Dictionary Construction

Lars Hupel

March 17, 2025

Abstract

Isabelle's code generator natively supports type classes. For targets that do not have language support for classes and instances, it performs the well-known *dictionary translation*, as described by Haftmann and Nipkow [1]. This translation happens outside the logic, i.e., there is no guarantee that it is correct, besides the pen-and-paper proof. This work implements a certified dictionary translation that produces new class-free constants and derives equality theorems.

Contents

1	Dic	tionary Construction	2
	1.1	Introduction	2
	1.2	Encoding classes	2
	1.3	Encoding instances	3
	1.4	Implementation	4
	1.5	Impossibility of hiding sort constraints	5
2	Set	սթ	5
3	Ter	mination heuristics	6
4	Tes	t cases for dictionary construction	10
	4.1	Code equations with different number of explicit arguments $% \left({{{\bf{x}}_{{\rm{s}}}}} \right)$.	10
	4.2	Complex class hierarchies	10
	4.3	Instances with non-trivial arity	10
	4.4	[fundef-cong] rules	11
	4.5	Mutual recursion	11
	4.6	Non-trivial code dependencies; code equations where the head	
		is not fully general	13
	4.7	Pattern matching on θ	13

4.8	Complex termination arguments	13
4.9	Combination of various things	14
4.10	Interaction with the code generator	14
4.11	Contrived side conditions	14
4.12	Interaction with Lazy-Case	17

1 Dictionary Construction

theory Introduction imports Main begin

1.1 Introduction

Isabelle's logic features type classes [2, 3]. These are built into the kernel and are used extensively in theory developments. The existing code generator, when targeting Standard ML, performs the well-known dictionary construction or dictionary translation [1]. This works by replacing type classes with records, instances with values, and occurrences with explicit parameters.

Haftmann and Nipkow give a pen-and-paper correctness proof of this construction [1, §4.1], based on a notion of *higher-order rewrite systems*. The resulting theorem then states that any well-typed term is reduction-equivalent before and after class elimination. In this work, the dictionary construction is performed in a certified fashion, that is, the equivalence is a theorem inside the logic.

1.2 Encoding classes

The choice of representation of a dictionary itself is straightforward: We model it as a **datatype**, along with functions returning values of that type. The alternative here would have been to use the **record** package. The obvious advantage is that we could easily model subclass relationships through record inheritance. However, records do not support multiple inheritance. Since records offer no advantage over datatypes in that regard, we opted for the more modern **datatype** package.

Consider the following example:

class plus =fixes $plus :: 'a \Rightarrow 'a \Rightarrow 'a$

This will get translated to a **datatype** with a single constructor taking a single argument:

datatype 'a dict-plus = mk-plus (param-plus: 'a \Rightarrow 'a \Rightarrow 'a) A function using the *Introduction.plus* constraint:

definition double :: 'a::plus \Rightarrow 'a where double x = plus x x

definition double' :: 'a dict-plus \Rightarrow 'a \Rightarrow 'a where double' dict x = param-plus dict x x

1.3 Encoding instances

A more controversial design decision is how to represent dictionary certificates. For example, given a value of type *nat dict-plus*, how do we know that this is a faithful representation of the *Introduction.plus* instance for *nat*?

• Florian Haftmann proposed a "shallow encoding". It works by exploiting the internal treatment of constants with sort constraints in the Isabelle kernel. Constants themselves do not carry sort constraints, only their definitional equations. The fact that a constant only appears with these constraints on the surface of the system is a feature of type inference.

Instead, we can instruct the system to ignore these constraints. However, any attempt at "hiding" the constraints behind a type definition ultimately does not work: The nonemptiness proof requires a witness of a valid dictionary for an arbitrary, but fixed type 'a, which is of course not possible (see §1.5 for details).

• The certificates contain the class axioms directly. For example, the semigroup-add class requires a + b + c = a + (b + c).

Translated into a definition, this would look as follows:

cert-plus dict = $(\forall a \ b \ c. \ param-plus \ dict \ (param-plus \ dict \ a \ b) \ c = param-plus \ dict \ a \ (param-plus \ dict \ b \ c))$

Proving that instances satisfy this certificate is trivial.

However, the equality proof of f' and f is impossible: they are simply not equal in general. Nothing would prevent someone from defining an alternative dictionary using multiplication instead of addition and the certificate would still hold; but obviously functions using *Introduction.plus-class.plus* on numbers would expect addition.

Intuitively, this makes sense: the above notion of "certificate" establishes no connection between original instantiation and newly-generated dictionaries.

Instead of proving equality, one would have to "lift" all existing theorems over the old constants to the new constants. • In order for equality between new and old constants to hold, the certificate needs to capture that the dictionary corresponds exactly to the class constants. This is achieved by the representation below. It literally states that the fields of the dictionary are equal to the class constants. The condition of the resulting equation can only be instantiated with dictionaries corresponding to existing class instances. This constitutes a *closed world* assumption, i.e., callers of generated code may not invent own instantiations.

definition cert-plus :: 'a::plus dict-plus \Rightarrow bool where cert-plus dict \leftrightarrow (param-plus dict = plus)

Based on that definition, we can prove that *double* and *double*' are equivalent:

lemma cert-plus dict \implies double' dict = double $\langle proof \rangle$

An unconditional equation can be obtained by specializing the theorem to a ground type and supplying a valid dictionary.

1.4 Implementation

When translating a constant f, we use existing mechanisms in Isabelle to obtain its *code graph*. The graph contains the code equations of all transitive dependencies (i.e., other constants) of f. In general, we have to re-define each of these dependencies. For that, we use the internal interface of the **function** package and feed it the code equations after performing the dictionary construction. In the standard case, where the user has not performed a custom code setup, the resulting function looks similar to its original definition. But the user may have also changed the implementation of a function significantly afterwards. This imposes some restrictions:

- The new constant needs to be proven terminating. We apply some heuristics to transfer the original termination proof to the new definition. This only works when the termination condition does not rely on class axioms. (See §3 for details.)
- Pattern matching must be performed on datatypes, instead of the more general **code-datatypes**.
- The set of code equations must be exhaustive and non-overlapping.

end

1.5 Impossibility of hiding sort constraints

Coauthor of this section: Florian Haftmann

theory Impossibility imports Main begin

axiomatization of-prop :: prop \Rightarrow bool where of-prop-Trueprop [simp]: of-prop (Trueprop P) \longleftrightarrow P and Trueprop-of-prop [simp]: Trueprop (of-prop Q) \equiv PROP Q

A type satisfies the certificate if there is an instance of the class.

definition is-sg :: 'a itself \Rightarrow bool where is-sg TYPE('a) = of-prop OFCLASS('a, semigroup-add-class)

We trick the parser into ignoring the sort constraint of (+).

 $\langle ML \rangle$

definition $sg :: ('a \Rightarrow 'a \Rightarrow 'a) \Rightarrow bool$ where $sg \ plus \longleftrightarrow plus = Groups.plus \land is-sg \ TYPE('a)$ for plus

Attempt: Define a type that contains all legal (+) functions.

typedef (overloaded) 'a $Sg = Collect \ sg :: ('a \Rightarrow 'a \Rightarrow 'a) \ set$ morphisms the-plus Sg $\langle proof \rangle$

 \mathbf{end}

2 Setup

theory Dict-Construction imports Automatic-Refinement.Refine-Util keywords declassify :: thy-decl begin

definition set-of :: $('a \Rightarrow 'b \Rightarrow bool) \Rightarrow ('a \times 'b)$ set where set-of $P = \{(x, y). P x y\}$

lemma wfP-implies-wf-set-of: wfP $P \Longrightarrow$ wf (set-of P) $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma wf-set-of-implies-wfP: wf (set-of P) \implies wfP P $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma wf-simulate-simple: **assumes** wf r **assumes** $\bigwedge x \ y. \ (x, \ y) \in r' \Longrightarrow (g \ x, \ g \ y) \in r$ **shows** wf r' $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma set-ofI: $P \ x \ y \Longrightarrow (x, \ y) \in$ set-of $P \ \langle proof \rangle$

lemma set-ofD: $(x, y) \in$ set-of $P \implies P x y$ $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma wfP-simulate-simple: assumes wfP r assumes $\bigwedge x \ y. \ r' \ x \ y \Longrightarrow r \ (g \ x) \ (g \ y)$ shows wfP r' $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma wf-implies-dom: wf (set-of R) \implies All (Wellfounded.accp R) $\langle proof \rangle$

lemma wfP-implies-dom: wfP $R \Longrightarrow All$ (Wellfounded.accp R) $\langle proof \rangle$

named-theorems dict-construction-specs

 $\langle ML \rangle$

declare [[code drop: (\land)]] **lemma** [code]: True $\land p \longleftrightarrow p$ False $\land p \longleftrightarrow$ False $\langle proof \rangle$

declare [[code drop: (\lor)]] **lemma** [code]: True $\lor p \longleftrightarrow$ True False $\lor p \iff p \langle proof \rangle$

declare comp-cong[fundef-cong del] **declare** fun.map-cong[fundef-cong]

 \mathbf{end}

3 Termination heuristics

theory Termination imports ../Dict-Construction begin

As indicated in the introduction, the newly-defined functions must be proven terminating. In general, we cannot reuse the original termination proof, as the following example illustrates:

fun $f :: nat \Rightarrow nat$ where $f \ 0 = 0 \mid$ $f (Suc \ n) = f \ n$ **lemma** [code]: $f x = f x \langle proof \rangle$

The invocation of **declassify** f would fail, because f's code equations are not terminating.

Hence, in the general case where users have modified the code equations, we need to fall back to an (automated) attempt to prove termination.

In the remainder of this section, we will illustrate the special case where the user has not modified the code equations, i.e., the original termination proof should "morally" be still applicable. For this, we will perform the dictionary construction manually.

 $\langle ML \rangle$

fun sum-list :: 'a::{plus,zero} list \Rightarrow 'a where sum-list [] = 0 | sum-list (x # xs) = x + sum-list xs

The above function carries two distinct class constraints, which are translated into two dictionary parameters:

```
function sum-list' where
```

sum-list' d-plus d-zero [] = Groups-zero--class-zero--field d-zero | sum-list' d-plus d-zero (x # xs) = Groups-plus--class-plus--field d-plus x (sum-list' d-plus d-zero xs)(proof)

Now, we need to carry out the termination proof of *sum-list'*. The **function** package analyzes the function definition and discovers one recursive call. In pseudo-notation:

(d-plus, d-zero, $x \# xs) \rightsquigarrow (d$ -plus, d-zero, xs)

The result of this analysis is captured in the inductive predicate *sum-list'-rel*. Its introduction rules look as follows:

thm sum-list'-rel.intros — sum-list'-rel (?d-plus, ?d-zero, ?xs) (?d-plus, ?d-zero, ?x # ?xs)

Compare this to the relation for *Termination.sum-list*:

thm sum-list-rel.intros — sum-list-rel ?xs (?x # ?xs)

Except for the additional (unchanging) dictionary arguments, these relations are more or less equivalent to each other. There is an important difference, though: *sum-list-rel* has sort constraints, *sum-list'-rel* does not. (This will become important later on.)

 $\operatorname{context}$

notes [[show-sorts]]

begin

term sum-list-rel — 'a::{plus, zero} list \Rightarrow 'a::{plus, zero} list \Rightarrow bool

term sum-list'-rel

— 'a::type Groups-plus-dict × 'a::type Groups-zero--dict × 'a::type list \Rightarrow 'a::type Groups-plus-dict × 'a::type Groups-zero--dict × 'a::type list \Rightarrow bool

end

Let us know discuss the rough concept of the termination proof for *sum-list'*. The goal is to show that *sum-list'-rel* is well-founded. Usually, this is proved by specifying a *measure function* that

- 1. maps the arguments to natural numbers
- 2. decreases for each recursive call.

Here, however, we want to instead show that each recursive call in *sum-list'* has a corresponding recursive call in *Termination.sum-list*. In other words, we want to show that the existing proof of well-foundedness of *sum-list-rel* can be lifted to a proof of well-foundedness of *sum-list'-rel*. This is what the theorem wfP-simulate-simple states:

 $\llbracket wfp ?r; \bigwedge x y. ?r' x y \Longrightarrow ?r (?g x) (?g y) \rrbracket \Longrightarrow wfp ?r'$

Given any well-founded relation r and a function g that maps function arguments from r' to r, we can deduce that r' is also well-founded.

For our example, we need to provide a function g of type 'b Groups-plus--dict \times 'b Groups-zero--dict \times 'b list \Rightarrow 'a list. Because the dictionary parameters are not changing, they can safely be dropped by g. However, because of the sort constraint in sum-list-rel, the term $snd \circ snd$ is not a well-typed instantiation for g.

Instead (this is where the heuristic comes in), we assume that the original function *Termination.sum-list* is parametric, i.e., termination does not depend on the elements of the list passed to it, but only on the structure of the list. Additionally, we assume that all involved type classes have at least one instantiation.

With this in mind, we can use map $(\lambda$ -. undefined) \circ snd \circ snd as g:

thm wfP-simulate-simple[where

 $\begin{aligned} r &= sum\text{-list-rel and} \\ r' &= sum\text{-list'-rel and} \\ g &= map \; (\lambda\text{-. undefined}) \mathrel{\circ} snd \mathrel{\circ} snd] \end{aligned}$

Finally, we can prove the termination of *sum-list'*.

termination sum-list' $\langle proof \rangle$

This can be automated with a special tactic:

experiment begin

termination sum-list' $\langle proof \rangle$

 \mathbf{end}

A similar technique can be used for making functions defined in locales executable when, for some reason, the definition of a "defs" locale is not feasible.

locale foo =fixes A :: natassumes A > 0begin

fun f where $f \ 0 = A \mid$ $f (Suc \ n) = Suc \ (f \ n)$

— We carry out this proof in the locale for simplicity; a real implementation would probably have to set up a local theory properly. **lemma** *f*-total: wfP f-rel $\langle proof \rangle$

 \mathbf{end}

— The dummy interpretation serves the same purpose as the assumption that class constraints have at least one instantiation. interpretation dummy: foo 1 $\langle proof \rangle$

```
function f' where
```

```
 \begin{array}{l} f' \ A \ 0 = A \ | \\ f' \ A \ (Suc \ n) = Suc \ (f' \ A \ n) \\ \langle proof \rangle \end{array}
```

 $\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{termination} \ f' \\ \langle proof \rangle \end{array}$

Automatic:

experiment begin

termination f'

 $\langle proof \rangle$

 \mathbf{end}

end

4 Test cases for dictionary construction

theory Test-Dict-Construction imports Dict-Construction HOL-Library.ListVector begin

4.1 Code equations with different number of explicit arguments

lemma [code]: fold f [] = id fold f (x # xs) s = fold f xs (f x s) fold f [x, y] $u \equiv f$ y (f x u) $\langle proof \rangle$

experiment begin

declassify valid: fold thm valid lemma List-fold = fold $\langle proof \rangle$

 \mathbf{end}

4.2 Complex class hierarchies

 $\langle ML \rangle$

experiment begin

 $\langle ML \rangle$

typ nat Rings-ring--dict

\mathbf{end}

Check that Class-Graph does not leak out of locales $\langle ML \rangle$

4.3 Instances with non-trivial arity

fun $f ::: 'a::plus \Rightarrow 'a$ where f x = x + x

definition $g :: 'a::{plus,zero}$ list \Rightarrow 'a list where g x = f x

datatype $natt = Z \mid S natt$

instantiation natt :: {zero,plus} begin definition zero-natt where zero-natt = Z

fun plus-natt **where** plus-natt $Z x = x \mid$ plus-natt (S m) n = S (plus-natt m n)

 $\begin{array}{l} \mathbf{instance} \ \langle \textit{proof} \rangle \\ \mathbf{end} \end{array}$

definition h :: natt list where h = g [Z, S Z]

```
experiment begin
```

declassify valid: h**thm** valid **lemma** Test--Dict--Construction- $h = h \langle proof \rangle$

 $\langle ML \rangle$

 \mathbf{end}

Check that **declassify** does not leak out of locales $\langle ML \rangle$

4.4 [fundef-cong] rules

 $\mathbf{datatype} \ 'a \ seq = \ Cons \ 'a \ seq \mid Nil$

experiment begin

declassify map-seq

Check presence of derived [fundef-cong] rule

 $\langle ML \rangle$

 \mathbf{end}

4.5 Mutual recursion

fun $odd :: nat \Rightarrow bool$ and even where

 $\begin{array}{l} odd \ 0 \longleftrightarrow False \mid \\ even \ 0 \longleftrightarrow True \mid \\ odd \ (Suc \ n) \longleftrightarrow even \ n \mid \\ even \ (Suc \ n) \longleftrightarrow odd \ n \end{array}$

experiment begin

declassify valid: odd even **thm** valid

 $\quad \text{end} \quad$

datatype 'a bin-tree = Leaf | Node 'a 'a bin-tree 'a bin-tree

experiment begin

declassify valid: map-bin-tree rel-bin-tree **thm** valid

end

datatype 'v env = Env 'v list datatype v = Closure v env

$\mathbf{context}$

notes is-measure-trivial[where $f = size-env \ size$, measure-function] begin

fun test-v ::: $v \Rightarrow bool$ **and** test-w ::: $v env \Rightarrow bool$ where test-v (Closure env) \longleftrightarrow test-w env | test-w (Env vs) \longleftrightarrow list-all test-v vs

fun test-v1 ::: $v \Rightarrow 'a$::{one,monoid-add} **and** test-w1 ::: $v env \Rightarrow 'a$ where test-v1 (Closure env) = 1 + test-w1 env | test-w1 (Env vs) = sum-list (map test-v1 vs)

 \mathbf{end}

experiment begin

declassify valid: test-w test-v thm valid

 \mathbf{end}

experiment begin

declassify valid: test-w1 test-v1 thm valid

 \mathbf{end}

4.6 Non-trivial code dependencies; code equations where the head is not fully general

definition $c \equiv 0 :: nat$ **definition** $d x \equiv if x = 0$ then 0 else x

lemma contrived[code]: $c = d \ 0 \ \langle proof \rangle$

experiment begin

declassify valid: c**thm** valid **lemma** Test--Dict--Construction- $c = c \ (proof)$

 \mathbf{end}

4.7 Pattern matching on θ

definition j where j (n::nat) = (0::nat)

lemma [code]: $j \ 0 = 0 \ j \ (Suc \ n) = j \ n$ $\langle proof \rangle$

fun k where

 $\begin{array}{l} k \ 0 = (0::nat) \mid \\ k \ (Suc \ n) = k \ n \end{array}$

lemma *f*-code[code]: k n = 0 $\langle proof \rangle$

experiment begin

declassify valid: j kthm valid lemma Test--Dict--Construction-j = jTest--Dict--Construction-k = k $\langle proof \rangle$

\mathbf{end}

4.8 Complex termination arguments

fun fac :: nat \Rightarrow nat where fac $n = (if \ n \le 1 \ then \ 1 \ else \ n * fac \ (n - 1))$ experiment begin

 ${\bf declassify} \ {\it valid:} \ {\it fac}$

 \mathbf{end}

4.9 Combination of various things

experiment begin

declassify valid: sum-list

 \mathbf{end}

4.10 Interaction with the code generator

declassify h export-code Test--Dict--Construction-h in SML

 \mathbf{end}

4.11 Contrived side conditions

theory Test-Side-Conditions imports Dict-Construction begin

 $\langle ML \rangle$

fun head where head (x # -) = x

 $\langle ML \rangle$

lemma head-side-eq: head-side $xs \leftrightarrow xs \neq [] \langle proof \rangle$

 $\langle ML \rangle$

fun map where map f [] = [] |map f (x # xs) = f x # map f xs

 $\langle ML \rangle$ thm map-side.intros

 $\langle ML \rangle$

experiment begin

Functions that use partial functions always in their domain are processed correctly.

fun tail **where** tail (- # xs) = xs

 $\langle ML \rangle$

lemma tail-side-eq: tail-side $xs \leftrightarrow xs \neq [] \langle proof \rangle$

 $\langle ML \rangle$

function map' where

 $map' f xs = (if xs = [] then [] else f (head xs) # map' f (tail xs)) \langle proof \rangle$

 $\begin{array}{c} \textbf{termination} \\ \langle \textit{proof} \rangle \end{array}$

 $\langle ML \rangle$ thm map'-side.intros

 $\langle ML \rangle$

\mathbf{end}

lemma map-cong: **assumes** $xs = ys \bigwedge x. \ x \in set \ ys \Longrightarrow f \ x = g \ x$ **shows** map $f \ xs = map \ g \ ys$ $\langle proof \rangle$

definition map-head where map-head xs = map head xs

experiment begin

declare map-cong[fundef-cong]

 $\langle ML \rangle$ thm map-head-side.intros

lemma map-head-side $xs \longleftrightarrow (\forall x \in set xs. x \neq []) \langle proof \rangle$

definition map-head' **where** map-head' xss = map (map head) xss $\langle ML \rangle$ thm map-head'-side.intros

lemma map-head'-side $xss \longleftrightarrow (\forall xs \in set xss. \forall x \in set xs. x \neq []) \langle proof \rangle$

 \mathbf{end}

experiment begin

 $\langle ML \rangle$ term map-head-side thm map-head-side.intros

lemma \neg map-head-side xs $\langle proof \rangle$

 \mathbf{end}

definition head-known where head-known xs = head (3 # xs)

 $\langle ML \rangle$ thm head-known-side.intros

 $\langle ML \rangle$

 $\begin{array}{ll} \mathbf{fun} \ odd :: \ nat \Rightarrow bool \ \mathbf{and} \ even \ \mathbf{where} \\ odd \ 0 \longleftrightarrow False \mid \\ even \ 0 \longleftrightarrow True \mid \\ odd \ (Suc \ n) \longleftrightarrow even \ n \mid \\ even \ (Suc \ n) \longleftrightarrow odd \ n \end{array}$

 $\langle ML \rangle$ thm odd-side-even-side.intros

 $\langle ML \rangle$

definition odd-known where odd-known = odd (Suc θ)

 $\langle ML \rangle$ thm odd-known-side.intros

 $\langle ML \rangle$

 \mathbf{end}

4.12 Interaction with Lazy-Case

theory Test-Lazy-Case imports Dict-Construction Lazy-Case.Lazy-Case Show.Show-Instances begin

datatype 'a tree = Node | Fork 'a 'a tree list

lemma map-tree[code]: map-tree $f t = (case \ t \ of \ Node \Rightarrow Node | Fork \ x \ ts \Rightarrow Fork \ (f \ x) \ (map \ (map-tree \ f) \ ts)) \langle proof \rangle$

experiment begin

Dictionary construction of map-tree requires the [fundef-cong] rule of Test-Lazy-Case.tree.case-lazy.

```
declassify valid: map-tree thm valid
```

lemma Test--Lazy--Case-tree-map--tree = map-tree $\langle proof \rangle$

 \mathbf{end}

definition $i :: (unit \times (bool \ list \times string \times nat \ option) \ list) \ option \Rightarrow string where <math>i = show$

experiment begin

This currently requires Lazy-Case. Lazy-Case because of Euclidean-Rings. divmod-nat.

declassify valid: i thm valid

lemma Test--Lazy--Case- $i = i \langle proof \rangle$

end

 \mathbf{end}

References

 Florian Haftmann and Tobias Nipkow. Code generation via higher-order rewrite systems. In Matthias Blume, Naoki Kobayashi, and Germán Vidal, editors, *Functional and Logic Programming: 10th International* Symposium, FLOPS 2010, Sendai, Japan, April 19-21, 2010. Proceedings, pages 103–117, Berlin, Heidelberg, 2010. Springer Berlin Heidelberg.

- [2] Florian Haftmann and Makarius Wenzel. Constructive type classes in Isabelle. In Thorsten Altenkirch and Conor McBride, editors, *Types for Proofs and Programs: International Workshop, TYPES 2006, Nottingham, UK, April 18-21, 2006, Revised Selected Papers*, pages 160–174, Berlin, Heidelberg, 2007. Springer Berlin Heidelberg.
- [3] Markus Wenzel. Type classes and overloading in higher-order logic. In Elsa L. Gunter and Amy Felty, editors, *Theorem Proving in Higher Or*der Logics: 10th International Conference, TPHOLs '97 Murray Hill, NJ, USA, August 19–22, 1997 Proceedings, pages 307–322, Berlin, Heidelberg, 1997. Springer Berlin Heidelberg.