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1  (*
2           CS51 Lab 4
3           Error Handling, Options, and Exceptions
4   *)
5  (*
6           SOLUTION
7   *)
8
9
10 (*=====
11 Readings:
12
13 This lab builds on material from Chapter 10 of the textbook
14 <http://book.cs51.io>, which should be read before the lab session.
15 =====*)
16 =====
17 (*=====
18 Part 1: Option types and exceptions
19
20 In Lab 2, you implemented a function `max_list` that returns the maximum
21 element in a non-empty integer list. Here's a possible implementation
22 for `max_list`:
23
24 let rec max_list (lst : int list) : int =
25   match lst with
26   | [elt] -> elt
27   | head :: tail -> max head (max_list tail) ;;
28
29 (This implementation makes use of the polymorphic `max` function from
30 the `Stdlib` module.)
31
32 As written, this function generates a warning that the match is not
33 exhaustive. Why? What's an example of the missing case? Try entering
34 the function in `ocaml` or `utop` and see what information you can
35 glean from the warning message. Go ahead; we'll wait.
36
37 .
38 .
39 .
40 .
41
42 The problem is that *there is no reasonable value for the maximum
43 element in an empty list*. This is an ideal application for option
44 types.

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45
46 .....  

47 Exercise 1:  

48  

49 Reimplement 'max_list', but this time, it should return an 'int option'  

50 instead of an 'int'. Call it 'max_list_opt'. The 'None' return value  

51 should be used when called on an empty list.  

52  

53 (Using the suffix '_opt' is a standard convention in OCaml for  

54 functions that return an option type for this purpose. See, for  

55 instance, the functions 'nth' and 'nth_opt' in the 'List' module.)  

56 .....*)  

57  

58 let rec max_list_opt (lst : int list) : int option =  

59   match lst with  

60   | [] -> None  

61   | head :: tail ->  

62     match (max_list_opt tail) with  

63     | None -> Some head  

64     | Some max_tail -> Some (max head max_tail) ;;  

65  

66 (*.....  

67 Exercise 2: Alternatively, we could have 'max_list' raise an exception  

68 upon discovering the error condition. Reimplement 'max_list' so that it  

69 does so. What exception should it raise? (See Section 10.3 in the  

70 textbook for some advice.)  

71 .....*)  

72  

73 let rec max_list (lst : int list) : int =  

74   match lst with  

75   | [] -> raise (Invalid_argument "max_list: empty list")  

76   | [elt] -> elt  

77   | head :: tail -> max head (max_list tail) ;;  

78  

79 (*.....  

80 Exercise 3: Write a function 'min_option' to return the smaller of its  

81 two 'int option' arguments, or 'None' if both are 'None'. If exactly one  

82 argument is 'None', return the other. The built-in function 'min' from  

83 the Stdlib module may be useful. You'll want to make sure that all  

84 possible cases are handled; no nonexhaustive match warnings!  

85 .....*)  

86  

87 let min_option (x : int option) (y : int option) : int option =  

88   match x, y with  

89   | None,      None      -> None  

90   | None,      Some _right -> y

```







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229  let rec zip (x : 'a list) (y : 'b list) : ('a * 'b) list =
230    match x, y with
231    | [], [] -> []
232    | xhd :: xtl, yhd :: ytl -> (xhd, yhd) :: (zip xtl ytl) ;;
233
234 A problem with this implementation of `zip` is that, once again, its
235 match is not exhaustive and it raises an exception when given lists of
236 unequal length. How can you use option types to generate an alternate
237 solution without this property?
238
239 Do so below in a new definition of `zip` -- called `zip_opt` to make
240 clear that its signature has changed -- which returns an appropriate
241 option type in case it is called with lists of unequal length. Here
242 are some examples:
243
244 # zip_opt [1; 2] [true; false] ;;
245 - : (int * bool) list option = Some [(1, true); (2, false)]
246 # zip_opt [1; 2] [true; false; true] ;;
247 - : (int * bool) list option = None
248 .....*)
249
250 let rec zip_opt (x : 'a list) (y : 'b list) : (('a * 'b) list) option =
251   match x, y with
252   | [], [] -> Some []
253   | xhd :: xtl, yhd :: ytl ->
254     (match zip_opt xtl ytl with
255      | None -> None
256      | Some ztl -> Some ((xhd, yhd) :: ztl))
257   | _, _ -> None ;;
258
259 (*=====
260 Part 3: Factoring out None-handling
261
262 Recall the definition of `dotprod` from Lab 2. Here it is, adjusted to
263 an option type:
264
265 let dotprod_opt (a : int list) (b : int list) : int option =
266   let pairsopt = zip_opt a b in
267   match pairsopt with
268   | None -> None
269   | Some pairs -> Some (sum (prods pairs)) ;;
270
271 It uses `zip_opt` from Exercise 8, `prods` from Lab 3, and a function
272 `sum` to sum up all the integers in a list. The `sum` function is
273 simply *)
274

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275 let sum : int list -> int =
276   List.fold_left (+) 0 ;;
277
278 (* and a version of `prods` is *)
279
280 let prods =
281   List.map (fun (x, y) -> x * y) ;;
282
283 (* Notice how in `dotprod_opt` and other option-manipulating functions
284 we frequently and annoyingly have to test if a value of option type is
285 `None`; this requires a separate match, and passing on the `None`
286 value in the "bad" branch and introducing a `Some` in the "good"
287 branch. This is something we're likely to be doing a lot of. Let's
288 factor that out to simplify the implementation.
289
290 .....
291 Exercise 9: Define a function called `maybe` that takes a first
292 argument, function of type `arg -> result`, and a second argument,
293 of type `arg option`, and "maybe" applies the first (the function) to
294 the second (the argument), depending on whether its argument is a
295 `None` or a `Some`. The `maybe` function either passes on the `None`
296 if its second argument is `None`, or if its second argument is `Some
297 v`, it applies its first argument to that `v` and returns the result,
298 appropriately adjusted for the result type.
299
300 What should the type of the `maybe` function be?
301
302 Now implement the `maybe` function.
303 .....
304
305 let maybe (f : arg -> result) (x : arg option) : result option =
306   match x with
307   | None -> None
308   | Some v -> Some (f v) ;;
309
310 .....
311 Exercise 10: Now reimplement `dotprod_opt` to use the `maybe`
312 function. (The previous implementation makes use of functions `sum`
313 and `prods`, which we've provided for you above.) Your new solution
314 for `dotprod` should be much simpler than the version we provided
315 above at the top of Part 3.
316 .....
317
318 let dotprod_opt (a : int list) (b : int list) : int option =
319   maybe (fun pairs -> sum (prods pairs))
320     (zip_opt a b) ;;

```



367       'Some head'. However, when using the 'maybe' in the corresponding  
368       case in 'max\_list\_opt\_2', we can't allow the recursion to proceed  
369       all the way to the empty list, where 'None' would be returned,  
370       because 'maybe' always preserves 'None's; we can't "promote" the  
371       'None' to a 'Some'. Consequently, we need to handle the singleton  
372       case explicitly. \*)