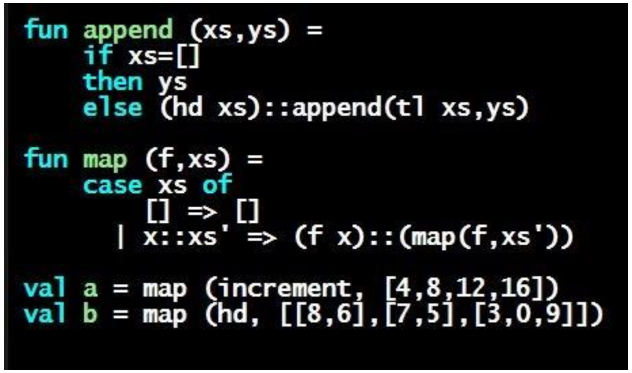


```
fun append (xs,ys) =
    if xs=[]
    then ys
    else (hd xs)::append(tl xs,ys)

fun map (f,xs) =
    case xs of
        [] => []
      | x::xs' => (f x)::(map(f,xs'))

val a = map (increment, [4,8,12,16])
val b = map (hd, [[8,6],[7,5],[3,0,9]])
```

Programming Languages

Dan Grossman

Mutable References

ML has (separate) mutation

- Mutable data structures are okay in some situations
  - When “update to state of world” is appropriate model
  - But want most language constructs truly immutable

- ML does this with a separate construct: references

- Introducing now because will use them for next closure idiom

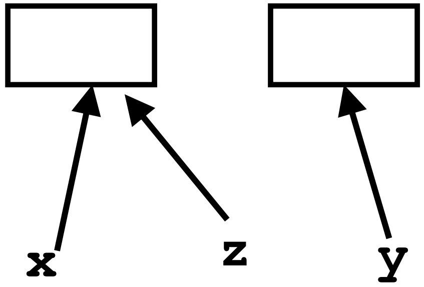
- Do not use references on your homework
  - You need practice with mutation-free programming
  - They will lead to less elegant solutions

References

- New types: **`t ref`** where **`t`** is a type
- New expressions:
  - **`ref e`** to create a reference with initial contents **`e`**
  - **`e1 := e2`** to update contents
  - **`!e`** to retrieve contents (not negation)

References example

```
val x = ref 42
val y = ref 42
val z = x
val _ = x := 43
val w = (!y) + (!z) (* 85 *)
(* x + 1 does not type-check *)
```



- A variable bound to a reference (e.g., **`x`**) is still immutable: it will always refer to the same reference
- But the contents of the reference may change via **`:=`**
- And there may be aliases to the reference, which matter a lot
- References are first-class values
- Like a one-field mutable object, so **`:=`** and **`!`** don't specify the field