

# OCaml

Yuxin Deng

[yx deng@sei.ecnu.edu.cn](mailto:yx deng@sei.ecnu.edu.cn)

# Ocaml and UTop

1. Install ocaml via opam

2. Install utop via opam

<https://opam.ocaml.org/blog/about-utop/>

opam install utop

eval `opam config env` # may not be needed

opam init

utop

# Hello World!

Create a "hello.ml" file:

```
print_endline "Hello World!"
```

Run it with the interpreter:

```
$ ocaml hello.ml
```

Run it with the bytecode interpreter:

```
$ ocamlc -o hello hello.ml
```

```
$ ocamlrun hello
```

On most systems, the bytecode can be run directly:

```
$ ocamlc -o hello hello.ml
```

```
$ ./hello
```

# Interpret and Compile

Compile a native executable and run:

```
$ ocamlpt -o hello hello.ml
```

```
$ ./hello
```

The interactive Read-Eval-Print Loop

```
$ ocaml
```

```
# print_endline "Hello World!" ;;
```

```
# #use "hello.ml" ;;
```

```
# #quit;;
```

```
$
```

## Running OCaml code

```
$ ocaml
```

```
OCaml version 4.09.0
```

```
# 1+1;;
```

```
- : int = 2
```

```
# " Hello" ^ " World!" ;;
```

# Defining a function

```
# (* define a function *)
```

```
  let average a b =
```

```
    (a +. b) /. 2.0;;
```

```
val average : float -> float -> float = <fun>
```

(\* OCaml defines + as the integer addition function. To add floats, use +. (note the trailing period). Similarly, use -. , \*. , /. for other float operations. \*)

```
# average 3. 4.;;
```

```
- : float = 3.5
```

```
# let plus = fun x y -> x + y ;;
```

```
val plus : int -> int -> int = <fun>
```

```
# plus 2 3;;
```

## Defining a function

```
# let a = 3 in a + 5 ;;
```

```
- : int = 8
```

```
# (fun a -> a + 5) 3 ;;
```

```
- : int = 8
```

Semantically equivalent; 'let' is easier to read.

# Polymorphism

```
# let f x = x ;;  
val f : 'a -> 'a = <fun>  
# f 3 ;;  
- : int = 3  
# f true ;;  
- : bool = true  
# f print_int ;;  
- : int -> unit = <fun>  
# f print_int 1 ;;  
1- : unit = ()
```



# Polymorphism

Ocaml always infers the most general type.

```
# let compose f g = fun x -> f (g x) ;;  
val compose : ('a -> 'b) -> ('c -> 'a) -> 'c -> 'b = <fun>
```

# Basic types

OCaml type	Range
int	31-bit signed int (roughly +/- 1 billion) on 32-bit processors, or 63-bit signed int on 64-bit processors
float	IEEE double-precision floating point, equivalent to C's double
bool	A boolean, written either true or false
char	An 8-bit character
string	A string
unit	Written as ()

## Unit type

Expressions with no meaningful value (assignment, loop, ...) have type unit.

This type has a single value, written ().

It is the type given to the else branch when it is omitted.

Correct:

if !x > 0 then x := 0

Incorrect:

2 + (if ! X > 0 then 1)

# Implicit vs. explicit casts

```
# 1 + 2.5 ;;
```

**Error:** This expression has type float but an expression was expected of type int

```
# 1 +. 2.5 ;;
```

**Error:** This expression has type int but an expression was expected of type float

```
# (float_of_int 1) +. 2.5 ;;
```

```
- : float = 3.5
```

# Lists

```
# [1; 2; 3];;  
- : int list = [1; 2; 3]
```

```
# 1 :: [2; 3] ;;  
- : int list = [1; 2; 3]
```

# Array

```
# let a = [| 1; 3; 5 |] ;;  
val a : int array = [|1; 3; 5|]
```

```
# a.(0) ;;  
- : int = 1
```

```
# a.(2) <- 7 ;;  
- : unit = ()
```

```
# a ;;  
- : int array = [|1; 3; 7|]
```

```
# let a = Array.make 5 "a" ;;  
val a : string array = [|"a"; "a"; "a"; "a"; "a"|]
```

# Structures or records

```
# type pair_of_ints = { a: int; b : int };;  
type pair_of_ints = { a : int; b : int; }
```

```
# {a=3; b=5};;  
-   : pair_of_ints = {a = 3; b = 5}
```

```
# type complex = {re : float; im : float} ;;  
type complex = { re : float; im : float; }
```

```
# let x = { re = 1.0; im = -1.0 } ;;  
val x : complex = {re = 1.; im = -1.}
```

```
# x.im ;;  
- : float = -1.
```

# Mutable fields

```
# type person = {name : string; mutable age : int} ;;  
type person = { name : string; mutable age : int; }
```

```
# let p = { name = "John"; age = 20};;  
val p : person = {name = "John"; age = 20}
```

```
# p.age <- p.age + 1;;  
- : unit = ()
```

```
# p.age;;  
- : int = 21
```



# Variants

```
# type foo =  
  | Nothing  
  | Int of int  
  | Pair of int * int  
  | String of string;;  
type foo = Nothing | Int of int | Pair of int * int | String of string
```

```
# Pair (3, 4);;  
- : foo = Pair (3, 4)
```

```
# type sign = Positive | Zero | Negative ;;  
type sign = Positive | Zero | Negative
```

```
# Positive ;;  
- : sign = Positive
```

# Recursive variants

```
# type binary_tree =  
  | Leaf of int  
  | Tree of binary_tree * binary_tree;;  
type binary_tree = Leaf of int | Tree of binary_tree * binary_tree
```

```
# Leaf 3;;  
- : binary_tree = Leaf 3
```

```
# Tree (Tree (Leaf 3, Leaf 4), Leaf 5);;  
- : binary_tree = Tree (Tree (Leaf 3, Leaf 4), Leaf 5)
```

## Parameterized variants

```
# type 'a binary_tree =  
  | Leaf of 'a  
  | Tree of 'a binary_tree * 'a binary_tree;;  
type 'a binary_tree = Leaf of 'a | Tree of 'a binary_tree * 'a binary_tree
```

```
# Tree (Leaf "hello", Tree (Leaf "John", Leaf "Smith"));;  
- : string binary_tree =  
Tree (Leaf "hello", Tree (Leaf "John", Leaf "Smith"))
```

```
# Leaf 3.1;;  
- : float binary_tree = Leaf 3.1
```

# Parameterized variants

```
# type 'a list =  
  | Nil  
  | Cons of 'a * 'a list;;  
type 'a list = Nil | Cons of 'a * 'a list
```

```
# Nil;;  
- : 'a list = Nil
```

```
# Cons (1, Nil);;  
- : int list = Cons (1, Nil)
```

```
# Cons (1.1, Cons(2.1, Nil));;  
- : float list = Cons (1.1, Cons (2.1, Nil))
```

## Local “variables” (really local expressions)

```
# let average a b =  
  let sum = a +. b in  
  sum /. 2.0;;  
val average : float -> float -> float = <fun>
```

```
# let f a b =  
  (a +. b) +. (a +. b) ** 2. ;;  
val f : float -> float -> float = <fun>
```

```
# let f a b =  
  let x = a +. b in  
  x +. x ** 2. ;;  
val f : float -> float -> float = <fun>
```

## Global “variables” (really global expressions)

```
let html =  
  let content = read_whole_file file in  
  GHtml.html_from_string content  
;;  
  
let menu_bold () =  
  match bold_button#active with  
  | true -> html#set_font_style ~enable:[`BOLD] ()  
  | false -> html#set_font_style ~disable:[`BOLD] ()  
;;  
  
let main () =  
  (* code omitted *)  
  factory#add_item "Cut" ~key:_X ~callback: html#cut  
;;
```

## References (real variables)

```
# ref 0;;  
- : int ref = {contents = 0}
```

```
# let my_ref = ref 0;;  
val my_ref : int ref = {contents = 0}
```

```
# my_ref := 100;;  
- : unit = ()
```

```
# !my_ref;;  
- : int = 100
```

# References (real variables)

A reference = a record of predefined type

```
type 'a ref = { mutable contents : 'a }
```

`ref`, `!` and `:=` are syntactic sugar

Only arrays and mutable fields can be mutated



# Tuples

Usual notation

```
# (1,2,3);;
```

```
- : int * int * int = (1, 2, 3)
```

```
# let v = (0, false, "window", 'a') ;;
```

```
val v : int * bool * string * char = (0, false, "window", 'a' )
```

Access to components

```
# let (a, b, c, d) = v ;;
```

```
val a : int = 0
```

```
val b : bool = false
```

```
val c : string = "window"
```

```
val d : char = 'a'
```

```
# print_string c;;
```

```
window- : unit = ()
```

# Tuples

Useful to return several values

```
# let rec division n m =  
  if n < m then (0, n)  
  else let (q, r) = division (n-m) m in  
    (q + 1, r) ;;  
val division : int -> int -> int * int = <fun>
```

Function taking a tuple as argument

```
# let f (x,y) = x + y ;;  
val f : int * int -> int = <fun>
```

```
# f (1,2);;
```

```
- : int = 3
```

# In and Out

```
# print_int 100;;  
100- : unit = ()  
  
# let print_pair (x, y) =  
  print_int x; print_newline (); print_int y; print_newline () ;;  
val print_pair : int * int -> unit = <fun>  
  
# print_pair (1,2);;  
1  
2  
- : unit = ()  
  
# let a = read_int ()  
  in print_int a;;  
  
# let name = read_line ()  
  in print_string name ;;
```

# No null value

In Ocaml, there is no null value.

Any value is necessarily initialized.

An expression of type  $\tau$  whose evaluation terminates necessarily has a legal value of type  $\tau$ .

This is known as strong typing.

No such thing as NullPointerException

## Nested functions

```
# let read_whole_channel chan =  
  let buf = Buffer.create 4096 in  
  let rec loop () =  
    let newline = input_line chan in  
    Buffer.add_string buf newline;  
    Buffer.add_char buf '\n';  
    loop ()  
  in  
  try  
    loop ()  
  with  
    End_of_file -> Buffer.contents buf;;  
val read_whole_channel : in_channel -> string = <fun>
```

# Pattern matching

```
# type expr =  
  | Plus of expr * expr      (* means a + b *)  
  | Minus of expr * expr     (* means a - b *)  
  | Times of expr * expr     (* means a * b *)  
  | Divide of expr * expr    (* means a / b *)  
  | Value of string          (* "x", "y", "n", etc. *);;  
  
type expr =  
  Plus of expr * expr  
  | Minus of expr * expr  
  | Times of expr * expr  
  | Divide of expr * expr  
  | Value of string
```

```
# let rec to_string e =  
  match e with  
  | Plus (left, right) ->  
    "(" ^ to_string left ^ " + " ^ to_string right ^ ")"  
  | Minus (left, right) ->  
    "(" ^ to_string left ^ " - " ^ to_string right ^ ")"  
  | Times (left, right) ->  
    "(" ^ to_string left ^ " * " ^ to_string right ^ ")"  
  | Divide (left, right) ->  
    "(" ^ to_string left ^ " / " ^ to_string right ^ ")"  
  | Value v -> v;;  
  
val to_string : expr -> string = <fun>  
  
# let print_expr e =  
  print_endline (to_string e);;  
val print_expr : expr -> unit = <fun>  
  
# print_expr (Times (Value "n", Plus (Value "x", Value "y")));;  
(n * (x + y))  
- : unit = ()
```

# Wildcards

Underscore (\_) is a wildcard that will match anything, useful as a default or when you just don't care.

```
# let xor p = match p
  with (true, false) | (false, true) -> true
      | _ -> false;;
val xor : bool * bool -> bool = <fun>
```

```
# xor (true, true);;
- : bool = false
```

# If statements, loops

```
# let max a b =  
  if a > b then a else b;;  
val max : 'a -> 'a -> 'a = <fun>  
  
# max 2 3;;  
- : int = 3  
  
# max 2.1 5.4;;  
- : float = 5.4  
  
# max "a" "b";;  
- : string = "b"
```

```
# let sum = ref 0 in  
  for i = 1 to 10 do  
    sum := !sum + i  
  done ;  
  print_int !sum;;  
55- : unit = ()
```

```
# let flag = ref false in  
  while not !flag do  
    print_string "Terminate? (y/n)";  
    let str = read_line () in  
    if str.[0] = 'y' then  
      flag := true  
    done;;  
Terminate? (y/n)n  
Terminate? (y/n)abc  
Terminate? (y/n)y  
- : unit = ()
```



# While loops

```
# let array_mem x a =  
  let len = Array.length a in  
  let flag = ref false in  
  let i = ref 0 in  
  while !flag = false && !i < len do  
    if a.(i) = x then  
      flag := true;  
      i := !i + 1  
  done;  
  !flag ;;  
val array_mem : 'a -> 'a array -> bool = <fun>  
  
# array_mem 1 [| 3; 1; 6; 7 |];;  
- : bool = true
```

```
# let array_mem' x a =  
  let flag = ref false in  
  for i = 0 to Array.length a - 1 do  
    if a.(i) = x then  
      flag := true  
  done;  
  !flag ;;  
val array_mem' : 'a -> 'a array -> bool = <fun>  
  
# array_mem' 1 [| 3; 5; 1; 7 |];;  
- : bool = true  
  
# array_mem 7 [| 3; 5; 1; 6 |];;  
- : bool = false
```

# Recursive functions

```
# let rec range a b =  
  if a > b then []  
  else a :: range (a+1) b;;  
val range : int -> int -> int list = <fun>
```

```
# range 1 5;;  
- : int list = [1; 2; 3; 4; 5]
```

```
# let rec range2 a b accum =  
  if b < a then accum  
  else range2 a (b-1) (b :: accum);;  
val range2 : int -> int -> int list -> int list = <fun>
```

```
# let range a b =  
  range2 a b [];;  
val range : int -> int -> int list = <fun>
```

# Recursive functions

```
# let rec fact n =  
  if n = 0 then 1  
  else n * fact (n-1);;  
val fact : int -> int = <fun>  
  
# fact 3;;  
- : int = 6  
  
# fact 5;;  
- : int = 120
```

```
# let rec list_max list =  
  match list with  
  | [] -> failwith "list_max called on empty list"  
  | [x] -> x  
  | x :: list' -> max x (list_max list');;  
val list_max : 'a list -> 'a = <fun>  
  
# list_max [1; 3; 5; 4; 2];;  
- : int = 5
```

# Mutual recursion

```
# let rec fact n =  
  if n = 0 then 1  
  else n * fact1 n  
and fact1 = fact (n-1);;  
val fact : int -> int = <fun>  
val fact1 : int -> int = <fun>  
  
# fact 5;;  
- : int = 120
```

# Imperative feature

```
# let rec fact n =  
  if n = 0 then 1  
  else n * fact1 n  
and fact1 = fact (n-1);;  
val fact : int -> int = <fun>  
val fact1 : int -> int = <fun>  
  
# fact 5;;  
- : int = 120
```

vs

```
# let fact n =  
  let result = ref 1 in  
  for i = 2 to n do  
    result := i * !result  
  done;  
  !result ;;  
val fact : int -> int = <fun>  
  
# fact 5;;  
- : int = 120
```

# Ackermann functions

$$A(m,n) = \begin{cases} n + 1 & \text{if } m=0 \\ A(m-1,1) & \text{if } m > 0 \text{ and } n = 0 \\ A(m-1,A(m,n-1)) & \text{if } m > 0 \text{ and } n > 0 \end{cases}$$

where m and n are non-negative integers

# Ackermann functions

```
# let rec ack m n =  
  if m = 0 then n + 1  
  else if n = 0 then ack (m-1) 1  
    else if m > 0 && n > 0 then ack (m-1) (ack m (n-1))  
      else failwith "Negative parameters"  
;;  
val ack : int -> int -> int = <fun>
```

```
# #use "test.ml";;  
val ack : int -> int -> int = <fun>  
# ack 3 3;;  
- : int = 61
```

# Tree exercises

```
# type 'a bt =  
  Lf  
  | Br of 'a * 'a bt * 'a bt ;;  
  
# let rec size tr =  
  match tr with  
  | Lf -> 0  
  | Br (_, l, r) -> 1 + size l + size r ;;  
val size : 'a tree -> int = <fun>  
  
# let rec total tr =  
  match tr with  
  | Lf -> 0  
  | Br (x, l, r) -> x + total l + total r ;;  
val total : int tree -> int = <fun>
```

```
# let max x y =  
  if x > y then x else y  
  
let rec maxdepth tr =  
  match tr with  
  | Lf -> 0  
  | Br (_, l, r) -> 1 + max (maxdepth l)  
    (maxdepth r);;  
val max : 'a -> 'a -> 'a = <fun>  
val maxdepth : 'a tree -> int = <fun>  
  
# let rec list_of_tree tr =  
  match tr with  
  | Lf -> []  
  | Br (x, l, r) -> list_of_tree l @ [x] @  
    list_of_tree r ;;  
val list_of_tree : 'a tree -> 'a list = <fun>
```



# Higher-order function

```
# let rec map f l =  
  match l with  
  | [] -> []  
  | h :: t -> f h :: map f t ;;
```

```
let halve x = x / 2 ;;
```

```
# map halve [10; 20; 30];;  
- : int list = [5; 10; 15]
```

# Higher-order function

```
# let rec power f n =  
  if n = 0 then fun x -> x  
  else compose f (power f (n-1))  
and compose f g = fun x -> f (g x) ;;  
val power : ('a -> 'a) -> int -> 'a -> 'a = <fun>  
val compose : ('a -> 'a) -> ('a -> 'a) -> 'a -> 'a = <fun>  
  
# let derivative dx f = fun x -> (f (x +. dx) -. f x) /. dx ;;  
val derivative : float -> (float -> float) -> float -> float = <fun>  
  
# let sin''' = power (derivative 1e-5) 3 sin;;  
val sin''' : float -> float = <fun>
```

# Higher-order function

```
# let integral f =  
  let n = 100 in  
  let s = ref 0.0 in  
  for i = 0 to n-1 do  
    let x = float i /. float n in  
    s := !s +. f x  
  done;  
  !s /. float n ;;
```

```
val integral : (float -> float) -> float = <fun>
```

```
# integral sin;;  
- : float = 0.455486508387318301
```

```
# integral (fun x -> x *. x) ;;  
- : float = 0.328350000000000031
```

# Insertion sort

```
# let rec sort = function
  | [] -> []
  | x :: l -> insert x (sort l)
and insert a = function
  | [] -> [a]
  | x :: l -> if a < x then a :: x :: l
              else x :: insert a l ;;
val sort : 'a list -> 'a list = <fun>
val insert : 'a -> 'a list -> 'a list = <fun>

# sort [2; 1; 3; 0];;
- : int list = [0; 1; 2; 3]

# sort ["how"; "are"; "you"] ;;
- : string list = ["are"; "how"; "you"]
```

Sort is defined by two recursive functions.

The type of the list elements are unspecified. It's represented by a type variable 'a.

# Quicksort

```
# let rec quicksort l =  
  match l with  
  | [] -> []  
  | [x] -> [x]  
  | h::tl ->  
    let rec partition list =  
      match rest with  
      | [] -> [], []  
      | a::list' ->  
        let (left, right) = partition list' in  
        if a < h then. (a :: left, right)  
        else (left, a :: right)  
    in let (l, r) = partition tl in  
      (quicksort l) @ (h :: quicksort r);;  
val quicksort : 'a list -> 'a list = <fun>  
  
# quicksort [2; 5; 1; 7; 3; 9; 3; 0; 10];;  
- : int list = [0; 1; 2; 3; 3; 5; 7; 9; 10]
```

# Exceptions

```
# 1 / 0;;  
Exception: Division_by_zero.
```

```
# try  
  1 / 0  
  with Division_by_zero -> 13;;  
- : int = 13
```

```
# exception My_exception ;;  
exception My_exception
```

```
# try  
  if true then  
    raise My_exception  
  else 0  
  with My_exception -> 13;;  
- : int = 13
```

# Exceptions

```
# exception Exception1 of string;;
# exception Exception2 of int * string;;

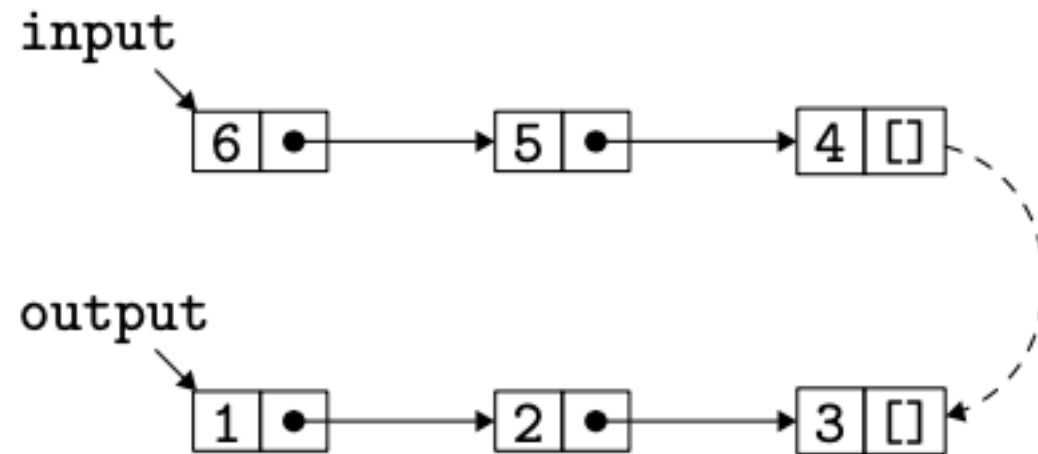
# let except b =
  try
    if b then
      raise (Exception1 "aaa")
    else
      raise (Exception2 (13, " bbb"))
  with Exception1 s -> "Exception1: "^s
       |Exception2 (n, s) -> "Exception2 "^string_of_int n ^ s ;;
val except : bool -> string = <fun>

# except true;;
- : string = "Exception1: aaa"

# except false;;
- : string = "Exception2 13 bbb"
```

# Queues

Idea: a queue is a pair of lists, one for insertion, and one for extraction.



This stands for the queue -> 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 ->



# Queues

```
# let create () = [], [];;  
val create : unit -> 'a list * 'b list = <fun>  
  
# let push x (i, o) = (x :: i, o) ;;  
val push : 'a -> 'a list * 'b -> 'a list * 'b = <fun>  
  
# let pop q =  
  let (i, o) = q in  
  match o with  
  | x :: o' -> x, (i, o')  
  | [] -> match List.rev i with  
    | x :: i' -> x, ([], i')  
    | [] -> raise Empty ;;  
val pop : 'a list * 'a list -> 'a * ('a list * 'a list) = <fun>
```

```
# push 2 ([1], []);;  
- : int list * 'a list = ([2; 1], [])  
# pop ([2; 1], []);;  
- : int * (int list * int list) = (1, ([], [2]))
```