

The Computational Essence of Sorting Algorithms

Ralf Hinze

Department of Computer Science, University of Oxford
Wolfson Building, Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3QD, England
`ralf.hinze@cs.ox.ac.uk`
`http://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/ralf.hinze/`

November 2012

Joint Work with Daniel W.H. James, Thomas Harper,
Nicolas Wu and José Pedro Magalhães.

Section 1

Prologue

algorithmics
↕
programming languages



Any customer can have a car painted any colour that he wants so long as it is black.

My Life and Work (1922) by Henry Ford

The limits of my language mean the limits of my world.

Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus (1922)
by Ludwig Wittgenstein
translated by C. K. Ogden and D. F. Pears

design of sorting algorithms
↕
semantics of programming languages

categorical algorithmics



Section 2

Insertion and selection sort I

⟨...⟩ the area of sorting and searching provides an ideal framework for discussing a wide variety of important general issues:

- How are good algorithms discovered?
- ⟨...⟩

Indeed, I believe that virtually *every* important aspect of programming arises somewhere in the context of sorting or searching!

The Art of Computer Programming
Volume 3: Sorting and Searching
by Donald E. Knuth

The time you spent working on the challenge problem will pay dividends as you continue to read this chapter. Chances are your solution is one of the following types:

A. *An insertion sort.* The items are considered one at a time, and each new item is inserted into the appropriate position relative to the previously-sorted items. (This is the way many bridge players sort their hands, picking up one card at a time.)

B. *An exchange sort.* If two items are found to be out of order, they are interchanged. This process is repeated until no more exchanges are necessary.

C. *A selection sort.* First the smallest (or perhaps the largest) item is located, and it is somehow separated from the rest; then the next smallest (or next largest) is selected, and so on.

D. *An enumeration sort.* Each item is compared with each of the others; an item's final position is determined by the number of keys that it exceeds.

E. *A special-purpose sort,* which works nicely for sorting five elements as stated in the problem, but does not readily generalize to larger numbers of items.

F. *A lazy attitude,* with which you ignored the suggestion above and decided not to solve the problem at all. Sorry, by now you have read too far and you have lost your chance.

G. *A new, super sorting technique* that is a definite improvement over known methods. (Please communicate this to the author at once.)

2.1 Insertion sort

- also known as “bridge player sort”
- *idea*: maintain an ordered sequence (invariant)
- consume the input sequence one by one
- insert each element into the ordered sequence
- the focus is on the *input*

2.1 Knuth's straight insertion sort

Program S (*Straight insertion sort*). The records to be sorted are in locations INPUT+1 through INPUT+N; they are sorted in place in the same area, on a full-word key. $rI1 \equiv j - N$; $rI2 \equiv i$; $rA \equiv R \equiv K$; assume that $N \geq 2$.

01	START	ENT1	2-N	1	<u>S1. Loop on j. $j \leftarrow 2$.</u>
02	2H	LDA	INPUT+N,1	$N - 1$	<u>S2. Set up i, K, R.</u>
03		ENT2	N-1,1	$N - 1$	$i \leftarrow j - 1$.
04	3H	CMPA	INPUT,2	$B + N - 1 - A$	<u>S3. Compare $K : K_i$.</u>
05		JGE	5F	$B + N - 1 - A$	To S5 if $K \geq K_i$.
06	4H	LDX	INPUT,2	B	<u>S4. Move R_i, decrease i.</u>
07		STX	INPUT+1,2	B	$R_{i+1} \leftarrow R_i$.
08		DEC2	1	B	$i \leftarrow i - 1$.
09		J2P	3B	B	To S3 if $i > 0$.
10	5H	STA	INPUT+1,2	$N - 1$	<u>S5. R into R_{i+1}.</u>
11		INC1	1	$N - 1$	
12		J1NP	2B	$N - 1$	$2 \leq j \leq N$. ■

2.1 A functional insertion sort

insertSort :: (Ord a) ⇒ [a] → [a]

insertSort [] = []

insertSort (x:xs) = x 'insert' *insertSort* xs

insert :: (Ord a) ⇒ a → [a] → [a]

insert x [] = [x]

insert x (y:xs)

| x ≤ y = x:y:xs

| otherwise = y:insert x xs

2.1 *insertSort* is an instance of *foldr*

$$x_1 : (x_2 : \dots : (x_{n-1} : (x_n : [])))$$


foldr insert []

$$x_1 \text{ 'insert' } (x_2 \text{ 'insert' } \dots \text{ 'insert' } (x_{n-1} \text{ 'insert' } (x_n \text{ 'insert' } [])))$$

2.1 *foldr* captures a recursion pattern

$$x_1 : (x_2 : \dots : (x_{n-1} : (x_n : [])))$$



foldr (\otimes) *e*

$$x_1 \otimes (x_2 \otimes \dots \otimes (x_{n-1} \otimes (x_n \otimes e)))$$

Slogan: replacing constructors by functions.

2.1 Insertion sort, revisited

$insertSort :: (Ord\ a) \Rightarrow [a] \rightarrow [a]$
 $insertSort = foldr\ insert\ []$

$insert :: (Ord\ a) \Rightarrow a \rightarrow [a] \rightarrow [a]$
 $insert\ x\ [] = [x]$
 $insert\ x\ (y : xs)$
 $|\ x \leq y = x : y : xs$
 $| \textit{otherwise} = y : insert\ x\ xs$

But what about *insert*?

2.2 Selection sort

- *idea*: produce an ordered sequence by repeatedly selecting the minimum element
- initial seed or state: input sequence
- the focus is on the *output*
- selection sort is in some sense *dual* to insertion sort

2.2 Knuth's straight selection sort

Program S (*Straight selection sort*). As in previous programs of this chapter, the records in locations INPUT+1 through INPUT+N are sorted in place, on a full-word key. rA \equiv current maximum, rI1 $\equiv j - 1$, rI2 $\equiv k$ (the current search position), rI3 $\equiv i$. Assume that $N \geq 2$.

01	START	ENT1	N-1	1	<u>S1. Loop on j.</u> $j \leftarrow N$.
02	2H	ENT2	0,1	N-1	<u>S2. Find max</u> (K_1, \dots, K_j). $k \leftarrow j - 1$.
03		ENT3	1,1	N-1	$i \leftarrow j$.
04		LDA	INPUT,3	N-1	rA $\leftarrow K_i$.
05	8H	CMPA	INPUT,2	A	
06		JGE	*+3	A	Jump if $K_i \geq K_k$.
07		ENT3	0,2	B	Otherwise set $i \leftarrow k$,
08		LDA	INPUT,3	B	rA $\leftarrow K_i$.
09		DEC2	1	A	$k \leftarrow k - 1$.
10		J2P	8B	A	Repeat if $k > 0$.
11		LDX	INPUT+1,1	N-1	<u>S3. Exchange with R_j.</u>
12		STX	INPUT,3	N-1	$R_i \leftarrow R_j$.
13		STA	INPUT+1,1	N-1	$R_j \leftarrow rA$.
14		DEC1	1	N-1	
15		J1P	2B	N-1	$N \geq j \geq 2$. ■

2.2 A functional selection sort

selectSort :: (Ord a) ⇒ [a] → [a]
selectSort = *unfoldr select*

select :: (Ord a) ⇒ [a] → Maybe (a, [a])
select [] = *Nothing*
select (x : xs)

= **case** *select* xs **of**
Nothing → *Just* (x, [])
Just (y, ys)
 | x ≤ y → *Just* (x, xs)
 | *otherwise* → *Just* (y, x : ys)

But what about *select*?

2.2 Intermediate summary

- *unfoldr* is the *categorical* dual of *foldr*
- insertion is *in some sense* dual to selection
- the details of this relationship are somewhat shrouded by our language
- to illuminate the connection, we use a *type-driven approach* to algorithm design



Section 3

Background

3.0 Background

- the list datatype is recursively defined

data $[a] = [] \mid a : [a]$

- semantics*: fixed point of an associated higher-order type constructor

data *List list* $a = Nil \mid Cons\ a\ (list\ a)$

- for simplicity, let's fix the type of elements,

data *List list* $= Nil \mid Cons\ K\ list$

where K is some key type that admits ordering

- categorical concept*: initial algebra of a functor
- NB. *List* is the non-recursive *base functor* of the list datatype; $\mu List$ is then the recursive list type

3.1 Functor in Haskell

- in Haskell, a functor is given by a datatype definition

```
data List list = Nil | Cons K list
```

- and an associated *Functor* declaration

```
instance Functor List where
```

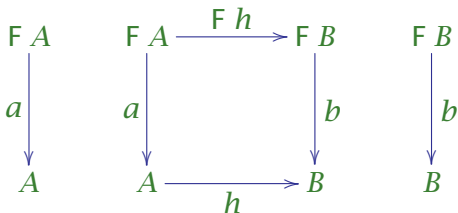
```
  map f Nil          = Nil
```

```
  map f (Cons k ks) = Cons k (f ks)
```

- the mapping function changes the elements of a container, but keeps its structure intact
- the type parameter *list* marks the ‘recursive’ component

3.2 Algebra and algebra homomorphism

- an F -algebra a is an arrow of type $F A \rightarrow A$



- an F -algebra homomorphism h preserves the structure
- F -algebras and homomorphisms form a category

3.2 Initial algebra in Haskell

- in Haskell, μf can be defined

newtype $\mu f = In \{ in^\circ :: f (\mu f) \}$

- as an aside, $In a$ will be written as $[a]$
- since in is an isomorphism, we can turn the commuting diagram into a *generic* definition of *fold*

$$fold :: (Functor f) \Rightarrow (f a \rightarrow a) \rightarrow (\mu f \rightarrow a)$$

$$fold f = f \cdot map (fold f) \cdot in^\circ$$

3.3 Duality



- we obtain the categorical *dual* by reversing the arrows
- algebras dualise to coalgebras
- initial algebras dualise to final coalgebras

3.3 Coalgebra

- an F -coalgebra c is an arrow of type $C \rightarrow F C$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 C & & C & \xrightarrow{h} & D \\
 \downarrow c & & \downarrow c & & \downarrow d \\
 F C & & F C & \xrightarrow{F h} & F D \\
 & & & & \downarrow d \\
 & & & & F D
 \end{array}$$

- an F -coalgebra homomorphism h preserves the structure
- F -coalgebras and homomorphisms form a category

3.3 Final coalgebra

- the final object in this category, the final F -coalgebra, is the ‘greatest’ fixed point of F

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 C & \xrightarrow{\text{unfold } c} & \nu F \\
 \downarrow c & & \downarrow \text{out} \\
 F C & \xrightarrow{F(\text{unfold } c)} & F(\nu F)
 \end{array}$$

- finality entails that there is a *unique* homomorphism to the final coalgebra from any coalgebra c , called *unfold* c
- final *List*-coalgebra: finite and infinite lists (in **Set**)

3.3 Final coalgebra in Haskell

- in Haskell, νf can be defined

newtype $\nu f = \text{Out}^\circ \{ \text{out} :: f (\nu f) \}$

- as an aside, $\text{Out}^\circ a$ will be written as $\lfloor a \rfloor$
- since out is an isomorphism, we can turn the commuting diagram into a *generic* definition of *unfold*

$$\begin{aligned} \text{unfold} &:: (\text{Functor } f) \Rightarrow (a \rightarrow f a) \rightarrow (a \rightarrow \nu f) \\ \text{unfold } f &= \text{out}^\circ \cdot \text{map } (\text{unfold } f) \cdot f \end{aligned}$$

- Haskell: initial algebras and final coalgebras coincide!

3.4 Embedding initial into final

Least fixed points can be embedded into greatest fixed points.

$$\text{upcast} :: (\text{Functor } f) \Rightarrow \mu f \rightarrow \nu f$$

3.4 Embedding initial into final

Least fixed points can be embedded into greatest fixed points.

$$\text{upcast} :: (\text{Functor } f) \Rightarrow \mu f \rightarrow \nu f$$

How to define *upcast*? We can write it as a fold ...

$$\text{fold } \dots : \mu F \rightarrow \nu F$$

...

3.4 Embedding initial into final

Least fixed points can be embedded into greatest fixed points.

$$\text{upcast} :: (\text{Functor } f) \Rightarrow \mu f \rightarrow \nu f$$

How to define *upcast*? We can write it as a fold ...

$$\text{fold } \dots : \mu F \rightarrow \nu F$$

$$\dots : F (\nu F) \rightarrow \nu F$$

3.4 Embedding initial into final

Least fixed points can be embedded into greatest fixed points.

$$\text{upcast} :: (\text{Functor } f) \Rightarrow \mu f \rightarrow \nu f$$

How to define *upcast*? We can write it as a fold ...

$$\text{fold } (\text{unfold } c) : \mu F \rightarrow \nu F$$

$$\text{unfold } c : F (\nu F) \rightarrow \nu F$$

3.4 Embedding initial into final

Least fixed points can be embedded into greatest fixed points.

$$\text{upcast} :: (\text{Functor } f) \Rightarrow \mu f \rightarrow \nu f$$

How to define *upcast*? We can write it as a fold ...

$$\text{fold } (\text{unfold } c) : \mu F \rightarrow \nu F$$

$$\text{unfold } c : F (\nu F) \rightarrow \nu F$$

$$c : F (\nu F) \rightarrow F (F (\nu F))$$

3.4 Embedding initial into final

Least fixed points can be embedded into greatest fixed points.

$$\text{upcast} :: (\text{Functor } f) \Rightarrow \mu f \rightarrow \nu f$$

How to define *upcast*? We can write it as a fold ...

$$\text{fold } (\text{unfold } c) : \mu F \rightarrow \nu F$$

$$\text{unfold } c : F (\nu F) \rightarrow \nu F$$

$$c : F (\nu F) \rightarrow F (F (\nu F))$$

... or as an unfold:

$$\text{unfold } (\text{fold } a) : \mu F \rightarrow \nu F$$

3.4 Embedding initial into final

Least fixed points can be embedded into greatest fixed points.

$$\text{upcast} :: (\text{Functor } f) \Rightarrow \mu f \rightarrow \nu f$$

How to define *upcast*? We can write it as a fold ...

$$\text{fold } (\text{unfold } c) : \mu F \rightarrow \nu F$$

$$\text{unfold } c : F (\nu F) \rightarrow \nu F$$

$$c : F (\nu F) \rightarrow F (F (\nu F))$$

... or as an unfold:

$$\text{unfold } (\text{fold } a) : \mu F \rightarrow \nu F$$

$$\text{fold } a : \mu F \rightarrow F (\mu F)$$

3.4 Embedding initial into final

Least fixed points can be embedded into greatest fixed points.

$$\text{upcast} :: (\text{Functor } f) \Rightarrow \mu f \rightarrow \nu f$$

How to define *upcast*? We can write it as a fold ...

$$\text{fold } (\text{unfold } c) : \mu F \rightarrow \nu F$$

$$\text{unfold } c : F (\nu F) \rightarrow \nu F$$

$$c : F (\nu F) \rightarrow F (F (\nu F))$$

... or as an unfold:

$$\text{unfold } (\text{fold } a) : \mu F \rightarrow \nu F$$

$$\text{fold } a : \mu F \rightarrow F (\mu F)$$

$$a : F (F (\mu F)) \rightarrow F (\mu F)$$

3.4 Embedding initial into final

Least fixed points can be embedded into greatest fixed points.

$$\text{upcast} :: (\text{Functor } f) \Rightarrow \mu f \rightarrow \nu f$$

How to define *upcast*? We can write it as a fold ...

$$\text{fold } (\text{unfold } c) : \mu F \rightarrow \nu F$$

$$\text{unfold } c : F (\nu F) \rightarrow \nu F$$

$$c : F (\nu F) \rightarrow F (F (\nu F))$$

... or as an unfold:

$$\text{unfold } (\text{fold } a) : \mu F \rightarrow \nu F$$

$$\text{fold } a : \mu F \rightarrow F (\mu F)$$

$$a : F (F (\mu F)) \rightarrow F (\mu F)$$

Obvious candidates: $c = \text{map out}$ and $a = \text{map in}$.

The coalgebra *fold* (*map in*) is the inverse of *in*; the algebra *unfold* (*map out*) is the inverse of *out*. Moreover,

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 F(\mu F) & \longrightarrow & F(\nu F) \\
 \downarrow \textit{in} & & \downarrow \textit{out}^\circ = \textit{unfold}(\textit{map out}) \\
 \mu F & \overset{\textit{fold out}^\circ}{\dashv} \parallel \overset{\textit{unfold in}^\circ}{\dashv} \rhd & \nu F \\
 \downarrow \textit{fold}(\textit{map in}) = \textit{in}^\circ & & \downarrow \textit{out} \\
 F(\mu F) & \longrightarrow & F(\nu F)
 \end{array}$$

(The triples $\langle \mu F, \textit{in}, \textit{in}^\circ \rangle$ and $\langle \nu F, \textit{out}^\circ, \textit{out} \rangle$ are examples of *bialgebras*, more later.)

3.4 Intermediate summary

- *initial algebra*: syntax (finite trees)
- folds: replacing constructors by functions
- (denotational semantics: compositional valuation function that maps syntax to semantics—folding over syntax trees)
- *final coalgebra*: behaviour (finite and infinite trees)
- unfolds: tracing a state space
- (operational semantics: unfolding to transition trees)
- we have seen a glimpse of type-driven program development
- running time (assuming a *strict* setting):
 - *fold*: proportional to the size of the input
 - *unfold*: proportional to the size of the output (output-sensitive algorithm)



Section 4

Exchange sort

4.0 Back to sorting

A sorting function takes a list to an ordered list,

$$\text{sort} :: \mu\text{List} \rightarrow \nu\text{List}$$

where νList is the datatype of ordered lists:

```
data List list = Nil | Cons K list
```

```
instance Functor List where
```

```
  map f Nil           = Nil
```

```
  map f (Cons k ks) = Cons k (f ks)
```

(No guarantees, we use List for emphasis.)

To define a sorting function let us follow a type-directed approach:

$$f :: \mu\text{List} \rightarrow \nu\underline{\text{List}}$$

$$f = \text{unfold } c$$

To define a sorting function let us follow a type-directed approach:

$$f :: \mu\text{List} \rightarrow \nu\underline{\text{List}}$$
$$f = \text{unfold } c$$
$$c :: \mu\text{List} \rightarrow \underline{\text{List}} (\mu\text{List})$$
$$c = \text{fold } a$$

To define a sorting function let us follow a type-directed approach:

$$f :: \mu\text{List} \rightarrow \nu\underline{\text{List}}$$

$$f = \text{unfold } c$$

$$c :: \mu\text{List} \rightarrow \underline{\text{List}} (\mu\text{List})$$

$$c = \text{fold } a$$

$$a :: \text{List} (\underline{\text{List}} (\mu\text{List})) \rightarrow \underline{\text{List}} (\mu\text{List})$$

$$a \text{ Nil} = \underline{\text{Nil}}$$

$$a (\text{Cons } x \text{ Nil}) = \underline{\text{Cons}} x [\text{Nil}]$$

$$a (\text{Cons } x (\text{Cons } y \text{ xs}))$$

$$| x \leq y = \underline{\text{Cons}} x [\text{Cons } y \text{ xs}]$$

$$| \text{otherwise} = \underline{\text{Cons}} y [\text{Cons } x \text{ xs}]$$

4.1 Bubble sort

We have re-invented bubble sort!

bubbleSort :: $\mu\text{List} \rightarrow \nu\text{List}$
bubbleSort = *unfold bubble*

bubble :: $\mu\text{List} \rightarrow \underline{\text{List}} (\mu\text{List})$
bubble = *fold bub*

bub :: $\text{List} (\underline{\text{List}} (\mu\text{List})) \rightarrow \underline{\text{List}} (\mu\text{List})$

bub Nil = Nil

bub (Cons x Nil) = Cons x [Nil]

bub (Cons x (Cons y xs))

| $x \leq y$ = Cons x [Cons y xs]

| *otherwise* = Cons y [Cons x xs]

Dually, we can start with a fold:

$$f :: \mu\text{List} \rightarrow \nu\underline{\text{List}}$$
$$f = \text{fold } a$$

Dually, we can start with a fold:

$$f :: \mu\text{List} \rightarrow \nu\underline{\text{List}}$$
$$f = \text{fold } a$$
$$a :: \text{List } (\nu\underline{\text{List}}) \rightarrow \nu\underline{\text{List}}$$
$$a = \text{unfold } c$$

Dually, we can start with a fold:

$$f :: \mu\text{List} \rightarrow \nu\underline{\text{List}}$$

$$f = \text{fold } a$$

$$a :: \text{List } (\nu\underline{\text{List}}) \rightarrow \nu\underline{\text{List}}$$

$$a = \text{unfold } c$$

$$c :: \text{List } (\nu\underline{\text{List}}) \rightarrow \underline{\text{List}} (\text{List } (\nu\underline{\text{List}}))$$

$$c \text{ Nil} = \underline{\text{Nil}}$$

$$c (\text{Cons } x \text{ [Nil]}) = \underline{\text{Cons}} x \text{ Nil}$$

$$c (\text{Cons } x \text{ [Cons } y \text{ xs]})$$

$$| x \leq y = \underline{\text{Cons}} x (\text{Cons } y \text{ xs})$$

$$| \text{otherwise} = \underline{\text{Cons}} y (\text{Cons } x \text{ xs})$$

4.2 Naïve insertion sort

We obtain a naïve variant of insertion sort!

$$\begin{aligned} \text{naiveInsertionSort} &:: \mu\text{List} \rightarrow \underline{\nu\text{List}} \\ \text{naiveInsertionSort} &= \text{fold naiveInsert} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{naiveInsert} &:: \text{List } (\underline{\nu\text{List}}) \rightarrow \underline{\nu\text{List}} \\ \text{naiveInsert} &= \text{unfold naiveIns} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{naiveIns} &:: \text{List } (\underline{\nu\text{List}}) \rightarrow \underline{\text{List}} (\underline{\text{List}} (\underline{\nu\text{List}})) \\ \text{naiveIns Nil} &= \underline{\text{Nil}} \\ \text{naiveIns } (\text{Cons } x \text{ [Nil]}) &= \underline{\text{Cons}} x \text{ Nil} \\ \text{naiveIns } (\text{Cons } x \text{ [Cons } y \text{ xs]}) & \\ \quad | x \leq y &= \underline{\text{Cons}} x (\text{Cons } y \text{ xs}) \\ \quad | \text{otherwise} &= \underline{\text{Cons}} y (\text{Cons } x \text{ xs}) \end{aligned}$$

Why naïve?

The algebra and the coalgebra are almost identical:

$$\begin{aligned}
 a &:: \text{List } (\underline{\text{List}} \ (\mu\text{List})) \rightarrow \underline{\text{List}} \ (\mu\text{List}) \\
 a \ \text{Nil} &= \underline{\text{Nil}} \\
 a \ (\text{Cons } x \ \underline{\text{Nil}}) &= \underline{\text{Cons}} \ x \ [\text{Nil}] \\
 a \ (\text{Cons } x \ (\underline{\text{Cons}} \ y \ xs)) & \\
 \quad | \ x \leq y &= \underline{\text{Cons}} \ x \ [\text{Cons } y \ xs] \\
 \quad | \ \text{otherwise} &= \underline{\text{Cons}} \ y \ [\text{Cons } x \ xs]
 \end{aligned}$$

The algebra and the coalgebra are almost identical:

$$\begin{aligned}
 a &:: \text{List } (\underline{\text{List}} \ (\mu\text{List})) \rightarrow \underline{\text{List}} \ (\mu\text{List}) \\
 a \text{ Nil} &= \underline{\text{Nil}} \\
 a \ (\text{Cons } x \ \underline{\text{Nil}}) &= \underline{\text{Cons}} \ x \ [\text{Nil}] \\
 a \ (\text{Cons } x \ (\underline{\text{Cons}} \ y \ xs)) & \\
 \quad | \ x \leq y &= \underline{\text{Cons}} \ x \ [\text{Cons } y \ xs] \\
 \quad | \ \text{otherwise} &= \underline{\text{Cons}} \ y \ [\text{Cons } x \ xs]
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 c &:: \text{List } (\nu\text{List}) \rightarrow \underline{\text{List}} \ (\text{List } (\nu\text{List})) \\
 c \text{ Nil} &= \underline{\text{Nil}} \\
 c \ (\text{Cons } x \ \underline{\text{Nil}}) &= \underline{\text{Cons}} \ a \ \text{Nil} \\
 c \ (\text{Cons } x \ \underline{\text{Cons}} \ y \ xs) & \\
 \quad | \ x \leq y &= \underline{\text{Cons}} \ x \ (\text{Cons } y \ xs) \\
 \quad | \ \text{otherwise} &= \underline{\text{Cons}} \ y \ (\text{Cons } x \ xs)
 \end{aligned}$$

The algebra and the coalgebra are almost identical:

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 a :: \text{List } (\underline{\text{List}} (\mu\text{List})) \rightarrow \underline{\text{List}} (\mu\text{List}) & c :: \text{List } (\nu\text{List}) \rightarrow \underline{\text{List}} (\text{List } (\nu\text{List})) \\
 a \text{ Nil} = \underline{\text{Nil}} & c \text{ Nil} = \underline{\text{Nil}} \\
 a (\text{Cons } x \text{ Nil}) = \underline{\text{Cons}} x [\text{Nil}] & c (\text{Cons } x [\underline{\text{Nil}}]) = \underline{\text{Cons}} a \text{ Nil} \\
 a (\text{Cons } x (\underline{\text{Cons}} y \text{ xs})) & c (\text{Cons } x [\underline{\text{Cons}} y \text{ xs}]) \\
 \quad | x \leq y = \underline{\text{Cons}} x [\text{Cons } y \text{ xs}] & \quad | x \leq y = \underline{\text{Cons}} x (\text{Cons } y \text{ xs}) \\
 \quad | \text{otherwise} = \underline{\text{Cons}} y [\text{Cons } x \text{ xs}] & \quad | \text{otherwise} = \underline{\text{Cons}} y (\text{Cons } x \text{ xs})
 \end{array}$$

We can unify them in a single *natural transformation*:

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \text{swap} :: \text{List } (\underline{\text{List}} a) \rightarrow \underline{\text{List}} (\text{List } a) \\
 \text{swap Nil} = \underline{\text{Nil}} \\
 \text{swap } (\text{Cons } x \text{ Nil}) = \underline{\text{Cons}} x \text{ Nil} \\
 \text{swap } (\text{Cons } x (\underline{\text{Cons}} y \text{ xs})) \\
 \quad | x \leq y = \underline{\text{Cons}} x (\text{Cons } y \text{ xs}) \\
 \quad | \text{otherwise} = \underline{\text{Cons}} y (\text{Cons } x \text{ xs})
 \end{array}$$

$$\text{swap} :: \text{List } (\underline{\text{List}} \ x) \rightarrow \underline{\text{List}} (\text{List } x)$$
$$\text{swap } \text{Nil} \quad \quad \quad = \underline{\text{Nil}}$$
$$\text{swap } (\text{Cons } x \ \underline{\text{Nil}}) = \underline{\text{Cons}} \ x \ \text{Nil}$$
$$\text{swap } (\text{Cons } x \ (\underline{\text{Cons}} \ y \ l))$$
$$\quad | \ x \leq y \quad \quad \quad = \underline{\text{Cons}} \ x \ (\text{Cons } y \ xs)$$
$$\quad | \ \text{otherwise} \quad \quad = \underline{\text{Cons}} \ y \ (\text{Cons } x \ xs)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{swap} &:: \text{List } (\underline{\text{List}} \ x) \rightarrow \underline{\text{List}} \ (\text{List } \ x) \\
 \text{swap } \text{Nil} &= \underline{\text{Nil}} \\
 \text{swap } (\text{Cons } \ x \ \underline{\text{Nil}}) &= \underline{\text{Cons}} \ x \ \text{Nil} \\
 \text{swap } (\text{Cons } \ x \ (\underline{\text{Cons}} \ y \ l)) & \\
 \quad | \ x \leq y &= \underline{\text{Cons}} \ x \ (\text{Cons } y \ xs) \\
 \quad | \text{otherwise} &= \underline{\text{Cons}} \ y \ (\text{Cons } x \ xs)
 \end{aligned}$$

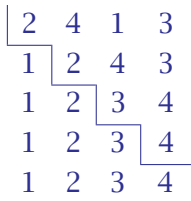
We can re-define bubble and naïve insertion sort using *swap*:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{bubbleSort} &:: \mu\text{List} \rightarrow \nu\underline{\text{List}} \\
 \text{bubbleSort} &= \text{unfold } (\text{fold } (\text{map } \text{in} \cdot \text{swap})) \\
 \\
 \text{naiveInsertionSort} &:: \mu\text{List} \rightarrow \nu\underline{\text{List}} \\
 \text{naiveInsertionSort} &= \text{fold } (\text{unfold } (\text{swap} \cdot \text{map } \text{out}))
 \end{aligned}$$

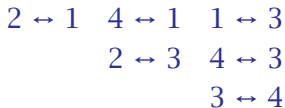
In a sense, *swap* extracts the computational ‘essence’ of bubble and naïve insertion sorting.

bubble sort

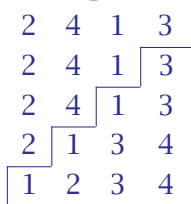
initial input



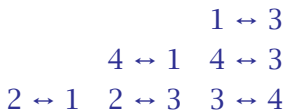
output

**naïve insertion sort**

input



final output



4.2 Intermediate summary

- *swap* exchanges adjacent elements
- *swap* is the computational essence of bubble sort and naïve insertion sort
- running time $\Theta(n^2)$
- how can we write true insertion sort?
- first: proof that *bubbleSort* and *naiveInsertionSort* are equal (in a strong sense)



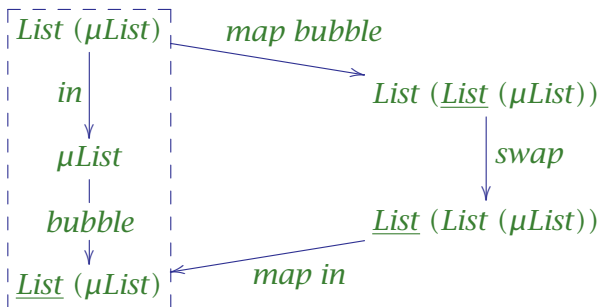
Section 5

Bialgebras and distributive laws

Recall that *bubble* is a *List*-algebra homomorphism.

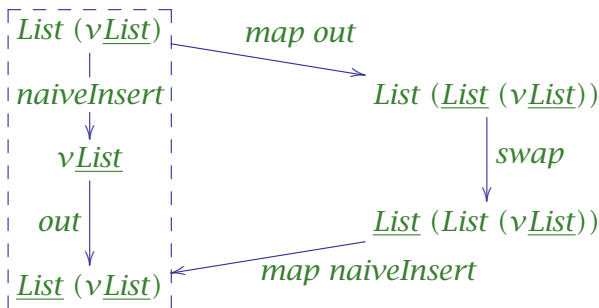
$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{List } (\mu\text{List}) & \xrightarrow{\text{map bubble}} & \text{List } (\underline{\text{List}} (\mu\text{List})) \\
 \downarrow \text{in} & & \downarrow \text{swap} \\
 & & \underline{\text{List}} (\text{List } (\mu\text{List})) \\
 & & \downarrow \text{map in} \\
 \mu\text{List} & \xrightarrow{\text{bubble}} & \underline{\text{List}} (\mu\text{List})
 \end{array}$$

Let us rearrange the diagram.



The algebra in and the coalgebra $bubble$ form a $swap$ -bialgebra: $\langle \mu List, in, bubble \rangle$.

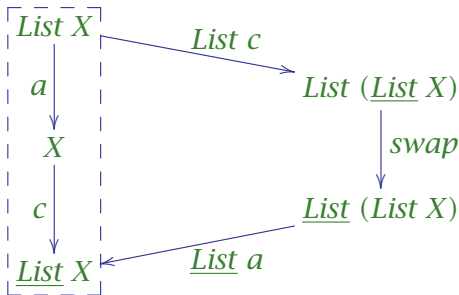
Recall that *naiveInsert* is a List-coalgebra homomorphism.



The algebra *naiveInsert* and the coalgebra *out* also form a *swap*-bialgebra: $\langle \underline{vList}, \underline{naiveInsert}, \underline{out} \rangle$.

5.1 Bialgebra

For an algebra a and coalgebra c to be a *swap*-bialgebra, we must have that



5.2 Bialgebra homomorphism

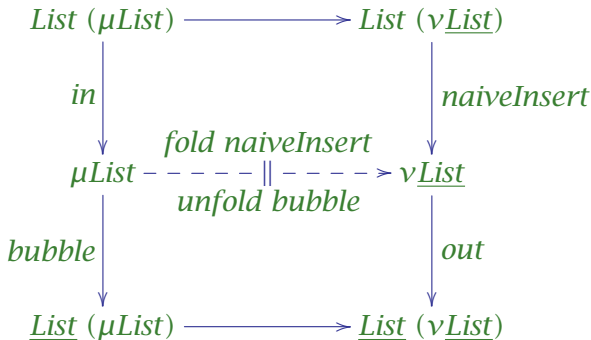
A *swap*-bialgebra homomorphism h is simultaneously an *List*-algebra and a List-coalgebra homomorphism.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{List } X & \xrightarrow{\text{List } h} & \text{List } Y \\
 \downarrow a & & \downarrow b \\
 X & \xrightarrow{h} & Y \\
 \downarrow c & & \downarrow d \\
 \underline{\text{List}} X & \xrightarrow{\underline{\text{List}} h} & \underline{\text{List}} Y
 \end{array}$$

swap-bialgebras and homomorphisms form a category.

5.2 Initial and final bialgebra

The *initial object* in this category is $\langle \mu\text{List}, \text{in}, \text{bubble} \rangle$; the *final object* is $\langle \nu\text{List}, \text{naiveInsert}, \text{out} \rangle$.



By uniqueness, *naiveInsertionSort* and *bubbleSort* are equal.

5.2 Intermediate summary

- *swap* is a distributive law
- $\langle \mu\text{List}, in, bubble \rangle$ is the initial *swap*-bialgebra
- $\langle \nu\text{List}, naiveInsert, out \rangle$ is the final *swap*-bialgebra
- bubble sort and naïve insertion sort are two (strongly related) variations of the same idea: repeatedly exchanging adjacent elements



Section 6

Insertion and selection sort II

- sorting algorithms as folds of unfolds or unfolds of folds necessarily have a running time of $\Theta(n^2)$
- to define insertion and selection sort, we need variants of folds and unfolds, so-called *para-* and *apomorphisms*

6.1 Paramorphism

- we start by defining products

data $a \times b = As \{ outl :: a, outr :: b \}$

$(\Delta) :: (c \rightarrow a) \rightarrow (c \rightarrow b) \rightarrow (c \rightarrow a \times b)$

$(f \Delta g) x = As (f x) (g x)$

- we write $As a b$ as $a \simeq b$ (we use it like Haskell's $a@b$).

6.1 Paramorphism

- we start by defining products

data $a \times b = As \{ outl :: a, outr :: b \}$

$(\Delta) :: (c \rightarrow a) \rightarrow (c \rightarrow b) \rightarrow (c \rightarrow a \times b)$

$(f \Delta g) x = As (f x) (g x)$

- we write $As a b$ as $a =_b$ (we use it like Haskell's $a@b$).
- we are now ready to define paramorphisms:

$para :: (Functor f) \Rightarrow (f (\mu f \times a) \rightarrow a) \rightarrow (\mu f \rightarrow a)$

$para f = f \cdot map (id \Delta para f) \cdot in^\circ$

a paramorphism also provides the intermediate input:
the 'algebra' has type $f (\mu f \times a) \rightarrow a$ instead of $f a \rightarrow a$

- slogan*: eats its argument and keeps it too

6.2 Apomorphism

- products dualise to sums

data $a + b = \text{Stop } a \mid \text{Play } b$

$(\nabla) :: (a \rightarrow c) \rightarrow (b \rightarrow c) \rightarrow (a + b \rightarrow c)$

$(f \nabla g) (\text{Stop } a) = f \ a$

$(f \nabla g) (\text{Play } b) = g \ b$

- we write $\text{Stop } a$ as $a \blacksquare$, and $\text{Play } b$ as $\blacktriangleright b$

6.2 Apomorphism

- products dualise to sums

data $a + b = \text{Stop } a \mid \text{Play } b$

$(\nabla) :: (a \rightarrow c) \rightarrow (b \rightarrow c) \rightarrow (a + b \rightarrow c)$

$(f \nabla g) (\text{Stop } a) = f \ a$

$(f \nabla g) (\text{Play } b) = g \ b$

- we write $\text{Stop } a$ as $a \blacksquare$, and $\text{Play } b$ as $\blacktriangleright b$
- paramorphisms dualise to apomorphisms:

$\text{apo} :: (\text{Functor } f) \Rightarrow (a \rightarrow f (vf + a)) \rightarrow (a \rightarrow vf)$

$\text{apo } f = \text{out}^\circ \cdot \text{map } (\text{id} \nabla \text{apo } f) \cdot f$

the corecursion is split into two branches, with *no recursive call* on the left

- *apomorphisms improve the running time*

With apomorphisms, we can write the insertion function as one that stops scanning after inserting an element:

$$\textit{insertSort} :: \mu\textit{List} \rightarrow \nu\underline{\textit{List}}$$
$$\textit{insertSort} = \textit{fold insert}$$

With apomorphisms, we can write the insertion function as one that stops scanning after inserting an element:

$$\text{insertSort} :: \mu\text{List} \rightarrow \nu\underline{\text{List}}$$
$$\text{insertSort} = \text{fold insert}$$
$$\text{insert} :: \text{List } (\nu\underline{\text{List}}) \rightarrow \nu\underline{\text{List}}$$
$$\text{insert} = \text{apo ins}$$

With apomorphisms, we can write the insertion function as one that stops scanning after inserting an element:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{insertSort} &:: \mu\text{List} \rightarrow \nu\text{List} \\ \text{insertSort} &= \text{fold insert} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{insert} &:: \text{List } (\nu\text{List}) \rightarrow \nu\text{List} \\ \text{insert} &= \text{apo ins} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ins} &:: \text{List } (\nu\text{List}) \rightarrow \text{List } (\nu\text{List} + \text{List } (\nu\text{List})) \\ \text{ins Nil} &= \text{Nil} \\ \text{ins } (\text{Cons } x \text{ [Nil]}) &= \text{Cons } x \text{ ([Nil] } \blacksquare) \\ \text{ins } (\text{Cons } x \text{ [Cons } y \text{ xs]}) & \\ \quad | \ x \leq y &= \text{Cons } x \text{ ([Cons } y \text{ xs] } \blacksquare) \\ \quad | \ \text{otherwise} &= \text{Cons } y \text{ (}\blacktriangleright \text{ (Cons } x \text{ xs))} \end{aligned}$$

From *ins* we can extract a natural transformation, which we call *swop* for *swap'n'stop*:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{swop} &:: \text{List } (a \times \underline{\text{List}} a) \rightarrow \underline{\text{List}} (a + \text{List } a) \\
 \text{swop Nil} &= \underline{\text{Nil}} \\
 \text{swop } (\text{Cons } x \text{ (xs} \simeq \underline{\text{Nil}})) &= \underline{\text{Cons}} x \text{ (xs} \blacksquare) \\
 \text{swop } (\text{Cons } x \text{ (xs} \simeq (\underline{\text{Cons}} y \text{ ys}))) & \\
 \quad | x \leq y &= \underline{\text{Cons}} x \text{ (xs} \blacksquare) \\
 \quad | \textit{otherwise} &= \underline{\text{Cons}} y \text{ (}\blacktriangleright (\text{Cons } x \text{ ys}))
 \end{aligned}$$

From *swop* we get both insertion and selection sort:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{insertSort} &:: \mu\text{List} \rightarrow \underline{\nu\text{List}} \\ \text{insertSort} &= \text{fold} \quad (\text{apo} \quad (\text{swop} \cdot \text{map} \quad (\text{id} \triangle \text{out}))) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{selectSort} &:: \mu\text{List} \rightarrow \underline{\nu\text{List}} \\ \text{selectSort} &= \text{unfold} \quad (\text{para} \quad (\text{map} \quad (\text{id} \nabla \text{in}) \cdot \text{swop})) \end{aligned}$$

In general, a natural transformation such as *swop* gives rise to two algorithms. Algorithms for free!

6.3 Intermediate summary

- *apomorphisms improve the running time*
- running time of insertion sort: worst case still $\Theta(n^2)$, but best case $\Theta(n)$
- (paramorphisms don't improve the running time)
- the computational essence of insertion and selection sort is the natural transformation *swop*
- in general, we shall seek natural transformation of type

$$F (A \times G A) \rightarrow G (A + F A)$$

- (proof of equality involves (co-) pointed functors)



Section 7

Quicksort and treesort

- *so far*: one-phase sorting algorithms

$\mu\text{List} \rightarrow \nu\underline{\text{List}}$

- to improve performance we need to exchange non-adjacent elements
- *next*: two-phase sorting algorithms that make use of an intermediate data structure

$\mu\text{List} \rightarrow \nu\text{Tree} \rightarrow \mu\text{Tree} \rightarrow \nu\underline{\text{List}}$

- the intermediate data structure can sometimes be deforested (turning a data into a control structure)
- we can play our game for each phase

7.0 Search trees

- an obvious intermediate data structure is a *binary tree*

data *Tree tree = Empty | Node tree K tree*

instance *Functor Tree where*

map f Empty = Empty

map f (Node l k r) = Node (f l) k (f r)

- we assume a ‘horizontal’ ordering

type *SearchTree = Tree*

7.1 Phase one: growing a search tree

- the essence of growing a search tree

sprout :: List (a × SearchTree a) → SearchTree (a + List a)

sprout Nil = Empty

sprout (Cons x (t = Empty)) = Node (t ■) x (t ■)

sprout (Cons x (t = (Node l y r)))

| $x \leq y$ = Node (► (Cons x l)) y (r ■)

| otherwise = Node (l ■) y (► (Cons x r))

- this is the only sensible definition: *no choices*
- we compare elements across some distance

- we can either recursively partition a list, building subtrees from the resulting sublists, or start with an empty tree and repeatedly insert the elements into it

$$\begin{aligned} \text{grow} &:: \mu\text{List} \rightarrow \nu\text{SearchTree} \\ \text{grow} &= \text{unfold} (\text{para} (\text{map} (\text{id} \nabla \text{in}) \cdot \text{sprout})) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{grow}' &:: \mu\text{List} \rightarrow \nu\text{SearchTree} \\ \text{grow}' &= \text{fold} (\text{apo} (\text{sprout} \cdot \text{map} (\text{id} \Delta \text{out}))) \end{aligned}$$

- the algebra is a useful function on its own: insertion into a search tree
- efficient insertion into a tree is necessarily an apomorphism*

7.2 Phase two: withering a search tree

- the essence of withering a search tree

wither :: *SearchTree* (*a* × List *a*) → List (*a* + *SearchTree* *a*)

wither *Empty*

= Nil

wither (*Node* (*l* = Nil) *x* (*r* = _))

= Cons *x* (*r* ■)

wither (*Node* (*l* = (Cons *x* *l'*)) *y* (*r* = _))

= Cons *x* (▶ (*Node* *l'* *y* *r*))

- again, this is the only sensible definition

- this should surprise no one: the second phase would surely be an in-order traversal

$$\mathit{flatten} :: \mu\mathit{SearchTree} \rightarrow \nu\mathit{List}$$

$$\mathit{flatten} = \mathit{fold} (\mathit{apo} (\mathit{wither} \cdot \mathit{map} (\mathit{id} \Delta \mathit{out})))$$

$$\mathit{flatten}' :: \mu\mathit{SearchTree} \rightarrow \nu\mathit{List}$$

$$\mathit{flatten}' = \mathit{unfold} (\mathit{para} (\mathit{map} (\mathit{id} \nabla \mathit{in}) \cdot \mathit{wither}))$$

- the algebra is essentially a ternary version of append
- the coalgebra deletes the leftmost element from a search tree

7.2 Putting things together

We obtain the famous *quicksort* and the less prominent *treesort* algorithms,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{quickSort} &:: \mu\text{List} \rightarrow \nu\underline{\text{List}} \\ \text{quickSort} &= \text{flatten} \cdot \text{downcast} \cdot \text{grow} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{treeSort} &:: \mu\text{List} \rightarrow \nu\underline{\text{List}} \\ \text{treeSort} &= \text{flatten} \cdot \text{downcast} \cdot \text{grow}' \end{aligned}$$

where $\text{downcast} :: (\text{Functor } f) \Rightarrow \nu f \rightarrow \mu f$ projects the final coalgebra onto the initial algebra.

7.2 Intermediate summary

- once the intermediate data structure has been fixed, everything falls into place: *no choices*
- *observation*: only the first phase performs comparisons
- quicksort and treesort are two (strongly related) variations of the same idea
- running time: worst case still $\Theta(n^2)$, but average case $\Theta(n \log n)$



Section 8

Heapsort and mergesort

8.0 Heaps

- a search tree imposes a horizontal ordering
- we can also assume a ‘vertical’ ordering

type *Heap* = *Tree*

8.1 Phase one: piling up a heap

- the essence of piling up a heap

$$\textit{pile} :: \textit{List} (a \times \textit{Heap} a) \rightarrow \textit{Heap} (a + \textit{List} a)$$

$$\textit{pile} \textit{Nil} = \textit{Empty}$$

$$\textit{pile} (\textit{Cons} x (t = \textit{Empty})) = \textit{Node} (t \blacksquare) x (t \blacksquare)$$

$$\textit{pile} (\textit{Cons} x (t = (\textit{Node} l y r)))$$

$$| x \leq y = \textit{Node} (\blacktriangleright (\textit{Cons} y r)) x (l \blacksquare)$$

$$| \textit{otherwise} = \textit{Node} (\blacktriangleright (\textit{Cons} x r)) y (l \blacksquare)$$

- now we have a choice (3rd equation)! Braun's trick!

8.1 Phase one: piling up a heap

- the essence of piling up a heap

$$\text{pile} :: \text{List } (a \times \text{Heap } a) \rightarrow \text{Heap } (a + \text{List } a)$$

$$\text{pile Nil} = \text{Empty}$$

$$\text{pile } (\text{Cons } x \text{ (} t = \text{Empty)}) = \text{Node } (t \blacksquare) x \text{ (} t \blacksquare)$$

$$\text{pile } (\text{Cons } x \text{ (} t = (\text{Node } l \ y \ r)))$$

$$| \ x \leq y \qquad = \text{Node } (\blacktriangleright (\text{Cons } y \ r)) x \text{ (} l \blacksquare)$$

$$| \ \text{otherwise} \qquad = \text{Node } (\blacktriangleright (\text{Cons } x \ r)) y \text{ (} l \blacksquare)$$

- now we have a choice (3rd equation)! Braun's trick!
- let $a = x \text{ 'min' } y$ and $b = x \text{ 'max' } y$,

$$= \text{Node } (\blacktriangleright (\text{Cons } b \ l)) a \text{ (} r \blacksquare)$$

$$= \text{Node } (r \blacksquare) a \text{ (} \blacktriangleright (\text{Cons } b \ l))$$

$$= \text{Node } (l \blacksquare) a \text{ (} \blacktriangleright (\text{Cons } b \ r))$$

$$= \text{Node } (\blacktriangleright (\text{Cons } b \ r)) a \text{ (} l \blacksquare)$$

- as usual we obtain two algorithms

heapify :: $\mu\text{List} \rightarrow \nu\text{Heap}$

heapify = *unfold* (*para* (*map* (*id* ∇ *in*) \cdot *pile*))

heapify' :: $\mu\text{List} \rightarrow \nu\text{Heap}$

heapify' = *fold* (*apo* (*pile* \cdot *map* (*id* Δ *out*)))

- the algebra is a useful function on its own: insertion into a heap

8.2 Phase two: sifting through a heap

- the essence of sifting through a heap

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{sift} &:: \text{Heap } (a \times \underline{\text{List}} a) \rightarrow \underline{\text{List}} (a + \text{Heap } a) \\
 \text{sift Empty} &= \underline{\text{Nil}} \\
 \text{sift } (\text{Node } (l = \underline{\text{Nil}}) \times (r = _)) &= \underline{\text{Cons}} \times (r \blacksquare) \\
 \text{sift } (\text{Node } (l = _) \times (r = \underline{\text{Nil}})) &= \underline{\text{Cons}} \times (l \blacksquare) \\
 \text{sift } (\text{Node } (l = (\underline{\text{Cons}} y l')) \times (r = (\underline{\text{Cons}} z r')))) & \\
 \quad | y \leq z &= \underline{\text{Cons}} \times (\blacktriangleright (\text{Node } l' y r)) \\
 \quad | \text{otherwise} &= \underline{\text{Cons}} \times (\blacktriangleright (\text{Node } l z r'))
 \end{aligned}$$

- when constructing the heap node to continue with, we have the option to swap left with right, but this buys us nothing

- again, we obtain two algorithms

$$\text{unheapify} :: \mu\text{Heap} \rightarrow \nu\text{List}$$

$$\text{unheapify} = \text{fold} (\text{apo} (\text{sift} \cdot \text{map} (\text{id} \triangle \text{out})))$$

$$\text{unheapify}' :: \mu\text{Heap} \rightarrow \nu\text{List}$$

$$\text{unheapify}' = \text{unfold} (\text{para} (\text{map} (\text{id} \nabla \text{in}) \cdot \text{sift}))$$

- the coalgebra deletes the minimum element from a heap

8.2 Putting things together

- we obtain heapsort and a variant of heapsort that behaves suspiciously like mergesort

heapSort :: μ List \rightarrow ν List

heapSort = *unheapify* · *downcast* · *heapify*

mingleSort :: μ List \rightarrow ν List

mingleSort = *unheapify'* · *downcast* · *heapify'*

- trimorous mergesort, called minglesort, builds a heap by repeatedly dividing the input into three parts: two lists of balanced length along with the minimum element
- the merging phase is a similarly trimorous operation

8.2 Intermediate summary

- the intermediate data structure provides us with a choice (heaps are more flexible than search trees)
- *observation*: both phases use comparisons
- running time: worst case $\Theta(n \log n)$ —insensitive to the input
- mergesort is a recent variant of heapsort (closely related to *Heap-Mergesort*, see Computer and Mathematics with Applications 39, 2000)
- an analogous approach using *binary leaf trees* works for true *mergesort*



Section 9

Epilogue

9.1 Summary

- *categorical algorithmics*
- type-driven algorithm design building on a few principled recursion operators
- few design decisions: intermediate data structures
- no rabbits!
- categorical duality gives us algorithms for free
- see WGP '12 paper: *Sorting with Bialgebras and Distributive Laws* by Ralf Hinze, Daniel W. H. James, Thomas Harper, Nicolas Wu and José Pedro Magalhães

9.2 Summary and future work

- computational essence
 - naïve insertion and bubble sort: *swap*
 - insertion and selection sort: *swop*
 - growing a search tree: *sprout*
 - withering a search tree: *wither*
 - piling up a heap: *pile*
 - sifting through a heap: *sift*
- *top-down algorithms*: regular datatypes
- *bottom-up algorithms*: nested datatypes