



Structural Induction with Haskell

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Recap: Induction

Definition

Let P(x) be a predicate on natural numbers $x \in \mathbb{N}$. To show $\forall x \in \mathbb{N}$. P(x), we can use induction:

- Show *P*(0)
- Assuming P(k) (the *inductive hypothesis*), show P(k+1).

Example (Sum of Integers)

Write a recursive function sumTo to sum up all integers from 0 to the input n. Show that:

$$orall n \in \mathbb{N}.$$
 sumTo $n = rac{n(n+1)}{2}$

Lists



Haskell Data Types

We can define natural numbers as a Haskell data type, reflecting this inductive structure.

data $Nat = Z \mid S Nat$

Example

Define addition, prove that $\forall n. n + Z = n$.

Inductive Structure

Observe that the non-recursive constructors correspond to base cases and the recursive constructors correspond to inductive cases



Lists

Lists are singly-linked lists in Haskell. The empty list is written as [] and a list node is written as x : xs. The value x is called the head and the rest of the list xs is called the tail. Thus:

When we define recursive functions on lists, think about the x : xs/[] representation to write pattern matches.

Example

(Re)-define the functions *length*, *take* and *drop*.



Induction on Lists

If lists weren't already defined in the standard library, we could define them ourselves:

data List a = Nil | Cons a (List a)

Induction

If we want to prove that a proposition holds for all lists:

 $\forall xs. P(xs)$

It suffices to:

- Show P([]) (the base case from nil)
- Assuming the inductive hypothesis P(xs), show P(x:xs) (the inductive case from cons).

Natural Numbers



Induction on Lists

Example (Take and Drop)

- Show that take (length xs) xs = xs for all xs.
- Show that take 5 xs ++ drop 5 xs = xs for all xs.
 - \implies Sometimes we must generalise the proof goal.
 - \implies Sometimes we must prove auxiliary lemmas.



Binary Trees

```
data Tree a = Leaf
| Branch a (Tree a) (Tree a)
```

Induction Principle

To prove a property P(t) for all trees t:

- Prove the base case P(Leaf).
- Assuming the two *inductive hypotheses*:
 - *P*(*I*) and
 - *P*(*r*)

We must show $P(Branch \times | r)$.

Example (Tree functions)

Define *leaves* and *height*, and show $\forall t$. *height* t < leaves t



Rose Trees

data Forest $a = \text{Empty} \mid \text{Cons} (Rose a) (Forest a)$

data *Rose a* = Node *a* (*Forest a*)

Note that *Forest* and *Rose* are defined *mutually*.

Example (Rose tree functions)

Define size and height, and try to show

 $\forall t. height t \leq size t$



Simultaneous Induction

To prove a property about two types defined mutually, we have to prove two properties *simultaneously*.

```
data Forest a = \text{Empty} \mid \text{Cons} (Rose a) (Forest a)
```

data *Rose a* = Node *a* (*Forest a*)

Inductive Principle

To prove a property P(t) about all *Rose* trees t and a property Q(ts) about all *Forests* ts simultaneously:

- Prove Q(Empty)
- Assuming P(t) and Q(ts) (inductive hypotheses), show $Q(Cons \ t \ ts)$.
- Assuming Q(ts) (inductive hypothesis), show $P(Node \times ts)$.