

## Administrivia, Syntax

- ◇ Every Coq command ends with a period.
- ◇ The phrase *Theorem T identifying statement S is proven by P* is formalised as

```
Theorem T : S. (* T is only a name and can be used later. *)
Proof.
```

```
P (* See the current state of the proof in the CoqIde by clicking, in the toolbar,
   on the green arrow pointing at a yellow ball;
   or do "C-c C-Enter" in Proof General with Emacs. *)
```

```
Qed.
```

- ◇ Instead of **Theorem**, you may also see proofs that start with **Example**, **Lemma**, **Remark**, **Fact**, **Corollary**, and **Proposition**, which all mean the SAME thing. This difference is mostly a matter of style.
- ◇ The command **Admitted**, in-place of **Qed**, can be used as a placeholder for an incomplete proof or definition.
  - Useful if you have a subgoal that you want to ignore for a while.
- ◇ **Abort**, in-place of **Qed**, is used to give up on a proof for the moment, say for presentation purposes, and it may be begun later with no error about theorems having the same name.

**Comments** (\* I may be a multiline comment. \*)

**Stand alone commands** As top-level items, we may make commands for:

**Normalisation** **Compute X** executes all the function calls in **X** and prints the result.

**Type inspection** **Command Check X.** asks Coq to print the type of expression **X**.

**Introduce local definitions** Two ways,

- ◇ Simple alias: **pose (new\_thing := complicated\_expression).**
- ◇ More involved: Write tactic **assert (x : X).** to define a new identifier **x** for a proof of **X** which then follows, and is conventionally indented.

**Imports** Loading definitions from a library,

```
Require Import Bool.
```

## Pattern matching with destruct

We case on value **e** by **destruct e as [ a00 ... am0 | ... | a0n ... amn ]**, which gives us **n** new subgoals corresponding to the number of constructors that could have produced **e** such that the *i*-th constructor has arguments **ai0, ..., ak[U+1D62]**.

- ◇ The intros pattern **as [ ... ]** lets us use any friendly names of our choosing. We may not provide it at the cost of Coq's generated names for arguments.
- ◇ Many proofs pattern match on a variable right after introducing it, **intros e. destruct e as [ ... ]**, and this is abbreviated by the intro pattern: **intros [ ... ]**.
- ◇ If there are no arguments to name, in the case of a nullary construction, we can just write **[]**.

## Simple Tactics

**exact** If the subgoal matches an *exact* hypothesis, Then use **exact <hyp\_name>.**

**simpl** If the current subgoal contains a function call with all its arguments, **simpl** will execute the function on the arguments.  
 ◇ Sometimes a call to **unfold f**, for a particular function **f**, is needed before **simpl** will work.

**Modus ponens, or function application** If we have **imp : A -> B**, **a : A** then **imp a** is of type **B**. This also works if the **imp** contains **forall**'s.

**Local tactic application** **t in s** performs the tactic **t** only within the hypothesis, term, **s**. For example, **unfold defnName in item** performs a local rewrite.

## intros tactic: '∀, ⇒' introduction

- ◇ To prove a statement of the form **(forall A : Prop, Q)** we use the **∀**-introduction tactic, supplied with a name for the variable introduced, as in **intros A.**
- ◇ To prove an implication **A ⇒ B** we again use, say, **intros pf\_of\_A.**
- ◇ The **intros** command can take any positive number of arguments, each argument stripping a **forall**, (or **->**), off the front of the current subgoal.

## Notation, Definition, and the tactics fold and unfold

**Definition** is a vernacular command that says two expressions are interchangeable. Below **(not A)** and **A -> False** are declared interchangeable.

```
Definition not (A:Prop) := A -> False.
```

```
Notation "~ x" := (not x) : type_scope.
```

Tactics **unfold defnName** and **fold defnName** will interchange them.

**Notation** creates an operator and defines it as an alternate notation for an expression.

( Use **intros** when working with negations since they are implications! )

```
(* If this is a recursive function, use 'Fixpoint' in-place of 'Definition'.*)
```

```
Definition my_function (a0 : A0) ... (a99 : A99) : B :=
```

```
  match a0 , ..., a99 with
```

```
  | C0 p0 ... p_n, ..., C_k q0 ... q_m => definition_here_for_these_constructors_C
```

```
  :
```

```
end.
```

**Telescoping** If **x0, ..., x\_n** have the same type, say **T**, we may declare their typing by **(x0 ... x\_n : T)**.

**Notation** Before the final **"."**, we may include a variant of **where "n + m" := (my\_function n m) : B\_scope.** for introducing an operator immediately with a function definition.

## Examples of Common Datatypes

- ◇ Prop Type
  - A Prop either has a proof or it does not have a proof.
  - Coq restricts Prop to being either proven or unproven, rather than true or false.

- ◇ Sums

```
Inductive or (A B:Prop) : Prop :=
| or_introl : A -> A ∨ B
| or_intror : B -> A ∨ B
where "A ∨ B" := (or A B) : type_scope.
```

- ◇ Products

```
Inductive and (A B:Prop) : Prop :=
conj : A -> B -> A ∧ B
where "A ∧ B" := (and A B) : type_scope.
```

- ◇ Naturals

```
Inductive nat : Set :=
| 0 : nat (* Capital-letter 0, not the number zero. *)
| S : nat -> nat.
```

- ◇ Options

```
Inductive option (A : Type) : Type :=
| Some : A -> option A
| None : option A
```

- ◇ Lists

```
Inductive list (A : Type) : Type :=
| nil : list A
| cons : A -> list A -> list A.
```

```
Infix "::" := cons (at level 60, right associativity) : list_scope.
```

## True, False, true, false

The vernacular command `Inductive` lets you create a new type.

- ◇ The empty Prop, having no proofs, is `False`.
- ◇ The top Prop, having a single proof named `I`, is `True`.
- ◇ The `bool` type has two values: `true` and `false`.

```
Inductive False : Prop := .
```

```
Inductive True : Prop :=
| I : True.
```

```
Inductive bool : Set :=
| true : bool
| false : bool.
```

In the boolean library there is a function `Is_true` which converts booleans into their associated Prop counterparts.

## Existence ∃

```
Inductive ex (A:Type) (P:A -> Prop) : Prop :=
ex_intro : forall x:A, P x -> ex (A:=A) P.
```

```
Notation "'exists' x .. y , p" := (ex (fun x => .. (ex (fun y => p)) ..))
(at level 200, x binder, right associativity,
format "'[' 'exists' '/' 'x' .. y , '/' 'p ']'")
: type_scope.
```

Note that the constructor takes 3 arguments: The predicate `P`, the witness `x`, and a proof of `P x`.

If we pose a witness beforehand then `refine (ex_intro _ witness _)`, Coq will infer `P` from the current goal and the new subgoal is the proof that the witness satisfies the predicate.

## Equality, rewrite, and reflexivity

Two operators,

- ◇ `x = y :> A` says that `x` and `y` are equal and both have type `A`.
- ◇ `x = y` does the same but let's Coq infer the type `A`.

```
Inductive eq (A:Type) (x:A) : A -> Prop :=
eq_refl : x = x :>A
```

```
where "x = y :> A" := (@eq A x y) : type_scope.
```

```
Notation "x = y" := (x = y :>_) : type_scope.
```

Rather than using `destruct`, most proofs using equality use the tactics `rewrite <orientation>`. If `xEy` has type `x = y`, then `rewrite -> xEy` will replace `x` with `y` in the subgoal, while using `orientation <-` rewrites the other-way, replacing `y` with `x`.

- ◇ This can also be used with a previously proved theorem. If the statement of said theorem involves quantified variables, Coq tries to instantiate them by matching with the current goal.
  - ◇ As with destructing, the pattern `intros eq. rewrite -> eq.` is abbreviated by the intro pattern `intros [].` which performs a left-to-right rewrite in the goal.
- Use the `reflexivity` tactic to discharge a goal of type `x = x`.
- ◇ This tactic performs some simplification automatically when checking that two sides are equal; e.g., it tries `simpl` and `unfold`.

## Discrepancy

Coq uses the operator `<>` for inequality, which really means *equality is unprovable or equality implies False*.

```
Notation "x <> y :> T" := (~ x = y :>T) : type_scope.
```

```
Notation "x <> y" := (x <> y :>_) : type_scope.
```

Datatype constructors are necessarily disjoint, hence if we ever obtain a proof `pf` of distinct constructors being equal then we may invoke `discriminate pf` to short-circuit the current goal, thereby eliminating a case that could not have happened.

## Searching for Existing Proofs

- ◊ Searching for utility functions, proofs, that involve a particular identifier by using `Search`.
- ◊ In contrast, `SearchPattern` takes a pattern with holes ‘`_`’ for expressions.
- ◊ Finally, `SearchRewrite` only looks for proofs whose conclusion in an equality involving the given pattern.

```
Search le.  
(* le_n: forall n : nat, n <= n *)  
(* le_0_n: forall n : nat, 0 <= n *)  
(* min_l: forall n m : nat, n <= m -> Nat.min n m = n *)  
(* and many more *)  
  
(* Let's load some terribly useful arithmetic proofs. *)  
Require Import Arith Omega.  
  
SearchPattern (_+_ <= _+_).  
(* plus_le_compat_r: forall n m p : nat, n <= m -> n + p <= m + p *)  
(* Nat.add_le_mono: forall n m p q : nat, n <= m -> p <= q -> n + p <= m + q *)  
(* etc. *)  
  
SearchRewrite (_ + (_ - _)).  
(* le_plus_minus: forall n m : nat, n <= m -> m = n + (m - n) *)  
(* le_plus_minus_r: forall n m : nat, n <= m -> n + (m - n) = m *)  
(* Nat.add_sub_assoc: forall n m p : nat, p <= m -> n + (m - p) = n + m - p *)
```