

# 15-150 Fall 2020

## Lecture 11

Using higher-order functions

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***Midterm 1 exam***  
***Tuesday October 13***

# last week

- higher-order functions
- type inference rules

# today

- using the type rules: `map` and `foldr`
- some important properties
- using higher-order functions

# type rules

**There's a rule for each program construct**

- Pattern  $p$  matches type  $t$ ,  
and produces bindings  $x_1 : t_1, \dots, x_k : t_k$   
 $x::L$  matches `int list`, produces  $x : \text{int}$ ,  $L : \text{int list}$
- Expression  $e$  is well-typed, has type  $t$   
if  $L : 'a \text{ list}$ ,  $L@L$  has type `'a list`
- Declaration  $d$  is well-typed,  
and produces bindings  $x_1 : t_1, \dots, x_k : t_k$   
`fun twice L = L@L` introduces  $\text{twice} : 'a \text{ list} \rightarrow 'a \text{ list}$

# type rules

## Each rule is syntax-directed

- For curried recursive functions with  $k$  clauses...

**fun**  $F\ p_1\ q_1 = e_1 \mid F\ p_2\ q_2 = e_2$

declares  $F : t_1 \rightarrow t_2 \rightarrow t$

iff, for each clause  $F\ p_i\ q_i = e_i$

$p_i$  matches  $t_1$ ,  $q_i$  matches  $t_2$ , and

they give type bindings such that,

assuming  $F : t_1 \rightarrow t_2 \rightarrow t$  gives  $e_i : t$

the  
curried fun  
rule  
( $k=2$ )

each  
clause  
must  
*fit*

# type of `map`

```
fun map f [] = []  
|   map f (x::L) = (f x) :: map f L
```

To show `map : ('a -> 'b) -> 'a list -> 'b list`  
need to check that each clause *fits* this type

using the  
curried fun  
rule (k=2)

- First clause: LHS patterns match types `('a -> 'b)`, `'a list`, and bind `f : ('a -> 'b)`. RHS expression `[]` has type `'b list` ✓
- Second clause: LHS patterns match types `('a -> 'b)`, `'a list`, and bind `f : ('a -> 'b)`, `x : 'a`, `L : 'a list`. Using these bindings, RHS expression `(f x) :: map f L` has type `'b list` ✓

`map f L` is `(map f) L`

# type of foldr

```
fun foldr g z [] = z
|   foldr g z (x::L) = g(x, foldr g z L)
```

To show  $\text{foldr} : ('a * 'b \rightarrow 'b) \rightarrow 'b \rightarrow 'a \text{ list} \rightarrow 'b$   
need to check that each clause *fits* this type

using the  
curried fun  
rule (k=3)

- First clause: LHS patterns match types  $('a * 'b \rightarrow 'b)$ ,  $'b$ ,  $'a \text{ list}$   
and bind  $g : ('a * 'b \rightarrow 'b)$ ,  $z : 'b$ .  
Using these bindings, the RHS expression  $z$  has type  $'b$  ✓
- Second: LHS patterns match types  $('a * 'b \rightarrow 'b)$ ,  $'b$ ,  $'a \text{ list}$   
and bind  $g : ('a * 'b \rightarrow 'b)$ ,  $z : 'b$ ,  $x : 'a$ ,  $L : 'a \text{ list}$ .  
With these bindings, the RHS expression  $g(x, \text{foldr } g \ z \ L)$   
has type  $'b$  ✓

$\text{foldr } g \ z \ L$  is  $((\text{foldr } g) \ z) \ L$

# comments

To fill in the details behind these type derivations you use the typing rules

- Given  $f : ('a \rightarrow 'b)$ ,  $L : 'a \text{ list}$ , and  $\text{map} : ('a \rightarrow 'b) \rightarrow 'a \text{ list} \rightarrow 'b \text{ list}$

we get

- (i)  $\text{map } f : 'a \text{ list} \rightarrow 'b \text{ list}$  by *application* rule, given types for  $f$ ,  $\text{map}$
- (ii)  $(\text{map } f) L : 'b \text{ list}$  by *application* rule, given type for  $L$

*Get used to obeying the rules  
as you design code,  
and you'll have fewer type errors!*

*Even using the rules  
**informally**  
can help...  
they embody  
**principles**  
of good code design*

# next

- Using maps and folds
  - some useful properties



# totality

- When  $f$  is total, so is  $\text{map } f$
- When  $g$  is total and  $z$  is valuable,  $\text{foldl } g \ z$  and  $\text{foldr } g \ z$  are total

(useful to know)

(easy to prove...  
using induction on lists)

# map/map fusion

Let  $f : t_1 \rightarrow t_2$ ,  $g : t_2 \rightarrow t_3$  be total functions

For all values  $L : t_1$  list,

$\text{map } g (\text{map } f L)$

$= \text{map } (\mathbf{fn } x \Rightarrow g (f x)) L$

*avoids  
building  
an extra list*

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For all values  $L : t_1$  list,

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check that  
LHS, RHS  
have type  
 $t_3$  list

*avoids  
building  
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# map/map fusion

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For all values  $L : t_1$  list,

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{map } g \text{ (map } f \text{ } L) \\ &= \text{map } (\mathbf{fn} \ x \Rightarrow g \ (f \ x)) \ L \end{aligned}$$

check that  
LHS, RHS  
have type  
 $t_3$  list

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# map/map fusion

Let  $f : t_1 \rightarrow t_2$ ,  $g : t_2 \rightarrow t_3$  be total functions

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$$(\text{map } g) \circ (\text{map } f) = \text{map } (g \circ f)$$

*avoids  
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# map/map fusion

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For all values  $L : t_1$  list,

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$$(\text{map } g) \circ (\text{map } f) = \text{map } (g \circ f)$$

*avoids  
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infix  $\circ$  is **function composition**

# map/map fusion

Let  $f : t_1 \rightarrow t_2$ ,  $g : t_2 \rightarrow t_3$  be total functions

For all values  $L : t_1$  list,

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{map } g \text{ (map } f \text{ } L) \\ &= \text{map } (\mathbf{fn} \ x \Rightarrow g \ (f \ x)) \ L \end{aligned}$$

$$(\text{map } g) \circ (\text{map } f) = \text{map } (g \circ f)$$

*avoids  
building  
an extra list*

infix  $\circ$  is **function composition**

$$g \circ f = \mathbf{fn} \ x \Rightarrow g \ (f \ x)$$



# map/foldr fusion

Let  $f : t_1 \rightarrow t_2$ ,  $g : t_2 * t_3 \rightarrow t_3$  be total functions  
and  $z : t_3$ ,  $L : t_1$  list be values. Then

$\text{foldr } g \ z \ (\text{map } f \ L)$

$= \text{foldr } (\mathbf{fn} \ (x, y) \Rightarrow g(f \ x, y)) \ z \ L$

*a **map** followed by a **fold**  
can be replaced by  
a single **fold***

*avoids  
building  
an extra list*

# proof sketch

Assume  $f$ ,  $g$  total,  $z$  and  $L$  suitably typed values.

Let  $h$  be **fn**  $(x, y) \Rightarrow g(f\ x, y)$ .

Prove by structural induction on  $L$  that

$$\text{foldr } g\ z\ (\text{map } f\ L) = \text{foldr } h\ z\ L.$$

- Base case: for  $L = []$  EASY (both =  $z$ )
- Ind step: let  $L = x::R$  and assume as **IH** that  $\text{foldr } g\ z\ (\text{map } f\ R) = \text{foldr } h\ z\ R$ .

Show (using defs of **map**, **foldr** and **IH**) that

$$\text{foldr } g\ z\ (\text{map } f\ (x::R)) = \text{foldr } h\ z\ (x::R)$$

*... see next slide for more detail*

# proof sketch

By assumptions on  $f$  and  $g$   
it follows that  
 $\text{map } f, \text{foldr } g \ z$  and  $h$   
are all total...

... so we can use  
equational reasoning  
based on the definitions of  
 $\text{map}$  and  $\text{foldr}$  and  $h$

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{foldr } g \ z \ (\text{map } f \ (x::R)) && \\ & = \text{foldr } g \ z \ (f \ x \ :: \ \text{map } f \ R) && \text{def of } \text{map} \\ & = g(f \ x, \text{foldr } g \ z \ (\text{map } f \ R)) && \text{def of } \text{foldr}^* \\ & = h(x, \text{foldr } g \ z \ (\text{map } f \ R)) && \text{def of } h \\ & = h(x, \text{foldr } h \ z \ R) && \text{IH for } R \\ & = \text{foldr } h \ z \ (x::R) && \text{def of } \text{foldr} \end{aligned}$$

\*The  $\text{foldr}$  equation

$$\text{foldr } g \ z \ (y::ys) = g(y, \text{foldr } g \ z \ ys)$$

holds for all values  $g, z, y$  and  $ys$ .

It also holds when  $y$  and  $ys$  are valuable,

e.g.  $y = f \ x$  and  $ys = \text{map } f \ R$ .

# a map/foldr example

$[(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_n, y_n)]$

$\text{map } (\text{op } *)$

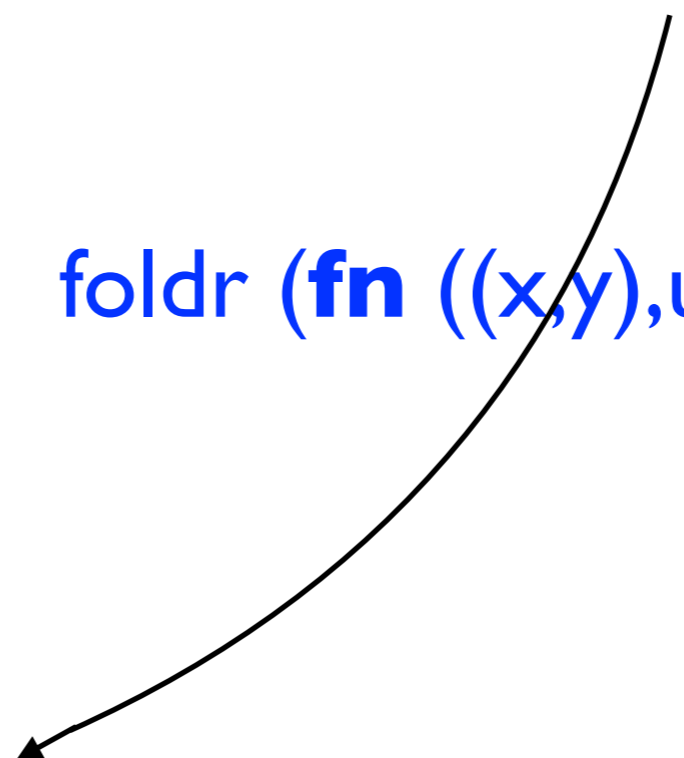
$[x_1 * y_1, \dots, x_n * y_n]$

$\text{foldr } (\text{op } +) 42$

$x_1 * y_1 + \dots + x_n * y_n + 42$

$[(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_n, y_n)]$

$\text{foldr } (\text{fn } ((x, y), u) \Rightarrow x * y + u) 42$



# foldr vs foldl

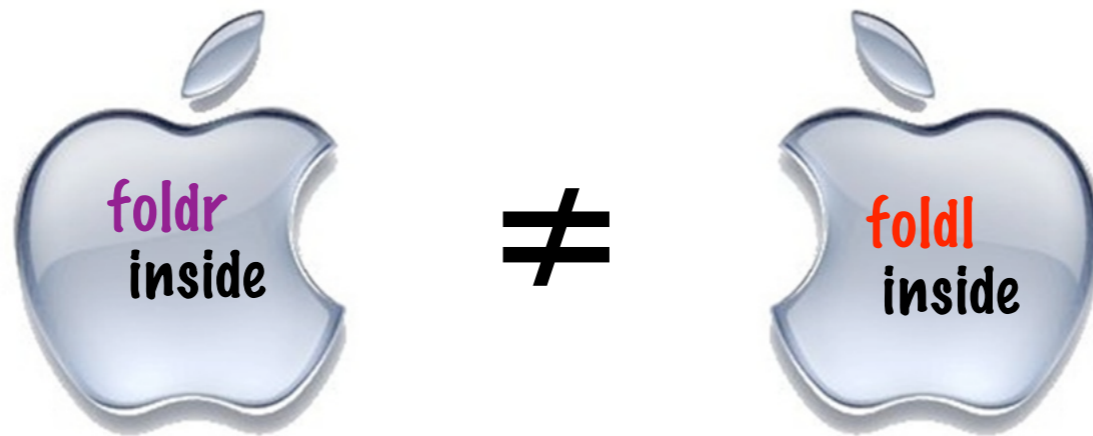
```
fun foldr g z [ ] = z
|   foldr g z (x::L) = g(x, foldr g z L)

fun foldl g z [ ] = z
|   foldl g z (x::L) = fold g (g(x, z)) L
```

For all suitably typed values  $g$ ,  $z$  and  $L$

$$\text{foldr } g \ z \ L = \text{foldl } g \ z \ (\text{rev } L)$$

Proof: by induction on length of  $L$



`foldr (op @) [] [[1,2], [], [3,4]] = [1,2,3,4]`

`foldl (op @) [] [[1,2], [], [3,4]] = [3,4,1,2]`

In general,  
when is  
`foldr g = foldl g` ?

# when does **foldr g = foldl g**?

- Clearly  $\text{foldr } g \ z \ [] = \text{foldl } g \ z \ [] = z$
- Also  $\text{foldr } g \ z \ [x] = \text{foldl } g \ z \ [x] = g(x, z)$
- To get  $\text{foldr } g \ z \ [x, y] = \text{foldl } g \ z \ [x, y]$   
we need  $g$  to satisfy

$$g(x, g(y, z)) = g(y, g(x, z))$$

Turns out, this is enough!

# foldr g vs foldl g

Let  $g$  be a function such that  
for all (suitably typed) values  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $u$

$$g(x, g(y, u)) = g(y, g(x, u)).$$

Then for all  $L$  and  $z$

$$\text{foldr } g \text{ } z \text{ } L = \text{foldl } g \text{ } z \text{ } L$$



# foldr g vs foldl g

Let  $g$  be a function such that  
for all (suitably typed) values  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $u$

$$g(x, g(y, u)) = g(y, g(x, u)).$$

Then for all  $L$  and  $z$

$$\text{foldr } g \ z \ L = \text{foldl } g \ z \ L$$

(op +) and (op \*) have this property  
(op @) and (op ^) do not

# foldr g vs foldl g

Let  $g$  be a function such that  
for all (suitably typed) values  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $u$

$$g(x, g(y, u)) = g(y, g(x, u)).$$

Then for all  $L$  and  $z$

$$\text{foldr } g \ z \ L = \text{foldl } g \ z \ L$$


# foldr g vs foldl g

Let  $g$  be a function such that  
for all (suitably typed) values  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $u$

$$g(x, g(y, u)) = g(y, g(x, u)).$$

Then for all  $L$  and  $z$

$$\text{foldr } g \ z \ L = \text{foldl } g \ z \ L$$


$$\text{foldr } g = \text{foldl } g$$

# proof sketch

Assume  $g(x, g(y, u)) = g(y, g(x, u))$  for all  $x, y, u$

- Let  $L$  be  $[y_1, \dots, y_n]$ , and define sequences

$$u_0 = g(x, z)$$

$$v_0 = z$$

$$u_1 = g(y_1, u_0)$$

$$v_1 = g(y_1, v_0)$$

...

...

$$u_n = g(y_n, u_{n-1})$$

$$v_n = g(y_n, v_{n-1})$$

Prove that for  $0 \leq i \leq n$ ,  $u_i = g(x, v_i)$ .

- By def,  $u_n = \text{foldl } g \ z \ (x::L)$ ,  $v_n = \text{foldl } g \ z \ L$   
so we get  $\text{foldl } g \ z \ (x::L) = g(x, \text{foldl } g \ z \ L)$ .
- Use this result to show  $\text{foldl } g \ z = \text{foldr } g \ z$

# details

- That was only a sketch!
- First use induction on  $i$
- Then use induction on  $R$  to show that  
(assuming  $g$  has the given property)  
for all lists  $R$  and values  $z$ ,  
 $\text{foldl } g \ z \ R = \text{foldr } g \ z \ R$

“ $\text{foldl } g \ z = \text{foldr } g \ z$ ”

# comments

- We just showed that  $\text{foldr } g = \text{foldl } g$  if  $g : t_1 * t_2 \rightarrow t_2$  satisfies

$$g(x, g(y, u)) = g(y, g(x, u))$$

for all values  $x, y : t_1$  and  $u : t_2$

- Special case: this holds when  $t_2 = t_1$  and  $g$  is **associative** and **commutative**

$$\begin{aligned} g(x, g(y, u)) &= g(g(x, y), u) && (g \text{ associative}) \\ &= g(g(y, x), u) && (g \text{ commutative}) \\ &= g(y, g(x, u)) && (g \text{ associative}) \end{aligned}$$

# more comments

- $\text{foldr } g \ z = \text{foldl } g \ z$   
if  $g : t_1 * t_2 \rightarrow t_2$  satisfies

$$g(x, g(y, z)) = g(y, g(x, z))$$

for all values  $x, y : t_1$

- Special case: this holds when  $t_2 = t_1$  and  $g$  is commutative, and  $z$  is an **identity** for  $g$

$$\begin{aligned} g(x, g(y, z)) &= g(x, y) && (\text{identity: } g(y, z) = y) \\ &= g(y, x) && (\text{commutative}) \\ &= g(y, g(x, z)) && (\text{identity: } g(x, z) = x) \end{aligned}$$

# next

## polymorphic sorting

- **A case study**
- Developing an *abstract* and *general* solution to a *family* of problems
- The benefits of ***polymorphic types*** and ***higher-order functions***
- Advantages of tasteful ***currying***



# examples

<b><i>type</i></b>	<b><i>comparison</i></b>	<b><i>examples</i></b>
<b>int</b>	<i>usual</i>	3 < 4
<b>int * int</b>	<i>usual lexicographic</i>	(2,4) < (3,2) < (3,3)
<b>string</b>	<i>dictionary</i>	“car” < “card” < “kardashian”

obviously in ML  
we can't use  
the same symbol <  
for all of these!



# WIKIPEDIA

A **sorting algorithm** ... puts elements of a [list](#) in a certain [order](#).  
The most-used **orders** are numerical ... and [lexicographical](#).

Efficient [sorting](#) is important ...

for optimizing [search](#) and [merge](#) algorithms  
and for producing human-readable output.

**Q:** What's an **order**?

What properties do we need?

# comparisons

A **comparison** for type  $t$  is a *total* function

$$\text{cmp} : t * t \rightarrow \text{order}$$

such that

$$\text{cmp}(x,y) = \text{LESS} \quad \text{iff} \quad \text{cmp}(y,x) = \text{GREATER}$$

$$\text{cmp}(x,y) = \text{EQUAL} \quad \text{iff} \quad \text{cmp}(y,x) = \text{EQUAL}$$

and

$\text{cmp}(x,y) = \text{LESS} \ \& \ \text{cmp}(y,z) \Leftrightarrow \text{GREATER}$  implies  $\text{cmp}(x,z) = \text{LESS}$   
 $\text{cmp}(x,y) = \text{GREATER} \ \& \ \text{cmp}(y,z) \Leftrightarrow \text{LESS}$  implies  $\text{cmp}(x,z) = \text{GREATER}$   
 $\text{cmp}(x,y) = \text{EQUAL} \ \& \ \text{cmp}(y,z) = \text{EQUAL}$  implies  $\text{cmp}(x,z) = \text{EQUAL}$

“the obvious properties”

# integers

Int.compare : int \* int -> order

For all values x,y:int

Int.compare(x,y) = LESS            if x<y

   = EQUAL        if x=y

   = GREATER   if x>y

This is a comparison function!

# Int.compare

Int.compare : int \* int -> order

is a total function, and

$x < y$  iff  $y > x$

$x = y$  iff  $y = x$

and

$x < y$  &  $y \leq z$  implies  $x < z$

$x > y$  &  $y \geq z$  implies  $x > z$

$x = y$  &  $y = z$  implies  $x = z$



“the obvious properties”

# comparisons

- There are MANY
- Not just the “usual” one on `int`
- We can *define* specific ones
- And we can define functions for *building* new comparisons from old, e.g. *lexicographic* on pairs, on lists, ...

# **pairs** of integers

lexcompare : (int \* int) \* (int \* int) -> order

```
fun lexcompare((x1, y1), (x2, y2)) =  
  case Int.compare(x1, x2) of  
    LESS => LESS  
  | GREATER => GREATER  
  | EQUAL => Int.compare(y1, y2)
```

This is a comparison function

# flipping

`flip: ('a * 'a -> order) -> ('a * 'a -> order)`

```
fun flip cmp (x, y) = cmp (y, x)
```

`(flip Int.compare) (2,3) = GREATER`

If `cmp` is a comparison,  
so is `flip(cmp)`.

THE WAY **UP** IS **DOWN** 



# pairing comparisons

`lex : ('a * 'a -> order) * ('b * 'b -> order) -> (('a * 'b) * ('a * 'b) -> order)`

```
fun lex (cmp1, cmp2) ((x1, y1), (x2, y2)) =  
  case cmp1(x1, x2) of  
    LESS      => LESS  
  | GREATER => GREATER  
  | EQUAL    => cmp2(y1, y2)
```

If `cmp1` is a comparison for `t1`  
and `cmp2` is a comparison for `t2`  
then `lex(cmp1, cmp2)` is a comparison for `t1 * t2`

```
lexcompare = lex(Int.compare, Int.compare)  
: (int * int) * (int * int) -> order
```

# sorted

- The concept of a *sorted* collection of data makes sense for any *type* equipped with a *comparison function*
- For `Int.compare` this is same as “sorted w.r.t.  $<$ ”
- We can *adapt* `sorted`, `isort`, `msort`, etc... by going *polymorphic* and adding a comparison function as extra (first) argument...

`sorted : ('a * 'a -> order) -> 'a list -> bool`

`ins : ('a * 'a -> order) -> 'a * 'a list -> 'a list`

`isort : ('a * 'a -> order) -> 'a list -> 'a list`

# sorted

sorted : ('a \* 'a -> order) -> 'a list -> bool

```
fun sorted cmp [ ] = true
| sorted cmp [x] = true
| sorted cmp (x::y::L) =
  case cmp(x, y) of
    GREATER => false
  | _       => sorted cmp (y::L)
```

**L** is **cmp-sorted** iff  
**sorted cmp L = true**

Every element is **cmp**- $\leq$  all later elements

# sorted

- When  $\text{cmp} : t * t \rightarrow \text{order}$  is a *comparison* for type  $t$ , for all list values  $L : t \text{ list}$  we get  
 $\text{sorted cmp } L = \text{true}$   
if and only if  
every item in  $L$  is  $\text{cmp} \leq$  all later items
- We say “ $L$  is  $\text{cmp}$ -sorted”

# sorted

- When  $\text{cmp} : t * t \rightarrow \text{order}$  is a *comparison* for type  $t$ , for all list values  $L : t \text{ list}$  we get  
 $\text{sorted cmp } L = \text{true}$   
if and only if  
every item in  $L$  is  $\text{cmp-}\leq$  all later items
- We say “ $L$  is  $\text{cmp}$ -sorted”

$x::R$  is  $\text{cmp}$ -sorted  
if and only if  
 $x$  is  $\text{cmp-}\leq$  all of  $R$  &  $R$  is  $\text{cmp}$ -sorted

# insertion

`ins : ('a * 'a -> order) -> ('a * 'a list) -> 'a list`

```
fun ins cmp (x, [ ]) = [x]
| ins cmp (x, y::L) =
  case cmp(x, y) of
    GREATER => y :: ins cmp (x, L)
  | _       => x :: (y::L)
```

If `cmp` is a comparison and `L` is `cmp`-sorted, then  
`ins cmp (x, L)` = a `cmp`-sorted permutation of `x::L`.

# note

If

`cmp(x,y) = EQUAL,`

then

`ins cmp (x, y::L) = x::y::L`

**(Remember this!)**

# insertion

(uncurried version)

$\text{ins} : ('a * 'a \rightarrow \text{order}) * ('a * 'a \text{ list}) \rightarrow 'a \text{ list}$

```
fun ins (cmp, (x, [ ])) = [x]
| ins (cmp, (x, y::L)) =
  case cmp(x, y) of
    GREATER => y :: ins (cmp, (x, L))
  | _       => x :: (y::L)
```



# why curry?

We prefer the *curried* insertion function

$\text{ins} : ('a * 'a \rightarrow \text{order}) \rightarrow ('a * 'a \text{ list}) \rightarrow 'a \text{ list}$

to the *uncurried* version

$\text{ins} : ('a * 'a \rightarrow \text{order}) * ('a * 'a \text{ list}) \rightarrow 'a \text{ list}$

**The curried function can be  
partially applied...**

$\text{ins Int.compare} : \text{int} * \text{int list} \rightarrow \text{int list}$

$\text{ins String.compare} : \text{string} * \text{string list} \rightarrow \text{string list}$

# isortl and isortr

**isortl, isortr** : ('a \* 'a -> order) -> 'a list -> 'a list

**fun isortl** cmp L = **foldl** (ins cmp) [] L

**fun isortr** cmp L = **foldr** (ins cmp) [] L

If cmp is a comparison, then

for all lists L,

**isortl** cmp L = a cmp-sorted perm of L

& **isortr** cmp L = a cmp-sorted perm of L

# connection

- `Int.compare` : `int * int -> order` (usual `<`)
- `isortl Int.compare` = `isortr Int.compare`

= `isort` : `int list -> int list`  
(as defined previously)

*Follows from the (proven) specs,  
since an integer list  
has only ONE `<`-sorted permutation*

# examples

`isortl` Int.compare [3,1,2,1] = [1,1,2,3]

`isortr` lexcompare [(1,2),(2,2),(1,1),(2,1)]

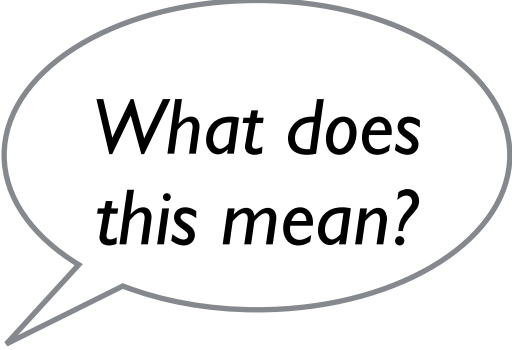
= [(1,1),(1,2),(2,1),(2,2)]

`isortl` String.compare ["all", "your", "base", "are", "belong", "to", "us"]

`val` it = ["all", "are", "base", "belong", "to", "us", "your"] : string list

- For ***integer*** lists we get  
`isortl Int.compare = isortr Int.compare.`

- Is it true that for *all* types of data  
and *all* comparisons `cmp` we get  
`isortl cmp = isortr cmp` ?



What does  
this mean?

# not always same

Let  $i = \text{ins } \text{cmp}$ .

$\text{isortr } \text{cmp } [x_1, \dots, x_n] = i(x_1, i(x_2, \dots i(x_n, [ ])\dots))$

*inserts “equal” items in  
the same order as they occur in the list*

$\text{isortl } \text{cmp } [x_1, \dots, x_n] = i(x_n, i(x_{n-1}, \dots i(x_1, [ ])\dots))$

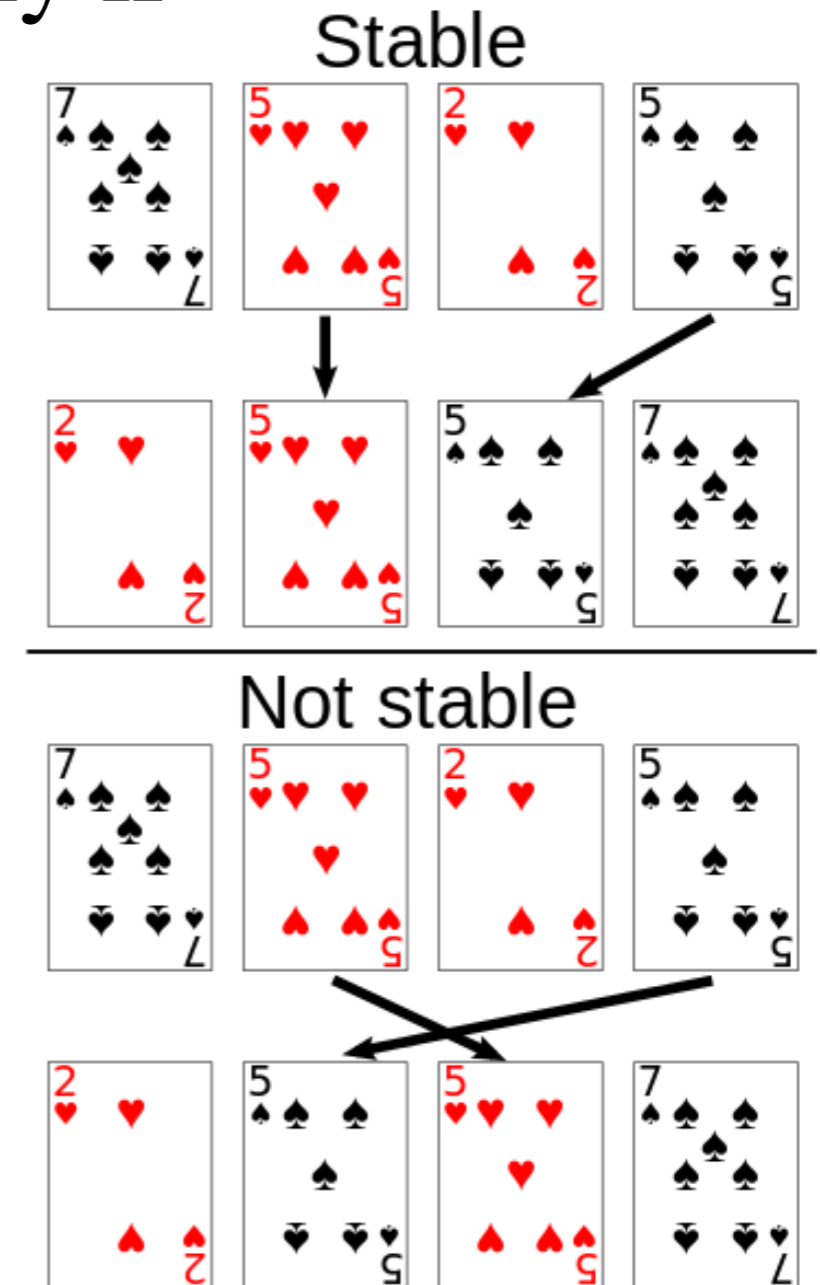
*inserts “equal” items in  
the opposite order*

For some comparisons,  
“equal” items may be *different*

# stability

A sorting function is *stable* if and only if it preserves the relative ordering of “equal” items.

`isortr cmp` is stable  
`isortl cmp` is not



# counterexample

```
fun leftcompare ((x,y), (x',y')) = Int.compare(x, x')
```

leftcompare is a comparison for int \* bool

```
isortl leftcompare [(1,true),(1,false)] = [(1,false),(1,true)]
```

```
isortr leftcompare [(1,true),(1,false)] = [(1,true),(1,false)]
```

isortl ≠ isortr



# special case

- If all items in  $L$  are **cmp**-equal

**isortl cmp**  $L = \text{rev } L$

**isortr cmp**  $L = L$

# reflection

`isortl` and `isortr` are *not* extensionally equal

- Q: What's special about `Int.compare` that makes `isortl Int.compare = isortr Int.compare`?
- A: `Int.compare(x, y) = EQUAL`  
**if and only if**  
 $x = y$

For `Int.compare`,  
“equal” items are really equal

# going further

- Easy to generalize *msort*
- Easy to generalize from *lists* to *trees*

$\text{msort} : ('a * 'a \rightarrow \text{order}) \rightarrow ('a \text{ list} \rightarrow 'a \text{ list})$

$\text{Msort} : ('a * 'a \rightarrow \text{order}) \rightarrow ('a \text{ tree} \rightarrow 'a \text{ tree})$

# cmp-sorted trees

Let **cmp** be a comparison for type  $t$ .

Consider values of type  $t$  tree.

- **Empty** is a **cmp-sorted** tree
- **Node(A, x, B)** is a **cmp-sorted** tree iff
  - (i) Everything in **A** is **cmp- $\leq$**  to **x**
  - (ii) Everything in **B** is **cmp- $\geq$**  to **x**
  - (iii) **A** and **B** are **cmp-sorted** trees

# benefits

*of using a higher-order function*

A **polymorphic** sorting function

can be used with different *types* and *comparisons*

- **One** type, **many** instances
- **One** specification, **many** special cases
- **One** function, **many** uses
- **One** correctness proof, **many** consequences