The following problems ask you to prove some “obvious” claims about recursively-defined string functions. In each case, we want a self-contained, step-by-step induction proof that builds on formal definitions and prior reults, *not* on intuition. In particular, your proofs must refer to the formal recursive definitions of string length and string concatenation:

$$|w| = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } w = \varepsilon \\ 1 + |x| & \text{if } w = ax \text{ for some symbol } a \text{ and some string } x \end{cases}$$

$$w \bullet z = \begin{cases} z & \text{if } w = \varepsilon \\ a \cdot (x \bullet z) & \text{if } w = ax \text{ for some symbol } a \text{ and some string } x. \end{cases}$$

You may freely use the following results, which are proved in the lecture notes:

Lemma 1: $w \bullet \varepsilon = w$ for all strings w.

Lemma 2: $|w \bullet x| = |w| + |x|$ for all strings w and x.

Lemma 3: $(w \bullet x) \bullet y = w \bullet (x \bullet y)$ for all strings w, x, and y.

The ***reversal*** w^R of a string w is defined recursively as follows:

$$w^R = \begin{cases} \varepsilon & \text{if } w = \varepsilon \\ x^R \bullet a & \text{if } w = ax \text{ for some symbol } a \text{ and some string } x. \end{cases}$$

For example, $STRESSED^R = DESSERTS$ and $WTF374^R = 473FTW$.

1 Prove that $|w| = |w^R|$ for every string w.

2 Prove that $(w \bullet z)^R = z^R \bullet w^R$ for all strings w and z.

3 Prove that $(w^R)^R = w$ for every string w.

(**Hint:** You need #2 to prove #3, but you may find it easier to solve #3 first.)

To think about later: Let $\#(a, w)$ denote the number of times symbol a appears in string w. For example, $\#(X, WTF374) = 0$ and $\#(0, 000010101010010100) = 12$.

4 Give a formal recursive definition of $\#(a, w)$.

5 Prove that $\#(a, w \bullet z) = \#(a, w) + \#(a, z)$ for all symbols a and all strings w and z.

6 Prove that $\#(a, w^R) = \#(a, w)$ for all symbols a and all strings w.