

A CONTEXTUAL FORMALIZATION OF STRUCTURAL COINDUCTION

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Induction has been the workhorse of PL in theory & practice

Programs that **interact with the outside world** while they run are **coinductive**:

- Operating systems & User Interfaces

- Web servers & Networks

- Control software & robotics

- ...

Coinduction also arises in semantics of languages

- Bisimulation & (potentially) infinite processes

- Interaction trees & effects

- Automata & formal languages

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So let's just use coinduction like we do induction!

WHAT'S SO HARD ABOUT COINDUCTION?

AN OLD-FASHIONED PEN-AND-PAPER PROOF

THE “HELLO, WORLD!” OF COINDUCTION

$$\begin{aligned} \text{map} &: (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow \text{Stream } a \rightarrow \text{Stream } b \\ \text{map } f \text{ } xs &= \text{More } (f \text{ (Head } xs)) \text{ (map } f \text{ (Tail } xs)) \end{aligned}$$

Theorem

For all $xs : \text{Stream } a$, $\text{map id } xs = xs$.

Proof. By general coinduction.

Assume the ColH: $\text{map id } xs = xs$.

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Then by ColH, already know $\text{map } id \text{ } xs = xs$. Easy!



Obviously that won't do! Need to do some work...

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What's different this time?

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What's different this time? The ColH is only used in a **productive** context.

A MIRACULOUS DISCOVERY!

WHAT IS “PRODUCTIVE,” ANYWAY?

$always : a \rightarrow \text{Stream } a$

$always\ x = \text{More } x\ (always\ x)$

Theorem

$\text{More } 0\ (always\ 1) = always\ 0.$

Corollary: $1 = 0.$

Proof. By general coinduction.

Assume the ColH: $\text{More } 0\ (always\ 1) = always\ 0.$

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□

What went wrong??

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□

What went wrong?? The ColH **looked productive**, but **it wasn't**.

COINDUCTION VIA PRODUCTIVITY IS SUBTLE

WHAT WE DO TO MANAGE TODAY

The coinductive hypothesis (ColH) is **too powerful**

Status quo: avoid **vicious cycles** by using ColH in **good contexts**

“**Good**” and “**bad**” contexts have subtle semantic content

Possible if your proof has a certain “shape”

- Calculations have obvious contexts around axiom use

- Good luck analyzing the “context” in a paragraph of prose

Proof assistants can help sort out good contexts from bad

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Proof assistants can help sort out good contexts from bad

...using (rigidly) syntactic approximations of semantics

A FRUSTRATING PROOF IN ROCQ

I HOPE YOU LIKE PORING OVER AUTO-GENERATED PROOF TERMS...

```
CoInductive Stream A : Type := More { Head : A ; Tail : Stream A }.
```

```
CoFixpoint map {A} {B} (f : A -> B) xs := More (f (Head xs)) (map f (Tail xs)).
```

```
CoInductive StreamEq {A} (xs ys : Stream A) : Prop :=  
  MoreEq { HeadEq : Head xs = Head ys;  
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```
Theorem map_id1  
  : forall {A} (xs : Stream A),  
    StreamEq (map id xs) xs.
```

Proof.

```
  intro A.  
  intro xs.  
  cofix CoIH.  
  apply MoreEq.  
  * reflexivity.  
  * apply CoIH.
```

Qed.

```
Theorem map_id2  
  : forall {A} (xs : Stream A),  
    StreamEq (map id xs) xs.
```

Proof.

```
  intro A.  
  cofix CoIH.  
  intro xs.  
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No more goals.

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No more goals.

Error: ...CoIH is ill-formed...

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Theorem map_id2  
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Proof.

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```

Qed.

No more goals.

Ok. ☺

LIBERATING STRUCTURAL COINDUCTION FROM SYNTAX

MAKING COINDUCTION AS STRAIGHTFORWARD AS INDUCTION OUTSIDE A PROOF ASSISTANT

Want: A coinduction principle useful for **informal proofs**, pen-and-paper prose style, with the same confidence as structural induction

No question when the Inductive Hypothesis applies, **even in informal contexts**:

assume $IH : P(n)$ prove $Goal : P(n + 1)$

The usual basis of coinduction is **begging the question**:

assume $CoIH : P(xs)$ prove $Goal : P(xs)$

Need: A re-formulation of the CoInductive Hypothesis that

- (1) Can be checked for valid applications immediately
- (2) Is not dependent on a particular syntax / proof context
- (3) Gives an axiom that is sound by definition **without secondary syntactic checks**

COINDUCTION WITH CONFIDENCE

WHAT IS THE PRINCIPLE BEHIND COPATTERNS?

RESTORING THE STRUCTURE TO STRUCTURAL (CO)INDUCTION

```
record Stream (A : Set) : Set where  
  coinductive  
  field Head : A  
        Tail : Stream A
```

```
map :  $\forall$  {A B}  $\rightarrow$  (A  $\rightarrow$  B)  $\rightarrow$  Stream A  $\rightarrow$  Stream B  
map f xs .Head = f (xs .Head)  
map f xs .Tail = map f (xs .Tail)
```

```
record Stream_≈_ {A} (xs ys : Stream A) : Set where  
  coinductive  
  field Head : xs .Head  $\equiv$  ys .Head  
        Tail : Stream xs .Tail  $\approx$  ys .Tail
```

```
map-id :  $\forall$  {A} (xs : Stream A)  $\rightarrow$  Stream map id xs  $\approx$  xs  
map-id xs .Head = refl  
map-id xs .Tail = map-id (xs .Tail)
```

STRUCTURAL (Co)INDUCTION

MAIN IDEA 1: COINDUCTION = INDUCTION ON THE OBSERVING CONTEXT

Principle (Induction on Natural Number Values)

Property P *holds on all natural number values* $n : \text{Nat}$ (i.e., $P(n)$) *if and only if*

$P(0)$ *holds, and*

for all values $n : \text{Nat}$, $P(n)$ *implies* $P(n + 1)$.

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Principle (Coinduction on Stream Observations*)

Property P *holds on all stream observations* $f : \text{Stream } A \rightsquigarrow B$ (i.e., $P(f)$) *if and only if*

for all observations $g : A \rightsquigarrow B$, $P(g \circ \text{Head})$ *holds, and*

for all observations $h : \text{Stream } A \rightsquigarrow B$, $P(h)$ *implies* $P(h \circ \text{Tail})$.

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Property P holds on all stream observations $f : \text{Stream } A \rightsquigarrow B$ (i.e., $P(f)$) if and only if

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for all observations $h : \text{Stream } A \rightsquigarrow B$, $P(h)$ implies $P(h \circ \text{Tail})$.

COINDUCTIVE CONTEXTUAL EQUIVALENCE

MAIN IDEA 2: SOUND COINDUCTIVE HYPOTHESIS = LABELING THE OBSERVER

Principle (Contextual Equivalence)

Given values $x : A$ and $y : A$,

$$x = y$$

if and only if

for all observations f , $f(x) = f(y)$.

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Corollary (Contextual Stream Equality)

Given stream values $xs : \text{Stream } A$ and $ys : \text{Stream } A$,

$$xs = ys$$

if and only if

for all observations g , $g(\text{Head}(xs)) = g(\text{Head}(ys))$

and

for all obs. h , $h(xs) = h(ys)$ implies $h(\text{Tail}(xs)) = h(\text{Tail}(ys))$

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for all obs. h , $h(xs) = h(ys)$ implies $h(\text{Tail}(xs)) = h(\text{Tail}(ys))$

Proof. By Contextual Equivalence + Coinduction on Stream Observations,
where $P(f) = (f(xs) = f(ys))$.



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AN INFORMAL PROOF BY CONTEXTUAL STREAM EQUALITY

NOW WITH MORE CONFIDENCE!

$$\text{Head}(\text{map } f \ x) = f \ (\text{Head } x)$$

$$\text{Tail}(\text{map } f \ x) = \text{map } f \ (\text{Tail } x)$$

Theorem

$$\text{map } id \ xs = \text{map } id \ xs$$

Proof. By contextual stream equality:

(Head) Show $\text{Head}(\text{map } id \ xs) = \text{Head}(xs)$

$$\text{Head}(\text{map } id \ xs) = id(\text{Head}(xs)) = \text{Head}(xs)$$

$$(\text{Head} \circ \text{map}, id)$$

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(Tail) Assume **CoIH**: $h(\text{map } id \ xs) = h(xs)$.

Show $h(\text{Tail}(\text{map } id \ xs)) = h(\text{Tail}(xs))$.

$$\begin{aligned} h(\text{Tail}(\text{map } id \ xs)) &= \underline{h(\text{map } id \ (\text{Tail}(xs)))} && (\text{Tail} \circ \text{map}) \\ &= h(\text{Tail}(xs)) && (\text{CoIH}) \end{aligned} \quad \square$$

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(Tail) Assume ColH: $h(\text{map } id \ xs) = h(xs)$.

Show $h(\text{Tail}(\text{map } id \ xs)) = h(\text{Tail}(xs))$.

$$\begin{aligned} h(\text{Tail}(\text{map } id \ xs)) &= \underline{h(\text{map } id \ (\text{Tail}(xs)))} && (\text{Tail} \circ \text{map}) \\ &= h(\text{Tail}(xs)) && (ColH) \end{aligned} \quad \square$$

The “guard” is now explicitly part of ColH! It can't be misapplied!

STOPPING INCORRECT STEPS AS SOON AS THEY HAPPEN

CAN'T USE THE COLH IN THE WRONG CONTEXT!

$$\text{Head}(\text{always } x) = x$$

$$\text{Tail}(\text{always } x) = \text{always } x$$

Theorem

$$\text{More } 0 (\text{always } 1) = \text{always } 0$$

Proof (attempt). By contextual stream equality:

(Head) Show $\text{Head}(\text{More } 0 (\text{always } 1)) = \text{Head}(\text{always } 0)$.

$$\text{Head}(\text{More } 0 (\text{always } 1)) = 0$$

$$= \text{Head}(\text{always } 0)$$

$$(\text{Head} \circ \text{More})$$

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Show $h(\text{Tail}(\text{More } 0 (\text{always } 1))) = h(\text{Tail}(\text{always } 0))$.

$$h(\text{Tail}(\text{More } 0 (\text{always } 1)))$$

$$= h(\text{Tail}(\text{More } 0 (\text{Tail}(\text{More } 0 (\text{always } 1)))))$$

$$\neq \dots$$

$$(\text{Tail} \circ \text{More}^{-1})$$

$$(\text{ColH})$$



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Show $h(\text{Tail}(\text{More } 0 (\text{always } 1))) = h(\text{Tail}(\text{always } 0))$.

$$h(\text{Tail}(\text{always } 0)) = \underline{h(\text{always } 0)}$$

$$= h(\text{More } 0 (\text{always } 1))$$

$$\neq h(\text{Tail}(\text{More } 0 (\text{always } 1)))$$

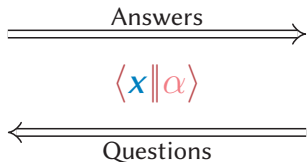
$$(\text{Tail} \circ \text{always})$$

$$(\text{ColH}^{-1})$$

$$(\text{???})$$



COINDUCTIVE RULES IN CLASSICAL LOGIC



A producer $x : A$ gives an **answer** of type A

A consumer $\alpha \div A$ asks a **question** of type A

A command $\langle x \parallel \alpha \rangle$ is an **interaction** at a type

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash x : A \quad \Gamma \vdash \alpha \div A}{\Gamma \vdash \langle x \parallel \alpha \rangle} \text{Cut}$$

AN FORMAL INDUCTION PRINCIPLE

SUMMARIZING INFINITE CASES OF VALUES

Consider property $P : \text{Nat} \rightarrow \text{Prop}$

Is $P(x)$ **true** for any **value** $x : \text{Nat}$?

All the cases of x :

$$x = 0$$

$$x = y + 1 \text{ for some other } y : \text{Nat}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash P(0) \quad \Gamma, y : \text{Nat}, P(y) \vdash P(y + 1)}{\Gamma, x : \text{Nat} \vdash P(x)} \text{Nat Ind}$$

The sound axiom of primitive induction on Nat:

$$P(0) \implies (\forall y : \text{Nat} . P(y) \implies P(y + 1)) \implies \forall x : \text{Nat} . P(x)$$

A CLASSICAL COINDUCTION PRINCIPLE

SUMMARIZING INFINITE CASES OF OBSERVERS

Consider property $P : - \text{Stream } A \rightarrow \text{Prop}$

Is $P(\alpha)$ **true** for any **observation** $\alpha \div \text{Stream } A$

All the cases of α :

$\alpha = \beta \circ \text{Head}$ for some observation $\beta \div A$

$\alpha = \delta \circ \text{Tail}$ for some other $\delta \div \text{Stream } A$

$$\frac{\Gamma, \beta \div A \vdash P(\beta \circ \text{Head}) \quad \Gamma, \delta \div \text{Stream } A, P(\delta) \vdash P(\delta \circ \text{Tail})}{\Gamma, \alpha \div \text{Stream } A \vdash P(\alpha)} \text{Stream } \text{Colnd}$$

A CLASSICAL COINDUCTION PRINCIPLE

SUMMARIZING INFINITE CASES OF OBSERVERS

Consider property $P : - \text{Stream } A \rightarrow \text{Prop}$

Is $P(\alpha)$ **true** for any **observation** $\alpha \div \text{Stream } A$

All the cases of α :

$\alpha = \beta \circ \text{Head}$ for some observation $\beta \div A$

$\alpha = \delta \circ \text{Tail}$ for some other $\delta \div \text{Stream } A$

$$\frac{\Gamma, \beta \div A \vdash P(\beta \circ \text{Head}) \quad \Gamma, \delta \div \text{Stream } A, P(\delta) \vdash P(\delta \circ \text{Tail})}{\Gamma, \alpha \div \text{Stream } A \vdash P(\alpha)} \text{Stream } \text{Colnd}$$

The sound axiom of primitive corecursion on $\text{Stream } A$:

$$\begin{aligned} & (\forall \beta \div A. P(\beta \circ \text{Head})) \implies \\ & (\forall \delta \div \text{Stream } A. P(\delta) \implies P(\delta \circ \text{Tail})) \implies \\ & \forall \alpha \div \text{Stream } A. P(\alpha) \end{aligned}$$

COINDUCTIVE PRINCIPLES FOR OTHER TYPES

COMPUTING WITH CONTEXTUAL COINDUCTION

CONSISTENCY OF EQUALITY

DO THE SYNTACTIC RULES MEAN ANYTHING?

Theorem

If $\Gamma \vdash \langle v \parallel e \rangle = \langle v' \parallel e' \rangle$, then $\langle v \parallel e \rangle$ and $\langle v' \parallel e' \rangle$ are *contextually equivalent*.

Proof.

By a logical relation based on *orthogonal fixed points* in a *subtyping lattice*.

Key idea: *Knaster-Tarski* and *Kleene* fixed points defining types *coincide*.



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Key idea: *Knaster-Tarski* and *Kleene* fixed points defining types *coincide*. □

Corollary

If $\alpha \div \text{Bool} \vdash \langle v \| e \rangle = \langle v' \| e' \rangle$, then either

$$\langle v \| e \rangle \mapsto \langle \text{tt} \| \alpha \rangle \Leftarrow \langle v' \| e' \rangle \text{ or}$$

$$\langle v \| e \rangle \mapsto \langle \text{ff} \| \alpha \rangle \Leftarrow \langle v' \| e' \rangle.$$

Corollary

• $\vdash \text{tt} = \text{ff} : \text{Bool}$ is not derivable.

WHAT ABOUT EFFECTS?

Programs can do some funny things

Conventional side effects

- Mutable state / references

- Input / Output

- Exceptions and Jumps

- Infinite loops

Surprising wrinkle: Information effects

- Dual to control effects (manipulating control flow)

- Erasing answers

- Duplicating answers

Both can cause (co)inductive reasoning principles to go awry

- For example, they can cause **inconsistency**

(Co)INDUCTION AND EVALUATION STRATEGY

ADJUSTING STRENGTH TO SAVE CONSISTENCY

Induction principles (like *Nat Ind*) + Effects are

Fully consistent under call-by-value evaluation

Safe for strict properties in call-by-name evaluation

$$\text{Strict on } x \ni \quad \Psi(x) ::= \langle x \| E \rangle = \langle x \| E' \rangle \quad (E, E' \in \text{Eval.Cxt.})$$

| ...

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Coinduction principles (like *Stream CoInd*) + Effects are

Fully consistent under call-by-name evaluation

Safe for productive properties in call-by-value evaluation

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Productive on } \alpha \ni \\ \quad \Psi(\alpha) ::= \langle V \| \alpha \rangle = \langle V' \| \alpha \rangle \\ \quad \quad \quad | \dots \end{array} \quad (V, V' \in \text{Value})$$

Other reasoning principles like...

Mutual (co)induction: Multiple (Co)IHs over multiple goals

Strong (co)induction: Assume (Co)IH over all smaller structures

Bisimulation: Proof by relationship preservation

...are all derivable from structural (co)induction.

Other reasoning principles like...

Mutual (co)induction: Multiple (Co)IHs over multiple goals

Strong (co)induction: Assume (Co)IH over all smaller structures

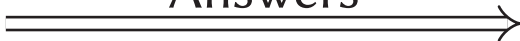
Bisimulation: Proof by relationship preservation

...are all derivable from structural (co)induction.

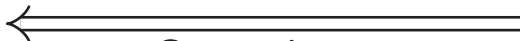
Caveat: Bisimulation & strong coinduction requires **unrestricted CBN rule**

Dual caveat: strong induction requires **unrestricted CBV rule**

Answers



$\langle \textit{Me} \parallel \textit{You} \rangle$



Questions

What's So Hard About Coinduction?

Coinduction With Confidence

Coinductive Rules in Classical Logic

Computing With Contextual Coinduction

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BONUS

MUTUAL COINDUCTION

$$\text{evens} (x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, \dots) = x_0, x_2, x_4, \dots$$

$$\text{odds} (x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, \dots) = x_1, x_3, x_5, \dots$$

$$\text{merge} (x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots) (y_0, y_1, y_2, \dots) = x_0, y_0, x_1, y_1, x_2, y_2, \dots$$

MUTUAL COINDUCTION

$$\text{evens} (x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, \dots) = x_0, x_2, x_4, \dots$$

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$$\text{Head}(\text{evens } xs) = \text{Head } xs$$

$$\text{Tail}(\text{evens } xs) = \text{odds } (\text{Tail } xs)$$

$$\text{odds } xs = \text{evens } (\text{Tail } xs)$$

$$\text{Head}(\text{merge } xs \ ys) = \text{Head } xs$$

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PROOF BY MUTUAL COINDUCTION

Theorem

for all xs and ys , $evens (merge\ xs\ ys) = xs$ AND $odds (merge\ xs\ ys) = ys$

Proof. By mutual contextual stream equality:

(Head) $Head(evens (merge\ xs\ ys)) = Head(merge\ xs\ ys) = Head\ xs$

$Head(odds (merge\ xs\ ys)) = Head(evens (Tail(merge\ xs\ ys)))$

$= Head(Tail(merge\ xs\ ys)) = Head\ ys$

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$$(Head) \quad Head(evens (merge\ xs\ ys)) = Head(merge\ xs\ ys) = Head\ xs$$

$$\begin{aligned} Head(odds (merge\ xs\ ys)) &= Head(evens (Tail(merge\ xs\ ys))) \\ &= Head(Tail(merge\ xs\ ys)) = Head\ ys \end{aligned}$$

$$(Tail) \quad \forall xs, ys, ColH_1 : h(evens(merge\ xs\ ys)) = h(xs), \quad AND \quad ColH_2 : h(odds(merge\ xs\ ys)) = h(ys).$$

$$\begin{aligned} h(Tail(evens (merge\ xs\ ys))) &= h(evens (Tail(Tail(merge\ xs\ ys)))) \\ &= h(evens (merge (Tail\ xs) (Tail\ ys))) \\ &= h(Tail\ xs) \quad (ColH_1[(Tail\ xs)/xs, (Tail\ ys)/ys]) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} h(Tail(odds (merge\ xs\ ys))) &= h(odds (Tail(Tail(merge\ xs\ ys)))) \\ &= h(odds (merge (Tail\ xs) (Tail\ ys))) \\ &= h(Tail\ ys) \quad (ColH_2[(Tail\ xs)/xs, (Tail\ ys)/ys]) \end{aligned}$$

□

PROOF BY STRONG COINDUCTION

Theorem

for all xs, merge (evens xs) (odds xs) = xs.

Proof. By strong contextual stream equality:

$$(\text{Head}) \quad \text{Head}(\text{merge } (\text{evens } xs) (\text{odds } xs)) = \text{Head } xs$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Head}(\text{merge } (\text{evens } xs) (\text{odds } xs)) &= \text{Head}(\text{evens } xs) \\ &= \text{Head } xs \end{aligned}$$

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for all xs , $merge\ (evens\ xs)\ (odds\ xs) = xs$.

Proof. By strong contextual stream equality:

$$(\text{Head}) \quad \text{Head}(merge\ (evens\ xs)\ (odds\ xs)) = \text{Head}\ xs$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Head}(merge\ (evens\ xs)\ (odds\ xs)) &= \text{Head}(evens\ xs) \\ &= \text{Head}\ xs \end{aligned}$$

$$(\text{Head} \circ \text{Tail}) \quad \text{Head}(\text{Tail}(merge\ (evens\ xs)\ (odds\ xs))) = \text{Head}(\text{Tail}\ xs)$$

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PROOF BY STRONG COINDUCTION

Theorem

for all xs , $merge (evens xs) (odds xs) = xs$.

Proof. By strong contextual stream equality:

(Tail \circ Tail) Assume $ColH : \forall xs, h(merge (evens xs) (odds xs)) = h(xs)$.

Show $\forall xs, h(Tail(Tail(merge (evens xs) (odds xs)))) = h(Tail(Tail xs))$.

$$\begin{aligned} & h(Tail(Tail(merge (evens xs) (odds xs)))) \\ &= h(merge (Tail(evens xs)) (Tail(odds xs))) \\ &= h(merge (evens (Tail(Tail xs))) (odds (Tail(Tail xs)))) \end{aligned}$$



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