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# Programming Languages and Compilers (CS 421)

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<https://courses.grainger.illinois.edu/cs421/fa2023/>

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



# Objectives for Today

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- On Thursday, we took an in depth look at **lists** and **recursive functions** defined over lists.
- We also previewed some common **higher-order functions** over lists—map and fold.
- Today, we will look at these higher-order functions in more detail, looking at the difference between **folding left** and **folding right**.
- We will also learn about **forward recursion** and **tail recursion**, and how these relate to folding left and folding right.



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Questions from last time?

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# Forward Recursion

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- Forward Recursion form of **Structural Recursion** (recurse on substructures)
- In **forward** recursion, **first call the function recursively** on all recursive components, and then **build final result**
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There are two different orders we can fold over lists in—we'll see the other one later in class.

# Forward Recursion by fold\_right

```
# let rec double_up list =  
  match list with  
  | [] -> []  
  | (x :: xs) -> (x :: x :: double_up xs);;
```

**base case / id**

**operator**

**recursion (first)**

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# let rec poor_rev list =  
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# Forward Recursion by `fold_right`

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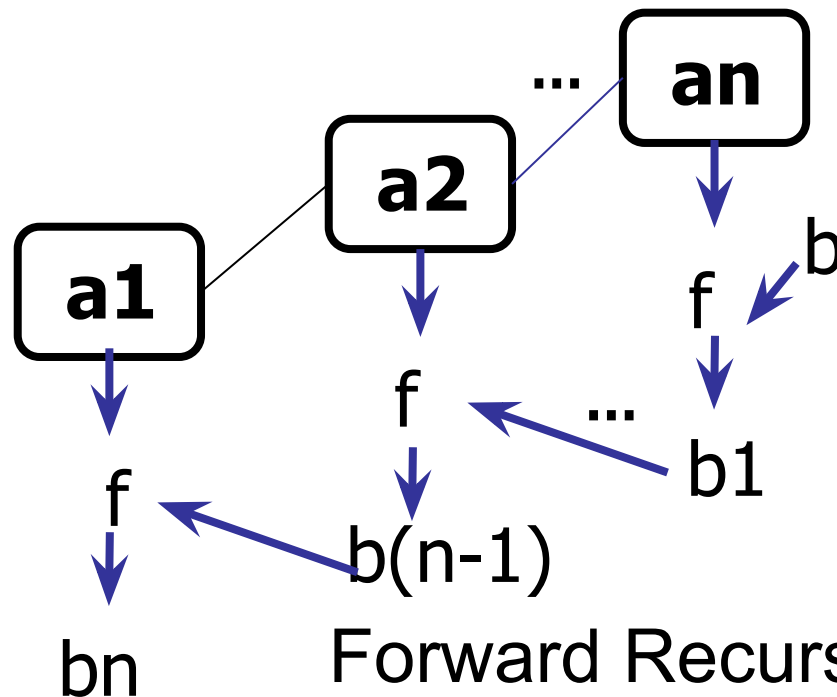
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val fold_right :  
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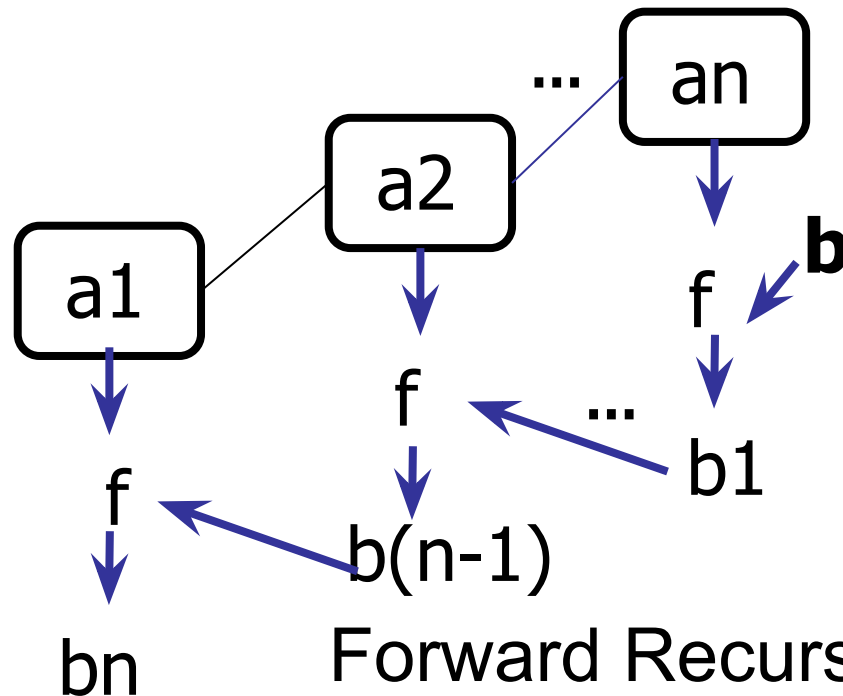


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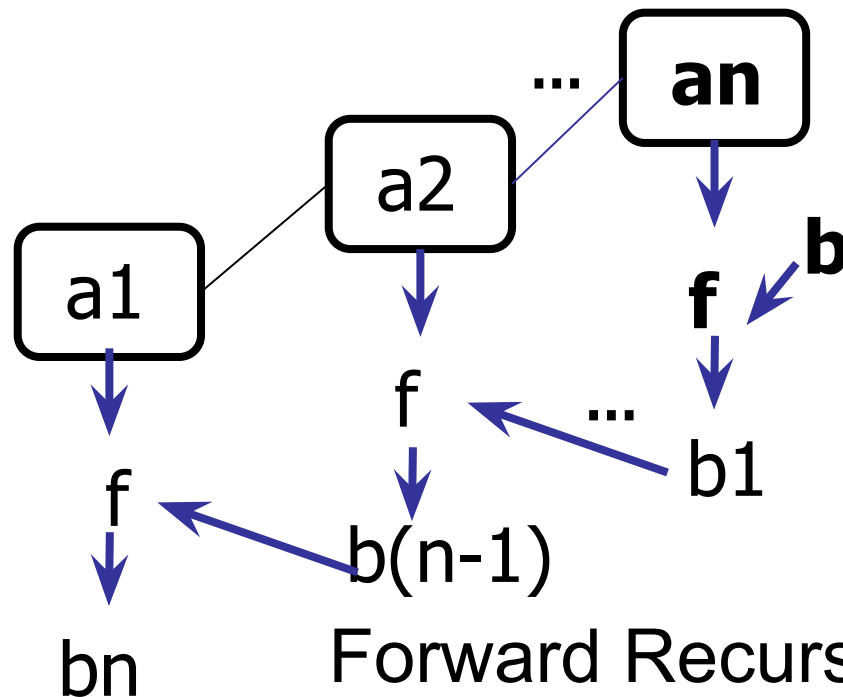


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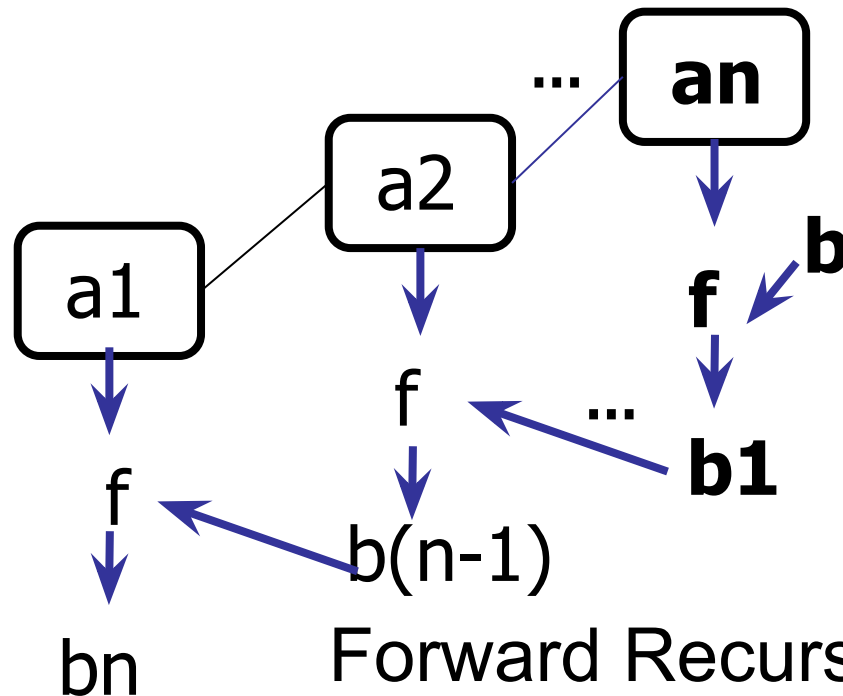
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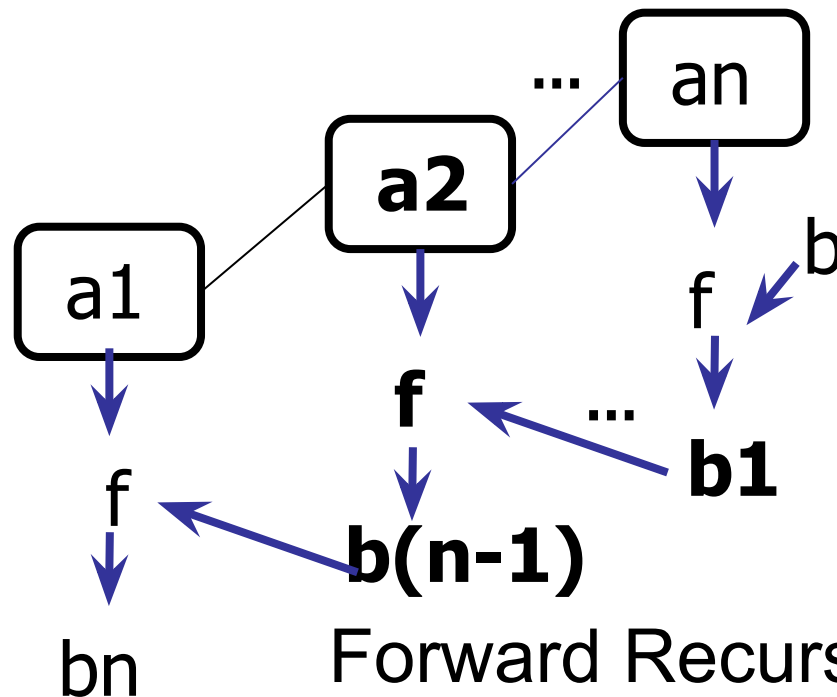
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Forward Recursion

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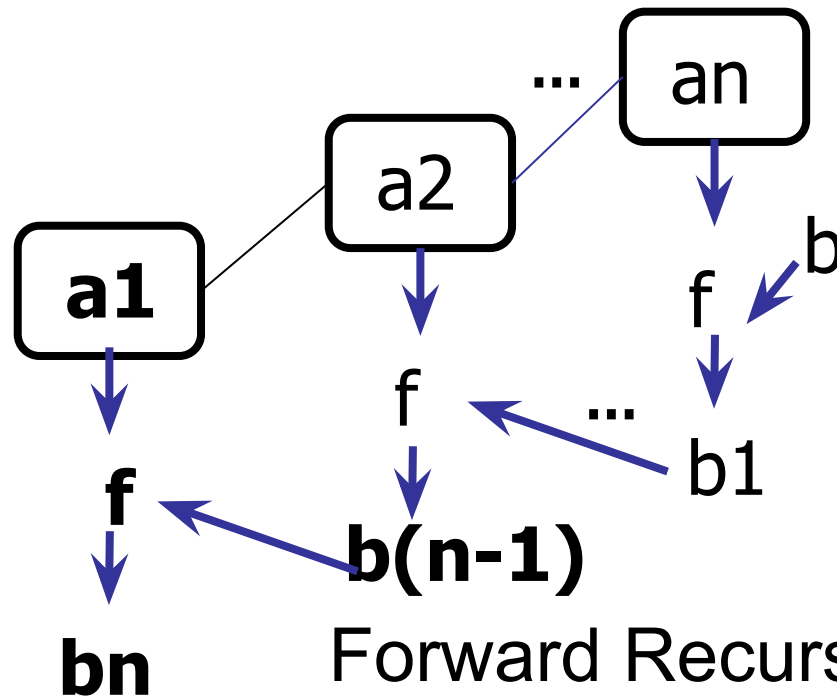
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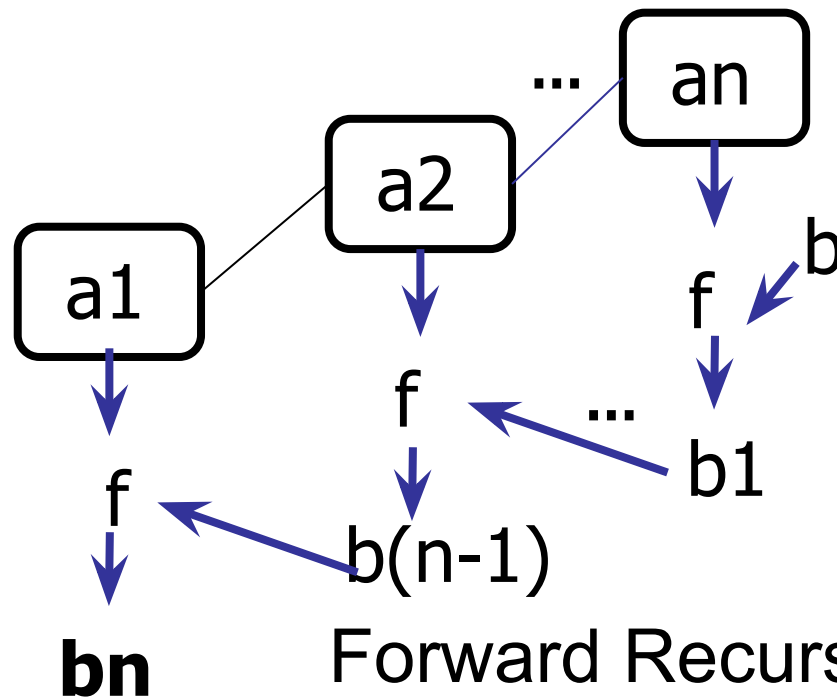


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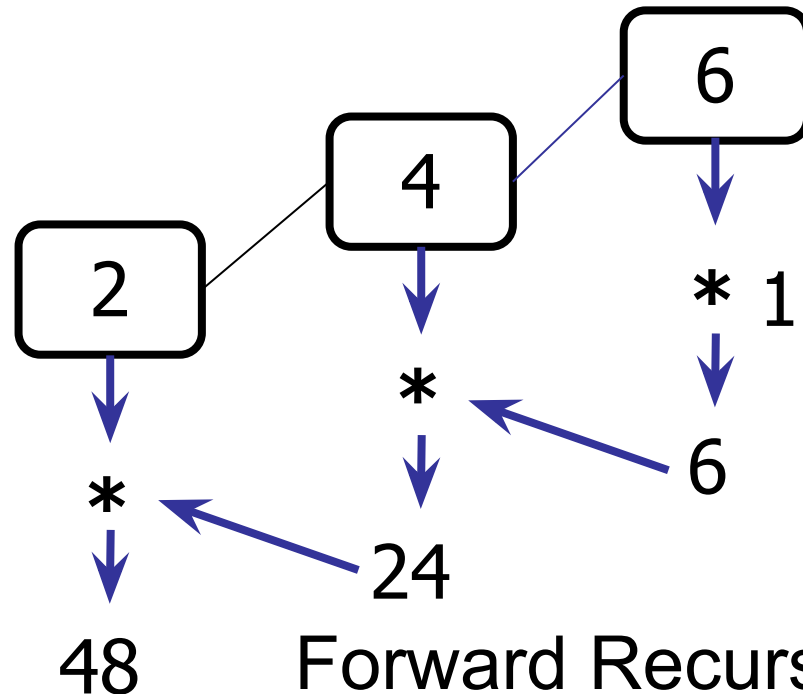
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# Forward Recursion by fold\_right

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let rec multList list =  
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  | [] -> 1  
  | x :: xs -> x * multList xs;;
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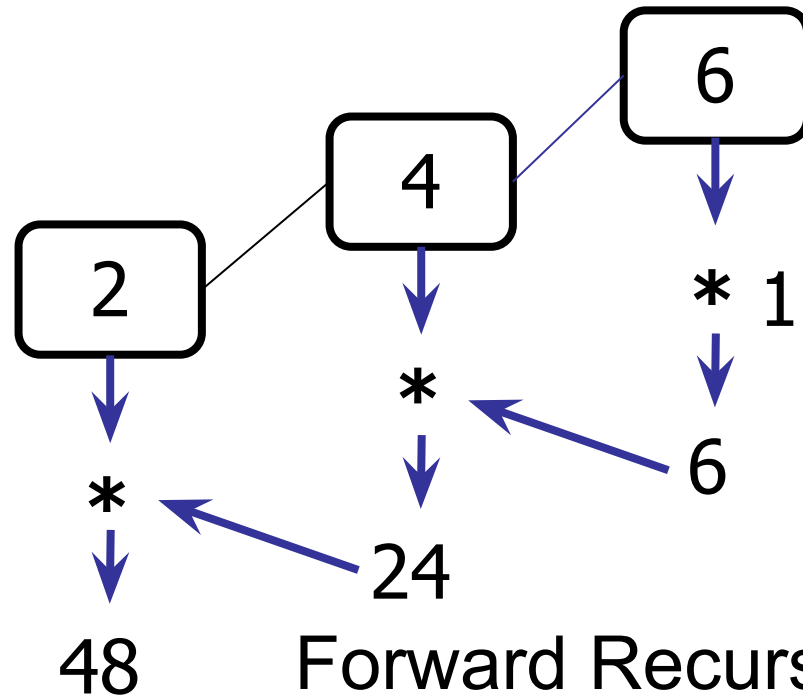


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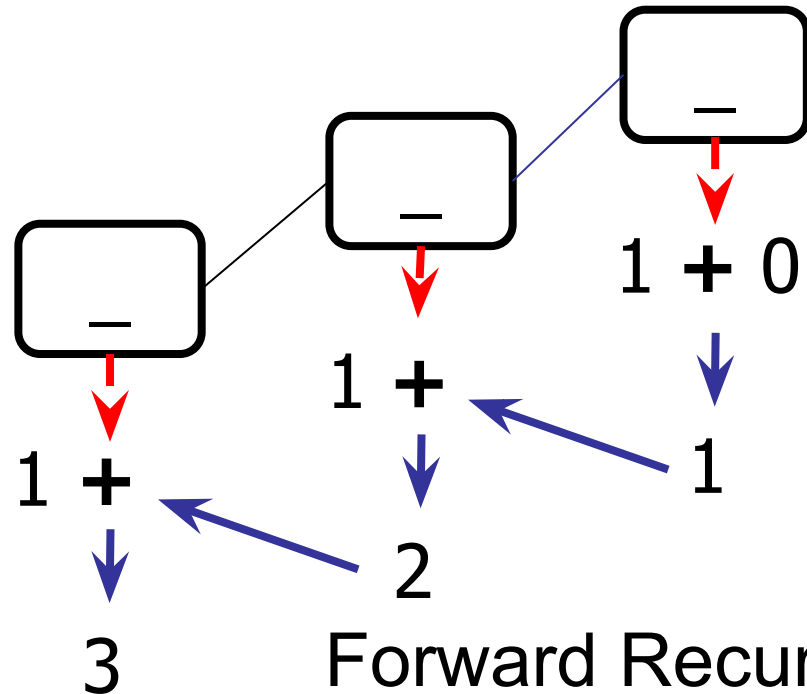
```
let multList list =  
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  list  
  1;;
```



Forward Recursion

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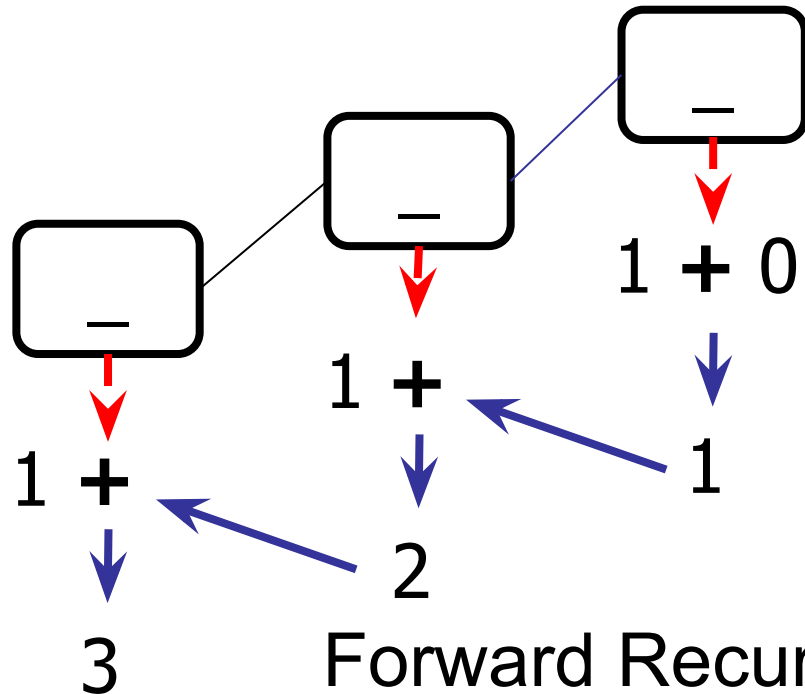
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# let double_up list =
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# Forward Recursion by **fold\_right**

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# let append list1 list2 =  
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val append : 'a list -> 'a list -> 'a list = <fun>
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append [4; 5; 6] [1; 2; 3] = [4; 5; 6; 1; 2; 3]
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Soon we'll see the other direction we can fold in.



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- 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

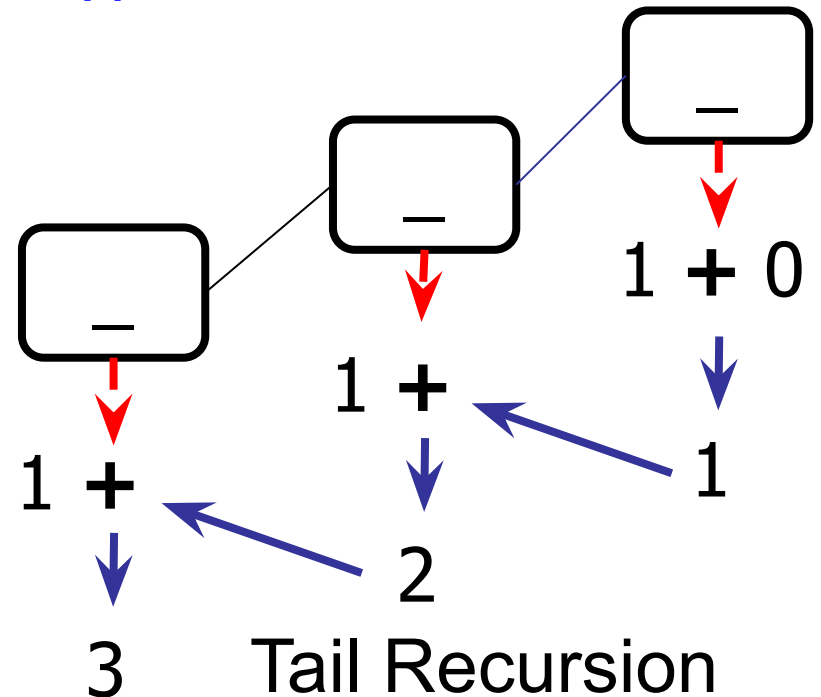
# Forward Recursion - Length

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```
  match list with
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```
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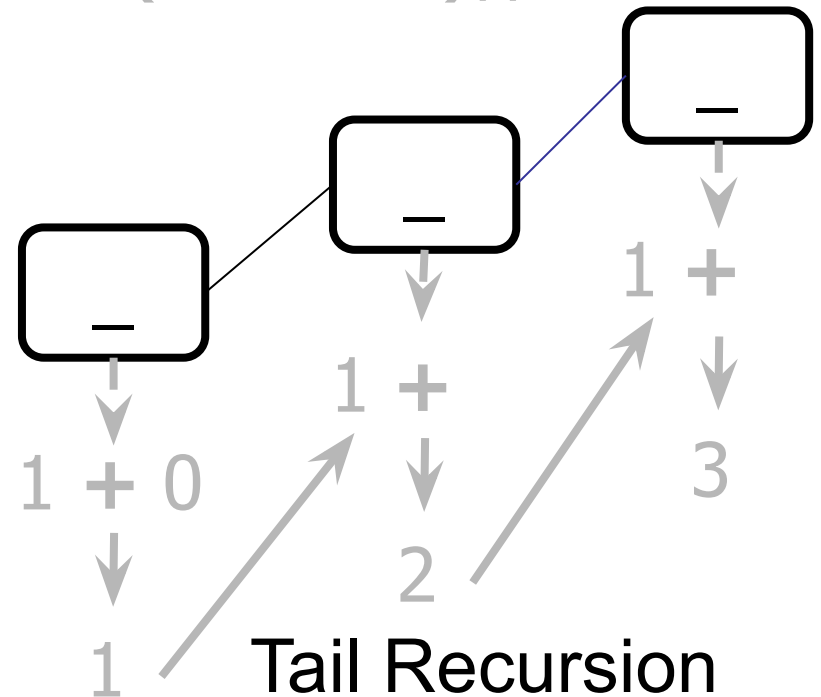
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  | _ :: bs -> 1 + length bs;;
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let rec length_aux list acc =  
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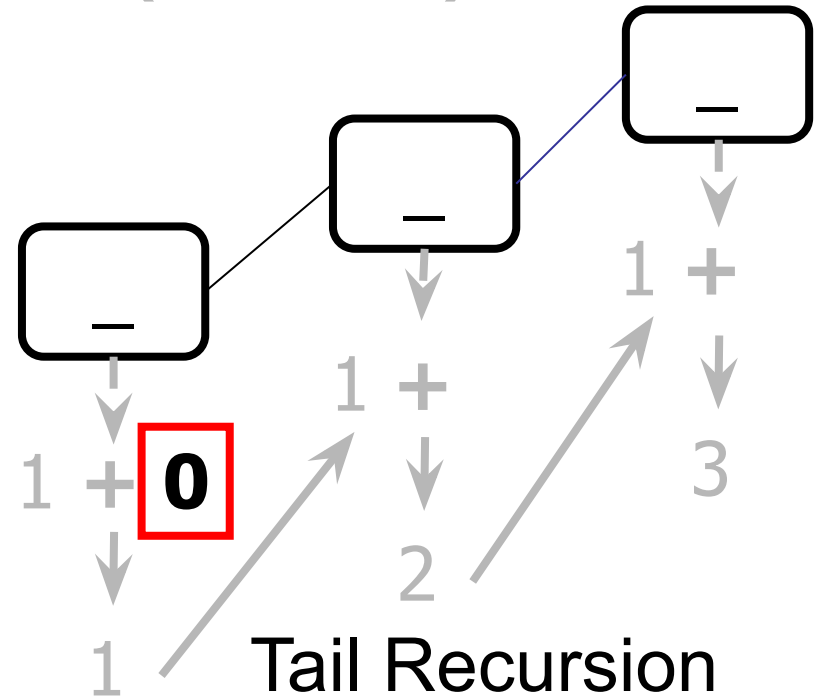
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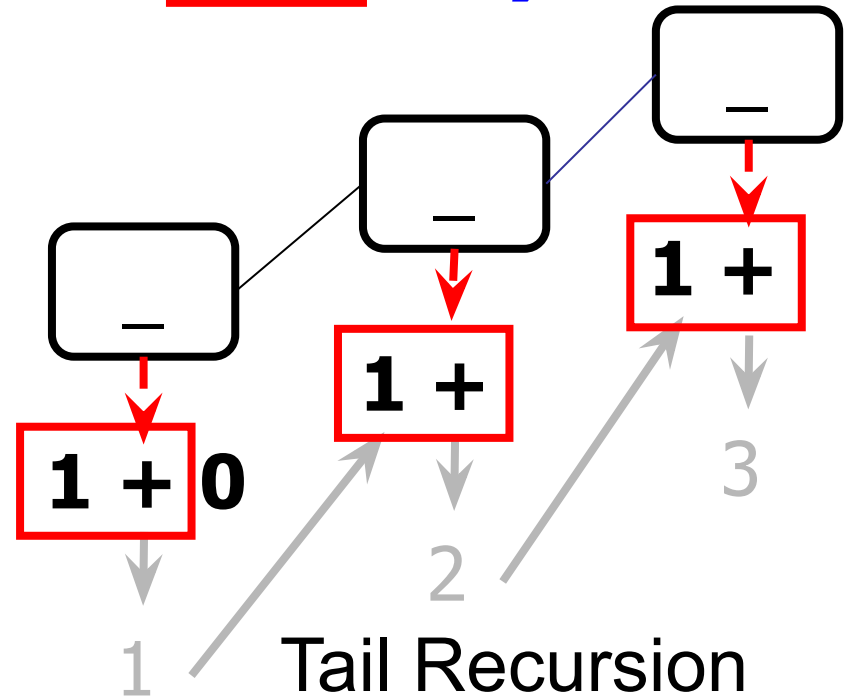
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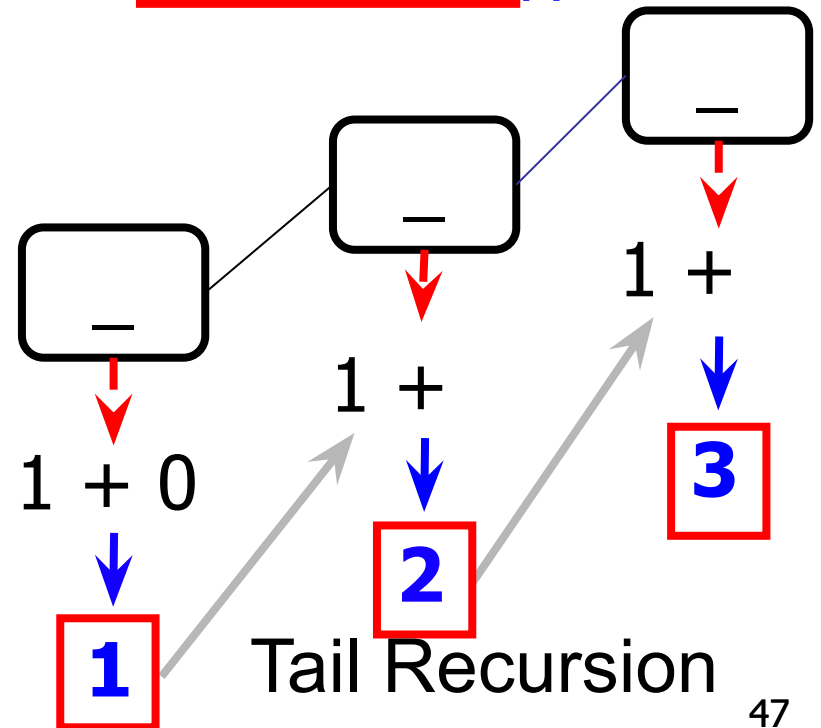
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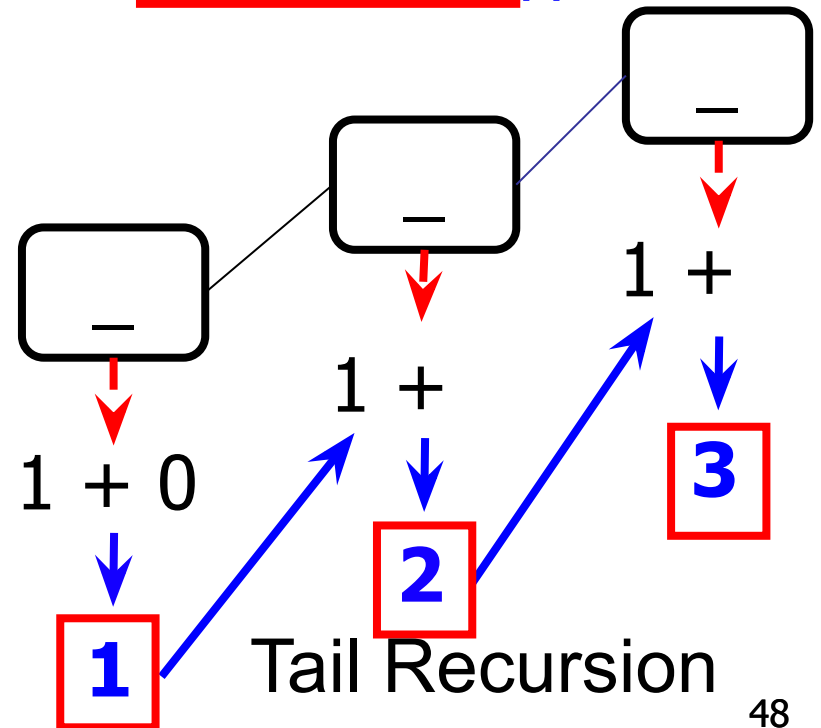
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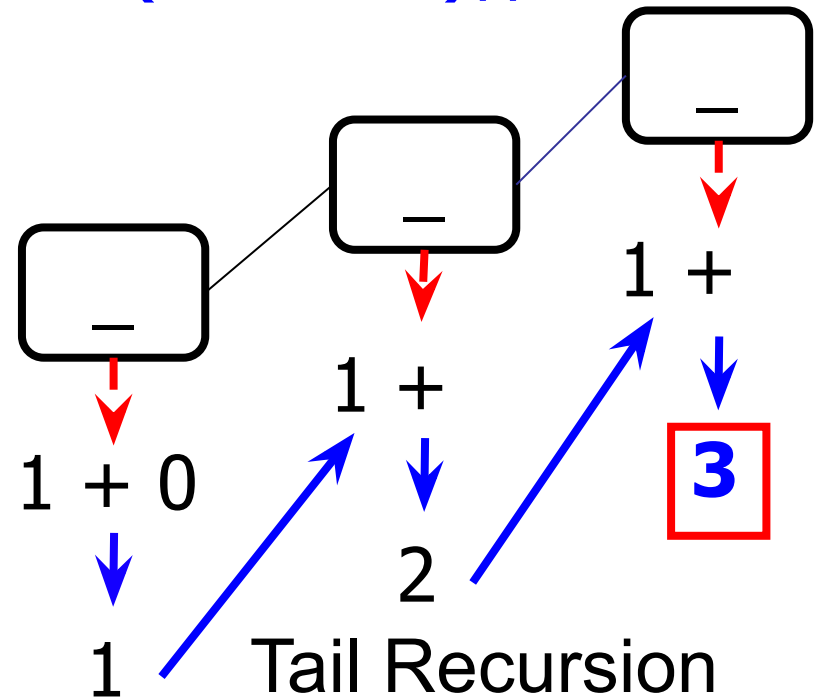




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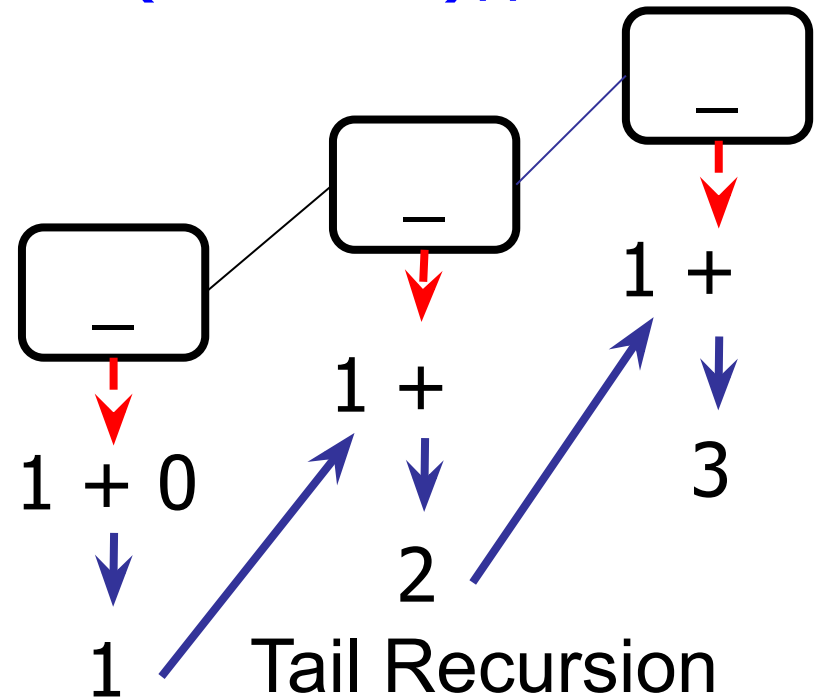
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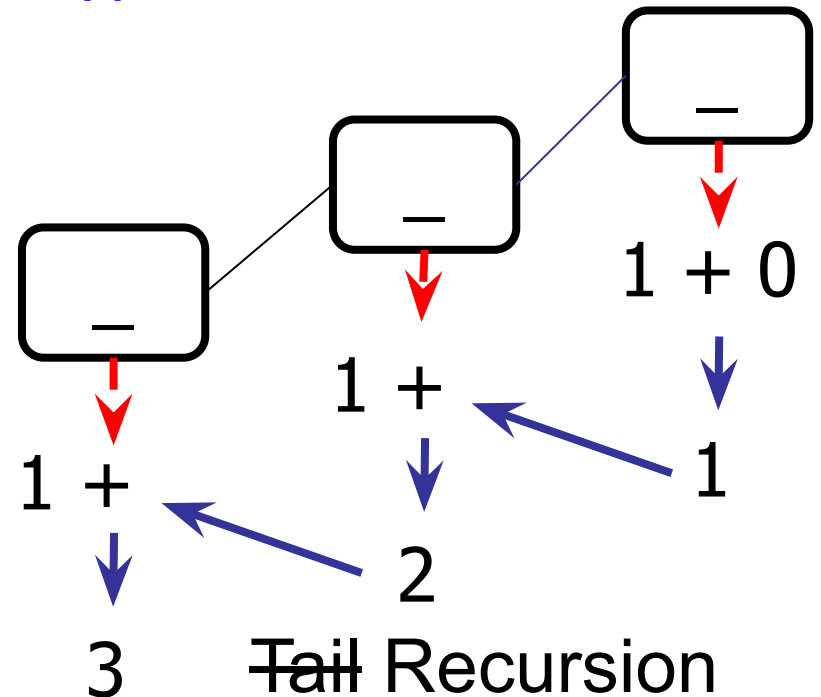
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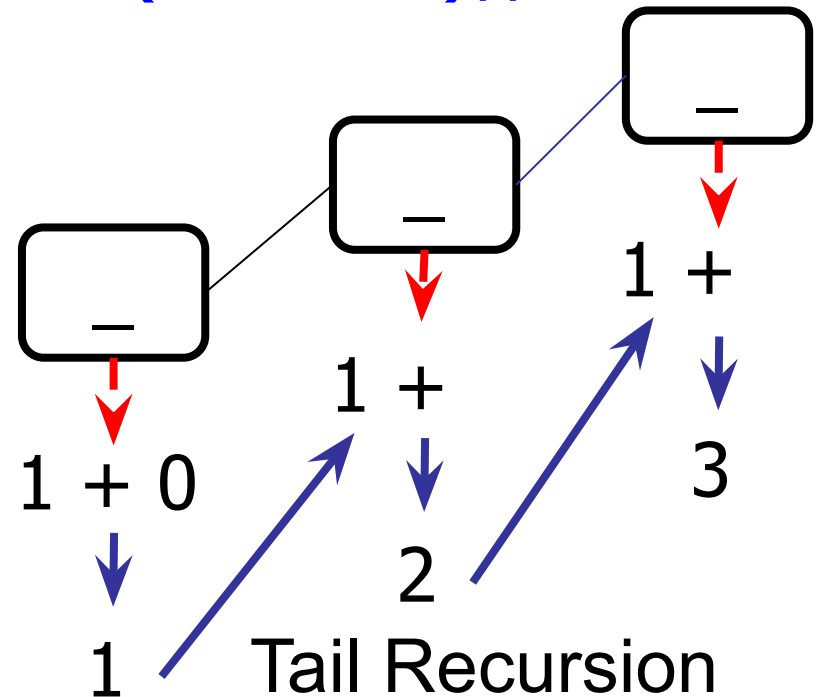
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Questions so far?

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# Forward vs. Tail Recursion: Runtime

---



# Forward vs. Tail Recursion

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# let rec rev_aux list revlist =  
  match list with  
  | [ ] -> revlist  
  | x :: xs -> rev_aux xs (x::revlist);;  
# let rev list = rev_aux list [ ];;
```

What is the runtime of each function?

Runtime



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```

What is the runtime of each function?

Runtime



# Forward vs. Tail Recursion

---

- `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]`



# Forward vs. Tail Recursion

---

- `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] =`
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# Forward vs. Tail Recursion

- `poor_rev [1;2;3] =`
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# Forward vs. Tail Recursion

---

- `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]`





# Forward vs. Tail Recursion

---

- `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] =`
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# Forward vs. Tail Recursion

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- `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]) =`
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# Forward vs. Tail Recursion

- `poor_rev [1;2;3] =`
- `(poor_rev [2;3]) @ [1] =`
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- `((poor_rev [ ]) @ [3]) @ [2]) @ [1] =`
- `(([ ] @ [3]) @ [2]) @ [1]) =`
- `([3] @ [2]) @ [1] =`
- `(3:: ([ ] @ [2])) @ [1] =`
- `[3;2] @ [1] =`
- `3 :: ([2] @ [1]) =`
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# Forward vs. Tail Recursion

- `poor_rev [1;2;3] =`
- `(poor_rev [2;3]) @ [1] =`
- `((poor_rev [3]) @ [2]) @ [1] =`
- `((poor_rev [ ]) @ [3]) @ [2]) @ [1] =`
- `(([ ] @ [3]) @ [2]) @ [1]) =`
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- `(3:: ([ ] @ [2])) @ [1] =`
- `[3;2] @ [1] =`
- `3 :: ([2] @ [1]) =`
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# Forward vs. Tail Recursion

- `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]`

# Forward vs. Tail Recursion

- `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]`



# Forward vs. Tail Recursion

---

- `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]`



# Forward vs. Tail Recursion

---

- `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]`





# Forward vs. Tail Recursion

---

- `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]`



# Forward vs. Tail Recursion

---

- `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]`



# Forward vs. Tail Recursion

---

- `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]`



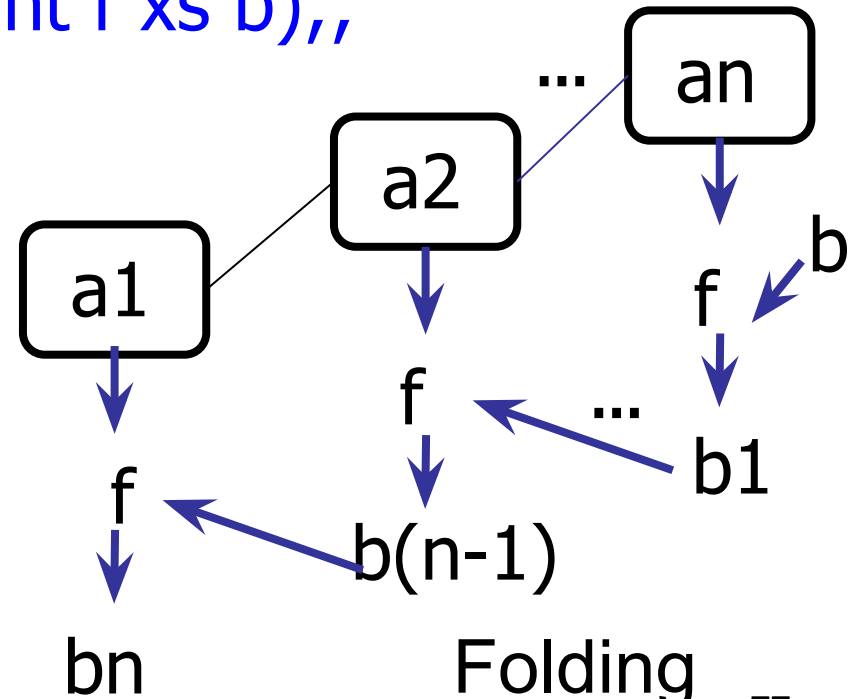
# Folding: Right vs. Left

---

# Forward Recursion by fold\_right

```
# let rec fold_right f list b =  
  match list with  
  | [] -> b  
  | (x :: xs) -> f x (fold_right f xs b);;
```

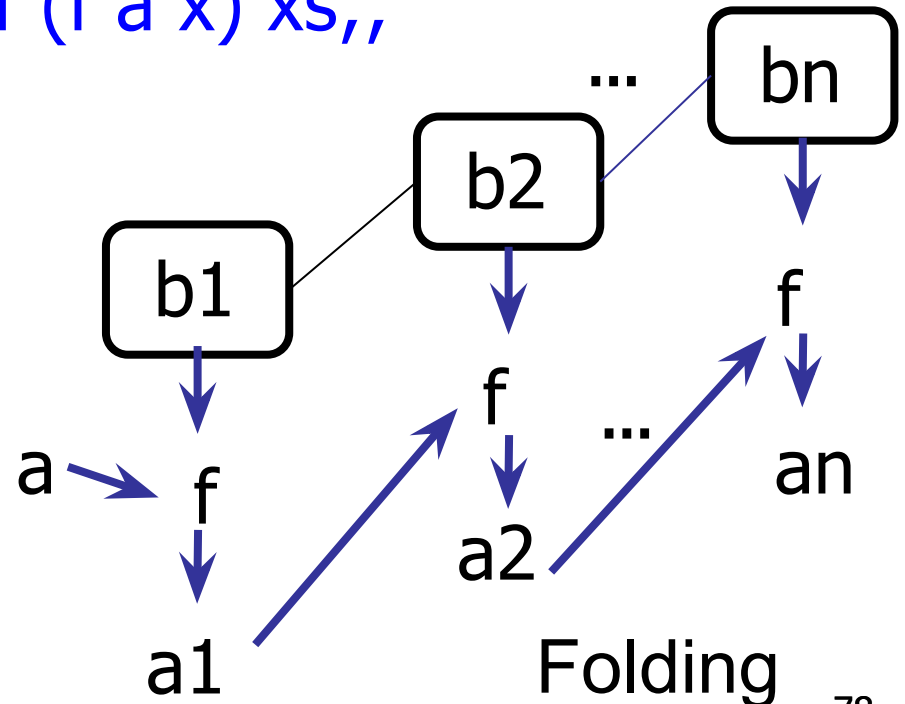
```
val fold_right :  
  ('a -> 'b -> 'b) ->  
  'a list ->  
  'b ->  
  'b  
= <fun>
```



# Tail Recursion by `fold_left`

```
# 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>
```





# Folding Left vs. Folding Right

---

```
# let rec fold_left f a list =
```

```
  match list with
```

```
  | [] -> a
```

```
  | (x :: xs) -> fold_left f (f a x) xs;;
```

```
fold_left f a [x1; x2; ...; xn] = f (... (f (f a x1) x2)...) xn
```

```
# let rec fold_right f list b =
```

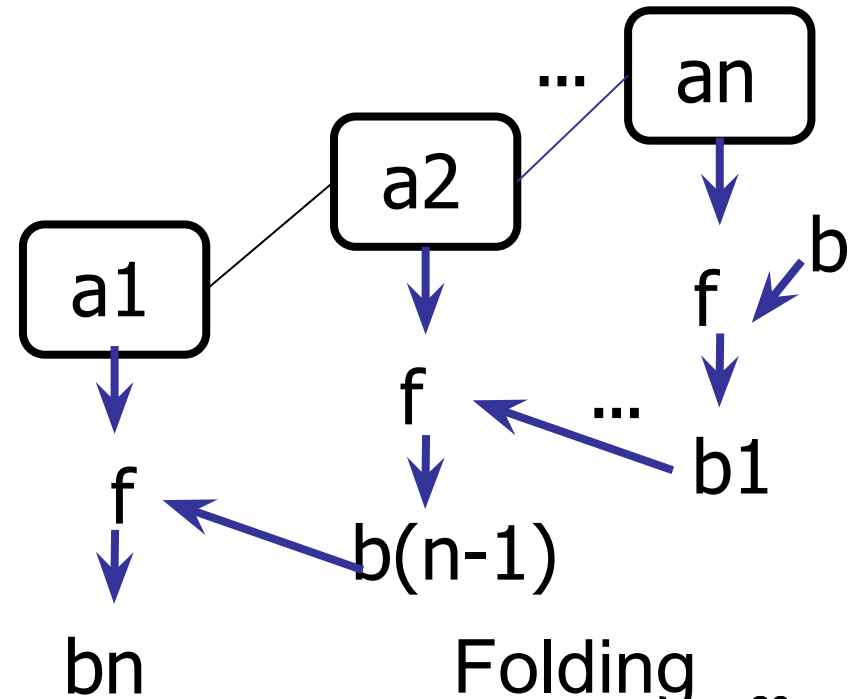
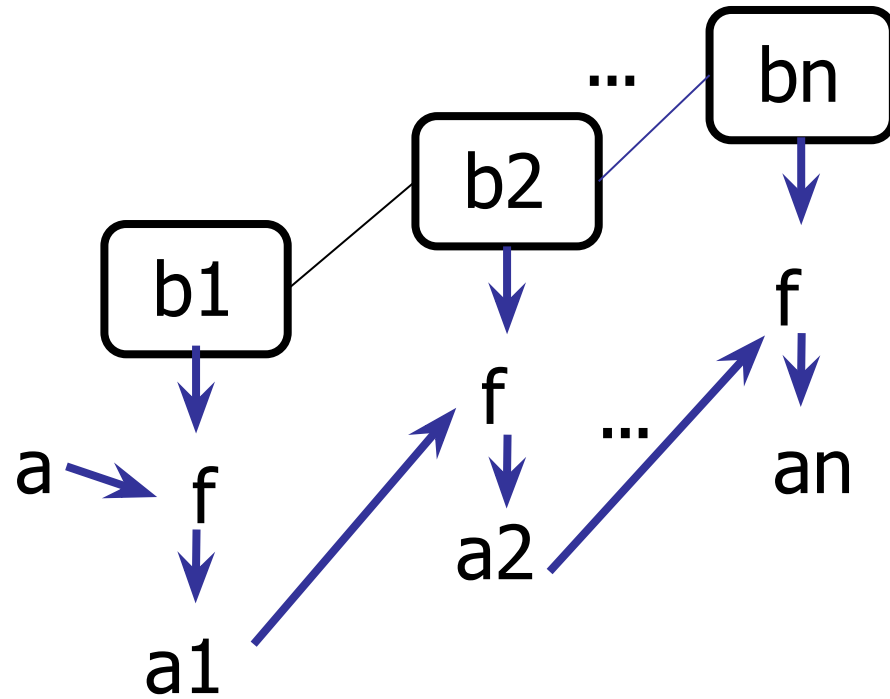
```
  match list with
```

```
  | [] -> b
```

```
  | (x :: xs) -> f x (fold_right f xs b);;
```

```
fold_right f [x1; x2; ...; xn] b = f x1(f x2 (...(f xn b)...))
```

# Folding Left vs. Folding Right







# Folding

---

- Can replace recursion by **fold\_right** in any **forward primitive recursive definition**
  - Primitive recursive means it **recurses only on immediate subcomponents** of recursive data structure (like the tail of a list)
- Can replace recursion by **fold\_left** in any **primitive recursive definition** **tail**



Questions?

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# Next Class: Continuation-Passing Style

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## Reminders

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- **Quiz 2** on **MP3** next **Tuesday**
- **Midterm 1** in **CBTF** 9/14-9/16—**please sign up!**
- All deadlines can be found on **course website**
- Use **office hours** and **class forums** for help
- **Please thank Elsa again for covering <3**

Next Class