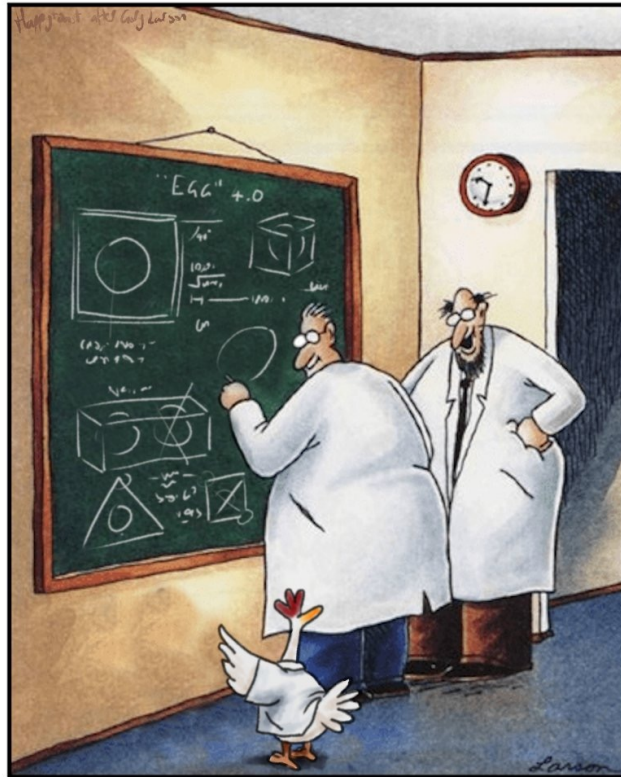


# CSE 311: Foundations of Computing

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## Lecture 17: Structural Induction



What's that Doctor McCluckles? Making them ovoid would increase structural integrity and enable a more comfortable delivery? He's right again Professor!

# Midterm

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- **Midterm in class next Wednesday**
- **Covers material up to ordinary induction (HW5)**
- **Closed book, closed notes**
  - will provide reference sheets
- **No calculators**
  - arithmetic is intended to be straightforward
  - (only a small point deduction anyway)

# Midterm

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- **5 problems covering:**
  - **Propositional Logic**  
Including circuits / Boolean algebra / normal forms
  - **Predicate Logic/English Translation**
  - **Modular arithmetic**
  - **Set theory**
  - **Induction**
- **10 minutes per problem**
  - write quickly, don't get stuck on one problem
  - focus on the overall structure of the solution

# CSE 311: Foundations of Computing

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## Lecture 17: Structural Induction



# Last time: Structural Induction

---

How to prove  $\forall x \in S, P(x)$  is true:

**Base Case:** Show that  $P(u)$  is true for all **specific elements**  $u$  of  $S$  mentioned in the *Basis step*

**Inductive Hypothesis:** Assume that  $P$  is true for some arbitrary values of each of the **existing named elements** mentioned in the *Recursive step*

**Inductive Step:** Prove that  $P(w)$  holds for each of the **new elements**  $w$  constructed in the *Recursive step* using the named elements mentioned in the Inductive Hypothesis

**Conclude** that  $\forall x \in S, P(x)$

# Last time: Using Structural Induction

---

- Let  $S$  be given by...
  - **Basis:**  $6 \in S$ ;  $15 \in S$
  - **Recursive:** if  $x, y \in S$  then  $x + y \in S$ .

**Claim:** Every element of  $S$  is divisible by 3.

**Claim:** Every element of  $S$  is divisible by 3.

---

1. Let  $P(x)$  be “ $3 \mid x$ ”. We prove that  $P(x)$  is true for all  $x \in S$  by structural induction.

**Basis:**  $6 \in S$ ;  $15 \in S$

**Recursive:** if  $x, y \in S$  then  $x + y \in S$

**Claim:** Every element of  $S$  is divisible by 3.

---

1. Let  $P(x)$  be " $3 \mid x$ ". We prove that  $P(x)$  is true for all  $x \in S$  by structural induction.
2. Base Case:  $3 \mid 6$  and  $3 \mid 15$  so  $P(6)$  and  $P(15)$  are true

**Basis:**  $6 \in S$ ;  $15 \in S$

**Recursive:** if  $x, y \in S$  then  $x + y \in S$



# **Claim:** Every element of $S$ is divisible by 3.

---

1. Let  $P(x)$  be “ $3 \mid x$ ”. We prove that  $P(x)$  is true for all  $x \in S$  by structural induction.
2. Base Case:  $3 \mid 6$  and  $3 \mid 15$  so  $P(6)$  and  $P(15)$  are true
3. Inductive Hypothesis: Suppose that  $P(x)$  and  $P(y)$  are true for some arbitrary  $x, y \in S$
4. Inductive Step: **Goal: Show  $P(x+y)$**

**Basis:**  $6 \in S$ ;  $15 \in S$

**Recursive:** if  $x, y \in S$  then  $x + y \in S$

## **Claim:** Every element of $S$ is divisible by 3.

---

1. Let  $P(x)$  be “ $3 \mid x$ ”. We prove that  $P(x)$  is true for all  $x \in S$  by structural induction.
2. Base Case:  $3 \mid 6$  and  $3 \mid 15$  so  $P(6)$  and  $P(15)$  are true
3. Inductive Hypothesis: Suppose that  $P(x)$  and  $P(y)$  are true for some arbitrary  $x, y \in S$

4. Inductive Step: **Goal: Show  $P(x+y)$**

Since  $P(x)$  is true,  $3 \mid x$  and so  $x=3m$  for some integer  $m$  and since  $P(y)$  is true,  $3 \mid y$  and so  $y=3n$  for some integer  $n$ .

Therefore  $x+y=3m+3n=3(m+n)$  and thus  $3 \mid (x+y)$ .

Hence  $P(x+y)$  is true.

5. Therefore by induction  $3 \mid x$  for all  $x \in S$ .

**Basis:**  $6 \in S$ ;  $15 \in S$

**Recursive:** if  $x, y \in S$  then  $x + y \in S$

# More Structural Induction

---

- Let  $R$  be given by...
  - **Basis:**  $12 \in R$ ;  $15 \in R$
  - **Recursive:** if  $x \in R$ , then  $x + 6 \in R$  and  $x + 15 \in R$
- Two base cases and two *recursive* cases, one existing element.

**Claim:**  $R \subseteq S$  ; i.e. every element of  $R$  is also in  $S$ .

Proof needs structural induction using definition of  $R$  since statement is of the form  $\forall x \in R. P(x)$

# **Claim:** Every element of $R$ is in $S$ . ( $R \subseteq S$ )

---

1. Let  $P(x)$  be " $x \in S$ ". We prove that  $P(x)$  is true for all  $x \in R$  by structural induction.
2. Base Case: (12):  $6 \in S$  so  $6+6=12 \in S$  by definition of  $S$ , so  $P(12)$   
(15):  $15 \in S$ , so  $P(15)$  is also true
3. Ind. Hyp: Suppose that  $P(x)$  is true for some arbitrary  $x \in R$
4. Inductive Step: **Goal: Show  $P(x+6)$  and  $P(x+15)$**   
Since  $P(x)$  holds, we have  $x \in S$ . Since  $6 \in S$  from the recursive step of  $S$ , we get  $x + 6 \in S$ , so  $P(x+6)$  is true, and since  $15 \in S$  we get  $x + 15 \in S$ , so  $P(x+15)$  is true.
5. Therefore  $P(x)$  (i.e.,  $x \in S$ ) for all  $x \in R$  by induction.

**Basis:**  $6 \in S$ ;  $15 \in S$

**Recursive:** if  $x, y \in S$ ,  
then  $x + y \in S$

**Basis:**  $12 \in R$ ;  $15 \in R$

**Recursive:** if  $x \in R$ , then  $x + 6 \in R$   
and  $x + 15 \in R$

# Recursive Definitions

---

- **Recursively defined functions and sets are our mathematical models of **code** and the **data** it uses**
  - recursively defined sets can be translated into Java classes
  - recursively defined functions can be translated into Java functions
    - some (but not all) can be written more cleanly as loops
- **Can now do proofs about CS-specific objects**

# Lists of Integers

---

- **Basis:**  $\text{nil} \in \text{List}$
- **Recursive step:**  
if  $L \in \text{List}$  and  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  
then  $a :: L \in \text{List}$

## Examples:

- |                               |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| – nil                         | []        |
| – $1 :: \text{nil}$           | [1]       |
| – $2 :: 1 :: \text{nil}$      | [2, 1]    |
| – $3 :: 2 :: 1 :: \text{nil}$ | [3, 2, 1] |

# Functions on Recursively Defined Sets

---

Assume that the recursive definition of  $S$  gives a unique way to construct every element of  $S$ .

We can define the values of a function  $f$  on  $S$  recursively as follows:

**Basis:** Define  $f(u)$  for all **specific elements**  $u$  of  $S$  mentioned in the *Basis step*

**Recursive Step:** Define  $f(w)$  for each of the **new elements**  $w$  constructed in terms of  $f$  applied to each of the **existing named elements** mentioned in the *Recursive step*

# Functions on Lists

---

**Basis:**  $\text{nil} \in \mathbf{List}$

**Recursive step:**

if  $L \in \mathbf{List}$  and  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,

then  $a :: L \in \mathbf{List}$

**Length:**

$\text{len}(\text{nil}) := 0$

$\text{len}(a :: L) := \text{len}(L) + 1$

for any  $L \in \mathbf{List}$  and  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$

**Concatenation:**

$\text{concat}(\text{nil}, R) := R$

$\text{concat}(a :: L, R) := a :: \text{concat}(L, R)$

for any  $R \in \mathbf{List}$

for any  $L, R \in \mathbf{List}$  and  
any  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$



# Structural Induction

---

How to prove  $\forall x \in S, P(x)$  is true:

**Basis:**  $\text{nil} \in \text{List}$

**Recursive step:**

if  $L \in \text{List}$  and  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  
then  $a :: L \in \text{List}$

**Base Case:** Show that  $P(u)$  is true for all **specific elements**  $u$  of  $S$  mentioned in the *Basis step*

**Inductive Hypothesis:** Assume that  $P$  is true for some arbitrary values of each of the **existing named elements** mentioned in the *Recursive step*

**Inductive Step:** Prove that  $P(w)$  holds for each of the **new elements**  $w$  constructed in the *Recursive step* using the named elements mentioned in the Inductive Hypothesis

**Conclude** that  $\forall x \in S, P(x)$

**Claim:**  $\text{len}(\text{concat}(L, R)) = \text{len}(L) + \text{len}(R)$  for all  $L, R \in \text{List}$

---

**Length:**

len(nil) := 0

len(a :: L) := len(L) + 1

**Concatenation:**

concat(nil, R) := R

concat(a :: L, R) := a :: concat(L, R)

**Claim:**  $\text{len}(\text{concat}(L, R)) = \text{len}(L) + \text{len}(R)$  for all  $L, R \in \mathbf{List}$

---

Let  $P(L)$  be “ $\text{len}(\text{concat}(L, R)) = \text{len}(L) + \text{len}(R)$  for all  $R \in \mathbf{List}$ ” .  
We prove  $P(L)$  for all  $L \in \mathbf{List}$  by structural induction.

**Length:**

$\text{len}(\text{nil}) := 0$

$\text{len}(a :: L) := \text{len}(L) + 1$

**Concatenation:**

$\text{concat}(\text{nil}, R) := R$

$\text{concat}(a :: L, R) := a :: \text{concat}(L, R)$

**Claim:**  $\text{len}(\text{concat}(L, R)) = \text{len}(L) + \text{len}(R)$  for all  $L, R \in \mathbf{List}$

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Let  $P(L)$  be “ $\text{len}(\text{concat}(L, R)) = \text{len}(L) + \text{len}(R)$  for all  $R \in \mathbf{List}$ ”. We prove  $P(L)$  for all  $L \in \mathbf{List}$  by structural induction.

**Base Case (nil):** Let  $R \in \mathbf{List}$  be arbitrary. Then,

**Length:**

$\text{len}(\text{nil}) := 0$

$\text{len}(a :: L) := \text{len}(L) + 1$

**Concatenation:**

$\text{concat}(\text{nil}, R) := R$

$\text{concat}(a :: L, R) := a :: \text{concat}(L, R)$

**Claim:**  $\text{len}(\text{concat}(L, R)) = \text{len}(L) + \text{len}(R)$  for all  $L, R \in \mathbf{List}$

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Let  $P(L)$  be “ $\text{len}(\text{concat}(L, R)) = \text{len}(L) + \text{len}(R)$  for all  $R \in \mathbf{List}$ ”.  
We prove  $P(L)$  for all  $L \in \mathbf{List}$  by structural induction.

**Base Case (nil):** Let  $R \in \mathbf{List}$  be arbitrary. Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{len}(\text{concat}(\text{nil}, R)) &= \text{len}(R) && \text{def of concat} \\ &= 0 + \text{len}(R) \\ &= \text{len}(\text{nil}) + \text{len}(R) && \text{def of len} \end{aligned}$$

Since  $R$  was arbitrary,  $P(\text{nil})$  holds.

**Claim:**  $\text{len}(\text{concat}(L, R)) = \text{len}(L) + \text{len}(R)$  for all  $L, R \in \mathbf{List}$

---

Let  $P(L)$  be “ $\text{len}(\text{concat}(L, R)) = \text{len}(L) + \text{len}(R)$  for all  $R \in \mathbf{List}$ ”. We prove  $P(L)$  for all  $L \in \mathbf{List}$  by structural induction.

**Base Case (nil):** Let  $R \in \mathbf{List}$  be arbitrary. Then,  $\text{len}(\text{concat}(\text{nil}, R)) = \text{len}(R) = 0 + \text{len}(R) = \text{len}(\text{nil}) + \text{len}(R)$ , showing  $P(\text{nil})$ .

**Inductive Hypothesis:** Assume that  $P(L)$  is true for some arbitrary  $L \in \mathbf{List}$ , i.e.,  $\text{len}(\text{concat}(L, R)) = \text{len}(L) + \text{len}(R)$  for all  $R \in \mathbf{List}$ .

**Basis:**  $\text{nil} \in \mathbf{List}$

**Recursive step:**

if  $L \in \mathbf{List}$  and  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,

then  $a :: L \in \mathbf{List}$

**Claim:**  $\text{len}(\text{concat}(L, R)) = \text{len}(L) + \text{len}(R)$  for all  $L, R \in \mathbf{List}$

---

Let  $P(L)$  be “ $\text{len}(\text{concat}(L, R)) = \text{len}(L) + \text{len}(R)$  for all  $R \in \mathbf{List}$ ”. We prove  $P(L)$  for all  $L \in \mathbf{List}$  by structural induction.

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**Inductive Step:** Goal: Show that  $P(a :: L)$  is true

**Claim:**  $\text{len}(\text{concat}(L, R)) = \text{len}(L) + \text{len}(R)$  for all  $L, R \in \mathbf{List}$

---

Let  $P(L)$  be “ $\text{len}(\text{concat}(L, R)) = \text{len}(L) + \text{len}(R)$  for all  $R \in \mathbf{List}$ ”. We prove  $P(L)$  for all  $L \in \mathbf{List}$  by structural induction.

**Base Case (nil):** Let  $R \in \mathbf{List}$  be arbitrary. Then,  $\text{len}(\text{concat}(\text{nil}, R)) = \text{len}(R) = 0 + \text{len}(R) = \text{len}(\text{nil}) + \text{len}(R)$ , showing  $P(\text{nil})$ .

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**Inductive Step:** Goal: Show that  $P(a :: L)$  is true

Let  $R \in \mathbf{List}$  be arbitrary. Then,

**Length:**

$\text{len}(\text{nil}) := 0$

$\text{len}(a :: L) := \text{len}(L) + 1$

**Concatenation:**

$\text{concat}(\text{nil}, R) := R$

$\text{concat}(a :: L, R) := a :: \text{concat}(L, R)$



**Claim:**  $\text{len}(\text{concat}(L, R)) = \text{len}(L) + \text{len}(R)$  for all  $L, R \in \mathbf{List}$

---

Let  $P(L)$  be “ $\text{len}(\text{concat}(L, R)) = \text{len}(L) + \text{len}(R)$  for all  $R \in \mathbf{List}$ ”. We prove  $P(L)$  for all  $L \in \mathbf{List}$  by structural induction.

**Base Case (nil):** Let  $R \in \mathbf{List}$  be arbitrary. Then,  $\text{len}(\text{concat}(\text{nil}, R)) = \text{len}(R) = 0 + \text{len}(R) = \text{len}(\text{nil}) + \text{len}(R)$ , showing  $P(\text{nil})$ .

**Inductive Hypothesis:** Assume that  $P(L)$  is true for some arbitrary  $L \in \mathbf{List}$ , i.e.,  $\text{len}(\text{concat}(L, R)) = \text{len}(L) + \text{len}(R)$  for all  $R \in \mathbf{List}$ .

**Inductive Step:** Goal: Show that  $P(a :: L)$  is true

Let  $R \in \mathbf{List}$  be arbitrary. Then, we can calculate

$$\begin{aligned} \text{len}(\text{concat}(a :: L, R)) &= \text{len}(a :: \text{concat}(L, R)) && \text{def of concat} \\ &= 1 + \text{len}(\text{concat}(L, R)) && \text{def of len} \\ &= 1 + \text{len}(L) + \text{len}(R) && \text{IH} \\ &= \text{len}(a :: L) + \text{len}(R) && \text{def of len} \end{aligned}$$

**Claim:**  $\text{len}(\text{concat}(L, R)) = \text{len}(L) + \text{len}(R)$  for all  $L, R \in \text{List}$

---

Let  $P(L)$  be “ $\text{len}(\text{concat}(L, R)) = \text{len}(L) + \text{len}(R)$  for all  $R \in \text{List}$ ”. We prove  $P(L)$  for all  $L \in \text{List}$  by structural induction.

**Base Case (nil):** Let  $R \in \text{List}$  be arbitrary. Then,  $\text{len}(\text{concat}(\text{nil}, R)) = \text{len}(R) = 0 + \text{len}(R) = \text{len}(\text{nil}) + \text{len}(R)$ , showing  $P(\text{nil})$ .

**Inductive Hypothesis:** Assume that  $P(L)$  is true for some arbitrary  $L \in \text{List}$ , i.e.,  $\text{len}(\text{concat}(L, R)) = \text{len}(L) + \text{len}(R)$  for all  $R \in \text{List}$ .

**Inductive Step:** Goal: Show that  $P(a :: L)$  is true

Let  $R \in \text{List}$  be arbitrary. Then, we can calculate

$$\begin{aligned} \text{len}(\text{concat}(a :: L, R)) &= \text{len}(a :: \text{concat}(L, R)) && \text{def of concat} \\ &= 1 + \text{len}(\text{concat}(L, R)) && \text{def of len} \\ &= 1 + \text{len}(L) + \text{len}(R) && \text{IH} \\ &= \text{len}(a :: L) + \text{len}(R) && \text{def of len} \end{aligned}$$

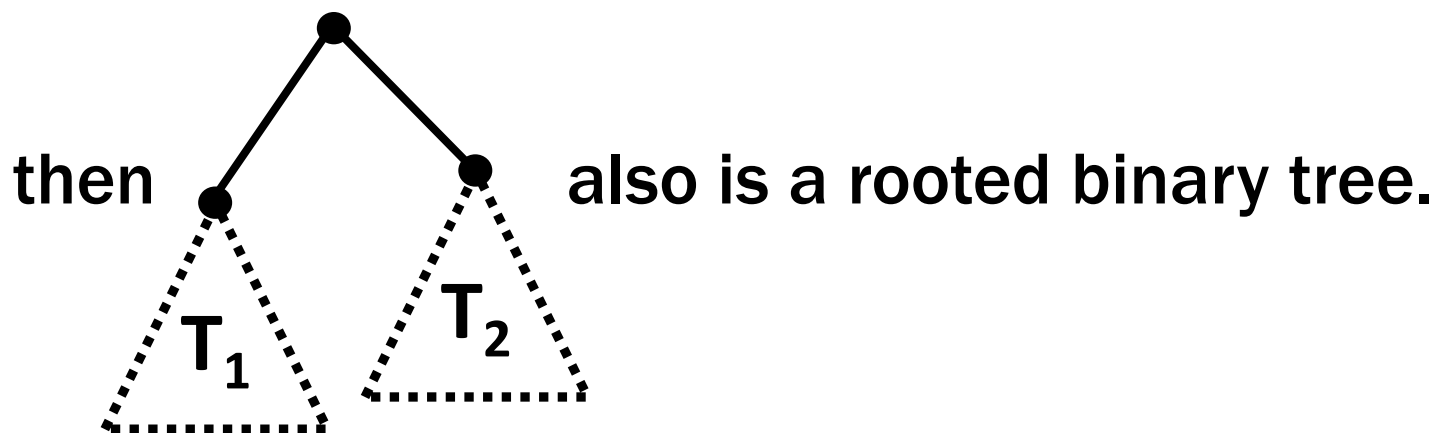
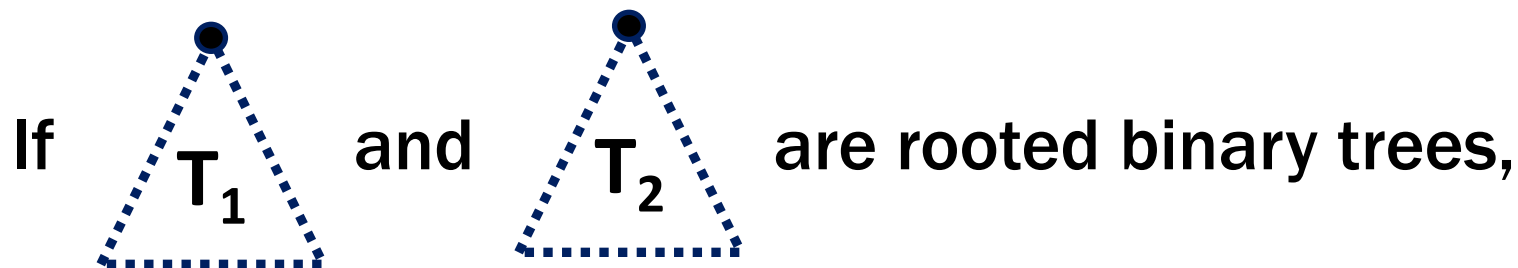
Since  $R$  was arbitrary, we have shown  $P(a :: L)$ .

By induction, we have shown the claim holds for all  $L \in \text{List}$ .

# Rooted Binary Trees

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- **Basis:** • is a rooted binary tree
- **Recursive step:**





**Claim:** For every rooted binary tree  $T$ ,  $\text{size}(T) \leq 2^{\text{height}(T) + 1} - 1$

---

**Claim:** For every rooted binary tree  $T$ ,  $\text{size}(T) \leq 2^{\text{height}(T)+1} - 1$

---

1. Let  $P(T)$  be “ $\text{size}(T) \leq 2^{\text{height}(T)+1}-1$ ”. We prove  $P(T)$  for all rooted binary trees  $T$  by structural induction.

$\text{size}(\bullet) ::= 1$

$\text{size} \left( \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ / \quad \backslash \\ \triangle_{T_1} \quad \triangle_{T_2} \end{array} \right) ::= 1 + \text{size}(T_1) + \text{size}(T_2)$

$\text{height}(\bullet) ::= 0$

$\text{height} \left( \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ / \quad \backslash \\ \triangle_{T_1} \quad \triangle_{T_2} \end{array} \right) ::= 1 + \max\{\text{height}(T_1), \text{height}(T_2)\}$

**Claim:** For every rooted binary tree  $T$ ,  $\text{size}(T) \leq 2^{\text{height}(T) + 1} - 1$

---

1. Let  $P(T)$  be “ $\text{size}(T) \leq 2^{\text{height}(T)+1}-1$ ”. We prove  $P(T)$  for all rooted binary trees  $T$  by structural induction.
2. Base Case:  $\text{size}(\bullet)=1$ ,  $\text{height}(\bullet)=0$ , and  $2^{0+1}-1=2^1-1=1$  so  $P(\bullet)$  is true.

**Claim:** For every rooted binary tree  $T$ ,  $\text{size}(T) \leq 2^{\text{height}(T) + 1} - 1$

---

1. Let  $P(T)$  be “ $\text{size}(T) \leq 2^{\text{height}(T)+1}-1$ ”. We prove  $P(T)$  for all rooted binary trees  $T$  by structural induction.
2. Base Case:  $\text{size}(\bullet)=1$ ,  $\text{height}(\bullet)=0$ , and  $2^{0+1}-1=2^1-1=1$  so  $P(\bullet)$  is true.
3. Inductive Hypothesis: Suppose that  $P(T_1)$  and  $P(T_2)$  are true for some rooted binary trees  $T_1$  and  $T_2$ , i.e.,  $\text{size}(T_k) \leq 2^{\text{height}(T_k) + 1} - 1$  for  $k=1,2$
4. Inductive Step: Goal: Prove  $P(\begin{array}{c} \triangle \\ / \quad \backslash \\ \triangle_{T_1} \quad \triangle_{T_2} \end{array})$ .



**Claim:** For every rooted binary tree  $T$ ,  $\text{size}(T) \leq 2^{\text{height}(T)+1} - 1$

---

1. Let  $P(T)$  be “ $\text{size}(T) \leq 2^{\text{height}(T)+1}-1$ ”. We prove  $P(T)$  for all rooted binary trees  $T$  by structural induction.
2. Base Case:  $\text{size}(\bullet)=1$ ,  $\text{height}(\bullet)=0$ , and  $2^{0+1}-1=2^1-1=1$  so  $P(\bullet)$  is true.
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4. Inductive Step: Goal: Prove  $P(\text{tree diagram})$ .

$$\text{size}(\text{tree diagram})$$

$\text{size}(\bullet) ::= 1$

$$\text{size}(\text{tree diagram}) ::= 1 + \text{size}(T_1) + \text{size}(T_2)$$

$\text{height}(\bullet) ::= 0$

$$\text{height}(\text{tree diagram}) ::= 1 + \max\{\text{height}(T_1), \text{height}(T_2)\} \leq 2^{\text{height}(\text{tree diagram})+1} - 1$$

**Claim:** For every rooted binary tree  $T$ ,  $\text{size}(T) \leq 2^{\text{height}(T)+1} - 1$

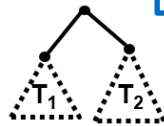
---

1. Let  $P(T)$  be “ $\text{size}(T) \leq 2^{\text{height}(T)+1} - 1$ ”. We prove  $P(T)$  for all rooted binary trees  $T$  by structural induction.
2. Base Case:  $\text{size}(\bullet)=1$ ,  $\text{height}(\bullet)=0$ , and  $2^{0+1}-1=2^1-1=1$  so  $P(\bullet)$  is true.
3. Inductive Hypothesis: Suppose that  $P(T_1)$  and  $P(T_2)$  are true for some rooted binary trees  $T_1$  and  $T_2$ , i.e.,  $\text{size}(T_k) \leq 2^{\text{height}(T_k)+1} - 1$  for  $k=1,2$

4. Inductive Step:

Goal: Prove  $P(\begin{array}{c} \triangle \\ / \quad \backslash \\ \triangle_1 \quad \triangle_2 \end{array})$ .

By def,  $\text{size}(\begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ / \quad \backslash \\ \triangle_1 \quad \triangle_2 \end{array}) = 1 + \text{size}(T_1) + \text{size}(T_2)$



$$\leq 1 + 2^{\text{height}(T_1)+1} - 1 + 2^{\text{height}(T_2)+1} - 1$$

by IH for  $T_1$  and  $T_2$

$$= 2^{\text{height}(T_1)+1} + 2^{\text{height}(T_2)+1} - 1$$

$$\leq 2 \cdot \max(2^{\text{height}(T_1)+1}, 2^{\text{height}(T_2)+1}) - 1$$

$$\leq 2(2^{\max(\text{height}(T_1), \text{height}(T_2))+1}) - 1$$

$$\leq 2(2^{\text{height}(\begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ / \quad \backslash \\ \triangle_1 \quad \triangle_2 \end{array})}) - 1 \leq 2^{\text{height}(\begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ / \quad \backslash \\ \triangle_1 \quad \triangle_2 \end{array})+1} - 1$$

which is what we wanted to show.

5. So, the  $P(T)$  is true for all rooted binary trees by structural induction.

# Strings

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- An *alphabet*  $\Sigma$  is any finite set of characters
- The set  $\Sigma^*$  of *strings* over the alphabet  $\Sigma$ 
  - example:  $\{0,1\}^*$  is the set of *binary strings*  
0, 1, 00, 01, 10, 11, 000, 001, ... and “”
- $\Sigma^*$  is defined recursively by
  - **Basis:**  $\varepsilon \in \Sigma^*$  ( $\varepsilon$  is the empty string, i.e., “”)
  - **Recursive:** if  $w \in \Sigma^*$ ,  $a \in \Sigma$ , then  $wa \in \Sigma^*$

# Palindromes

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Palindromes are strings that are the same when read backwards and forwards

## **Basis:**

$\varepsilon$  is a palindrome

any  $a \in \Sigma$  is a palindrome

## **Recursive step:**

If  $p$  is a palindrome,

then  $apa$  is a palindrome for every  $a \in \Sigma$

# Functions on Recursively Defined Sets (on $\Sigma^*$ )

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**Length:**

$$\text{len}(\varepsilon) := 0$$

$$\text{len}(wa) := \text{len}(w) + 1 \text{ for } w \in \Sigma^*, a \in \Sigma$$

**Concatenation:**

$$x \bullet \varepsilon := x \text{ for } x \in \Sigma^*$$

$$x \bullet wa := (x \bullet w)a \text{ for } x \in \Sigma^*, a \in \Sigma$$

**Reversal:**

$$\varepsilon^R := \varepsilon$$

$$(wa)^R := a \bullet w^R \text{ for } w \in \Sigma^*, a \in \Sigma$$

**Number of  $c$ 's in a string:**

$$\#_c(\varepsilon) := 0$$

$$\#_c(wc) := \#_c(w) + 1 \text{ for } w \in \Sigma^*$$

$$\#_c(wa) := \#_c(w) \text{ for } w \in \Sigma^*, a \in \Sigma, a \neq c$$

separate cases for  
 $c$  vs  $a \neq c$

# Last time: Structural Induction

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How to prove  $\forall x \in S, P(x)$  is true:

**Basis:**  $\varepsilon \in \Sigma^*$

**Recursive Steps:**

if  $w \in \Sigma^*$  and  $a \in \Sigma$ ,  
then  $wa \in \Sigma^*$

**Base Case:** Show that  $P(u)$  is true for all **specific elements**  $u$  of  $S$  mentioned in the *Basis step*

**Inductive Hypothesis:** Assume that  $P$  is true for some arbitrary values of each of the **existing named elements** mentioned in the *Recursive step*

**Inductive Step:** Prove that  $P(w)$  holds for each of the **new elements**  $w$  constructed in the *Recursive step* using the named elements mentioned in the Inductive Hypothesis

**Conclude** that  $\forall x \in S, P(x)$

**Claim:**  $\text{len}(x \bullet y) = \text{len}(x) + \text{len}(y)$  for all  $x, y \in \Sigma^*$

---

Let  $P(y)$  be “ $\text{len}(x \bullet y) = \text{len}(x) + \text{len}(y)$  for all  $x \in \Sigma^*$ ” .

We prove  $P(y)$  for all  $y \in \Sigma^*$  by structural induction.

**Base Case** ( $y = \varepsilon$ ): Let  $x \in \Sigma^*$  be arbitrary. Then,  $\text{len}(x \bullet \varepsilon) = \text{len}(x) = \text{len}(x) + \text{len}(\varepsilon)$  since  $\text{len}(\varepsilon) = 0$ . Since  $x$  was arbitrary,  $P(\varepsilon)$  holds.

**Inductive Hypothesis:** Assume that  $P(w)$  is true for some arbitrary  $w \in \Sigma^*$ , i.e.,  $\text{len}(x \bullet w) = \text{len}(x) + \text{len}(w)$  for all  $x$

**Claim:**  $\text{len}(x \bullet y) = \text{len}(x) + \text{len}(y)$  for all  $x, y \in \Sigma^*$

---

Let  $P(y)$  be “ $\text{len}(x \bullet y) = \text{len}(x) + \text{len}(y)$  for all  $x \in \Sigma^*$ ”  
We prove  $P(y)$  for all  $y \in \Sigma^*$  by structural induction

Does this look familiar?

**Base Case** ( $y = \varepsilon$ ): Let  $x \in \Sigma^*$  be arbitrary. Then,  $\text{len}(x \bullet \varepsilon) = \text{len}(x) = \text{len}(x) + \text{len}(\varepsilon)$  since  $\text{len}(\varepsilon) = 0$ . Since  $x$  was arbitrary,  $P(\varepsilon)$  holds.

**Inductive Hypothesis:** Assume that  $P(w)$  is true for some arbitrary  $w \in \Sigma^*$ , i.e.,  $\text{len}(x \bullet w) = \text{len}(x) + \text{len}(w)$  for all  $x \in \Sigma^*$ .

**Inductive Step:** **Goal: Show that  $P(wa)$  is true for every  $a \in \Sigma$**

Let  $a \in \Sigma$  and  $x \in \Sigma^*$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{len}(x \bullet wa) &= \text{len}((x \bullet w)a) && \text{by def of } \bullet \\ &= \text{len}(x \bullet w) + 1 && \text{by def of len} \\ &= \text{len}(x) + \text{len}(w) + 1 && \text{by I.H.} \\ &= \text{len}(x) + \text{len}(wa) && \text{by def of len} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $\text{len}(x \bullet wa) = \text{len}(x) + \text{len}(wa)$  for all  $x \in \Sigma^*$ , so  $P(wa)$  is true.

So, by induction  $\text{len}(x \bullet y) = \text{len}(x) + \text{len}(y)$  for all  $x, y \in \Sigma^*$