

5. Claim:  $(x^R)^R = x$

Base cases:

$x = \epsilon$ . This holds true as the reverse of nothing is still nothing, and the reverse of that is still nothing  
 $x = ax'$  where  $x' = \epsilon$ . This holds true as the reverse of one item is still that one and the reverse of that is again that one item  $a = a^R = (a^R)^R$

Proof to help inductive hypothesis (proof provided by Anna Rafferty)

$$(xy)^R = (ax'y)^R \text{ because } x = ax'$$

$$\text{LHS} = (a(x'y))^R \text{ associative prop. of string concatenation}$$

$$\text{LHS} = (x'y)^R a \text{ a definition of reverse of } a(x'y)$$

$$\text{LHS} = y^R (x')^R a$$

$$\text{LHS} = y^R (ax')^R \text{ associative prop. of string concatenation}$$

$$\text{LHS} = y^R x^R$$

Inductive hypothesis:

$$(x^R)^R = (ax')^R$$

Since we know that  $(xy)^R = y^R x^R$  we can assume:

$$((ax')^R)^R = ((x')^R (a)^R)^R$$

$$((x')^R (a)^R)^R = ((a)^R ((x')^R)^R)$$

$$((a)^R ((x')^R)^R) = (a)^R ((x')^R)^R$$

$$(a)^R ((x')^R)^R = a ((x')^R)^R$$

Thus, we have proven for all strings  $(x^R)^R = x$  when  $x = ax'$