

Introduction to Functional Programming in *OCaml*

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Week 4 - Sequence 0: Functional Expressions



Overview of Week 4

- 0. Functional Expressions
- 1. Functions as First-Class Values
- 2. Functions with Multiple Arguments
- 3. Partial Function Application
- 4. Mapping Functions on Lists
- 5. Folding Functions on Lists

Functional Expressions in OCaml

- ▶ Syntax: `function id -> exp`
- ▶ Function taking one argument `id`, and returning the value of expression `exp`.
- ▶ Example: `function x -> x+1`
- ▶ Scope of `id` restricted to `exp`
- ▶ Type: $t_1 \rightarrow t_2$ where
 - ▶ t_1 is the type of `id`
 - ▶ t_2 is the type of `exp`

Functional Expressions I

```
function x -> x+1;;  
# - : int -> int = <fun>
```

```
function y -> [ [y+2; y+3]; [y; y*y] ];;  
# - : int -> int list list = <fun>
```

```
(function x -> 2*x) 5;;  
# - : int = 10
```

Defining Functions

- ▶ The previous way of defining functions

`let f x = e`

is just an abbreviation for

`let f = function x -> e`

- ▶ One uniform way of defining identifiers: `let`

Defining Functions I

```
let double x = 2*x;;  
# val double : int -> int = <fun>
```

```
double 3;;  
# - : int = 6
```

```
let double = (function x -> 2*x);;  
# val double : int -> int = <fun>
```

```
double 3;;  
# - : int = 6
```

Functions With Pattern Matching

- ▶ The general form of a function definition is:

function

| pattern_1 -> expression_1

....

| pattern_n -> expression_n

- ▶ The form **function** x -> exp is just a special case.

Functional Expressions with Pattern Matching I

```
let rec length = function
  | [] -> 0
  | _::r -> 1+ length r
;;
# val length : 'a list -> int = <fun>
```

```
length [17; 42; 73];;
# - : int = 3
```

Functional Expressions with Pattern Matching II

```
type expr =  
  | Int of int  
  | Add of expr * expr  
  
let rec eval = function  
  | Int n -> n  
  | Add(e1,e2) -> (eval e1) + (eval e2);;  
# type expr = Int of int | Add of expr * expr  
val eval : expr -> int = <fun>  
  
eval (Add (Add (Int 2, Int 5), Int 7));;  
# - : int = 14
```