

Programming Languages and Compilers (CS 421)

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<https://courses.engr.illinois.edu/cs421/fa2023/CS421D>

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



Programming Languages & Compilers

Three Main Topics of the Course

I

New
Programming
Paradigm

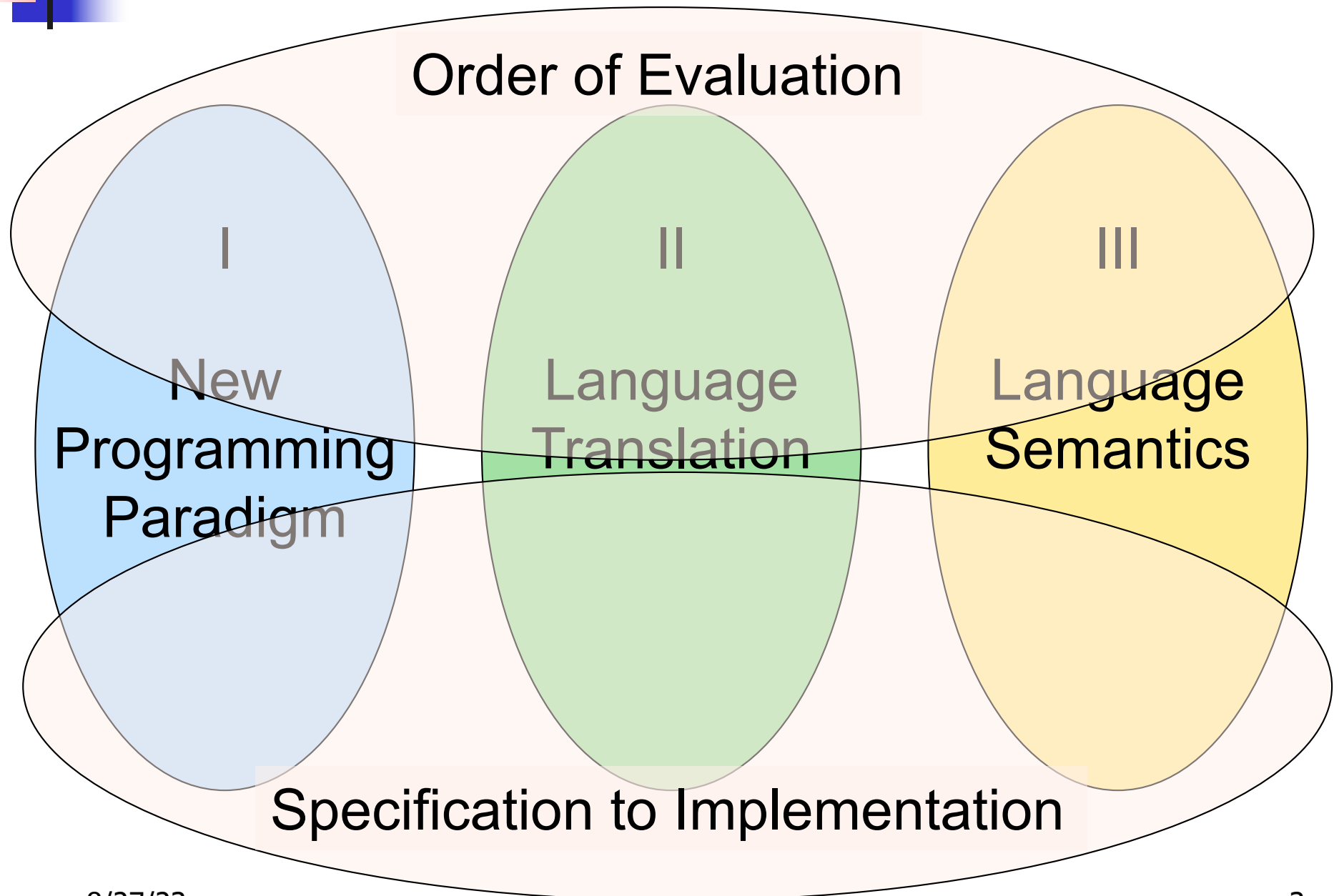
II

Language
Translation

III

Language
Semantics

Programming Languages & Compilers





Programming Languages & Compilers

I : New Programming Paradigm

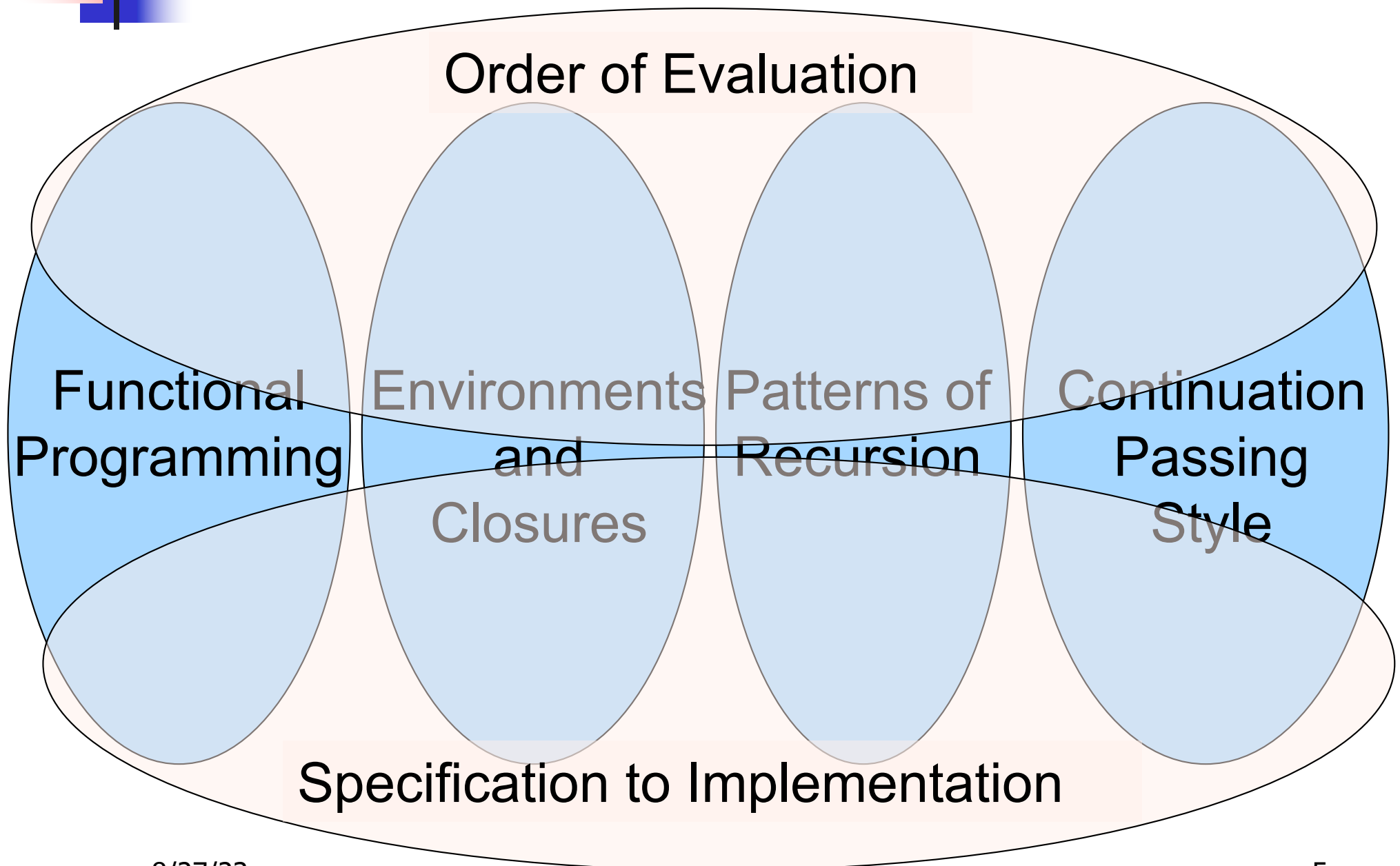
Functional
Programming

Environments
and
Closures

Patterns of
Recursion

Continuation
Passing
Style

Programming Languages & Compilers



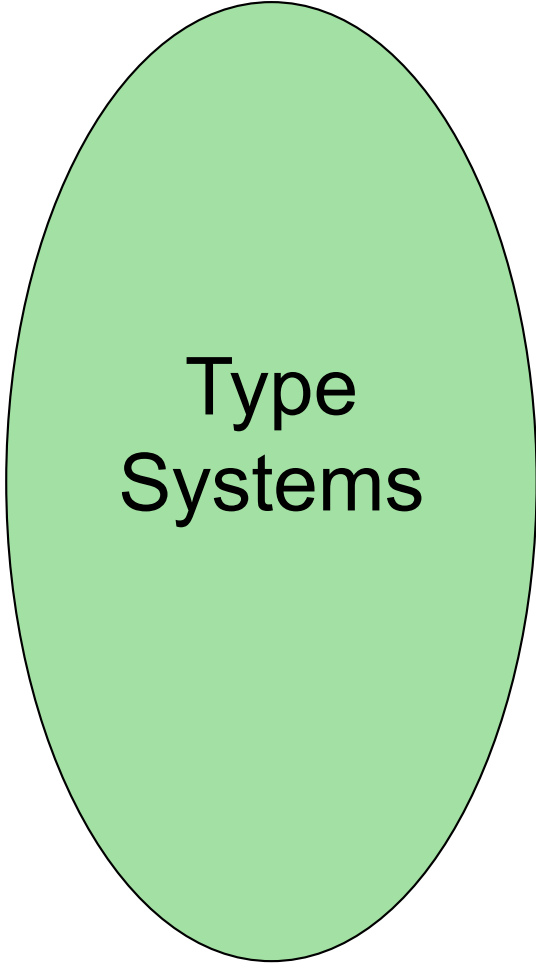


Programming Languages & Compilers

II : Language Translation



Lexing and
Parsing

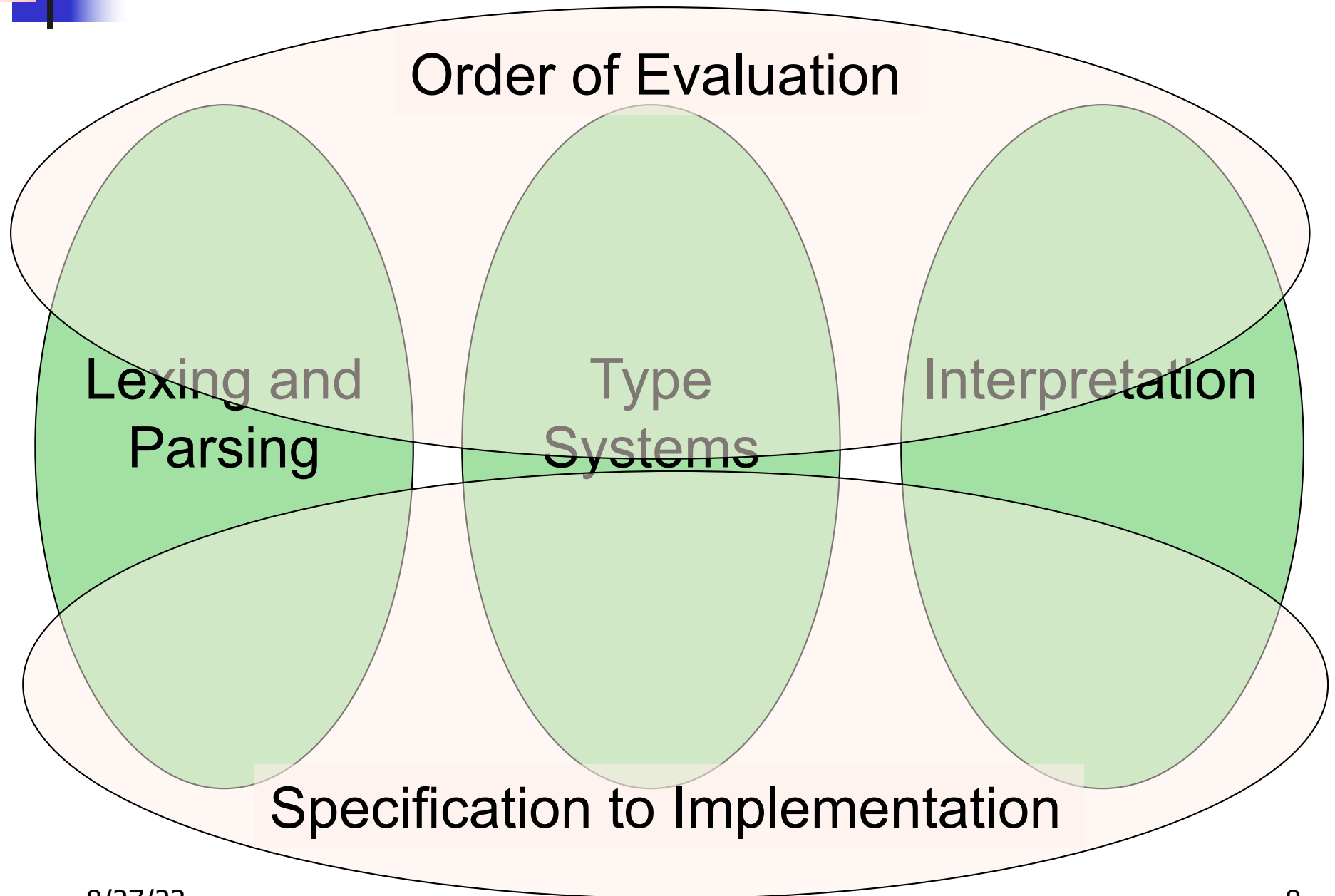


Type
Systems



Interpretation

Programming Languages & Compilers



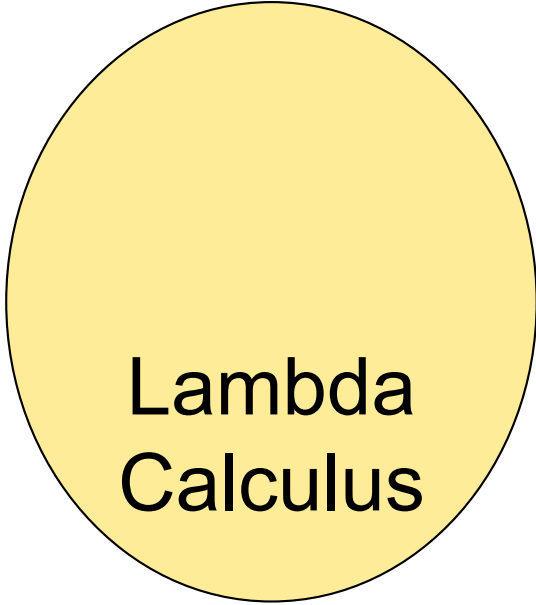


Programming Languages & Compilers

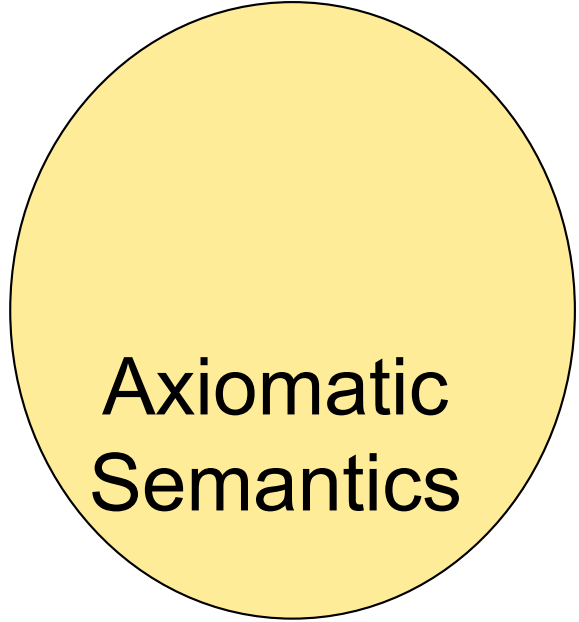
III : Language Semantics



Operational
Semantics

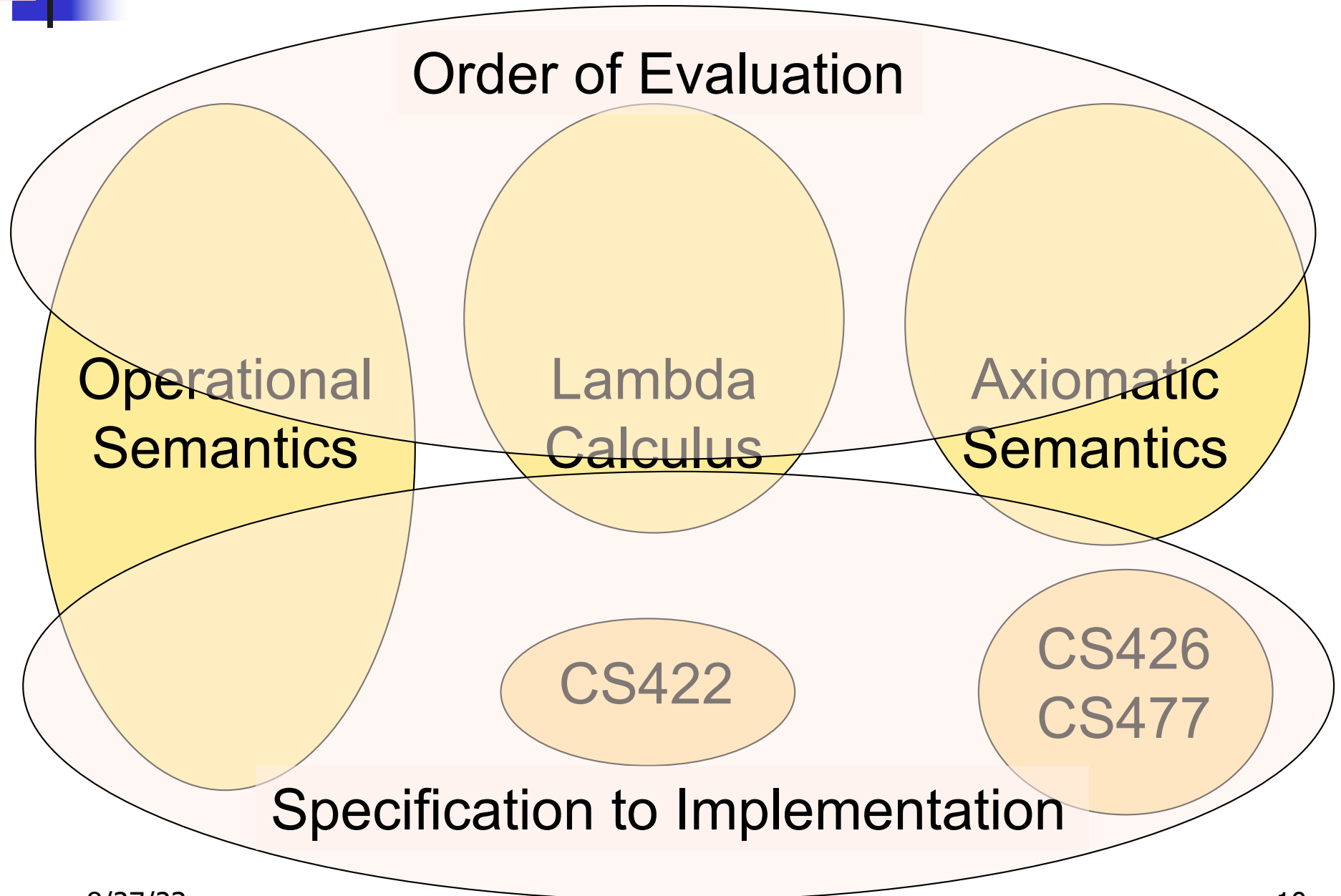


Lambda
Calculus



Axiomatic
Semantics

Programming Languages & Compilers





Contact Information - Elsa L Gunter

- Office: 2112 SC
- Office hours:
 - Tuesday, Thursday 4:00pm – 4:50pm
 - Can attend in zoom
 - Also by appointment
- Email: egunter@illinois.edu

Course TAs



Deeya
Bansal



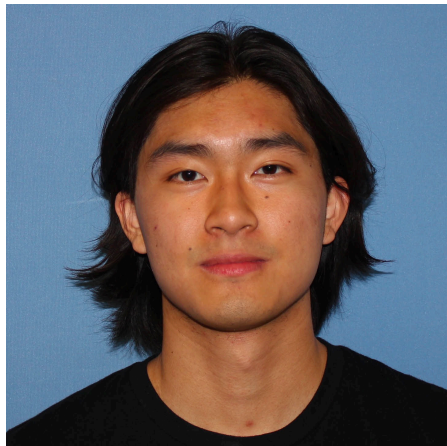
Ben Darnell



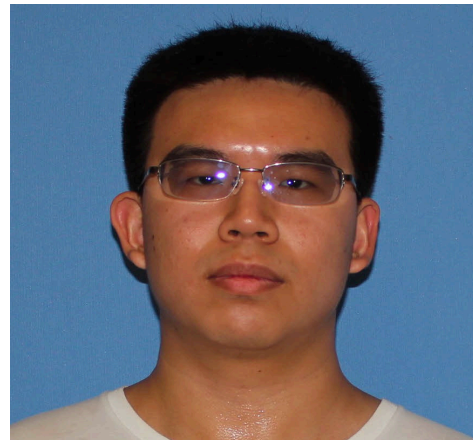
Shaurya
Gomber



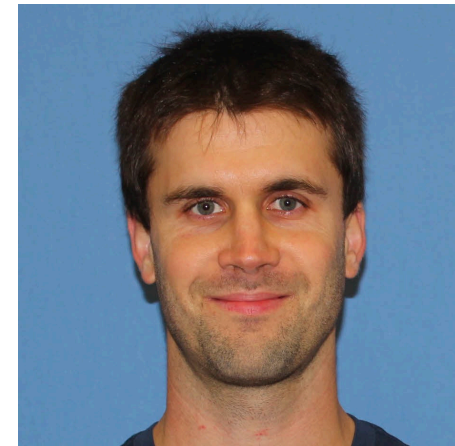
Yerong Li



Alan Yao



James Luo*



Paul Krogmeier*

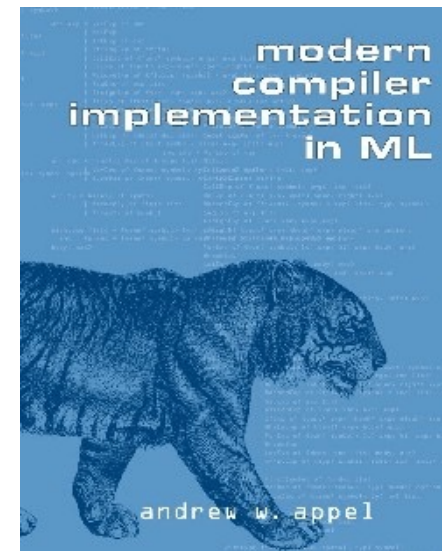
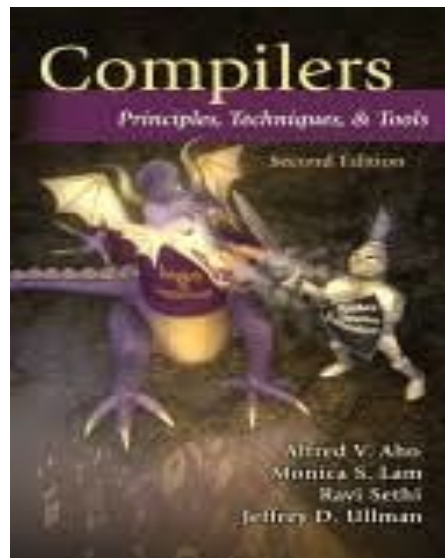
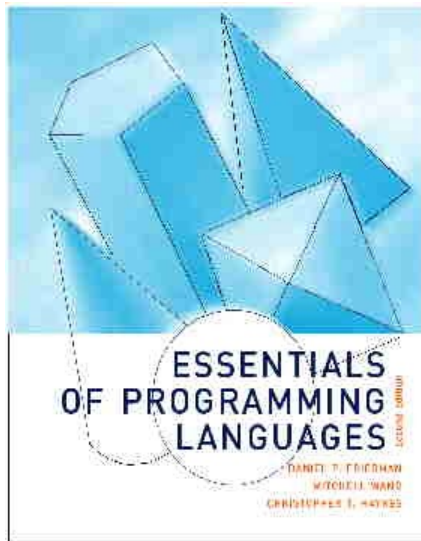


Course Website

- <https://courses.engr.illinois.edu/cs421/fa2023/CS421D>
- Main page - summary of news items
- Policy - rules governing course
- Lectures - syllabus and slides
- MPs - information about assignments
- Exams – Syllabi and review material for Midterms and finals
- Unit Projects - for 4 credit students
- Resources - tools and helpful info
- FAQ

Some Course References

- No required textbook
- Some suggested references





Some Course References

- No required textbook.
- Pictures of the books on previous slide
- Essentials of Programming Languages (2nd Edition) by Daniel P. Friedman, Mitchell Wand and Christopher T. Haynes, MIT Press 2001.
- Compilers: Principles, Techniques, and Tools, (also known as "The Dragon Book"); by Aho, Sethi, and Ullman. Published by Addison-Wesley. ISBN: 0-201-10088-6.
- Modern Compiler Implementation in ML by Andrew W. Appel, Cambridge University Press 1998
- Additional ones for Ocaml given separately



Course Grading

- Assignments 10%
 - Web Assignments (WA) (~3-6%)
 - MPs (in Ocaml) (~4-7%)
 - All WAs and MPs Submitted by **PrairieLearn**
 - Late submission penalty: capped at 80% of total



Course Grading

- Five quizzes - 10%
- 3 Midterms - 15% each
 - **Sep 14-16, Oct 12-14, Nov 9-11**
 - **BE AVAILABLE FOR THESE DATES!**
- Final 35%
- Tuesday Dec 12, 7:00pm-10:00pm,
- Percentages are approximate



Course Assignments – WA & MP

- You may discuss assignments and their solutions with others
- You may work in groups, but you must **list members with whom you worked** if you share solutions or solution outlines
- **Each student must write up and turn in their own solution separately**
- You may look at examples from class and other similar examples from any source – **cite appropriately**
 - Note: University policy on plagiarism still holds - cite your sources if you are not the sole author of your solution
 - Do not have to cite course notes or me



OCAML

- Locally:

- Will use ocaml inside VSCode inside PrairieLearn problems this semester

- Globally:

- Main OCAML home: <http://ocaml.org>
- To install OCAML on your computer see: <http://ocaml.org/docs/install.html>
- To try on the web: <https://try.ocamlpro.com>
- More notes on this later



References for OCaml

- Supplemental texts (not required):
 - The Objective Caml system release 4.05, by Xavier Leroy, online manual
 - Introduction to the Objective Caml Programming Language, by Jason Hickey
 - Developing Applications With Objective Caml, by Emmanuel Chailloux, Pascal Manoury, and Bruno Pagano, on O'Reilly
 - Available online from course resources



Features of OCAML

- Higher order applicative language
- Call-by-value parameter passing
- Modern syntax
- Parametric polymorphism
 - Aka structural polymorphism
- Automatic garbage collection
- User-defined algebraic data types



Session in OCAML

```
% ocaml
```

```
Objective Caml version 4.07.1
```

```
# (* Read-eval-print loop; expressions and  
declarations *)
```

```
2 + 3;; (* Expression *)
```

```
- : int = 5
```

```
# 3 < 2;;
```

```
- : bool = false
```



Declarations; Sequencing of Declarations

```
# let x = 2 + 3;; (* declaration *)
```

```
val x : int = 5
```

```
# let test = 3 < 2;;
```

```
val test : bool = false
```

```
# let a = 1 let b = a + 4;; (* Sequence of dec  
*)
```

```
val a : int = 1
```

```
val b : int = 5
```



Functions

```
# let plus_two n = n + 2;;  
val plus_two : int -> int = <fun>  
# plus_two 17;;  
- : int = 19
```



Functions

```
let plus_two n = n + 2;;
```

```
plus_two 17;;
```

```
- : int = 19
```




Environments

- *Environments* record what value is associated with a given identifier
- Central to the semantics and implementation of a language
- Notation
$$\rho = \{\text{name}_1 \rightarrow \text{value}_1, \text{name}_2 \rightarrow \text{value}_2, \dots\}$$
Using set notation, but describes a partial function
- Often stored as list, or stack
 - To find value start from left and take first match



Environments

$X \rightarrow 3$

$\text{name} \rightarrow \text{"Steve"}$

...

$y \rightarrow 17$

$\text{region} \rightarrow (5.4, 3.7)$

$b \rightarrow \text{true}$

$\text{id} \rightarrow \{\text{Name} = \text{"Paul"},$
 $\text{Age} = 23,$
 $\text{SSN} = 999888777\}$



Global Variable Creation

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

```
// doesn't affect the environment
```

```
# let test = 3 < 2;;    (* Declaration *)
```

```
val test : bool = false
```

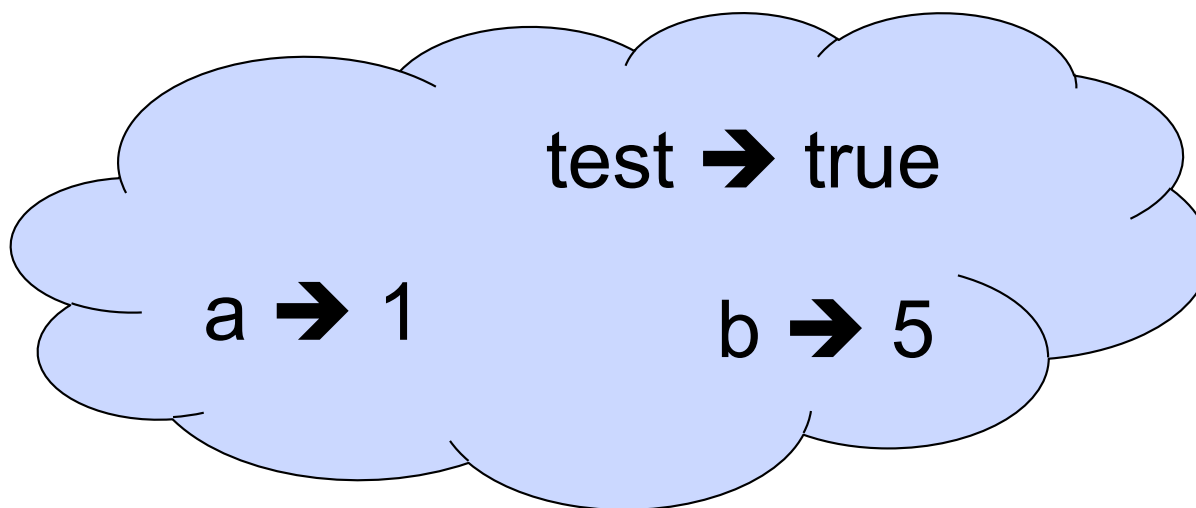
```
//  $\rho_1 = \{\text{test} \rightarrow \text{false}\}$ 
```

```
# let a = 1 let b = a + 4;; (* Seq of dec *)
```

```
//  $\rho_2 = \{b \rightarrow 5, a \rightarrow 1, \text{test} \rightarrow \text{false}\}$ 
```



Environments





New Bindings Hide Old

```
//  $\rho_2 = \{b \rightarrow 5, a \rightarrow 1, test \rightarrow false\}$ 
```

```
let test = 3.7;;
```

- What is the environment after this declaration?



New Bindings Hide Old

```
//  $\rho_2 = \{b \rightarrow 5, a \rightarrow 1, \text{test} \rightarrow \text{false}\}$ 
```

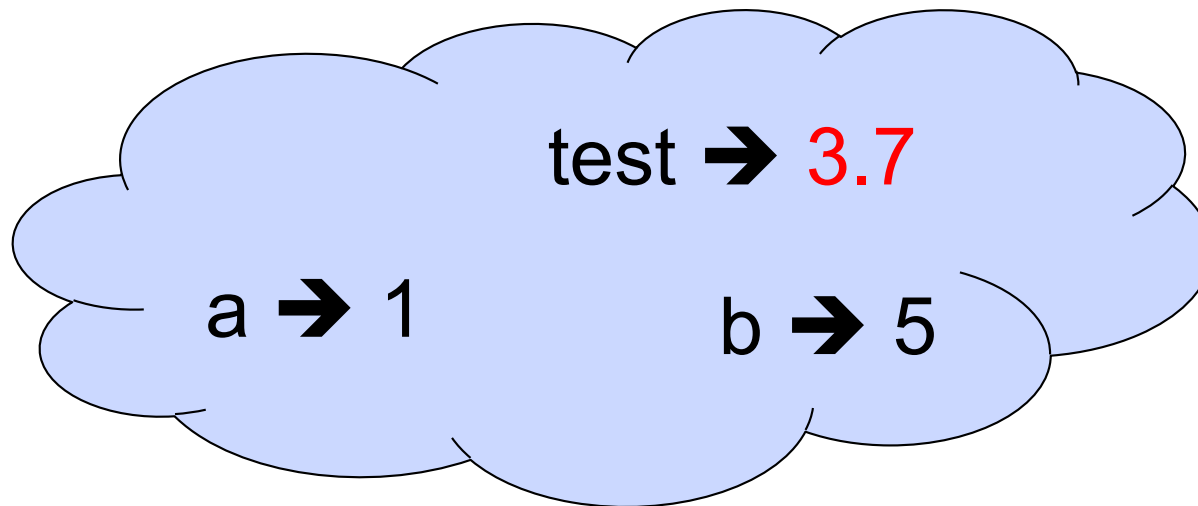
```
let test = 3.7;;
```

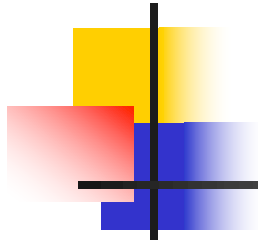
- What is the environment after this declaration?

```
//  $\rho_3 = \{\text{test} \rightarrow 3.7, a \rightarrow 1, b \rightarrow 5\}$ 
```



Environments





Now it's your turn

You should be able to do WA1-IC
Problem 1 , parts (* 1 *) - (* 3 *)

Local Variable Creation

```
//  $\rho_3 = \{\text{test} \rightarrow 3.7, a \rightarrow 1, b \rightarrow 5\}$ 
```

```
# let b = 5 * 4
```

```
//  $\rho_4 = \{b \rightarrow 20, \text{test} \rightarrow 3.7, a \rightarrow 1\}$ 
```

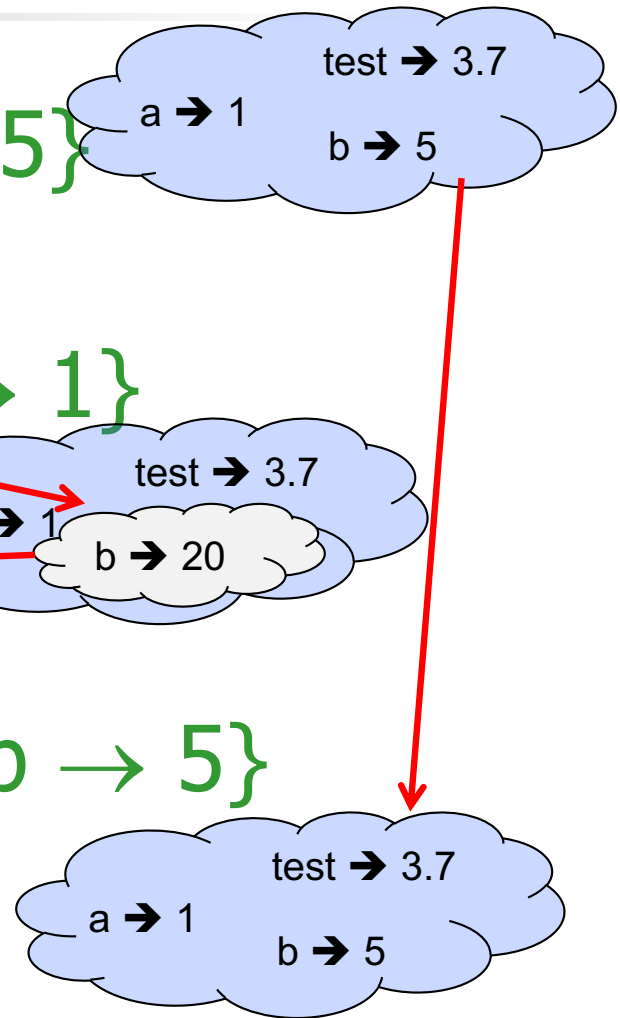
```
in 2 * b;;
```

```
- : int = 40
```

```
//  $\rho_5 = \rho_3 = \{\text{test} \rightarrow 3.7, a \rightarrow 1, b \rightarrow 5\}$ 
```

```
# b;;
```

```
- : int = 5
```



Local let binding

```
//  $\rho_5 = \rho_3 = \{\text{test} \rightarrow 3.7, a \rightarrow 1, b \rightarrow 5\}$ 
```

```
# let c =
```

```
  let b = a + a
```

```
//  $\rho_6 = \{b \rightarrow 2\} + \rho_3$ 
```

```
//  $= \{b \rightarrow 2, \text{test} \rightarrow 3.7, a \rightarrow 1\}$ 
```

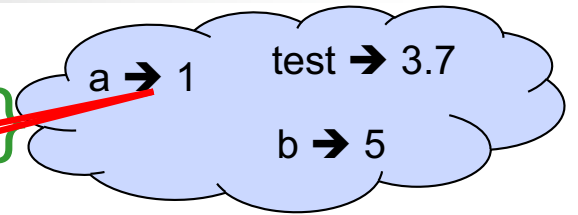
```
  in b * b;;
```

```
val c : int = 4
```

```
//  $\rho_7 = \{c \rightarrow 4, \text{test} \rightarrow 3.7, a \rightarrow 1, b \rightarrow 5\}$ 
```

```
# b;;
```

```
- : int = 5
```



Local let binding

```
//  $\rho_5 = \rho_3 = \{\text{test} \rightarrow 3.7, a \rightarrow 1, b \rightarrow 5\}$ 
```

```
# let c =
```

```
  let b = a + a
```

```
//  $\rho_6 = \{b \rightarrow 2\} + \rho_3$ 
```

```
//  $= \{b \rightarrow 2, \text{test} \rightarrow 3.7, a \rightarrow 1\}$ 
```

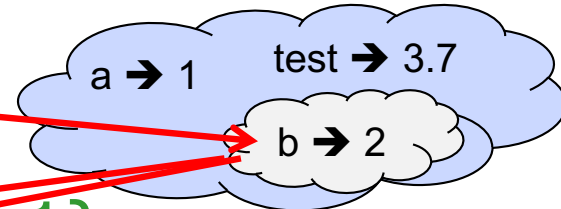
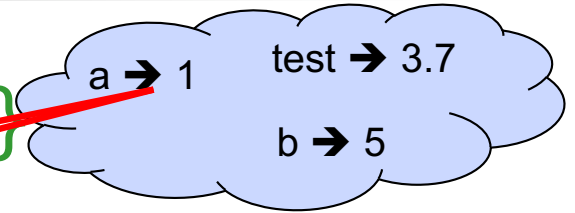
```
  in b * b;;
```

```
val c : int = 4
```

```
//  $\rho_7 = \{c \rightarrow 4, \text{test} \rightarrow 3.7, a \rightarrow 1, b \rightarrow 5\}$ 
```

```
# b;;
```

```
- : int = 5
```



Local let binding

```
//  $\rho_5 = \rho_3 = \{ \text{test} \rightarrow 3.7, a \rightarrow 1, b \rightarrow 5 \}$ 
```

```
# let c =
```

```
  let b = a + a
```

```
//  $\rho_6 = \{ b \rightarrow 2 \} + \rho_3$ 
```

```
//  $= \{ b \rightarrow 2, \text{test} \rightarrow 3.7, a \rightarrow 1 \}$ 
```

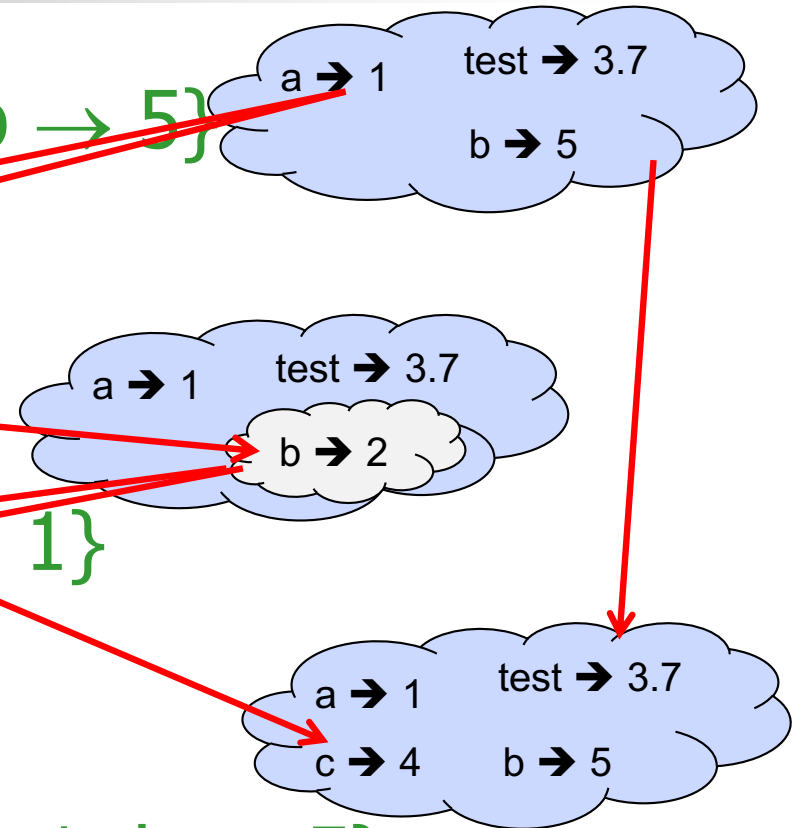
```
  in b * b;;
```

```
val c : int = 4
```

```
//  $\rho_7 = \{ c \rightarrow 4, \text{test} \rightarrow 3.7, a \rightarrow 1, b \rightarrow 5 \}$ 
```

```
# b;;
```

```
- : int = 5
```





Functions

```
# let plus_two n = n + 2;;  
val plus_two : int -> int = <fun>  
# plus_two 17;;  
- : int = 19
```



Functions

```
let plus_two n = n + 2;;
```

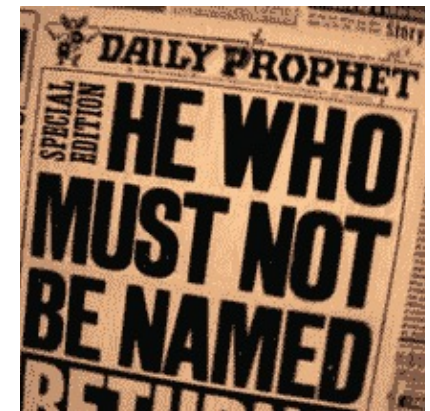
```
plus_two 17;;
```

```
- : int = 19
```

Nameless Functions (aka Lambda Terms)

```
fun n -> n + 2;;
```

```
(fun n -> n + 2) 17;;  
- : int = 19
```





Functions

```
# let plus_two n = n + 2;;
```

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

```
# plus_two 17;;
```

```
- : int = 19
```

```
# let plus_two = fun n -> n + 2;;
```

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

```
# plus_two 14;;
```

```
- : int = 16
```

First definition syntactic sugar for second

Using a nameless function

```
# (fun x -> x * 3) 5;; (* An application *)
```

```
- : int = 15
```

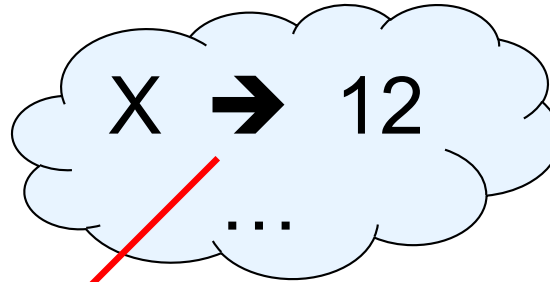
```
# ((fun y -> y +. 2.0), (fun z -> z * 3));;  
(* As data *)
```

```
- : (float -> float) * (int -> int) = (<fun>,  
<fun>)
```

Note: in `fun v -> exp(v)`, scope of variable is only the body `exp(v)`

Values fixed at declaration time

```
# let x = 12;;
```



```
val x : int = 12
```

```
# let plus_x y = y + x;;
```

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

```
# plus_x 3;;
```

What is the result?



Values fixed at declaration time

```
# let x = 12;;
```

```
val x : int = 12
```

```
# let plus_x y = y + x;;
```

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

```
# plus_x 3;;
```

```
- : int = 15
```



Values fixed at declaration time

```
# let x = 7;; (* New declaration, not an  
update *)
```

```
val x : int = 7
```

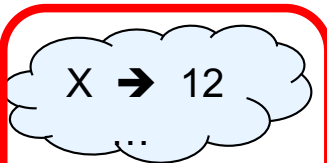
```
# plus_x 3;;
```

What is the result this time?

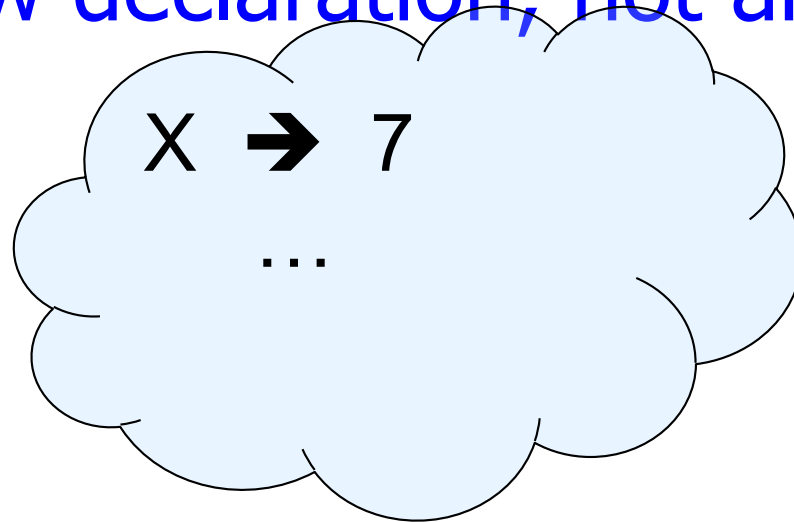
Values fixed at declaration time

```
# let x = 7;; (* New declaration, not an  
update *)
```

```
val x : int = 7
```



```
# plus_x 3;;
```



What is the result this time?



Values fixed at declaration time

```
# let x = 7;; (* New declaration, not an  
update *)
```

```
val x : int = 7
```

```
# plus_x 3;;
```

```
- : int = 15
```



Question

- Observation: Functions are first-class values in this language
- Question: What value does the environment record for a function variable?
- Answer: a closure



Save the Environment!

- A *closure* is a pair of an environment and an association of a formal parameter (the input variables)* with an expression (the function body), written:

$$f \rightarrow \langle (v_1, \dots, v_n) \rightarrow \text{exp}, \rho_f \rangle$$

- Where ρ_f is the environment in effect when f is defined (if f is a simple function)
- * Will come back to the “formal parameter”

Closure for plus_x

- When plus_x was defined, had environment:

$$\rho_{\text{plus_x}} = \{\dots, x \rightarrow 12, \dots\}$$

- Recall: `let plus_x y = y + x`

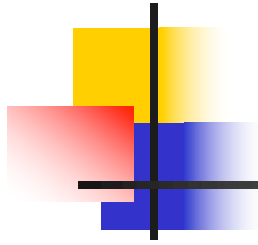
is really `let plus_x = fun y -> y + x`

- Closure for `fun y -> y + x`:

$$\langle y \rightarrow y + x, \rho_{\text{plus_x}} \rangle$$

- Environment just after plus_x defined:

$$\{\text{plus_x} \rightarrow \langle y \rightarrow y + x, \rho_{\text{plus_x}} \rangle\} + \rho_{\text{plus_x}}$$



Now it's your turn

You should be able complete ACT1



Functions with more than one argument

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

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

```
# let t = add_three 6 3 2;;
```

```
val t : int = 11
```

```
# let add_three =
```

```
  fun x -> (fun y -> (fun z -> x + y + z));;
```

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

Again, first syntactic sugar for second



Functions with more than one argument

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

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

- What is the value of `add_three`?
- Let $\rho_{\text{add_three}}$ be the environment before the declaration
- Remember:

```
let add_three =
```

```
  fun x -> (fun y -> (fun z -> x + y + z));;
```

```
Value: <x ->fun y -> (fun z -> x + y + z),  $\rho_{\text{add\_three}}$  >
```



Partial application of functions

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

```
# let h = add_three 5 4;;
```

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

```
# h 3;;
```

```
- : int = 12
```

```
# h 7;;
```

```
- : int = 16
```



Partial application of functions

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

```
# let h = add_three 5 4;;
```

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

```
# h 3;;
```

```
- : int = 12
```

```
# h 7;;
```

```
- : int = 16
```

```
- Partial application also called sectioning
```



Functions as arguments

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

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

```
# let g = thrice plus_two;;
```

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

```
# g 4;;
```

```
- : int = 10
```

```
# thrice (fun s -> "Hi! " ^ s) "Good-bye!";;
```

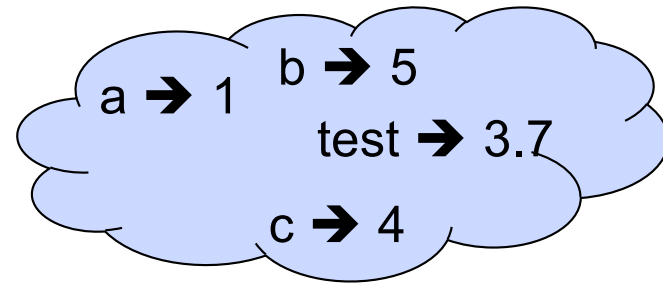
```
- : string = "Hi! Hi! Hi! Good-bye!"
```

Tuples as Values

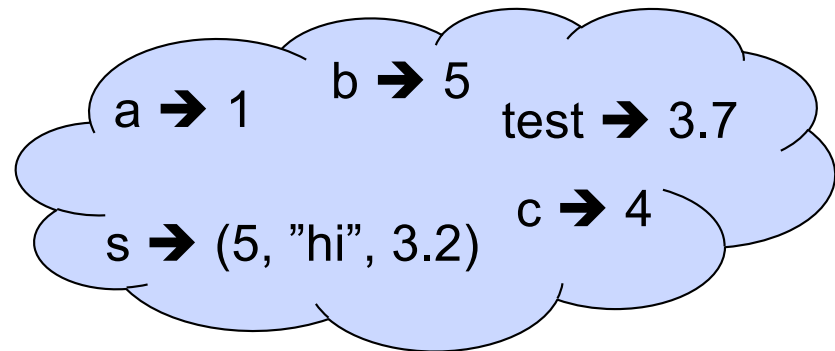
```
// ρ7 = {c → 4, test → 3.7,  
          a → 1, b → 5}
```

```
# let s = (5, "hi", 3.2);;
```

```
val s : int * string * float = (5, "hi", 3.2)
```

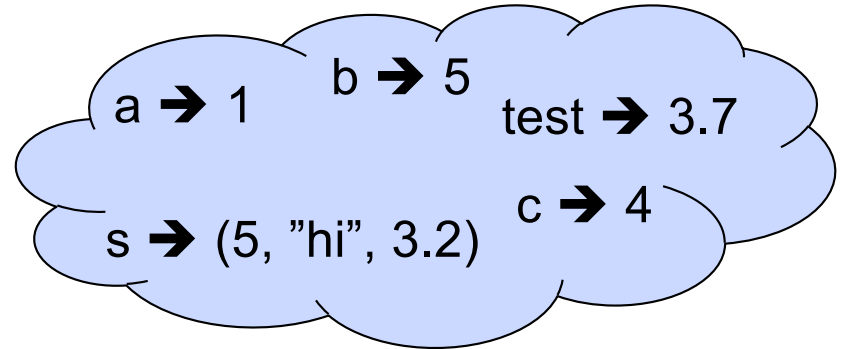


```
// ρ8 = {s → (5, "hi", 3.2),  
          c → 4, test → 3.7,  
          a → 1, b → 5}
```



Pattern Matching with Tuples

```
/ ρ8 = {s → (5, "hi", 3.2),  
         c → 4, test → 3.7,  
         a → 1, b → 5}
```

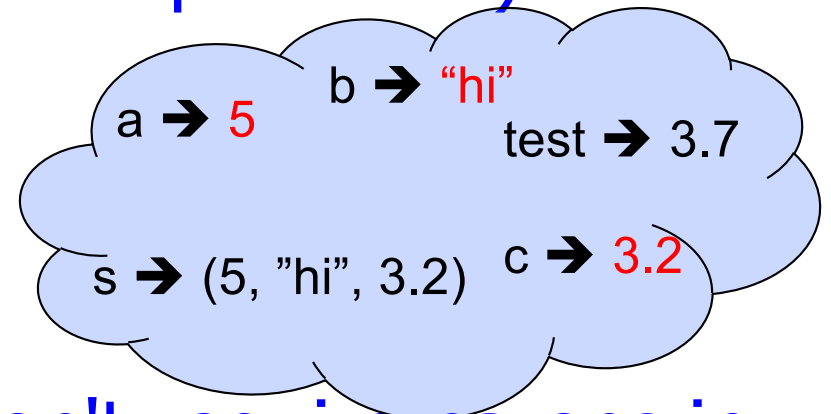


```
# let (a,b,c) = s;; (* (a,b,c) is a pattern *)
```

```
val a : int = 5
```

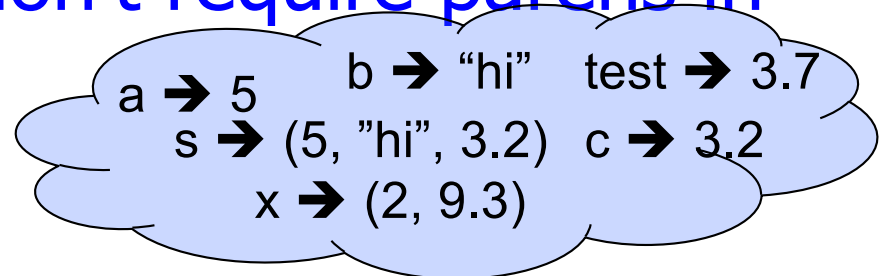
```
val b : string = "hi"
```

```
val c : float = 3.2
```



```
# let x = 2, 9.3;; (* tuples don't require parens in  
                  Ocaml *)
```

```
val x : int * float = (2, 9.3)
```





Nested Tuples

```
# (*Tuples can be nested *)
```

```
let d = ((1,4,62),("bye",15),73.95);;
```

```
val d : (int * int * int) * (string * int) * float =  
  ((1, 4, 62), ("bye", 15), 73.95)
```

```
# (*Patterns can be nested *)
```

```
let (p,(st,_),_) = d;; (* _ matches all, binds nothing  
*)
```

```
val p : int * int * int = (1, 4, 62)
```

```
val st : string = "bye"
```



Functions on tuples

```
# let plus_pair (n,m) = n + m;;
```

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

```
# plus_pair (3,4);;
```

```
- : int = 7
```

```
# let double x = (x,x);;
```

```
val double : 'a -> 'a * 'a = <fun>
```

```
# double 3;;
```

```
- : int * int = (3, 3)
```

```
# double "hi";;
```

```
- : string * string = ("hi", "hi")
```



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>
```



Closure for plus_pair

- Assume $\rho_{\text{plus_pair}}$ was the environment just before `plus_pair` defined

- Closure for `plus_pair`:

$$\langle (n,m) \rightarrow n + m, \rho_{\text{plus_pair}} \rangle$$

- Environment just after `plus_pair` defined:

$$\{\text{plus_pair} \rightarrow \langle (n,m) \rightarrow n + m, \rho_{\text{plus_pair}} \rangle\}$$

$$+ \rho_{\text{plus_pair}}$$



Save the Environment!

- A *closure* is a pair of an environment and an association of a pattern (e.g. (v_1, \dots, v_n) giving the input variables) with an expression (the function body), written:

$$\langle (v_1, \dots, v_n) \rightarrow \underline{\text{exp}}, \rho \rangle$$

- Where ρ is the environment in effect when the function is defined (for a simple function)



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 in OCaml

- Evaluation uses an environment ρ
- A constant evaluates to itself, including primitive operators like $+$ and $=$
- To evaluate a variable, look it up in ρ : $\rho(v)$
- To evaluate a tuple (e_1, \dots, e_n) ,
 - Evaluate each e_i to v_i , right to left for OCaml
 - Then make value (v_1, \dots, v_n)



Evaluating expressions in OCaml

- To evaluate uses of $+$, $-$, etc, eval args, then do operation
- Function expression evaluates to its closure
- To evaluate a local dec: `let x = e1 in e2`
 - Eval `e1` to `v`, then eval `e2` using $\{x \rightarrow v\} + \rho$
- To evaluate a conditional expression:
`if b then e1 else e2`
 - Evaluate `b` to a value `v`
 - If `v` is `True`, evaluate `e1`
 - If `v` is `False`, evaluate `e2`



Evaluation of Application with Closures

- Given application expression $f e$
- In Ocaml, evaluate e to value v
- In environment ρ , evaluate left term to closure,
 $c = \langle (x_1, \dots, x_n) \rightarrow b, \rho' \rangle$
 - (x_1, \dots, x_n) variables in (first) argument
 - v must have form (v_1, \dots, v_n)
- Update the environment ρ' to
 $\rho'' = \{x_1 \rightarrow v_1, \dots, x_n \rightarrow v_n\} + \rho'$
- Evaluate body b in environment ρ''