

1 Datatypes and Structural Induction

As discussed in class, Haskell datatypes have corresponding structural induction principles.

1.1 Nat

The datatype definition for natural numbers was given as:

datatype *Nat* = *Zero* | *Succ Nat*

The induction principle for the type *Nat* is

$$(P(\text{Zero}) \wedge \forall k :: \text{Nat}. P(k) \Rightarrow P(\text{Succ } k)) \Rightarrow \forall n :: \text{Nat}. P(n)$$

Thus to show a property *P* holds for every finite natural number, show two things:

Case Zero: Show $P(\text{Zero})$.

Case Succ: For arbitrary $k :: \text{Nat}$ assume $P(k)$ and show $P(\text{Succ } k)$.

Note, if we want to reason about possibly infinite elements of the type we add the case to show $P(\perp)$. This is true for each of the induction principles below.

1.2 Lists

Recall the definition of lists containing elements of type *a*.

datatype *List a* = *Nil* | *Cons a (List a)*

The induction principle for finite lists is

$$(P(\text{Nil}) \wedge \forall x :: a. \forall xs :: \text{List } a. P(xs) \Rightarrow P(\text{Cons } x \text{ } xs)) \Rightarrow \forall ys :: \text{List } a. P(ys)$$

Thus to show a property *P* holds for every list, show two things:

Case Nil: Show $P(\text{Nil})$.

Case Cons: For arbitrary $x :: a$ and $xs :: \text{List } a$ assume $P(xs)$ and show $P(\text{Cons } x \text{ } xs)$.

1.3 Binary Trees

Recall the definition of the datatype for binary trees containing elements of type *a*.

datatype *BTree a* = *Leaf* | *Node a (BTree a) (BTree a)*

The induction principle for finite binary trees is

$$\begin{aligned} & (P(\text{Leaf}) \\ & \wedge \forall x :: a. \forall t_l, t_r :: \text{BTree } a. (P(t_l) \wedge P(t_r)) \Rightarrow P(\text{Node}(x, t_l, t_r))) \\ & \Rightarrow \forall t :: \text{BTree } a. P(t) \end{aligned}$$

Thus to show a property *P* holds for every *BTree*, show two things:

Case Leaf: Show $P(\text{Leaf})$.

Case Node: For arbitrary $x :: a$ and $t_l, t_r :: \text{BTree } a$ assume $P(t_l)$ and assume $P(t_r)$ and show $P(\text{Node}(x, t_l, t_r))$.

2 Assignment

Write the structural induction principles for the finite instances of the following types.

1. Trees having nodes with both one and with two children.

$$\textit{OneTwoTree } a = \textit{Empty} \mid \textit{Single } a \textit{ (OneTwoTree } a) \mid \textit{Branch } a \textit{ (OneTwoTree } a) \textit{ (OneTwoTree } a)$$

2. Trees whose nodes have exactly three children.

$$\textit{ThreeTree } a = \textit{Leaf} \mid \textit{Node } a \textit{ (ThreeTree } a) \textit{ (ThreeTree } a) \textit{ (ThreeTree } a)$$

3. A data type for propositional formulas.

$$\textit{Formula} = \textit{Bottom} \mid \textit{Not Formula} \mid \textit{Implies Formula Formula}$$