

F# Training

F# collections

2025 April



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1. *Collections* Overview





Common F# collections

Module	Type	-	BCL Equivalent	Immutable	Structural comparison
Array	'T array	≡	Array<T>	✗	✓
List	'T list	ℝ	ImmutableList<T>	✓	✓
Seq	seq<'T>	≡	IEnumerable<T>	✓	✓
Set	Set<'T>	ℝ	ImmutableHashSet<T>	✓	✓
Map	Map<'K, 'V>	ℝ	ImmutableDictionary<K,V>	✓	✓
✗	dict	≡	IDictionary<K,V>	✓ !	✗
✗	readOnlyDict	≡	IReadOnlyDictionary<K,V>	✓	✗
✗	ResizeArray	≡	List<T>	✗	✗

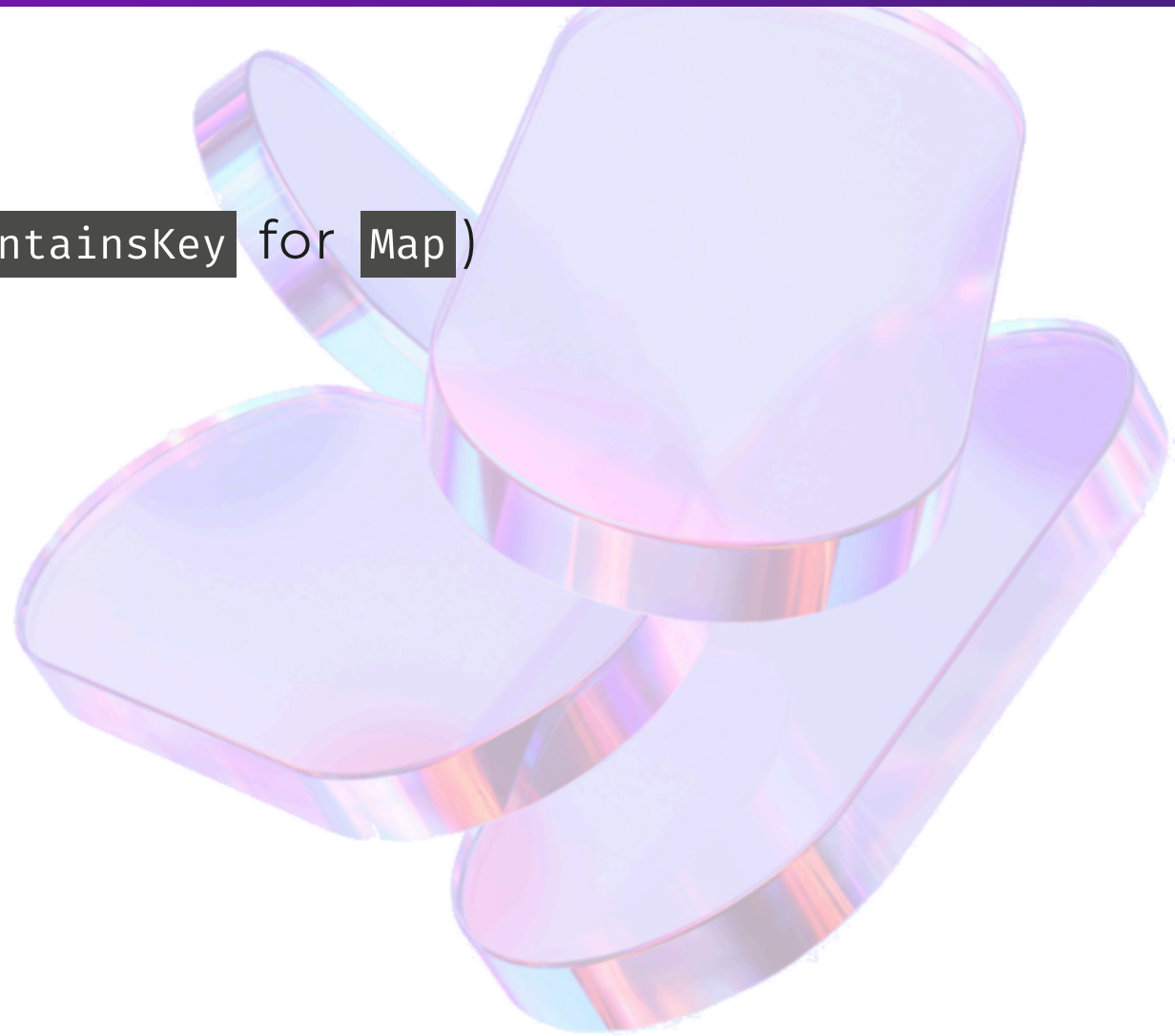
👍 Functions consistency

Common to all 5 modules:

- `empty`/`isEmpty`, `exists`/`forall`
- `find`/`tryFind`, `pick`/`tryPick`, `contains` (`containsKey` for `Map`)
- `map`/`iter`, `filter`, `fold`

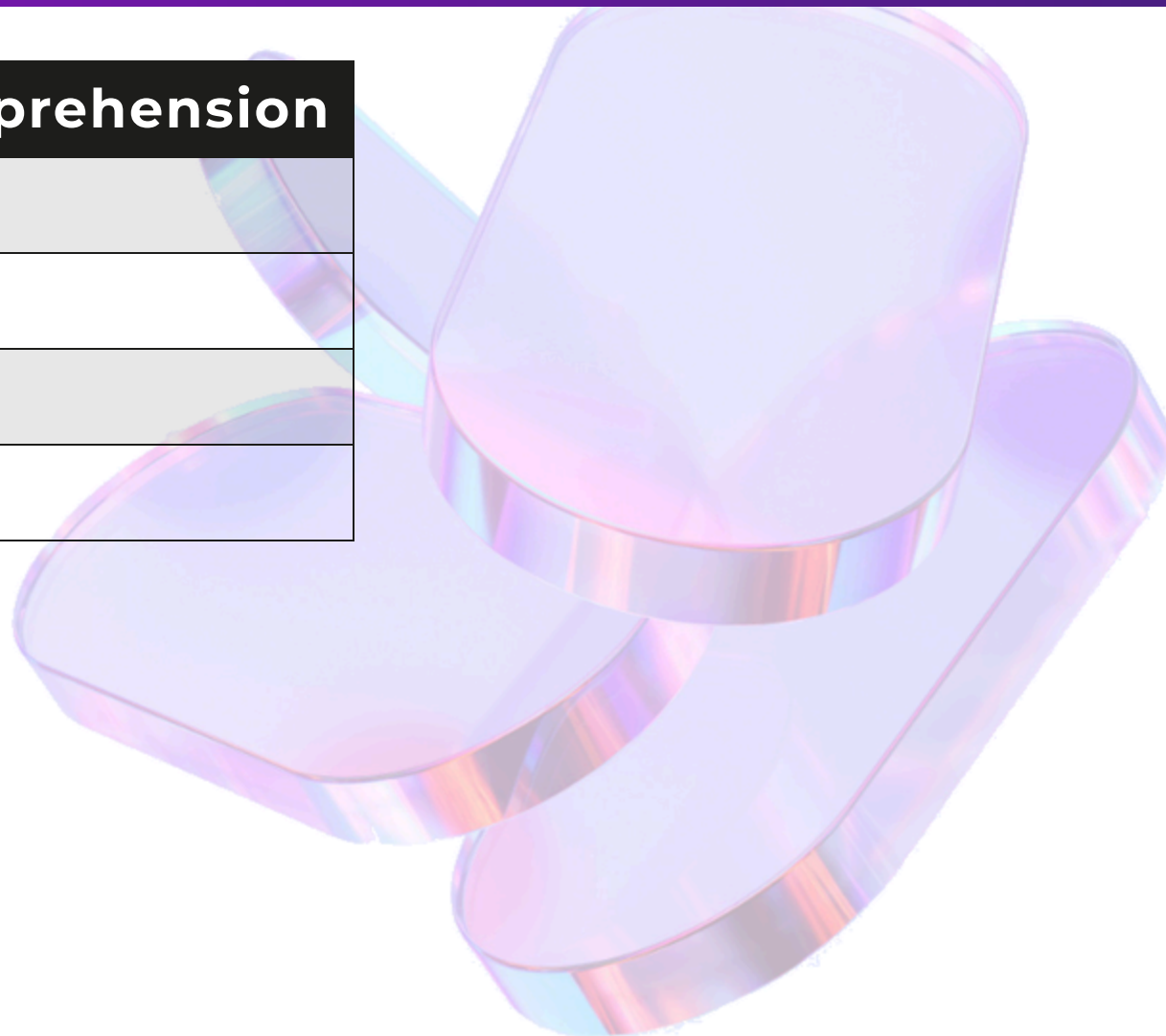
Common to `Array`, `List`, `Seq`:

- `append`/`concat`, `choose`, `collect`
- `item`, `head`, `last`
- `take`, `skip`
- ... *a hundred functions altogether!*



👍 Syntax consistency

Type	Construction	Range	Comprehension
Array	[1; 2]	[1..5]	✓
List	[1; 2]	[1..5]	✓
Seq	seq { 1; 2 }	seq { 1..5 }	✓
Set	set [1; 2]	set [1..5]	✓



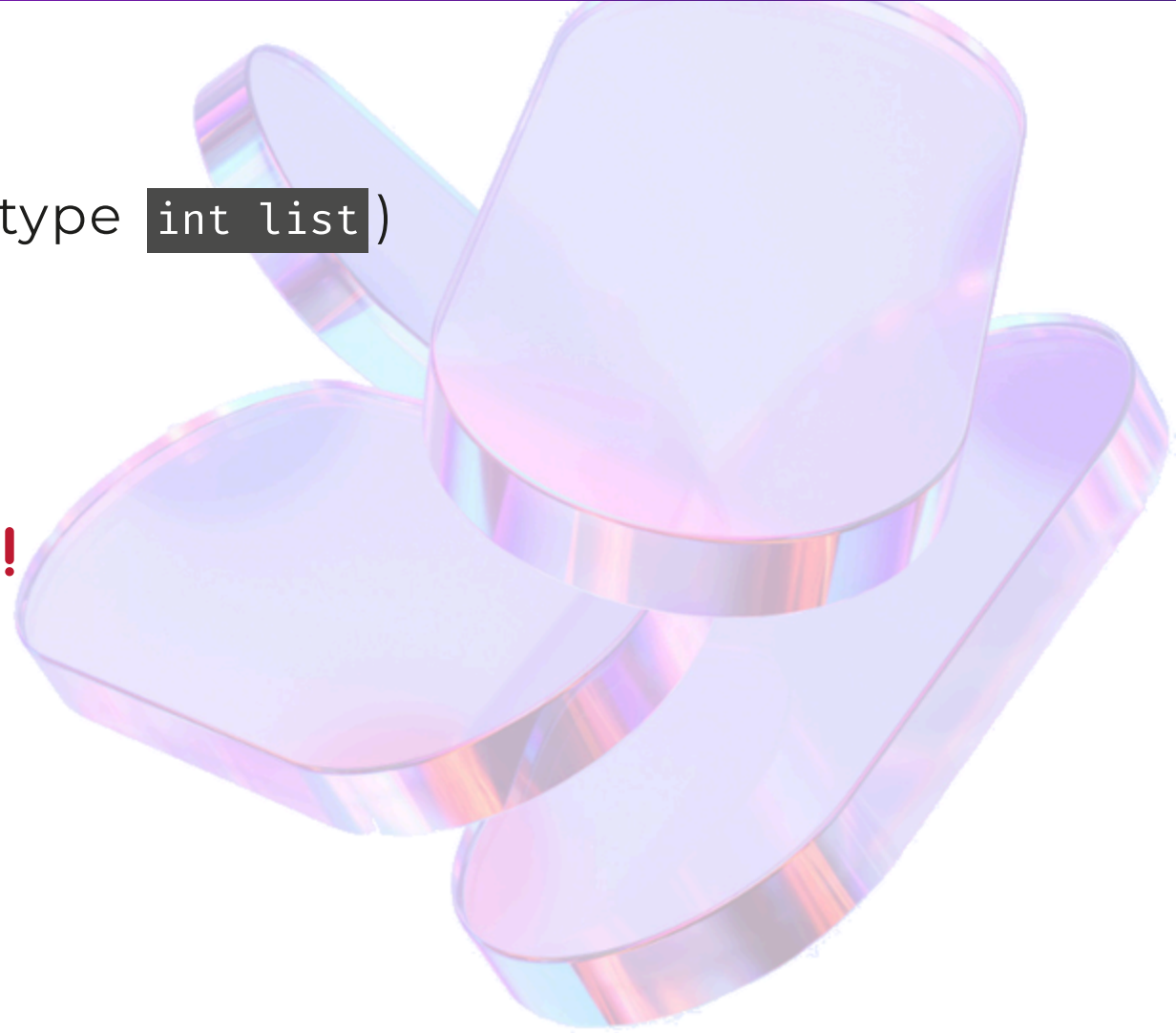
! Syntax trap

Square brackets `[]` are used for:

- *Value*: instance of a list `[1; 2]` (of type `int list`)
- *Type*: array `int []`, e.g. of `[1; 2]`

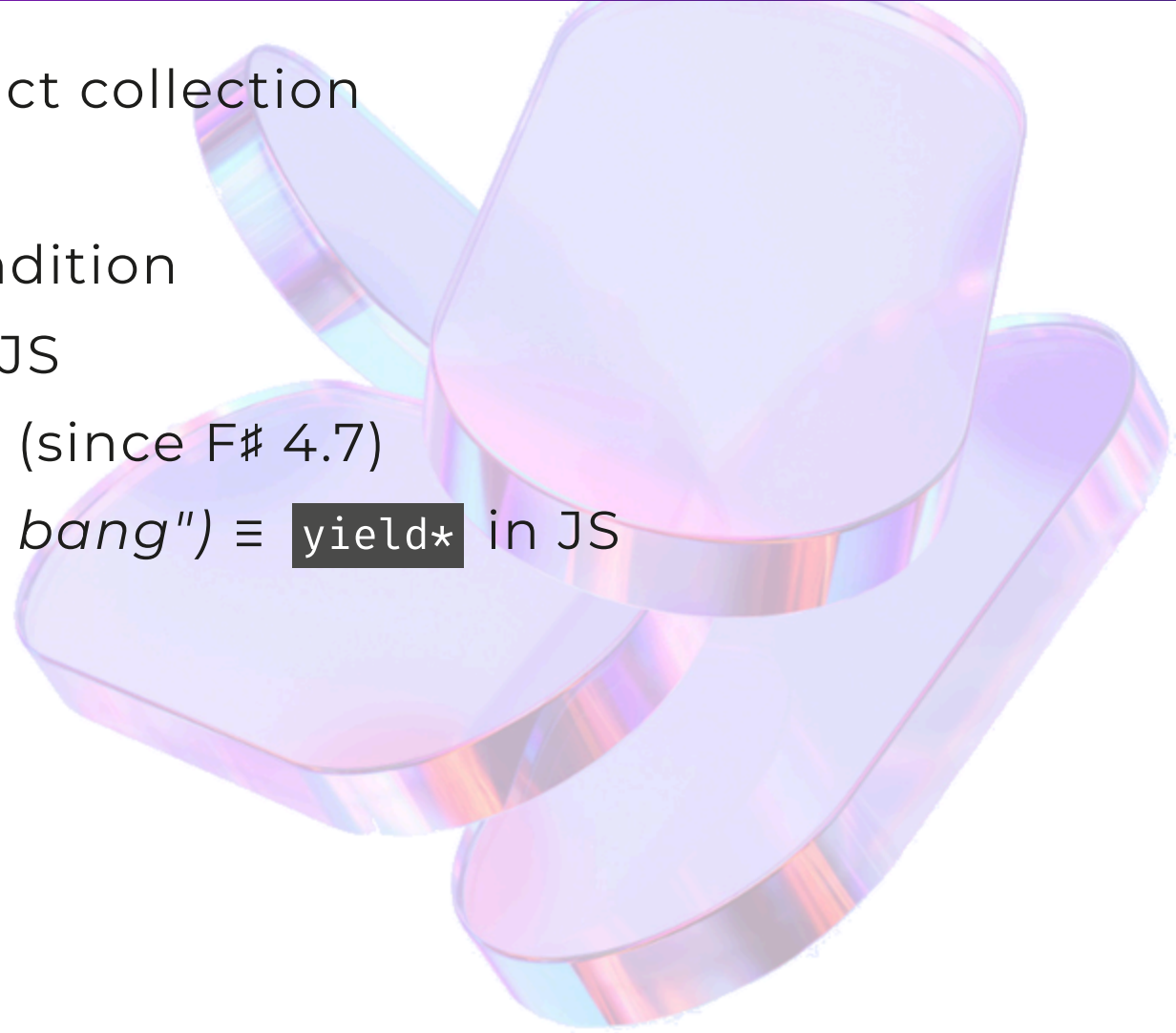
👉 Recommendations

- Distinguish between type vs value !
- Write `int array` rather than `int[]`



Comprehension

- **Purpose:** syntactic sugar to construct collection
 - Handy, succinct, powerful
 - Syntax includes `for` loops, `if` condition
- Same principle as generators in C#, JS
 - `yield` keyword but often **optional** (since F# 4.7)
 - `yield!` keyword (*pronounce "yield bang"*) \equiv `yield*` in JS
 - Works for all collections 👍



Comprehension: examples

```
// Multi-line (recommended)
let squares =
    seq { for i in 1 .. 10 do
        yield i * i // 💡 'yield' can be omitted most of the time 👍
    }

// Single line
let squares = seq { for i in 1 .. 10 → i * i }

// Can contain 'if'
let halfEvens =
    [ for i in [1..10] do
        if (i % 2) = 0 then i / 2 ] // [1; 2; 3; 4; 5]

// Nested 'for'
let pairs =
    [ for i in [1..3] do
        for j in [1..3] do
            i, j ] // [(1, 1); (1, 2); (1, 3); (2, 1); ... (3, 3)]
```

Comprehension: examples (2)

Flattening:

```
// Multiple items
let twoToNine =
    [ for i in [1; 4; 7] do
        if i > 1 then i
        i + 1
        i + 2 ] // [2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9]

// With 'yield!' collections'
let oneToSix =
    [ for i in [1; 3; 5] do
        yield! [i; i+1] ]
```

2. The Types



Type List

Implemented as a **linked list**:

→ 1 list = 1 element (*Head*) + 1 sub-list (*Tail*)

→ Construction using `::` *Cons* operator

To avoid infinite recursion, we need an "exit" case:

→ Empty list named *Empty* and noted `[]`

👉 **Generic and recursive union type:**

```
type List<'T> =  
    | ( [] )  
    | ( :: ) of head: 'T * tail: List<'T>
```

👉 **Note:** this syntax with cases as operator is only allowed in `FSharp.Core`.

List : Type alias

List (*big L*) : reference to the F# type (`List<'t>`) or its companion module.

list (*small l*) : alias of F#'s **List** type, often used with OCaml notation:

→ `let l : string list = ...`

⚠ **Warnings:** After `open System.Collections.Generic`:

→ **List** is the C# mutable list, hiding the F# type!

→ The **List** F# companion module remains available → confusion!

💡 **Tips:** Use the `ResizeArray` alias 📌

List : Immutability

A **List** is **immutable**:

→ It is not possible to modify an existing list.

Adding an element in the list:

= Cheap operation with the *Cons* operator (`::`)

→ Creates a new list with:

- *Head* = given element
- *Tail* = existing list

🏷️ Related concepts:

- linked list
- recursive type



List : Literals

#	Notation	Equivalent	Meaning (*)
0	<code>[]</code>	<code>[]</code>	Empty
1	<code>[1]</code>	<code>1 :: []</code>	Cons (1, Empty)
2	<code>[2; 1]</code>	<code>2 :: 1 :: []</code>	Cons (2, Cons (1, Empty))
3	<code>[3; 2; 1]</code>	<code>3 :: 2 :: 1 :: []</code>	Cons (3, Cons (2, Cons (1, Empty)))

(*) We can verify it with [SharpLab.io](https://sharp.fsharp.org/) :

```
// ...  
v1@2 = FSharpList<int>.Cons(1, FSharpList<int>.Empty);  
v2@3 = FSharpList<int>.Cons(2, FSharpList<int>.Cons(1, FSharpList<int>.Empty));  
// ...
```

List : Initialisation

```
// Range: Start..End (Step=1)
let numFromOneToFive = [1..5]      // [1; 2; 3; 4; 5]

// Range: Start..Step..End
let oddFromOneToNine = [1..2..9]  // [1; 3; 5; 7; 9]

// Comprehension
let pairsWithDistinctItems =
    [ for i in [1..3] do
      for j in [1..3] do
        if i < j then
          i, j ]
// [(1; 2); (1; 3); (2, 1); (2, 3); (3, 1); (3, 2)]
```


List - Exercises 🎮

1. Implement the `rev` function

Inverts a list: `rev [1; 2; 3] ≡ [3; 2; 1]`

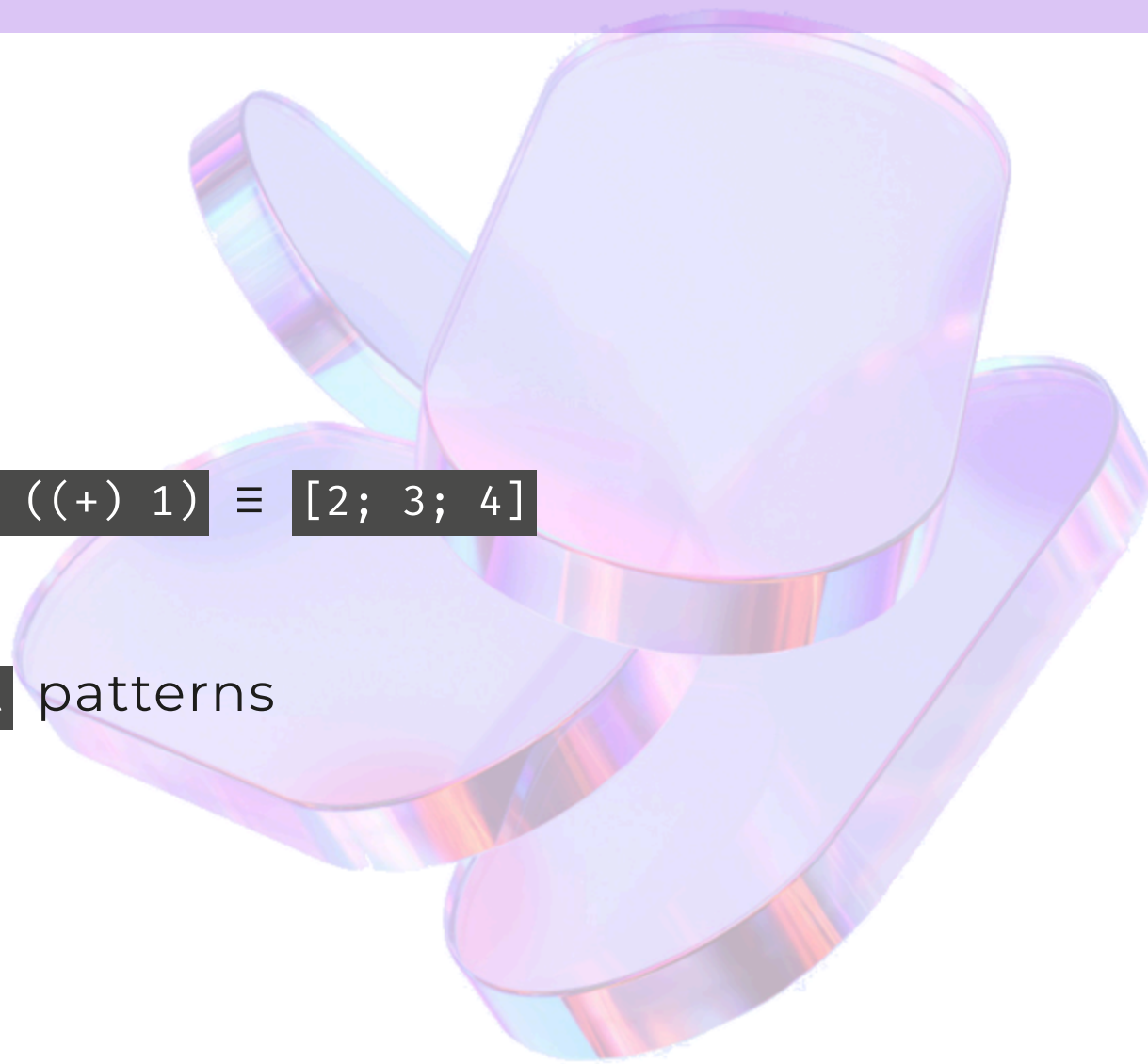
2. Implement the `map` function

Transforms each element: `[1; 2; 3] ▷ map ((+) 1) ≡ [2; 3; 4]`

💡 Hints

- Use empty list `[]` or *Cons* `head :: tail` patterns
- Write a recursive function

🕒 5'





List - Exercises


```
let rev list =  
  let rec loop acc rest =  
    match rest with  
    | [] → acc  
    | x :: xs → loop (x :: acc) xs  
  loop [] list  
  
let map f list =  
  let rec loop acc rest =  
    match rest with  
    | [] → acc  
    | x :: xs → loop (f x :: acc) xs  
  list ▷ loop [] ▷ rev
```


💡 **Bonus:** verify the tail recursion with sharplab.io

List - Exercises

Tests can be done in FSI console:

```
let (==) actual expected =  
  if actual = expected  
  then printfn $" {actual}"  
  else printfn $" {actual}  $\neq$  {expected}"
```

```
[1..3] ▷ rev == [3; 2; 1];;  
//  [3; 2; 1]
```

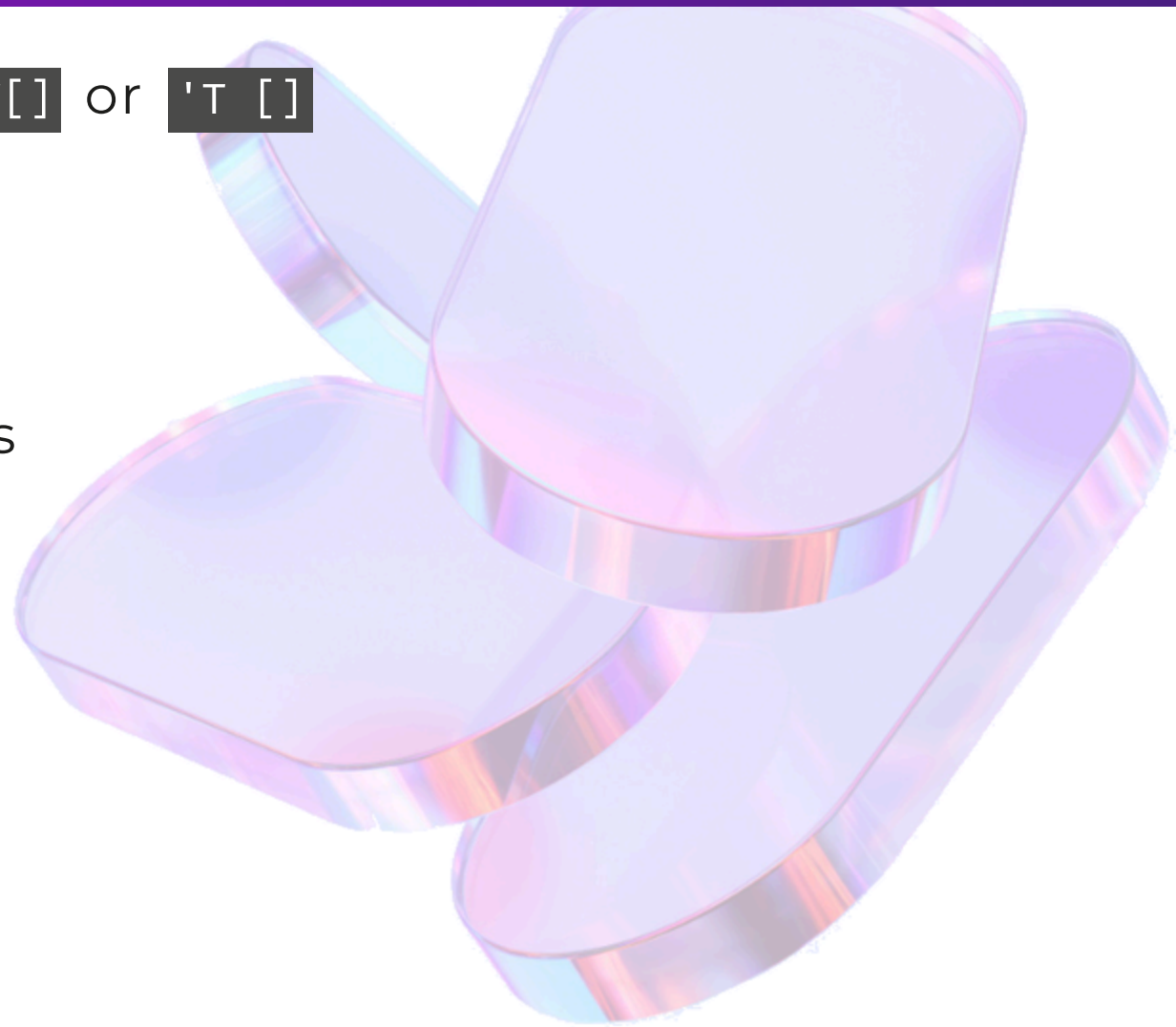
```
[1..3] ▷ map ((+) 1) == [2; 3; 4];;  
//  [2; 3; 4]
```

Type Array

Signature: `'T array` (*recommended*) or `'T[]` or `'T []`

Main differences compared to the `List`:

- Fixed-size
- Fat square brackets `[]` for literals
- Mutable !
- Access by index in $O(1)$ 👍



Array : Syntax

```
// Literal
[ 1; 2; 3; 4; 5 ] // val it : int [] = [1; 2; 3; 4; 5]

// Range
[ 1 .. 5 ] = [ 1; 2; 3; 4; 5 ] // true
[ 1 .. 3 .. 10 ] = [ 1; 4; 7; 10 ] // true

// Comprehension
[ for i in 1 .. 5 → i, i * 2 ]
// [(1, 2); (2, 4); (3, 6); (4, 8); (5, 10)]

// Mutation
let names = [ "Juliet"; "Tony" ]
names[1] ← "Bob"
names;; // [ "Juliet"; "Bob" ]
```

Array : Slicing

Returns a sub-array between the given (start)..**(end)** indices

```
let names = [| "0: Alice"; "1: Jim"; "2: Rachel"; "3: Sophia"; "4: Tony" |]  
  
names[1..3] // [| "1: Jim"; "2: Rachel"; "3: Sophia" |]  
names[2..]  // [| "2: Rachel"; "3: Sophia"; "4: Tony" |]  
names[..3]  // [| "0: Alice"; "1: Jim"; "2: Rachel"; "3: Sophia" |]
```

💡 Works also with **string**: **"012345"[1..3]** \equiv **"123"**

TODO RDE: note / pas confondre avec range - syntaxe similarire

Alias **ResizeArray**

Alias for BCL `System.Collections.Generic.List<T>`

```
let rev items = items ▷ Seq.rev ▷ ResizeArray
let initial = ResizeArray [ 1..5 ]
let reversed = rev initial // ResizeArray [ 5..-1..0 ]
```

Advantages 👍

- No need for `open System.Collections.Generic`
- No name conflicts on `List`

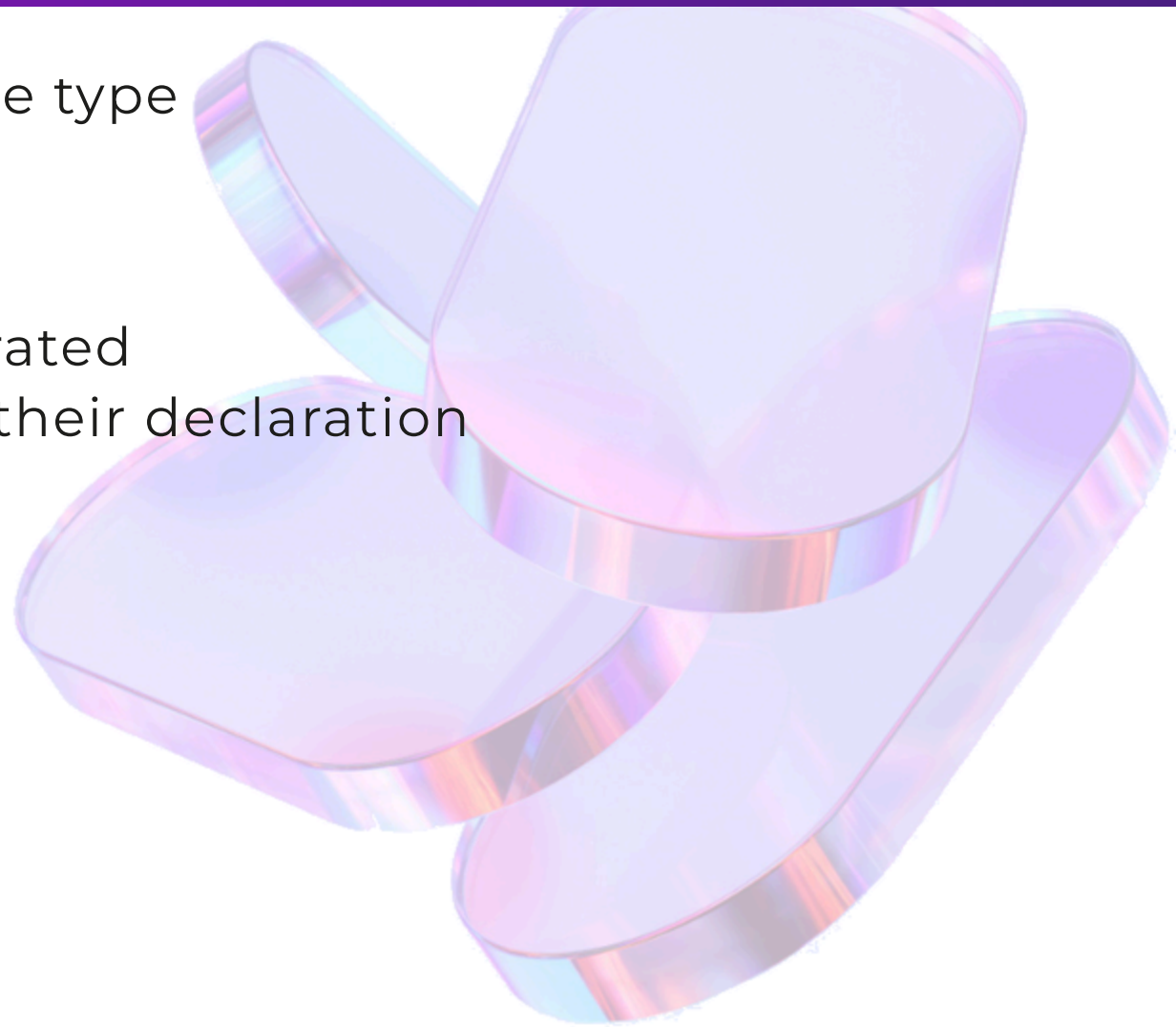
Notes 🙋

- Do not confuse the alias `ResizeArray` with the `Array` F# type.
- `ResizeArray` is in F# a better name for the BCL generic `List<T>`
 - Closer semantically and in usages to an array than a list

Definition: Series of elements of the same type

`'t seq` \equiv `Seq<'T>` \equiv `IEnumerable<'T>`

Lazy: sequence built gradually as it is iterated
≠ All other collections built entirely from their declaration



Seq - Syntax

```
seq { items | range | comprehension }
```

```
seq { yield 1; yield 2 } // 'yield' explicit 😞  
seq { 1; 2; 3; 5; 8; 13 } // 'yield' omitted 👍
```

```
// Range  
seq { 1 .. 10 } // seq [1; 2; 3; 4; ... ]  
seq { 1 .. 2 .. 10 } // seq [1; 3; 5; 7; ... ]
```

```
// Comprehension  
seq { for i in 1 .. 5 do i, i * 2 }  
// seq [(1, 2); (2, 4); (3, 6); (4, 8); ... ]
```

Seq - Infinite sequence

2 options to write an infinite sequence

- Use `Seq.initInfinite` function
- Write a recursive function to generate the sequence

Option 1: `Seq.initInfinite` function

- Signature: `(initializer: (index: int) → 'T) → seq<'T>`
- Parameter: `initializer` is used to create the specified index element (≥ 0)

```
let seqOfSquares = Seq.initInfinite (fun i → i * i)
```

```
seqOfSquares ▷ Seq.take 5 ▷ List.ofSeq;;  
// val it: int list = [0; 1; 4; 9; 16]
```

Seq - Infinite sequence (2)

Option 2: recursive function to generate the sequence

```
[<TailCall>]
let rec private squaresStartingAt n =
    seq {
        yield n * n
        yield! squaresStartingAt (n + 1) // ↺
    }

let squares = squaresStartingAt 0

squares ▷ Seq.take 10 ▷ List.ofSeq;;
// val it: int list = [0; 1; 4; 9; 16; 25; 36; 49; 64; 81]
```

Type Set

- Self-ordering collection of unique elements (*without duplicates*)
- Implemented as a binary tree

```
// Construct
set [ 2; 9; 4; 2 ]           // set [2; 4; 9]  // 🙅 Only one '2' in the set
Set.ofArray [ 1; 3 ]         // set [1; 3]
Set.ofList [ 1; 3 ]          // set [1; 3]
seq { 1; 3 } ▷ Set.ofSeq     // set [1; 3]

// Add/remove element
Set.empty                    // set []
▷ Set.add 2                   // set [2]
▷ Set.remove 9                // set [2]      // 🙅 No exception
▷ Set.add 9                    // set [2; 9]
▷ Set.remove 9                // set [2]
```

Set : Informations

→ `count`, `minElement`, `maxElement`

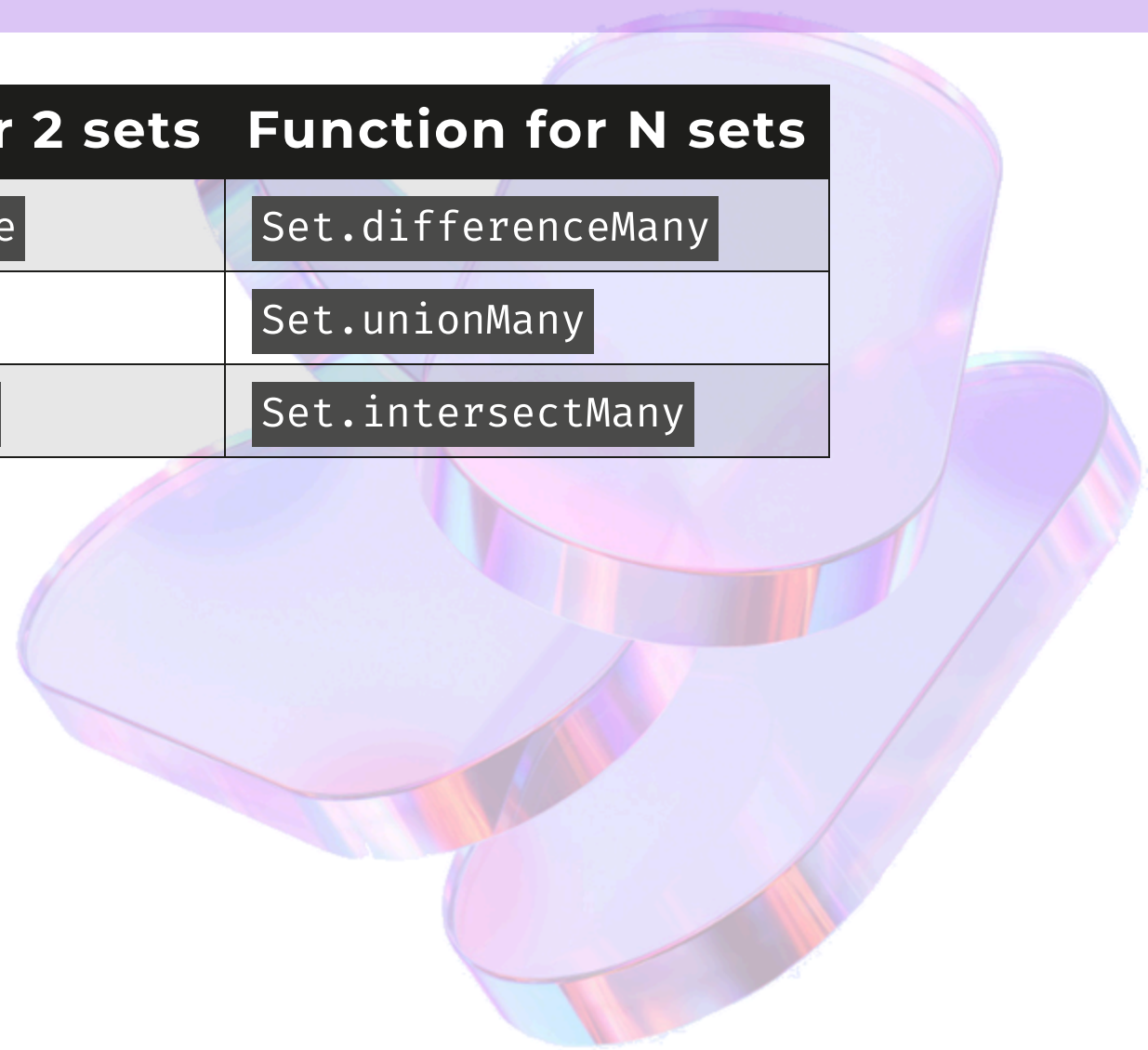
```
let oneToFive = set [1..5]           // set [1; 2; 3; 4; 5]

// Number of elements: `Count` property or `Set.count` function - ⚠ O(N)
// 🖐 Do not confuse with `Xxx.length` for Array, List, Seq
let nb = Set.count oneToFive // 5

// Element min, max
let min = oneToFive ▷ Set.minElement // 1
let max = oneToFive ▷ Set.maxElement // 5
```

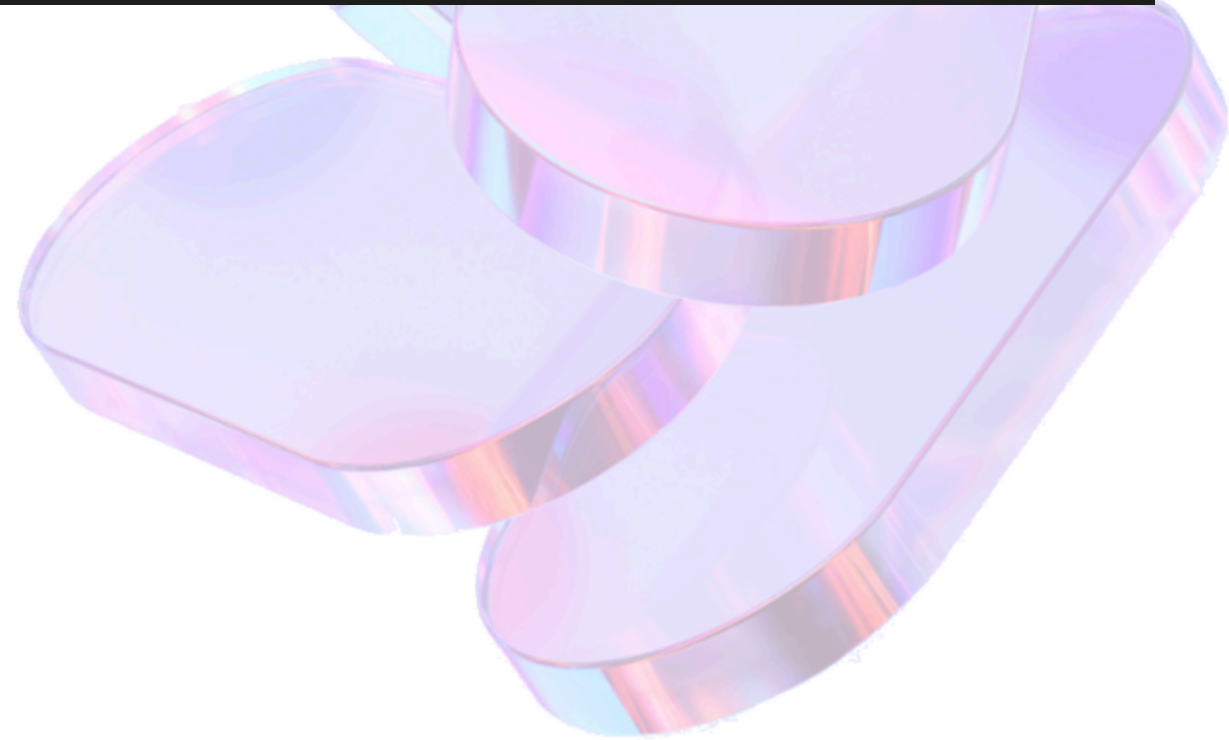
Set : Operations

	Operation	Operator	Function for 2 sets	Function for N sets
\ominus	Difference	-	<code>Set.difference</code>	<code>Set.differenceMany</code>
\cup	Union	+	<code>Set.union</code>	<code>Set.unionMany</code>
\cap	Intersection	\times	<code>Set.intersect</code>	<code>Set.intersectMany</code>



Set : Operations examples

Union	Difference	Intersection
[1 2 3 4 5]	[1 2 3 4 5]	[1 2 3 4 5]
+ [2 4 6]	- [2 4 6]	∩ [2 4 6]
= [1 2 3 4 5 6]	= [1 3 5]	= [2 4]



Associative array { *Key* → *Value* } \simeq C# immutable dictionary

```
// Construct: from collection of (key, val) pairs
// → `Map.ofXxx` function • Xxx = Array, List, Seq
let map1 = seq { (2, "A"); (1, "B") } ▷ Map.ofSeq
// → `Map(tuples)` constructor
let map2 = Map [ (2, "A"); (1, "B"); (3, "C"); (3, "D") ]
// map [(1, "B"); (2, "A"); (3, "D")]
// 🖐 Ordered by key (1, 2, 3) and deduplicated in last win - see '(3, "D")'

// Add/remove entry
Map.empty           // map []
▷ Map.add 2 "A"      // map [(2, "A")]
▷ Map.remove 5       // map [(2, "A")] // 🖐 No exception if key not found
▷ Map.add 9 "B"      // map [(2, "A"); (9, "B")]
▷ Map.remove 2       // map [(9, "B")]
```


Map : Access/Lookup by key

```
let table = Map [ ("A", "Abc"); ("G", "Ghi"); ("Z", "Zzz") ]

// Indexer by key
table["A"];; // val it: string = "Abc"
table["-"];; // KeyNotFoundException

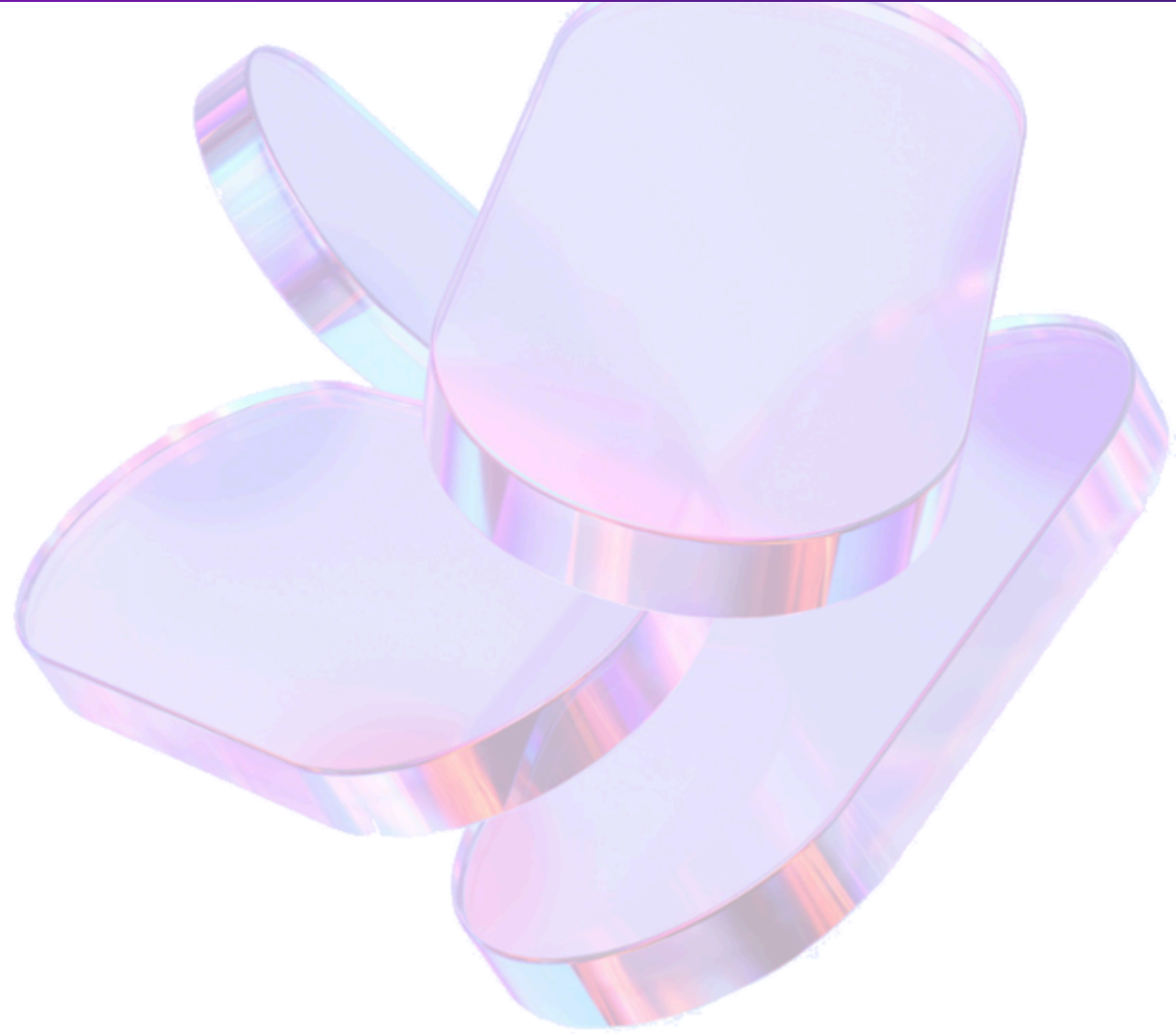
// `Map.find`: return the matching value or if the key is not found
table ▷ Map.find "G";; // val it: string = "Ghi"

// `Map.tryFind`: return the matching value in an option
table ▷ Map.tryFind "Z";; // val it: string option = Some "Zzz"
table ▷ Map.tryFind "-";; // val it: string option = None
```

Dictionaries

→ `dict`

→ `readOnlyDict`



Dictionaries: `dict` function

- Builds an `IDictionary<'k, 'v>` from a sequence of key/value pairs
- The interface is not honest: the dictionary is **immutable** !

```
let table = dict [ (1, 100); (2, 200) ] // System.Collections.Generic.IDictionary<int,int>

table[1];; // val it: int = 100

table[99];; // 🚫 KeyNotFoundException

table[1] ← 111;; // 🚫 NotSupportedException: This value cannot be mutated
table.Add(3, 300);; // 🚫 NotSupportedException: This value cannot be mutated
```

Dictionaries: `readOnlyDict` function

- Builds an `ReadOnlyDictionary<'k, 'v>` from a sequence of key/value pairs
- The interface is honest: the dictionary is **immutable**

```
let table = readOnlyDict [ (1, 100); (2, 200) ]
// val table: System.Collections.Generic.IReadOnlyDictionary<int,int>

table[1];;           // val it: int = 100

table[99];;          // 🚫 KeyNotFoundException

do table[1] ← 111;;
// ~~~~~ 🚫 Error FS0810: Property 'Item' cannot be set

do table.Add(3, 300);;
//      ~~~ 🚫 Error FS0039: The type 'ReadOnlyDictionary<_,_>'
//      does not define the field, constructor or member 'Add'.
```

Dictionaries: recommendation

`dict` returns an object that does not implement fully `IDictionary<'k, 'v>`
→ Violate the Liskov's substitution principle !

`readOnlyDict` returns an object that respects `IRoDictionary<'k, 'v>`

👉 Prefer `readOnlyDict` to `dict` when possible



Dictionaries: **KeyValue** active pattern

Used to deconstruct a **KeyValuePair** dictionary entry to a **(key, value)** pair

```
// FSharp.Core / prim-types.fs#4983
let (|KeyValue|) (kvp: KeyValuePair<'k, 'v>) : 'k * 'v =
    kvp.Key, kvp.Value

let table =
    readOnlyDict
        [ (1, 100)
          (2, 200)
          (3, 300) ]

// Iterate through the dictionary
for kv in table do // kv: KeyValuePair<int,int>
    printfn $"{kv.Key}, {kv.Value}"

// Same with the active pattern
for KeyValue (key, value) in table do
    printfn $"{key}, {value}"
```

Lookup performance

🔗 *High Performance Collections in F#* • <https://kutt.it/dxDOi7> • Jan 2021

Dictionary VS Map

`readOnlyDict` creates **high-performance** dictionaries
→ 10x faster than `Map` for lookups

Dictionary VS Array

~ Rough heuristics

- The `Array` type is OK for few lookups (< 100) and few elements (< 100)
- Use a `Dictionary` otherwise



Map and Set vs IComparable

Only work if elements (of a `Set`) or keys (of a `Map`) are **comparable**!

Examples:

```
// Classes are not comparable by default, so you cannot use them in a set or a map
type NameClass(name: string) =
    member val Value = name

let namesClass = set [NameClass("Alice"); NameClass("Bob")]
// ~~~~~
// ✨ Error FS0193: The type 'NameClass' does not support the 'comparison' constraint.
// For example, it does not support the 'System.IComparable' interface
```


Map and Set : IComparable types

F# functional type: tuple, record, union

```
// Example: single-case union
type Name = Name of string

let names = set [Name "Alice"; Name "Bob"]
```

Structs:

```
[<Struct>]
type NameStruct(name: string) =
    member this.Name = name

let namesStruct = set [NameStruct("Alice"); NameStruct("Bob")]
```

Classes implementing IComparable ... *but not* IComparable<'T> 🧑

3. Common functions

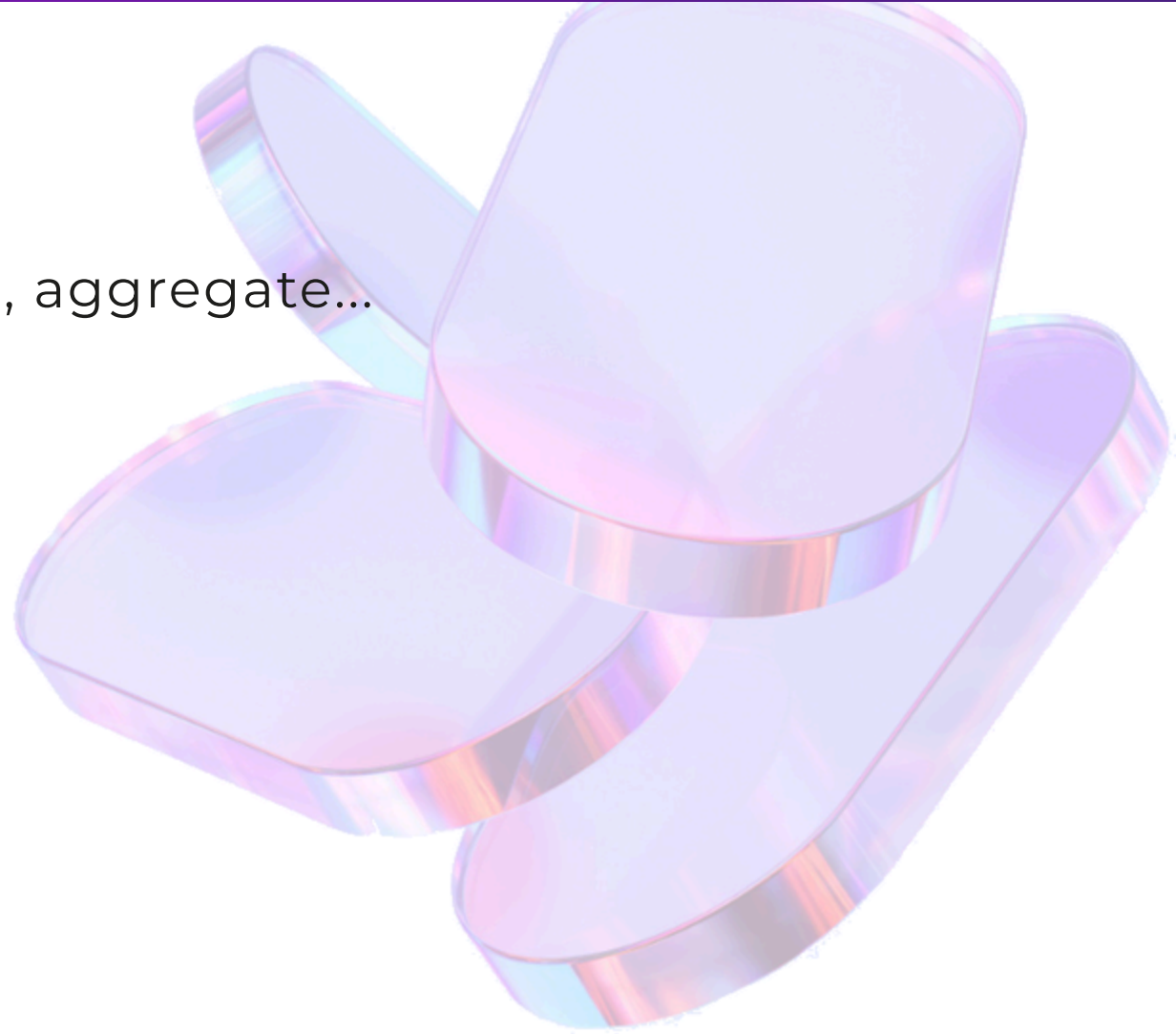


Common functions

Functions available in different modules

→ Customized for the target type

Operations: access, construct, find, select, aggregate...

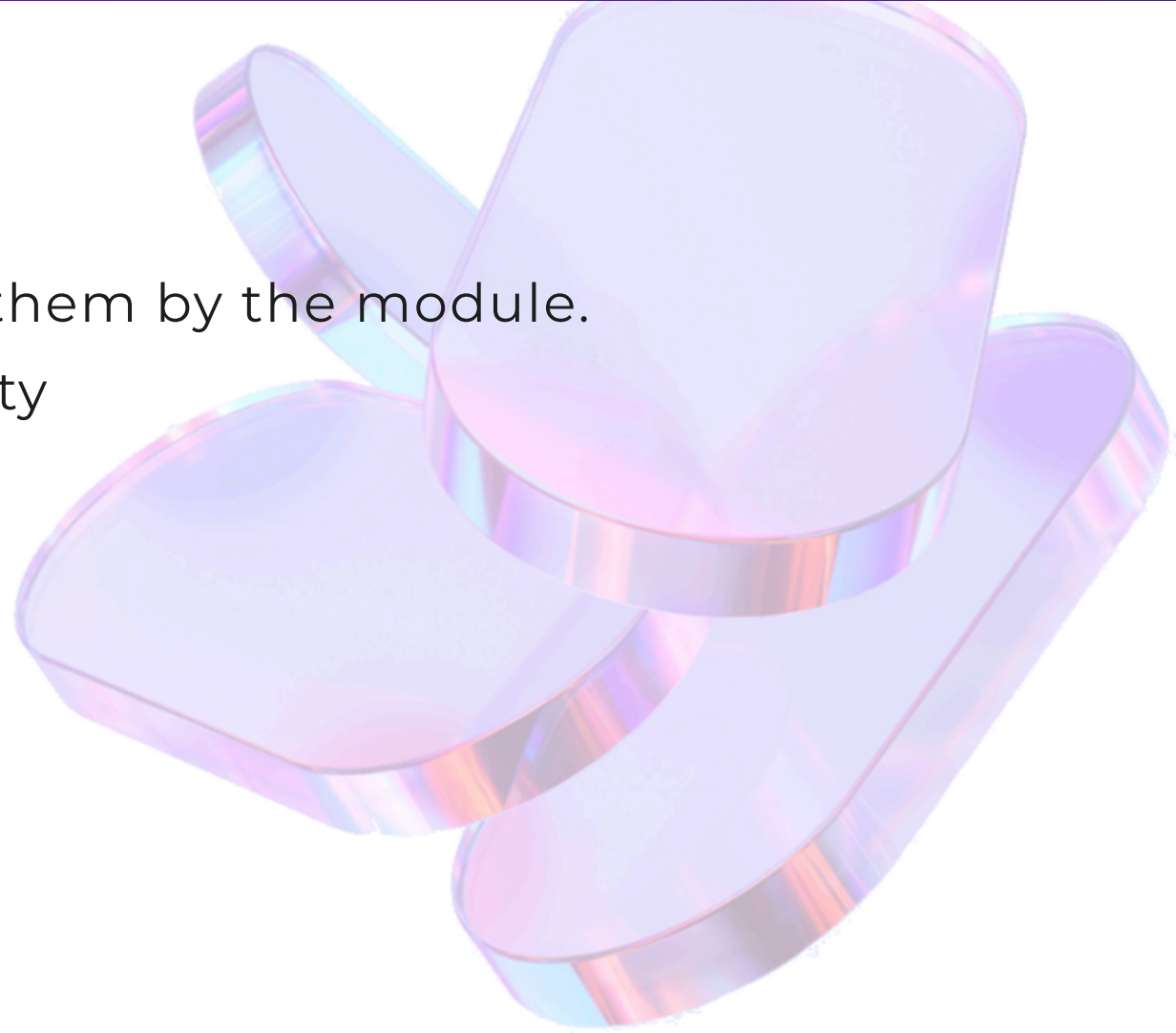


Convention


👉 **Convention** used here:

1. Functions are given by their name
 - To use them, we need to qualify them by the module.
2. The last parameter is omitted for brevity
 - It's always the collection.

Example: `head` vs `List.head list`



Access to an element

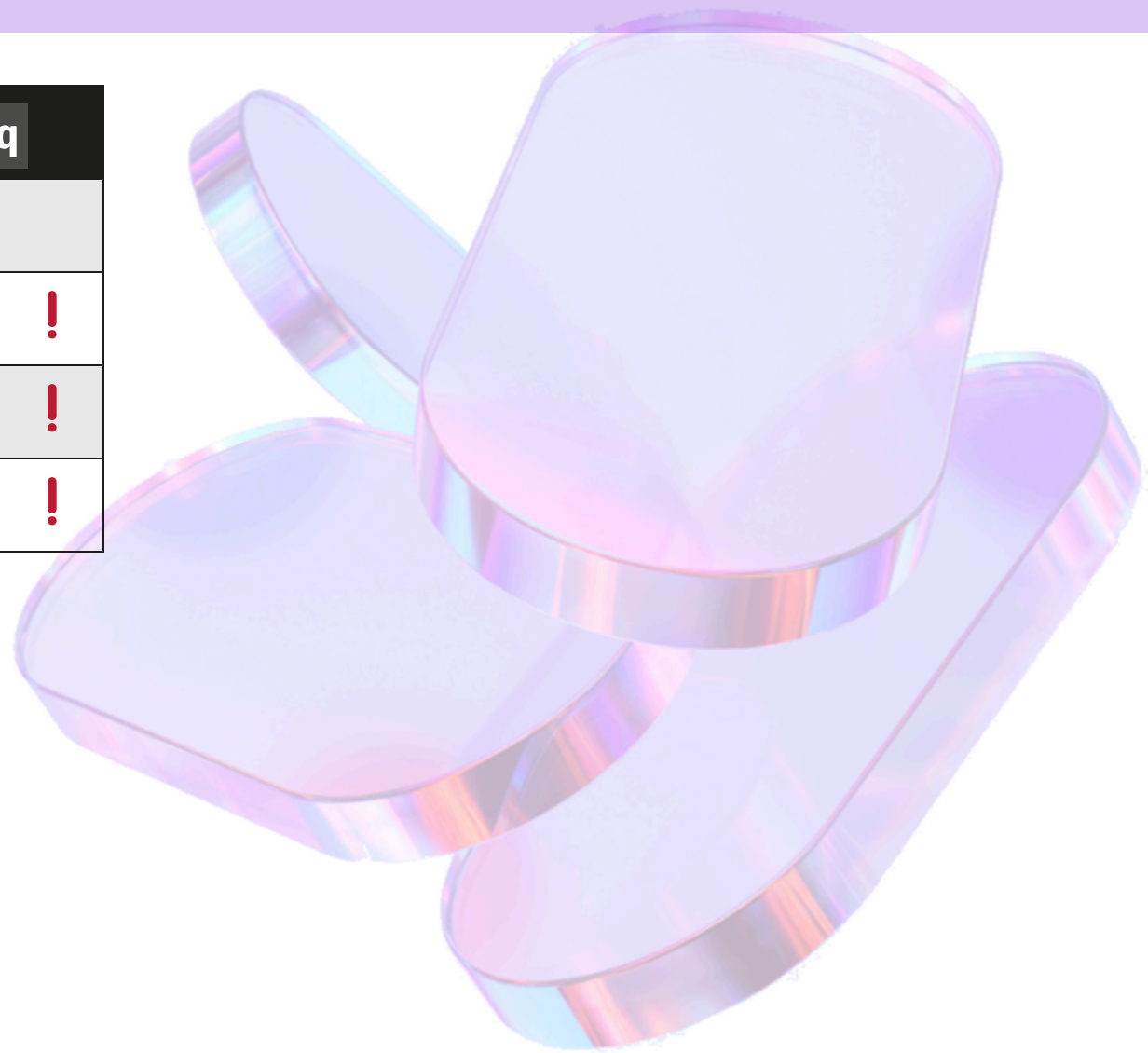
↓ Access \ Returns →	'T or 	'T option
By index	<code>x[index]</code>	
By index	<code>item index</code>	<code>tryItem index</code>
First element	<code>head</code>	<code>tryHead</code>
Last element	<code>last</code>	<code>tryLast</code>

 `ArgumentException` or `IndexOutOfRangeException`

```
[1; 2] ▷ List.tryHead    // Some 1  
[1; 2] ▷ List.tryItem 2  // None
```

Access to an element : Cost ⚠

Function \ Module	Array	List	Seq
head	$O(1)$	$O(1)$	$O(1)$
item	$O(1)$	$O(n)$!	$O(n)$!
last	$O(1)$	$O(n)$!	$O(n)$!
length	$O(1)$	$O(n)$!	$O(n)$!



Combine collections

Function	Parameters	Final size
<code>append</code> / <code>@</code>	2 collections of sizes N1 et N2	$N1 + N2$
<code>concat</code>	K collections of sizes N1..Nk	$N1 + N2 + \dots + Nk$
<code>zip</code>	2 collections of same size N !	N pairs
<code>allPairs</code>	2 collections of sizes N1 et N2	$N1 * N2$ pairs


```
List.concat [ [1]; [2; 3] ];; // [1; 2; 3]
List.append [1;2;3] [4;5;6];; // [1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6]

// @ operator: alias of `List.append` only • not working with Array, Seq
[1;2;3] @ [4;5;6];; // [1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6]

List.zip [1; 2] ['a'; 'b'];; // [(1, 'a'); (2, 'b')]
List.allPairs [1; 2] ['a'; 'b'];; // [(1, 'a'); (1, 'b'); (2, 'a'); (2, 'b')]
```

Find an element

Using a predicate `f : 'T → bool`:

Which element \ Returns	'T or 	'T option
First found	<code>find</code>	<code>tryFind</code>
Last found	<code>findBack</code>	<code>tryFindBack</code>
Index of first found	<code>findIndex</code>	<code>tryFindIndex</code>
Index of last found	<code>findIndexBack</code>	<code>tryFindIndexBack</code>

```
[1; 2] ▷ List.find (fun x → x < 2) // 1
[1; 2] ▷ List.tryFind (fun x → x ≥ 2) // Some 2
[1; 2] ▷ List.tryFind (fun x → x > 2) // None
```


Search elements

Search	How many items	Function
By value	At least 1	<code>contains value</code>
By predicate <code>f</code>	At least 1	<code>exists f</code>
"	All	<code>forall f</code>

```
[1; 2] ▷ List.contains 0 // false
[1; 2] ▷ List.contains 1 // true
[1; 2] ▷ List.exists (fun x → x ≥ 2) // true
[1; 2] ▷ List.forall (fun x → x ≥ 2) // false
```

Select elements

What elements	By size	By predicate <code>f</code>
All those found		<code>filter f</code>
First ignored	<code>skip n</code>	<code>skipWhile f</code>
First found	<code>take n</code>	<code>takeWhile f</code>
	<code>truncate n</code>	

👉 Notes:

- `skip`, `take` vs `truncate` when `n` > collection's size
 - `skip`, `take`: 💣 exception
 - `truncate`: empty collections w/o exception
- Alternative for `Array`: `Range` `arr[2..5]`



Map elements

Functions taking as input:

→ A mapping function `f` (a.k.a. *mapper*)

→ A collection of type `~~~~ 'T`, `~~~~` meaning `Array`, `List`, or `Seq`

Function	Mapping <code>f</code>	Returns	How many elements?
<code>map</code>	<code>'T → 'U</code>	<code>'U ~~~~</code>	As many in than out
<code>mapI</code>	<code>int → 'T → 'U</code>	<code>'U ~~~~</code>	As many in than out
<code>collect</code>	<code>'T → 'U ~~~~</code>	<code>'U ~~~~</code>	<i>flatMap</i>
<code>choose</code>	<code>'T → 'U option</code>	<code>'U ~~~~</code>	Less
<code>pick</code>	<code>'T → 'U option</code>	<code>'U</code>	1 (the first matching) or 💣
<code>tryPick</code>	<code>'T → 'U option</code>	<code>'U option</code>	1 (the first matching)

map vs mapi

`mapi` \equiv `map` *with index*

The difference is on the `f` mapping parameter:

- `map`: `'T → 'U`
- `mapi`: `int → 'T → 'U` → the additional `int` parameter is the item index

```
["A"; "B"]  
▷ List.mapi (fun i x → $"{i+1}. {x}")  
// ["1. A"; "2. B"]
```

Alternative to `mapi`

Apart from `map` and `iter`, no `xxx` function has a `xxxi` variant.

💡 Use `indexed` to obtain elements with their index

```
let isOk (i, x) = i ≥ 1 && x ≤ "C"

["A"; "B"; "C"; "D"]
▷ List.indexed      // [ (0, "A"); (1, "B"); (2, "C"); (3, "D") ]
▷ List.filter isOk  //           [ (1, "B"); (2, "C") ]
▷ List.map snd      //           [ "B" ; "C" ]
```

map VS iter

`iter` looks like `map` with

- no mapping: `'T → unit` vs `'T → 'U`
- no output: `unit` vs `'U list`

But `iter` is in fact used for a different use case:

→ to trigger an action, a side-effect, for each item

Example: print the item to the console

```
["A"; "B"; "C"] ▷ List.iteri (fun i x → printfn $"Item #{i}: {x}")  
// Item #0: A  
// Item #1: B  
// Item #2: C
```

choose, pick, tryPick

Signatures:

- `choose : mapper: ('T → 'U option) → items: 'T ~~~~ → 'U ~~~~`
- `pick : mapper: ('T → 'U option) → items: 'T ~~~~ → 'U`
- `tryPick : mapper: ('T → 'U option) → items: 'T ~~~~ → 'U option`

The mapping may return `None` for some items not mappable (or just ignored)

Different use cases:

- `choose` to get all the mappable items mapped
- `pick` or `tryPick` to get the first one

When no items are mappable:

- `choose` returns an empty collection
- `tryPick` returns `None`
- `pick` raises a `KeyNotFoundException` 💣

choose, pick, tryPick - Examples

```
let tryParseInt (s: string) =  
    match System.Int32.TryParse(s) with  
    | true, i → Some i  
    | false, _ → None  
  
["1"; "2"; "?"] ▷ List.choose tryParseInt // [1; 2]  
["1"; "2"; "?"] ▷ List.pick tryParseInt // 1  
["1"; "2"; "?"] ▷ List.tryPick tryParseInt // Some 1
```

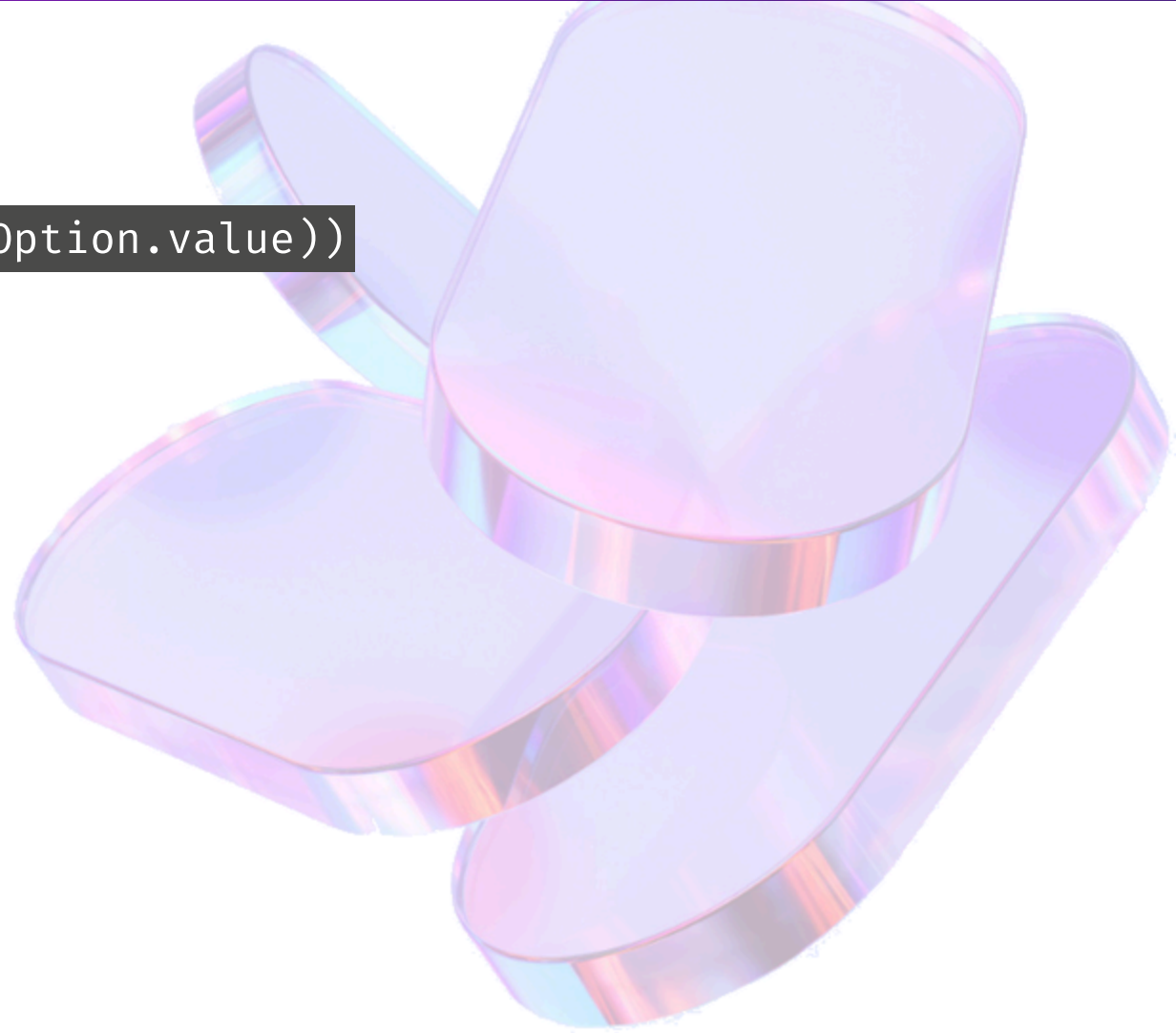

Analogies

`choose f` \approx

- `collect (f >> Option.to{Collection})`
- `(filter (f >> Option.isSome)) >> (map (f >> Option.value))`

`(try)pick f` \approx

- `(try)find(f >> Option.isSome)) >> f`
- `choose f >> (try)head`

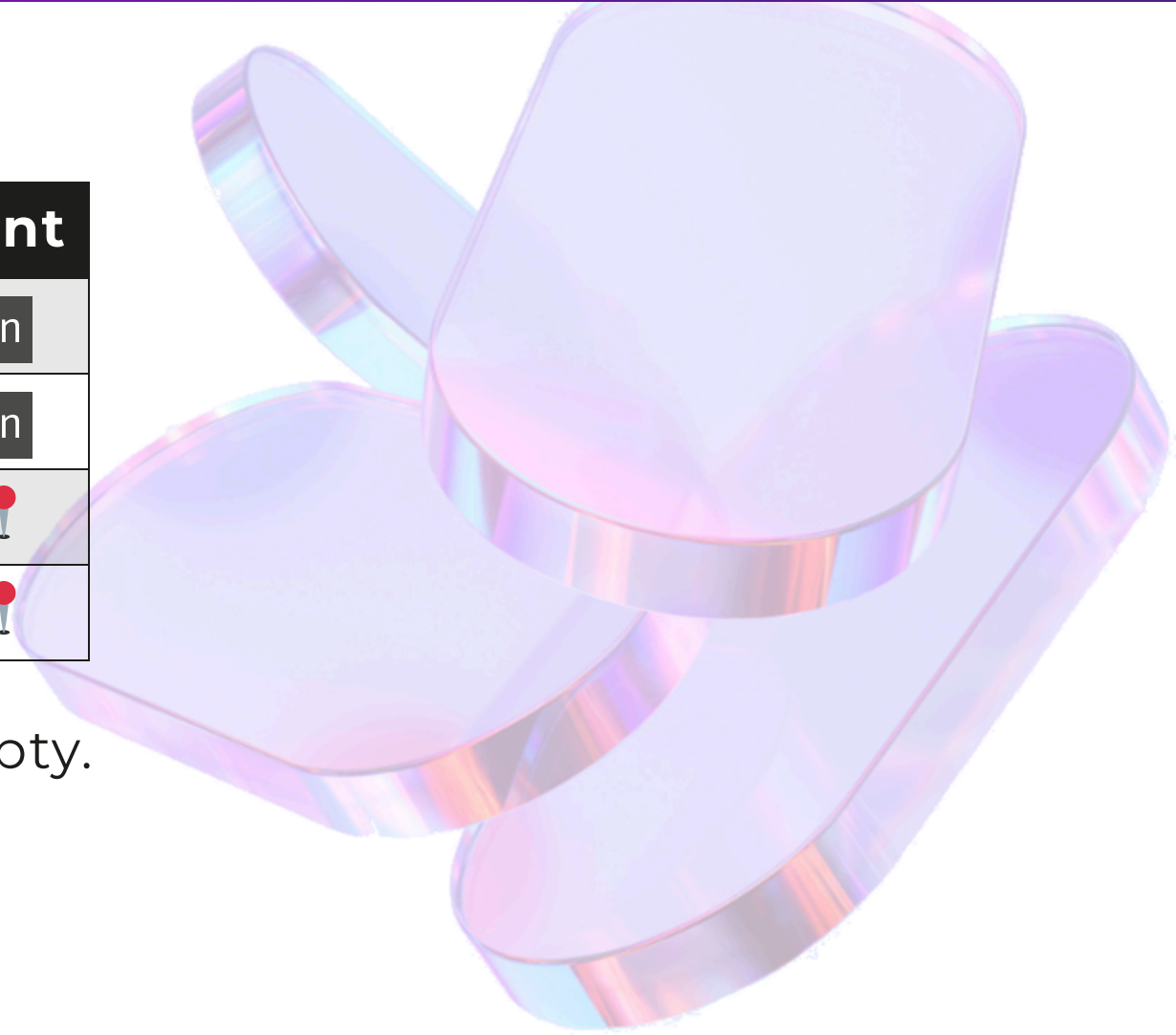


Aggregate : specialized functions

Given a projection `f: 'T → 'U`

Direct	Projection	Mapping	Constraint
<code>max</code>	<code>maxBy f</code>	✗ No	<code>comparison</code>
<code>min</code>	<code>minBy f</code>	✗ No	<code>comparison</code>
<code>sum</code>	<code>sumBy f</code>	✓ Yes	Monoid ⓘ
<code>average</code>	<code>averageBy f</code>	✓ Yes	Monoid ⓘ

💣 `ArgumentException` if the collection is empty.



Aggregate : `max(By)` examples

```
type N = One | Two | Three | Four | Five

let max = List.max [ One; Two; Three; Four; Five ]
// val max: N = Five

let maxText = List.maxBy string [ One; Two; Three; Four; Five ]
// val maxText: N = Two
```

👉 Notes:

- `comparison` constraint followed by `N`: unions are `Comparable` by default
- `maxBy` performs no mapping: see the returned value: `Two`, \neq `"Two"`
- Same for `min` and `minBy`

Aggregate : `sum(By)` examples

```
let sumKO = List.sum [ (1,"a"); (2,"b"); (3,"c") ]  
// ~~~~~ ✨ Error FS0001  
// Expecting a type supporting the operator 'get_Zero' but given a tuple type  
  
let sum = List.sumBy fst [ (1,"a"); (2,"b"); (3,"c") ]  
// val sum: int = 6
```

👉 Notes:

- The *Monoid* constraint is revealed with the error `FS0001`
- Items type must have: `Zero` static prop, overload of the `+` operator
- `sumBy` performs a mapping: see the returned type: `int`, \neq `int * string`
- Same for `average` and `averageBy`

Monoidal custom type example

```
type Point = Point of X:int * Y:int with
    static member Zero = Point (0, 0)
    static member (+) (Point (ax, ay), Point (bx, by)) = Point (ax + bx, ay + by)

let addition = (Point (1, 1)) + (Point (2, 2))
// val addition : Point = Point (3, 3)

let sum = [1..3] ▷ List.sumBy (fun i → Point (i, -i))
// val sum : Point = Point (6, -6)
```

Aggregate : **countBy**

Uses a projection `f: 'T → 'U` to compute a "key" for each item
Returns all the keys with the number of items having this key

```
let words = [ "hello"; "world"; "fsharp"; "is"; "awesome" ]  
let wordCountByLength = words ▷ List.countBy String.length ▷ List.sortBy fst  
//val wordCountByLength: (int * int) list = [(2, 1); (5, 2); (6, 1); (7, 1)]
```

💡 Useful to determine duplicates:

```
let findDuplicates items =  
    items  
    ▷ List.countBy id  
    ▷ List.choose (fun (item, count) → if count > 1 then Some item else None)  
  
let t = findDuplicates [1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 1; 2; 3]  
// val t: int list = [1; 2; 3]
```

Aggregate : versatile functions

- `fold` $(f: 'U \rightarrow 'T \rightarrow 'U) (seed: 'U) items$
- `foldBack` $(f: 'T \rightarrow 'U \rightarrow 'U) items (seed: 'U)$
- `reduce` $(f: 'T \rightarrow 'T \rightarrow 'T) items$
- `reduceBack` $(f: 'T \rightarrow 'T \rightarrow 'T) items$

folder `f` takes 2 parameters: an "accumulator" `acc` and the current element `x`

`xxxBack` vs `xxx`:

- Iterates from last to first element
- Parameters `seed` and `items` reversed (for `foldBack`)
- Folder `f` parameters reversed (`x acc`)

`reduceXxx` vs `foldXxx`:

- `reduceXxx` uses the first item as the *seed* and performs no mapping ($'T \rightarrow 'T$)
- `reduceXxx` fails if the collection is empty 💣

Aggregate : versatile functions (2)

Examples:

```
["a";"b";"c"] ▷ List.reduce (+) // "abc"
[ 1; 2; 3 ] ▷ List.reduce ( * ) // 6

[1;2;3;4] ▷ List.reduce      (fun acc x → 10 * acc + x) // 1234
[1;2;3;4] ▷ List.reduceBack (fun x acc → 10 * acc + x) // 4321

("all:", [1;2;3;4]) |▷ List.fold      (fun acc x → $"{acc}{x}") // "all:1234"
([1;2;3;4], "rev:") |▷ List.foldBack (fun x acc → $"{acc}{x}") // "rev:4321"
```


Aggregate : **fold(Back)** versatility

We could write almost all functions with **fold** or **foldBack** (*performance aside*)

```
// collect function using fold
let collect f list = List.fold (fun acc x → acc @ f x) [] list

let test1 = [1; 2; 3] ▷ collect (fun x → [x; x]) // [1; 1; 2; 2; 3; 3]

// filter function using foldBack
let filter f list = List.foldBack (fun x acc → if f x then x :: acc else acc) list []

let test2 = [1; 2; 3; 4; 5] ▷ filter ((=) 2) // [2]

// map function using foldBack
let map f list = List.foldBack (fun x acc → f x :: acc) list []

let test3 = [1; 2; 3; 4; 5] ▷ map (~) // [-1; -2; -3; -4; -5]
```

Change the order of elements

Operation	Direct	Mapping
Inversion	<code>rev list</code>	×
Sort asc	<code>sort list</code>	<code>sortBy f list</code>
Sort desc	<code>sortDescending list</code>	<code>sortDescendingBy f list</code>
Sort custom	<code>sortWith comparer list</code>	×

```
[1..5] ▷ List.rev // [5; 4; 3; 2; 1]
[2; 4; 1; 3; 5] ▷ List.sort // [1..5]
["b1"; "c3"; "a2"] ▷ List.sortBy (fun x → x[0]) // ["a2"; "b1"; "c3"] because a < b < c
["b1"; "c3"; "a2"] ▷ List.sortBy (fun x → x[1]) // ["b1"; "a2"; "c3"] because 1 < 2 < 3
```

Separate

💡 Elements are divided into groups.

Operation	Result (<code>; omitted</code>)	Remark
<code>[1..10]</code>	<code>[1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10]</code>	<code>length = 10</code>
<code>chunkBySize 3</code>	<code>[[1 2 3] [4 5 6] [7 8 9] [10]]</code>	<code>forall: length ≤ 3</code>
<code>splitInto 3</code>	<code>[[1 2 3 4] [5 6 7] [8 9 10]]</code>	<code>length ≤ 3</code>
<code>splitAt 3</code>	<code>([1 2 3],[4 5 6 7 8 9 10])</code>	Tuple !

Group items - By size

💡 Items can be **duplicated** into different groups.

Operation	Result (' and ; omitted)	Remark
[1..5]	[1 2 3 4 5]	
pairwise	[(1,2) (2,3) (3,4) (4,5)]	Tuple !
windowed 2	[[1 2] [2 3] [3 4] [4 5]]	Array of arrays of 2 items
windowed 3	[[1 2 3] [2 3 4] [3 4 5]]	Array of arrays of 3 items

Group items - By criteria

Operation	Criteria	Result
<code>partition</code>	<code>predicate: 'T → bool</code>	<code>('T list * 'T list)</code>
		→ 1 pair <code>([OKs], [KOs])</code>
<code>groupBy</code>	<code>projection: 'T → 'K</code>	<code>('K * 'T list) list</code>
		→ N tuples <code>[(key, [related items])]</code>

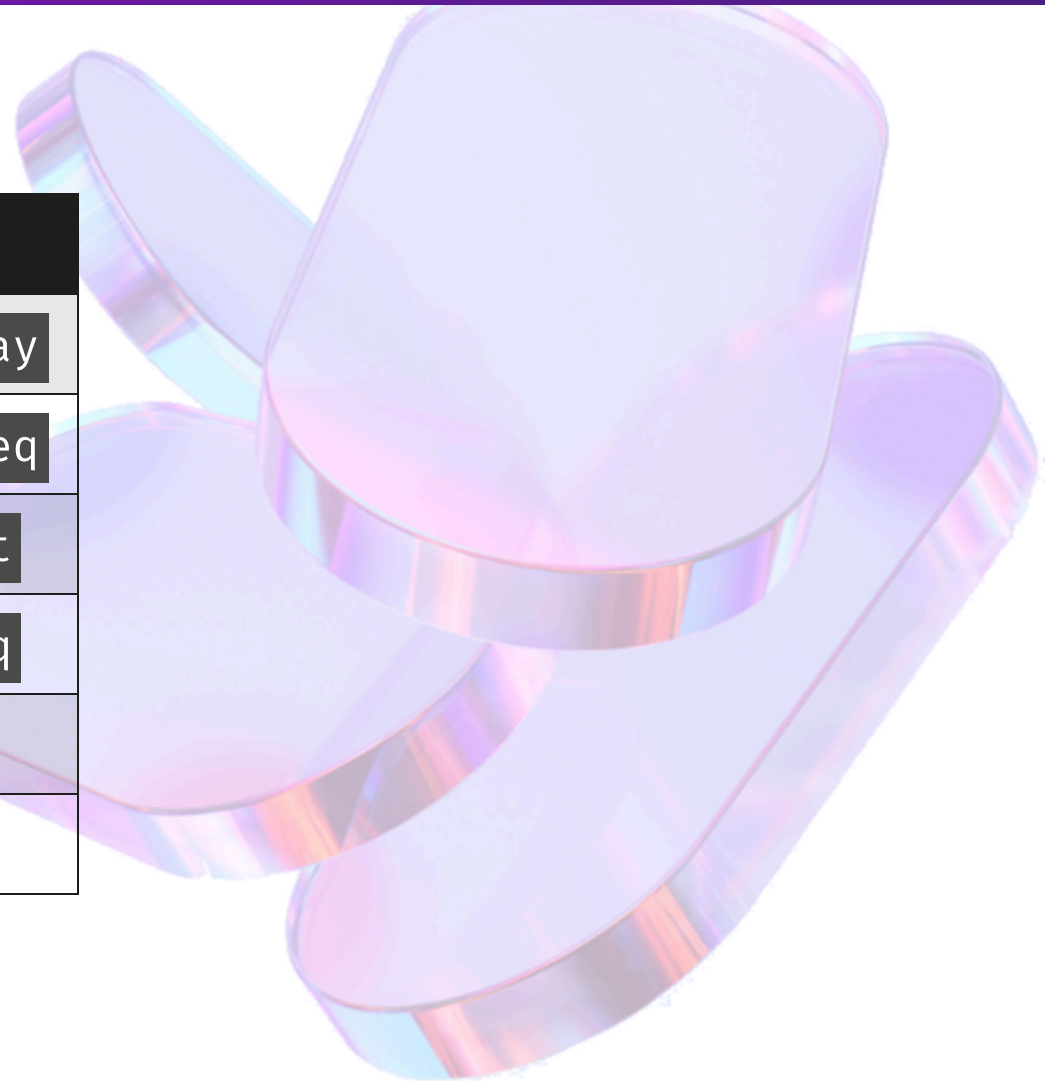
```
let isOdd i = (i % 2 = 1)
[1..10] ▷ List.partition isOdd // ( [1; 3; 5; 7; 9] , [2; 4; 6; 8; 10] )
[1..10] ▷ List.groupBy isOdd // [ (true, [1; 3; 5; 7; 9]); (false, [2; 4; 6; 8; 10]) ]

let firstLetter (s: string) = s.[0]
["apple"; "alice"; "bob"; "carrot"] ▷ List.groupBy firstLetter
// [('a', ["apple"; "alice"]); ('b', ["bob"]); ('c', ["carrot"])]
```

Change collection type

Your choice: `Dest.ofSource` or `Source.toDest`

From \ to	Array	List	Seq
Array	×	<code>List.ofArray</code>	<code>Seq.ofArray</code>
	×	<code>Array.toList</code>	<code>Array.toSeq</code>
List	<code>Array.ofList</code>	×	<code>Seq.ofList</code>
	<code>List.toArray</code>	×	<code>List.toSeq</code>
Seq	<code>Array.ofSeq</code>	<code>List.ofSeq</code>	×
	<code>Seq.toArray</code>	<code>Seq.toList</code>	×



Functions vs comprehension

The functions of `List`/`Array`/`Seq` can often be replaced by a comprehension, more versatile:

```
let list = [ 0..99 ]
```

<code>list ▷ List.map f</code>	<code>↔</code>	<code>[for x in list do f x]</code>
<code>list ▷ List.filter p</code>	<code>↔</code>	<code>[for x in list do if p x then x]</code>
<code>list ▷ List.filter p ▷ List.map f</code>	<code>↔</code>	<code>[for x in list do if p x then f x]</code>
<code>list ▷ List.collect g</code>	<code>↔</code>	<code>[for x in list do yield! g x]</code>

4. Dedicated functions



List module

Cons `1 :: [2; 3]`

- Item added to top of list
- List appears in reverse order 😞
- But operation efficient: in **$O(1)$** (*Tail preserved*) 👍

Append `[1] @ [2; 3]`

- List in normal order
- But operation in **$O(n)$** ! (New *Tail* at each iteration)



Map module

Map.add key value

- **Safe add:** replace existing value of existing key
- Parameters `key value` curried, not a pair `(key, value)`

Map.remove key

- **Safe remove:** just return the given `Map` if key not found

```
let input = Map [ (1, "a"); (2, "b") ]
```

input

```
▷ Map.add 3 "c" // map [(1, "a"); (2, "b"); (3, "c")]  
▷ Map.add 1 "a" // map [(1, "a"); (2, "b"); (3, "c")]  
▷ Map.remove 2 // map [(1, "a"); (3, "c")]
```

Map.change

`Map.change key (f: 'T option → 'T option)`

- All-in-one function to add, modify or remove the element of a given key
- Depends on the `f` function passed as an argument

Key	Input	<code>f</code> returns <code>None</code>	<code>f</code> returns <code>Some newVal</code>
-	-	≡ <code>Map.remove key</code>	≡ <code>Map.add key newVal</code>
Found	<code>Some value</code>	Remove the entry	Change the value to <i>newVal</i>
Not found	<code>None</code>	Ignore this key	Add the item (<i>key, newVal</i>)

Map.change example

Lexicon: Build a Map to classify words by their first letter capitalized

```
let firstLetter (word: string) = System.Char.ToUpperInvariant(word[0])

let classifyWordsByLetter words =
    (Map.empty, words)
    |> Seq.fold (fun map word →
        map |> Map.change (word |> firstLetter) (fun wordsWithThisLetter →
            wordsWithThisLetter
            |> Option.defaultValue Set.empty
            |> Set.add word
            |> Some)
        )

let t = classifyWordsByLetter ["apple"; "blueberry"; "banana"; "apricot"; "cherry"; "avocado"]
// map [ 'A', set ["apple"; "apricot"; "avocado"]
//       'B', set ["banana"; "blueberry"]
//       'C', set ["cherry"] ]
```

Map.change example (2)

Lexicon → *Better implementation*

```
let firstLetter (word: string) = System.Char.ToUpperInvariant(word[0])

let classifyWordsByLetter words =
    words
    ▷ Seq.groupBy firstLetter
    ▷ Seq.map (fun (letter, wordsWithThisLetter) → letter, set wordsWithThisLetter)
    ▷ Map.ofSeq
```

Map.containsKey VS Map.exists

Map.containsKey (key: 'K)

→ Indicates whether the key is present

Map.exists (predicate: 'K → 'V → bool)

→ Indicates whether an entry (as **key value** parameters) satisfies the predicate

→ Parameters **key value** curried, not a pair **(key, value)**

```
let table = Map [ (2, "A"); (1, "B"); (3, "D") ]
```

```
table ▷ Map.containsKey 0;; // false
```

```
table ▷ Map.containsKey 2;; // true
```

```
let isEven i = i % 2 = 0
```

```
let isVowel (s: string) = "AEIOUY".Contains(s)
```

```
table ▷ Map.exists (fun k v → (isEven k) && (isVowel v));; // true
```

Seq module

```
Seq.cache (source: 'T seq) → 'T seq
```

Sequences are **lazy**: elements (re)evaluated at each time iteration
→ Can be costly 💸

Invariant sequences iterated multiple times

- Iterations can be optimized by caching the sequence using `Seq.cache`
- Caching is optimized by being deferred and performed only on first iteration

- ⚠ **Recommendation:** Caching is hidden, not reflected on the type (`'T seq`)
- Only apply caching on a sequence used in a very small scope
- Prefer another collection type otherwise

String module

`string` \equiv `Seq<char>` functions + `String` *FSharp.Core* module / `System` class

```
String.concat (separator: string) (strings: seq<string>) : string

String.init      (count: int) (f: (index: int) → string) : string
String.replicate (count: int) (s: string) : string

String.exists (predicate: char → bool) (s: string) : bool
String.forall (predicate: char → bool) (s: string) : bool
String.filter (predicate: char → bool) (s: string) : string

String.collect (mapping: char → string) (s: string) : string
String.map     (mapping: char → char)   (s: string) : string
String.mapi    (mapping: int → char → char) (s: string) : string
// Idem iter/iteri which returns unit
```


String module - Examples

```
let a = String.concat "-" ["a"; "b"; "c"] // "a-b-c"
let b = String.init 3 (fun i → $"#{i}") // "#0#1#2"
let c = String.replicate 3 "0" // "000"

let d = "abcd" ▷ String.exists (fun c → c ≥ 'b') // true
let e = "abcd" ▷ String.forall (fun c → c ≥ 'b') // false
let f = "abcd" ▷ String.filter (fun c → c ≥ 'b') // "bcd"

let g = "abcd" ▷ String.collect (fun c → $"${c}{c}") // "aabbccdd"

let h = "abcd" ▷ String.map (fun c → (int c) + 1 ▷ char) // "bcde"
```

5. Quiz



Question 1

What function should you use to **format** all **addresses**?

```
type Address = { City: string; Country: string }  
  
let format address = $"{address.City}, {address.Country}"  
  
let addresses: Address list = [ ... ]  
  
let formattedAddresses = addresses ▷ List.??? format // ?
```

- A. `List.iter()`
- B. `List.map()`
- C. `List.sum()`

🕒 10''



Question 1 » Answer

What function should you use to **format** all **addresses** ?

```
type Address = { City: string; Country: string }  
  
let format address = $"{address.City}, {address.Country}"  
  
let addresses: Address list = [ ... ]  
  
let formattedAddresses = addresses ▷ List.map format
```

- A. `List.iter()` ❌
- B. `List.map()` ✅
- C. `List.sum()` ❌



Question 2

What is the returned value of `[1..4] > List.head`?

A. `[2; 3; 4]`

B. `1`

C. `4`

🕒 10''



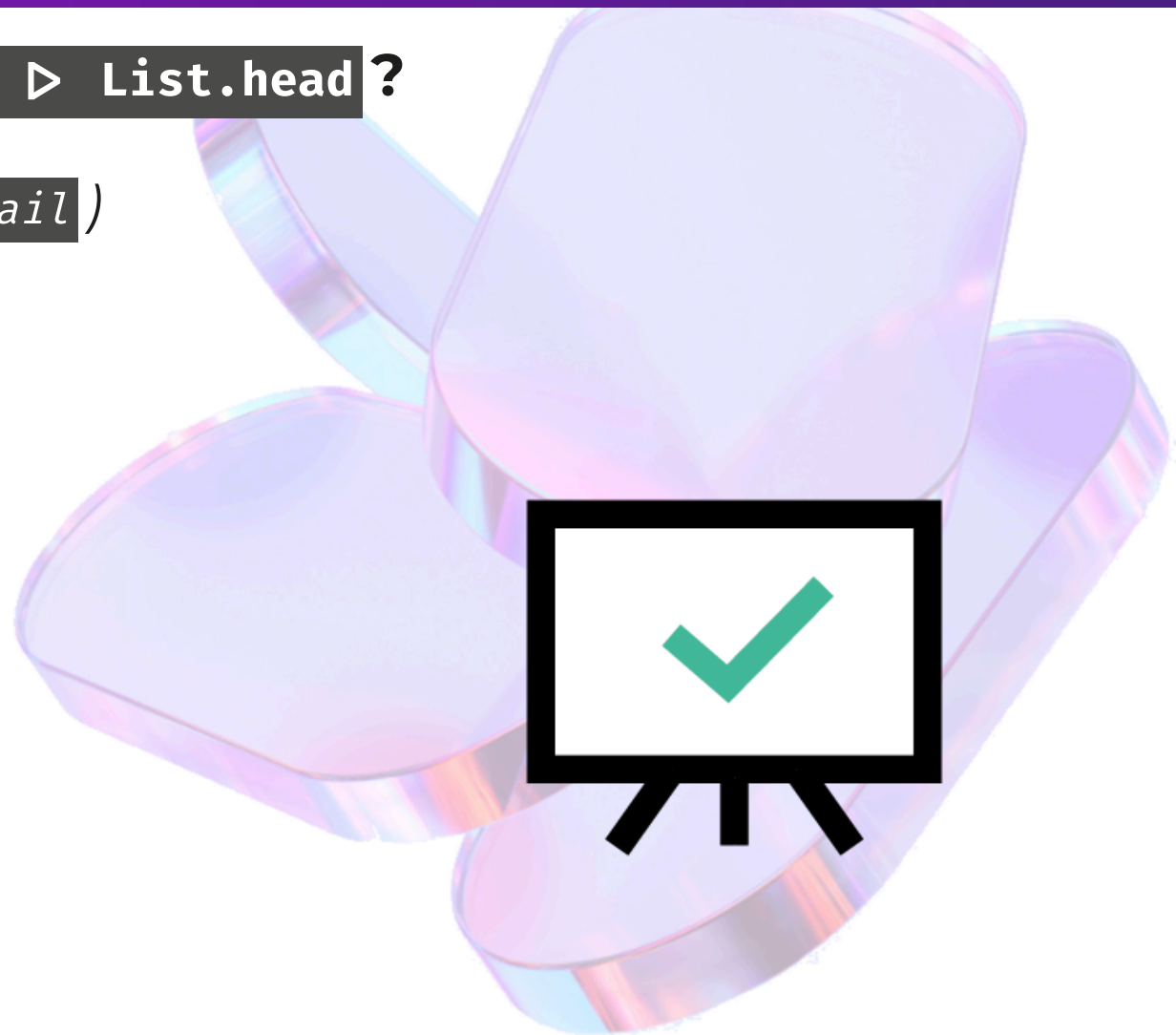
Question 2 » Answer

What is the returned value of `[1..4] ▷ List.head`?

A. `[2; 3; 4]` ✗ (This is the result of `List.tail`)

B. `1` ✓

C. `4` ✗ (This is the result of `List.last`)



Question 3

What's the right way to compute the average of a list?

- A. `[2; 4] ▷ List.average`
- B. `[2; 4] ▷ List.avg`
- C. `[2.0; 4.0] ▷ List.average`

🕒 10''



Question 3 » Answer

What's the right way to compute the average of a list?

A. `[2; 4] ▷ List.average` ❌

✶ **Error FS0001:** `List.average` does not support the type `int`, because the latter lacks the required (real or built-in) member `DivideByInt`

B. `[2; 4] ▷ List.avg`

✶ **Error FS0039:** The value, constructor, namespace or type `avg` is not defined.

C. `[2.0; 4.0] ▷ List.average` ✅
`val it : float = 3.0`



6. The Recap



Types

5 collections including 4 functional/immutable

List: default choice / *Versatile, Practical*

→ **[]**, Operators: *Cons* **::**, *Append* **@**, Pattern matching

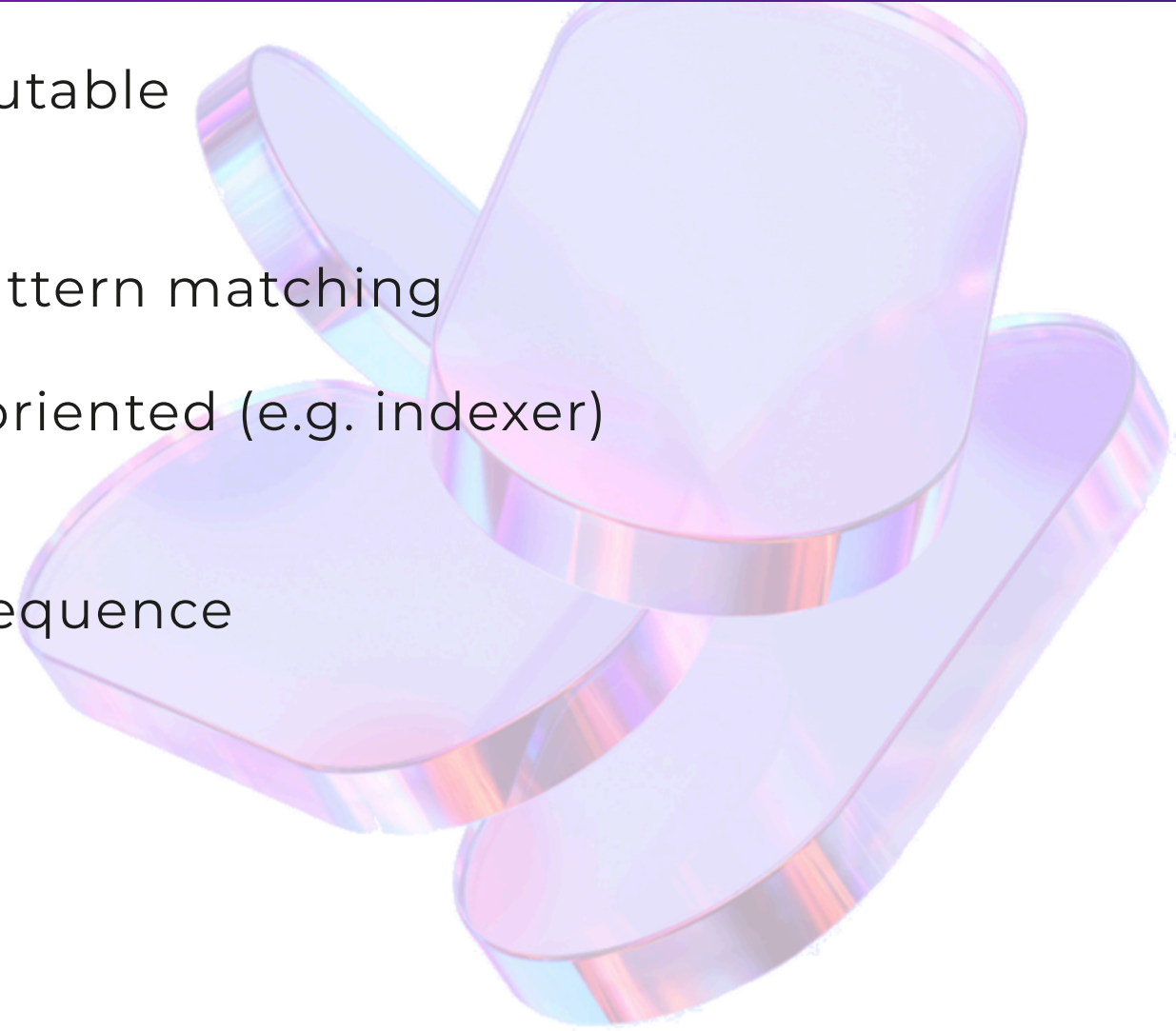
Array: fixed-size, mutable, performance-oriented (e.g. indexer)

→ **[]** less handy to write than **[]**

Seq: deferred evaluation (*Lazy*), infinite sequence

Set: unique elements

Map: values by unique key



API

Rich

→ Hundreds of functions >> Fifty for LINQ

Consistency

→ Common syntax and functions

→ Functions preserve the collection type (≠ LINQ stuck to `IEnumerable<T>`)

Semantic

→ Function names closer to JS



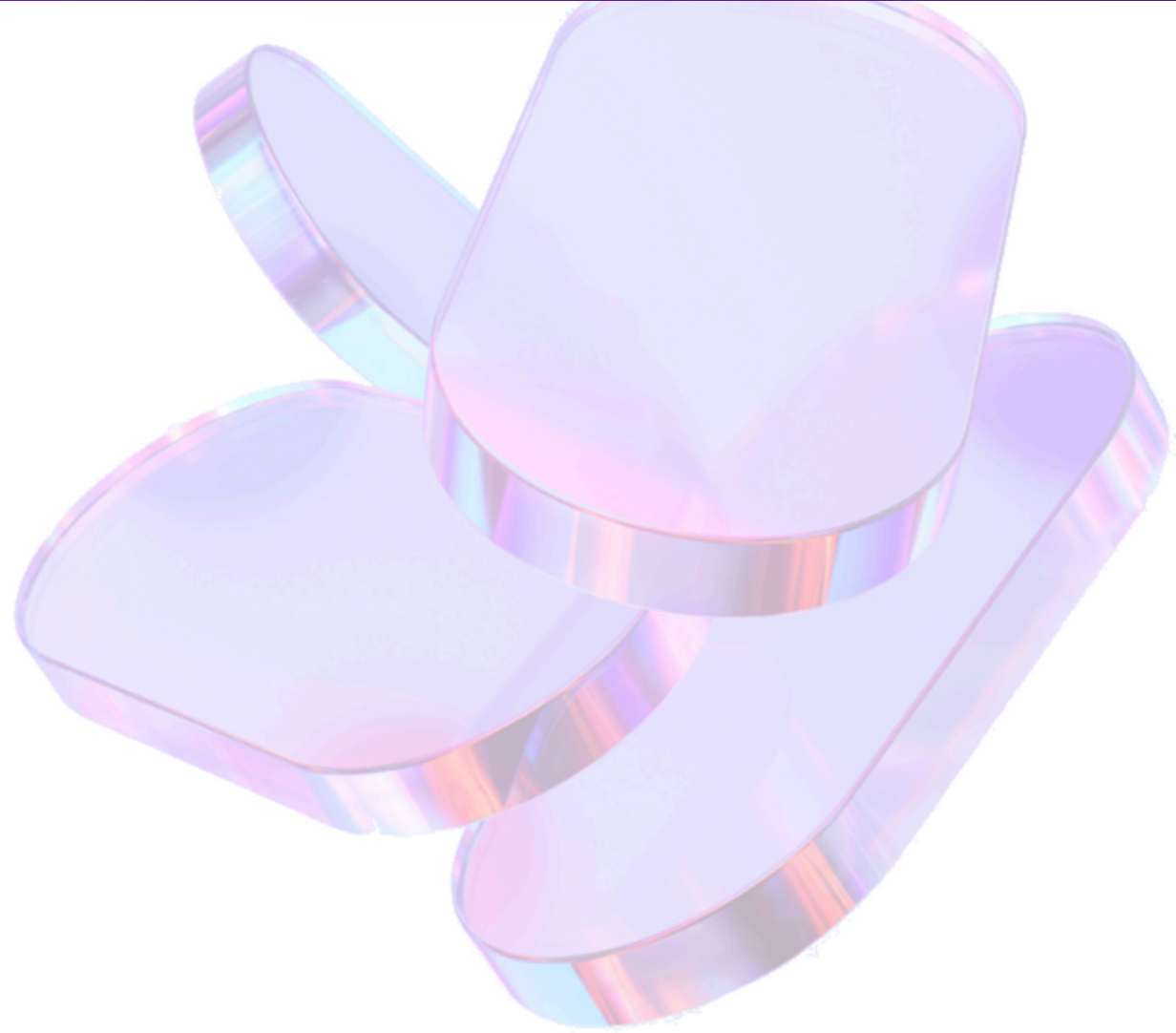
API - Comparison C# / F# / JS

C# LINQ	F#	JS Array
Select(), SelectMany()	map, collect	map(), flatMap()
Any(predicate), All()	exists, forall	some(), every()
Where(), ×	filter, choose	filter(), ×
First(), FirstOrDefault()	find, tryFind	×, find()
×	pick, tryPick	×
Aggregate([seed])	fold, reduce	reduce()
Average(), Sum()	average, sum	×
ToList(), AsEnumerable()	List.ofSeq, toSeq	×
Zip()	zip	×

BCL types

- `Array`
- `ResizeArray` for C# List
- *Dictionaries*: `dict`, `readOnlyDict`

For interop or performance





Exercises @ exercism.io

Exercise	Level	Topics
High Scores	Easy	List
Protein Translation	Medium+	Seq / List 💡
ETL	Medium	Map of List, Tuple
Grade School	Medium+	Map of List



Pre-requisites:

- Create an account, with GitHub for instance
- Solve the first exercises to unlock the access to the one above



Tips:

- `string` is a `Seq<char>`
- What about `Seq.chunkBySize`?

Additional resources

All functions, with their cost in $O(?)$

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/fsharp/language-reference/fsharp-collection-types#table-of-functions>

Choosing between collection functions (2015)

<https://fsharpforfunandprofit.com/posts/list-module-functions/>

An introduction to F# for curious C# developers - Working with collections

<https://laenas.github.io/posts/01-fs-primer.html#work-with-collections>

Formatting collections

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/fsharp/style-guide/formatting#formatting-lists-and-arrays>

Thanks 🙏

