

Ross Pate  
[rplate@my.athens.edu](mailto:rplate@my.athens.edu)

Assignment 07  
00084234

Strategy Selection:

- **OOP (e.g., C++)**
  - Strategies are objects implementing a common interface.
  - Context stores a reference/pointer and invokes via runtime polymorphism (vtables).
  - Switching strategies = replacing the stored object reference.
  - Strength: supports stateful strategies and clear contracts.
  - Tradeoff: requires boilerplate (classes, inheritance).
- **FP (e.g., OCaml)**
  - Strategies are first-class functions passed directly.
  - Context = higher-order function applying the chosen strategy.
  - Switching strategies = supplying a different function argument.
  - Strength: lightweight, no dispatch overhead, easy composition.
  - Tradeoff: state must be threaded explicitly or via closures.

#### Core distinction:

OOP selects behavior by choosing an object (identity + state), while FP selects behavior by choosing a function (computation only).

Functions-as-Values vs Objects-as-Behaviors:

| Aspect           | OOP   | FP   |
|------------------|---|--|
| Unit of behavior | Object bundling state + methods                                     | Function as pure computation                     |
| Advantages       | Encapsulation, stateful strategies, discoverable via type hierarchy | Minimal ceremony, composable, inline definitions |
| Tradeoffs        | Boilerplate, instantiation overhead                                 | Harder to group helpers, explicit state handling |

OCaml Modules and Functors and how they can serve similar roles to classes:

- **Modules** = group of related functions/types (like classes).
- **Module types** = abstract interfaces.
- **Functors** = parameterized modules (like generic classes/templates).
  - Provide compile-time specialization and type safety.
  - Enable reusable contexts with interchangeable implementations.
- **First-class modules** bridge both worlds: structured modules with runtime flexibility