

Standard higher-order list functions

There is a rich set of functions on lists, that you can find in the List module¹. We will implement these from scratch in this section. Most of these functions can be extended from lists to other “container types”.

- `map` has a function act on each element of the list, and produces a new list with the results.
- `filter` takes as input a *predicate* (a function returning true/false) and returns a list containing only those values that return true.
- `fold_left` accumulates the values in the list, given an initial value and a function describing how to accumulate each new term.
- `fold_right` does the same, but starting from the other end.
- `iter` calls a function with no return value (`'a -> unit`) on each element of the list.
- `for_all` takes a predicate and a list and returns whether all elements of the list would return true.
- `exists` takes a predicate and a list and returns whether at least one element of the list would return true.
- `find` takes a predicate and a list and searches for the first element in the list satisfying the predicate.
- `partition` takes a predicate and a list and returns two lists, one holding the values that the predicate returns as true and one holding those the predicate returns as false.

We have already seen `map`, `fold_left`, `fold_right`. We will now implement `filter` in a couple of different ways, both directly and using `fold_right`.

```
(* filter: ('a -> bool) -> 'a list -> 'a list *)
let rec filter p xs = match xs with
| [] -> []
| x :: xs' -> if p x
               then x :: filter p xs'
               else filter p xs'

let filter p xs = fold_right (fun x acc -> if p x then x :: acc else acc) xs []
let filter p xs =
  let add_if_true x acc = if p x then x :: acc else acc
  in fold_right add_if_true xs []
```

Question: Could we have used `fold_left`? Try it!

Before some practice problems, let us implement `iter` both via direct recursion and using folds:

```
(* iter: ('a -> unit) -> 'a list -> unit *)
let rec iter f xs = match xs with
| [] -> ()
| x :: xs' -> (f x; iter f xs')
```

¹<http://caml.inria.fr/pub/docs/manual-ocaml/libref/List.html>

```
let iter f xs = fold_left (fun x () -> f x) () xs

(* To test. Should print in that order *)
iter print_endline ["hi"; "there"; "you"];;
```

Note that using `fold_right` here would not be right: It would have performed the applications in the reverse list order, usually not the desired effect.

Practice problems

1. Implement the function `rev` that reverses a list, using `fold_left`.
2. Implement `for_all` using `fold_left` or `fold_right` (ideally do it both ways). It should have type `('a -> bool) -> 'a list -> bool`.
3. Implement `exists` using `fold_left` or `fold_right` (ideally do it both ways). It should also have type `('a -> bool) -> 'a list -> bool`.
4. Implement `partition` both with a direct recursion and using `fold_right`. It should have type `('a -> bool) -> 'a list -> 'a list * 'a list`.