Lecture 4: OCaml Crash Course III

Yu Feng Winter 2023

Outline for today

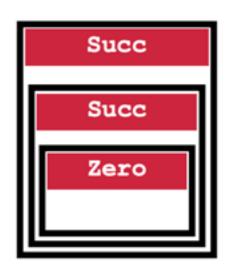
- Last lecture on OCaml
- Date types
- Higher-order functions

Recursive types

type nat = Zero | Succ of nat

What are values of nat?
One nat contains another!

nat = recursive type



plus: nat*nat -> nat

```
type nat =

Base pattern
| Zero
Inductive pattern | Succ of nat
```

```
let rec plus n m =
match m with

Base pattern

Inductive pattern

| Succ m' -> Succ (plus n m')
```

Inductive expression

List datatype

```
type int_list =
  Nil
| Cons of int * int_list
```

Lists are a derived type: built using elegant core!

- I. Each-of
- 2. One-of
- 3. Recursive

```
:: is just a syntactic sugar for "Cons"
[] is a syntactic sugar for "Nil"
```

List function: length

```
let rec len l =
    match l with
Base pattern | Nil -> 0 Base expression
Inductive pattern | Cons(h,t) -> 1 + (len t)
```

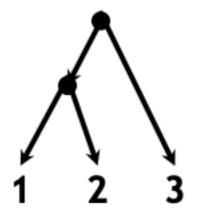
Inductive expression

List function: list_max

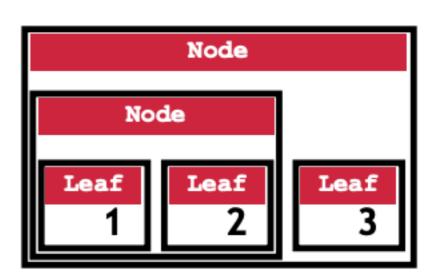
<u>let</u> max x y = if x > y then x else y;;

Representing Trees

```
type tree =
  Leaf of int
| Node of tree*tree
```



Node(Node(Leaf 1, Leaf 2), Leaf 3)



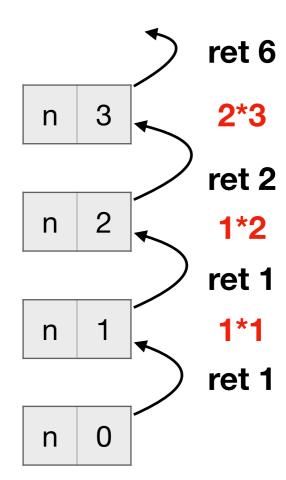
sum_leaf: tree -> int

```
type tree =
  Leaf of int
| Node of tree*tree
```

Factorial: int -> int

```
let rec fact n =
    if n<=0
    then 1
    else n * fact (n-1);;</pre>
```

How does it execute?



Tail recursion

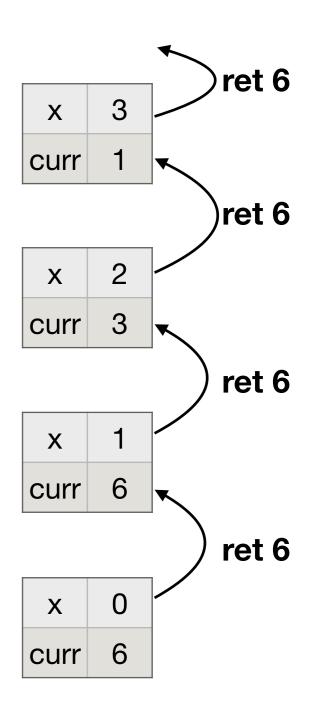
Tail recursion

- Recursion where all recursive calls are immediately followed by a return
- In other words: not allowed to do anything between recursive call and return

Tail recursive Factorial

```
let fact x =
  let rec helper x curr =
    if x <= 0
    then curr
    else helper (x - 1) (x * curr)
  in
    helper x 1;;</pre>
```

How does it execute?



Tail recursion

Tail recursion

- Recursion where all recursive calls are immediately followed by a return
- In other words: not allowed to do anything between recursive call and return

Why do we care about tail recursion?

• Tail recursion can be optimized into a simple loop

Compiler optimization

Recursion

Loop

max function

```
let max x y = if x < y then y else x;;

(* return max element of list l *)
let list_max l =
    let rec l_max l =
        match l with
        [] -> 0
        | h::t -> max h (l_max t)
    in
        l_max l;;
```

A better max function

```
let max x y = if x < y then y else x;;

(* return max element of list l *)
let list_max2 l =
   let rec helper cur l =
       match l with
       [] -> cur
       | h::t -> helper (max cur h) t
   in
       helper 0 l;;
```

Tail recursion

concat function

```
(* concatenate all strings in a list *)
let concat l =
   let rec helper cur l =
        match l with
      [] -> cur
        | h::t -> helper (cur ^ h) t
   in
        helper "" l;;
```

What is the pattern?

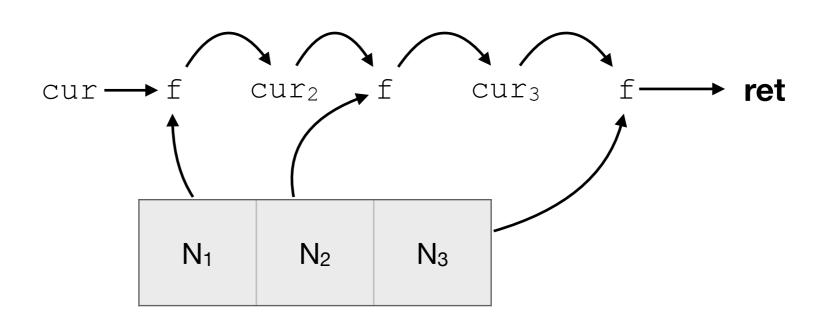
```
(* return max element of list l *)
let list_max2 l =
   let rec helper cur l =
       match l with
       [] -> cur
       | h::t -> helper (max cur h) t
   in
       helper 0 l;;
```

The two functions are sharing the same template!

```
(* concatenate all strings in a list *)
let concat l =
   let rec helper cur l =
        match l with
      [] -> cur
        | h::t -> helper (cur ^ h) t
   in
        helper "" l;;
```

fold

```
(* fold, the coolest function! *)
let rec fold f cur l =
   match l with
   [] -> cur
   | h::t -> fold f (f cur h) t;;
```



fold: examples

```
let list_max = fold max 0 l;;
```

```
let concat = fold (^) "" l;;
```

map

```
# (* return the list containing f(e)
    for each element e of l *)
let rec map f l =
    match l with
[] -> []
    | h::t -> (f h)::(map f t);;
```

```
let incr x = x+1;;

let map_incr = map incr;;

map_incr [1;2;3];;
```

Composing functions

$$(f \circ g) (x) = f(g(x))$$

```
# (* return a function that given an argument x
applies f2 to x and then applies f1 to the result *)
let compose f1 f2 = fun x -> (f1 (f2 x));;

(* another way of writing it *)
let compose f1 f2 x = f1 (f2 x);;
```

Higher-order functions

```
let map_incr_2 = compose map_incr map_incr;;
map_incr_2 [1;2;3];;

let map_incr_3 = compose map_incr map_incr_2;;
map_incr_3 [1;2;3];;

let map_incr_3 pos = compose pos_filer map_incr_3;;
```

Instead of manipulating lists, we are manipulating the list manipulators!

Benefits of higher-order functions

Identify common computation patterns

- Iterate a function over a set, list, tree
- Accumulate some value over a collection

Pull out (factor) "common" code:

- Computation Patterns
- Re-use in many different situations