# An introduction to recursion and induction

datatype 'a list = Nil | Cons 'a "'a list"

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**Nil**: empty list

Cons x xs: head x :: 'a, tail xs :: 'a list

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Predefined lists: [False, True]

#### Concrete syntax

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"..." normally not shown on slides

#### Structural induction on lists

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- P Nil
- and for arbitrary x and xs, P xs implies P (Cons x xs)

## A recursive function: append

Definition by *primitive recursion*:

```
primrec app :: 'a list \Rightarrow 'a list \Rightarrow 'a list where app Nil ys = ? | app (Cons x xs) ys = ??
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1 rule per constructor

Recursive calls must drop the constructor ⇒ Termination

## Demo: append and reverse

#### **Proofs**

#### General schema:

```
lemma name: "..."
apply (...)
apply (...)

done
```

If the lemma is suitable as a simplification rule:

```
lemma name [simp]: "..."
```

#### **Proof methods**

- Structural induction
  - Format: (induct x)
     x must be a free variable in the first subgoal.
     The type of x must be a datatype.
  - Effect: generates 1 new subgoal per constructor
- Simplification and a bit of logic
  - Format: auto
  - Effect: tries to solve as many subgoals as possible using simplification and basic logical reasoning.

## Top down proofs

#### sorry

"completes" any proof.

Suitable for top down developments:

Assume lemmas first, prove them later.

## **Disproving**

#### quickcheck

tries to find counterexample by random testing