

## 4: Structures

## Compound data

The teaching languages provide a general mechanism called **structures**.

They permit the “bundling” of several values into one.

In many situations, data is naturally grouped, and most programming languages provide some mechanism to do this.

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The `define-struct` expression provides functions to:

- create a `point` structure holding two values
- test whether something is a `point` structure
- access the values within a `point` structure



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(point-y p) ⇒ 4
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The **type predicate** `point?` tests for point-ness.

```
(point? p) ⇒ true
```

```
(point? 17) ⇒ false
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## Functions that consume point structures

```
; distance: Point Point -> Number  
; computes the Euclidean distance between p1 and p2  
; Example:
```

```
  (check-expect (distance (make-point 1 1)  
                           (make-point 4 5))  
                5)
```

```
(define (distance p1 p2)  
  (sqrt (+ (sqr (- (point-x p1) (point-x p2)))  
           (sqr (- (point-y p1) (point-y p2))))))
```

## Functions that produce point structures

```
; scale: Point Number -> Point
; scales the point by the given factor
; Example:
  (check-expect (scale (make-point 3 4) 0.5)
                (make-point 1.5 2))

(define (scale p factor)
  (make-point (* factor (point-x p))
              (* factor (point-y p))))
```

## Tracing a use of scale

```
(scale (make-point 3 4) 0.5)
⇒ (make-point (* 0.5 (point-x (make-point 3 4)))
      (* 0.5 (point-y (make-point 3 4))))
⇒ (make-point (* 0.5 3)
      (* 0.5 (point-y (make-point 3 4))))
⇒ (make-point 1.5
      (* 0.5 (point-y (make-point 3 4))))
⇒ (make-point 1.5 (* 0.5 4))
⇒ (make-point 1.5 2)
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This causes a run-time error only when the subtraction function in the body of `distance` tries to subtract `'Peter` from `'Spider`.

We address this with a **data definition**.

```
; A Point is a (make-point n m),  
;   where n and m are Numbers.
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We need to replace each ellipsis with code, or remove it. We may not need both the accessor expressions.

This template is pretty simple, but we will soon see more useful ones.

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The `S` structure has one field.

We will use it to hold either a `Z` structure or another `S` structure.

## A note on the definition of natural numbers

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But in computer science, and in formal logic and the foundations of mathematics, the natural numbers start at 0.

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You may be used to the natural numbers starting at 1.

But in computer science, and in formal logic and the foundations of mathematics, the natural numbers start at 0.

If we don't make this choice, we have to add special cases for 0, and everything gets messier.

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In general, if `e` is the representation of the natural number  $n$ , then `(make-S e)` is the representation of the natural number  $n + 1$ .

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Part of it, referring to `(make-Z)`, is not self-referential.

The self-referential part refers to how to create a new Nat value from an already-justified Nat value.

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Since a Nat is either a Z or an S structure, this suggests the following skeleton:

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  (cond
    [(Z? nat) ...]
    [(S? nat) ...]))
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(check-expect (pred (make-S (make-Z)))
              (make-Z))
(check-expect (pred (make-S (make-S (make-Z))))
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This will work for some functions, but the next example shows that in some cases, it would help to be a little more precise.

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The second case seems harder.

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Traces will give us confidence that it works.

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(plus (make-Z) (make-Z))  
⇒ (cond  
    [(Z? (make-Z)) (make-Z)]  
    [(S? (make-Z))  
     (make-S (plus (S-pred (make-Z)) (make-Z)))])]  
⇒ (cond  
    [true (make-Z)]  
    [(S? (make-Z))  
     (make-S (plus (S-pred (make-Z)) (make-Z)))])]  
⇒ (make-Z)
```

## Tracing plus (continued)

```
(plus (make-S (make-Z)) (make-Z))  
⇒ (cond  
    [(Z? (make-S (make-Z))) (make-Z)]  
    [(S? (make-S (make-Z)))  
     (make-S (plus (S-pred (make-S (make-Z)))  
                   (make-Z)))])])  
⇒ (cond  
    [false (make-Z)]  
    [(S? (make-S (make-Z)))  
     (make-S (plus (S-pred (make-S (make-Z)))  
                   (make-Z)))])])  
⇒ (cond  
    [(S? (make-S (make-Z)))  
     (make-S (plus (S-pred (make-S (make-Z)))  
                   (make-Z)))])])
```

## Tracing plus (continued)

```
⇒ (cond
    [(S? (make-S (make-Z)))
     (make-S (plus (S-pred (make-S (make-Z)))
                   (make-Z))))])
⇒ (cond
    [true (make-S (plus (S-pred (make-S (make-Z)))
                       (make-Z))))])
⇒ (make-S (plus (S-pred (make-S (make-Z))) (make-Z)))
⇒ (make-S (plus (make-Z) (make-Z)))
```

## Tracing plus (continued)

```
⇒ (cond
    [(S? (make-S (make-Z)))
     (make-S (plus (S-pred (make-S (make-Z)))
                   (make-Z)))]
    [true (make-S (plus (S-pred (make-S (make-Z)))
                       (make-Z)))]
    )
⇒ (make-S (plus (S-pred (make-S (make-Z))) (make-Z)))
⇒ (make-S (plus (make-Z) (make-Z)))
```

At this point, the trace is not done, but we have traced the evaluation of `(plus (make-Z) (make-Z))` already.

## Condensed traces

It is clear that traces will be very long and boring if we list every step.

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(plus (make-S (make-Z)) (make-Z))  
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## Condensed traces

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```
(plus (make-S (make-Z)) (make-Z))  
 $\Rightarrow^*$  (make-S (plus (make-Z) (make-Z)))  
 $\Rightarrow^*$  (make-S (make-Z))
```

We can now do a condensed trace of a longer computation.

```
(plus (make-S (make-S (make-Z)))  
      (make-S (make-S (make-Z))))
```

## Condensed traces (continued)

```
(plus (make-S (make-S (make-Z)))  
      (make-S (make-S (make-Z))))  
⇒* (make-S (plus (make-S (make-Z)))  
           (make-S (make-S (make-Z))))  
⇒* (make-S (make-S (plus (make-Z)  
                          (make-S (make-S (make-Z))))))  
⇒* (make-S (make-S (make-S (make-S (make-Z))))))
```

## Condensed traces (continued)

```
(plus (make-S (make-S (make-Z)))  
      (make-S (make-S (make-Z))))  
⇒* (make-S (plus (make-S (make-Z)))  
            (make-S (make-S (make-Z))))  
⇒* (make-S (make-S (plus (make-Z)  
                          (make-S (make-S (make-Z))))))  
⇒* (make-S (make-S (make-S (make-S (make-Z))))))
```

We have demonstrated that two plus two equals four.

## A template for a recursive function consuming a Nat

Recall the data definition for Nat:

A Nat is either `(make-Z)` or it is `(make-S p)`, where `p` is a Nat.

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The recursive application of the function happens in the case corresponding to the self-referential part of the data definition.

This is known as **pure structural recursion**.

A function consuming Nats uses pure structural recursion if it conforms to the template we just developed.



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Pure structural recursion is to be preferred because it is easier to reason about, as we will see.

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Pure structural recursion is to be preferred because it is easier to reason about, as we will see.

However, not every function consuming Nats uses pure structural recursion.

## A function that does not use pure structural recursion

The following function computes the result of dividing a natural number by two and rounding down.

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```
(define (idiv2 nat)
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Why is this not pure structural recursion?

- There is an extra case for the representation of 1.
- The recursive application is not on `(S-pred nat)`, but on `(S-pred (S-pred nat))`.

This function uses **generative recursion**.

If we apply `idiv2` to the representation of 5, it should produce the representation of 2, and a condensed trace confirms this.

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```
(idiv2 (make-S (make-S (make-S (make-S  
                                         (make-S (make-Z)))))))  
⇒* (make-S (idiv2 (make-S (make-S (make-S (make-Z))))))  
⇒* (make-S (make-S (idiv2 (make-S (make-Z)))))  
⇒* (make-S (make-S (make-Z)))
```

If we apply `idiv2` to the representation of 5, it should produce the representation of 2, and a condensed trace confirms this.

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(idiv2 (make-S (make-S (make-S (make-S  
                                         (make-S (make-Z)))))))  
⇒* (make-S (idiv2 (make-S (make-S (make-S (make-Z))))))  
⇒* (make-S (make-S (idiv2 (make-S (make-Z)))))  
⇒* (make-S (make-S (make-Z)))
```

Make sure you can fill in the missing steps. This is a good idea in general when dealing with condensed traces.

## Correctness of plus

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How can you be sure that your idea of addition is actually correct?

If you were to try to write down a precise definition of natural number and a precise definition of addition, they would probably be longer and more complicated than the ones we just saw.

We can show that `plus` has the properties we expect of addition.



## Some simple theorems

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---

The proof of this second theorem is a trace.

## A theorem about Racket computation

### Theorem

```
(plus (make-Z) (make-S (make-S (make-Z))))  
⇒* (make-S (make-S (make-Z)))
```

### Proof

```
(plus (make-Z) (make-S (make-S (make-Z))))  
⇒ (cond  
    [(Z? (make-Z)) (make-S (make-S (make-Z)))]  
    [(S? (make-Z)) (make-S (plus (S-pred (make-Z))  
                                   (make-S (make-S (make-Z))))))])  
⇒ (cond  
    [true (make-S (make-S (make-Z)))]  
    [(S? (make-Z)) (make-S (plus (S-pred (make-Z))  
                                   (make-S (make-S (make-Z))))))])  
⇒ (make-S (make-S (make-Z)))
```

**Theorem**

For all natural numbers  $n$ ,  $0 + n = n$ .

## Some more interesting theorems

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For all natural numbers  $n$ ,  $0 + n = n$ .

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For all Nats  $x$ ,  $(\text{plus } (\text{make-Z}) \ x) \Rightarrow^* x$ .

## Some more interesting theorems (Continued)

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For all Nats  $x$ ,  $(\text{plus } (\text{make-Z}) \ x) \Rightarrow^* x$ .

### Proof

```
(plus (make-Z) x)
⇒ (cond
    [(Z? (make-Z)) x]
    [(S? (make-Z)) (make-S (plus (S-pred (make-Z))
                                   x))])
⇒ (cond
    [true x]
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⇒ x
```



## Some more interesting theorems (Continued)

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    [(S? (make-Z)) (make-S (plus (S-pred (make-Z))
                                   x))])
⇒ (cond
    [true x]
    [(S? (make-Z)) (make-S (plus (S-pred (make-Z))
                                   x))])
⇒ x
```

This is not a trace. It is a **trace schema**.

Substituting any specific Nat for  $x$  gives a valid trace.

## Proving for-all statements

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It is quite common.

For example, in mathematics, when we prove  $(x + y)(x - y) = x^2 - y^2$  by using the distributive law, we are really proving “For all  $x, y$ ,  $(x + y)(x - y) = x^2 - y^2$ ” using for-all introduction.

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If our logical system permits this as valid reasoning, it is useful.

But this method has its limitations.

**Theorem**

For all natural numbers  $n$ ,  $n + 0 = n$ .



## A situation where for-all introduction fails

### Theorem

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### Theorem

For all Nats  $x$ ,  $(\text{plus } x \text{ (make-Z)}) \Rightarrow^* x$ .

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We can try a case analysis. Since  $x$  is a Nat, it is either  $(\text{make-Z})$  or  $(\text{make-S } y)$  for some Nat  $y$ .

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## A situation where for-all introduction fails

Here is the case where  $x$  is `(make-Z)`.

### Proof

```
(plus (make-Z) (make-Z))  
⇒ (cond  
    [(Z? (make-Z)) (make-Z)]  
    [(S? (make-Z)) (make-S (plus (S-pred (make-Z))  
                                   (make-Z)))])  
⇒ (cond  
    [true (make-Z)]  
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                                   (make-Z)))])  
⇒ (cond  
    [true (make-Z)]  
    [(S? (make-Z)) (make-S (plus (S-pred (make-Z))  
                                   (make-Z)))])  
⇒ (make-Z)
```

But the reasoning is not so clear in the case where  $x$  is `(make-S y)`.

## A situation where for-all introduction fails (continued)

Here is the case where  $x$  is `(make-S y)`.

### Proof

```
(plus (make-S y) (make-Z))  
⇒ (cond  
    [(Z? (make-S y)) (make-Z)]  
    [(S? (make-S y)) (make-S (plus (S-pred (make-S y))  
                                     (make-Z)))])  
⇒ (cond  
    [false (make-Z)]  
    [(S? (make-S y)) (make-S (plus (S-pred (make-S y))  
                                     (make-Z)))])  
⇒ (cond  
    [(S? (make-S y)) (make-S (plus (S-pred (make-S y))  
                                     (make-Z)))])
```

### Proof Continued

```
⇒ (cond
    [(S? (make-S y)) (make-S (plus (S-pred (make-S y))
                                     (make-Z)))])

⇒ (cond
    [true (make-S (plus (S-pred (make-S y))
                        (make-Z)))])

⇒ (make-S (plus (S-pred (make-S y)) (make-Z)))
⇒ (make-S (plus y (make-Z)))
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## A situation where for-all introduction fails (continued)

### Proof Continued

```
⇒ (cond
    [(S? (make-S y)) (make-S (plus (S-pred (make-S y))
                                     (make-Z)))]])
⇒ (cond
    [true (make-S (plus (S-pred (make-S y))
                        (make-Z)))]])
⇒ (make-S (plus (S-pred (make-S y)) (make-Z)))
⇒ (make-S (plus y (make-Z)))
```

We have the same problem with `y` that we did with `x` originally.

## Resolving our dilemma

We have managed to show that  $(\text{plus } (\text{make-S } y) (\text{make-Z})) \Rightarrow^* (\text{make-S } (\text{plus } y (\text{make-Z})))$ .

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Suppose we had a trace showing  $(\text{plus } y (\text{make-Z})) \Rightarrow^* y$  for a particular Nat  $y$ .

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Suppose we had a trace showing  $(\text{plus } y (\text{make-Z})) \Rightarrow^* y$  for a particular Nat  $y$ .

We can take this trace and wrap each expression in  $(\text{make-S } \dots)$  to get a trace schema showing  $(\text{make-S } (\text{plus } y (\text{make-Z}))) \Rightarrow^* (\text{make-S } y)$ .

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$(\text{make-S } (\text{plus } y (\text{make-Z}))) \Rightarrow^* (\text{make-S } y)$ .

Putting this trace together with the one we get from the trace schema above, we get a trace of

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We have managed to show that  $(\text{plus } (\text{make-S } y) (\text{make-Z})) \Rightarrow^* (\text{make-S } (\text{plus } y (\text{make-Z})))$ .

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Suppose we had a trace showing  $(\text{plus } y (\text{make-Z})) \Rightarrow^* y$  for a particular Nat  $y$ .

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Putting this trace together with the one we get from the trace schema above, we get a trace of

$(\text{plus } (\text{make-S } y) (\text{make-Z})) \Rightarrow^* (\text{make-S } y)$ .

If we can show  $(\text{plus } y (\text{make-Z})) \Rightarrow^* y$ ,  
then we can show  $(\text{plus } (\text{make-S } y) (\text{make-Z})) \Rightarrow^* (\text{make-S } y)$ .

## Proving the result we want

We want to show that for all Nats  $x$ ,  $(\text{plus } x \text{ (make-Z)}) \Rightarrow^* x$ .



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We want to show that for all Nats  $x$ ,  $(\text{plus } x \text{ (make-Z)}) \Rightarrow^* x$ .

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We can then use the technique on the previous slide to show it if  $x$  is  $(\text{make-S } (\text{make-Z}))$ , and then  $(\text{make-S } (\text{make-S } (\text{make-Z})))$ , and so on.

## Proving the result we want

We want to show that for all Nats  $x$ ,  $(\text{plus } x \text{ (make-Z)}) \Rightarrow^* x$ .

We can show this if  $x$  is  $(\text{make-Z})$ , by a trace.

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Again, our logical system has to consider this kind of reasoning valid.

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Generalizing to other properties we may wish to prove, suppose we have a statement of the form “For all Nats  $x$ ,  $P[x]$ ”, where  $P$  is a description of a property of  $x$ .

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Another perspective: Nat is the smallest set containing  $(\text{make-Z})$  and closed under  $(\text{make-S})$ .

## Other useful properties of Nats

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We take these properties for granted with natural numbers, but at some level, they do require justification.

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Template for a structurally-recursive function consuming a natural number:

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(define (my-nat-fn n)
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### Mathematical induction:

To prove “For all natural numbers  $n$ ,  $P[n]$ ”:

1. Prove  $P[0]$  is true, and
2. Prove for all natural numbers  $m$ , if  $P[m]$ , then  $P[m + 1]$ .

## A function using structural recursion on natural numbers

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This is not particularly useful, as it is less efficient than `+`. But it does demonstrate a useful pattern for computation with natural numbers.

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