

CSC 372, Spring 2016
Assignment 10
Due: Wednesday, May 4 at 23:59:59

The Usual Stuff

Make an `a10` symlink that references `/cs/www/classes/cs372/spring16/a10`. Test using `a10/tester` (or `a10/t`). Use SWI Prolog—`swipl` on `lectura`. The rules about using `if-then-else` and disjunction (`;`) are the same as for assignments 8 and 9.

General advice

If you think you need to use arithmetic or something like `between` on `rotate`, `outin`, and/or `btw`, problems you're probably not understanding how Prolog naturally generates alternatives. The slides have code for a number of predicates that generate alternatives but `sf_gen` on 201-202 was included specifically to help with `outin` and `btw`.

`pipes.pl` is the only problem on which using `assert` and `retract` is appropriate.

Problem 1. (2 points) `rotate.pl`

Write a Prolog predicate `rotate(+L, ?R)` that instantiates `R` to each unique list that is a left rotation of `L`. For example, the list `[1, 2, 3]` can be rotated left to produce `[2, 3, 1]` which in turn can be rotated left again to produce `[3, 1, 2]`.

```
?- rotate([1,2,3],L), writeln(L), fail.  
[1,2,3]  
[2,3,1]  
[3,1,2]  
false.
```

```
?- rotate([a,b,c,d],R).  
R = [a, b, c, d] ;  
R = [b, c, d, a] ;  
R = [c, d, a, b] ;  
R = [d, a, b, c] ;  
false.
```

```
?- rotate([1], R).  
R = [1] ;  
false.
```

```
?- rotate([], R).  
false.
```

Additionally, `rotate` can be asked whether the second term is a rotation of the first term:

```
?- rotate([a,b,c],[c,a,b]).  
true ;  
false.
```

```
?- rotate([a,b,c],[c,b,a]).  
false.
```

Problem 2. (3 points) ints.pl

Write a Prolog predicate `ints(-L)` that instantiates `L` to successively longer lists of the integers.

```
?- ints(L) .
L = [0] ;
L = [0, 1] ;
L = [0, 1, -1] ;
L = [0, 1, -1, 2] ;
L = [0, 1, -1, 2, -2] ;
L = [0, 1, -1, 2, -2, 3] ;
L = [0, 1, -1, 2, -2, 3, -3] ;
...
```

Problem 3. (3 points) outin.pl

Write a Prolog predicate `outin(+L, ?R)` that generates the elements of the list `L` in an "outside-in" sequence: the first element, the last element, the second element, the next to last element, etc. If the list has an odd number of elements, the middle element is the last one generated.

Restriction: You may not use `is/2`.

```
?- outin([1,2,3,4,5],X) .
X = 1 ;
X = 5 ;
X = 2 ;
X = 4 ;
X = 3 ;
false.

?- outin([1,2,3,4],X) .
X = 1 ;
X = 4 ;
X = 2 ;
X = 3 ;
false.

?- outin([1],X) .
X = 1 ;
false.

?- outin([],X) .
false.
```

Problem 4. (3 points) btw.pl

Write a Prolog predicate `btw(+L, +X, ?R)` that instantiates `R` to copies of `L` with `X` inserted between each element in turn.

Restriction: You may not use `append` or `between`.

```
?- btw([1,2,3,4,5],---,R) .
R = [1, ---, 2, 3, 4, 5] ;
R = [1, 2, ---, 3, 4, 5] ;
R = [1, 2, 3, ---, 4, 5] ;
```

```
R = [1, 2, 3, 4, ---, 5] ;  
false.
```

```
?- btw([1,2],***,R) .  
R = [1, ***, 2] ;  
false.
```

```
?- btw([1],***,R) .  
false.
```

```
?- btw([],x,R) .  
false.
```

Problem 5. (20 points) `fsort.pl`

Imagine that you have a stack of pancakes of varying diameters that is represented by a list of integers. The list `[3, 1, 5]` represents a stack of three pancakes with diameters of 3", 1" and 5" where the 3" pancake is on the top and the 5" pancake is on the bottom. If a spatula is inserted below the 1" pancake (putting the stack `[3, 1]` on the spatula) and then flipped over, the resulting stack is `[1, 3, 5]`.

In this problem you are to write a predicate `fsort(+Pancakes, -Flips)` that instantiates `Flips` to a sequence of flip positions that will order `Pancakes`, an integer list, from smallest to largest, with the largest pancake (integer) on the bottom (at the end of the list). `fsort` stands for "flip sort".

`fsort` does not produce a sorted list—its only result is the flip sequence.

The flip position is defined as the number of pancakes on the spatula. In the above example the flip position is 2. `Flips` would be instantiated to `[2]`.

Below are some examples. Note the use of a set of `case` facts to show a series of examples with one query.

```
% cat fsortcases.pl  
case(a, [3,1,5]) .  
case(b, [5,4,3,2,1]) .  
case(c, [3,4,5,1,2]) .  
case(d, [5,1,3,1,4,2]) .  
case(e, [1,2,3,4]) .  
case(f, [5]) .  
  
% swipl  
...  
?- [fsortcases,fsort] .  
% fsortcases compiled 0.00 sec, 7 clauses  
% fsort compiled 0.00 sec, 10 clauses  
true.  
  
?- case(_,L), fsort(L,Flips) .  
L = [3, 1, 5],  
Flips = [2] ;  
  
L = [5, 4, 3, 2, 1],  
Flips = [5] ;  
  
L = [3, 4, 5, 1, 2],
```

```

Flips = [3, 5, 2] ;

L = [5, 1, 3, 1, 4, 2],
Flips = [6, 2, 5, 2, 4, 3] ;

L = [1, 2, 3, 4],
Flips = [] ;

L = [5],
Flips = [].

```

Your solution needs only to produce a sequence of flips that results in a sorted stack; the sequences it produces do NOT need to match the sequences shown above. There are some requirements on the flips, however: (1) All flips must be between 2 and the number of pancakes, inclusive. (2) There must be no consecutive identical flips, like [5, 3, 3, 4]. (3) `fsort` must always generate exactly one solution.

You may assume that stacks always have at least one pancake and that pancake sizes are always greater than zero.

"Pancake sorting" is a well-known problem. I first encountered it in 1993's Internet Programming Contest. There's even a Wikipedia article about pancake sorting. (Read it!) I debated whether to go with this problem because it's so well known but it's a fun problem and it's interesting to solve in Prolog, so here it is. I did Google up one "solution" in Prolog but it's got some issues! I strongly encourage you to build your Prolog skills by solving this problem without Google's assistance.

The clauses in my current solution have a total of seventeen goals. I don't use `is/2` at all. I do use `max_list`. You might find `nth0` to be useful; if you look at slide 151 closely you'll see it can be used to both extract values and find values, among other things. There's an `nth1`, too, if you find one-based thinking to be a better choice.

I've placed this problem, `fsort.pl`, early in the line-up in hopes of getting you thinking about it early but don't get hung up on it.

Problem 6. (15 points) `pipes.pl`

In this problem you are to write a simple command interpreter to perform manipulations on a set of pipes. These are pipes like you buy at Home Depot, not UNIX pipes! Each pipe has a name, length, and diameter.

The commands for the interpreter are in the form of Prolog terms. The calculator shown on slide 219 and following is a good starting point for this problem.

The interpreter provides the following commands:

`pipes` Show the current set of pipes. The pipes are shown in alphabetical order by name.

`weld(A, B)`
The pipe named B is welded onto the pipe named A. A and B must have the same diameter. After welding, A has the combined length of A and B. Pipe B no longer exists.

`cut(A, L, B)`
A section of length L is cut from the pipe named A. The section cut off becomes a pipe named B having the same diameter as A. L must be less than the length of A.

`trim(A,L)` A section of length `L` is cut from the pipe named `A` and discarded. `L` must be less than the length of `A`.

`help` Print a help message with a brief summary of the commands.

`echo` Toggle command echo and prompting. (See below for details on this.)

Assume that all lengths are integers.

Use a predicate such as `setN` to establish a set of pipes to work with:

```
set1 :-
    retractall(pipe(_,_,_)),
    assert(pipe(a,10,1)),
    assert(pipe(b,5,1)),
    assert(pipe(c,20,2)).
```

The command interpreter is started with the predicate `run/0`.

A session with the interpreter is shown below. No blank lines have been inserted or deleted.

```
% swipl -l pipes
...

?- set1.
true.

?- run.

Command? help.
pipes -- show the current set of pipes
weld(P1,P2) -- weld P2 onto P1
cut(P1,P2Len,P2) -- cut P2Len off P1, forming P2
trim(P,Length) -- trim Length off of P
echo -- toggle command echo
help -- print this message
q -- quit

Command? pipes.
a, length: 10, diameter: 1
b, length: 5, diameter: 1
c, length: 20, diameter: 2

Command? weld(a,b).
b welded onto a

Command? pipes.
a, length: 15, diameter: 1
c, length: 20, diameter: 2

Command? trim(a,12).
12 trimmed from a

Command? pipes.
a, length: 3, diameter: 1
```

c, length: 20, diameter: 2

Command? **cut(c,10,d)**.

10 cut from c to form d

Command? **pipes**.

a, length: 3, diameter: 1

c, length: 10, diameter: 2

d, length: 10, diameter: 2

Command? **cut(c,6,c1)**.

6 cut from c to form c1

Command? **pipes**.

a, length: 3, diameter: 1

c, length: 4, diameter: 2

c1, length: 6, diameter: 2

d, length: 10, diameter: 2

Command? **weld(d,c1)**.

c1 welded onto d

Command? **pipes**.

a, length: 3, diameter: 1

c, length: 4, diameter: 2

d, length: 16, diameter: 2

Command? **q**.

true.

Your implementation must handle four errors:

Cutting or welding a pipe that doesn't exist.

Cutting with a result pipe that does exist.

Cutting the full length (or more) of a pipe with cut or trim.

Welding pipes with differing diameters.

If an error is detected, the pipes are unchanged. Here are examples of error handling:

Command? **pipes**.

a, length: 10, diameter: 1

b, length: 5, diameter: 1

c, length: 20, diameter: 2

Command? **cut(x,10,y)**.

x: No such pipe

Command? **weld(x,y)**.

x: No such pipe

Command? **weld(a,x)**.

x: No such pipe

```

Command? cut(a,5,b) .
b: pipe already exists

Command? cut(a,10,a2) .
Cut is too long!

Command? trim(a,15) .
Cut is too long!

Command? weld(a,c) .
Can't weld: differing diameters

Command? pipes .
a, length: 10, diameter: 1
b, length: 5, diameter: 1
c, length: 20, diameter: 2

```

Prompting, and the echo command

Don't use `write('\nCommand? ')` to prompt the user. Instead, use the built-in `prompt/2` to set the prompt, like this: `prompt(_, '\nCommand? ')`. Then when `read(X)` is called, `'\nCommand? '` will automatically be printed first.

To make `tester` output more usable there is an `echo` command. By default, the `Command?` prompt is printed and the command entered is not echoed. The `echo` command toggles both behaviors: entering `echo` causes prompting to be turned off and `echo` to be turned on. A subsequent `echo` command reverts to the default behavior. In the following example, the text typed by the user is in bold and underlined:

```

?- run.

Command? cut(a,1,a2) .
1 cut from a to form a2

Command? echo.
Echo turned on; prompt turned off
cut(a,1,a3) .

Command: cut(a,1,a3)
1 cut from a to form a3
pipes.

Command: pipes
a, length: 8, diameter: 1
a2, length: 1, diameter: 1
a3, length: 1, diameter: 1
b, length: 5, diameter: 1
c, length: 20, diameter: 2
weld(a,a2) .

Command: weld(a,a2)
a2 welded onto a
echo.

Command: echo
Echo turned off; prompt turned on
Command? q.

```

```
true.
```

```
?-
```

Implementing the toggling of echoing is a little tricky. Here's a sketchy hint, for students who want a challenge:

Manipulate an `echo/0` fact with `assert(echo)` and `retract(echo)`. To produce no prompt at all, use the built-in `prompt/2` like this: `prompt(_, '')`.

Important: to allow that manipulation of `echo/0` with `assert` and `retract` you'll need to declare `echo` as *dynamic*. Have the following line as the first line in your `pipes.pl`:

```
:-dynamic(echo/0).
```

A more detailed hint is in <http://www.cs.arizona.edu/classes/cs372/spring16/a10/echo-hint.html>

TL;DR

The built-in help provides a quick summary:

```
?- run.
```

```
Command? help.
```

```
pipes -- show the current set of pipes
weld(P1,P2) -- weld P2 onto P1
cut(P1,P2Len,P2) -- cut P2Len off P1, forming P2
trim(P,Length) -- trim Length off of P
echo -- toggle command echo
help -- print this message
q -- quit
```

And, handle these errors:

- Cutting or welding a pipe that doesn't exist.
- Cutting with a result pipe that does exist.
- Cutting the full length (or more) of a pipe with `cut` or `trim`.
- Welding pipes with differing diameters.

I won't test with cases involving multiple errors, like a too-long cut that names an existing pipe as the result.

Problem 7. (20 points) `connect.pl`

In this problem you are to write a predicate `connect` that finds and displays a suitable sequence of cables to connect two pieces of equipment that are some distance apart. Each cable is specified by a three element list. Here is a list that represents a twelve-foot cable with a male connector on one end and a female connector on the other:

```
[m, 12, f]
```

Let's consider an example of using `connect` to produce a sequence of cables. Imagine that to your left is a piece of equipment with a male connector. On your right, fifteen feet away, is a piece of equipment with a female connector. To connect the equipment you have two cables:

- A ten-footer with a male connector on one end and a female on the other.

- A seven-footer with a female connector on one end and a male on the other.

The following query represents the situation described above.

```
?- connect([ [m,10,f] , [f,7,m] ], m, 15, f).
```

connect's first argument is a list with the two cables. The second, third, and fourth arguments respectively represent the gender of the connector of the equipment on the left (male—m), the distance between the equipment (15 feet), and the gender of the connector of the equipment on the right (female—f).

Here's the query and its result:

```
?- connect([ [m,10,f] , [f,7,m] ], m, 15, f).
F-----MF-----M
true.
```

We see that a connection is possible in this case; a valid sequence of connections is shown. Observe that the first cable was reversed to make the connection. The number of dashes is the length of the cable. There's some slack in the connection—only fifteen feet needs to be spanned but the total length of the cables is seventeen feet. That's fine.

Note that the output has no representation of the pieces of equipment on the left and right that we're connecting with the cables.

Only male/female connections are valid in the world of connect.pl.

In some cases a connection cannot be made, but connect always succeeds:

```
?- connect([ [m,10,f] , [f,7,m] ], m, 25, f).
Cannot connect
true.
```

```
?- connect([ [m,10,f] , [f,7,m] ], m, 15, m).
Cannot connect
true.
```

More examples:

```
?- connect([ [m,1,m] , [f,1,f] , [m,10,m] , [f,5,f] , [m,3,f] ], m, 20, f).
F-FM-MF-----FM-----MF---M
true.
```

```
?- connect([ [m,1,m] , [f,1,f] , [m,10,m] , [f,5,f] , [m,3,f] ], m, 20, m).
Cannot connect
true.
```

```
?- connect([ [m,1,m] , [f,1,f] , [m,10,m] , [f,5,f] , [m,3,f] ], m, 10, f).
F-FM-MF-----FM-----M
true.
```

```
?- connect([ [m,10,f] ], m, 1, f).
F-----M
true.
```

IMPORTANT: The ordering of cables your solution produces for a particular connection need NOT match that shown above. Any valid ordering is suitable. (A Ruby program, `a10/pc.rb`, analyzes the output.)

Assume the arguments to `connect` are valid—you won't see two-element lists, non-numeric or non-positive lengths, ends other than `f` and `m`, etc. Assume that all lengths are integers. Assume that the distance to span is greater than zero.

You can approach this problem using an approach similar to that in the pit-crossing example in the slides.

Note that you do not need to use all the cables or exactly span the distance.

My current solution is around 25 goals; about a third of those are related to producing the required output.

Problem 8. (8 points) `buy.pl`

In this problem the task is to print a bill of sale for a collection of items. Several predicates provide information about the items. The first is `item/2`, which associates an item name with a description:

```
item(toaster, 'Deluxe Toast-a-matic').
item(antfarm, 'Ant Farm').
item(dip, 'French Onion Dip').
item(twinkies, 'Twinkies').
item(lips, 'Chicken Lips').
item(hamster, 'Hamster').
item(rocket, 'Model rocket w/ payload bay').
item(scissors, 'StaySharp Scissors').
item(rshoes, 'Running Shoes').
item(tiger, 'Sumatran tiger').
item(catnip, '50-pound bag of catnip').
```

The second predicate is `price/2`, which associates an item name with a price in dollars:

```
price(toaster, 14.00).
price(antfarm, 7.95).
price(dip, 1.29).
price(twinkies, 0.75).
price(lips, 0.05).
price(hamster, 4.00).
price(rocket, 12.49).
price(scissors, 2.99).
price(rshoes, 59.99).
price(tiger, 749.95).
```

The third is `discount/2`, which associates a discount percentage with some, possibly none, of the items:

```
discount(antfarm, 20).
discount(lips, 40).
discount(rshoes, 10).
```

Finally, state law prohibits same-day purchase of some items. `dontmix/2` specifies prohibitions. Here are some examples:

```

dontmix(scissors,rshoes).
dontmix(hamster,rocket).
dontmix(tiger,catnip).

```

You can only ensure that any prohibited pairings are not included in a single purchase; the well-intentioned prohibitions can be thwarted by making multiple trips to the store!

You are to write a predicate `buy(+Items)` that prints a bill of sale for the specified items. If any mutually prohibited items are in the list, that should be noted and no bill printed.

```

?- buy([hamster,twinkies,hamster,toaster]).
Hamster.....4.00
Twinkies.....0.75
Hamster.....4.00
Deluxe Toast-a-matic.....14.00
-----
Total                               $22.75
true.

```

```

?- buy([lips,lips,lips,dip]).
Chicken Lips.....0.03
Chicken Lips.....0.03
Chicken Lips.....0.03
French Onion Dip.....1.29
-----
Total                               $1.38
true.

```

```

?- buy([scissors,dip,rshoes]).
State law prohibits same-day purchase of "Running Shoes" and
"StaySharp Scissors".
true.

```

You may assume that all items named in a `buy` are valid and that a price exists for every item.

Prohibited items are shown in alphabetical order. If several mutually prohibited items are named in the same `buy` only the first conflict is noted.

Here's the `format/2` specification I use to produce the per-item lines: `'~w~`.t~2f~40|~n'`. The backquote-period sequence causes the enclosing tab to fill with periods.

A set of facts for testing is in `a10/buyfacts.pl`. Include the line

```
:-[a10/buyfacts].
```

in your `buy.pl` to consult the file. For grading I may tests with other sets of facts, too.

Problem 9. (8 points) `mishaps.pl`

The following logic puzzle, "Rural Mishaps", was written by Margaret Shoop. It was published in *The Dell Book of Logic Problems #2*.

"A butt by the family cow was one of the five different mishaps that befell Farmer Brown, his wife, his daughter, his teenage son, and his farmhand one summer morning. From the rhyme that follows, can you determine the mishap that happened to each of the five, and the order in which

the events occurred?

```
"The garter snake was surprised in a patch
And bit a grown man's finger.
One person who weeded a flower bed
Received a nasty stinger.
The farmer's mishap happened first;
Son Johnny's happened third.
When Mr. Reston was kicked by the mule,
He said, "My word! My word!"
The sting of the bee was the fourth mishap
To befall our rural cast.
Neither it nor the wasp attacked Mrs. Brown
Whose mishap wasn't the last."
```

For `mishaps.pl` you are to encode as Prolog goals the pertinent information in the above rhyme and then write a predicate `mishaps/0` that uses those goals to solve the puzzle.

`a10/mishaps.out` shows a run of `mishaps/0` with the exact output you are to produce, but you might enjoy the challenge of solving the puzzle using Prolog **before** looking at the expected output or trying the tester.

The challenge of this problem is of course the encoding of the information as Prolog goals. **Solutions must both produce the correct output and accurately encode the information as stated in the rhyme to earn full credit.** The tester will check for correct output; we'll check manually for accurate encoding.

Implementation notes

Obviously, this problem is in the style of The Zebra Puzzle, which starts on slide 254. The code for the Zebra Puzzle establishes a number of constraints for the list `Houses`. In this problem you'll want to establish constraints for a list of mishaps instead of a list of houses.

You might start like this:

```
mishaps(Mishaps) :- Mishaps = [ ... ].
```

A similar start for the Zebra puzzle would be this:

```
zebra(Houses) :- Houses = [house(norwegian, _, _, _),
                             house(_, _, _, milk, _), _, _].
```

Querying `zebra(H)` produces only one possible value for `H`, the list of houses:

```
?- zebra(H) .
H = [house(norwegian, _G1222, _G1223, _G1224, _G1225), _G1227,
     house(_G1233, _G1234, _G1235, milk, _G1237), _G1239, _G1242].
```

Let's add a `member` goal that encodes the statement that the Englishman lives in the red house:

```
zebra(Houses) :- Houses = [house(norwegian, _, _, _),
                             house(_, _, _, milk, _), _, _],
                 member(house(englishman, _, _, red), Houses).
```

Now we get four possible values for H: (blank lines added)

```
?- zebra(H) .
H = [house(norwegian, _G2194, _G2195, _G2196, _G2197),
house(englishman, _G2218, _G2219, _G2220, red), house(_G2205,
_G2206, _G2207, milk, _G2209), _G2211, _G2214] ;

H = [house(norwegian, _G2194, _G2195, _G2196, _G2197), _G2199,
house(englishman, _G2206, _G2207, milk, red), _G2211, _G2214] ;

H = [house(norwegian, _G2194, _G2195, _G2196, _G2197), _G2199,
house(_G2205, _G2206, _G2207, milk, _G2209), house(englishman,
_G2218, _G2219, _G2220, red), _G2214] ;

H = [house(norwegian, _G2194, _G2195, _G2196, _G2197), _G2199,
house(_G2205, _G2206, _G2207, milk, _G2209), _G2211,
house(englishman, _G2218, _G2219, _G2220, red)].

?- findall(r, zebra(H), Results), length(Results,N) .
Results = [r, r, r, r],
N = 4.
```

If we add a goal that states that the Spaniard owns the dog, we go up to twelve possible values for H:

```
zebra(Houses) :- Houses = [house(norwegian, _, _, _, _), _,
house(_, _, _, milk, _), _, _],
member(house(englishman, _, _, _, red), Houses),
member(house(spaniard, dog, _, _, _), Houses).

?- findall(r, zebra(H), Results), length(Results,N) .
Results = [r, r, r, r, r, r, r, r, r, r|...],
N = 12.
```

Some goals will make the number of possible values for the list of houses go up, and other goals will make the number of possible values go down. If we properly encode all the information, we'll end up with only one possible value for the list of houses.

Follow a similar process when adding goals to represent information about the mishaps. That is, add goals to mishaps/1 one at a time. Query mishaps (M) after each addition.

If we inadvertently introduce a contradiction, like `length(Houses, 6)`, we'd see this:

```
?- zebra(H) .
false.
```

If you add a goal and find that `mishaps (M)` then fails, you'll need to step back and consider why that new goal creates a situation with no possible solutions. You might try leaving the new goal in place and commenting one or more earlier goals to find the conflict.

When you've got `mishaps/1` working—producing a single possibility for the list of mishaps—use it to write `mishaps/0`.

Problem 10. Extra Credit observations.txt

Submit a plain text file named observations.txt with...

(a) (1 point extra credit) An estimate of how long it took you to complete this assignment. To facilitate programmatic extraction of the hours from all submissions have an estimate of hours on a line by itself, more or less like one of the following three examples:

```
Hours: 6
Hours: 3-4.5
Hours: ~8
```

If you want the one-point bonus, be sure to report your total (estimated) hours on a line that starts with "Hours:". There must be only one "Hours:" line in observations.txt. It's fine if you care to provide per-problem times, and that data is useful to us, but report it in some form of your own invention, not with multiple lines that contain "Hours:", in either upper- or lower-case.

Other comments about the assignment are welcome, too. Was it too long, too hard, too detailed? Speak up! I appreciate all feedback, favorable or not.

(b) (1-3 points extra credit) Cite an interesting course-related observation (or observations) that you made while working on the assignment. The observation should have at least a little bit of depth. Think of me saying "Good!" as one point, "Excellent!" as two points, and "Wow!" as three points. I'm looking for quality, not quantity.

Turning in your work

Use a10/turnin to submit your work.

Here's what I see as of press time for the sizes of my solutions, with comments stripped:

```
$ a10/plsize $(grep -v txt a10/delivs)
rotate.pl: 10
ints.pl: 22
outin.pl: 9
btw.pl: 13
fsort.pl: 54
pipes.pl: 262
connect.pl: 100
buy.pl: 65
mishaps.pl: 77
```

Miscellaneous

Aside from -> and ;, and any per-problem restrictions notwithstanding, you can use any elements of Prolog that you desire, but the assignment is written with the intention that it can be completed easily using only the material presented on Prolog slides 1-272.

Point values of problems correspond directly to assignment points in the syllabus. For example, a 10-point problem on this assignment corresponds to 1% of your final grade in the course.

Feel free to use comments to document your code as you see fit, but note that no comments are required, and no points will be awarded for documentation itself. (In other words, no part of your score will be based on documentation.) In Prolog, % is comment to end of line. Comments with /* . . . */ , just

like in Java, are supported, too.

Remember that late assignments are not accepted and that there are no late days; but if circumstances beyond your control interfere with your work on this assignment, there may be grounds for an extension. See the syllabus for details.

My estimate is that it will take a typical CS junior from 10 to 12 hours to complete this assignment.

Our goal is that everybody gets 100% on this assignment AND gets it done in an amount of time that is reasonable for them.

If you put twelve hours into this assignment and don't seem to be close to completing it, it's definitely time to touch base with us, regardless of whether you have any questions. Specifically mention that you've reached twelve hours. Give us a chance to speed you up!

I hate to have to mention it but keep in mind that cheaters don't get a second chance. If you give your code to somebody else and they turn it in, you'll both likely fail the class, get a permanent transcript notation stating you cheated, and maybe more. See the syllabus for the details.