ML Built-in Functions

Since ML is a functional programming language, many of its built-in functions are concerned with function application to objects and structures.

In ML, built-in functions are curried → they expect their arguments as a sequence of objects separated by spaces NOT as a tuple.

The map Function

The map function accepts two parameters: a function and a list of objects. It will apply the given function to each object on the list.

Example:

```
- map (fn x => x + 2) [1,2,3];
val it = [3,4,5] : int list
```

also works with built-in functions and operators such as the negation function ~ : int -> int

```
- map ~ [1,2,3];
val it [~1,~2,~3] : int list
```

The map Function

map can also be applied to a list of structures.

```
- map (fn (a,b) => a + b) [(1,2),(3,4)];
val it = [3,7] : int list
```

The foldr Function

The foldr function works similar to the map function, but instead of producing a list of values it only produces a single output value.

Syntax:
foldr <binary function> <initial value of output> <list>

Semantics:
- foldr f c [x1, x2, ... , xn-1, xn];
is the same as saying
- f(x1, f(x2, ... f(x-1,f(xn,c))...));

foldr start at the rightmost object xn of the list with initial value c

foldr folds a list of values into a single value starting with the rightmost element.

The foldr Function

Example:

```
- foldr (fn (a,b) => a+b) 2 [1,2,3];
  → fn(1,fn(2,fn(3,2)));
  val it = 8 : int
```

The foldl Function

You guessed it! Works exactly the same as the foldr function except that it start computing at the leftmost element:

- foldl f c [x1, x2, ... , xn-1, xn];
is the same as saying
- f(xn, f(xn-1, ... f(x2,f(x1,c))...));

foldl folds a list of values into a single value starting with the leftmost element.

Example:

- foldl (fn (a,b) => a+b) 2 [1,2,3];
=> fn(3,fn(2,fn(1,2)));
val it = 8 : int

foldr and foldl

In most cases foldr and foldl will produce the same results, but consider the following:

```
- foldr (fn (a,b) => a^b) “ef” [“ab”,”cd”];
=> fn(“ab”,fn(“cd”,”ef”))
=> “ab”^(“cd”^”ef”)
=> “ab”^”cd”^”ef”
=> “abcdef”
val it = “abcdef” : string

- foldl (fn (a,b) => a^b) “ef” [“ab”,”cd”];
=> fn(“cd”,fn(“ab”,”ef”))
=> “cd”^(“ab”^”ef”)
=> “cd”^”ab”^”ef”
=> “cdabef”
val it = “cdabef” : string
```

foldr and foldl will only produce the same results if the mapped function is commutative.

Partial Evaluation

- We can create new functions from curried library functions using partial evaluation:

```
- val listinc = map (fn x => x+1);
  val listinc = fn : int list -> int list
- listinc [1,2,3];
  val it = [2,3,4] : int list
```

Recursion and Curried Functions

```
(* original non-curried function *)
fun filter ([ ],e) = [ ]
  | filter (x::xs,e) = if x < e then x::filter(xs,e) else filter(xs,e);

(* curried function in traditional notation *)
fun filtercl [ ] = (fn e => [ ])
  | filtercl (x::xs) = (fn e => if x < e then x :: filtercl xs e else filtercl xs e);

(* curried function in short hand notation *)
fun filterc [ ] e = [ ]
  | filterc (x::xs) e = if x < e then x :: filterc xs e else filterc xs e;
```

Note: all parentheses are mandatory in the above examples.

Homework

Assignment #7 – see website

Midterm coming up on Sakai – covers chaps 1 through 9

Review

Week 1
Chapter 1: Programming Languages
features of languages, classes of languages
Chapter 2: Defining Program Syntax
grammars, derivations, formal definition of languages, sentences
Week 2
Chapter 3: Where Syntax Meets Semantics
parse trees as semantics, ambiguous grammars
Chapter 4: Language Systems
structure of IDE/compiler, difference between compiler/interpreter
Week 3
Chapter 5: A First Look At ML
basic expression, tuples, lists
Chapter 6: Types
** a type is a set of values **
Week 4
Chapter 7: A Second Look At ML
patterns
Chapter 8: Polymorphism
overloading, parameter coercion, parametric polymorphism, subtype polymorphism
Week 5
Chapter 9: A Third Look At ML
higher-order programming: *** functions as parameters or return values ***

Review

- Consider the curried function

```
fun foo (a:string) = (fn (b:string) => (a,b));
```

- What is the value and type of the following computations:
  1. foo “100” “101”;
  2. val q = foo "happy"; q "really happy";
- Rewrite this function in the abbreviated curried style.

Review

- Convert the following function

```
fun pow(b,m) = if m = 0 then 1 else b*pow(b,m-1);
```

1. to a function using patterns
2. to a function using currying
3. to function using patterns and currying

Review

- Write a curried function *hdmap* that takes a function and a list of integers and applies the function to the first element of the list. If the list is empty return ~1,

  hdmap = fn : (int -> int) -> int list -> int

- Show that your function works by computing: hdmap (fn x => x + 1) [3,4]