```
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]])
```

Ways to Build New Types

How to build bigger types

- Already know:
 - Have various base types like int bool unit char
 - Ways to build (nested) compound types: tuples, lists, options
- Coming soon: more ways to build compound types
- First: 3 most important type building-blocks in any language
 - "Each of": A t value contains values of each of t1 t2 ... tn
 - "One of": A t value contains values of one of t1 t2 ... tn
 - "Self reference": A t value can refer to other t values

Remarkable: A lot of data can be described with just these building blocks

Note: These are not the common names for these concepts

Examples

- Tuples build each-of types
 - int * bool contains an int and a bool
- Options build one-of types
 - int option contains an int or it contains no data
- Lists use all three building blocks
 - int list contains an int and another int list or it contains no data
- And of course we can nest compound types
 - ((int * int) option * (int list list)) option

Coming soon

- Another way to build each-of types in ML
 - Records: have named fields
 - Connection to tuples and idea of syntactic sugar
- A way to build and use our own one-of types in ML
 - For example, a type that contains an int or a string
 - Will lead to pattern-matching, one of ML's coolest and strangest-to-Java-programmers features
- Later in course: How OOP does one-of types
 - Key contrast with procedural and functional programming

```
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]])
```

Records

Records

Record values have fields (any name) holding values

$${f1 = v1, ..., fn = vn}$$

Record types have fields (and name) holding types

The order of fields in a record value or type never matters

REPL alphabetizes fields just for consistency

Building records:

$${f1 = e1, ..., fn = en}$$

Accessing pieces:

(Evaluation rules and type-checking as expected)

Example

```
{name = "Amelia", id = 41123 - 12}
```

Evaluates to

```
{id = 41111, name = "Amelia"}
```

And has type

```
{id : int, name : string}
```

If some expression such as a variable **x** has this type, then get fields with:

#id x #name x

Note we did not have to declare any record types

By name vs. by position

- Little difference between (4,7,9) and {f=4,g=7,h=9}
 - Tuples a little shorter
 - Records a little easier to remember "what is where"
 - Generally a matter of taste, but for many (6? 8? 12?) fields, a record is usually a better choice
- A common decision for a construct's syntax is whether to refer to things by position (as in tuples) or by some (field) name (as with records)
 - A common hybrid is like with Java method arguments (and ML functions as used so far):
 - Caller uses position
 - Callee uses variables
 - Could do it differently; some languages have

```
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]])
```

Tuples as Syntactic Sugar

The truth about tuples

Previously, we gave tuples syntax, type-checking rules, and evaluation rules

But we could have done this instead:

- Tuple syntax is just a different way to write certain records
- (e1,...,en) is another way of writing {1=e1,...,n=en}
- t1*...*tn is another way of writing {1:t1,...,n:tn}
- In other words, records with field names 1, 2, ...

In fact, this is how ML actually defines tuples

- Other than special syntax in programs and printing, they don't exist
- You really can write {1=4,2=7,3=9}, but it's bad style

Syntactic sugar

"Tuples are just syntactic sugar for records with fields named 1, 2, ... n"

- Syntactic: Can describe the semantics entirely by the corresponding record syntax
- · Sugar: They make the language sweeter ©

Will see many more examples of syntactic sugar

- They simplify *understanding* the language
- They simplify *implementing* the language Why? Because there are fewer semantics to worry about even though we have the syntactic convenience of tuples

Another example we saw: andalso and orelse vs. if then else Jan-Mar 2013 Dan Grossman, Programming 3

```
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]])
```

Datatype Bindings

Datatype bindings

A "strange" (?) and totally awesome (!) way to make one-of types:

A datatype binding

- Adds a new type mytype to the environment
- Adds constructors to the environment: TwoInts, Str, and Pizza
- A constructor is (among other things), a function that makes values of the new type (or is a value of the new type):

```
- TwoInts : int * int -> mytype
```

- Str : string -> mytype

- Pizza : mytype

The values we make

- Any value of type mytype is made from one of the constructors
- The value contains:
 - A "tag" for "which constructor" (e.g., TwoInts)
 - The corresponding data (e.g., (7,9))
- Examples:
 - TwoInts(3+4,5+4) evaluates to TwoInts(7,9)
 - Str(if true then "hi" else "bye") evaluates to Str("hi")
 - Pizza is a value

Using them

So we know how to build datatype values; need to access them

There are two aspects to accessing a datatype value

- 1. Check what *variant* it is (what constructor made it)
- 2. Extract the *data* (if that variant has any)

Notice how our other one-of types used functions for this:

- null and isSome check variants
- hd, t1, and valOf extract data (raise exception on wrong variant)

ML could have done the same for datatype bindings

- For example, functions like "isStr" and "getStrData"
- Instead it did something better

```
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]])
```

Useful Datatypes

Useful examples

Let's fix the fact that our only example datatype so far was silly...

· Enumerations, including carrying other data

Alternate ways of identifying real-world things/people

Don't do this

Unfortunately, bad training and languages that make one-of types inconvenient lead to common *bad style* where each-of types are used where one-of types are the right tool

```
(* use the student_num and ignore other
  fields unless the student_num is ~1 *)
{ student_num : int,
  first : string,
  middle : string option,
  last : string }
```

- Approach gives up all the benefits of the language enforcing every value is one variant, you don't forget branches, etc.
- · And it makes it less clear what you are doing

That said...

But if instead, the point is that every "person" in your program has a name and maybe a student number, then each-of is the way to go:

```
{ student_num : int option,
  first : string,
  middle : string option,
  last : string }
```

Expression Trees

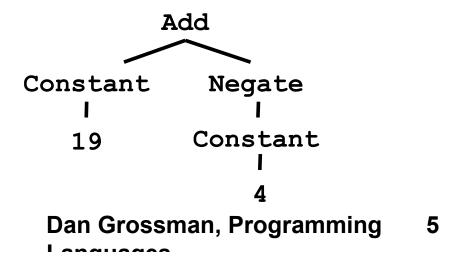
A more exciting (?) example of a datatype, using self-reference

An expression in ML of type **exp**:

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```
Add (Constant (10+9), Negate (Constant 4))
```

How to picture the resulting value in your head:



Recursion

Not surprising:

Functions over recursive datatypes are usually recursive

```
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]])
```

Pattern-Matching So Far: Precisely

Careful definitions

When a language construct is "new and strange," there is *more* reason to define the evaluation rules precisely...

... so let's review datatype bindings and case expressions "so far"

- Extensions to come but won't invalidate the "so far"

Datatype bindings

datatype t = C1 of t1 | C2 of t2 | ... | Cn of tn

Adds type t and constructors Ci of type ti->t

- Ci v is a value, i.e., the result "includes the tag"

Omit "of t" for constructors that are just tags, no underlying data

- Such a Ci is a value of type t

Given an expression of type t, use case expressions to:

- See which variant (tag) it has
- Extract underlying data once you know which variant

Datatype bindings

- · As usual, can use a case expressions anywhere an expression goes
 - Does not need to be whole function body, but often is
- · Evaluate e to a value, call it v
- If **pi** is the first *pattern* to *match* **v**, then result is evaluation of **ei** in environment "extended by the match"
- Pattern Ci (x1,...,xn) matches value Ci (v1,...,vn) and extends the environment with x1 to v1 ... xn to vn
 - For "no data" constructors, pattern Ci matches value Ci

```
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]])
```

Type Synonyms

Creating new types

- · A datatype binding introduces a new type name
 - Distinct from all existing types
 - Only way to create values of the new type is the constructors
- · A type synonym is a new kind of binding

```
type aname = t
```

- Just creates another name for a type
- The type and the name are interchangeable in every way
- Do not worry about what REPL prints: picks what it wants just like it picks the order of record field names

Why have this?

For now, type synonyms just a convenience for talking about types

- Example (where suit and rank already defined):
type card = suit * rank

- Write a function of typecard -> bool
- Okay if REPL says your function has type
 suit * rank -> bool

Convenient, but does not let us "do" anything new

Later in course will see another use related to modularity

```
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]])
```

Another Expression Example

Putting it together

```
Let's define max_constant : exp -> int
```

Good example of combining several topics as we program:

- Case expressions
- Local helper functions
- Avoiding repeated recursion
- Simpler solution by using library functions

See the .sml file...

```
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]])
```

Lists and Options are Datatypes

Recursive datatypes

Datatype bindings can describe recursive structures

- Have seen arithmetic expressions
- Now, linked lists:

```
datatype my int list = Empty
                      | Cons of int * my int list
val x = Cons(4, Cons(23, Cons(2008, Empty)))
fun append my list (xs,ys) =
   case xs of
       Empty => ys
        | Cons(x,xs') => Cons(x,
  append my list(xs',ys))
```

Options are datatypes

Options are just a predefined datatype binding

- **NONE** and **SOME** are *constructors*, not just functions
- So use pattern-matching not isSome and valOf

Lists are datatypes

Do not use hd, tl, or null either

- [] and :: are constructors too
- (strange syntax, particularly *infix*)

```
fun sum_list xs =
    case xs of
       [] => 0
            | x::xs' => x + sum_list xs'

fun append (xs,ys) =
    case xs of
       [] => ys
            | x::xs' => x :: append(xs',ys)
```

Why pattern-matching

- Pattern-matching is better for options and lists for the same reasons as for all datatypes
 - No missing cases, no exceptions for wrong variant, etc.
- We just learned the other way first for pedagogy
 - Do not use isSome, valOf, null, hd, tl on Homework 2
- So why are null, tl, etc. predefined?
 - For passing as arguments to other functions (next week)
 - Because sometimes they are convenient
 - But not a big deal: could define them yourself

```
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]])
```

Polymorphic Datatypes

Finish the story

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- 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

```
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]])
```

Pattern-Matching for Each-Of Types: The Truth About Function Arguments

An exciting segment

Learn some deep truths about "what is really going on"

- Using much more syntactic sugar than we realized
- Every val-binding and function-binding uses pattern-matching
- Every function in ML takes exactly one argument

First need to extend our definition of pattern-matching...

Each-of types

So far have used pattern-matching for one of types because we needed a way to access the values

Pattern matching also works for records and tuples:

- The pattern (x1,...,xn)
 matches the tuple value (v1,...,vn)
- The pattern {f1=x1, ..., fn=xn} matches the record value {f1=v1, ..., fn=vn}
 (and fields can be reordered)

Example

This is poor style, but based on what I told you so far, the only way to use patterns

Works but poor style to have one-branch cases

```
fun sum_triple triple =
   case triple of
        (x, y, z) => x + y + z

fun full_name r =
   case r of
        {first=x, middle=y, last=z}
   =>
   x ^ " " ^ y ^ " " ^ z
```

Val-binding patterns

- · New feature: A val-binding can use a pattern, not just a variable
 - (Turns out variables are just one kind of pattern, so we just told you a half-truth in lecture 1)

$$val p = e$$

- Great for getting (all) pieces out of an each-of type
 - Can also get only parts out (not shown here)
- Usually poor style to put a constructor pattern in a val-binding
 - Tests for the one variant and raises an exception if a different one is there (like hd, t1, and valOf)

Better example

This is okay style

- Though we will improve it again next
- Semantically identical to one-branch case expressions

```
fun sum_triple triple =
  let val (x, y, z) = triple
  in
          x + y + z
  end

fun full_name r =
  let val {first=x, middle=y, last=z} = r
  in
          x ^ " " ^ y ^ " " ^ z
  end
```

Function-argument patterns

A function argument can also be a pattern

Match against the argument in a function call

fun f
$$p = e$$

Examples (great style!):

```
fun sum_triple (x, y, z) =
    x + y + z

fun full_name {first=x, middle=y, last=z} =
    x ^ " " ^ y ^ " " ^ z
```

A new way to go

- For Homework 2:
 - Do not use the # character
 - Do not need to write down any explicit types

Hmm

A function that takes one triple of type int*int*int and returns an int that is their sum:

A function that takes three int arguments and returns an int that is their sum

See the difference? (Me neither.) ©

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The truth about functions

- In ML, every function takes exactly one argument (*)
- What we call multi-argument functions are just functions taking one tuple argument, implemented with a tuple pattern in the function binding
 - Elegant and flexible language design
- Enables cute and useful things you cannot do in Java, e.g.,

```
fun rotate_left (x, y, z) = (y, z, x)
fun rotate_right t = rotate_left(rotate_left t)
```

* "Zero arguments" is the unit pattern () matching the unit value ()

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```
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]])
```

Polymorphic Types and Equality Types

An example

"Write a function that appends two string lists"

- You expect string list * string list -> string list
- ' Implementation says 'a list * 'a list -> 'a list
- This is okay [such as on your homework]: why?

More general

The type

```
'a list * 'a list -> 'a list is more general than the type
```

```
string list * string list -> string list
```

- ! It "can be used" as any less general type, such as int list * int list -> int list
- But it is not more general than the type int list * string list -> int list

The "more general" rule

Easy rule you (and the type-checker) can apply without thinking:

A type *t1* is more general than the type *t2* if you can take *t1*, replace its type variables consistently, and get *t2*

- Example: Replace each 'a with int * int
- Example: Replace each 'a with bool and each 'b with bool
- Example: Replace each 'a with bool and each 'b with int
- Example: Replace each 'b with 'a and each 'a with 'a

Other rules

- · Can combine the "more general" rule with rules for equivalence
 - Use of type synonyms does not matter
 - Order of field names does not matter

```
type foo = int * int
the type
{quux : 'b, bar : int * 'a, baz : 'b}
is more general than
{quux : string, bar : foo, baz : string}
which is equivalent to
{bar : int*int, baz : string, quux : string}

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```

Equality types

- You might also see type variables with a second "quote"
 - Example: ''a list * ''a -> bool
- These are "equality types" that arise from using the = operator
 - The = operator works on lots of types: int, string, tuples containing all equality types, ...
 - But not all types: function types, real, ...
- The rules for more general are exactly the same except you have to replace an equality-type variable with a type that can be used with =
 - A "strange" feature of ML because = is special

Example

```
(* ''a * ''a -> string *)
fun same thing (x, y) =
    if x=y then "yes" else "no"
(* int -> string *)
fun is three x =
    if x=3 then "yes" else "no"
```

(You can ignore the warning about "calling polyEqual")

```
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]])
```

Nested Patterns

Nested patterns

- We can nest patterns as deep as we want
 - Just like we can nest expressions as deep as we want
 - Often avoids hard-to-read, wordy nested case expressions
- So the full meaning of pattern-matching is to compare a pattern against a value for the "same shape" and bind variables to the "right parts"
 - More precise recursive definition coming after examples

Useful example: zip/unzip 3 lists

```
fun zip3 lists =
   case lists of
        ([],[],[]) => []
      | (hd1::tl1,hd2::tl2,hd3::tl3) =>
              (hd1,hd2,hd3)::zip3(tl1,tl2,tl3)
      | => raise ListLengthMismatch
fun unzip3 triples =
   case triples of
        [] \Rightarrow ([],[],[])
      | (a,b,c)::tl =>
          let val (11, 12, 13) = unzip3 tl
          in
               (a::11,b::12,c::13)
          end
```

More examples to come (see code files)

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```
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]])
```

More Nested Patterns

Style

- Nested patterns can lead to very elegant, concise code
 - Avoid nested case expressions if nested patterns are simpler and avoid unnecessary branches or let-expressions
 - Example: unzip3 and nondecreasing
 - A common idiom is matching against a tuple of datatypes to compare them
 - Examples: zip3 and multsign
- Wildcards are good style: use them instead of variables when you do not need the data
 - Examples: len and multsign

```
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]])
```

Nested Patterns Precisely

(Most of) the full definition

The semantics for pattern-matching takes a pattern *p* and a value *v* and decides (1) does it match and (2) if so, what variable bindings are introduced.

Since patterns can nest, the definition is elegantly recursive, with a separate rule for each kind of pattern. Some of the rules:

- · If p is a variable x, the match succeeds and x is bound to v
- If p is _, the match succeeds and no bindings are introduced
- If *p* is (*p*1,...,*pn*) and *v* is (*v*1,...,*vn*), the match succeeds if and only if *p*1 matches *v*1, ..., *pn* matches *vn*. The bindings are the union of all bindings from the submatches
- If *p* is *C p1*, the match succeeds if *v* is *C v1* (i.e., the same constructor) and *p1* matches *v1*. The bindings are the bindings from the submatch.
- ... (there are several other similar forms of patterns)

Examples

- Pattern a::b::c::d matches all lists with >= 3 elements
- Pattern a::b::c::[] matches all lists with 3 elements
- Pattern ((a,b),(c,d))::e matches all non-empty lists of pairs of pairs

```
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]])
```

Optional: Function Patterns

Yet more pattern-matching

[Your instructor has never preferred this style, but others like it and you are welcome to use it]

Nothing more powerful

In general

```
fun f x =
   case x of
    p1 => e1
    | p2 => e2
    ...
```

Can be written as

```
fun f p1 = e1
    | f p2 = e2
    ...
    | f pn = en
```

If you prefer (assuming x is not used in any branch)

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```
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]])
```

Exceptions

Exceptions

An exception binding introduces a new kind of exception

```
exception MyFirstException exception MySecondException of int * int
```

The raise primitive raises (a.k.a. throws) an exception

```
raise MyFirstException
raise (MySecondException(7,9))
```

A handle expression can handle (a.k.a. catch) an exception

If doesn't match, exception continues to propagate

```
e1 handle MyFirstException => e2
e1 handle MySecondException(x,y) => e2
```

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Actually...

Exceptions are a lot like datatype constructors...

- Declaring an exception adds a constructor for type exn
- Can pass values of exn anywhere (e.g., function arguments)
 - Not too common to do this but can be useful
- · Handle can have multiple branches with patterns for type exn

```
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]])
```

Tail Recursion

Recursion

Should now be comfortable with recursion:

- No harder than using a loop (whatever that is ©)
- Often much easier than a loop
 - When processing a tree (e.g., evaluate an arithmetic expression)
 - Examples like appending lists
 - Avoids mutation even for local variables

· Now:

- How to reason about efficiency of recursion
- The importance of *tail recursion*
- Using an accumulator to achieve tail recursion
- [No new language features here]

Call-stacks

While a program runs, there is a *call stack* of function calls that have started but not yet returned

- Calling a function f pushes an instance of f on the stack
- When a call to **f** finishes, it is popped from the stack

These stack-frames store information like the value of local variables and "what is left to do" in the function

Due to recursion, multiple stack-frames may be calls to the same function

Example

```
fun fact n = if n=0 then 1 else n*fact(n-1)
val x = fact 3
```

fact 3 | fact 3: 3*_ | fact 3: 3*_ | fact 3: 3*_ | fact 2: 2*_ | fact 2: 2*_ | fact 1: 1*_ | fact 0

fact 3: 3* fact 3: 3* fact 3: 3* fact 3: 3*2

fact 2: 2* fact 2: 2* fact 2: 2*1

fact 1: 1* fact 1: 1*1

fact 0: 1

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Example Revised

Still recursive, more complicated, but the result of recursive calls *is* the result for the caller (no remaining multiplication)

The call-stacks

```
fact 3: ____ fact 3: ___ fact 3: ___ aux (3,1): ___ aux (2,3): ___ aux (1,6)
```

fact 3: _	fact 3: _	fact 3: _	fact 3: _
aux(3,1):_	aux(3,1):_	aux(3,1):_	aux(3,1):_
aux (2,3):_	aux(2,3):_	aux(2,3):_	aux (2,3):6
aux (1,6):_	aux(1,6):_	aux (1,6):6	Etc
aux(0,6)	aux(0,6):6		
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An optimization

It is unnecessary to keep around a stack-frame just so it can get a callee's result and return it without any further evaluation

ML recognizes these *tail calls* in the compiler and treats them differently:

- Pop the caller *before* the call, allowing callee to *reuse* the same stack space
- (Along with other optimizations,) as efficient as a loop

Reasonable to assume all functional-language implementations do tail-call optimization

What really happens

```
fact 3 | aux(3,1) | aux(2,3) | aux(1,6) | aux(0,6)
```

```
fun append (xs,ys) =
    if xs=[]
    then ys
    else (hd xs)::append(tl xs,ys)

fun map (f,xs) =
    case xs of
    [] => []
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val a = map (increment, [4,8,12,16])
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```

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Accumulators

Moral of tail recursion

- Where reasonably elegant, feasible, and important, rewriting functions to be tail-recursive can be much more efficient
 - Tail-recursive: recursive calls are tail-calls
- There is a methodology that can often guide this transformation:
 - Create a helper function that takes an accumulator
 - Old base case becomes initial accumulator
 - New base case becomes final accumulator

Methodology already seen

```
fun fact n =
   let fun aux(n,acc) =
        if n=0
        then acc
        else aux(n-1,acc*n)
   in
        aux(n,1)
   end

val x = fact 3
```

```
fact 3 aux (3,1) aux (2,3) aux (1,6) aux (0,6)
```

Another example

And another

```
fun rev xs =
   case xs of
       [] => []
        | x::xs' => (rev xs') @ [x]
```

```
fun rev xs =
    let fun aux(xs,acc) =
           case xs of
              [] => acc
            | x::xs' => aux(xs',x::acc)
    in
       aux (xs,[])
    end
```

Actually much better

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- For fact and sum, tail-recursion is faster but both ways linear time
- Non-tail recursive rev is quadratic because each recursive call uses append, which must traverse the first list
 - And 1+2+...+(length-1) is almost length*length/2
 - Moral: beware list-append, especially within outer recursion
- · Cons constant-time (and fast), so accumulator version much better

```
fun append (xs,ys) =
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```

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Tail Recursion: Perspective and Definition

Always tail-recursive?

There are certainly cases where recursive functions cannot be evaluated in a constant amount of space

Most obvious examples are functions that process trees

In these cases, the natural recursive approach is the way to go

- You could get one recursive call to be a tail call, but rarely worth the complication

Also beware the wrath of premature optimization

- Favor clear, concise code
- But do use less space if inputs may be large

What is a tail-call?

The "nothing left for caller to do" intuition usually suffices

- If the result of **f x** is the "immediate result" for the enclosing function body, then **f x** is a tail call

But we can define "tail position" recursively

- Then a "tail call" is a function call in "tail position"

. . .

Precise definition

A tail call is a function call in tail position

- · If an expression is not in tail position, then no subexpressions are
- In fun f p = e, the body e is in tail position
- If if e1 then e2 else e3 is in tail position, then e2 and e3 are in tail position (but e1 is not). (Similar for case-expressions)
- If let b1 ... bn in e end is in tail position, then e is in tail position (but no binding expressions are)
- · Function-call arguments e1 e2 are not in tail position

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