# Free Theorems - Foundations 

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October 18th, 2010

## Using a Free Theorem [Wadler 1989]

For every

$$
\text { get }::[\alpha] \rightarrow[\alpha]
$$

we have

$$
\operatorname{map} f(\text { get } I)=\operatorname{get}(\operatorname{map} f I)
$$

for arbitrary $f$ and $I$, where

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\begin{aligned}
& \operatorname{map}::(\alpha \rightarrow \beta) \rightarrow[\alpha] \rightarrow[\beta] \\
& \operatorname{map} f[]=[] \\
& \operatorname{map} f(a: a s)=(f a):(\operatorname{map} f \text { as })
\end{aligned}
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## Using a Free Theorem [Wadler 1989]

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But how do we know this?

Why map $f(\operatorname{get} I)=\operatorname{get}(\operatorname{map} f I)$, Intuitively

- get $::[\alpha] \rightarrow[\alpha]$ must work uniformly for every instantiation of $\alpha$.


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- That is what was claimed!


## Another Example

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\begin{aligned}
& \text { takeWhile }:(\alpha \rightarrow \text { Bool }) \rightarrow[\alpha] \rightarrow[\alpha] \\
& \text { takeWhile } p[]=[] \\
& \text { takeWhile } p(a: a s) \left\lvert\, \begin{array}{ll}
\mid & p a \quad=a:(\text { takeWhile } p \text { as }) \\
& \text { otherwise }=[]
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For arbitrary $p, f$, and $I$ :

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\text { takeWhile } p(\operatorname{map} f I)=\operatorname{map} f(\text { takeWhile }(p \circ f) I)
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Provable by induction.

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## Automatic Generation of Free Theorems

At http://www-ps.iai.uni-bonn.de/ft:

This tool allows to generate free theorems for sublanguages of Haskell as described here.
The source code of the underlying library and a shell-based application using it is available here and here.

```
Please enter a (polymorphic) type, e.g. "(a -> Bool) -> [a] -> [a]" or simply "filter":
g :: (a -> Bool) -> [a] -> [a]
Please choose a sublanguage of Haskell:
- no bottoms (hence no general recursion and no selective strictness)
`general recursion but no selective strictness
* general recursion and selective strictness
Please choose a theorem style (without effect in the sublanguage with no bottoms):
- equational
* inequational
Generate
```


## Automatic Generation of Free Theorems

The theorem generated for functions of the type

```
g :: forall a . (a -> Bool) -> [a] -> [a]
```

in the sublanguage of Haskell with no bottoms is:

```
forall t1,t2 in TYPES, R in REL(t1,t2).
    forall p :: t1 -> Bool.
    forall q :: t2 -> Bool.
        (forall (x, y) in R. p x = q y)
        ==> (forall (z,v) in lift{[]}(R).
            (g p z, g q v) in lift{[]}(R))
```

The structural lifting occurring therein is defined as follows:

```
lift{[]}(R)
    = {([], [])}
    u {(x: xs, y : ys) |
        ((x,y) in R) && ((xs, ys) in lift{[]}(R))}
```

Reducing all permissible relation variables to functions yields:

```
forall t1,t2 in TYPES, f :: t1 -> t2.
    forall p :: t1 -> Bool.
    forall q :: t2 -> Bool.
        (forall x :: tl. p x = q (f x))
        ==> (forall y :: [tl]. map f (g p y) = g q (map f y))
```


## Formal Background: Parametric Polymorphism

Question: What g have type $\forall \alpha .(\alpha \rightarrow$ Bool $) \rightarrow[\alpha] \rightarrow[\alpha]$ ?

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\begin{array}{ll}
\llbracket \text { Bool } & =\{\text { True, False }\} \\
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- $g \in \llbracket \forall \alpha . \tau \rrbracket$ would have to be a whole "collection" of values: for every type $\tau^{\prime}$, an instance with type $\tau\left[\tau^{\prime} / \alpha\right]$.


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- $\llbracket \forall \alpha . \tau \rrbracket=\left\{g \mid \forall \tau^{\prime} . g_{\tau^{\prime}} \in \llbracket \tau\left[\tau^{\prime} / \alpha\right] \rrbracket\right\}$ ?


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$-\llbracket \forall \alpha . \tau \rrbracket=\left\{g \mid \forall \tau^{\prime} . g_{\tau^{\prime}} \in \llbracket \tau\left[\tau^{\prime} / \alpha\right] \rrbracket\right\}$ ?
- But this includes "ad-hoc polymorphic" functions!


## Unwanted Ad-Hoc Polymorphism: Example

- With the proposed definition,
$\llbracket \forall \alpha .(\alpha, \alpha) \rightarrow \alpha \rrbracket=\left\{g \mid \forall \tau . g_{\tau}: \llbracket \tau \rrbracket \times \llbracket \tau \rrbracket \rightarrow \llbracket \tau \rrbracket\right\}$.


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- But this also allows a $g$ with

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& g_{\text {Bool }}(x, y)=\operatorname{not} x \\
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- To prevent this, we have to compare

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and ensure that they "behave identically".

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& g_{\operatorname{lnt}}: \llbracket \mathrm{lnt} \rrbracket \times \llbracket \operatorname{lnt} \rrbracket \rightarrow \llbracket \mathrm{lnt} \rrbracket,
\end{aligned}
$$

and ensure that they "behave identically".
But how?

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are not related for choice of, e.g., $\mathcal{R}=\{($ True, 1$)\}$.
Reynolds: $g \in \llbracket \forall \alpha . \tau \rrbracket$ iff for every $\tau_{1}, \tau_{2}$ and $\mathcal{R} \subseteq \llbracket \tau_{1} \rrbracket \times \llbracket \tau_{2} \rrbracket$, $g_{\tau_{1}}$ is related to $g_{\tau_{2}}$ by the "propagation" of $\mathcal{R}$ along $\tau$.

## Polymorphic Lambda Calculus

[Girard 1972, Reynolds 1974]
Types: $\tau:=\alpha|\tau \rightarrow \tau| \forall \alpha . \tau$
Terms: $t:=x|\lambda x: \tau . t| t t|\Lambda \alpha . t| t \tau$

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## Parametricity Theorem [Reynolds 1983, Wadler 1989]

Given $\tau$ and environments $\theta_{1}, \theta_{2}, \rho$ with $\rho(\alpha) \subseteq \theta_{1}(\alpha) \times \theta_{2}(\alpha)$, define $\Delta_{\tau, \rho} \subseteq \llbracket \tau \rrbracket_{\theta_{1}} \times \llbracket \tau \rrbracket_{\theta_{2}}$ as follows:

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Then, for every closed term $t$ of closed type $\tau$ :

$$
\left(\llbracket t \rrbracket_{\emptyset, \emptyset}, \llbracket t \rrbracket_{\emptyset, \emptyset}\right) \in \Delta_{\tau, \emptyset} .
$$

## Proof Sketch

Prove the following more general statement:

$$
\Gamma \vdash t: \tau \text { implies }\left(\llbracket t \rrbracket_{\theta_{1}, \sigma_{1}}, \llbracket t \rrbracket_{\theta_{2}, \sigma_{2}}\right) \in \Delta_{\tau, \rho},
$$ provided $\left(\sigma_{1}(x), \sigma_{2}(x)\right) \in \Delta_{\tau^{\prime}, \rho}$ for every $x: \tau^{\prime}$ in $\Gamma$ by induction on the structure of typing derivations.

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\frac{\left(\llbracket t \rrbracket_{\theta_{1}, \sigma_{1}}, \llbracket t \rrbracket_{\theta_{2}, \sigma_{2}}\right) \in \Delta_{\tau_{1} \rightarrow \tau_{2}, \rho} \quad\left(\llbracket u \rrbracket_{\theta_{1}, \sigma_{1}}, \llbracket u \rrbracket_{\theta_{2}, \sigma_{2}}\right) \in \Delta_{\tau_{1}, \rho}}{\left(\llbracket t u \rrbracket_{\theta_{1}, \sigma_{1}}, \llbracket t u \rrbracket_{\theta_{2}, \sigma_{2}}\right) \in \Delta_{\tau_{2}, \rho}} \\
\frac{\alpha, \Gamma \vdash t: \tau}{\left(\llbracket \Lambda \alpha \cdot t \rrbracket_{\theta_{1}, \sigma_{1}}, \llbracket \Lambda \alpha \cdot t \rrbracket_{\theta_{2}, \sigma_{2}}\right) \in \Delta_{\forall \alpha \cdot \tau, \rho}}
\end{gathered}
$$

Proof Sketch
Prove the following more general statement:
$\Gamma \vdash t: \tau$ implies $\left(\llbracket t \rrbracket_{\theta_{1}, \sigma_{1}}, \llbracket t \rrbracket_{\theta_{2}, \sigma_{2}}\right) \in \Delta_{\tau, \rho}$, provided $\left(\sigma_{1}(x), \sigma_{2}(x)\right) \in \Delta_{\tau^{\prime}, \rho}$ for every $x: \tau^{\prime}$ in $\Gamma$ by induction on the structure of typing derivations. The base case is immediate. In the step cases:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \frac{\forall\left(a_{1}, a_{2}\right) \in \Delta_{\tau_{1}, \rho \cdot} \cdot\left(\llbracket t \rrbracket_{\theta_{1}, \sigma_{1}\left[x \mapsto a_{1}\right]}, \llbracket t \rrbracket_{\theta_{2}, \sigma_{2}\left[x \mapsto a_{2}\right]}\right) \in \Delta_{\tau_{2}, \rho}}{\left(\llbracket \lambda x: \tau_{1} . t \rrbracket_{\theta_{1}, \sigma_{1}}, \llbracket \lambda x: \tau_{1} \cdot t \rrbracket_{\theta_{2}, \sigma_{2}}\right) \in \Delta_{\tau_{1} \rightarrow \tau_{2}, \rho}} \\
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& \forall \mathcal{R} \subseteq S_{1} \times S_{2} .\left(\llbracket t \rrbracket_{\theta_{1}\left[\alpha \leftrightarrow S_{1}\right], \sigma_{1}}, \llbracket t \rrbracket_{\theta_{2}\left[\alpha \mapsto S_{2}\right], \sigma_{2}}\right) \in \Delta_{\tau, \rho[\alpha \mapsto \mathcal{R}]} \\
& \left(\llbracket \Lambda \alpha . t \rrbracket_{\theta_{1}, \sigma_{1}}, \llbracket \Lambda \alpha . t \rrbracket_{\theta_{2}, \sigma_{2}}\right) \in \Delta_{\forall \alpha . \tau, \rho}
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\frac{\left(\llbracket t \rrbracket_{\theta_{1}, \sigma_{1}}, \llbracket t \rrbracket_{\theta_{2}, \sigma_{2}}\right) \in \Delta_{\tau_{1} \rightarrow \tau_{2}, \rho} \quad\left(\llbracket u \rrbracket_{\theta_{1}, \sigma_{1}}, \llbracket u \rrbracket_{\theta_{2}, \sigma_{2}}\right) \in \Delta_{\tau_{1}, \rho}}{\left(\llbracket t u \rrbracket_{\theta_{1}, \sigma_{1}}, \llbracket t u \rrbracket_{\theta_{2}, \sigma_{2}}\right) \in \Delta_{\tau_{2}, \rho}} \\
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\frac{\Gamma \vdash t: \forall \alpha \cdot \tau}{\Gamma \vdash\left(t \tau^{\prime}\right): \tau\left[\tau^{\prime} / \alpha\right]}
\end{gathered}
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Prove the following more general statement:
$\Gamma \vdash t: \tau$ implies $\left(\llbracket t \rrbracket_{\theta_{1}, \sigma_{1}}, \llbracket t \rrbracket_{\theta_{2}, \sigma_{2}}\right) \in \Delta_{\tau, \rho}$, provided $\left(\sigma_{1}(x), \sigma_{2}(x)\right) \in \Delta_{\tau^{\prime}, \rho}$ for every $x: \tau^{\prime}$ in $\Gamma$ by induction on the structure of typing derivations. The base case is immediate. In the step cases:

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\left(\llbracket \Lambda \alpha \cdot t \rrbracket_{\theta_{1}, \sigma_{1}}, \llbracket \Lambda \alpha \cdot t \rrbracket_{\theta_{2}, \sigma_{2}}\right) \in \Delta_{\forall \alpha \cdot \tau, \rho} \\
\Gamma \vdash t: \forall \alpha \cdot \tau \\
\left(\llbracket t \tau^{\prime} \rrbracket_{\theta_{1}, \sigma_{1}}, \llbracket t \tau^{\prime} \rrbracket_{\theta_{2}, \sigma_{2}}\right) \in \Delta_{\tau\left[\tau^{\prime} / \alpha\right], \rho}
\end{gathered}
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Proof Sketch
Prove the following more general statement:
$\Gamma \vdash t: \tau$ implies $\left(\llbracket t \rrbracket_{\theta_{1}, \sigma_{1}}, \llbracket t \rrbracket_{\theta_{2}, \sigma_{2}}\right) \in \Delta_{\tau, \rho}$, provided $\left(\sigma_{1}(x), \sigma_{2}(x)\right) \in \Delta_{\tau^{\prime}, \rho}$ for every $x: \tau^{\prime}$ in $\Gamma$ by induction on the structure of typing derivations. The base case is immediate. In the step cases:

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\frac{\left(\llbracket t \rrbracket_{\theta_{1}, \sigma_{1}}, \llbracket t \rrbracket_{\theta_{2}, \sigma_{2}}\right) \in \Delta_{\tau_{1} \rightarrow \tau_{2}, \rho} \quad\left(\llbracket u \rrbracket_{\theta_{1}, \sigma_{1}}, \llbracket u \rrbracket_{\theta_{2}, \sigma_{2}}\right) \in \Delta_{\tau_{1}, \rho}}{\left(\llbracket t u \rrbracket_{\theta_{1}, \sigma_{1}}, \llbracket t u \rrbracket_{\theta_{2}, \sigma_{2}}\right) \in \Delta_{\tau_{2}, \rho}} \\
\forall \mathcal{R} \subseteq S_{1} \times S_{2} \cdot\left(\llbracket t \rrbracket_{\left.\theta_{1}\left[\alpha \mapsto s_{1}\right], \sigma_{1}, \llbracket t \rrbracket_{\theta_{2}\left[\alpha \mapsto S_{2}\right], \sigma_{2}}\right) \in \Delta_{\tau, \rho[\alpha \mapsto \mathcal{R}]}}^{\left(\llbracket \Lambda \alpha \cdot t \rrbracket_{\theta_{1}, \sigma_{1}}, \llbracket \Lambda \alpha \cdot t \rrbracket_{\theta_{2}, \sigma_{2}}\right) \in \Delta_{\forall \alpha \cdot \tau, \rho}}\right. \\
\frac{\left(\llbracket t \rrbracket_{\theta_{1}, \sigma_{1}}, \llbracket t \rrbracket_{\theta_{2}, \sigma_{2}}\right) \in \Delta_{\forall \alpha \cdot \tau, \rho}}{\left(\llbracket t \tau^{\prime} \rrbracket_{\theta_{1}, \sigma_{1}}, \llbracket t \tau^{\prime} \rrbracket_{\theta_{2}, \sigma_{2}}\right) \in \Delta_{\tau\left[\tau^{\prime} / \alpha\right], \rho}}
\end{gathered}
$$

## Adding Datatypes

Types: $\tau:=\cdots \mid$ Bool $\mid[\tau]$
Terms: $t:=\cdots \mid$ True $\mid$ False $\left|[]_{\tau}\right| t: t \mid$ case $t$ of $\{\cdots\}$

## Adding Datatypes

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$\Gamma \vdash$ True: Bool , $\Gamma \vdash$ False: Bool , $\Gamma \vdash[]_{\tau}:[\tau]$

$$
\begin{gathered}
\frac{\Gamma \vdash t: \tau \quad \Gamma \vdash u:[\tau]}{\Gamma \vdash(t: u):[\tau]} \\
\frac{\Gamma \vdash t: \text { Bool } \quad \Gamma \vdash u: \tau \quad \Gamma \vdash v: \tau}{\Gamma \vdash(\text { case } t \text { of }\{\text { True } \rightarrow u ; \text { False } \rightarrow v\}): \tau} \\
\frac{\Gamma \vdash t:\left[\tau^{\prime}\right] \quad \Gamma \vdash u: \tau \quad \Gamma, x_{1}: \tau^{\prime}, x_{2}:\left[\tau^{\prime}\right] \vdash v: \tau}{\Gamma \vdash\left(\text { case } t \text { of }\left\{[] \rightarrow u ;\left(x_{1}: x_{2}\right) \rightarrow v\right\}\right): \tau}
\end{gathered}
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## Adding Datatypes

$$
\begin{gathered}
\text { Types: } \tau:=\cdots \mid \text { Bool } \mid[\tau] \\
\text { Terms: } t:=\cdots \mid \text { True } \mid \text { False }\left|[]_{\tau}\right| t: t \mid \text { case } t \text { of }\{\cdots\} \\
\Gamma \vdash \text { True }: \text { Bool }, \Gamma \vdash \text { False }: \text { Bool }, \Gamma \vdash[]_{\tau}:[\tau] \\
\frac{\Gamma \vdash t: \tau \quad \Gamma \vdash u:[\tau]}{\Gamma \vdash(t: u):[\tau]} \\
\frac{\Gamma \vdash t: \text { Bool } \Gamma \vdash u: \tau \quad \Gamma \vdash v: \tau}{\Gamma \vdash(\text { case } t \text { of }\{\text { True } \rightarrow u ; \text { False } \rightarrow v\}): \tau} \\
\frac{\Gamma \vdash t:\left[\tau^{\prime}\right] \quad \Gamma \vdash u: \tau \quad \Gamma, x_{1}: \tau^{\prime}, x_{2}:\left[\tau^{\prime}\right] \vdash v: \tau}{\Gamma \vdash\left(\text { case } t \text { of }\left\{[] \rightarrow u ;\left(x_{1}: x_{2}\right) \rightarrow v\right\}\right): \tau}
\end{gathered}
$$

With the straightforward extension of the semantics and with

$$
\begin{aligned}
\Delta_{\text {Bool }, \rho} & =\{(\text { True, True }),(\text { False, False })\} \\
\Delta_{[\tau], \rho} & =\left\{\left(\left[x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n}\right],\left[y_{1}, \ldots, y_{n}\right]\right) \mid n \geq 0,\left(x_{i}, y_{i}\right) \in \Delta_{\tau, \rho}\right\},
\end{aligned}
$$

the parametricity theorem still holds.

## Now Formal Counterpart to Intuitive Reasoning

Given g of type $\forall \alpha .(\alpha \rightarrow$ Bool $) \rightarrow([\alpha] \rightarrow[\alpha])$, by the parametricity theorem:

$$
\left.(\mathrm{g}, \mathrm{~g}) \in \Delta_{\forall \alpha .}(\alpha \rightarrow \text { Bool }) \rightarrow([\alpha] \rightarrow[\alpha]), \emptyset\right)
$$

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Given g of type $\forall \alpha .(\alpha \rightarrow$ Bool $) \rightarrow([\alpha] \rightarrow[\alpha])$, by the parametricity theorem:

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\begin{aligned}
& (\mathrm{g}, \mathrm{~g}) \in \Delta_{\forall \alpha .}(\alpha \rightarrow \text { Bool }) \rightarrow([\alpha] \rightarrow[\alpha]), \emptyset \\
\Leftrightarrow & \forall \mathcal{R} \in \operatorname{Rel} .(\mathrm{g}, \mathrm{~g}) \in \Delta_{(\alpha \rightarrow \text { Bool }) \rightarrow([\alpha] \rightarrow[\alpha]),[\alpha \mapsto \mathcal{R}]} \\
& \text { by definition of } \Delta
\end{aligned}
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Given g of type $\forall \alpha .(\alpha \rightarrow$ Bool $) \rightarrow([\alpha] \rightarrow[\alpha])$, by the parametricity theorem:

```
    \((\mathrm{g}, \mathrm{g}) \in \Delta_{\forall \alpha .}(\alpha \rightarrow\) Bool \() \rightarrow([\alpha] \rightarrow[\alpha]), \emptyset\)
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\(\Leftrightarrow \forall \mathcal{R} \in \operatorname{Rel},\left(a_{1}, a_{2}\right) \in \Delta_{\alpha \rightarrow \text { Bool },[\alpha \mapsto \mathcal{R}]} .\left(\mathrm{g} a_{1}, \mathrm{~g} a_{2}\right) \in \Delta_{[\alpha] \rightarrow[\alpha],[\alpha \mapsto \mathcal{R}]}\) by definition of \(\Delta\)
```


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\(\Leftrightarrow \forall \mathcal{R} \in \operatorname{Rel} . \quad(\mathrm{g}, \mathrm{g}) \in \Delta_{(\alpha \rightarrow \text { Bool }) \rightarrow([a] \rightarrow[a]),[\alpha \mapsto \mathcal{R}]}\)
\(\Leftrightarrow \forall \mathcal{R} \in \operatorname{Rel},\left(a_{1}, a_{2}\right) \in \Delta_{\alpha \rightarrow \text { Bool },[\alpha \mapsto \mathcal{R}]} \cdot\left(\mathrm{g} a_{1}, \mathrm{~g} a_{2}\right) \in \Delta_{[\alpha] \rightarrow[\alpha],[\alpha \mapsto \mathcal{R}]}\)
\(\Leftrightarrow \forall \mathcal{R} \in \operatorname{Rel},\left(a_{1}, a_{2}\right) \in \Delta_{\alpha \rightarrow \text { Bool },[\alpha \mapsto \mathcal{R}]},\left(I_{1}, I_{2}\right) \in \Delta_{[\alpha],[\alpha \mapsto \mathcal{R}]}\).
    \(\left(\mathrm{g} \mathrm{a} \mathrm{a}_{1} I_{1}, \mathrm{~g} a_{2} I_{2}\right) \in \Delta_{[\alpha],[\alpha \mapsto \mathcal{R}]}\)
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```


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Given g of type $\forall \alpha .(\alpha \rightarrow$ Bool $) \rightarrow([\alpha] \rightarrow[\alpha])$, by the parametricity theorem:

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    \(\left(\mathrm{g} \mathrm{a} a_{1} l_{1}, \mathrm{~g} a_{2} l_{2}\right) \in \Delta_{[\alpha],[\alpha \mapsto \mathcal{R}]}\)
\(\Rightarrow \forall\left(a_{1}, a_{2}\right) \in \Delta_{\alpha \rightarrow \text { Bool },[\alpha \mapsto f]},\left(l_{1}, l_{2}\right) \in(\) map \(f)\).
    \(\left(\mathrm{g} a_{1} I_{1}, \mathrm{~g} a_{2} I_{2}\right) \in(\operatorname{map} f)\)
```

    by instantiating \(\mathcal{R}=f\) and realising that \(\Delta_{[\alpha],[\alpha \mapsto f]}=\operatorname{map} f\)
    for every function $f$

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Given g of type $\forall \alpha .(\alpha \rightarrow$ Bool $) \rightarrow([\alpha] \rightarrow[\alpha])$, by the parametricity theorem:

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\(\Leftrightarrow \forall \mathcal{R} \in \operatorname{Rel},\left(a_{1}, a_{2}\right) \in \Delta_{\alpha \rightarrow \text { Bool, }[\alpha \mapsto \mathcal{R}],},\left(I_{1}, l_{2}\right) \in \Delta_{[\alpha],[\alpha \mapsto \mathcal{R}]}\).
    \(\left(g a_{1} l_{1}, g a_{2} / 2\right) \in \Delta_{[\alpha],[\alpha \mapsto R]}\)
\(\Rightarrow \forall\left(a_{1}, a_{2}\right) \in \Delta_{\alpha \rightarrow \text { Bool },[\alpha \mapsto f]},\left(l_{1}, l_{2}\right) \in(\operatorname{map} f)\).
    \(\left(\mathrm{g} a_{1} l_{1}, \mathrm{~g} a_{2} l_{2}\right) \in(\operatorname{map} f)\)
\(\Rightarrow \forall\left(l_{1}, l_{2}\right) \in(\operatorname{map} f) .\left(g(p \circ f) I_{1}, g p I_{2}\right) \in(\operatorname{map} f)\)
    by instantiating \(\left(a_{1}, a_{2}\right)=(p \circ f, p) \in \Delta_{\alpha \rightarrow \text { Bool },[\alpha \mapsto f]}\)
```

for every function $f$ and predicate $p$.

## Now Formal Counterpart to Intuitive Reasoning

Given g of type $\forall \alpha .(\alpha \rightarrow$ Bool $) \rightarrow([\alpha] \rightarrow[\alpha])$, by the parametricity theorem:

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for every function $f$ and predicate $p$.

That is what was claimed!

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