CMSC 330: Organization of Programming Languages

Basic OCaml Modules
Modules

- So far, most everything we’ve defined has been at the “top-level” of OCaml
  - This is not good software engineering practice

- A better idea: Use modules to group associated types, functions, and data together
  - Avoid polluting the top-level with unnecessary stuff

- For lots of sample modules, see the OCaml standard library, e.g., List, Str, etc.
Creating A Module In OCaml

module ISet =
  struct
    type set = EMPTY | INS of int * set
    let empty = EMPTY
    let isEmpty(s) = s = EMPTY
    let insert(s, i) = INS(i, s)
    let rec contains(s, i) =
      match s with
      | EMPTY -> false
      | INS(j, r) -> if i = j then true
                     else contains(r, i)
  end;;
Creating A Module In OCaml (cont.)

```ocaml
module ISet =
  struct
    type set = ... 
    let empty = ... 
    let isEmpty = ... 
    let insert = ... 
    let contains = ... 
  end;;

# empty;;
ERROR: unbound value empty
# ISet.empty;;
- : ISet.set = ISet.EMPTY
# ISet.contains (Set.empty, 1);;
- bool = false
# open ISet;; (* add ISet names to curr scope *)
# empty;;
- : ISet.EMPTY (* now defined *)
```
Module Signatures

Entry in signature
Supply function types
Give type to module

module type FOO =
  sig
    val add : int -> int -> int
  end;;
module Foo : FOO =
  struct
    let add x y = x + y
    let mult x y = x * y
  end;;
Foo.add 3 4;; (* OK *)
Foo.mult 3 4;; (* not accessible *)
Module Signatures (cont.)

- Convention: Signature names in all-caps
  - This isn't a strict requirement, though

- Items can be omitted from a module signature
  - This provides the ability to hide values

- The default signature for a module hides nothing
  - This is what OCaml gives you if you just type in a module with no signature at the top-level
Abstraction = Hiding

• Signatures hide module implementation details
  – Why do that? Doesn’t that reduce flexibility?

• This is good software engineering practice
  – Ensures data structure invariants maintained
    – clients can’t construct arbitrary data structures, only ones our module’s functions create
  – Facilitates code collaboration
    – Write code to the interface as implementation worked out
  – Clients do not rely details that may change
    – Changing set representation later won’t affect clients
Abstract Data Types

Idea: Hide data value’s internal representation from its clients

Invented by Barbara Liskov in the CLU programming language
  • Professor at MIT since 1971

Won Turing Award for ADTs and other contributions in 2008
http://amturing.acm.org/award_winners/liskov_1108679.cfm
Abstract Data Types In OCaml Sigs

module type ISET =
  sig
    type set
    val empty : set
    val isEmpty : set -> bool
    val insert : set * int -> set
    val contains : set * int -> bool
  end;;

module ISet : ISET =
  struct
    type set = EMPTY | INS of int * set
    ...
    let insert (s,i) = INS(i,s)
  end

• The definition of set is hidden from ISet clients
Quiz 1: Evaluation on ADTs

```ocaml
# ISet.empty
- : ISet.set = <abstr>  (* OCaml won’t show impl *)
# ISet.EMPTY
Unbound Constructor ISet.EMPTY
# ISet.isEmpty (ISet.insert(ISet.empty, 0))
- : bool = false
# open ISet;;
(* doesn’t make anything abstract accessible *)
```

```ocaml
# ISet.insert (ISet.empty, 0)
A.- : ISet.set = <abstr>
B.Type Error
C.- : ISet.INS (0, ISet.EMPTY)
```
Quiz 1: Evaluation on ADTs

```ocaml
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```ocaml
# ISet.insert (ISet.empty, 0)
A.- : ISet.set = <abstr>
B.Type Error
C.- : ISet.INS (0, ISet.EMPTY)
```
Multiple representations

module ISetBST : ISET =
  struct
    type set = TIP | BIN of int * set * set

... let rec insert (s,i) =
    match s with
      TIP -> BIN(i,TIP, TIP)
    | BIN(j,l,r) ->
        if i = j then s
        else if i < j then BIN(j,insert(l,i),r)
        else BIN(j,l,insert(r,i))
    end

• Now set is a binary search tree (why?)
Quiz 2: Mixing ADTs?

# ISetBST.empty
- : ISetBST.set = <abstr> (* OCaml won’t show impl *)

# ISetBST.insert (ISetBST.empty, 0)
- : ISetBST.set = <abstr>

# ISetBST.contains (ISetBST.empty, 0)
- : bool = false

# ISet.insert (ISetBST.empty, 0)
A.- : ISet.set = <abstr>
B.- : ISetBST.set = <abstr>
C.Type Error
D.- : ISetBST.INS (0, ISet.EMPTY)
Quiz 2: Mixing ADTs?

# ISetBST.empty
- : ISetBST.set = <abstr> (* OCaml won’t show impl *)

# ISetBST.insert (ISetBST.empty, 0)
- : ISetBST.set = <abstr>

# ISetBST.contains (ISetBST.empty, 0)
- : bool = false

# ISet.insert (ISetBST.empty, 0)
A.- : ISet.set = <abstr>
B.- : ISetBST.set = <abstr>
C. Type Error
D.- : ISetBST.INS (0, ISet.EMPTY)
Different ADTs are … different

• The set type of ISet and ISetBST look the same, but are not
  – Both modules are an instance of the ISET signature
  – But because the type’s definition is hidden, it is not safe to mix them

• This distinction is enforced by the type system
  – set type is an abstract type
  – the instances of modules having the ISET signature (which has an abstract type) are called abstract data types (ADTs)
Other Module Systems

- How OCaml’s approach compare to modularity in...
  - Java?
  - C?
  - Ruby?
Modules In Java

- Java **classes** are like modules
  - Provide implementations for a group of functions
  - But classes can also
    - Instantiate objects
    - Inherit attributes from other classes

- Java **interfaces** are like module signatures
  - Defines a group of functions that may be used
  - Implementation is hidden
  - But: Objects and modules/ADT not the same
    - Next lecture topic!
Modules In C

- .c files are like modules
  - Provides implementations for a group of functions

- .h files are like module signatures
  - Defines a group of functions that may be used
  - Implementation is hidden

- Usage is not enforced by C language
  - Can put C code in .h file
Modules In Ruby

- Ruby explicitly supports modules
  - Modules defined by `module ... end`
  - Modules cannot
    - Instantiate objects
    - Derive subclasses

```ruby
puts Math.sqrt(4)  # 2
puts Math::PI      # 3.1416
include Math        # open Math
puts sqrt(4)        # 2
puts PI             # 3.1416
```