

```
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

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Polymorphic Datatypes

Finish the story

- Claimed built-in options and lists are not needed/special
 - Other than special syntax for list constructors
- But these datatype bindings are polymorphic type constructors
 - `int list` and `string list` and `int list list` are all types, not `list`
 - Functions might or might not be polymorphic
 - `val sum_list : int list -> int`
 - `val append : 'a list * 'a list -> 'a list`
- Good language design: Can define new polymorphic datatypes
- Semi-optional: Do *not* need to understand this for homework 2

Defining polymorphic datatypes

- Syntax: put one or more type variables before datatype name

```
datatype 'a option = NONE | SOME of 'a
```

```
datatype 'a mylist = Empty | Cons of 'a * 'a mylist
```

```
datatype ('a,'b) tree =  
    Node of 'a * ('a,'b) tree * ('a,'b) tree  
    | Leaf of 'b
```

- Can use these type variables in constructor definitions
- Binding then introduces a type constructor, not a type
 - Must say `int mylist` or `string mylist` or `'a mylist`
 - Not “plain” `mylist`

Nothing else changes

Use constructors and case expressions as usual

- No change to evaluation rules
- Type-checking will make sure types are used consistently
 - Example: cannot mix element types of list
- Functions will be polymorphic or not based on how data is used