

We introduce a generalised reduction over sequences. The function takes as parameters an associative reduction operator, an initial accumulator value, and a sequence of elements. The accumulator need not have the same type as the elements of the sequence. For instance, we can use a reduction to count the number of occurrences of a particular value in a sequence.

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \hline \hline
 = [S, T] = \\
 \hline
 \textit{reduce} : (S \times T \rightarrow S) \times S \times \text{seq } T \rightarrow S \\
 \hline
 \forall f : S \times T \rightarrow S \bullet \forall s : S \bullet \forall ts : \text{seq } T \bullet \\
 \textit{reduce}(f, s, ts) = \\
 \quad \mathbf{if} \ \# \ ts = 0 \\
 \quad \mathbf{then} \ s \\
 \quad \mathbf{else} \ \textit{reduce}(f, f(s, \textit{head } ts), \textit{tail } ts) \\
 \hline
 \end{array}$$

This definition hints at a linear reduction, but an efficient implementation could perform a tree-like reduction on vector hardware.