

*"Learning to program has no more to do with designing interactive software than learning to touch type has to do with writing poetry."*

*- T. Nelson.*

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# CSE341

## Programming Languages

Lecture 11 – December 17, 2015

Prolog

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Slides are taken from C. Li & W. He

# SWI-Prolog

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- <http://www.swi-prolog.org/>
- Available for:  
Linux, Windows, MacOS

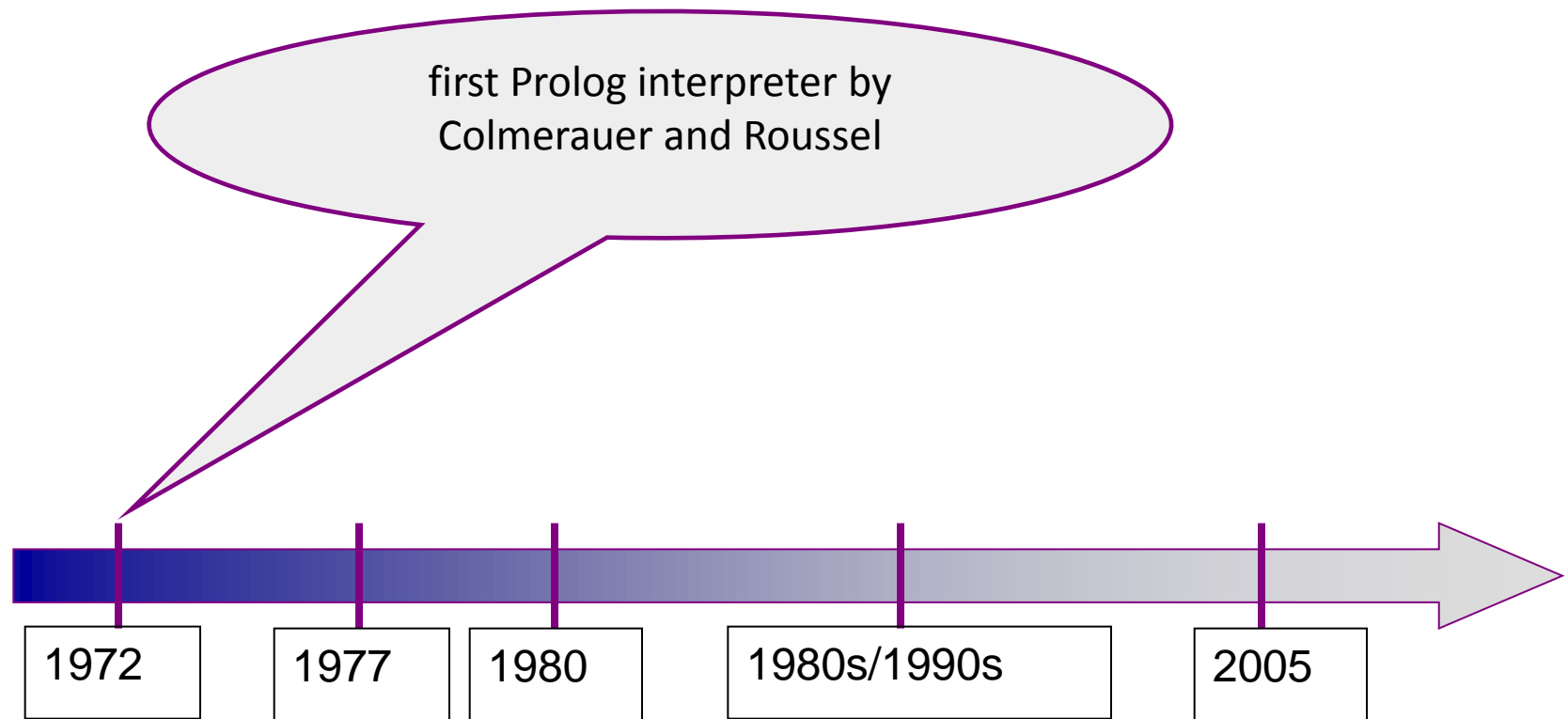
# Prolog

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- Prolog:  
“Programming in Logic” (PROgrammation en LOgique)
- One (and maybe the only one) successful logic programming languages
- Useful in AI applications, expert systems, natural language processing, database query languages
- Declarative instead of procedural: “What” instead of “How”

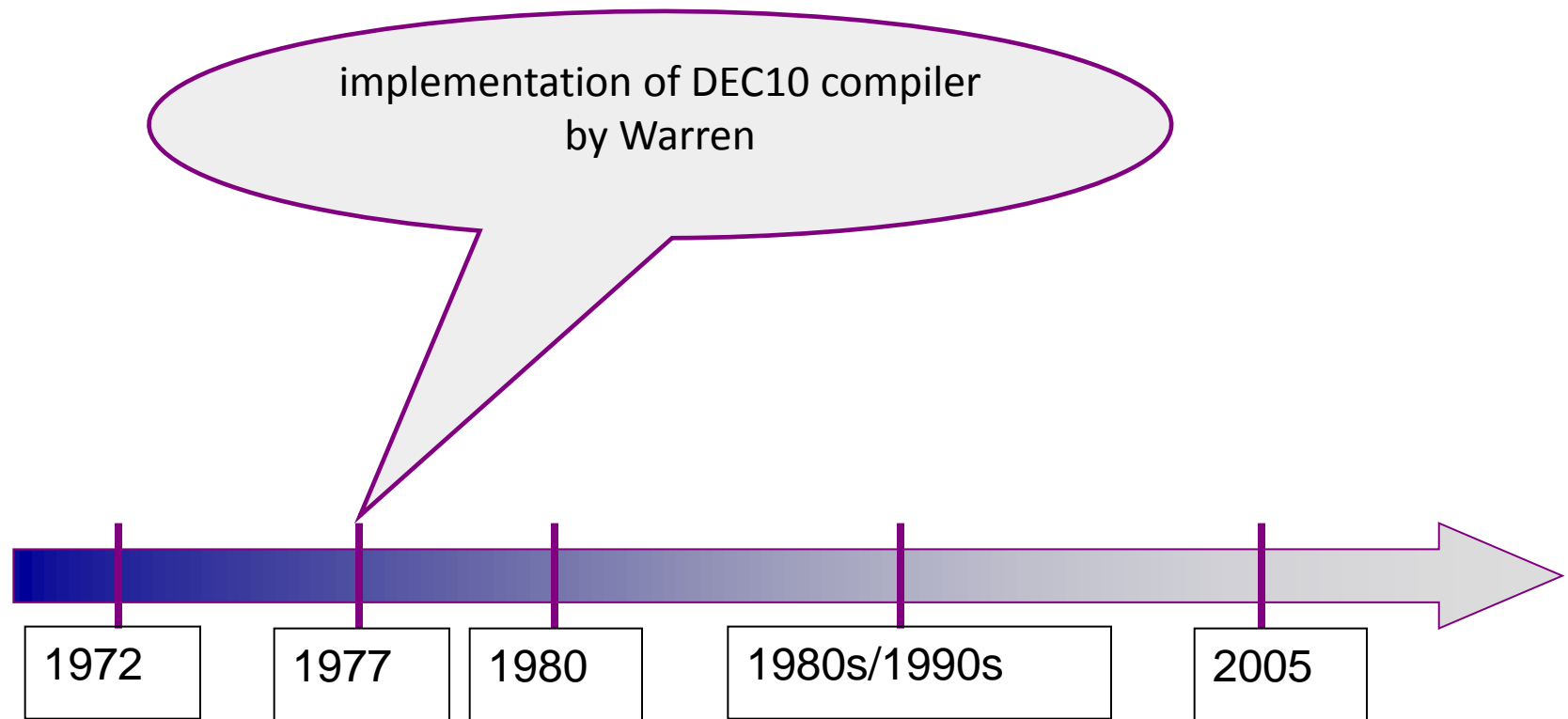
# History of Prolog

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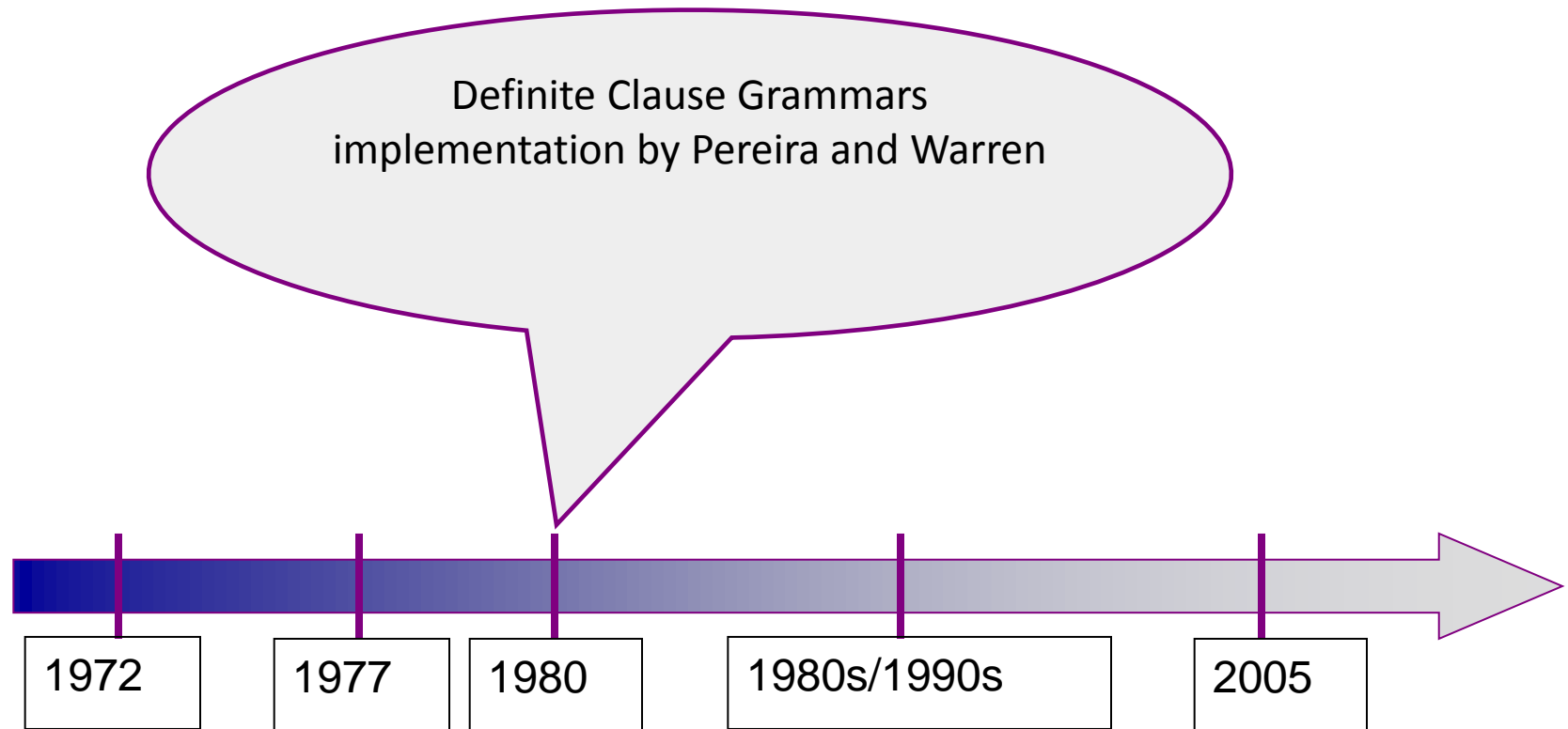
# History of Prolog

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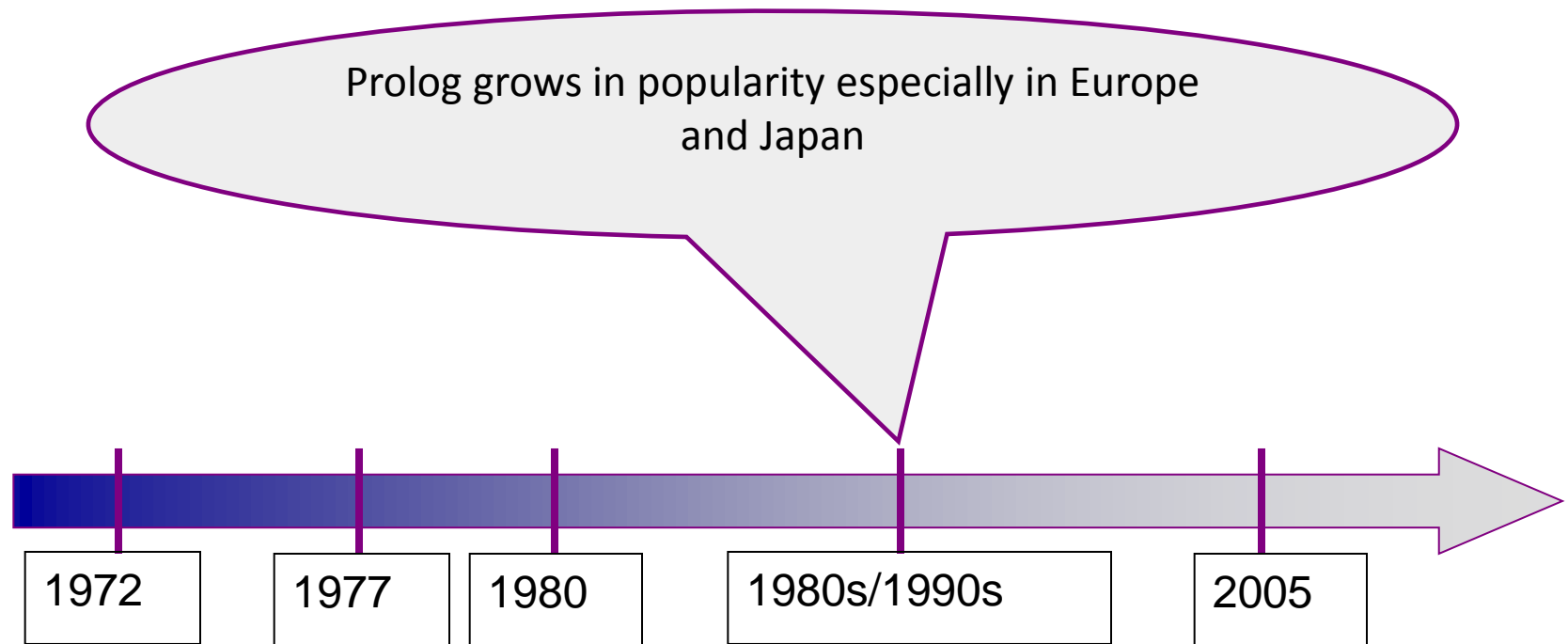
# History of Prolog

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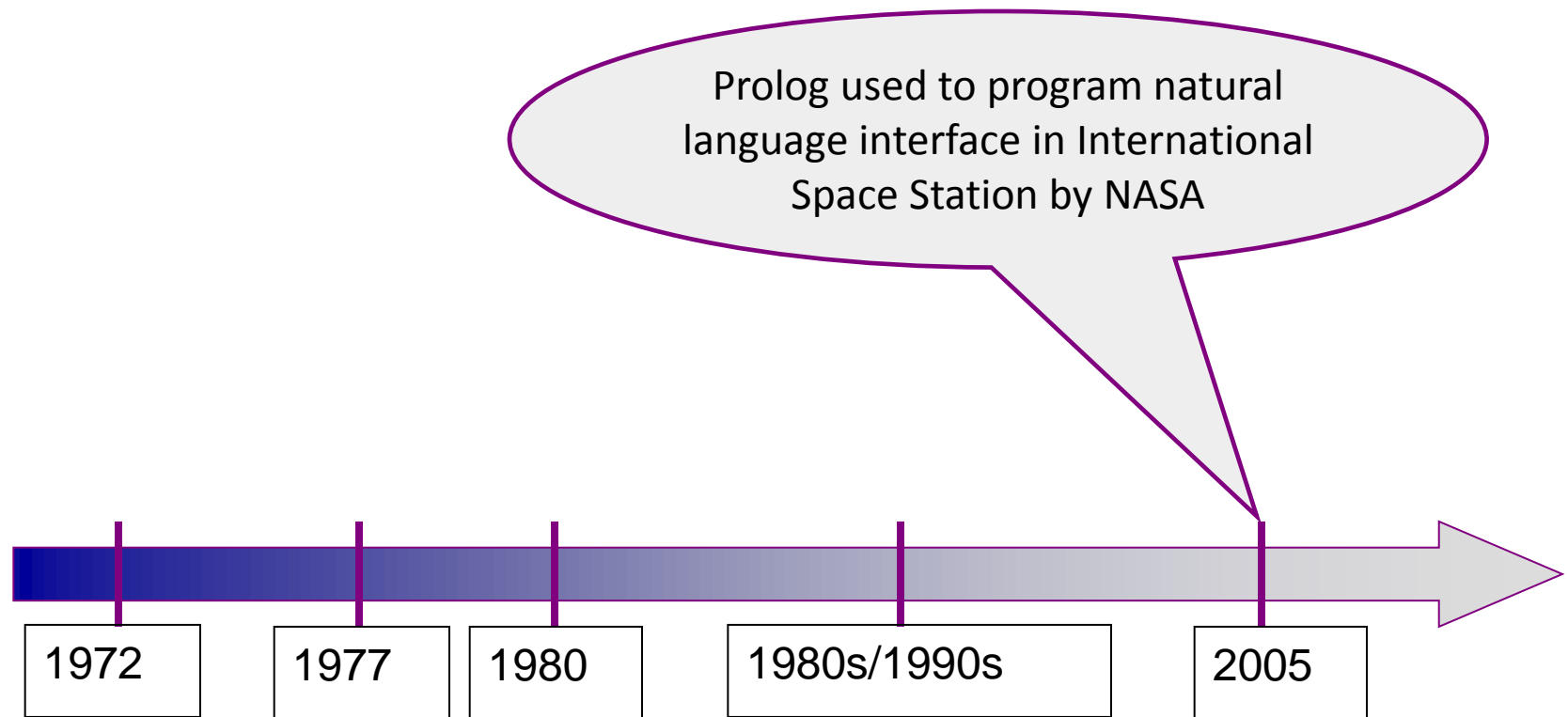
# History of Prolog

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# History of Prolog

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# Logic Programming

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- Program

Axioms (facts): true statements

- Input to Program

query (goal): statement true (theorems) or false?

- Thus

Logic programming systems = deductive databases

datalog

# Example

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- Axioms:

0 is a natural number. (Facts)

For all  $x$ , if  $x$  is a natural number, then so is the successor of  $x$ .

- Query (goal).

Is 2 natural number?      (can be proved by facts)

Is -1 a natural number?      (cannot be proved)

# Another Example

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- Axioms:

The factorial of 0 is 1. (Facts)

If  $m$  is the factorial of  $n - 1$ , then  $n * m$  is the factorial of  $n$ .

- Query:

The factorial of 2 is 3?

# First-Order Predicate Calculus

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- Logic used in logic programming:

First-order predicate calculus

First-order predicate logic

Predicate logic

First-order logic

$$\forall x (x \neq x+1)$$

- Second-order logic

$$\forall S \forall x (x \in S \vee x \notin S)$$

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# First-Order Logic: Review

Slides from Tuomas Sandholm of CMU

# First-order Logic

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- First-order logic (FOL) models the world in terms of
  - **Objects**, which are things with individual identities
  - **Properties** of objects that distinguish them from other objects
  - **Relations** that hold among sets of objects
  - **Functions**, which are a subset of relations where there is only one “value” for any given “input”
- Examples:
  - Objects: Students, lectures, companies, cars ...
  - Relations: Brother-of, bigger-than, outside, part-of, has-color, occurs-after, owns, visits, precedes, ...
  - Properties: blue, oval, even, large, ...
  - Functions: father-of, best-friend, second-half, one-more-than ...

# User Provides

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- **Constant symbols**, which represent individuals in the world
  - Mary
  - 3
  - Green
- **Function symbols**, which map individuals to individuals
  - father-of(Mary) = John
  - color-of(Sky) = Blue
- **Predicate symbols**, which map individuals to truth values
  - greater(5,3)
  - green(Grass)
  - color(Grass, Green)

# FOL Provides

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- **Variable symbols**
  - E.g.,  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $\text{foo}$
- **Connectives**
  - Same as in PL: not ( $\neg$ ), and ( $\wedge$ ), or ( $\vee$ ), implies ( $\rightarrow$ ), if and only if (biconditional  $\leftrightarrow$ )
- **Quantifiers**
  - Universal  $\forall x$  or **(Ax)**
  - Existential  $\exists x$  or **(Ex)**



# Sentences built from Terms and Atoms

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- A **term** (denoting a real-world individual) is a constant symbol, a variable symbol, or an n-place function of n terms.  
x and  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  are terms, where each  $x_i$  is a term.  
A term with no variables is a **ground term**
- An **atomic sentence** (which has value true or false) is an n-place predicate of n terms
- A **complex sentence** is formed from atomic sentences connected by the logical connectives:  
 $\neg P$ ,  $P \vee Q$ ,  $P \wedge Q$ ,  $P \rightarrow Q$ ,  $P \leftrightarrow Q$  where P and Q are sentences
- A **quantified sentence** adds quantifiers  $\forall$  and  $\exists$
- A **well-formed formula (wff)** is a sentence containing no “free” variables. That is, all variables are “bound” by universal or existential quantifiers.  
 $(\forall x)P(x,y)$  has x bound as a universally quantified variable, but y is free.

# A BNF for FOL

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```
S := <Sentence> ;
<Sentence> := <AtomicSentence> |
    <Sentence> <Connective> <Sentence> |
    <Quantifier> <Variable>, ... <Sentence> |
    "NOT" <Sentence> |
    "(" <Sentence> ")";
<AtomicSentence> := <Predicate> "(" <Term>, ... ")" |
    <Term> "=" <Term>;
<Term> := <Function> "(" <Term>, ... ")" |
    <Constant> |
    <Variable>;
<Connective> := "AND" | "OR" | "IMPLIES" | "EQUIVALENT";
<Quantifier> := "EXISTS" | "FORALL" ;
<Constant> := "A" | "X1" | "John" | ... ;
<Variable> := "a" | "x" | "s" | ... ;
<Predicate> := "Before" | "HasColor" | "Raining" | ... ;
<Function> := "Mother" | "LeftLegOf" | ... ;
```

# Quantifiers

---

- **Universal quantification**

- $(\forall x)P(x)$  means that  $P$  holds for **all** values of  $x$  in the domain associated with that variable
- E.g.,  $(\forall x) \text{dolphin}(x) \rightarrow \text{mammal}(x)$

- **Existential quantification**

- $(\exists x)P(x)$  means that  $P$  holds for **some** value of  $x$  in the domain associated with that variable
- E.g.,  $(\exists x) \text{mammal}(x) \wedge \text{lays-eggs}(x)$
- Permits one to make a statement about some object without naming it

# Translating English to FOL

**Every gardener likes the sun.**

$$\forall x \text{ gardener}(x) \rightarrow \text{likes}(x, \text{Sun})$$

**You can fool some of the people all of the time.**

$$\exists x \forall t \text{ person}(x) \wedge \text{time}(t) \rightarrow \text{can-fool}(x, t)$$

**You can fool all of the people some of the time.**

$$\forall x \exists t (\text{person}(x) \rightarrow \text{time}(t) \wedge \text{can-fool}(x, t))$$

$$\forall x (\text{person}(x) \rightarrow \exists t (\text{time}(t) \wedge \text{can-fool}(x, t)))$$

← Equivalent



**All purple mushrooms are poisonous.**

$$\forall x (\text{mushroom}(x) \wedge \text{purple}(x)) \rightarrow \text{poisonous}(x)$$

**No purple mushroom is poisonous.**

$$\neg \exists x \text{ purple}(x) \wedge \text{mushroom}(x) \wedge \text{poisonous}(x)$$

$$\forall x (\text{mushroom}(x) \wedge \text{purple}(x)) \rightarrow \neg \text{poisonous}(x)$$

← Equivalent



**There are exactly two purple mushrooms.**

$$\begin{aligned} \exists x \exists y \text{ mushroom}(x) \wedge \text{purple}(x) \wedge \text{mushroom}(y) \wedge \text{purple}(y) \wedge \neg(x=y) \wedge \forall z \\ (\text{mushroom}(z) \wedge \text{purple}(z)) \rightarrow ((x=z) \vee (y=z)) \end{aligned}$$

**Clinton is not tall.**

$$\neg \text{tall}(\text{Clinton})$$

# First-Order Predicate Calculus: Example

---

- `natural(0)`  
 $\forall X, \text{natural}(X) \rightarrow \text{natural}(\text{successor}(x))$
- $\forall X \text{ and } Y, \text{parent}(X,Y) \rightarrow \text{ancestor}(X,Y).$   
 $\forall A, B, \text{ and } C, \text{ancestor}(A,B) \text{ and } \text{ancestor}(B,C) \rightarrow \text{ancestor}(A,C).$   
 $\forall X \text{ and } Y, \text{mother}(X,Y) \rightarrow \text{parent}(X,Y).$   
 $\forall X \text{ and } Y, \text{father}(X,Y) \rightarrow \text{parent}(X,Y).$   
`father(bill,jill).`  
`mother(jill,sam).`  
`father(bob,sam).`
- `factorial(0,1).`  
 $\forall N \text{ and } M, \text{factorial}(N-1,M) \rightarrow \text{factorial}(N,N*M).$

# First-Order Predicate Calculus: Statements

---

Symbols in statements:

- *Constants (a.k.a. atoms)*  
numbers (e.g., 0) or names (e.g., bill).
- *Predicates*  
Boolean functions (true/false) . Can have arguments. (e.g. `parent (X, Y)` ).
- *Functions*  
non-Boolean functions (`successor (X)` ).
- *Variables*  
e.g., `X`.
- *Connectives (operations)*  
and, or, not  
implication ( $\rightarrow$ ): `a $\rightarrow$ b` (`b or not a`)  
equivalence ( $\leftrightarrow$ ): `a $\leftrightarrow$ b` (`a $\rightarrow$ b and b $\rightarrow$ a`)

# First-Order Predicate Calculus: Statements

---

- *Quantifiers*

*universal quantifier* "for all"  $\forall$

*existential quantifier* "there exists"  $\exists$

*bound variable* (a variable introduced by a quantifier)

*free variable*

- *Punctuation symbols*

parentheses (for changing associativity and precedence.)

comma

period

- Arguments to predicates and functions can only be **terms**:

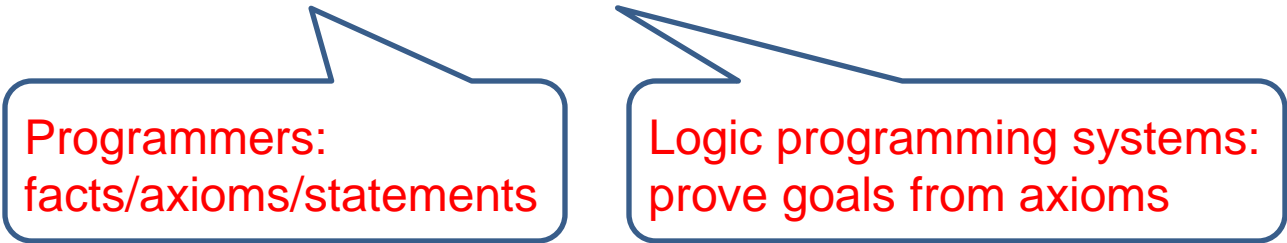
- Contain constants, variables, and functions.

- Cannot have predicates, qualifiers, or connectives.

# Problem Solving

---

- Program = Data + Algorithms
- Program = Object.Message(Object)
- Program = Functions Functions
- Algorithm = Logic + Control



Programmers:  
facts/axioms/statements

Logic programming systems:  
prove goals from axioms

- We specify the logic itself, the system proves.
  - Not totally realized by logic programming languages. Programmers must be aware of how the system proves, in order to write efficient, or even correct programs.
- Prove goals from facts:
  - Resolution and Unification



# Proving things

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- A **proof** is a sequence of sentences, where each sentence is either a premise or a sentence derived from earlier sentences in the proof by one of the rules of inference.
- The last sentence is the **theorem** (also called goal or query) that we want to prove.
- Example for the “weather problem”

1 Hu	Premise	“It is humid”
2 $Hu \rightarrow Ho$	Premise	“If it is humid, it is hot”
3 Ho	Modus Ponens(1,2)	“It is hot”
4 $(Ho \wedge Hu) \rightarrow R$	Premise	“If it’s hot & humid, it’s raining”
5 $Ho \wedge Hu$	And Introduction(1,3)	“It is hot and humid”
6 R	Modus Ponens(4,5)	“It is raining”

# Horn Clause

- First-order logic too complicated for an effective logic programming system.
- Horn Clause: a fragment of first-order logic

$b \leftarrow a_1 \text{ and } a_2 \text{ and } a_3 \dots \text{ and } a_n.$

head

body

no “or” and no quantifier

$b \leftarrow .$  fact

$\leftarrow b.$  query

- Variables in head: universally quantified  
Variables in body only: existentially quantified
- Need “or” in head? Multiple clauses

# Horn Clauses: Example

---

- First-Order Logic:

`natural(0) .`

`$\forall X, \text{natural}(X) \rightarrow \text{natural}(\text{successor}(x)) .$`



- Horn Clause:

`natural(0) .`

`$\text{natural}(\text{successor}(x)) \leftarrow \text{natural}(X) .$`

# Horn Clauses: Example

---

- First-Order Logic:

`factorial(0,1).`

$\forall N \text{ and } \forall M, \text{ factorial}(N-1, M) \rightarrow \text{factorial}(N, N * M).$



- Horn Clause:

`factorial(0,1).`

`factorial(N,N*M) ← factorial(N-1,M).`

# Horn Clauses: Example

---

- Horn Clause:

```
ancestor(X,Y) ← parent(X,Y) .  
ancestor(A,C) ← ancestor(A,B) and ancestor(B,C) .  
parent(X,Y) ← mother(X,Y) .  
parent(X,Y) ← father(X,Y) .  
father(bill,jill) .  
mother(jill,sam) .  
father(bob,sam) .
```

# Horn Clauses: Example

---

- First-Order Logic:

$\forall X, \text{mammal}(X) \rightarrow \text{legs}(X, 2) \text{ or } \text{legs}(X, 4).$



- Horn Clause:

$\text{legs}(X, 4) \leftarrow \text{mammal}(X) \text{ and not } \text{legs}(X, 2).$

$\text{legs}(X, 2) \leftarrow \text{mammal}(X) \text{ and not } \text{legs}(X, 4).$

# Prolog syntax

---

- `:-` for  $\leftarrow$   
`,` for and

```
ancestor(X,Y) :- parent(X,Y) .  
ancestor(X,Y) :- ancestor(X,Z) , ancestor(Z,Y) .  
parent(X,Y) :- mother(X,Y) .  
parent(X,Y) :- father(X,Y) .  
father(bill,jill) .  
mother(jill,sam) .  
father(bob,sam) .
```

# Prolog BNF Grammar

---

```
<program> ::= <clause list> <query> | <query>
<clause list> ::= <clause> | <clause list> <clause>
<clause> ::= <predicate> . | <predicate> :- <predicate list>.
<predicate list> ::= <predicate> | <predicate list> , <predicate>
<predicate> ::= <atom> | <atom> ( <term list> )
<term list> ::= <term> | <term list> , <term>
<term> ::= <numeral> | <atom> | <variable> | <structure>
<structure> ::= <atom> ( <term list> )
<query> ::= ?- <predicate list>.
<atom> ::= <small atom> | ' <string> '
<small atom> ::= <lowercase letter> | <small atom> <character>
<variable> ::= <uppercase letter> | <variable> <character>
<lowercase letter> ::= a | b | c | ... | x | y | z
<uppercase letter> ::= A | B | C | ... | X | Y | Z | _
<numeral> ::= <digit> | <numeral> <digit>
<digit> ::= 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9
<character> ::= <lowercase letter> | <uppercase letter> |
    <digit> | <special>
<special> ::= + | - | * | / | \ | ^ | ~ | : | . | ? | | # | $ | &
<string> ::= <character> | <string> <character>
```



---

# Resolution and Unification

# Resolution

---

- Resolution: Using a clause, replace its head in the second clause by its body, if they “match”.

- $a \leftarrow a_1, \dots, a_n.$

$$b \leftarrow b_1, \dots, b_i, \dots, b_m.$$

if  $b_i$  matches  $a$ ;

$$b \leftarrow b_1, \dots, a_1, \dots, a_n, \dots, b_m.$$

# Resolution: Another view

---

- Resolution: Combine two clauses, and cancel matching statements on both sides.

- $a \leftarrow a_1, \dots, a_n.$

$$b \leftarrow b_1, \dots, b_i, \dots, b_m.$$

$$\cancel{a}, b \leftarrow a_1, \dots, a_n, b_1, \dots, \cancel{b_i}, \dots, b_m.$$

# Problem solving in logic programming systems

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- Program:
  - Statements/Facts (clauses).
- Goals:
  - Headless clauses, with a list of **subgoals**.
- Problem solving by resolution:
  - Matching subgoals with the heads in the facts, and replacing the subgoals by the corresponding bodies.
  - Cancelling matching statements.
  - Recursively do this, till we eliminate all goals. (Thus original goals proved.)

# Example

---

- Program:

`mammal(human) .`

- Goal:

`← mammal(human) .`

- Proving:

`mammal(human) ← mammal(human) .`  
`← .`

# Example

---

- **Program:**

```
legs(X,2) ← mammal(X), arms(X,2).
```

```
legs(X,4) ← mammal(X), arms(X,0).
```

```
mammal(horse).
```

```
arms(horse,0).
```

- **Goal:**

```
← legs(horse,4).
```

- **Proving: ?**

# Unification

---

- Unification: Pattern matching to make statements identical (when there are variables).
- Set variables equal to patterns: **instantiated**.
- In previous example:  
**legs(X,4) and legs(horse,4) are unified.**  
**(X is instantiated with horse.)**

# Unification: Example

---

- Euclid's algorithm for greatest common divisor

- Program:

$\text{gcd}(U, 0, U) .$

$\text{gcd}(U, V, W) \leftarrow \text{not zero}(V), \text{gcd}(V, U \bmod V, W) .$

- Goals:

$\leftarrow \text{gcd}(15, 10, X) .$



# Unification: Example

---

`gcd(U,0,U) .`

`gcd(U,V,W) ← not zero(V), gcd(V, U mod V, W) .`

1. `gcd(15,10,X)` does not match the first clause...

2. `gcd(15,10,X)` matches the second clause

1. `← not zero(10), gcd(10, 15 mod 10, X)`

2. `← gcd(10, 5, X)`

3. `← not zero(5), gcd(5, 10 mod 5, X)`

4. `← gcd(5, 0, X)`

# Things unspecified

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- The order to resolve subgoals.
- The order to use clauses to resolve subgoals.
- Possible to implement systems that don't depend on the order, but too inefficient.
- Thus programmers must know the orders used by the language implementations. (Search Strategies)

# Example

---

- Program:

```
ancestor(X,Y) :- ancestor(X,Z), parent(Z,Y).  
ancestor(X,Y) :- parent(X,Y).  
parent(X,Y) :- mother(X,Y).  
parent(X,Y) :- father(X,Y).  
father(bill,jill).  
mother(jill,sam).  
father(bob,sam).
```

- Goals:

```
← ancestor(bill,sam).  
← ancestor(X,bob).
```

# Prolog Search Strategy

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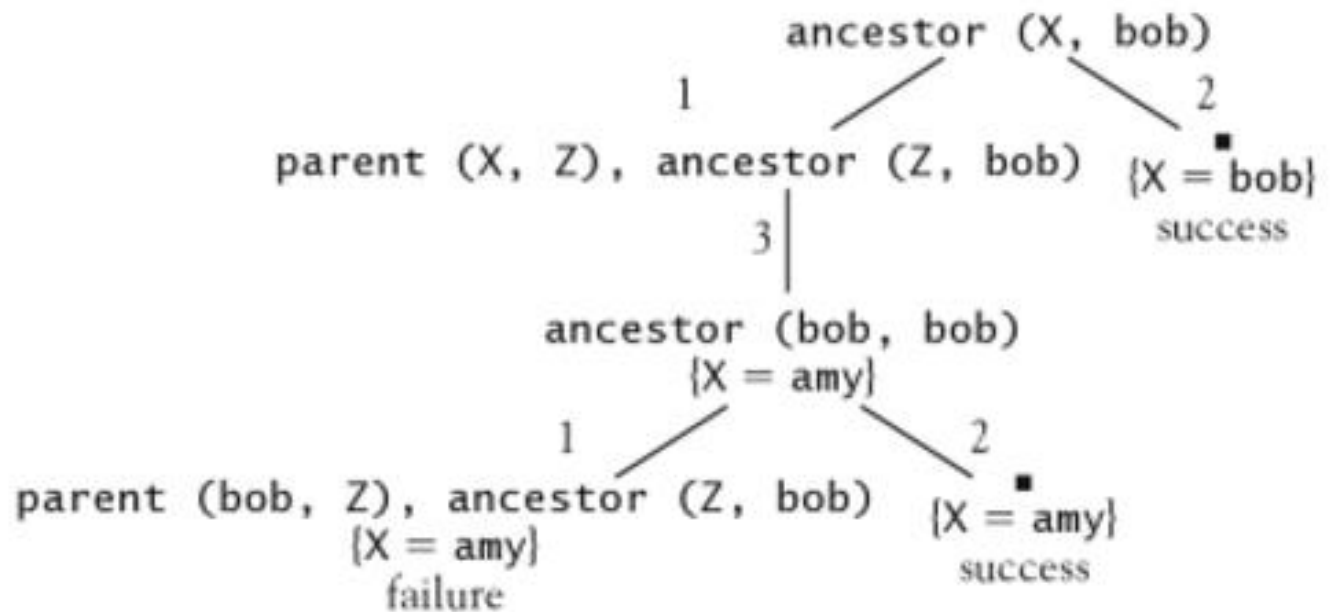
- Applies resolution in strictly linear fashion
  - Replacing goals left to right
  - Considering clauses top to bottom order
- ➔ A depth-first search on a tree of possible choices...

# Prolog Search Strategy

(1) `ancestor(X, Y) :- parent(X, Z), ancestor(Z, Y).`

(2) `ancestor(X, X).`

(3) `parent(amy, bob).`



# Prolog Loops and Controls...

---

```
printpieces(L) :-append(X, Y, L),  
                  write(X),  
                  write(Y),  
                  nl,  
                  fail.
```

```
?- printpieces([1, 2]).
```

```
[] [1,2]  
[1] [2]  
[1,2] []  
no
```

Backtracking...

# Prolog Loops and Controls...

(1) `num(0) .`

(2) `num(X) :- num(Y), X is Y + 1.`

