

Proving Properties of Programs

What is a Correctness Proof?

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Testing Sorting Algorithms

- output is ordered

For all lists l , (sorted? (sort l))

- output is a permutation of the input

For all lists l , (permutation-of? l (sort l))

- .. for some sorting algorithms: sort is stable

Proving Programs Correct

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- How to prove programs correct?

Proving Programs Correct

- How to state properties of programs?
 - output is ordered: for all lists l , $Sorted((\text{sort } l))$
 - output is a permutation of the input: for all lists l , $l \leftrightarrow (\text{sort } l)$
- How to prove programs correct?
- **What is a correctness proof?**

Correctness Proof is Not Just About Algorithms!

```
struct Node { int data;
              Node* next; };

void insert(Node* head, int data) {
    while (head->next != nullptr)
        head = head->next;
    head->next = new Node{data, nullptr};
}
```

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void insert(Node* head, int data) {
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}

Node *rest = new Node{10, nullptr};
Node *A = new Node{1, rest};

insert(A, 99);
```

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struct Node { int data;
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void insert(Node* head, int data) {
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        head = head->next;
    head->next = new Node{data, nullptr};
}

Node *rest = new Node{10, nullptr};
Node *A = new Node{1, rest};
Node *B = new Node{2, rest};
insert(A, 99);
// breaks statements about B!
```

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Separation Logic: “These two pieces of programs shall share no memory”
- Can the proof *guide* the implementation of programs?

For now, we restrict our attention to a tiny subset of Racket.

Our Goal: Correctness of Insertion Sort

- output is ordered
- output is a permutation of the input

```
(define (sort l)
  (match l
    ['()          l]
    [(cons hd tl) (insert hd (sort tl))]))
```

```
(define (insert x l)
  (match l
    ['()          (cons x '())]
    [(cons hd tl) (if (< x hd)
                      (cons x l)
                      (cons hd (insert x tl)))]))
```

Example Properties Involving Lists

Example. The length function distributes over append:

$(\text{length } (\text{append } l \ l_1)) = (\text{length } l) + (\text{length } l_1).$

```
> (length (append (cons 5 (cons 2 '()))  
                  (cons 9 '())))
```

3

```
> (+ (length (cons 5 (cons 2 '())))  
     (length (cons 9 '())))
```

3

The Data Definition of Lists

A list l is either:

- An empty list ' ()
- A cons cell (cons y l') where l' is another list.

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A list l is either:

- An empty list `'()`
- A cons cell `(cons y l')` where l' is another list.

`(cons 5 (cons 2 '()))` is a list because:

- `(cons 5 (cons 2 '()))` looks like `(cons y l')` where l' is `(cons 2 '())`
- `(cons 2 '())` is a (another) list because:

The Data Definition of Lists

A list l is either:

- An empty list $'()$
- A cons cell $(\text{cons } y \ l')$ where l' is another list.

$(\text{cons } 5 \ (\text{cons } 2 \ '()))$ is a list because:

- $(\text{cons } 5 \ (\text{cons } 2 \ '()))$ looks like $(\text{cons } y \ l')$ where l' is $(\text{cons } 2 \ '())$
- $(\text{cons } 2 \ '())$ is a (another) list because:
 - $(\text{cons } 2 \ '())$ looks like $(\text{cons } z \ l'')$ where l'' is $'()$
 - $'()$ is a list

A Template of Induction Over Lists

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- Case l is $'()$: show that

$$(\text{length } (\text{append } '() \ l_1)) = (\text{length } '()) + (\text{length } l_1).$$

- Case l is $(\text{cons } y \ l')$: assuming that for any l'' ,

$$(\text{length } (\text{append } l' \ l'')) = (\text{length } l') + (\text{length } l''),$$

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we need to show that

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we need to show that

$$(\text{length } (\text{append } (\text{cons } y \ l') \ l_1)) = (\text{length } (\text{cons } y \ l')) + (\text{length } l_1).$$

- By induction, $(\text{length } (\text{append } l \ l_1)) = (\text{length } l) + (\text{length } l_1)$ holds for all lists l and l_1 .

Proving Properties of List Functions by Induction

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Proof (1/4). Induction on l .

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- Case l is $'()$: we need to show that
 $(\text{length } (\text{append } '() \ l_1)) = (\text{length } '()) + (\text{length } l_1).$

We are stuck: can't make progress with $(\text{length } (\text{append } '() \ l_1))$ and $(\text{length } '())$.

“Running” Programs in Math

We will assume a programming language that

- Uses only lists, if, match, functions, number & arithmetic
- Does not use mutable variables
- All expression terminates

This way, we can partition programs into sets that “behave the same”. For example, (if #t 5 3) should be the same as 5.

Let $e_1 \equiv e_2$ means that the programs e_1 and e_2 are equivalent.

“Running” Programs in Math

In the end, we want to be able to deduce that:

- $(\text{append } (\text{cons } 1 (\text{cons } 2 ' ())) (\text{cons } 3 (\text{cons } 4 ' ()))) \equiv (\text{cons } 1 (\text{cons } 2 (\text{cons } 3 (\text{cons } 4 ' ())))$
- $(\text{length } (\text{cons } 3 (\text{cons } 4 ' ()))) \equiv 2$
- $(\text{length } (\text{append } ' () l_1)) \equiv (\text{length } l_1)$

and more.

We will bake some program execution rules into “ \equiv ”.

Rules for “Running” Functions

```
(define (append xs ys)
  (match xs
    ['() ys]
    [(cons hd tl) (cons hd (append tl ys))]))
```

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```

We can replace `(append '() l_1)` by

```
(append '()  $l_1$ )
≡
(match '()
  ['()  $l_1$ ]
  [(cons hd tl) (cons hd (append tl  $l_1$ ))])
```

Rules for “Running” Functions

```
(define (append xs ys)
  (match xs
    ['() ys]
    [(cons hd tl) (cons hd (append tl ys))]))
```

Similarly, we can replace `(append (cons y l') l1)` by

```
(append (cons y l') l1)
≡
(match (cons y l')
  ['() l1]
  [(cons hd tl) (cons hd (append tl l1))])
```

Rules of “Running” Matches (1)

`(match '()`
 `['() e_1]` \equiv e_1
 `[(cons hd tl) e_2])`

Rules of “Running” Matches (1)

$$\begin{aligned} &(\text{match '()} \\ & \quad ['() e_1] \\ & \quad [(\text{cons hd tl}) e_2]) \quad \equiv \quad e_1 \end{aligned}$$

Example:

$$\begin{aligned} &(\text{match '()} \\ & \quad ['() l_1] \\ & \quad [(\text{cons hd tl}) (\text{cons hd} (\text{append tl } l_1))]) \\ & \equiv \\ & l_1 \end{aligned}$$

Rules of “Running” Matches (2)

$$\begin{aligned} &(\text{match } (\text{cons } y \ l') \\ & \quad ['() \ e_1] \\ & \quad [(\text{cons } \text{hd } \text{tl}) \ e_2]) \quad \equiv \quad e_2 \{ \text{hd} \leftarrow y, \text{tl} \leftarrow l' \} \end{aligned}$$

Proving Properties of List Functions by Induction

Example. The length function distributes over append:

$$(\text{length } (\text{append } l \ l_1)) = (\text{length } l) + (\text{length } l_1).$$

Proof (1/4). Induction on l .

- Case l is $'()$: we need to show that
 $(\text{length } (\text{append } '() \ l_1)) = (\text{length } '()) + (\text{length } l_1).$

By calculation in earlier slides,

$$\begin{aligned} & (\text{length } (\text{append } '() \ l_1)) \\ \equiv & (\text{length } l_1) \end{aligned}$$

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By calculation in earlier slides,

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Running the Length function

```
(define (length xs)
  (match xs
    ['() 0]
    [(cons hd tl) (+ 1 (length tl))]))
```

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We calculate:

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```

We calculate:

```
(length '())
≡
(match '()
  ['() 0]
  [(cons hd tl) (+ 1 (length tl))])
≡
0
```

Proving Properties of List Functions by Induction (cont'd)

Example. The length function distributes over append:

$$(\text{length } (\text{append } l \ l_1)) = (\text{length } l) + (\text{length } l_1).$$

Proof (1/4). Induction on l .

- Case l is $'()$: we need to show that
$$(\text{length } (\text{append } '() \ l_1)) = (\text{length } '()) + (\text{length } l_1).$$

By calculation in earlier slides,

$$\begin{aligned} & (\text{length } (\text{append } '() \ l_1)) \\ \equiv & \quad (\text{length } l_1) \\ \\ \equiv & \quad (\text{length } '()) + (\text{length } l_1) \end{aligned}$$

Proving Properties of List Functions by Induction (cont'd)

Example. The length function distributes over append:

$$(\text{length } (\text{append } l \ l_1)) = (\text{length } l) + (\text{length } l_1).$$

Proof (2/4). Induction on l .

- Case l is $'()$: we need to show that
 $(\text{length } (\text{append } '() \ l_1)) = (\text{length } '()) + (\text{length } l_1).$

By calculation in earlier slides,

$$\begin{aligned} & (\text{length } (\text{append } '() \ l_1)) \\ \equiv & \quad (\text{length } l_1) \\ = & \quad 0 + (\text{length } l_1) \\ \equiv & \quad (\text{length } '()) + (\text{length } l_1) \end{aligned}$$

Recap: Proving Properties of List Functions by Induction

Example. The length function distributes over append:

$$(\text{length } (\text{append } l \ l_1)) = (\text{length } l) + (\text{length } l_1).$$

Proof Template.

- ✓ Case l is $'()$: show that
$$(\text{length } (\text{append } '() \ l_1)) = (\text{length } '()) + (\text{length } l_1).$$
- **TODO** Case l is $(\text{cons } y \ l')$: assuming that for any l'' ,
$$(\text{length } (\text{append } l' \ l'')) = (\text{length } l') + (\text{length } l''),$$
we need to show
$$(\text{length } (\text{append } (\text{cons } y \ l') \ l_1)) = (\text{length } (\text{cons } y \ l')) + (\text{length } l_1).$$
- By induction, $(\text{length } (\text{append } l \ l_1)) = (\text{length } l) + (\text{length } l_1)$ holds for all lists l and l_1 .

Proving Properties of List Functions by Induction (cont'd)

Example. The length function distributes over append:

$$(\text{length } (\text{append } l \ l_1)) = (\text{length } l) + (\text{length } l_1).$$

Proof (3/4).

- Case l is $(\text{cons } y \ l')$: we need to show that if for any l'' ,
 $(\text{length } (\text{append } l' \ l'')) = (\text{length } l') + (\text{length } l'')$ then we have
 $(\text{length } (\text{append } (\text{cons } y \ l') \ l_1)) = (\text{length } (\text{cons } y \ l')) + (\text{length } l_1)$:

More Calculation (1)

```
(length (append (cons y l') l1))  
≡      (the rule of function call)  
(length (match (cons y l')  
              ['() l1]  
              [(cons hd tl) (cons hd (append tl l1))]))
```

```
(define (append xs ys)  
  (match xs  
    ['() ys]  
    [(cons hd tl) (cons hd (append tl ys))]))
```

More Calculation (1)

```
(length (append (cons y l') l1))  
≡ (the rule of function call)  
  (length (match (cons y l')  
                ['() l1]  
                [(cons hd tl) (cons hd (append tl l1))])))  
≡ (the rules of match)  
  (length (cons y (append l' l1)))
```

```
(define (length xs)  
  (match xs  
    ['() 0]  
    [(cons hd tl) (+ 1 (length tl))]))
```

More Calculation (2)

```
(length (append (cons y l') l1))  
≡ (the rule of function call)  
(length (match (cons y l')  
              ['() l1]  
              [(cons hd tl) (cons hd (append tl l1))]))  
≡ (the rules of match)  
(length (cons y (append l' l1)))  
≡ (the rule of function call)  
(match (cons y (append l' l1))  
      ['() 0]  
      [(cons hd tl) (+ 1 (length tl))])
```

More Calculation (2)

```
(length (append (cons y l') l1))  
≡ (the rule of function call)  
(length (match (cons y l')  
              ['() l1]  
              [(cons hd tl) (cons hd (append tl l1))]))  
≡ (the rules of match)  
(length (cons y (append l' l1)))  
≡ (the rule of function call)  
(match (cons y (append l' l1))  
      ['() 0]  
      [(cons hd tl) (+ 1 (length tl))])  
≡ (the rules of match)  
(+ 1 (length (append l' l1)))
```

Proving Properties of List Functions by Induction (cont'd)

Example. The length function distributes over append:

$$(\text{length } (\text{append } l \ l_1)) = (\text{length } l) + (\text{length } l_1).$$

Proof (3/4).

- Case l is $(\text{cons } y \ l')$: we need to show that if for any l'' ,
 $(\text{length } (\text{append } l' \ l'')) = (\text{length } l') + (\text{length } l'')$ then we have
 $(\text{length } (\text{append } (\text{cons } y \ l') \ l_1)) = (\text{length } (\text{cons } y \ l')) + (\text{length } l_1)$:

$$\begin{aligned} (\text{length } (\text{append } (\text{cons } y \ l') \ l_1)) &\equiv (\text{length } (\text{cons } y \ (\text{append } l' \ l_1))) \\ &\equiv 1 + (\text{length } (\text{append } l' \ l_1)) \end{aligned}$$

Proving Properties of List Functions by Induction (cont'd)

Example. The length function distributes over append:

$$(\text{length } (\text{append } l \ l_1)) = (\text{length } l) + (\text{length } l_1).$$

Proof (3/4).

- Case l is $(\text{cons } y \ l')$: we need to show that if for any l'' ,
 $(\text{length } (\text{append } l' \ l'')) = (\text{length } l') + (\text{length } l'')$ then we have
 $(\text{length } (\text{append } (\text{cons } y \ l') \ l_1)) = (\text{length } (\text{cons } y \ l')) + (\text{length } l_1)$:

$$\begin{aligned} (\text{length } (\text{append } (\text{cons } y \ l') \ l_1)) &\equiv (\text{length } (\text{cons } y \ (\text{append } l' \ l_1))) \\ &\equiv 1 + (\text{length } (\text{append } l' \ l_1)) \\ &= 1 + (\text{length } l') + (\text{length } l_1) \\ &\equiv (\text{length } (\text{cons } y \ l')) + (\text{length } l_1) \end{aligned}$$

Proving Properties of List Functions by Induction (cont'd)

Example. The length function distributes over append:

$$(\text{length } (\text{append } l \ l_1)) = (\text{length } l) + (\text{length } l_1).$$

Proof (4/4).

- Case l is $(\text{cons } y \ l')$: we need to show that if for any l'' ,
 $(\text{length } (\text{append } l' \ l'')) = (\text{length } l') + (\text{length } l'')$ then we have
 $(\text{length } (\text{append } (\text{cons } y \ l') \ l_1)) = (\text{length } (\text{cons } y \ l')) + (\text{length } l_1)$:

$$\begin{aligned} (\text{length } (\text{append } (\text{cons } y \ l') \ l_1)) &\equiv (\text{length } (\text{cons } y \ (\text{append } l' \ l_1))) \\ &\equiv 1 + (\text{length } (\text{append } l' \ l_1)) \\ &\equiv \textit{(induction hypothesis)} \\ &\quad 1 + (\text{length } l') + (\text{length } l_1) \\ &\equiv (\text{length } (\text{cons } y \ l')) + (\text{length } l_1) \end{aligned}$$

Proving Properties of List Functions by Induction (cont'd)

Example. The length function distributes over append:

$$(\text{length } (\text{append } l \ l_1)) = (\text{length } l) + (\text{length } l_1).$$

Proof (4/4).

- Case l is $(\text{cons } y \ l')$: we need to show that if for any l'' ,
 $(\text{length } (\text{append } l' \ l'')) = (\text{length } l') + (\text{length } l'')$ then we have
 $(\text{length } (\text{append } (\text{cons } y \ l') \ l_1)) = (\text{length } (\text{cons } y \ l')) + (\text{length } l_1)$:

$$\begin{aligned}(\text{length } (\text{append } (\text{cons } y \ l') \ l_1)) &\equiv (\text{length } (\text{cons } y \ (\text{append } l' \ l_1))) \\ &\equiv 1 + (\text{length } (\text{append } l' \ l_1)) \\ &\equiv \textit{(induction hypothesis)} \\ &\quad 1 + (\text{length } l') + (\text{length } l_1) \\ &\equiv (\text{length } (\text{cons } y \ l')) + (\text{length } l_1)\end{aligned}$$

By induction, $(\text{length } (\text{append } l \ l_1)) \equiv (\text{length } l) + (\text{length } l_1)$.

Sum Up: Proving Properties of List Functions by Induction

Property: “For all lists l , ... l ...”

Proof (template).

Induction on l :

- Case l is $'()$: ... $'()$...
- Case l is $(\text{cons } y \ l')$: if ... l' ... then ... $(\text{cons } y \ l')$

By induction, ... l

How Induction “Runs”

Example. The length function distributes over append:

$$(\text{length } (\text{append } l \ l_1)) = (\text{length } l) + (\text{length } l_1).$$

1. $(\text{length } (\text{append } '() \ (\text{cons } 9 \ '()))) =$
 $(\text{length } '() + (\text{length } (\text{cons } 9 \ '())))$

We have shown that $(\text{length } (\text{append } '() \ l_1)) = (\text{length } '() + (\text{length } l_1))$.
In this specific instance, l_1 is $(\text{cons } 9 \ '())$.

How Induction “Runs”

Example. The length function distributes over append:

$$(\text{length } (\text{append } l \ l_1)) = (\text{length } l) + (\text{length } l_1).$$

1. $(\text{length } (\text{append } '() (\text{cons } 9 '()))) =$
 $(\text{length } '()) + (\text{length } (\text{cons } 9 '()))$
2. $(\text{length } (\text{append } (\text{cons } 2 '()) (\text{cons } 9 '()))) =$
 $(\text{length } (\text{cons } 2 '())) + (\text{length } (\text{cons } 9 '()))$

We have shown that if for any l'' ,

$$(\text{length } (\text{append } l' \ l'')) = (\text{length } l') + (\text{length } l'')$$

then we have

$$(\text{length } (\text{append } (\text{cons } y \ l') \ l_1)) = (\text{length } (\text{cons } y \ l')) + (\text{length } l_1).$$

Here the premise is true by (1), $y := 2$ and $l' := '()$.

How Induction “Runs”

Example. The length function distributes over append:

$$(\text{length } (\text{append } l \ l_1)) = (\text{length } l) + (\text{length } l_1).$$

1. $(\text{length } (\text{append } '() (\text{cons } 9 '()))) =$
 $(\text{length } '()) + (\text{length } (\text{cons } 9 '()))$
2. $(\text{length } (\text{append } (\text{cons } 2 '()) (\text{cons } 9 '()))) =$
 $(\text{length } (\text{cons } 2 '())) + (\text{length } (\text{cons } 9 '()))$
3. $(\text{length } (\text{append } (\text{cons } 5 (\text{cons } 2 '())) (\text{cons } 9 '()))) =$
 $(\text{length } (\text{cons } 5 (\text{cons } 2 '()))) + (\text{length } (\text{cons } 9 '()))$

We have shown that if for any l'' ,

$$(\text{length } (\text{append } l' \ l'')) = (\text{length } l') + (\text{length } l'')$$

then we have

$$(\text{length } (\text{append } (\text{cons } y \ l') \ l_1)) = (\text{length } (\text{cons } y \ l')) + (\text{length } l_1).$$

Here the premise is true by (2), $y := 5$ and $l' := (\text{cons } 2 '())$.

Appendix: Rules of Function Calls

For any function definition

(define (*f* *x*₁ *x*₂ ...) *e*)

We have the computation rule

(*f* *e*₁ *e*₂ ...) ≡ *e*{*x*₁ ← *e*₁, *x*₂ ← *e*₂, ...}

Appendix: Rules of Match

`(match '()
 ['() e_1]
 [(cons hd tl) e_2])` \equiv e_1

`(match (cons x l)
 ['() e_1]
 [(cons hd tl) e_2])` \equiv $e_2\{\text{hd} \leftarrow x, \text{tl} \leftarrow l\}$

Appendix: Rules of If

(if #t
 e_1
 e_2) \equiv e_1

(if #f
 e_1
 e_2) \equiv e_2