

# Isabelle Tutorial I: Verifying Functional Programs

Lawrence C Paulson  
Computer Laboratory  
University of Cambridge

# Isabelle

- Isabelle is a generic interactive theorem prover, developed by Lawrence Paulson (Cambridge) and Tobias Nipkow (Munich). First release in 1986.
- Integrated tool support for
  - Automated provers
  - Counter-example finding
  - Code generation from logical terms
  - LaTeX document generation

# Higher-Order Logic

- First-order logic extended with functions and sets
- Polymorphic types, including a type of truth values
- No distinction between terms and formulas
- ML-style functional programming

“HOL = functional programming + logic”

# Basic Syntax of Formulas

formulas  $A, B, \dots$  can be written as

$(A)$                        $t = u$                        $\sim A$

$A \& B$                        $A \mid B$                        $A \dashrightarrow B$

$A \leftrightarrow B$                        $\text{ALL } x.A$                        $\text{EX } x.A$

(Among many others)

Isabelle also supports symbols such as

$\leq \geq \neq \wedge \vee \rightarrow \leftrightarrow \forall \exists$

# Basic Syntax of Terms

- The typed  $\lambda$ -calculus:
  - constants,  $c$
  - variables,  $x$  and *flexible* variables,  $?x$
  - abstractions  $\lambda x. t$
  - function applications  $t u$
- Numerous infix operators and binding operators for arithmetic, set theory, etc.

# Types

- Every term has a type; Isabelle infers the types of terms automatically. We write  $t :: \tau$
- Types can be *polymorphic*, with a system of type classes (inspired by the Haskell language) that allows sophisticated overloading.
- A formula is simply a term of type `bool`.
- There are types of ordered pairs and functions.
- Other important types are those of the natural numbers (`nat`) and integers (`int`).

# Function Types

- Infix operators are curried functions
  - $+ :: \text{nat} \Rightarrow \text{nat} \Rightarrow \text{nat}$
  - $\& :: \text{bool} \Rightarrow \text{bool} \Rightarrow \text{bool}$
  - Curried function notation:  $\lambda x y. t$
- Function arguments can be paired
  - Example:  $\text{nat} * \text{nat} \Rightarrow \text{nat}$
  - Paired function notation:  $\lambda(x, y). t$

# Arithmetic Types

- `nat`: the natural numbers (nonnegative integers)
  - inductively defined:  $0$ , `Suc  $n$`
  - operators include `+` `-` `*` `div` `mod`
  - relations include `<` `≤` `dvd` (divisibility)
- `int`: the integers, with `+` `-` `*` `div` `mod` ...
- `rat`, `real`: `+` `-` `*` `/` `sin` `cos` `ln` ...
- arithmetic constants and laws for these types



# Lists in Isabelle

- We illustrate data types and functions using a reduced Isabelle theory that lacks lists.
- The standard Isabelle environment has a *comprehensive list library*:
  - Functions # (cons), @ (append), map, filter, nth, take, drop, takeWhile, dropWhile, ...
  - Cases: (case xs of []  $\Rightarrow$  [] | x#xs  $\Rightarrow$  ...)
  - Over 600 theorems!

name of the  
new theory

# A Tiny Theory

```
theory BT imports Main begin
```

```
datatype 'a bt =  
  Lf
```

```
  | Br 'a "'a bt" "'a bt"
```

```
fun reflect :: "'a bt => 'a bt" where
```

```
  "reflect Lf = Lf"
```

```
  | "reflect (Br a t1 t2) = Br a (reflect t2) (reflect t1)"
```

```
lemma reflect_reflect_ident: "reflect (reflect t) = t"
```

```
  apply (induct t)
```

```
  apply auto
```

```
done
```

```
end
```

the theory it builds upon

declarations of types,  
constants, etc

proving a theorem

# Basic Constant Definitions

```
theory Def imports Main begin

text{*The square of a natural number*}
definition square :: "nat => nat" where
  "square n = n*n"

text{*The concept of a prime number*}
definition prime :: "nat => bool" where
  "prime p = (1 < p ^ (∀m. m dvd p → m = 1 ∨ m = p))"

```

-u-:\*\*- Def.thy<2> Top L10 (Isar Utoks Abbrev; Scripting )-----

```
constants
  prime :: "nat ⇒ bool"

```

-u-:%%- \*response\* All L2 (Isar Messages Utoks Abbrev;)-----

Auto-saving...done

# Basics of Proof General

- You create or visit an Isabelle theory file within the text editor, Emacs.
- Moving *forward* executes Isabelle commands; the processed text turns blue.
- Moving *backward* undoes those commands.
- *Go to end* processes the entire theory; you can also *go to start*, or go to an arbitrary point in the file.
- *Go to home* takes you to the end of the blue (processed) region.

# Proof General Tools

forward and back

find theorems

query theorem

```
subsection{* Ackermann's Function *}

fun ack :: "nat => nat => nat" where
  "ack 0 n = Suc n"
| "ack (Suc m) 0 = ack m 1"
| "ack (Suc m) (Suc n) = ack m (ack (Suc m) n)"

lemma less_ack2 [iff]: "j < ack i j"
  apply (induct i j rule: ack.induct)
  apply auto

proof (prove): step 1

goal (3 subgoals):
  1.  $\bigwedge n. n < \text{ack } 0 \ n$ 
  2.  $\bigwedge m. 1 < \text{ack } m \ 1 \implies 0 < \text{ack } (\text{Suc } m) \ 0$ 
  3.  $\bigwedge m \ n. [n < \text{ack } (\text{Suc } m) \ n; \text{ack } (\text{Suc } m) \ n < \text{ack } m \ (\text{ack } (\text{Suc } m) \ n)] \implies \text{Suc } n < \text{ack } (\text{Suc } m) \ (\text{Suc } n)$ 
```

stop!!

# Proof by Induction

```
theory DemoList imports Plain (*not Main, because lists are built-in*)
begin

datatype 'a list = Nil | Cons 'a "'a list"

fun app :: "'a list => 'a list => 'a list" where
  "app Nil ys = ys"
| "app (Cons x xs) ys = Cons x (app xs ys)"

lemma [simp]: "app xs Nil = xs"
  apply (induct xs)
  apply auto

proof (prove): step 1

goal (2 subgoals):
  1. app Nil Nil = Nil
  2.  $\wedge a xs. \text{app } xs \text{ Nil} = xs \implies \text{app } (\text{Cons } a \text{ xs}) \text{ Nil} = \text{Cons } a \text{ xs}$ 

-u-:--- DemoList.thy Top L12 (Isar Utoks Abbrev: Scripting )
-u-:%%- *goals* Top L1 (Isar
tool-bar next
```

structural induction on the list xs

base case and inductive step

induction hypothesis

# Finishing a Proof

The screenshot shows a theorem prover interface with a window titled "DemoList.thy". The main editor contains the following code:

```
datatype 'a list = Nil | Cons 'a "'a list"

fun app :: "'a list => 'a list => 'a list" where
  "app Nil ys = ys"
| "app (Cons x xs) ys = Cons x (app xs ys)"

lemma [simp]: "app xs Nil = xs"
  apply (induct xs)
  apply auto
done
```

A red arrow points from the text "auto proves both subgoals" to the `apply auto` line. Below the code, a status bar shows the current position: `-u-:--- DemoList.thy 7% L4 (Isar Utoks Abbrev; Scripting )`. The lower pane shows the execution state:

```
proof (prove): step 2

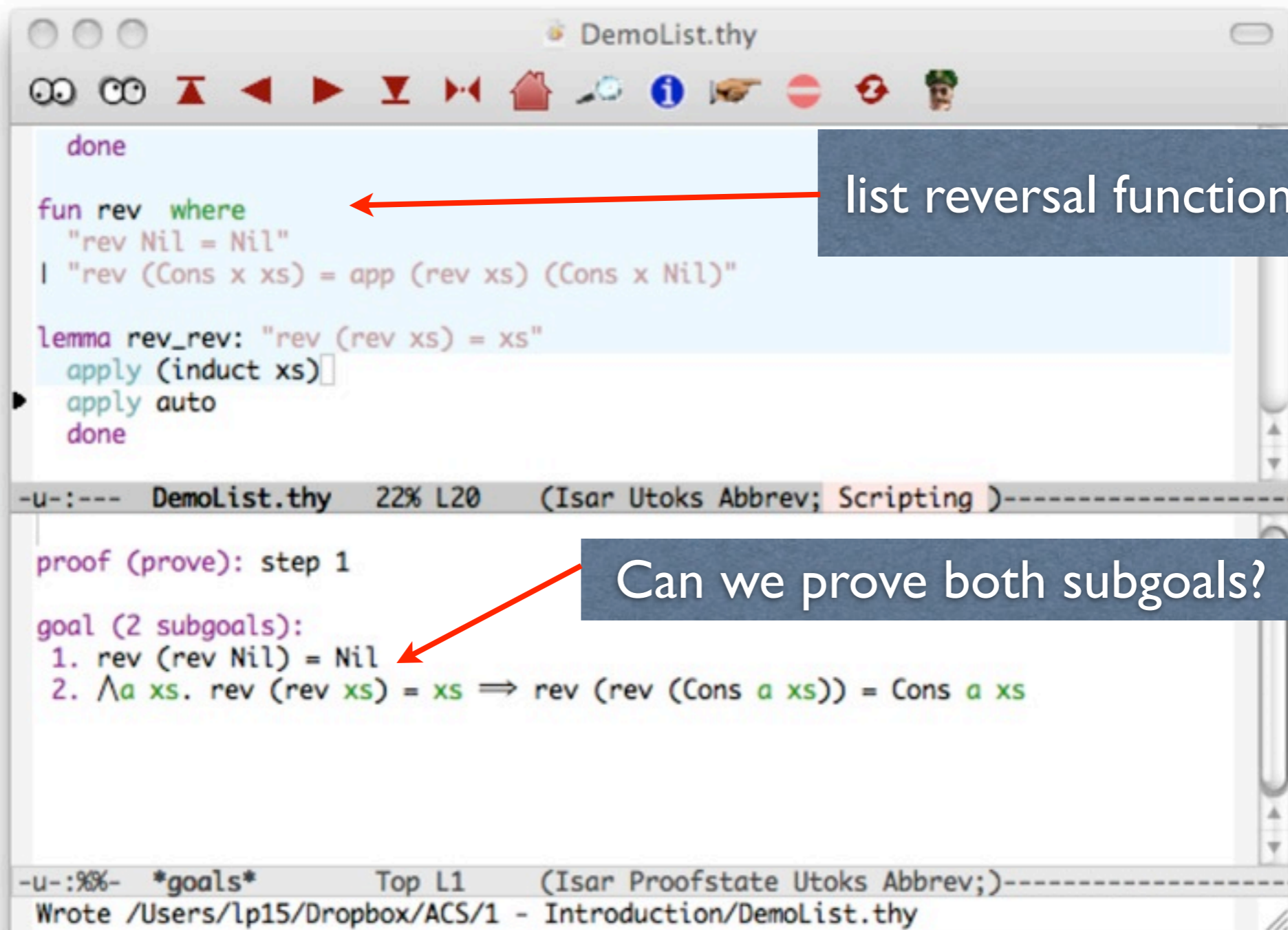
goal:
No subgoals!
```

A red arrow points from the text "We must still issue 'done' to register the theorem" to the `No subgoals!` line. The bottom status bar shows: `-u-:%%- *goals* Top L1 (Isar Proofstate Utoks Abbrev,)`.

auto proves both subgoals

We must still issue "done" to register the theorem

# Another Proof Attempt



```
done

fun rev where
  "rev Nil = Nil"
| "rev (Cons x xs) = app (rev xs) (Cons x Nil)"

lemma rev_rev: "rev (rev xs) = xs"
  apply (induct xs)
  apply auto
done
```

list reversal function

```
-u-:--- DemoList.thy 22% L20 (Isar Utoks Abbrev; Scripting )-----

proof (prove): step 1

goal (2 subgoals):
  1. rev (rev Nil) = Nil
  2.  $\Lambda a xs. \text{rev (rev xs) = xs} \implies \text{rev (rev (Cons a xs)) = Cons a xs}$ 
```

Can we prove both subgoals?

```
-u-:%%- *goals* Top L1 (Isar Proofstate Utoks Abbrev;)-----
Wrote /Users/lp15/Dropbox/ACS/1 - Introduction/DemoList.thy
```



# Stuck!

```
done

fun rev where
  "rev Nil = Nil"
| "rev (Cons x xs) = app (rev xs) (Cons x Nil)"

lemma rev_rev: "rev (rev xs) = xs"
  apply (induct xs)
  apply auto
  done

proof (prove): step 2

goal (1 subgoal):
  1.  $\Lambda a xs. \text{rev (rev xs)} = xs \implies \text{rev (app (rev xs) (Cons a Nil))} = \text{Cons a xs}$ 
```

auto made progress but didn't finish

looks like we need a lemma relating rev and app!

# Stuck Again!

```
fun rev where
  "rev Nil = Nil"
| "rev (Cons x xs) = app (rev xs) (Cons x Nil)"

lemma [simp]: "rev (app xs ys) = app (rev ys) (rev xs)"
  apply (induct xs)
  apply auto
  done

lemma rev_rev: "rev (rev xs) = xs"
  apply (induct xs)

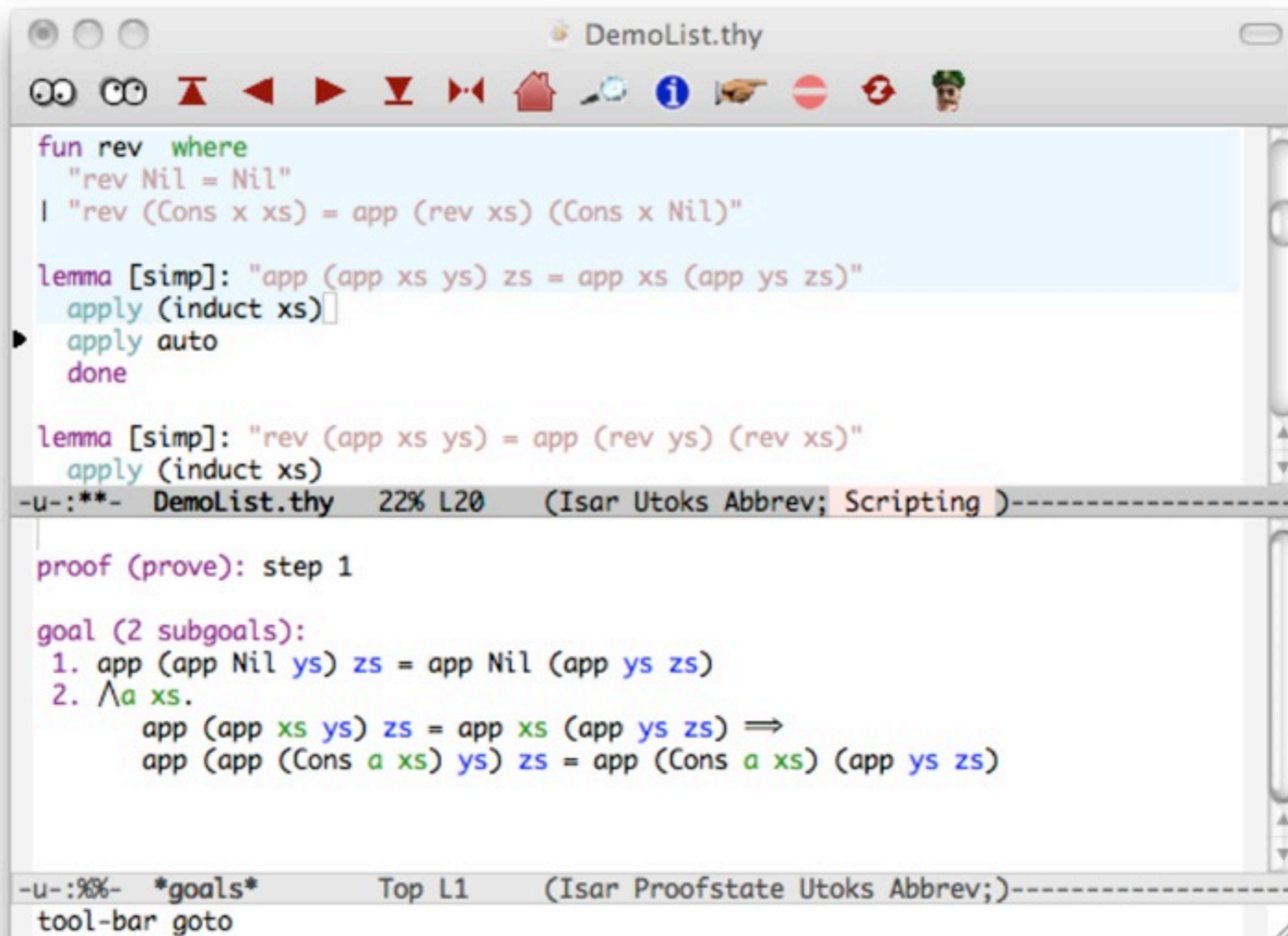
proof (prove): step 2

goal (1 subgoal):
  1.  $\Lambda a xs.$ 
    rev (app xs ys) = app (rev ys) (rev xs)  $\implies$ 
    app (app (rev ys) (rev xs)) (Cons a Nil) =
    app (rev ys) (app (rev xs) (Cons a Nil))
```

we dreamt up a lemma...

But it needs another lemma!  
(Generalising this subgoal)

# The Final Piece of the Jigsaw



```
fun rev where
  "rev Nil = Nil"
| "rev (Cons x xs) = app (rev xs) (Cons x Nil)"

lemma [simp]: "app (app xs ys) zs = app xs (app ys zs)"
  apply (induct xs)
  apply auto
  done

lemma [simp]: "rev (app xs ys) = app (rev ys) (rev xs)"
  apply (induct xs)

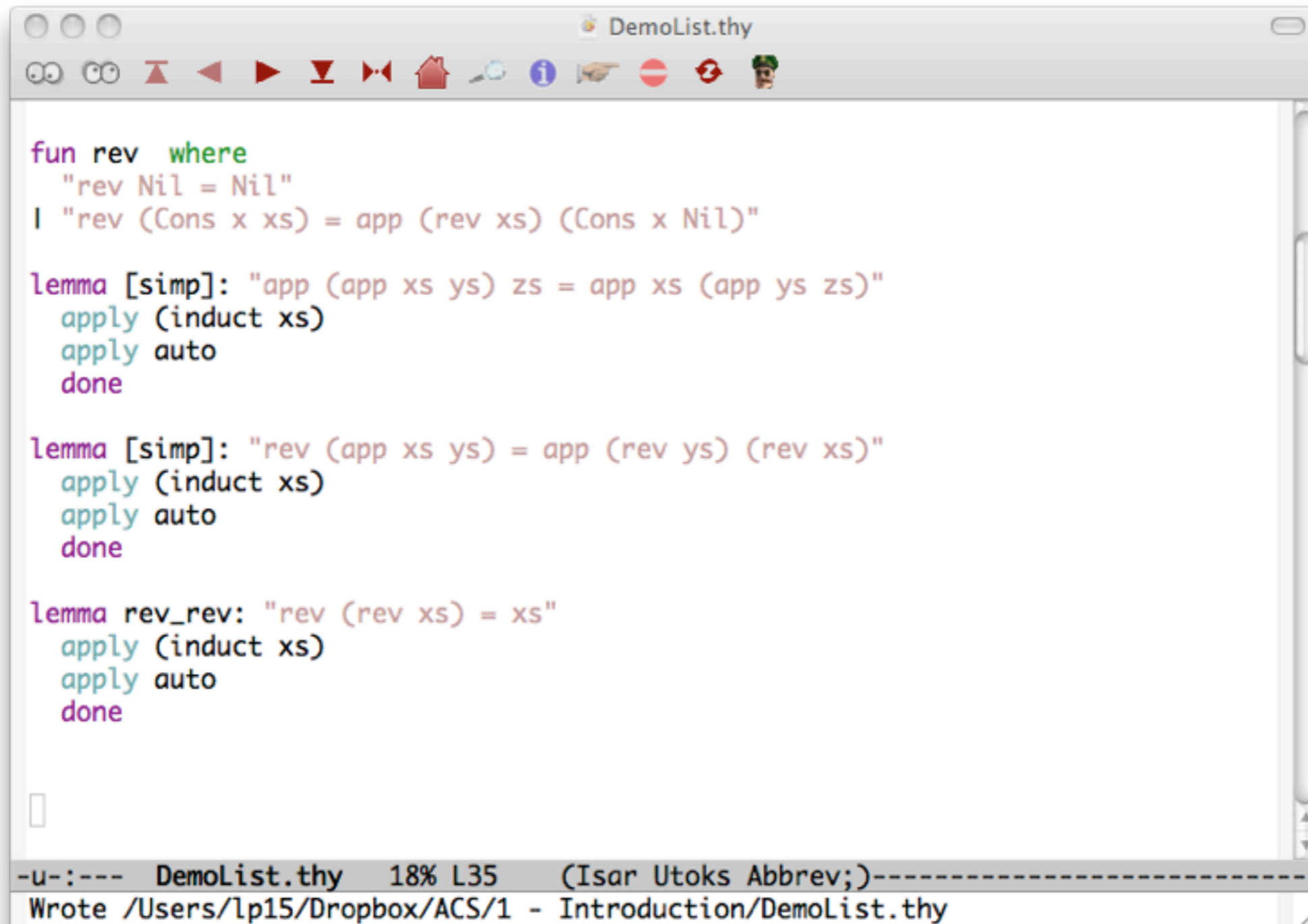
-u-:***- DemoList.thy 22% L20 (Isar Utoks Abbrev; Scripting )-----

proof (prove): step 1

goal (2 subgoals):
1. app (app Nil ys) zs = app Nil (app ys zs)
2.  $\wedge a$  xs.
   app (app xs ys) zs = app xs (app ys zs)  $\implies$ 
   app (app (Cons a xs) ys) zs = app (Cons a xs) (app ys zs)

-u-:%%- *goals* Top L1 (Isar Proofstate Utoks Abbrev;)-----
tool-bar goto
```

# The Finished Proof



```
fun rev where
  "rev Nil = Nil"
| "rev (Cons x xs) = app (rev xs) (Cons x Nil)"

lemma [simp]: "app (app xs ys) zs = app xs (app ys zs)"
  apply (induct xs)
  apply auto
  done

lemma [simp]: "rev (app xs ys) = app (rev ys) (rev xs)"
  apply (induct xs)
  apply auto
  done

lemma rev_rev: "rev (rev xs) = xs"
  apply (induct xs)
  apply auto
  done
```

-u-:--- DemoList.thy 18% L35 (Isar Utoks Abbrev;)-----  
Wrote /Users/lp15/Dropbox/ACS/1 - Introduction/DemoList.thy

**Now, a deeper look...**

# Goals and Subgoals

- We start with one subgoal: the statement to be proved.
- Proof *tactics* and *methods* typically replace a single subgoal by zero or more new subgoals.
- But certain methods, notably `auto` and `simp_all`, operate on *all* outstanding subgoals.
- We finish when no subgoals remain. *The theorem is proved!*

# Structure of a Subgoal

The screenshot shows a theorem prover interface with a code editor and a proof state window. The code editor contains the following text:

```
datatype 'a bt =  
  Lf  
  | Br 'a "'a bt" "'a bt"  
  
fun reflect :: "'a bt => 'a bt" where  
  "reflect Lf = Lf"  
| "reflect (Br a t1 t2) = Br a (reflect t2) (reflect t1)"  
  
lemma reflect_reflect_ident: "reflect (reflect t) = t"  
  apply (induct t)  
  apply auto  
done
```

The proof state window shows the following subgoal:

```
2.  $\wedge a\ t1\ t2.$   
   [[reflect (reflect t1) = t1; reflect (reflect t2) = t2]]  
    $\Rightarrow$  reflect (reflect (Br a t1 t2)) = Br a t1 t2
```

Annotations with arrows point to parts of the subgoal:

- A box labeled "assumptions (two induction hypotheses)" points to the list of assumptions: `[[reflect (reflect t1) = t1; reflect (reflect t2) = t2]]`.
- A box labeled "parameters (arbitrary local variables)" points to the lambda-bound variables:  `$\wedge a\ t1\ t2.$` .
- A box labeled "conclusion" points to the goal statement:  `$\Rightarrow$  reflect (reflect (Br a t1 t2)) = Br a t1 t2`.

The interface also shows a status bar with "BT.thy", "10% L3", and "(Isar Utoks Abbrev; Scripting)". The proof state window shows "Top L1" and "(Isar Proofstate Utoks Abbrev;)"

# Proof by Rewriting

$\text{app} (\text{Cons } x \text{ } xs) \text{ } ys \rightarrow \text{Cons } x \text{ } (\text{app } xs \text{ } ys)$  ← recursive defns  
 $\text{rev} (\text{Cons } x \text{ } xs) \rightarrow \text{app} (\text{rev } xs) (\text{Cons } x \text{ Nil})$  ← recursive defns  
 $\text{rev} (\text{app } xs \text{ } ys) \rightarrow \text{app} (\text{rev } ys) (\text{rev } xs)$  ← induction hyp  
 $\text{app} (\text{app } xs \text{ } ys) \text{ } zs \rightarrow \text{app } xs \text{ } (\text{app } ys \text{ } zs)$  ← lemma

$\text{rev} (\text{app} (\text{Cons } a \text{ } xs) \text{ } ys) = \text{app} (\text{rev } ys) (\text{rev} (\text{Cons } a \text{ } xs))$

$\text{rev} (\text{app} (\text{Cons } a \text{ } xs) \text{ } ys) =$   
 $\text{rev} (\text{Cons } a \text{ } (\text{app } xs \text{ } ys)) =$   
 $\text{app} (\text{rev} (\text{app } xs \text{ } ys)) (\text{Cons } a \text{ Nil}) =$   
 $\text{app} (\text{app} (\text{rev } ys) (\text{rev } xs)) (\text{Cons } a \text{ Nil}) =$   
 $\text{app} (\text{rev } ys) (\text{app} (\text{rev } xs) (\text{Cons } a \text{ Nil}))$

$\text{app} (\text{rev } ys) (\text{rev} (\text{Cons } a \text{ } xs)) =$   
 $\text{app} (\text{rev } ys) (\text{app} (\text{rev } xs) (\text{Cons } a \text{ Nil}))$



# Conditional Rewrite Rules

$$xs \neq [] \Rightarrow \text{hd } (xs @ ys) = \text{hd } xs$$

$$n \leq m \Rightarrow (\text{Suc } m) - n = \text{Suc } (m - n)$$

$$[| a \neq 0; b \neq 0 |] \Rightarrow b / (a * b) = 1 / a$$

- *First* match the left-hand side, *then* **recursively** prove the conditions by simplification.
- If successful, applying the resulting rewrite rule.

# The Methods *simp* and *auto*

- *simp* performs *rewriting* (along with simple arithmetic simplification) on the *first* subgoal
- *auto* simplifies *all subgoals*, not just the first.
- *auto* also applies all obvious *logical steps*
  - Splitting conjunctive goals and disjunctive assumptions
  - Performing obvious quantifier removal

# Unusual Recursions

Two variables in the induction!

Two variables in the recursion!

A special induction rule!

The subgoals follow the recursion!

```
Primrec.thy
kermann's Func
fun ack :: "nat => nat => nat" where
  "ack 0 n = Suc n"
| "ack (Suc m) 0 = ack m 1"
| "ack (Suc m) (Suc n) = ack m (ack (Suc m) n)"

lemma less_ack2 [iff]: "j < ack i j"
  apply (induct i j rule: ack.induct)
  apply auto

-u-:--- Primrec.thy 3% L16

proof (prove): step 1

goal (3 subgoals):
1.  $\forall n. n < \text{ack } 0 \ n$ 
2.  $\forall m. 1 < \text{ack } m \ 1 \implies 0 < \text{ack } (\text{Suc } m) \ 0$ 
3.  $\forall m \ n. [n < \text{ack } (\text{Suc } m) \ n; \text{ack } (\text{Suc } m) \ n < \text{ack } m \ (\text{ack } (\text{Suc } m) \ n)] \implies \text{Suc } n < \text{ack } (\text{Suc } m) \ (\text{Suc } n)$ 

-u-:%%- *goals* Top L1 (Isar Proofstate Utoks Abbrev;)
Wrote /Users/lp15/.emacs
```

# Recursion: Key Points

- Recursion in one variable, following the structure of a datatype declaration, is called *primitive*.
- Recursion in multiple variables, terminating by size considerations, can be handled using fun.
  - fun produces a special induction rule.
  - fun can handle **nested recursion**.
  - fun also handles *pattern matching*, which it **completes**.

# Another Unusual Recursion

```
fun merge :: "'a list => 'a list => 'a list"
where
  "merge (x#xs) (y#ys) =
    (if x ≤ y then x # merge xs (y#ys) else y # merge (x#xs) ys)"
| "merge xs [] = xs"
| "merge [] ys = ys"

lemma set_merge[simp]: "set (merge xs ys) = set xs ∪ set ys"
apply(induct xs ys rule: merge.induct)
apply auto
done
```

recursive calls are guarded by conditions

```
proof (prove): step 1
goal (3 subgoals):
1.  $\forall x \ xs \ y \ ys.$ 
    $[x \leq y \implies \text{set } (\text{merge } xs \ (y \ # \ ys)) = \text{set } xs \ \cup \ \text{set } (y \ # \ ys);$ 
    $\neg x \leq y \implies \text{set } (\text{merge } (x \ # \ xs) \ ys) = \text{set } (x \ # \ xs) \ \cup \ \text{set } ys]$ 
    $\implies \text{set } (\text{merge } (x \ # \ xs) \ (y \ # \ ys)) = \text{set } (x \ # \ xs) \ \cup \ \text{set } (y \ # \ ys)$ 
2.  $\forall xs. \text{set } (\text{merge } xs \ []) = \text{set } xs \ \cup \ \text{set } []$ 
3.  $\forall v \ va. \text{set } (\text{merge } [] \ (v \ # \ va)) = \text{set } [] \ \cup \ \text{set } (v \ # \ va)$ 
```

2 induction hypotheses, guarded by conditions!

Wrote /Users/lp15/Dropbox/ACS/4 - Advanced Recursion/MergeSort.thy

# A Helpful Tip

