



Figure 1: Some binary trees

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## Worksheet: Structural induction

Unless otherwise states you may assume that expressions only use numerals, and the operation  $+$ .

- (1) Consider the set of binary trees  $BN$  discussed in the lectures:

$$\mathbf{bTree} ::= \mathbf{leaf} \mid \mathbf{Branch}(\mathbf{bTree}, \mathbf{bTree})$$

- (a) Use structural induction to define a function  $\mathit{nodes} : BN \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  which counts the (total) number of nodes in a binary tree.  
This function should be defined so that  $\mathit{nodes}(T_1) = 5$  and  $\mathit{nodes}(T_2) = 9$ .
  - (b) Use structural induction to define a function  $\mathit{height} : BN \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  which returns the *height* of a binary tree.  
The *height* of a binary tree is the longest path from the root to a leaf. So  $\mathit{height}(T_1)$  should be 2 while  $\mathit{height}(T_2)$  should be 3.  
Note: The binary tree with only one node has height 0.
  - (c) Use structural induction to prove that  $\mathit{nodes}(T) \leq 2^{\mathit{height}(T)+1} - 1$  for every binary tree  $T$ .
- (2) Define inductively a function  $\mathit{plusses}$  from expressions to numbers such that  $\mathit{plusses}(E)$  is the number of  $+$  symbols in the expression  $E$ .
  - (3) Let  $\mathit{nums}$  be the function from expressions to numbers such that  $\mathit{nums}(E)$  is the number of numerals in  $E$ . Give an inductive definition of  $\mathit{nums}$ .  
Then prove, by **structural** induction, that  $\mathit{plusses}(E) < \mathit{nums}(E)$ .
  - (4) Consider the following grammar for *binary numerals*  $\mathit{BinNum}$ :

$$b ::= 0 \mid 1 \mid b0 \mid b1$$

- (a) Explain the way in which functions over binary numerals can be defined by structural induction.

Questions

Use this principle to define the function  $\text{number} : \text{BinNum} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  which returns the natural number which a binary numeral represents. For example you should have

$$\begin{aligned}\text{number}(101) &= 5 \\ \text{number}(001111) &= 15\end{aligned}$$

Also define the function  $\text{sum} : \text{BinNum} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  which simply sums up the value of all the digits in a binary numeral. For example

$$\begin{aligned}\text{sum}(101) &= 2 \\ \text{sum}(001111) &= 4\end{aligned}$$

- (b) Explain the principle of structural induction for binary numerals.  
Use structural induction to prove that  $\text{sum}(b) \leq \text{number}(b)$  for every binary numeral  $b$ .

- (5) Prove that for every expression  $E$  if both  $E \Downarrow n$  and  $E \Downarrow n'$  then  $n = n'$ .

Use induction on the **structure** of the expression  $E$  and lay out your proof so that the inductive hypothesis is clear. In other words the statement to be proved should be expressed in the form  $P(E)$  where  $P(-)$  is the property to be proved by structural induction on expressions.

- (6) Prove that for all expressions  $E, F$ , if  $E \rightarrow_{\text{ir}}^n E'$  then  $E + F \rightarrow_{\text{ir}}^n E' + F$ .  
You should prove this by *mathematical induction* on  $n$ . In other words let  $P(n)$  be the property

$$E \rightarrow_{\text{ir}}^n E' \text{ implies } E + F \rightarrow_{\text{ir}}^n E' + F$$

You have to show that  $P(n)$  is true for every natural number  $n$ .

- (7) Prove that for all expressions  $E$  and numerals  $m$ , if  $E \rightarrow_{\text{ir}}^n E'$  then  $m + E \rightarrow_{\text{ir}}^n m + E'$ .  
Follow the instructions for the previous question. Lay out the proof so that the property being proved, and applications of the inductive hypothesis is perfectly clear.

- (8) Use the previous two results to show that  $E_1 \rightarrow_{\text{ir}}^* n_1$  and  $E_2 \rightarrow_{\text{ir}}^* n_2$  implies  $E_1 + E_2 \rightarrow_{\text{ir}}^* n$ , where  $n = n_1 + n_2$ .

- (9) Prove that  $E \Downarrow n$  implies  $E \rightarrow_{\text{ir}}^* n$ .  
Here you should use *structural induction* on  $E$ .

- (10) Show that the small-step semantics we gave in our lectures has the property that whenever  $E \rightarrow E'$ ,  $\text{plusses}(E) = \text{plusses}(E') + 1$ . This shows that each step of our semantics deals with exactly one  $+$  operation.

- (11) Prove, by induction on the **structure** of expressions, that for any expression  $E$ ,

$$\text{if } E \text{ is not a numeral, then } E \rightarrow E' \text{ for some } E'.$$

Again you should consider the language with numerals and  $+$  only.

### Questions

- (12) Combine the above two observations to argue that for any expression  $E$ , there is a numeral  $n$  such that  $E \rightarrow^* n$ .
- (13) Give a similar argument for the larger language incorporating  $\times$  as well as  $+$ .
- (14) (Rule induction) Consider the inductive system defined by the following three rules:

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{(ax)} \\
 \hline
 (n + 1, 0, n + 1) \in \text{GCD}
 \end{array}
 \qquad
 \begin{array}{c}
 \text{(LESS)} \\
 \frac{(m, n - m, k) \in \text{GCD}}{(m, n, k) \in \text{GCD}}
 \end{array}
 \quad m < n
 \qquad
 \begin{array}{c}
 \text{(sw)} \\
 \frac{(n, m, k) \in \text{GCD}}{(m, n, k) \in \text{GCD}}
 \end{array}$$

- Prove, using Rule induction, that if  $(m, n, k) \in \text{GCD}$  then at least one of  $m$  and  $n$  is non-zero.
- Prove, using Rule induction, that if  $(m, n, k) \in \text{GCD}$  then  $k$  divides  $m$  and  $k$  divides  $n$  exactly.