

# Principles of Programming Languages, Appendix

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1 Scheme

2 Haskell

3 Prolog

# Libraries (or Modules)

- 1 The concept of library is pervasive in computer languages
- 2 basic idea: libs contain procedures, programs, utilities (but also macros) that can be distributed *independently*
- 3 in many languages they often rely on **namespaces** (e.g. in C++, Java, Common Lisp, ML variants, but not in C, Objective-C, older Schemes, ...)
- 4 main idea: new **namespace** for the library, **import** of symbols/definitions from other needed libs, **export** of defined symbols (e.g. data, procedures, macros)
- 5 some languages offer very sophisticated and flexible libraries, e.g. the ML family with **functors** (not in F#)
- 6 Standard R6RS is the first to introduce this concept in Scheme (but there is a strong tradition of implementation-specific variants, e.g. that of Scheme 48, inspired by ML)

# Modules in Racket

- 1 Like in many Lisps, Racket uses `require` for importing, and `provide` for exporting symbols and their definitions:

```
#lang racket
(provide
  <exported-names>)
(require
  ; if missing, (require racket) is implicit
  <imported-names>)
<implementation>
```

- 2 The implicit name of the module is its file name (without the type extension)
- 3 To load and "enter" into a module's namespace, we can also perform `(enter! "<filename>")` at the REPL

# lsets: a simple example of a module

- 1 this is a very simple implementation of a set library with lists
- 2 main idea: we represent sets as lists, and provide typical set operations,  $\cup$ ,  $\cap$ , set difference

```
#lang racket
(provide
 simple-set-difference
 simple-intersection
 simple-union
 lset-union
 lset-intersection)
(require
 racket/base) ; we import only the base lib
```

- 3 (Racket offers a much faster and more complete racket/set library)

## Isets (cont.)

- 1 here is a concise (and not very efficient) implementation:

```
(define (simple-set-difference x y) ; y \ x
  (filter (lambda (t) (not (member t x))) y))

(define (simple-intersection x y)
  (filter (lambda (t) (member t x)) y))

(define (simple-union x y)
  (append x (simple-set-difference x y)))
```

- 2 Note: **member** is not a predicate, because if it finds  $t$ , it returns the rest of the list starting from it

## lsets (cont.)

- 1 here are the last operations:

```
(define (lset-union . sets)
  (foldl simple-union (car sets)
            (cdr sets)))

(define (lset-intersection . sets)
  (foldl simple-intersection (car sets)
            (cdr sets)))
```

- 2 to use it: (require "lset.ss")

## Another module example: redefining standard procedures

- 1 The require/provide mechanism is flexible: it is possible to rename, append or prepend strings to imported symbols, ...
- 2 Using **require** with renaming, it is possible also to re-define standard procedures
- 3 e.g. we first rename `+` to **old-+**, when we import it:

```
(import
  (rename-in racket/base (+ old-+))
  ...)
```

- 4 now we can re-define it for concatenating lists and vectors (like in Python, Ruby):



## redefinition of +

```
(define +
  (lambda args
    (if (not (null? args))
        (apply
         (cond
          ((string? (car args)) string-append)
          ((list?   (car args)) append)
          ((vector? (car args)) vector-append)
          (else old-+))
         args)
        0))) ; + without arguments
```

## redefinition of +: examples

```
(+ 2 3) ; => 5
(+ "=2" "+" "3") ; => "=2+3"
(+ '(1 2 3) '(4 5 6)) ; => '(1 2 3 4 5 6)
(+ '#(1 2 3) '#(4 5 6)) ; => #(1 2 3 4 5 6)
```

- 1 this capability is present in many languages (e.g. C++, Ruby)
- 2 some explicitly forbid it (e.g. Java, ML)

# Read

- 1 In Lisps, the parser is always available through the standard procedure called **read**
- 2 **read** gets a string from the input (or from a file), parsing (but not evaluating) it
- 3 e.g.

```
(define my-input (read))  
(display (list? my-input))(space)  
(display (eval my-input))
```

- 4 if we write "ciao" (with\_ quotes!), we obtain #f ciao
- 5 if we write (+ 1 2), we obtain #t 3

# Simple I/O

- 1 a very easy way of working with files: **with-input-from-file**, **with-output-to-file** - parameters are filename and a thunk with the operations to be performed
- 2 **reads** are used to parse the file and get its contents, while the usual **displays** can be used to put data in the file:

```
(with-output-to-file "temp.txt"
  (lambda ()
    (display "(+ 1 2)")(newline)))

(with-input-from-file "temp.txt"
  (lambda ()
    (let ((v (read)))
      (display (eval v)))))
```

# dynamic-wind

- 1 For a procedure call, the time between the invocation and its return is called its **dynamic extent**
- 2 We saw that **call/cc** allows reentering a dynamic extent of a procedure after its return
- 3 There is a procedure, called **dynamic-wind**, that is used to perform operations when entering and/or exiting the dynamic extent
- 4 its three arguments are the procedures **before**, **thunk**, and **after**, all without arguments
- 5 **before** is called whenever the dynamic extent of the call to **thunk** is entered; **after** when it is exited
- 6 useful e.g. for managing files (open/close) used by **thunk**

## dynamic-wind (example)

```
(let ((path '())
      (c #f))
  (let ((add (lambda (s)
               (set! path (cons s path)))))
    (dynamic-wind
     (lambda () (add 'connect)) ; before
     (lambda () ; thunk
       (add (call/cc
             (lambda (c0)
               (set! c c0)
               'talk1))))
     (lambda () (add 'disconnect))) ; after
    (if (< (length path) 4)
        (c 'talk2)
        (reverse path))))
;=>(connect talk1 disconnect connect talk2 disconnect)
```

## dynamic-wind (example)

```
(let ((n 0))
  (call/cc
    (lambda (k)
      (dynamic-wind
        (lambda () ; BEFORE
          (set! n (+ n 1))
          (k))
        (lambda () ; THUNK
          (set! n (+ n 2)))
        (lambda () ; AFTER
          (set! n (+ n 4))))))
  n) ; ; => 1
```

- 1 in this case **thunk** is not executed, because *k* is used to escape

# Cooperative multitasking (green threads) with `call/cc`

- 1 Green threads are lightweight threads supported usually by the language
- 2 this means that they are **not** OS threads, and are lighter
- 3 very useful e.g. for server-side processing; used e.g. in Erlang, Stackless Python
- 4 We see here how to implement them using `call/cc` (example taken from Wikipedia)



## Cooperative multitasking (cont.)

- 1 A naive queue for thread scheduling, it holds a list of continuations "waiting to run".

```
(define *queue* '())

(define (empty-queue?)
  (null? *queue*))

(define (enqueue x)
  (set! *queue* (append *queue* (list x))))

(define (dequeue)
  (let ((x (car *queue*)))
    (set! *queue* (cdr *queue*))
    x))
```

## Cooperative multitasking (cont.)

- 1 This starts a new thread running (proc).

```
(define (fork proc)
  (call/cc
    (lambda (k)
      (enqueue k)
      (proc))))
```

- 2 This yields the processor to another thread, if there is one.

```
(define (yield)
  (call/cc
    (lambda (k)
      (enqueue k)
      ((dequeue))))))
```

## Cooperative multitasking (cont.)

- 1 This terminates the current thread, or the entire program if there are no other threads left.

```
(define (thread-exit)
  (if (empty-queue?)
      (exit)
      ((dequeue))))
```

## Cooperative multitasking (cont.)

- 1 We can try it with this example procedure:

```
(define (do-stuff-n-print str max)
  (lambda ()
    (let loop ((n 0))
      (display str)(display " ")
      (display n)(newline)
      (yield)
      (if (< n max)
          (loop (+ 1 n))
          (thread-exit))))))
```

## Cooperative multitasking (cont.)

- 1 Create two threads, and start them running.

```
(fork (do-stuff-n-print "This is A" 4))  
(fork (do-stuff-n-print "This is B" 5))  
(thread-exit)
```

# Cooperative multitasking (cont.)

1 output:

```
This is A 0  
This is B 0  
This is A 1  
This is B 1  
This is A 2  
This is B 2  
This is A 3  
This is B 3  
This is B 4  
This is B 5
```

# Handling **nondeterminism**: McCarthy's Ambiguous Operator

- 1 **choose**: it is used to choose among a list of *choices*.
- 2 if, at some point of the computation, the choice is not the right one, one can just **fail**.
- 3 it is very convenient e.g. to represent **nondeterminism**
- 4 think about automata: when we have a nondeterministic choice among say a, b, or c, we can just (choose '(a b c))
- 5 main idea: we use **continuations** to store the alternative paths when we **choose**
- 6 if we fail, we **backtrack**

# A Scheme implementation (1)

- 1 Scheme supports first class continuations, so it is very easy to implement **choose**:

```
(define *paths* '())
```

```
(define (choose choices)
  (if (null? choices)
      (fail)
      (call/cc
        (lambda (cc)
          (set! *paths*
                (cons (lambda ()
                        (cc (choose (cdr choices))))
                      *paths*)))
          (car choices))))))
```



## A Scheme implementation (2)

- 1 and this is **fail**, to manage rollbacks:

```
(define fail #f)
(call/cc
  (lambda (cc)
    (set! fail
      (lambda ()
        (if (null? *paths*)
            (cc '!!failure!!)
            (let ((p1 (car *paths*)))
              (set! *paths* (cdr *paths*))
              (p1)))))))
```

# Example

- 1 a simple example:

```
(define (is-the-sum-of sum)
  (unless (and (>= sum 0)(<= sum 10))
    (error "out of range" sum))
  (let ((x (choose '(0 1 2 3 4 5)))
        (y (choose '(0 1 2 3 4 5))))
    (if (= (+ x y) sum)
        (list x y)
        (fail))))
```

# How is Prolog's **cut** implemented?

- 1 it should be easy to understand it by considering our Scheme implementation of **choose**
- 2 an implementation of a very basic **cut** is the following:

```
(define (cut)
  (set! *paths* '()))
```

- 3 so, when we call it, we "forget" all the paths that we saved before
- 4 in a sense, it is a "point of no return" - either this path succeeds, or we fail

# Currying (alio modo)

- 1 a utility function for currying

```
(define (curry func . curry-args)
  (lambda args
    (apply func (append curry-args args))))
```

- 2 examples

```
((curry + 1) 2)      ; => 3
((curry + 1 2) 3)   ; => 6
((curry + 1 2) 3 4) ; => 10
```

# Continuation passing style (CPS)

- 1 If the language does not natively support continuations, we can build them explicitly: the idea is to use a closure to create the continuation object
- 2 we can see it with an example, first let us consider a (non tail-)recursive function:

```
(define (rev lst)
  (if (null? lst)
      '()
      (append (rev (cdr lst))
              (list (car lst)))))
```

- 3 we can make it *tail recursive*, by putting the the operations that are to be performed after the recursive call (i.e. its **continuation**) in a closure, and then passing it (like in our **fold-right-tail**)
- 4 what does this function, and what is the continuation in this case?

## Continuation passing style (cont.)

- 1 here is the tail-recursive one, with a new parameter holding the continuation  $k$

```
(define (rev-cont lst)
  (define (rev-cont-aux lst k)
    (if (null? lst)
        (k '())
        (let ((continuation
                ;; here is the continuation
                (lambda (x)
                  (k (append x
                             (list (car lst)))))))
          (rev-cont-aux (cdr lst)
                        continuation))))

  (rev-cont-aux lst (lambda (x) x)))
;; i.e. the first continuation is the identity
```

# Haskell: An exercise on infinite lists

- 1 knowing that
- 2 `any :: (a -> Bool) -> [a] -> Bool`
- 3 `takeWhile :: (a -> Bool) -> [a] -> [a]`
- 4 what is the meaning of this code?

```
isprime n = not . any (\x -> mod n x == 0) .
              takeWhile (\x -> x^2 <= n) $
              primelist
primelist = 2 : [x | x <- [3,5..], isprime x]
```

- 5 note: `any (>0) [3,-3..(-30)]` is true; `takeWhile (> 0) [3,-3..(-30)]` is `[ 3 ]`

# The State monad

- 1 we saw that monads are useful to automatically manage **state**
- 2 let us define now the monad to do it
- 3 first of all, we define a type to represent our state:  
`newtype State st a = State (st -> (st, a))`
- 4 the idea is having a type that represent a computation having part of the input (and of the output) that represents a state



# The State monad

- 1 here is the actual definition:

```
instance Monad (State state) where
  return x = State (\st -> (st, x))
  State f >>= g = State (\oldstate ->
    let (newstate, val) = f oldstate
        State f'       = g val
    in f' newstate)
```

# A first toy example

- 1 it is the old one, but in another monad

```
esm :: State Int Int
esm = do x <- return 5
        return (x+1)
```

- 2 what is the result of the following code?

```
let State f = esm
in (f 333)
```

- 1 to use the state monad, it is a good idea to define a few utility functions, for accessing state:

```
getState :: State state state
getState = State (\state -> (state, state))
```

```
putState :: state -> State state ()
putState new = State (\_ -> (new, ()))
```

## Another toy example

1 variant 1

```
esm' :: State Int Int
esm' = do x <- getState
         return (x+1)
```

2 what is the result of the following code?

```
let State f = esm'
in (f 333)
```

# Yet another toy example

## 1 variant II

```
esm'' :: State Int Int
esm'' = do x <- getState
          putState (x+1)
          x <- getState
          return x
```

## 2 what is the result of the following code?

```
let State f = esm''
in (f 333)
```

# Back to trees

- 1 going back to our "stateful" example on binary trees (i.e. **mapTreeState**), we can revisit it and give another, more elegant and general definition by using our State monad
- 2 this is the monadic version of **mapTree**:

```
mapTreeM f (Leaf a) = do
  b <- f a
  return (Leaf b)
mapTreeM f (Branch lhs rhs) = do
  lhs' <- mapTreeM f lhs
  rhs' <- mapTreeM f rhs
  return (Branch lhs' rhs')
```

## Back to trees (cont.)

- 1 as far as its type is concerned, we could declare it to be:  
$$\text{mapTreeM} :: (a \rightarrow \text{State state } b) \rightarrow \text{Tree } a \rightarrow \text{State state } (\text{Tree } b)$$
- 2 on the other hand, if we omit the declaration, it is inferred as follows:  
$$\text{mapTreeM} :: \text{Monad } m \Rightarrow (a \rightarrow m \ b) \rightarrow \text{Tree } a \rightarrow m \ (\text{Tree } b)$$
- 3 this is clearly more general, and means that **mapTreeM** could work with *every monad*

# Running the state monad

- 1 to use **mapTreeM**, it is better to define a utility function, to actually *run* the action, by providing an initial state

```
runStateM :: State state a -> state -> a
runStateM (State f) st = snd (f st)
```

- 2 at last, here is the code for numbering nodes:

```
numberTree :: Tree a -> State Int (Tree (a, Int))
numberTree tree = mapTreeM number tree
  where number v = do
        cur <- getState
        putState (cur+1)
        return (v,cur)
```



## Run:

```
testTree = Branch (Branch
                  (Leaf 'a')
                  (Branch
                   (Leaf 'b')
                   (Leaf 'c')))
            (Branch
             (Leaf 'd')
             (Leaf 'e'))

runStateM (numberTree testTree) 1
```

1 we obtain:

```
Branch (Branch (Leaf ('a',1))
              (Branch (Leaf ('b',2))
                      (Leaf ('c',3))))
      (Branch (Leaf ('d',4)) (Leaf ('e',5)))
```

## With another monad:

- 1 we can also use IO:

```
*Main> mapTreeM print testTree  
'a'  
'b'  
'c'  
'd'  
'e'
```

## Another example: imperative GCD

- 1 we start with a functional GCD:

```
gcdf x y | x == y = x
```

```
gcdf x y | x < y = gcdf x (y-x)
```

```
gcdf x y = gcdf (x-y) y
```

- 2 we want to implement in an "imperative way", where variables are memory cells

# Imperative GCD (cont.)

- 1 this example is similar to the example with binary tree, as we can already use the **State** monad defined before
- 2 first, the **state** is given by two variables à la von Neumann:

```
type ImpState = (Int, Int)
```

- 3 accessors:

```
getX, getY :: State ImpState Int
getX = State (\(x,y) -> ((x,y), x))
getY = State (\(x,y) -> ((x,y), y))
```

```
putX, putY :: Int -> State ImpState ()
putX x' = State (\(x,y) -> ((x',y), ()))
putY y' = State (\(x,y) -> ((x,y'), ()))
```

# Imperative GCD (cont.)

- 1 now the code:

```
gcdST = do { x <- getX; y <- getY;
  (if x == y then return x else
    if x < y
      then do { putY (y-x); gcdST } -- loop!
      else do { putX (x-y); gcdST })}

run_gcd x y = runStateM gcdST (x,y)
```

# An advanced example: computations with resources

- 1 We will consider computations that “consume” resources. First of all, we define the **resource**: `type Resource = Integer`
- 2 and the **monadic data type**:  
`data R a = R (Resource -> (Resource, Either a (R a)))`
- 3 Each computation is a function from available resources to remaining resources, coupled with either a result  $\in a$  or a **suspended computation**  $\in R a$ , capturing the work done up to the point of exhaustion
- 4 (**Either** represents **choice**: the data can **either** be `Left a` **or** `Right (R a)`, in this case. It can be seen as a generalization of **Maybe**)

## R is a monad:

```
instance Monad R where
  return v = R (\r -> (r, Left v))
```

- 1 i.e. we just put the value  $v$  in the monad as *Left v*

```
R c1 >>= fc2 = R (\r -> case c1 r of
  (r', Left v) -> let R c2 = fc2 v in c2 r'
  ...
```

- 2 we call  $c1$  with resource  $r$ . If  $r$  is **enough**, we obtain the result *Left v*. Then we give  $v$  to  $fc2$  and obtain the second  $R$  action, i.e.  $c2$ .
- 3 the result is given by  $c2 r'$ , i.e. we give the **remaining resources** to the **second action**

## R is a monad (cont.)

- 1 if the resources in  $r$  are **not enough**:

$R\ c1\ \gg= fc2 = R\ (\backslash r \rightarrow \text{case } c1\ r\ \text{of}$

$\dots$

$(r', \text{Right } pc1) \rightarrow (r', \text{Right } (pc1\ \gg= fc2)))$

- 2 we just chain  $fc2$  together with the **suspended computation**  $pc1$



# Basic helper functions

- 1 **run** is used to evaluate  $R$   $p$  feeding resource  $s$  into it

```
run :: Resource -> R a -> Maybe a
```

```
run s (R p) = case (p s) of
```

```
  (_, Left v) -> Just v
```

```
  _          -> Nothing
```

## Basic helper functions (cont.)

- 1 **step** builds an  $R$   $a$  which “burns” a resource, if available:

```
step :: a -> R a
```

```
step v = c where
```

```
  c = R (\r -> if r /= 0
             then (r-1, Left v)
             else (r, Right c))
```

- 2 if  $r = 0$  we have to **suspend** the computation as it is  $(r, \text{Right } c)$

- 1 **lift** functions are used to “lift” a generic function in the world of the monad. There are standard lift functions in **Control.Monad**, but we need to build variants which burn resources at each function application

```
lift1 :: (a -> b) -> (R a -> R b)
lift1 f = \ra1 -> do a1 <- ra1 ; step (f a1)
```

- 2 we extract the value  $a1$  from  $ra1$ , apply  $f$  to it, and then perform a *step*
- 3 *lift2* is the variant where  $f$  has two arguments:

```
lift2 :: (a -> b -> c) -> (R a -> R b -> R c)
lift2 f = \ra1 ra2 -> do a1 <- ra1
                        a2 <- ra2
                        step (f a1 a2)
```

# Show

- 1 the simplest *show*: we run the computation with just a unit of resources:

```
showR f = case run 1 f of
  Just v  -> "<R: " ++ show v ++ ">"
  Nothing -> "<suspended>"
```

```
instance Show a => Show (R a) where
  show = showR
```

# Comparisons

```
(==*) :: Ord a => R a -> R a -> R Bool
```

```
(==*) = lift2 (==)
```

```
(>*) = lift2 (>)
```

1 For example:

```
*Main> (return 4) >* (return 3)
```

```
<R: True>
```

```
*Main> (return 2) >* (return 3)
```

```
<R: False>
```

## Then numbers and their operations:

```
instance Num a => Num (R a) where
  (+)      = lift2 (+)
  (-)      = lift2 (-)
  negate   = lift1 negate
  (*)      = lift2 (*)
  abs      = lift1 abs
  signum   = lift1 signum
  fromInteger = return . fromInteger
```

- 1 in this way, we can operate on numbers **inside the monad**, but for each operation we perform, we **pay a price** (i.e. *step*)

## Example: using our monad

- 1 Now we see  $R$  from the point of view of a typical **user** of the monad, with a simple example
- 2 first we define if-then-else, then the usual recursive factorial:

```
ifR :: R Bool -> R a -> R a -> R a
ifR tst thn els = do  t <- tst
                    if t then thn else els
```

```
fact :: R Integer -> R Integer
fact x = ifR (x ==* 0) 1 (x * fact (x - 1))
```

## Example runs

```
*Main> fact 4
<suspended>
*Main> fact 0 -- it does not need resources
<R: 1>
*Main> run 100 (fact 10) -- not enough resources
Nothing
*Main> run 1000 (fact 10)
Just 3628800
*Main> run 1000 (fact (-1)) -- all computations end
Nothing
```

- 1 in practice, thanks to laziness and monads, we built a **domain specific language** for resource-bound computations



# Prolog: a classical example: genealogy

- 1 every book on Prolog has a variant of this example:

```
grandfather(X,Z) :- parent(X,Y), father(Y,Z).  
grandmother(X,Z) :- parent(X,Y), mother(Y,Z).  
parent(X,Y) :- mother(X,Y).  
parent(X,Y) :- father(X,Y).
```

```
father(gino, adamo).  
mother(gino, elena).  
father(ella, gino).  
mother(ella, vita).  
father(ugo, gino).  
mother(ugo, vita).
```

## a classical example (cont.)

- 1 we can try it with some queries:

```
?- grandfather(X, adamo).  
X = ella .
```

```
?- grandfather(X, adamo).  
X = ella ;  
X = ugo.
```

```
?- grandmother(ugo, Y).  
Y = elena.
```

## Another exercise on Push-down Automata

- 1 define a **deterministic** implementation of PDA
- 2 optimize it using **cut**, if possible
- 3 (is it possible to use **cut** for NPDA? Why?)

# Deterministic PDA

- 1 here is the solution:

```
% acceptance
config(State, _, []) :- final(State), !.

% standard move
config(State, [Top|Rest], [C|String]) :-
    delta(State, C, Top, NewState, Push), !,
    append(Push, Rest, NewStack),
    config(NewState, NewStack, String).

% epsilon move
config(State, [Top|Rest], String) :-
    delta(State, epsilon, Top, NewState, Push), !,
    append(Push, Rest, NewStack),
    config(NewState, NewStack, String).
```

## A (more efficient) *quicksort* variant

- 1 we can avoid the append to make it more efficient, by using another parameter as an *accumulator*

```
qsort([X|L],R0,R) :- part(L,X,L1,L2), !,  
                    qsort(L2,R0,R1),  
                    qsort(L1,[X|R1],R).  
  
qsort([],R,R).
```

- 2 e.g.

```
?- qsort([4,3,1,13,32,-3,32],[],X).  
X = [-3, 1, 3, 4, 13, 32, 32].
```

## tracing with SWI-Prolog

- 1 it is sometimes useful to **trace** a computation, e.g. `trace(qsort)`.

```
[debug] ?- qsort([2,3,1],[],X).  
T Call: (6) qsort([2, 3, 1], [], _G367)  
T Call: (7) qsort([3], [], _G486)  
T Call: (8) qsort([], [], _G486)  
T Exit: (8) qsort([], [], [])  
T Call: (8) qsort([], [3], _G489)  
T Exit: (8) qsort([], [3], [3])  
T Exit: (7) qsort([3], [], [3])  
T Call: (7) qsort([1], [2, 3], _G367)  
T Call: (8) qsort([], [2, 3], _G492)  
T Exit: (8) qsort([], [2, 3], [2, 3])  
T Call: (8) qsort([], [1, 2, 3], _G367)  
T Exit: (8) qsort([], [1, 2, 3], [1, 2, 3])  
T Exit: (7) qsort([1], [2, 3], [1, 2, 3])  
T Exit: (6) qsort([2, 3, 1], [], [1, 2, 3])  
X = [1, 2, 3].
```

- 2 also, old fashioned debugging with `print/1` and `nl/0`.

# Higher-order and meta predicates: an example

- 1 here is an implementation of `map` (usually called `maplist` in the library)

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

```
map(C, [X|Xs], [Y|Ys]) :- call(C, X, Y), map(C, Xs, Ys).
```

- 2 e.g. if we define `test(N,R):- R is N*N`.

```
?- map(test, [1,2,3,4], X).
```

```
X = [1, 4, 9, 16].
```

## Higher-order and meta predicates (cont.)

- 1 other predicates are used for **adding facts at runtime**:
  - 1 `asserta(F)` is used to state  $F$  as a **first** clause
  - 2 `assertz(F)` is the same, but as the **last** clause
- 2 this is also useful to add facts at the REPL, e.g. `?- assertz(test(N,R):-R is N*N).`
- 3 another peculiar "meta-predicate" is `var`: succeeds when its argument is a variable
  - 1 CAVEAT: `var(X)` succeeds without binding  $X$ !



## Higher-order and meta predicates (cont.)

- 1 Moreover, we know that we cannot match  $X(Y) = f(3)$ , but sometimes we need something analogous
- 2 we can do it by using the predicate `=..` which is used to **decompose** a term
- 3 e.g. the query `f(2,g(4)) =.. X` binds `X` to the list `[f, 2, g(4)]`
- 4 so in the previous case we can do `f(3) =.. [X,Y]`

# Infix predicates

1 infix predicates can be defined (almost) like in Haskell

2 e.g.

```
:- op(800, yfx, =>). % left associative
:- op(900, yfx, &). % likewise, with lower priority
:- op(600, xfy, ->). % right associative
:- op(300, xfx, :). % not associative
:- op(900, fy, \+). % prefix not
```

3 note the starting `:-`, because they are **commands**

4 e.g.

```
?- assert(:- op(600, xfy, ->)).
true.
?- (a -> b -> c) =.. X.
X = [->, a, (b->c)].
```

# Example: a symbolic differentiator

## 1 basic rules

$d(U+V, X, DU+DV) :- !, d(U, X, DU), d(V, X, DV).$

$d(U-V, X, DU-DV) :- !, d(U, X, DU), d(V, X, DV).$

$d(U*V, X, DU*V+U*DV) :- !, d(U, X, DU), d(V, X, DV).$

$d(U^N, X, N*U^{N-1}*DU) :- !, \text{integer}(N), N1 \text{ is } N-1, d(U, X, DU).$

$d(-U, X, -DU) :- !, d(U, X, DU).$

## 2 terminating rules

$d(X, X, 1) :- !.$

$d(C, _, 0) :- \text{atomic}(C), !.$

## 3 **atomic** holds with atoms and numbers

# a differentiator (cont.)

## 1 terminating rules (cont.)

$d(\sin(X), X, \cos(X)) :- !.$

$d(\cos(X), X, -\sin(X)) :- !.$

$d(\exp(X), X, \exp(X)) :- !.$

$d(\log(X), X, 1/X) :- !.$

## 2 chain rule

$d(F_G, X, DF*DG) :- F_G = .. [_ , G], !, d(F_G, G, DF), d(G, X, DG).$

## 3 note that: $1+2/3 = ..$ X binds X to $[+, 1, 2/3]$

## a differentiator (cont.)

1 now, let us try it:

```
?- d(2*sin(cos(x+cos(x))), x, V).
```

```
V = 0*sin(cos(x+cos(x)))+2* (cos(cos(x+cos(x)))*  
    (-sin(x+cos(x))* (1+ -sin(x)))).
```

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