

# Intrinsically Correct Sorting in Cubical Agda

Cass Alexandru<sup>1</sup>   Vikraman Choudhury<sup>2</sup>   Jurriaan Rot<sup>3</sup>  
Niels van der Weide<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>RPTU Kaiserslautern-Landau

<sup>2</sup>University of Bologna & INRIA OLAS

<sup>3</sup>Radboud University Nijmegen

Certified Programs and Proofs 2025

- “Sorting with Bialgebras and Distributive Laws” (Hinze et al. 2012)

# Motivation

- “Sorting with Bialgebras and Distributive Laws” (Hinze et al. 2012)
- Bialgebraic semantics (Turi and Plotkin 1997)

# Motivation

- “Sorting with Bialgebras and Distributive Laws” (Hinze et al. 2012)
- Bialgebraic semantics (Turi and Plotkin 1997)
- Intrinsic Correctness: Type and specification (predicates), program and proof are intertwined, Cubical Agda: Dependent Types & Path types

# Motivation

- “Sorting with Bialgebras and Distributive Laws” (Hinze et al. 2012)
- Bialgebraic semantics (Turi and Plotkin 1997)
- Intrinsic Correctness: Type and specification (predicates), program and proof are intertwined, Cubical Agda: Dependent Types & Path types
- Contribution: intrinsic verification of business logics & setting in which correctness of the dual algorithms follows

# Motivation

- “Sorting with Bialgebras and Distributive Laws” (Hinze et al. 2012)
- Bialgebraic semantics (Turi and Plotkin 1997)
- Intrinsic Correctness: Type and specification (predicates), program and proof are intertwined, Cubical Agda: Dependent Types & Path types
- Contribution: intrinsic verification of business logics & setting in which correctness of the dual algorithms follows
- Key idea: Index data by the multiset of their elements

# Outline

- 1 Sorting as an Index-Preserving Map
- 2 Recap of “Sorting with Bialgebras and Distributive Laws”
  - Base Functors
  - Bialgebraic Semantics
- 3 Correct Sorting using Distributive Laws
  - Base Functors for Element-Indexed (Ordered) Lists
  - The FMSet Index as a Termination Measure
- 4 Conclusion & Future Work

# Outline

- 1 Sorting as an Index-Preserving Map
- 2 Recap of “Sorting with Bialgebras and Distributive Laws”
  - Base Functors
  - Bialgebraic Semantics
- 3 Correct Sorting using Distributive Laws
  - Base Functors for Element-Indexed (Ordered) Lists
  - The FMSet Index as a Termination Measure
- 4 Conclusion & Future Work



# Specification of Sorting

- Totally ordered Carrier Set A

# Specification of Sorting

- Totally ordered Carrier Set A
- $\text{sort} : \text{List A} \rightarrow \text{List A} ?$

# Specification of Sorting

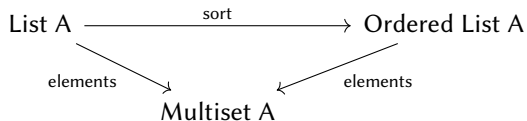
- Totally ordered Carrier Set A
- $\text{sort} : \text{List A} \rightarrow \text{List A} ?$
- $\text{sort} : \text{List A} \rightarrow \text{Ordered List A} ?$

# Specification of Sorting

- Totally ordered Carrier Set A
- $\text{sort} : \text{List } A \rightarrow \text{List } A ?$
- $\text{sort} : \text{List } A \rightarrow \text{Ordered List } A?$
- “The output should be a permutation of the input”

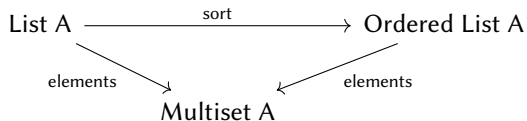
# Specification of Sorting

- Totally ordered Carrier Set A
- $\text{sort} : \text{List A} \rightarrow \text{List A} ?$
- $\text{sort} : \text{List A} \rightarrow \text{Ordered List A} ?$
- “The output should be a permutation of the input”
  - “Mapping a list to the multiset of its elements is invariant under sorting”



# Specification of Sorting

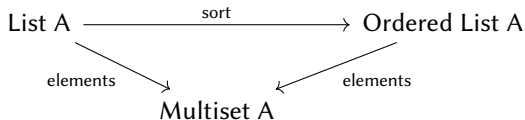
- Totally ordered Carrier Set  $A$
- $\text{sort} : \text{List } A \rightarrow \text{List } A ?$
- $\text{sort} : \text{List } A \rightarrow \text{Ordered List } A ?$
- “The output should be a permutation of the input”
  - “Mapping a list to the multiset of its elements is invariant under sorting”



- Intrinsically: “Sorting is an index-preserving map between lists and ordered lists indexed by the finite multiset of their elements”

# Specification of Sorting

- Totally ordered Carrier Set  $A$
- $\text{sort} : \text{List } A \rightarrow \text{List } A ?$
- $\text{sort} : \text{List } A \rightarrow \text{Ordered List } A ?$
- “The output should be a permutation of the input”
  - “Mapping a list to the multiset of its elements is invariant under sorting”



- Intrinsically: “Sorting is an index-preserving map between lists and ordered lists indexed by the finite multiset of their elements”

$$\{g : \text{FMSet } A\} \rightarrow \text{EList } g \rightarrow \text{OEList } g$$

# Outline

- 1 Sorting as an Index-Preserving Map
- 2 Recap of “Sorting with Bialgebras and Distributive Laws”
  - Base Functors
  - Bialgebraic Semantics
- 3 Correct Sorting using Distributive Laws
  - Base Functors for Element-Indexed (Ordered) Lists
  - The FMSet Index as a Termination Measure
- 4 Conclusion & Future Work



# Outline

- 1 Sorting as an Index-Preserving Map
- 2 Recap of “Sorting with Bialgebras and Distributive Laws”
  - Base Functors
  - Bialgebraic Semantics
- 3 Correct Sorting using Distributive Laws
  - Base Functors for Element-Indexed (Ordered) Lists
  - The FMSet Index as a Termination Measure
- 4 Conclusion & Future Work

# Base Functors of Recursive Datatypes

- Recursive datatypes have a shape given by a **base functor**  $F$
- E.g. Natural numbers:  $(1 + -)$ . Lists of element type  $A$ :  $(1 + A \times -)$ .
- Recursive datatype is given by fixpoint of composition of base functor  $F$  with itself
- Least fixpoint  $(\mu F)$ : Inductive datatype. Greatest  $(\nu F)$ : coinductive – not necessarily well founded

# Outline

- 1 Sorting as an Index-Preserving Map
- 2 Recap of “Sorting with Bialgebras and Distributive Laws”
  - Base Functors
  - **Bialgebraic Semantics**
- 3 Correct Sorting using Distributive Laws
  - Base Functors for Element-Indexed (Ordered) Lists
  - The FMSet Index as a Termination Measure
- 4 Conclusion & Future Work

# Maps Between Recursive Datatypes

- $\text{Rec } F \rightarrow \text{Rec } G$

# Maps Between Recursive Datatypes

- $\text{Rec } F \rightarrow \text{Rec } G$
- Algebraically:  $\text{fold alg}$  where  $\text{alg} : F(\text{Rec } G) \rightarrow \text{Rec } G$

# Maps Between Recursive Datatypes

- $\text{Rec } F \rightarrow \text{Rec } G$
- Algebraically:  $\text{fold alg}$  where  $\text{alg} : F (\text{Rec } G) \rightarrow \text{Rec } G$
- Coalgebraically:  $\text{unfold coalg}$  where  $\text{coalg} : \text{Rec } F \rightarrow G (\text{Rec } F)$

# Maps Between Recursive Datatypes

- $\text{Rec } F \rightarrow \text{Rec } G$
- Algebraically: `fold alg` where  $\text{alg} : F (\text{Rec } G) \rightarrow \text{Rec } G$
- Coalgebraically: `unfold coalg` where  $\text{coalg} : \text{Rec } F \rightarrow G (\text{Rec } F)$
- A way that gives us both...

# Insertion- / Bubble Sort

(Hinze et al. 2012)

```

data L (r : Type) : Type where
  [] : L r
  _::_ : A → r → L r

```

-- aliasing  
O = L  
pattern \_≤::\_ x XS = x :: XS

```

swap : ∀ {x} → L (O x) → O (L x)

```

```

swap [] = []

```

```

swap (a :: []) = a ≤:: []

```

```

swap (a :: (b ≤:: r)) with a ≤?≥ b

```

```

...| inl a ≤ b = a ≤:: (b :: r)

```

```

...| inr b ≤ a = b ≤:: (a :: r)

```

```

insertSort = fold (unfold (swap ∘ L1 out))

```

```

bubbleSort = unfold (fold (O1 in ∘ swap))

```



# Insertion- / Bubble Sort

(Hinze et al. 2012)

```

data L (r : Type) : Type where
  [] : L r
  _::_ : A → r → L r

```

-- aliasing  
O = L  
pattern \_≤::\_ x XS = x :: XS

```

swap : ∀ {x} → L (O x) → O (L x)

```

```

swap [] = []

```

```

swap (a :: []) = a ≤:: []

```

```

swap (a :: (b ≤:: r)) with a ≤?≥ b

```

```

...| inl a ≤ b = a ≤:: (b :: r)

```

```

...| inr b ≤ a = a ≤:: (b :: r)

```

```

insertSort = fold (unfold (swap ∘ L1 out))

```

```

bubbleSort = unfold (fold (O1 in ∘ swap))

```

# Insertion- / Bubble Sort

(Hinze et al. 2012)

```

data L (r : Type) : Type where
  [] : L r
  _::_ : A → r → L r

```

-- aliasing  
 O = L  
 pattern \_≤::\_ x XS = x :: XS

```

swap : ∀ {x} → L (O x) → O (L x)

```

```

swap [] = []

```

```

swap (a :: []) = []

```

```

swap (a :: (b ≤:: r)) with a ≤?≥ b

```

```

...| inl a ≤ b = a ≤:: (a :: r)

```

```

...| inr b ≤ a = a ≤:: (b :: r)

```

```

insertSort = fold (unfold (swap ∘ L1 out))

```

```

bubbleSort = unfold (fold (O1 in ∘ swap))

```

# Insertion- / Bubble Sort

(Hinze et al. 2012)

```

data L (r : Type) : Type where
  [] : L r
  _::_ : A → r → L r

```

-- aliasing  
 O = L  
 pattern \_≤::\_ x XS = x :: XS

```

swap : ∀ {x} → L (O x) → O (L x)

```

```

swap [] = []

```

```

swap (a :: []) = []

```

```

swap (a :: (b ≤:: r)) with a ≤?≥ b

```

```

...| inl a ≤ b = a ≤:: (a :: r)

```

```

...| inr b ≤ a = a ≤:: (b :: r)

```

```

insertSort = fold (unfold (swap ∘ L1 out))

```

```

bubbleSort = unfold (fold (O1 in ∘ swap))

```

# Outline

- 1 Sorting as an Index-Preserving Map
- 2 Recap of “Sorting with Bialgebras and Distributive Laws”
  - Base Functors
  - Bialgebraic Semantics
- 3 Correct Sorting using Distributive Laws
  - Base Functors for Element-Indexed (Ordered) Lists
  - The FMSet Index as a Termination Measure
- 4 Conclusion & Future Work

# Outline

- 1 Sorting as an Index-Preserving Map
- 2 Recap of “Sorting with Bialgebras and Distributive Laws”
  - Base Functors
  - Bialgebraic Semantics
- 3 Correct Sorting using Distributive Laws
  - Base Functors for Element-Indexed (Ordered) Lists
  - The FMSet Index as a Termination Measure
- 4 Conclusion & Future Work

# The Finite Multiset Quotient Inductive Type

(Choudhury and Fiore 2023)

```

data FMSet (A : Type ℓ) : Type ℓ where
  []      : FMSet A
  _::__   : (x : A) → (xs : FMSet A) → FMSet A
  comm    : ∀ {x y xs} → x :: y :: xs ≡ y :: x :: xs
  trunc   : isSet (FMSet A)
  
```

# The Finite Multiset Quotient Inductive Type

(Choudhury and Fiore 2023)

**data** FMSet (A : Type ℓ) : Type ℓ **where**

`[]` : FMSet A

`_::_` : (x : A) → (xs : FMSet A) → FMSet A

**comm** : ∀ {x y xs} → x :: y :: xs ≡ y :: x :: xs

**trunc** : isSet (FMSet A)

`1 :: 2 :: 3 :: []` ≡ < cong (1 :: \_) comm > `1 :: 3 :: 2 :: []`

# The Finite Multiset Quotient Inductive Type

(Choudhury and Fiore 2023)

```

data FMSet (A : Type ℓ) : Type ℓ where
  []      : FMSet A
  _::__   : (x : A) → (xs : FMSet A) → FMSet A
  comm    : ∀ {x y xs} → x :: y :: xs ≡ y :: x :: xs
  trunc   : isSet (FMSet A)
  
```

$$1 :: 2 :: 3 :: [] \equiv \langle \text{cong } (1 :: \_) \text{ comm} \rangle 1 :: 3 :: 2 :: []$$

```

pattern []M = []
pattern _::M_ x xs = x :: xs
  
```



# Base Functors for (Ordered) Element-Indexed Lists

```

data L (r : Type)                : Type                where
  []      : L r
  _::__  : A                → r                → L r

```

# Base Functors for (Ordered) Element-Indexed Lists

```

data L (r : Type) : Type where
  [] : L r
  _::_ : A → r → L r

```

```

data L (r : FMSet A → Type) : FMSet A → Type where
  [] : L r []M
  _::_ : ∀ {g} → (x : A) → (r g) → L r (x ::M g)

```

# Base Functors for (Ordered) Element-Indexed Lists

```

data L (r : Type) : Type where
  [] : L r
  _::_ : A → r → L r

```

```

data L (r : FMSet A → Type) : FMSet A → Type where
  [] : L r []M
  _::_ : ∀ {g} → (x : A) → (r g) → L r (x ::M g)

```

```

data O (r : FMSet A → Type) : FMSet A → Type where
  [] : O r []M
  _<::_ : ∀ {g} (x : A) → (r g) → All (x ≤_) g → O r (x ::M g)

```

# Outline

- 1 Sorting as an Index-Preserving Map
- 2 Recap of “Sorting with Bialgebras and Distributive Laws”
  - Base Functors
  - Bialgebraic Semantics
- 3 Correct Sorting using Distributive Laws
  - Base Functors for Element-Indexed (Ordered) Lists
  - The FMSet Index as a Termination Measure
- 4 Conclusion & Future Work

# The FMSet Index as a Termination Measure

L-coalgebras are well founded

pattern  $\_::\_^\wedge\_ \times \_s \ g = \_::\_ \{g = g\} \times \_s$

$\text{unfoldL} : \{r : \text{FMSet } A \rightarrow \text{Type}\} \rightarrow$

$(\forall \{g_r\} \rightarrow (r \ g_r) \rightarrow \text{L } r \ g_r) \rightarrow (\forall \{g\} \rightarrow (r \ g) \rightarrow \text{EList } g)$

$\text{unfoldL } \text{grow } \{\_ \}$       *seed with grow seed*

# The FMSet Index as a Termination Measure

L-coalgebras are well founded

pattern  $\_::\_^\wedge\_ \times \_s \ g = \_::\_ \{g = g\} \times \_s$

$\text{unfoldL} : \{r : \text{FMSet } A \rightarrow \text{Type}\} \rightarrow$   
 $(\forall \{g_r\} \rightarrow (r \ g_r) \rightarrow \text{L } r \ g_r) \rightarrow (\forall \{g\} \rightarrow (r \ g) \rightarrow \text{EList } g)$

$\text{unfoldL } \text{grow } \{\_ \}$       *seed with grow seed*

- Index-preservation forces index of **seed** and **grow seed** to coincide

# The FMSet Index as a Termination Measure

L-coalgebras are well founded

pattern  $\_ :: \_ \wedge \_ \times \_ \times \_ \text{ g} = \_ :: \_ \{ \text{g} = \text{g} \} \times \_ \times \_$

$\text{unfoldL} : \{r : \text{FMSet } A \rightarrow \text{Type}\} \rightarrow$   
 $(\forall \{g_r\} \rightarrow (r \ g_r) \rightarrow \text{L } r \ g_r) \rightarrow (\forall \{g\} \rightarrow (r \ g) \rightarrow \text{EList } g)$

$\text{unfoldL } \text{grow } \{\_ \}$        $\text{seed with } \text{grow seed}$   
 $\text{unfoldL } \text{grow } \{ \cdot \{ \_ \mathcal{M} \} \}$        $\_ \quad | \quad \{ \_ \}$        $=$   
 $\text{unfoldL } \text{grow } \{ \cdot \{ x :: \mathcal{M} \ g' \} \}$        $\_ \quad | \quad x :: \text{seed}' \wedge \ g'$        $=$

- Index-preservation forces index of **seed** and **grow seed** to coincide
- **with**-abstraction: Pattern matching refines earlier arguments, propagates information about the indexee back to the index

# The FMSet Index as a Termination Measure

L-coalgebras are well founded

pattern  $\_ :: \_ \wedge \_ \times \_ \times \_ \text{ g} = \_ :: \_ \{ \text{g} = \text{g} \} \times \_ \times \_$

$\text{unfoldL} : \{r : \text{FMSet } A \rightarrow \text{Type}\} \rightarrow$   
 $(\forall \{g_r\} \rightarrow (r \ g_r) \rightarrow \text{L } r \ g_r) \rightarrow (\forall \{g\} \rightarrow (r \ g) \rightarrow \text{EList } g)$

$\text{unfoldL } \text{grow } \{ \_ \} \quad \text{seed with } \text{grow } \text{seed}$   
 $\text{unfoldL } \text{grow } \{ \_ \mathcal{M} \} \quad \_ \quad | \quad \_ \quad = \_$   
 $\text{unfoldL } \text{grow } \{ x :: \mathcal{M} \ g' \} \quad \_ \quad | \quad x :: \text{seed}' \wedge \ g' \quad =$   
 $x :: \text{unfoldL } \text{grow } \{ g' \} \text{ seed}'$

- Index-preservation forces index of **seed** and **grow seed** to coincide
- **with**-abstraction: Pattern matching refines earlier arguments, propagates information about the indexee back to the index
- Index of recursive argument is smaller



# Well Founded Recursion

- Syntactic termination checking based on dot-patterns of HITs inconsistent (Pitts 2020)

# Well Founded Recursion

- Syntactic termination checking based on dot-patterns of HITs inconsistent (Pitts 2020)
- Define a family of maps indexed by [FMSet A](#) by well founded induction on the length of the index

# Well Founded Recursion

- Syntactic termination checking based on dot-patterns of HITs inconsistent (Pitts 2020)
- Define a family of maps indexed by **FMSet A** by well founded induction on the length of the index
- **length** defined by eliminating from **FMSet A** as the free commutative monoid to  $(\mathbb{N}, +)$  by  $\lambda a \rightarrow 1$

# swap, Revisited

```

swap : {r : FMSet A → Type} {g : FMSet A} →
  L (O r) g → O (L r) g
swap [] = []
swap (a :: []) = (a ≤:: []) []-A
swap (a :: (b ≤:: r) a≤#r) with a ≤?≥ b
...| inl a≤b = (a ≤:: (b :: r)) $ a≤b ≤::# a≤#r
...| inr b≤a = (b ≤:: (a :: r)) $ b≤a :-A a≤#r €
  subst (O (L _)) comm

```

# swap, Revisited

$$\text{swap} : \{r : \text{FMSet } A \rightarrow \text{Type}\} \{g : \text{FMSet } A\} \rightarrow$$

$$\text{L } (\text{O } r) g \rightarrow \text{O } (\text{L } r) g$$

$$\text{swap } [] = []$$

$$\text{swap } (a :: []) = (a \leq:: []) []-A$$

$$\text{swap } (a :: (b \leq:: r) a \leq\#r) \text{ with } a \leq\geq b$$

$$\dots | \text{inl } a \leq b = (a \leq:: (b :: r)) \$ a \leq b \leq::\# a \leq\#r$$

$$\dots | \text{inr } b \leq a = (b \leq:: (a :: r)) \$ b \leq a \text{ :-}A a \leq\#r \text{ €}$$

$$\text{subst } (\text{O } (\text{L } \_)) \text{ comm}$$

## ■ Evaluation of `subst ...?`

# swap, Revisited

$$\text{swap} : \{r : \text{FMSet } A \rightarrow \text{Type}\} \{g : \text{FMSet } A\} \rightarrow$$

$$\text{L } (\text{O } r) \text{ } g \rightarrow \text{O } (\text{L } r) \text{ } g$$

$$\text{swap } [] = []$$

$$\text{swap } (a :: []) = (a \leq :: []) \text{ } []\text{-A}$$

$$\text{swap } (a :: (b \leq :: r) \text{ } a \leq \# r) \text{ with } a \leq ? \geq b$$

$$\dots | \text{inl } a \leq b = (a \leq :: (b :: r)) \text{ } \$ \text{ } a \leq b \leq :: \# \text{ } a \leq \# r$$

$$\dots | \text{inr } b \leq a = (b \leq :: (a :: r)) \text{ } \$ \text{ } b \leq a \text{ } :-\text{A } a \leq \# r \text{ } \epsilon$$

$$\text{subst } (\text{O } (\text{L } \_)) \text{ comm}$$

- Evaluation of `subst ...`?
- `transpX-O` ( $\lambda n \rightarrow \dots$ ) `i0 ...` (Cavallo and Harper 2019)

# swap, Revisited

$$\text{swap} : \{r : \text{FMSet } A \rightarrow \text{Type}\} \{g : \text{FMSet } A\} \rightarrow$$

$$\text{L } (\text{O } r) \text{ } g \rightarrow \text{O } (\text{L } r) \text{ } g$$

$$\text{swap } [] = []$$

$$\text{swap } (a :: []) = (a \leq:: []) \text{ } []\text{-A}$$

$$\text{swap } (a :: (b \leq:: r) \text{ } a\leq\#r) \text{ with } a \leq? \geq b$$

$$\dots | \text{inl } a \leq b = (a \leq:: (b :: r)) \text{ } \$ \text{ } a \leq b \leq::\# \text{ } a \leq\#r$$

$$\dots | \text{inr } b \leq a = (b \leq:: (a :: r)) \text{ } \$ \text{ } b \leq a \text{ } :-\text{A } a \leq\#r \text{ } \text{€}$$

$$\text{subst } (\text{O } (\text{L } \_)) \text{ comm}$$

- Evaluation of `subst ...`?
- `transpX-O` ( $\lambda n \rightarrow \dots$ ) `i0 ...` (Cavallo and Harper 2019)
- Discard index with `toList` :  $\{g : \text{FMSet } A\} \rightarrow \text{OEIList } g \rightarrow \text{List } A$

# Outline

- 1 Sorting as an Index-Preserving Map
- 2 Recap of “Sorting with Bialgebras and Distributive Laws”
  - Base Functors
  - Bialgebraic Semantics
- 3 Correct Sorting using Distributive Laws
  - Base Functors for Element-Indexed (Ordered) Lists
  - The FMSet Index as a Termination Measure
- 4 Conclusion & Future Work



# Conclusion

- Indexing by `FMSet` allowed expressing orderedness, element-preservation & acted as termination measure

# Conclusion

- Indexing by `FMSet` allowed expressing orderedness, element-preservation & acted as termination measure
- Intrinsically correct algorithms from correct distr. law

# Conclusion

- Indexing by `FMSet` allowed expressing orderedness, element-preservation & acted as termination measure
- Intrinsically correct algorithms from correct distr. law
- For verified quick/treesort & heapsort following (Hinze et al. 2012), semantics via slice category → see paper

# Future Work

- Conditions under which coalgebras are recursive in an indexed/fibered setting

# Future Work

- Conditions under which coalgebras are recursive in an indexed/fibered setting
- More algorithms to verify with a distributive law as business logic