

# Total Parser Combinators Using Mixed Induction and Coinduction

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# Introduction

Mixed induction/coinduction:

- ▶ Precise control of size of data.
- ▶ Example: parser combinators.

# Parser combinator example

BNF:

$term ::= term \ ' + ' \ atom$

$term ::= atom$

$atom ::= \ ' ( ' \ term \ ' ) \ '$

$atom ::= number$

Parser combinators:

**mutual**

$term = term \cdot tok \ ' + ' \cdot atom$

|  
 $atom$

$atom = tok \ ' ( ' \cdot term \cdot tok \ ' ) \ '$

|  
 $number$

# Parser combinator example

BNF:

*term* ::= *term* '+' *atom*

*term* ::= *atom*

*atom* ::= '(' *term* ')'

*atom* ::= *number*

Parser combinators:

**mutual**

*term* = *term* · tok '+' · *atom*

|  
*atom*

*atom* = tok '(' · *term* · tok ')'

|  
*number*

# Mixed induction and coinduction

# Inductive types

```
data List (A : Set) : Set where  
  [] : List A  
  _::_ : A → List A → List A
```

*List A* can be seen as a fixpoint:

$$List\ A = 1 + A \times List\ A$$

Read  $T = F\ T$  as  $T = \mu l. F\ l$ :

$$List\ A = \mu l. 1 + A \times l$$

# Inductive types

**data** *List* (*A* : *Set*) : *Set* **where**

*[]* : *List A*

*\_::\_* : *A* → *List A* → *List A*

*finite* : *List*  $\mathbb{N}$

*finite* = 0 :: 0 :: 0 :: *[]*

*map* : (*A* → *B*) → *List A* → *List B*

*map f []* = *[]*

*map f (x :: xs)* = *f x* :: *map f xs*

# Coinductive types

**data** *Stream* (*A* : *Set*) : *Set* **where**  
  $\_::\_ : A \rightarrow \infty (\textit{Stream } A) \rightarrow \textit{Stream } A$

*Stream A* can be seen as a fixpoint:

$$\textit{Stream } A = A \times \infty (\textit{Stream } A)$$

Read  $T = F (\infty T)$  as  $T = \nu C. F C$ :

$$\textit{Stream } A = \nu C. A \times C$$



# Coinductive types

**data** *Stream* ( $A : \text{Set}$ ) : *Set* **where**  
  $\_::\_ : A \rightarrow \infty (\text{Stream } A) \rightarrow \text{Stream } A$

- ▶  $\infty$  marks coinductive arguments.
- ▶ Can be seen as a suspension.
- ▶ Delay and force:

$\# : A \rightarrow \infty A$   
 $b : \infty A \rightarrow A$

# Coinductive types

**data** *Stream* (*A* : *Set*) : *Set* **where**  
   $\_ :: \_ : A \rightarrow \infty (\text{Stream } A) \rightarrow \text{Stream } A$

*infinite* : *Stream*  $\mathbb{N}$   
*infinite* =  $0 :: \# \text{ infinite}$

*map* : (*A*  $\rightarrow$  *B*)  $\rightarrow$  *Stream* *A*  $\rightarrow$  *Stream* *B*  
*map* *f* ( $x :: xs$ ) =  $f\ x :: \# (\text{map } f\ (b\ xs))$

# Mixed induction and coinduction

```
data SP (A B : Set) : Set where  
  get  : (A → SP A B) → SP A B  
  put  : B → ∞ (SP A B) → SP A B
```

Read  $T = F T (\infty T)$  as  $T = \nu C. \mu I. F I C$ :

$$SP A B = \nu C. \mu I. (A \rightarrow I) + B \times C$$

# Mixed induction and coinduction

Not OK:

$$\textit{sink} : SP\ A\ B$$
$$\textit{sink} = \text{get} (\lambda \_ \rightarrow \textit{sink})$$

OK:

$$\textit{const} : B \rightarrow SP\ A\ B$$
$$\textit{const}\ x = \text{put}\ x\ (\# (\textit{const}\ x))$$
$$\textit{copy} : SP\ A\ A$$
$$\textit{copy} = \text{get}\ (\lambda\ x \rightarrow \text{put}\ x\ (\# \textit{copy}))$$

# Mixed induction and coinduction

Lexicographic guarded corecursion and higher-order structural recursion:

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket - \rrbracket &: SP\ A\ B \rightarrow Stream\ A \rightarrow Stream\ B \\ \llbracket \text{get } f \quad \rrbracket (a :: as) &= \llbracket f\ a \rrbracket (b\ as) \\ \llbracket \text{put } b\ sp \rrbracket as &= b :: \# (\llbracket b\ sp \rrbracket as) \end{aligned}$$

# Parser combinators

# Recogniser combinators

# Interface (roughly)

$P$  : *Set*

$\_ \in \_$  : *List Token*  $\rightarrow P \rightarrow Set$

$\_ \in? \_$  :  $(s : List\ Token) (p : P) \rightarrow Dec (s \in p)$

**data** *Dec* ( $A : Set$ ) : *Set* **where**

*yes* :  $A \rightarrow Dec\ A$

*no* :  $\neg A \rightarrow Dec\ A$



# Interface (roughly)

fail :  $P$

empty :  $P$

sat :  $(Token \rightarrow Bool) \rightarrow P$

$-\mid-$  :  $P \rightarrow P \rightarrow P$

$-\cdot-$  :  $P \rightarrow P \rightarrow P$

Some arguments should be coinductive.

# Choice

Hard to decide infinite choice:

$$p = p \mid p'$$

$$p = p' \mid p$$

The arguments of  $\_|\_$  will be inductive.

# Sequencing

Problematic if  $p'$  is nullable, otherwise OK:

$$p = p \cdot p'$$

$$p = p' \cdot p$$

Let us index parsers by their nullability:

- ▶  $P : Bool \rightarrow Set$ .
- ▶  $p : P$  **true** if  $p$  accepts the empty string.
- ▶  $p : P$  **false** otherwise.

# Recognisers

## mutual

**data**  $P : Bool \rightarrow Set$  **where**

$fail$  :  $P$  **false**

$empty$  :  $P$  **true**

$sat$  :  $(Token \rightarrow Bool) \rightarrow P$  **false**

$-|-$  :  $P$   $n_1 \rightarrow P$   $n_2 \rightarrow P$   $(n_1 \vee n_2)$

$- \cdot -$  :  $\infty \langle n_2 \rangle P$   $n_1 \rightarrow \infty \langle n_1 \rangle P$   $n_2 \rightarrow$   
 $P$   $(n_1 \wedge n_2)$

$\infty \langle - \rangle P : Bool \rightarrow Bool \rightarrow Set$

$\infty \langle$  **false**  $\rangle P$   $n = \infty$   $(P$   $n)$

$\infty \langle$  **true**  $\rangle P$   $n = P$   $n$

# Examples

OK:

$$\textit{anything} = \text{sat}(\lambda \_ \rightarrow \text{true}) \cdot \# \textit{anything}$$

| empty

Not OK:

$$\textit{void} = \text{empty} \cdot \textit{void}$$

# Example

Kleene star:

**mutual**

$\_ \star : P \text{ false} \rightarrow P \text{ true}$

$p \star = \text{empty} \mid p \mid$

$\_ \mid : P \text{ false} \rightarrow P \text{ false}$

$p \mid = p \cdot \# (p \star)$

# Example

Left recursive Kleene star:

**mutual**

$\_ \star : P \text{ false} \rightarrow P \text{ true}$

$p \star = \text{empty} \mid p \mid$

$\_ \mid : P \text{ false} \rightarrow P \text{ false}$

$p \mid = \# (p \star) \cdot p$

# Example

Left recursive Kleene star:

**mutual**

$\_ \star : P \text{ false} \rightarrow P \text{ true}$

$p \star = \text{empty} \mid p \mid$

$\_ \mid : P \text{ false} \rightarrow P \text{ false}$

$p \mid = \# (p \star) \cdot p$

The argument must not accept the empty string:  
 $\text{empty} \star$  is not accepted.



# Infinite ambiguity

Parser combinators:

*return*  $x$  The empty string. Result:  $x$ .

$p \gg= f$  First  $p$ , then  $f$  applied to result of  $p$ .

- ▶  $(\text{return unit}) \star \mapsto [], [\text{unit}], [\text{unit}, \text{unit}], \dots$
- ▶  $(\text{return unit}) \star \gg= \lambda xs \rightarrow$   
    **if**  $f\ xs$  **then**  $\text{return unit}$  **else**  $\text{fail}$   $\mapsto ?$

# Infinite ambiguity

Parser combinators:

*return*  $x$  The empty string. Result:  $x$ .

$p \gg= f$  First  $p$ , then  $f$  applied to result of  $p$ .

▶  $(\text{return } \text{unit}) \star \mapsto [], [\text{unit}], [\text{unit}, \text{unit}], \dots$

▶  $(\text{return } \text{unit}) \star \gg= \lambda xs \rightarrow$   
**if**  $f$   $xs$  **then**  $\text{return } \text{unit}$  **else**  $\text{fail}$   $\mapsto ?$

# Semantics

# Semantics

$\infty\langle\_ \rangle P : Bool \rightarrow Bool \rightarrow Set$

$\infty\langle \text{false} \rangle P n = \infty (P n)$

$\infty\langle \text{true} \rangle P n = P n$

$b? : \infty\langle b \rangle P n \rightarrow P n$

$b? \{b = \text{false}\} x = b x$

$b? \{b = \text{true}\} x = x$

$\#? : P n \rightarrow \infty\langle b \rangle P n$

$\#? \{b = \text{false}\} x = \# x$

$\#? \{b = \text{true}\} x = x$

# Semantics

Inductive:

**data**  $\_ \in \_ : \text{List Token} \rightarrow P\ n \rightarrow \text{Set}$  **where**

- $\text{empty} : [] \in \text{empty}$
- $\text{sat} : f\ t \equiv \text{true} \rightarrow [t] \in \text{sat}\ f$
- $\text{-left} : s \in p_1 \rightarrow s \in p_1 \mid p_2$
- $\text{-right} : s \in p_2 \rightarrow s \in p_1 \mid p_2$
- $\_ \cdot \_ : s_1 \in b? p_1 \rightarrow s_2 \in b? p_2 \rightarrow$   
 $s_1 \uparrow s_2 \in p_1 \cdot p_2$

For  $p : P\ n$ :

$[] \in p$  iff  $n \equiv \text{true}$ .

Backend

# Backend

$\_ \in? \_ : (s : List\ Token) (p : P\ n) \rightarrow Dec\ (s \in p)$

- ▶ Breadth-first algorithm:  
Treat one token at a time,  
compute residual recogniser.
- ▶  $D : (t : Token) (p : P\ n) \rightarrow P\ (D\text{-null?}\ t\ p)$ .
- ▶  $t :: s \in p \Leftrightarrow s \in D\ t\ p$ .
- ▶ A variant of Brzozowski's  
regular expression derivatives.

# Backend

$t :: s \in p \Leftrightarrow s \in D t p:$

"abc"  $\in$   $p \Leftrightarrow$

"bc"  $\in$   $D 'a' p \Leftrightarrow$

"c"  $\in$   $D 'b' (D 'a' p) \Leftrightarrow$

""  $\in$   $D 'c' (D 'b' (D 'a' p))$



# Top-level

*nullable?* :  $(p : P\ n) \rightarrow Dec ([ ] \in p)$

*D-sound* :  $s \in D\ t\ p \rightarrow t :: s \in p$

*D-complete* :  $t :: s \in p \rightarrow s \in D\ t\ p$

*\_∈?\_* :  $(s : List\ Token)\ (p : P\ n) \rightarrow Dec\ (s \in p)$

*[ ] ∈? p = ?*

*t :: s ∈? p = ?*

# Top-level

$nullable? \quad : (p : P n) \rightarrow Dec ([ ] \in p)$

$D\text{-sound} \quad : s \in D t p \rightarrow t :: s \in p$

$D\text{-complete} : t :: s \in p \rightarrow s \in D t p$

$\_ \in? \_ : (s : List Token) (p : P n) \rightarrow Dec (s \in p)$

$[ ] \in? p = nullable? p$

$t :: s \in? p = ?$

# Top-level

$nullable? : (p : P n) \rightarrow Dec ([ ] \in p)$

$D\text{-sound} : s \in D t p \rightarrow t :: s \in p$

$D\text{-complete} : t :: s \in p \rightarrow s \in D t p$

$\_ \in? \_ : (s : List Token) (p : P n) \rightarrow Dec (s \in p)$

$[ ] \in? p = nullable? p$

$t :: s \in? p$  **with**  $s \in? D t p$

... | **yes**  $s \in D t p = ?$

... | **no**  $s \notin D t p = ?$

# Top-level

$nullable? : (p : P n) \rightarrow Dec ([ ] \in p)$

$D\text{-sound} : s \in D t p \rightarrow t :: s \in p$

$D\text{-complete} : t :: s \in p \rightarrow s \in D t p$

$\_ \in? \_ : (s : List Token) (p : P n) \rightarrow Dec (s \in p)$

$[ ] \in? p = nullable? p$

$t :: s \in? p$  **with**  $s \in? D t p$

... | **yes**  $s \in D t p = \text{yes } (D\text{-sound } s \in D t p)$

... | **no**  $s \notin D t p = ?$

# Top-level

$nullable? : (p : P n) \rightarrow Dec ([ ] \in p)$

$D\text{-sound} : s \in D t p \rightarrow t :: s \in p$

$D\text{-complete} : t :: s \in p \rightarrow s \in D t p$

$\_ \in? \_ : (s : List Token) (p : P n) \rightarrow Dec (s \in p)$

$[ ] \in? p = nullable? p$

$t :: s \in? p$  **with**  $s \in? D t p$

... | **yes**  $s \in D t p = \text{yes } (D\text{-sound } s \in D t p)$

... | **no**  $s \notin D t p = \text{no } (s \notin D t p \circ D\text{-complete})$

# Derivative

$$t :: s \in p \Leftrightarrow s \in D t p$$

$$D : (t : Token) (p : P n) \rightarrow P (D\text{-null? } t p)$$

$$D t \text{ fail} = ?$$

$$D t \text{ empty} = ?$$

$$D t (\text{sat } f) = ?$$

# Derivative

$$t :: s \in p \Leftrightarrow s \in D t p$$

$$D : (t : Token) (p : P n) \rightarrow P (D\text{-null? } t p)$$

$$D t \text{ fail} = \text{fail}$$

$$D t \text{ empty} = ?$$

$$D t (\text{sat } f) = ?$$

# Derivative

$$t :: s \in p \Leftrightarrow s \in D t p$$

$$D : (t : Token) (p : P n) \rightarrow P (D\text{-null? } t p)$$

$$D t \text{ fail} = \text{fail}$$

$$D t \text{ empty} = \text{fail}$$

$$D t (\text{sat } f) = ?$$



# Derivative

$$t :: s \in p \Leftrightarrow s \in D t p$$

$D : (t : \text{Token}) (p : P n) \rightarrow P (D\text{-null? } t p)$

$D t \text{ fail} = \text{fail}$

$D t \text{ empty} = \text{fail}$

$D t (\text{sat } f) \text{ with } f t$

... |  $\text{true} = ?$

... |  $\text{false} = ?$

# Derivative

$$t :: s \in p \Leftrightarrow s \in D t p$$

$D : (t : \text{Token}) (p : P n) \rightarrow P (D\text{-null? } t p)$

$D t \text{ fail} = \text{fail}$

$D t \text{ empty} = \text{fail}$

$D t (\text{sat } f) \text{ with } f t$

... |  $\text{true} = \text{empty}$

... |  $\text{false} = ?$

# Derivative

$$t :: s \in p \Leftrightarrow s \in D t p$$
$$D : (t : Token) (p : P n) \rightarrow P (D\text{-null? } t p)$$
$$D t \text{ fail} = \text{fail}$$
$$D t \text{ empty} = \text{fail}$$
$$D t (\text{sat } f) \text{ with } f t$$
$$\dots \mid \text{true} = \text{empty}$$
$$\dots \mid \text{false} = \text{fail}$$

# Choice

$$s \in D t (p_1 \mid p_2) \Leftrightarrow$$

$$t :: s \in p_1 \mid p_2$$

# Choice

$$s \in D t (p_1 \mid p_2) \Leftrightarrow$$

$$t :: s \in p_1$$

$\vee$

$$t :: s \in p_2$$

# Choice

$$s \in D t (p_1 \mid p_2) \Leftrightarrow$$

$$s \in D t p_1$$

$\vee$

$$s \in D t p_2$$

# Choice

$$s \in D t (p_1 \mid p_2) \Leftrightarrow$$

$$s \in D t p_1 \mid D t p_2$$

# Sequencing

(Somewhat sloppy.)

$$s \in D t (p_1 \cdot p_2) \Leftrightarrow$$

$$t :: s \in p_1 \cdot p_2$$



# Sequencing

(Somewhat sloppy.)

$$s \in D t (p_1 \cdot p_2) \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\exists s_1, s_2. s \equiv s_1 \# s_2 \wedge t :: s_1 \in p_1 \wedge s_2 \in p_2$$

$\vee$

$$[] \in p_1 \wedge t :: s \in p_2$$

# Sequencing

(Somewhat sloppy.)

$$s \in D t (p_1 \cdot p_2) \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\exists s_1, s_2. s \equiv s_1 \# s_2 \wedge s_1 \in D t p_1 \wedge s_2 \in p_2$$

$\vee$

$$[] \in p_1 \wedge s \in D t p_2$$

# Sequencing

(Somewhat sloppy.)

$$s \in D t (p_1 \cdot p_2) \Leftrightarrow$$

$$s \in D t p_1 \cdot p_2$$

$\vee$

$$[] \in p_1 \wedge s \in D t p_2$$

# Sequencing

(Somewhat sloppy.)

$$s \in D t (p_1 \cdot p_2) \Leftrightarrow$$

$$s \in D t p_1 \cdot p_2$$

$\vee$

$$p_1 \text{ nullable} \wedge s \in D t p_2$$

# Sequencing

(Somewhat sloppy.)

$$s \in D t (p_1 \cdot p_2) \Leftrightarrow$$

$$p_1 \text{ nullable} \quad \wedge \quad s \in D t p_1 \cdot p_2 \mid D t p_2$$

$\vee$

$$p_1 \text{ not nullable} \wedge s \in D t p_1 \cdot p_2$$

# Derivative

$$D t (p_1 \mid p_2) = D t p_1 \mid D t p_2$$

$$D t (p_1 \cdot p_2) \quad \mathbf{with} \quad \mathit{forced?} p_1 \mid \mathit{forced?} p_2$$

$$\dots \mid \mathbf{true} \mid \mathbf{false} = D t p_1 \cdot \#? (b p_2)$$

$$\dots \mid \mathbf{false} \mid \mathbf{false} = \# D t (b p_1) \cdot \#? (b p_2)$$

$$\dots \mid \mathbf{true} \mid \mathbf{true} = D t p_1 \cdot \#? p_2 \mid D t p_2$$

$$\dots \mid \mathbf{false} \mid \mathbf{true} = \# D t (b p_1) \cdot \#? p_2 \mid D t p_2$$

$\mathit{forced?} : \infty \langle b \rangle P n \rightarrow Bool$

$\mathit{forced?} \{b = b\} \_ = b$

# Future work

- ▶ The algorithm is inefficient.
- ▶ Optimise using algebraic identities?

Other uses  
of  
derivatives



# Equality

Inductive definition:

$$\begin{aligned} & \_ \approx \_ : P\ n_1 \rightarrow P\ n_2 \rightarrow Set \\ & p_1 \approx p_2 = (s : List\ Tok) \rightarrow s \in p_1 \Leftrightarrow s \in p_2 \end{aligned}$$

Equivalent, coinductive definition:

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbf{data} \_ \approx_c \_ (p_1 : P\ n_1) (p_2 : P\ n_2) : Set \mathbf{where} \\ & \quad \_ \doteq \_ : n_1 \equiv n_2 \rightarrow \\ & \quad \quad ((t : Tok) \rightarrow \infty (D\ t\ p_1 \approx_c D\ t\ p_2)) \rightarrow \\ & \quad \quad p_1 \approx_c p_2 \end{aligned}$$

Latter definition: corecursive proofs.

# Derived combinators

$p \gg f$  First  $p$ , then  $f$  applied to result of  $p$ .

*token* Accepts and returns a token.

*return\**  $xs$  Returns an arbitrary element from  $xs$ .

*initial-bag* Results when applied to empty string.

Left-leaning asymmetric choice:

$$p_1 \triangleleft p_2 = (\textit{token} \gg \lambda t \rightarrow \# (D t p_1 \triangleleft D t p_2)) \\ | \textit{return*} (\textit{first-nonempty} (\textit{initial-bag} p_1) \\ (\textit{initial-bag} p_2))$$

# Derived combinators

$p \gg f$  First  $p$ , then  $f$  applied to result of  $p$ .

$token$  Accepts and returns a token.

$return\star xs$  Returns an arbitrary element from  $xs$ .

$initial-bag$  Results when applied to empty string.

Conjunction:

$$p_1 \& p_2 = (token \gg \lambda t \rightarrow \#(D t p_1 \& D t p_2)) \\ | return\star (initial-bag p_1 \otimes initial-bag p_2)$$

# Conclusions

- ▶ Mixed induction/coinduction:  
Precise control of size of data.
- ▶ I encourage you to add this technique to your toolbox.

?

# Laws

- ▶ The combinators form a Kleene algebra.
- ▶ Need to generalise the Kleene star:

$$\begin{aligned} \_ \star &: P\ n \rightarrow P\ \text{true} \\ p \star &= (\text{nonempty } p) \star \end{aligned}$$

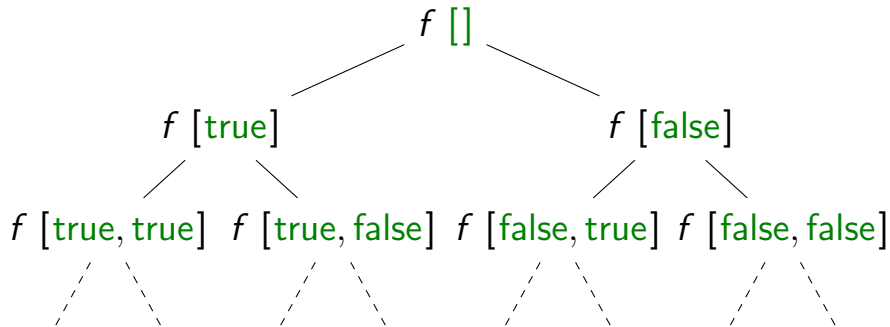
- ▶ The *nonempty* combinator can be defined by structural recursion:

$$\text{nonempty} : P\ n \rightarrow P\ \text{false}$$

# Expressive strength

For finite alphabets the combinators are as expressive as possible:

$f : List\ Bool \rightarrow Bool$



# Expressive strength

$accept\text{-}if\text{-}true : (b : Bool) \rightarrow P\ b$

$accept\text{-}if\text{-}true\ true = empty$

$accept\text{-}if\text{-}true\ false = fail$

$p : (f : List\ Bool \rightarrow Bool) \rightarrow P\ (f\ [])$

$p\ f =$

$\# (p\ (\lambda xs \rightarrow f\ (xs\ ++\ [true]))) \cdot \#? (sat\ id)$   
 $| \# (p\ (\lambda xs \rightarrow f\ (xs\ ++\ [false]))) \cdot \#? (sat\ not)$   
 $| accept\text{-}if\text{-}true\ (f\ [])$

$s \in p\ f \Leftrightarrow f\ s \equiv true$