

# Unions and Products

**Concepts of Programming Languages**

**Lecture 3**

# Practice Problem

Implement a function **`first_digit`** which takes an integer **`n`** as an input and returns the first digit of **`n`** (without converting to a string)

# Outline

- » Discuss Formal Typing/Semantic Rules
- » Demonstrate how to organize data in OCaml in terms of products and unions types

# Learning Objectives

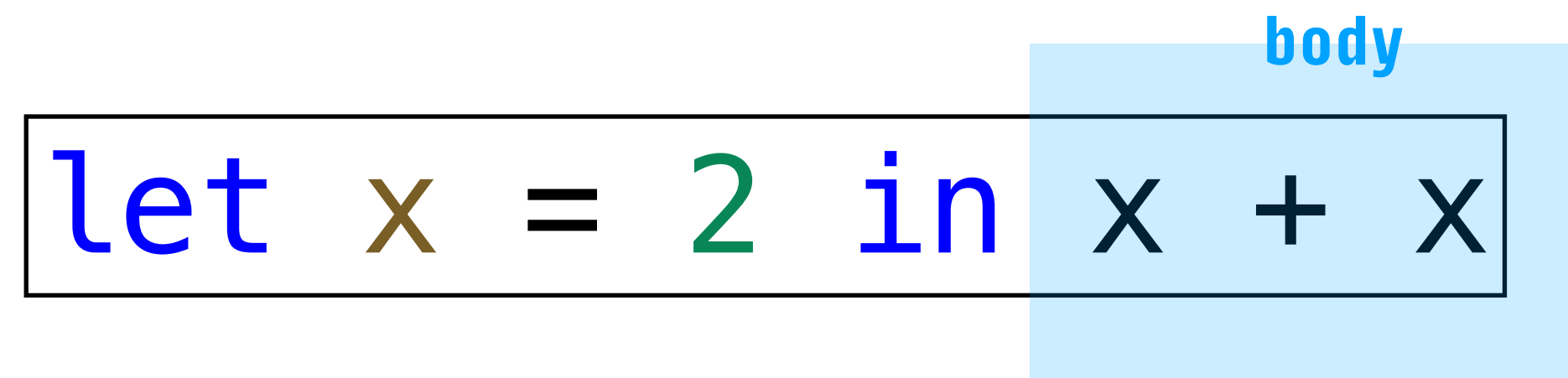
- » Read inference rules, i.e., translate mathematical notation to English and English to mathematical notation
- » Work with basic structured data in OCaml

# Recap

# Recall: Local Variables (Informal)

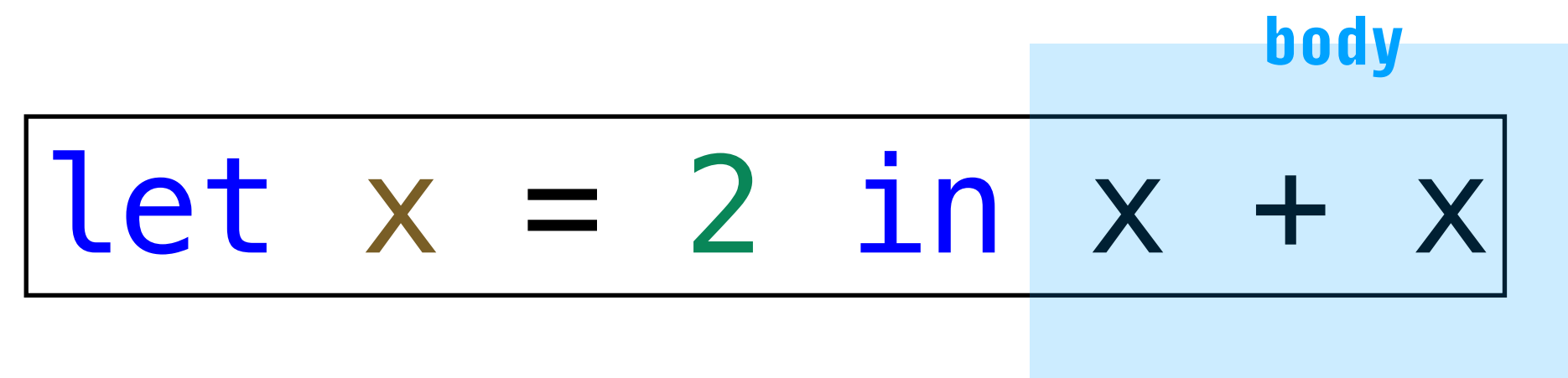
`let x = 2 in x + x`

body



The diagram illustrates the structure of a `let` expression. The code `let x = 2 in x + x` is shown. The `let` and `in` keywords are blue, `x` is brown, `=` is black, and `2` is green. A light blue rectangular box highlights the expression `x + x`, which is the body of the `let` binding. The word `body` is written in blue above the right side of this box.

# Recall: Local Variables (Informal)



The diagram shows the code snippet `let x = 2 in x + x`. The words `let` and `in` are blue, `x` is brown, `=` is black, and `2` is green. The expression `x + x` is enclosed in a black rectangular box. This box is itself inside a larger, light blue rectangular area. The word `body` is written in blue above the top-right corner of the light blue area.

```
let x = 2 in x + x
```

**syntax:** `let VARIABLE = EXPRESSION in BODY`

# Recall: Local Variables (Informal)

`let x = 2 in` `x + x`

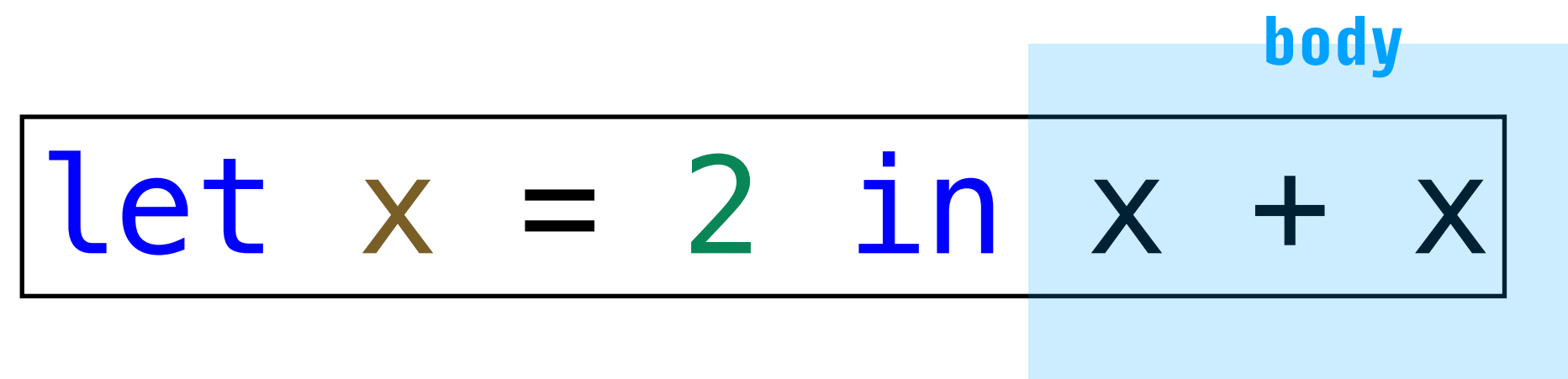
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**syntax:** `let VARIABLE = EXPRESSION in BODY`

**typing:** the type is the same as that of BODY *given BODY is well-typed after substituting the VARIABLE in BODY*



# Recall: Local Variables (Informal)



The diagram shows the code snippet `let x = 2 in x + x`. The text is enclosed in a black rectangular box. The word `let` is blue, `x` is brown, `=` is black, `2` is green, `in` is blue, and `x + x` is black. A light blue rectangular box highlights the `x + x` portion. The word `body` is written in blue above the right side of the light blue box.

**syntax:** `let VARIABLE = EXPRESSION in BODY`

**typing:** the type is the same as that of `BODY` *given `BODY` is well-typed after substituting the `VARIABLE` in `BODY`*

**semantics:** the is the same as the value of `BODY` *after substituting the `VARIABLE` in `BODY`*

# Recall: A Note on Substitution

let  $x = 2$  in  $x + x$



$2 + 2$

# Recall: A Note on Substitution

$$\boxed{\text{let } x = 2 \text{ in } x + x} \longrightarrow \boxed{2 + 2}$$

Formally, we write  $[v/x]e$  to mean "substitute  $v$  for  $x$  in  $e$ ",  
e.g.,  $[3/x](x + x)$  is the same as  $3 + 3$

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Intuitively, substitution is simple: **replace the variable**

Turns out, this is **very hard** to do correctly, *it's subtle* and  
a source of a lot of mistakes in PL implementations

# Recall: If-Expressions (Informal)

```
let abs x = if x > 0 then x else -x
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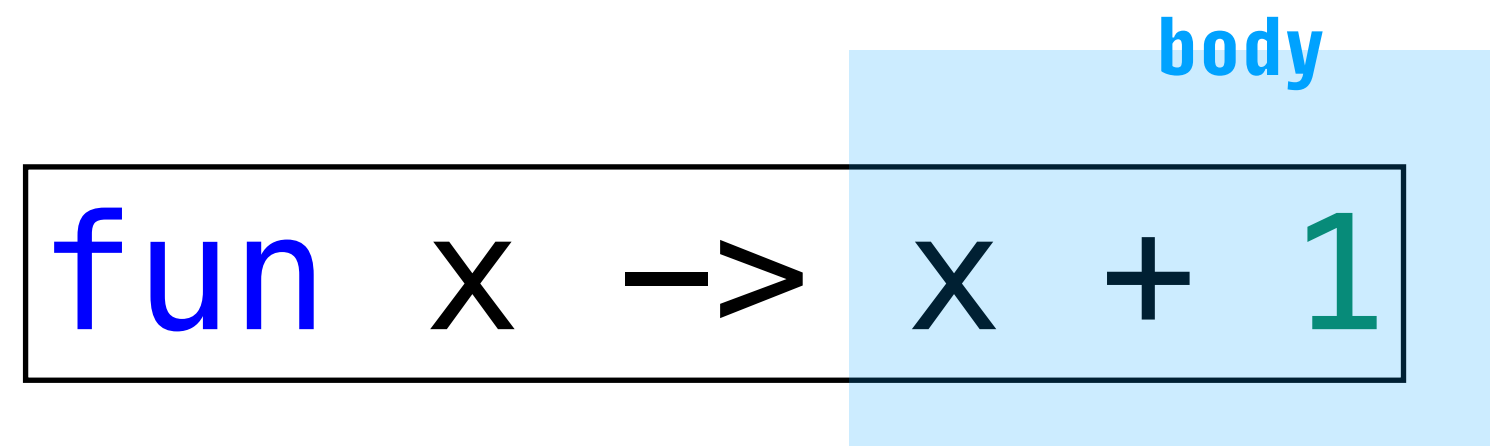
**Semantics:** If CONDITION holds, then we get the TRUE-CASE, otherwise we get the FALSE-CASE

# Recall: Functions (Informal)

`fun x -> x + 1`

body

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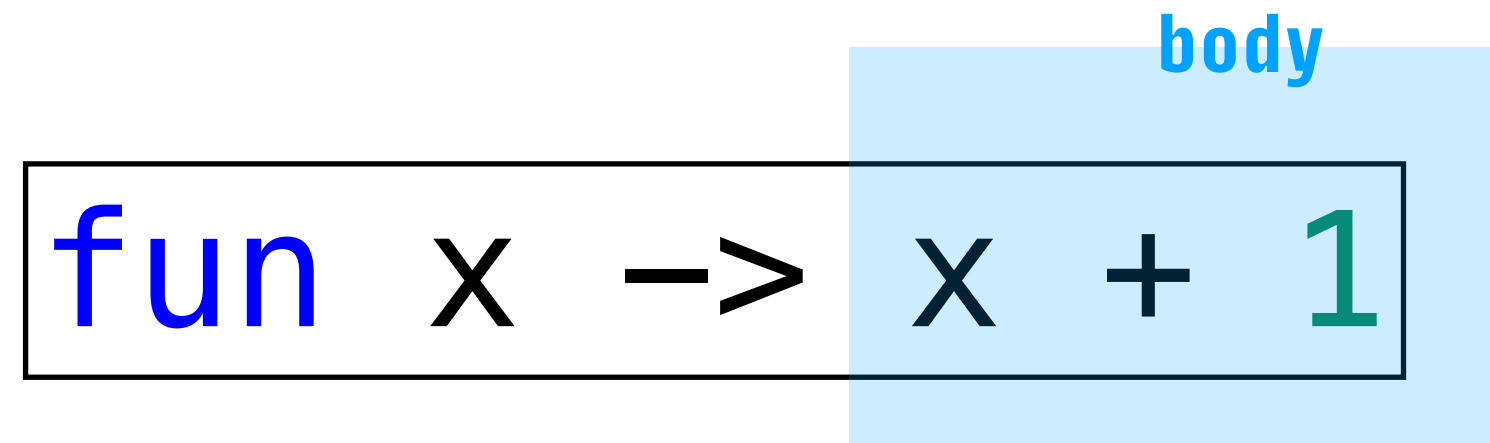


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fun x -> x + 1

**Syntax:** fun VAR-NAME -> EXPR

# Recall: Functions (Informal)



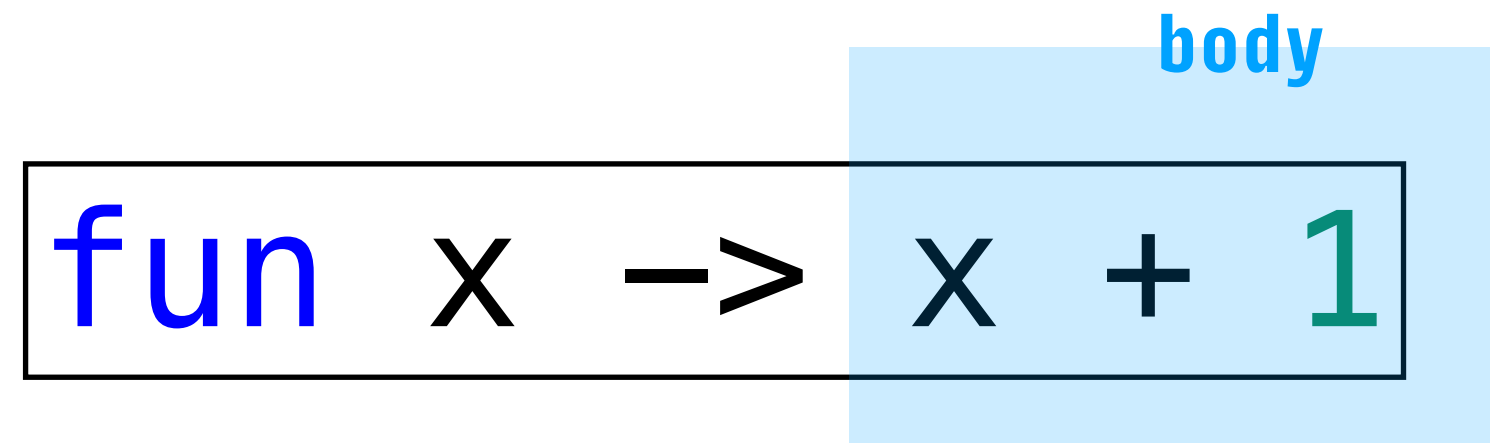
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**Typing:** the type of a function is  $T1 \rightarrow T2$  where  $T1$  is the type of the input and  $T2$  is the type of the output

# Recall: Functions (Informal)



body

```
fun x -> x + 1
```

**Syntax:** `fun VAR-NAME -> EXPR`

**Typing:** the type of a function is `T1 -> T2` where `T1` is the type of the input and `T2` is the type of the output

**Semantics:** A function will evaluate to a special *function value* (printed as `<fun>` by UTop)

# Recall: Curried Functions

```
let f = fun x -> fun y -> fun z -> x + y + z
```

We should think of the above function as something which takes an input and returns **another function**

In other words, we *partially apply* the function

# Recall: Application (Informally)

```
(fun x -> fun y -> x + y + 1) 3 2
```

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**Syntax:** FUNCTION-EXPR ARG-EXPR



# Recall: Application (Informally)

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(fun x -> fun y -> x + y + 1) 3 2
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**Typing:** If FUNCTION-EXPR is of type  $T1 \rightarrow T2$ , and ARG-EXPR is of type  $T1$ , then the type is  $T2$

# Recall: Application (Informally)

$(\text{fun } x \rightarrow \text{fun } y \rightarrow x + y + 1) \text{ 3 } 2 \rightarrow$

$(\text{fun } y \rightarrow 3 + y + 1) 2$

**Syntax:** FUNCTION-EXPR ARG-EXPR

**Typing:** If FUNCTION-EXPR is of type  $T1 \rightarrow T2$ , and ARG-EXPR is of type  $T1$ , then the type is  $T2$

**Semantics:** Substitute the value of ARG-EXPR into the body of FUNCTION-EXPR and evaluate that

# Inference Rules

# Note: Production Rules and Syntax

$\langle \text{expr} \rangle ::= \langle \text{expr} \rangle + \langle \text{expr} \rangle$

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Last week, we saw the above notation. This is called a ***production rule*** and is part of a ***BNF grammar***

# Note: Production Rules and Syntax

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{<expr>} ::= \text{<expr>} + \text{<expr>} \\ e_1 \quad + \quad e_2 \end{array}$$

Last week, we saw the above notation. This is called a **production rule** and is part of a **BNF grammar**

**Reminder, this reads as:** if  $e_1$  is a well-formed expression and  $e_2$  is a well-formed expression, then  $e_1 + e_2$  is a well-formed expression

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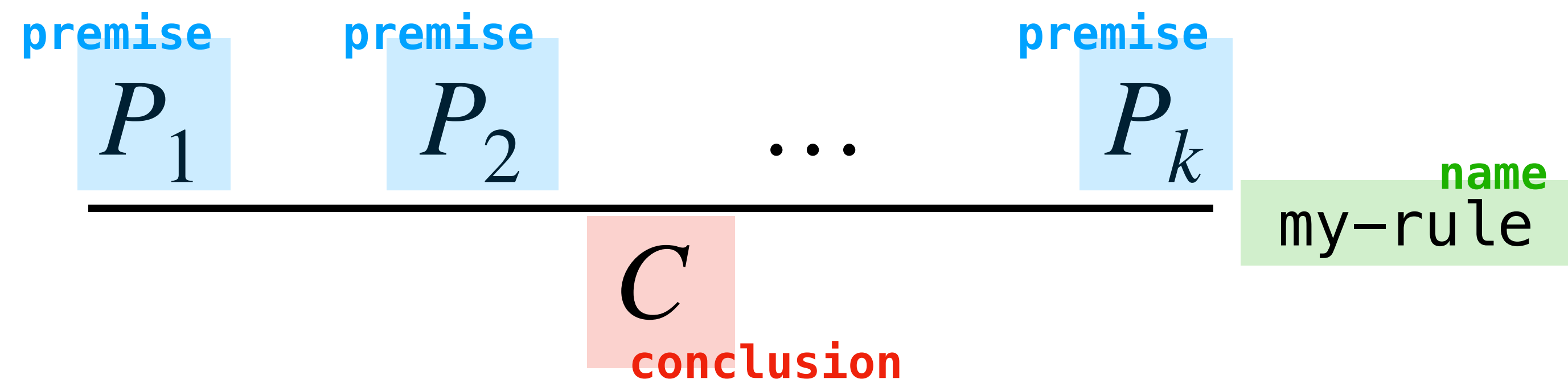
$$\langle \text{expr} \rangle ::= \langle \text{expr} \rangle + \langle \text{expr} \rangle$$

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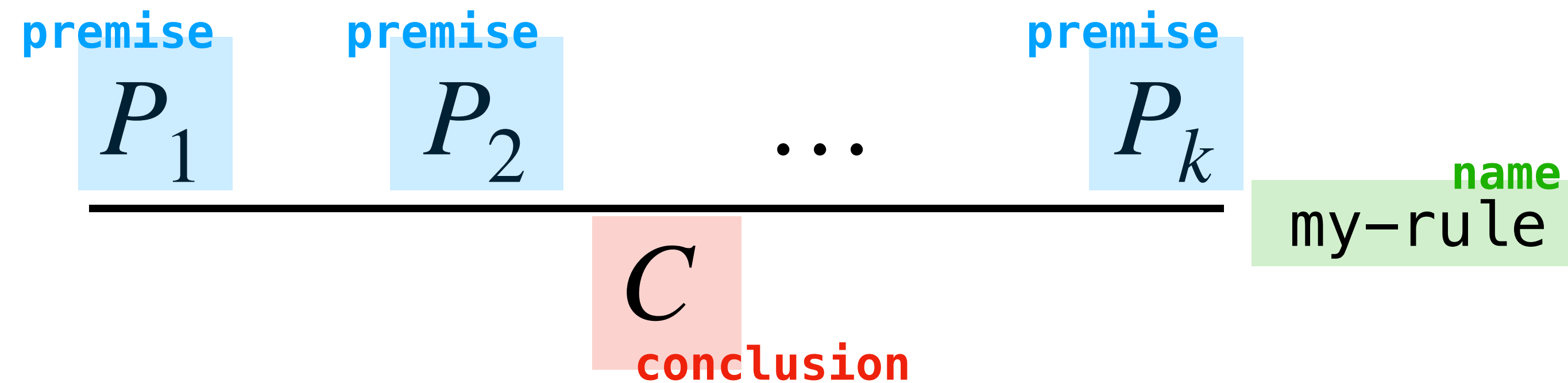
We won't focus on this until the second half of the course but you should start to get comfortable with the syntax

# Inference Rules



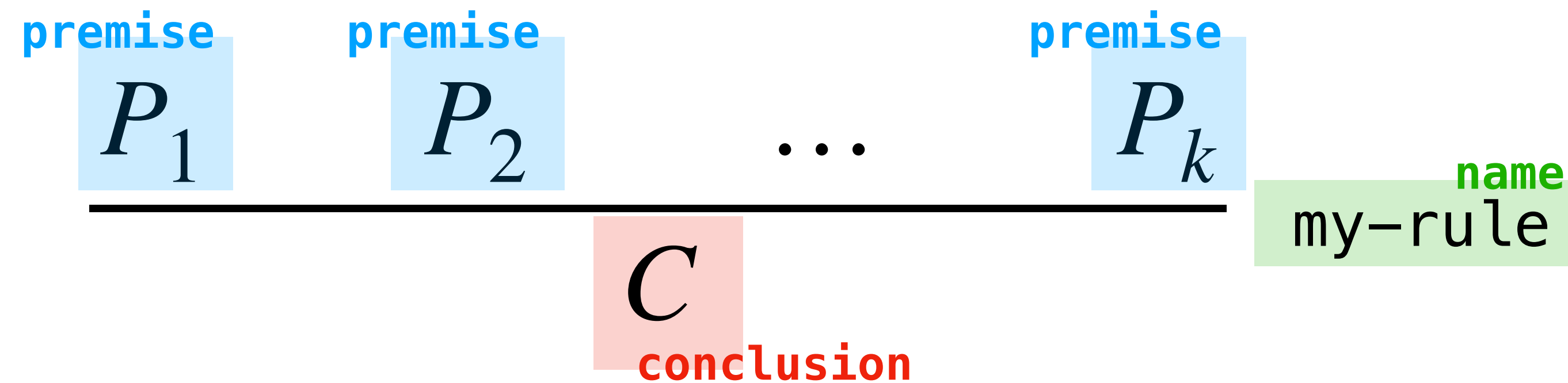


# Inference Rules



Then general form of an inference rule has a collection of **premises** and a **conclusion**

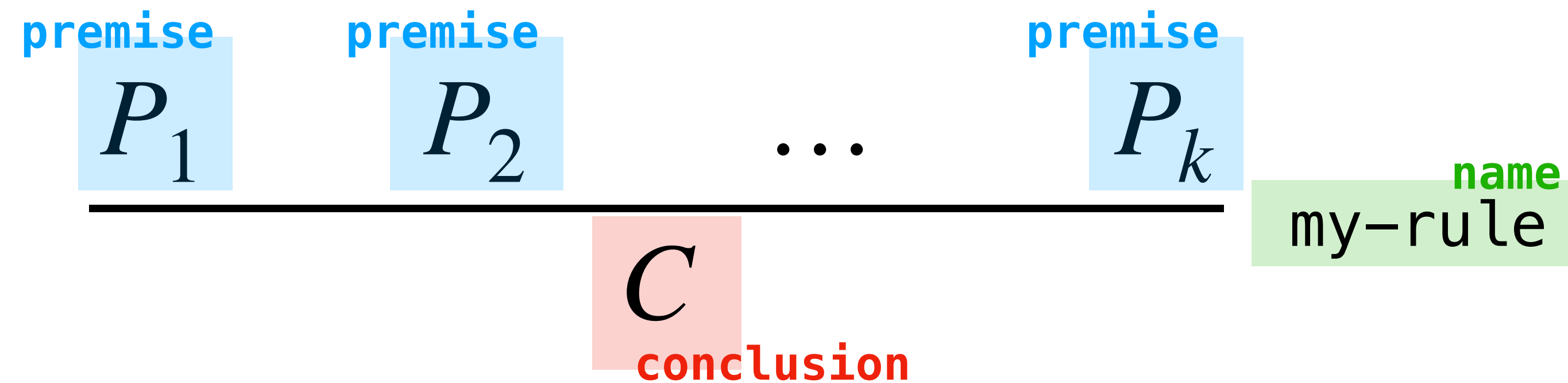
# Inference Rules



Then general form of an inference rule has a collection of **premises** and a **conclusion**

There may be no premises, this is called an **axiom**

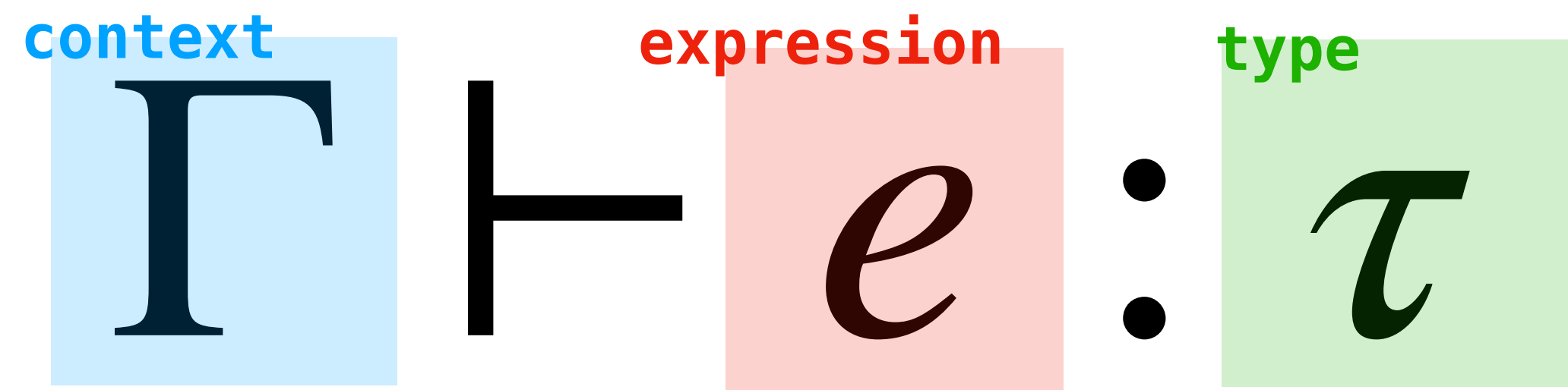
# Inference Rules



We can read this as:

*If  $P_1$  through  $P_k$  hold, then  $C$  holds (by **my-rule**)*

# Typing Judgments



*if*                      *then*  
*it follows that*                      *has type*

A typing judgment is a compact way of representing the statement:

**$e$  is of type  $\tau$  in the context  $\Gamma$**

A **typing rule** is an inference rule whose premises and conclusion are typing judgments

# Recall: Integer Addition Typing Rule

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \text{int} \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \text{int}}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 + e_2 : \text{int}} \text{ (addInt)}$$

*If  $e_1$  is an **int** (in any context  $\Gamma$ ) and  $e_2$  is an **int** then (in any context  $\Gamma$ )  $e_1 + e_2$  is an **int** (in any context  $\Gamma$ )*

# Contexts

$$\Gamma = \{ x : \text{int}, y : \text{string}, z : \text{int} \rightarrow \text{string} \}$$

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A variable declaration  $(x : \tau)$  says: "I declare that the variable  $x$  is of type  $\tau$ "



# Contexts

$$\Gamma = \{ x : \text{int}, y : \text{string}, z : \text{int} \rightarrow \text{string} \}$$

A **context** is a set of **variable declarations**

A variable declaration  $(x : \tau)$  says: "I declare that the variable  $x$  is of type  $\tau$ "

A context keeps track of all the types of variables in the "environment"

# Example: Reading Typing Judgements

$\{b : \text{bool}\} \vdash \text{if } b \text{ then } 2 \text{ else } 3 : \text{int}$

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**In English:** *Given I declare that  $b$  is a  $\text{bool}$ , the expression  $\text{if } b \text{ then } 2 \text{ else } 3$  is an  $\text{int}$*

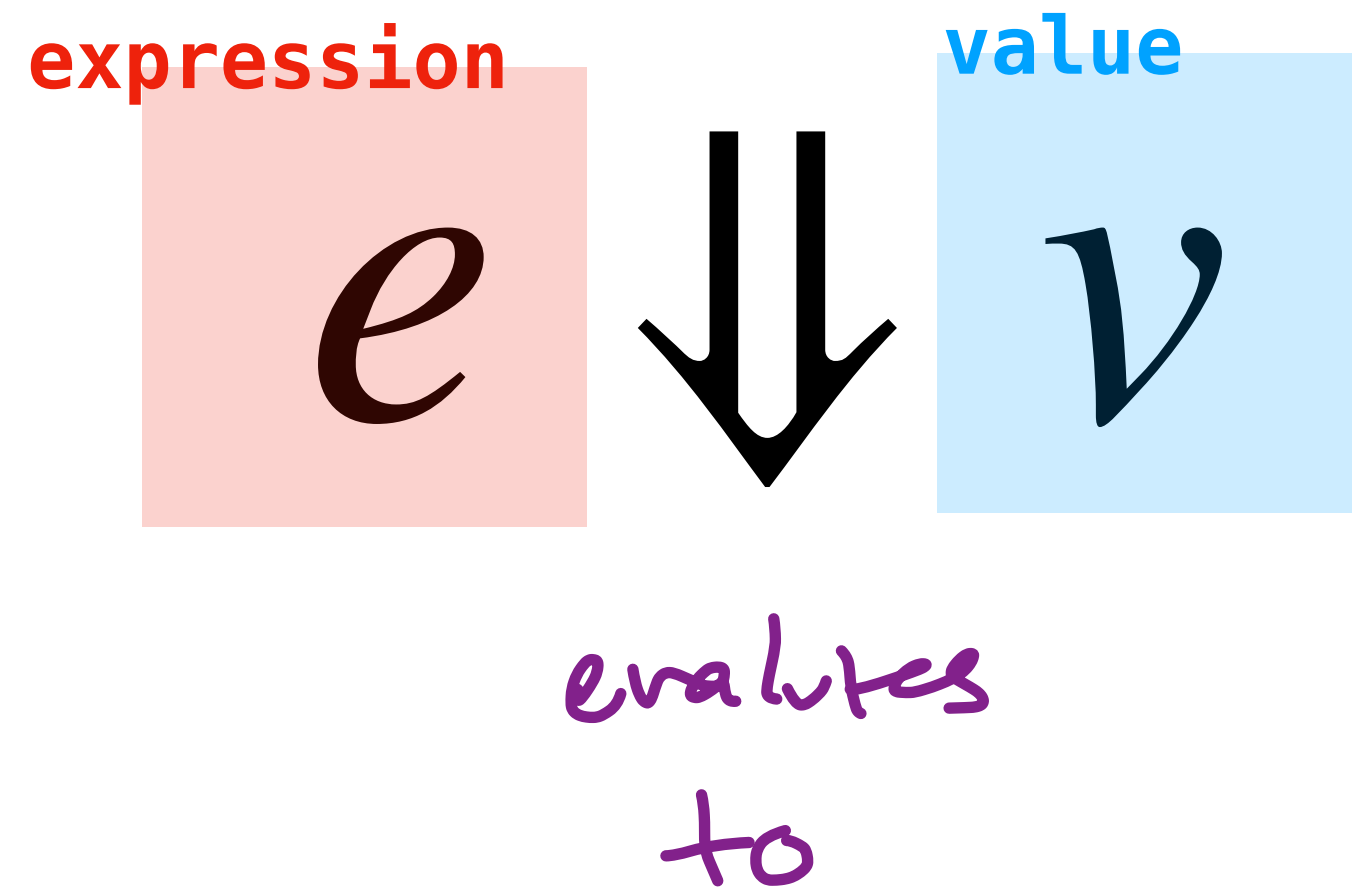
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The context allows us to determine the type of an expression *relative to the types of variables*

# Semantic Judgements



A semantic judgement is a compact way of representing the statement:

**The expression  $e$  evaluates to the value  $v$**

A **semantic rule** is an inference rule with semantic judgements

# Recall: Integer Addition Semantic Rule

$$\frac{e_1 \Downarrow v_1 \quad e_2 \Downarrow v_2}{e_1 + e_2 \Downarrow v_1 + v_2} \text{ (evalInt)}$$

*plus sign (syntax)*  *addition (semantics)* 

If  $e_1$  evaluates to the (integer)  $v_1$  and  $e_2$  evaluates to the (integer)  $v_2$ , then  $e_1 + e_2$  evaluates to the (integer)  $v_1 + v_2$

# Example: Reading Semantic Judgments

`if 2 > 3 then 2 + 2 else 3`  $\Downarrow$  3

**In English:** The expression `if 2 > 3 then 2 + 2 else 3` evaluates to the value 3

# Note: Judgements are Statements

```
{b : bool} ⊢ if b then 2 else 3 : string
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We haven't **proved** anything by writing down a typing judgment

**On Thursday:** We will talk about **typing derivations**, which are used to demonstrate that expressions *actually* have their desired types in our PL

# Note: Values are not Expressions

`if 2 > 3 then 2 + 2 else 3`  $\Downarrow$  3

In this course, we will draw a distinction between values and expressions (note the font)

**Example.** We'll use regular numbers to represent integer values, and we'll use  $\top$  and  $\perp$  for the true and false Boolean values

Questions?

# Expressions, Formally

# Up Next

We'll formalize what we've seen so far:

» Let-expressions

» If-Expressions

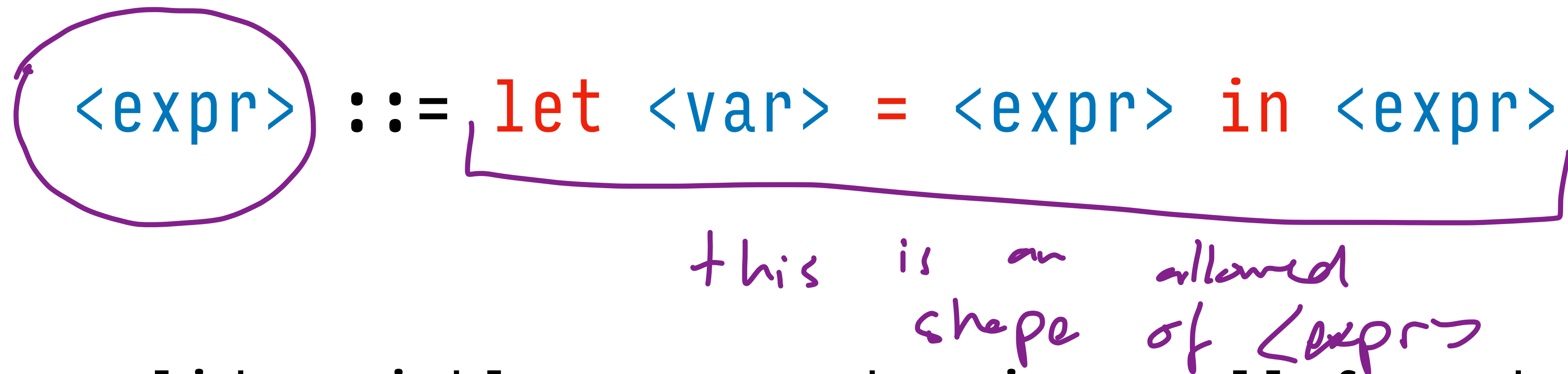
» Functions

» Application

For now, just think of these as  
formal descriptions of how our PL  
behaves



# Let-Expressions (Syntax Rule)

  
 $\langle \text{expr} \rangle ::= \text{let } \langle \text{var} \rangle = \langle \text{expr} \rangle \text{ in } \langle \text{expr} \rangle$   
this is an allowed shape of  $\langle \text{expr} \rangle$

If  $x$  is a valid variable name, and  $e_1$  is a well-formed expression and  $e_2$  is a well-formed expression then

$\text{let } x = e_1 \text{ in } e_2$

is a well-formed expression

# Let-Expressions (Typing Rule)

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau_1 \quad \Gamma, x : \tau_1 \vdash e_2 : \tau}{\Gamma \vdash \text{let } x = e_1 \text{ in } e_2 : \tau} \text{ (let)}$$

If  $e_1$  is of type  $\tau_1$  in the context  $\Gamma$ , and  $e_2$  is of type  $\tau$  in the context  $\Gamma$  with the variable declaration  $(x : \tau_1)$  added to it, then

$$\frac{\text{let } x = e_1 \text{ in } e_2 \lesssim \{ \vdash z : \text{int} \} \quad \{ x : \text{int} \} \vdash x : \text{int}}{\{ \{ \vdash \text{let } x = \boxed{z} \text{ in } \boxed{x} : \text{int} \}$$

is of type  $\tau$  in the context  $\Gamma$

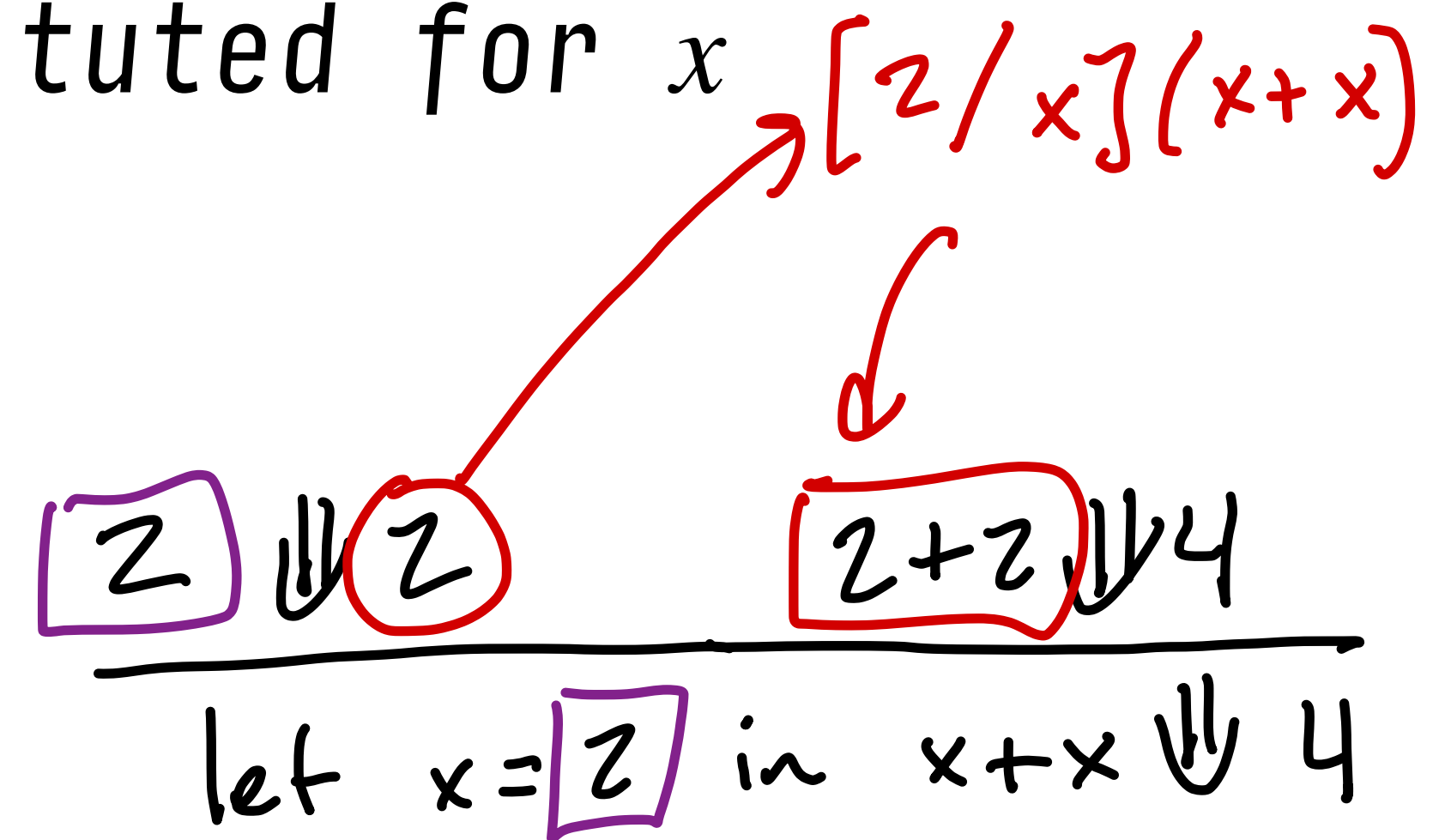
# Let-Expressions (Semantic Rule)

$$\frac{e_1 \Downarrow v_1 \quad [v_1/x]e_2 \Downarrow v}{\text{let } x = e_1 \text{ in } e_2 \Downarrow v} \text{ (letEval)}$$

If  $e_1$  evaluates to  $v_1$  and  $e_2$  with  ~~$v_1$~~  substituted for  $x$  evaluates to  $v$ , then

$\text{let } x = e_1 \text{ in } e_2$

evaluates to  $v$



# If-Expressions (Syntax Rule)

$\langle \text{expr} \rangle ::= \text{if } \langle \text{expr} \rangle \text{ then } \langle \text{expr} \rangle \text{ else } \langle \text{expr} \rangle$

If  $e_1$  is a well-formed expression and  $e_2$  is a well-formed expression and  $e_3$  is a well-formed expression, then

$\text{if } e_1 \text{ then } e_2 \text{ else } e_3$

is a well-formed expression

# If-Expressions (Typing Rule)

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \text{bool} \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau \quad \Gamma \vdash e_3 : \tau}{\Gamma \vdash (\text{if } e_1 \text{ then } e_2 \text{ else } e_3) : \tau} \text{(if)}$$

If  $e_1$  is of type `bool` in the context  $\Gamma$  and  $e_2$  and  $e_3$  are of type  $\tau$  in the context  $\Gamma$ , then

`if`  $e_1$  `then`  $e_2$  `else`  $e_3$

is of type  $\tau$  in the context  $\Gamma$

# If-Expressions (Semantic Rule 1) no

$$\frac{e_1 \Downarrow T \quad e_2 \Downarrow v_2}{(\text{if } e_1 \text{ then } e_2 \text{ else } e_3) \Downarrow v_2} \text{ (ifEvalTrue)}$$

*Handwritten notes:* A purple arrow points from the  $e_3 \Downarrow v_3$  expression to the  $e_3$  in the denominator. Above the arrow,  $e_3 \Downarrow v_3$  is written in purple.

If  $e_1$  evaluates to  $T$  and  $e_2$  evaluates to  $v_2$ , then

**if**  $e_1$  **then**  $e_2$  **else**  $e_3$

evaluates to  $v_2$

# If-Expressions (Semantic Rule 2)

$$\frac{e_1 \Downarrow \perp \quad e_3 \Downarrow v_3}{\text{if } e_1 \text{ then } e_2 \text{ else } e_3 \Downarrow v_3} \text{ (ifEvalFalse)}$$

If  $e_1$  evaluates to  $\perp$  and  $e_2$  evaluates to  $v_2$ , then

$\text{if } e_1 \text{ then } e_2 \text{ else } e_3$

evaluates to  $v_3$

# Functions (Syntax Rule)

$$\langle \text{expr} \rangle ::= \text{fun } \langle \text{var} \rangle \rightarrow \langle \text{expr} \rangle$$

If  $x$  is a valid variable name and  $e$  is a well-formed expression, then

$$\text{fun } x \rightarrow e$$

is a well-formed expression



# Functions (Typing Rule)

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : \tau_1 \vdash e : \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash \text{fun } x \rightarrow e : \tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2} \text{ (fun)}$$

If  $e$  has type  $\tau_2$  in the context  $\Gamma$  with the variable declaration  $(x : \tau_1)$  added, then

$\text{fun } x \rightarrow e$

is of type  $\tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2$  in the context  $\Gamma$

# Functions (Semantic Rule)

$$\frac{}{\text{fun } x \rightarrow e \Downarrow \lambda x . e} \text{ (funEval)}$$

Under no premises, the expression

$\text{fun } x \rightarrow e$

evaluates to the function value  $\lambda x . e$

# Application (Syntax Rule)

$$\langle \text{expr} \rangle ::= \langle \text{expr} \rangle \langle \text{expr} \rangle$$

If  $e_1$  is a well-formed expression and  $e_2$  is a well-formed expression, then  $e_1 e_2$  is a well-formed expression

# Application (Typing Rule)

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau_2 \rightarrow \tau \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 e_2 : \tau} \text{ (app)}$$

If  $e_1$  has type  $\tau_2 \rightarrow \tau$  under the context  $\Gamma$  and  $e_2$  is of type  $\tau_2$  under the context  $\Gamma$ , then  $e_1 e_2$  is of type  $\tau$  under the context  $\Gamma$

# Application (Semantic Rule)

$$\frac{e_1 \Downarrow \lambda x . e \quad e_2 \Downarrow v_2 \quad [v_2/x]e \Downarrow v}{e_1 e_2 \Downarrow v} \text{(appEval)}$$

»  $e_1$  evaluates to a function value  $\lambda x . e$

»  $e_2$  evaluates to  $v_2$

»  $e$  with  $v_2$  substituted for  $x$  evaluates to  $v$

It follows that  $e_1 e_2$  evaluates to  $v$

# Example

```
(let x = 2 in fun y -> x + y) (2 + 3)
```

# Understanding Check

Offline, go back to the recap slides at the beginning and compare the formal and informal descriptions...

We'll see more typing  
rules and semantic rules



We'll also give a written  
reference for the rules we talk  
about in class

# Practice Problem

```
let k = fun x -> fun y -> x in  
let x = 3 + k k 2 3 in  
k x (k x)
```

*What does the above expression evaluate to?*

# Products

# Tuples

```
let point : float * float = (2.0, 3.0)
let student : string * int = ("Franco", 244342)
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Tuples are ordered unlabeled fixed-length heterogeneous collections of data

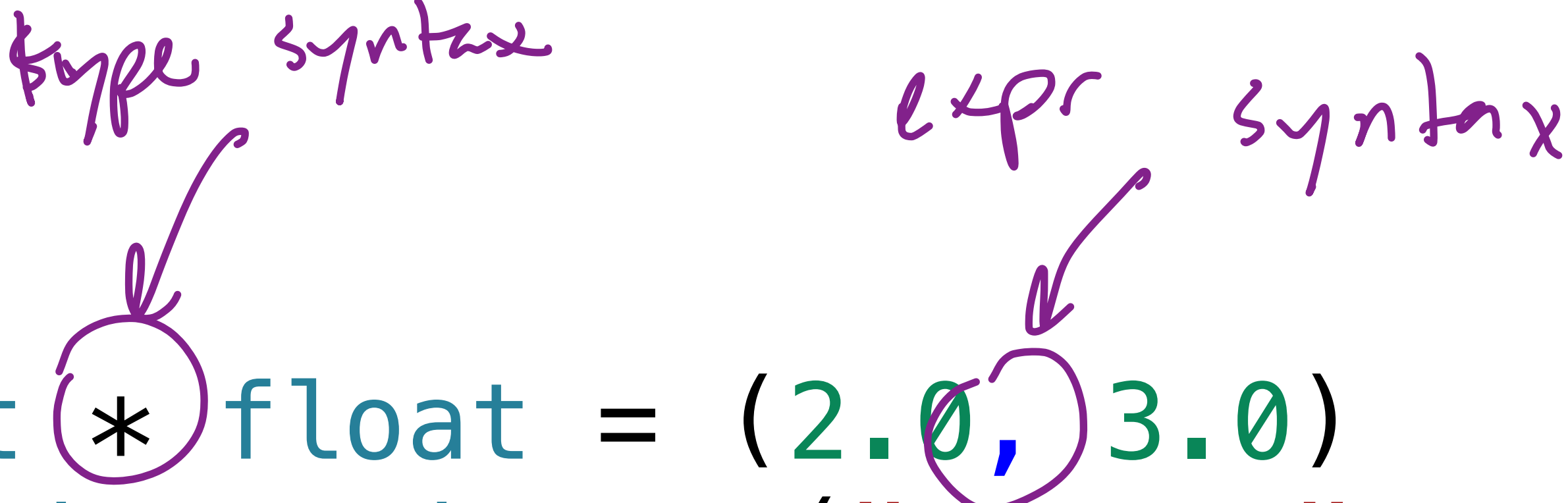
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(I expect that these are familiar)

# Tuples



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let point : float * float = (2.0, 3.0)
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```

Tuples are ordered unlabeled fixed-length heterogeneous collections of data

(I expect that these are familiar)

These are useful for returning multiple arguments from a function

# Pattern Matching on Tuples

```
let hypotenuse (p : float * float) : float =  
  match p with  
  | (x, y) -> sqrt (x *. x +. y *. y)
```

There are no accessors for tuples

Instead we can use **pattern matching**



# Pattern Matching in General

match *e* with

| *p* -> *o*

| ...

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A **pattern** is like a typed template for how a piece of data should look

A **match-expression** is a way of *destructing* any piece of data in OCaml

We *match* on an expression *e*, and check if the value of *e* *matches* with the pattern *p*

# Note: Patterns are not Expressions

```
<expr> ::= match <expr> with  
        | <pattern> -> <expr>  
        | <pattern> -> <expr>  
        | ...
```

Patterns are similar to expressions, but with some key differences

They can be wildcards, they can be variables, there's a lot of options

We'll talk more about  
patterns on Thursday

# Advanced Pattern Matching

```
let hypotenuse ((x, y) : float * float) : float =  
    sqrt (x *. x +. y *. y)
```

```
let hypotenuse (p : float * float) : float =  
    let (x, y) = p in  
    sqrt (x *. x +. y *. y)
```

Pattern matching can also be done implicitly in let-expression and function arguments!

And we can do all this  
formally...



# Tuples (Syntax Rule)

$$\langle \text{expr} \rangle ::= ( \langle \text{expr} \rangle , \dots , \langle \text{expr} \rangle )$$

If  $e_1, \dots, e_n$  are well-formed expressions, then

$$( e_1 , \dots , e_n )$$

is a well-formed expression

# Tuple (Typing Rule)

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau_1 \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau_2 \quad \dots \quad \Gamma \vdash e_n : \tau_n}{\Gamma \vdash ( e_1 \textcolor{red}{,} \dots \textcolor{red}{,} e_n ) : \tau_1 \textcolor{red}{*} \dots \textcolor{red}{*} \tau_n} \text{(tuple)}$$

If  $e_1, \dots, e_n$  are of type  $\tau_1, \dots, \tau_n$ , respectively, in the context  $\Gamma$  then

$$( e_1 \textcolor{red}{,} \dots \textcolor{red}{,} e_n )$$

is of type  $\tau_1 \textcolor{red}{*} \dots \textcolor{red}{*} \tau_n$  in the context  $\Gamma$

# Tuple (Semantic Rule)

$$\frac{e_1 \Downarrow v_1 \quad \dots \quad e_n \Downarrow v_n}{(e_1 \text{ , } \dots \text{ , } e_n) \Downarrow (v_1 \text{ , } \dots \text{ , } v_n)} \text{ (tupleEval)}$$

If  $e_1, \dots, e_n$  evaluate to  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , respectively, then

$$(e_1 \text{ , } \dots \text{ , } e_n)$$

evaluates to  $(v_1 \text{ , } \dots \text{ , } v_n)$

# Records

```
type point = { x_cord : float ; y_cord : float }  
let origin : point = { x_cord = 0. ; y_cord = 0. }
```

```
type user = {  
  name : string ;  
  email : string ;  
  num_posts : int ;  
}
```

Records are unordered labeled fixed-length heterogeneous collections of data

They are useful for organizing large collections of data (akin to database records)

# Record Syntax

```
type record_ty =  
  {  
    field1 : ty1;  
    field2 : ty2;  
    ...  
    fieldn : tyn;  
  }
```

```
let record_expr : record_ty =  
  {  
    field1 = expr1;  
    field2 = expr2;  
    ...  
    fieldn = exprn;  
  }
```

For a record, we have to specify the type of each field

When we construct a record, every field must have a value

# Accessors

```
type point = { x_cord : float ; y_cord : float }
```

```
let dist (p : point) (q : point) =  
  let xd = p.x_cord -. q.x_cord in  
  let yd = p.y_cord -. q.y_cord in  
  sqrt (xd *. xd +. yd *. yd)
```

Records support **dot-notation**

(we can also access records by pattern matching)

# Record Updates

```
let new_post u : user =  
  { u with num_posts = u.num_posts + 1 }
```

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# Record Updates

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let new_post u : user =  
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We can use **with-syntax** to update a smaller number of fields in a large record

*"u with number of posts incremented, keep everything else the same"*

**Data in functional languages are immutable.** This returns a new record with the update

# Unions

# Simple Variants

```
type os = BSD | Linux | MacOS | Windows
```

A **simple variant** is a *user-defined* type for values of a fixed collection of possibilities

Type names are **lower\_case** and Constructors names are **Upper\_case**

# Simple Variants

```
type os = constructor BSD | Linux | MacOS | Windows
```

A **simple variant** is a *user-defined* type for values of a fixed collection of possibilities

Type names are **lower\_case** and Constructors names are **Upper\_case**

# Pattern Matching

```
let supported (sys : os) : bool =  
  match sys with  
  | BSD -> false  
  | _ -> true
```

We work with variants by **pattern matching**:

» giving a pattern that a value can match with

» writing what to do for each pattern

# Pattern Matching

```
let supported (sys : os) : bool =  
  match sys with  
  constant pattern | BSD -> false  
  wildcard pattern | _ -> true
```

We work with variants by **pattern matching**:

- » giving a pattern that a value can match with
- » writing what to do for each pattern

# Data-Carrying Variants

```
type linux_distro = Arch | Fedora | NixOS | Ubuntu
```

```
type os  
  = BSD of int * int  
  | Linux of linux_distro * int  
  | MacOS of int  
  | Windows of int
```

```
let supported (sys : os) : bool =  
  match sys with  
  | BSD (major , minor) -> major > 2 && minor > 3  
  | _ -> true
```

Variants can carry data, which allows us to represent more complex structures



# Data-Carrying Variants

```
type linux_distro = Arch | Fedora | NixOS | Ubuntu
```

```
type os
  = BSD of int * int
  | Linux of linux_distro * int
  | MacOS of int
  | Windows of int
```

Note the syntax

```
let supported (sys : os) : bool =
  match sys with
  | BSD (major, minor) -> major > 2 && minor > 3
  | _ -> true
```

Variants can carry data, which allows us to represent more complex structures

# Pro Tip: Named Data-Carrying Variants

```
type os
  = MacOS of {
      major : int ;
      minor : int ;
      patch : int
    }
  | ...

let support (sys : os) : bool =
  match sys with
  | MacOS info -> info.minor >= 14 && info.patch >= 1
    (* MacOS Sonoma 10.14.(1-3) *)
  | ...
```

Since we can carry *any* kind of data in a constructor, we can carry **records** to **name the parts** of our carried data.

# Understanding Check

```
let area (s : shape) =  
  match s with  
  | Rect r -> r.base *. r.height  
  | Triangle { sides = (a, b) ; angle } -> Float.sin angle *. a *. b  
  | Circle r -> r *. r *. Float.pi
```

*Define the variant **shape** which makes this function type-check.*

# Summary

**Inference rules** formally describe how the typing and semantics of a programming language work

**Tuples** and **records** allow us to group data

**Variants** allow us to organize data by *possible outcomes*