

Programming Languages and Compilers (CS 421)



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Based in part on slides by Mattox Beckman, as updated by Vikram Adve and Gul Agha



Evaluating declarations

- Evaluation uses an environment ρ
- To evaluate a (simple) declaration $\text{let } x = e$
 - Evaluate expression e in ρ to value v
 - Update ρ with $x \ v$: $\{x \rightarrow v\} + \rho$
- Update: $\rho_1 + \rho_2$ has all the bindings in ρ_1 and all those in ρ_2 that are not rebound in ρ_1
 $\{x \rightarrow 2, y \rightarrow 3, a \rightarrow \text{"hi"}\} + \{y \rightarrow 100, b \rightarrow 6\}$
 $= \{x \rightarrow 2, y \rightarrow 3, a \rightarrow \text{"hi"}, b \rightarrow 6\}$



Evaluating expressions

- Evaluation uses an environment ρ
- A constant evaluates to itself
- To evaluate an variable, look it up in ρ ($\rho(v)$)
- To evaluate uses of $+$, $-$, etc, eval args, then do operation
- Function expression evaluates to its closure
- To evaluate a local dec: $\text{let } x = e1 \text{ in } e2$
 - Eval $e1$ to v , eval $e2$ using $\{x \rightarrow v\} + \rho$



Eval of App with Closures in Ocaml

1. Evaluate the right term to values, (v_1, \dots, v_n)
2. In environment ρ , evaluate left term to closure, $c = \langle (x_1, \dots, x_n) \rightarrow b, \rho \rangle$
3. Match (x_1, \dots, x_n) variables in (first) argument with values (v_1, \dots, v_n)
4. Update the environment ρ to $\rho' = \{x_1 \rightarrow v_1, \dots, x_n \rightarrow v_n\} + \rho$
5. Evaluate body b in environment ρ'



Match Expressions

```
# let triple_to_pair triple =
```

```
  match triple
```

```
  with (0, x, y) -> (x, y)
```

```
  | (x, 0, y) -> (x, y)
```

```
  | (x, y, _) -> (x, y);;
```

- Each clause: pattern on left, expression on right
- Each x, y has scope of only its clause
- Use first matching clause

```
val triple_to_pair : int * int * int -> int * int =  
  <fun>
```



Higher Order Functions

- A function is *higher-order* if it takes a function as an argument or returns one as a result
- Example:

```
# let compose f g = fun x -> f (g x);;
```

```
val compose : ('a -> 'b) -> ('c -> 'a) -> 'c -> 'b = <fun>
```

- The type $('a \rightarrow 'b) \rightarrow ('c \rightarrow 'a) \rightarrow 'c \rightarrow 'b$ is a higher order type because of $('a \rightarrow 'b)$ and $('c \rightarrow 'a)$ and $\rightarrow 'c \rightarrow 'b$



Thrice

- Recall:

```
# let thrice f x = f (f (f x));;
```

```
val thrice : ('a -> 'a) -> 'a -> 'a = <fun>
```

- How do you write thrice with compose?



Thrice

- Recall:

```
# let thrice f x = f (f (f x));;
```

```
val thrice : ('a -> 'a) -> 'a -> 'a = <fun>
```

- How do you write thrice with compose?

```
# let thrice f = compose f (compose f f);;
```

```
val thrice : ('a -> 'a) -> 'a -> 'a = <fun>
```

- Is this the only way?



Partial Application

```
# (+);;
```

```
- : int -> int -> int = <fun>
```

```
# (+) 2 3;;
```

```
- : int = 5
```

```
# let plus_two = (+) 2;;
```

```
val plus_two : int -> int = <fun>
```

```
# plus_two 7;;
```

```
- : int = 9
```

- Partial application also called *sectioning*



Lambda Lifting

- You must remember the rules for evaluation when you use partial application

```
# let add_two = (+) (print_string "test\n"; 2);;
```

```
test
```

```
val add_two : int -> int = <fun>
```

```
# let add2 = (* lambda lifted *)
```

```
  fun x -> (+) (print_string "test\n"; 2) x;;
```

```
val add2 : int -> int = <fun>
```



Lambda Lifting

```
# thrice add_two 5;;
```

```
- : int = 11
```

```
# thrice add2 5;;
```

```
test
```

```
test
```

```
test
```

```
- : int = 11
```

- Lambda lifting delayed the evaluation of the argument to (+) until the second argument was supplied



Partial Application and “Unknown Types”

- Recall `compose plus_two`:

```
# let f1 = compose plus_two;;
```

```
val f1 : ('_a -> int) -> '_a -> int = <fun>
```

- Compare to lambda lifted version:

```
# let f2 = fun g -> compose plus_two g;;
```

```
val f2 : ('a -> int) -> 'a -> int = <fun>
```

- What is the difference?



Partial Application and “Unknown Types”

- ‘_a can only be instantiated once for an expression

```
# f1 plus_two;;
```

```
- : int -> int = <fun>
```

```
# f1 List.length;;
```

Characters 3-14:

```
f1 List.length;;
```

```
^^^^^^^^^^^^
```

This expression has type 'a list -> int but is here used
with type int -> int



Partial Application and “Unknown Types”

- ‘a can be repeatedly instantiated

```
# f2 plus_two;;
```

```
- : int -> int = <fun>
```

```
# f2 List.length;;
```

```
- : 'a list -> int = <fun>
```



Recursive Functions

```
# let rec factorial n =  
    if n = 0 then 1 else n * factorial (n - 1);;  
val factorial : int -> int = <fun>  
# factorial 5;;  
- : int = 120  
# (* rec is needed for recursive function  
   declarations *)
```



Recursion Example

Compute n^2 recursively using:

$$n^2 = (2 * n - 1) + (n - 1)^2$$

```
# let rec nthsq n =      (* rec for recursion *)
  match n              (* pattern matching for cases *)
  with 0 -> 0          (* base case *)
  | n -> (2 * n - 1)   (* recursive case *)
      + nthsq (n - 1);; (* recursive call *)
val nthsq : int -> int = <fun>
# nthsq 3;;
- : int = 9
```

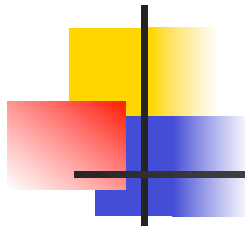
Structure of recursion similar to inductive proof



Recursion and Induction

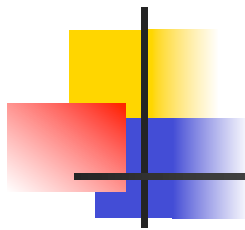
```
# let rec nthsq n = match n with 0 -> 0  
  | n -> (2 * n - 1) + nthsq (n - 1) ;;
```

- Base case is the last case; it stops the computation
- Recursive call must be to arguments that are somehow smaller - must progress to base case
- **if** or **match** must contain base case
- Failure of these may cause failure of termination



Lists

- First example of a recursive datatype (aka algebraic datatype)
- Unlike tuples, lists are homogeneous in type (all elements same type)



Lists

- List can take one of two forms:
 - Empty list, written `[]`
 - Non-empty list, written `x :: xs`
 - `x` is head element, `xs` is tail list, `::` called “cons”
 - Syntactic sugar: `[x] == x :: []`
 - `[x1; x2; ...; xn] == x1 :: x2 :: ... :: xn :: []`



Lists

```
# let fib5 = [8;5;3;2;1;1];;
```

```
val fib5 : int list = [8; 5; 3; 2; 1; 1]
```

```
# let fib6 = 13 :: fib5;;
```

```
val fib6 : int list = [13; 8; 5; 3; 2; 1; 1]
```

```
# (8::5::3::2::1::1::[ ]) = fib5;;
```

```
- : bool = true
```

```
# fib5 @ fib6;;
```

```
- : int list = [8; 5; 3; 2; 1; 1; 13; 8; 5; 3; 2; 1; 1]
```



Lists are Homogeneous

```
# let bad_list = [1; 3.2; 7];;
```

Characters 19-22:

```
let bad_list = [1; 3.2; 7];;  
                ^^^
```

This expression has type float but is here
used with type int



Question

- Which one of these lists is invalid?
 1. [2; 3; 4; 6]
 2. [2,3; 4,5; 6,7]
 3. [(2.3,4); (3.2,5); (6,7.2)]
 4. [[“hi”; “there”]; [“wahcha”]; []; [“doin”]]



Answer

- Which one of these lists is invalid?
 1. [2; 3; 4; 6]
 2. [2,3; 4,5; 6,7]
 3. [(2.3,4); (3.2,5); (6,7.2)]
 4. [[“hi”; “there”]; [“wahcha”]; []; [“doin”]]
- 3 is invalid because of last pair



Functions Over Lists

```
# let rec double_up list =  
  match list  
  with [ ] -> [ ] (* pattern before ->,  
                   expression after *)  
       | (x :: xs) -> (x :: x :: double_up xs);;  
val double_up : 'a list -> 'a list = <fun>  
# let fib5_2 = double_up fib5;;  
val fib5_2 : int list = [8; 8; 5; 5; 3; 3; 2; 2; 1;  
  1; 1; 1]
```




Functions Over Lists

```
# let silly = double_up ["hi"; "there"];;
val silly : string list = ["hi"; "hi"; "there"; "there"]
# let rec poor_rev list =
  match list
  with [] -> []
       | (x::xs) -> poor_rev xs @ [x];;
val poor_rev : 'a list -> 'a list = <fun>
# poor_rev silly;;
- : string list = ["there"; "there"; "hi"; "hi"]
```



Question: Length of list

- Problem: write code for the length of the list
 - How to start?

let length l =



Question: Length of list

- Problem: write code for the length of the list
 - How to start?

let rec length l =
 match l with



Question: Length of list

- Problem: write code for the length of the list
 - What patterns should we match against?

let rec length l =
 match l with



Question: Length of list

- Problem: write code for the length of the list
 - What patterns should we match against?

```
let rec length l =  
  match l with [] ->  
  | (a :: bs) ->
```



Question: Length of list

- Problem: write code for the length of the list
 - What result do we give when `l` is empty?

```
let rec length l =  
  match l with [] -> 0  
  | (a :: bs) ->
```



Question: Length of list

- Problem: write code for the length of the list
 - What result do we give when `l` is not empty?

```
let rec length l =  
  match l with [] -> 0  
  | (a :: bs) ->
```



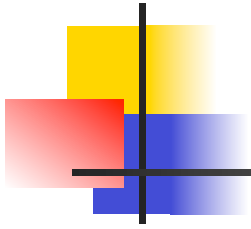
Question: Length of list

- Problem: write code for the length of the list
 - What result do we give when `l` is not empty?

let rec length l =

match l with [] -> 0

| (a :: bs) -> 1 + length bs



Your turn now

Try Problem 1 on MP2



Same Length

- How can we efficiently answer if two lists have the same length?



Same Length

- How can we efficiently answer if two lists have the same length?

```
let rec same_length list1 list2 =  
  match list1 with [] ->  
    (match list2 with [] -> true  
     | (y::ys) -> false)  
  | (x::xs) ->  
    (match list2 with [] -> false  
     | (y::ys) -> same_length xs ys)
```



Structural Recursion

- Functions on recursive datatypes (eg lists) tend to be recursive
- Recursion over recursive datatypes generally by structural recursion
 - Recursive calls made to components of structure of the same recursive type
 - Base cases of recursive types stop the recursion of the function



Structural Recursion : List Example

```
# let rec length list = match list
  with [ ] -> 0 (* Nil case *)
       | x :: xs -> 1 + length xs;; (* Cons case *)
val length : 'a list -> int = <fun>
# length [5; 4; 3; 2];;
- : int = 4
```

- Nil case [] is base case
- Cons case recurses on component list xs



Forward Recursion

- In Structural Recursion, split input into components and (eventually) recurse
- Forward Recursion form of Structural Recursion
- In forward recursion, first call the function recursively on all recursive components, and then build final result from partial results
- Wait until whole structure has been traversed to start building answer



Forward Recursion: Examples

```
# let rec double_up list =  
  match list  
  with [ ] -> [ ]  
       | (x :: xs) -> (x :: x :: double_up xs);;  
val double_up : 'a list -> 'a list = <fun>
```

```
# let rec poor_rev list =  
  match list  
  with [] -> []  
       | (x::xs) -> poor_rev xs @ [x];;  
val poor_rev : 'a list -> 'a list = <fun>
```



Question

- How do you write length with forward recursion?

let rec length l =



Question

- How do you write length with forward recursion?

```
let rec length l =  
  match l with [] ->  
    | (a :: bs) ->
```



Question

- How do you write length with forward recursion?

let rec length l =

 match l with [] ->

 | (a :: bs) -> length bs



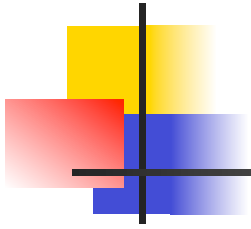
Question

- How do you write length with forward recursion?

let rec length l =

 match l with [] -> 0

 | (a :: bs) -> 1 + length bs

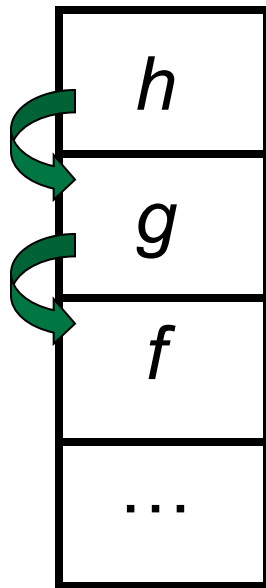


Your turn now

Try Problem 2 on MP3

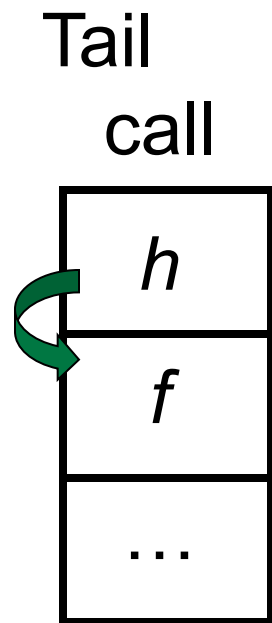
An Important Optimization

Normal
call



- When a function call is made, the return address needs to be saved to the stack so we know to where to return when the call is finished
- What if *f* calls *g* and *g* calls *h*, but calling *h* is the last thing *g* does (a *tail call*)?

An Important Optimization



- When a function call is made, the return address needs to be saved to the stack so we know to where to return when the call is finished
- What if f calls g and g calls h , but calling h is the last thing g does (a *tail call*)?
- Then h can return directly to f instead of g



Tail Recursion

- A recursive program is tail recursive if all recursive calls are tail calls
- Tail recursive programs may be optimized to be implemented as loops, thus removing the function call overhead for the recursive calls
- Tail recursion generally requires extra “accumulator” arguments to pass partial results
 - May require an auxiliary function



Example of Tail Recursion

```
# let rec prod l =  
  match l with [] -> 1  
  | (x :: rem) -> x * prod rem;;  
val prod : int list -> int = <fun>  
# let prod list =  
  let rec prod_aux l acc =  
    match l with [] -> acc  
    | (y :: rest) -> prod_aux rest (acc * y)  
  (* Uses associativity of multiplication *)  
  in prod_aux list 1;;  
val prod : int list -> int = <fun>
```




Question

- How do you write length with tail recursion?

let length l =



Question

- How do you write length with tail recursion?

let length l =

let rec length_aux list n =

in



Question

- How do you write length with tail recursion?

let length l =

let rec length_aux list n =

match list with [] ->

| (a :: bs) ->

in



Question

- How do you write length with tail recursion?

let length l =

let rec length_aux list n =

match list with [] -> n

| (a :: bs) ->

in



Question

- How do you write length with tail recursion?

let length l =

let rec length_aux list n =

match list with [] -> n

| (a :: bs) -> length_aux

in



Question

- How do you write length with tail recursion?

let length l =

let rec length_aux list n =

match list with [] -> n

| (a :: bs) -> length_aux bs

in



Question

- How do you write length with tail recursion?

let length l =

let rec length_aux list n =

match list with [] -> n

| (a :: bs) -> length_aux bs (n + 1)

in



Question

- How do you write length with tail recursion?

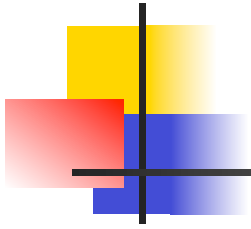
```
let length l =
```

```
  let rec length_aux list n =
```

```
    match list with [] -> n
```

```
    | (a :: bs) -> length_aux bs (n + 1)
```

```
  in length_aux l 0
```

Your turn now

Try Problem 4 on MP3



Mapping Recursion

- One common form of structural recursion applies a function to each element in the structure

```
# let rec doubleList list = match list  
  with [ ] -> [ ]  
       | x::xs -> 2 * x :: doubleList xs;;
```

```
val doubleList : int list -> int list = <fun>
```

```
# doubleList [2;3;4];;
```

```
- : int list = [4; 6; 8]
```



Mapping Functions Over Lists

```
# let rec map f list =  
  match list  
  with [] -> []  
       | (h::t) -> (f h) :: (map f t);;  
val map : ('a -> 'b) -> 'a list -> 'b list = <fun>  
# map plus_two fib5;;  
- : int list = [10; 7; 5; 4; 3; 3]  
# map (fun x -> x - 1) fib6;;  
: int list = [12; 7; 4; 2; 1; 0; 0]
```



Mapping Recursion

- Can use the higher-order recursive map function instead of direct recursion

```
# let doubleList list =
```

```
  List.map (fun x -> 2 * x) list;;
```

```
val doubleList : int list -> int list = <fun>
```

```
# doubleList [2;3;4];;
```

```
- : int list = [4; 6; 8]
```

- Same function, but no rec



Folding Recursion

- Another common form “folds” an operation over the elements of the structure

```
# let rec multList list = match list  
  with [ ] -> 1  
       | x::xs -> x * multList xs;;
```

```
val multList : int list -> int = <fun>
```

```
# multList [2;4;6];;
```

```
- : int = 48
```

- Computes $(2 * (4 * (6 * 1)))$



Folding Functions over Lists

How are the following functions similar?

```
# let rec sumlist list = match list with  
  [ ] -> 0 | x::xs -> x + sumlist xs;;
```

```
val sumlist : int list -> int = <fun>
```

```
# sumlist [2;3;4];;
```

```
- : int = 9
```

```
# let rec prodlist list = match list with  
  [ ] -> 1 | x::xs -> x * prodlist xs;;
```

```
val prodlist : int list -> int = <fun>
```

```
# prodlist [2;3;4];;
```

```
- : int = 24
```



Iterating over lists

```
# let rec fold_right f list b =
  match list
  with [] -> b
       | (x :: xs) -> f x (fold_right f xs b);;
val fold_right : ('a -> 'b -> 'b) -> 'a list -> 'b -> 'b =
  <fun>
# fold_right
  (fun s -> fun () -> print_string s)
  ["hi"; "there"]
  ();;
therehi- : unit = ()
```



Folding Recursion

- multList folds to the right
- Same as:

```
# let multList list =  
  List.fold_right  
    (fun x -> fun p -> x * p)  
    list 1;;
```

```
val multList : int list -> int = <fun>
```

```
# multList [2;4;6];;
```

```
- : int = 48
```


Encoding Recursion with Fold

```
# let rec append list1 list2 = match list1 with  
  [ ] -> list2 | x::xs -> x :: append xs list2;;  
val append : 'a list -> 'a list -> 'a list = <fun>
```

Base Case

Operation

Recursive Call

```
# let append list1 list2 =  
  fold_right (fun x y -> x :: y) list1 list2;;  
val append : 'a list -> 'a list -> 'a list = <fun>  
# append [1;2;3] [4;5;6];;  
- : int list = [1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6]
```



Question

let rec length l =

 match l with [] -> 0

 | (a :: bs) -> 1 + length bs

- How do you write length with fold_right, but no explicit recursion?



Question

```
let rec length l =
```

```
  match l with [] -> 0
```

```
  | (a :: bs) -> 1 + length bs
```

- How do you write length with fold_right, but no explicit recursion?

```
let length list =
```

```
List.fold_right (fun x -> fun n -> n + 1) list 0
```



Map from Fold

```
# let map f list =  
  fold_right (fun x -> fun y -> f x :: y) list  
  [ ];;
```

```
val map : ('a -> 'b) -> 'a list -> 'b list =  
  <fun>
```

```
# map ((+)1) [1;2;3];;
```

```
- : int list = [2; 3; 4]
```

- Can you write `fold_right` (or `fold_left`) with just `map`? How, or why not?



Iterating over lists

```
# let rec fold_left f a list =  
  match list  
  with [] -> a  
       | (x :: xs) -> fold_left f (f a x) xs;;  
val fold_left : ('a -> 'b -> 'a) -> 'a -> 'b list -> 'a =  
  <fun>  
# fold_left  
  (fun () -> print_string)  
  ()  
  ["hi"; "there"];;  
hithere- : unit = ()
```

Encoding Tail Recursion with fold_left

```
# let prod list = let rec prod_aux l acc =  
  match l with [] -> acc  
  | (y :: rest) -> prod_aux rest (acc * y)  
in prod_aux list 1;;
```

```
val prod : int list -> int = <fun>
```

Init Acc Value

Recursive Call

Operation

```
# let prod list =  
  List.fold_left (fun acc y -> acc * y) 1 list;;
```

```
val prod: int list -> int = <fun>
```

```
# prod [4;5;6];;
```

```
- : int = 120
```



Question

```
let length l =
```

```
  let rec length_aux list n =
```

```
    match list with [] -> n
```

```
    | (a :: bs) -> length_aux bs (n + 1)
```

```
  in length_aux l 0
```

- How do you write length with fold_left, but no explicit recursion?



Question

```
let length l =  
  let rec length_aux list n =  
    match list with [] -> n  
    | (a :: bs) -> length_aux bs (n + 1)  
  in length_aux l 0
```

- How do you write length with fold_left, but no explicit recursion?

```
let length list =  
  List.fold_left (fun n -> fun x -> n + 1) 0 list
```




Folding

```
# let rec fold_left f a list = match list
  with [] -> a | (x :: xs) -> fold_left f (f a x) xs;;
val fold_left : ('a -> 'b -> 'a) -> 'a -> 'b list -> 'a =
  <fun>
```

```
fold_left f a [x1; x2;...;xn] = f(...(f (f a x1) x2)...)xn
```

```
# let rec fold_right f list b = match list
  with [ ] -> b | (x :: xs) -> f x (fold_right f xs b);;
val fold_right : ('a -> 'b -> 'b) -> 'a list -> 'b -> 'b =
  <fun>
```

```
fold_right f [x1; x2;...;xn] b = f x1(f x2 (...(f xn b)...))
```



Recall

```
# let rec poor_rev list = match list
  with [] -> []
       | (x::xs) -> poor_rev xs @ [x];;
val poor_rev : 'a list -> 'a list = <fun>
```

- What is its running time?



Quadratic Time

- Each step of the recursion takes time proportional to input
- Each step of the recursion makes only one recursive call.
- List example:

```
# let rec poor_rev list = match list
  with [] -> []
       | (x::xs) -> poor_rev xs @ [x];;
val poor_rev : 'a list -> 'a list = <fun>
```



Tail Recursion - Example

```
# let rec rev_aux list revlist =  
  match list with [ ] -> revlist  
  | x :: xs -> rev_aux xs (x::revlist);;  
val rev_aux : 'a list -> 'a list -> 'a list = <fun>
```

```
# let rev list = rev_aux list [ ];;  
val rev : 'a list -> 'a list = <fun>
```

- What is its running time?



Comparison

- `poor_rev [1,2,3] =`
- `(poor_rev [2,3]) @ [1] =`
- `((poor_rev [3]) @ [2]) @ [1] =`
- `((poor_rev []) @ [3]) @ [2]) @ [1] =`
- `(([] @ [3]) @ [2]) @ [1] =`
- `([3] @ [2]) @ [1] =`
- `(3 :: ([] @ [2])) @ [1] =`
- `[3,2] @ [1] =`
- `3 :: ([2] @ [1]) =`
- `3 :: (2 :: ([] @ [1])) = [3, 2, 1]`



Comparison

- $\text{rev } [1,2,3] =$
- $\text{rev_aux } [1,2,3] [] =$
- $\text{rev_aux } [2,3] [1] =$
- $\text{rev_aux } [3] [2,1] =$
- $\text{rev_aux } [] [3,2,1] = [3,2,1]$



Folding - Tail Recursion

```
- # let rev list =  
-   fold_left  
-   (fun l -> fun x -> x :: l) //comb op  
-   [] //accumulator cell  
-   list
```



Folding

- Can replace recursion by `fold_right` in any forward primitive recursive definition
 - Primitive recursive means it only recurses on immediate subcomponents of recursive data structure
- Can replace recursion by `fold_left` in any tail primitive recursive definition



Continuation Passing Style

- A programming technique for all forms of “non-local” control flow:
 - non-local jumps
 - exceptions
 - general conversion of non-tail calls to tail calls
- Essentially it's a higher-order function version of GOTO



Continuations

- Idea: Use functions to represent the control flow of a program
- Method: Each procedure takes a function as an argument to which to pass its result; outer procedure “returns” no result
- Function receiving the result called a continuation
- Continuation acts as “accumulator” for work still to be done

Example of Tail Recursion

```
# let rec app fl x =  
  match fl with [] -> x  
  | (f :: rem_fs) -> f (app rem_fs x);;  
val app : ('a -> 'a) list -> 'a -> 'a = <fun>  
# let app fs x =  
  let rec app_aux fl acc=  
    match fl with [] -> acc  
    | (f :: rem_fs) -> app_aux rem_fs  
      (fun z -> acc (f z))  
  in app_aux fs (fun y -> y) x;;  
val app : ('a -> 'a) list -> 'a -> 'a = <fun>
```



Continuation Passing Style

- Writing procedures so that they take a continuation to which to give (pass) the result, and return no result, is called continuation passing style (CPS)



Example of Tail Recursion & CSP

```
# let app fs x =  
  let rec app_aux fl acc=  
    match fl with [] -> acc  
    | (f :: rem_fs) -> app_aux rem_fs  
                        (fun z -> acc (f z))  
  in app_aux fs (fun y -> y) x;;  
val app : ('a -> 'a) list -> 'a -> 'a = <fun>  
# let rec appk fl x k =  
  match fl with [] -> k x  
  | (f :: rem_fs) -> appk rem_fs x (fun z -> k (f z));;  
val appk : ('a -> 'a) list -> 'a -> ('a -> 'b) -> 'b
```



Continuation Passing Style

- A compilation technique to implement non-local control flow, especially useful in interpreters.
- A formalization of non-local control flow in denotational semantics



Terms

- A function is in Direct Style when it returns its result back to the caller.
- A Tail Call occurs when a function returns the result of another function call without any more computations (eg tail recursion)
- A function is in Continuation Passing Style when it passes its result to another function.
- Instead of returning the result to the caller, we pass it forward to another function.



Example

- Simple reporting continuation:

```
# let report x = (print_int x; print_newline( ) );;  
val report : int -> unit = <fun>
```

- Simple function using a continuation:

```
# let plusk a b k = k (a + b)  
val plusk : int -> int -> (int -> 'a) -> 'a = <fun>  
# plusk 20 22 report;;  
42  
- : unit = ()
```




Simple Functions Taking Continuations

- Given a primitive operation, can convert it to pass its result forward to a continuation

- Examples:

```
# let subk x y k = k(x + y);;
```

```
val subk : int -> int -> (int -> 'a) -> 'a = <fun>
```

```
# let eqk x y k = k(x = y);;
```

```
val eqk : 'a -> 'a -> (bool -> 'b) -> 'b = <fun>
```

```
# let timesk x y k = k(x * y);;
```

```
val timesk : int -> int -> (int -> 'a) -> 'a = <fun>
```



Nesting Continuations

```
# let add_three x y z = x + y + z;;
```

```
val add_three : int -> int -> int -> int = <fun>
```

```
# let add_three x y z = let p = x + y in p + z;;
```

```
val add_three : int -> int -> int -> int = <fun>
```

```
# let add_three_k x y z k =
```

```
  addk x y (fun p -> addk p z k);;
```

```
val add_three_k : int -> int -> int -> (int -> 'a)  
  -> 'a = <fun>
```