ENE4014: Programming Languages

Lecture 3 — Basics of the OCaml Language

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Why learn ML?

Learning ML is a good way of experiencing modern language features:

- functional programming: scala, java8, haskell, python, JavaScript, etc
- value-oriented programming: scala, haskell, scheme, etc
- type inference: scala, haskell, etc
- pattern matching: scala, etc
- algebraic data types, module system, etc

Basics of the OCaml Language

- Expressions and values
- Names and functions
- Pattern matching
- Type inference
- Tuples and lists
- Data types
- Exceptions
- Modules

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Write and run all examples in the slides by yourself!

An OCaml Program is an Expression

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- A statement does something.
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- An expression evaluates to a value.

Programming languages can be classified into

- statement-oriented: C, C++, Java, Python, JavaScript, etc
 - often called "imperative languages"
- expression-oriented: ML, Haskell, Scala, Lisp, etc
 - often called "functional languages"

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• Arithmetic expressions evaluate to numbers: e.g., 1+2*3, 1+5, 7

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- : int = 7
```

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- : int = 7
```

• Arithmetic operators on integers:

a + b	addition
a - b	subtraction
a*b	multiplication
a / b	divide a by b , returning the whole part
$a \bmod b$	divide a by b , returning the remaining part

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```
# true;;
- : bool = true
# true;;
- : bool = true
# 1 > 2;;
- : bool = false
```

Boolean Expressions

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- Try to evaluate boolean expressions:

```
# true;;
- : bool = true
# true;;
- : bool = true
# 1 > 2;;
- : bool = false
```

• Comparison operators produces boolean values:

```
a = b true if a and b are equal a <> b true if a and b are not equal a < b true if a is less than b a <= b true if a is less than or equal to b a > b true if a is greater than b a >= b true if a is greater than or equal to b
```

Boolean Operators

Boolean expressions are combined by boolean operators:

```
# true && false;;
- : bool = false
# true || false;;
- : bool = true
# (2 > 1) && (3 > 2);;
- : bool = true
```

ML is a Statically Typed Language

If you try to evaluate an expression that does not make sense, OCaml rejects and does not evaluate the program: e.g.,

```
# 1 + true;;
```

Error: This expression has type bool but an expression was expected of type int

cf) Static Types and Dynamic Types

Programming languages are classified into:

- Statically typed languages: type checking is done at compile-time.
 - type errors are detected before program executions
 - ▶ C, C++, Java, ML, Scala, etc
- Dynamically typed languages: type checking is done at run-time.
 - type errors are detected during program executions
 - Python, JavaScript, Ruby, Lisp, etc

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 - type errors are detected during program executions
 - Python, JavaScript, Ruby, Lisp, etc

Statically typed languages are further classified into:

- Type-safe languages guarantee that compiled programs do not have type errors at run-time.
 - All type errors are detected at compile time.
 - Compiled programs do not stuck.
 - ML, Haskell, Scala
- Unsafe languages do not provide such a guarantee.
 - ► Some type errors remain at run-time.
 - ▶ C. C++

Which one is better?

Statically typed languages:

- (+) Type errors are caught early in the development cycle.
- (+) Program execution is efficient by omitting runtime checks.
- (-) Less flexible than dynamic languages.

Dynamically typed languages:

- (—) Type errors appear at run-time, often unexpectedly.
- (+) Provide more flexible language features.
- (+) Easy and fast prototyping.

Conversion between Different Types

In OCaml, different types of values are distinguished:

```
# 3 + 2.0;;
Error: This expression has type float but an expression
was expected of type int
```

Types must be explicitly converted:

```
# 3 + int_of_float 2.0;;
- : int = 5
```

Operators for floating point numbers:

```
# 1.2 +. 2.3;;
- : float = 3.5
# 1.5 *. 2.0;;
- : float = 3.
# float_of_int 1 +. 2.2;;
- : float = 3.2
```

Other Primitive Values

 OCaml provides six primitive values: integers, booleans, floating point numbers, characters, strings, and unit.

```
# 'c';;
- : char = 'c'
# "cose212";;
- : string = "cose212"
# ();;
- : unit = ()
```

Conditional Expressions

```
if be then e_1 else e_2
```

- ullet If be is true, the value of the conditional expression is the value of e_1 .
- ullet If be is false, the value of the expression is the value of e_2 .

```
# if 2 > 1 then 0 else 1;;
- : int = 0
# if 2 < 1 then 0 else 1;;
- : int = 1</pre>
```

Conditional Expressions

if be then e_1 else e_2

- ullet If be is true, the value of the conditional expression is the value of e_1 .
- If be is false, the value of the expression is the value of e_2 .

```
# if 2 > 1 then 0 else 1;;
- : int = 0
# if 2 < 1 then 0 else 1;;
- : int = 1</pre>
```

- be must be a boolean expression.
- ullet types of e_1 and e_2 must be equivalent.

```
# if 1 then 1 else 2;;
Error: ...
# if true then 1 else true;;
Error: ...
# if true then true else false;;
- : bool = true
```

Names and Functions

Create a global variable with the let keyword:

```
# let x = 3 + 4;;
val x : int = 7
We say a variable x is bound to value 7.
# let y = x + x;;
val y : int = 14
```

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We say a variable x is bound to value 7.
# let y = x + x;;
val y : int = 14
```

• Create a local variable with let ... in ... construct:

let
$$x = e_1$$
 in e_2

- x is bound to the value of e_1
- the scope of x is e_2
- lacktriangle the value of the entire expression

Examples

```
• # let a = 1 in a;;
 -: int = 1
 # let a = 1 in a * 2;;
 -: int = 2
• # let a = 1 in
   let b = a + a in
   let c = b + b in
    c + c;;
 -: int = 8
• # let d =
     let b = a + a in
     let c = b + b in
       c + c;;
  val d : int = 8
```

• Define a function with let:

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# let square x = x * x;;
val square : int -> int = <fun>
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• Apply the function:

```
# square 2;;
- : int = 4
# square (2 + 5);;
- : int = 49
# square (square 2);;
- : int = 16
```

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• Apply the function:

```
# square 2;;
- : int = 4
# square (2 + 5);;
- : int = 49
# square (square 2);;
- : int = 16
```

• The body can be any expression:

```
# let neg x = if x < 0 then true else false;;
val neg : int -> bool = <fun>
# neg 1;;
- : bool = false
# neg (-1);;
- : bool = true
```

• Functions with multiple arguments:

```
# let sum_of_squares x y = (square x) + (square y);;
val sum_of_squares : int -> int -> int = <fun>
# sum_of_squares 3 4;;
- : int = 25
```

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# let sum_of_squares x y = (square x) + (square y);;
val sum_of_squares : int -> int -> int = <fun>
# sum_of_squares 3 4;;
- : int = 25
```

Recursive functions are defined with let rec construct:

```
# let rec factorial a =
    if a = 1 then 1 else a * factorial (a - 1);;
val factorial : int -> int = <fun>
# factorial 5;;
- : int = 120
```

- Many modern programming languages provide nameless functions, e.g., ML, Scala, Java8, JavaScript, Python, etc.
- In OCaml, a function can be defined without names:

```
# fun x -> x * x;;
- : int -> int = <fun>
```

Called *nameless* or *anonymous* functions.

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# fun x -> x * x;;
- : int -> int = <fun>
Called nameless or anonymous functions.
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• Apply nameless function as usual:

```
# (fun x -> x * x) 2;;
- : int = 4
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• A variable can be bound to functions:

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# let square = fun x -> x * x;;
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```

• A variable can be bound to functions:

```
# let square = fun x -> x * x;;
val square : int -> int = <fun>
```

• The followings are equivalent:

```
let square = fun x -> x * x
let square x = x * x
```

Functions are First-Class in OCaml

In programming languages, a value is first-class, if the value can be

- stored in a variable,
- passed as an argument of a function, and
- returned from other functions.

A language is often called *functional*, if functions are first class values, e.g., ML, Scala, Java8, JavaScript, Python, Lisp, etc.

Functions are First-Class in OCaml

• Functions can be stored in variables:

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# square 2;;
- : int = 4
```

Functions are First-Class in OCaml

Functions can be stored in variables:

```
# let square = fun x -> x * x;;
# square 2;;
- : int = 4
```

Functions can be passed to other functions:

```
# let sum_if_true test first second =
     (if test first then first else 0)
     + (if test second then second else 0);;
val sum_if_true : (int -> bool) -> int -> int -> int = <fun>
# let even x = x mod 2 = 0;;
val even : int -> bool = <fun>
# sum_if_true even 3 4;;
- : int = 4
# sum_if_true even 2 4;;
- : int = 6
```

Functions are First-Class in OCaml

Functions can be also returned from a procedure:

```
# let plus_a a = fun b -> a + b;;
val plus_a : int -> int -> int = <fun>
# let f = plus_a 3;;
val f : int -> int = <fun>
# f 1;;
- : int = 4
# f 2;;
- : int = 5
```

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# let plus_a a = fun b -> a + b;;
val plus_a : int -> int -> int = <fun>
# let f = plus_a 3;;
val f : int -> int = <fun>
# f 1;;
- : int = 4
# f 2;;
- : int = 5
```

Functions that manipulate functions are called higher-order functions.

- i.e., functions that take as argument functions or return functions
- greatly increase the expressiveness of the language

Pattern Matching

- An elegant way of doing case analysis.
- E.g., using pattern-matching, the factorial function

```
let rec factorial a =
   if a = 1 then 1 else a * factorial (a - 1)
can be written as follows:
let factorial a =
   match a with
   1 -> 1
   |_ -> a * factorial (a - 1)
```

Pattern Matching

let isabc c =

The nested if-then-else expression

can be written using pattern matching:

```
match c with
  'a' -> true
|'b' -> true
|'c' -> true
| _ -> false

or simply,

let isabc c =
  match c with
  'a' | 'b' | 'c' -> true
| _ -> false
```

In C or Java, types must be annotated:

```
public static int f(int n)
{
  int a = 2;
  return a * n;
}
```

In C or Java, types must be annotated:

```
public static int f(int n)
  int a = 2;
  return a * n;
In OCaml, type annotations are not mandatory:
# let f n =
    let a = 2 in
      a * n;;
val f : int -> int = <fun>
```

OCaml can infer types, no matter how complex the program is:

```
# let sum_if_true test first second =
    (if test first then first else 0)
    + (if test second then second else 0);;
val sum_if_true : (int -> bool) -> int -> int -> int = <fun>
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OCaml compiler infers the type through the following reasoning steps:

• the types of first and second must be int, because both branches of a conditional expression must have the same type,

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- 2 the type of test is a function type $\alpha \to \beta$, because test is used as a function,

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- the types of first and second must be int, because both branches of a conditional expression must have the same type,
- ② the type of test is a function type $\alpha \to \beta$, because test is used as a function,
- $oldsymbol{0}$ lpha must be of int, because test is applied to first, a value of int,

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- 2 the type of test is a function type $\alpha \to \beta$, because test is used as a function,
- $oldsymbol{\circ}$ lpha must be of int, because test is applied to first, a value of int,
- $oldsymbol{0}$ $oldsymbol{eta}$ must be of bool, because conditions must be boolean expressions,
- the return value of the function has type int, because the two conditional expressions are of int and their addition gives int.

Type Annotation

Explicit type annotations are possible:

```
# let sum_if_true (test : int -> bool) (x : int) (y : int) : int =
    (if test x then x else 0) + (if test y then y else 0);;
val sum_if_true : (int -> bool) -> int -> int -> int = <fun>
```

Type Annotation

Explicit type annotations are possible:

```
(if test x then x else 0) + (if test y then y else 0);;
val sum_if_true : (int -> bool) -> int -> int -> int = <fun>
If the annotation is wrong, OCaml finds the error and report it:
# let sum_if_true (test : int -> int) (x : int) (y : int) : int = (if test x then x else 0) + (if test y then y else 0);;
Error: The expression (test x) has type int but an expression was expected of type bool
```

let sum_if_true (test : int -> bool) (x : int) (y : int) : int =

• What is the type of the program?

let id x = x

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```
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See how OCaml infers its type:
# let id x = x;;
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# let id x = x;;
val id : a \rightarrow a = \text{sfun}
The function works for values of any type:
# id 1;;
-: int = 1
# id "abc";;
- : string = "abc"
# id true;;
- : bool = true
```

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-: int = 1
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- : string = "abc"
# id true;;
- : bool = true
```

• Such a function is called *polymorphic* and 'a is a *type variable*.

Quiz) What is the type of the function?

```
let first_if_true test x y =
  if test x then x else y
```

 An ordered collection of values, each of which can be a different types, e.g.,

```
# let x = (1, "one");;
val x : int * string = (1, "one")
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```
# let x = (1, "one");;
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# let y = (2, "two", true);;
val y : int * string * bool = (2, "two", true)
```

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# let x = (1, "one");;
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val y : int * string * bool = (2, "two", true)
```

Extract each component using pattern-matching:

```
# let fst p = match p with (x,_) -> x;;
val fst : 'a * 'b -> 'a = <fun>
# let snd p = match p with (_,x) -> x;;
val snd : 'a * 'b -> 'b = <fun>
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val fst : 'a * 'b -> 'a = <fun>
# let snd p = match p with (_,x) -> x;;
val snd : 'a * 'b -> 'b = <fun>
or equivalently,
# let fst (x,_) = x;;
val fst : 'a * 'b -> 'a = <fun>
# let snd (_,x) = x;;
val snd : 'a * 'b -> 'b = <fun>
```

• Patterns can be used in let:

```
# let p = (1, true);;
val p : int * bool = (1, true)
# let (x,y) = p;;
val x : int = 1
val y : bool = true
```

A finite sequence of elements, each of which has the same type, e.g.,
 [1; 2; 3]

is a list of integers:

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is a list of integers:

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# [1; 2; 3];;
-: int list = [1; 2; 3]
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- : int list = [1; 2; 3]
```

Note that

- ▶ all elements must have the same type, e.g., [1; true; 2] is not a list,
- ▶ the elements are ordered, e.g., $[1; 2; 3] \neq [2; 3; 1]$, and
- ▶ the first element is called *head*, the rest *tail*.

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- []: the empty list, i.e., nil. What are head and tail of []?

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- ▶ the first element is called *head*, the rest *tail*.
- []: the empty list, i.e., nil. What are head and tail of []?
- [5]: a list with a single element. What are head and tail of [5]?

```
• # [1;2;3;4;5];;
- : int list = [1; 2; 3; 4; 5]
```

```
# [1;2;3;4;5];;
- : int list = [1; 2; 3; 4; 5]
# ["OCaml"; "Java"; "C"];;
- : string list = ["OCaml"; "Java"; "C"]
```

```
• # [1;2;3;4;5];;
- : int list = [1; 2; 3; 4; 5]

• # ["OCaml"; "Java"; "C"];;
- : string list = ["OCaml"; "Java"; "C"]

• # [(1,"one"); (2,"two"); (3,"three")];;
- : (int * string) list = [(1, "one"); (2, "two"); (3, "three")]
```

```
• # [1;2;3;4;5];;
- : int list = [1; 2; 3; 4; 5]

• # ["OCaml"; "Java"; "C"];;
- : string list = ["OCaml"; "Java"; "C"]

• # [(1,"one"); (2,"two"); (3,"three")];;
- : (int * string) list = [(1, "one"); (2, "two"); (3, "three")

• # [[1;2;3];[2;3;4];[4;5;6]];;
- : int list list = [[1; 2; 3]; [2; 3; 4]; [4; 5; 6]]
```

```
# [1;2;3;4;5];;
  -: int list = [1: 2: 3: 4: 5]
• # ["OCaml"; "Java"; "C"];;
  - : string list = ["OCaml"; "Java"; "C"]
• # [(1, "one"); (2, "two"); (3, "three")];;
  -: (int * string) list = [(1, "one"); (2, "two"); (3, "three")
• # [[1;2;3];[2;3;4];[4;5;6]];;
  -: int list list = [[1; 2; 3]; [2; 3; 4]; [4; 5; 6]]
• # [1;"OCaml";3] ;;
  Error: This expression has type string but an expression was
   expected of type int
```

List Operators

• :: (cons): add a single element to the front of a list, e.g.,
1::[2;3];;
- : int list = [1; 2; 3]
1::2::3::[];;
- : int list = [1; 2; 3]
([1; 2; 3] is a shorthand for 1::2::3::[])

List Operators

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# 1::[2;3];;
- : int list = [1; 2; 3]
# 1::2::3::[];;
- : int list = [1; 2; 3]
([1; 2; 3] is a shorthand for 1::2::3::[])
• @ (append): combine two lists, e.g.,
# [1; 2] @ [3; 4; 5];;
- : int list = [1; 2; 3; 4; 5]
```

Patterns for Lists

Pattern matching is useful for manipulating lists.

A function to check if a list is empty:

```
# let isnil l =
    match l with
      [] -> true
      |_ -> false;;
val isnil : 'a list -> bool = <fun>
# isnil [1];;
- : bool = false
# isnil [];;
- : bool = true
```

Patterns for Lists

A function that computes the length of lists:

```
# let rec length 1 =
    match 1 with
    [] -> 0
    |h::t -> 1 + length t;;
val length : 'a list -> int = <fun>
# length [1;2;3];;
- : int = 3
```

Patterns for Lists

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val length : 'a list -> int = <fun>
# length [1;2;3];;
-: int = 3
We can replace pattern h by _:
let rec length 1 =
  match 1 with
   [] -> 0
  |_{::t} -> 1 + length t;;
```

• If data elements are finite, just enumerate them, e.g., "days":
 # type days = Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun;;
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 # Mon;;
 - : days = Mon

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# Tue;;
- : days = Tue
```

 If data elements are finite, just enumerate them, e.g., "days": # type days = Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun;; type days = Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun Construct values of the type: # Mon:: -: days = Mon # Tue:: - : days = Tue A function that manipulates the defined data: # let nextday d = match d with | Mon -> Tue | Tue -> Wed | Wed -> Thu | Thu -> Fri | Fri -> Sa | Sat -> Sun | Sun -> Mon ;; val nextday : days -> days = <fun> # nextday Mon;; - : days = Tue

• Constructors can be associated with values, e.g.,
type shape = Rect of int * int | Circle of int;;
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# type shape = Rect of int * int | Circle of int;;
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Construct values of the type:
# Rect (2,3);;
- : shape = Rect (2, 3)
# Circle 5;;
- : shape = Circle 5
```

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• Inductive data types, e.g.,

```
# type mylist = Nil | List of int * mylist;;
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```
# type mylist = Nil | List of int * mylist;;
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Construct values of the type:
# Nil;;
- : mylist = Nil
# List (1, Nil);;
- : mylist = List (1, Nil)
# List (1, List (2, Nil));;
- : mylist = List (1, List (2, Nil))
```

 Inductive data types, e.g., # type mylist = Nil | List of int * mylist;; type mylist = Nil | List of int * mylist Construct values of the type: # Nil;; - : mylist = Nil # List (1, Nil);; - : mylist = List (1, Nil) # List (1, List (2, Nil));; - : mylist = List (1, List (2, Nil)) A function that manipulates the data: # let rec mylength 1 = match 1 with $Nil \rightarrow 0$ |List $(_,l') \rightarrow 1 + mylength l';;$ val mylength : mylist -> int = <fun> # mylength (List (1, List (2, Nil)));; -: int = 2

Another inductive data type: binary tree# type btree = Empty | Node of int * btree * btree

Another inductive data type: binary tree

```
# type btree = Empty | Node of int * btree * btree
Construct values of the type:
# Empty;;
- : btree = Empty
# let t1 = Node (1, Empty, Empty);;
val t1 : btree = Node (1, Empty, Empty)
# let t2 = Node (1, t1, Node (3, Empty, Empty));;
val t2 : btree = Node (1, Node (1, E, E), Node (3, E, E))
```

 Another inductive data type: binary tree # type btree = Empty | Node of int * btree * btree Construct values of the type: # Empty;; - : btree = Empty # let t1 = Node (1, Empty, Empty);; val t1 : btree = Node (1, Empty, Empty) # let t2 = Node (1, t1, Node (3, Empty, Empty));; val t2: btree = Node (1, Node (1, E, E), Node (3, E, E)) Write function mem that checks if an integer element is in a tree: # let rec mem: int -> btree -> bool = fun n t -> ... val mem : int -> btree -> bool = <fun> # mem 1 t1;; -: bool = true # mem 4 t2;;

-: bool = false

Exceptions

An exception means a run-time error: e.g.,

```
# let div a b = a / b;;
val div : int -> int -> int = <fun>
# div 10 5;;
- : int = 2
# div 10 0;;
Exception: Division_by_zero.
```

Exceptions

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```
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val div : int -> int -> int = <fun>
# div 10 5;;
- : int = 2
# div 10 0;;
Exception: Division_by_zero.
```

• The exception can be handled with try ... with constructs.

Exceptions

 User-defined exceptions: e.g., # exception Problem;; exception Problem # let div a b = if b = 0 then raise Problem else a / b;; val div : int -> int -> int = <fun> # div 10 5;; -: int = 2# div 10 0;; Exception: Problem. # try

-: int = 0

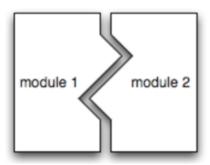
div 10 0

with Problem -> 0;;

Module System

ML supports modular programming where code comprises independent modules

- developed separately
- understand behavior of module in isolation
- reason locally, not globally



Module System

Features that support modularity

- Namespaces: enables the name "foo" in one namespace to have a distinct meaning from "foo" in another namespace
- Abstraction: hides some information while revealing other information
- Code reuse: enables code from one module to be used as part of another module without having to copy that code

Example: Java features for modularity

- Namespaces: class, package
- Abstraction: interface, access modifiers (private, protected)
- Code reuse: inheritance

Module System

An elegant module system:

- *Structure* is a collection of types, exceptions, values, and functions, i.e., implementation details.
- Signature is the interface of the structure.
- Functor enables code reuse (not covered in this class)

The interface of a queue data structure:

- empty: the empty queue
- isempty: the boolean-valued test of whether q is empty
- enq(q,x): the queue obtained by inserting x on the end of q
- deq(q): the queue obtained by removing the front element of q (also returns the front element)
- print(q): show the contents of q
- E: the exception raised by deq if the queue is empty

The signature of the queue data structure:

```
module type IntQueue =
sig
  type t
  exception E
  val empty : t
  val is_empty : t -> bool
  val enq : t -> int -> t
  val deq : t -> int * t
  val print : t -> unit
end
```

An implementation:

```
module IntQueue : IntQueue =
struct
  type t = int list
  exception E
  let empty = []
  let enq q x = q @ [x]
  let is_empty q = q = []
  let deq q = match q with [] \rightarrow raise E \mid h::t \rightarrow (h, t)
  let rec print q =
    match q with
     [] -> print_string "\n"
    |h::t -> print_int h; print_string " "; print t
end
```

The module can be used as follows:

```
let q0 = IntQueue.empty
let q1 = IntQueue.enq q0 1
let q2 = IntQueue.enq q1 2
let (_,q3) = IntQueue.deq q2
let _ = IntQueue.print q1
let _ = IntQueue.print q2
let _ = IntQueue.print q3
```

The program prints:

```
1
1 2
2
```

The OCaml module system ensures the abstraction layer of the program:

let q4 = q1 @ [2]

produces a compile error:

Error: This expression has type IntQueue.t but an expression was expected of type 'a list