

Folding Trees

Recall how we defined trees in the past:

```
data Tree a = E | N (Tree a) a (Tree a)
```

It is natural for us to want to traverse the trees. The most universal way to do so is to define folding functions analogous to `foldr` or `foldl`. We will need three such functions, as trees can be traversed in three ways:

Inorder With *inorder traversal*, the nodes on the left child are visited first, then the root, then the nodes on the right child (left-root-right).

Preorder With *preorder traversal*, the root is visited first, then the nodes on the left child, then the ones on the right child (root-left-right).

Postorder with *postorder traversal*, the nodes on the left child are visited first, then the ones on the right child, and finally the root (left-right-root).

Let's take a look at how we can implement each of these:

```
foldin :: (a -> b -> b) -> Tree a -> b -> b
foldin _ E v                = v
foldin f (N left x right) v = v3
  where v1 = foldin f left v
        v2 = f x v1
        v3 = foldin f right v2
```

We could actually also write these in a “point-free” way, avoiding direct references to `v`:

```
foldin _ E                = id           — The identity function
foldin f (N left x right) = foldin f right . f x . foldin f left
```

Practice: Implement the other two traversals, `foldpre` and `foldpost`.