

The cut "!" (Controlling control)

[1] $\text{max}(X,Y,X) :- X \geq Y, !.$

[2] $\text{max}(X,Y,Y) :- X < Y.$ (We assume "even" is built in.)

?- $\text{max}(5,4,M), \text{even}(M).$

[1]

$5 \geq 4, !, \text{even}(5).$

[*]

$!, \text{even}(5).$

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FAIL

Succeed and freeze all choices from the parent goal to the cut goal, inclusive.

[*] indicates choice of a built-in rule