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# Coalgebras and Codata in Agda

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1. The concept of codata.
2. Codata in Agda.
3. Weakly Final Coalgebras in Dependent Type Theory.
4. Proofs by Corecursion.

# 1. The Concept of “Codata”

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- “codata” introduced in functional languages as a data type of infinite objects.
- “data” corresponds to well-founded objects e.g.

data List : Set where

nil : List

cons :  $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \text{List} \rightarrow \text{List}$

- Elements of List are finite lists e.g.

cons 3 (cons 4 nil)

# Induction over data

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- Therefore we can define operations by recursion on lists e.g.

$$\text{length} : \text{List} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$$
$$\text{length nil} = 0$$
$$\text{length (cons } n \ l) = \text{length } l + 1$$

# CoList

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- If we use codata we have

codata coList : Set where

nil : coList

cons :  $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \text{coList} \rightarrow \text{coList}$

- coList contains infinite objects, e.g.

$\omega : \text{coList}$

$\omega = \text{cons } 0 (\text{cons } 0 (\text{cons } 0 \dots))$

- We can define  $\omega$  by coiteration or guarded recursion:

$\omega : \text{coList}$

$\omega = \text{cons } 0 \omega$

# Guarded Recursion

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- We can not define `length` anymore but `colength` by coiteration **into** `coN`

`codata coN : Set` where

`0 : coN`

`S : coN → coN`

`colength : coList → coN`

`colength nil = 0`

`colength (cons n l) = S (colength l)`

- So

`colength ω = S (S (S ...))`

# Problem

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- Problem of this approach: undecidability of equality.
- For

$$f, g : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$$

we can define by coiteration  $l_f, l_g : \text{coList}$  s.t.

$$\begin{aligned} l_f &= \text{cons}(f\ 0) (\text{cons}(f\ 1) (\text{cons}(f\ 2) \dots)) \\ l_g &= \text{cons}(g\ 0) (\text{cons}(g\ 1) (\text{cons}(g\ 2) \dots)) \end{aligned}$$

- $l_f$  and  $l_g$  are equal if  $f = g$ .
- Equality on  $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is undecidable, therefore on `coList` as well.
- Type checking for dependently typed language requires equality checking, therefore type checking becomes undecidable.

# Intensional Equality

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- Two functions are equal if their programs have the same normal form:
  - $\lambda x.s = \lambda x.t$  if  $s$  and  $t$  have the same normal form.
- In the same way we can only achieve that two elements of `coList` are equal, if the programs for forming them are equal.

# Example IO

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- Assume

- $C : \text{Set}$  set of commands
- $R : C \rightarrow \text{Set}$  set of responses to a command.

- Example

- $C = \text{read} + \text{write}(s : \text{String}) + \text{terminate}$ .
- $R \text{ read} = \text{String}$ ,
- $R (\text{write } s) = \{*\}$ ,
- $R \text{ terminate} = \emptyset$ .



# Example IO

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codata IO (C : Set)(R : C → Set) : Set where  
prog : (c : C) → (n : R c → IO C R) → IO C R

$p : \text{IO } C \text{ R}$

$p = \text{prog } (\text{write } \text{"Password: "})$

$(\lambda \_ . (\text{prog read}$

$(\lambda \text{ passwd} . \text{if } \text{passwd} = \text{"1234"}$

$\text{then } (\text{prog terminate } \text{efq } )$

$\text{else } (\text{prog } (\text{write } \text{"Wrong Password!"})$

$(\lambda \_ . p))))))$

# Objects

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```
class Cell{  
   $n : \mathbb{N}$ ;  
  set ( $m : \mathbb{N}$ ) : void {  
     $n = m$ ; };  
  get () :  $\mathbb{N}$  {  
    return  $n$ ; }; }  
}
```

# Modelling Cell using Codata

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codata Cell : Set where

createCell : (*set* :  $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \text{Cell}$ )  
                   $\rightarrow$  (*get* :  $\mathbb{N} \times \text{Cell}$ )  
                   $\rightarrow \text{Cell}$

cell :  $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \text{Cell}$

cell *n* = createCell ( $\lambda m.\text{cell } m$ )  
                   $\langle n, \text{cell } n \rangle$

## 2. Codata in Agda

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- Use of codata type.
- However, we do not have extensional equality for codata types.
- Guarded recursion defined using “ $\sim$ ”:
- Example code:

```
codata coList : Set where
  nil      : coList
  cons    :  $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow$  coList  $\rightarrow$  coList
```

```
 $\omega$  : coList
 $\omega \sim$  cons 0  $\omega$ 
```

After one unfolding  $\omega$  and  $\text{cons } 0 \ \omega$  are the same.

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# Pattern Matching

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- Case distinction on codata types defined using pattern matching:

$$\begin{aligned} f &: \text{coList} \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \\ f \text{ nil} &= 0 \\ f (\text{cons } n \ l) &= n \end{aligned}$$

- Example:

codata  $\text{coN} : \text{Set}$  where

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &: \text{coN} \\ S &: \text{coN} \rightarrow \text{coN} \\ f &: \text{coList} \rightarrow \text{coN} \\ f \text{ nil} &\sim 0 \\ f (\text{cons } 0 \ l) &\sim S (f \ l) \\ f (\text{cons } (S \ n) \ l) &\sim S (f \ n \ l) \end{aligned}$$

# Problem of Subject Reduction

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- Consider the following code (by Nicolas Ory; same problem occurs in Coq):

```
data _ == _ (x : coList) : coList → Set where
```

```
  refl : a == a
```

```
out : coList → coList
```

```
out nil          = nil
```

```
out (cons n l)   = cons n l
```

```
lemma : (l : coList) → l == out l
```

```
lemma nil        = refl
```

```
lemma (cons n l) = refl
```

```
p : ω == cons 0 ω
```

```
p = lemma ω
```

# Problem of Subject Reduction

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$p : \omega == \text{cons } 0 \ \omega$

$p = \text{lemma } \omega$

- $p \longrightarrow \text{refl}$  but we don't have  $\text{refl} : \omega == \text{cons } 0 \ \omega$ .
- Quick fix in Agda:  
Dependent pattern matching on codata is not allowed.  
Therefore the code

$\text{out} : \text{coList} \rightarrow \text{coList}$

$\text{out } \text{nil} \quad = \quad \text{nil}$

$\text{out } (\text{cons } n \ l) \quad = \quad \text{cons } n \ l$

causes an error.

# Underlying Problem

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- Unclear what “ $\sim$ ” means.
- Unclear what pattern matching on coalgebras means

$$\text{out} : \text{coList} \rightarrow \text{coList}$$
$$\text{out nil} = \text{nil}$$
$$\text{out (cons } n \ l) = \text{cons } n \ l$$

For which  $l$  does one of the above patterns trigger?



# 3. Weakly Final Coalgebras in Dept.

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• Abbreviation:

•

$$\text{nil}' + \text{cons}'(\mathbb{N}, X)$$

stands for

$$\{*\} + \mathbb{N} \times X$$

with the following definitions:

$$\text{nil}' = \text{inl } *$$

$$\text{cons}' \ n \ l = \text{inr } \langle n, l \rangle$$

# Coalgebras in Category Theory

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- A coalgebra for the functor  $F : \text{Set} \rightarrow \text{Set}$

$$F X = \text{nil}' + \text{cons}'(\mathbb{N}, X)$$

is an arrow

$$\text{coList} \xrightarrow{\text{case}} \text{nil}' + \text{cons}'(\mathbb{N}, \text{coList})$$

- We do no longer have for  $l : \text{coList}$   $l = \text{nil}'$  or  $l = \text{cons}' n l$ .
- Instead we have that for  $l : \text{coList}$

$$\text{case } l = \text{nil}' \text{ or case } l = \text{cons}' n l'$$

- So elements of `coList` are not infinite but might be unfolded infinitely often using `case`.

# Coalgebras in Category Theory

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{coList} & \xrightarrow{\text{case}} & \text{nil}' + \text{cons}'(\mathbb{N}, \text{coList}) \\ \uparrow \exists g & & \uparrow \text{nil}' + \text{cons}'(\mathbb{N}, g) \\ A & \xrightarrow{f} & \text{nil}' + \text{cons}'(\mathbb{N}, A) \end{array}$$

- If  $f(a) = \text{nil}'$ , then  $\text{case } (g a) = \text{nil}'$ .
- If  $f(a) = \text{cons}' n a'$ , then  $\text{case } (g a) = \text{cons}' n (g a)$ .

# Coalgebras in Category Theory

---

- If  $f(a) = \text{nil}'$ , then  $\text{case } (g\ a) = \text{nil}'$ .
- If  $f(a) = \text{cons}'\ n\ a'$ , then  $\text{case } (g\ a) = \text{cons}'\ n\ (g\ a)$ .

- The above allows to define

$g : A \rightarrow \text{coList}$

$\text{case } (g\ a) = \text{nil}'$

or

$\text{cons}'\ n\ (g\ a')$  for some  $n, a'$

# Dual of the Constructors

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- Using bisimulation equality we can derive

$$\text{nil} : \text{coList}$$
$$\text{case nil} = \text{nil}'$$
$$\text{cons} : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \text{coList} \rightarrow \text{coList}$$
$$\text{case (cons } n \ l) = \text{cons}' \ n \ l$$

- Note that

$$\text{cons}' \ n \ l : \text{nil}' + \text{cons}'(\mathbb{N}, \text{coList})$$

whereas

$$\text{cons } n \ l : \text{coList}$$

# Corecursion

- We can extend the principle of guarded recursion to allow such definitions:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{coList} & \xrightarrow{\text{case}} & \text{nil}' + \text{cons}'(\mathbb{N}, \text{coList}) \\ \uparrow \exists g & & \uparrow \text{nil}' + \text{cons}'(\mathbb{N}, g) + \text{cons}'(\mathbb{N}, \text{id}) \\ A & \xrightarrow{f} & \text{nil}' + \text{cons}'(\mathbb{N}, A) + \text{cons}'(\mathbb{N}, \text{coList}) \end{array}$$

- The dual of the step from iteration to recursion, which allows to define by recursion

$$\begin{aligned} \text{pred} &: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \\ \text{pred } 0 &= 0 \\ \text{pred } (\text{S } n) &= n \end{aligned}$$

# Deep Corecursion

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- We can extend corecursion further in order to allow

$g : A \rightarrow \text{coList}$

case  $(g a) = \text{nil}'$

or

$\text{cons}' n_1 (\text{cons } n_2 (\dots (\text{cons } n_k (g a)) \dots))$

for some  $k \geq 1, n_i, a$

or

$\text{cons}' n_1 (\text{cons } n_2 (\dots (\text{cons } n_k l) \dots))$

for some  $k \geq 1, n_i, l$

- Dual of course of value induction.

# Formal Diagram

- Let  $F^\infty$  the weakly final coalgebra for  $F$ .
- Let  $\text{build}_n : F^n(F^\infty) \rightarrow F^\infty$  the  $n$ -times build.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F^\infty & \xrightarrow{\text{case}} & F(F^\infty) \\ \uparrow \exists g & & \uparrow \Sigma_{n:\mathbb{N}} F(\text{build}_n) \\ & & \Sigma_{n:\mathbb{N}} F(F^n(F^\infty)) \\ & & \uparrow \Sigma_{n:\mathbb{N}} F^{n+1}(\text{id} + g) \\ A & \xrightarrow{f} & \Sigma_{n:\mathbb{N}} F^{n+1}(F^\infty + A) \end{array}$$



# Rules for `coList`

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- **Formation Rule**

$\text{coList} : \text{Set}$

- **Elimination Rule**

$\text{case} : \text{coList} \rightarrow \text{nil}' + \text{cons}'(\mathbb{N}, \text{coList})$

- **Introduction Rule**

$$\frac{A : \text{Set} \quad f : A \rightarrow \text{nil}' + \text{cons}'(\mathbb{N}, A)}{\text{intro } A \ f : A \rightarrow \text{coList}}$$

- **Equality Rule**

$\text{case} (\text{intro } A \ f \ a) = (\text{nil}' + \text{cons}'(\mathbb{N}, \text{intro } A \ f)) (f \ a)$

# Rules for `coList`

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- $\text{intro } A \ f \ a = \text{intro } A' \ f' \ a'$   
if  $A = A'$  and  $f = f'$  and  $a = a'$ .

# Suggested Agda Syntax

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mutual

coalg coList : Set where

case : coList  $\rightarrow$  coListShape

data coListShape : Set where

nil' : coListShape

cons' :  $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow$  coList  $\rightarrow$  coListShape

$\omega$  : coList

case  $\omega =$  cons' 0  $\omega$

# Getting Close to Codata

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- Define (idea by Nils Danielsson):

coalg  $\square (A : \text{Set}) : \text{Set}$  where  
case :  $\square A \rightarrow A$

data coListShape : Set where  
nil' : coListShape  
cons' :  $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \square \text{coListShape} \rightarrow \text{coListShape}$

coList : Set

coList =  $\square \text{coListShape}$

nil : coList

case nil = nil'

# Simplification by Nils Danielsson

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$\text{cons} : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \text{coList} \rightarrow \text{coList}$   
 $\text{case } (\text{cons } n \ l) = \text{cons}' \ n \ l$

• Write

$$r \sim s$$

for

$$\text{case } r = \text{case } s$$

• Now

$\omega : \text{coList}$   
 $\text{case } \omega = \text{cons}' \ n \ \omega$

can be replaced by

$\omega : \text{coList}$   
 $\omega \sim \text{cons } n \ \omega$

# Subject Reduction Revisited

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data  $_ == _ (x : \text{coList}) : \text{coList} \rightarrow \text{Set}$  where

refl :  $a == a$

out :  $\text{coList} \rightarrow \text{coList}$

out  $x$  with (case  $x$ )

... |  $\text{nil}'$  = nil

... |  $\text{cons}' n l$  = cons  $n l$

lemma :  $(l : \text{coList}) \rightarrow l == \text{out } l$

lemma  $l$  with (case  $l$ )

... |  $\text{nil}'$  =  $\{! !\}$  goal type =  $l == \text{nil}$

... |  $\text{cons}' n l'$  =  $\{! !\}$  goal type =  $l' == \text{cons } n l'$

● The last two goals are not solvable.

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# IO using Coalg

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$\text{coalg IO } (C : \text{Set}) (R : C \rightarrow \text{Set}) : \text{Set}$  where

$\text{command} : \text{IO } C R \rightarrow C$

$\text{next} : (p : \text{IO } C R) \rightarrow R (\text{command } p) \rightarrow \text{IO } C R$

$\text{progPasswd} : \text{IO } C R$

$\text{command } \text{progPasswd} = \text{write "Password: "}$

$\text{next } \text{progPasswd } \_ = \text{progRead}$

$\text{progRead} : \text{IO } C R$

$\text{command } \text{progRead} = \text{read}$

$\text{next } \text{progRead } s = \text{progCheck } s$

# IO using Coalg

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*progCheck* : String → IO C R

*progCheck* s = if (s = "123") then *progSuccess* else *progFail*

*progSuccess* : IO C R

command *progSuccess* = terminate

next *progSuccess* ()

*progFail* : IO C R

command *progFail* = write "Wrong Password!!"

next *progFail* \_ = *progPasswd*



# Cell using Coalg

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coalg Cell : Set where

set : Cell  $\rightarrow$   $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow$  Cell

get : Cell  $\rightarrow$   $\mathbb{N} \times$  Cell

cell :  $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow$  Cell

set (cell  $n$ )  $m$  = cell  $m$

get (cell  $n$ ) =  $\langle n, \text{cell } n \rangle$

# 4. Proofs by Corecursion

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- Let a transition system be given by

Vertex : Set

Edge : Vertex  $\rightarrow$  Set

target : ( $l$  : Vertex)  $\rightarrow$  Edge  $l \rightarrow$  Vertex

- Let

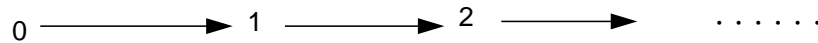
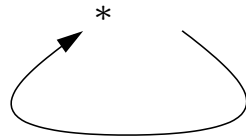
$(\text{Vertex}_1, \text{Edge}_1, \text{target}_1) = (\{*\}, \lambda x.\{*\}, \lambda x, y.*)$

and

$(\text{Vertex}_2, \text{Edge}_2, \text{target}_2) = (\mathbb{N}, \lambda x.\{*\}, \lambda x, y.S\ x)$

---

$$\begin{aligned}(\text{Vertex}_1, \text{Edge}_1, \text{target}_1) &= (\{*\}, \lambda x.\{*\}, \lambda x, y.*) \\(\text{Vertex}_2, \text{Edge}_2, \text{target}_2) &= (\mathbb{N}, \lambda x.\{*\}, \lambda x, y.S\ x)\end{aligned}$$



# Bisimulation

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- Define

$\text{coalg Bisim} : (n_1 : \text{Vertex}_1) \rightarrow (n_2 : \text{Vertex}_2) \rightarrow \text{Set}$  where

$\text{toEdge}_2 : (b_1 : \text{Edge}_1 n_1) \rightarrow \text{Edge}_2 n_2$

$\text{correctVertex}_2 : (b_1 : \text{Edge}_1 n_1) \rightarrow \text{Bisim}$

$(\text{target}_1 n_1 b_1)$

$(\text{target}_2 n_2 (\text{toEdge}_2 b_1))$

$\text{toEdge}_1 : (b_2 : \text{Edge}_2 n_2) \rightarrow \text{Edge}_1 n_1$

$\text{correctVertex}_1 : (b_2 : \text{Edge}_2 n_2) \rightarrow \text{Bisim}$

$(\text{target}_1 n_1 (\text{toEdge}_1 b_2))$

$(\text{target}_2 n_2 b_2)$

# Proof by Corecursion

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$$\begin{aligned} \text{lemma} & : (v_1 : \text{Vertex}_1) \rightarrow (v_2 : \text{Vertex}_2) \rightarrow \text{Bisim } v_1 \ v_2 \\ \text{toEdge}_2 (\text{lemma } v_1 \ v_2) \ b_1 & = * \\ \text{correctVertex}_2 (\text{lemma } v_1 \ v_2) \ b_1 & = \text{lemma} * (\text{S } v_2) \\ \text{toEdge}_1 (\text{lemma } v_1 \ v_2) \ b_2 & = * \\ \text{correctVertex}_1 (\text{lemma } v_1 \ v_2) \ b_2 & = \text{lemma} * (\text{S } v_2) \end{aligned}$$

# Conclusion

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- Coalgebras should be the primary concept, not codata.
- But a good idea to find good abbreviations in order to get close to codata, but these should only be abbreviations.
- Elements of coalgebras represent infinite objects, but are not infinite objects themselves.
- Intensional equality between elements of coalgebras.
- Proofs by corecursion now possible.