

Imperative Programming

15-150

Lecture 21: November 21, 2024

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Functional programming

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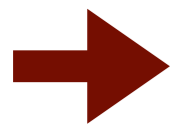
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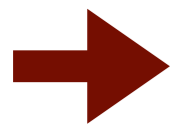


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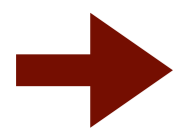
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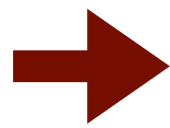
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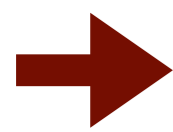
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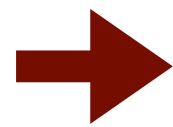
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→ Expressions that engender effects typically are of `unit` type.

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Today's menu

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 - reference type
 - typing and evaluation rules

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- Examples of benign effects

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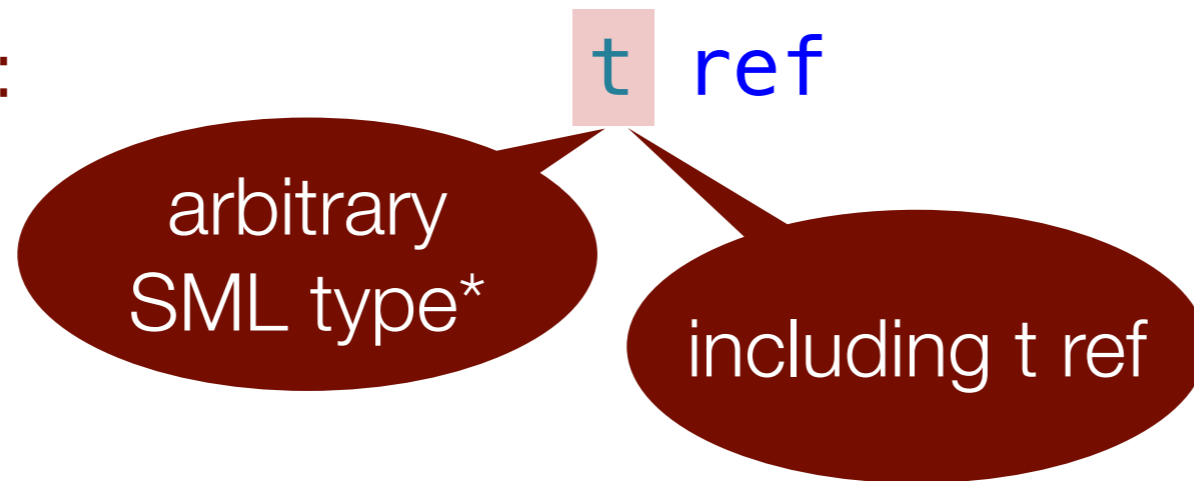


arbitrary
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➔ The type `t ref` represents mutable reference cells that store a value of type `t`.

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Functions:

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Functions: `ref : 'a -> 'a ref` allocation

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<code>ref</code>	<code>: 'a -> 'a ref</code>	allocation
<code>!</code>	<code>: 'a ref -> 'a</code>	read
<code>:=</code>	<code>: 'a ref * 'a -> unit</code>	write

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Allocation: `ref: 'a` \rightarrow `'a ref`

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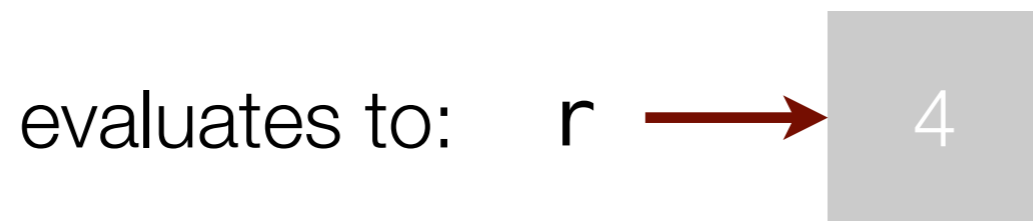
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Example: `val r = ref (1 + 3)`



Here, `r : int ref` is bound to a reference to the reference cell containing the value `4 : int`.

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→ If $e : t$, then $\text{ref } e : t \text{ ref}$.

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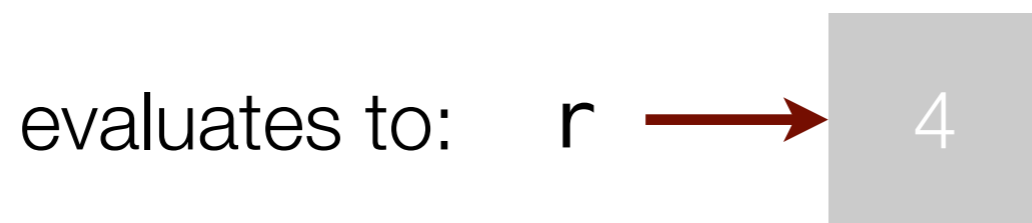
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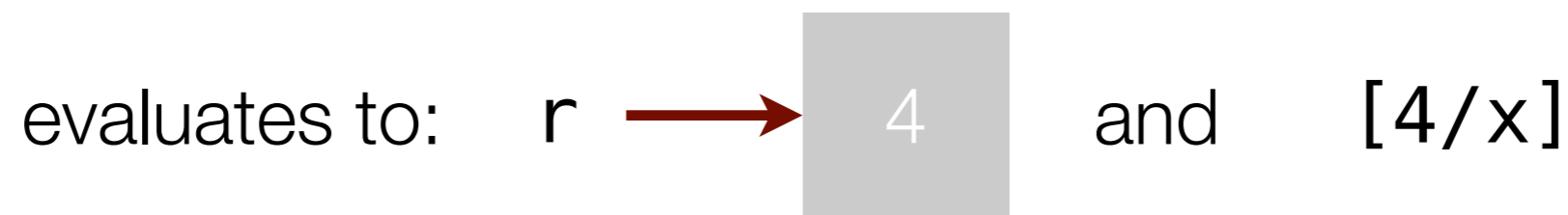


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evaluates to: `r`   and `[4/x]`

Here, `r : int ref` is bound to a reference to the cell containing the value `4 : int` and `x : int` is bound to `4`.

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→ If $e : t \text{ ref}$, then $!e : t$.

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Write: `:= : 'a ref * 'a -> unit`

Evaluation rules: `e1 := e2`

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- 2 If `e1` reduces to a reference `r`, then evaluate expression `e2`.
- 3 If `e2` reduces to a value `v`, update contents of `r` to `v`, return `()`.

Example: `val r = ref (1 + 3)`
`r := (!r * 2)`

evaluates to: `r`   and `[()/int]`

Here, `r : int ref` is bound to a reference to the cell containing the value `8 : int` and `()` is returned.

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Typing rules: $e_1 ::= e_2$

→ If $e_1 : t \text{ ref}$ and $e_2 : t$, then $e_1 ::= e_2 : \text{unit}$.

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Which is syntactic sugar for:

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Which is syntactic sugar for:

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- 1 Evaluate e_1 , executing effects but ignoring any returned value.
- 2 Then, evaluate e_2 , executing effects and return the value of e_2 .

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In the presence of effects, the **order of evaluation** matters.

For convenience, SML supports the semicolon expression:

$$(e_1; e_2)$$

Which is syntactic sugar for:

$$\text{let val } _ = e_1 \text{ in } e_2 \text{ end}$$

- 1 Evaluate e_1 , executing effects but ignoring any returned value.
- 2 Then, evaluate e_2 , executing effects and return the value of e_2 .

Generalizes to:

$$(e_1; e_2; \dots; e_n) : t_n$$

Sequential composition

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Example:

```
let
  val c = ref 10
in
  (print(Int.toString(!c));
   c)
end
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What is its value?

`ref 10`

What its effect?

prints 10

Sequential composition

Alternative implementation of previous example:

```
let
  val c = ref 10
  val _ = print(Int.toString(!c))
in
  c
end
```

Aliasing

Aliasing

Consider this code:

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```
val c = ref 10
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```
val w = !c
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```
val d = c
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val () = d := 42
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w is bound to **10**

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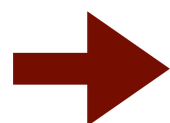
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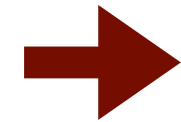
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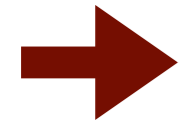
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Aliasing



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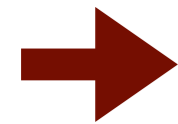


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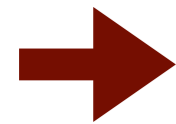
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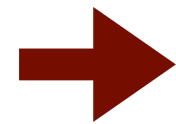
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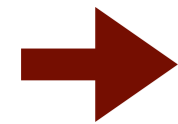
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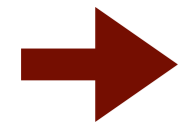
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evaluation may alter
the store!

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➔ Note: aliasing complicates reasoning about programs 😓

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→ `ref` types are so called equality types

For $r : 'a \text{ ref}$ and $s : 'a \text{ ref}$, $r = s$ evaluates to `true`, if r and s are aliases, i.e., point to the same cell.

Race conditions

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fun deposit a n = a := !a + n
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fun withdraw a n = a := !a - n
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val chk = ref 100
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```
val _ = (deposit chk 50; withdraw chk 80)
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We could end up with 20, 70, or 150.

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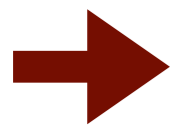
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Mutation and parallelism leads to non-deterministic outcomes 😓

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However, not all effects are evil.

- When employed locally, effects can be **benign**.

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- ➔ Let's look at some examples!

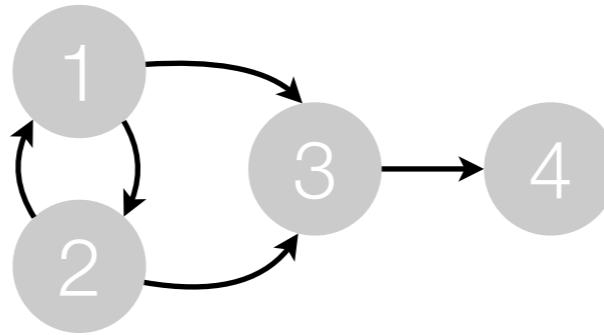
Example: graph reachability

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Consider this directed graph:

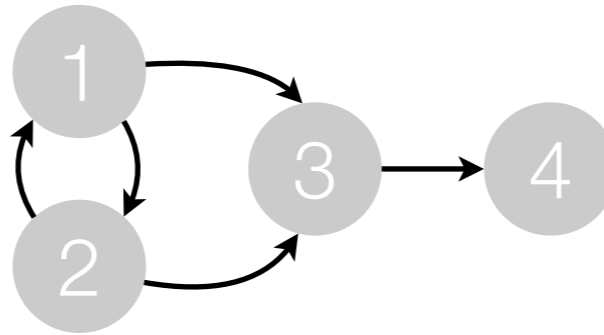
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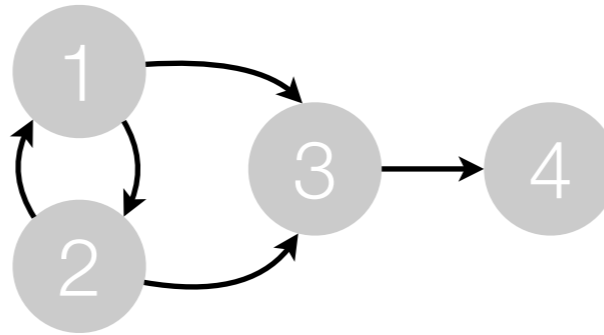
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```
type graph = int -> int list
```

```
val G : graph = fn 1 => [2, 3]  
                | 2 => [1, 3]  
                | 3 => [4]  
                | _ => []
```


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  let  
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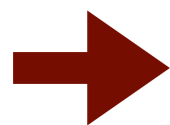
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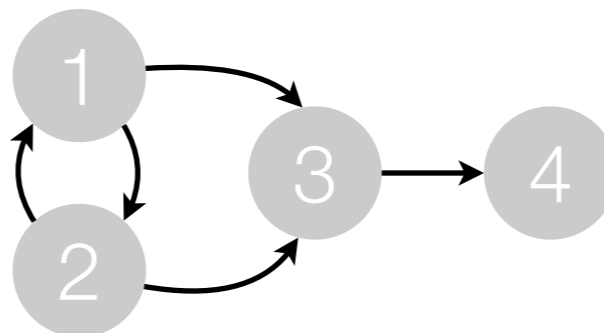
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mem n L checks
whether n is in list L

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fun reachable (g:graph) (x:int, y:int) : bool =
  let
    val visited = ref []
    fun dfs n = (n=y) orelse
                (not (mem n (!visited)) andalso
                 (visited := n::(!visited);
                  List.exists dfs (g n)))
  in
    dfs x
  end
```



reference that records visited nodes

Example: graph reachability

We can fix this by recording who we have already visited.

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only continue
if not has not yet been
visited

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update visited list

Example: random number generator

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```
signature RANDOM =  
sig  
  type gen (*abstract *)  
  val init: int -> gen (* REQUIRES: seed > 0 *)  
  val random: gen -> int -> int  
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bound

pseudo-random
nonnegative integer
less than bound

Example: random number generator

```
signature RANDOM =  
sig  
  type gen (*abstract *)  
  val init: int -> gen (* REQUIRES: seed > 0 *)  
  val random: gen -> int -> int  
end  
  
val G = R.init(12345)  
val L = List.tabulate(42, fn _ => R.random G 1000)
```


Example: random number generator

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signature RANDOM =  
sig  
  type gen (*abstract *)  
  val init: int -> gen (* REQUIRES: seed > 0 *)  
  val random: gen -> int -> int  
end
```

```
struct R :> RANDOM  
  type gen = real ref  
  val a = 16807.0  
  val m = 2147483647.0  
  fun next r = a * r - m*real(floor(a*r/m))  
  val init = ref 0 real  
  fun random g b = (g := next(!g);  
                    floor( (!g/m)* (real b)))  
end
```

Example: random number generator

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```

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reference cell

Example: stream memoization

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Previously, we had the following code inside our `Stream` structure:

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```
(* delay : (unit -> 'a) -> 'a stream *)
```

```
fun delay (d) = Stream(d)
```

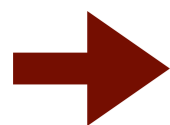
```
(* expose : 'a stream -> 'a *)
```

```
fun expose (Stream(d)) = d ()
```

Example: stream memoization

Previously, we had the following code inside our `Stream` structure:

```
(* delay : (unit -> 'front) -> 'a stream *)  
fun delay (d) = Stream(d)  
  
(* expose : 'a stream -> 'a front *)  
fun expose (Stream(d)) = d ()
```



Let's add a hidden reference cell that remembers the result of computing `d ()`.

Example: stream memoization

Previously, we had the following code inside our `Stream` structure:

```
(* delay : (unit -> 'front) -> 'a stream *)  
fun delay (d) = Stream(d)
```

```
(* expose : 'a stream -> 'a front *)  
fun expose (Stream(d)) = d ()
```

➔ Let's add a hidden reference cell that remembers the result of computing `d ()`.

➔ We will leave `expose` as is, but change `delay`.

Example: stream memoization

Example: stream memoization

Updated function delay:

Example: stream memoization

Updated function `delay`:

```
fun delay (d) =  
  let  
    val cell = ref d  
    fun memoFn () =  
      let  
        val r = d()  
      in  
        (cell := (fn () => r); r)  
      end  
    val _ = cell := memoFn  
  in  
    Stream (fn () => !cell())  
  end
```

That's all for today.