

## recursion

We have multiple ways to use recursion: in the database and in our queries for example we can make properties transitive.

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dadof(you,dad).  
dadof(dad,granddad).  
dadof(granddad, petethegreat).  
momof(petethegreat,eve)  
ancestorof(X,Y):- dadof(X,Y).  
ancestorof(X,Y):- momof(X,Y).  
%naive: ancestorof(X,Y):- ancestorof(X,Z),ancestor(Z,Y).
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%better:  
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## recursion on lists

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So when we search for members we can simply search

```
?- member(anvar,[roald, winand, anvar, alexey, sjoerd])
```

which would say yes

## recursion

in prolog we do have to be careful when using recursion, for example with:

```
something :- something.
```

...

we also want to use tail recursion in favour of head recursion:

```
lengthH([],0).  
lengthH([H|T],N):- lengthH(T,X), N is X+1.  
lengthT([H|T],A,L) :- Anew is A+1, lengthT(T,Anew,L).  
lengthT([],L,L).  
lengthTail(List,L) :- lengthT(List,0,L). %to make it nicer
```