

F# Training

Pattern matching

2025 April

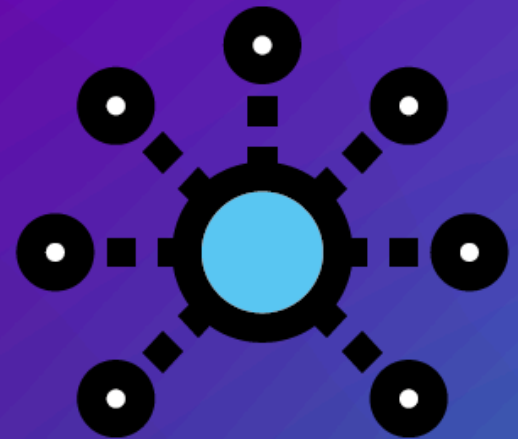


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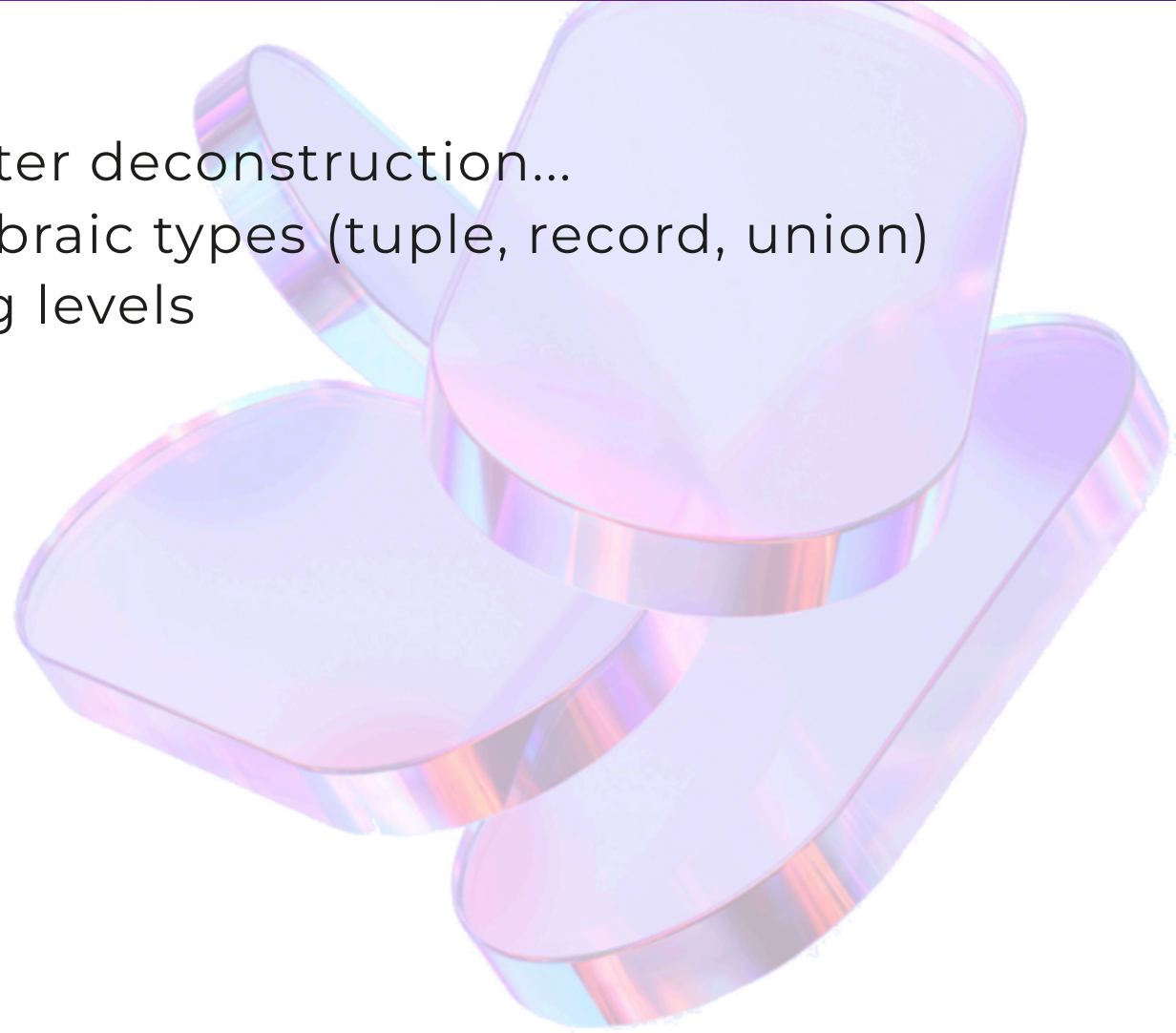
1. Patterns overview



Patterns

Used extensively in F#

- *match expression*, *let binding*, parameter deconstruction...
- Very practical for manipulating F# algebraic types (tuple, record, union)
- Composable: supports multiple nesting levels
- Combined using logical AND/OR
- Supports literals: `1.0`, `"test"` ...



Wildcard Pattern

Represented by `_`, alone or combined with another *pattern*.

Always true

→ To be placed last in a *match expression*.

⚠ Always seek 1st to handle all cases exhaustively/explicitly
When impossible, then use the `_`

```
match option with
| Some 1 → ...
| _ → ...           // ⚠ Non exhaustive

match option with
| Some 1 → ...
| Some _ | None → ... // 🍌 More exhaustive
```

Constant Pattern

Detects constants, `null` and number literals, `char`, `string`, `enum`.

```
[<Literal>]
let Three = 3 // Constant

let is123 num = // int → bool
  match num with
  | 1 | 2 | Three → true
  | _ → false
```

👉 Notes :

- The `Three` pattern is also classified as an *Identifier Pattern* !
- For `null` matching, we also talk about *Null Pattern*.

Variable Pattern

Assigns the detected value to a "variable" for subsequent uses.

Example: `b` variable below

```
let isInt (s: string) =  
    match System.Int32.TryParse(s) with  
    | b, _ → b
```

Variable Pattern (2)

⚠ You cannot link to the same variable more than once.

```
let elementsAreEqualKo tuple =  
    match tuple with  
    | x, x → true // ✨ Error FS0038: 'x' is bound twice in this pattern  
    | _, _ → false
```

💡 **Solution:** use 2 variables then check their equality

```
// 1. Guard clause  
let elementsAreEqualOk = function  
    | x, y when x = y → true  
    | _, _ → false  
  
// 2. Deconstruction  
let elementsAreEqualOk' (x, y) = x = y
```


Identifier Pattern

Detects cases of a union type and their possible contents

```
type PersonName =  
    | FirstOnly of string  
    | LastOnly  of string  
    | FirstLast of string * string  
  
let classify personName =  
    match personName with  
    | FirstOnly _ → "First name only"  
    | LastOnly  _ → "Last name only"  
    | FirstLast _ → "First and last names"
```

Union case labelled fields

Several possibilities:

- ① "Anonymous" pattern of the complete tuple
- ② Pattern of a single field by its name → `Field = value`
- ③ Pattern of several fields by name → `F1 = v1; F2 = v2`

```
type Shape =  
  | Rectangle of Height: int * Width: int  
  | Circle of Radius: int  
  
let describe shape =  
  match shape with  
  | Rectangle(0, _)                                // ①  
  | Rectangle(Height = 0)                          → "Flat rectangle"           // ②  
  | Rectangle(Width = w; Height = h)                → $"Rectangle {w} × {h}"             // ③  
  | Circle radius                                  → $"Circle Ø {2*radius}"
```

Alias Pattern

`as` is used to name an element whose content is deconstructed

```
let (x, y) as coordinate = (1, 2)
printfn "%i %i %A" x y coordinate // 1 2 (1, 2)
```

💡 Also works within functions to get back the parameter name:

```
type Person = { Name: string; Age: int }

let acceptMajorOnly ({ Age = age } as person) = // person: Person → Person option
    if age < 18 then None else Some person
```

OR / AND Patterns

Combine two patterns (*named* `P1` and `P2` below).

- `P1 | P2` → P1 or P2. Ex: `Rectangle (0, _) | Rectangle (_, 0)`
- `P1 & P2` → P1 and P2. Used especially with *active patterns* !

💡 Use the same variable (`name` in the example below):

```
type Upload = { Filename: string; Title: string option }

let titleOrFile ({ Title = Some name } | { Filename = name }) = name

titleOrFile { Filename = "Report.docx"; Title = None }           // Report.docx
titleOrFile { Filename = "Report.docx"; Title = Some "Report+" } // "Report+"
```

Parenthesized Pattern

Use of parentheses `()` to group patterns, to tackle precedence

```
type Shape = Circle of Radius: int | Square of Side: int

let countFlatShapes shapes =
  let rec loop rest count =
    match rest with
    | (Square (Side = 0) | (Circle (Radius = 0))) :: tail → loop tail (count + 1) // ①
    | _ :: tail → loop tail count
    | [] → count
  loop shapes 0
```

👉 **Note** : line ① would compile without doing `() :: tail`

Parenthesized Pattern (2)

⚠ Parentheses complicate reading

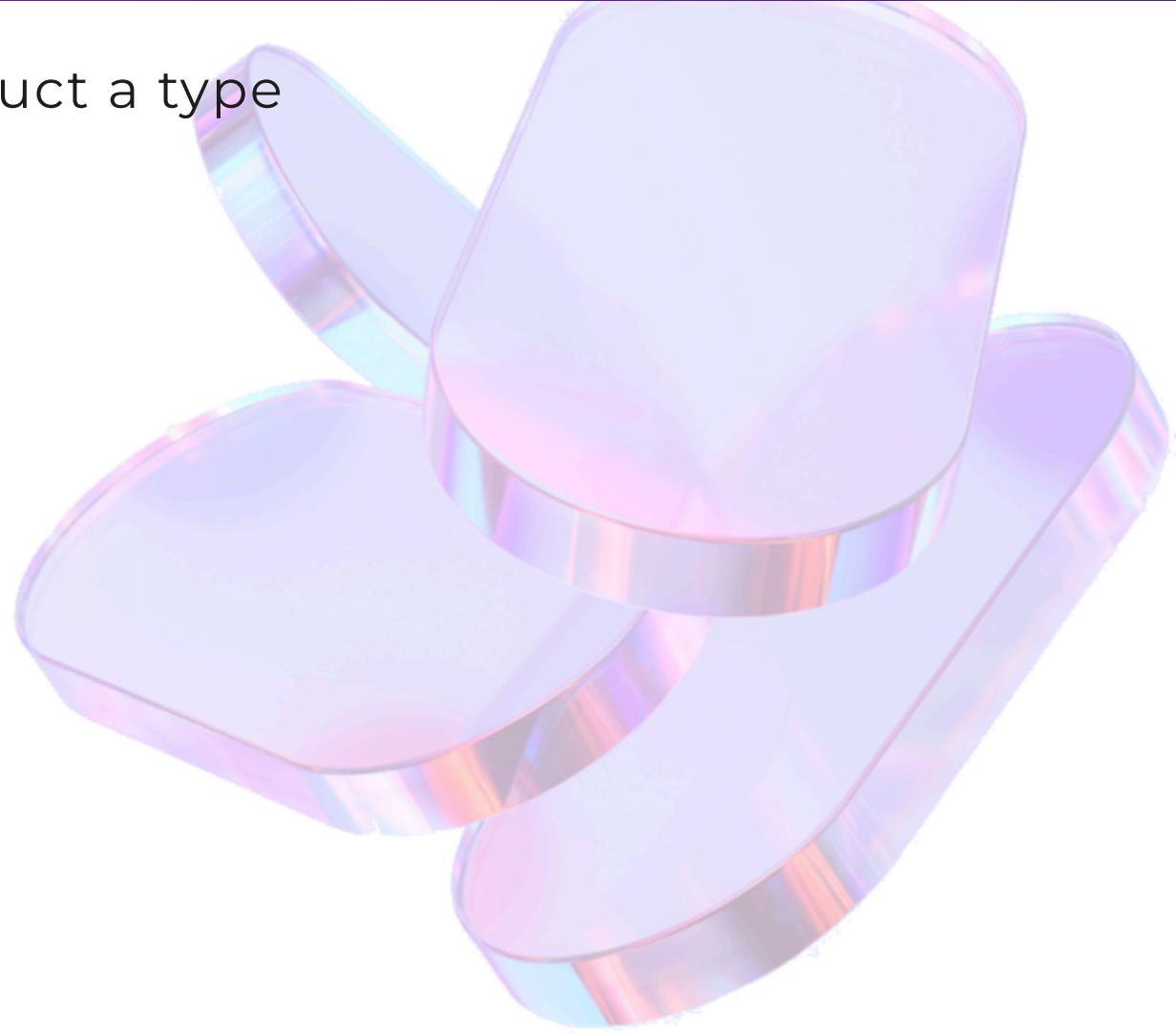
💡 Try to do without when possible

```
let countFlatShapes shapes =  
  let rec loop rest count =  
    match rest with  
    | Circle(Radius = 0) :: tail  
    | Square(Side = 0) :: tail  
    → loop tail (count + 1)  
  // [ ... ]
```

Construction Patterns

Use type construction syntax to deconstruct a type

- Cons and List Patterns
- Array Pattern
- Tuple Pattern
- Record Pattern



Cons and List Patterns

≈ Inverses of the 2 ways to construct a list

Cons Pattern : `head :: tail` → decomposes a list (*with ≥ 1 element*) into:

- *Head*: 1st element
- *Tail*: another list with the remaining elements - can be empty

List Pattern : `[items]` → decomposes a list into 0..N items

- `[]` : empty list
- `[x]` : list with 1 element set in the `x` variable
- `[x; y]` : list with 2 elements set in variables `x` and `y`
- `[_; _]` : list with 2 elements ignored

💡 `x :: []` \equiv `[x]`, `x :: y :: []` \equiv `[x; y]`...

Cons and List Patterns (2)

The default *match expression* combines the 2 patterns:

→ A list is either empty `[]`, or composed of an item and the rest: `head :: tail`

Recursive functions traversing a list use the `[]` pattern to stop recursion:

```
[<TailCall>]
let rec printList l =
  match l with
  | head :: tail →
    printf "%d " head
    printList tail
  | [] → printfn ""
```

Array Pattern

Syntax: `[items]` for 0..N items between `;`

```
let length vector =  
  match vector with  
  | [ x ] → x  
  | [ x; y ] → sqrt (x*x + y*y)  
  | [ x; y; z ] → sqrt (x*x + y*y + z*z)  
  | _ → invalidArg (nameof vector) "Vector with more than 3 dimensions not supported"
```

👉 There is no pattern for sequences, as they are "lazy".

Tuple Pattern

Syntax: `items` or `(items)` for 2..N items between `,`.

💡 Useful to match several values at the same time

```
type Color = Red | Blue
type Style = Background | Text

let css color style =
  match color, style with
  | Red, Background → "background-color: red"
  | Red, Text → "color: red"
  | Blue, Background → "background-color: blue"
  | Blue, Text → "color: blue"
```

Record Pattern

Syntax: `{ Field1 = var1; ... }`

→ Not required to specify all Record fields

→ In case of ambiguity, qualify the field: `Record.Field`

💡 Also works for function parameters:

```
type Person = { Name: string; Age: int }

let displayMajority { Age = age; Name = name } =
    if age ≥ 18
    then printfn "%s is major" name
    else printfn "%s is minor" name

let john = { Name = "John"; Age = 25 }
displayMajority john // John is major
```

Record Pattern (2)

⚠ **Reminder:** there is no pattern for anonymous *Records*!

```
type Person = { Name: string; Age: int }

let john = { Name = "John"; Age = 25 }
let { Name = name } = john // 💡 val name : string = "John"

let john' = [{| john with Civility = "Mister" |}]
let [{| Name = name' |}] = john' // ✨
```

Type Test Pattern

Syntax: `my-object :? sub-type` and returns a `bool`
→ \simeq `my-object is sub-type` in C#

Usage: with a type hierarchy

```
open System.Windows.Forms

let RegisterControl (control: Control) =
    match control with
    | :? Button as button → button.Text ← "Registered."
    | :? CheckBox as checkbox → checkbox.Text ← "Registered."
    | :? Windows → invalidArg (nameof control) "Windows cannot be registered!"
    | _ → ()
```

Type Test Pattern - **try**/**with** block

This pattern is common in **try**/**with** blocks:

```
try
    printfn "Difference: %i" (42 / 0)
with
| :? DivideByZeroException as x →
    printfn "Fail! %s" x.Message
| :? TimeoutException →
    printfn "Fail! Took too long"
```

Type Test Pattern - Boxing

The *Type Test Pattern* only works with reference types.
→ For a value type or unknown type, it must be boxed.

```
let isIntKo = function :? int → true | _ → false
//
// ~~~~~
// ✨ Error FS0008: This runtime coercion or type test from type 'a to int
// involves an indeterminate type based on information prior to this program point.

let isInt x =
    match box x with
    | :? int → true
    | _ → false
```


2. *Match Expression*



Match expression

Similar to a `switch` expression in C# 8.0 but more powerful thanks to patterns

Syntax:

```
match test-expression with
| pattern1 [ when condition ] → result-expression1
| pattern2 [ when condition ] → result-expression2
| ...
```

Returns the result of the 1st branch whose pattern "matches" `test-expression`

👉 **Note:** all branches must return the same type!

Match expression - Exhaustivity

A C# `switch` must always define a default case.

Otherwise: compile warning,  `MatchFailureException` at runtime

Not necessary in a F# *match expression* if branches cover all cases because the compiler checks for completeness and "dead" branches

```
let fn x =  
    match x with  
    | Some true   → "ok"  
    | Some false  → "ko"  
    | None        → ""  
    | _           → "?"  
// ~ ⚠ Warning FS0026: this rule will never be matched
```

Match expression - Exhaustivity (2)

👉 **Tip:** the more branches are exhaustive, the more code is explicit and safe

Example: checking all the cases of a union type allows you to manage the addition of a case by a warning at compile time:

```
Warning FS0025: Special criteria incomplete in this expression
```

- Detection of accidental addition
- Identification of the code to change to handle the new case

Match expression - Guard

Syntax: `pattern1 when condition`

Usage: to refine a pattern, using constraints on variables

```
let classifyBetween low top value =  
    match value with  
    | x when x < low → "Inf"  
    | x when x = low → "Low"  
    | x when x = top → "Top"  
    | x when x > top → "Sup"  
    | _ → "Between"  
  
let test1 = 1 ▷ classifyBetween 1 5 // "Low"  
let test2 = 6 ▷ classifyBetween 1 5 // "Sup"
```

💡 The *guard* is only evaluated if the pattern is satisfied.

Match expression - Guard vs OR Pattern

The OR pattern has a higher *precedence/priority* than the *Guard* :

```
type Parity = Even of int | Odd of int

let parityOf value =
    if value % 2 = 0 then Even value else Odd value

let hasSquare square value =
    match parityOf square, parityOf value with
    | Even x2, Even x
    | Odd x2, Odd x
      when x2 = x*x → true // 👉 The guard is covering the 2 previous patterns
    | _ → false

let test1 = 2 ▷ hasSquare 4 // true
let test2 = 3 ▷ hasSquare 9 // true
```

Match function

Syntax:

```
function
| pattern1 [ when condition ] → result-expression1
| pattern2 [ when condition ] → result-expression2
| ...
```

Equivalent to a lambda taking an implicit parameter which is "matched":

```
fun value →
  match value with
  | pattern1 [ when condition ] → result-expression1
  | pattern2 [ when condition ] → result-expression2
  | ...
```

Match function - Interest

1. In pipelines

```
value  
▷ is123  
▷ function  
  | true  → "ok"  
  | false → "ko"
```

2. More concise function

```
let is123 = function  
  | 1 | 2 | 3 → true  
  | _ → false
```


Match function - Limitations

⚠ Implicit parameter => can make the code more difficult to understand!

Example: function declared with other explicit parameters

→ The number of parameters and their order can be wrong:

```
let classifyBetween low high = function // ➡ 3 parameters : `low`, `high`, and another one implicit
| x when x < low   → "Inf"
| x when x = low   → "Low"
| x when x = high  → "High"
| x when x > high  → "Sup"
| _               → "Between"

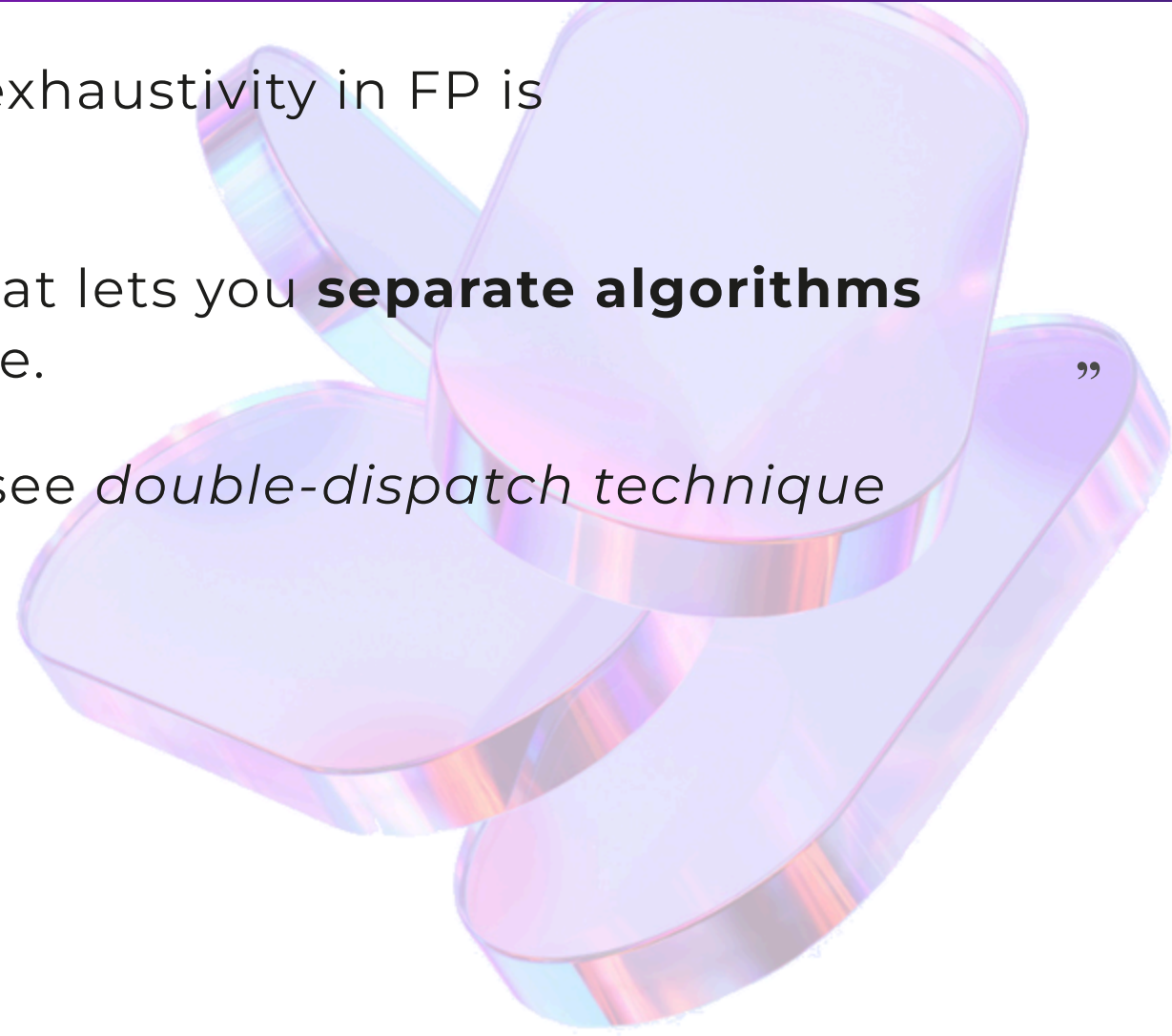
let test1 = 1 ▷ classifyBetween 1 5 // "Low"
let test2 = 6 ▷ classifyBetween 1 5 // "Sup"
```

Exhaustivity in OOP

The equivalent of the pattern matching exhaustivity in FP is ... the Visitor design pattern in OOP

“ Visitor is a behavioral design pattern that lets you **separate algorithms from the objects** on which they operate. ”

→ It's FP in OOP, much very convoluted: see *double-dispatch technique*



fold function

Function associated with a union type and hiding the *matching* logic
Takes N+1 parameters for a union type with N cases

```
type [<Measure>] C
type [<Measure>] F

type Temperature =
| Celsius      of float<C>
| Fahrenheit of float<F>

module Temperature =
  let fold mapCelsius mapFahrenheit temperature : 'T =
    match temperature with
    | Celsius x      → mapCelsius x      // mapCelsius : float<C> → 'T
    | Fahrenheit x → mapFahrenheit x // mapFahrenheit: float<F> → 'T
```

fold function: usage

```
module Temperature =  
  // ...  
  let [<Literal>] FactorC2F = 1.8<F/C>  
  let [<Literal>] DeltaC2F = 32.0<F>  
  
  let celsiusToFahrenheit x = (x * FactorC2F) + DeltaC2F // float<C> → float<F>  
  let fahrenheitToCelsius x = (x - DeltaC2F) / FactorC2F // float<F> → float<C>  
  
  let toggleUnit temperature =  
    temperature ▷ fold  
      (celsiusToFahrenheit >> Fahrenheit)  
      (fahrenheitToCelsius >> Celsius)  
  
let t1 = Celsius 100.0<C>  
let t2 = t1 ▷ Temperature.toggleUnit // Fahrenheit 212.0
```

fold function: interest

`fold` hides the implementation details of the type

For example, we could add a `Kelvin` case and only impact `fold`, not the functions that call it, such as `toggleUnit` in the previous example

```
type [<Measure>] C
type [<Measure>] F
type [<Measure>] K // ✨

type Temperature =
| Celsius      of float<C>
| Fahrenheit   of float<F>
| Kelvin       of float<K> // ✨

// Code continued on next slide ...
```

fold function: interest (2)

```
// ...
module Temperature =
  let fold mapCelsius mapFahrenheit temperature : 'T =
    match temperature with
    | Celsius x      → mapCelsius x      // mapCelsius: float<C> → 'T
    | Fahrenheit x   → mapFahrenheit x   // mapFahrenheit: float<F> → 'T
    | Kelvin x       → mapCelsius (x * 1.0<C/K> + 273.15<C>) // 🌞

Kelvin 273.15<K>
▷ Temperature.toggleUnit
// Celsius 0.0<C>
```

3. *Active Patterns*



Pattern Matching Limits

Limited number of patterns

Impossibility of factoring the actions of patterns with their own guards

→ `Pattern1 when Guard1 | Pattern2 when Guard2 → do` 💣

→ `Pattern1 when Guard1 → do | Pattern2 when Guard2 → do` 😞

Patterns are not first-class citizens

Ex: a function can't return a pattern

→ Just a kind of syntactic sugar

Patterns interact badly with an OOP style



Origin of *Active Patterns*

“  [Extensible pattern matching via a lightweight language extension](#)
  2007 publication by Don Syme, Gregory Neverov, James Margetson ”

Integrated into F# 2.0 (2010)

Ideas

- Enable *pattern matching* on other data structures
- Make these new patterns first-class citizens

Active Patterns - Syntax

General syntax : `let (|Cases|) [arguments] valueToMatch = expression`

1. **Function** with a special name defined in "bananas" `(| ... |)`
 2. Set of 1..N **cases** in which to store the `valueToMatch` parameter
- 💡 Kind of *factory* function of an "anonymous" **union** type, defined *inline*

Active Patterns - Types

There are 4 types of active patterns:

Name		Cases	Exhaustive	Parameters
1.	Simple Total	1	✓ Yes	? 0+
2.	Multiple Total	2+	✓ Yes	✗ 0
3.	Partial	1	✗ No	✗ 0
4.	Parametric	1	✗ No	✓ 1+

Simple total active pattern

A.k.a Single-case Total Pattern

Syntax: `let (|Case|) [... parameters] value = Case [data]`

Usage: on-site value adjustment

```
/// Ensure the given string is never null
let (|NotNullOrEmpty|) (s: string) = // string → string
    if s ▷ isNull then System.String.Empty else s

// Usages:
let (NotNullOrEmpty a) = "abc" // val a: string = "abc"
let (NotNullOrEmpty b) = null  // val b: string = ""
```

Simple total active pattern (2)

Can accept **parameters** → ⚠ usually more difficult to understand

```
/// Get the value in the given option if there is some, otherwise the specified default value
let (|Default|) defaultValue option = option ▷ Option.defaultValue defaultValue
//           'T      → 'T option → 'T

// Usages:
let (Default "unknown" john) = Some "John" // val john: string = "John"
let (Default 0 count) = None                // val count: int = 0

// Template function
let (|ValueOrUnknown|) = (|Default|) "unknown" // string option → string

let (ValueOrUnknown person) = None // val person: string = "unknown"
```

Simple total active pattern (3)

Another example: extracting the polar form of a complex number

```
/// Extracts the polar form (Magnitude, Phase) of the given complex number
let (|Polar|) (x: System.Numerics.Complex) =
    x.Magnitude, x.Phase

/// Multiply the 2 complex numbers by adding their phases and multiplying their magnitudes
let multiply (Polar(m1, p1)) (Polar(m2, p2)) = // Complex → Complex → Complex
    System.Numerics.Complex.FromPolarCoordinates(magnitude = m1 * m2, phase = p1 + p2)

// Without the active pattern: we need to add type annotations
let multiply' (x: System.Numerics.Complex) (y: System.Numerics.Complex) =
    System.Numerics.Complex.FromPolarCoordinates(x.Magnitude * y.Magnitude, x.Phase + y.Phase)
```

Active pattern total multiple

A.k.a Multiple-case Total Pattern

Syntax: `let (|Case1| ... |CaseN|) value = CaseI [dataI]`

👉 No parameters !

```
// Using an ad-hoc union type
type Parity = Even of int | Odd of int with
    static member Of(x) =
        if x % 2 = 0 then Even x else Odd x

let hasSquare square value =
    match Parity.Of(square), Parity.Of(value) with
    | Even sq, Even v
    | Odd sq, Odd v when sq = v*v → true
    | _ → false
```

```
// Using a total active pattern
let (|Even|Odd|) x = // int → Choice<int, int>
    if x % 2 = 0 then Even x else Odd x

let hasSquare' square value =
    match square, value with
    | Even sq, Even v
    | Odd sq, Odd v when sq = v*v → true
    | _ → false
```

Partial active pattern

Syntax: `let (|Case|_|) value = Some Case | Some data | None`

→ Returns the type `'T option` if `Case` includes data, otherwise `unit option`

→ Pattern matching is non-exhaustive → a default case is required

```
let (|Integer|_|) (x: string) = // (x: string) → int option
  match System.Int32.TryParse x with
  | true, i → Some i
  | false, _ → None
```

```
let (|Float|_|) (x: string) = // (x: string) → float option
  match System.Double.TryParse x with
  | true, f → Some f
  | false, _ → None
```

```
let detectNumber = function
  | Integer i → $"Integer {i}" // detectNumber "10"
  | Float f → $"Float {f}" // detectNumber "1.1" = "Float 1.1" (US locale)
  | s → $"NaN {s}" // detectNumber "abc" = "NaN abc"
```


Parametric partial active pattern

Syntax: `let (|Case|_|) ... arguments value = Some Case | Some data | None`

Example 1: leap year

→ Year divisible by 4 but not by 100, except if divisible by 400

```
let (|DivisibleBy|_|) factor x = // (factor: int) → (x: int) → unit option
    match x % factor with
    | 0 → Some DivisibleBy
    | _ → None

let isLeapYear year = // (year: int) → bool
    match year with
    | DivisibleBy 400 → true
    | DivisibleBy 100 → false
    | DivisibleBy 4 → true
    | _ → false
```

Parametric partial active pattern (2)

Example 2: Regular expression

```
let (|Regexp|_|) pattern value = // string → string → string list option
  let m = System.Text.RegularExpressions.Regex.Match(value, pattern)
  if not m.Success || m.Groups.Count < 1 then
    None
  else
    [ for g in m.Groups → g.Value ]
    ▷ List.tail // drop "root" match
    ▷ Some
```

💡 Usages seen with the next example...

Parametric partial active pattern (3)

Example 3: Hexadecimal color

```
let hexToInt hex = // string → int // E.g. "FF" → 255
    System.Int32.Parse(hex, System.Globalization.NumberStyles.HexNumber)

let (|HexaColor|_|) = function // string → (int * int * int) option
    // 📌 Uses the previous active pattern
    // 💡 The Regex searches for 3 groups of 2 chars being a number or a letter A..F
    | Regexp "#([0-9A-F]{2})([0-9A-F]{2})([0-9A-F]{2})" [ r; g; b ] →
        Some ◁ HexaColor ((hexToInt r), (hexToInt g), (hexToInt b))
    | _ → None

match "#0099FF" with
| HexaColor (r, g, b) → $"RGB: {r}, {g}, {b}"
| otherwise → $"'{otherwise}' is not a hex-color"
// "RGB: 0, 153, 255"
```

Active patterns recap

Active pattern	Syntax	Signature
Total multiple	let (Case1 .. CaseN) x	'T → Choice<'U1, .., 'Un>
... parametric	let (Case1 .. CaseN) p1 .. pp x	'P1 → .. → 'Pp → 'T → Choice<'U1, .., 'Un>
Total simple	let (Case) x	'T → 'U
Partial simple	let (Case _) x	'T → 'U option
... parametric	let (Case _) p1 .. pp x	'P1 → .. → 'Pp → 'T → 'U option

Understanding an active pattern

“ Understanding how to use an active pattern can be a real **intellectual challenge!** 🤔 ”

👉 Explanations using the previous examples...



Understanding a total active pattern

\simeq *factory* function of an "anonymous" union type

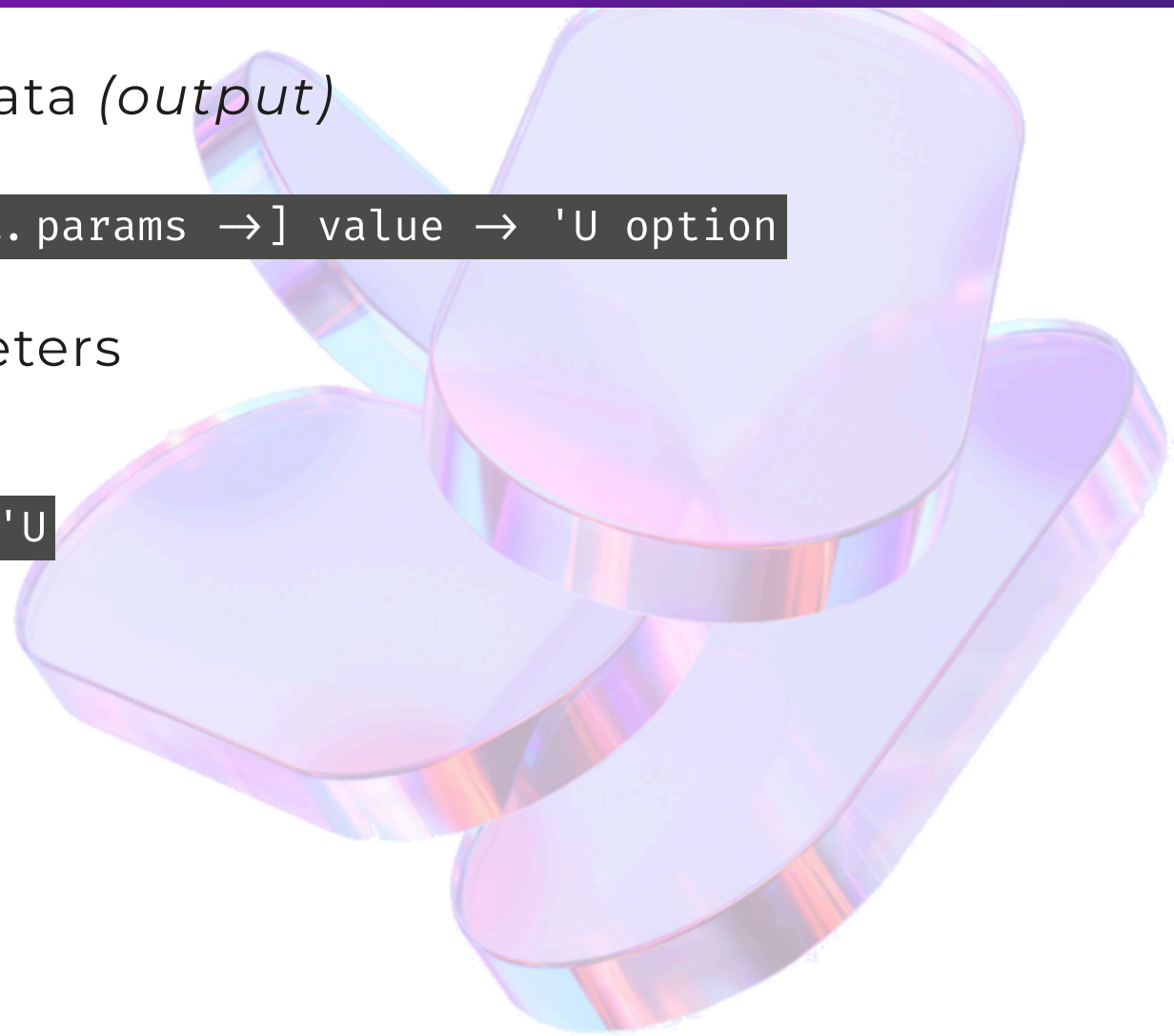
```
// -- Single-case ——  
let (|Cartesian|) (x: System.Numerics.Complex) = Cartesian(x.Real, x.Imaginary)  
  
let (Cartesian(r, i)) = System.Numerics.Complex(1.0, 2.0)  
// val r: float = 1.0  
// val i: float = 2.0  
  
// -- Double-case ——  
let (|Even|Odd|) x = if x % 2 = 0 then Even else Odd  
  
let printParity = function  
    | Even as n → printfn $"{i}{n} is even"  
    | Odd  as n → printfn $"{i}{n} is odd"  
  
printParity 1;; // 1 is odd  
printParity 10;; // 10 is even
```

Understanding a partial active pattern

👉 Distinguish parameters (*input*) from data (*output*)

Examine the active pattern signature: `[... params →] value → 'U option`

- **N-1 parameters:** active pattern parameters
- **Last parameter:** `value` to match
- **Return type:** `'U option` → data of type `'U`
 - when `unit option` → no data



Understanding a partial active pattern (2)

Examples

1. `let (|Integer|_|) (s: string) : int option`

Usage `match s with Integer i` → `i: int` is the output data

2. `let (|DivisibleBy|_|) (factor: int) (x: int) : unit option`

Usage `match year with DivisibleBy 400` → `400` is the `factor` parameter

3. `let (|Regex|_|) (pattern: string) (value: string) : string list option`

Usage `match s with Regex "#([0-9 ...)" [r; g; b]`

→ `"#([0-9 ...)" is the pattern parameter`

→ `[r; g; b]` is the output data • It's a nested pattern: a list of 3 strings

Exercise: fizz buzz with active pattern

Rewrite this fizz buzz using an active pattern `DivisibleBy`.

```
let isDivisibleBy factor number =  
    number % factor = 0  
  
let fizzBuzz = function  
| i when i ▷ isDivisibleBy 15 → "FizzBuzz"  
| i when i ▷ isDivisibleBy 3  → "Fizz"  
| i when i ▷ isDivisibleBy 5  → "Buzz"  
| other → string other  
  
[1..15] ▷ List.map fizzBuzz  
// ["1"; "2"; "Fizz"; "4"; "Buzz"; "Fizz";  
//  "7"; "8"; "Fizz"; "Buzz"; "11";  
//  "Fizz"; "13"; "14"; "FizzBuzz"]
```

Fizz buzz with active pattern: solution

```
let isDivisibleBy factor number =  
    number % factor = 0  
  
let (|DivisibleBy|_|) factor number =  
    if number > isDivisibleBy factor then Some () else None  
    // 👉 In F# 9, just `number > isDivisibleBy factor` is enough 👍  
  
let fizzBuzz = function  
    | DivisibleBy 15 → "FizzBuzz"  
    | DivisibleBy 3  → "Fizz"  
    | DivisibleBy 5  → "Buzz"  
    | other → string other  
  
[1..15] > List.map fizzBuzz  
// ["1"; "2"; "Fizz"; "4"; "Buzz"; "Fizz";  
//  "7"; "8"; "Fizz"; "Buzz"; "11";  
//  "Fizz"; "13"; "14"; "FizzBuzz"]
```

Fizz buzz with active pattern: alternative

```
let isDivisibleBy factor number =  
    number % factor = 0  
  
let boolToOption b =  
    if b then Some () else None  
  
let (|Fizz|_|) number = number ▷ isDivisibleBy 3 ▷ boolToOption  
let (|Buzz|_|) number = number ▷ isDivisibleBy 5 ▷ boolToOption  
  
let fizzBuzz = function  
    | Fizz & Buzz → "FizzBuzz"  
    | Fizz → "Fizz"  
    | Buzz → "Buzz"  
    | other → string other
```

- The 2 solutions are equal. It's a matter of style / personal taste.
- In F# 9, no need to do `▷ boolToOption`.

Active patterns use cases

1. Factor a guard (see *previous fizz buzz exercise*)
2. Wrapping a BCL method (see `(/Regex/_/)` and below).
3. Improve expressiveness, help to understand logic (see below)

```
[<RequireQualifiedAccess>]
module String =
    let (|Int|_|) (input: string) = // string → int option
        match System.Int32.TryParse(input) with
        | true, i  → Some i
        | false, _ → None

    let addOneOrZero = function
        | String.Int i → i + 1
        | _           → 0

    let v1 = addOneOrZero "1" // 2
    let v2 = addOneOrZero "a" // 0
```

Expressiveness with active patterns

```
type Movie = { Title: string; Director: string; Year: int; Studio: string }

module Movie =
    let inline private satisfy ([<InlineIfLambda>] predicate) (movie: Movie) =
        match predicate movie with
        | true → Some ()
        | false → None

    let (|Director|_|) director = satisfy (fun movie → movie.Director = director)
    let (|Studio|_|) studio = satisfy (fun movie → movie.Studio = studio)
    let (|In|_|) year = satisfy (fun movie → movie.Year = year)
    let (|Between|_|) min max = satisfy (fun { Year = year } → year ≥ min && year ≤ max)

// ...
```

Expressiveness with active patterns (2)

```
// ...

open Movie

let ``Is anime rated 10/10`` = function
| Studio "Bones" & (Between 2001 2007 | In 2014)
| Director "Hayao Miyazaki" → true
| _ → false

let topAnimes =
[ { Title = "Cowboy Bebop"; Director = "Shinichirō Watanabe"; Year = 2001; Studio = "Bones" }
  { Title = "Princess Mononoke"; Director = "Hayao Miyazaki"; Year = 1997; Studio = "Ghibli" } ]
▷ List.filter ``Is anime rated 10/10``
```

Active pattern: first-class citizen

An active pattern \simeq function with metadata \rightarrow first-class citizen in F#

```
// 1. Return an active pattern from a function
let (|Hayao_Miyazaki|_|) movie =
    (|Director|_|) "Hayao Miyazaki" movie

// 2. Take an active pattern as parameter -- A bit tricky
let firstItems (|Ok|_|) list =
    let rec loop values = function
        | Ok (item, rest) -> loop (item :: values) rest
        | _ -> List.rev values
    loop [] list

let (|Even|_|) = function
    | item :: rest when (item % 2) = 0 -> Some (item, rest)
    | _ -> None

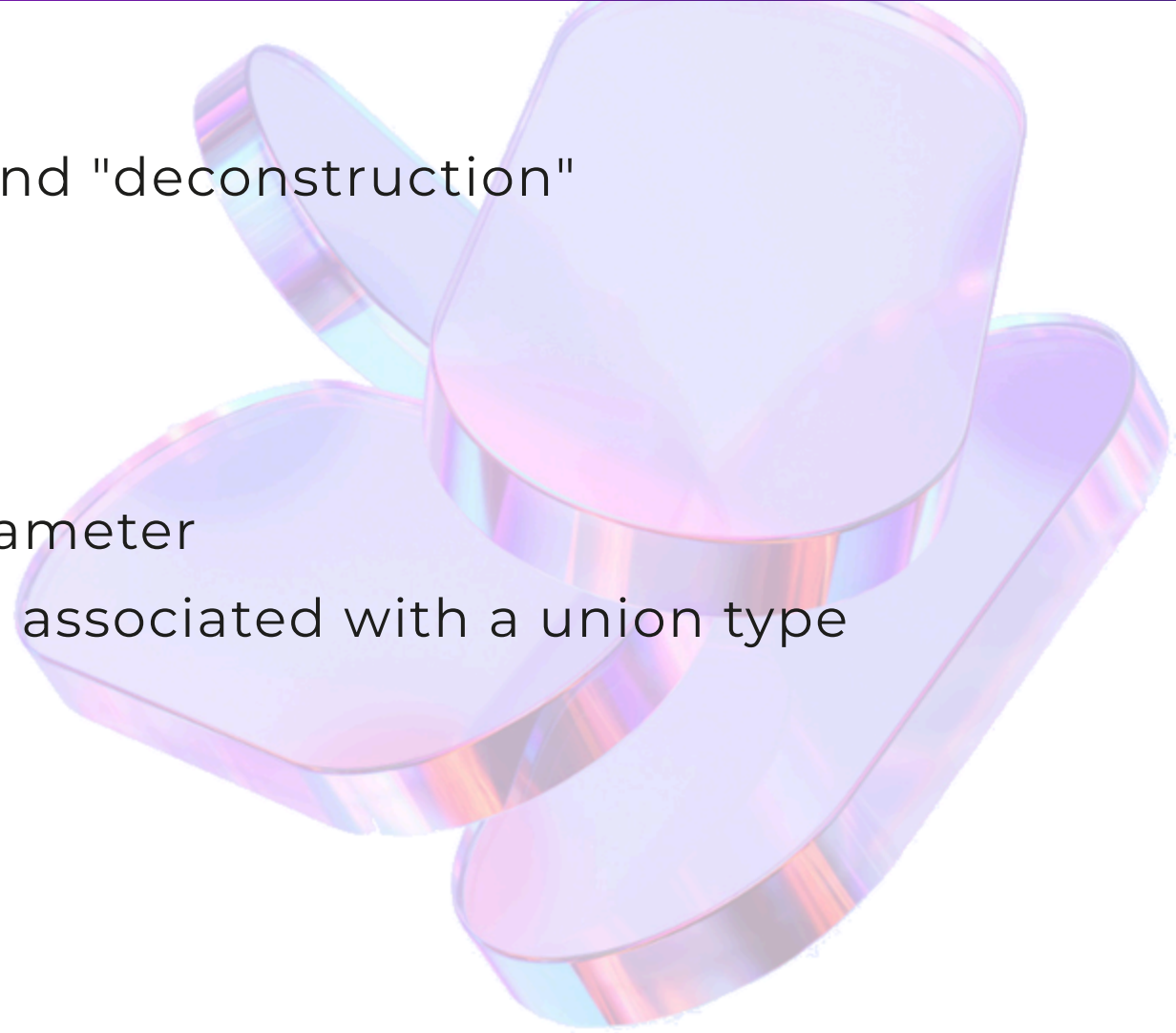
let test = [0; 2; 4; 5; 6] ▷ firstItems (|Even|_|) // [0; 2; 4]
```

4. Wrap up



Wrap up Pattern matching

- F# core building block
- Combines "data structure matching" and "deconstruction"
- Used almost everywhere:
 - `match` and `function` expressions
 - `try/with` block
 - `let` binding, including function parameter
- Can be abstracted into a `fold` function associated with a union type



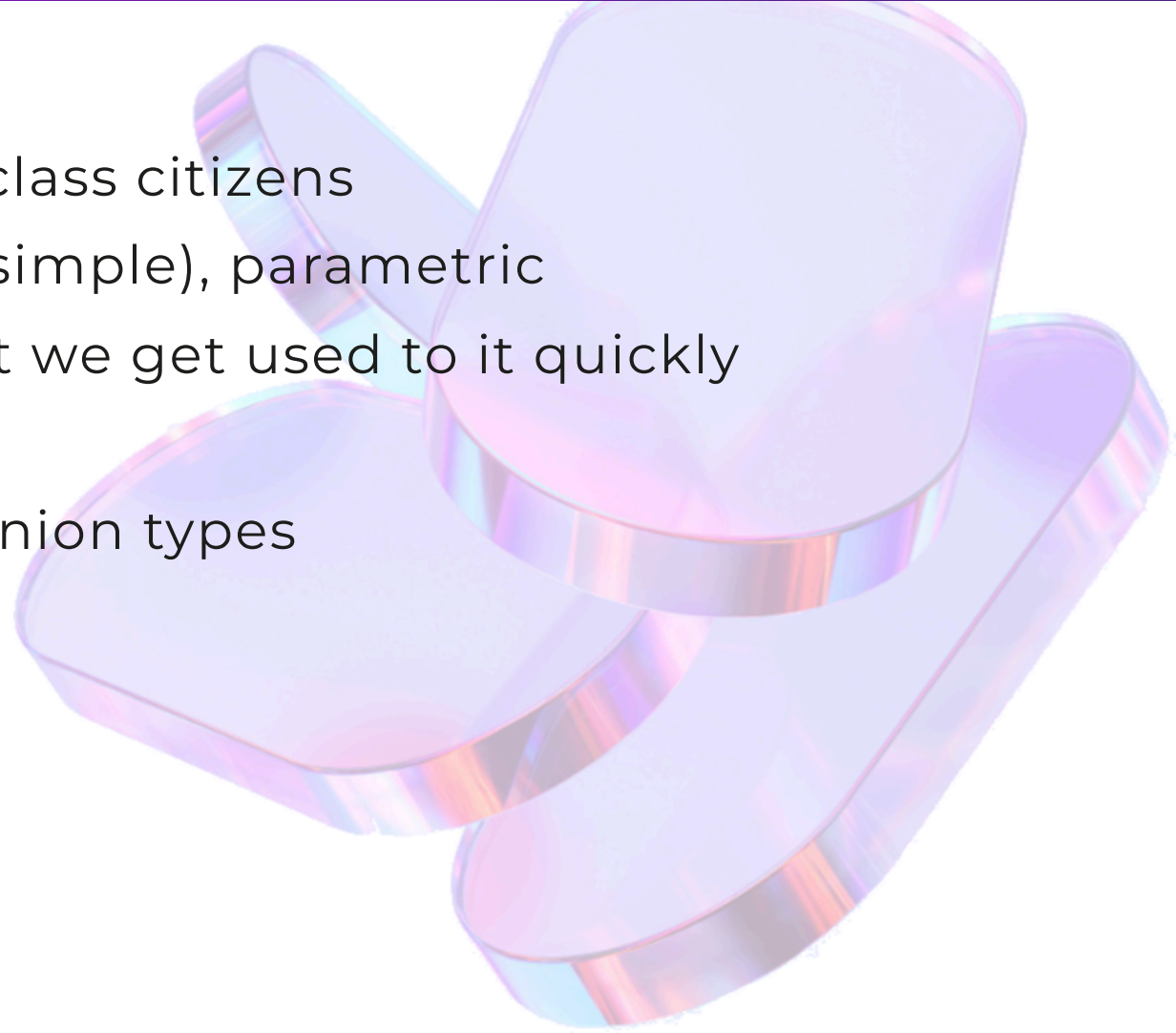
Wrap up Patterns

Pattern	Example
Constant · Identifier · Wildcard	<code>1</code> , <code>Color.Red</code> · <code>Some 1</code> · <code>_</code>
<i>Collection</i> : Cons · List · Array	<code>head :: tail</code> · <code>[1; 2]</code>
<i>Product type</i> : Record · Tuple	<code>{ A = a }</code> · <code>a, b</code>
Type Test	<code>:? Subtype</code>
<i>Logical</i> : OR, AND	<code>1 2</code> , <code>P1 & P2</code>
Variables · Alias	<code>head :: _</code> · <code>(0, 0) as origin</code>

+ The `when` guards in `match` expressions

Wrap up Active Patterns

- Extending pattern matching
- Based on function + metadata → first-class citizens
- 4 types: total simple/multiple, partial (simple), parametric
- At first a little tricky to understand, but we get used to it quickly
- Use for:
 - Add semantics without relying on union types
 - Simplify / factorize guards
 - Wrapping BCL methods
 - Extract a data set from an object
 - ...



Addendum



Match expressions

<https://fsharpforfunandprofit.com/posts/match-expression/>



Domain modelling and pattern matching

<https://fsharpforfunandprofit.com/posts/roman-numerals/>



Recursive types and folds (*6 articles*)

<https://fsharpforfunandprofit.com/series/recursive-types-and-folds/>



A Deep Dive into Active Patterns

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q5KO-UDx5eA>

<https://github.com/pblasucci/DeepDiveAP>



Exercises

The following exercises on <https://exercism.org/tracks/fsharp> can be solved with active patterns:

- Collatz Conjecture (*easy*)
- Darts (*easy*)
- Queen Attack (*medium*)
- Robot Name (*medium*)



Thanks 🙏

