

Ornaments and Proof Transport applied to Numerical Representations

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Abstract

[Write here about: “Provisional”](#)

This thesis explains the concepts of the structure identity principle, numerical representations, and ornaments, and aims to combine these to simplify the presentation and verification of finger trees, demonstrating the generalizability and improved compactness and security of the resulting code. Consequently, we also investigate to which extent ornaments, and other generic programs relying on axiom K, remain applicable in the cubical setting required for the structure identity principle.

Contents

1	Introduction	2
1.1	The Problem	4
1.2	Contributions	4
2	Background	4
2.1	Agda	4
2.2	Cubical Agda	6
2.3	Numerical representations	6
2.4	Generic programming and ornaments	6
3	Preliminary work	7
4	Proof Transport via the Structure Identity Principle	7
4.1	Unary numbers are binary numbers	8
4.2	Functions from specifications	10
4.3	The Structure Identity Principle	11
5	Types from Specifications: Ornamentation and Calculation	12
5.1	From numbers to containers	13
5.2	Numerical representations as ornaments	15
5.3	Heterogeneization	17

6	More equivalences for less effort	18
6.1	Well-founded monic algebras are initial	19
6.1.1	Datatypes as initial algebras	20
6.1.2	Accessibility	22
6.1.3	Example	23
7	Related work	24
7.1	The Structure Identity Principle	24
7.2	Numerical Representations	25
7.3	Ornamentation	25
7.4	Generic constructions	25

1 Introduction

Write here about: “Why program verification”

Write here about: “Lists and vectors”

Write here about: “Numerical representations”

Write here about: “To control the consequences of type isomorphisms, we move to cubical type theory”

Write here about: “Adding invariants to get correctness by construction, which entails ornaments”

Write here about: “Finger trees”

First, merely adapting a program to Agda may already require changes to the datatypes used in it; for example, if a program manipulating a [List](#) uses the unsafe [head](#) function, then one is forced to replace the [List](#) by a datatype that ensures non-emptiness, such as a [NonEmpty](#) list or a length-aware vector [Vec](#). On the other hand, there might be sections of a program where the concrete length is not relevant for correctness and only gets in the way. As a result, one might find themselves duplicating common functions like concatenation [_+_](#) to only alter their signatures.

However, the “new” datatype ([Vec](#)) is typically a simple variation on the old datatype ([List](#)) making small adjustments to the existing constructors; in this case, we decorate the nil and cons constructors with natural numbers representing the length. This kind of modification of types falls in the framework of *ornamentation* [KG16]; if two types are reified to their *descriptions*, then *ornaments* express whether the types are “similar” by acting as a recipe to produce one type from the other. By restricting the operations to the copying of corresponding parts, and the introduction of fields or dropping of indices, the existence of such an ornament ensures that the types have the same recursive structure. In general, ornaments allow us to introduce invariants into existing types, so that, as an example, one can derive ordered versions of lists or trees from their ordinary variants. Furthermore, using *patches* [DM14], we can in one direction ensure that [_+_](#) on [Vec](#) agrees with its version for [List](#) under the ornament; in the other direction, a patch can also help us while defining this lifted variant.

Using ornaments, we can organize similar datatypes using ornaments; but we will also make use of relations between dissimilar datatypes. It is conventional to prototype a program using simpler types or implementations, and only replace these with more performant alternatives in critical places. While this may quickly turn into a refactoring nightmare in the general case, we can hope for a more satisfying transition if we restrict our attention to a narrower scope. As an example, we might start programming using `Lists`, but replace this with a `Tree` if we notice that the program spends most of its time in `lookup` operations. To gain a speedup, we will have to reimplement the operations on `Tree`. This would also double the number of necessary proofs; however, we have two ways to avoid this problem.

We will look at the more specific solution first. This solution is guided by the realization that even though `List` and `Tree` have different recursive structures, they have one commonality; namely, both resemble a number system. Lists and Braun trees¹ can both be presented by deriving them from unary and binary numbers respectively, as is made formal by Hinze and Swierstra [HS22]. One can then apply this *numerical representation* [Oka98] to simplify or trivialize properties of these datastructures. We will also see that we can interpret numerical interpretations more literally, and construct the representation directly as an ornament.

In the general case, we can apply representation independence. Equality of indiscernables ensures that substituting terms for equal terms cannot change the behaviour of a program, and, as types are terms, the same should hold for types. If we consider two types implementing a given interface, with an operation-preserving isomorphism, then representation independence tells us that the implementations must be functionally equivalent. In the case of trees and lists, this states that since converting a list to a tree preserves `lookup`, the outcome of a program that only uses `lookup` cannot change when substituting trees for lists. While a proof of this statement usually either exists in the meta-theory, or is produced by manually weaving the conversions through our proofs, Cubical Agda allows us to internalize this independence [Ang+20].

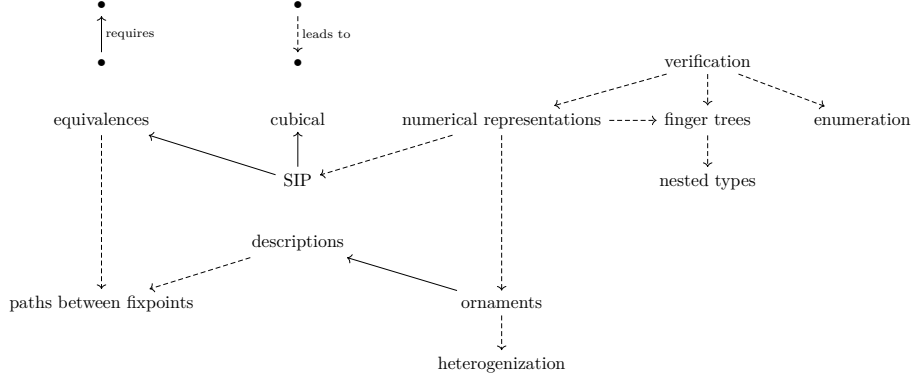
We will first take a closer look at SIP [Ang+20] and give concrete examples of proof transport, which we can use to characterize equivalences of flexible two-sided arrays. Then we recall the constructions of numerical representations [HS22] and ornamentation [KG16], illustrating how we can define arrays from simpler types by providing interpretations into naturals. We will test these methods by using them to simplify the presentation of finger trees² [HP06]. After that, we will investigate other generic operations, such as the presentation of certain type transformations as ornaments, and the fair enumeration of recursive datatypes.

This is going to be (re)moved: “The relations between the sections can be

¹Braun trees are a kind of binary tree, of which the shape is determined by its size.

²A finger tree is a nested type representing a sequence, designed to support amortized constant time en-/dequeueing at both ends, and logarithmic time concatenation and lookup.

summarized as”



1.1 The Problem

1.2 Contributions

2 Background

2.1 Agda

We formalize our work in Agda [Tea23], a functional programming language with dependent types. Using dependent types we can use Agda as a proof assistant, allowing us to state and prove theorems about our datastructures and programs. These proofs can then be run as algorithms, or in some cases be extracted to a Haskell program³.

The type system of Agda is an extension of (intensional) Martin-Löf type theory (MLTT), a constructive type theory in which we can interpret intuitionistic logic. Compared to Haskell, which extends a polymorphic lambda calculus with inductive types, MLTT allows the type of the codomain of a function to vary with the values in the domain and the type of the second field of a pair type to vary with the value of the first. The interpretation of logic into programs is known as the Curry-Howard isomorphism: propositions or logical formulas are related to types, such that a term of a type constitutes a proof of the related proposition.

Syntactically Agda is similar to Haskell, with a few notable differences. One is that Agda allows most characters and words in identifiers with only a small set of exceptions. For example, we can write

```

_<img alt="blue diamond" data-bbox="275 775 290 790"/>_<img alt="orange diamond" data-bbox="300 775 315 790"/>_ : Bool → A → A → A
false <img alt="blue diamond" data-bbox="295 795 310 810"/> t <img alt="orange diamond" data-bbox="325 795 340 810"/> e = e
true  <img alt="blue diamond" data-bbox="295 815 310 830"/> t <img alt="orange diamond" data-bbox="325 815 340 830"/> e = t

```

³Or JavaScript, if you want.

The other is that datatypes are given either as generalized algebraic datatypes (GADTs) or record types in Haskell.

An essential semantical difference is that Agda rules out non-termination by restricting function definitions to structural recursion. The termination checker (together with other restrictions which we will encounter in due time) ensures that the logic interpreted in Agda remains consistent, and does not allow trivial proofs which would be tolerated in Haskell, like

```
undefined : ∀ {A : Type} → A
undefined = undefined
```

The propositional part of the Curry-Howard correspondence can then be formulated by the usual type formers. The atomic formulas, true and false, can be represented respectively as the empty record: there always is a proof `tt` of true

```
record ⊤ : Type where
  constructor tt
```

and the type with no constructors: there is no way to make a proof of false

```
record ⊥ : Type where
```

Implication $A \implies B$ corresponds to function types $A \rightarrow B$: a proof of A can be converted to a proof of B . Implication also gives an interpretation of negation as functions into false $A \rightarrow \perp$. Disjunction (logical or) is described by a sum type $A + B$: either of A or B can prove $A + B$

```
data _+_ A B : Type where
  inl : A → A + B
  inr : B → A + B
```

Conjunction (logical and) is given as a product type: having both A and B proves $A \times B$

```
record _×_ A B : Type where
  constructor _,_
  field
    fst : A
    snd : B
```

Predicates, formulas containing variables, correspond to functions into the type of formulas

```
P : A → Type
```

allowing interpretations of higher-order logic. Quantifiers are interpreted via dependent types, universal quantification (for all) is a dependent function type: for each $a : A$, give a proof of $P a$

```
(a : A) → P a
```

Likewise, existential quantification (exists) is a dependent pair type: there is an $a : A$ and a proof $P a$

```
record ∃ A (P : A → Type) : Type where
  constructor _,_
  field
    fst : A
    snd : P fst
```

Predicates can also be expressed using indexed datatypes, in which the choice of constructor can influence the index, whereas parameters must be constant

over all constructors. Equality of elements of a type A can then be interpreted as the type

```
data Eq (a : A) : A → Type where
  refl : Eq a a
```

Closed terms of this type can only be constructed for definitionally equal elements, but crucially, variables can contain equalities between different elements. As the second argument is an index, pattern matching on `refl` unifies the elements, such that properties like substitution follow

```
subst : Eq a b → P a → P b
subst refl x = x
```

Write here about: “Isomorphisms”

2.2 Cubical Agda

Write here about: “Gluing everything together, making representation independence run.”

The methods described in later sections yield type isomorphisms. One might expect that like how isomorphic groups share the same group-theoretical properties, isomorphic types also share the same type-theoretical properties. Metatheoretically, this is known as *representation independence*, and is evident: if $e : A \simeq B$, simply modify the type by substituting all variables $x : B$ with ex' for $x' : A$, and replacing the resulting terms $t : B$ by $e^{-1}t$. Then the proof term can be recovered by substituting along the equalities $e^{-1}(ex) \equiv x$ as needed.

Inside (ordinary) Agda this is not so practical, as this independence only holds when applied to concrete types, and is then only realized by manually performing these substitutions. On the other hand, in Cubical Agda, the Structure Identity Principle internalizes a kind of representation independence [Ang+20].

Cubical Agda modifies the type theory of Agda to a kind of homotopy type theory, looking at equalities as paths between terms rather than the equivalence relation generated by reflexivity. In cubical type theories, the role played by pattern matching on `refl` or by axiom J, in MLTT and “Book HoTT” respectively, is instead acted out by directly manipulating cubes⁴. In Cubical Agda, univalence is not an axiom but a theorem.

2.3 Numerical representations

Write here about: “Generalizing the observation that lists look like unary naturals and Braun trees look like binary naturals.”

2.4 Generic programming and ornaments

Write here about: “Taking the writing out of our hands, formalizing the “looks like relation”.”

⁴Under the analogy where a term is a point, an equality between points is a line, a line between lines is a square.

3 Preliminary work

Write here about: “Adapt and split into background and actual work”

4 Proof Transport via the Structure Identity Principle

To give an understanding of the basics of Cubical Agda [VMA19] and the Structure Identity Principle (SIP), we walk through the steps to transport proofs about addition on Peano naturals to Leibniz naturals. We give an overview of some features of Cubical Agda, such as that paths give the primitive notion of equality, until the simplified statement of univalence. We do note that Cubical Agda has two downsides relating to termination checking and universe levels, which we encounter in later sections.

Starting by defining the unary Peano naturals and the binary Leibniz naturals, we prove that they are isomorphic by interpreting them into each other. We explain that these interpretations are easily seen to be mutual inverses by proving lemmas stating that both interpretations “respect the constructors” of the types. Next, we demonstrate how this isomorphism can be promoted into an equivalence or an equality, and remark that this is sufficient to transport intrinsic properties, such as having decidable equality, from one natural to the other.

Noting that transporting unary addition to binary addition is possible but not efficient, we define binary addition while ensuring that it corresponds to unary addition. We present a variant on refinement types as a syntax to recover definition from chains of equality reasoning, allowing one to rewrite definitions while preserving equalities.

We clarify that to transport proofs referring to addition from unary to binary naturals, we indeed require that these are meaningfully related. Then, we observe that in this instance, the pairs of “type and operation” are actually equated as magmas, and explain that this is an instance of the SIP.

Finally, we describe the use case of the SIP, how it generalizes our observation about magmas, and how it can calculate the minimal requirements to equate to implementations of an interface. This is demonstrated by transporting associativity from unary addition to binary addition, noting that this would save many lines of code provided there is much to be transported.

Write here about: “Merge”

Let us quickly review some features of Cubical Agda [VMA19] that we will use in this section.

In Cubical Agda, the primitive notion of equality arises not (directly) from the indexed inductive definition we are used to, but rather from the presence of the interval type `I`. This type represents a set of two points `i0` and `i1`, which are considered “identified” in the sense that they are connected by a path. To define a function out of this type, we also have to define the function on all the

intermediate points, which is why we call such a function a “path”. Terms of other types are then considered identified when there is a path between them.

While the benefits are overwhelming for us

Which?

, this is not completely without downsides, such as that the negation of axiom K complicates both some termination checking and some universe levels.⁵ Furthermore, if we use certain homotopical constructions, and we wish to eliminate from our types as if they were sets, then we will also have to prove that they are indeed sets.

On the positive side, this different perspective gives intuitive interpretations to some proofs of equality, like

```
sym : x ≡ y → y ≡ x
sym p i = p (~ i)
```

where `~_` is the interval reversal, swapping `i0` and `i1`, so that `sym` simply reverses the given path.

Furthermore, because we can now interpret paths in record and function types in a new way, we get a host of “extensionality” for free. For example, a path in $A \rightarrow B$ is indeed a function which takes each i in I to a function $A \rightarrow B$. Using this, function extensionality becomes tautological

```
funExt : (∀ x → f x ≡ g x) → f ≡ g
funExt p i x = p x i
```

Finally, much of our work will rest on equivalences, as the “HoTT-compatible” generalization of bijections. This is because in Cubical Agda, we have the univalence theorem

```
ua : ∀ {A B : Type ℓ} → A ≃ B → A ≡ B
```

stating that “equivalent types are identified”, such that type isomorphisms like $1 \rightarrow A \simeq A$ become paths $1 \rightarrow A \equiv A$, making it so that we can transport proofs along them. We will demonstrate this by a more practical example in the next section.

4.1 Unary numbers are binary numbers

Let us demonstrate an application of univalence by exploiting the equivalence of the “Peano” naturals and the “Leibniz” naturals. Recall that the Peano naturals are defined as

```
data ℕ : Type where
  zero : ℕ
  suc : ℕ → ℕ
```

This definition enjoys a simple induction principle and is well-covered in most libraries. However, the definition is also impractically slow, since most arithmetic operations defined on `ℕ` have time complexity in the order of the value of the result.

⁵In particular, this prompts rather far-reaching (but not fundamental) changes to the code of previous work, such as to the machinery of ornaments [KG16] in Section 6.

As an alternative we can use binary numbers, for which for example addition has logarithmic time complexity. Standard libraries tend to contain few proofs about binary number properties, but this does not have to be a problem: the \mathbb{N} naturals and the binary numbers should be equivalent after all!

Let us make this formal. We define the Leibniz naturals as follows:

```
data Leibniz : Set where
  0b : Leibniz
  _1b : Leibniz → Leibniz
  _2b : Leibniz → Leibniz
```

Here, the `0b` constructor encodes 0, while the `_1b` and `_2b` constructors respectively add a 1 and a 2 bit, under the usual interpretation of binary numbers:

```
toN : Leibniz → ℕ
toN 0b = 0
toN (n 1b) = 1 + 2 * toN n
toN (n 2b) = 2 + 2 * toN n
[[ ]] = toN
```

This defines one direction of the equivalence from \mathbb{N} to `Leibniz`, for the other direction, we can interpret a number in \mathbb{N} as a binary number by repeating the successor operation on binary numbers:

```
bsuc : Leibniz → Leibniz
bsuc 0b = 0b 1b
bsuc (n 1b) = n 2b
bsuc (n 2b) = (bsuc n) 1b
```

```
fromN : ℕ → Leibniz
fromN 0 = 0b
fromN (suc n) = bsuc (fromN n)
```

To show that `toN` is an isomorphism, we have to show that it is the inverse of `fromN`. By induction on `Leibniz` and basic arithmetic on \mathbb{N} we see that

```
toN-suc : ∀ x → [[ bsuc x ]] = suc [[ x ]]
```

so `toN` respects successors. Similarly, by induction on \mathbb{N} we get

```
fromN-1+2· : ∀ x → fromN (1 + double x) = (fromN x) 1b
```

and

```
fromN-2+2· : ∀ x → fromN (2 + double x) = (fromN x) 2b
```

so that `fromN` respects even and odd numbers. We can then prove that applying `toN` and `fromN` after each other is the identity by repeating these lemmas

```
N↔L : Iso ℕ Leibniz
N↔L = iso fromN toN sec ret
  where
    sec : section fromN toN
    ret : retract fromN toN
```

This isomorphism can be promoted to an equivalence

```
N≈L : ℕ ≈ Leibniz
N≈L = isoToEquiv N↔L
```

which, finally, lets us identify \mathbb{N} and `Leibniz` by univalence

```

N=L : N = Leibniz
N=L = ua N=L

```

The path `N=L` then allows us to transport properties from `N` directly to `Leibniz`; as an example, we have not yet shown that `Leibniz` is discrete, i.e., has decidable equality. Using substitution, we can quickly derive this⁶

```

discreteL : Discrete Leibniz
discreteL = subst Discrete N=L discreteN

```

This can be generalized even further to transport proofs about operations from `N` to `Leibniz`.

4.2 Functions from specifications

As an example, we will define addition of binary numbers. We could transport `_+_` as a binary operation

```

BinOp : Type → Type
BinOp A = A → A → A

```

from `N` to `Leibniz` to get

```

_+'_ : BinOp Leibniz
_+'_ = subst BinOp N=L N._+_

```

But this is inefficient, incurring an $O(n+m)$ overhead when adding n and m . It is more efficient to define addition on `Leibniz` directly, making use of the binary nature of `Leibniz`, while agreeing with the addition on `N`. Such a definition can be derived from the specification “agrees with `_+_`”, so we implement a syntax for giving definitions by equational reasoning, inspired by the “use-as-definition” notation used by Hinze and Swierstra [HS22]: Using an implicit pair type

```

record Σ' (A : Set a) (B : A → Set b) : Set (ℓ-max a b) where
  constructor _use-as-def
  field
    {fst} : A
    snd : B fst

```

we define

```

Def : {X : Type a} → X → Type a
Def {X = X} x = Σ' X λ y → x = y

```

```

defined-by : {X : Type a} {x : X} → Def x → X
by-definition : {X : Type a} {x : X} → (d : Def x) → x = defined-by d

```

which extracts a definition as the right endpoint of a given path.

With this we can define addition on `Leibniz` and show it agrees with addition on `N` in one motion

```

plus-def : ∀ x y → Def (fromN ([ x ] + [ y ]))
plus-def 0b y =
  fromN [ y ]
≡< N↔L .rightInv y >
y ■ use-as-def

```

⁶Of course, this gives a rather inefficient equality test, but for the homotopical consequences this is not a problem.

```

plus-def (x 1b) (y 1b) =
  fromIN ((1 + double [ x ]) + (1 + double [ y ]))
=< solved >
  fromIN (2 + (double ([ x ] + [ y ])))
=< fromIN-2+2· ([ x ] + [ y ]) >
  fromIN ([ x ] + [ y ]) 2b
=< cong _2b (by-definition (plus-def x y)) >
  defined-by (plus-def x y) 2b ■ use-as-def
-- ...

```

Now we can easily extract the definition of `plus` and its correctness with respect to `_+_`

```

plus : ∀ x y → Leibniz
plus x y = defined-by (plus-def x y)

plus-coherent : ∀ x y → fromIN (x + y) = plus (fromIN x) (fromIN y)
plus-coherent x y = cong fromIN
  (cong₂ _+_ (sym (N↔L .leftInv x)) (sym (N↔L .leftInv _))) ·
  by-definition (plus-def (fromIN x) (fromIN y))

```

We remark that `Def` is close in concept to refinement types⁷, but extracts the value from the proof, rather than requiring it before.⁸

4.3 The Structure Identity Principle

We point out that `ℕ` with `N.+` and `Leibniz` with `plus` form magmas, that is, inhabitants of

```

Magma' : Type₁
Magma' = Σ[ X ∈ Type ] BinOp X

```

Using that a path in a dependent pair corresponds to a dependent pair of paths, we get a path from `(ℕ, N.+)` to `(Leibniz, plus)`. This observation is further generalized by the Structure Identity Principle (SIP) as a form of representation independence [Ang+20]. Given a structure, which in our case is just a binary operation

```

MagmaStr : Type → Type
MagmaStr = BinOp

```

this principle produces an appropriate definition “structured equivalence” ι . The ι is such that if structures X, Y are ι -equivalent, then they are identified. In the case of `MagmaStr`, the ι asks us to provide something with the same type as `plus-coherent`, so we have just shown that the `plus` magma on `Leibniz`

```

MagmaL : Magma
fst MagmaL = Leibniz
snd MagmaL = plus

```

and the `_+_` magma on `ℕ` and are identical

⁷À la Data.Refinement.

⁸Unfortunately, normalizing an application of a `defined-by` function also causes a lot of unnecessary wrapping and unwrapping, so `Def` is mostly only useful for presentation.

```

MagmaN≅MagmaL : MagmaN ≡ MagmaL
MagmaN≅MagmaL = equivFun (MagmaΣPath _ _) proof
  where
    proof : MagmaN ≅[ MagmaEquivStr ] MagmaL
    fst proof = N≅L
    snd proof = plus-coherent

```

As a consequence, properties of `+_` directly yield corresponding properties of `plus`. For example,

```

plus-assoc : Associative == plus
plus-assoc = subst
  (λ A → Associative == (snd A))
MagmaN≅MagmaL
N-assoc

```

Express what this accomplishes, and why this is impressive compared to without univalence

5 Types from Specifications: Ornamentation and Calculation

Using an example where we try to safely refactor a piece of code to use trees rather than lists, we motivate the need for a framework to organize different container types under a similar description. We explain that for indexed types, we can use representability, e.g., vectors correspond to functions out of finite types.

We describe how we can also derive these datastructures from functions [HS22], starting from a number system, yielding a numerical representation [Oka98]; this is demonstrated by an example deriving of vectors from unary naturals [HS22]. The vector type is computed by chains of equality reasoning like in the previous section, giving the correspondence to functions out of the finite type.

We illustrate how both (the functions out of a type and the concrete vectors) can implement an array interface, such as two-sided flexible arrays. We remark that the laws for such interfaces can be more easily proven on the function-based implementations, so that they can be transported to the concrete implementation.

Reflecting on this derivation, we note that the computation for binary naturals would be analogous, amending constructors constructors with fields holding appropriate number of elements. We relate this to ornamentation [KG16], which lets us relate types by recursive structure. After that, we give a short overview of the capabilities of descriptions and ornaments, and demonstrate these by deriving the list datatype from the unary natural type using an ornamental description.

We remark that this approach needs to be adjusted to use indices before it

can be applied to binary naturals; we clarify how “metaphorical” this construction of binary trees is to binary numbers by letting the weight of the “digits” control the numbers of elements in each constructor. We explain that in doing so, the shape of the binary tree seen as a binary number then corresponds to the number of elements it contains.

After that, we give a completely different application of ornaments; we recall that the construction of heterogeneous lists, lists which contain elements with different types, is rather mechanical. Observing that a “heterogeneous X” is expressed as an “X-indexed X”, we assert that this self-indexing can be captured as an ornament.

To define this ornament, we needed to include a parameter field in the definition of descriptions and ornaments. Then we define “heterogeneization” as an “ornament-computing function”, which takes a description and produces an ornamental description. We demonstrate how we can heterogeneize lists and maybes, allowing us to produce a natural implementation of the heterogeneous head operation, and relate this to earlier work deriving heterogeneous random access lists [Swi20].

[Write here about: “Merge”](#)

Suppose that we started writing and verifying some code using a vector-based implementation of the two-sided flexible array interface, but later decide to reimplement more efficiently using trees. It would be a shame to lay aside our vector lemmas, and rebuild the correctness proofs for trees from scratch. Instead, we note that both vectors and trees can be represented by their [lookup](#) function. In fact, we can ask for more, and rather than defining an array-like type and then showing that it is represented by a lookup function, we can go the other way around and define types by insisting that they are equivalent to such a function. This approach, in particular the case in which one calculates a container with the same shape as a numeral system, was dubbed numerical representations by Okasaki [Oka98], and has some formalized examples due to Hinze and Swierstra [HS22] and Ko and Gibbons [KG16]. Numerical representations are our starting point for defining more complex datastructures based on simpler ones, so we demonstrate such a calculation.

5.1 From numbers to containers

We can compute the type of vectors starting from [N](#).

Is there a simple twist or other interesting example that we can run through instead, or would anything else be too abrupt without starting from this simple case?

⁹ For simplicity, we define them as a type computing function via the “use-as-definition” notation from before. We expect vectors to be represented by

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Lookup} &: \text{Type} \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \text{Type} \\ \text{Lookup } A \ n &= \text{Fin } n \rightarrow A \end{aligned}$$

⁹This is adapted (and fairly abridged) from Calculating Datastructures [HS22]

where we use the finite type `Fin` as an index into vector. Using this representation as a specification, we can compute both `Fin` and a type of vectors. The finite type can be computed from the evident definition

```
Fin-def : ∀ n → Def (Σ[ m ∈ ℕ ] m < n)
Fin-def zero =
  (Σ[ m ∈ ℕ ] m < 0)
  =< ⊥-strict (λ ()) >
  ⊥ ■ use-as-def
Fin-def (suc n) =
  (Σ[ m ∈ ℕ ] m < suc n)
  =< ua (<-split n) >
  ⊤ ∪ (Σ[ m ∈ ℕ ] m < n)
  =< cong (⊤ ∪) (by-definition (Fin-def n)) >
  ⊤ ∪ defined-by (Fin-def n) ■ use-as-def

Fin : ℕ → Type
Fin n = defined-by (Fin-def n)
```

using

```
<-split : ∀ n → (Σ[ m ∈ ℕ ] m < suc n) ≃ (⊤ ∪ (Σ[ m ∈ ℕ ] m < n))
```

Likewise, vectors can be computed by applying a sequence of type isomorphisms

```
Vec-def : ∀ A n → Def (Lookup A n)
Vec-def A zero =
  (⊥ → A)
  =< isContr→≡Unit isContr⊥→A >
  ⊤ ■ use-as-def
Vec-def A (suc n) =
  ((⊤ ∪ Fin n) → A)
  =< ua Π∪≃ >
  (⊤ → A) × (Fin n → A)
  =< cong₂ _×_
    (UnitToTypePath A)
    (by-definition (Vec-def A n)) >
  A × (defined-by (Vec-def A n)) ■ use-as-def

Vec : ∀ A n → Type
Vec A n = defined-by (Vec-def A n)
```

SIP doesn't mesh very well with indexed stuff, does HSIP help?

We can implement the following interface using `Vec`

```
record Array (V : Type → ℕ → Type) : Type₁ where
  field
    lookup : ∀ {A n} → V A n → Fin n → A
    tail : ∀ {A n} → V A (suc n) → V A n
and show that this satisfies some usual laws like
record ArrayLaws {C} (Arr : Array C) : Type₁ where
  field
```

```

lookup•tail : ∀ {A n} (xs : C A (suc n)) (i : Fin n)
  → Arr .lookup (Arr .tail xs) i ≡ Arr .lookup xs (inr i)

```

Since we defined `Vec` such that it agrees with `Lookup`, we can relate their implementations as well.

The implementation of arrays as functions is straightforward

```

FunArray : Array Lookup
FunArray .lookup f = f
FunArray .tail f = f ∘ inr

```

and clearly satisfies our interface

```

FunLaw : ArrayLaws FunArray
FunLaw .lookup•tail _ _ = refl

```

We can implement arrays based on `Vec` as well¹⁰

```

VectorArray : Array Vec
VectorArray .lookup {n = n} = f n
  where
    f : ∀ {A} n → Vec A n → Fin n → A
    f (suc n) (x , xs) (inl _) = x
    f (suc n) (x , xs) (inr i) = f n xs i
VectorArray .tail (x , xs) = xs

```

Now, rather than rederiving the laws for vectors, the equality allows us to transport them from `Lookup` to `Vec`.¹¹

As you can see, taking “use-as-definition” too literally prevents Agda from solving a lot of metavariables.

This computation can of course be generalized to any arity zeroless numeral system; unfortunately beyond this set of base types, this “straightforward” computation from numeral system to container loses its efficacy. In a sense, the n -ary natural numbers are exactly the base types for which the required steps are convenient type equivalences like $(A + B) \rightarrow C = (A \rightarrow C) \times (B \rightarrow C)$?

5.2 Numerical representations as ornaments

Reflecting on this derivation for `N`, we could perform the same computation for `Leibniz` to get Braun trees. However, we note that these computations proceed with roughly the same pattern: each constructor of the numeral system gets assigned a value, and is amended with a field holding a number of elements and subnodes using this value as a “weight”. This kind of “modifying constructors” is formalized by ornamentation [KG16], which lets us formulate what it means for two types to have a “similar” recursive structure. This is achieved by interpreting (indexed inductive) datatypes from descriptions, between which an

¹⁰Note that, like any other type computing representation, we pay the price by not being able to pattern match directly on our type.

¹¹Except that due to the simplicity of this case, the laws are trivial for `Vec` as well.

ornament is seen as a certificate of similarity, describing which fields or indices need to be introduced or dropped to go from one description to the other. *Ornamental descriptions*, which act as one-sided ornaments, let us describe new datatypes by recording the modifications to an existing description.

Put some minimal definitions here.

Looking back at `Vec`, ornaments let us show that express that `Vec` can be formed by introducing indices and adding a fields holding an elements to the other. However, deriving `List` from `N` generalizes to `Leibniz` with less notational overhead, so we tackle that case first. We use the following description of `N`

```
NatD : Desc  $\top$   $\ell$ -zero
NatD _ =  $\sigma$  Bool  $\lambda$ 
  { false  $\rightarrow$   $\forall$  []
  ; true  $\rightarrow$   $\forall$  [ tt ] }
```

Here, σ adds a field to the description, upon which the rest of the description can vary, and \forall lists the recursive fields and their indices (which can only be `tt`). We can now write down the ornament which adds fields to the `suc` constructor

```
NatD-ListO : Type  $\rightarrow$  OrnDesc  $\top$  ! NatD
NatD-ListO A (ok _) =  $\sigma$  Bool  $\lambda$ 
  { false  $\rightarrow$   $\forall$  _
  ; true  $\rightarrow$   $\Delta$  A ( $\lambda$  _  $\rightarrow$   $\forall$  (ok _ , _)) }
```

Here, the σ and \forall are forced to match those of `NatD`, but the Δ adds a new field. Using the least fixpoint and description extraction, we can then define `List` from this ornamental description. Note that we cannot hope to give an unindexed ornament from `Leibniz`

```
LeibnizD : Desc  $\top$   $\ell$ -zero
LeibnizD _ =  $\sigma$  (Fin 3)  $\lambda$ 
  { zero  $\rightarrow$   $\forall$  []
  ; (suc zero)  $\rightarrow$   $\forall$  [ tt ]
  ; (suc (suc zero))  $\rightarrow$   $\forall$  [ tt ] }
```

into trees, since trees have a very different recursive structure! Thus, we must keep track at what level we are in the tree so that we can ask for adequately many elements:

```
power : N  $\rightarrow$  (A  $\rightarrow$  A)  $\rightarrow$  A  $\rightarrow$  A
power N.zero f =  $\lambda$  x  $\rightarrow$  x
power (N.suc n) f = f  $\circ$  power n f
```

```
Two : Type  $\rightarrow$  Type
Two X = X  $\times$  X
```

```
LeibnizD-TreeO : Type  $\rightarrow$  OrnDesc N ! LeibnizD
LeibnizD-TreeO A (ok n) =  $\sigma$  (Fin 3)  $\lambda$ 
  { zero  $\rightarrow$   $\forall$  _
  ; (suc zero)  $\rightarrow$   $\Delta$  (power n Two A)  $\lambda$  _  $\rightarrow$   $\forall$  (ok (suc n) , _)
  ; (suc (suc zero))  $\rightarrow$   $\Delta$  (power (suc n) Two A)  $\lambda$  _  $\rightarrow$   $\forall$  (ok (suc n) , _) }
```

We use the `power` combinator to ensure that the digit at position n , which has weight 2^n in the interpretation of a binary number, also holds its value times

2^n elements. This makes sure that the number of elements in the tree shaped after a given binary number also is the value of that binary number.

5.3 Heterogeneization

The situation in which one wants to collect a variety of types is not uncommon, and is typically handled by tuples. However, if e.g., you are making a game in Haskell, you might feel the need to maintain a list of “Drawables”, which may be of different types. Such a list would have to be a kind of “heterogeneous list”. In Haskell, this can be resolved by using an existentially quantified list, which, informally speaking, can contain any type implementing a given constraint, but can only be inspected as if it contains the intersection of all types implementing this constraint.

This ports directly to Agda, but becomes cumbersome quickly, and impractical if we want to be able to inspect the elements. The alternative is to split our heterogeneous list into two parts; one tracking the types, and one tracking the values. In practice, this means that we implement a heterogeneous list as a list of values indexed over a list of types. This approach and mainly its specialization to binary trees is investigated by Swierstra [Swi20].

We will demonstrate that we can express this “lift a type over itself” operation as an ornament. For this, we make a small adjustment to `RDesc` to track a type parameter separately from the fields. Using this we define an ornament-computing function, which given a description computes an ornamental description on top of it:

Oops

```

HetO' : (D : RDesc  $\top$   $\ell$ -zero) (E : RDesc  $\top$   $\ell$ -zero) (x :  $\dot{F}$  ( $\lambda \_ \rightarrow D$ ) ( $\mu$  ( $\lambda \_ \rightarrow E$ ) Type) Type tt)  $\rightarrow$  ROrnDesc
HetO' ( $\dot{y}$  is) E x =  $\dot{y}$  (map- $\dot{y}$  is x)
where
  map- $\dot{y}$  : (is : List  $\top$ )  $\rightarrow$   $\dot{P}$  is ( $\mu$  ( $\lambda \_ \rightarrow E$ ) Type)  $\rightarrow$   $\dot{P}$  is (Inv !)
  map- $\dot{y}$  [] _ = _
  map- $\dot{y}$  ( $\_ ::$  is) (x , xs) = ok x , map- $\dot{y}$  is xs
HetO' ( $\sigma$  S D) E (s , x) =  $\nabla$  s (HetO' (D s) E x)
HetO' ( $\dot{p}$  D) E (A , x) =  $\Delta$  [ $\_ \in A$ ]  $\dot{p}$  (HetO' D E x)

HetO : (D : RDesc  $\top$   $\ell$ -zero)  $\rightarrow$  OrnDesc ( $\mu$  ( $\lambda \_ \rightarrow D$ ) Type tt) !  $\lambda \_ \rightarrow D$ 
HetO D (ok (con x)) = HetO' D D x

```

This ornament relates the original unindexed type to a type indexed over it; we see that this ornament largely keeps all fields and structure identical, only performing the necessary bookkeeping in the index, and adding extra fields before parameters.

As an example, we adapt the list description

```

ListD : Desc  $\top$   $\ell$ -zero
ListD _ =  $\sigma$  Bool  $\lambda$ 
  { false  $\rightarrow$   $\dot{y}$  []
  ; true  $\rightarrow$   $\dot{p}$  ( $\dot{y}$  [ tt ]) }

List' : Type  $\ell \rightarrow$  Type  $\ell$ 
List' A =  $\mu$  ListD A tt

```

which is easily heterogeneousized to an `HList`. In fact, `HetO` seems to act functorially; if we lift `Maybe` like

```

MaybeD : Desc  $\top$   $\ell$ -zero
MaybeD _ =  $\sigma$  Bool ( $\lambda$ 
  { false  $\rightarrow$   $\dot{\vee}$  []
  ; true  $\rightarrow$   $\dot{p}$  ( $\dot{\vee}$  [] ) })

Maybe : Type  $\ell \rightarrow$  Type  $\ell$ 
Maybe A =  $\mu$  MaybeD A tt

HMaybeD =  $\mathbb{L}$  HetO (MaybeD tt)  $\mathbb{J}$ 
HMaybe =  $\mu$  HMaybeD  $\top$ 

```

then we can lift functions like `head` as

```

head : List' A  $\rightarrow$  Maybe A
head (con (false , _)) = con (false , _)
head (con (true , a , _)) = con (true , a , _)

hhead : (As : List' Type)  $\rightarrow$  HList As  $\rightarrow$  HMaybe (head As)
hhead (con (false , _)) (con _) = con _
hhead (con (true , A , _)) (con (a , _)) = con (a , _ , _)

```

6 More equivalences for less effort

Noting that constructing equivalences directly or from isomorphisms as in Section 4 can quickly become challenging when one of the sides is complicated, we work out a different approach making use of the initial semantics of W -types instead. We claim that the functions in the isomorphism of Section 4 were partially forced, but this fact was not made use of.

First, we explain that if we assume that one of the two sides of the equivalence is a fixpoint or initial algebra of a polynomial functor (that is, the μ of a `Desc'`), this simplifies giving an equivalence to showing that the other side is also initial.

We describe how we altered the original ornaments [KG16] to ensure that μ remains initial for its base functor in Cubical Agda, explaining why this fails otherwise, and how defining base functors as datatypes avoids this issue.

In a subsection focussing on the categorical point of view, we show how we can describe initial algebras (and truncate the appropriate parts) in such a way that the construction both applies to general types (rather than only sets), and still produces an equivalence at the end. We explain how this definition, like the usual definition, makes sure that a pair of initial objects always induces a pair of conversion functions, which automatically become inverses. Finally, we explain that we can escape our earlier truncation by appealing to the fact that “being an equivalence” is a proposition.

Next, we describe some theory, using which other types can be shown to be initial for a given algebra. This is compared to the construction in Section 4, observing that intuitively, initiality follows because the interpretation of the zero constructor is forced by the square defining algebra maps, and the other

values are forced by repeatedly applying similar squares. This is clarified as an instance of recursion over a polynomial functor.

To characterize when this recursion is allowed, we define accessibility with respect to polynomial functors as a mutually recursive datatype as follows. This datatype is constructed using the fibers of the algebra map, defining accessibility of elements of these fibers by cases over the description of the algebra. Then we remark that this construction is an atypical instance of well-founded recursion, and define a type as well-founded for an algebra when all its elements are accessible.

We interpret well-foundedness as an upper bound on the size of a type, leading us to claim that injectivity of the algebra map gives a lower bound, which is sufficient to induce the isomorphism. We sketch the proof of the theorem, relating part of this construction to similar concepts in the formalization of well-founded recursion in the Standard Library. In particular, we prove an irrelevance and an unfolding lemma, which lets us show that the map into any other algebra induced by recursion is indeed an algebra map. By showing that it is also unique, we conclude initiality, and get the isomorphism as a corollary.

The theorem is applied and demonstrated to the example of binary naturals. We remark that the construction of well-foundedness looks similar to view-patterns. After this, we conclude that this example takes more lines than the direct derivation in Section 4, but we argue that most of this code can likely be automated.

[Write here about: “Merge”](#)

Using Section 4 we can relate functionally equivalent structures, and using Section 5 we can relate structurally similar structures. However, both have downsides; the former requires us to construct isomorphisms, and the latter wraps all components behind a layer of constructors. In this section will alleviate these problems through generics and by alternative descriptions of equivalences.

In later sections we will construct many more equivalences between more complicated types than before, so we will dive right into the latter. Reflecting upon Section 4, we see that when one establishes an equivalence, most of the time is spent working out a series of lemmas that prove the conversion functions are to be mutual inverses. We note that the functions themselves were, in fact, forced for a large part.

First, we remark that μ is internalization of the representation of simple¹² datatypes as W-types. Thus, we will assume that one of the sides of the equivalence is always represented as an initial algebra of a polynomial functor, and hence the μ of a `Desc`.

6.1 Well-founded monic algebras are initial

Unfortunately, the machinery developed by Ko and Gibbons [KG16] relies on axiom K for a small but crucial part. To be precise, in a cubical setting, the

¹²Of course, indexed datatypes are indexed W-types, mutually recursive datatypes are represented yet differently...

type μ as given stops being initial for its base functor! In this section, we will be working with a simplified and repaired version. Namely, we simplify `Desc'` to

```
data Desc' : Set1 where
  γ : (n : ℕ) → Desc'
  σ : (S : Set) (D : S → Desc') → Desc'
```

To complete the definition of μ

```
data μ (D : Desc') : Set1 where
  con : Base (μ D) D → μ D
```

we will need to implement `Base`. We remark that in the original setup, the recursion of `mapFold` is a structural descent in $\llbracket D' \rrbracket (\mu D)$. Because $\llbracket _ \rrbracket$ is a type computing function and not a datatype, this descent becomes invalid¹³, and `mapFold` fails the termination check. We resolve this by defining `Base` as a datatype

```
data Base (X : Set1) : Desc' → Set1 where
  in-γ : ∀ {n} → Vec X n → Base X (γ n)
  in-σ : ∀ {S D} → Σ[ s ∈ S ] (Base X (D s)) → Base X (σ S D)
```

such that this descent is allowed by the termination checker without axiom K.¹⁴

Recall that the `Base` functors of descriptions are special polynomial functors, and the fixpoint of a base functor is its initial algebra. We are looking for sufficient conditions on X to get the equivalence $e : X \cong \mu F$. Note that when $X \cong \mu F$, then there necessarily is an initial algebra $FX \rightarrow X$. Conversely, if the algebra (X, f) is isomorphic to $(\mu F, \text{con})$, then $X \cong \mu F$ would follow immediately, so it is equivalent to ask for the algebras to be isomorphic instead.

6.1.1 Datatypes as initial algebras

To characterize when such algebras are isomorphic, we reiterate some basic category theory, simultaneously rephrasing it in Agda terms.¹⁵

Let C be a category, and let a, b, c be objects of C , so that in particular we have identity arrows $1_a : a \rightarrow a$ and for arrows $g : b \rightarrow c, f : a \rightarrow b$ composite arrows $gf : a \rightarrow c$ subject to associativity. In our case, C is the category of types, with ordinary functions as arrows.

Recall that an endofunctor, which is simply a functor F from C to itself, assigns objects to objects and sends arrows to arrows

```
F0 : Type ℓ → Type ℓ
fmap : (A → B) → F0 A → F0 B
```

These assignments are subject to the identity and composition laws

```
f-id      : (x : F A)
           → mapF id x ≡ x
```

¹³Refer to the without K page.

¹⁴This has, again by the absence of axiom K, the consequence of pushing the universe levels up by one. However, this is not too troublesome, as equivalences can go between two levels, and indeed types are equivalent to their lifts.

¹⁵We are not reusing a pre-existing category theory library for the simple reasons that it is not that much work to write out the machinery explicitly, and that such libraries tend to phrase initial objects in the correct way, which is too restrictive for us.

f-comp : $(g : B \rightarrow C) (f : A \rightarrow B) (x : F A)$
 $\rightarrow \text{mapF } (g \circ f) x \equiv \text{mapF } g (\text{mapF } f x)$

An F -algebra is just a pair of an object a and an arrow $Fa \rightarrow a$

record Algebra ($F : \text{Type } \ell \rightarrow \text{Type } \ell$) : $\text{Type } (\ell\text{-suc } \ell)$ **where**
field

Carrier : $\text{Type } \ell$
forget : $F \text{ Carrier} \rightarrow \text{Carrier}$

Algebras themselves again form a category C^F . The arrows of C^F are the arrows f of C such that the following square commutes

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Fa & \xrightarrow{Ff} & Fb \\ U_a \downarrow & & \downarrow U_b \\ a & \xrightarrow{f} & b \end{array}$$

So we define

Alg→Sqr $F A B f = f \circ A.\text{forget} \equiv B.\text{forget} \circ F.\text{fmap } f$

and

record Alg→ ($\text{RawF} : \text{RawFunctor } \ell$)
 $(\text{AlgA } \text{AlgB} : \text{Algebra } (\text{RawF} .F_0)) : \text{Type } \ell$ **where**
constructor alg→

field
mor : $\text{AlgA} .\text{Carrier} \rightarrow \text{AlgB} .\text{Carrier}$
coh : $\parallel \text{Alg→Sqr } \text{RawF } \text{AlgA } \text{AlgB } \text{mor} \parallel_1$

Note that we take the propositional truncation of the square, such that algebra maps with the same underlying morphism become propositionally equal

Alg→Path : $\{F : \text{RawFunctor } \ell\} \{A B : \text{Algebra } (F .F_0)\}$
 $\rightarrow (g f : \text{Alg→} F A B) \rightarrow g .\text{mor} \equiv f .\text{mor} \rightarrow g \equiv f$

The identity and composition in C^F arise directly from those of the underlying arrows in C .

Recall that an object \emptyset is initial when for each other object a , there is a unique arrow $! : \emptyset \rightarrow a$. By reversing the proofs of initiality of μ and the main result of this section, we obtain a slight variation upon the usual definition. Namely, unicity is often expressed as contractability of a type

isContr $A = \Sigma [x \in A] (\forall y \rightarrow x \equiv y)$

Instead, we again use a truncation

weakContr $A = \Sigma [x \in A] (\forall y \rightarrow \parallel x \equiv y \parallel_1)$

but note that this also, crucially, slightly stronger than connectedness. We define initiality for arbitrary relations

record Initial ($C : \text{Type } \ell$) ($R : C \rightarrow C \rightarrow \text{Type } \ell'$)
 $(Z : C) : \text{Type } (\ell\text{-max } (\ell\text{-suc } \ell) \ell')$ **where**
field

initiality : $\forall X \rightarrow \text{weakContr } (R Z X)$

such that it closely resembles the definition of least element. Then, A is an initial algebra when

$$\text{InitAlg } \text{RawF } A = \text{Initial } (\text{Algebra } (\text{RawF } .F_0)) (\text{Alg} \rightarrow \text{RawF}) A$$

By basic category theory (using the usual definition of initial objects), two initial objects a and b are always isomorphic; namely, initiality guarantees that there are arrows $f : a \rightarrow b$ and $g : b \rightarrow a$, which by initiality must compose to the identities again.

Similarly, we get that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{InitAlg} \simeq : (F : \text{Functor } \ell) (A B : \text{Algebra } (F .\text{RawF } .F_0)) \\ \rightarrow \text{InitAlg } (F .\text{RawF}) A \rightarrow \text{InitAlg } (F .\text{RawF}) B \\ \rightarrow A .\text{Carrier} \simeq B .\text{Carrier} \end{aligned}$$

Because being an equivalence is a property, we can eliminate from the truncations to get the wanted result.

6.1.2 Accessibility

As a consequence, we get that X is isomorphic to μD when X is an initial algebra for the base functor of D ; μD is initial by its fold, and by induction on μD using the squares of algebra maps.

Remark 6.1. The fixpoint μD is not in general a strict initial object in the category of algebras. For a strict initial object, having a map $a \rightarrow \emptyset$ implies $a \cong \emptyset$. This is not the case here: strict initial objects satisfy $a \times \emptyset \cong \emptyset$, but for the $X \mapsto 1 + X$ -algebras \mathbb{N} and $2^{\mathbb{N}}$ clearly $2^{\mathbb{N}} \times \mathbb{N} \cong \mathbb{N}$ does not hold. On the other hand, the “obvious” sufficient condition to let C^F have strict initial objects is that F is a left adjoint, but then the carrier of the initial algebra is simply \perp .

Looking back at Section 4, we see that **Leibniz** is an initial $F : X \mapsto 1 + X$ algebra because for any other algebra, the image of **0b** is fixed, and by **bsuc** all other values are determined by chasing around the square. Thus, we are looking for a similar structure on $f : FX \rightarrow X$ that supports recursion.

We will need something stronger than $FX \cong X$, as in general a functor can have many fixpoints. For this, we define what it means for an element x to be accessible by f . This definition uses a mutually recursive datatype as follows: We state that an element x of X is accessible when there is an accessible y in its fiber over f

$$\begin{aligned} \text{data Acc } D f x \text{ where} \\ \text{acc} : (y : \text{fiber } f x) \rightarrow \text{Acc}' D f D (\text{fst } y) \rightarrow \text{Acc } D f x \end{aligned}$$

Accessibility of an element x of **Base A E** is defined by cases on E ; if E is **y n** and x is a **Vec A n**, then x is accessible if all its elements are; if x is **σ S E'**, then x is accessible if **snd x** is

$$\begin{aligned} \text{data Acc}' D f \text{ where} \\ \text{acc-y} : \text{All } (\text{Acc } D f) x \rightarrow \text{Acc}' D f (\text{y } n) (\text{in-y } x) \\ \text{acc-σ} : \text{Acc}' D f (E s) x \rightarrow \text{Acc}' D f (\text{σ } S E) (\text{in-σ } (s, x)) \end{aligned}$$

Consequently, X is well-founded for an algebra when all its elements are accessible

$$\text{Wf } D f = \forall x \rightarrow \text{Acc } D f x$$

We can see well-foundedness as an upper bound on the size of X , if it were larger than μD , some of its elements would get out of reach of an algebra. *Now* having $FX \cong X$ also gives us a lower bound, but note that having a well-founded injection $f : FX \rightarrow X$ is already sufficient, as accessibility gives a section of f , making it an iso. This leads us to claim

Claim 6.1. If there is a mono $f : FX \rightarrow X$ and X is well-founded for f , then X is an initial F -algebra.

Proof sketch of Claim 6.1. Suppose X is well-founded for the mono $f : FX \rightarrow X$. To show that (X, f) is initial, let us take another algebra (Y, g) , and show that there is a unique arrow $(X, f) \rightarrow (Y, g)$.

This section is about as digestable as a brick.

By **Acc**-recursion and because all x are accessible, we can define a plain map into Y

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Wf-rec} : (D : \text{Desc}') (X : \text{Algebra } (\dot{F} D)) &\rightarrow \text{Wf } D (X .\text{forget}) \\ &\rightarrow (\dot{F} D A \rightarrow A) \rightarrow X .\text{Carrier} \rightarrow A \end{aligned}$$

This construction is an instance of the concept of “well-founded recursion”¹⁶, so we use a similar strategy. In particular, we prove an irrelevance lemma

$$\text{Wf-rec-irrelevant} : \forall x' y' x a b \rightarrow \text{rec } x' x a = \text{rec } y' x b$$

which implies the unfolding lemma

$$\begin{aligned} \text{unfold-Wf-rec} : \forall x' &\rightarrow \text{rec } (cx \ x') (cx \ x') (\text{wf } (cx \ x')) \\ &= f (\text{Base-map } (\lambda y \rightarrow \text{rec } y y (\text{wf } y)) x') \end{aligned}$$

The unfolding lemma ensures that the map we defined by **Wf-rec** is a map of algebras. The proof that this map is unique proceeds analogously to that in the proof that μD is initial, but here we instead use **Acc**-recursion

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Wf+inj} \rightarrow \text{Init} : (D : \text{Desc}') (X : \text{Algebra } (\dot{F} D)) &\rightarrow \text{Wf } D (X .\text{forget}) \\ &\rightarrow \text{injective } (X .\text{forget}) \rightarrow \text{InitAlg } (\text{Raw } \dot{F} D) X \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we conclude that X is initial. The main result is then a corollary of initiality of X and the isomorphism of initial objects

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Wf+inj} = \mu : (D : \text{Desc}') (X : \text{Algebra } (\dot{F} D)) &\rightarrow \text{Wf } D (X .\text{forget}) \\ &\rightarrow \text{injective } (X .\text{forget}) \rightarrow X .\text{Carrier} = \mu D \end{aligned}$$

□

6.1.3 Example

Let us redo the proof in Section 4, now using this result. Recall the description of naturals **NatD**. To show that **Leibniz** is isomorphic to **Nat**, we will need a **NatD**-algebra and a proof of its well-foundedness. We define the algebra

$$\begin{aligned} \text{bsuc}' : \text{Base Leibniz}_1 \text{ NatD} &\rightarrow \text{Leibniz}_1 \\ \text{bsuc}' \text{ zero} &= 0b_1 \\ \text{bsuc}' (\text{succ } n) &= \text{bsuc}_1 n \\ \text{L-Alg} : \text{Algebra } (\dot{F} \text{ NatD}) \end{aligned}$$

¹⁶This is formalized in the standard-library with many other examples.

```

L-Alg .Carrier = Leibniz1
L-Alg .forget = bsuc'

```

For well-foundedness, we use something similar to view-patterns (the main difference being that we look through the entire structure, instead of a single layer)

```

data Peano-View : Leibniz1 → Type1 where
  as-zero : Peano-View 0b1
  as-suc : (n : Leibniz1) (v : Peano-View n) → Peano-View (bsuc1 n)

view-1b : ∀ {n} → Peano-View n → Peano-View (n 1b1)
view-2b : ∀ {n} → Peano-View n → Peano-View (n 2b1)
view : (n : Leibniz1) → Peano-View n

```

where the mutually recursive proof of `view` is “almost trivial”. Well-foundedness follows immediately

```

view→Acc : ∀ {n} → Peano-View n → Acc NatD bsuc' n
Wf-bsuc : Wf NatD bsuc'
Wf-bsuc n = view→Acc (view n)

```

Injectivity of `bsuc1` happens to be harder to prove from retractions than directly, so we prove it directly, from which the wanted statement follows

```

L≃μN : Leibniz1 ≃ μ NatD
L≃μN = Wf+inj≃μ NatD L-Alg Wf-bsuc λ x y p → inj-bsuc x y p

```

In this case, we needed more lines of code to prove the same statement, however, the process of writing became more forced, and might be more amenable to automation.

7 Related work

Write here about: “Adapt this to the non-proposal form”

7.1 The Structure Identity Principle

If we write a program, and replace an expression by an equal one, then we can prove that the behaviour of the program can not change. Likewise, if we replace one implementation of an interface with another, in such a way that the correspondence respects all operations in the interface, then the implementations should be equal when viewed through the interface. Observations like these are instances of “representation independence”, but even in languages with an internal notation of type equality, the applicability is usually exclusive to the metatheory.

In our case, moving from Agda’s “usual type theory” to Cubical Agda, a cubical homotopy type theory, *univalence* [VMA19] lets us internalize a kind of representation independence known as the Structure Identity Principle [Ang+20], and even generalize it from equivalences to quasi-equivalence relations. We will also be able to apply univalence to get a true “equational reasoning” for types when we are looking at numerical representations.

Still, representation independence in non-homotopical settings may be internalized in some cases [Kap23], and remains of interest in the context of generic constructions that conflict with cubical.

7.2 Numerical Representations

Rather than equating implementations after the fact, we can also “compute” datastructures by imposing equations. In the case of container types, one may observe similarities to number systems [Oka98] and call such containers numerical representations. One can then use these representations to prototype new datastructures that automatically inherit properties and equalities from their underlying number systems [HS22].

From another perspective, numerical representations run by using representability as a kind of “strictification” of types, suggesting that we may be able to generalize the approach of numerical representations, using that any (non-indexed) infinitary inductive-recursive type supports a lookup operation [DS16].

7.3 Ornamentation

While we can derive datastructures from number systems by going through their index types [HS22], we may also interpret numerical representations more literally as instructions to rewrite a number system to a container type. We can record this transformation internally using ornaments, which can then be used to derive an indexed version of the container [McB14], or can be modified further to naturally integrate other constraints, e.g., ordering, into the resulting structure [KG16]. Furthermore, we can also use the forgetful functions induced by ornaments to generate specifications for functions defined on the ornamented types [DM14].

7.4 Generic constructions

Being able to define a datatype and reflect its structure in the same language opens doors to many more interesting constructions [EC22]; a lot of “recipes” we recognize, such as defining the eliminators for a given datatype, can be formalized and automated using reflection and macros. We expect that other type transformations can also be interpreted as ornaments, like the extraction of heterogeneous binary trees from level-polymorphic binary trees [Swi20].

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