
Isar — A language for structured proofs

Apply scripts

- unreadable

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- hard to maintain

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No structure!

Apply scripts versus Isar proofs

Apply script = assembly language program

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Isar proof = structured program with comments

Apply scripts versus Isar proofs

Apply script = assembly language program

Isar proof = structured program with comments

But: **apply** still useful for proof exploration

A typical Isar proof

proof

assume $formula_0$

have $formula_1$ **by** *simp*

⋮

have $formula_n$ **by** *blast*

show $formula_{n+1}$ **by** ...

qed

A typical Isar proof

proof

assume $formula_0$

have $formula_1$ **by** *simp*

⋮

have $formula_n$ **by** *blast*

show $formula_{n+1}$ **by** ...

qed

proves $formula_0 \implies formula_{n+1}$

Overview

- Basic Isar
- Isar by example
- Proof patterns
- Streamlining proofs

Isar core syntax

proof = **proof** [method] statement* **qed**
| **by** method

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method = (*simp ...*) | (*blast ...*) | (*rule ...*) | ...

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statement = **fix** variables (\wedge)
| **assume** prop (\implies)
| [**from** fact⁺] (**have** | **show**) prop **proof**

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prop = [name:] "formula"

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prop = [name:] "formula"

fact = name | name[**OF** fact⁺] | 'formula'

Isar by example

Example: Cantor's theorem

lemma *Cantor*: $\neg \text{surj}(f :: 'a \Rightarrow 'a \text{ set})$

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by *blast*

from *c* show *False*

by *blast*

qed

Demo: this, then etc

Abbreviations

<i>this</i>	=	the previous proposition proved or assumed
then	=	from <i>this</i>
thus	=	then show
hence	=	then have

using

First the what, then the how:

(have|show) prop **using** facts

using

First the what, then the how:

(have|show) prop **using** facts
=
from facts (have|show) prop

Example: Structured lemma statement

lemma *Cantor'*:

fixes $f :: 'a \Rightarrow 'a$ set

assumes $s: \text{surj } f$

shows *False*

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by (*auto simp: surj_def*)

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thus *False* by *blast*

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Proves $\text{surj } f \implies \text{False}$

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by (*auto simp: surj_def*)

thus *False* by *blast*

qed

Proves $\text{surj } f \implies \text{False}$

but $\text{surj } f$ becomes local fact s in proof.

The essence of structured proofs

Assumptions and intermediate facts
can be named and referred to explicitly and selectively

Structured lemma statements

fixes $x :: \tau_1$ **and** $y :: \tau_2 \dots$
assumes $a: P$ **and** $b: Q \dots$
shows R

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Structured lemma statements

fixes $x :: \tau_1$ **and** $y :: \tau_2 \dots$
assumes $a: P$ **and** $b: Q \dots$
shows R

- **fixes** and **assumes** sections optional
- **shows** optional if no **fixes** and **assumes**

Proof patterns

Propositional proof patterns

show $P \longleftrightarrow Q$

proof

 assume P

 ⋮

 show $Q \dots$

next

 assume Q

 ⋮

 show $P \dots$

qed

Propositional proof patterns

show $P \longleftrightarrow Q$

proof

 assume P

\vdots

 show $Q \dots$

next

 assume Q

\vdots

 show $P \dots$

qed

show $A = B$

proof

 show $A \subseteq B \dots$

next

 show $B \subseteq A \dots$

qed

Propositional proof patterns

show $P \longleftrightarrow Q$
proof
 assume P
 \vdots
 show $Q \dots$
next
 assume Q
 \vdots
 show $P \dots$
qed

show $A = B$
proof
 show $A \subseteq B \dots$
next
 show $B \subseteq A \dots$
qed

show $A \subseteq B$
proof
 fix x
 assume $x \in A$
 \vdots
 show $x \in B \dots$
qed

Propositional proof patterns

show R
proof cases
 assume P
 :
 show $R \dots$
next
 assume $\neg P$
 :
 show $R \dots$
qed

Case distinction

Propositional proof patterns

show R
proof cases
 assume P
 :
 show $R \dots$
next
 assume $\neg P$
 :
 show $R \dots$
qed

Case distinction

have $P \vee Q \dots$
then show R
proof
 assume P
 :
 show $R \dots$
next
 assume Q
 :
 show $R \dots$
qed

Case distinction

Propositional proof patterns

show R
proof cases
 assume P
 :
 show $R \dots$
next
 assume $\neg P$
 :
 show $R \dots$
qed

Case distinction

have $P \vee Q \dots$
then show R
proof
 assume P
 :
 show $R \dots$
next
 assume Q
 :
 show $R \dots$
qed

Case distinction

show P
proof (*rule ccontr*)
 assume $\neg P$
 :
 show *False* ...
qed

Contradiction

Quantifier introduction proof patterns

```
show  $\forall x. P(x)$   
proof  
  fix  $x$  local fixed variable  
  show  $P(x)$  ...  
qed
```

Quantifier introduction proof patterns

show $\forall x. P(x)$
proof
 fix x *local fixed variable*
 show $P(x)$...
qed

show $\exists x. P(x)$
proof
 :
 show $P(\text{witness})$...
qed

≡ ***elimination:*** obtain

\exists *elimination: obtain*

have $\exists x. P(x)$

then **obtain** x where $p: P(x)$ by blast

∴ x local fixed variable

\exists *elimination*: obtain

have $\exists x. P(x)$

then **obtain** x where $p: P(x)$ by blast

∴ x local fixed variable

Works for one or more x

obtain *example*

lemma *Cantor*'': $\neg \text{surj}(f :: 'a \Rightarrow 'a \text{ set})$

proof

assume *surj f*

hence $\exists a. \{x. x \notin f x\} = f a$ by(*auto simp: surj_def*)

obtain *example*

lemma *Cantor''*: $\neg \text{surj}(f :: 'a \Rightarrow 'a \text{ set})$

proof

assume *surj f*

hence $\exists a. \{x. x \notin f x\} = f a$ by *(auto simp: surj_def)*

then obtain *a* where $\{x. x \notin f x\} = f a$ by *blast*

obtain *example*

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assume *surj f*

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then obtain *a* where $\{x. x \notin f x\} = f a$ by *blast*

hence $a \notin f a \longleftrightarrow a \in f a$ by *blast*

obtain *example*

lemma *Cantor*": $\neg \text{surj}(f :: 'a \Rightarrow 'a \text{ set})$

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assume *surj f*

hence $\exists a. \{x. x \notin f x\} = f a$ by *(auto simp: surj_def)*

then obtain *a* where $\{x. x \notin f x\} = f a$ by *blast*

hence $a \notin f a \longleftrightarrow a \in f a$ by *blast*

thus *False* by *blast*

qed

proof method

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Applies method and generates subgoal(s):

$$1. \bigwedge x_1 \dots x_n [A_1; \dots ; A_m] \implies A$$

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$$1. \bigwedge x_1 \dots x_n \llbracket A_1; \dots ; A_m \rrbracket \implies A$$

How to prove each subgoal:

```
fix  $x_1 \dots x_n$   
assume  $A_1 \dots A_m$   
:  
show  $A$ 
```


proof method

Applies method and generates subgoal(s):

$$1. \bigwedge x_1 \dots x_n \llbracket A_1; \dots ; A_m \rrbracket \implies A$$

How to prove each subgoal:

```
fix  $X_1 \dots X_n$   
assume  $A_1 \dots A_m$   
:  
show  $A$ 
```

Separated by **next**

Demo: proof

***Streamlining proofs:
Pattern matching and Quotations***

Example: pattern matching

show $formula_1 \longleftrightarrow formula_2$ (is ?L \longleftrightarrow ?R)

Example: pattern matching

```
show  $formula_1 \longleftrightarrow formula_2$  (is ?L  $\longleftrightarrow$  ?R)
proof
  assume ?L
  :
  show ?R ...
next
  assume ?R
  :
  show ?L ...
qed
```

?thesis

show *formula*

proof -

⋮

show *?thesis* ...

qed

?thesis

show *formula* (is *?thesis*)

proof -

⋮

show *?thesis* ...

qed

?thesis

show *formula* (is *?thesis*)

proof -

⋮

show *?thesis* ...

qed

Every show implicitly defines *?thesis*

Quoting facts by value

By name:

have x0: "x > 0" ...

⋮

from x0 ...

Quoting facts by value

By name:

```
have x0: "x > 0" ...  
:  
from x0 ...
```

By value:

```
have "x > 0" ...  
:  
from 'x>0' ...
```

Quoting facts by value

By name:

```
have x0: "x > 0" ...  
:  
from x0 ...
```

By value:

```
have "x > 0" ...  
:  
from 'x>0' ...  
  ↙ ↘  
back quotes
```

Demo: pattern matching and quotations

Advanced Isar

Overview

- Case distinction
- Induction
- Chains of (in)equations

Case distinction

Demo: case distinction

Datatype case distinction

datatype $t = C_1 \vec{\tau} \mid \dots$

Datatype case distinction

datatype $t = C_1 \vec{\tau} \mid \dots$

proof (*cases term*)

case ($C_1 \vec{x}$)

$\dots \vec{x} \dots$

next

:

qed

Datatype case distinction

datatype $t = C_1 \vec{\tau} \mid \dots$

proof (*cases term*)

case ($C_1 \vec{x}$)

$\dots \vec{x} \dots$

next

\vdots

qed

where **case** ($C_i \vec{x}$) \equiv

fix \vec{x}

assume $\underbrace{C_i}_{\text{label}} : \underbrace{term = (C_i \vec{x})}_{\text{formula}}$

Induction

Overview

- Structural induction
- Rule induction
- Induction with fun

Structural induction for type *nat*

```
show  $P(n)$ 
proof (induct n)
  case 0
  ...
  show ?case
next
  case (Suc n)
  ...
  ...  $n$  ...
  show ?case
qed
```

Structural induction for type *nat*

```
show  $P(n)$ 
proof (induct n)
  case 0           ≡  let ?case =  $P(0)$ 
  ...
  show ?case
next
  case (Suc n)
  ...
  ...  $n$  ...
  show ?case
qed
```

Structural induction for type *nat*

show $P(n)$

proof (*induct n*)

case 0 \equiv let $?case = P(0)$

...

show $?case$

next

case (*Suc n*) \equiv fix n assume *Suc*: $P(n)$

...

let $?case = P(\text{Suc } n)$

... n ...

show $?case$

qed

Demo: structural induction

Structural induction with \implies

show $A(n) \implies P(n)$

proof (*induct n*)

case 0

...

show ?case

next

case (*Suc n*)

...

... *n* ...

...

show ?case

qed

Structural induction with \implies

show $A(n) \implies P(n)$

proof (*induct n*)

case 0

...

show ?case

next

case (*Suc n*)

...

... *n* ...

...

show ?case

qed

\equiv fix *X* assume 0: $A(0)$
let ?case = $P(0)$

Structural induction with \implies

show $A(n) \implies P(n)$

proof (*induct n*)

case 0 \equiv fix X assume 0: $A(0)$

... let ?case = $P(0)$

show ?case

next

case (*Suc n*) \equiv fix n

... assume *Suc*: $A(n) \implies P(n)$

... n ... $A(\text{Suc } n)$

... let ?case = $P(\text{Suc } n)$

show ?case

qed

A remark on style

- **case** (*Suc n*) ... **show ?case**
is easy to write and maintain

A remark on style

- **case** (*Suc n*) . . . **show** *?case*
is easy to write and maintain
- **fix** *n* **assume** *formula* . . . **show** *formula'*
is easier to read:
 - all information is shown locally
 - no contextual references (e.g. *?case*)

Demo: structural induction with \implies

Rule induction

Inductive definition

inductive_set S

intros

$rule_1: \llbracket s \in S; A \rrbracket \implies s' \in S$

\vdots

$rule_n: \dots$

Rule induction

show $x \in S \implies P(x)$

proof (*induct rule: S.induct*)

case $rule_1$

...

show ?case

next

⋮

next

case $rule_n$

...

show ?case

qed

Implicit selection of induction rule

assume $A: x \in S$

⋮

show $P(x)$

using A proof *induct*

⋮

qed

Implicit selection of induction rule

assume $A: x \in S$

⋮

show $P(x)$

using A proof *induct*

⋮

qed

lemma assumes $A: x \in S$ shows $P(x)$

using A proof *induct*

⋮

qed

Renaming free variables in rule

case $(rule_i x_1 \dots x_k)$

Renames the (alphabetically!) first k variables in $rule_i$ to $X_1 \dots X_k$.

Demo: rule induction

Induction with fun

Definition:

fun f

⋮

Induction with fun

Definition:

fun f

⋮

Proof:

show ... $f(\dots)$...

proof (*induct* $x_1 \dots x_k$ *rule: f.induct*)

Induction with fun

Definition:

fun f

⋮

Proof:

show ... $f(\dots)$...

proof (*induct* $x_1 \dots x_k$ *rule: f.induct*)

case *1*

⋮

Induction with fun

Definition:

fun f

⋮

Proof:

show ... $f(\dots)$...

proof (*induct* $x_1 \dots x_k$ *rule: f.induct*)

case 1

⋮

Case i refers to equation i in the definition of f

Induction with fun

Definition:

fun f

⋮

Proof:

show ... $f(\dots)$...

proof (*induct* $x_1 \dots x_k$ *rule: f.induct*)

case 1

⋮

Case i refers to equation i in the definition of f

More precisely: to equation i in $f.simps$

Demo: induction with fun

Chains of (in)equations

also

have " $t_0 = t_1$ " ...

also

have " $t_0 = t_1$ " ...

also

have "... = t_2 " ...

also

have " $t_0 = t_1$ " ...

also

have "... = t_2 " $\equiv t_1$

also

have " $t_0 = t_1$ " ...

also

have "... = t_2 " $\equiv t_1$

also

⋮

also

have "... = t_n " ...

also

have " $t_0 = t_1$ " ...

also

have "... = t_2 " ... $\dots \equiv t_1$

also

⋮

also

have "... = t_n " ... $\dots \equiv t_{n-1}$

also

have " $t_0 = t_1$ " ...

also

have "... = t_2 " ... $\dots \equiv t_1$

also

⋮

also

have "... = t_n " ... $\dots \equiv t_{n-1}$

finally show ...

also

have " $t_0 = t_1$ " ...

also

have "... = t_2 " $\equiv t_1$

also

⋮

also

have "... = t_n " $\equiv t_{n-1}$

finally show ...

— like from ' $t_0 = t_n$ ' show

also

- “...” is merely an abbreviation

also

- “...” is merely an abbreviation
- **also** works for other transitive relations ($<$, \leq , ...)

Demo: also

Accumulating facts

moreover

have *formula*₁ . . .

moreover

have *formula*₁ . . .

moreover

have *formula*₂ . . .

moreover

have *formula*₁ . . .

moreover

have *formula*₂ . . .

moreover

⋮

moreover

have *formula*_{*n*} . . .

moreover

have *formula*₁ . . .

moreover

have *formula*₂ . . .

moreover

⋮

moreover

have *formula*_{*n*} . . .

ultimately show . . .

moreover

have $formula_1 \dots$

moreover

have $formula_2 \dots$

moreover

⋮

moreover

have $formula_n \dots$

ultimately show \dots

— like **from** $f_1 \dots f_n$ **show** but needs no labels

Demo: moreover