

$\text{append}(c(A,X),Y,c(A,Z)). \leftarrow \text{append}(X,Y,Z).$

$\text{append}(\text{nil},Z,Z).$

$\text{ask append}(F,c(L,\text{nil}),c(l,c(i,c(s,c(t,\text{nil}))))).$

$\text{yes}(F,L)\leftarrow\text{append}(F,c(L,\text{nil}),c(l,c(i,c(s,c(t,\text{nil})))))$

resolve with $\text{append}(c(A1,X1),Y1,c(A1,Z1))\leftarrow\text{append}(X1,Y1,Z1)$

substitution: $\{F/c(l,X1), Y1/c(L,\text{nil}), A1/l, Z1/c(i,c(s,c(t,\text{nil})))\}$

$\text{yes}(c(l,X1),L)\leftarrow\text{append}(X1,c(L,\text{nil}),c(i,c(s,c(t,\text{nil}))))$

resolve with $\text{append}(c(A2,X2),Y2,c(A2,Z2))\leftarrow\text{append}(X2,Y2,Z2)$

substitution: $\{X1/c(i,X2), Y2/c(L,\text{nil}), A2/i, Z2/c(s,c(t,\text{nil}))\}$

$\text{yes}(c(l,c(i,X2)),L)\leftarrow\text{append}(X2,c(L,\text{nil}),c(s,c(t,\text{nil})))$

resolve with $\text{append}(c(A3,X3),Y3,c(A3,Z3))\leftarrow\text{append}(X3,Y3,Z3)$

substitution: $\{X2/c(s,X3), Y3/c(L,\text{nil}), A3/s, Z3/c(t,\text{nil})\}$

$\text{yes}(c(l,c(i,c(s,X3))),L)\leftarrow\text{append}(X3,c(L,\text{nil}),c(t,\text{nil}))$

Both clauses are applicable. Choosing the first clause gives:

resolve with $\text{append}(c(A4,X4),Y4,c(A4,Z4))\leftarrow\text{append}(X4,Y4,Z4)$

substitution: $\{X3/c(t,X4), Y4/c(L,\text{nil}), A4/t, Z4/\text{nil}\}$

$\text{yes}(c(l,c(i,c(s,X3))),L)\leftarrow\text{append}(X4,c(L,\text{nil}),\text{nil})$

There are no clauses whose head unifies with the atom in the generalized answer clause's body. The proof fails.

Choosing the second clause instead of the first gives:

resolve with $\text{append}(\text{nil},Z5,Z5).$

substitution: $\{Z5/c(t,\text{nil}), X3/\text{nil}, L/t\}$

$\text{yes}(c(l,c(i,c(s,\text{nil}))),t)\leftarrow$

At this point, the proof succeeds, with answer $F=c(l,c(i,c(s,\text{nil}))), L=t.$