COMP4418: Knowledge Representation and Reasoning

Introduction to Prolog II

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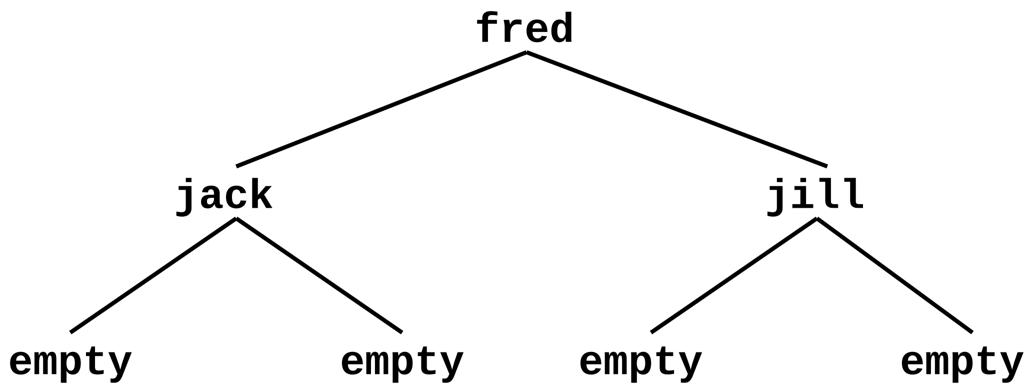
Reference: Ivan Bratko, Prolog Programming for Artificial Intelligence, Addison-Wesley, 2001. Chapter 3.

Prolog

- Compound terms can contain other compound terms
- A compound term can contain the same kind of term, i.e., it can be recursive:

  `tree(tree(empty, jack, empty), fred, tree(empty, jill, empty))`

- "`empty`" is an arbitrary symbol use to represent the empty tree
- A structure like this could be used to represent a binary tree that looks like:



Binary Trees

- A binary tree is either empty or it is a structure that contains data and left and right subtrees which are also binary trees
- To test if some datum is in the tree:

```
in_tree(X, tree(_, X, _)).
in_tree(X, tree(Left, Y, _) :-
    X \= Y,
    in_tree(X, Left).
in_tree(X, tree(_, Y, Right) :-
    X \= Y,
    in_tree(X, Right).
```

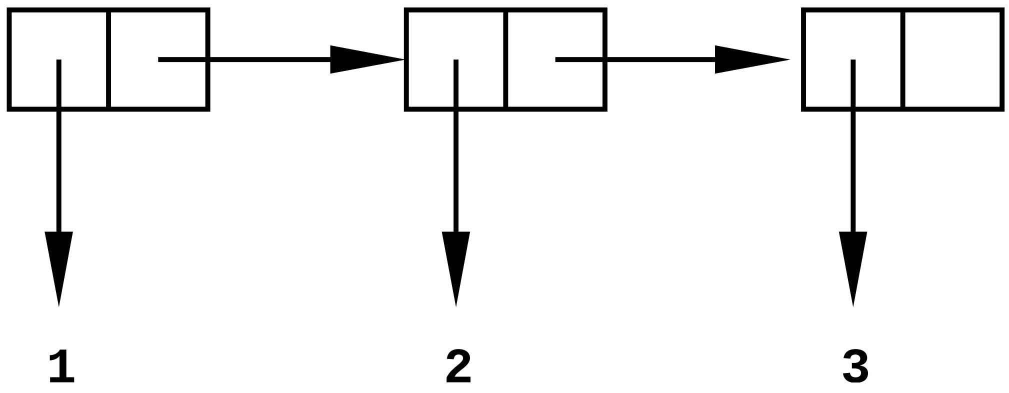
The Size of a Tree

- ```
  tree_size(empty, 0).
  tree_size(tree(Left, _, Right), N) :-
      tree_size(Left, LeftSize),
      tree_size(Right, RightSize),
      N is LeftSize + RightSize + 1.
  ```
- The size of the empty tree is 0
- The size of a non-empty tree is the size of the left subtree plus the size of the right subtree plus one for the current node
  ```

Lists

- A list may be nil or it may be a term that has a head and a tail. The tail is another list.
- A list of numbers, `[1, 2, 3]` can be represented as:

```
list(1, list(2, list(3, nil)))
```



- Since lists are used so often, Prolog has a special notation:

```
[1, 2, 3] = list(1, list(2, list(3, nil)))
```

Examples of Lists

`[X, Y, Z] = [1, 2, 3]?`	Unify the two terms on either side of the equals sign

`X = 1`
`Y = 2`
`Z = 3`
	Variables match terms in corresponding positions

`[X|Y] = [1, 2, 3]?`	The head and tail of a list are separated by using '`|`' to indicate that the term following the bar should unify with the tail of the list
`X = 1` `Y = [2, 3]`	
`[X|Y] = [1]?`	The empty list is written as '`[]`'
`X = 1` `Y = []`	The end of a list is usually `[]`'

More list examples

`[X, Y|Z] = [fred, jim, jill, mary]?`

There must be at least two elements in the list on the right

```
X = fred
Y = jim
Z = [jill, mary]
```

`[X|Y] = [[a, f(e)], [n, b, [2]]]?`

The right hand list has two elements:

`[a, f(e)]` `[n, b, [2]]`

```
X = [a, f(e)]
Y = [[n, b, [2]]]
```

`Y` is the tail of the list,
`[n, b, [2]]` is just one element

List Membership

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

- Rules about writing recursive programs:
  - Only deal with one element at a time
  - Believe that the recursive program you are writing has already been written and works
  - Write definitions, not programs

Appending Lists

- A commonly performed operation on lists is to append one list to the end of another (or, concatenate two lists), e.g.,

  ```
  append([1, 2, 3], [4, 5], [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]).
  ```

- Start planning by considering the simplest case:

  ```
  append([], [1, 2, 3], [1, 2, 3]).
  ```

- Clause for this case:

  ```
  append([], L, L).
  ```


Appending Lists

- Next case:

```
append([1], [2], [1, 2]).
```

- Since `append([], [2], [2])`:

```
append([H|T1], L, [H|T2]) :- append(T1, L, T2).
```

- Entire program is:

```
append([], L, L).
append([H|T1], L, [H|T2]) :-
    append(T1, L, T2).
```


Reversing Lists

- `rev([1, 2, 3], [3, 2, 1]).`
- Start planning by considering the simplest case:

  ```
  rev([], []).
  ```
- Note:

  ```
  rev([2, 3], [3, 2]).
  ```

  and

  ```
  append([3, 2], [1], [3, 2, 1]).
  ```


Reversing Lists

- Entire program is:

```
rev([], []).
rev([A|B], C) :-
    rev(B, D),
    append(D, [A], C).
```


An Application of Lists

- Find the total cost of a list of items:

```
cost(flange, 3).
cost(nut, 1).
cost(widget, 2).
cost(splice, 2).
```

- We want to know the total cost of `[flange, nut, widget, splice]`

```
total_cost([], 0).
total_cost([A|B], C) :-
    total_cost(B, B_cost),
    cost(A, A_cost),
    C is A_cost + B_cost.
```