

RECURSION

let rec concat a b = match a with

| [] \rightarrow b

| x :: xs \rightarrow x :: concat xs b

- to handle recursion, introduce type variables for the function

concat : $t_1 \rightarrow t_2 \rightarrow t_3$

- use these types to conclude the type of the body.

- pattern matching first case

$[t_4] \rightarrow t_5 \rightarrow t_5$

unify $[t_4]$ with t_1 , t_5 with t_2 ,
 t_5 with t_3

$t_1 = [t_4]$, $t_2 = t_3 = t_5$

- pattern matching second case

$[t_6] \rightarrow t_7 \rightarrow [t_6]$

unify $[t_6]$ with t_1 , t_7 with t_2 ,
 $[t_6]$ with t_3

$\Rightarrow t_1 = [t_6] = [t_4]$ $t_7 = t_2 = t_5$

$\Rightarrow t_6 = t_4$ $[t_6] = t_3 = t_5$

$\Rightarrow t_5 = [t_4]$