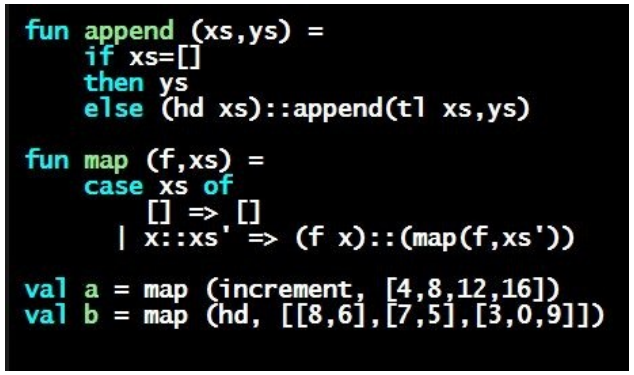

Programming Languages

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Optional: Closure Idioms Without Closures in Java

Java

- Java 8 scheduled to have closures (like C#, Scala, Ruby, …)
  - Write like
```
xs.map((x) => x.age)
  .filter((x) => x > 21)

  .length()
```
  - Make parallelism and collections much easier
  - Encourage less mutation

- But how could we program in an ML style without help
  - Will not look like the code above
  - Was even more painful before Java had generics

One-method interfaces

```
interface Func<B,A> {  B m(A x); }

interface Pred<A> { boolean m(A x); }
```

- An interface is a named [polymorphic] type
- An object with one method can serve as a closure
  - Different instances can have different fields [possibly different types] like different closures can have different environments [possibly different types]
- So an interface with one method can serve as a function type

List types

Creating a generic list class works fine

- Assuming **`null`** for empty list here, a choice we may regret

```
class List<T> {
  T head;
  List<T> tail;
  List(T x, List<T> xs){
     head = x;
     tail = xs;
  }
  …
}
```

Higher-order functions

- Let's use static methods for **`map`**, **`filter`**, **`length`**
- Use our earlier generic interfaces for "function arguments"
- These methods are recursive
  - Less efficient in Java ☹
  - Much simpler than common previous-pointer acrobatics

```
static <A,B> List<B> map(Func<B,A> f, List<A> xs){
  if(xs==null) return null;
  return new List<B>(f.m(xs.head),map(f,xs.tail));
}
static <A> List<A> filter(Pred<A> f, List<A> xs){
  if(xs==null) return null;
  if(f.m(xs.head))
    return new List<A>(xs.head),filter(f,xs.tail);
  return filter(f,xs.tail);
}
static <A> length(List<A> xs){ … }
```

Why not instance methods?

A more OO approach would be instance methods:

```
class List<T> {
  <B> List<B> map(Func<B,T> f){…}
  List<T> filter(Pred<T> f){…}
  int length(){…}
}
```

Can work, but interacts poorly with **`null`** for empty list

- Cannot call a method on **`null`**
- So leads to extra cases in all *clients* of these methods if a list might be empty

An even more OO alternative uses a subclass of **`List`** for empty-lists rather than **`null`**

- Then instance methods work fine!

Clients

- To use **`map`** method to make a **`List<Bar>`** from a **`List<Foo>`**:
  - Define a class **`C`** that implements **`Func<Bar,Foo>`**
    - Use fields to hold any "private data"
  - Make an object of class **`C`**, passing private data to constructor
  - Pass the object to **`map`**

- As a convenience, can combine all 3 steps with *anonymous inner classes*
  - Mostly just syntactic sugar
  - But can directly access enclosing fields and **`final`** variables
  - Added to language to better support callbacks
  - Syntax an acquired taste?