Programming Languages and Compilers (CS 421)

Dennis Griffith

0207 SC, UIUC

http://www.cs.uiuc.edu/class/cs421/

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

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 *)
   (* More on this later *)
```

Lists

- First example of a recursive datatype (algebraic datatype)
- Unlike tuples, lists are type homogeneous (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"]
```

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]
```

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 () -> fun s -> print_string s)
   ()
   ["hi"; "there"];;
hithere- : unit = ()
```

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 = ()
```

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

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, you split your input into components
- In forward recursion, you first call the function recursively on all the recursive components, and then build the final result from the partial results
- Wait until the whole structure has been traversed to start building the 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>
```

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 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 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
```

How long will it take?

- Remember the big-O notation from CS 225 and CS 273
- Question: given input of size *n*, how long to generate output?
- Express output time in terms of input size, omit constants and take biggest power

How long will it take?

Common big-O times:

- Constant time $O(1)$
  - input size doesn't matter
- Linear time $O(n)$
  - double input $\Rightarrow$ double time
- Quadratic time $O(n^2)$
  - double input $\Rightarrow$ quadruple time
- Exponential time $O(2^n)$
  - increment input $\Rightarrow$ double time

Linear Time

- Expect most list operations to take linear time $O(n)$
- Each step of the recursion can be done in constant time
- Each step makes only one recursive call
- List example: multList, append
- Integer example: factorial

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>
```

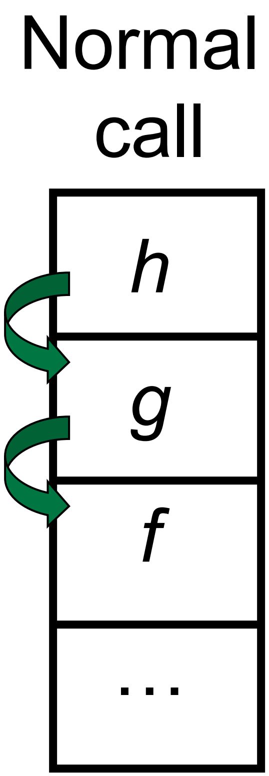
Exponential running time

- Hideous running times on input of any size
- Each step of recursion takes constant time
- Each recursion makes two recursive calls
- Easy to write naïve code that is exponential for functions that can be linear

Exponential running time

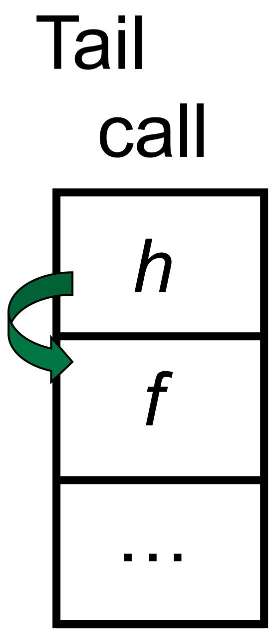
```
# let rec naiveFib n = match n
  with 0 -> 0
  | 1 -> 1
  | _ -> naiveFib (n-1) + naiveFib (n-2);;
val naiveFib : int -> int = <fun>
```

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*)?

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

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

- rev [1,2,3] =
- rev_aux [1,2,3] [ ] =
- rev_aux [2,3] [1] =
- rev_aux [3] [2,1] =
- rev_aux [ ] [3,2,1] = [3,2,1]