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Recursive Functions



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recursivefunctions.1

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Recursive Function

To define a function, f , on a recursively defined set R , define

- $f(b)$ explicitly for each base case $b \in R$
- $f(c(x))$ for each constructor, c , in terms of x and $f(x)$



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Recursive function on M

Def. $\text{tree-depth}(s)$ for $s \in M$

$$\text{td}(\lambda) ::= 0$$

$$\text{td}([s]t) ::=$$

$$1 + \max\{\text{td}(s), \text{td}(t)\}$$



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k^n — recursive function on \mathbb{N}

$$\text{expt}(k, 0) ::= 1$$

$$\text{expt}(k, n+1) ::= k \cdot \text{expt}(k, n)$$

--uses recursive def of \mathbb{N} :

- $0 \in \mathbb{N}$
- if $n \in \mathbb{N}$, then $n+1 \in \mathbb{N}$



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Recursive Functions

summary:

f : Data \rightarrow Values

$f(b)$ def'd directly for base b

$f(\text{cnstr}(x))$ def'd using $f(x)$, x



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Length versus Depth

Lemma: $|r| + 2 \leq 2^{\text{td}(r)+1}$

for all $r \in M$

Proof by Structural Induction

Base case: $[r = \lambda]$

$$|\lambda| + 2 = 0 + 2 = 2 = 2^{0+1} = 2^{\text{td}(\lambda)+1}$$

OK!



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Size versus Depth

Constructor case: $[r = [s]t]$

by ind. hypothesis:

$$|s| + 2 \leq 2^{\text{td}(s)+1}$$

$$|t| + 2 \leq 2^{\text{td}(t)+1}$$



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Size versus Depth

$$|r| + 2 = |[s]t| + 2 \quad \text{def. of } r$$

$$= (|s| + |t| + 2) + 2 \quad \text{def. of length}$$

$$= (|s| + 2) + (|t| + 2)$$

$$\leq 2^{\text{td}(s)+1} + 2^{\text{td}(t)+1} \quad \text{induction hyp.}$$

$$\leq 2^{\max(\text{td}(s), \text{td}(t))+1} + 2^{\max(\text{td}(s), \text{td}(t))+1}$$

$$= 2 \cdot 2^{\max(\text{td}(s), \text{td}(t))+1} \leq 2 \cdot 2^{\text{td}(r)} \quad \text{def. of } d(r)$$

$$= 2^{\text{td}(r)+1} \quad \text{QED!}$$



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positive powers of two

$$2 \in \text{PP2}$$

if $x, y \in \text{PP2}$, then $x \cdot y \in \text{PP2}$

2, 2 · 2, 4 · 2, 4 · 4, 4 · 8, ...

2 4 8 16 32 ... ∈ PP2



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log₂ of PP2

$$\log_2(2) ::= 1$$

$$\log_2(x \cdot y) ::= \log_2(x) + \log_2(y)$$

for $x, y \in \text{PP2}$

$$\log_2(4) = \log_2(2 \cdot 2) = 1 + 1 = 2$$

$$\log_2(8) = \log_2(2 \cdot 4) = \log_2(2) + \log_2(4)$$

$$= 1 + 2 = 3$$



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loggy function on PP2

$$\text{loggy}(2) ::= 1$$

$$\text{loggy}(x \cdot y) ::= x + \text{loggy}(y)$$

for $x, y \in \text{PP2}$

$$\text{loggy}(4) = \text{loggy}(2 \cdot 2) = 2 + 1 = 3$$

$$\text{loggy}(8) = \text{loggy}(2 \cdot 4) = 2 + \text{loggy}(4)$$

$$= 2 + 3 = 5$$

$$\text{loggy}(16) = \text{loggy}(8 \cdot 2) = 8 + \text{loggy}(2)$$

$$= 8 + 1 = 9$$



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loggy function on PP2

$$\text{loggy}(16) = \text{loggy}(8 \cdot 2) = 9$$

WAIT A SEC!:

$$\text{loggy}(16) = \text{loggy}(2 \cdot 8)$$

$$= 2 + \text{loggy}(8) = 2 + 5$$

$$= 7$$



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ambiguous constructors

The Problem: more than one way to construct elements of PP2 from

$$\text{cnstrct}(x,y) = x \cdot y$$

$$16 = \text{cnstrct}(8,2) \text{ but also}$$

$$16 = \text{cnstrct}(2,8)$$

ambiguous



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ambiguous recursive defs

problem to watch out for:

recursive function on datum, e , is defined according to what constructor created e .

If 2 or more ways to construct e , then which definition to use?



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