CSc 372

Comparative Programming Languages

20 : Prolog — Execution

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Executing Prolog

- Now that we know about matching, we can take a closer look at how Prolog tries to satisfy goals.
- In general, to solve a goal

$$G = G_1, G_2, \cdots, G_m,$$

  Prolog will first try to solve the sub-goal G_1.
- It solves a sub-goal G_1 it will look for a rule

$$H_i \text{ :- } B_1, \cdots, B_n$$

  in the database, such that G_1 and H_i will match.
- Any variable substitutions resulting from the match will be stored in a variable θ.

[2]

Executing Prolog...

- A new goal will be constructed by replacing G_1 with $B_1, \cdots, B_n$, yielding

$$G' = B_1, \cdots, B_n, G_2, \cdots, G_m.$$

  If $n = 0$ the new goal will be shorter and we'll be one step closer to a solution to G!

- Any new variable bindings from θ are applied to the new goal, yielding G''.
- We recursively try to find a solution to G''.

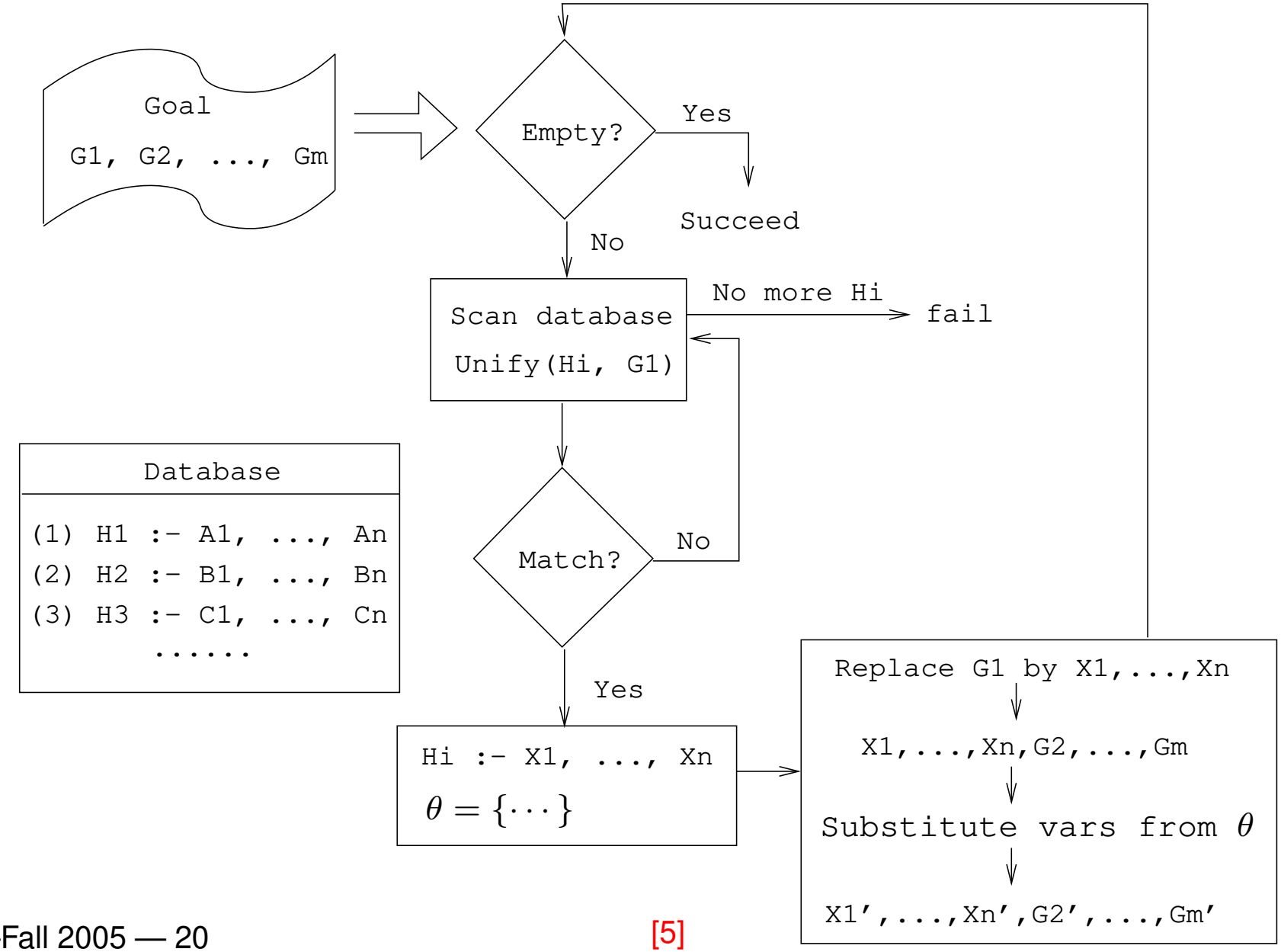
[3]

Executing Prolog...

```
FUNC Execute (G = G_1, G_2, ..., G_m; Result);
    IF Is_Empty(G) THEN Result := Yes
    ELSE
        Result := No;
        i := 1;
        WHILE Result=No & i ≤ NoOfClauses DO
            Clause := H_i :- B_1, ..., B_n;
            IF Unify(G_1, Clause, θ) THEN
                G' := B_1, ..., B_n, G_2, ..., G_m;
                G'' := substitute(G', θ);
                Execute(G'', Result);
            ENDIF;
            i := i + 1;
        ENDDO
    ENDIF
```


[4]

Executing Prolog



[5]

Northern Exposure Example

```
% From the Northern Exposure FAQ
% friend(of, kind(name, regular)).
friend(maggie, person(eve, yes)).
friend(maggie, moose(morty, yes)).
friend(maggie, person(harry, no)).
friend(maggie, person(bruce, no)).
friend(maggie, person(glenn, no)).
friend(maggie, person(dave, no)).
friend(maggie, person(rick, no)).
friend(maggie, person(mike, yes)).
friend(maggie, person(joel, yes)).
```


[6]

Maggie (Janine Turner)

[7]

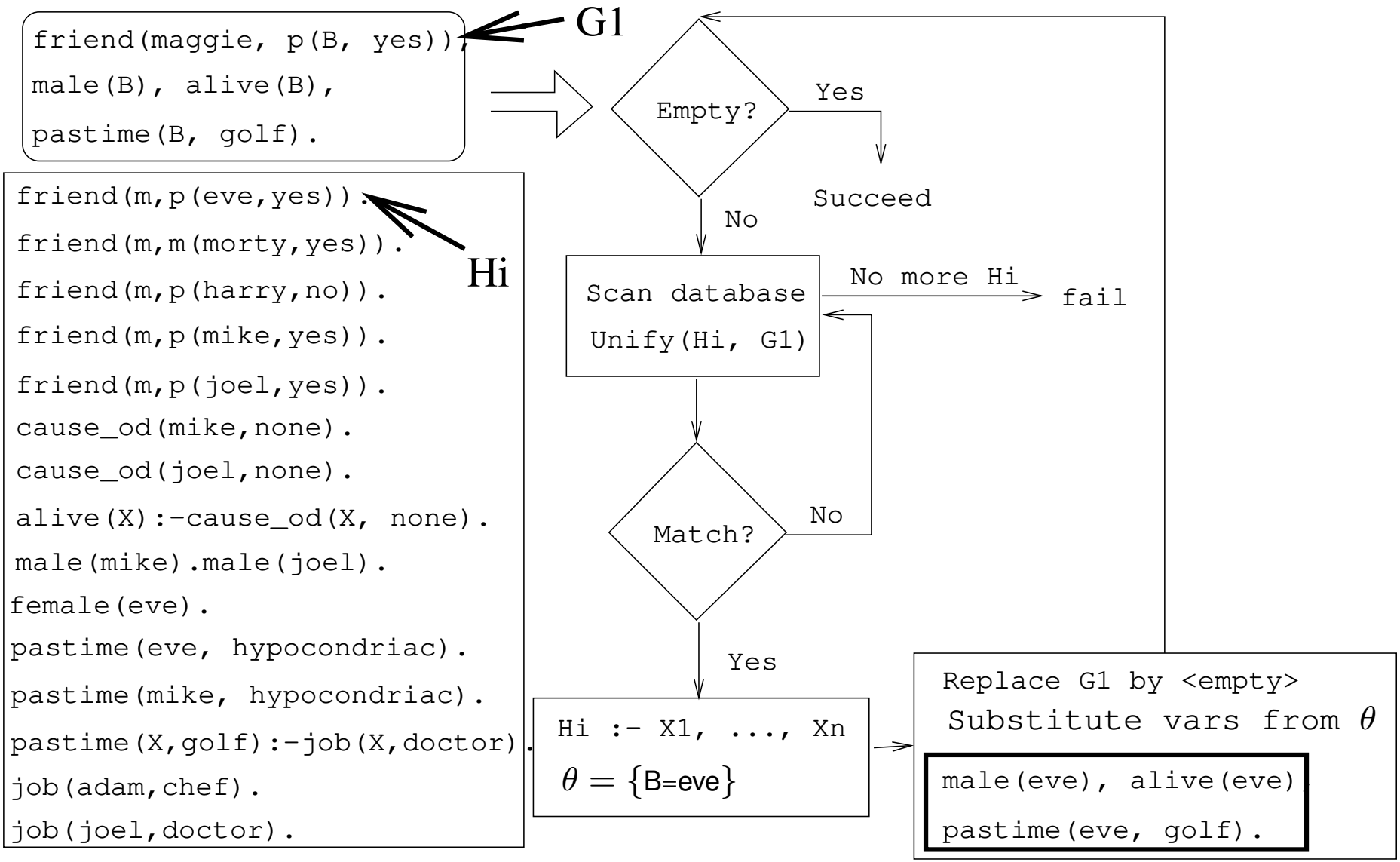
Northern Exposure Example...

```
cause_of_death(morty, copper_deficiency).
cause_of_death(harry, potato_salad).
cause_of_death(bruce, fishing_accident).
cause_of_death(glenn, missile).
cause_of_death(dave, hypothermia).
cause_of_death(rick, hit_by_satellite).
cause_of_death(mike, none_yet).
cause_of_death(joel, none_yet).

male(morty).  male(harry).  male(bruce).
male(glenn).  male(dave).  male(rick).
male(mike).  male(joel).  female(eve).
```

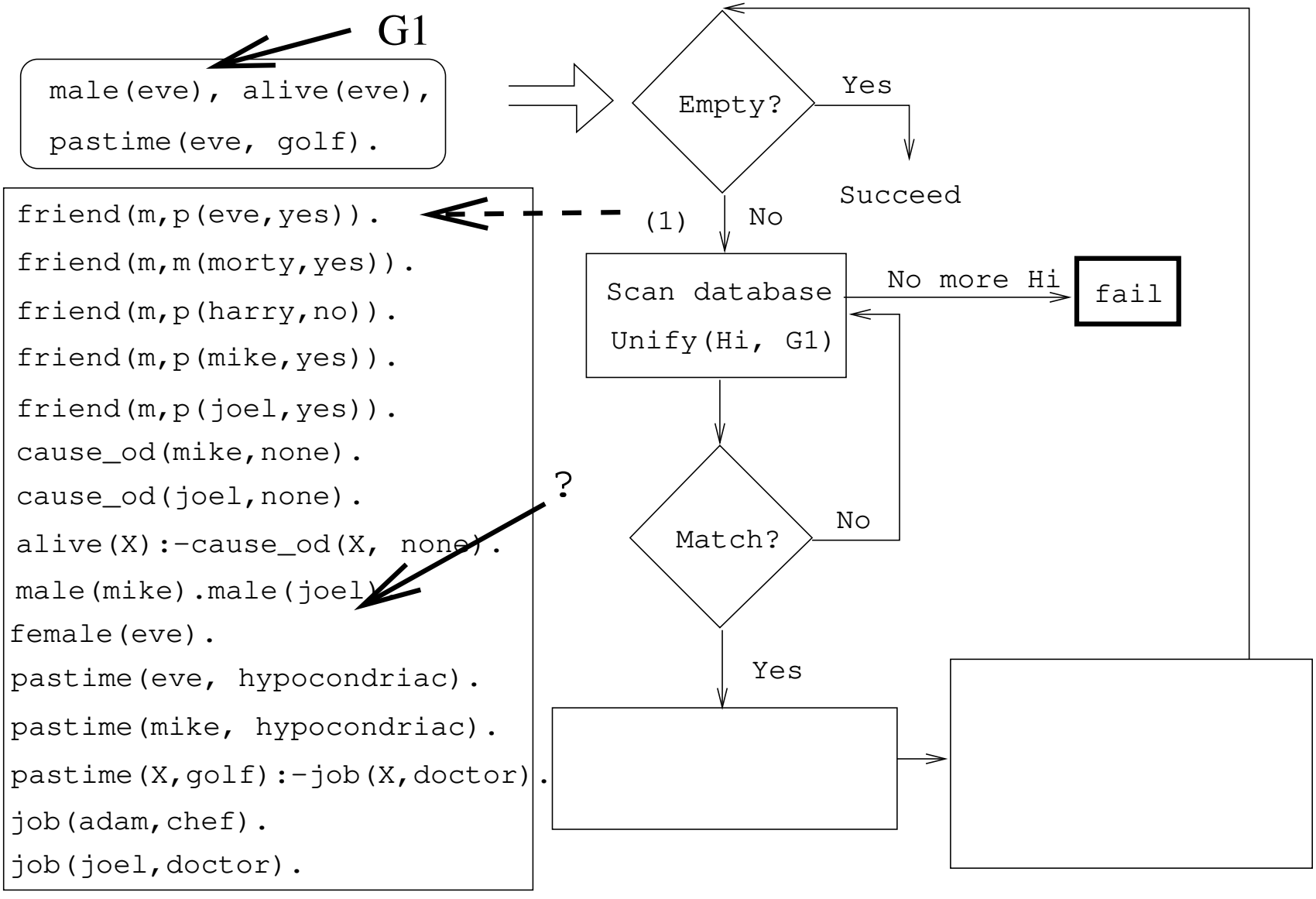
Northern Exposure Example...

```
alive(X) :- cause_of_death(X, none_yet).

pastime(eve, hypochondria).
pastime(mike, hypochondria).
pastime(X, golf) :- job(X,doctor).

job(mike, lawyer).  job(adam, chef).
job(maggie, pilot).  job(joel, doctor).

?- friend(maggie, person(B, yes)),
      male(B),
      alive(B),
      pastime(B, golf).
```

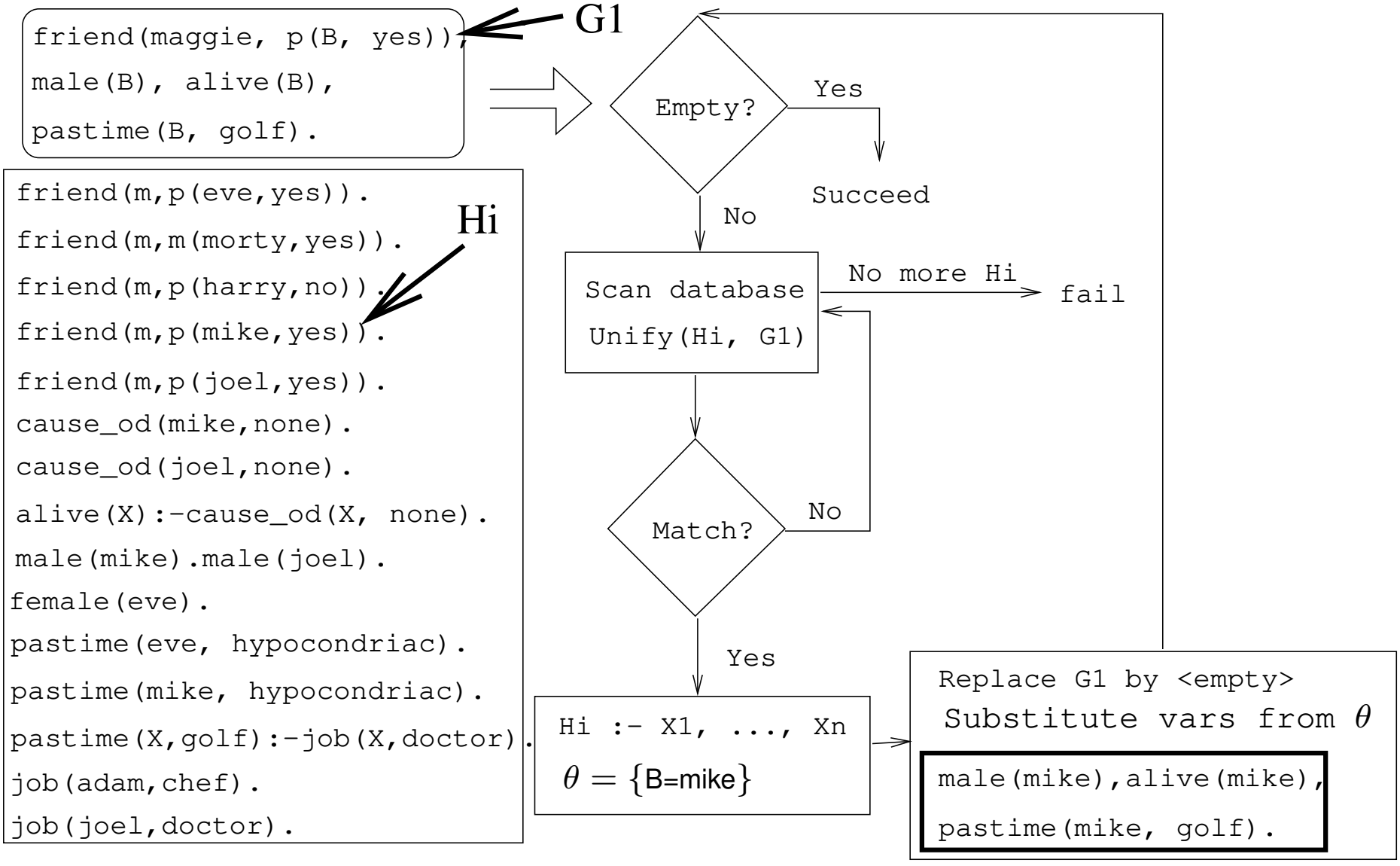
Northern Exposure Example...



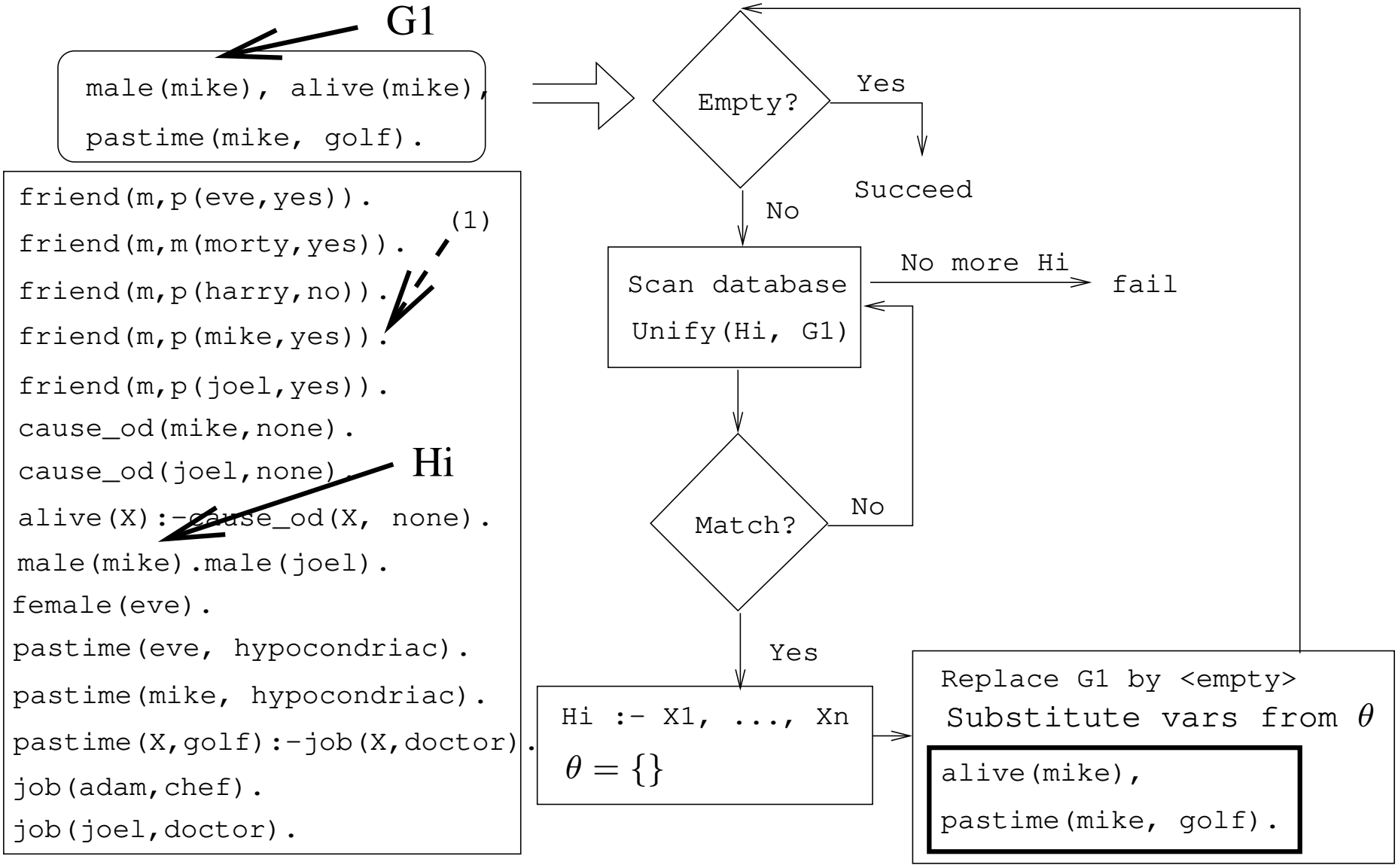
Northern Exposure Example...



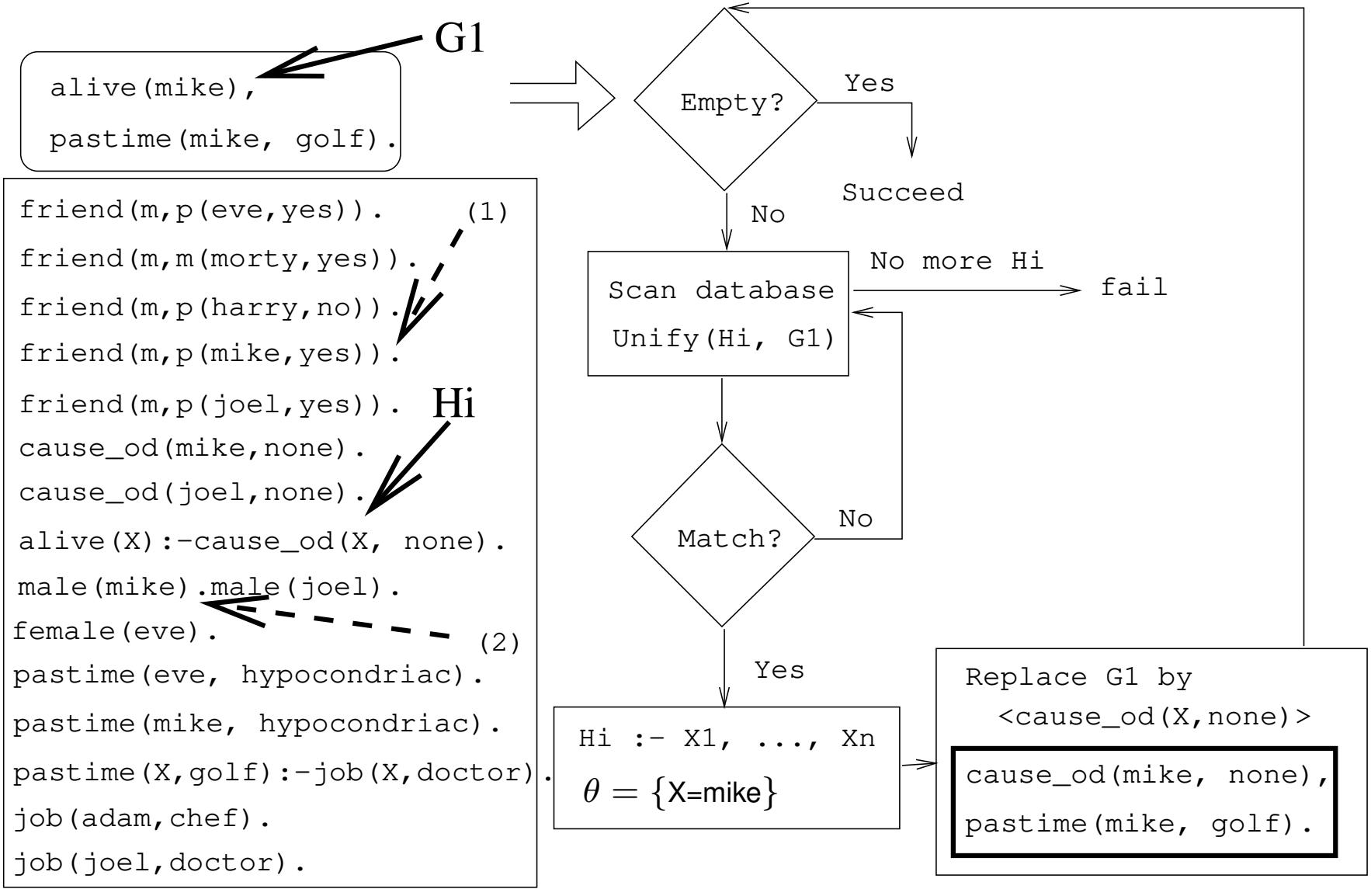
Northern Exposure Example...



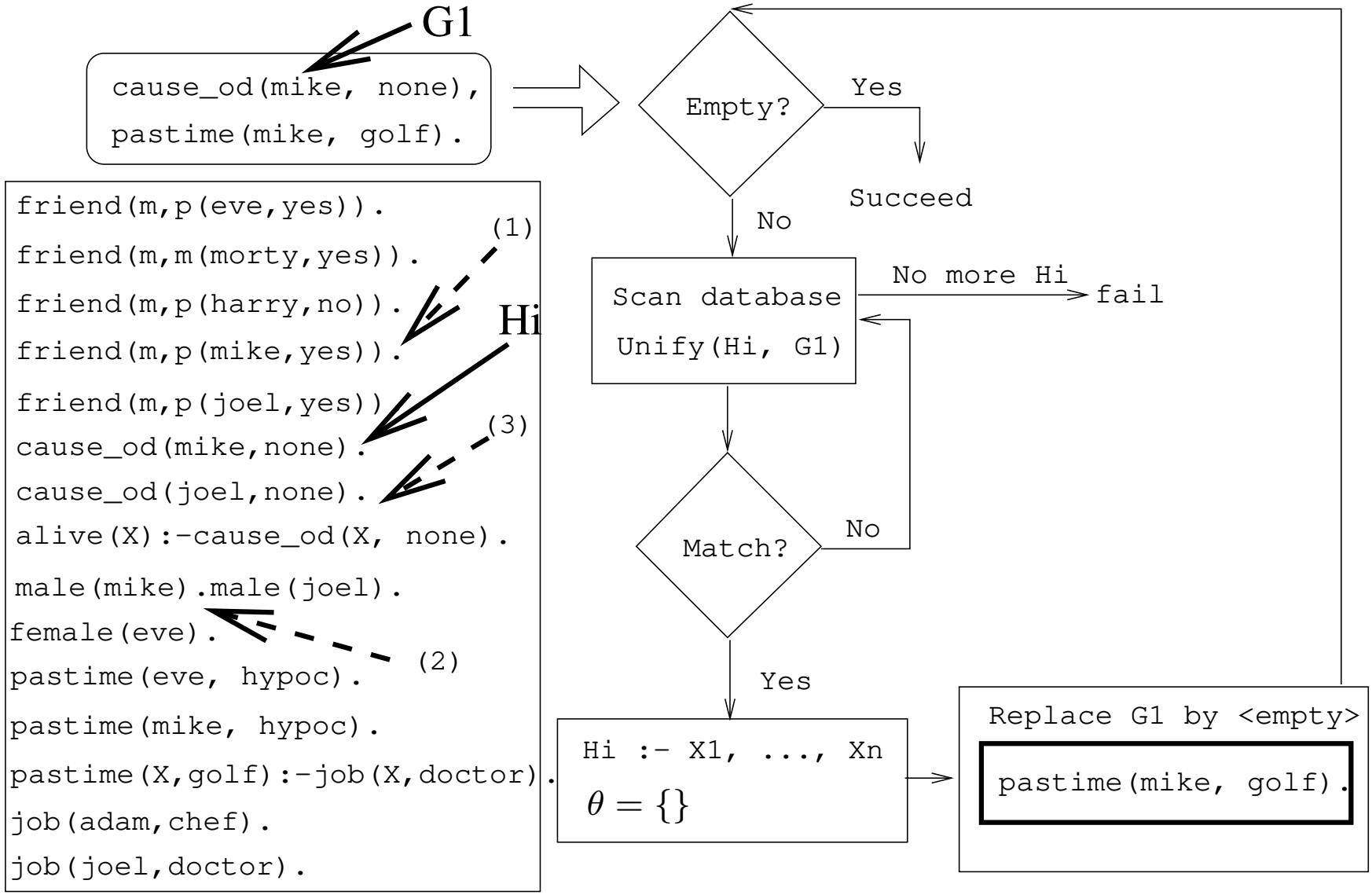
Northern Exposure Example...



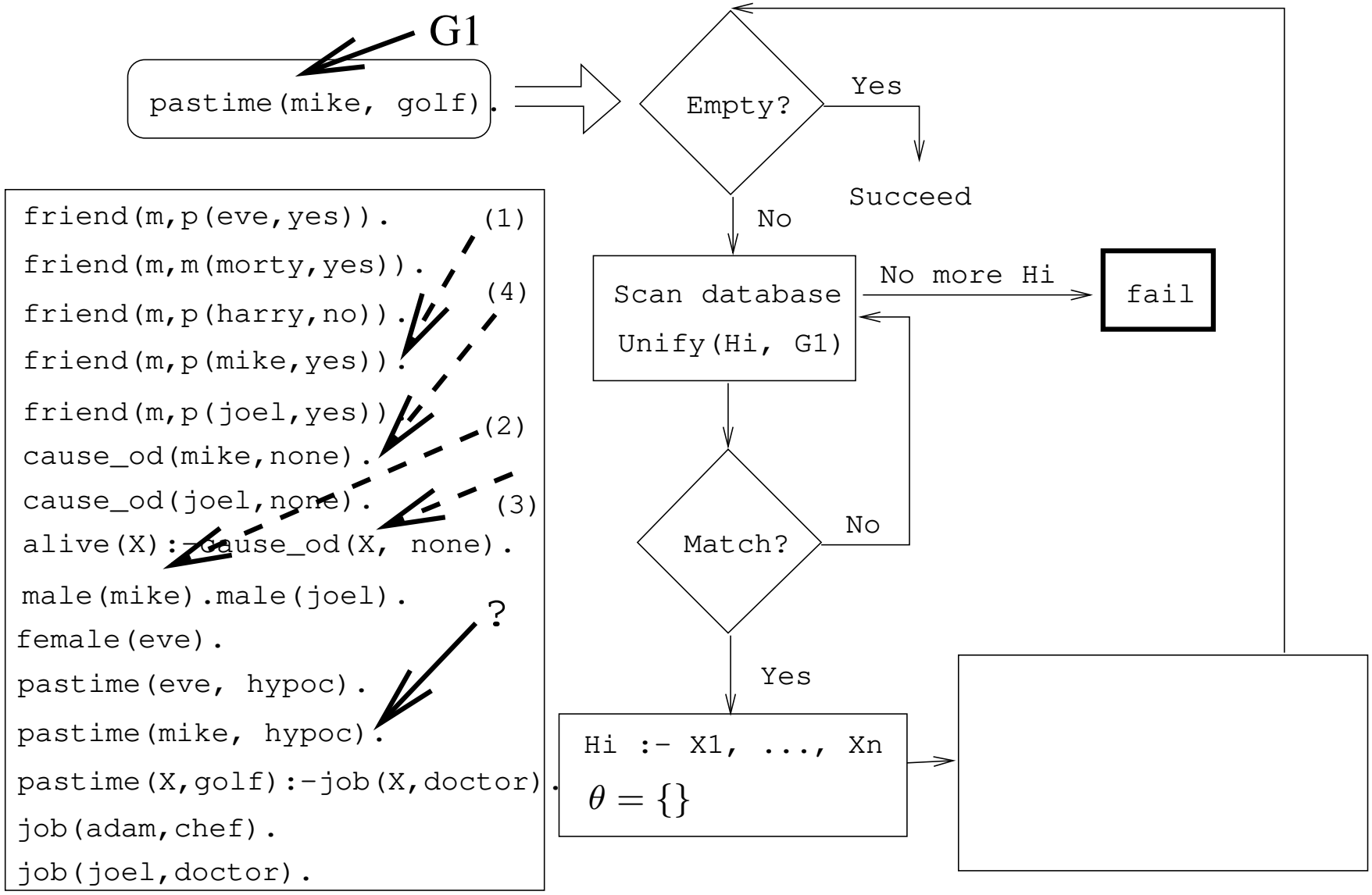
Northern Exposure Example...



Northern Exposure Example...



Northern Exposure Example...



Northern Exposure Example...

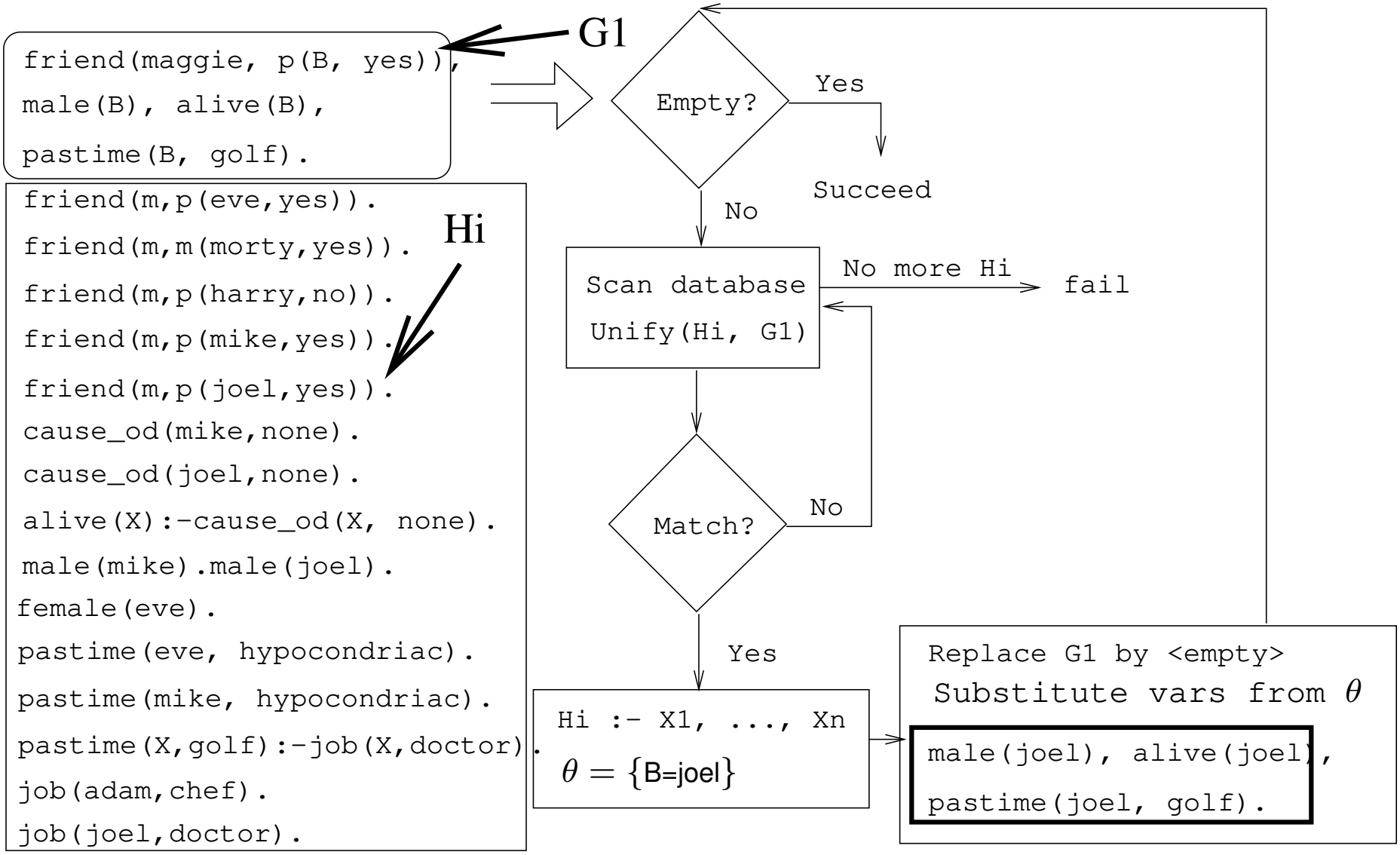
- We skip a step here.
- `pastime(mike, golf)` unifies with

```
pastime(X, golf) :- job(X, doctor).
```

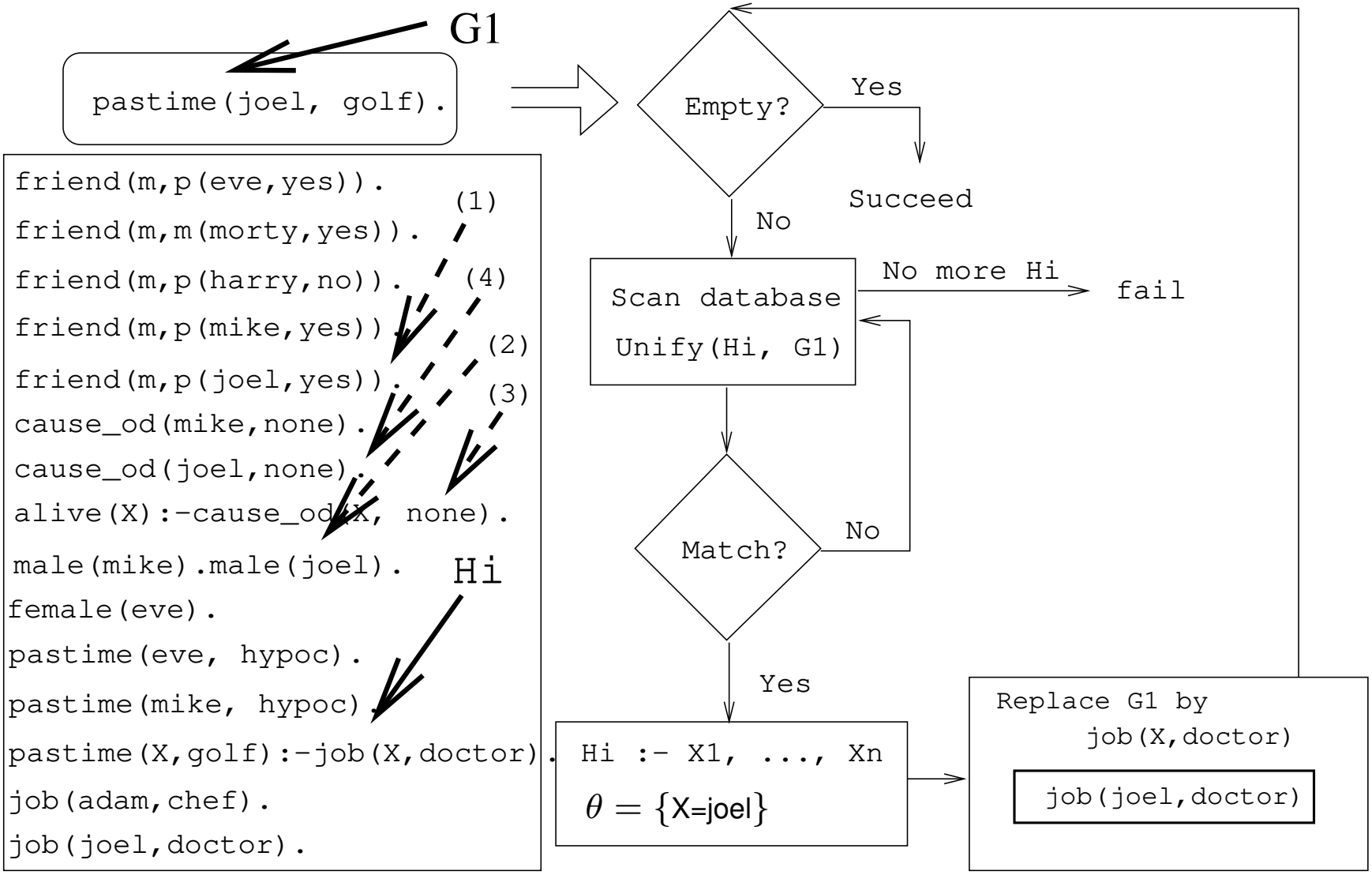
.

- However, `job(mike, doctor)` fails, and we backtrack all the way up to the original query.

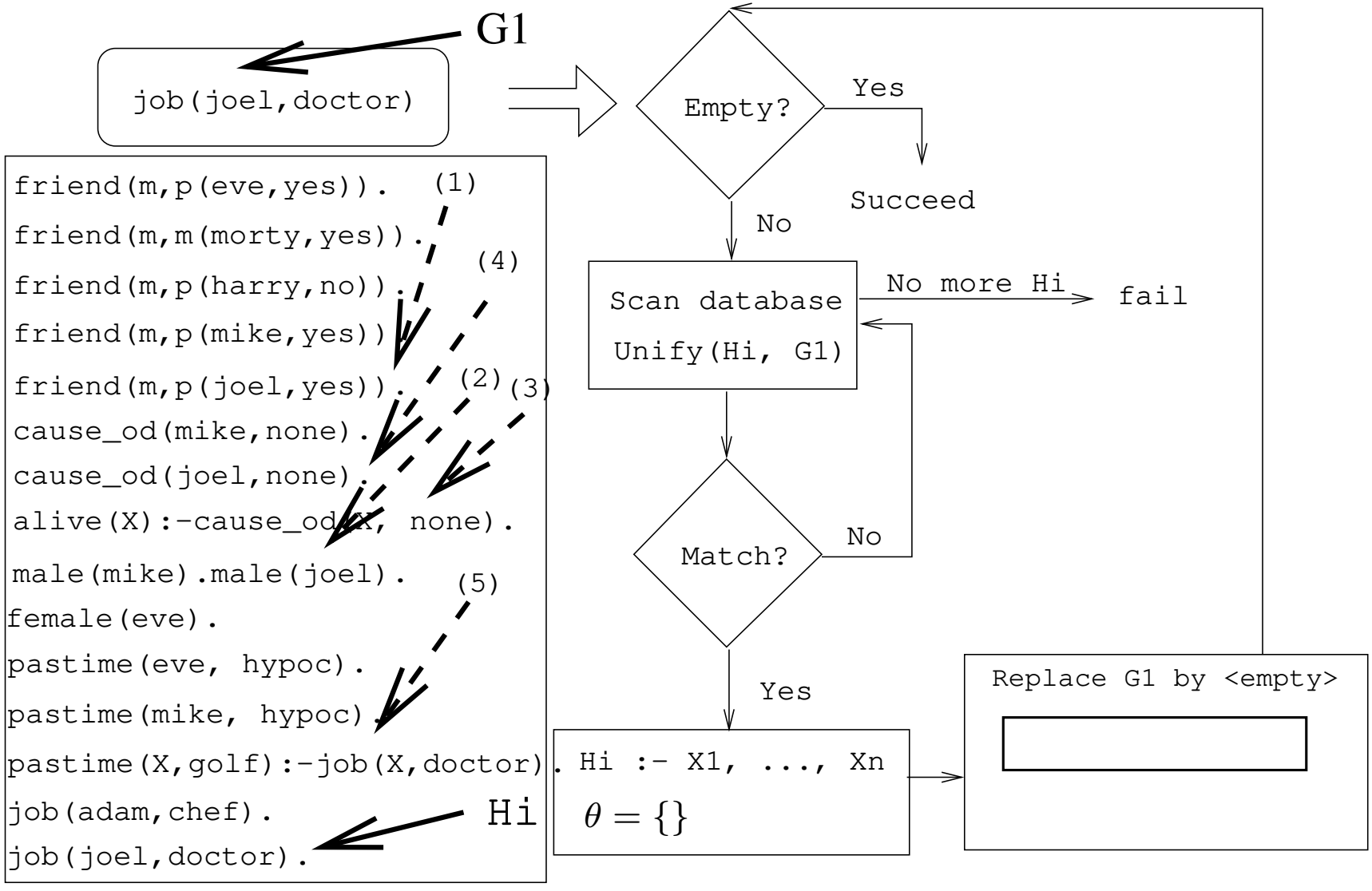
Northern Exposure Example...



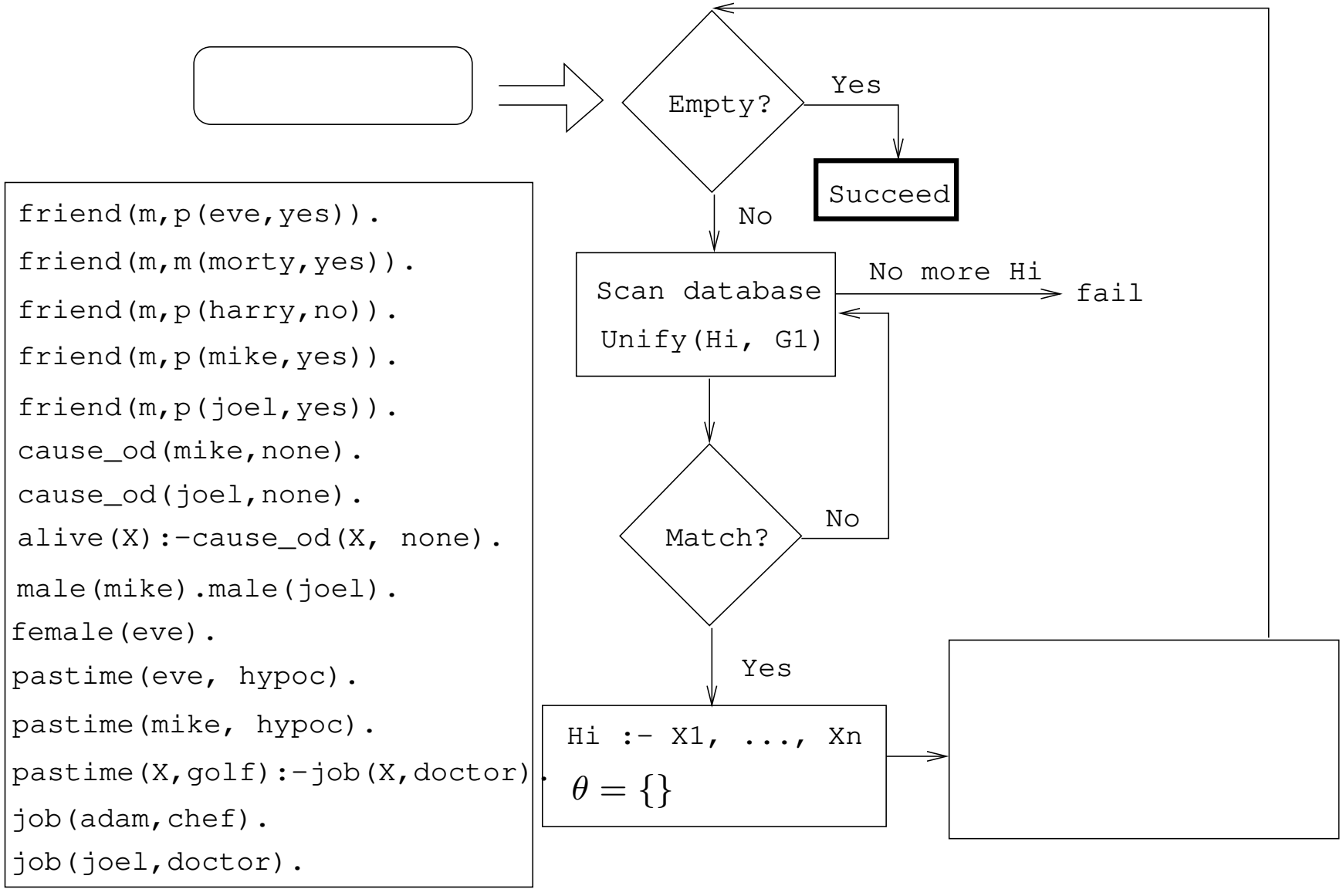
Northern Exposure Example...



Northern Exposure Example...



Northern Exposure Example...



Readings and References

- Read Clocksin-Mellish, Section 4.1.
- See http://www.moosefest.org for information about the annual Moosefest.
- See http://members.lycos.co.uk/janineturner/engl/index.html for pictures of Janine Turner, who plays Maggie.
- See http://home.comcast.net/~mcnotes/mcnotes.html for show transcripts.

Prolog So Far…

- A term is either a
  - a constant (an atom or integer)
  - a variable
  - a structure
- Two terms *match* if
  - there exists a variable substitution θ which makes the terms identical.
- Once a variable becomes instantiated, it stays instantiated.
- Backtracking *undoes* variable instantiations.
- Prolog searches the database sequentially (from top to bottom) until a matching clause is found.