

Sample Questions for Midterm 1 (CS 421 Fall 2025)

On the actual midterm, you will have plenty of space to put your answers. The actual midterm will have fewer main questions, but one extra credit question. In addition to questions of the kind asked below, you should expect to see questions from your MPs and WA1 on the exams. Some of these questions may be reused for the exam.

1. Given the following OCAML code:

```
let x = 3;;
let f y = x + y;;
let x = 5;;
let z = f 2;;
let x = "hi";;
```

What value will **z** have? Will the last declaration (**let x = "hi";;**) cause a type error? What is the value of **x** after this code has been executed?

2. What environment is in effect after each declaration in the code in Problem 1?

What is the step-by-step formal evaluation of **f 2** in the fourth declaration, starting from the environment after the third declaration?

3. What is the effect of each of the following pieces of code?

- (fun x -> (print_string "a"; x + 2)) (print_string "b"; 4);;**
- let f = (print_string "a"; fun x -> x + 2) in f (print_string "b"; 4);;**
- let f = fun g -> (print_string "a"; g 2) in f (fun x -> print_string "b"; 4 + x);;**

4. Consider the following two OCaml functions, **loop1** and **loop2**:

```
let rec loop1 () = loop1(); ()
let rec loop2 () = loop2();;
val loop1 : unit -> unit = <fun>
val loop2 : unit -> 'a = <fun>
```

Suppose you were to run **loop1();;** and **loop2();;** in OCaml, (pressing CTRL + C after at least a minute to terminate infinite loops when necessary).

- For each program, what behavior would you expect to see?
 - What is the difference between **loop1** and **loop2**?
 - For each program, state if it is:
 - recursive,
 - forward recursive,
 - tail-recursive.
5. Write an OCAML function **pair_up** that takes first a function, then an input list and returns a list of pairs of an element from input list (the second argument to **pair_up**), paired with the result of applying the first argument to that element. What is the OCAML type of **pair_up**? What is the result of each of the following expressions?
- pair_up (fun x -> x + 3) [6;4;1];;**
 - pair_up ((fun x -> "Hi, ^x), ["John"; "Mary"; "Dana"]);;**
 - pair_up (fun x -> x *. 2.0);;**

6. Write an Ocaml function **palindrome: string list -> unit** that first prints the strings in the list from left to right, followed by printing them right to left, recursing over the list only once. (Potential extra credit problem: Do this using each of **List.fold_right** and **List.fold_left** but no explicit use of **let rec**.)
7. Using **List.fold_right : ('a -> 'b -> 'b) -> 'a list -> 'b**, but without using explicit recursion, write a function **concat : 'a list list -> 'a list** that appends all the lists in the input list of lists, preserving the order of elements. You may use the append function **@**.
8. Write an Ocaml function **list_print : string list -> unit** that prints all the strings in a list from left to right:
 - a. using tail recursion, but no higher order functions,
 - b. using **List.fold_left : ('a -> 'b -> 'a) -> 'a -> 'b list -> 'a** but no explicit recursion.
9. Put the following function in full continuation passing style:
let prism_surface_area (length, width, height) =
 2 * (((length * width) + (length * height)) + (width * height))
 Use **addk**, **subk**, **mulk**, **leqk**, for the CPS forms of the primitive operations (+ , - , * , <=). All other procedure calls and constructs must be put in CPS. Assume OCaml order of evaluation for arguments to primitive operations.