

CS 51

CODE REVIEW 1

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1. TOPICS

- Record Types and Algebraic Data Types
- Currying and Partial Application*
- Option Types and Error Handling*
- From last week:
 - Higher order functions
 - Anonymous functions
 - General syntax: `match`, `let`, `in`

2. RECORDS

Records allow us to combine related pieces of data into one unified structure. Imagine we wanted to model data for a student. A record could be a good choice, because there are multiple different views of different types, and they don't have a natural ordering:

```
# type student = {  
  name : string;  
  email : string ;  
  huid : int ;  
  enrolled : bool  
} ;;
```

Here's an example of a value of this type:

```
# let sam = {  
  name = "samuel";  
  email = "s@muel.green";  
  huid = 51515151;  
  enrolled = false  
} ;;  
  
val sam : student =
```

```
{name = "samuel"; email = "s@muel.green"; huid = 51515151;
  enrolled = false}
```

To pull a field out of a record, we can use pattern matching, field punning, or dot notation. There isn't a "right" choice for which of these syntaxes should be preferred – I'd recommend relying on the one that makes your code the most readable.

2.1. Pattern Matching.

```
let get_huid1 (stu : student) =
  let { huid = h; _ } = stu in h ;;
```

```
get_huid1 sam ;;
```

In this case, the identifier `h` is bound to the value in the `huid` field of the record.

2.2. Field Punning. With a dryly appropriate name, field punning allows for direct access of record fields by name in pattern matches. For example, this is equivalent to the function above:

```
# let get_huid2 (stu : student) =
  let { huid ; _ } = stu in huid ;;
val get_huid2 : student -> int = <fun>
# get_huid2 sam ;;
- : int = 51515151
```

As with tuples, we can move this destructuring into the argument:

```
# let get_huid3 ({ huid; _ } : student) =
  huid ;;
val get_huid3 : student -> int = <fun>
# get_huid3 sam ;;
- : int = 51515151
```

2.3. Dot Notation. Finally, there's standard dot notation, which is probably most appropriate when accessing only 1 field of a record. In the case of our running example:

```
# let get_huid4 (s : student) = s.huid ;;
val get_huid4 : student -> int = <fun>
# get_huid4 sam ;;
- : int = 51515151
```

3. RECORD TYPES

Algebraic data types are great, but what if we want to model a system or some data that we need to constraint to a fixed set of different values? Imagine, for

example, that we wanted to add a field to the student record to record the student's enrollment type.

We could start by storing this data as a string, like this:

```
# type student_with_type = {
  email : string ;
  enrollment_type : string
} ;;
type student_with_type = { email : string; enrollment_type : string; }
```

By convention, we could then say that a student is either "FAS", "DCE", or "None". We can construct an valid value like this:

```
# let new_sam = { email = "HUID";
                  enrollment_type = "HEAD TF, NOT STUDENT" };;
val new_sam : student_with_type =
  {email = "HUID"; enrollment_type = "HEAD TF, NOT STUDENT"}
```

Wait a second! This doesn't meet our convention for values of the student_with_type type, but it's still valid, according to OCaml.

```
# new_sam ;;
- : student_with_type =
{email = "HUID"; enrollment_type = "HEAD TF, NOT STUDENT"}
```

We solve this problem by with Algebraic Data Types (ADTs), which limit the space of possible values. There are two types of ADTs: Cartesian products (i.e. tuples) and sum types (called variants). Here's an example that uses both:

```
# type enrollment = Faculty of string * int |
                  FAS | DCE | Not ;;
type enrollment = Faculty of string * int | FAS | DCE | Not
```

In this case, the Faculty variant is used to construct named tuples of a string and an int. The other variant create values that represent those values distinct, such as:

```
# let shieb : enrollment = Faculty ("Prof. Shieber", 1) ;;
val shieb : enrollment = Faculty ("Prof. Shieber", 1)
# let sam : enrollment = FAS ;;
val sam : enrollment = FAS
# let reagan : enrollment = DCE ;;
val reagan : enrollment = DCE
# let goodell : enrollment = Not ;;
val goodell : enrollment = Not
```

We can embed ADTs in records, name records in ADTs, and take advantage of all the other value manipulation syntax (`match`, `let`, type signatures) that we've see so far. Example:

```
# let is_shieber (enr : enrollment) : bool =
  match enr with
  | Faculty (name, _) -> name = "Prof. Shieber"
  | _ -> false ;;
val is_shieber : enrollment -> bool = <fun>
# is_shieber shieb ;;
- : bool = true
```

3.1. Recursive ADTs. A final note is that ADTs can be recursive. For example:

```
# type partner = Two of student * partner | One of student ;;
type partner = Two of student * partner | One of student
```

This would allow us to represent students partnerships and also demonstrates how to use records in ADTs.

4. EXERCISES

Exercise 1. *Improve the original definition of `student_with_type` data type. Why is the old version bad and the new version better?* □

```
# type student = {
  email : string ;
  enrollment : enrollment ;
} ;;
type student = { email : string; enrollment : enrollment; }
# { email = "s@muel.green"; enrollment = FAS } ;;
- : student = {email = "s@muel.green"; enrollment = FAS}
```

Exercise 2. *Write a data type `counts` to represent counting by one. Then write a function that takes a number and returns its `int` representation.* □

```
# type count = AddOne of count | Zero ;;
type count = AddOne of count | Zero
# let rec int_of_count c =
  match c with
  | Zero -> 0
  | AddOne c' -> 1 + (int_of_count c') ;;
val int_of_count : count -> int = <fun>
# int_of_count (AddOne(AddOne(Zero))) = 2;;
- : bool = true
```

Exercise 3. *Here's the solution to `curry`. Re-write it without using the syntactic sugar of multiple arguments, and give the complete type of the identifier `curry`.* \square

```
# let curry f x y = f (x, y) ;;
val curry : ('a * 'b -> 'c) -> 'a -> 'b -> 'c = <fun>
```

Solution:

If we unwrap the syntactic sugar all the way, this function can be written as:

```
# let curry : ('a * 'b -> 'c) -> ('a -> 'b -> 'c) =
  fun f ->
    fun x ->
      fun y -> f (x, y) ;;
  val curry : ('a * 'b -> 'c) -> 'a -> 'b -> 'c = <fun>
```

However, this doesn't seem to be the clearest way it can be written. How about expressing it this way:

```
# let curry : ('a * 'b -> 'c) -> ('a -> 'b -> 'c) =
  fun f ->
    fun x y -> f (x, y) ;;
  val curry : ('a * 'b -> 'c) -> 'a -> 'b -> 'c = <fun>
```

It's a little clearer here that the function `curry` takes a function `f` of one argument ("uncurried") and returns a new function that takes two arguments. In this case, that function is the anonymous function

```
fun x y -> f (x, y) ;;
```

Going one step farther up makes it into the version that I find clearest:

```
# let curry (f : 'a * 'b -> 'c) : ('a -> 'b -> 'c) =
  fun x y -> f (x, y) ;;
val curry : ('a * 'b -> 'c) -> 'a -> 'b -> 'c = <fun>
```

The important recurring concepts here are:

- (1) There is more than one operationally identical way to express the same solution here. Some of them are much clearer to read than others!
- (2) The type system is our guide throughout.

Exercise 4. *Write a function `mapfilter` that takes a list and two functions, `pred` and `transf`. `mapfilter` should return a list containing the result of applying `transf` to every element for which `pred` is true, and removing the elements for which `pred` is false.*

- (1) write the type of `mapfilter`.
- (2) write `mapfilter` without using the `List` module.
- (3) re-write `mapfilter` using the `List` module.

(4) *just for practice, write `mapfilter` so that it returns `None` if the resulting list is empty. Is this a necessary way to handle errors here?*

□

Solution: Version 1, without the List module

```
# let rec mapfilter pred transf lst =
  match lst with
  | [] -> []
  | hd :: tl -> if pred hd
                  then (transf hd) :: (mapfilter pred transf tl)
                  else (mapfilter pred transf tl) ;;
val mapfilter : ('a -> bool) -> ('a -> 'b) -> 'a list -> 'b list = <fun>
```

Solution: Version 2, with the List module

```
# let mapfilter pred transf lst =
  List.map transf (List.filter pred lst) ;;
val mapfilter : ('a -> bool) -> ('a -> 'b) -> 'a list -> 'b list = <fun>
```

Solution: Version 3, just for practice:

```
# let mapfilter_option pred transf lst =
  let res = mapfilter pred transf lst in
  match res with
  | [] -> None
  | _ -> Some res ;;
val mapfilter_option :
  ('a -> bool) -> ('a -> 'b) -> 'a list -> 'b list option = <fun>
```