Steps to a Recursive Predicate

1. **Predicate Form:**
   - Choose a predicate name appropriate for something that is true or false.
   - Choose mnemonic argument names.
2. **Spec:** Write the specification in this form:
   pred succeeds iff ...
3. **Base Cases:**
   - When is it so easy to tell the predicate is true that you needn't check any further?
   - Write these base case(s).
4. **Recursive Cases:**
   - When it's not trivial, what do you need to know is true before you can be sure the predicate is true?
   - This is the antecedent of your rule.
   - There may be several non-trivial cases, each needing a rule.

Lists in Prolog

Two ways to describe a list:

1. [*elements-with-commas*]

   Egs: `[a, b, c]`
   `[]`
   `[a, [b, c], d, [], e]`
   `[a, X, c, d]`

2. [*first* | *rest*] (*rest* must be a list)

   Egs: `[a | [b, c]]`
   `[a | Rest]`

Question: Why use the second form with |?

Unifying Lists

```
?- [X, Y, Z] = [john, likes, fish].


?- [cat] = [X|Y].


?- [1,2] = [X|Y].


?- [a,b,c] = [X|Y].


?- [a,b|Z]=[X|Y].


?- [X,abc,Y]=[X,abc|Y].


?- [[the|Y]|Z] = [[X,hare] | [is,here]].
```


Let's Write Some List Predicates

1. member(X, List).
2. append(List1, List2, Result).
3. swapFirstTwo(List1, List2).
4. length(List).

List Membership

Definition of `member`...

```
?- member(a,[a,b]).
Yes
?- member(a,[b,c]).
No
?- member(X,[a,b,c]).
X=a ;
X=b ;
X=c ;
No
?- member(a,[c,b,X]).
X=a ;
No
?- member(X,Y).
X=_G72, Y=[_G72|_G73] ;
X=_G74, Y=[_G72,_G74|_G75] ;
X=_G76, Y=[_G72,_G74,_G76|_G77] ;
...
```

Lazy evaluation of potentially infinite data structures

Trace of Member

```
[trace]  ?- member(c,[a,b,c,d]).
   Call: (7) lists:member(c, [a, b, c, d]) ? creep
   Call: (8) lists:member(c, [b, c, d]) ? creep
   Call: (9) lists:member(c, [c, d]) ? creep
   Exit: (9) lists:member(c, [c, d]) ? creep
   Exit: (8) lists:member(c, [b, c, d]) ? creep
   Exit: (7) lists:member(c, [a, b, c, d]) ? creep

Yes
```

Append - More than "appending"

Definition of `append`

Build a list:

?- append([a],[b],Y).

Y=[a,b]

Yes

Break a list up:

?- append(X,[b],[a,b]).

X=[a]

Yes

?- append([a],Y,[a,b]).

Y=[b]

Yes

Append (cont.)

?- append(X,Y,[a,b]).
X=[],Y=[a,b] ;
X=[a],Y=[b] ;
X=[a,b],Y=[] ;
No

Generate lists:

?- append(X,[b],Z).
X=[],Z=[b] ;
X=[_G98],Z=[_G98,b] ;
X=[_G98,_G102],Z=[_G98,_G102,b] ;
. . .

Trace:

```
[trace]  ?- append([a,b,c],[p,q,r],L).
 Call: (7) lists:append([a, b, c], [p, q, r], _G303) ? creep
 Call: (8) lists:append([b, c], [p, q, r], _G426) ? creep
 Call: (9) lists:append([c], [p, q, r], _G429) ? creep
 Call: (10) lists:append([], [p, q, r], _G432) ? creep
 Exit: (10) lists:append([], [p, q, r], [p, q, r]) ? creep
 Exit: (9) lists:append([c], [p, q, r], [c, p, q, r]) ? creep
 Exit: (8) lists:append([b, c], [p, q, r], [b, c, p, q, r]) ?
 Exit: (7) lists:append
     ([a, b, c], [p, q, r], [a, b, c, p, q, r]) ? creep

L = [a, b, c, p, q, r] ;

No
```

Try some other traces!

Computing the Length of a List

Definition of `length`...

```
?- length([a,b,c],L).
L = 3

?- length([],L).
L = 0

?- length(X,3).
X = [_G66,_G68,_G70]

?- length(X,0).
X = []
```

NOTE: Use built-in length function!!

Trace of Length:

Observe why this doesn't work!

```
xlength([],0).
xlength([_|Y],N) :- xlength(Y,N-1).
```

```
[trace]  ?- xlength([a,b,c,d],X).
   Call: (7) xlength([a, b, c, d], _G296) ? creep
   Call: (8) xlength([b, c, d], _G296-1) ? creep
   Call: (9) xlength([c, d], _G296-1-1) ? creep
   Call: (10) xlength([d], _G296-1-1-1) ? creep
   Call: (11) xlength([], _G296-1-1-1-1) ? creep
   Fail: (11) xlength([], _G296-1-1-1-1) ? creep
   Fail: (10) xlength([d], _G296-1-1-1) ? creep
   Fail: (9) xlength([c, d], _G296-1-1) ? creep
   Fail: (8) xlength([b, c, d], _G296-1) ? creep
   Fail: (7) xlength([a, b, c, d], _G296) ? creep
No
```

Trace of Length (cont)

But this does work

```
mylength([],0).
mylength([_|Y],N) :- mylength2(Y,M), N is M+1.
```

```
[trace]  ?- mylength([a,b,c,d],X).
   Call: (7) mylength([a, b, c, d], _G296) ? creep
   Call: (8) mylength([b, c, d], _L206) ? creep
   Call: (9) mylength([c, d], _L225) ? creep
   Call: (10) mylength([d], _L244) ? creep
   Call: (11) mylength([], _L263) ? creep
   Exit: (11) mylength([], 0) ? creep
^  Call: (11) _L244 is 0+1 ? creep
^  Exit: (11) 1 is 0+1 ? creep
   Exit: (10) mylength([d], 1) ? creep
^  Call: (10) _L225 is 1+1 ? creep
^  Exit: (10) 2 is 1+1 ? creep
   Exit: (9) mylength([c, d], 2) ? creep
^  Call: (9) _L206 is 2+1 ? creep
^  Exit: (9) 3 is 2+1 ? creep
   Exit: (8) mylength([b, c, d], 3) ? creep
^  Call: (8) _G296 is 3+1 ? creep
^  Exit: (8) 4 is 3+1 ? creep
   Exit: (7) mylength([a, b, c, d], 4) ? creep
X = 4
Yes
```


Accessing More Than One Initial Element

Definition of `swap_first_two`...

```
?- swap_first_two([a,b], [b,a]).
Yes
?- swap_first_two([a,b], [b,c]).
No
?- swap_first_two([a,b,c], [b,a,c]).
Yes
?- swap_first_two([a,b,c], [b,a,d]).
No
?- swap_first_two([a,b,c], X).
X = [b,a,c];
No
?- swap_first_two([a,b|Y], X).
Y = _56, X = [b,a|_56];
No
?- swap_first_two([],X).
No
?- swap_first_two([a],X).
No
?- swap_first_two([a,b],X).
X = [b,a];
No
```

Lists of a Specified Length

Definition of `list_of_elem`...

```
?- list_elem(X,b,3).
X = [b,b,b];
ERROR:  Out of global stack
?- list_of_elem(X,Y,2).
X = [_50,_50]
Y = _50;
ERROR:  Out of global stack
```


Lists of a Specified Length

New definition of `list_of_elem`...

```
?- working_list_elem(X,b,3).
X = [b,b,b];
No

?- working_list_elem(X,Y,2).
X = [_50,_50]
Y = _50;
No
```

Beyond Horn Logic

- So far, we have studied what is known as *pure* logic programming, in which all the rules are Horn.
- For some applications, however, we need to go beyond this.
- For instance, we often need
  - Arithmetic
  - Negation
- Fortunately, these can easily be accomodated by simple extensions to the logic-programming framework,

Arithmetic in Prolog

What is the result of these queries:

```
?- X = 97-65,  Y = 32-0,  X = Y.

?- X = 97-65,  Y = 67,  Z = 95-Y,  X = Z.
```

To get an expression evaluated, use

`X is` *expression*

where *expression*

- is an arithmetic expression, and
- is fully instantiated.

Examples:

```
?- X is 10+17.

?- Y is 7, Z is 3+4, Y=Z.
```

Let's Write Some Predicates with Arithmetic

1. factorial(N, Ans).
2. sumlist(List, Total).

Factorial

```
factorial(0,1).

factorial(X,Y) :- W is X-1,
                  factorial(W,Z),
                  Y is Z*X.
```

What are the preconditions for factorial?

Factorial with an Accumulator:

```
factorial2(0,X,X).

factorial2(N,A,F) :-
   N > 0,
   A1 is N*A,
   N1 is N -1,
   factorial2(N1,A1,F).
```

What are the preconditions?

Trace of Factorial

```
[trace]  ?- factorial(3,X).
   Call: (7) factorial(3, _G284) ? creep
^  Call: (8) _L205 is 3-1 ? creep
^  Exit: (8) 2 is 3-1 ? creep
   Call: (8) factorial(2, _L206) ? creep
^  Call: (9) _L224 is 2-1 ? creep
^  Exit: (9) 1 is 2-1 ? creep
   Call: (9) factorial(1, _L225) ? creep
^  Call: (10) _L243 is 1-1 ? creep
^  Exit: (10) 0 is 1-1 ? creep
   Call: (10) factorial(0, _L244) ? creep
   Exit: (10) factorial(0, 1) ? creep
^  Call: (10) _L225 is 1*1 ? creep
^  Exit: (10) 1 is 1*1 ? creep
   Exit: (9) factorial(1, 1) ? creep
^  Call: (9) _L206 is 1*2 ? creep
^  Exit: (9) 2 is 1*2 ? creep
   Exit: (8) factorial(2, 2) ? creep
^  Call: (8) _G284 is 2*3 ? creep
^  Exit: (8) 6 is 2*3 ? creep
   Exit: (7) factorial(3, 6) ? creep
X = 6
Yes
```


Trace of Factorial w/ an Accumulator

```
[trace]  ?- factorial2(3,1,Z).
   Call: (8) factorial2(3, 1, _G288) ? creep
^  Call: (9) 3>0 ? creep
^  Exit: (9) 3>0 ? creep
^  Call: (9) _L206 is 3*1 ? creep
^  Exit: (9) 3 is 3*1 ? creep
^  Call: (9) _L207 is 3-1 ? creep
^  Exit: (9) 2 is 3-1 ? creep
   Call: (9) factorial2(2, 3, _G288) ? creep
^  Call: (10) 2>0 ? creep
^  Exit: (10) 2>0 ? creep
^  Call: (10) _L226 is 2*3 ? creep
^  Exit: (10) 6 is 2*3 ? creep
^  Call: (10) _L227 is 2-1 ? creep
^  Exit: (10) 1 is 2-1 ? creep
   Call: (10) factorial2(1, 6, _G288) ? creep
^  Call: (11) 1>0 ? creep
^  Exit: (11) 1>0 ? creep
^  Call: (11) _L246 is 1*6 ? creep
^  Exit: (11) 6 is 1*6 ? creep
^  Call: (11) _L247 is 1-1 ? creep
^  Exit: (11) 0 is 1-1 ? creep
   Call: (11) factorial2(0, 6, _G288) ? creep
   Exit: (11) factorial2(0, 6, 6) ? creep
   Exit: (10) factorial2(1, 6, 6) ? creep
   Exit: (9) factorial2(2, 3, 6) ? creep
   Exit: (8) factorial2(3, 1, 6) ? creep
Z = 6
Yes
```

Sum of List

```
sumlist([],0).

sumlist([X|Rest],Ans) :- sumlist(Rest,Partial),
                         Ans is Partial+X.
```

Trace:

```
[trace]  ?- sumlist([5,10,3],Y).
   Call: (7) sumlist([5, 10, 3], _G293) ? creep
   Call: (8) sumlist([10, 3], _L207) ? creep
   Call: (9) sumlist([3], _L227) ? creep
   Call: (10) sumlist([], _L247) ? creep
   Exit: (10) sumlist([], 0) ? creep
^  Call: (10) _L227 is 0+3 ? creep
^  Exit: (10) 3 is 0+3 ? creep
   Exit: (9) sumlist([3], 3) ? creep
^  Call: (9) _L207 is 3+10 ? creep
^  Exit: (9) 13 is 3+10 ? creep
   Exit: (8) sumlist([10, 3], 13) ? creep
^  Call: (8) _G293 is 13+5 ? creep
^  Exit: (8) 18 is 13+5 ? creep
   Exit: (7) sumlist([5, 10, 3], 18) ? creep

Y = 18

Yes
```


Arithmetic Predicates may not be Invertible

We may not be able to "invert" a predicate that involves arithmetic.

That is, we may not be able to put a variable in a different place.

Tip: Every time you write `is`, you must be sure the expression will be fully instantiated. If necessary, put a precondition on your predicate.

Negation as Failure

No equivalent of logical not in Prolog:

- Prolog can only assert that something is true.
- Prolog **cannot** assert that something is false.
- Prolog can assert that the given facts and rules do not allow something to be proven true.

Negation as Failure

Assuming that something unprovable is false is called **negation as failure**.

(Based on a **closed world assumption**.)

The goal \+(G) succeeds whenever the goal G fails.

```
?- member(b,[a,b,c]).
Yes
?- \+(member(b,[a,b,c])).
No
?- \+(member(b,[a,c])).
yes
```

Example: Disjoint Sets

```
overlap(S1,S2) :- member(X,S1),member(X,S2).

disjoint(S1,S2) :- \+(overlap(S1,S2)).

?- overlap([a,b,c],[c,d,e]).
Yes
?- overlap([a,b,c],[d,e,f]).
No
?- disjoint([a,b,c],[c,d,e]).
No
?- disjoint([a,b,c],[d,e,f]).
Yes
?- disjoint([a,b,c],X).
No   %<---------Not what we wanted
```


Example: Disjoint Sets (cont.)

```
overlap(S1,S2) :- member(X,S1),member(X,S2).

disjoint(S1,S2) :- \+(overlap(S1,S2)).

?- disjoint([a,b,c],X).
No   %<---------Not what we wanted


[trace]  ?- disjoint([a,b,c],X).
   Call: (7) disjoint([a, b, c], _G293) ? creep
   Call: (8) overlap([a, b, c], _G293) ? creep
   Call: (9) lists:member(_L230, [a, b, c]) ? creep
   Exit: (9) lists:member(a, [a, b, c]) ? creep
   Call: (9) lists:member(a, _G293) ? creep
   Exit: (9) lists:member(a, [a|_G352]) ? creep
   Exit: (8) overlap([a, b, c], [a|_G352]) ? creep
   Fail: (7) disjoint([a, b, c], _G293) ? creep

No
```

Proper use of Negation as Failure

\+(G) works properly only in the following cases:

1. When G is fully instantiated at the time prolog processes the goal \+(G).

   (In this case, \+(G) is interpreted to mean "goal G does not succeed".)

2. When all variables in G are unique to G, i.e., they don't appear elsewhere in the same clause.

   (In this case, \+(G(X)) is interpreted to mean "There is no value of X that will make G(X) succeed".)

Safety

Consider the following rule:

(*) `hates(tom,X) :- not loves(tom,X).`

This may NOT be what we want, for several reasons:

- The answer is *infinite*, since for any person `p` not mentioned in the database, we cannot infer `loves(tom,p)`, so we must infer `hates(tom,p)`.

  Rule (*) is therefore said to be unsafe.

- The rule does not require `X` to be a person. *e.g.*, since we cannot infer

  ```
  loves(tom,hammer)
  loves(tom,verbs)
  loves(tom,green)
  loves(tom,abc)
  ```

  we must infer that tom hates all these things.

Safety (Cont'd)

To avoid these problems, rules with negation should be guarded:

```
hates(tom,X) :- vegetable(x), green(X),
                not loves(tom,X).
```

i.e., Tom hates every green vegetable that he does not love.

Here, `vegetable` and `green` are called guard literals. They guard against safety problems by binding `X` to specific values in the database.