

# How to Make Ad Hoc Proof Automation Less Ad Hoc

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# Why proof automation at ICFP?

Ad hoc polymorphism  $\approx$  Overloading terms  
Ad hoc proof automation  $\approx$  Overloading lemmas

“How to make ad hoc polymorphism less ad hoc”

- **Haskell type classes** (Wadler & Blott '89)

“How to make ad hoc proof automation less ad hoc”

- **Canonical structures**: A generalization of type classes that's **already present** in Coq

# Motivating example from program verification

Lemma `noalias`:

If pointers  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  appear in disjoint heaps, they do not alias.

In formal syntax:

`noalias` :  $\forall h : \text{heap}. \forall x_1 x_2 : \text{ptr}. \forall v_1 : A_1. \forall v_2 : A_2.$

$\text{def } (x_1 \mapsto v_1 \uplus x_2 \mapsto v_2 \uplus h) \rightarrow x_1 \neq x_2$

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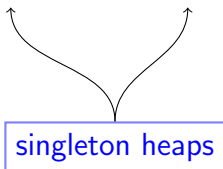
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disjoint union (undefined if heaps overlap)

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test for definedness/disjointness

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no alias

# Using `noalias` requires a lot of “glue proof”

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`true && true && true`

# Glue proof, formally (in Coq)

rewrite  $\text{--!unA --!(unCA } (y_2 \mapsto \_) \text{ --!(unCA } (y_1 \mapsto \_)) \text{ unA in } D$ .

rewrite (noalias  $D$ ).

rewrite  $\text{--!unA -- (unC } (y_3 \mapsto \_) \text{ --!(unCA } (y_3 \mapsto \_)) \text{ in } D$ .

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# Glue proof, formally (in Coq)

rewrite  $\neg! \text{unA} \neg!(\text{unCA } (y_2 \mapsto \_) \neg!(\text{unCA } (y_1 \mapsto \_)) \text{unA}$  in  $D$ .

rewrite (noalias  $D$ ).

rewrite  $\neg! \text{unA} \neg(\text{unC } (y_3 \mapsto \_)) \neg!(\text{unCA } (y_3 \mapsto \_))$  in  $D$ .

rewrite  $\neg!(\text{unCA } (y_2 \mapsto \_)) \text{unA}$  in  $D$ .

rewrite (noalias  $D$ ).

rewrite  $\neg! \text{unA} \neg!(\text{unCA } (y_1 \mapsto \_)) \neg!(\text{unCA } (y_3 \mapsto \_)) \text{unA}$  in  $D$ .

rewrite (noalias  $D$ ).

# Automation as it is today

Write custom tactic:

For each  $x_i \neq x_j$  in the goal:

- rearrange hypothesis, to bring  $x_i$  and  $x_j$  to the front
- apply the `noalias` lemma
- repeat



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- rearrange hypothesis, to bring  $x_i$  and  $x_j$  to the front
- apply the `noalias` lemma
- repeat

However, custom tactics have several limitations

- Can be untyped or weakly specified
- Automation as a second class citizen

# What we want: automated lemmas!

We really want an **automated** version of the **noalias lemma**:

$$\text{noaliasA} : \forall \dots ??? \dots x_1 \neq x_2$$

where **???** asks type inference to construct glue proof.

Why?

- Strongly-typed custom automation!
- Composable, modular custom automation!

## Using and composing automated lemmas

$(y_1 \neq y_2) \ \&\& \ (y_2 \neq y_3) \ \&\& \ (y_3 \neq y_1)$

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$(y_1 \neq y_2) \ \&\& \ (y_2 \neq y_3) \ \&\& \ (y_3 \neq y_1)$

↓

true && true && true

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$\text{true} \ \&\& \ \text{true} \ \&\& \ \text{true}$

by performing

rewrite ! (noaliasA *D*)

# Using and composing automated lemmas

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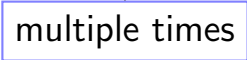
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$\text{true} \ \&\& \ \text{true} \ \&\& \ \text{true}$

by performing

rewrite ! (noaliasA *D*)

multiple times



## Using and composing automated lemmas

$(y_1 == y_2) \ \&\& \ (y_2 != y_3) \ \&\& \ (y_3 != y_1)$

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$\text{false} \ \&\& \ (y_2 != y_3) \ \&\& \ (y_3 != y_1) = \text{false}$



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$(y_1 == y_2) \ \&\& \ (y_2 != y_3) \ \&\& \ (y_3 != y_1)$

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$\text{false} \ \&\& \ (y_2 != y_3) \ \&\& \ (y_3 != y_1) = \text{false}$

by performing

rewrite (negate (noaliasA D))

where

negate :  $\forall b : \text{bool}. !b = \text{true} \rightarrow b = \text{false}$

# How? Lemma automation by overloading

Curry-Howard correspondence!

- Overloading:  
infer **code** for a **function** based on arguments
- Lemma overloading:  
infer **proof** for a **lemma** based on arguments

# Our Main Contributions

Idea: proof automation through lemma overloading

Realizing this idea by Coq's **canonical structures**:

- A generalization of Haskell type classes
- Instances pattern-match terms as well as types

“Design patterns” for controlling Coq type inference

- Several interesting examples from HTT

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Realizing this idea by Coq's **canonical structures**:

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“Design patterns” for controlling Coq type inference

- Several interesting examples from HTT

See the paper for details!

# Haskell overloading: equality type class

class Eq a where

(==) :: a → a → Bool

instance Eq Bool where

(==) = λx y. (x && y) || (!x && !y)

instance (Eq a, Eq b) ⇒ Eq (a × b) where

(==) = λx y. (fst x == fst y) && (snd x == snd y)

# Haskell overloading: equality type class

class Eq a where

(==) :: a → a → Bool

instance Eq Bool where

(==) = eq\_bool

instance (f<sub>1</sub> : Eq a, f<sub>2</sub> : Eq b) ⇒ Eq (a × b) where

(==) = eq\_pair f<sub>1</sub> f<sub>2</sub>

# Haskell overloading: equality type class

Example:

$(x, \text{true}) == (\text{false}, y)$

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instance Eq Bool where

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instance  $(f_1 : \text{Eq } a, f_2 : \text{Eq } b) \Rightarrow \text{Eq } (a \times b)$  where

$(==) = \text{eq\_pair } f_1 f_2$

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# Coq overloading: equality type class

Coq structure: just a dependent record type

```
structure Eq :=  
  { constructor  
    mkEq :  
      { fields  
        { sort : Type;  
          (- == -) : sort → sort → bool; }  
      }  
  }
```

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structure  $\overbrace{\text{Eq}}^{\text{name}} :=$ 
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$\underbrace{\text{mkEq}}_{\text{constructor}}$   $\overbrace{\{\text{sort} : \text{Type};$  **fields**

$(- == -) : \text{sort} \rightarrow \text{sort} \rightarrow \text{bool}; \}$

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Coq structure: just a dependent record type

structure  $\text{Eq}$  :=

$\text{mkEq}$       {  $\text{sort} : \text{Type};$   
                   $(\_ == \_) : \text{sort} \rightarrow \text{sort} \rightarrow \text{bool};$  }

Annotations: name (over  $\text{Eq}$ ), constructor (over  $\text{mkEq}$ ), fields (over the record body).

Creates **projectors** for each field, e.g.:

$\text{sort} : \text{Eq} \rightarrow \text{Type}$   
 $(\_ == \_) : \forall e : \text{Eq}. \text{sort } e \rightarrow \text{sort } e \rightarrow \text{bool}$

# Canonical instances

Instances defined as in Haskell

$$\begin{aligned} \text{canonical } \text{bool\_inst} &:= \text{mkEq} \underbrace{\text{bool}}^{\text{sort}} \underbrace{(- == -)}^{\text{eq\_bool}} \\ \text{canonical } \text{pair\_inst } (A \ B : \text{Eq}) &:= \\ &\text{mkEq} \underbrace{(\text{sort } A \times \text{sort } B)}^{\text{sort}} \underbrace{(\text{eq\_pair } A \ B)}_{(- == -)} \end{aligned}$$

# Example of instance inference

$(x, \text{true}) == (\text{false}, y)$

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Remember

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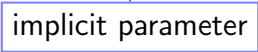
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implicit parameter



# Example of instance inference

$$(x, \text{true}) == (\text{false}, y)$$

Remember

$$(- == -) : \forall e : \text{Eq} . \text{sort } e \rightarrow \text{sort } e \rightarrow \text{bool}$$

Coq finds an instance of  $e : \text{Eq}$  that unifies

$$\text{sort } e \quad \text{with} \quad (\text{bool} \times \text{bool})$$



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$$e = \text{pair\_inst } \text{bool\_inst } \text{bool\_inst}$$

# Adding a proof

We add the proof that  $(\_ == \_)$  is equivalent to Coq's  $(\_ = \_)$

```
structure name Eq :=  
  constructor mkEq fields {  
    sort : Type;  
    ( _ == _ ) : sort → sort → bool;  
    proof :  $\forall x y : \text{sort}. x == y \leftrightarrow x = y$  }
```

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              proof : ∀x y : sort. x == y ↔ x = y}
              fields

```

Now instances also compute **the proof**:

```
canonical bool_inst := mkEq bool eq_bool pf_bool
```

```
canonical pair_inst (A B : Eq) :=
```

```
  mkEq (sort A × sort B) (eq_pair A B) (pf_pair A B)
```

# Lemma overloading

# Overloading a simple lemma

Goal: Prove  $x$  is in the domain of

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Naïve lemma:

$$\text{indom} : \forall x : \text{ptr}. \forall v : A. \forall h : \text{heap}. \\ x \in \text{dom} (x \mapsto v \uplus h)$$

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Let's overload it!

# indom overloaded

Define structure `contains x`, of `heaps that contain x`:

```
structure contains (x : ptr) :=  
  Contains { heap_of : heap;  
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Induced projections:

$$\text{heap\_of} : \forall x : \text{ptr}. \text{contains } x \rightarrow \text{heap}$$
$$\text{indomO} : \forall x : \text{ptr}. \forall c : \text{contains } x. x \in \text{dom } (\text{heap\_of } c)$$

The second one is our `overloaded` lemma

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When solving

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type inference should proceed as follows:

- If  $h$  is  $x \mapsto v$ , succeed with

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- If  $x \in \text{dom } h_1$ , compose with

$$\text{left\_pf} : \forall h_1 h_2. x \in \text{dom } h_1 \rightarrow x \in \text{dom } (h_1 \uplus h_2)$$

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- If  $x \in \text{dom } h_2$ , compose with

$$\text{right\_pf} : \forall h_1 h_2. x \in \text{dom } h_2 \rightarrow x \in \text{dom } (h_1 \uplus h_2)$$

# Implementation of `indomO`

Algorithm encoded in canonical instances of `contains x`:

canonical found  $A\ x\ (v : A) :=$

`Contains x (x ↦ v) singleton_pf`

canonical left  $x\ h\ (c : \text{contains } x) :=$

`Contains x ((heap_of c) ⊔ h) (left_pf (indomO c))`

canonical right  $x\ h\ (c : \text{contains } x) :=$

`Contains x (h ⊔ (heap_of c)) (right_pf (indomO c))`

# Implementation of `indomO`

Algorithm encoded in canonical instances of `contains x`:

canonical `found`  $A$   $x$  ( $v : A$ ) :=

`Contains`  $x$  ( $x \mapsto v$ ) `singleton_pf`

canonical `left`  $x$   $h$  ( $c : \text{contains } x$ ) :=

`Contains`  $x$  (`(heap_of`  $c$ )  $\uplus$   $h$ ) (`left_pf` (`indomO`  $c$ ))

canonical `right`  $x$   $h$  ( $c : \text{contains } x$ ) :=

`Contains`  $x$  ( $h$   $\uplus$  (`heap_of`  $c$ )) (`right_pf` (`indomO`  $c$ ))

# Implementation of `indomO`

Algorithm encoded in canonical instances of `contains x`:

As a logic program

canonical `found`  $A\ x\ (v : A) :=$

`Contains`  $x\ (x \mapsto v)\ \text{singleton\_pf}$

canonical `left`  $x\ h\ (c : \text{contains } x) :=$

`Contains`  $x\ ((\text{heap\_of } c) \uplus h)\ (\text{left\_pf } (\text{indomO } c))$

canonical `right`  $x\ h\ (c : \text{contains } x) :=$

`Contains`  $x\ (h \uplus (\text{heap\_of } c))\ (\text{right\_pf } (\text{indomO } c))$



# Implementation of `indomO`

Algorithm encoded in canonical instances of `contains x`:

Canonical structures  $\approx$  `term` classes

canonical found  $A \ x \ (v : A) :=$

Contains  $x \ (x \mapsto v) \ \text{singleton\_pf}$

canonical left  $x \ h \ (c : \text{contains } x) :=$

Contains  $x \ ((\text{heap\_of } c) \uplus h) \ (\text{left\_pf } (\text{indomO } c))$

canonical right  $x \ h \ (c : \text{contains } x) :=$

Contains  $x \ (h \uplus (\text{heap\_of } c)) \ (\text{right\_pf } (\text{indomO } c))$

# Example application of $\text{indomO}$

$\text{indomO} : \forall x : \text{ptr}. \forall c : \text{contains } x. x \in \text{dom} (\text{heap\_of } c)$

---

$y \in \text{dom} (z \mapsto u \uplus y \mapsto v)$

# Example application of indomO

$\text{indomO} : \forall x : \text{ptr}. \forall c : \text{contains } x. x \in \text{dom} (\text{heap\_of } c)$

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Solve it by apply indomO

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$y \in \text{dom} (z \mapsto u \uplus y \mapsto v)$

Solve it by apply  $\text{indomO}$  , unifying:

$x$  with  $y$

# Example application of indomO

$\text{indomO} : \forall x : \text{ptr}. \forall c : \text{contains } x. x \in \text{dom } (\text{heap\_of } c)$

---

$y \in \text{dom } (z \mapsto u \uplus y \mapsto v)$

Solve it by apply  $\text{indomO}$  , unifying:

$x$  with  $y$                        $\text{heap\_of } c$  with  $(z \mapsto u \uplus y \mapsto v)$

# Example application of indomO

$\text{indomO} : \forall x : \text{ptr}. \forall c : \text{contains } x. x \in \text{dom} (\text{heap\_of } c)$

---

$y \in \text{dom} (z \mapsto u \uplus y \mapsto v)$

Solve it by apply  $\text{indomO}$  , unifying:

$x$  with  $y$                        $\text{heap\_of } c$  with  $(z \mapsto u \uplus y \mapsto v)$

Result:

$c = \text{right } y (z \mapsto u) (\text{found } y v)$

# Example application of indomO

$\text{indomO} : \forall x : \text{ptr}. \forall c : \text{contains } x. x \in \text{dom} (\text{heap\_of } c)$

---

$$y \in \text{dom} (z \mapsto u \uplus y \mapsto v)$$

Solve it by apply  $\text{indomO}$  , unifying:

$$x \text{ with } y \qquad \text{heap\_of } c \text{ with } (z \mapsto u \uplus y \mapsto v)$$

Result:

$$c = \text{right } y (z \mapsto u) (\text{found } y \ v)$$



# Example application of indomO

$\text{indomO} : \forall x : \text{ptr}. \forall c : \text{contains } x. x \in \text{dom} (\text{heap\_of } c)$

---

$$y \in \text{dom} (z \mapsto u \uplus y \mapsto v)$$

Solve it by apply  $\text{indomO}$  , unifying:

$$x \text{ with } y \qquad \text{heap\_of } c \text{ with } (z \mapsto u \uplus y \mapsto v)$$

Result:

$$c = \text{right } y (z \mapsto u) (\text{found } y \ v)$$

Overlapping instances not allowed in Coq!

canonical left  $x$   $h$  ( $c : \text{contains } x$ ) :=

Contains  $x$  ((heap\_of  $c$ )  $\uplus$   $h$ ) (left\_pf (indomO  $c$ ))

canonical right  $x$   $h$  ( $c : \text{contains } x$ ) :=

Contains  $x$  ( $h$   $\uplus$  (heap\_of  $c$ )) (right\_pf (indomO  $c$ ))

# The truth revealed

Overlapping instances not allowed in Coq!

“Tagging” pattern for instance disambiguation!

canonical left  $x$   $h$  ( $c$  : contains  $x$ ) :=

Contains  $x$  ((heap\_of  $c$ )  $\uplus$   $h$ ) (left\_pf (indomO  $c$ ))

canonical right  $x$   $h$  ( $c$  : contains  $x$ ) :=

Contains  $x$  ( $h$   $\uplus$  (heap\_of  $c$ )) (right\_pf (indomO  $c$ ))

# What else is in the paper

“Tagging” pattern for instance disambiguation

Example of proof by reflection

“Hoisting” pattern for ordering unification subproblems

“Search-and-replace” pattern for structural in-place-update

## Proof automation by lemma overloading

Curry-Howard correspondence!

- Overloading:  
infer **code** for a **function** based on arguments
- Lemma overloading:  
infer **proof** for a **lemma** based on arguments

Robust, verifiable, composable automation routines

# Questions?

# Comparison with Coq Type Classes

Coq Type Classes (CTC) [Sozeau and Oury, TPHOLs '08]

- Similar to canonical structures, which predated them
- Instance resolution for CTC guided by proof search, rather than by Coq unification
- They're in beta and it's not my fault!
- Overlapping instances resolved by weighted backtracking

We've ported a number of our examples to CTC

- Could not figure out how to port “search-and-replace” pattern
- Sometimes CTC is faster, sometimes CS is faster
- Further investigation of the tradeoffs is needed
- Future work: unify the two concepts?

# A word on performance

Performance for lemma overloading currently not great:

- Time to perform a simple assignment to a unification variable is **quadratic** in the number of variables in the context, and **linear** in the size of the term being assigned
- With tactics, it's nearly constant-time

Clearly a bug in the implementation of Coq unification:

- Not always a problem, since interactive proofs often keep variable contexts short
- But it needs to be fixed. . .



# Solution: The “Tagging” Pattern

Present different constants for each instance:

canonical found  $A$   $x$  ( $v : A$ ) := Contains  $x$  (found\_tag ( $x \mapsto v$ )) ...

canonical left  $x$   $h$  ( $c : \text{contains } x$ ) :=  
Contains  $x$  (left\_tag ((heap\_of  $f$ )  $\uplus$   $h$ )) ...

canonical right  $x$   $h$  ( $c : \text{contains } x$ ) :=  
Contains  $x$  (right\_tag ( $h$   $\uplus$  (heap\_of  $f$ ))) ...

No overlap anymore! Where:

$$\text{found\_tag} = \text{left\_tag} = \text{right\_tag}$$

Lazy unification algorithm unrolls them upon matching failure!

# The Tagging Pattern

We employ the “tagging” design pattern to disambiguate instances.

- Rely on lazy expansion of constant definitions by the unification algorithm.

structure tagged\_heap := Tag {untag : heap}

right\_tag h := Tag h  
left\_tag h := right\_tag h  
canonical found\_tag h := left\_tag h } all synonyms of Tag

- One synonym of Tag for each canonical instance of find x
- Listed in the reverse order in which we want them to be considered during pattern matching
- Last one marked as a canonical instance of tagged\_heap

# The Tagging Pattern

And we tag each canonical instance of `find x` accordingly:

canonical `found A x (v : A) := Contains x (found_tag (x ↦ v)) ...`

canonical `left x h (f' : contains x) :=  
Contains x (left_tag (untag (heap_of f') ⊕ h)) ...`

canonical `right x h (f'' : contains x) :=  
Contains x (right_tag (h ⊕ untag (heap_of f''))) ...`

No overlap! Each instance has a different constant.

# Example

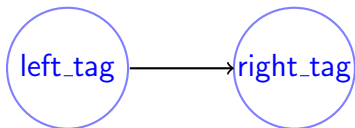


Where  $f$  : contains  $y$

$$\text{heap\_of } ?f \hat{=} \text{found\_tag } (x \mapsto u \uplus y \mapsto v)$$

Try instance `found` and fail

# Example



Where  $f$  : contains  $y$

$$\text{heap\_of } ?f \hat{=} \text{left\_tag } (x \mapsto u \uplus y \mapsto v)$$

Try instance `left` and fail

# Example



right\_tag

Where  $f$  : contains  $y$

$$\text{heap\_of } ?f \hat{=} \text{right\_tag } (x \mapsto u \uplus y \mapsto v)$$

Try instance `right` and succeed

# Overloaded cancellation lemma for heaps

Applying lemma `cancelO` on a heap equation

$$x \mapsto v_1 \uplus (h_3 \uplus h_4) = h_4 \uplus x \mapsto v_2$$

cancels common terms to produce

$$v_1 = v_2 \wedge h_3 = \emptyset$$

Steps:

- 1 Logic program turn equations into abstract syntax trees
  - Executed during type inference by unification engine
  - Equal variables turn into equal natural indices
- 2 Functional program cancels common terms
- 3 Functional program translate back into equations

Requires only the tagging pattern

# Overloaded version of noalias

$\text{noalias} : \forall h:\text{heap}. \forall x_1 x_2:\text{ptr}. \forall v_1:A_1. \forall v_2:A_2.$   
 $\text{def}(x_1 \mapsto v_1 \uplus x_2 \mapsto v_2 \uplus h) \rightarrow x_1 \neq x_2$

$\text{noaliasO} :$

$\forall x y : \text{ptr}. \forall s : \text{seq ptr}. \forall f : \text{scan } s. \forall g : \text{check } x y s.$   
 $\text{def}(\text{heap\_of } f) \rightarrow x \neq (\text{y\_of } g)$

- Requires two recursive logic programs
  - `scan` traverses a heap collecting all pointers into a list `s`
  - then `check` traverses `s` searching for `x` and `y`
- Somewhat tricky to pass arguments from `scan` to `check`
- Employs the `hoisting` pattern to reorder unification subproblems.



# Search-and-replace pattern

Useful lemma for verifying “Hoare triples”:

$$\text{bnd\_write} : \text{verify } \overbrace{(x \mapsto v \uplus h)}^{\text{initial heap}} \overbrace{e \quad q}^{\text{post-condition}} \rightarrow \\ \text{verify } (x \mapsto w \uplus h) \underbrace{(\text{write } x \ v; e)}_{\text{write } v \text{ in location } x \text{ and then run } e} q$$

But we’d like to do “in-place update” on the initial heap, rather than shifting  $x \mapsto ?$  to the front of the heap and then back again.

# Search-and-replace pattern: example

Example 1: To prove the goal

$$G : \text{verify } (h_1 \uplus (x_1 \mapsto 1 \uplus x_2 \mapsto 2)) (\text{write } x_2 \ 4; e) \ q$$

we can apply `bnd_write0` to reduce it to:

$$G : \text{verify } (h_1 \uplus (x_1 \mapsto 1 \uplus x_2 \mapsto 4)) \ e \ q$$

# Search-and-replace pattern: idea

Build a logic program that turns a heap into a function that abstracts the wanted pointer.

Example: Turn  $h_1 \uplus (x_1 \mapsto 1 \uplus x_2 \mapsto 2)$  into

$$f = \text{fun } k. h_1 \uplus (x_1 \mapsto 1 \uplus k)$$

Then the `bnd_writeO` lemma can be stated roughly as

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{verify } (f (x \mapsto v)) e q \rightarrow \\ &\text{verify } (f (x \mapsto w)) (\text{write } x v; e) q \end{aligned}$$

# Search-and-replace pattern: more formally

It turns out that  $f$  must have a **dependent function** type.

```
structure partition ( $k\ r : \text{heap}$ ) :=  
  Partition {heap_of : tagged_heap;  
            _ : heap_of =  $k \uplus r$ }
```

```
bnd_writeO :  $\forall r : \text{heap}. \forall f : (\prod k : \text{heap}. \text{partition } k\ r). \forall \dots$   
  verify (untag (heap_of ( $f\ (x \mapsto v)$ )))  $e\ q \rightarrow$   
  verify (untag (heap_of ( $f\ (x \mapsto w)$ ))) (write  $x\ v; e$ )  $q$ 
```

# Search-and-replace pattern: forward reasoning

Example 2: Given hypothesis

$$H : \text{verify } (h_1 \uplus (x_1 \mapsto 1 \uplus x_2 \mapsto 4)) \text{ e } q$$

we can apply  $(\text{bnd\_writeO } (x := x_2) (w := 2))$  to it:

$$H : \text{verify } (h_1 \uplus (x_1 \mapsto 1 \uplus x_2 \mapsto 2)) (\text{write } x_2 \text{ 4; e}) q$$

Note: this duality of use is not possible with tactics