CS4450/7450
Chapter 4: Syntax in Functions
Principles of Programming Languages

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What is a Pattern?


```
data I = A | B | C
foo :: I -> String
foo A = "One"
foo B = "Two"
foo C = "Three"
```

A *pattern* is anything in the argument position of a function definition.

What is a Pattern?


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A *pattern* is anything in the argument position of a function definition. There are:

- variable patterns, wildcard patterns, constructor patterns, as-patterns

...and bigger patterns are composed of smaller patterns.

Wildcard Patterns

The underscore "_" is a wildcard pattern. They match anything.

```
first :: (a, b, c) -> a
first (x, _, _) = x

second :: (a, b, c) -> b
second (_, y, _) = y

third :: (a, b, c) -> c
third (_, _, z) = z
```

Wildcards are good to use to indicate that you don't care about the value it matches.

Variable Patterns

Variable patterns match anything:

```
addVectors :: (Num a) => (a, a) -> (a, a) -> (a, a)
addVectors a b = (fst a + fst b, snd a + snd b)
```

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In the following application, `a` and `b` are bound to `(5,6)` and `(7,8)`, respectively.

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```

Can also express structure of the input directly using patterns:

```
addVectors :: (Num a) => (a, a) -> (a, a) -> (a, a)
addVectors (x1, y1) (x2, y2) = (x1 + x2, y1 + y2)
```

Constructor Patterns

Recall that lists have two constructors:

```
data [a] = [] | (a : [a])
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data [a] = [] | (a : [a])
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Constructors, when appearing in argument position, are patterns:

```
length :: (Num b) => [a] -> b
length []     = 0
length (_:xs) = 1 + length xs
```

Composite Patterns

Patterns can be composed to make bigger patterns, thereby giving you more expressiveness in matching values:

```
tell :: (Show a) => [a] -> String
tell []        = "The list is empty"
tell (x:[])    = "The list has one element: " ++ show
    x
tell (x:y:[]) = "The list has two elements: " ++ show
     x ++ " and " ++ show y
tell (x:y:_)   = "This list is long. The first two
    elements are: " ++ show x ++ " and " ++ show y
```

As Patterns

Here, “as” is `@`

```
capital :: String -> String
capital "" = "Empty string, whoops!"
capital all@(x:xs) = "The first letter of "
     ++ all ++ " is " ++ [x]
```

```
ghci> capital "Dracula"
"The first letter of Dracula is D"
```

Guards

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```

Another way to define the identical function is with *guards*:

```
max :: Float -> Float -> Float
max a b | a<b       = b
        | otherwise = a
```

Why use guards: Readability.

This is much more readable:

```
bmiTell :: (RealFloat a) => a -> String
bmiTell bmi
    | bmi <= 18.5 = "underweight"
    | bmi <= 25.0 = "normal"
    | bmi <= 30.0 = "overweight"
    | otherwise   = "obese"
```

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```

...than this:

```
bmiTell :: (RealFloat a) => a -> String
bmiTell bmi = if bmi <= 18.5
               then "underweight"
                else if bmi <= 25.0
                      then "normal"
                else if bmi <= 30.0
                      then "overweight"
                else
                      "obese"
```

Where clauses

let you define local variables

```
bmiTell :: (RealFloat a) => a -> a -> String
bmiTell weight height
    | weight / height ^ 2 <= 18.5 = "underweight"
    | weight / height ^ 2 <= 25.0 = "normal"
    | weight / height ^ 2 <= 30.0 = "overweight"
    | otherwise                   = "obese"
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    | otherwise   = "obese"
  where
    bmi = weight / height ^ 2
    -- calculate bmi once, use value repeatedly
```

Let definitions
...are just like where clauses


```
cylinder :: (RealFloat a) => a -> a -> a
cylinder r h =
    let
        sideArea = 2 * pi * r * h
        topArea  = pi * r ^2
    in
        sideArea + 2 * topArea
```

- Variables defined in a `let` or `where` clauses are local
- E.g., `sideArea` and `topArea` can be used only in the body of the `let`/`where`.

Case Expressions

General form of a case expression:

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case expression of pattern -> result
                   pattern -> result
                   pattern -> result
                   ...
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head []    = error "empty list"
head (x:_) = x
```

Case Expressions

General form of a case expression:

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                   ...
```

```
head :: [a] -> a
head []     = error "empty list"
head (x:_) = x
```

A way to define the identical function:

```
head :: [a] -> a
head xs = case xs of
            []     -> error "empty list"
            (x:_) -> x
```