

# Programming Languages and Compilers (CS 421)

Elsa L Gunter  
2112 SC, UIUC



<https://courses.engr.illinois.edu/cs421/fa2025>

Based in part on slides by Mattox Beckman, as updated by Vikram Adve and Gul Agha



## Functions with more than one argument

---

```
# let add_three x y z = x + y + z;;
```

```
val add_three : int -> int -> int -> int = <fun>
```

```
# let t = add_three 6 3 2;;
```

```
val t : int = 11
```

```
# let add_three =
```

```
  fun x -> (fun y -> (fun z -> x + y + z));;
```

```
val add_three : int -> int -> int -> int = <fun>
```

Again, first syntactic sugar for second



# Functions with more than one argument

---

```
# let add_three x y z = x + y + z;;
```

```
val add_three : int -> int -> int -> int = <fun>
```

- What is the value of add\_three?
- Let  $\rho_{\text{add\_three}}$  be the environment before the declaration
- Remember:

```
let add_three =
```

```
  fun x -> (fun y -> (fun z -> x + y + z));;
```

```
Value: <x ->fun y -> (fun z -> x + y + z),  $\rho_{\text{add\_three}}$  >
```



# Partial application of functions

---

```
let add_three x y z = x + y + z;;
```

```
# let h = add_three 5 4;;
```

```
val h : int -> int = <fun>
```

```
# h 3;;
```

```
- : int = 12
```

```
# h 7;;
```

```
- : int = 16
```



# Partial application of functions

---

```
let add_three x y z = x + y + z;;
```

```
# let h = add_three 5 4;;
```

```
val h : int -> int = <fun>
```

```
# h 3;;
```

```
- : int = 12
```

```
# h 7;;
```

```
- : int = 16
```

- Partial application also called *sectioning*



## Example worked in class

---

■ let add\_three x y z = x + y + z;;

Bound add\_three to

$\langle x \rightarrow (\text{fun } y \rightarrow (\text{fun } z \rightarrow (x + y + z))), \{\dots\} \rangle$

$(\langle x \rightarrow (\text{fun } y \rightarrow (\text{fun } z \rightarrow (x + y + z))), \text{rho} \rangle$

5) Goes to

$\langle y \rightarrow (\text{fun } z \rightarrow (x + y + z)), \{x \rightarrow 5\} + \text{rho} \rangle$



## Example continued

---

So need

$(\langle y \rightarrow (\text{fun } z \rightarrow (x + y + z)), \{x \rightarrow 5\} + \text{rho} \rangle, 4)$

■ Goes to

$\langle z \rightarrow (x + y + z), \{y \rightarrow 4\} + \{x \rightarrow 5\} + \text{rho} \rangle$

Let  $h = \text{add\_three } 5 \ 4$

$h$  is bound to

$\langle z \rightarrow (x + y + z), \{y \rightarrow 4\} + \{x \rightarrow 5\} + \text{rho} \rangle$



## Example finished

---

- Let  $h\ w = \text{add\_three } 5\ 4\ w$
- Let  $h = \text{fun } w \rightarrow \text{add\_three } 5\ 4\ w$
- IN  $\text{rho\_h} = \{\text{add\_three} \rightarrow \langle x \rightarrow \text{fun } y \rightarrow (\text{fun } z \rightarrow x + y + z), \rho_{\text{add\_three}} \rangle, \dots\}$
- $\langle w \rightarrow \text{add\_three } 5\ 4\ w,$
- $\{\text{add\_three} \rightarrow \langle x \rightarrow \text{fun } y \rightarrow (\text{fun } z \rightarrow x + y + z), \rho_{\text{add\_three}} \rangle, \dots\} \rangle$





# Functions as arguments

---

```
# let thrice f x = f (f (f x));;
```

```
val thrice : ('a -> 'a) -> ('a -> 'a) = <fun>
```

```
# let g = thrice plus_two;;
```

```
val g : int -> int = <fun>
```

```
# g 4;;
```

```
- : int = 10
```

```
# thrice (fun s -> "Hi! " ^ s) "Good-bye!";;
```

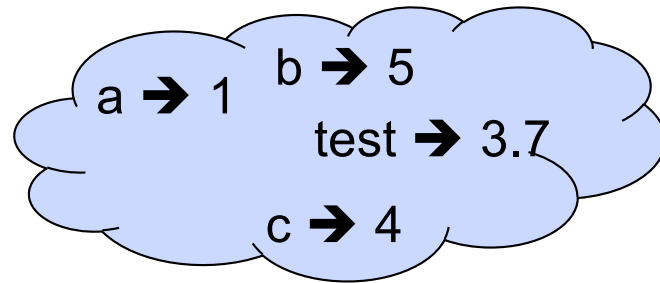
```
- : string = "Hi! Hi! Hi! Good-bye!"
```

# Tuples as Values

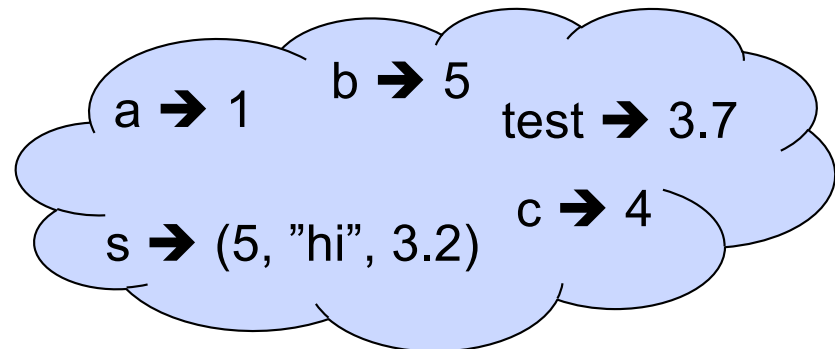
```
//  $\rho_7 = \{c \rightarrow 4, \text{test} \rightarrow 3.7,$   
           $a \rightarrow 1, b \rightarrow 5\}$ 
```

```
# let s = (5, "hi", 3.2);;
```

```
val s : int * string * float = (5, "hi", 3.2)
```

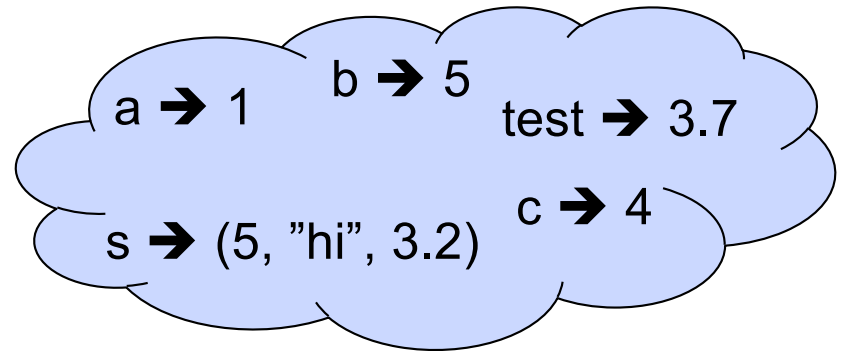


```
//  $\rho_8 = \{s \rightarrow (5, \text{"hi"}, 3.2),$   
           $c \rightarrow 4, \text{test} \rightarrow 3.7,$   
           $a \rightarrow 1, b \rightarrow 5\}$ 
```



# Pattern Matching with Tuples

/  $\rho_8 = \{s \rightarrow (5, \text{"hi"}, 3.2),$   
     $c \rightarrow 4, \text{test} \rightarrow 3.7,$   
     $a \rightarrow 1, b \rightarrow 5\}$

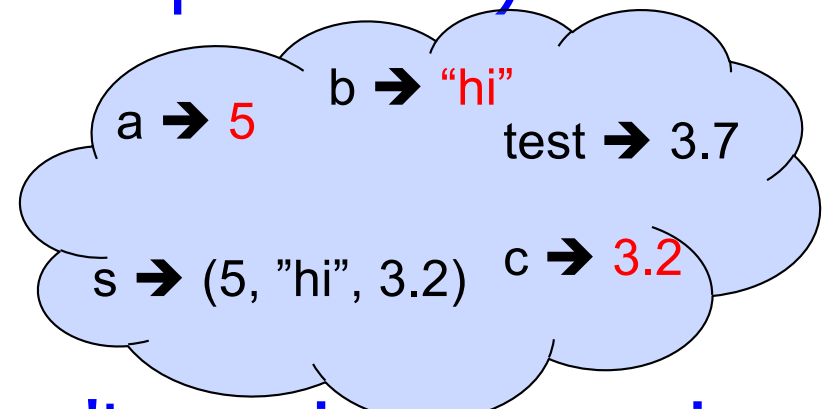


# **let**  $(a,b,c) = s;;$  (\*  $(a,b,c)$  is a pattern \*)

**val**  $a : \text{int} = 5$

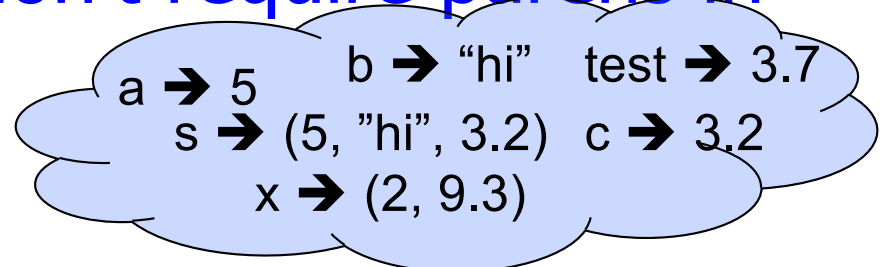
**val**  $b : \text{string} = \text{"hi"}$

**val**  $c : \text{float} = 3.2$



# **let**  $x = 2, 9.3;;$  (\* tuples don't require parens in Ocaml \*)

**val**  $x : \text{int} * \text{float} = (2, 9.3)$





# Nested Tuples

---

# (\*Tuples can be nested \*)

```
let d = ((1,4,62),("bye",15),73.95);;
```

```
val d : (int * int * int) * (string * int) * float =  
  ((1, 4, 62), ("bye", 15), 73.95)
```

# (\*Patterns can be nested \*)

```
let (p,(st,_),_) = d;; (* _ matches all, binds nothing  
  *)
```

```
val p : int * int * int = (1, 4, 62)
```

```
val st : string = "bye"
```



# Functions on tuples

---

```
# let plus_pair (n,m) = n + m;;
```

```
val plus_pair : int * int -> int = <fun>
```

```
# plus_pair (3,4);;
```

```
- : int = 7
```

```
# let double x = (x,x);;
```

```
val double : 'a -> 'a * 'a = <fun>
```

```
# double 3;;
```

```
- : int * int = (3, 3)
```

```
# double "hi";;
```

```
- : string * string = ("hi", "hi")
```



# Curried vs Uncurried

---

- Recall

```
val add_three : int -> int -> int -> int = <fun>
```

- How does it differ from

```
# let add_triple (u,v,w) = u + v + w;;
```

```
val add_triple : int * int * int -> int = <fun>
```

- add\_three is *curried*;
- add\_triple is *uncurried*



# Curried vs Uncurried

---

```
# add_triple (6,3,2);;
```

```
- : int = 11
```

```
# add_triple 5 4;;
```

Characters 0-10:

```
add_triple 5 4;;
```

```
^^^ ^^ ^^ ^^
```

This function is applied to too many arguments,  
maybe you forgot a `;'

```
# fun x -> add_triple (5,4,x);;
```

```
: int -> int = <fun>
```



# Match Expressions

```
# let triple_to_pair triple =
```

```
  match triple
```

```
  with (0, x, y) -> (x, y)
```

```
  | (x, 0, y) -> (x, y)
```

```
  | (x, y, _) -> (x, y);;
```

```
val triple_to_pair : int * int * int -> int * int =  
  <fun>
```

- Each clause: pattern on left, expression on right
- Each x, y has scope of only its clause
- Use first matching clause





# Save the Environment!

---

- A *closure* is a pair of an environment and an association of a pattern (e.g.  $(v_1, \dots, v_n)$  giving the input variables) with an expression (the function body), written:

$$< (v_1, \dots, v_n) \rightarrow \underline{\text{exp}}, \rho >$$

- Where  $\rho$  is the environment in effect when the function is defined (for a simple function)



## Closure for plus\_pair

---

- Assume  $\rho_{\text{plus\_pair}}$  was the environment just before **plus\_pair** defined

- Closure for **fun (n,m) -> n + m**:

$$\langle (n,m) \rightarrow n + m, \rho_{\text{plus\_pair}} \rangle$$

- Environment just after **plus\_pair** defined:

$$\{\text{plus\_pair} \rightarrow \langle (n,m) \rightarrow n + m, \rho_{\text{plus\_pair}} \rangle\} \\ + \rho_{\text{plus\_pair}}$$



# Evaluating declarations

---

- Evaluation uses an environment  $\rho$
- To evaluate a (simple) declaration  $\text{let } x = e$ 
  - Evaluate expression  $e$  in  $\rho$  to value  $v$
  - Update  $\rho$  with  $x \rightarrow v$ :  $\{x \rightarrow v\} + \rho$



# Evaluating declarations

---

- Evaluation uses an environment  $\rho$
- To evaluate a (simple) declaration **let  $x = e$** 
  - Evaluate expression  $e$  in  $\rho$  to value  $v$
  - Update  $\rho$  with  $x \ v$ :  $\{x \rightarrow v\} + \rho$
- Update:  $\rho_1 + \rho_2$  has all the bindings in  $\rho_1$  and all those in  $\rho_2$  that are not rebound in  $\rho_1$   
 $\{x \rightarrow 2, y \rightarrow 3, a \rightarrow \text{"hi"}\} + \{y \rightarrow 100, b \rightarrow 6\}$   
 $= \{x \rightarrow 2, y \rightarrow 3, a \rightarrow \text{"hi"}, b \rightarrow 6\}$



# Evaluating expressions in OCaml

---

- Evaluation uses an environment  $\rho$
- A constant evaluates to itself, including primitive operators like  $+$  and  $=$



# Evaluating expressions in OCaml

---

- Evaluation uses an environment  $\rho$
- A constant evaluates to itself, including primitive operators like  $+$  and  $=$
- To evaluate a variable, look it up in  $\rho$ :  $\rho(v)$



# Evaluating expressions in OCaml

---

- Evaluation uses an environment  $\rho$
- A constant evaluates to itself, including primitive operators like  $+$  and  $=$
- To evaluate a variable, look it up in  $\rho$ :  $\rho(v)$
- To evaluate a tuple  $(e_1, \dots, e_n)$ ,
  - Evaluate each  $e_i$  to  $v_i$ , right to left for OCaml
  - Then make value  $(v_1, \dots, v_n)$



# Evaluating expressions in OCaml

---

- To evaluate uses of  $+$ ,  $-$ , etc, eval args, then do operation





# Evaluating expressions in OCaml

---

- To evaluate uses of  $+$ ,  $-$ , etc, eval args, then do operation
- Function expression evaluates to its closure



# Evaluating expressions in OCaml

---

- To evaluate uses of  $+$ ,  $-$ , etc, eval args, then do operation
- Function expression evaluates to its closure
- To evaluate a local dec:  $\text{let } x = e1 \text{ in } e2$ 
  - Eval  $e1$  to  $v$ , then eval  $e2$  using  $\{x \rightarrow v\} + \rho$



# Evaluating expressions in OCaml

---

- To evaluate uses of  $+$ ,  $-$ , etc, eval args (right to left for OCaml), then do operation
- Function expression evaluates to its closure
- To evaluate a local dec: `let x = e1 in e2`
  - Eval `e1` to `v`, then eval `e2` using  $\{x \rightarrow v\} + \rho$
- To evaluate a conditional expression:  
`if b then e1 else e2`
  - Evaluate `b` to a value `v`
  - If `v` is `True`, evaluate `e1`
  - If `v` is `False`, evaluate `e2`



# Evaluation of Application with Closures

- Given application expression  $f\ e$
- In Ocaml, evaluate  $e$  to value  $v$
- In environment  $\rho$ , evaluate left term to closure,  
 $c = \langle (x_1, \dots, x_n) \rightarrow b, \rho' \rangle$ 
  - $(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  variables in (first) argument
  - $v$  must have form  $(v_1, \dots, v_n)$
- Update the environment  $\rho'$  to  
 $\rho'' = \{x_1 \rightarrow v_1, \dots, x_n \rightarrow v_n\} + \rho'$
- Evaluate body  $b$  in environment  $\rho''$



# Recursive Functions

---

```
# let rec factorial n =  
    if n = 0 then 1 else n * factorial (n - 1);;  
val factorial : int -> int = <fun>  
# factorial 5;;  
- : int = 120  
# (* rec is needed for recursive function  
   declarations *)
```



# Recursion Example

Compute  $n^2$  recursively using:

$$n^2 = (2 * n - 1) + (n - 1)^2$$

```
# let rec nthsq n =      (* rec for recursion *)  
  match n              (* pattern matching for cases *)  
  with 0 -> 0          (* base case *)  
      | n -> (2 * n - 1) (* recursive case *)  
          + nthsq (n - 1);; (* recursive call *)  
val nthsq : int -> int = <fun>  
# nthsq 3;;  
- : int = 9
```

Structure of recursion similar to inductive proof

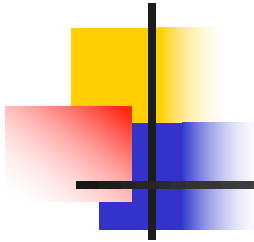


# Recursion and Induction

---

```
# let rec nthsq n = match n with 0 -> 0  
  | n -> (2 * n - 1) + nthsq (n - 1) ;;
```

- Base case is the last case; it stops the computation
- Recursive call must be to arguments that are somehow smaller - must progress to base case
- **if** or **match** must contain base case
- Failure of these may cause failure of termination



# Lists

---

- List can take one of two forms:
  - Empty list, written `[]`
  - Non-empty list, written `x :: xs`
    - `x` is head element, `xs` is tail list, `::` called “cons”
  - Syntactic sugar: `[x] == x :: []`
  - `[ x1; x2; ...; xn ] == x1 :: x2 :: ... :: xn :: []`





# Lists

---

```
# let fib5 = [8;5;3;2;1;1];;
```

```
val fib5 : int list = [8; 5; 3; 2; 1; 1]
```

```
# let fib6 = 13 :: fib5;;
```

```
val fib6 : int list = [13; 8; 5; 3; 2; 1; 1]
```

```
# (8::5::3::2::1::1::[ ]) = fib5;;
```

```
- : bool = true
```

```
# fib5 @ fib6;;
```

```
- : int list = [8; 5; 3; 2; 1; 1; 13; 8; 5; 3; 2; 1; 1]
```



# Lists are Homogeneous

---

```
# let bad_list = [1; 3.2; 7];;
```

Characters 19-22:

```
let bad_list = [1; 3.2; 7];;
```

^^^

This expression has type float but is here  
used with type int



# Question

---

- Which one of these lists is invalid?
- 1. [2; 3; 4; 6]
- 2. [2,3; 4,5; 6,7]
- 3. [(2.3,4); (3.2,5); (6,7.2)]
- 4. [[“hi”; “there”]; [“wahcha”]; [ ]; [“doin”]]



# Answer

---

- Which one of these lists is invalid?
  1. [2; 3; 4; 6]
  2. [2,3; 4,5; 6,7]
  3. [(2.3,4); (3.2,5); (6,7.2)]
  4. [[“hi”; “there”]; [“wahcha”]; [ ]; [“doin”]]
- 3 is invalid because of last pair



# Functions Over Lists

---

```
# let rec double_up list =  
  match list  
  with [ ] -> [ ] (* pattern before ->,  
                    expression after *)  
       | (x :: xs) -> (x :: x :: double_up xs);;  
val double_up : 'a list -> 'a list = <fun>  
# let fib5_2 = double_up fib5;;  
val fib5_2 : int list = [8; 8; 5; 5; 3; 3; 2; 2; 1;  
  1; 1; 1]
```



# Functions Over Lists

---

```
# let silly = double_up ["hi"; "there"];;  
val silly : string list = ["hi"; "hi"; "there"; "there"]  
# let rec poor_rev list =  
  match list  
  with [] -> []  
       | (x::xs) -> poor_rev xs @ [x];;  
val poor_rev : 'a list -> 'a list = <fun>  
# poor_rev silly;;  
- : string list = ["there"; "there"; "hi"; "hi"]
```



# Structural Recursion

---

- Functions on recursive datatypes (eg lists) tend to be recursive
- Recursion over recursive datatypes generally by structural recursion
  - Recursive calls made to components of structure of the same recursive type
  - Base cases of recursive types stop the recursion of the function



# Question: Length of list

---

- Problem: write code for the length of the list
  - How to start?

let rec length list =





# Question: Length of list

---

- Problem: write code for the length of the list
  - How to start?

let rec length list =  
 match list with



# Question: Length of list

---

- Problem: write code for the length of the list
  - What patterns should we match against?

let rec length list =  
 match list with



# Question: Length of list

---

- Problem: write code for the length of the list
  - What patterns should we match against?

```
let rec length list =  
  match list with [] ->  
    | (a :: bs) ->
```



# Question: Length of list

---

- Problem: write code for the length of the list
  - What result do we give when **list** is empty?

```
let rec length list =  
  match list with [] -> 0  
  | (a :: bs) ->
```



# Question: Length of list

---

- Problem: write code for the length of the list
  - What result do we give when **list** is not empty?

```
let rec length list =  
  match list with [] -> 0  
  | (a :: bs) ->
```



## Question: Length of list

---

- Problem: write code for the length of the list
  - What result do we give when **list** is not empty?

let rec length list =

match list with [] -> 0

| (a :: bs) -> 1 + length bs



# Structural Recursion : List Example

```
# let rec length list = match list
  with [ ] -> 0   (* Nil case *)
      | a :: bs -> 1 + length bs;; (* Cons case *)
val length : 'a list -> int = <fun>
# length [5; 4; 3; 2];;
- : int = 4
```

- Nil case [ ] is base case
- Cons case recurses on component list **bs**



# Same Length

---

- How can we efficiently answer if two lists have the same length?





# Same Length

---

- How can we efficiently answer if two lists have the same length?

```
let rec same_length list1 list2 =  
  match list1 with [] ->  
    (match list2 with [] -> true  
     | (y::ys) -> false)  
  | (x::xs) ->  
    (match list2 with [] -> false  
     | (y::ys) -> same_length xs ys)
```



Your turn: `doubleList : int list -> int list`

---

- Write a function that takes a list of int and returns a list of the same length, where each element has been multiplied by 2

`let rec doubleList list =`



Your turn: `doubleList : int list -> int list`

---

- Write a function that takes a list of `int` and returns a list of the same length, where each element has been multiplied by 2

```
let rec doubleList list =  
  match list  
  with [] -> []  
       | x :: xs -> (2 * x) :: doubleList xs
```



Your turn: `doubleList : int list -> int list`

---

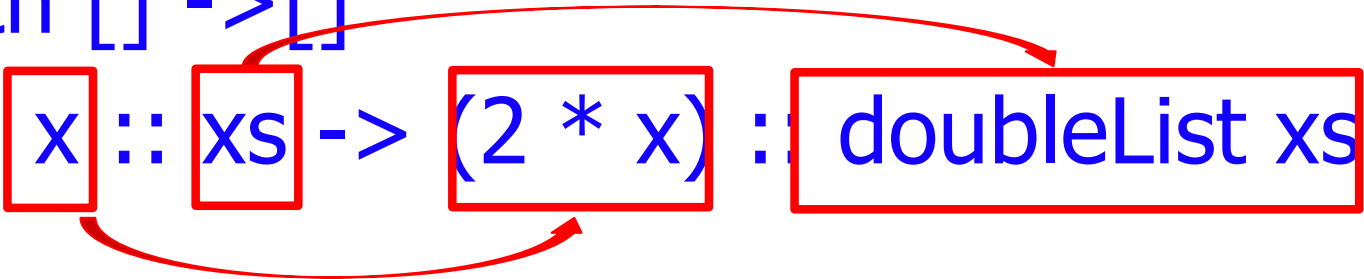
- Write a function that takes a list of int and returns a list of the same length, where each element has been multiplied by 2

`let rec doubleList list =`

`match list`

`with [] -> []`

`| x :: xs -> (2 * x) :: doubleList xs`





# Higher-Order Functions Over Lists

---

```
# let rec map f list =  
  match list  
  with [] -> []  
       | (h::t) -> (f h) :: (map f t);;  
val map : ('a -> 'b) -> 'a list -> 'b list = <fun>  
# map plus_two fib5;;  
- : int list = [10; 7; 5; 4; 3; 3]  
# map (fun x -> x - 1) fib6;;  
: int list = [12; 7; 4; 2; 1; 0; 0]
```

# Higher-Order Functions Over Lists

```
# let rec map f list =
```

```
  match list
```

```
  with [] -> []
```

```
  | (h::t) -> (f h) :: (map f t);;
```

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

```
# map plus_two fib5;;
```

```
- : int list = [10; 7; 5; 4; 3; 3]
```

```
# map (fun x -> x - 1) fib6;;
```

```
: int list = [12; 7; 4; 2; 1; 0; 0]
```



# Mapping Recursion

---

- Can use the higher-order recursive map function instead of direct recursion

```
# let doubleList list =  
  List.map (fun x -> 2 * x) list;;  
val doubleList : int list -> int list = <fun>  
# doubleList [2;3;4];;  
- : int list = [4; 6; 8]
```



# Mapping Recursion

- Can use the higher-order recursive map function instead of direct recursion

```
# let doubleList list =  
    List.map (fun x -> 2 * x) list;;  
val doubleList : int list -> int list = <fun>  
# doubleList [2;3;4];;  
- : int list = [4; 6; 8]
```

- Same function, but no explicit recursion





# Folding Recursion

- Another common form “folds” an operation over the elements of the structure

```
# let rec multList list = match list
  with [ ] -> 1
       | x::xs -> x * multList xs;;
val multList : int list -> int = <fun>
# multList [2;4;6];;
- : int = 48
```

- Computes  $(2 * (4 * (6 * 1)))$



# Folding Recursion : Length Example

```
# let rec length list = match list
  with [ ] -> 0   (* Nil case *)
    | a :: bs -> 1 + length bs;; (* Cons case *)
val length : 'a list -> int = <fun>
# length [5; 4; 3; 2];;
- : int = 4
```

- Nil case [ ] is base case, 0 is the base value
- Cons case recurses on component list bs
- What do `multList` and `length` have in common?