

A (very) basic introduction to Prolog

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2. Steps of Programming

- 1. step: create a database
 - facts ~ object properties and relations to other objects
 - girl(jane). beer/heineken). likes(jane,heineken).
 - likes(jane,beer/heineken).
 - HIERARCHICAL STRUCTURES
 - rules ~ relations between facts
 - head :- body.
 - IF body – THEN head
 - Will talk on it later ... hope today ;-)
- DB contains the true information, i.e. information not in DB are false... closed world assumption

2. Steps of Programming

- 2. step: dialogue with the system
 - We are asking questions, Prolog answers
 - e.g.

?- 3>2.

yes

?- likes(jane,heineken).

yes

?- likes(jane,beer).

no

?- girl(jane), beer(heineken) // compound question, “,” == “&”

yes

Variables

- who is a girl? what is a beer?

?- girl(X).

X = jane

- enter after the answer ~ thanks
- ";" after the answer ~ thanks and want more

?- girl(X).

X = jane → enter

yes

?- girl(X).

X = jane → ;

no

More sophisticated asking

- asking have 2 uses:
 - is something true?
 - yes or no
 - give me some values.
 - need variables

Variables

- bounded ... input
- free ... output
- special, 'don't care' variable: “_”
- how to write a proposition “peter loves women who like beer.” ?
 - be careful to use just the facts in the table!

more sophisticated questions

- “peter loves women who like beer”
- “if there is a women and this woman likes beer then peter loves this woman”
- “if X is a woman and X likes beer then peter loves X”

?- loves(peter,X) :- woman(X), likes(X,beer).

X = jane → enter

yes

Unification

- when searching for answers Prolog tries to unify two objects (variables or constants)
 - unifying a variable and constant is basically a binding of a variable to a concrete object.
 - strict rules for unification!
 - constants ~ if are the same
 - variable can be unified with an arbitrary object (two variables became associated after unification)
 - structures ~ same functor and number of arguments and all arguments are unifiable
 - **goals** are unifiable with facts if are represented with unifiable structures
 - goals are unifiable with rules if the goal and the head of the rule are unifiable

Unification

- “=” is an operator for syntactical unification

?- $5 = 2+3$

no

- “is” is an operator for semantical unification

?- $X \text{ is } 2+3$

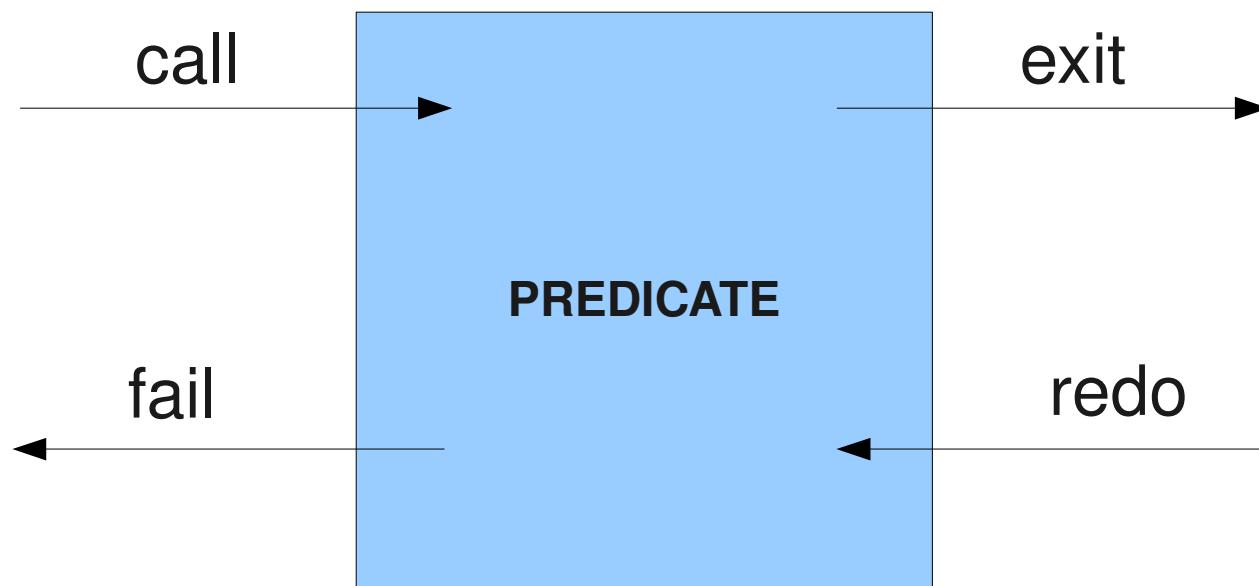
$X = 5 \rightarrow$ enter

yes

- arithmetical comparison “=:”, “=\=”

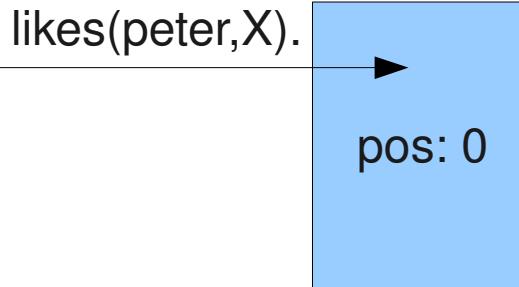
How does Prolog answering?

- 4 actions
 - Call, Exit, Redo, Fail



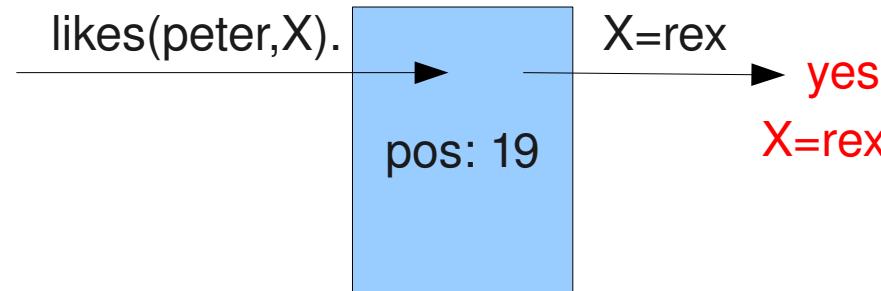
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?- likes(peter,X).



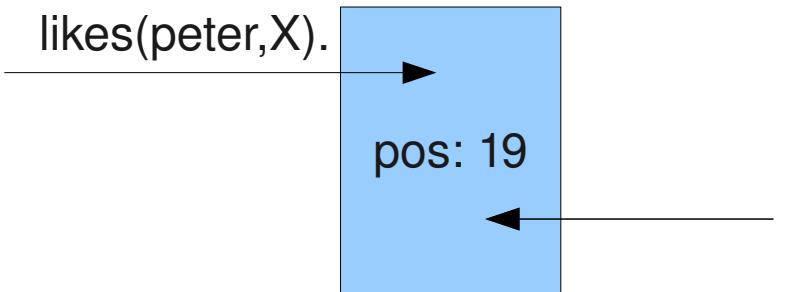
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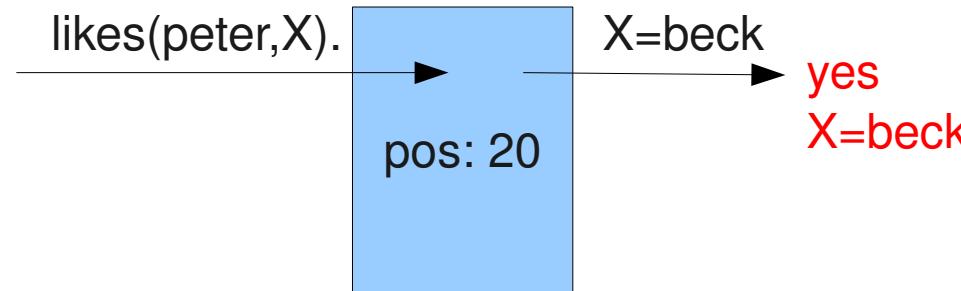


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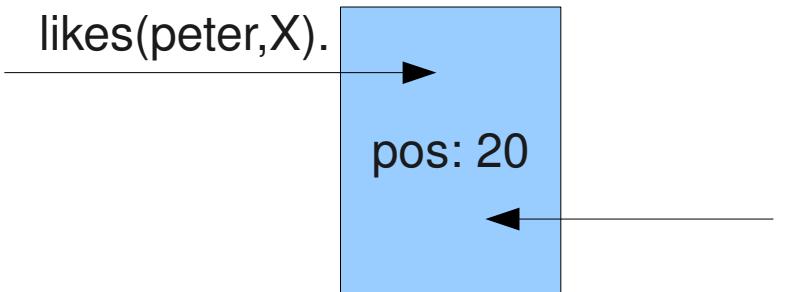
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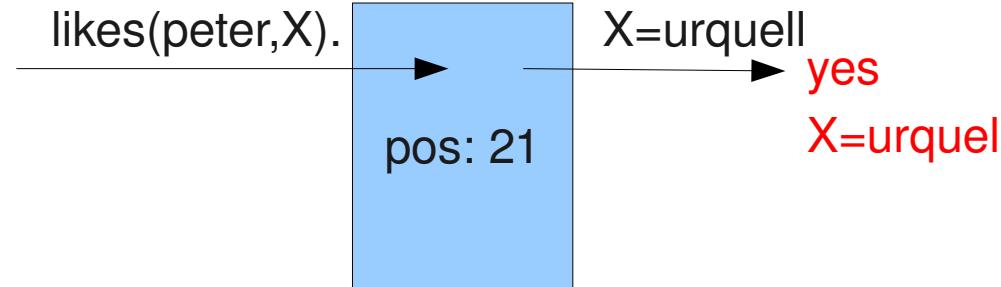
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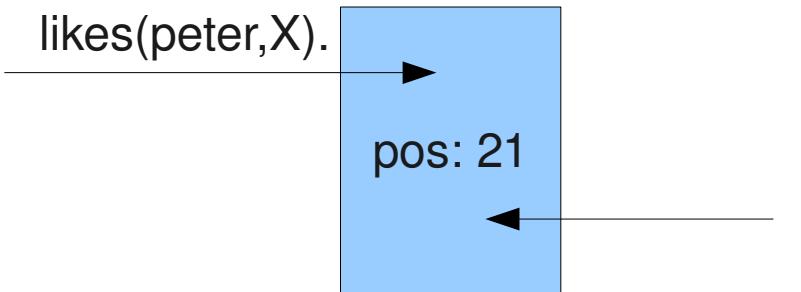
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likes(peter,X). X22=peter, Y22=X

pos: 22

?- likes(peter,X).

boy(peter).

pos: 0

girl(Y22).

pos: 0

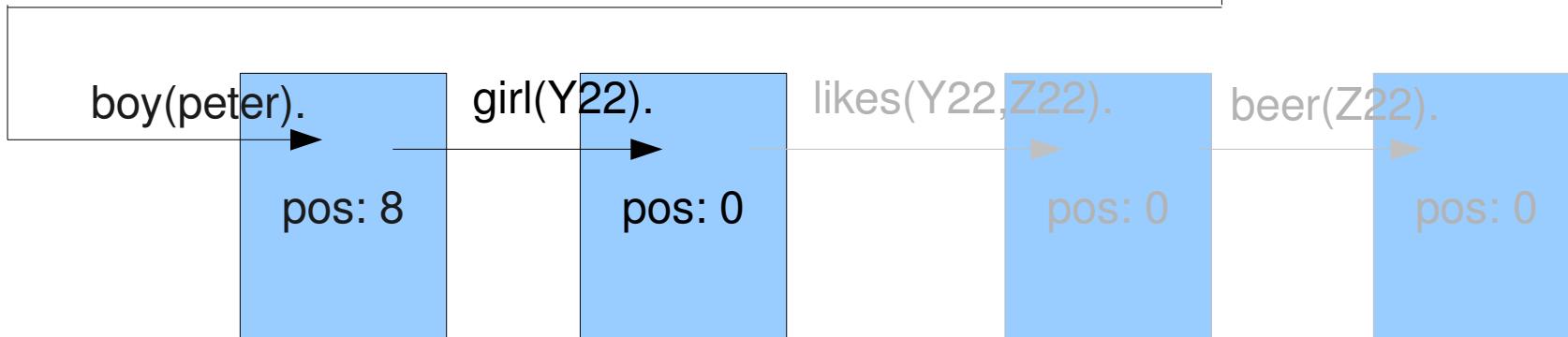
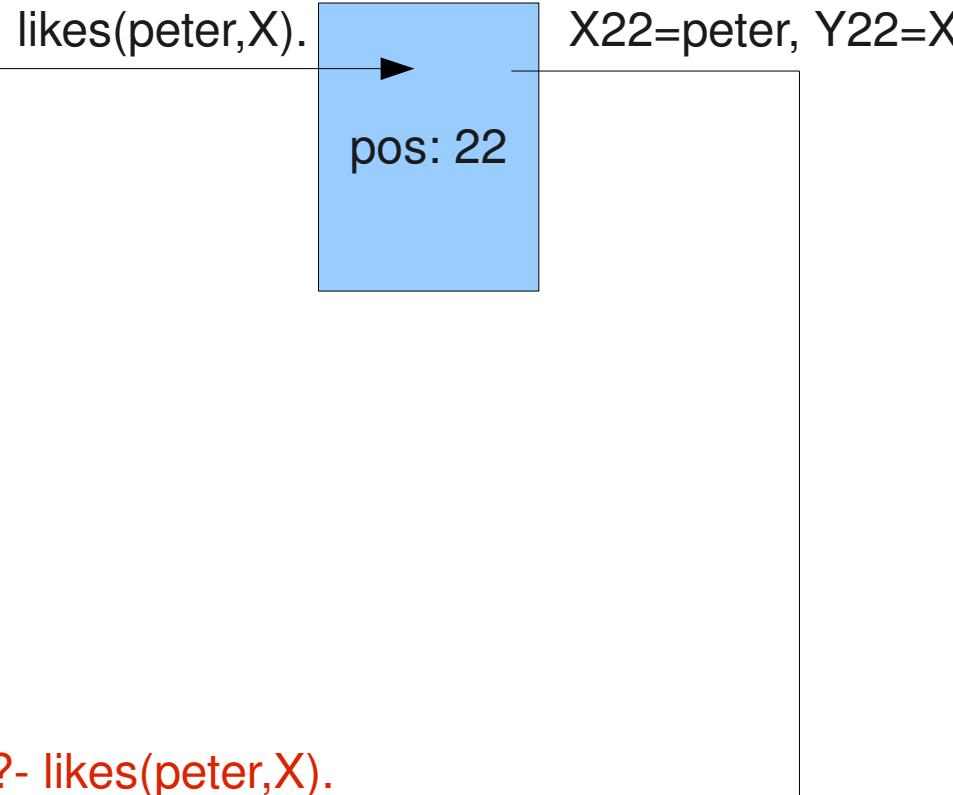
likes(Y22,Z22).

pos: 0

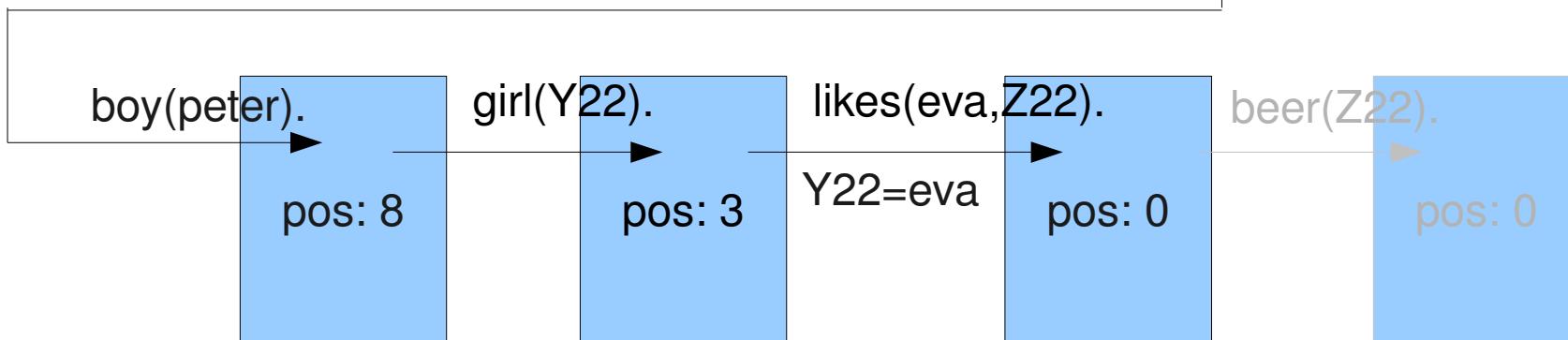
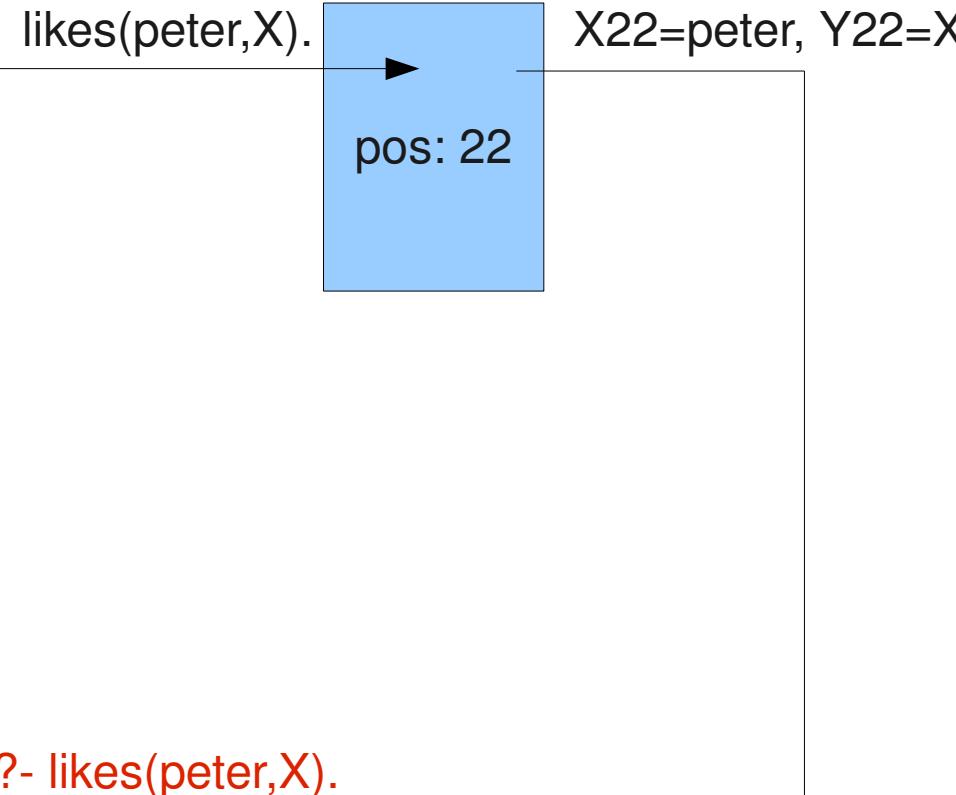
beer(Z22).

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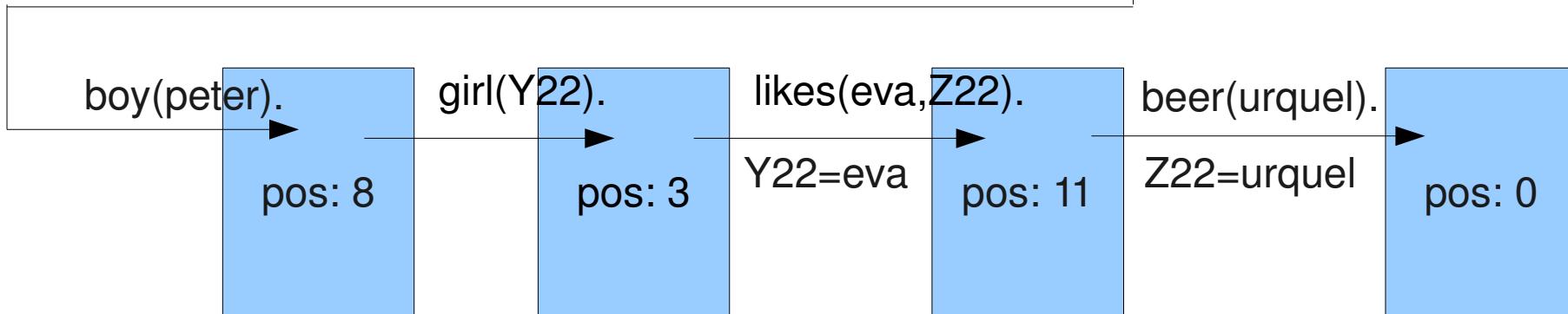
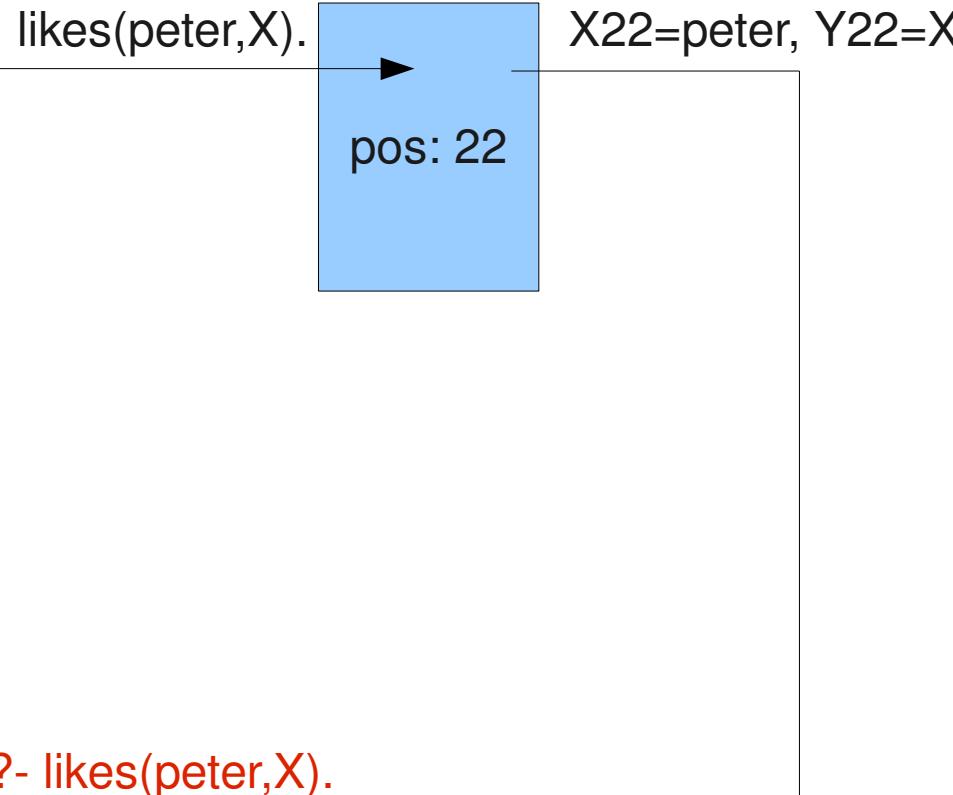
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likes(peter,X). X22=peter, Y22=X

pos: 22

?- likes(peter,X).

boy(peter).

pos: 8

girl(Y22).

pos: 3

likes(eva,Z22).

Y22=eva

pos: 11

beer(urquel).

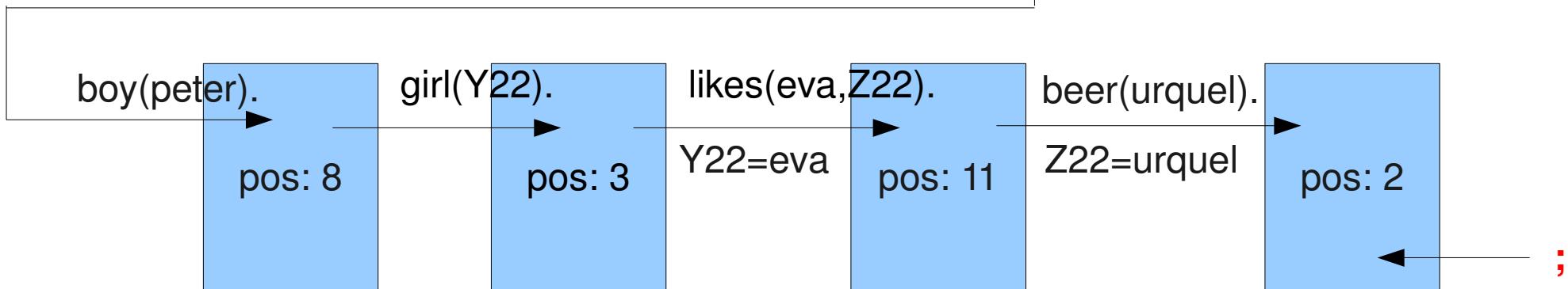
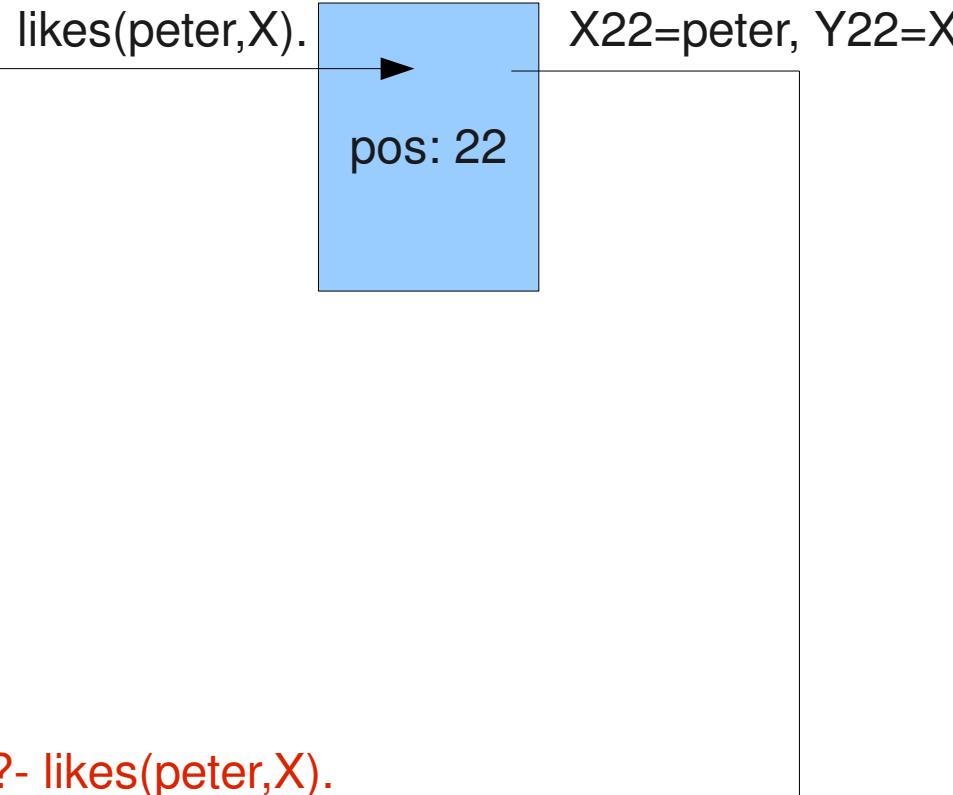
Z22=urquel

pos: 2

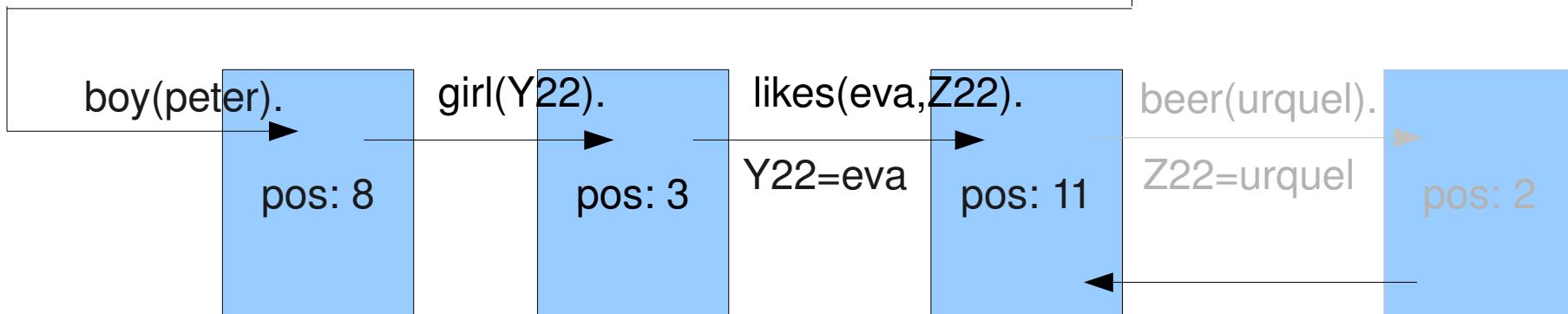
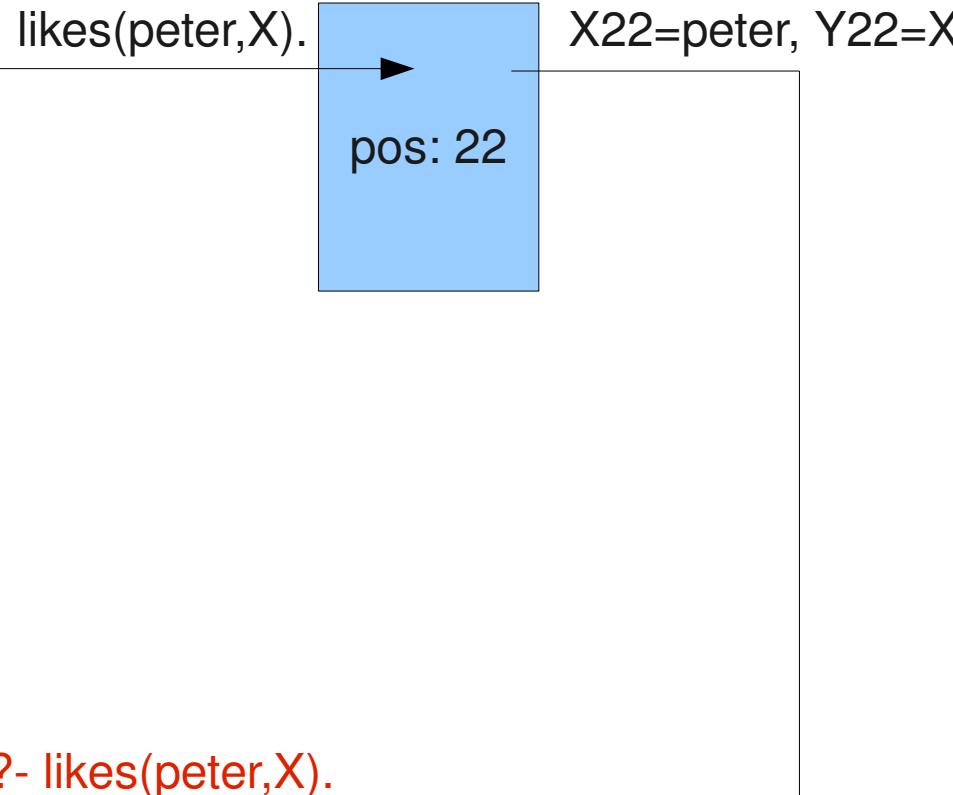
yes

X=eva

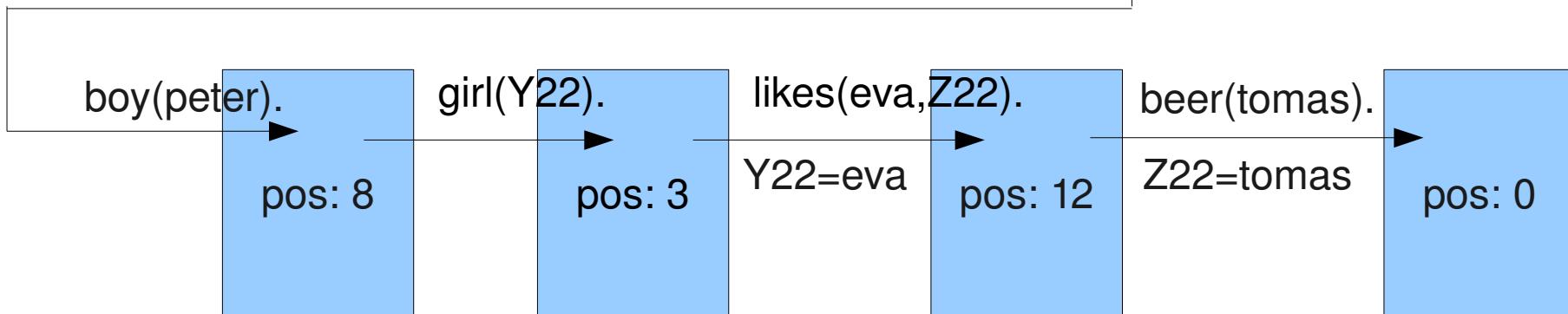
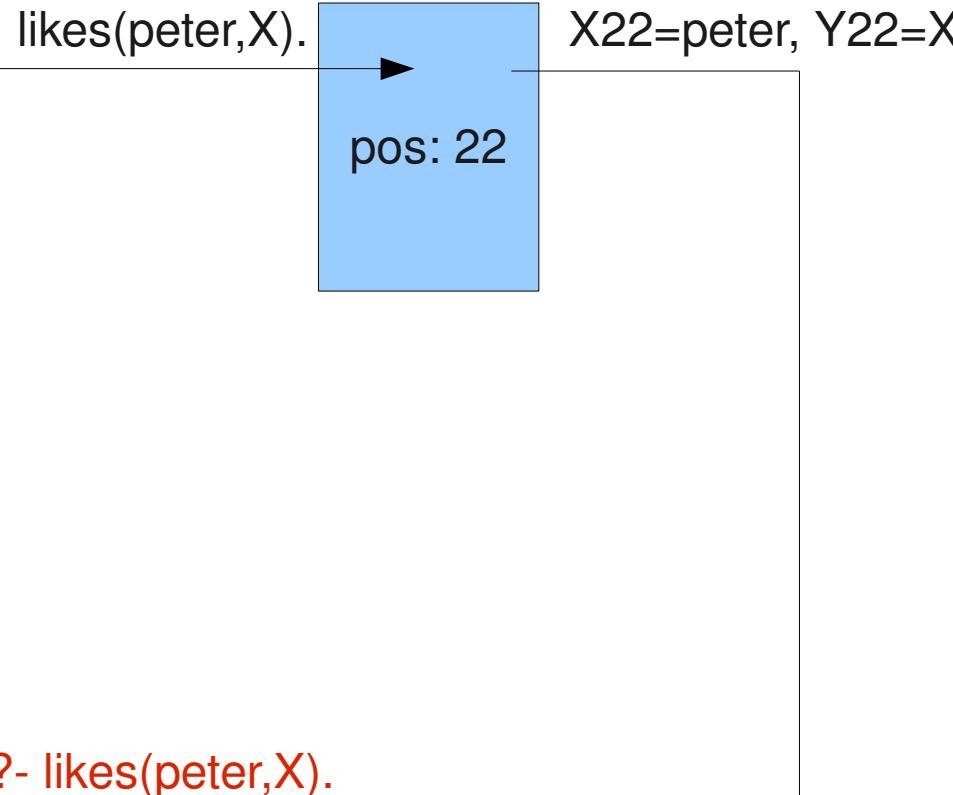
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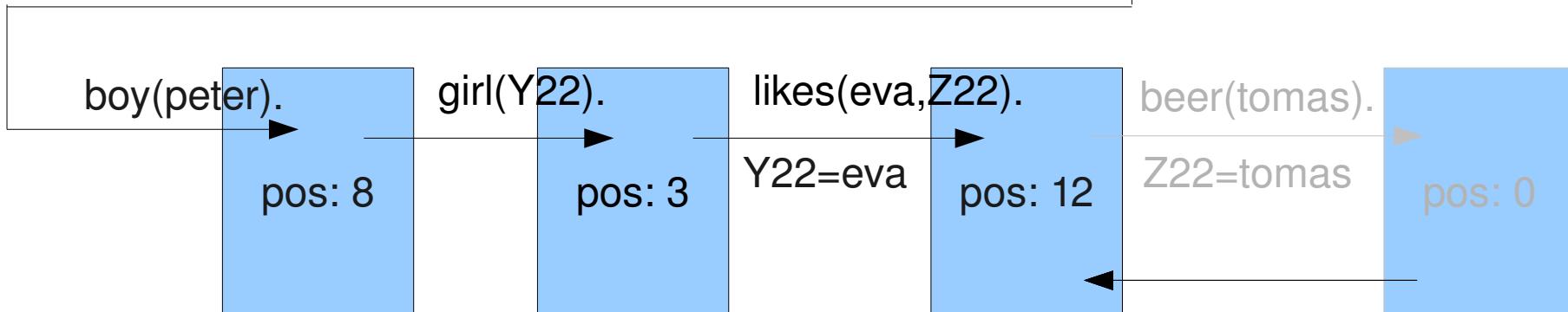
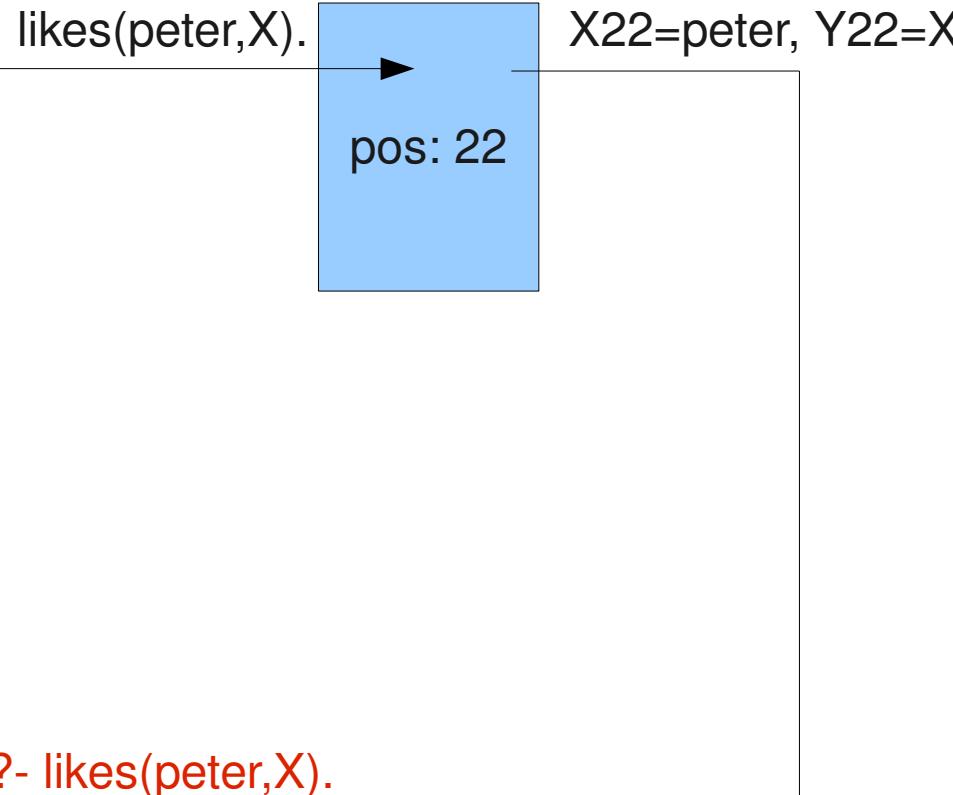
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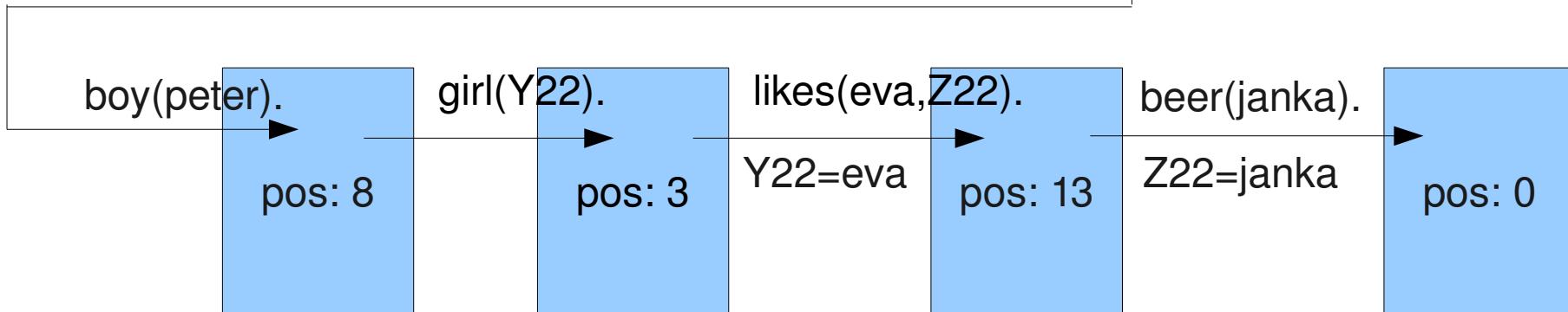
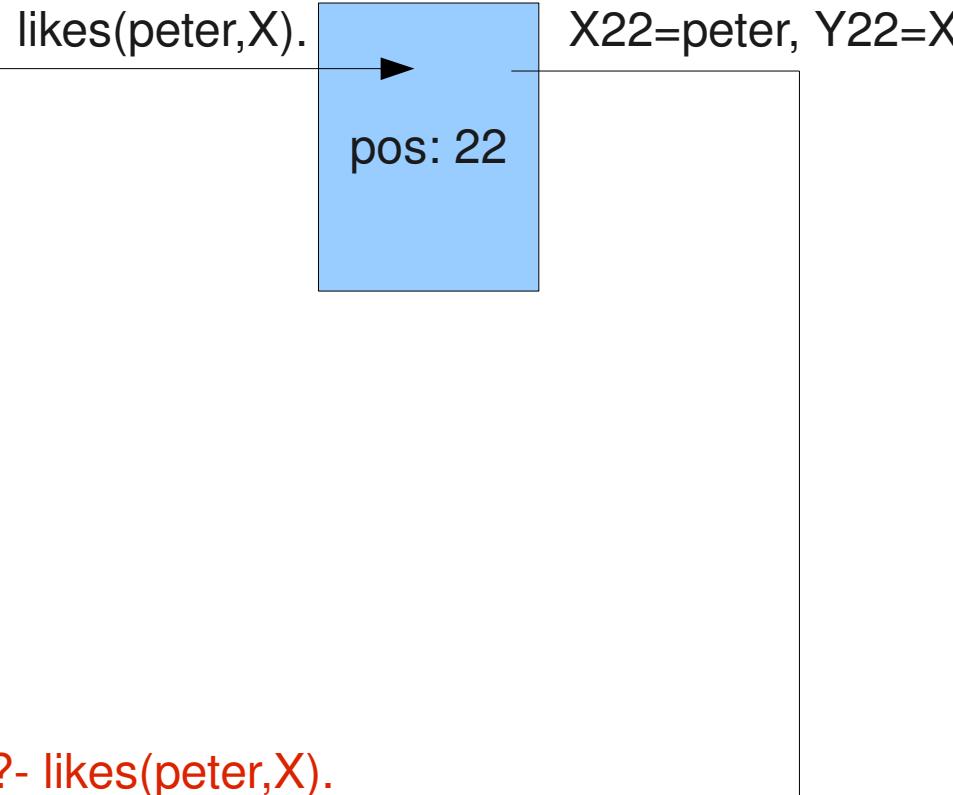
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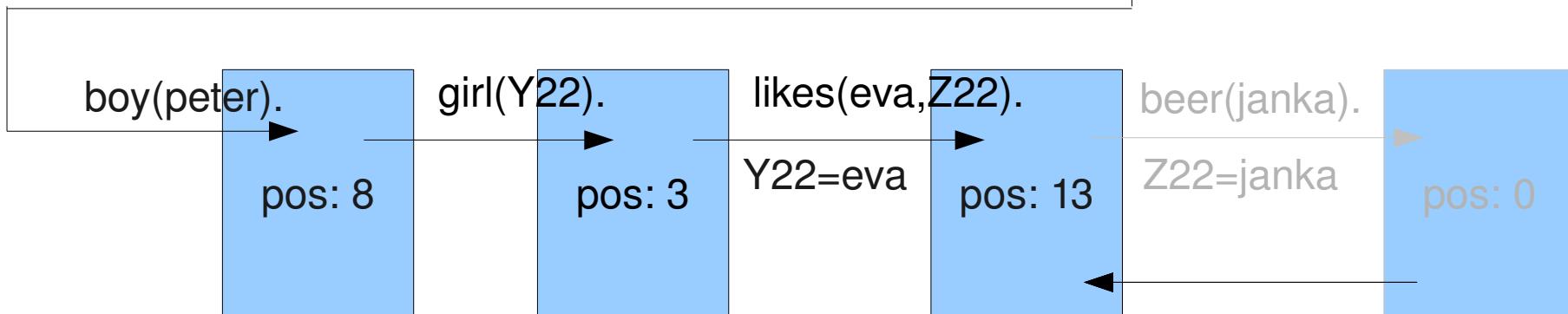
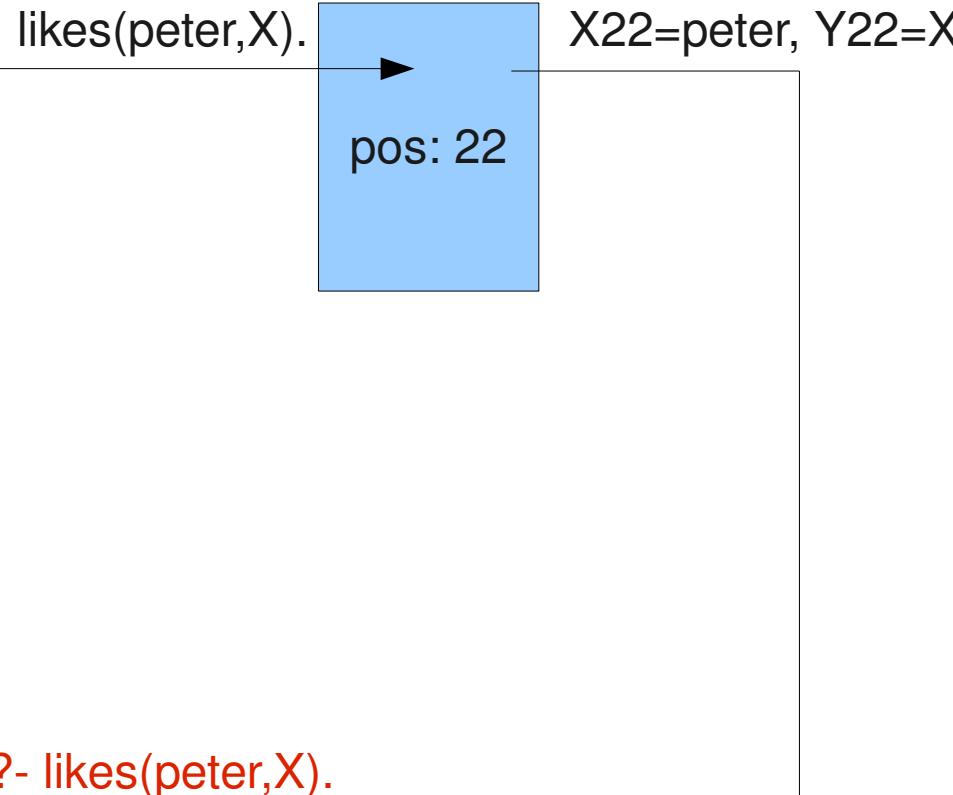
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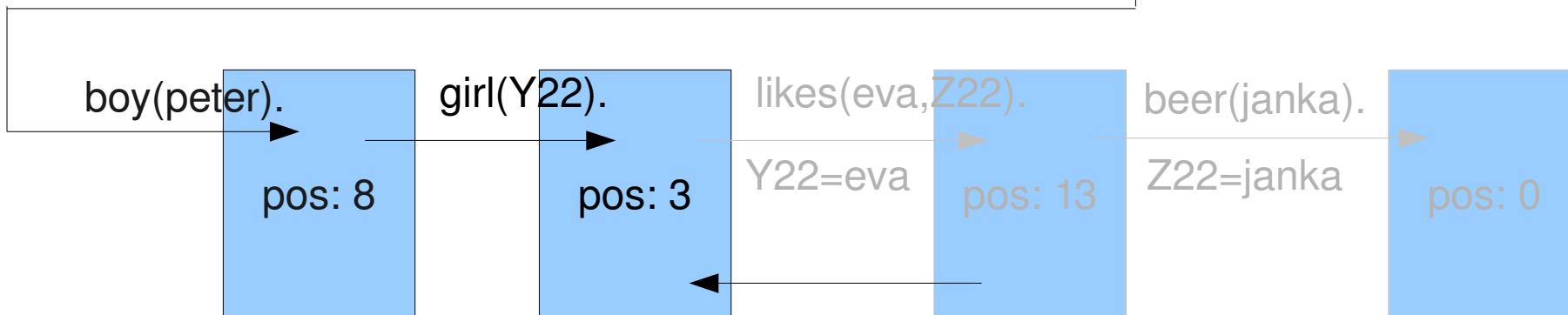
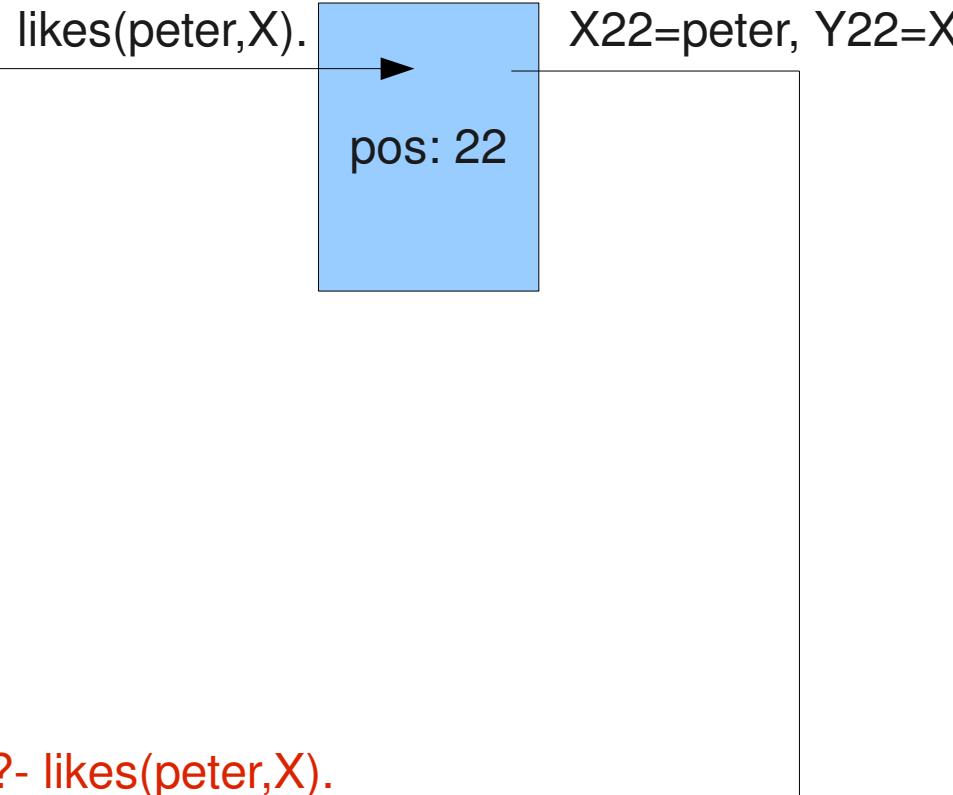
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16. likes(janka,beck).
17. likes(anna,zeno).
18. likes(anna,reggy).
19. likes(peter,rex).
20. likes(peter,beck).
21. likes(peter,urquell).
22. likes(X,Y) :- boy(X), girl(Y), likes(Y,Z), beer(Z).

likes(peter,X). X22=peter, Y22=X

pos: 22

?- likes(peter,X).

boy(peter).

pos: 8

girl(Y22).

pos: 4

likes(janka,Z22).

Y22=janka

pos: 0

beer(janka).

Z22=janka

pos: 0

1. beer(beck).
2. beer(urquell).
3. girl(eva).
4. girl(janka).
5. girl(anna).
6. boy(tomas).
7. boy(zeno).
8. boy(peter).
9. dog(rex).
10. cat(reggy).
11. likes(eva,urquell).
12. likes(eva,tomas).
13. likes(eva,janka).
14. likes(janka,peter).
15. likes(janka,eva).
16. likes(janka,beck).
17. likes(anna,zeno).
18. likes(anna,reggy).
19. likes(peter,rex).
20. likes(peter,beck).
21. likes(peter,urquell).
22. likes(X,Y) :- boy(X), girl(Y), likes(Y,Z), beer(Z).

likes(peter,X). X22=peter, Y22=X

pos: 22

?- likes(peter,X).

boy(peter).

pos: 8

girl(Y22).

pos: 4

likes(janka,Z22).

Y22=janka

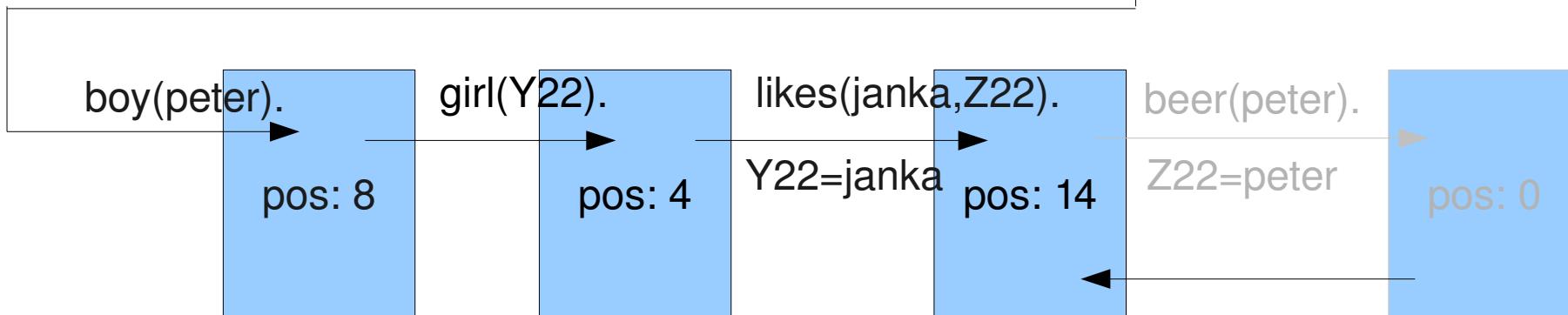
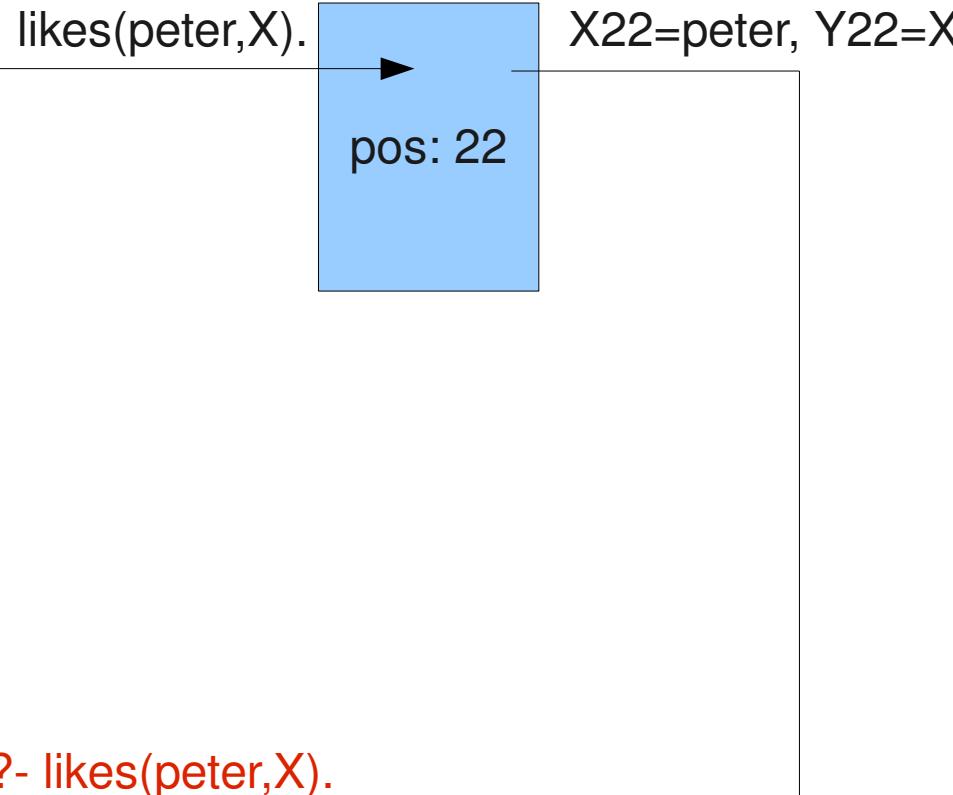
pos: 14

beer(peter).

Z22=peter

pos: 0

1. beer(beck).
2. beer(urquell).
3. girl(eva).
4. girl(janka).
5. girl(anna).
6. boy(tomas).
7. boy(zeno).
8. boy(peter).
9. dog(rex).
10. cat(reggy).
11. likes(eva,urquell).
12. likes(eva,tomas).
13. likes(eva,janka).
14. likes(janka,peter).
15. likes(janka,eva).
16. likes(janka,beck).
17. likes(anna,zeno).
18. likes(anna,reggy).
19. likes(peter,rex).
20. likes(peter,beck).
21. likes(peter,urquell).
22. likes(X,Y) :- boy(X), girl(Y), likes(Y,Z), beer(Z).



1. beer(beck).
2. beer(urquell).
3. girl(eva).
4. girl(janka).
5. girl(anna).
6. boy(tomas).
7. boy(zeno).
8. boy(peter).
9. dog(rex).
10. cat(reggy).
11. likes(eva,urquell).
12. likes(eva,tomas).
13. likes(eva,janka).
14. likes(janka,peter).
15. likes(janka,eva).
16. likes(janka,beck).
17. likes(anna,zeno).
18. likes(anna,reggy).
19. likes(peter,rex).
20. likes(peter,beck).
21. likes(peter,urquell).
22. likes(X,Y) :- boy(X), girl(Y), likes(Y,Z), beer(Z).

likes(peter,X). X22=peter, Y22=X

pos: 22

?- likes(peter,X).

boy(peter).

pos: 8

girl(Y22).

pos: 4

likes(janka,Z22).

Y22=janka

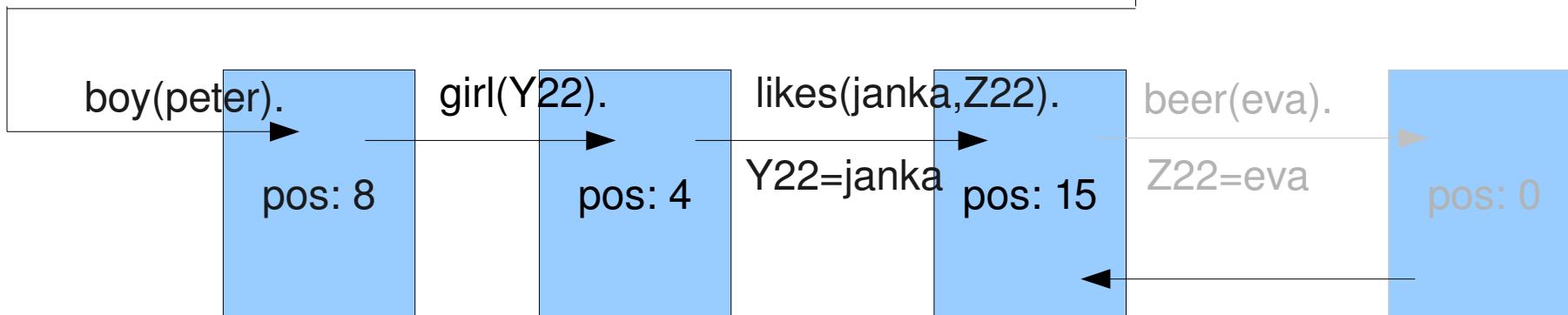
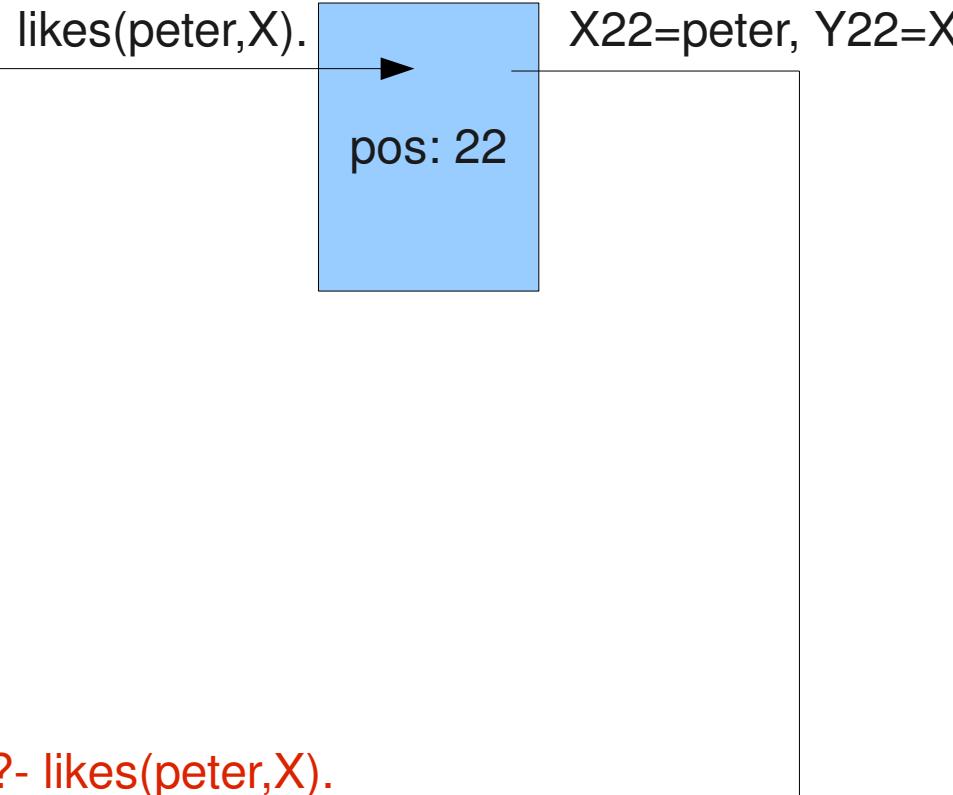
pos: 15

beer(eva).

Z22=eva

pos: 0

1. beer(beck).
2. beer(urquell).
3. girl(eva).
4. girl(janka).
5. girl(anna).
6. boy(tomas).
7. boy(zeno).
8. boy(peter).
9. dog(rex).
10. cat(reggy).
11. likes(eva,urquell).
12. likes(eva,tomas).
13. likes(eva,janka).
14. likes(janka,peter).
15. likes(janka,eva).
16. likes(janka,beck).
17. likes(anna,zeno).
18. likes(anna,reggy).
19. likes(peter,rex).
20. likes(peter,beck).
21. likes(peter,urquell).
22. likes(X,Y) :- boy(X), girl(Y), likes(Y,Z), beer(Z).



1. beer(beck).
2. beer(urquell).
3. girl(eva).
4. girl(janka).
5. girl(anna).
6. boy(tomas).
7. boy(zeno).
8. boy(peter).
9. dog(rex).
10. cat(reggy).
11. likes(eva,urquell).
12. likes(eva,tomas).
13. likes(eva,janka).
14. likes(janka,peter).
15. likes(janka,eva).
16. likes(janka,beck).
17. likes(anna,zeno).
18. likes(anna,reggy).
19. likes(peter,rex).
20. likes(peter,beck).
21. likes(peter,urquell).
22. likes(X,Y) :- boy(X), girl(Y), likes(Y,Z), beer(Z).

likes(peter,X). X22=peter, Y22=X

pos: 22

?- likes(peter,X).

boy(peter).

pos: 8

girl(Y22).

pos: 4

likes(janka,Z22).

Y22=janka

pos: 16

beer(beck).

Z22=beck

pos: 0

1. beer(beck).
2. beer(urquell).
3. girl(eva).
4. girl(janka).
5. girl(anna).
6. boy(tomas).
7. boy(zeno).
8. boy(peter).
9. dog(rex).
10. cat(reggy).
11. likes(eva,urquell).
12. likes(eva,tomas).
13. likes(eva,janka).
14. likes(janka,peter).
15. likes(janka,eva).
16. likes(janka,beck).
17. likes(anna,zeno).
18. likes(anna,reggy).
19. likes(peter,rex).
20. likes(peter,beck).
21. likes(peter,urquell).
22. likes(X,Y) :- boy(X), girl(Y), likes(Y,Z), beer(Z).

likes(peter,X). X22=peter, Y22=X

pos: 22

?- likes(peter,X).

boy(peter).

pos: 8

girl(Y22).

pos: 4

likes(janka,Z22).

Y22=janka

pos: 16

beer(beck).

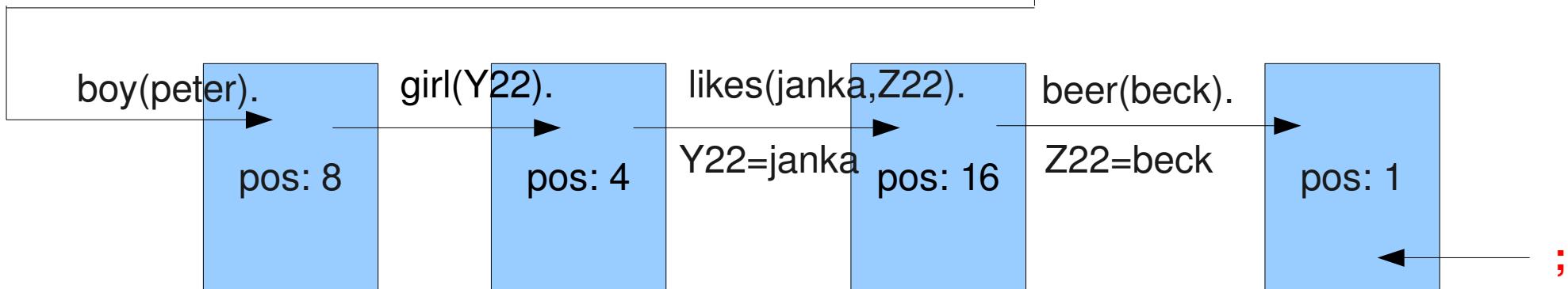
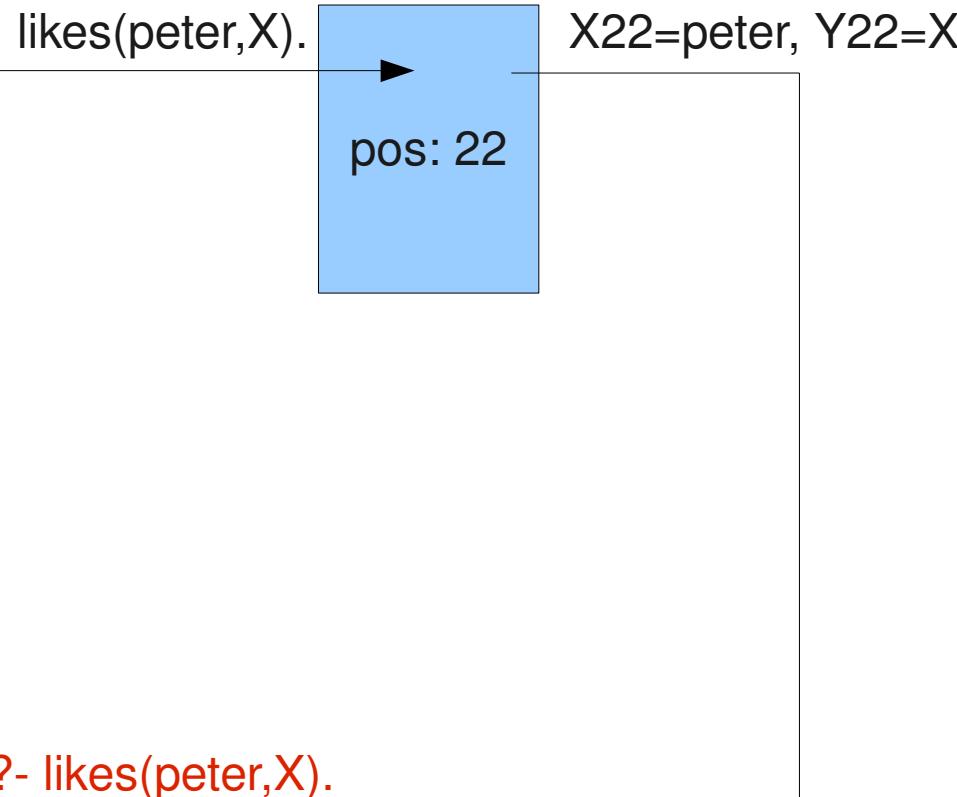
Z22=beck

pos: 1

yes

X=janka

1. beer(beck).
2. beer(urquell).
3. girl(eva).
4. girl(janka).
5. girl(anna).
6. boy(tomas).
7. boy(zeno).
8. boy(peter).
9. dog(rex).
10. cat(reggy).
11. likes(eva,urquell).
12. likes(eva,tomas).
13. likes(eva,janka).
14. likes(janka,peter).
15. likes(janka,eva).
16. likes(janka,beck).
17. likes(anna,zeno).
18. likes(anna,reggy).
19. likes(peter,rex).
20. likes(peter,beck).
21. likes(peter,urquell).
22. likes(X,Y) :- boy(X), girl(Y), likes(Y,Z), beer(Z).



1. beer(beck).
2. beer(urquell).
3. girl(eva).
4. girl(janka).
5. girl(anna).
6. boy(tomas).
7. boy(zeno).
8. boy(peter).
9. dog(rex).
10. cat(reggy).
11. likes(eva,urquell).
12. likes(eva,tomas).
13. likes(eva,janka).
14. likes(janka,peter).
15. likes(janka,eva).
16. likes(janka,beck).
17. likes(anna,zeno).
18. likes(anna,reggy).
19. likes(peter,rex).
20. likes(peter,beck).
21. likes(peter,urquell).
22. likes(X,Y) :- boy(X), girl(Y), likes(Y,Z), beer(Z).

likes(peter,X). X22=peter, Y22=X

pos: 22

?- likes(peter,X).

boy(peter).

pos: 8

girl(Y22).

pos: 4

likes(janka,Z22).

Y22=janka

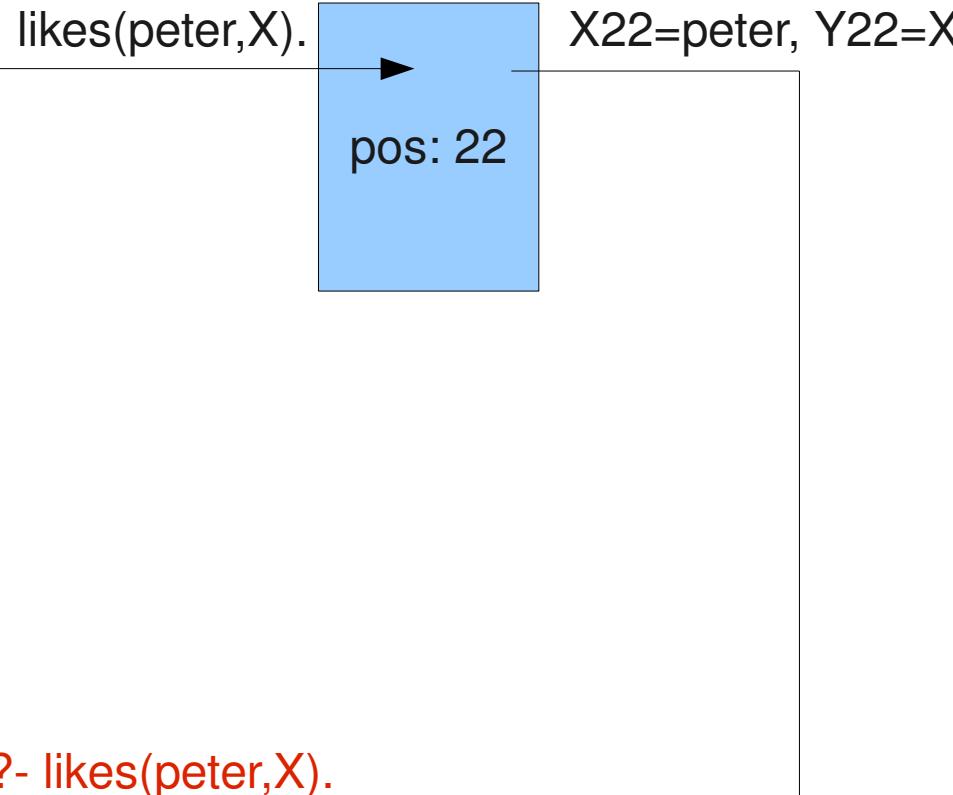
pos: 16

beer(beck).

Z22=beck

pos: 1

1. beer(beck).
2. beer(urquell).
3. girl(eva).
4. girl(janka).
5. girl(anna).
6. boy(tomas).
7. boy(zeno).
8. boy(peter).
9. dog(rex).
10. cat(reggy).
11. likes(eva,urquell).
12. likes(eva,tomas).
13. likes(eva,janka).
14. likes(janka,peter).
15. likes(janka,eva).
16. likes(janka,beck).
17. likes(anna,zeno).
18. likes(anna,reggy).
19. likes(peter,rex).
20. likes(peter,beck).
21. likes(peter,urquell).
22. likes(X,Y) :- boy(X), girl(Y), likes(Y,Z), beer(Z).



1. beer(beck).
2. beer(urquell).
3. girl(eva).
4. girl(janka).
5. girl(anna).
6. boy(tomas).
7. boy(zeno).
8. boy(peter).
9. dog(rex).
10. cat(reggy).
11. likes(eva,urquell).
12. likes(eva,tomas).
13. likes(eva,janka).
14. likes(janka,peter).
15. likes(janka,eva).
16. likes(janka,beck).
17. likes(anna,zeno).
18. likes(anna,reggy).
19. likes(peter,rex).
20. likes(peter,beck).
21. likes(peter,urquell).
22. likes(X,Y) :- boy(X), girl(Y), likes(Y,Z), beer(Z).

likes(peter,X). X22=peter, Y22=X

pos: 22

?- likes(peter,X).

boy(peter).

pos: 8

girl(Y22).

pos: 5

likes(anna,Z22).

Y22=anna

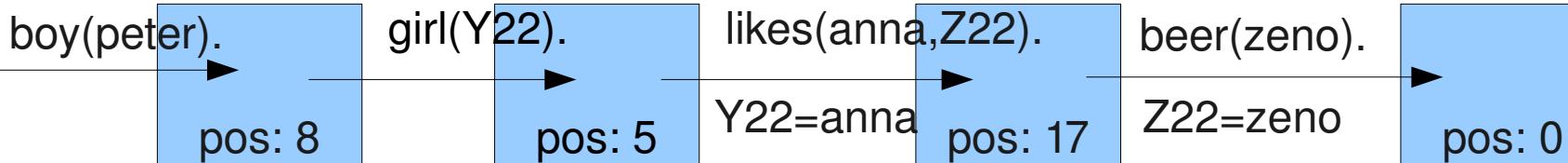
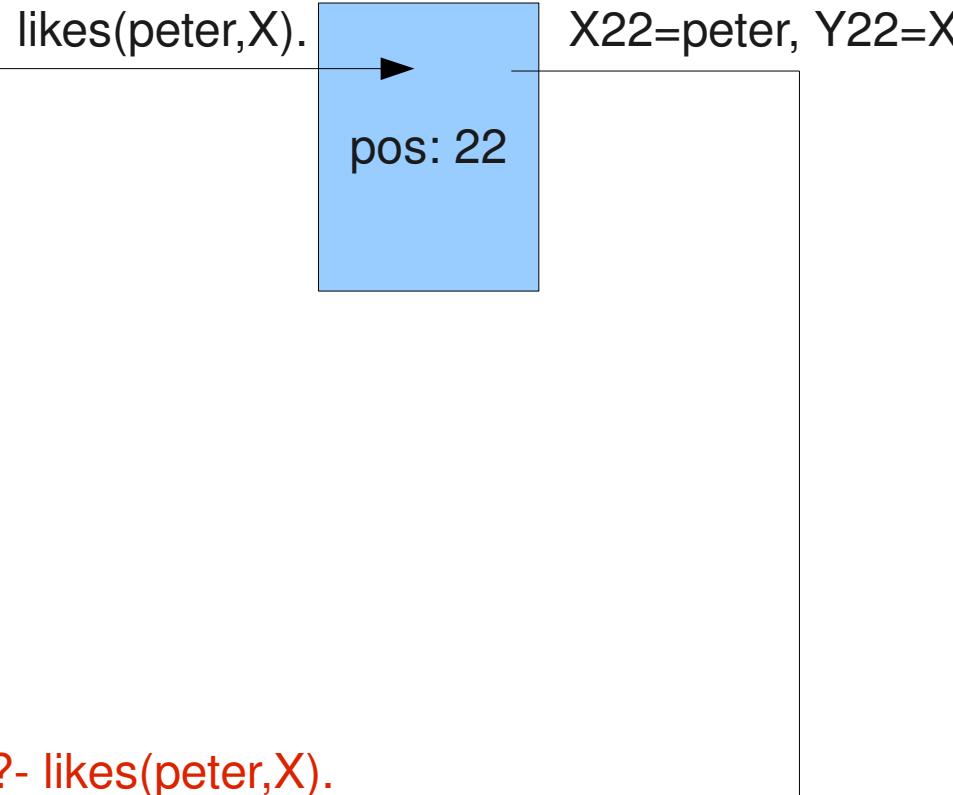
pos: 0

beer(beck).

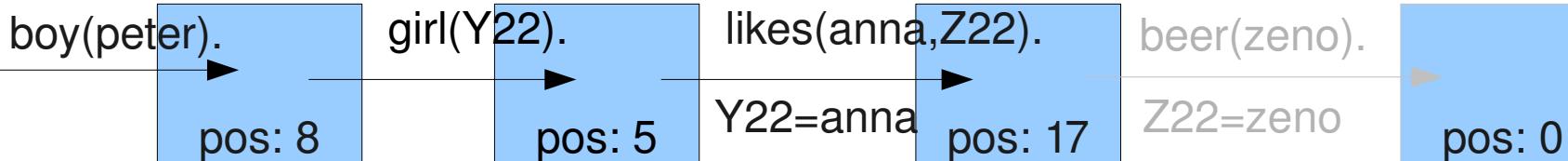
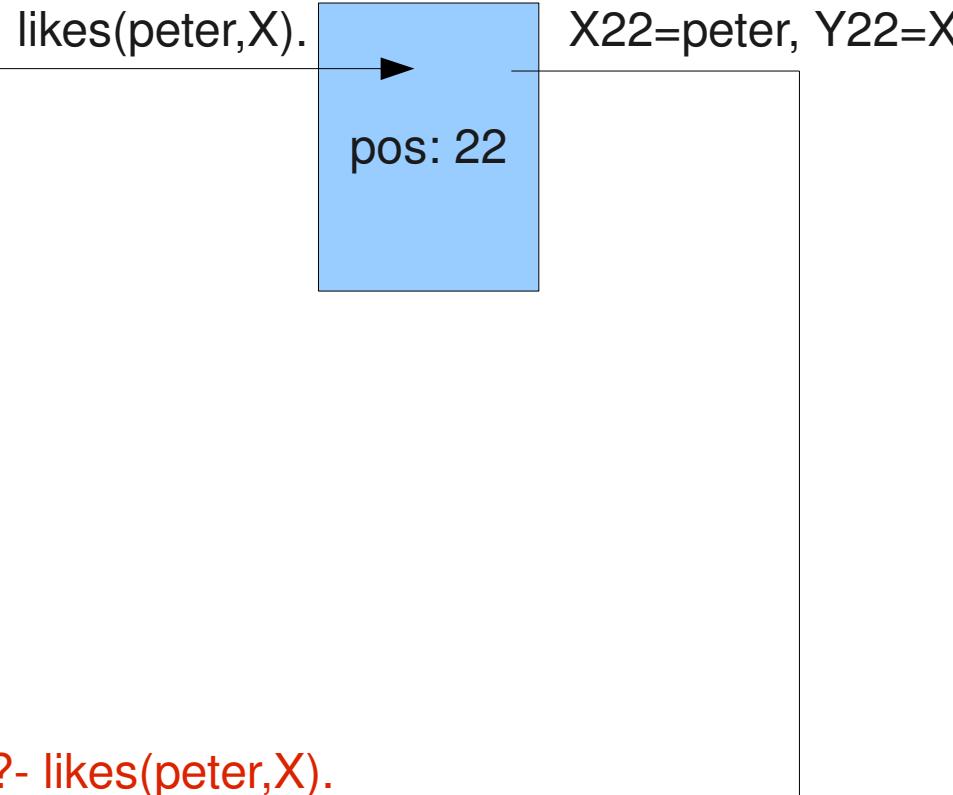
Z22=beck

pos: 1

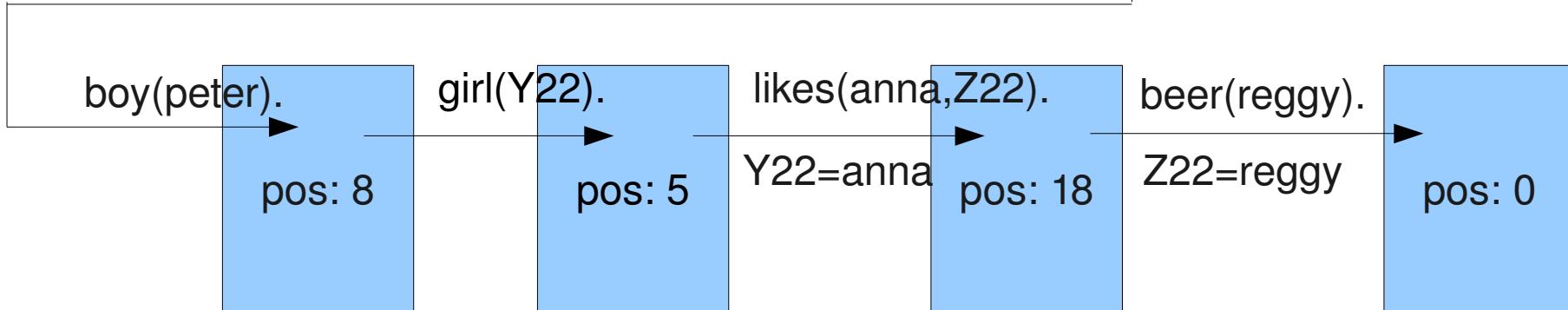
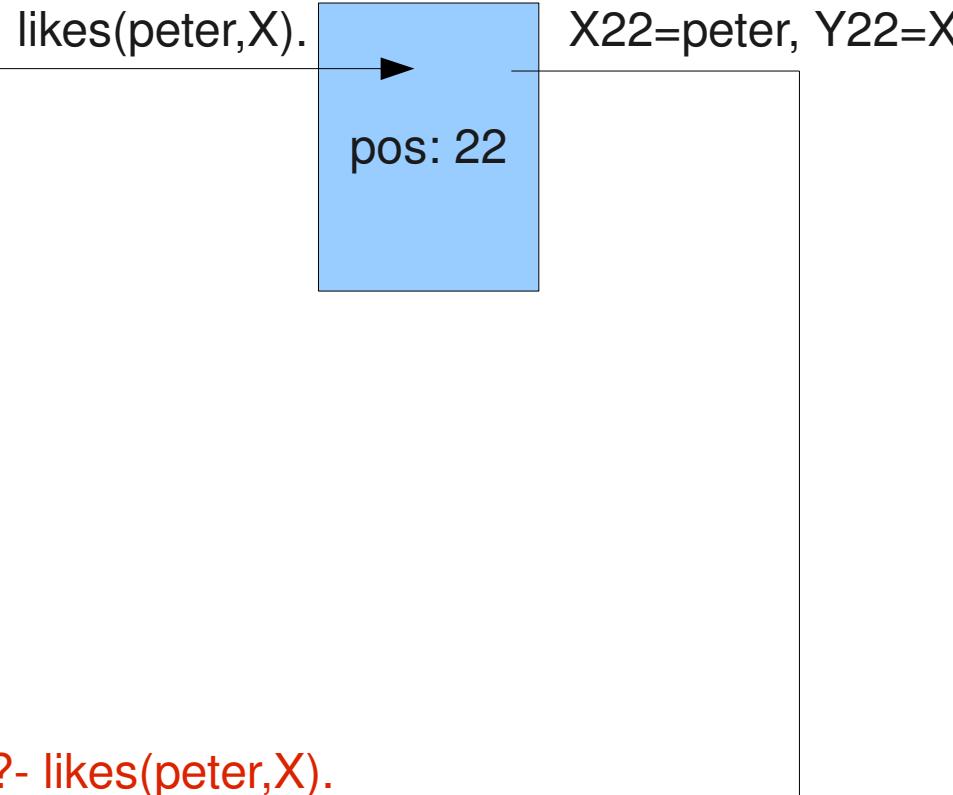
1. beer(beck).
2. beer(urquell).
3. girl(eva).
4. girl(janka).
5. girl(anna).
6. boy(tomas).
7. boy(zeno).
8. boy(peter).
9. dog(rex).
10. cat(reggy).
11. likes(eva,urquell).
12. likes(eva,tomas).
13. likes(eva,janka).
14. likes(janka,peter).
15. likes(janka,eva).
16. likes(janka,beck).
17. likes(anna,zeno).
18. likes(anna,reggy).
19. likes(peter,rex).
20. likes(peter,beck).
21. likes(peter,urquell).
22. likes(X,Y) :- boy(X), girl(Y), likes(Y,Z), beer(Z).



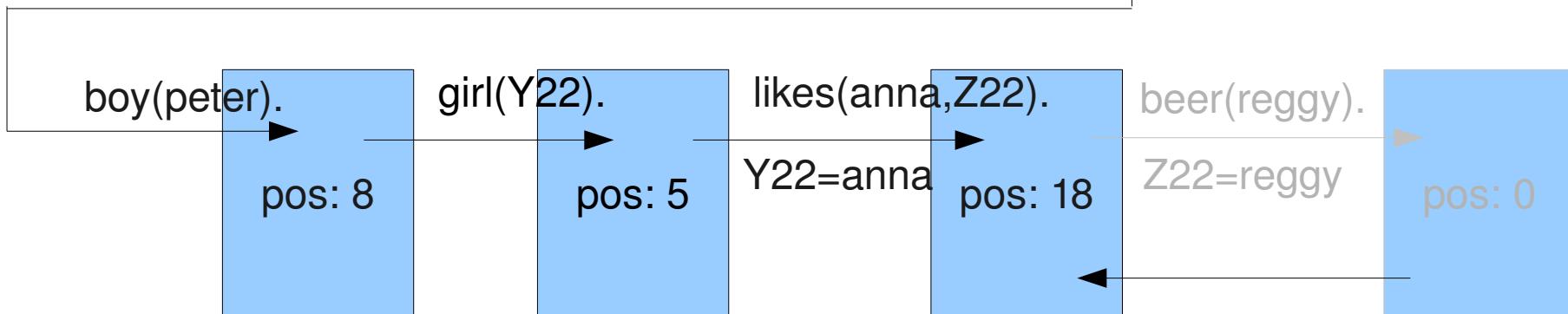
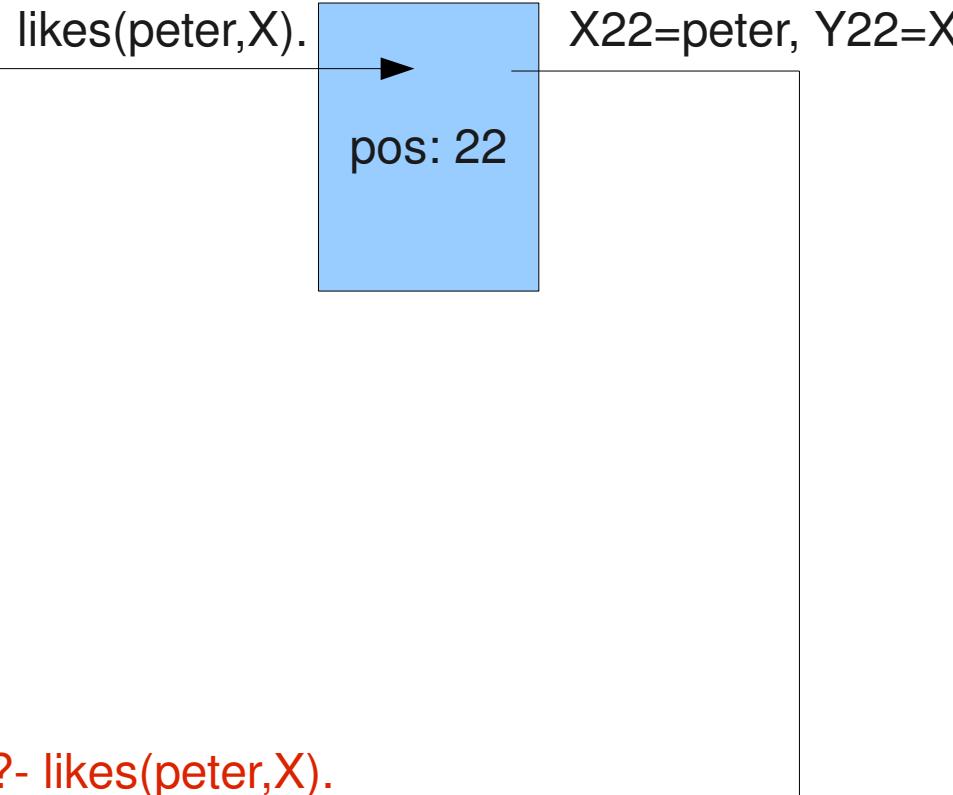
1. beer(beck).
2. beer(urquell).
3. girl(eva).
4. girl(janka).
5. girl(anna).
6. boy(tomas).
7. boy(zeno).
8. boy(peter).
9. dog(rex).
10. cat(reggy).
11. likes(eva,urquell).
12. likes(eva,tomas).
13. likes(eva,janka).
14. likes(janka,peter).
15. likes(janka,eva).
16. likes(janka,beck).
17. likes(anna,zeno).
18. likes(anna,reggy).
19. likes(peter,rex).
20. likes(peter,beck).
21. likes(peter,urquell).
22. likes(X,Y) :- boy(X), girl(Y), likes(Y,Z), beer(Z).



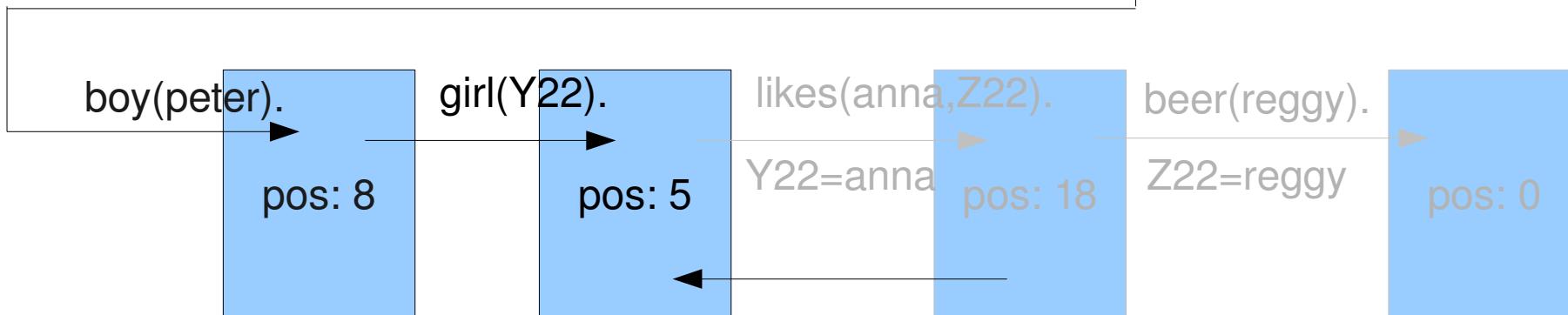
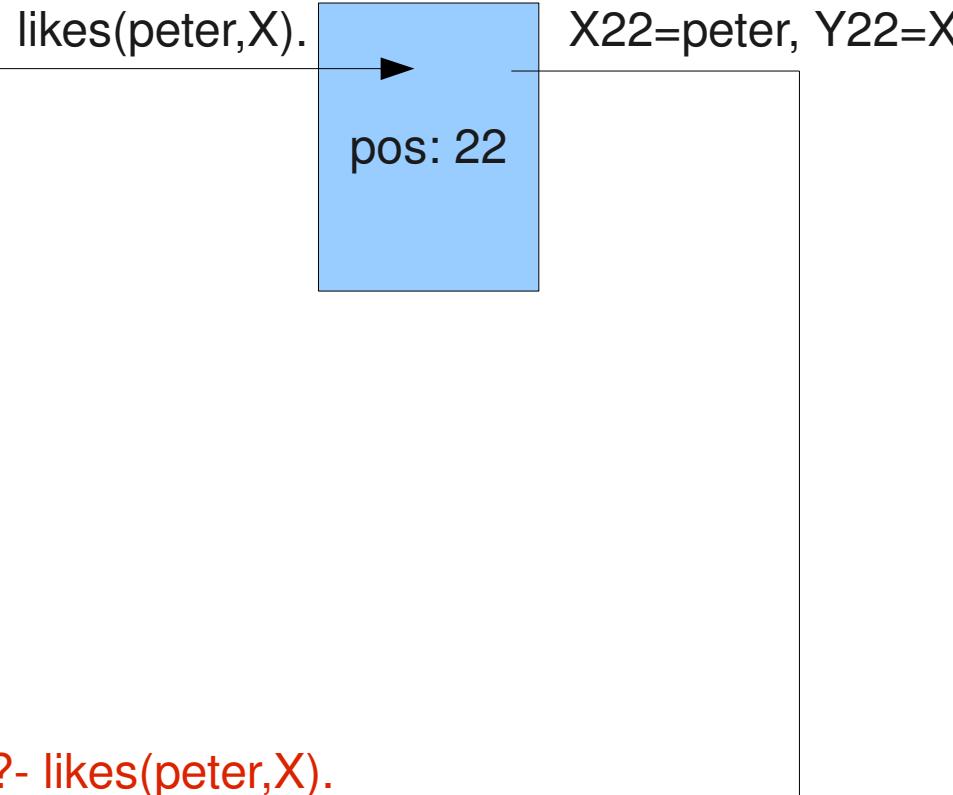
1. beer(beck).
2. beer(urquell).
3. girl(eva).
4. girl(janka).
5. girl(anna).
6. boy(tomas).
7. boy(zeno).
8. boy(peter).
9. dog(rex).
10. cat(reggy).
11. likes(eva,urquell).
12. likes(eva,tomas).
13. likes(eva,janka).
14. likes(janka,peter).
15. likes(janka,eva).
16. likes(janka,beck).
17. likes(anna,zeno).
18. likes(anna,reggy).
19. likes(peter,rex).
20. likes(peter,beck).
21. likes(peter,urquell).
22. likes(X,Y) :- boy(X), girl(Y), likes(Y,Z), beer(Z).



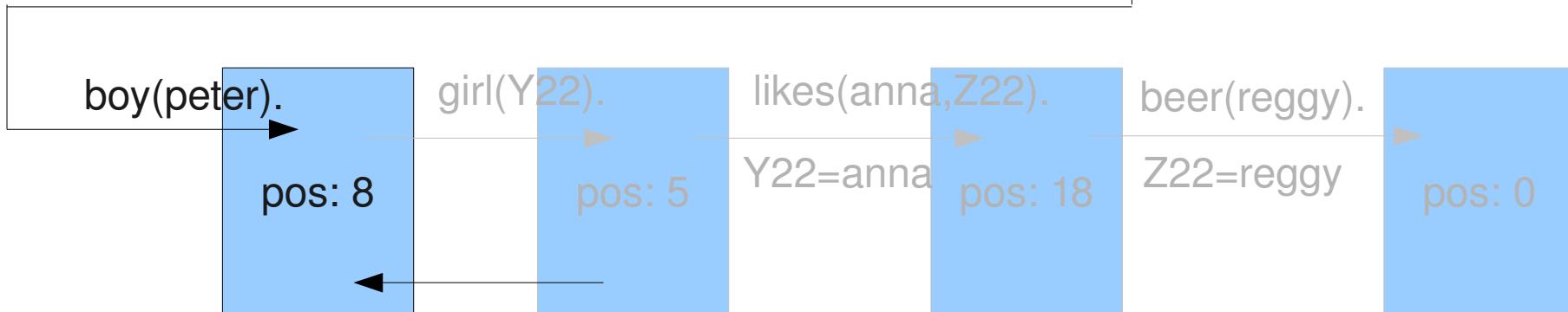
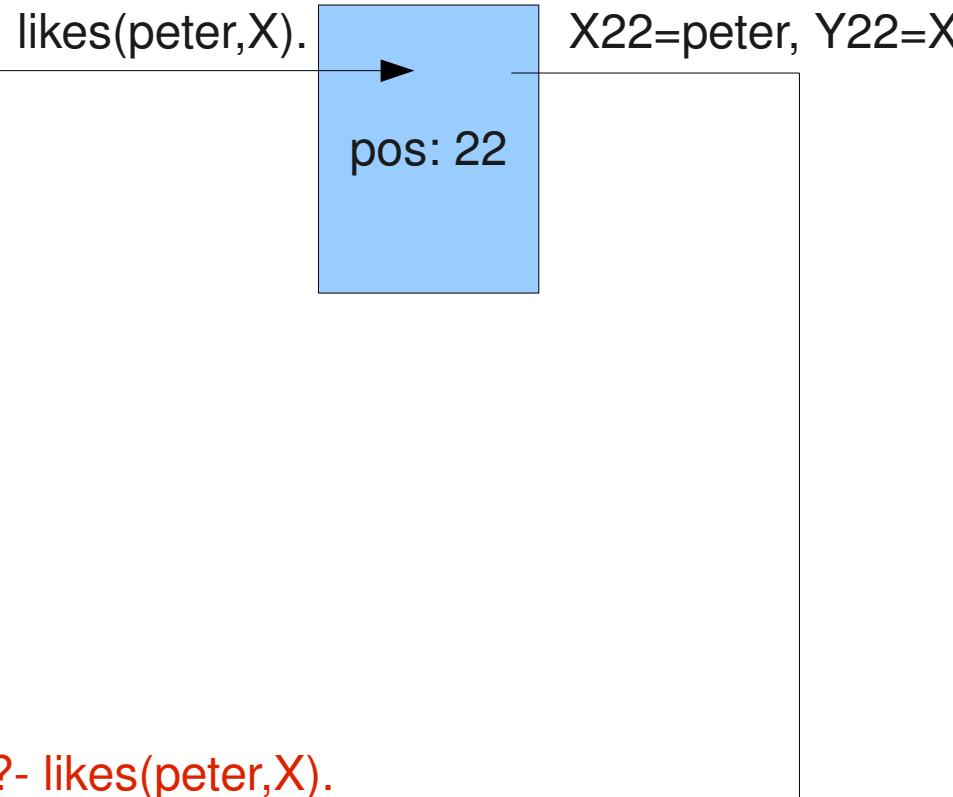
1. beer(beck).
2. beer(urquell).
3. girl(eva).
4. girl(janka).
5. girl(anna).
6. boy(tomas).
7. boy(zeno).
8. boy(peter).
9. dog(rex).
10. cat(reggy).
11. likes(eva,urquell).
12. likes(eva,tomas).
13. likes(eva,janka).
14. likes(janka,peter).
15. likes(janka,eva).
16. likes(janka,beck).
17. likes(anna,zeno).
18. likes(anna,reggy).
19. likes(peter,rex).
20. likes(peter,beck).
21. likes(peter,urquell).
22. likes(X,Y) :- boy(X), girl(Y), likes(Y,Z), beer(Z).



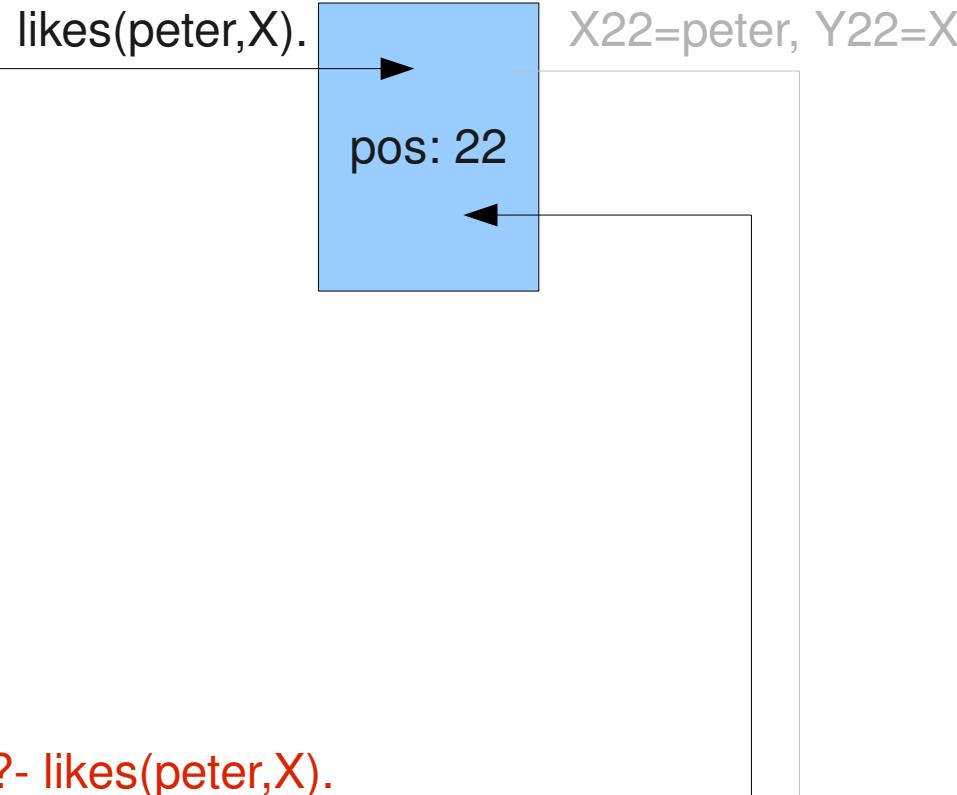
1. beer(beck).
2. beer(urquell).
3. girl(eva).
4. girl(janka).
5. girl(anna).
6. boy(tomas).
7. boy(zeno).
8. boy(peter).
9. dog(rex).
10. cat(reggy).
11. likes(eva,urquell).
12. likes(eva,tomas).
13. likes(eva,janka).
14. likes(janka,peter).
15. likes(janka,eva).
16. likes(janka,beck).
17. likes(anna,zeno).
18. likes(anna,reggy).
19. likes(peter,rex).
20. likes(peter,beck).
21. likes(peter,urquell).
22. likes(X,Y) :- boy(X), girl(Y), likes(Y,Z), beer(Z).



1. beer(beck).
2. beer(urquell).
3. girl(eva).
4. girl(janka).
5. girl(anna).
6. boy(tomas).
7. boy(zeno).
8. boy(peter).
9. dog(rex).
10. cat(reggy).
11. likes(eva,urquell).
12. likes(eva,tomas).
13. likes(eva,janka).
14. likes(janka,peter).
15. likes(janka,eva).
16. likes(janka,beck).
17. likes(anna,zeno).
18. likes(anna,reggy).
19. likes(peter,rex).
20. likes(peter,beck).
21. likes(peter,urquell).
22. likes(X,Y) :- boy(X), girl(Y), likes(Y,Z), beer(Z).



1. beer(beck).
2. beer(urquell).
3. girl(eva).
4. girl(janka).
5. girl(anna).
6. boy(tomas).
7. boy(zeno).
8. boy(peter).
9. dog(rex).
10. cat(reggy).
11. likes(eva,urquell).
12. likes(eva,tomas).
13. likes(eva,janka).
14. likes(janka,peter).
15. likes(janka,eva).
16. likes(janka,beck).
17. likes(anna,zeno).
18. likes(anna,reggy).
19. likes(peter,rex).
20. likes(peter,beck).
21. likes(peter,urquell).
22. likes(X,Y) :- boy(X), girl(Y), likes(Y,Z), beer(Z).



boy(peter).

pos: 8

girl(Y22).

pos: 5

likes(anna,Z22).

Y22=anna

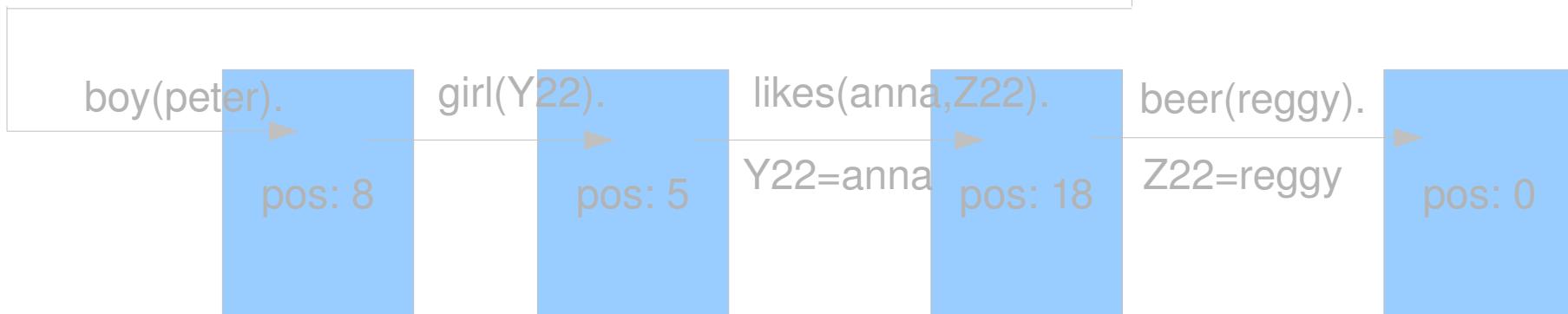
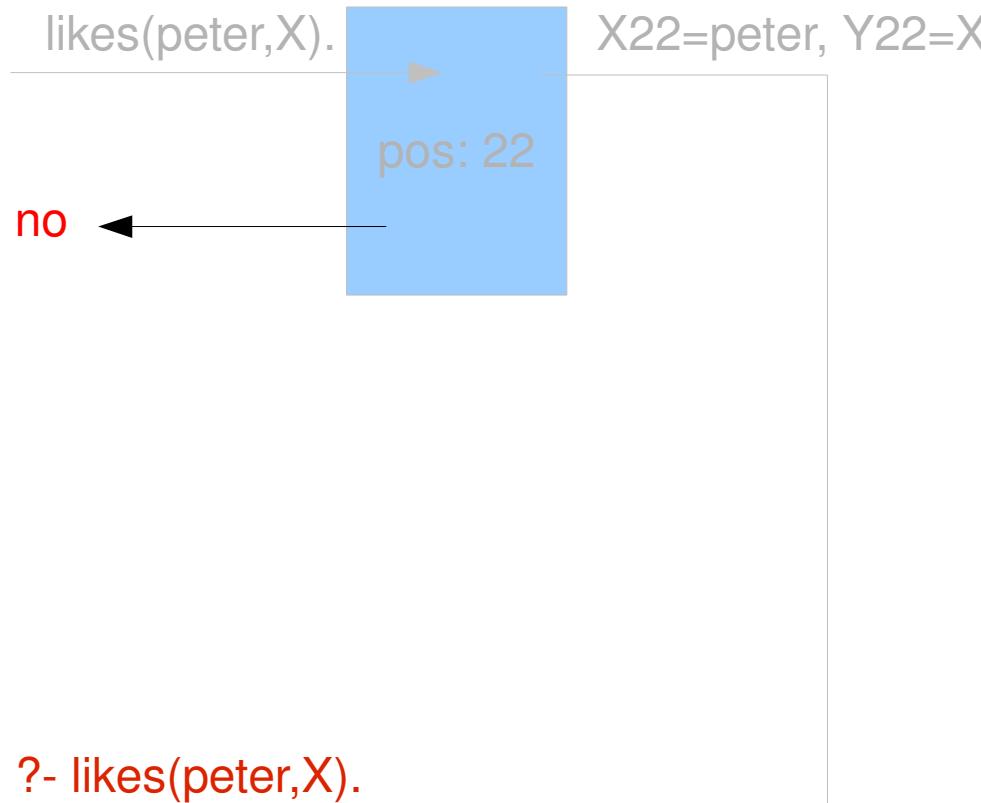
pos: 18

beer(reggy).

Z22=reggy

pos: 0

1. beer(beck).
2. beer(urquell).
3. girl(eva).
4. girl(janka).
5. girl(anna).
6. boy(tomas).
7. boy(zeno).
8. boy(peter).
9. dog(rex).
10. cat(reggy).
11. likes(eva,urquell).
12. likes(eva,tomas).
13. likes(eva,janka).
14. likes(janka,peter).
15. likes(janka,eva).
16. likes(janka,beck).
17. likes(anna,zeno).
18. likes(anna,reggy).
19. likes(peter,rex).
20. likes(peter,beck).
21. likes(peter,urquell).
22. likes(X,Y) :- boy(X), girl(Y), likes(Y,Z), beer(Z).



1. beer(beck).
2. beer(urquell).
3. girl(eva).
4. girl(janka).
5. girl(anna).
6. boy(tomas).
7. boy(zeno).
8. boy(peter).
9. dog(rex).
10. cat(reggy).
11. likes(eva,urquell).
12. likes(eva,tomas).
13. likes(eva,janka).
14. likes(janka,peter).
15. likes(janka,eva).
16. likes(janka,beck).
17. likes(anna,zeno).
18. likes(anna,reggy).
19. likes(peter,rex).
20. likes(peter,beck).
21. likes(peter,urquell).
22. likes(X,Y) :- boy(X), girl(Y), likes(Y,Z), beer(Z).

likes(peter,X). → X22=peter, Y22=X

pos: 22

?- likes(peter,X).

boy(peter).

pos: 8

girl(Y22).

pos: 5

likes(anna,Z22).

Y22=anna

pos: 18

beer(reggy).

Z22=reggy

pos: 0

Negation vs. closed world

- “not”
 - not (Goal) is true if Goal is not true (i.e. not **derivable** from DB)

likes(peter, jana). likes(fred,jana). likes(joe,jana).
likes(peter,mary). likes(fred,mary). likes(joe,mary).
likes(peter,paula). likes(joe,paula). likes(peter,beer).
likes(fred,beer). girl(jana). girl(paula). girl(mary).
boy(peter). boy(fred). boy(joe).
 - who is not liked by fred? who doesn't like beer? who doesn't like any girl? who likes all the girls?

Negation vs. closed world

?- not likes(fred,Who).

?- no

?- not likes(Who, beer).

no

?-boy(B), girl(G), not likes(B,G).

no

4. question needs Universal quantifier but Prolog knows just Existential...

- why are such answers? how to solve it?

Trick is in smart asking ;-)

?- girl(G), not likes(fred,G).

G = paula → enter

no

?- (boy(Who); girl(Who)), not likes(Who, beer).

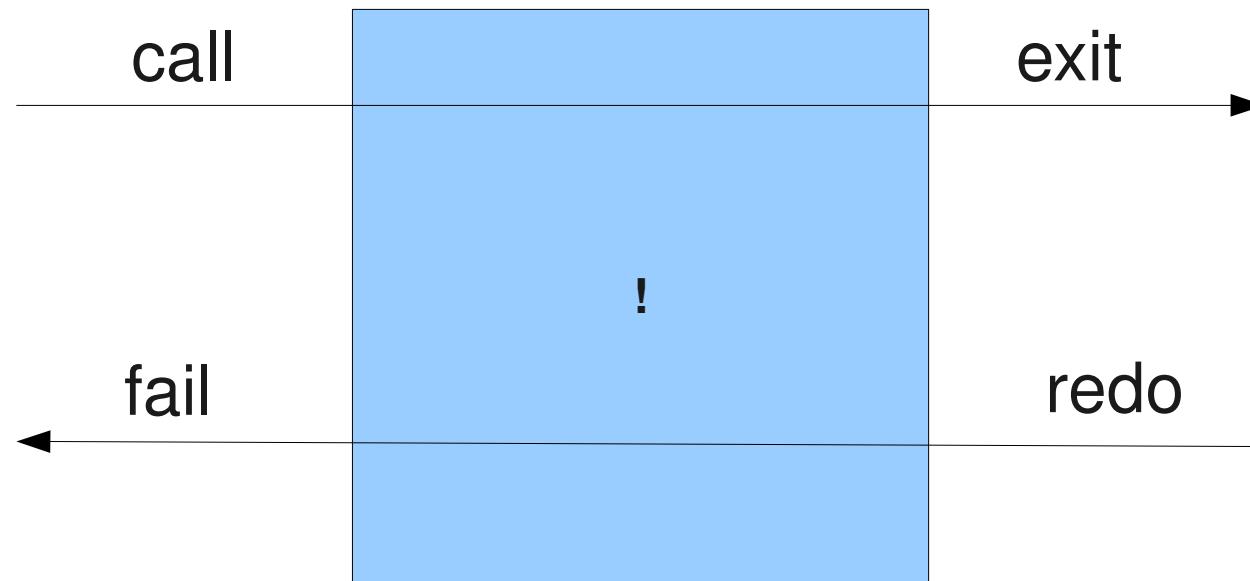
?- boy(B), not ((girl(G), likes(B,G))).

- (()) for right interpretation of “,” as a conjunction and not as a parameter separator

?- boy(B), not((girl(G), not likes(B,G))).

The Cut !

- sounds like a title for a new thriller...
- predicate which exits immediately when call and fails immediately when redo



```
x(t).  
x(tt).  
a(t).  
b(t).  
b(ttt).  
c(w).  
c(ww).  
d(v).  
e(t).  
f(t).
```

```
hc(X) :- x(X), nc(X), y(X).
```

```
nc(X) :- a(X), b(X), !, c(Y), d(Y).  
nc(X) :- e(X), f(X).
```

The Cut !

- moreover, when fails all the predicates on **her** left are unable to redo
 - the parent goal (or the head of the rule) fails immediately, too

```
[trace] ?- hc(X).  
Call: (7) hc(_G335) ? creep  
Call: (8) x(_G335) ? creep  
Exit: (8) x(t) ? creep  
Call: (8) nc(t) ? creep  
Call: (9) a(t) ? creep  
Exit: (9) a(t) ? creep  
Call: (9) b(t) ? creep  
Exit: (9) b(t) ? creep  
Call: (9) c(_L212) ? creep  
Exit: (9) c(w) ? creep  
Call: (9) d(w) ? creep  
Fail: (9) d(w) ? creep  
Redo: (9) c(_L212) ? creep  
Exit: (9) c(ww) ? creep  
Call: (9) d(ww) ? creep  
Fail: (9) d(ww) ? creep  
Fail: (8) nc(t) ? creep  
Redo: (8) x(_G335) ? creep  
Exit: (8) x(tt) ? creep  
Call: (8) nc(tt) ? creep  
Call: (9) a(tt) ? creep  
Fail: (9) a(tt) ? creep  
Redo: (8) nc(tt) ? creep  
Call: (9) e(tt) ? creep  
Fail: (9) e(tt) ? creep  
Fail: (7) hc(_G335) ? creep  
false.
```

The Cut !

```
bigger(X,Y,Z) :- X < Y, Z is Y.  
bigger(X,Y,Z) :- X > Y, Z is X.
```

- Green cut (no impact on semantics)

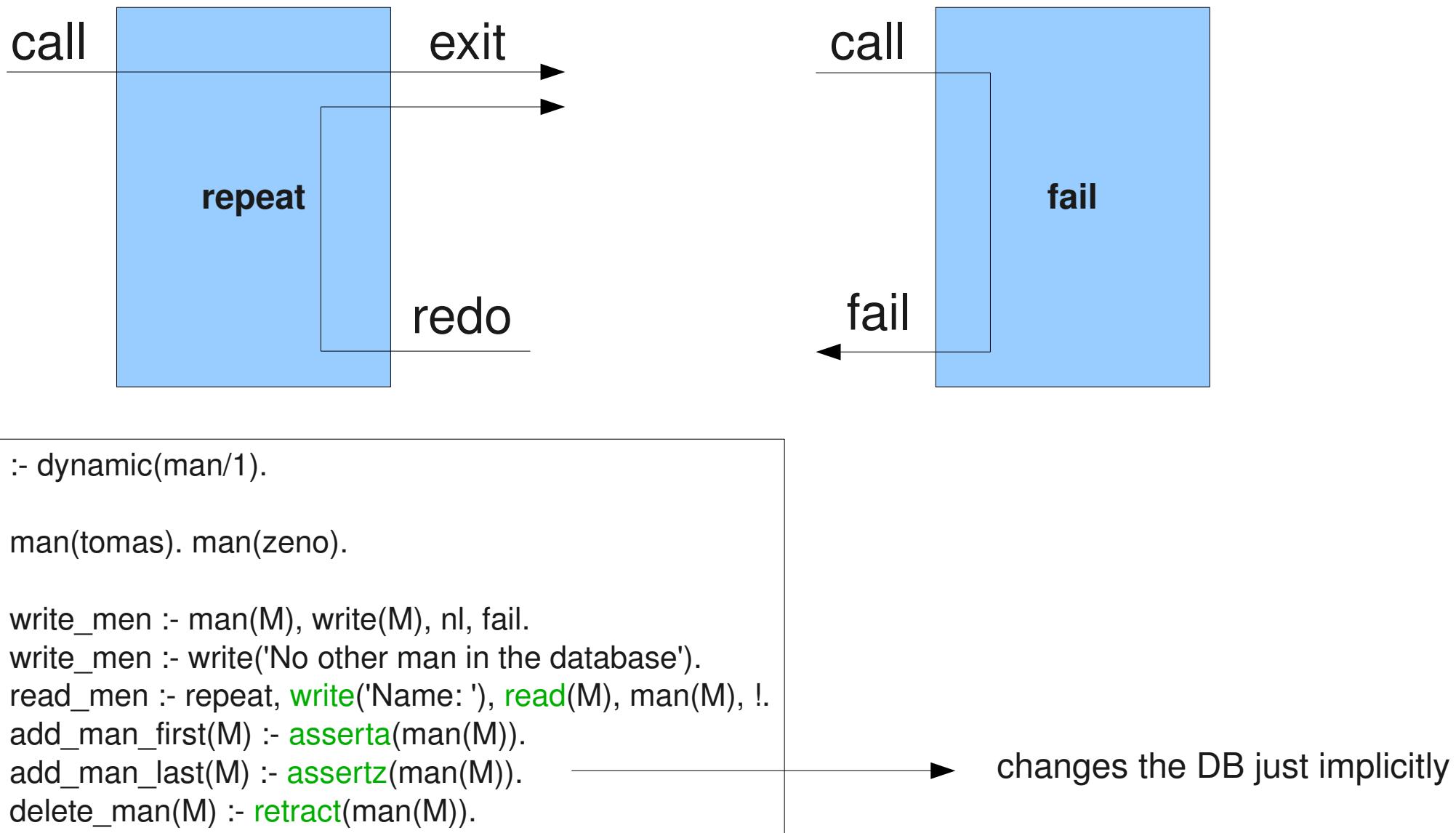
```
bigger1(X,Y,Y) :- X < Y, !.  
bigger1(X,Y,X).
```

- Red cut (influences the semantics)
 - the real horror for computer scientists

```
bigger2(X,Y,Y) :- !, X < Y.  
bigger2(X,Y,X).
```

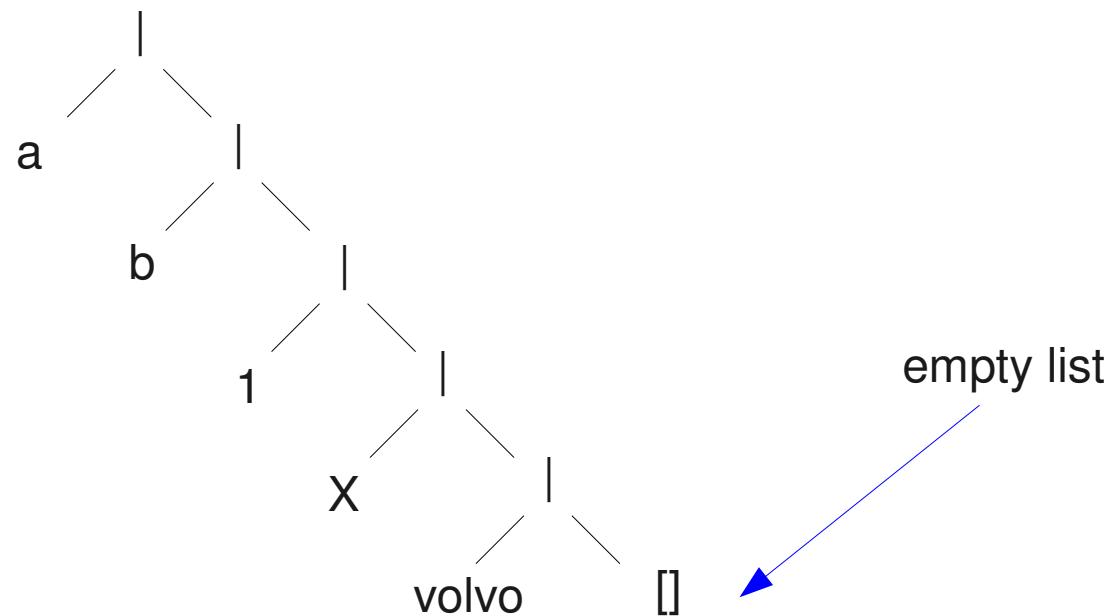


Other interesting built-in predicates



Lists

- [a,b,1,X,volvo]
 - in fact, it is a binary structure [Head | Body]
 - [a | [b | [1 | [X | [volvo | []]]]]]
 - direct access ONLY from the Head
 - can be represented as a tree



Lists

```
results(p1,[1,1,3,2,5,3]).  
results(p2,[2,2,3,1,1,4]).
```

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

```
append([],L,L).  
append([H|B1],L2,[H|B]) :- append(B1,L2,B).
```

```
reverse([],[]).  
reverse([H|B],L) :- reverse(B,X), append(X,[H],L).
```

```
sum([],0).  
sum([H|B],S) :- sum(B,S1), S is S1 + H.
```

```
compute_res1(Prog,Res) :- results(Prog,Results), sum(Results,Res).
```

References

- Lloyd, J. W. 1984 Foundations of Logic Programming. Springer-Verlag New York, Inc.
- this presentation was inspired by the following study materials:
 - Július Csontó: Umelá inteligencia v príkladoch. Elfa s.r.o, Košice, Slovakia, 1995.