(X,Y) \text{ :- } X < 0, Y \text{ is } -X.$

2) Compute the factorial of a number

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Intuitively:

$$\text{fatt}(0) = 1$$

$$\text{fatt}(n) = n * \text{fatt}(n-1) \text{ (per } n > 0)$$

2) Compute the factorial of a number

In Prolog:

`fatt(0,1).`

`fatt(N,X) :- N>0, N1 is N-1, fatt(N1, X1), X is N*X1.`

2) Compute the factorial of a number

A different Prolog version, using tail recursion:

```
fatt2(N,X) :- fatt2(N,1,X).
```

```
fatt2(0,ACC,ACC).
```

```
fatt2(M,ACC,X) :- ACC1 is M*ACC, M1 is M-1,  
    fatt2(M1,ACC1,X).
```

3) Compute the greatest common divisor

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Intuitively:

$$\text{GCD}(x, 0) = x$$

$$\text{GCD}(x, y) = \text{GCD}(y, x \bmod y) \text{ (for } y > 0)$$



3) Compute the greatest common divisor

In Prolog:

`gcd(X,0,X).`

`gcd(X,Y,Z) :- Y>0, X1 is X mod Y, gcd(Y,X1,Z).`

4) Find the last element of a list

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`last([X], X).`

`last([_ | Z], X) :- last(Z,X).`

4) Find the last element of a list

An alternative, using the built-in function *reverse*:

```
last(L, X) :- reverse(L, [X|_]).
```

5) Check if a list is a sublist of another list

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```
sublist([], _).
```

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

```
sublist([X|L1], [_|L2]) :- sublist([X|L1], L2).
```

Note that in this solution we are checking whether L1 is a sublist of L2.