

part(a).

part(b).

part(c).

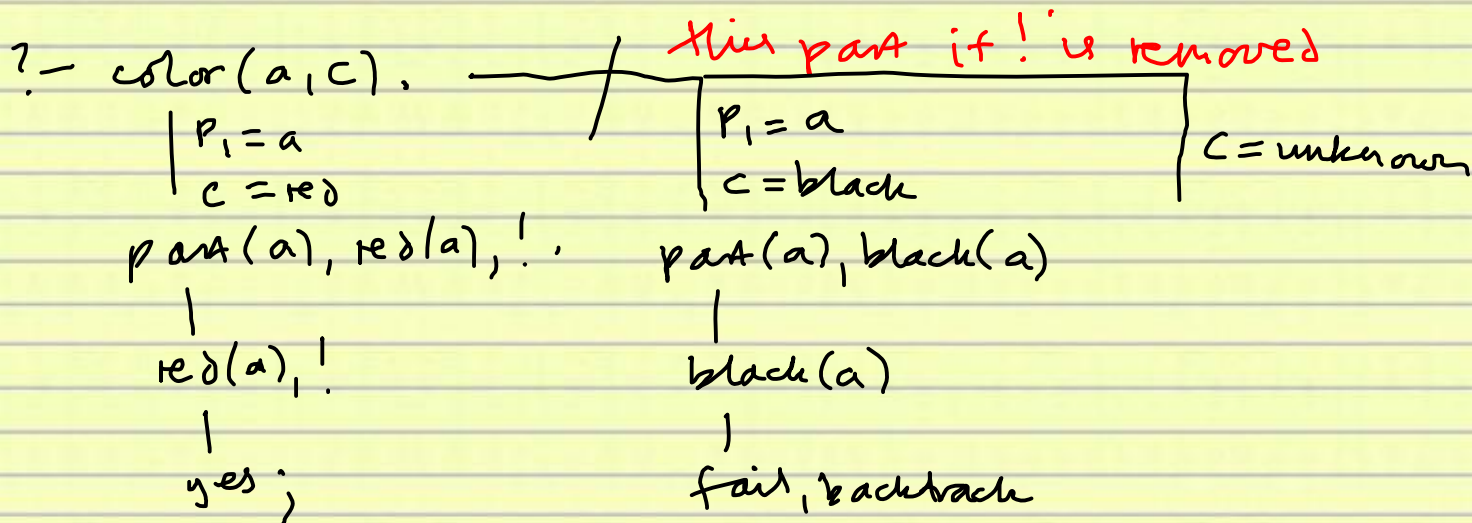
red(a).

black(b).

color(P, red) :- part(P), red(P), !.

color(P, black) :- part(P), black(P), !.

color(-, unknown).



The cut disallows the possibility of a part having two colors.

Negation

- big topic in logic, but very limited in Prolog
- Prolog can only have a true head term for a rule (Horn clause logic)
- can have negation on RHS of a rule

e.g. bachelor(P) :- male(P), not(married(P)).

male(henry).

male(tom).

married(tom).

? - bachelor(henry)

| P₁ = henry

male(henry), not(married(henry))

|

not(married(henry))

|

yes

'negation as failure'

- if the enclosed term succeeds, not fails

- if the term fails, not succeeds

? - bachelor (Who).

| P₁ = Who

male (Who), not (married (Who))

| Who = Henry

not (married (Henry))

| yes, Who = Henry

? - bachelor (Who). with male facts swapped

| P₁ = Who

male (Who), not (married (Who))

| Who = Tom

not (married (Tom))

| fail

? - not(married(Who)).

| Who = tom

no

This is not true negation from logic. Some results are counterintuitive

We can write not in Prolog:

not(Q) :- call Q, !, fail.

not(-).

If ^{call} hQ succeeds then the ! ensures immediate failure

If call Q fails the fact will succeed, therefore not succeeds.

? - not(married(henry))

| Q = married(henry)

call married(henry), !, fail

| fail

yes (matches the fact)

? - not (married (tom))
 | Q₁ = married (tom)
 call married (tom), !, fail
 |
 !, fail
 |
 fail
 |
 no

? - not (married (Who))
 | Q₁ = married (Who)
 call married (Who), !, fail
 | Who₂ = tom
 |
 !, fail
 |
 fail
 |
 no

tom prevents us
 from finding the
 negative fact about
 henry.