



# Structural Induction & Asymptotic Analysis

*Structural engineering*

15-150 M21

Lecture 0607  
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**0 Struct Induct**

SML allows us to declare *type aliases*

```
type fivetuple = int * int * int * int * int
```

We can use this to help define types with invariants

```
(* INVARIANT: for all n:nat, n>=0 *)  
type nat = int
```

```
(* fact : nat -> nat
 * REQUIRES: true
 * ENSURES: fact n == n!
 *)
fun fact 0 = 1
  | fact (n:nat):nat = n * fact(n-1)
```

In reality, `nat` is just `int`, so all the constructors of type `int` are constructors of type `nat`. But we pretend that `nat` is given by two constructors:

- `0`
- Successor: if `n : nat`, then `n+1 : nat`

Pretending that all nats are constructed from zero and successor matches our recursion & induction principle.

- **Recursion:** To define  $f : \text{nat} \rightarrow t$ , must provide  $f(0)$  and  $f(n)$ , using the value of  $f(n-1)$ .
- **Induction:** To prove  $P(n)$  for all  $n : \text{nat}$ , must prove  $P(0)$  and  $P(n)$ , using the assumption of  $P(n-1)$

## Key Point

The recursion and induction principles for a (recursive) type exactly match the constructors of that type

## Lists are recursively-defined type

Recall that the type  $t$  `list` has two constructors:

- $[] : t \text{ list}$
- $(x :: xs) : t \text{ list}$  if  $x : t$  and  $xs : t \text{ list}$

**Recursion Principle:** To define  $f : t1 \text{ list} \rightarrow t2$ , must provide  $f ([])$  :  $t2$  and  $f (x :: xs)$  :  $t2$ , using the values  $x : t1$  and  $f (xs)$  :  $t2$

**Induction Principle:** To prove  $P(L)$  for all  $L : t1 \text{ list}$ , must prove  $P ([])$  and  $P (x :: xs)$  for arbitrary  $x : t1$ , assuming  $P (xs)$ .



**Demonstration: @ totality proof**

```
infix @  
fun [] @ L = L  
  | (x::xs) @ L = x::(xs @ L)
```

## Check Your Understanding

- Prove that  $\text{len} : \text{t list} \rightarrow \text{int}$  is total
- Prove that  $\text{rev} : \text{t list} \rightarrow \text{t list}$  is total
- Formulate the necessary lemmas and prove

$$\text{len}(L1 @ L2) \cong \text{len}(L1) + \text{len}(L2)$$

for all appropriately-typed values  $L1, L2$

- Formulate the necessary lemmas and prove

$$\text{len}(\text{rev } L) \cong \text{len } L$$

for all appropriately-typed values  $L$



# 1 Tail Recursion

**Demonstration: rev traces**

**Today's slogan I:**

*Sometimes the best way to make your  
life easier is to make your life harder*

```
trev : string list * string list -> string list  
REQUIRES: true  
ENSURES: trev(L, acc)  $\cong$  (rev L) @acc
```

This is “harder” than `rev`: this function has an extra parameter, and the behavior of `rev` is just one special case (`acc = []`):

```
val rev = fn L => trev(L, [])
```



**Demonstration: trev**  
**live-coding**

**Prop.** For all types  $t$  and all values  $L, acc : t \text{ list}$ ,

$$trev(L, acc) \cong (rev L) @ acc.$$

*Proof* by structural induction on  $L$ .

**BC:**  $L = []$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 trev([], acc) &\cong acc && \text{(defn. trev)} \\
 &\cong [] @ acc && \text{(defn. @)} \\
 &\cong (rev []) @ acc && \text{(defn. rev)}
 \end{aligned}$$

**Prop.** For all types  $t$  and all values  $L, acc : t \text{ list}$ ,

$$trev(L, acc) \cong (\text{rev } L) @ acc.$$

**IH:** Assume  $trev(xs, acc') \cong (\text{rev } xs) @ acc'$  for all  $acc'$ .

Pick arbitrary  $x : t$  and  $acc : t \text{ list}$ . WTS:

$$trev(x :: xs, acc) \cong (\text{rev } (x :: xs)) @ acc$$

$$trev(x :: xs, acc)$$

$$\cong trev(xs, x :: acc) \quad (\text{defn. } trev)$$

$$\cong (\text{rev } xs) @ (x :: acc) \quad \text{IH}$$

$$\cong ((\text{rev } xs) @ [x]) @ acc \quad (\text{Lemma, totality of rev})$$

$$\cong (\text{rev } (x :: xs)) @ acc \quad (\text{defn. rev})$$

**Demonstration: `trev` traces**

`trev` is an example of a *tail recursive* function.

**Defn.** A recursive function is said to be **tail recursive** if it does not perform any computation on the result of a recursive call

## Can convert other functions to tail-recursive “accumulator version”

```
tfact : int * int -> int
```

```
REQUIRES:  $n \geq 0$ 
```

```
ENSURES:  $\text{tfact}(n, \text{acc}) \cong \text{acc} * (\text{fact } n)$ 
```

```
texp : int * int -> int
```

```
REQUIRES:  $n \geq 0$ 
```

```
ENSURES:  $\text{exp}(n, \text{acc}) \cong \text{acc} * (\text{exp } n)$ 
```

## Check Your Understanding

- Prove `trev` is total
- Write `tfact`, `texp`, etc. so that they satisfy their specs
- Write a tail-recursive accumulator version of the following function

```
fun sum ([] : int list) : int = 0
  | sum (x::xs) = x + sum(xs)
```





# 2 Sequential Runtime Analysis

**Today's slogan II:**

*Think big (and think long-term)*

## What we want

For a given function  $f$ , we want to know how long  $(f \ v)$  takes to evaluate to a value, for each  $v$  such that  $(f \ v)$  is valuable.

$$v1 \quad f \ v1 \Longrightarrow^{13} v1 ,$$

$$v2 \quad f \ v1 \Longrightarrow^1 v2 ,$$

$$v3 \quad f \ v1 \Longrightarrow^{96000} v3 ,$$

$$v4 \quad f \ v1 \Longrightarrow^{115} v4 ,$$

In general, for each  $v$  such that  $(f \ v)$  is valuable, we want to know the least  $n$  such that

$$f \ v \Longrightarrow^n v ,$$

for some value  $v'$ .

- Internal representations?

$$6+6 \implies? 12$$

- Hardware dependence: want algorithm analysis to be the same for both our computers, even if yours is twice as fast as mine.
- For small inputs, the costs of initiating the process and storing variables is much higher relative to the costs of actual computation

**Recall:** `exp` versus `pow`

We instead generally assume *large* inputs, and instead seek to classify what impact doubling, tripling, etc. the size of the input has on the computation time.

$$W_f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$$

$: n \mapsto$  (the number of steps it takes to evaluate  
( $f \ v$ ) if  $v$  is some input of size  $n$ )

This assumes we have a well-defined notion of size defined on the input type of  $f$ , such that ( $f \ v$ ) and ( $f \ v'$ ) take the same number of steps to evaluate whenever  $v$  and  $v'$  are of the same size.

## We can classify such functions with big-O

The big-O complexity of a (mathematical) function  $W : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  tells us how fast  $W$  grows, proportionally to its input:

Rough idea: Let  $W, g : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ . We say  $W$  is  $O(g)$  if there's some constant  $c > 0$  such that

$$W(n) \leq cg(n) \quad \text{for sufficiently large } n$$

A bound is *tight* if there's no tighter bound which suffices. For the examples encountered in this class, it should be clear whether a bound is tight or not.

**Example:**  $W(n) = 3n^2 + 4n + 2$ . This function is  $O(n^4)$  and  $O(n^3)$ , but a tight bound is  $O(n^2)$ .

- If  $W$  is  $O(\log n)$ , then quadrupling the size of the input adds 2 (units of time) to the runtime.

$$W(4n) \approx W(n) + 2$$

- If  $W$  is  $O(n)$ , then quadrupling the size of the input approximately quadruples the runtime:

$$W(4n) \approx 4W(n)$$



- If  $W$  is  $O(n \log n)$ , then quadrupling the size of the input scales and increments the runtime:

$$W(4n) \approx 4(W(n) + 2)$$

- If  $W$  is  $O(n^2)$ , then quadrupling the input size multiplies the runtime by 16.

$$W(3n) \approx 9W(n) \quad W(4n) \approx 16W(n) \quad W(5n) \approx 25W(n)$$

- If  $W$  is  $O(2^n)$ , then doubling the input size squares the output size, and tripling cubes the runtime.

$$W(2n) \approx (W(n))^2 \quad W(3n) \approx (W(n))^3$$

- 0 How you're quantifying input size
- 1 Recurrence
- 2 Description of work tree
- 3 Measurements of work tree (height, and width at each level)
- 4 Summation
- 5 Big-O

**Worked example: exp analysis**

# Worked example: pow analysis

**Worked example: @ analysis**

**Worked example: rev analysis**

- We prove the behavior of structurally recursive functions using structural induction
- Accumulator arguments can facilitate efficient solutions to computational problems
- We can make use of the formalism of recurrences and asymptotic complexity to precisely articulate the runtime of recursive functional functions/algorithms

- Analysis of Multi-Step Algorithms
- Sorting
- Parallel Runtime Analysis



Thank you!