

Proving "theorems for free" via relational parametricity

A tutorial, with example code in Scala

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2023-01-01

Outline of the tutorial

- Motivation: practical applications of the parametricity theorem
- What is “fully parametric code”
- Naturality laws and their uses
 - ▶ Example: Covariant and contravariant Yoneda identities
- A complete proof of “theorems for free” in 6 steps
 - ▶ Step 1: Deriving `fmap` and `cmap` methods from types
 - ▶ Step 2: Motivation for the relational approach to naturality laws
 - ▶ Step 3: Definition and examples of relations
 - ▶ Step 4: Definition and properties of the relational lifting (`rmap`)
 - ▶ Step 5: Proof of the relational naturality law
 - ▶ Step 6: Deriving the wedge law from the relational naturality law
- Advanced applications of the parametricity theorem: beyond Yoneda
 - ▶ Church encodings of recursive types
 - ▶ Simplifying universally quantified types where Yoneda fails

Applications of parametricity. “Theorems for free”

Parametricity theorem: any fully parametric function obeys a certain law

Some applications:

Naturality laws for code that works in the same way for all types

```
def headOption[A]: List[A] => Option[A] = {  
  case Nil           => None  
  case head :: tail  => Some(head)  
}
```

- Naturality law for `headOption`: for all `x: List[A]` and `f: A => B`,
`x.headOption.map(f) == x.map(f).headOption`

Uniqueness properties for fully parametric functions

- The `map` and `contramap` methods uniquely follow from types
- There is only one function `f` with type signature `f[A]: A => (A, A)`

Type equivalence for universally quantified types

- The type of functions `pure[A]: A => F[A]` is equivalent to `F[Unit]`
 - ▶ In Scala 3, this type is written as `[A] => A => F[A]`
- The type `[A] => (A, (R, A) => A) => A` is equivalent to `List[R]`
- The type `[A] => ((A => R) => A) => A` is equivalent to `R`

Requirements for parametricity. Fully parametric code

Parametricity theorem works only if the code is “fully parametric”

- “**Fully parametric**” code: use only type parameters and `Unit`, no run-time type reflection, no external libraries or built-in types
 - ▶ For instance, no `IO`-like monads
- “Fully parametric” is a stronger restriction than “purely functional”

Parametricity theorem applies only to a subset of a programming language

- Usually, it is a certain flavor of typed lambda calculus

Examples of code that is not fully parametric

Explicit matching on type parameters using type reflection:

```
def badHeadOpt[A]: List[A] => Option[A] = {  
  case Nil => None  
  case (head: Int) :: tail => None // Run-time type match!  
  case head :: tail => Some(head)  
}
```

Using typeclasses: define a typeclass `NotInt[A]` with the method `notInt[A]` that returns `true` unless `A = Int`

```
def badHeadOpt[A: NotInt]: List[A] => Option[A] = {  
  case h :: tail if notInt[A] => Some(h)  
  case _ => None  
}
```

Failure of naturality law:

```
scala> badHeadOpt(List(10, 20, 30).map(x => s"x = $x"))  
res0: Option[String] = Some(x = 10)
```

```
scala> badHeadOpt(List(10, 20, 30)).map(x => s"x = $x")  
res1: Option[String] = None
```

Fully parametric programs are written using the 9 code constructions:

```
def fmap[A, B](f: A => B): List[(A, A)] => List[(B, B)] = { // 3
  case Nil => Nil
// 8 1 1,7
  case head :: tail => (f (head._1), f (head._2)) :: fmap(f)(tail)
// 8 6 2 4 6 5 2 4 6 7 9
} // This code uses each of the nine allowed constructions.
```

- 1 Use Unit value (or equivalent type), e.g. (), Nil, None
- 2 Use bound variable (a given argument of the function)
- 3 Create a function: { x => expr(x) }
- 4 Use a function: f(x)
- 5 Create a product: (a, b)
- 6 Use a product: p._1 (or via pattern matching)
- 7 Create a co-product: Left[A, B](x)
- 8 Use a co-product: { case ... => ... } (pattern matching)
- 9 Use a recursive call: e.g., fmap(f)(tail) within the code of fmap

Naturality laws require map

Naturality law: applying $t[A]: F[A] \Rightarrow G[A]$ before $_.\text{map}(f)$ equals applying $t[B]: F[B] \Rightarrow G[B]$ after $_.\text{map}(f)$ for any function $f: A \Rightarrow B$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F[A] & \xrightarrow{t[A]} & G[A] \\ \downarrow \text{_}.map(f) \text{ for } F & & \downarrow \text{_}.map(f) \text{ for } G \\ F[B] & \xrightarrow{t[B]} & G[B] \end{array}$$

- Example: $F = \text{List}$, $G = \text{Option}$, $t = \text{headOption}$

The naturality law of `headOption`: for all $x: \text{List}[A]$ and $f: A \Rightarrow B$,
 $x.\text{headOption}.\text{map}(f) = x.\text{map}(f).\text{headOption}$

Naturality laws are formulated using $_.\text{map}$ for F and G

What is the code of `map` for a given $F[_]$?

- Equivalently, the code of $\text{fmap}[A, B]: (A \Rightarrow B) \Rightarrow F[A] \Rightarrow F[B]$

Using naturality laws: the Yoneda identities

For covariant $F[A]$, the type $F[R]$ is equivalent to the type of functions

$p[A]: (R \Rightarrow A) \Rightarrow F[A]$ satisfying the naturality law:

$p[A](k).map(f) == p[B](k \text{ andThen } f)$ for all $f: A \Rightarrow B$

Isomorphism maps:

$inY[A]: F[R] \Rightarrow (R \Rightarrow A) \Rightarrow F[A] = fr \Rightarrow k \Rightarrow fr.map[A](k)$

$outY: ([A] \Rightarrow (R \Rightarrow A) \Rightarrow F[A]) \Rightarrow F[R] = p \Rightarrow p[R](identity[R])$

Proofs of isomorphism:

$outY(inY(fr)) == outY(k \Rightarrow fr.map(k)) == fr.map(identity) == fr$

The other direction:

$inY(outY(p)) == k \Rightarrow outY(p).map(k) == k \Rightarrow p(identity).map(k)$

Use the naturality law: $p(identity).map(k) == p(identity \text{ andThen } k)$

So: $inY(outY(p)) == k \Rightarrow p(k) == p$

- The naturality law and the code of `inY` must use *the same* `_.map`

For contravariant $G[A]$, the type $G[R]$ is equivalent to the type of functions

$q[A]: (A \Rightarrow R) \Rightarrow G[A]$ satisfying the appropriate naturality law

Example applications of the Yoneda identities

Many types can be converted to the form $[A] \Rightarrow (R \Rightarrow A) \Rightarrow F[A]$ with a covariant F or to $[A] \Rightarrow (A \Rightarrow R) \Rightarrow G[A]$ with a contravariant G

Some examples (assume covariant $F[_]$ and contravariant $G[_]$):

- $[A] \Rightarrow A$ is equivalent to `Nothing`
- $[A] \Rightarrow F[A]$ is equivalent to `F[Nothing]`
- $[A] \Rightarrow G[A]$ is equivalent to `G[Unit]`
- $[A] \Rightarrow A \Rightarrow A$ is equivalent to `Unit`
- $[A] \Rightarrow A \Rightarrow F[A]$ is equivalent to `F[Unit]`
- $[A] \Rightarrow (A, A) \Rightarrow A$ is equivalent to `Boolean`
- $[A] \Rightarrow (A, A) \Rightarrow F[A]$ is equivalent to `F[Boolean]`
- $[A] \Rightarrow (P \Rightarrow A) \Rightarrow Q \Rightarrow A$ is equivalent to `Q => P`
- $[A] \Rightarrow (A \Rightarrow P) \Rightarrow A \Rightarrow Q$ is equivalent to `P => Q`
- $[A] \Rightarrow F[A] \Rightarrow (A \Rightarrow P) \Rightarrow Q$ is equivalent to `F[P] => Q`
- `flatMap` is equivalent to `flatten`: (use Yoneda w.r.t. A)

```
def flatMap[A, B]: M[A] => (A => M[B]) => M[B]  
def flatten[B]: M[M[B]] => M[B]
```

Step 1. Fully parametric type constructors

What is the `fmap` function for a given type constructor `F[_]`?

- If the code of `t[A]: F[A] => G[A]` is fully parametric, then there are only a few ways to build the type constructors `F[_]` and `G[_]`
- Such “fully parametric” type constructors `F[_]` are built as:
 - 1 `F[A] = Unit` or `F[A] = B` where `B` is another type parameter
 - 2 `F[A] = A`
 - 3 `F[A] = (G[A], H[A])` — product types
 - 4 `F[A] = Either[G[A], H[A]]` — co-product types
 - 5 `F[A] = G[A] => H[A]` — function types
 - 6 `F[A] = G[F[A], A]` — recursive types
 - 7 `F[A] = [X] => G[A, X]` — universally quantified types

The recursive type construction (`Fix`) can be defined as:

```
case class Fix[G[_], _], A(unfix: G[Fix[G[_], _], A], A])  
F[A] = Fix[G, A] satisfies the type equation F[A] = G[F[A], A]
```

Step 1. Deriving fmap from types

- What is the `fmap` function for a covariant type constructor `F[_]`?

`fmap_F[A, B]: (A => B) => F[A] => F[B]`

- 1 If `F[A] = Unit` or `F[A] = B` then `fmap_F(f) = identity`
- 2 If `F[A] = A` then `fmap_F(f) = f`
- 3 If `F[A] = (G[A], H[A])` then we need `fmap_G` and `fmap_H`
`fmap_F(f) = { case (ga, ha) => (fmap_G(f)(ga),
fmap_H(f)(ha)) }`
- 4 If `F[A] = Either[G[A], H[A]]` then `fmap_F(f) = {
case Left(ga) => Left(fmap_G(f)(ga))
case Right(ha) => Right(fmap_H(f)(ha))
}`
- 5 If `F[A] = G[A] => H[A]` then we need `cmap_G` and `fmap_H`
`cmap_G[A, B]: (A => B) => G[B] => G[A]`
`fmap_F(f) = (p: G[A] => H[A]) => (gb: G[B]) =>
fmap_H(f)(p(cmap_G(f)(gb)))`
- 6 If `F[A] = G[F[A], A]` then we need `fmap_G1` and `fmap_G2`
`fmap_F(f) = fmap_G1(fmap_F(f)) andThen fmap_G2(f)`
- 7 If `F[A] = [X] => G[A, X]` then we need `fmap_G1`
`fmap_F(f) = p => [X] => fmap_G1(f)(p[X])`

Step 1. Deriving cmap from types

- When $F[_]$ is contravariant, we need the `cmap` function
 $\text{cmap_G}[A, B]: (A \Rightarrow B) \Rightarrow G[B] \Rightarrow G[A]$
- Use structural induction on the type of $F[_]$:
 - ① If $F[A] = \text{Unit}$ or $F[A] = B$ then $\text{cmap_F}(f) = \text{identity}$
 - ② If $F[A] = A$ then F is *not* contravariant!
 - ③ If $F[A] = (G[A], H[A])$ then we need `cmap_G` and `cmap_H`
 $\text{cmap_F}(f) = \{ \text{case } (gb, hb) \Rightarrow (\text{cmap_G}(f)(gb), \text{cmap_H}(f)(hb)) \}$
 - ④ If $F[A] = \text{Either}[G[A], H[A]]$ then $\text{cmap_F}(f) = \{$
 $\text{case Left}(gb) \Rightarrow \text{Left}(\text{cmap_G}(f)(gb))$
 $\text{case Right}(hb) \Rightarrow \text{Right}(\text{cmap_H}(f)(hb))$
 $\}$
 - ⑤ If $F[A] = G[A] \Rightarrow H[A]$ then we need `fmap_G` and `cmap_H`
 $\text{cmap_F}(f) = (k: G[B] \Rightarrow H[B]) \Rightarrow (ga: G[A]) \Rightarrow$
 $\text{cmap_H}(f)(k(\text{fmap_G}(f)(ga)))$
 - ⑥ If $F[A] = G[F[A], A]$ then we need `fmap_G1` and `cmap_G2`
 $\text{cmap_F}(f) = \text{fmap_G1}(\text{cmap_F}(f)) \text{ andThen } \text{cmap_G2}(f)$
 - ⑦ If $F[A] = [X] \Rightarrow G[A, X]$ then we need `cmap_G1`
 $\text{cmap_F}(f) = k \Rightarrow [X] \Rightarrow \text{cmap_G1}(f)(k[X])$

Step 1. Detect covariance and contravariance from types

- The type constructions for `fmap` and `cmap` are the same except for function types
- The function arrow (`=>`) swaps covariant and contravariant positions
- In any fully parametric type expression, each type parameter is either in a covariant position or in a contravariant position

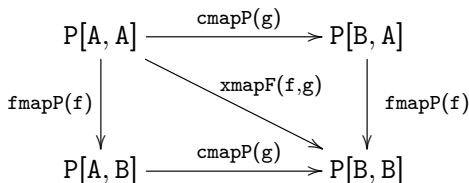
`type F[A, B] = (A => Either[A, B], (B => A) => A => (A, B))`
 - + + + - - + +

- `F[A, B]` is covariant w.r.t. `B` since `B` is always in covariant positions
 - ▶ We can recognize this just by counting the function arrows
- We can generate the code for `fmap` or `cmap` mechanically, from types
- A type expression `F[A, B, ...]` can be analyzed with respect to each of the type parameters separately, and found to be covariant, contravariant, or neither (“invariant”)

Step 1. “Invariant” type constructors. Profunctors

For “invariant” types, we use a trick: rename contravariant positions

- Example: `type F[A] = Either[A => (A, A), (A, A) => A]`
- Define `type P[X, A] = Either[X => (A, A), (X, X) => A]`
- Then `F[A] = P[A, A]` while `P[X, A]` is contravariant in `X` and covariant in `A`. Such `P[X, A]` are called **profunctors**
- We can implement `cmap` with respect to `X` and `fmap` with respect to `A`
`def fmapP[X, A, B]: (A => B) => P[X, A] => P[X, B]`
`def cmapP[X, Y, A]: (X => Y) => P[Y, A] => P[X, A]`
- Then we can compose `cmapP` and `fmapP` to get `xmapF`:
`def xmapF[A, B]: (A => B, B => A) => P[A, A] => P[B, B] =`
 `(f, g) => cmapP[A, B, A](g) andThen fmapP[B, A, B](f)`
- What if we compose in another order? A commutativity law holds:



Step 1. Verifying the functor laws

`fmap` and `cmap` need to satisfy two functor laws

- Identity law:

`fmap(identity) = identity`

`cmap(identity) = identity`

- Composition law: for any `f: A => B` and `g: B => C`,

`fmap(f) andThen fmap(g) = fmap(f andThen g)`

`cmap(g) andThen cmap(f) = cmap(f andThen g)`

- Go through each case and prove that the laws hold

- ▶ Proofs by induction on the type structure

Step 1. Summary

- `fmap` or `cmap` or `xmap` follow from a given type expression `F[A]`
- The code of `fmap`, `cmap`, `xmap` is always fully parametric and lawful
 - ▶ That is the “standard” code to be used by naturality laws
- Consistency of the definition of `xmap` requires a commutativity law
 - ▶ The commutativity laws follow from naturality and will be proved later

Step 2. Motivation for relational parametricity. I. Papers

Parametricity theorem: any fully parametric function satisfies a certain law
“Relational parametricity” is a powerful method for proving the parametricity theorem and for using it to prove other laws

- Main papers: Reynolds (1983) and Wadler “Theorems for free” (1989)
 - ▶ Those papers are limited in scope and hard to understand
- There are *few* pedagogical tutorials on relational parametricity
 - ▶ “On a relation of functions” by R. Backhouse (1990)
 - ▶ “The algebra of programming” by R. Bird and O. de Moor (1997)
- This tutorial derives the main results *not* following any of the above
- This tutorial explains a minimum of necessary knowledge and notation

Step 2. Motivating relational parametricity. II. The difficulty

Naturality laws are formulated via liftings (`fmap`, `cmap`), for example:

```
fmap(f) andThen t == t andThen fmap(f)
```

Cannot lift $f: A \Rightarrow B$ to $F[A] \Rightarrow F[B]$ when $F[_]$ is not covariant!

- For covariant $F[_]$ we lift $f: A \Rightarrow B$ to $\text{fmap}(f): F[A] \Rightarrow F[B]$
- For contravariant $F[_]$ we lift $f: A \Rightarrow B$ to $\text{cmap}(f): F[B] \Rightarrow F[A]$

In general, $F[_]$ will be neither covariant nor contravariant

- Example: `foldLeft` with respect to type parameter A

```
def foldLeft[T, A]: List[T] => (T => A => A) => A => A
```
- This is *not* of the form $F[A] \Rightarrow G[A]$ with $F[_]$ and $G[_]$ being both covariant or both contravariant
 - ▶ Because some occurrences of A are in covariant and contravariant positions together in function arguments, e.g., $(T \Rightarrow A \Rightarrow A) \Rightarrow \dots$
- What law (similar to a naturality law) does `foldLeft` obey with respect to the type parameter A ?
- We need to formulate a more general naturality law that applies to all type constructors $F[A]$, not necessarily covariant nor contravariant

Step 2. Motivating relational parametricity. III. The solution

The difficulty is resolved using three nontrivial ideas:

- 1 Replace functions $f: A \Rightarrow B$ by binary relations $r: A \Leftrightarrow B$
 - ▶ The **graph** relation: (a, b) in $\text{graph}(f)$ means $f(a) == b$
 - ▶ Relations are more general than functions, can be many-to-many
 - ▶ Instead of $f(a) == b$, we will write (a, b) in r
- 2 It is *a*lways possible to lift $r: A \Leftrightarrow B$ to $\text{rmap}(r): F[A] \Leftrightarrow F[B]$
- 3 Reformulate the naturality law of t via relations: for any $r: A \Leftrightarrow B$,

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F[A] & \xrightarrow{t[A]} & G[A] \\ \updownarrow \text{rmap}(r) \text{ for } F & & \updownarrow \text{rmap}(r) \text{ for } G \\ F[B] & \xrightarrow{t[B]} & G[B] \end{array}$$

To read the diagram: the starting values are on the left

For any $r: A \Leftrightarrow B$, for any $fa: F[A]$ and $fb: F[B]$ such that

(fa, fb) in $\text{rmap}_F(r)$, we require $(t(fa), t(fb))$ in $\text{rmap}_G(r)$

The relational naturality law will reduce to the ordinary naturality law when $F[_]$ and $G[_]$ are both co(ntra)variant and $r = \text{graph}(f)$ for any $f: A \Rightarrow B$

Step 2. Formulating naturality laws via relations

Ordinary naturality law of $t[A] : F[A] \Rightarrow G[A]$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F[A] & \xrightarrow{t[A]} & G[A] \\ \text{fmap}_F(f) \downarrow & & \downarrow \text{fmap}_G(f) \\ F[B] & \xrightarrow{t[B]} & G[B] \end{array}$$

$\forall fa: F[A], fb: F[B]$ if $fa.map(f) == fb$ then $t(fa).map(f) == t(fb)$
Rewrite this via relations: For all $fa: F[A], fb: F[B]$, when (fa, fb) in $graph(fmap_F(f))$ then $(t(fa), t(fb))$ in $graph(fmap_G(f))$

We expect: $graph(fmap(f)) == rmap(graph(f))$, replace $graph(f)$ by r :
when (fa, fb) in $rmap_F(graph(f))$ then $(t(fa), t(fb))$ in $rmap_G(graph(f))$

when (fa, fb) in $rmap_F(r)$ then $(t(fa), t(fb))$ in $rmap_G(r)$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F[A] & \xrightarrow{t[A]} & G[A] \\ rmap_F(r) \updownarrow & & \updownarrow rmap_G(r) \\ F[B] & \xrightarrow{t[B]} & G[B] \end{array}$$

Step 3. Definition of relations. Examples

In the terminology of relational databases:

- A relation $r: A \Leftrightarrow B$ is a table with 2 columns (A and B)
- A row $(a: A, b: B)$ means that the value a is related to the value b

Mathematically speaking: a relation $r: A \Leftrightarrow B$ is a subset $r \subset A \times B$

- We write (a, b) in r to mean $a \times b \in r$ where $a \in A$ and $b \in B$

Relations can be many-to-many while functions $A \Rightarrow B$ are many-to-one
A function $f: A \Rightarrow B$ generates the **graph** relation $\text{graph}(f): A \Leftrightarrow B$

- Two values $a: A, b: B$ are in $\text{graph}(f)$ if $f(a) == b$
- $\text{graph}(\text{identity}: A \Rightarrow A)$ gives an **identity relation** $\text{id}: A \Leftrightarrow A$

Example of a relation that can be many-to-many: given any $f: A \Rightarrow C$ and $g: B \Rightarrow C$, define the **pullback relation**: $\text{pull}(f, g): A \Leftrightarrow B$;

$(a: A, b: B)$ in $\text{pull}(f, g)$ means $f(a) == g(b)$

- The pullback relation is *not* the graph of a function $A \Rightarrow B$ or $B \Rightarrow A$

Step 3. Relation combinators

Given two relations $r: A \Leftrightarrow B$ and $s: X \Leftrightarrow Y$, we define:

- Pair product: $\text{prod}(r, s)$ of type $(A, X) \Leftrightarrow (B, Y)$
 $((a, x), (b, y)) \text{ in } \text{prod}(r, s)$ means $(a, b) \text{ in } r$ and $(x, y) \text{ in } s$
- Pair co-product: $\text{psum}(r, s)$ of type $\text{Either}[A, X] \Leftrightarrow \text{Either}[B, Y]$
 $(\text{Left}(a), \text{Left}(b)) \text{ in } \text{psum}(r, s)$ if $(a, b) \text{ in } r$
 $(\text{Right}(x), \text{Right}(y)) \text{ in } \text{psum}(r, s)$ if $(x, y) \text{ in } s$
- Pair mapper: $\text{pmap}(r, s)$ of type $(A \Rightarrow X) \Leftrightarrow (B \Rightarrow Y)$
 $(f, g) \text{ in } \text{pmap}(r, s)$ means when $(a, b) \text{ in } r$ then $(f(a), g(b)) \text{ in } s$
- Reverse: $\text{rev}(r)$ has type $B \Leftrightarrow A$
 $(b, a) \text{ in } \text{rev}(r)$ means $(a, b) \text{ in } r$

Step 4. The relational lifting (`rmap`)

For a type constructor F and $r: A \Leftrightarrow B$, need $\text{rmap}(r): F[A] \Leftrightarrow F[B]$

Define rmap for $F[A]$ by induction over the *type expression* of $F[A]$

For a fully parametric $F[A]$ we have seven cases:

- ① $F[A] = \text{Unit}$ or $F[A] = Z$ (a fixed type other than A): $\text{rmap}(r) = \text{id}$
- ② $F[A] = A$: define $\text{rmap}_F(r) = r$
- ③ $F[A] = (G[A], H[A])$: $\text{rmap}_F(r) = \text{prod}(\text{rmap}_G(r), \text{rmap}_H(r))$
- ④ $F[A] = \text{Either}[G[A], H[A]]$:
 $\text{rmap}_F(r) = \text{psum}(\text{rmap}_G(r), \text{rmap}_H(r))$
- ⑤ $F[A] = G[A] \Rightarrow H[A]$: $\text{rmap}_F(r) = \text{pmap}(\text{rmap}_G(r), \text{rmap}_H(r))$
- ⑥ Recursive type: $F[A] = G[A, F[A]]$:
 $\text{rmap}_F(r) = \text{rmap2}_G(r, \text{rmap}_F(r))$
- ⑦ Universally quantified type: $F[A] = [X] \Rightarrow G[A, X]$:
 $\text{rmap}_F(r) = \text{forall}(X, Y). \text{forall}(s: X \Leftrightarrow Y). \text{rmap2}_G(r, s)$

- The inductive assumption is that liftings to G and H are already defined

Define rmap2 similarly (and rmap3 , rmap4 , ...)

For purely covariant or contravariant $F[A]$ we will get fmap or cmap

Step 4. Example: rmap for function types

Compare `fmap` and `rmap` for function types

To rewrite `fmap` via relations, introduce intermediate arguments

Let $F[A] = G[A] \Rightarrow H[A]$ and take any $p: G[A] \Rightarrow H[A]$, $f: A \Rightarrow B$

Define $q = \text{fmap_F}(f)(p) = (gb: G[B]) \Rightarrow \text{fmap_H}(f)(p(\text{cmap_G}(f)(gb)))$

Rewrite this via relations: $(p, q) \text{ in } \text{graph}(\text{fmap_F}(f))$ means:

for all $gb: G[B]$ we must have $q(gb) = \text{fmap_H}(f)(p(\text{cmap_G}(f)(gb)))$

Define $ga: G[A] = \text{cmap_G}(f)(gb)$, then: $q(gb) = \text{fmap_H}(f)(p(ga))$

But $ga = \text{cmap_G}(f)(gb)$ means $(ga, gb) \text{ in } \text{rev}(\text{graph}(\text{cmap_G}(f)))$

So, the relational formulation of `fmap_F` is:

$(p, q) \text{ in } \text{graph}(\text{fmap_F}(f))$ means for all $ga: G[A]$, $gb: G[B]$ when

$(ga, gb) \text{ in } \text{rev}(\text{graph}(\text{cmap_G}(f)))$ then:

$(p(ga), q(gb)) \text{ in } \text{graph}(\text{fmap_H}(f))$

Replace $\text{graph}(f)$ by an arbitrary relation $r: A \Leftrightarrow B$; replace

$\text{graph}(\text{fmap_F}(f))$ by $\text{rmap_F}(r)$; $\text{rev}(\text{graph}(\text{cmap_G}(f)))$ by $\text{rmap_G}(r)$

Then we get: $(p, q) \text{ in } \text{rmap}(r)$ means for all $ga: G[A]$, $gb: G[B]$ when

$(ga, gb) \text{ in } \text{rmap_G}(r)$ then $(p(ga), q(gb)) \text{ in } \text{rmap_H}(r)$

This is the same as $(p, q) \text{ in } \text{pmap}(\text{rmap_G}(r), \text{rmap_H}(r))$

Step 4. Properties of rmap

Use `rmap` to lift a relation `r` to a type constructor

Two main examples of relations generated by functions:

`graph(f)` and `pull(f, g)`

Three main examples of type constructors ($F[A]$, $G[A]$, $H[A]$):

- If $F[A]$ is covariant then: `rmap(graph(f)) == graph(fmap(f))`
- If $G[A] = A \Rightarrow A$ then (fa, fb) in `rmap(graph(f))` means:
when (a, b) in `graph(f)` then $(fa(a), fb(b))$ in `graph(f)`
or: `f(fa(a)) == fb(f(a))` or: `fa andThen f == f andThen fb`
This relation between `fa` and `fb` has the form of a pullback
- If $H[A] = (A \Rightarrow A) \Rightarrow A$ then (fa, fb) in `rmap_H(graph(f))` means:
when (p, q) in `rmap_G(graph(f))` then $(fa(p), fb(q))$ in `graph(f)`
equivalently: if `p andThen f == f andThen q` then `f(fa(p)) == fb(q)`
This is *not* a pullback relation: cannot express `p` through `q`

It is hard to use relations that are neither a graph nor a pullback

This happens when lifting to a sufficiently complicated type constructor

Example: applying relational parametricity to $\forall A. A \rightarrow A$

Example: $t[A] = \text{identity}[A]$ of type $P[A] = A \Rightarrow A$

Relational parametricity law says:

- For any types A and B , and for any relation $r: A \Leftrightarrow B$, we have:

$(t[A], t[B]) \text{ in } \text{rmap_P}(r)$

For the type $P[A] = A \Rightarrow A$ we have:

$\text{rmap_P}(r): (A \Rightarrow A) \Leftrightarrow (B \Rightarrow B)$

$\text{rmap_P}(r) = \text{pmap}(r, r)$

- $(p, q) \text{ in } \text{pmap}(r, r)$ means: for any $a: A$ and $b: B$, if $(a, b) \text{ in } r$ then $(p(a), q(b)) \text{ in } r$
- So, $(t[A], t[B]) \text{ in } \text{rmap_P}(r)$ means: for any $a: A$, $b: B$, if $(a, b) \text{ in } r$ then $(t(a), t(b)) \text{ in } r$

Trick: choose r such that $(a, b) \text{ in } r$ only when $a == a_0$ and $b == b_0$

- Whenever $a == a_0$ and $b == b_0$ then $t(a) == a_0$ and $t(b) == b_0$
- So, $t(a_0) == a_0$ and $t(b_0) == b_0$ for all $a_0: A$ and $b_0: B$
- It means that t must be an identity function

Step 5. Formulation of relational parametricity law

Instead of proving relational properties for $t[A] : P[A] \Rightarrow Q[A]$, use the function type and the quantified type constructions and get:

- Any fully parametric $t[A] : P[A]$ satisfies for any $r : A \Leftrightarrow B$ the relation $(t[A], t[B]) \text{ in } \text{rmap_P}(r)$
- Any fully parametric $t : P$ satisfies $(t, t) \text{ in } \text{rmap_P}(\text{id})$
- This is the formulation shown in some papers: if $t : P$ then $(t, t) \in \tilde{P}$

It is more convenient to prove a parametricity theorem with a free variable:

- Any fully parametric expression $t[A](z) : P[A]$ with $z : Q[A]$ satisfies, for any relation $r : A \Leftrightarrow B$ and for any $z1 : Q[A]$, $z2 : Q[B]$, the law: if $(z1, z2) \text{ in } \text{rmap_Q}(r)$ then $(t[A](z1), t[B](z2)) \text{ in } \text{rmap_P}(r)$
- Equivalently: $(t[A], t[B]) \text{ in } \text{pmap}(\text{rmap_Q}(r), \text{rmap_P}(r))$

This applies to expressions containing *one* free variable (z)

- Any number of free variables can be grouped into a tuple

Step 5. Outline of the proof of the relational law

The theorem says that $\mathsf{t}[A](z)$ satisfies its relational parametricity law

Proof goes by induction on the structure of the code of $\mathsf{t}[A](z)$

At the top level, $\mathsf{t}[A](z)$ must have one of the 9 code constructions

Each construction decomposes the code of $\mathsf{t}[A](z)$ into sub-expressions

The inductive assumption is that the theorem holds for all sub-expressions (including the bound variable z)

Step 5. First 4 inductive cases of the proof

Constant type: $t[A](z) = c$ where $c: C$ with a fixed type C :

- We have $\text{rmap_P}(r) == \text{id}$ while $(c, c) \text{ in id}$ holds

Use argument: $t[A](z) = z$ where z is a value of type $Q[A]$:

- If $(z1, z2) \text{ in rmap_Q}(r)$ then $(t(z1), t(z2)) \text{ in rmap_Q}(r)$

Create function: $t(z) = h \Rightarrow s(z, h)$ where $h: H[A]$ and $s(z, h): S[A]$

- If $(z1, z2) \text{ in rmap_Q}(r)$ and $(h1, h2) \text{ in rmap_H}(r)$ then $(s(z1, h1), s(z2, h2)) \text{ in rmap_S}(r)$

Use function: $t(z) = g(z)(h(z))$ where $g(z): H[A] \Rightarrow P[A]$ and $h(z): H[A]$ are sub-expressions:

- If $(z1, z2) \text{ in rmap_Q}(r)$ then inductive assumption says:
 $(h(z1), h(z2)) \text{ in rmap_H}(r)$
- If $(h1, h2) \text{ in rmap_H}(r)$ then inductive assumption says:
 $(g(h1), g(h2)) \text{ in rmap_P}(r)$

Step 5. Next 4 inductive cases of the proof

Create tuple: $t[A](z) = (p(z), q(z))$ and***:

- We have $\text{rmap_P}(r) =$

Use tuple: $t[A](z) = g[A](z) \cdot_1$ where $g[A]$ has type $(Q[A], L[A])$:

- If $(z1, z2)$ in ***

Create disjunction: $t[A](z) = \text{Left}[K[A], L[A]](g[A](z))$:

- If $(z1, z2)$ ***

Use disjunction: $t(z) = _ \text{match } \{$

case $\text{Left}(x) \Rightarrow p(z)(x)$

case $\text{Right}(y) \Rightarrow q(z)(y)$

$\}$

- If $(z1, z2)$ in $\text{rmap_Q}(r)$ then (***)

Step 6. From relational parametricity to the wedge law

Create tuple: $t[A](z) = (p(z), q(z))$ and:

Step 6. From the wedge law to naturality laws

Create tuple: $t[A](z) = (p(z), q(z))$ and:

Advanced applications. I. Church encodings

- Recursive types defined by induction: $T \cong S[T]$ with *covariant* $S[_]$
- Isomorphism is given by `fix: S[T] => T` and `unfix: T => S[T]`
- `fix andThen unfix == identity; unfix andThen fix == identity`
- Church encoding: `CT = [A] => (S[A] => A) => A` (fully parametric)
- Using Scala 2 traits: `trait CT { def run[A](fix: S[A] => A): A }`
- The Church encoding (`CT`) is equivalent to the inductive definition (`T`)

Advanced applications. II. Quantified types

- Define $\text{type } F[R] = [A] \Rightarrow ((A \Rightarrow R) \Rightarrow A) \Rightarrow A$
- This is the Church encoding of an (invalid) recursive type $T \cong T \Rightarrow R$
- We will use the relational naturality law to prove that $F[R] \cong R$

Summary

- “Theorems for free” are laws always satisfied by fully parametric code
- Relational parametricity is a powerful proof technique
- Relational parametricity has a steep learning curve
 - ▶ Cannot directly write code that manipulates relations
 - ▶ All calculations need to be done symbolically or with proof assistants
- The result may be a relation that is difficult to interpret as code
- Naturality laws and the wedge law are shortcuts to “theorems for free”
- A couple of results in FP do require the relational naturality law
- More details in the free book — <https://github.com/winitzki/sofp>

