CMSC 330: Organization of Programming Languages

OCaml Data Types
OCaml Data

- So far, we’ve seen the following kinds of data
  - Basic types (int, float, char, string)
  - Lists
    - One kind of data structure
    - A list is either \([\ ]\) or \(h::t\), deconstructed with pattern matching
  - Tuples and Records
    - Let you collect data together in fixed-size pieces
  - Functions

- How can we build other data structures?
  - Building everything from lists and tuples is awkward
User Defined Types

`type` can be used to create new names for types

- Like `typedef` in C – a name might be more useful for communicating intent than just the type structure

Example

```ocaml
# type mylist = int*(int list);;
type mylist = int * int list
# let empty : mylist = (0,[]);;
val empty : mylist = (0, [])
# let add x ((n,xs):mylist) mylist = (n+1,x::xs);;
val add : int -> mylist -> mylist = <fun>
# let length ((n,_):mylist) = n;;
val length : mylist -> int = <fun>
# let x = add 1 (add 2 empty);;
val x : mylist = (2, [1; 2])
```

Annotation required to tell type inference you want `mylist`, not `int*int list`
(User-Defined) Variants

type coin = Heads | Tails

let flip x =
    match x with
    Heads -> Tails
  | Tails -> Heads

let rec count_heads x =
    match x with
    [] -> 0
  | (Heads::x') -> 1 + count_heads x'
  | (_::x') -> count_heads x'
Constructing and Destructing Variants

- **Syntax**
  - type \( t = C_1 \mid \ldots \mid C_n \)
  - the \( C_i \) are called constructors
    - Must begin with a capital letter

- **Evaluation**
  - A constructor \( C_i \) is already a value
  - Destructing a value \( v \) of type \( t \) is done by pattern matching on \( v \); the patterns are the constructors \( C_i \)

- **Type Checking**
  - \( C_i : t \) (for each \( C_i \) in \( t \)'s definition)
Data Types: Variants with Data

- We can define variants that “carry data” too
  - Not just a constructor, but a constructor plus values

```plaintext
type shape =
  Rect of float * float (* width*length *)
| Circle of float (* radius *)
```

- **Rect** and **Circle** are constructors
  - where a `shape` is either a `Rect(w, l)`
    - for any floats `w` and `l`
  - or a `Circle r`
    - for any float `r`
Data Types (cont.)

```ocaml
let area s =
  match s with
  | Rect (w, l) -> w *. l
  | Circle r    -> r *. r *. 3.14
  
area (Rect (3.0, 4.0));; (* 12.0 *)
area (Circle 3.0);; (* 28.26 *)
```

- Use pattern matching to **deconstruct** values
  - Can bind pattern values to data parts
- Data types are *aka* algebraic data types and tagged unions
Data Types (cont.)

type shape =
    Rect of float * float (* width*length *)
    | Circle of float       (* radius *)

let lst = [Rect (3.0, 4.0) ; Circle 3.0]

• What's the type of lst?
  • shape list

• What's the type of lst's first element?
  • shape
### Variation: Shapes in Java

```java
public interface Shape {
    public double area();
}

class Rect implements Shape {
    private double width, length;

    Rect (double w, double l) {
        this.width = w;
        this.length = l;
    }

    double area() {
        return width * length;
    }
}

class Circle implements Shape {
    private double rad;

    Circle (double r) {
        this.rad = r;
    }

    double area() {
        return rad * rad * 3.14159;
    }
}
```

Compare this to OCaml
Option Type

```
type optional_int =
  None
| Some of int

let divide x y =
  if y != 0 then Some (x/y)
  else None

let string_of_opt o =
  match o with
    Some i -> string_of_int i
  | None -> "nothing"
```

```
let p = divide 1 0;;
print_string
  (string_of_opt p);;
(* prints "nothing" *)

let q = divide 1 1;;
print_string
  (string_of_opt q);;
(* prints "1" *)
```

- Comparing to Java: `None` is like `null`, while `Some i` is like an `Integer(i)` object
Polymorphic Option Type

- A Polymorphic version of option type can work with any kind of data
  - As int option, char option, etc...

  ```ocaml
  type 'a option =
    Some of 'a |
    None
  let p = opthd [];; (* p = None *)
  let q = opthd [1;2];; (* q = Some 1 *)
  let r = opthd ["a"];; (* r = Some "a" *)
  ```

In fact, this option type is built into OCaml

Polymorphic parameter:
like Option<T> in Java
Quiz 1

type foo = (int * (string list)) list

Which one of the following could match foo?

A. [(3, "foo", "bar")]
B. [(7, ["foo"; "bar"])]
C. [(5, ["foo", "bar"])]
D. [(9, [("foo", "bar")])]

type foo = (int * (string list)) list

Which one of the following could match foo?

A. [(3, “foo”, “bar”)]
B. [(7, [“foo”; “bar”])]  
C. [(5, [“foo”, “bar”])]  
D. [(9, [(“foo”, “bar”)])]
Quiz 2: What does this evaluate to?

type num = Int of int | Float of float;;
let plus a b =
    match a, b with
    | Int i, Int j -> Int (i+j)
    | Float i, Float j -> Float (i +. j)
    | Float i, Int j -> Float (i +. float_of_int j)
    ;;
plus (Float 3.0) (Int 2);;

A. Float 5.0
B. 5.0
C. Int 5
D. Type Error
Quiz 2: What does this evaluate to?

```
type num = Int of int | Float of float;;
let plus a b =
    match a, b with
    | Int i, Int j -> Int (i+j)
    | Float i, Float j -> Float (i +. j)
    | Float i, Int j -> Float (i +. float_of_int j)
    | _ -> Type Error
    ;;
plus (Float 3.0) (Int 2);;
```

A. Float 5.0
B. 5.0
C. Int 5
D. Type Error
Quiz 3: What does this evaluate to?

```
let foo f = match f with
  None -> 42.0
  | Some n -> n +. 42.0
;;
foo 3.3;;
```

A. 45.3
B. 42.0
C. Some 45.3
D. Error
Quiz 3: What does this evaluate to?

```
let foo f = match f with
  None -> 42.0
  | Some n -> n +. 42.0

foo 3.3;;  foo (Some 3.3)
```

A. 45.3
B. 42.0
C. Some 45.3
D. Error
Recursive Data Types

- We can build up lists with recursive variant types

```plaintext
type 'a mylist =
    Nil
  | Cons of 'a * 'a mylist

let rec len = function
    Nil -> 0
  | Cons (_, t) -> 1 + (len t)

len (Cons (10, Cons (20, Cons (30, Nil)))); (* evaluates to 3 *)
```

- Won’t have nice \([1; 2; 3]\) syntax for this kind of list
Variants (full definition)

• Syntax
  • type \( t = C_1 [\text{of } t_1] | ... | C_n [\text{of } t_n] \)
  • the \( C_i \) are called constructors
    - Must begin with a capital letter; may include associated data notated with brackets \([\] \) to indicate it’s optional

• Evaluation
  • A constructor \( C_i \) is a value if it has no assoc. data
    - \( C_i \, vi \) is a value if it does
  • Destructing a value of type \( t \) is by pattern matching
    - patterns are constructors \( C_i \) with data components, if any

• Type Checking
  • \( C_i [\, vi \,] : t [\text{if } vi \text{ has type } ti] \)
exception My_exception of int
let f n =
  if n > 0 then
    raise (My_exception n)
  else
    raise (Failure "foo")
let bar n =
  try
    f n
  with My_exception n ->
    Printf.printf "Caught %d\n" n
  | Failure s ->
    Printf.printf "Caught %s\n" s
Exceptions (cont.)

- Exceptions are declared with `exception`
  - They may appear in the signature as well
- Exceptions may take arguments
  - Just like type constructors
  - May also have no arguments
- Catch exceptions with `try...with...`
  - Pattern-matching can be used in `with`
  - If an exception is uncaught
    - Current function exits immediately
    - Control transfers up the call chain
    - Until the exception is caught, or until it reaches the top level
OCaml Exceptions (cont.)

- **failwith**: Raise exception `Failure` with the given string.
- **invalid_arg**: Raise exception `Invalid_argument` with the given string.
- **Not_found**: Raised if the object does not exist.

```ocaml
let div x y =
  if y = 0 failwith "divide by zero" else x/y;;
let lst = [(1,"alice");(2,"bob");(3,"cat")];;
let lookup key lst =
  try
    List.assoc key lst
  with
    Not_found -> "key does not exist"
```