

# LOGIC-PROGRAMMING IN PROLOG



**Claus Brabrand**

`brabrand@itu.dk`

IT University of Copenhagen

[ `http://www.itu.dk/people/brabrand/` ]

# ? – Plan for Today

---

- Scene V: *"Monty Python and The Holy Grail"*
- Lecture: *"Relations & Inf. Sys."* (10:15 – 11:00)
- Exercise 1 (11:15 – 12:00)
- Lunch break (12:00 – 12:30)
- Lecture: *"PROLOG & Matching"* (12:30 – 13:15)
- Lecture: *"Proof Search & Rec"* (13:30 – 14:15)
- Exercises 2+3 (14:30 – 15:15)
- Exercises 4+5 (15:30 – 16:15)

# ? – Outline (three parts)

---

## Part 1:

- *"Monty Python and the Holy Grail"* (Scene V)
- Relations & Inference Systems

## Part 2:

- Introduction to PROLOG (by-Example)
- Matching

## Part 3:

- Proof Search (and Backtracking)
- Recursion

# MONTY PYTHON

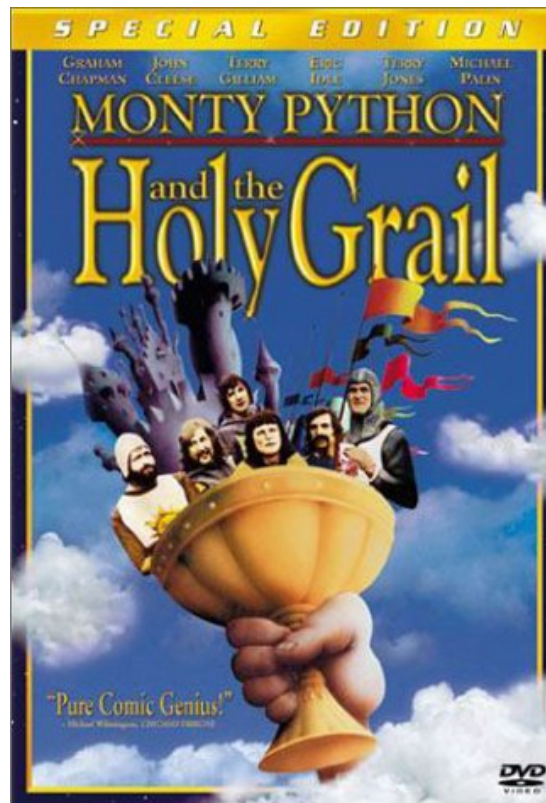


## Keywords:

Holy Grail, Camelot, King Arthur,  
Sir Bedevere, The Killer Rabbit<sup>®</sup>,  
Sir Robin *-the-not-quite-so-brave-as-Sir Lancelot*

# ? – *Movie(!)*

- **"Monty Python and the Holy Grail" (1974)**
  - Scene V: **"The Witch"**:



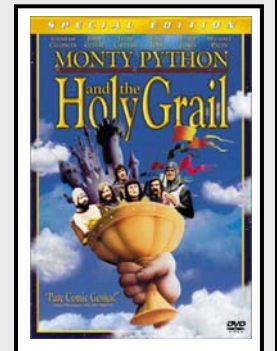
# ? - *The Monty Python Reasoning:*

## ■ "Axioms" (aka. "Facts"):

```
female(girl).           %- by observation -----  
floats(duck).          %- King Arthur -----  
sameweight(girl,duck). %- by experiment -----
```

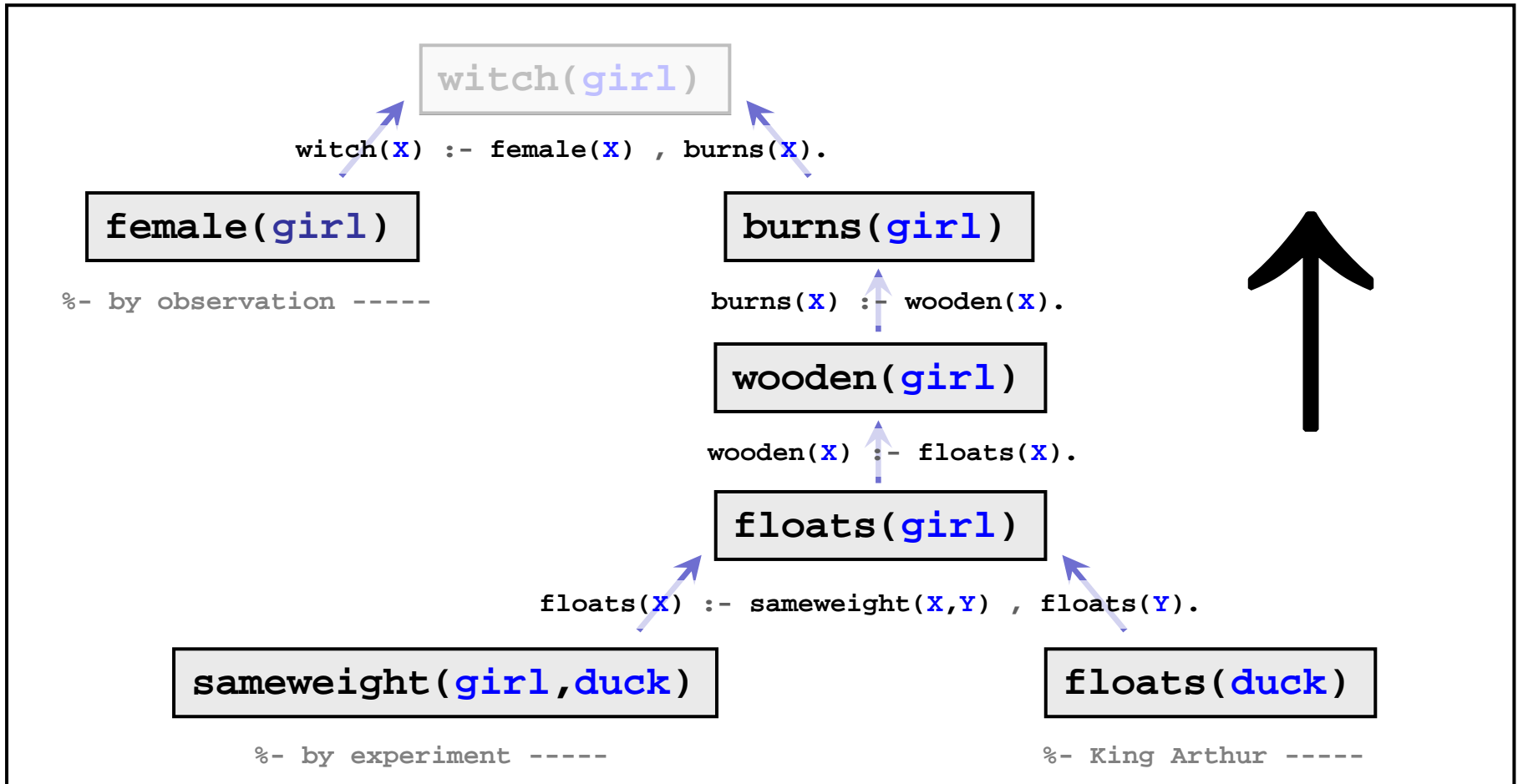
## ■ "Rules":

```
witch(X) :- female(X) , burns(X).  
burns(X) :- wooden(X).  
wooden(X) :- floats(X).  
floats(X) :- sameweight(X,Y) , floats(Y).
```



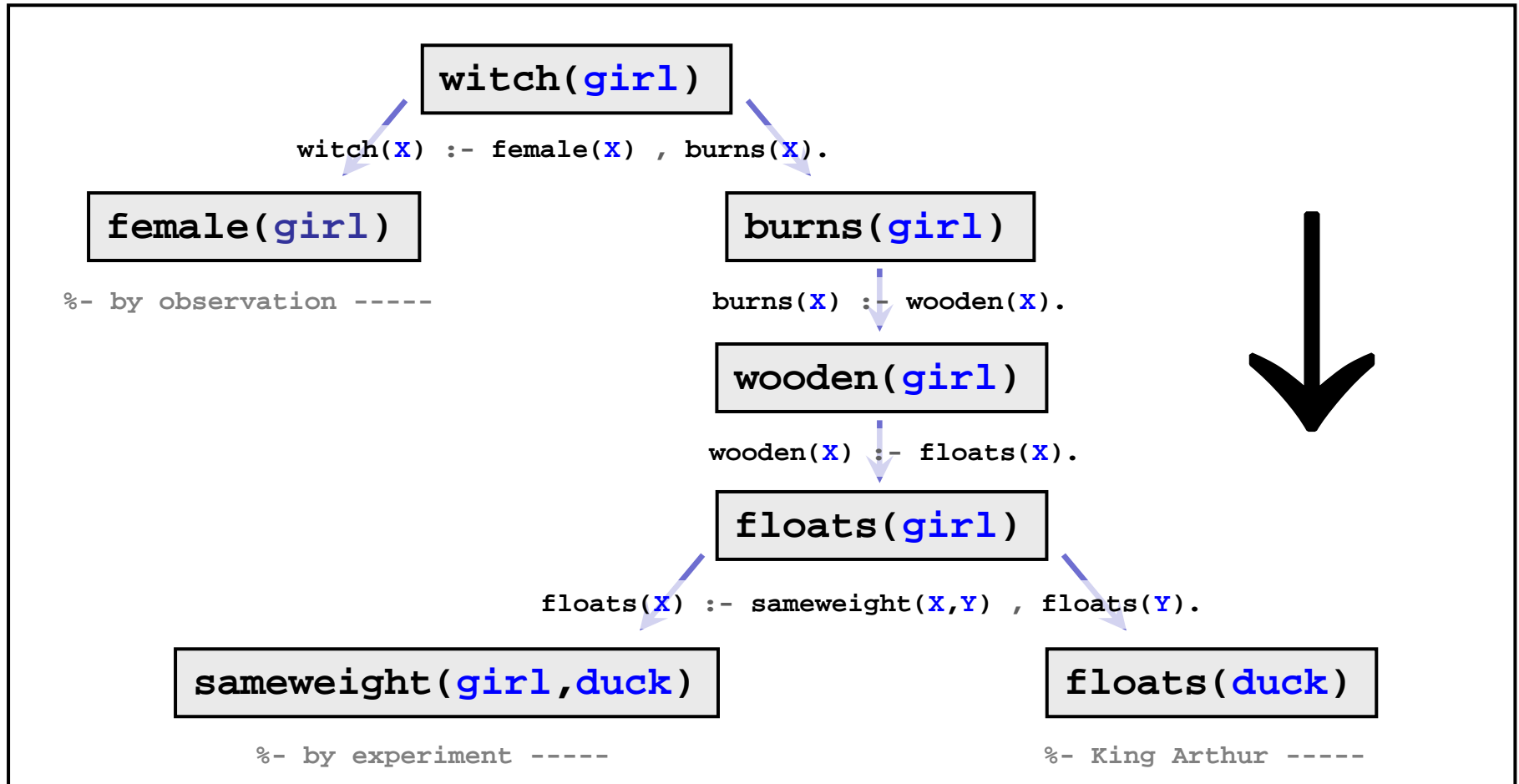
# ? - Inductive Reasoning: *witch(girl)*

## ■ "Induction": (aka. "bottom-up reasoning")



# ? - Deductive Reasoning: *witch(girl)*

## ■ "Deduction": (aka. "top-down reasoning")





# ? – Induction vs. Deduction

## ■ Induction

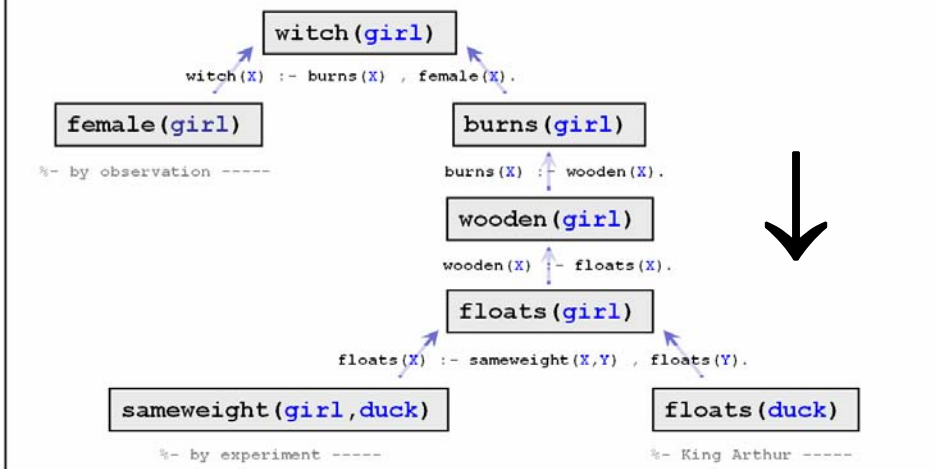
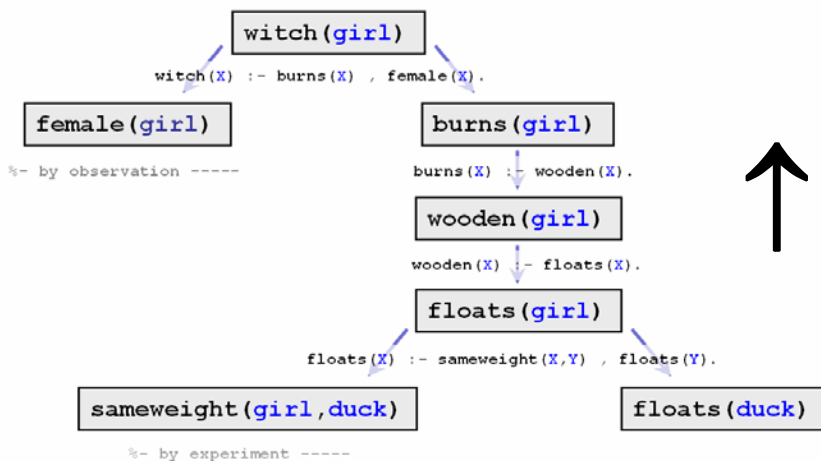
(aka. “bottom-up reasoning”):

- *Specific* → *General*
- (or: *concrete* → *abstract*)

## ■ Deduction

(aka. “top-down reasoning”):

- *General* → *Specific*
- (or: *abstract* → *concrete*)



■ “Same difference” (just two different directions of reasoning...)

■ *Deduction* ↔ *Induction*

(just swap directions of arrows)

# ? - Hearing: Nomination of CIA Director, General Michael Hayden (USAF).

LEVIN: U.S. SENATOR CARL LEVIN (D-MI)  
HAYDEN: GENERAL MICHAEL B. HAYDEN (USAF),  
NOMINEE TO BE DIRECTOR OF CIA

CQ Transcriptions  
Thursday, May 18, 2006; 11:41 AM

## "**DEDUCTIVE** vs. **INDUCTIVE REASONING**"

LEVIN:

"You in my office discussed, I think, a very interesting approach, which is the **difference between starting with a conclusion and trying to prove it and instead starting with digging into all the facts and seeing where they take you.**

Would you just describe for us that difference and why [...]?"

HAYDEN:

"Yes, sir. And I actually think I prefaced that with **both of these are legitimate forms of reasoning,**

- that you've got **deductive** [...] in which **you begin with, first, [general] principles and then you work your way down the specifics.**
- And then there's an **inductive approach** to the world in which you **start out there with all the data and work yourself up to general principles.**

**They are both legitimate."**



# INFERENCE SYSTEMS



## Keywords:

relations, axioms, rules,  
fixed-points

# ? - Relations

■ Example<sup>1</sup>: “*even*” relation:  $\vdash_{\text{even}} \subseteq \mathbf{z}$

- Written as:  $\vdash_{\text{even}} 4$  as a short-hand for:  $4 \in \vdash_{\text{even}}$   
... and as:  $\not\vdash_{\text{even}} 5$  as a short-hand for:  $5 \notin \vdash_{\text{even}}$

■ Example<sup>2</sup>: “*equals*” relation:  $'=' \subseteq \mathbf{z} \times \mathbf{z}$

- Written as:  $2 = 2$  as a short-hand for:  $(2,2) \in '='$   
... and as:  $2 \neq 3$  as a short-hand for:  $(2,3) \notin '='$

■ Example<sup>3</sup>: “*DFA transition*” relation:  $'\rightarrow' \subseteq \mathbf{Q} \times \Sigma \times \mathbf{Q}$

- Written as:  $q \xrightarrow{\sigma} q'$  as a short-hand for:  $(q, \sigma, q') \in '\rightarrow'$   
... and as:  $p \not\xrightarrow{\sigma} p'$  as a short-hand for:  $(p, \sigma, p') \notin '\rightarrow'$

# ? – Inference System

## ■ Inference System:

- Inductive (recursive) *specification* of relations
- Consists of axioms and rules

## ■ Example: $\vdash_{\text{even}} \subseteq \mathbf{Z}$

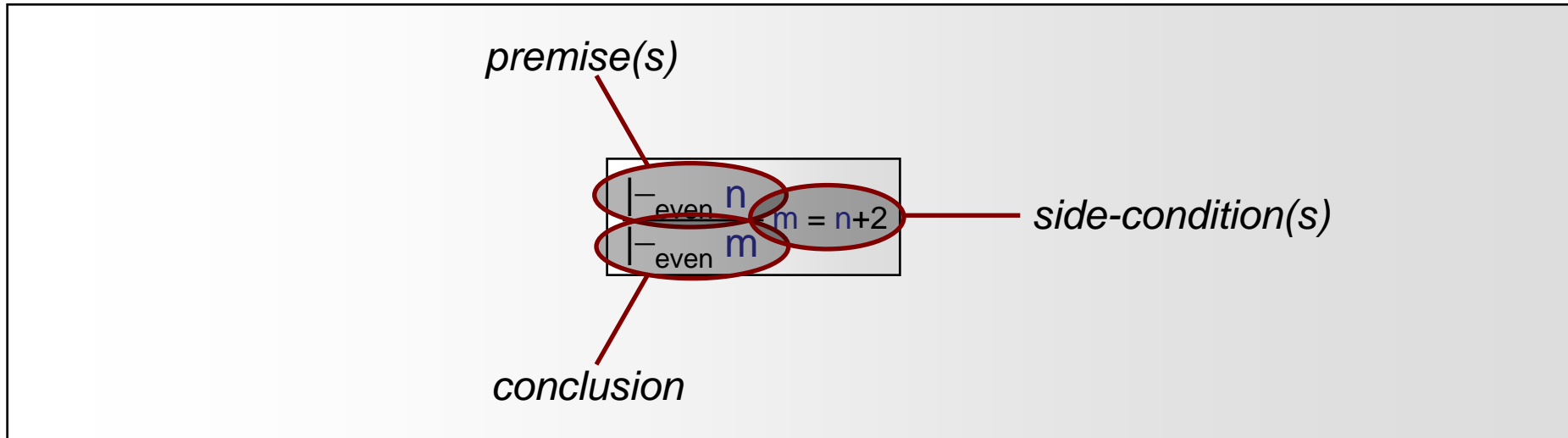
### ■ Axiom: $\vdash_{\text{even}} 0$

- “0 (zero) is even”!

### ■ Rule: $\frac{\vdash_{\text{even}} n}{\vdash_{\text{even}} m} m = n+2$

- “If  $n$  is even, then  $m$  is even (where  $m = n+2$ )”

# ? - Terminology



## ■ Meaning:

### ■ Inductive:

“If  $n$  is even, then  $m$  is even (provided  $m = n+2$ )”; or

### ■ Deductive:

“ $m$  is even, if  $n$  is even (provided  $m = n+2$ )”

# ? - Abbreviation

- Often, rules are *abbreviated*:

■ Rule: 
$$\frac{\text{even } n}{\text{even } m} m = n+2$$

- “If  $n$  is even, then  $m$  is even (provided  $m = n+2$ )”; or
- “ $m$  is even, if  $n$  is even (provided  $m = n+2$ )”

■ Abbreviated rule: 
$$\frac{\text{even } n}{\text{even } n+2}$$

- “If  $n$  is even, then  $n+2$  is even”; or
- “ $n+2$  is even, if  $n$  is even”

Even so, this is what we mean

# ? - Relation Membership? $x \in \mathcal{R}$

■ Axiom:  $\boxed{\vdash_{\text{even}} 0}$

■ “0 (zero) is even”!

■ Rule:  $\boxed{\frac{\vdash_{\text{even}} n}{\vdash_{\text{even}} n+2}}$

■ “If  $n$  is even, then  $n+2$  is even”

■ Is 6 even?!?

$\vdash_{\text{even}} 0$	[axiom <sub>1</sub> ]
$\vdash_{\text{even}} 2$	[rule <sub>1</sub> ]
$\vdash_{\text{even}} 4$	[rule <sub>1</sub> ]
$\vdash_{\text{even}} 6$	[rule <sub>1</sub> ]

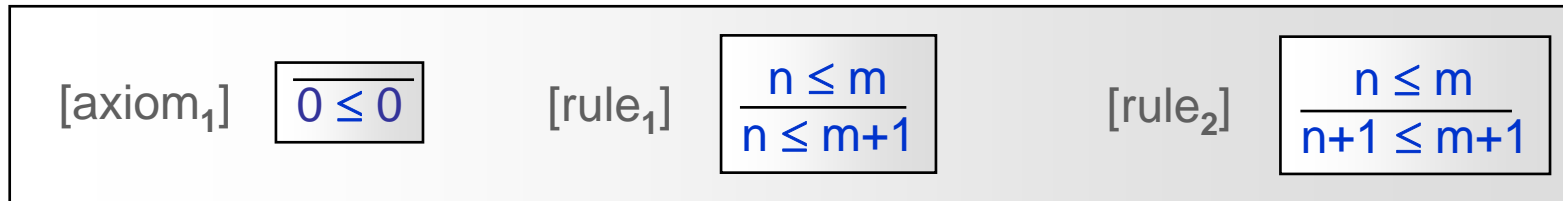
} *inference tree*

■ The *inference tree* **proves** that:  $\boxed{\vdash_{\text{even}} 6}$



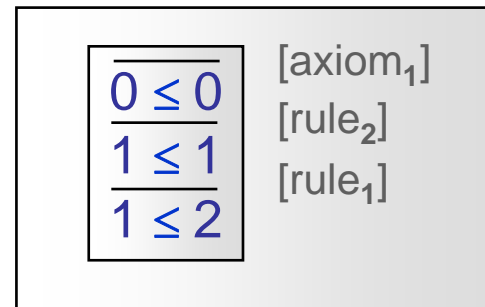
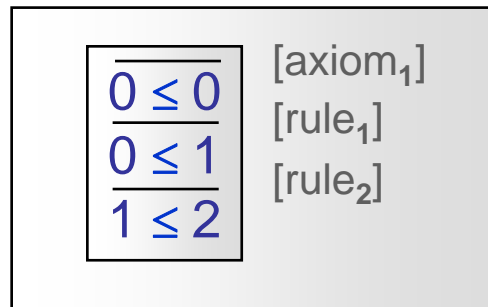
# ? - Example: "less-than-or-equal-to"

- Relation:  $\leq \subseteq \mathbf{N} \times \mathbf{N}$



- Is "1 ≤ 2" ? (why/why not)!? [activation exercise]

- Yes, because there exists an inference tree:
  - In fact, it has *two* inference trees:



# ? – Activation Exercise 1

## ■ Activation Exercise:

- 1. Specify the signature of the relation: '<<'
  - $x \ll y$       "*y is-double-that-of x*"
  
- 2. Specify the relation via an inference system
  - i.e. axioms and rules
  
- 3. Prove that indeed:
  - $3 \ll 6$       "*6 is-double-that-of 3*"

# ? – Activation Exercise 2

## ■ Activation Exercise:

- 1. Specify the signature of the relation: ' // '

- $x // y$       "*x is-half-that-of y*"

- 2. Specify the relation via an inference system

- i.e. axioms and rules

- 3. Prove that indeed:

- $3 // 6$       "*3 is-half-that-of 6*"

*Syntactically different*  
*Semantically the same relation*

# ? – Relation vs. Function

## ■ A function...

- $f : A \rightarrow B$

...is a *relation*

- $R_f \subseteq A \times B$

...with the special requirement:

- $\forall a \in A, b_1, b_2 \in B:$

$$R_f(a, b_1) \wedge R_f(a, b_2) \Rightarrow b_1 = b_2$$

- i.e., "the result",  $b$ , is *uniquely* determined from "the argument",  $a$ .

# ? – Relation vs. Function (Example)

- The (2-argument) **function** '+'...

- $+ : \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$

...induces a (3-argument) **relation**

- $R_+ \subseteq \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$

...that obeys:

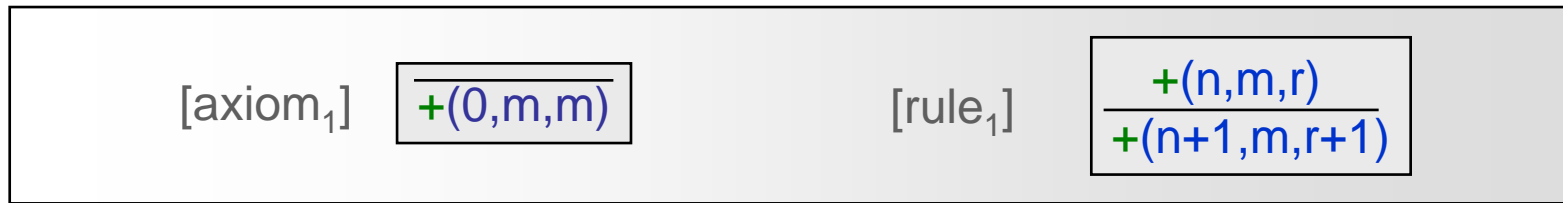
- $\forall n, m \in \mathbb{N}, r_1, r_2 \in \mathbb{N}:$

$$R_+(n, m, r_1) \wedge R_+(n, m, r_2) \Rightarrow r_1 = r_2$$

- i.e., "the result", **r**, is **uniquely** determined from "the arguments", **n** and **m**

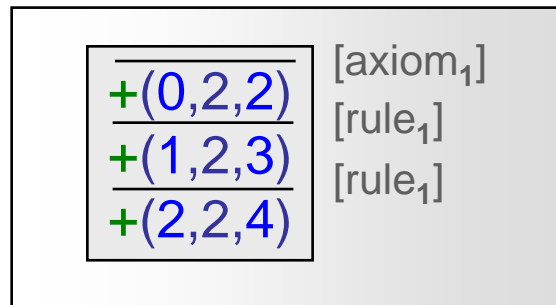
# ? - Example: "add"

- Relation:  $\text{'+'} \subseteq \mathbf{N} \times \mathbf{N} \times \mathbf{N}$



- Is "2 + 2 = 4" ?!?

- Yes, because there exists an inf. tree for "+(2,2,4)":



# ? – Relation Definition (Interpretation)

- Actually, an inference system:  $\vdash_{\mathcal{R}} \subseteq \mathbf{Z}$

[axiom<sub>1</sub>]

$$\boxed{\vdash_{\mathcal{R}} 0}$$

[rule<sub>1</sub>]

$$\frac{\vdash_{\mathcal{R}} n}{\vdash_{\mathcal{R}} n+2}$$

...is a *demand specification* for a relation:

$$(0 \in \vdash_{\mathcal{R}}) \wedge (\forall n \in \vdash_{\mathcal{R}} \Rightarrow n+2 \in \vdash_{\mathcal{R}})$$

- The three relations:

- $R = \{0, 2, 4, 6, \dots\}$  (aka.,  $2\mathbf{N}$ )

- $R' = \{0, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, \dots\}$

- $R'' = \{\dots, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, \dots\}$  (aka.,  $\mathbf{Z}$ )

...all *satisfy* the (above) specification!

# ? – Inductive *Interpretation* (\*)

- A inference system:  $\vdash_{\mathcal{R}} \subseteq \mathbf{Z} \iff \vdash_{\mathcal{R}} \in P(\mathbf{Z})$

$$[\text{axiom}_1] \quad \boxed{\vdash_{\mathcal{R}} 0} \qquad [\text{rule}_1] \quad \boxed{\frac{\vdash_{\mathcal{R}} n}{\vdash_{\mathcal{R}} n+2}}$$

- ...induces a function:  $F_{\mathcal{R}}: P(\mathbf{Z}) \rightarrow P(\mathbf{Z})$  *From rel. to rel.*

$$F_{\mathcal{R}}(\mathbf{R}) = \{0\} \cup \{n+2 \mid n \in \mathbf{R}\}$$

- Definition:  $\vdash_{\text{even}} := \text{lfp}(F_{\mathcal{R}}) = \bigcup_n F_{\mathcal{R}}^n(\emptyset)$

- ‘lfp’ (*least fixed point*) ~ least solution:

$$F(\emptyset) = \{0\} \cup F^2(\emptyset) = F(\{0\}) = \{0,2\} \cup F^3(\emptyset) = F^2(\{0\}) = F(\{0,2\}) = \{0,2,4\} \cup \dots = \mathbf{2N}$$

$$F^n(\emptyset) \sim \text{“Anything that can be proved in ‘n’ steps”}$$



# Exercise 1:



---

11:15 – 12:00

# ? – 1. Relations via Inf. Sys. (in Prolog)

## ■ Purpose:

- *Learn how to describe relations via inf. sys. (in Prolog)*

### EXERCISE 1 (RELATIONS VIA INFERENCE SYSTEMS IN PROLOG)

Purpose: to learn how to describe relations via. inference systems (in Prolog):

#### □ Unary: **odd/1**

- **a)** Determine the *arity* and *signature* of the **odd** relation, written  $\vdash_{\text{odd}} N$  (“ $N$  is an odd number”), on natural numbers.
- **b)** Define the relation formally via an inference system (using only constant addition in the rules).
- **c)** Prove that:  $\vdash_{\text{odd}} 5$  (in terms of your definition).
- **d)** Rewrite your inference system so that it instead uses a unary **succ** encoding of numerals (cf. Section 3.1.3).
- **e)** Implement this inference system in Prolog as a predicate **odd/1**.
- **f)** Prove that: **odd(succ(succ(succ(succ(succ(0))))))** (using Prolog) and explain how Prolog establishes this.

#### □ Binary: **double/2**

- **-)** Repeat steps **a)-f)** but for the binary **double** relation, written  $X \ll Y$  (“ $Y$  is double that of  $X$ ”), on natural numbers (using only constant addition in the rules).
  - In steps **c)** and **f)**, prove that  $2 \ll 4$  and **double(succ(succ(0)),succ(succ(succ(succ(0)))))**, respectively.

#### □ Ternary: **congruent/3** [hard'ish]

- **-)** Repeat steps **a)-f)** but for the binary **congruent** relation, written  $X \equiv_Z Y$  (“ $X$  is congruent with  $Y$  modulo  $Z$  (for  $Y < Z$ )”), on natural numbers (using only less-than-or-equal, constant, and/or binary addition in the rules).
  - In steps **c)** and **f)**, prove that  $5 \equiv_2 1$  and **congruent(succ(succ(succ(succ(succ(0))))),succ(0),succ(succ(0)))**, respectively.
- [I give up; give me a [hint](#)]



# INTRODUCTION TO PROLOG

(by example)

---

## Keywords:

Logic-programming, Relations,  
Facts & Rules, Queries, Variables,  
Deduction, Functors, & Pulp Fiction :)

# ? – PROLOG Material

- We'll use the **on-line** material:

**"Learn Prolog Now!"**

[ Patrick Blackburn, Johan Bos, Kristina Striegnitz, 2001 ]

**Learn Prolog Now!**  
Patrick Blackburn, Johan Bos and  
Kristina Striegnitz

This is the first draft of a new course on Prolog. It is based on our experience of teaching Prolog at the Department of Computational Linguistics, University of the Saarland, over the past four years.

We wanted to do two things with this course. First, we wanted to provide a text that was relatively self contained, a text that would permit someone with little or no knowledge of computing to pick up the basics of Prolog with the minimum of fuss. We also wanted the text to be clear enough to make it useful for self study. We believe that if you read the text, and do the associated exercises, you will gain a useful partial entry to the world of Prolog.

But only a *partial* entry, and this brings us to our second point. We want to emphasize the practical aspects of Prolog. Prolog is something you *do*. You can't learn a programming language simply by reading about it, and if you really want to get the most out of this course, we strongly advise you to get hold of a Prolog interpreter (you'll find pointers to some nice ones on this website) and work through all the Practical Sessions that we provide. And of course, don't stop with what we provide. The more you program, the better you'll get....

We hope you enjoy the course. And whether you're using this book to teach yourself Prolog, or you're using it as the basis for teaching others, we would like to hear from you. Please send us any comments/corrections you have so that we can take them into account in later versions.

This course also exists in a [Postscript version](#) and a [PDF version](#) for printing.

The course text and the associated webpages were prepared using tools developed by Denis Duchier for documenting Oz code.

[ <http://www.coli.uni-saarland.de/~kris/learn-prolog-now/> ]

# ? – Prolog

- A French programming language (from 1971):
  - "*Programmation en Logique*" (= "programming in logic")



- A **declarative, relational** style of programming based on *first-order logic*:
  - Originally intended for *natural-language processing*, but has been used for many different purposes (esp. for programming *artificial intelligence*).
- The programmer writes a "*database*" of "*facts*" and "*rules*";

e.g.:

```
%- FACTS -----  
female(girl).  
floats(duck).  
sameweight(girl,duck).
```

```
%- RULES -----  
witch(X) :- burns(X) , female(X).  
burns(X) :- wooden(X).  
wooden(X) :- floats(X).  
floats(X) :- sameweight(X,Y) , floats(Y).
```

- The user then supplies a "*goal*" which the system **attempts to prove deductively** (using *resolution* and *backtracking*); e.g., `witch(girl)`.

# ? – Operational vs. Declarative Programming

## ■ **Operational Programming:**

- The programmer specifies **operationally**:
  - *how* to obtain a solution
- Very dependent on operational details

- C  
- Java  
- ...

## ■ **Declarative Programming:**

- The programmer **declares**:
  - *what* are the properties of a solution
- (Almost) Independent on operational details

- Prolog  
- Haskell  
- ...

### PROLOG:

"The programmer **describes** the logical properties of the result of a computation, and the interpreter **searches** for a result having those properties".

# ? – *Facts, Rules, and Queries*

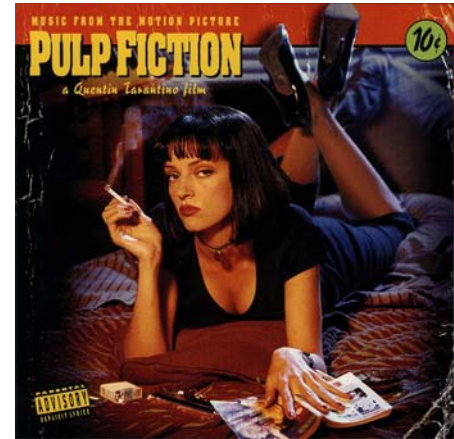
- There are only 3 basic constructs in **PROLOG**:
  - **Facts** } "knowledge base" (or "database")
  - **Rules** }
  - **Queries** (goals that **PROLOG** attempts to prove)

*Programming in PROLOG is all about **writing knowledge bases**.*

*We **use** the programs by **posing** the right **queries**.*

# ? – *Introductory Examples*

- Five example (knowledge bases)
  - ...from "Pulp Fiction":
- ...in increasing complexity:
  - **KB1:** Facts only
  - **KB2:** Rules
  - **KB3:** Conjunction ("and") and disjunction ("or")
  - **KB4:** N-ary predicates and variables
  - **KB5:** Variables in rules





# ? - KB1: Facts Only

## ■ KB1:

```
% FACTS:  
woman(mia).  
woman(jody).  
woman(yolanda).  
playsAirGuitar(jody).
```

- Basically, just a collection of **facts**:

- Things that are *unconditionally true*;

e.g.  
"mia is a woman"

- We can now **use KB1 interactively**:

```
?- woman(mia).  
Yes  
  
?- woman(jody).  
Yes  
  
?- playsAirGuitar(jody).  
Yes  
  
?- playsAirGuitar(mia).  
No
```

```
?- tatoored(joey).  
No  
  
?- playsAirGuitar(marcellus).  
No  
  
?- attends_dProgSprog(marcellus).  
No  
  
?- playsAirGitar(jody).  
No
```

# ? – Rules

## ■ Rules:

■ Syntax: `head :- body.`

■ Semantics:

■ "If the *body* is true, **then** the *head* is also true"

~  $\frac{\text{body}}{\text{head}}$   
inf.sys.

■ To express **conditional truths**:

■ e.g., `playsAirGuitar(mia) :- listensToMusic(mia).`

■ i.e., "*Mia plays the air-guitar, if she listens to music*".

■ PROLOG then uses the following deduction principle (called: "*modus ponens*"):  $\frac{H :- B \quad // \text{ If } B, \text{ then } H \text{ (or "H \leq B")}$   
 $B \quad // B.}{\square H \quad // \text{ Therefore, } H.}$

# ? - KB2: Rules

## ■ KB2 contains 2 facts and 3 rules:

```
% FACTS:
```

```
listensToMusic(mia).  
happy(yolanda).
```

```
playsAirGuitar(mia)      :- listensToMusic(mia).  
playsAirGuitar(yolanda) :- listensToMusic(yolanda).  
listensToMusic(yolanda) :- happy(yolanda).
```

- which define 3 *predicates*: (listensToMusic, happy, playsAirGuitar)

## ■ PROLOG is now able to *deduce*...

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

```
Yes
```

```
?- playsAirGuitar(yolanda).
```

```
Yes
```

...using "modus ponens":

```
playsAirGuitar(mia) :- listensToMusic(mia).  
listensToMusic(mia).
```

```
□ playsAirGuitar(mia).
```

```
listensToMusic(yolanda) :- happy(yolanda).  
happy(yolanda).
```

```
□ listensToMusic(yolanda).
```

...combined with...

```
playsAirGuitar(yolanda) :- listensToMusic(yolanda).  
listensToMusic(yolanda).
```

```
□ playsAirGuitar(yolanda).
```

# ? – *Conjunction and Disjunction*

- Rules may contain multiple bodies (which may be combined in two ways):

- **Conjunction** (aka. "and"):

- ```
playsAirGuitar(vincent) :- listensToMusic(vincent),  
                           happy(vincent).
```

- *i.e.*, "Vincent plays, **if** he listens to music **and** he's happy".

- **Disjunction** (aka. "or"):

- ```
playsAirGuitar(butch) :- listensToMusic(butch),  
                           happy(butch).
```

- *i.e.*, "Butch plays, if he listens to music **or** he's happy".

...which is the same as (**preferred**):

```
playsAirGuitar(butch) :- listensToMusic(butch).  
playsAirGuitar(butch) :- happy(butch).
```

# ? - KB3: Conjunction and Disjunction

## ■ KB3 defines 3 predicates:

```
happy(vincent).
```

```
listensToMusic(butch).
```

```
playsAirGuitar(vincent) :- listensToMusic(vincent),  
                             happy(vincent).
```

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

```
playsAirGuitar(butch) :- listensToMusic(butch).
```

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

No

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

Yes

*...because we cannot deduce:*

```
listensToMusic(vincent).
```

```
playsAirGuitar(butch) :- listensToMusic(butch).  
listensToMusic(butch).
```

---

```
□ playsAirGuitar(butch).
```

*...using the last rule above*

# ? – KB4: N-ary Predicates and Variables

## ■ KB4:

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

Defining unary predicate: woman/1

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

Defining binary predicate: loves/2

## ■ Interaction with *Variables* (in upper-case):

```
?- woman(X).  
X = mia  
?- ;           // ";" ~ are there any other matches ?  
X = jody  
?- ;           // ";" ~ are there any other matches ?  
X = yolanda  
?- ;           // ";" ~ are there any other matches ?  
No
```

- PROLOG tries to *match* woman(**X**) against the rules (from top to bottom) using **X** as a placeholder for anything.

## ■ More complex query:

```
?- loves(marcellus,X), woman(X).  
X = mia
```

# ? – KB5: Variables in Rules

## ■ KB5:

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

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

NB: (implicit)  
existential quantification  
(i.e., "∃ Z")

- i.e., "*X is-jealous-of Y, if there exists someone Z such that X loves Z and Y also loves Z*".
  - (statement about everything in the knowledge base)

## ■ Query:

```
?- jealous(marcellus,Who).
Who = vincent
```

- (they both love Mia).
- **Q: Any other jealous people in KB5?**

# ? – Prolog Terms

## ■ **Terms:**

- constants* {
- **Atoms** (first char lower-case or is in quotes):
    - `a`, `vincent`, `vincentVega`, `big_kahuna_burger`, ...
    - `'a'`, `'Mia'`, `'Five dollar shake'`, `'#!%*'`, ...
  - **Numbers** (usual):
    - ..., `-2`, `-1`, `0`, `1`, `2`, ...
  - **Variables** (first char upper-case or underscore):
    - `X`, `Y`, `X_42`, `Tail`, `_head`, ... (`"_"` special variable)
  - **Complex terms** (aka. "structures"):
    - `f(term1, term2, ..., termn)` (*f is called a "functor"*)
    - `a(b)`, `woman(mia)`, `woman(X)`, `loves(X,Y)`, ...
    - `father(father(jules))`, `f(g(X),f(y))`, ... (*nested*)



# ? – *Implicit Data Structures*

- PROLOG is an *untyped* language
- Data structures are *implicitly defined* via constructors (aka. "*functors*"):
  - e.g. `cons(x, cons(y, cons(z, nil)))`
  - **Note:** these functors don't *do* anything; they just *represent* structured values
    - e.g., the above might *represent* a three-element list:  
`[x, y, z]`

# MATCHING



## Keywords:

Matching, Unification, "Occurs check",  
Programming via Matching...

# ? - Matching: simple rec. def. ( $\cong$ )

■ **Matching:**  $\cong \subseteq \text{TERM} \times \text{TERM}$

constants

- $c \cong c'$  iff  $c, c'$  same atom/number ( $c, c'$  constants)
  - e.g.;  $\text{mia} \cong \text{mia}$ ,  $\text{mia} \not\cong \text{vincent}$ ,  $'\text{mia}' \cong \text{mia}$ , ...  
 $0 \cong 0$ ,  $-2 \cong -2$ ,  $4 \not\cong 5$ ,  $7 \not\cong '7'$ , ...

variables

- $X \cong t$
  - $t \cong X$
  - $X \cong Y$
- } **always match** ( $X, Y$  variables,  $t$  any term)
- e.g.;  $X \cong \text{mia}$ ,  $\text{woman}(\text{jody}) \cong X$ ,  $A \cong B$ , ...

complex terms

- $f(t_1, \dots, t_n) \cong f'(t'_1, \dots, t'_m)$   
iff  $f=f'$ ,  $n=m$ ,  $\forall i$  **recursively**:  $t_i \cong t'_i$ 
  - e.g.,  $\text{woman}(X) \cong \text{woman}(\text{mia})$ ,  $f(a, X) \cong f(Y, b)$ ,  
 $\text{woman}(\text{mia}) \not\cong \text{woman}(\text{jody})$ ,  $f(a, X) \not\cong f(X, b)$ .

*Note: all vars matches compatible  $\forall i$*

# ? - "= / 2" and QUIZZZZZZ...

- In **PROLOG** (built-in *matching* pred.): "= / 2":
  - `= (2, 2)`; may also be written using *infix notation*:
    - i.e., as `2 = 2`.

## ■ Examples:

Yes            ■ `mia = mia ?`

No             ■ `mia = vincent ?`

Yes            ■ `-5 = -5 ?`

X=5            ■ `5 = X ?`

J...=v...      ■ `vincent = Jules ?`

No             ■ `X = mia, X = vincent ?`

X=...,Y=...    ■ `kill(shoot(gun),Y) = kill(X,stab(knife)) ?`

No             ■ `loves(X,X) = loves(marcellus, mia) ?`

# ? - Variable Unification ("fresh vars")

## ■ Variable Unification:



```
?- X = Y.  
X = _G225  
Y = _G225
```

- "\_G225" is a **"fresh" variable** (not occurring elsewhere)

- Using these fresh names **avoids name-clashes** with variables with the same name nested inside
  - [ More on this later... ]



# ? - Programming via Matching

## ■ Consider the following knowledge base:

```
vertical(line(point(X,Y),point(X,Z))).  
horizontal(line(point(X,Y),point(Z,Y))).
```

Note: scope rules:  
the X,Y,Z's are all different  
in the (two) different rules!

- Almost looks too simple to be interesting; **however...!:**

```
?- vertical(line(point(1,2),point(1,4))).           // match  
Yes  
?- vertical(line(point(1,2),point(3,4))).           // no match  
No  
?- horizontal(line(point(1,2),point(3,Y))).         // var match  
Y=2  
?- ;           // <-- ";" are there any other lines ?  
No  
?- horizontal(line(point(1,2),P)).                 // any point?  
P = point(_G228,2)           // i.e. any point w/ Y-coord 2  
?- ;           // <-- ";" other solutions ?  
No
```

- We even get **complex, structured output**.  
"point(\_G228,2)".

# Short Break:



15 mins



# PROOF *SEARCH ORDER*



## Keywords:

Proof Search ***Order***,  
Deduction, Backtracking,  
Non-termination, ...

# ? - Proof Search Order

- Consider the following *knowledge base*:

```
f(a).  
f(b).  
  
g(a).  
g(b).  
  
h(b).  
  
k(x) :- f(x),g(x),h(x).
```

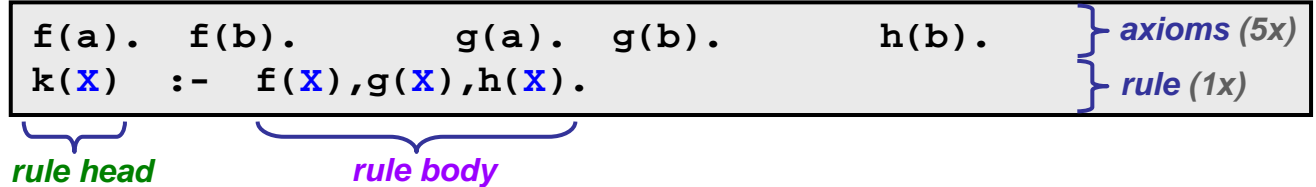
- ...and *query*:

```
?- k(x).
```

- We (homo sapiens) can "easily" figure out that **x=b** is the (only) answer but **how** does **PROLOG** go about this?

# PROLOG's Search Order

## ■ Resolution:



- **1. Search** knowledge base (*from top to bottom*) for (*axiom or rule head*) **matching** with (first) **goal**: k(x)
  - **Axiom match:** remove goal and process *next goal* [→1]
  - **Rule match:** (as in this case): k(x) :- f(x),g(x),h(x). [→2]
  - **No match: backtrack** (*undo*; try next choice in 1.) [→1]
- **2. "α-convert"** variables (to avoid later name clashes):
  - **Goal':** k(\_G225) (*unifying goal and match*)
  - **Match':** k(\_G225) :- f(\_G225),g(\_G225),h(\_G225). [→3]
- **3. Replace** goal with **rule body**: f(\_G225),g(\_G225),h(\_G225).
  - Now **resolve new goals** (*from left to right*); [→1]

## Possible outcomes:

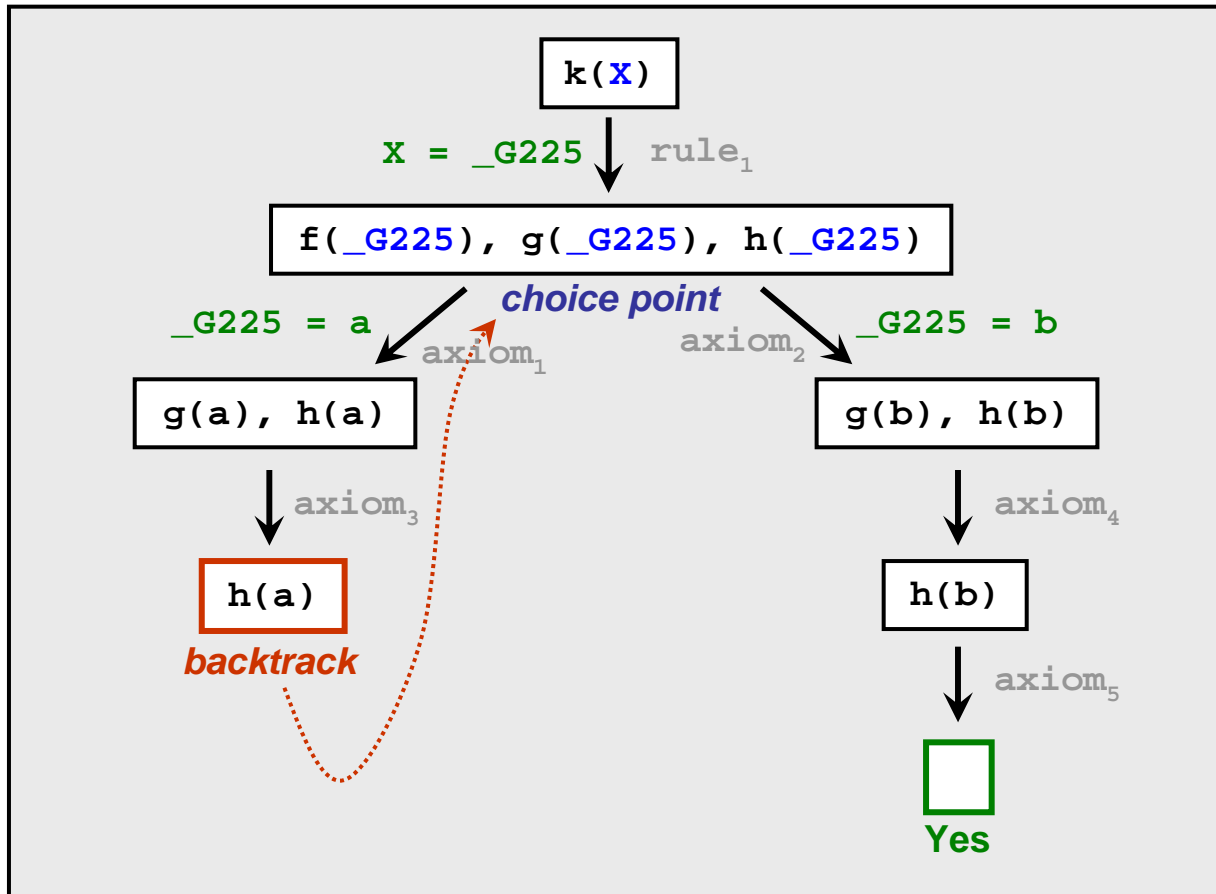
- **success:** no more goals to match (all matched w/ axioms and removed)
- **failure:** unmatched goal (tried all possibilities: exhaustive backtracking)
- **non-termination:** inherent risk (same / bigger-and-bigger / more-and-more goals)

# ? - Search Tree (Visualization)

■ **KB:**

$f(a).$   $f(b).$   $g(a).$   $g(b).$   $h(b).$   
 $k(x) :- f(x), g(x), h(x).$

; **goal:**  $k(x)$



# RECURSION



## Keywords:

Recursion (numerals, addition),

**Careful** w/ Recursion:

(**PROLOG vs.** inf.sys.)

# ? - Recursion (in Rules)

- **Declarative** (*recursive*) specification:

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

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

- What does **PROLOG do** (*operationally*) given query:

- ```
?- is_digesting(stork, mosquito).
```

 ?

- *...same algorithm as before (works fine w/ recursion)*

# ? - Do we really need Recursion?

## ■ Example: *Descendants*

- "*X descendant-of Y*" ~ "*X child-of, child-of, ..., child-of Y*"

```
child(anne, brit).  
child(brit, carol).  
  
descend(A,B) :- child(A,B).  
descend(A,C) :- child(A,B),  
                child(B,C).
```

- Okay for above knowledge base; but what about....:

```
child(anne, brit).  
child(brit, carol).  
child(carol, donna).  
child(donna, eva).
```

```
?- descend(anne, donna).  
No
```

```
:(
```

# ? – Need Recursion? (cont'd)

- Then what about...:

```
descend(A,B) :- child(A,B).
descend(A,C) :- child(A,B),
                child(B,C).
descend(A,D) :- child(A,B),
                child(B,C),
                child(C,D).
```

- Now works for...:

```
?- descend(anne, donna).
Yes                                     :)
```

- ...but now what about:

```
?- descend(anne, eva).
No                                      :(
```

- Our "strategy" is:

- extremely *redundant*; and
- **only works up to finite K!**



# ? – Solution: Recursion!

## ■ Recursion to the rescue:

```
■ descend(X,Y) :- child(X,Y).  
  descend(X,Y) :- child(X,Z),  
                  descend(Z,Y).
```

### ■ **Works:**

```
?- descend(anne, eva).  
Yes                                     :)
```

### ■ ...for structures of **arbitrary size:**

#### ■ ...even for "zoe":

```
?- descend(anne, zoe).  
Yes                                     :)
```

#### ■ ...and is very **concise!**

# ? - Operationally (in PROLOG)

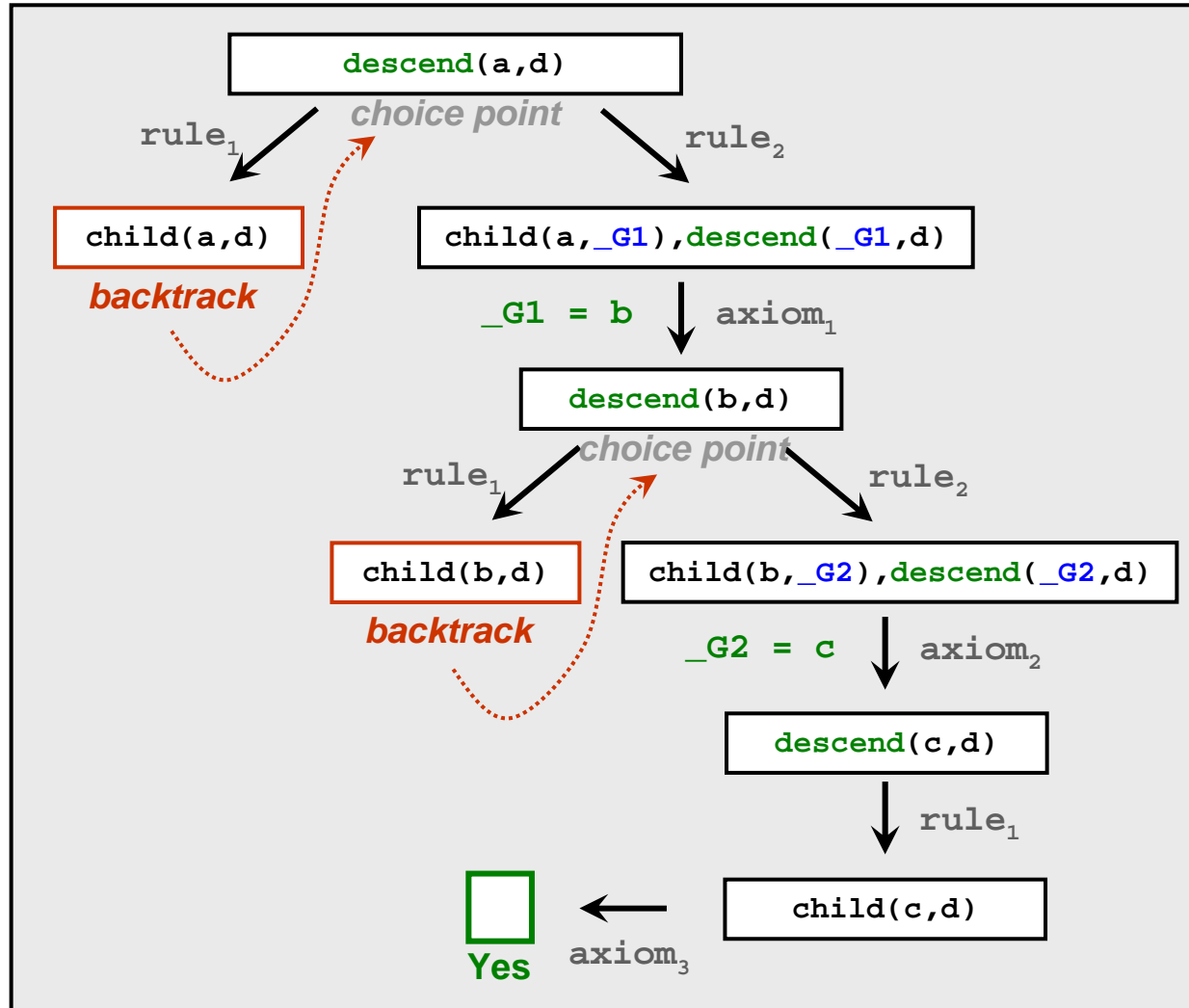
```
child(a,b).
child(b,c).
child(c,d).
child(d,e).
```

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

## ■ Search tree for query:

```
?- descend(a,d).
Yes
```

:)



# ? - Example: Successor

## ■ Mathematical definition of numerals:



[axiom<sub>1</sub>]

$$\boxed{\vdash_{\text{num}} 0}$$

[rule<sub>1</sub>]

$$\boxed{\frac{\vdash_{\text{num}} N}{\vdash_{\text{num}} \text{succ } N}}$$

## ■ "Unary encoding of numbers"

- Computers use *binary encoding*
- Homo Sapiens agreed (over time) on *decimal encoding*
- (Earlier cultures used other encoding: base 20, 64, ...)

## ■ In PROLOG:

```
numeral(0).  
numeral(succ(N)) :- numeral(N).
```

*typing in the inference system  
"head under the arm"  
(using a Danish metaphor).*

# ? - Backtracking (revisited)

## ■ Given:

```
numeral(0).  
numeral(succ(N)) :- numeral(N).
```

## ■ Interaction with PROLOG:

```
?- numeral(0). // is 0 a numeral ?  
Yes  
?- numeral(succ(succ(succ(0)))). // is 3 a numeral ?  
Yes  
?- numeral(X). // okay, gimme a numeral ?  
X=0  
?- ; // please backtrack (gimme the next one?)  
X=succ(0)  
?- ; // backtrack (next?)  
X=succ(succ(0))  
?- ; // backtrack (next?)  
X=succ(succ(succ(0)))  
... // and so on...
```

# ? - Example: Addition

- Recall addition inference system (~3 hrs ago):

$'+' \subseteq \mathbf{N} \times \mathbf{N} \times \mathbf{N}$	$[\text{axiom}_1] \quad \overline{+(0, M, M)}$	$[\text{rule}_1] \quad \frac{+(N, M, R)}{+(N+1, M, R+1)}$
--	--	---

- In PROLOG:

- |  |
|--|
| $\text{add}(0, M, M).$<br>$\text{add}(\text{succ}(N), M, \text{succ}(R)) \text{ :- } \text{add}(N, M, R).$ |
|--|

*Again:  
typing in the inference system  
"head under the arm"  
(using a Danish metaphor).*

- However, one ***extremely important difference:***

$x?: +(x, 2, 1)$	inf. sys.	<b>vs.</b>	PROLOG	$?- \text{add}(x, \text{succ}(\text{succ}(0)), \text{succ}(0)).$	
no 😊	math. $\exists$ inf.tree	<b>vs.</b>	fixed search alg.	$\begin{matrix} - \text{top-to-bottom} \\ - \text{left-to-right} \\ - \text{backtracking} \end{matrix}$	😞 loops
$[\text{axiom}_1] \quad \overline{+(0, M, M)}$	$[\text{rule}_1] \quad \frac{+(N, M+1, R)}{+(N+1, M, R)}$	<b>vs.</b>	$\text{add}(0, M, M).$ $\text{add}(\text{succ}(N), M, R) \text{ :- } \text{add}(N, \text{succ}(M), R).$		

# ? - Be Careful with Recursion!

## ■ Original:

Query:

```
?- is_digesting(stork, mosquito).
```

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

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

## ■ *rule bodies:*

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

## ■ *rules:*

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

## ■ *bodies+rules:*

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

**EXERCISE:**

What happens if we swap...

# Exercises 2+3:



---

14:30 – 15:15

# ? - 2. Finite-State Search Problems

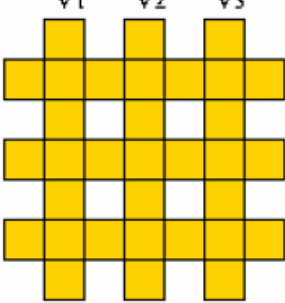
## ■ Purpose:

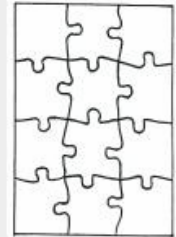
- *Learn to solve encode/solve/decode search problems*

### EXERCISE 2 (FINITE-STATE PROBLEM SOLVING IN PROLOG)

Purpose: to learn how to *encode* problems, *solve*, and *decode* (answers) finite search problems (in Prolog)

- Consider the following *crossword puzzle* and Prolog *knowledge base* representing a lexicon of six six-letter words:

Crossword Puzzle		Information Representation
	V1 V2 V3	
H1		<pre>word(abalone,a,b,a,l,o,n,e). word(abandon,a,b,a,n,d,o,n). word(anagram,a,n,a,g,r,a,m). word(connect,c,o,n,n,e,c,t). word(elegant,e,l,e,g,a,n,t). word(enhance,e,n,h,a,n,c,e).</pre>
H2		
H3		



- **a)** Specify a Prolog predicate `crossword/6` that takes six arguments (`V1,V2,V3,H1,H2,H3`) (formatted as in the Prolog knowledge base above) and tells us whether or not the puzzle is correctly filled in.
- **b)** Now specify a *search query* that extracts the solution to the puzzle, given the particular six words in the knowledge base above.
- **c)** Are there any other solutions?



# ? - 3. Finite-State Problem Solving

## ■ Purpose:

- *Learn to solve encode/solve/decode search problems*



- a) Specify a Prolog predicate `different/2` that takes two arguments (`c1,c2`) and tells us whether or not the arguments are different colors.
- b) Use the above predicate to specify a Prolog predicate `three_coloring_b/4` that takes four color arguments named (`COL,ECU,PER,BRA`) and tells us whether or not the colors constitute a valid coloring for the map of south-america (restricted to Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, and Brazil).
- c) Now specify a *search query* that extracts the solution to the problem (if it exists).
- d) Are there any other solutions?
- e) Now repeat steps b-d for the map restricted to Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Argentina (i.e., specify a Prolog predicate `three_coloring_e/4`).

# Exercises 4+5:



---

15:30 – 16:15

# ? – 4. Multiple Solutions & Backtracking

## ■ Purpose:

- *Learn how to deal with mult. solutions & backtracking*

### EXERCISE 4 (MULTIPLE SOLUTIONS AND BACKTRACKING IN PROLOG)

Purpose: to learn how to deal with multiple solutions and backtracking (in Prolog)

- Consider the following Prolog program:

Axioms	Rules
<code>noun(john) .</code> <code>noun(jane) .</code>	<code>verb(Present) :- verb(Infinitive,Present,Past) .</code> <code>verb(Past) :- verb(Infinitive,Present,Past) .</code>
<code>verb('to like',likes,liked) .</code>	<code>sentence(S,V,O) :- noun(S), verb(V), noun(O) .</code>



- **a)** How many relations are defined and what are their respective arities (i.e., number of arguments)?
- **b)** *Query* the knowledge base to find a valid sentence (containing the verb `liked`).
- **c)** *Draw a search tree* (cf. Section 2.2) for your query from **a**).
- **d)** *Explain EXACTLY* what is going on and in what order.

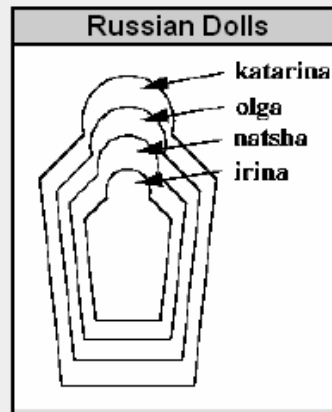
# ? – 5. Recursion in Prolog

## ■ Purpose: Learn how to be careful with recursion

### EXERCISE 5 (RECURSION IN PROLOG)

Purpose: to learn to be careful with recursion (in Prolog)

- Consider the following illustration of the “russian dolls” (smaller dolls inside bigger dolls):



- **a)** Define a predicate `in/2` that tells which doll is (directly or indirectly) inside which; e.g. `in(katarina,natasha)` should be true, while `in(olga,katarina)` false.
- **b)** Find all dolls inside `katarina`.
- **c)** [CONDITIONALLY]:
  - **IF** you got a global stack overflow in **b)** above (after the third possible answer)
  - **THEN** explain what happened and try to fix the problem
  - **ELSE** good solution, move on to exercise 4...

# ? – Hand-in #5

## ■ Hand-in:

- To **check** that you are able to solve problems in Prolog

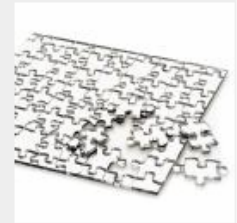
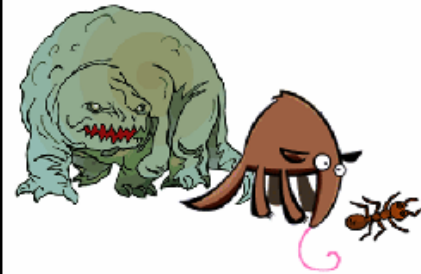
### HAND-IN EXERCISE: ("The Ant, the Ant-Eater, and the Ant-Eater-Eater Problem")

#### "THE ANT-EATER<sup>0</sup>, THE ANT-EATER<sup>1</sup>, AND THE ANT-EATER<sup>2</sup> PROBLEM":

A Zookeeper is travelling with an **ant**, an **ant-eater**, and an **ant-eater-eater** and has come to a river which he has to cross in a small boat.

The Zookeeper has to take good care of his animals as the ant-eater would eat the ant (if left alone with it) and the ant-eater-eater would eat the ant-eater (if left unattended). The boat is only big enough for him to take at most one animal across the river (yes, the ant is, in fact, rather big).

How can the Zookeeper cross the river with all his animals?



- a) **Encode** the problem in Prolog (and explain carefully how you represented the problem).
- b) **Solve** the problem in Prolog (and explain carefully what is going on; how Prolog is solving the problem).
- c) **Decode** the answer to obtain the solution to the problem.
- d) **Try** it out: [ [Online Game](#) ] :)

[HINTS]

- **explain carefully** how you repr. & what **PROLOG** does!