

PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES: FUNCTIONAL PROGRAMMING

3. DEFINITION AND PROOF BY INDUCTION

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TOTAL FUNCTIONAL PROGRAMMING

- The next few lectures concerns inductive definitions and proofs of datatypes and programs.
- While Haskell provides allows one to define nonterminating functions, infinite data structures, for now we will only consider its total, finite fragment.
- That is, we temporarily
 - consider only finite data structures,
 - demand that functions terminate for all value in its input type, and
 - provide guidelines to construct such functions.
- Infinite datatypes and non-termination will be discussed later in this course.

INDUCTION ON NATURAL NUMBERS

THE SO-CALLED “MATHEMATICAL INDUCTION”

- Let P be a predicate on natural numbers.
- We’ve all learnt this principle of proof by induction: to prove that P holds for all natural numbers, it is sufficient to show that
 - $P\ 0$ holds;
 - $P\ (1 + n)$ holds provided that $P\ n$ does.

PROOF BY INDUCTION ON NATURAL NUMBERS

- We can see the above inductive principle as a result of seeing natural numbers as defined by the datatype ¹

data *Nat* = 0 | **1**₊ *Nat* .

- That is, any natural number is either 0, or **1**₊ *n* where *n* is a natural number.
- In this lecture, **1**₊ is written in bold font to emphasise that it is a data constructor (as opposed to the function (+), to be defined later, applied to a number 1).

¹Not a real Haskell definition.

A PROOF GENERATOR

Given $P\ 0$ and $P\ n \Rightarrow P\ (1_+ \ n)$, how does one prove, for example, $P\ 3$?

$$\begin{aligned} & P\ (1_+ \ (1_+ \ (1_+ \ 0))) \\ \Leftarrow & \{ P\ (1_+ \ n) \Leftarrow P\ n \} \\ & P\ (1_+ \ (1_+ \ 0)) \\ \Leftarrow & \{ P\ (1_+ \ n) \Leftarrow P\ n \} \\ & P\ (1_+ \ 0) \\ \Leftarrow & \{ P\ (1_+ \ n) \Leftarrow P\ n \} \\ & P\ 0. \end{aligned}$$

Having done math. induction can be seen as having designed *a program that generates a proof* — given any $n :: \text{Nat}$ we can generate a proof of $P\ n$ in the manner above.

INDUCTIVELY DEFINED FUNCTIONS

- Since the type *Nat* is defined by two cases, it is natural to define functions on *Nat* following the structure:

$$\text{exp} \quad \quad \quad :: \text{Nat} \rightarrow \text{Nat} \rightarrow \text{Nat}$$

$$\text{exp } b \ 0 \quad \quad = 1$$

$$\text{exp } b \ (1_+ n) = b \times \text{exp } b \ n \ .$$

- Even addition can be defined inductively

$$(\text{+}) \quad \quad \quad :: \text{Nat} \rightarrow \text{Nat} \rightarrow \text{Nat}$$

$$0 + n \quad \quad = n$$

$$(1_+ m) + n = 1_+ (m + n) \ .$$

- Exercise: define (\times) ?

A VALUE GENERATOR

Given the definition of *exp*, how does one compute *exp b 3*?

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{exp } b \ (1_+ \ (1_+ \ (1_+ \ 0))) \\ = & \quad \{ \text{definition of exp} \} \\ & b \times \text{exp } b \ (1_+ \ (1_+ \ 0)) \\ = & \quad \{ \text{definition of exp} \} \\ & b \times b \times \text{exp } b \ (1_+ \ 0) \\ = & \quad \{ \text{definition of exp} \} \\ & b \times b \times b \times \text{exp } b \ 0 \\ = & \quad \{ \text{definition of exp} \} \\ & b \times b \times b \times 1 . \end{aligned}$$

It is a program that generates a value, for any $n :: \text{Nat}$.
Compare with the proof of *P* above.

MORAL: PROVING IS PROGRAMMING

An inductive proof is a program that generates a proof for any given natural number.

An inductive program follows the same structure of an inductive proof.

Proving and programming are very similar activities.

WITHOUT THE $n + k$ PATTERN

- Unfortunately, newer versions of Haskell abandoned the “ $n + k$ pattern” used in the previous slides:

```
exp      :: Int → Int → Int
exp b 0 = 1
exp b n = b × exp b (n - 1) .
```

- `Nat` is defined to be `Int` in `MiniPrelude.hs`. Without `MiniPrelude.hs` you should use `Int`.
- For the purpose of this course, the pattern $1 + n$ reveals the correspondence between `Nat` and lists, and matches our proof style. Thus we will use it in the lecture.
- Remember to remove them in your code.

PROOF BY INDUCTION

- To prove properties about Nat , we follow the structure as well.
- E.g. to prove that $exp\ b\ (m + n) = exp\ b\ m \times exp\ b\ n$.
- One possibility is to perform induction on m . That is, prove $P\ m$ for all $m :: Nat$, where
$$P\ m \equiv (\forall n :: exp\ b\ (m + n) = exp\ b\ m \times exp\ b\ n).$$

PROOF BY INDUCTION

Recall $P\ m \equiv (\forall n :: \exp\ b\ (m + n) = \exp\ b\ m \times \exp\ b\ n)$.

Case $m := 0$. For all n , we reason:

$$\exp\ b\ (0 + n)$$

PROOF BY INDUCTION

Recall $P\ m \equiv (\forall n :: \text{exp } b\ (m + n) = \text{exp } b\ m \times \text{exp } b\ n)$.

Case $m := 0$. For all n , we reason:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{exp } b\ (0 + n) \\ = & \quad \{ \text{defn. of } (+) \} \\ & \text{exp } b\ n \end{aligned}$$

PROOF BY INDUCTION

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$$\begin{aligned} & \text{exp } b\ (0 + n) \\ = & \quad \{ \text{defn. of } (+) \} \\ & \text{exp } b\ n \\ = & \quad \{ \text{defn. of } (\times) \} \\ & 1 \times \text{exp } b\ n \end{aligned}$$

PROOF BY INDUCTION

Recall $P\ m \equiv (\forall n :: \text{exp } b\ (m + n) = \text{exp } b\ m \times \text{exp } b\ n)$.

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We have thus proved $P\ 0$.

PROOF BY INDUCTION

Recall $P\ m \equiv (\forall n :: \text{exp } b\ (m + n) = \text{exp } b\ m \times \text{exp } b\ n)$.

Case $m := 1_+ m$. For all n , we reason:

$$\text{exp } b\ ((1_+ m) + n)$$

PROOF BY INDUCTION

Recall $P\ m \equiv (\forall n :: \text{exp } b\ (m + n) = \text{exp } b\ m \times \text{exp } b\ n)$.

Case $m := 1_+ m$. For all n , we reason:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{exp } b\ ((1_+ m) + n) \\ = & \quad \{ \text{ defn. of } (+) \} \\ & \text{exp } b\ (1_+ (m + n)) \end{aligned}$$

PROOF BY INDUCTION

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Case $m := 1_+ m$. For all n , we reason:

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PROOF BY INDUCTION

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PROOF BY INDUCTION

Recall $P\ m \equiv (\forall n :: \text{exp } b\ (m + n) = \text{exp } b\ m \times \text{exp } b\ n)$.

Case $m := 1_+ m$. For all n , we reason:

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PROOF BY INDUCTION

Recall $P\ m \equiv (\forall n :: \text{exp } b\ (m + n) = \text{exp } b\ m \times \text{exp } b\ n)$.

Case $m := 1_+ m$. For all n , we reason:

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We have thus proved $P\ (1_+ m)$, given $P\ m$.

STRUCTURE PROOFS BY PROGRAMS

- The inductive proof could be carried out smoothly, because both $(+)$ and *exp* are defined inductively on its lefthand argument (of type *Nat*).
- The structure of the proof follows the structure of the program, which in turns follows the structure of the datatype the program is defined on.

LISTS AND NATURAL NUMBERS

- We have yet to prove that (\times) is associative.
- The proof is quite similar to the proof for associativity of $(++)$, which we will talk about later.
- In fact, *Nat* and lists are closely related in structure.
- Most of us are used to think of numbers as atomic and lists as structured data. Neither is necessarily true.
- For the rest of the course we will demonstrate induction using lists, while taking the properties for *Nat* as given.

AN INDUCTIVELY DEFINED SET?

- For a set to be “inductively defined”, we usually mean that it is the *smallest* fixed-point of some function.
- What does that mean?

FIXED-POINT AND PREFIXED-POINT

- A *fixed-point* of a function f is a value x such that $fx = x$.
- **Theorem.** f has fixed-point(s) if f is a *monotonic function* defined on a complete lattice.
 - In general, given f there may be more than one fixed-point.
- A *prefixed-point* of f is a value x such that $fx \leq x$.
 - Apparently, all fixed-points are also prefixed-points.
- **Theorem.** the smallest prefixed-point is also the smallest fixed-point.

EXAMPLE: *Nat*

- Recall the usual definition: *Nat* is defined by the following rules:
 1. 0 is in *Nat*;
 2. if *n* is in *Nat*, so is $1_+ n$;
 3. there is no other *Nat*.
- If we define a function *F* from sets to sets:
$$FX = \{0\} \cup \{1_+ n \mid n \in X\},$$
1. and 2. above means that $FNat \subseteq Nat$. That is, *Nat* is a prefixed-point of *F*.
- 3. means that we want the *smallest* such prefixed-point.
- Thus *Nat* is also the least (smallest) fixed-point of *F*.

LEAST PREFIXED-POINT

Formally, let $FX = \{0\} \cup \{1_+ n \mid n \in X\}$, Nat is a set such that

$$F Nat \subseteq Nat , \tag{1}$$

$$(\forall X : FX \subseteq X \Rightarrow Nat \subseteq X) , \tag{2}$$

where (1) says that Nat is a prefixed-point of F , and (2) it is the least among all prefixed-points of F .

MATHEMATICAL INDUCTION, FORMALLY

- Given property P , we also denote by P the set of elements that satisfy P .
- That $P\ 0$ and $P\ n \Rightarrow P\ (1+n)$ is equivalent to $\{0\} \subseteq P$ and $\{1+n \mid n \in P\} \subseteq P$,
- which is equivalent to $FP \subseteq P$. That is, P is a prefixed-point!
- By (2) we have $Nat \subseteq P$. That is, all Nat satisfy P !
- This is “why mathematical induction is correct.”

COINDUCTION?

There is a dual technique called *coinduction* where, instead of least prefixed-points, we talk about *greatest postfixed points*. That is, largest x such that $x \leq fx$.

With such construction we can talk about infinite data structures.

INDUCTION ON LISTS

INDUCTIVELY DEFINED LISTS

- Recall that a (finite) list can be seen as a datatype defined by:²

data *List a* = [] | *a* : *List a* .

- Every list is built from the base case [], with elements added by (:) one by one: $[1, 2, 3] = 1 : (2 : (3 : []))$.

²Not a real Haskell definition.

ALL LISTS TODAY ARE FINITE

But what about infinite lists?

- For now let's consider finite lists only, as having infinite lists make the *semantics* much more complicated.³
- In fact, all functions we talk about today are total functions. No \perp involved.

³What does that mean? We will talk about it later.

SET-THEORETICALLY SPEAKING...

The type *List a* is the *smallest* set such that

1. `[]` is in *List a*;
2. if *xs* is in *List a* and *x* is in *a*, *x : xs* is in *List a* as well.

INDUCTIVELY DEFINED FUNCTIONS ON LISTS

- Many functions on lists can be defined according to how a list is defined:

$sum \quad :: List\ Int \rightarrow Int$

$sum\ [] = 0$

$sum\ (x : xs) = x + sum\ xs$.

$map \quad :: (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow List\ a \rightarrow List\ b$

$map\ f\ [] = []$

$map\ f\ (x : xs) = fx : map\ f\ xs$.

LIST APPEND

- The function $(++)$ appends two lists into one

$(++) \quad :: \text{List } a \rightarrow \text{List } a \rightarrow \text{List } a$

$[] ++ ys = ys$

$(x : xs) ++ ys = x : (xs ++ ys) \ .$

- Compare the definition with that of $(+)$!

PROOF BY STRUCTURAL INDUCTION ON LISTS

- Recall that every finite list is built from the base case `[]`, with elements added by `(:)` one by one.
- To prove that some property P holds for all finite lists, we show that
 1. $P []$ holds;
 2. forall x and xs , $P (x : xs)$ holds provided that $P xs$ holds.

FOR A PARTICULAR LIST...

Given $P []$ and $P xs \Rightarrow P (x : xs)$, for all x and xs , how does one prove, for example, $P [1, 2, 3]$?

$$\begin{aligned} & P (1 : 2 : 3 : []) \\ \Leftarrow & \{ P (x : xs) \Leftarrow P xs \} \\ & P (2 : 3 : []) \\ \Leftarrow & \{ P (x : xs) \Leftarrow P xs \} \\ & P (3 : []) \\ \Leftarrow & \{ P (x : xs) \Leftarrow P xs \} \\ & P [] . \end{aligned}$$

APPENDING IS ASSOCIATIVE

To prove that $xs ++ (ys ++ zs) = (xs ++ ys) ++ zs$.

Let $P\ xs = (\forall ys, zs :: xs ++ (ys ++ zs) = (xs ++ ys) ++ zs)$, we prove P by induction on xs .

Case $xs := []$. For all ys and zs , we reason:

$$\begin{aligned} & [] ++ (ys ++ zs) \\ = & \quad \{ \text{defn. of } ++ \} \\ & ys ++ zs \\ = & \quad \{ \text{defn. of } ++ \} \\ & ([] ++ ys) ++ zs . \end{aligned}$$

We have thus proved $P\ []$.

APPENDING IS ASSOCIATIVE

Case $xs := x : xs$. For all ys and zs , we reason:

$$\begin{aligned} & (x : xs) ++ (ys ++ zs) \\ = & \quad \{ \text{defn. of } ++ \} \\ & x : (xs ++ (ys ++ zs)) \\ = & \quad \{ \text{induction} \} \\ & x : ((xs ++ ys) ++ zs) \\ = & \quad \{ \text{defn. of } ++ \} \\ & (x : (xs ++ ys)) ++ zs \\ = & \quad \{ \text{defn. of } ++ \} \\ & ((x : xs) ++ ys) ++ zs . \end{aligned}$$

We have thus proved $P (x : xs)$, given $P xs$.

DO WE HAVE TO BE SO FORMAL?

- In our style of proof, every step is given a reason. Do we need to be so pedantic?
- Being formal *helps* you to do the proof:
 - In the proof of $\exp b (m + n) = \exp b m \times \exp b n$, we expect that we will use induction to somewhere. Therefore the first part of the proof is to generate $\exp b (m + n)$.
 - In the proof of associativity, we were working toward generating $xs ++ (ys ++ zs)$.
- By being formal we can work on the *form*, not the *meaning*. Like how we solved the knight/knave problem
- Being formal actually makes the proof easier!
- *Make the symbols do the work.*

LENGTH

- The function *length* defined inductively:

length $:: \text{List } a \rightarrow \text{Nat}$

length [] = 0

length (x : xs) = 1₊ (*length* xs) .

- Exercise: prove that *length* distributes into (++):

length (xs ++ ys) = *length* xs + *length* ys

CONCATENATION

- While $(++)$ repeatedly applies $(:)$, the function *concat* repeatedly calls $(++)$:

concat $:: \text{List } (\text{List } a) \rightarrow \text{List } a$

concat $[] = []$

concat $(xs : xss) = xs ++ \text{concat } xss$.

- Compare with *sum*.
- Exercise: prove $\text{sum} \cdot \text{concat} = \text{sum} \cdot \text{map sum}$.

DEFINITION BY INDUCTION/RECURSION

- Rather than giving commands, in functional programming we specify values; instead of performing repeated actions, we define values on inductively defined structures.
- Thus induction (or in general, recursion) is the only “control structure” we have. (We do identify and abstract over plenty of patterns of recursion, though.)
- To inductively define a function f on lists, we specify a value for the base case ($f []$) and, assuming that $f xs$ has been computed, consider how to construct $f (x : xs)$ out of $f xs$.

FILTER

- *filter p xs* keeps only those elements in *xs* that satisfy *p*.

filter :: $(a \rightarrow \text{Bool}) \rightarrow \text{List } a \rightarrow \text{List } a$

filter p [] = []

filter p (x : xs) | p x = x : filter p xs

| **otherwise** = *filter p xs* .

TAKE AND DROP

- Recall *take* and *drop*, which we used in the previous exercise.

take $:: \text{Nat} \rightarrow \text{List } a \rightarrow \text{List } a$

take 0 *xs* = []

take ($1_+ n$) [] = []

take ($1_+ n$) (*x* : *xs*) = *x* : *take* *n* *xs* .

drop $:: \text{Nat} \rightarrow \text{List } a \rightarrow \text{List } a$

drop 0 *xs* = *xs*

drop ($1_+ n$) [] = []

drop ($1_+ n$) (*x* : *xs*) = *drop* *n* *xs* .

- Prove: *take* *n* *xs* ++ *drop* *n* *xs* = *xs*, for all *n* and *xs*.

TAKEWHILE AND DROPWHILE

- *takeWhile* *p xs* yields the longest prefix of *xs* such that *p* holds for each element.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{takeWhile} & \quad :: (a \rightarrow \text{Bool}) \rightarrow \text{List } a \rightarrow \text{List } a \\ \text{takeWhile } p \ [] & \quad = [] \\ \text{takeWhile } p \ (x : xs) & \mid p \ x = x : \text{takeWhile } p \ xs \\ & \mid \text{otherwise} = [] \ . \end{aligned}$$

- *dropWhile* *p xs* drops the prefix from *xs*.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{dropWhile} & \quad :: (a \rightarrow \text{Bool}) \rightarrow \text{List } a \rightarrow \text{List } a \\ \text{dropWhile } p \ [] & \quad = [] \\ \text{dropWhile } p \ (x : xs) & \mid p \ x = \text{dropWhile } p \ xs \\ & \mid \text{otherwise} = x : xs \ . \end{aligned}$$

- Prove: *takeWhile* *p xs* ++ *dropWhile* *p xs* = *xs*.

LIST REVERSAL

- $\text{reverse } [1, 2, 3, 4] = [4, 3, 2, 1]$.

$\text{reverse} \quad \quad \quad :: \text{List } a \rightarrow \text{List } a$

$\text{reverse } [] \quad \quad = []$

$\text{reverse } (x : xs) = \text{reverse } xs \mathbin{++} [x] \text{ .}$

ALL PREFIXES AND SUFFIXES

- $inits\ [1, 2, 3] = [], [1], [1, 2], [1, 2, 3]$

$inits \quad \quad \quad :: List\ a \rightarrow List\ (List\ a)$

$inits\ [] \quad \quad = [[]]$

$inits\ (x : xs) = [] : map\ (x :) (inits\ xs) \ .$

- $tails\ [1, 2, 3] = [[1, 2, 3], [2, 3], [3], []]$

$tails \quad \quad \quad :: List\ a \rightarrow List\ (List\ a)$

$tails\ [] \quad \quad = [[]]$

$tails\ (x : xs) = (x : xs) : tails\ xs \ .$

TOTALITY

- Structure of our definitions so far:

$$f [] = \dots$$

$$f (x : xs) = \dots f xs \dots$$

- Both the empty and the non-empty cases are covered, guaranteeing there is a matching clause for all inputs.
 - The recursive call is made on a “smaller” argument, guaranteeing termination.
- Together they guarantee that every input is mapped to some output. Thus they define *total* functions on lists.

VARIATIONS WITH THE BASE CASE

- Some functions discriminate between several base cases.
E.g.

$fib \quad \quad \quad :: Nat \rightarrow Nat$

$fib\ 0 \quad \quad = 0$

$fib\ 1 \quad \quad = 1$

$fib\ (2 + n) = fib\ (1 + n) + fib\ n \ .$

- Some functions make more sense when it is defined only on non-empty lists:

$f [x] = \dots$

$f (x : xs) = \dots$

- What about totality?
 - They are in fact functions defined on a different datatype:

data $List^+ a = Singleton\ a \mid a : List^+ a$.

- We do not want to define *map*, *filter* again for $List^+ a$. Thus we reuse $List\ a$ and pretend that we were talking about $List^+ a$.
- It's the same with *Nat*. We embedded *Nat* into *Int*.
- Ideally we'd like to have some form of *subtyping*. But that makes the type system more complex.

LEXICOGRAPHIC INDUCTION

- It also occurs often that we perform *lexicographic induction* on multiple arguments: some arguments decrease in size, while others stay the same.
- E.g. the function *merge* merges two sorted lists into one sorted list:

```
merge                :: List Int → List Int → List Int
merge [] []          = []
merge [] (y : ys)    = y : ys
merge (x : xs) []     = x : xs
merge (x : xs) (y : ys) | x ≤ y = x : merge xs (y : ys)
                       | otherwise = y : merge (x : xs) ys .
```

ZIP

Another example:

$$\text{zip} :: \text{List } a \rightarrow \text{List } b \rightarrow \text{List } (a, b)$$
$$\text{zip } [] [] = []$$
$$\text{zip } [] (y : ys) = []$$
$$\text{zip } (x : xs) [] = []$$
$$\text{zip } (x : xs) (y : ys) = (x, y) : \text{zip } xs \ ys \ .$$

NON-STRUCTURAL INDUCTION

- In most of the programs we've seen so far, the recursive call are made on direct sub-components of the input (e.g. $f(x : xs) = ..f\ xs..$). This is called *structural induction*.
 - It is relatively easy for compilers to recognise structural induction and determine that a program terminates.
- In fact, we can be sure that a program terminates if the arguments get “smaller” under some (well-founded) ordering.

MERGESORT

- In the implementation of mergesort below, for example, the arguments always get smaller in size.

```
msort    :: List Int → List Int  
msort [] = []  
msort [x] = [x]  
msort xs = merge (msort ys) (msort zs) ,  
    where n = length xs 'div' 2  
        ys = take n xs  
        zs = drop n xs .
```

- What if we omit the case for [x]?
- If all cases are covered, and all recursive calls are applied to smaller arguments, the program defines a total function.

A NON-TERMINATING DEFINITION

- Example of a function, where the argument to the recursive does not reduce in size:

$$f :: Int \rightarrow Int$$
$$f\,0 = 0$$
$$f\,n = f\,n .$$

- Certainly f is not a total function. Do such definitions “mean” something? We will talk about these later.

USER DEFINED INDUCTIVE DATATYPES

INTERNALLY LABELLED BINARY TREES

- This is a possible definition of internally labelled binary trees:

data *Tree a* = Null | Node *a* (*Tree a*) (*Tree a*) ,

- on which we may inductively define functions:

sumT :: *Tree Nat* → *Nat*

sumT Null = 0

sumT (Node *x t u*) = *x* + *sumT t* + *sumT u* .

Exercise: given $(\downarrow) :: \text{Nat} \rightarrow \text{Nat} \rightarrow \text{Nat}$, which yields the smaller one of its arguments, define the following functions

1. $\text{minT} :: \text{Tree Nat} \rightarrow \text{Nat}$, which computes the minimal element in a tree.
2. $\text{mapT} :: (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow \text{Tree } a \rightarrow \text{Tree } b$, which applies the functional argument to each element in a tree.
3. Can you define (\downarrow) inductively on Nat ? ⁴

⁴In the standard Haskell library, (\downarrow) is called *min*.

INDUCTION PRINCIPLE FOR *Tree*

- What is the induction principle for *Tree*?
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 2. for every x , t , and u , if $P t$ and $P u$ holds, $P (\text{Node } x t u)$ holds.

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 1. $P \text{ Null}$ holds, and;
 2. for every x , t , and u , if $P t$ and $P u$ holds, $P (\text{Node } x t u)$ holds.
- Exercise: prove that for all n and t ,
 $\text{minT } (\text{mapT } (n+) t) = n + \text{minT } t$. That is,
 $\text{minT} \cdot \text{mapT } (n+) = (n+) \cdot \text{minT}$.

INDUCTION PRINCIPLE FOR OTHER TYPES

- Recall that `data Bool = False | True`. Do we have an induction principle for `Bool`?
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 1. $P \text{ False}$ holds, and
 2. $P \text{ True}$ holds.
- Well, of course.

- What about $(A \times B)$? How to prove that a predicate P on $(A \times B)$ is always true?
- One may prove some property P_1 on A and some property P_2 on B , which together imply P .
- That does not say much. But the “induction principle” for products allows us to extract, from a proof of P , the proofs P_1 and P_2 .

- *Every inductively defined datatype comes with its induction principle.*
- We will come back to this point later.