

OCaml

1. Introduction

- Rapid introduction to what's in OCaml

2. Focus on Features Individually as Needed as Semester Progresses

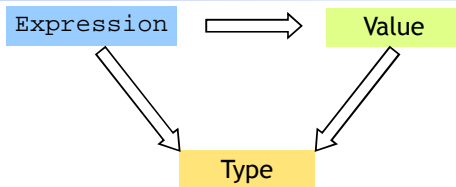
Notes from Sorin Lerner at UCSD

History, Variants

“Meta Language”

- Designed by Robin Milner @ Edinburgh
- Language to manipulate Theorems/Proofs
- Several dialects:
 - Standard” ML (of New Jersey)
 - Original syntax
 - “O’Caml: The PL for the discerning hacker”
 - French dialect with support for objects
 - State-of-the-art
 - Extensive library, tool, user support
 - (.NET)

ML’s holy trinity



- Everything is an expression
- Everything has a value
- Everything has a type

Interacting with ML

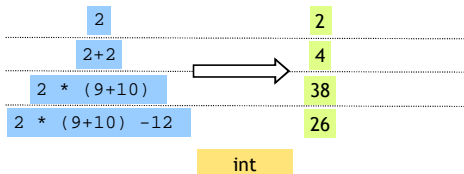
“Read-Eval-Print” Loop

Repeat:

1. System reads expression **e**
2. System evaluates **e** to get value **v**
3. System prints value **v** and type **t**

What are these **expressions**, **values** and **types** ?

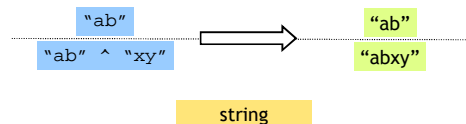
Base type: Integers



Complex expressions using “operators”:(why the quotes ?)

- +, -, *
- div, mod

Base type: Strings



Complex expressions using “operators”:(why the quotes ?)

- Concatenation ^

Base type: Booleans

<code>true</code>	<code>true</code>
<code>false</code>	<code>false</code>
<code>1 < 2</code>	<code>true</code>
<code>"aa" = "pq"</code>	<code>false</code>
<code>("aa" = "pq") && (1 < 2)</code>	<code>false</code>
<code>("aa" = "pq") (1 < 2)</code>	<code>true</code>

`bool`

Complex expressions using "operators":

- "Relations": =, <, <=, >=
- &&, ||, not

Type Errors

`(2+3) || ("a" = "b")`

`"pq" ^ 9`

`(2 + "a")`

Untypable expression is rejected

- No casting or coercing
- Fancy algorithm to catch errors
- ML's [single most powerful feature](#)

Complex types: Product (tuples)

`(2+2, 7>8);` → `(4, false)`

`int * bool`

Complex types: Product (tuples)

`(9-3, "ab"^^"cd", (2+2, 7>8))` → `(6, "abcd", (4, false))`

`(int * string * (int * bool))`

- Triples,...
- Nesting:
 - Everything is an expression, nest tuples in tuples

Complex types: Lists

<code>[];</code>	<code>[]</code>	'a list
<code>[1;2;3];</code>	<code>[1;2;3]</code>	int list
<code>[1+1;2+2;3+3;4+4];</code>	<code>[2;4;6;8]</code>	int list
<code>["a";"b"; "c"^^"d"];</code>	<code>["a";"b"; "cd"]</code>	string list
<code>[(1, "a"^^"b"); (3+4, "c")];</code>	<code>[(1, "ab"); (7, "c")]</code>	(int*string) list
<code>[[1]; [2;3]; [4;5;6]];</code>	<code>[[1]; [2;3]; [4;5;6]];</code>	(int list) list

- Unbounded size
- Can have lists of anything
- But...

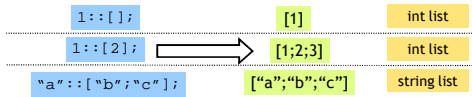
Complex types: Lists

`[1; "pq"];`

All elements must have same type

Complex types: Lists

List operator “Cons” `::`

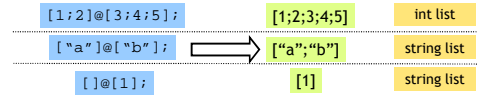


Can only “cons” element to a list of **same type**

`1 :: ["b"; "cd"] ;`

Complex types: Lists

List operator “Append” `@`

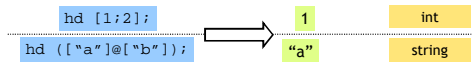


Can only append two lists `1 @ [2 ; 3] ;`

... of the same type `[1] @ ["a" ; "b"] ;`

Complex types: Lists

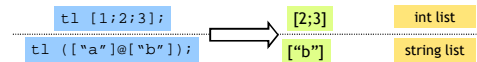
List operator “head” `hd`



Only take the head a nonempty list `hd [] ;`

Complex types: Lists

List operator “tail” `tl`



Only take the tail of nonempty list `tl [] ;`

Recap: Tuples vs. Lists ?

What's the difference ?

Recap: Tuples vs. Lists ?

What's the difference ?

- Tuples:
 - Different types, but **fixed** number:
 - `(3, "abcd")` (int * string)
 - pair = 2 elts
 - `(3, "abcd", (3.5, 4.2))` (int * string * (real * real))
 - triple = 3 elts
- Lists:
 - Same type, **unbounded** number:
 - `[3;4;5;6;7]` int list
- Syntax:
 - Tuples = **comma** Lists = **semicolon**

So far, a fancy calculator...

... what do we need next ?

Variables and bindings

```
let x = e;
```

“Bind the value of expression e
to the variable x ”

```
# let x = 2+2;;  
val x : int = 4
```

Variables and bindings

Later declared expressions can use x

- Most recent “bound” value used for evaluation

```
# let x = 2+2;;  
val x : int = 4  
# let y = x * x * x;;  
val y : int = 64  
# let z = [x;y;x+y];;  
val z : int list = [4;64;68]  
#
```

Variables and bindings

Undeclared variables
(i.e. without a value binding)
are not accepted !

```
# let p = a + 1;  
Characters 8-9:  
let p = a + 1 ;;  
      ^  
Unbound value a
```

Catches many bugs due to typos

Local bindings

... for expressions using “temporary” variables

```
let  
  tempVar = x + 2 * y  
in  
  tempVar * tempVar  
;;
```

⇒ 17424 int

- tempVar is bound **only inside** expr body from in[...];;
- **Not visible** (“in scope”) outside

Binding by Pattern-Matching

Simultaneously bind several variables

```
# let (x,y,z) = (2+3, "a"^^"b", 1::[2]);;  
val x : int = 5  
val y : string = "ab"  
val z : int list = [1;2]
```

Binding by Pattern-Matching

But what of:

```
# let h::t = [1;2;3];;
Warning P: this pattern-matching not exhaustive.
val h : int = 1
val t : int list = [2,3]
```

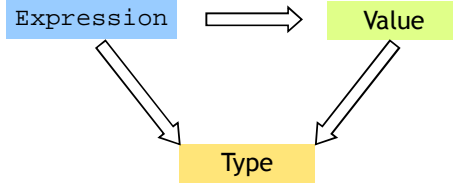
Why is it whining ?

```
# let h::t = [];
Exception: Match_failure
# let l = [1;2;3];
val l = [1;2;3]: list
- val h::t = l;
Warning: Binding not exhaustive
val h = 1 : int
val t = [2,3] : int
```

In general l may be empty (match failure!)

Another useful early warning

Next : functions, but remember ...



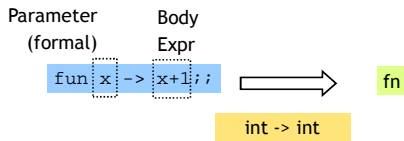
Everything is an expression

Everything has a value

Everything has a type

A function is ...

Complex types: Functions!



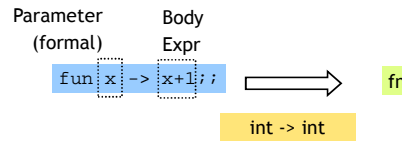
```
# let inc = fun x -> x+1 ;
val inc : int -> int = fn
# inc 0;
val it : int = 1
# inc 10;
val it : int = 11
```

How a call ("application")

is evaluated:

1. Evaluate argument
2. Bind formal to arg value
3. Evaluate "Body expr"

A Problem



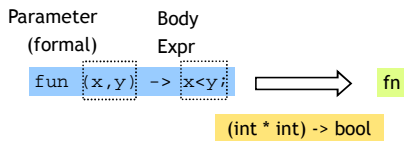
Can functions only have a single parameter ?

How a call ("application")

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A Solution: Simultaneous Binding



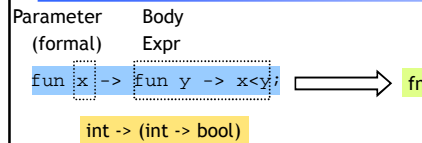
Can functions only have a single parameter ?

How a call ("application")

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Another Solution



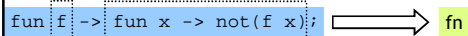
Whoa! A function can return a function

```
# let lt = fun x -> fn y -> x < y ;
val lt : int -> int -> bool = fn
# let is5Lt = lt 5;
val is5Lt : int -> bool = fn;
# is5Lt 10;
val it : bool = true;
# is5Lt 2;
val it : bool = false;
```

And how about...

Parameter Body
(formal) Expr

```
fun f -> fun x -> not(f x);
```



```
('a ->bool) -> ('a -> bool)
```

A function can also take a function argument

```
# let neg = fun f -> fun x -> not (f x);  
val lt : int -> int -> bool = fn  
# let is5gte = neg is5lt;  
val is5gte : int -> bool = fn  
# is5gte 10;  
val it : bool = false;  
# is5gte 2;  
val it : bool = true;  
(*...odd, even ...*)
```

A shorthand for function binding

```
# let neg = fun f -> fun x -> not (f x);  
...  
# let neg f x = not (f x);  
val neg : int -> int -> bool = fn  
  
# let is5gte = neg is5lt;  
val is5gte : int -> bool = fn;  
# is5gte 10;  
val it : bool = false;  
# is5gte 2;  
val it : bool = true;
```

“match” statement

If arg “matches” this pattern, use this body

```
let mystery l =  
  match l with  
  | [] -> 0  
  | (h::t) -> h
```

Put it together: a “filter” function

If arg “matches” ...then use
this pattern... this Body Expr

```
- let rec filter f l =  
  match l with  
  [] -> []  
  | (h::t)-> if f h then h::(filter f t)  
             else (filter f t);;  
  
val filter : ('a->bool)->'a list->'a list = fn  
  
# let list1 = [1,31,12,4,7,2,10];;  
# filter is5lt list1 ;;  
val it : int list = [31,12,7,10]  
# filter is5gte list1;;  
val it : int list = [1,2,10]  
# filter even list1;;  
val it : int list = [12,4,2,10]
```

Put it together: a “partition” function

```
# let partition f l = (filter f l, filter (neg f) l);  
val partition : ('a->bool)->'a list->'a list * 'a list = fn  
  
# let list1 = [1,31,12,4,7,2,10];  
- ...  
# partition is5lt list1 ;  
val it : (int list * int list) = ([31,12,7,10],[1,2,10])  
  
# partition even list1;  
val it : (int list * int list) = ([12,4,2,10],[1,31,7])
```

A little trick ...

```
# 2 <= 3;; ...  
val it : bool = true  
# "ba" <= "ab";;  
val it : bool = false  
  
# let lt = (<) ;;  
val it : 'a -> 'a -> bool = fn  
  
# lt 2 3;;  
val it : bool = true;  
# lt "ba" "ab" ;;  
val it : bool = false;  
  
# let is5Lt = lt 5;  
val is5Lt : int -> bool = fn;  
# is5Lt 10;  
val it : bool = true;  
# is5Lt 2;  
val it : bool = false;
```

Put it together: a “quicksort” function

```
let rec sort l =  
  match l with  
  | [] -> []  
  | (h::t) ->  
    let (l,r) = partition ((<) h) t in  
    (sort l)@(h::(sort r))  
;;
```