

F# Training

Object-oriented

2025 April



Introduction

In F#, object-oriented sometimes + practical than functional style.

Object-oriented bricks in F#:

1. Members

- Methods, properties, operators
- Attach functionalities directly to the type
- Encapsulate the object's state (particularly if mutable)
- Used with object dotting `my-object.my-member`

2. Interfaces and classes

- Support abstraction through inheritance

Table of contents

- Members: methods, properties, operators
- Type extensions
- Class, structure
- Interface
- Object expression



Polymorphism

4th pillar of object-oriented programming

In fact, there are several polymorphisms. The main ones are:

1. By sub-typing: the one classically evoked with object-orientation
 - Basic type defining abstract or virtual members
 - Subtypes inheriting and implementing these members
2. Ad hoc/overloading → overloading of members with the same name
3. Parametric → generic in C#, Java, TypeScript
4. Structural/duck-typing → SRTP in F#, structural typing in TypeScript
5. Higher-kinded → type classes in Haskell

1. *Members*



Members

Additional elements in type definition (*class*, *record*, *union*)

- (Event)
- Method
- Property
- Indexed property
- Operator overload



Static and instance members

Static member: `static member member-name ...`.

Instance member:

- Concrete member: `member self-identifier.member-name ...`
- Abstract member: `abstract member member-name: type-signature`
- Virtual member = requires 2 declarations
 1. Abstract member
 2. Default implementation: `default self-identifier.member-name ...`
- Override virtual member: `override self-identifier.member-name ...`

👉 `member-name` in PascalCase (*.NET convention*)

👉 No `protected` member !

Self-identifier

In C#, Java, TypeScript : `this`

In VB : `Me`

In F# : we can choose → `this`, `self`, `me`, any valid *identifier*...

Declaration:

1. For the primary constructor `! : with` `as` → `type MyClass() as self = ...`
→ ⚠ Can be costly
2. For a member: `member me.Introduce() = printfn $"Hi, I'm {me.Name}"`
3. For a member not using it: with `_` → `member _.Hi() = printfn "Hi!"`

Call a member

Calling a static member

→ Prefix with the type name: `type-name.static-member-name`

Calling an instance member inside the type

→ Prefix with *self-identifier*: `self-identifier.instance-member-name`

Call an instance member from outside the type

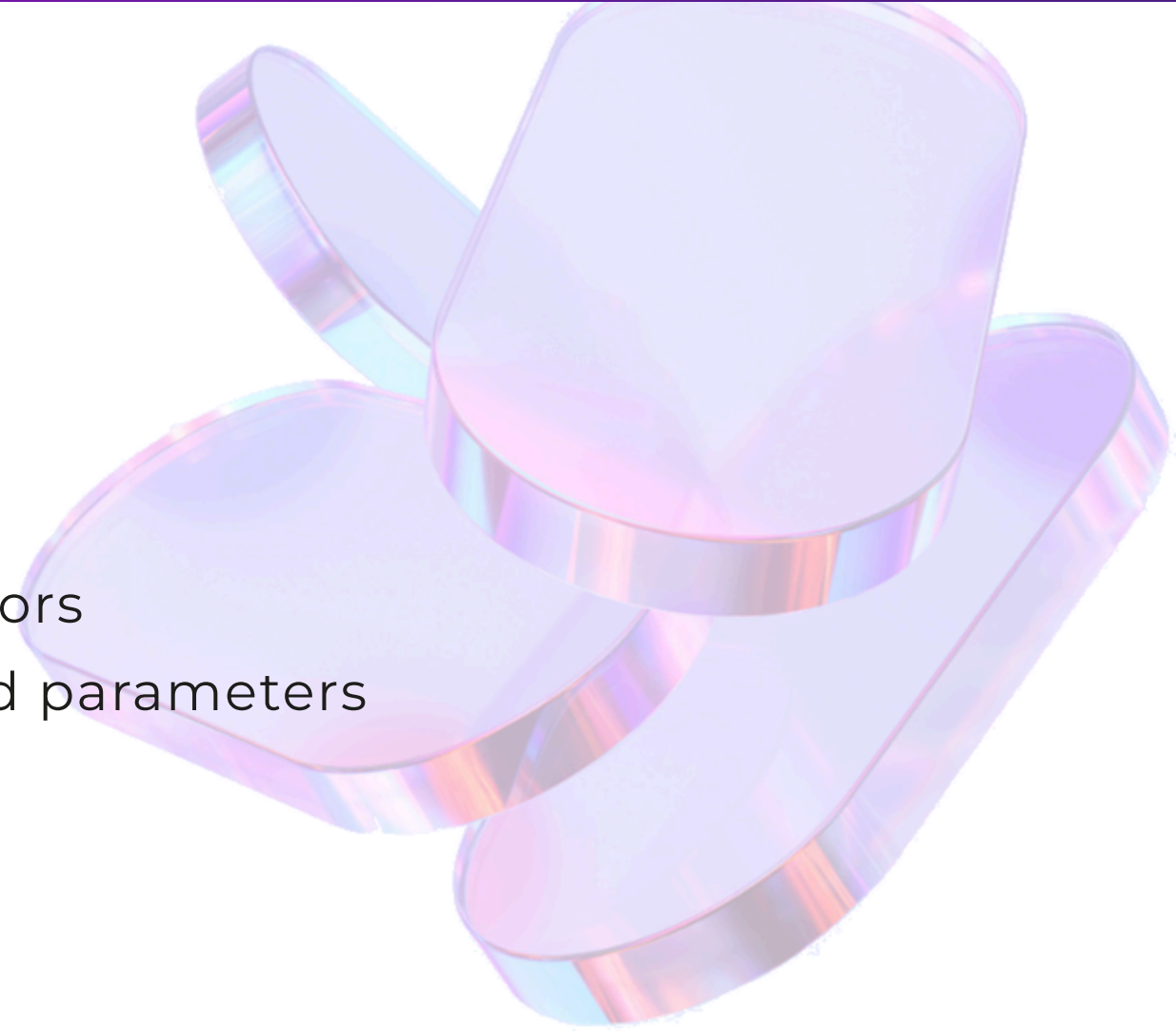
→ Prefix with instance-name: `instance-name.instance-member-name`

Method

≈ Function attached directly to a type

2 forms of parameter declaration:

1. Curried parameters = FP style
2. Parameters in tuple = OOP style
 - Better interop with C#
 - Only mode allowed for constructors
 - Support named, optional, arrayed parameters
 - Support overloads



Method (2)

```
// (1) Tuple form (the most classic)
type Product = { SKU: string; Price: float } with
    member this.TupleTotal(qty, discount) =
        (this.Price * float qty) - discount // (A)

// (2) Curried form
type Product' =
    { SKU: string; Price: float }
    member me.CurriedTotal qty discount =
        (me.Price * float qty) - discount // (B)
```

👉 `with` required in ① but not in ② because of indentation
→ `end` can end the block started with `with` (*not recommended*)

👉 `this.Price` ① and `me.Price` ②
→ Access to instance via *self-identifier* defined by member

Named arguments

Calls a tuplified method by specifying parameter names:

```
type SpeedingTicket() =  
  member _.SpeedExcess(speed: int, limit: int) =  
    speed - limit  
  
  member x.CalculateFine() =  
    if x.SpeedExcess(limit = 55, speed = 70) < 20 then 50.0 else 100.0
```

Useful for :

- Clarify a usage for the reader or compiler (in case of overloads)
- Choose the order of arguments
- specify only certain arguments, the others being optional

👉 Arguments *after a named argument* are necessarily named too.

Optional parameters

Allows you to call a tuplified method without specifying all the parameters.

Optional parameter:

- Declared with `?` in front of its name → `?arg1: int`
- In the body of the method, wrapped in an `Option` → `arg1: int option`
 - You can use `defaultArg` to specify the **default value**
 - But the default value does not appear in the signature!

When the method is called, the argument can be specified either:

- Directly in its type → `Method(arg1 = 1)`
- Wrapped in an `Option` if named with prefix `?` → `Method(?arg1 = Some 1)`

👉 Other syntax for interop .NET: `[<Optional; DefaultParameterValue(...)>] arg`

Optional parameters: Examples

```
type DuplexType = Full | Half

type Connection(?rate: int, ?duplex: DuplexType, ?parity: bool) =
  let duplex = defaultArg duplex Full
  let parity = defaultArg parity false
  let defaultRate = match duplex with Full → 9600 | Half → 4800
  let rate = defaultArg rate defaultRate
  do printfn "Baud Rate: %d • Duplex: %A • Parity: %b" rate duplex parity

let conn1 = Connection(duplex = Full)
let conn2 = Connection(?duplex = Some Half)
let conn3 = Connection(300, Half, true)
```

👉 Notice the *shadowing* of parameters by variables of the same name

```
let parity (* bool *) = defaultArg parity (* bool option *) Full
```

Parameter array

Allows you to specify a variable number of parameters of the same type
→ Via `System.ParamArray` attribute on **last** method argument

```
open System

type MathHelper() =
    static member Max([<ParamArray>] items) =
        items ▷ Array.max

let x = MathHelper.Max(1, 2, 4, 5) // 5
```

💡 Equivalent of C# `public static T Max<T>(params T[] items)`

Call C# method *TryXxx()*

? How to call in F# a C# method `bool TryXxx(args, out T outputArg)`?
(Example: `int.TryParse`, `IDictionary::TryGetValue`)

- 🙅 Use F# equivalent of `out outputArg` but use mutation 🤪
- ✅ Do not specify `outputArg` argument
 - Change return type to tuple `bool * T`
 - `outputArg` becomes the 2nd element of this tuple

```
match System.Int32.TryParse text with
| true, i  → printf $"It's the number {value}."
| false, _ → printf $"{text} is not a number."
```

Call method *Xxx(tuple)*

? How do you call a method whose 1st parameter is itself a tuple?!

Let's try:

```
let friendsLocation = Map.ofList [ (0,0), "Peter" ; (1,0), "Jane" ]  
// Map<(int * int), string>  
let peter = friendsLocation.TryGetValue (0,0)  
// ✨ Error FS0001: expression supposed to have type `int * int`, not `int`.
```

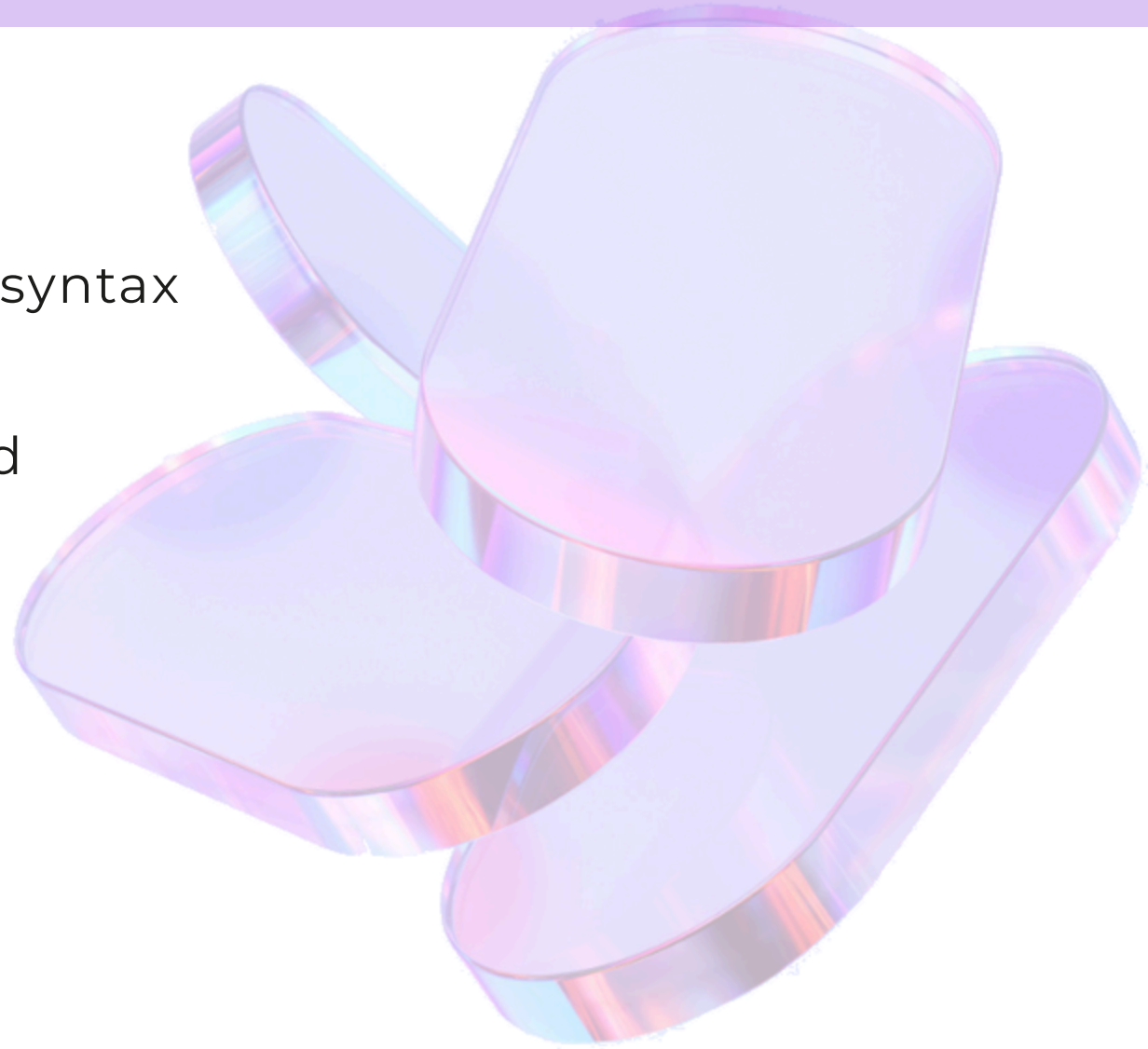
💡 **Explanations:** `TryGetValue(0,0)` = method call in tuplified mode

→ Specifies 2 parameters, `0` and `0`.

→ `0` is an `int` whereas we expect an `int * int` tuple!

Call method *Xxx(tuple)* - Solutions

1. 😞 *Backward pipe*, but also confusing
→ `friendsLocation.TryGetValue < (0,0)`
2. 🙅 Double parentheses, but confusing syntax
→ `friendsLocation.TryGetValue((0,0))`
3. ✅ Use a function rather than a method
→ `friendsLocation ▷ Map.tryFind (0,0)`



Method vs Function

Feature	Function	Curried method	Tuplified method
Partial application	✓ yes	✓ yes	✗ no
Named arguments	✗ no	✗ no	✓ yes
Optional parameters	✗ no	✗ no	✓ yes
Params array	✗ no	✗ no	✓ yes
Overload	✗ no	✗ no	✓ yes ①

① If possible, prefer optional parameters

Method vs Function (2)

Feature	Function	Static method	Instance method
Naming	camelCase	PascalCase	PascalCase
Support of <code>inline</code>	✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes
Recursive	✓ if <code>rec</code>	✓ yes	✓ yes
Inference of <code>x</code> in	<code>f x</code> → ✓ yes	<code>K.M x</code> → ✓ yes	<code>x.M()</code> → ✗ no
Can be passed as argument	✓ yes : <code>g f</code>	✓ yes : <code>g T.M</code>	✗ no : <code>g x.M</code> ①

① Alternatives:

→ F# 8: shorthand members → `g _.M()`

→ Wrap in lambda → `g (fun x → x.M())`

Properties

- ≈ Syntactic sugar hiding a *getter* and/or a *setter*
- Allows the property to be used as if it were a field

2 ways to declare a property:

- Declaration **explicit**: in relation to a *backing field*.
 - *Getter*: `member this.Property = expression`
 - Others: verbose ([details](#)) 🖱️ Prefer explicit methods
 - Declaration **automatic**: *backing field* implicit
 - *Read-only*: `member val Property = value`
 - *Read/write*: `member val Property = value with get, set`
- 👉 *Getter* evaluated on each call ≠ *Read-only* initialized on construction

Properties - Example

```
type Person = { First: string; Last: string } with  
    member this.FullName = // Getter  
        $"{this.Last.ToUpper()} {this.First}"  
  
let joe = { First = "Joe"; Last = "Dalton" }  
let s = joe.FullName // "DALTON Joe"
```


Properties and pattern matching

- ⚠ Properties cannot be deconstructed
- Can only participate in pattern matching in **when** part

```
type Person = { First: string; Last: string } with
    member this.FullName = // Getter
        $"{this.Last.ToUpper()} {this.First}"

let joe = { First = "Joe"; Last = "Dalton" }
let { First = first } = joe // val first : string = "Joe"
let { FullName = x } = joe
// ✨ ~~~~~ Error FS0039: undefined record label 'FullName'

let salut =
    match joe with
    | _ when joe.FullName = "DALTON Joe" → "Salut, Joe !"
    | _ → "Bonjour !"
// val salut : string = "Salut, Joe !"
```

Indexed properties

Allows access by index, as if the class were an array: `instance[index]`
→ Interesting for an ordered collection, to hide the implementation

Set up by declaring member `Item`

```
member self-identifier.Item
  with get(index) =
    get-member-body
  and set index value =
    set-member-body
```

💡 Property *read-only* (*write-only*) → declare only the *getter* (*setter*)

👉 Notice the *setter* parameters are *curried*

Indexed properties: example

```
type Lang = En | Fr

type DigitLabel() =
    let labels = // Map<Lang, string[]>
        [ (En, [ "zero"; "one"; "two"; "three" ]),
          (Fr, [ "zéro"; "un"; "deux"; "trois" ]) ] > Map.ofArray

    member val Lang = En with get, set

    member me.Item with get i = labels[me.Lang][i]

let digitLabel = DigitLabel()
let v1 = digitLabel[1] // "one"
digitLabel.Lang ← Fr
let v2 = digitLabel[2] // "deux"
```

Slice

“ Same as indexed property, but with multiple indexes ”

Declaration: `GetSlice(?start, ?end)` method (*regular or extension*)

Usage: `..` operator

```
type Range = { Min: int; Max: int } with
  /// Defines a sub-range - newMin and newMax are optional and ignored if out-of-bounds
  member this.GetSlice(newMin, newMax) =
    { Min = max (defaultArg newMin this.Min) this.Min
      ; Max = min (defaultArg newMax this.Max) this.Max }

let range = { Min = 1; Max = 5 }
let slice1 = range[0..3] // { Min = 1; Max = 3 }
let slice2 = range[2..]  // { Min = 2; Max = 5 }
```

Operator overload

Operator overloaded possible at 2 levels:

1. In a module, as a function

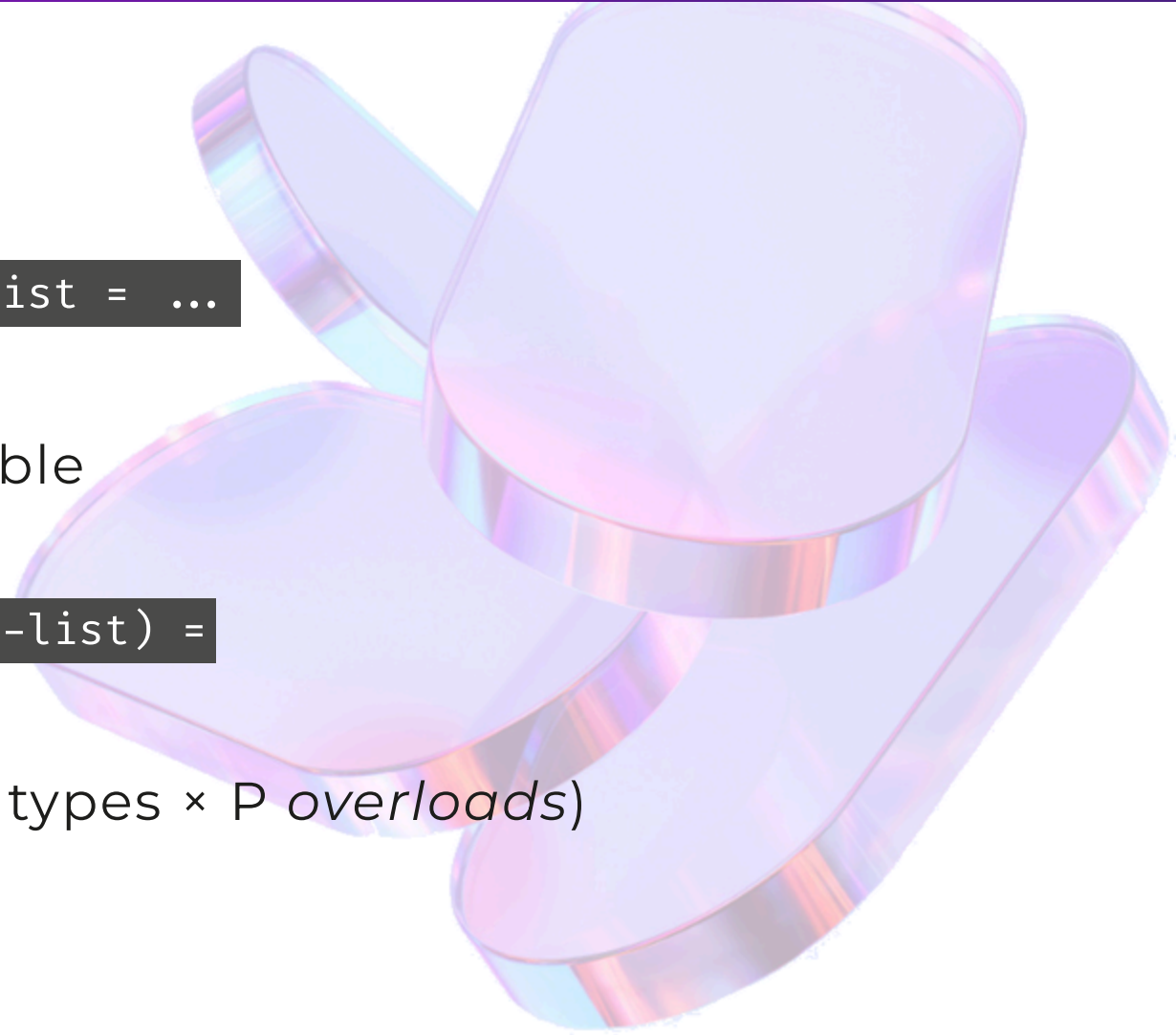
```
let [inline] (operator-symbols) parameter-list = ...
```

- 📌 See session on functions
- 📌 Limited: only 1 definition possible

2. In a type, as a member

```
static member (operator-symbols) (parameter-list) =
```

- Same rules as for function form
- 👍 Multiple overloads possible (N types × P overloads)



Operator overload: example

```
type Vector(x: float, y: float) =  
    member _.X = x  
    member _.Y = y  
  
    override me.ToString() =  
        let format n = (sprintf "%+.1f" n)  
        $"Vector (X: {format me.X}, Y: {format me.Y})"  
  
    static member (*)(a, v: Vector) = Vector(a * v.X, a * v.Y)  
    static member (*)(v: Vector, a) = a * v  
    static member (+) (v: Vector, w: Vector) = Vector(v.X + w.X, v.Y + w.Y)  
    static member (~)(v: Vector) = -1.0 * v // ➡ Unary '-' operator  
  
let v1 = Vector(1.0, 2.0) // Vector (X: +1.0, Y: +2.0)  
let v2 = v1 * 2.0 // Vector (X: +2.0, Y: +4.0)  
let v3 = 0.75 * v2 // Vector (X: +1.5, Y: +3.0)  
let v4 = -v3 // Vector (X: -1.5, Y: -3.0)  
let v5 = v1 + v4 // Vector (X: -0.5, Y: -1.0)
```

2. Type extensions



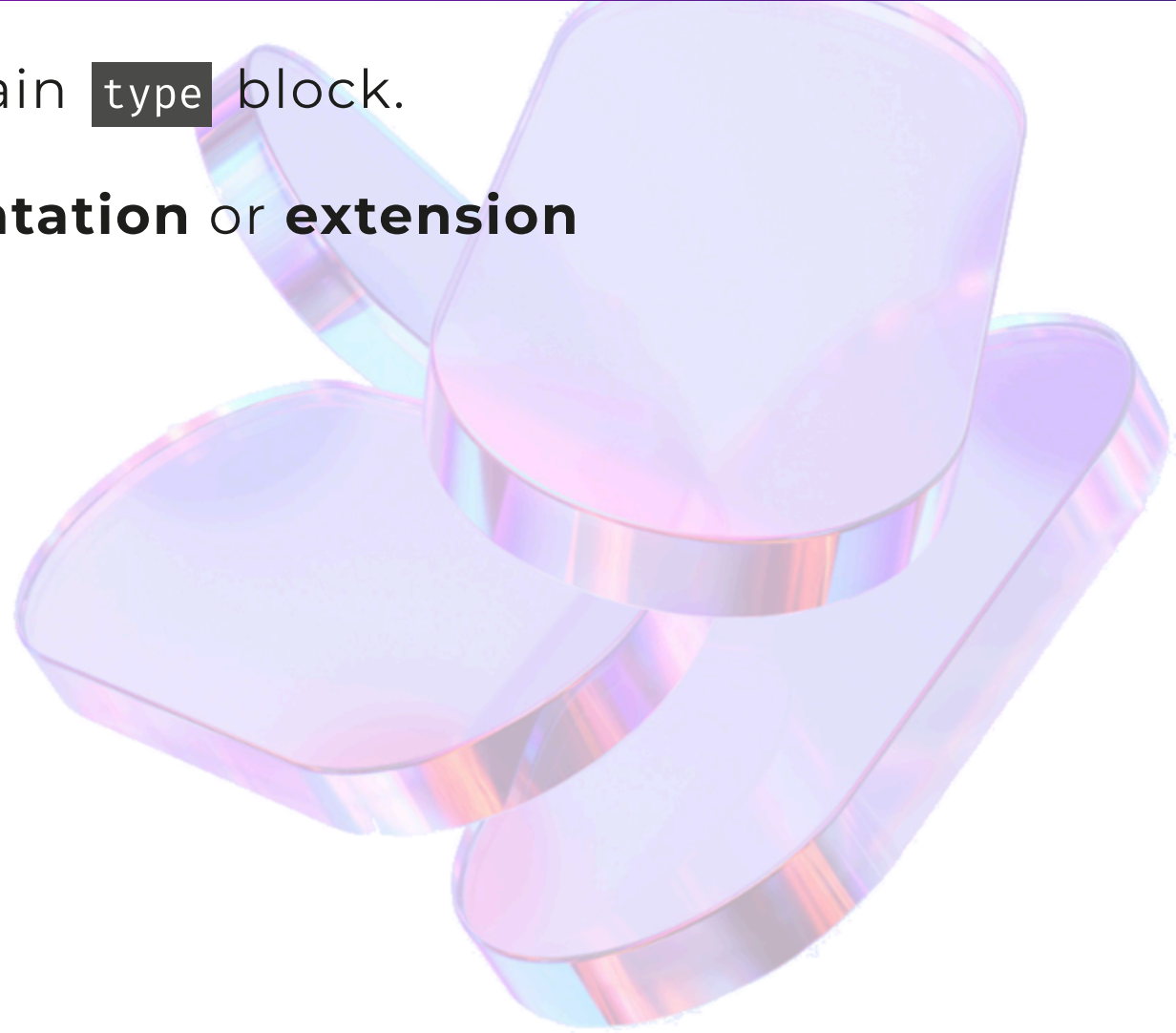
Type extension

Members of a type defined outside its main `type` block.

Each of these members is called **augmentation** or **extension**

3 categories of extension :

- Intrinsic extension
- Optional extension
- Extension methods



Intrinsic extension

“ Declared in the same file and namespace as the type ”

Use case: Features available in both companion module and type

→ E.g. `List.length list` function and `list.Length` member

How to implement it following top-down declarations?

1. Implement in type, Redirect module functions to type members

→ More straightforward

2. Intrinsic extensions:

→ Declare type "naked", Implement in module, Augment type after

→ Favor FP style, Transparent for Interop

Intrinsic extension - Example

```
namespace Example

type Variant =
    | Num of int
    | Str of string

module Variant =
    let print v =
        match v with
        | Num n → printf "Num %d" n
        | Str s → printf "Str %s" s

// Add a member as an extension - see `with` required keyword
type Variant with
    member x.Print() = Variant.print x
```

Optional extension

Extension defined outside the type module/namespace/assembly

Use cases

1. Types we can't modify, for instance coming from a library
2. Keep types naked - e.g. Elmish MVU pattern

```
module EnumerableExtensions

open System.Collections.Generic

type IEnumerable<'T> with
    /// Repeat each element of the sequence n times
    member xs.RepeatElements(n: int) =
        seq {
            for x in xs do
                for _ in 1 .. n → x
        }
```

Optional extension (2)

Compilation: into static methods
→ Simplified version of the previous example:

```
public static class EnumerableExtensions
{
    public static IEnumerable<T> RepeatElements<T>(IEnumerable<T> xs, int n) { ... }
}
```

Usage: after the import, the member is used like a regular one

```
open EnumerableExtensions

let x = [1..3].RepeatElements(2) ▷ List.ofSeq
// [1; 1; 2; 2; 3; 3]
```

Optional extension - Another example

```
// Person.fs ---
type Person = { First: string; Last: string }

// PersonExtensions.fs ---
module PersonExtensions =
    type Person with
        member this.FullName =
            $"{this.Last.ToUpper()} {this.First}"

// Usage elsewhere ---
open PersonExtensions
let joe = { First = "Joe"; Last = "Dalton" }
let s = joe.FullName // "DALTON Joe"
```

Optional extension - Limits

- Must be declared in a module
- Not compiled into the type, not visible to Reflection
- Usage as pseudo-instance members only in F#
 - ≠ in C#: as static methods



Type extension vs virtual methods

- 👉 Override virtual methods:
 - in the initial type declaration ✓
 - not in a ~~type extension~~ ❌

```
type Variant = Num of int | Str of string with
    override this.ToString() = ... ✓

module Variant = ...

type Variant with
    override this.ToString() = ... ⚠️
// Warning FS0060: Override implementations in augmentations are now deprecated...
```

Type extension vs type alias

Incompatible !

```
type i32 = System.Int32

type i32 with
    member this.IsEven = this % 2 = 0
// ✨ Error FS0964: Type abbreviations cannot have augmentations
```

💡 **Solution:** use the real type name

```
type System.Int32 with
    member this.IsEven = this % 2 = 0
```

👉 **Corollary:** F# tuples such as `int * int` cannot be augmented in this way.
→ But they can with a C#-style extension method !

Type extension vs Generic type constraints

Extension allowed on generic type except when constraints differ:

```
open System.Collections.Generic

type IEnumerable<'T> with
// ~~~~~ ✨ Error FS0957
// One or more of the declared type parameters for this type extension
// have a missing or wrong type constraint not matching the original type constraints on 'IEnumerable'
member this.Sum() = Seq.sum this

// 🙌 This constraint comes from `Seq.sum`.
```

Solution: C#-style extension method 📌

Extension method (C#-style)

Static method:

- Decorated with `[<Extension>]`
- In F# < 8.0: Defined in class decorated with `[<Extension>]`
- Type of 1st argument = extended type (`IEnumerable<'T>` below)



Extension method - Simplified example

```
open System.Runtime.CompilerServices

[<Extension>] // 💡 Not required anymore since F# 8.0
type EnumerableExtensions =
    [<Extension>]
    static member inline Sum(xs: seq<_>) = Seq.sum xs

let x = [1..3].Sum()
// _____
// Output in FSI console (verbose syntax):
type EnumerableExtensions =
    class
        static member
            Sum : xs:seq<^a> → ^a
                when ^a : (static member ( + ) : ^a * ^a → ^a)
                and ^a : (static member get_Zero : → ^a)
    end
val x : int = 6
```

Extension method - C# equivalent

```
using System.Collections.Generic;

namespace Extensions
{
    public static class EnumerableExtensions
    {
        public static TSum Sum<TItem, TSum>(this IEnumerable<TItem> source) { ... }
    }
}
```

👉 **Note:** The actual implementations of `Sum()` in LINQ are different, one per type: `int`, `float`... → [Source code](#)

Extension method - Tuples

An extension method can be added to any F# tuple:

```
open System.Runtime.CompilerServices

[<Extension>]
type EnumerableExtensions =
    [<Extension>]
    // Signature : ('a * 'a) → bool when 'a : equality
    static member inline IsDuplicate((x, y)) = // ➡ Double () required
        x = y

let b1 = (1, 1).IsDuplicate() // true
let b2 = ("a", "b").IsDuplicate() // false
```

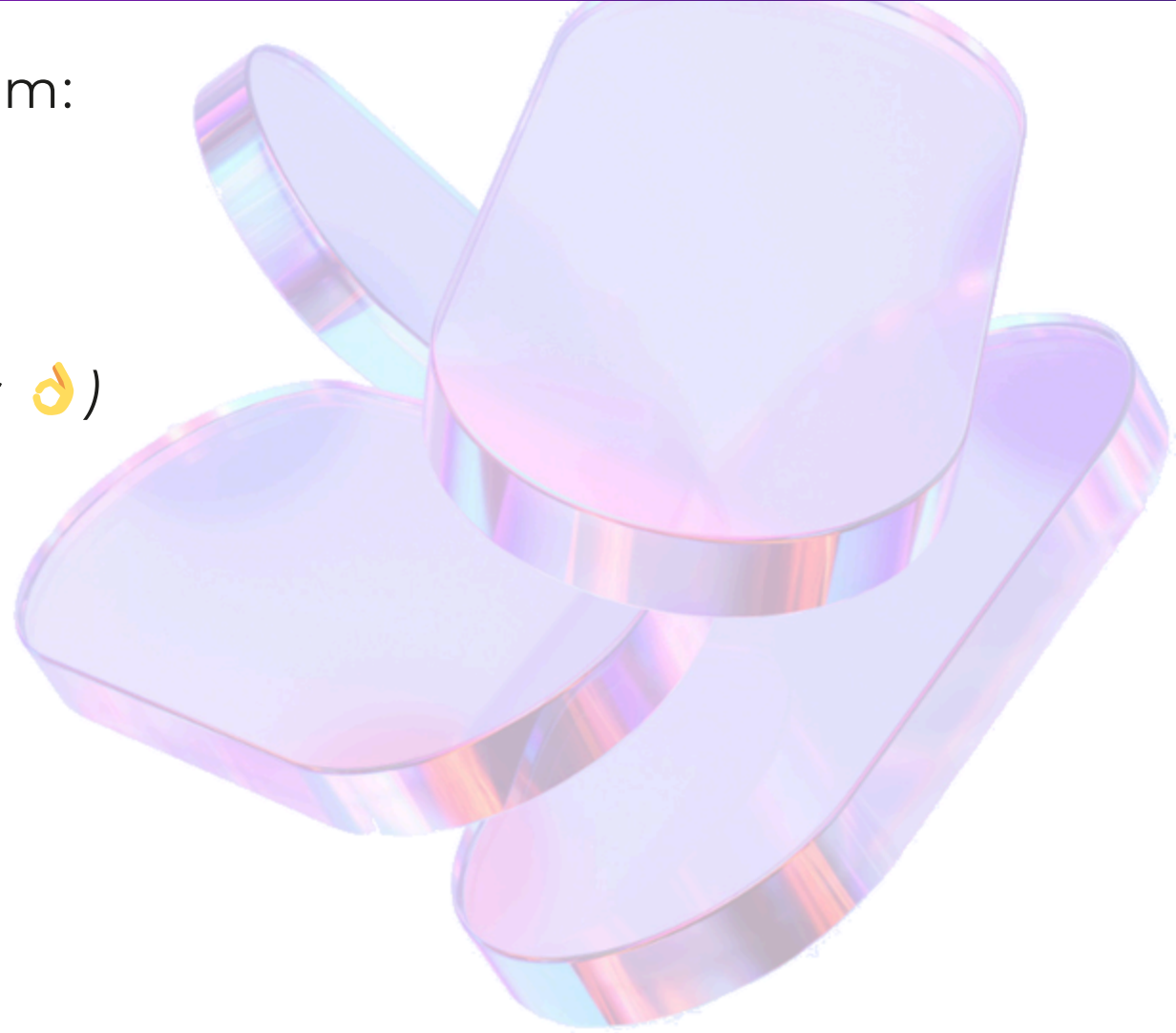
Extensions - Comparison

Feature	Type extension	Extension method
Methods	✓ instance, ✓ static	✓ instance, ✗ static
Properties	✓ instance, ✓ static	✗ <i>Not supported</i>
Constructors	✓ intrinsic, ✗ optional	✗ <i>Not supported</i>
Extend constraints	✗ <i>Not supported</i>	✓ <i>Support SRTP</i>

Extensions - Limits

Do not support (sub-typing) polymorphism:

- Not in the virtual table
- No `virtual`, `abstract` member
- No `override` member (*but overloads* 🙄)



Extensions vs C# partial class

Feature	Multi-files	Compiled into type	Any type
C# partial class	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	Only <code>partial class</code>
Extension intrinsic	✗ No	✓ Yes	✓ Yes
Extension optional	✓ Yes	✗ No	✓ Yes

3. Class & Structure



Class

Class in F# \equiv class in C#

- Object-oriented building block
- Constructor of objects containing data of defined type and methods

Definition of a class

- Starts with `type` (like any type in F#)
- Class name generally followed by **primary constructor**

```
type CustomerName(firstName: string, lastName: string) =  
    // Primary builder's body  
    // Members ...
```

👉 `firstName` and `lastName` parameters visible throughout class body

Generic class

No automatic generalization on type
→ Generic parameters to specify

```
type Tuple2_K0(item1, item2) = // ⚠ 'item1' and 'item2': 'obj' type !  
    // ...  
  
type Tuple2<'T1, 'T2>(item1: 'T1, item2: 'T2) = // 🐞  
    // ...
```

Class: secondary constructor

Syntax for defining another constructor:

```
new(argument-list) = constructor-body
```

👉 Must call the primary constructor!

```
type Point(x: float, y: float) =  
    new() = Point(0, 0)  
    // Members ...
```

👉 Constructor parameters: only tuples, not curried!

Instantiation

Call one of the constructors, with tuple arguments

→ Don't forget `()` if no arguments, otherwise you get a function!

In a `let` binding: `new` optional and not recommended

→ `let v = Vector(1.0, 2.0)` 👉

→ `let v = new Vector(1.0, 2.0)` ❌

In a `use` binding: `new` mandatory

→ `use d = new Disposable()`



Property initialization

Properties can be initialized with setter at instantiation 👍

→ Specify them as **named arguments** in the call to the constructor

→ Place them after any constructor arguments

```
type PersonName(first: string) =  
    member val First = first with get, set  
    member val Last = "" with get, set  
  
let p1 = PersonName("John")  
let p2 = PersonName("John", Last = "Paul")  
let p3 = PersonName(first = "John", Last = "Paul")
```

💡 Equivalent in C#: `new PersonName("John") { Last = "Paul" }`

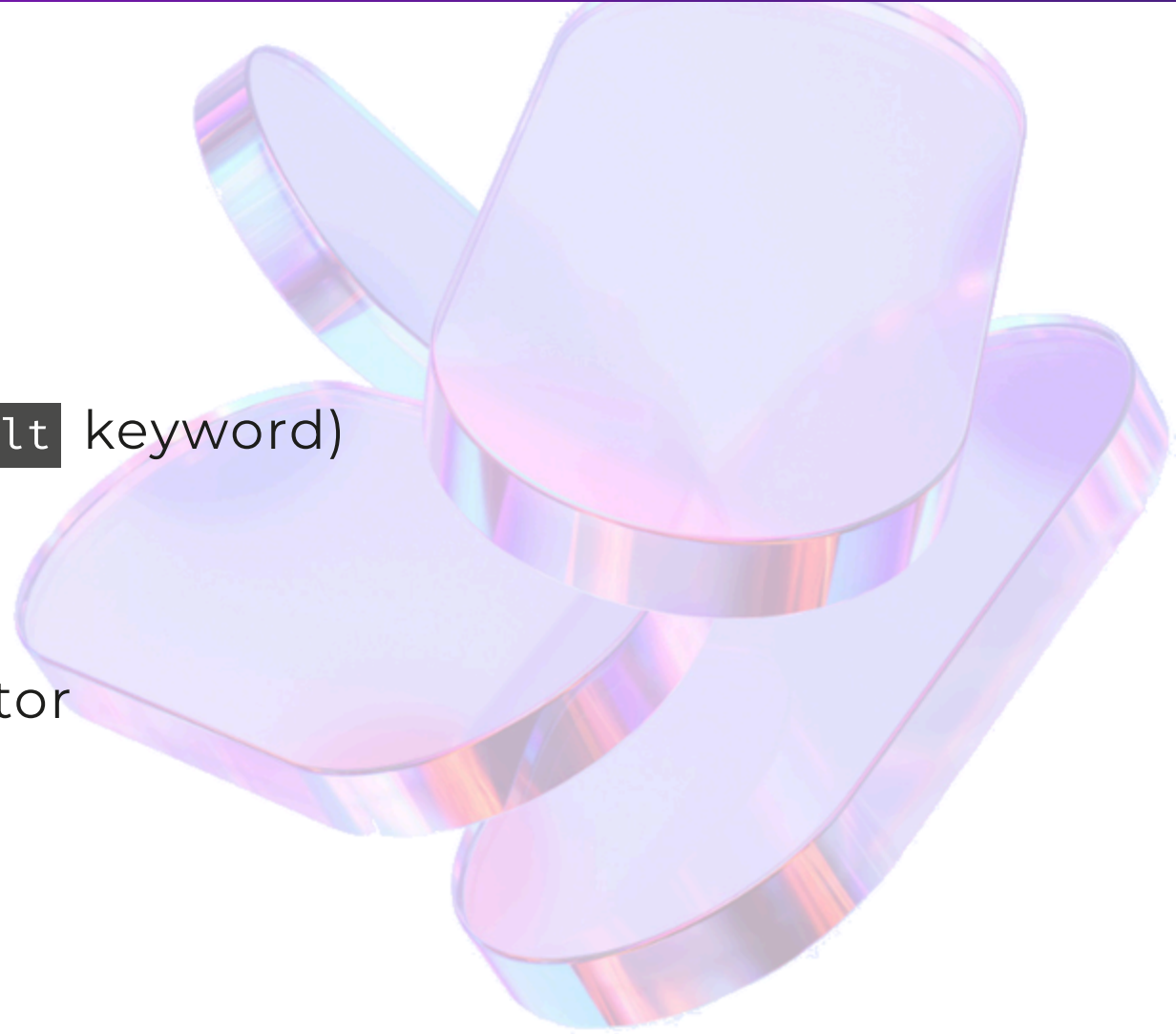
Abstract class

Annotated with `[<AbstractClass>]`

One of the members is **abstract**:

1. Declared with the `abstract` keyword
2. No default implementation (with `default` keyword)
(Otherwise member is virtual)

Inheritance with `inherit` keyword
→ Followed by call to base class constructor



Abstract class: example

```
[<AbstractClass>]
type Shape2D() =
  member val Center = (0.0, 0.0) with get, set
  member this.Move(?deltaX: float, ?deltaY: float) =
    let x, y = this.Center
    this.Center ← (x + defaultArg deltaX 0.0,
                  y + defaultArg deltaY 0.0)
  abstract GetArea : unit → float
  abstract Perimeter : float with get

type Square(side) =
  inherit Shape2D()
  member val Side = side
  override _.GetArea () = side * side
  override _.Perimeter = 4.0 * side

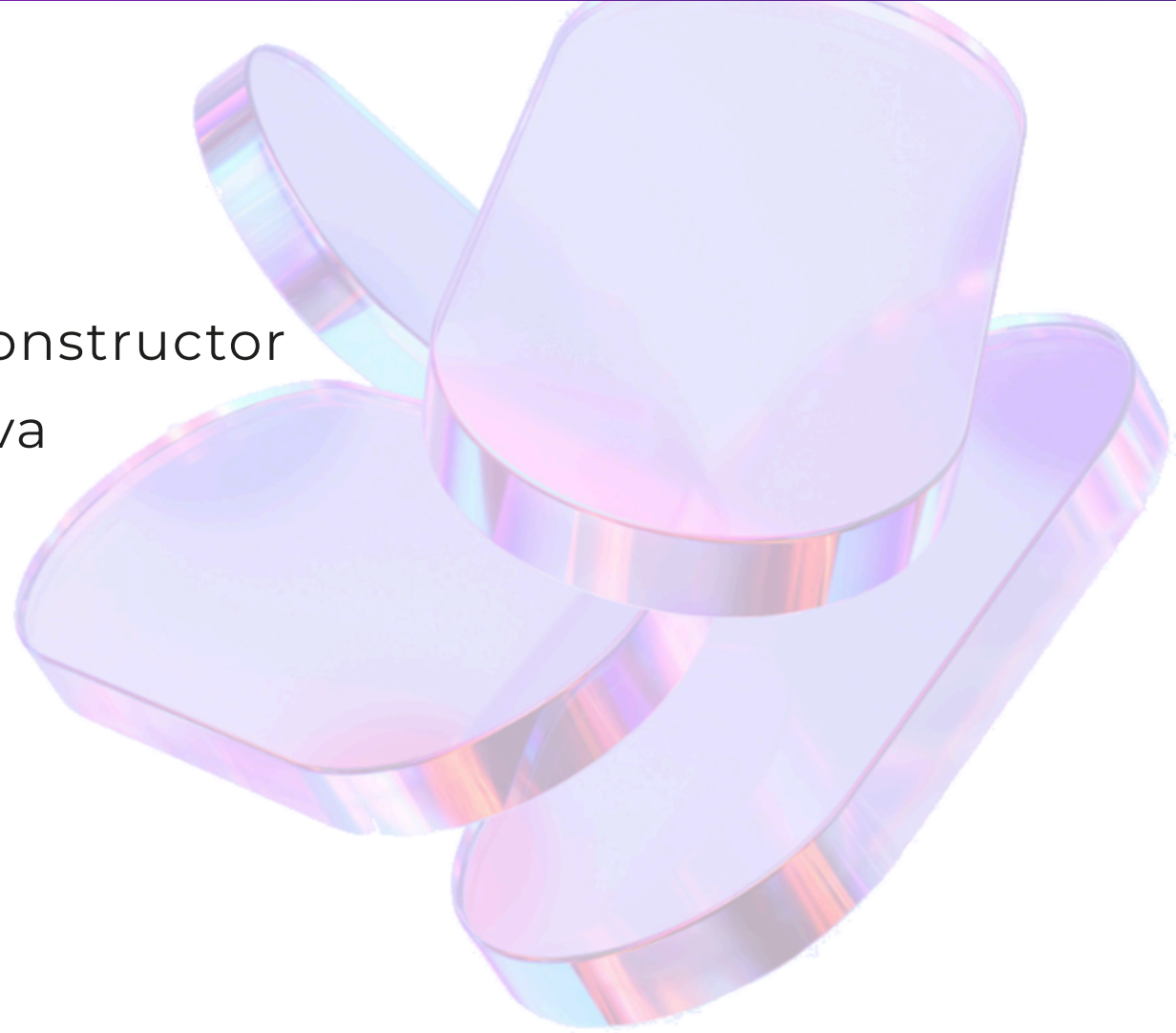
let o = Square(side = 2.0, Center = (1.0, 1.0))
printfn $"S={o.Side}, A={o.GetArea()}, P={o.Perimeter}" // S=2, A=4, P=8
o.Move(deltaY = -2.0)
printfn $"Center {o.Center}" // Center (1, -1)
```

Fields

Naming convention: camelCase

2 kind of field: implicit or explicit

- Implicit \simeq Variable inside primary constructor
- Explicit \equiv Usual class field in C# / Java



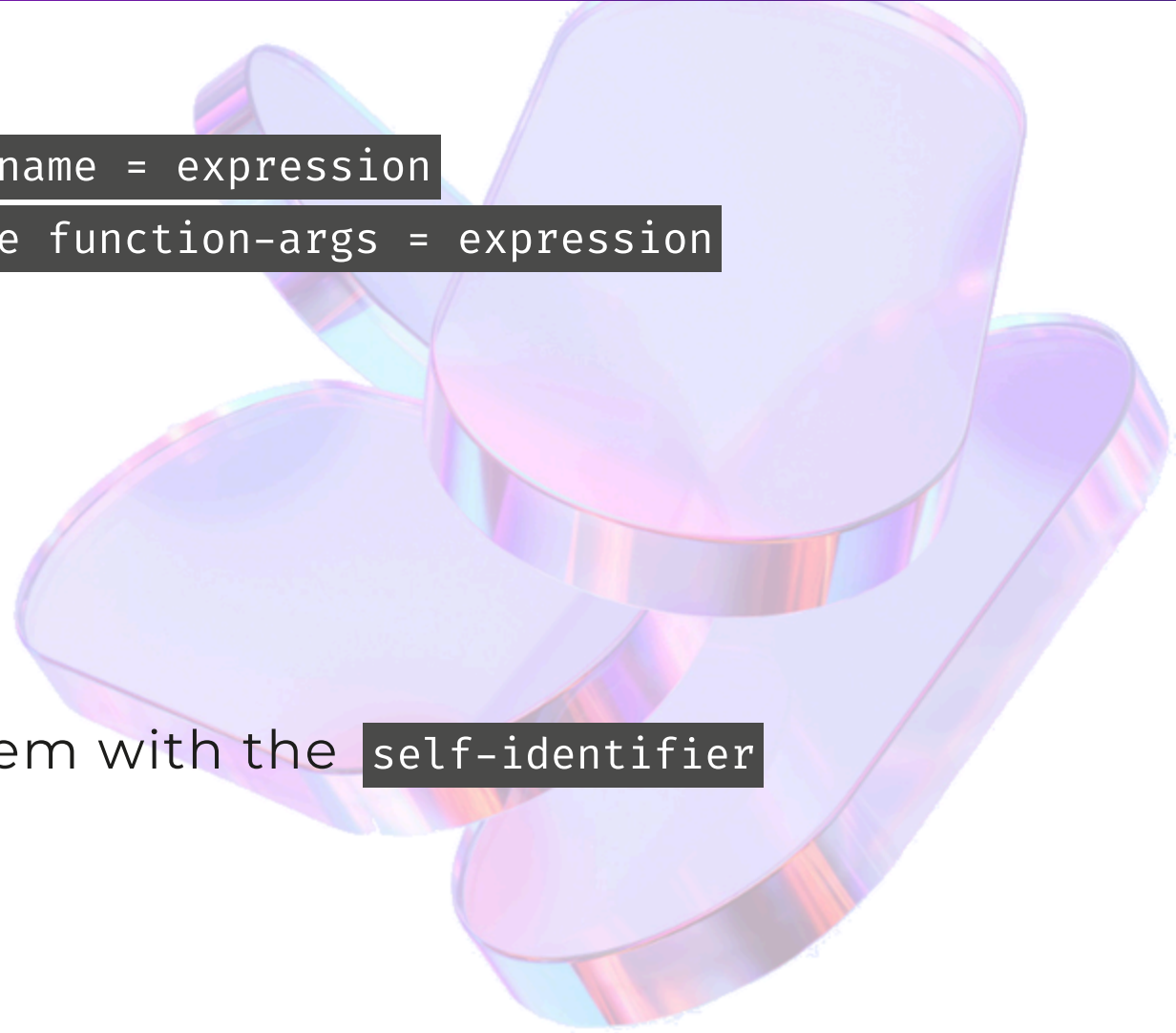
Implicit field

Syntax:

- Variable: `[static] let [mutable] variable-name = expression`
- Function: `[static] let [rec] function-name function-args = expression`

👉 Notes

- Declared before class members
- Initial value mandatory
- Private
- Direct access: no need to qualify them with the `self-identifier`



Implicit instance field: example

```
type Person(firstName: string, lastName: string) =  
    let fullName = $"{firstName} {lastName}"  
    member _.Hi() = printfn $"Hi, I'm {fullName}!"  
  
let p = Person("John", "Doe")  
p.Hi() // Hi, I'm John Doe!
```

Static implicit field: example

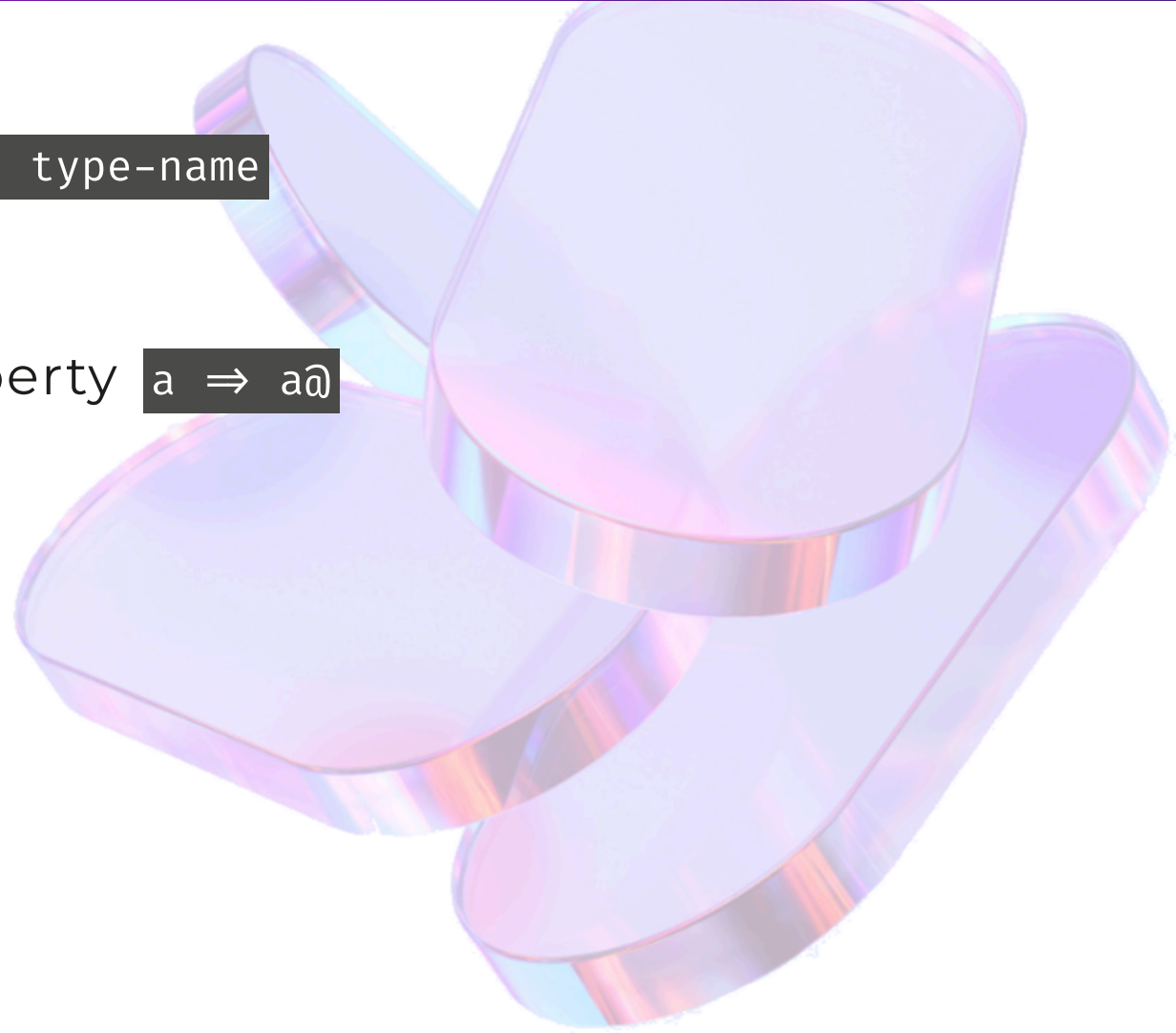
```
type K() =  
    static let mutable count = 0  
  
    // do executed for each instance at construction  
    do  
        count ← count + 1  
  
    member _.CreatedCount = count  
  
let k1 = K()  
let count1 = k1.CreatedCount // 1  
let k2 = K()  
let count2 = k2.CreatedCount // 2
```

Explicit field

Type declaration, without initial value:

```
val [ mutable ] [ access-modify ] field-name : type-name
```

- `val mutable a: int` → public field
- `val a: int` → internal field `a@` + property `a ⇒ a@`



Field vs property

```
// Explicit fields readonly
type C1 =
    val a: int
    val b: int
    val mutable c: int
    new(a, b) = { a = a; b = b; c = 0 } // 💡 Constructor 2ndary "compact"

// VS readonly properties
type C2(a: int, b: int) =
    member _.A = a
    member _.B = b
    member _.C = 0

// VS auto-implemented property
type C3(a: int, b: int) =
    member val A = a
    member val B = b with get
    member val C = 0 with get, set
```

Explicit field vs implicit field vs property

Explicit field **not often used** :

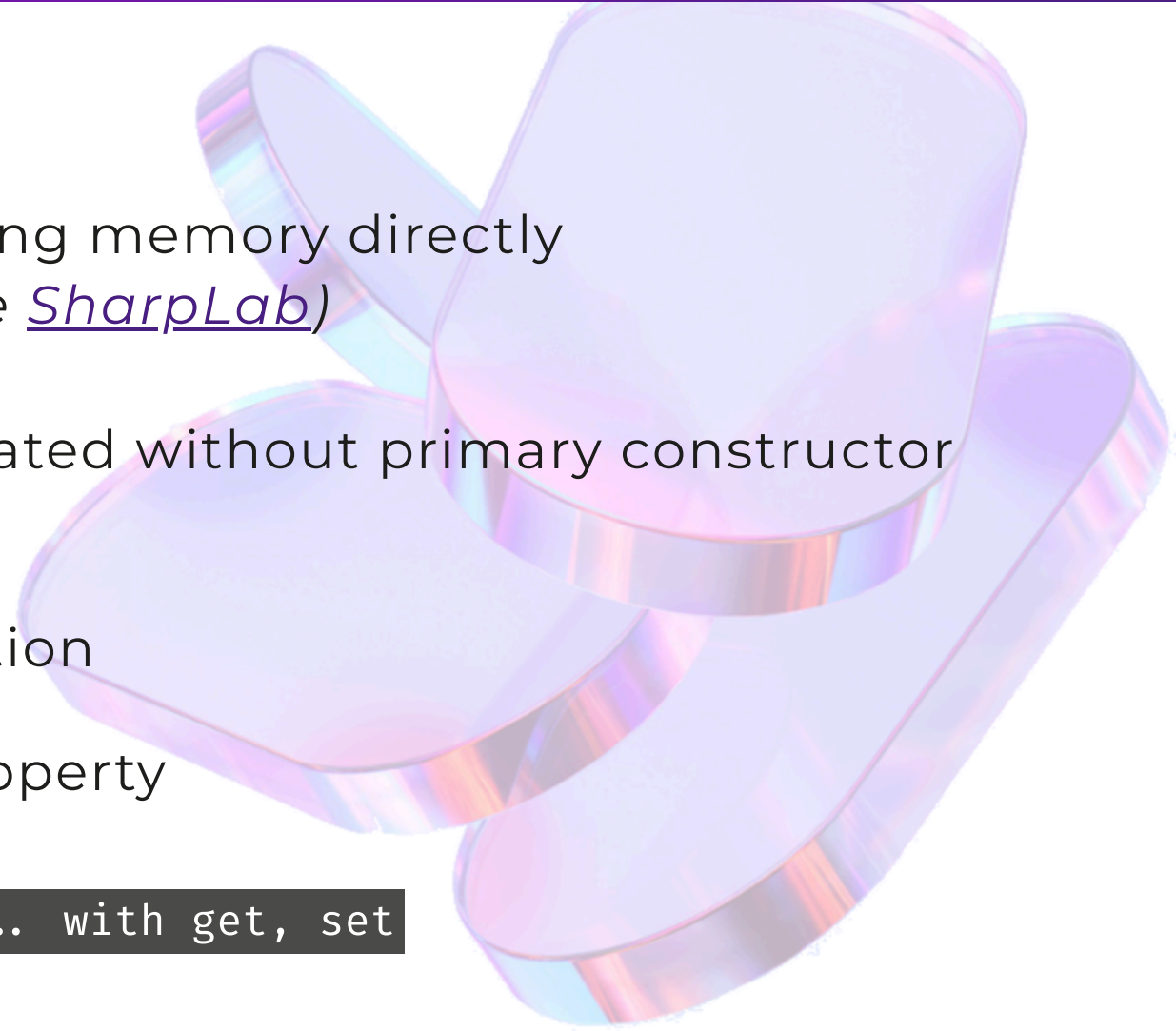
- Only for classes and structures
- Useful with native function manipulating memory directly
(*Because fields order is preserved* - see [SharpLab](#))
- Need a `[<ThreadStatic>]` variable
- Interaction with F# class of code generated without primary constructor

Implicit field - `let` binding

- Intermediate variable during construction

Other use cases → auto-implemented property

- Expose a value → `member val`
- Expose a mutable "field" → `member val ... with get, set`



Structures

Alternatives to classes, but more limited / inheritance and recursion

Same syntax as for classes, but with the addition of:

- [`<Struct>`] attribute
- Or `struct ... end` block (*more frequent*)

```
type Point =  
    struct  
        val mutable X: float  
        val mutable Y: float  
        new(x, y) = { X = x; Y = y }  
    end  
  
let x = Point(1.0, 2.0)
```

4. *Interfaces*



Interface - Syntax

Same as abstract class with:

- Only abstract members
- Without `[<AbstractClass>]` attribute
- With `[<Interface>]` attribute (optional, recommended)

```
type [accessibility-modifier] interface-name =  
    abstract memberN : [ argument-typesN → ] return-typeN
```

- Interface name begins with `I` to follow .NET convention
- Arguments can be named (*without parentheses otherwise* ✨)

Interface implementation in a type

```
[<Interface>]
type IPrintable =
    abstract member Print : unit → unit

type Range = { Min: int; Max: int } with
    interface IPrintable with
        member this.Print() = printfn $"[{this.Min} .. {this.Max}]"
```

⚠ **Trap:** keywords are different per language

F# **interface**

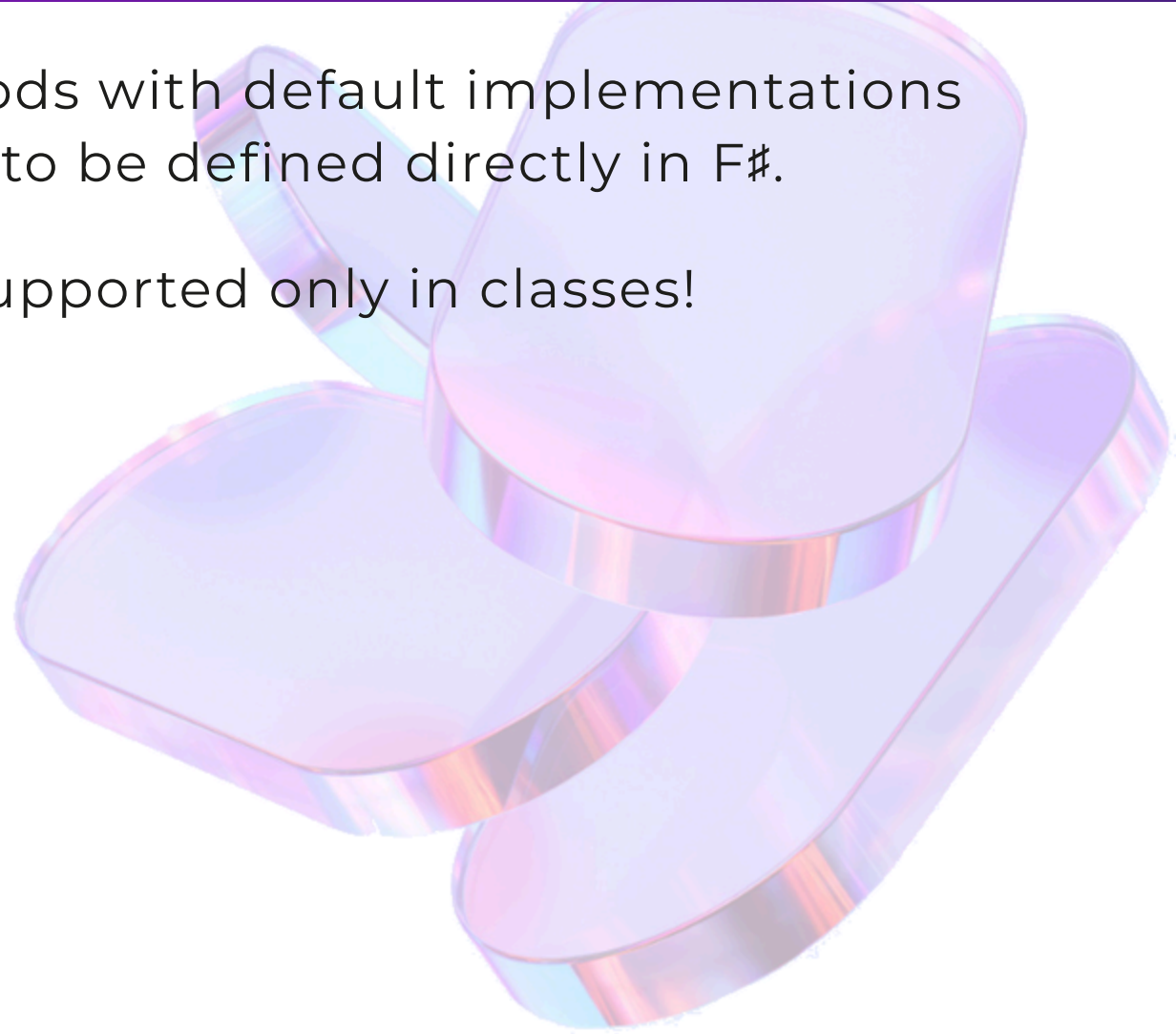
≡ Java/TS **implements**

≠ C#/Java/TS **interface**

Interface - Default implementation

F# 5.0 supports interfaces defining methods with default implementations written in C# 8+ but does not allow them to be defined directly in F#.

⚠ Don't confuse with `default` keyword: supported only in classes!



F# interface is explicit

F# interface implementation

≡ Explicit implementation of an interface in C#

→ Interface methods are accessible only by *upcasting*:

```
[<Interface>]
type IPrintable =
    abstract member Print : unit → unit

type Range = { Min: int; Max: int } with
    interface IPrintable with
        member this.Print() = printfn $"[{this.Min}..{this.Max}]"

let range = { Min = 1; Max = 5 }
(range :> IPrintable).Print() // upcast operator
// [1..5]
```

Implementing a generic interface

```
[<Interface>]
type IValue<'T> =
    abstract member Get : unit → 'T

// Contrived example for demo purpose
type DoubleValue(i, s) =
    interface IValue<int> with
        member _.Get() = i

    interface IValue<string> with
        member _.Get() = s

let o = DoubleValue(1, "hello")
let i = (o :> IValue<int>).Get() // 1
let s = (o :> IValue<string>).Get() // "hello"
```

Inheritance

Defined with `inherit` keyword

```
type A(x: int) =  
  do  
    printf "Base (A): "  
    for i in 1..x do printf "%d " i  
    printfn ""  
  
type B(y: int) =  
  inherit Base(y * 2) // ➡  
  do  
    printf "Child (B): "  
    for i in 1..y do printf "%d " i  
    printfn ""  
  
let child = B(1)  
// Base: 1 2  
// Child: 1  
// val child: B
```

5. Object expression



Object expression

Expression used to implement an abstract type on the fly
→ Similar to an anonymous class in Java

```
let makeResource (resourceName: string) =  
    printfn $"create {resourceName}"  
    { new System.IDisposable with  
        member _.Dispose() =  
            printfn $"dispose {resourceName}" }
```

- 👉 The signature of `makeResource` is `string → System.IDisposable`.
- 💡 Upcasting not required, compared to interface implementation in a type.

Interface singleton

```
[<Interface>]
type IConsole =
    abstract ReadLine : unit → string
    abstract WriteLine : string → unit

let console =
    { new IConsole with
        member this.ReadLine () = Console.ReadLine ()
        member this.WriteLine line = printfn "%s" line }
```

Implement 2 interfaces

Possible but unsafe usage → not recommended

```
let makeDelimiter (delim1: string, delim2: string, value: string) =  
    { new System.IFormattable with  
        member _.ToString(format: string, _: System.IFormatProvider) =  
            if format = "D" then  
                delim1 + value + delim2  
            else  
                value  
        interface System.IComparable with  
            member _.CompareTo(_) = -1 }  
  
let o = makeDelimiter("<", ">", "abc")  
// val o : System.IFormattable  
let s = o.ToString("D", System.Globalization.CultureInfo.CurrentCulture)  
// val s : string = "<abc>"  
let i = (o :?> System.IComparable).CompareTo("cde") // ! Unsafe  
// val i : int = -1
```

6. Object-oriented recommendations



No object orientation where F# is good

Inference works better with `function (object)` than `object.member`

Simple object hierarchy

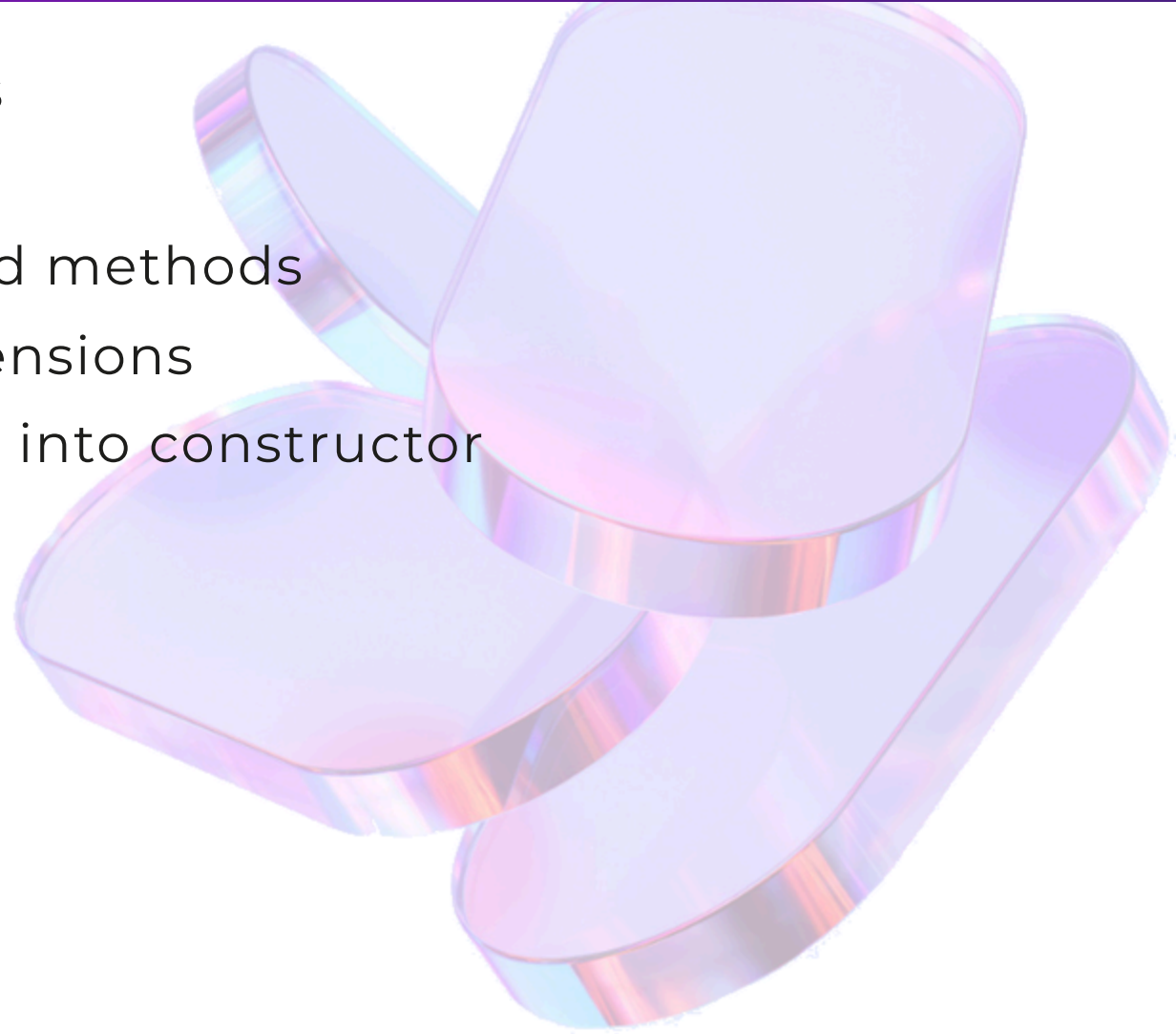
- ✗ Avoid inheritance
- ✓ Prefer type *Union* and exhaustive *pattern matching*

Structural equality

- ✗ Avoid class (*equality by default reference*)
- ✓ Prefer a *Record* or a *Union*
- ? Consider custom structural equality for performance purposes
→ <https://www.compositional-it.com/news-blog/custom-equality-and-comparison-in-f/>

Object-oriented recommended use-cases

1. Encapsulate mutable state → in a class
2. Group features → in an interface
3. Expressive, user-friendly API → tuplified methods
4. API F# consumed in C# → member extensions
5. Dependency management → injection into constructor
6. Tackle higher-order functions limits



Class to encapsulate mutable state

```
// 😞 Encapsulate mutable state in a closure → impure function → counter-intuitive ⚠️
let counter =
    let mutable count = 0
    fun () →
        count ← count + 1
        count

let x = counter () // 1
let y = counter () // 2

// ✅ Encapsulate mutable state in a class
type Counter() =
    let mutable count = 0 // Private field
    member _.Next() =
        count ← count + 1
        count
```

Interface grouping features

```
let checkRoundTrip serialize deserialize value =  
    value = (value ▷ serialize ▷ deserialize)  
// val checkRoundTrip :  
//   serialize:('a → 'b) → deserialize:('b → 'a) → value:'a → bool  
//   when 'a : equality
```

`serialize` and `deserialize` form a consistent group
→ Grouping them in an object makes sense

```
let checkRoundTrip serializer data =  
    data = (data ▷ serializer.Serialize ▷ serializer.Deserialize)
```

Interface grouping features (2)

💡 Prefer an interface to a *Record* (not possible with `Fable.Remoting`)

```
// ❌ Avoid: not a good use of a Record: unnamed parameters, structural comparison lost...
type Serializer<'T> = {
    Serialize: 'T → string
    Deserialize: string → 'T
}

// ✅ Recommended
type Serializer =
    abstract Serialize<'T> : value: 'T → string
    abstract Deserialize<'T> : data: string → 'T
```

- Parameters are named in the methods
- Object easily instantiated with an object expression

User-friendly API

// ❌ Avoid

```
module Utilities =  
    let name = "Bob"  
    let add2 x y = x + y  
    let add3 x y z = x + y + z  
    let log x = ...  
    let log' x retryPolicy = ...
```

// ✅ Favor

```
[<AbstractClass; Sealed>  
type Utilities =  
    static member Name = "Bob"  
    static member Add(x, y) = x + y  
    static member Add(x, y, z) = x + y + z  
    static member Log(x, ?retryPolicy) = ...
```

Advantages of OO implementation:

- `Add` method overloaded vs `add2`, `add3` functions (`2` and `3` = args count)
- Single `Log` method with `retryPolicy` optional parameter

[🔗 F# component design guidelines - Libraries used in C#](#)

API F# consumed in C# - Type

Do not expose this type as is:

```
type RadialPoint = { Angle: float; Radius: float }  
  
module RadialPoint =  
    let origin = { Angle = 0.0; Radius = 0.0 }  
    let stretch factor point = { point with Radius = point.Radius * factor }  
    let angle (i: int) (n: int) = (float i) * 2.0 * System.Math.PI / (float n)  
    let circle radius count =  
        [ for i in 0..count-1 → { Angle = angle i count; Radius = radius } ]
```

API F# consommée en C# - Type (2)

💡 To make it easier to discover the type and use its features in C#

- Put everything in a namespace
- Augment type with companion module functionalities

```
namespace Fabrikam

type RadialPoint = { ... }
module RadialPoint = ...

type RadialPoint with
    static member Origin = RadialPoint.origin
    static member Circle(radius, count) = RadialPoint.circle radius count ▷ List.toSeq
    member this.Stretch(factor) = RadialPoint.stretch factor this
```


API F# consumed in C# - Type (3)

👉 The API consumed in C# is +/- equivalent to:

```
namespace Fabrikam
{
    public static class RadialPointModule { ... }

    public sealed record RadialPoint(double Angle, double Radius)
    {
        public static RadialPoint Origin ⇒ RadialPointModule.origin;

        public static IEnumerable<RadialPoint> Circle(double radius, int count) ⇒
            RadialPointModule.circle(radius, count);

        public RadialPoint Stretch(double factor) ⇒
            new RadialPoint(Angle@, Radius@ * factor);
    }
}
```

Dependency management - FP based technique

Parametrization of dependencies + partial application.

- Small-dose approach: few dependencies, few functions involved
- Otherwise, quickly tedious to implement and to use

```
module MyApi =  
    let function1 dep1 dep2 dep3 arg1 = doStuffWith dep1 dep2 dep3 arg1  
    let function2 dep1 dep2 dep3 arg2 = doStuffWith' dep1 dep2 dep3 arg2
```

Dependency management - OO technique

Dependency injection

- Inject dependencies into the class constructor
- Use these dependencies in methods

👉 Offers a user-friendly API 👍

```
type MyParametricApi(dep1, dep2, dep3) =  
    member _.Function1 arg1 = doStuffWith dep1 dep2 dep3 arg1  
    member _.Function2 arg2 = doStuffWith' dep1 dep2 dep3 arg2
```

- ✅ Particularly recommended for encapsulating **side-effects** :
→ Connecting to a DB, reading settings...

⚠️ **Trap:** dependencies injected in the constructor make sense only if they are used throughout the class. A dependency used in a single method indicates a design smell.

Dependency management - Advanced FP

Dependency rejection = sandwich pattern

- Reject dependencies in Application layer, out of Domain layer
- Powerful and simple 👍
- ... when suitable !

Reader monad

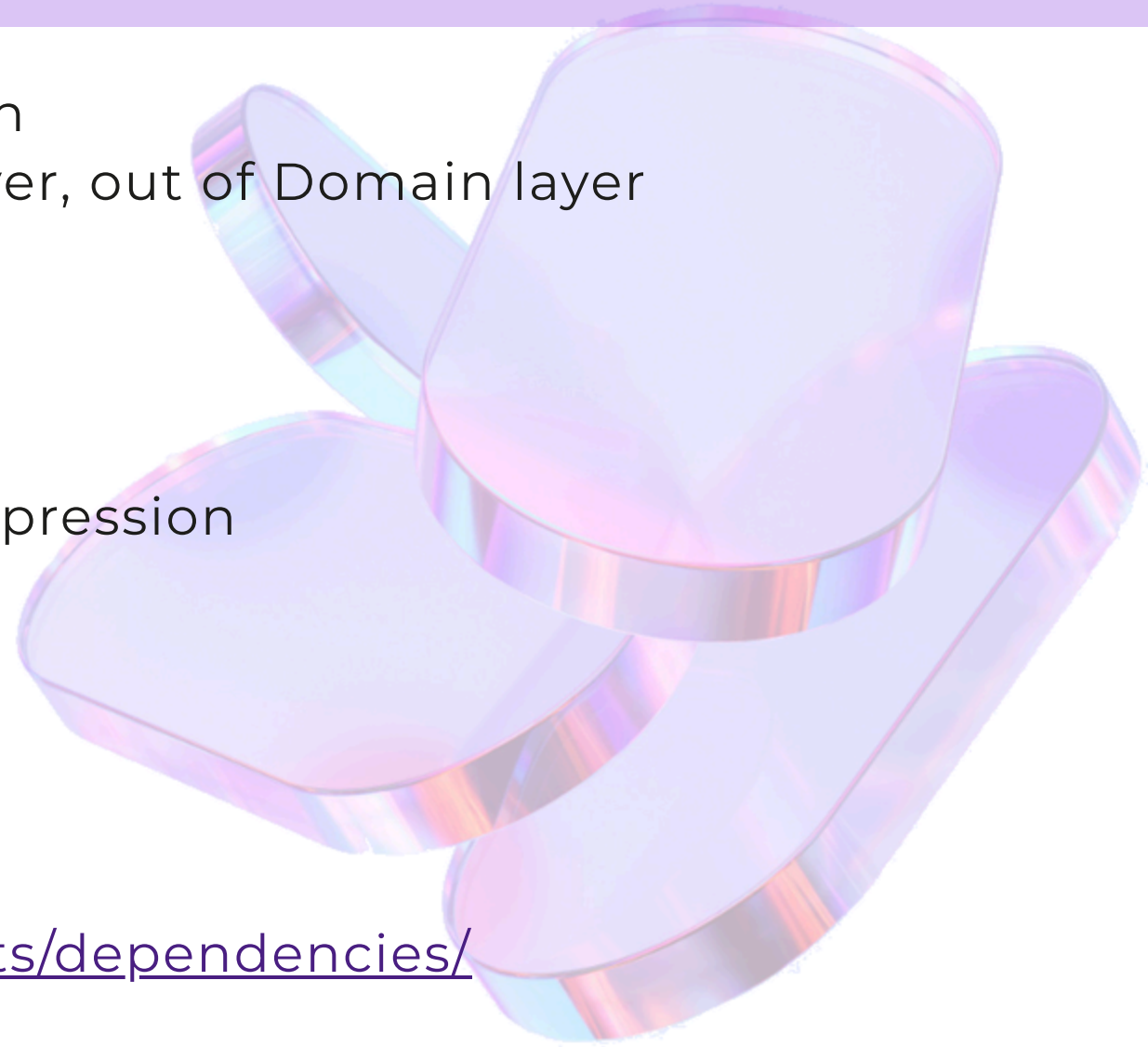
- Only if hidden inside a computation expression

Free monad + interpreter pattern

- Used in the SCM

...

 <https://fsharpforfunandprofit.com/posts/dependencies/>



Higher-order function limits

It's better to pass an object than a lambda as a parameter to a higher-order function when:

1. Lambda arguments not explicit

✗ `let test (f: float → float → string) = ...`

✓ Solution 1: type wrapping the 2 args `float`

→ `f: Point → string` with `type Point = { X: float; Y: float }`

✓ Solution 2: interface + method for named parameters

→ `type IPointFormatter = abstract Execute : x:float → y:float → string`

2. Lambda is a **command** `'T → unit`

✓ Prefer to trigger an side-effect via an object

→ `type ICommand = abstract Execute : 'T → unit`

Higher-order function limits (2)

3. Lambda "really" generic

```
let test42 (f: 'T → 'U) =  
    f 42 = f "42"  
// ✖ ^^^ ~~~~  
// ^^ Warning FS0064: This construct causes code to be less generic than indicated by the type annotation  
//      The type variable 'T' has been constrained to be type 'int'.  
// ~ Error FS0001: This expression was expected to have type 'int' but here has type 'string'  
// 🖱 `f: int → 'U'` expected
```

✓ Solution: wrap the function in an object

```
type Func2<'U> =  
    abstract Invoke<'T> : 'T → 'U  
  
let test42 (f: Func2<'U>) =  
    f.Invoke 42 = f.Invoke "42"
```

Thanks 🙏

