

The background of the slide is a photograph of a modern building with a white facade and large windows, partially obscured by a semi-transparent red rectangular overlay. The building is situated on a green lawn with some trees and shrubs in the foreground. The sky is blue with some light clouds. The red overlay covers the left and center portions of the image, providing a dark background for the text.

UMassAmherst

Manning College of Information  
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## Lab 1: HOFs and Type Signatures

Wednesday, September 3rd, 2025

# Weekly Lab Agenda

- Go over reminders/goals
- Review past material
- Work in groups of 2-3 to solve a few exercises
  - Discussion leaders will assign groups today
  - Groups will be remade every third lab
- Discussion leaders will walk around and answer questions
- Solutions to exercises will be reviewed as a class
- Attendance taken at the end

# Reminders

- Please set up your development environment as soon as possible
- Homework 1 is due this Sunday (9/7) at 11:59pm
- If you need to miss lab and have a valid reason according to the syllabus (medical, other personal) please fill out the questionnaire on Canvas before the start time of your lab.
  - Waking up late, bus was late are NOT valid reasons to miss lab.
- Submit what you have at the end of lab to Gradescope. If you miss many submissions to Gradescope, we may penalize your lab grade.

# Lab Groups

- You will now be assigned into your lab groups
- Please sit with your group each week
  
- Take the next 5 minutes to talk to each other
- Introduce yourselves!
  - Name, pronouns, major
  - Favorite household appliance
  - What was one fun thing you did over break?

# Today's Goals

- Set up coding environment
- Practice both higher-order functions and some TypeScript
- Walk out with some working code

# Writing and Running TypeScript

- Download the starter code from GitHub (linked on Canvas).
- Unzip the folder and open it in VSCode.
- Run *npm install* in the same directory as the package.json folder.
- When you are ready to submit, run *npm run build:submission*
- Upload the resulting zip file to the corresponding assignment on gradescope.
- Your lab leaders will walk you through this process for the first lab!

# Review of map

```
// Sample Implementation
// `.map` is a method on Arrays
function map<T, U>(
  a: T[],
  f: (x: T) => U
): U[] {
  const result: U[] = [];
  for (let i = 0; i < a.length; ++i) {
    result.push(f(a[i]));
  }
  return result;
}
```

```
function double(x: number): number {
  return 2 * x;
}

const array = [1,2,3,4,5];
const newArray = array.map(double);
```

What is `newArray` ?

Reason about the code before typing and running it.

# Review of filter

```
// Sample Implementation
// `.filter` is a method on Arrays
function filter<T>(
  a: T[],
  f: (x: T) => boolean
): T[] {
  const result: T[] = [];
  for (let i = 0; i < a.length; ++i) {
    const x = a[i];
    if (f(x)) {
      result.push(x);
    }
  }
  return result;
}
```

```
function isEven(x: number): boolean {
  return x % 2 === 0;
}
const array = [1,2,3,4,5];
const newArray = array.filter(isEven);
```

What is `newArray` ?

Reason about the code before typing and running it.



# Programming Exercise 1

Write a function that takes an array of number arrays, and returns an array of number arrays where all negative values have been removed. Again, don't use any loops or recursion.

```
[[1,-2,3], [0], [0,1,2,3], []]
```



```
[[1,3],[0], [0,1,2,3], []]
```

A number array is typed as `number[]`, an array of those is `number[][]`

# Programming Exercise 1

```
function keepNonNegativeValues(a: number[]): number[] {  
  return a.filter(x => x >= 0);  
}  
  
function nonNegatives2D(arr: number[][]): number[][] {  
  return arr.map(keepNonNegativeValues);  
}
```

Important item here is to use the code developed in exercise 1. This is a good example of decomposing a problem into smaller problems, and of testing the smaller solutions before continuing.

# Review of Type Signatures

**We can infer types based on the operations done on values**

```
// f(x: number, y: number): number    or   f: (number, number) => number
function f(x, y) {
  return x + (2*y);
  // product with y: y is number, x and result is number
}
```

**Sometimes, we have several possibilities**

```
// g: (number, number) => number    or    g: (string, string) => string
function g(x, y) { return x + y; } // + can be string concatenation

// h(a: string): boolean    or    h<T>(a: T[]): boolean
function h(a) { return a.length > 5; } // both strings & arrays have length
```

The array could have any element type. We call T a **type variable**.  
This lets us write **generic functions**.

## Exercise 2: Type Signatures

(a) What are the type signatures of `f` and `g`?

```
const a = [1,2,3,4];  
const b = a.filter(f);  
const c = b.map(g);
```

(b) What is the type signature of `h`?

```
const h = (a, g) => a.map(g).filter(g);
```

Remember:

```
map<A,B>(arr: A[], f: (x: A) => B): B[]  
filter<T>(arr: T[], f: (x: T) => boolean): T[]
```

For part (b), start by considering an arbitrary element type for the array, and continue to derive types for the map and filter callback functions.

## Solution 2: Type Signatures

(a) What are the type signatures of `f` and `g`?

```
const a = [1,2,3,4];  
const b = a.filter(f);  
const c = b.map(g);
```

`a` is an array of numbers.

Then `f: number => boolean` (as callback for `filter`), resulting in `b`, an array of numbers.

Now `g: number => T` (as callback for `map`), resulting in `c`, an array of type `T[]`.

## Solution 2: Type Signatures

(b) What is the type signature of `h`?

```
const h = (a, g) => a.map(g).filter(g);
```

`a` must be an array of some type `T`, as `map` is called on it.

Then `g: T => R` (as callback for `map`), resulting in an array of type `R[]`.

Then `g` is used again as a callback for `filter`, so `g: R => boolean`, resulting in an array of type `R[]`. This means `T` and `R` are the same type, and that `R = boolean`. So both `T` and `R` can be replaced with `boolean`.

```
h: (a: boolean[], g: (x: boolean) => boolean): boolean[]
```

# Final Thoughts

- Think carefully about your approach before starting to code
- Start small and test often
- Try to make use of as much of your previous work as possible
- A lot of material all at once, come to office hours if you are confused
  - We would love to see you there! 😊
- It is okay if some of us take longer or don't finish before lab ends, keep working at it
  - Try not to get discouraged
- Starting the homework today is not required, but try to get into the habit of reading the instructions as soon as they are released