The OCaml system
release 4.09

Documentation and user’s manual

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June 27, 2019
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Foreword

This manual documents the release 4.09 of the OCaml system. It is organized as follows.

- Part II, “The OCaml language”, is the reference description of the language.
- Part III, “The OCaml tools”, documents the compilers, toplevel system, and programming utilities.
- Part IV, “The OCaml library”, describes the modules provided in the standard library.
- Part V, “Appendix”, contains an index of all identifiers defined in the standard library, and an index of keywords.

Conventions

OCaml runs on several operating systems. The parts of this manual that are specific to one operating system are presented as shown below:

Unix:
This is material specific to the Unix family of operating systems, including Linux and MacOS X.

Windows:
This is material specific to Microsoft Windows (XP, Vista, 7, 8, 10).

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Availability

The complete OCaml distribution can be accessed via the Web sites http://www.ocaml.org/ and http://caml.inria.fr/. The former Web site contains a lot of additional information on OCaml.
Part I

An introduction to OCaml
Chapter 1

The core language

This part of the manual is a tutorial introduction to the OCaml language. A good familiarity with programming in a conventional languages (say, C or Java) is assumed, but no prior exposure to functional languages is required. The present chapter introduces the core language. Chapter 2 deals with the module system, chapter 3 with the object-oriented features, chapter 4 with extensions to the core language (labeled arguments and polymorphic variants), and chapter 6 gives some advanced examples.

1.1 Basics

For this overview of OCaml, we use the interactive system, which is started by running ocaml from the Unix shell, or by launching the OCamlwin.exe application under Windows. This tutorial is presented as the transcript of a session with the interactive system: lines starting with # represent user input; the system responses are printed below, without a leading #.

Under the interactive system, the user types OCaml phrases terminated by ;; in response to the # prompt, and the system compiles them on the fly, executes them, and prints the outcome of evaluation. Phrases are either simple expressions, or let definitions of identifiers (either values or functions).

# 1+2*3;;
- : int = 7

# let pi = 4.0 *. atan 1.0;;
val pi : float = 3.14159265358979312

# let square x = x *. x;;
val square : float -> float = <fun>

# square (sin pi) +. square (cos pi);;
- : float = 1.

The OCaml system computes both the value and the type for each phrase. Even function parameters need no explicit type declaration: the system infers their types from their usage in the function. Notice also that integers and floating-point numbers are distinct types, with distinct operators: + and * operate on integers, but +. and *. operate on floats.
# 1.0 \times 2;;
Error: This expression has type float but an expression was expected of type int
Hint: Did you mean to use `\*.'?

Recursive functions are defined with the let rec binding:

```ocaml
# let rec fib n =
  # if n < 2 then n else fib (n-1) + fib (n-2);;
val fib : int \rightarrow int = <fun>
# fib 10;;
- : int = 55
```

## 1.2 Data types

In addition to integers and floating-point numbers, OCaml offers the usual basic data types:

- **booleans**
  ```ocaml
  # (1 < 2) = false;;
  - : bool = false
  # let one = if true then 1 else 2;;
  val one : int = 1
  ```

- **characters**
  ```ocaml
  # 'a';;
  - : char = 'a'
  # int_of_char '\n';;
  - : int = 10
  ```

- **immutable character strings**
  ```ocaml
  # "Hello" \ "\ " \ "world";;
  - : string = "Hello world"
  # {This is a quoted string, here, neither \ nor " are special characters|};;
  - : string = "This is a quoted string, here, neither \ nor " are special characters"
  # {"\"|}="\"\\\"|";;
  - : bool = true
  # {delimiter|the end of this|}quoted string is here|delimiter}#
  # = "the end of this|}quoted string is here";;
  - : bool = true
  ```

Predefined data structures include tuples, arrays, and lists. There are also general mechanisms for defining your own data structures, such as records and variants, which will be covered in more detail later; for now, we concentrate on lists. Lists are either given in extension as a bracketed list of semicolon-separated elements, or built from the empty list `[]` (pronounce “nil”) by adding elements in front using the `::` (“cons”) operator.
Chapter 1. The core language

```ocaml
# let l = ["is"; "a"; "tale"; "told"; "etc."];;
val l : string list = ["is"; "a"; "tale"; "told"; "etc."]

# "Life" :: l;;
- : string list = ["Life"; "is"; "a"; "tale"; "told"; "etc."]
```

As with all other OCaml data structures, lists do not need to be explicitly allocated and deallocated from memory: all memory management is entirely automatic in OCaml. Similarly, there is no explicit handling of pointers: the OCaml compiler silently introduces pointers where necessary.

As with most OCaml data structures, inspecting and destructuring lists is performed by pattern-matching. List patterns have exactly the same form as list expressions, with identifiers representing unspecified parts of the list. As an example, here is insertion sort on a list:

```ocaml
# let rec sort lst =
#    match lst with
#    | [] -> []
#    | head :: tail -> insert head (sort tail)
# and insert elt lst =
#    match lst with
#    | [] -> [elt]
#    | head :: tail -> if elt <= head then elt :: lst else head :: insert elt tail
#
val sort : 'a list -> 'a list = <fun>
val insert : 'a -> 'a list -> 'a list = <fun>

# sort l;;
- : string list = ["a"; "etc."; "is"; "tale"; "told"]
```

The type inferred for `sort`, `'a list -> 'a list`, means that `sort` can actually apply to lists of any type, and returns a list of the same type. The type `'a` is a type variable, and stands for any given type. The reason why `sort` can apply to lists of any type is that the comparisons (`=`, `<=`, etc.) are polymorphic in OCaml: they operate between any two values of the same type. This makes `sort` itself polymorphic over all list types.

```ocaml
# sort [6;2;5;3];;
- : int list = [2; 3; 5; 6]

# sort [3.14; 2.718];;
- : float list = [2.718; 3.14]
```

The `sort` function above does not modify its input list: it builds and returns a new list containing the same elements as the input list, in ascending order. There is actually no way in OCaml to modify a list in-place once it is built: we say that lists are immutable data structures. Most OCaml data structures are immutable, but a few (most notably arrays) are mutable, meaning that they can be modified in-place at any time.

The OCaml notation for the type of a function with multiple arguments is

```
arg1_type -> arg2_type -> ... -> return_type.
```

For example, the type inferred for `insert`, `'a -> 'a list -> 'a list`, means that `insert` takes two arguments, an element of any type `'a` and a list with elements of the same type `'a` and returns a list of the same type.
1.3 Functions as values

OCaml is a functional language: functions in the full mathematical sense are supported and can be passed around freely just as any other piece of data. For instance, here is a deriv function that takes any float function as argument and returns an approximation of its derivative function:

```ocaml
# let deriv f dx = function x -> (f (x +. dx) -. f x) /. dx;;
val deriv : (float -> float) -> float -> float -> float = <fun>
# let sin' = deriv sin 1e-6;;
val sin' : float -> float = <fun>
# sin' pi;;
- : float = -1.00000000013961143
```

Even function composition is definable:

```ocaml
# let compose f g = function x -> f (g x);;
val compose : ('a -> 'b) -> ('c -> 'a) -> 'c -> 'b = <fun>
# let cos2 = compose square cos;;
val cos2 : float -> float = <fun>
```

Functions that take other functions as arguments are called “functionals”, or “higher-order functions”. Functionals are especially useful to provide iterators or similar generic operations over a data structure. For instance, the standard OCaml library provides a List.map functional that applies a given function to each element of a list, and returns the list of the results:

```ocaml
# List.map (function n -> n * 2 + 1) [0;1;2;3;4];;
- : int list = [1; 3; 5; 7; 9]
```

This functional, along with a number of other list and array functionals, is predefined because it is often useful, but there is nothing magic with it: it can easily be defined as follows.

```ocaml
# let rec map f l =
#     match l with
#     | [] -> []
#     | hd :: tl -> f hd :: map f tl;;
val map : ('a -> 'b) -> 'a list -> 'b list = <fun>
```

1.4 Records and variants

User-defined data structures include records and variants. Both are defined with the type declaration. Here, we declare a record type to represent rational numbers.

```ocaml
# type ratio = {num: int; denom: int};;
type ratio = { num : int; denom : int; }
# let add_ratio r1 r2 =
#     {num = r1.num * r2.denom + r2.num * r1.denom;
#     denom = r1.denom * r2.denom};;
```
Chapter 1. The core language

val add_ratio : ratio -> ratio -> ratio = <fun>

# add_ratio {num=1; denom=3} {num=2; denom=5};;
- : ratio = {num = 11; denom = 15}

Record fields can also be accessed through pattern-matching:

# let integer_part r =
# match r with
# {num=num; denom=denom} -> num / denom;;
val integer_part : ratio -> int = <fun>

Since there is only one case in this pattern matching, it is safe to expand directly the argument r
in a record pattern:

# let integer_part {num=num; denom=denom} = num / denom;;
val integer_part : ratio -> int = <fun>

Unneeded fields can be omitted:

# let get_denom {denom=denom} = denom;;
val get_denom : ratio -> int = <fun>

Optionally, missing fields can be made explicit by ending the list of fields with a trailing wildcard

# let get_num {num=num; _ } = num;;
val get_num : ratio -> int = <fun>

When both sides of the = sign are the same, it is possible to avoid repeating the field name by
eliding the =field part:

# let integer_part {num; denom} = num / denom;;
val integer_part : ratio -> int = <fun>

This short notation for fields also works when constructing records:

# let ratio num denom = {num; denom};;
val ratio : int -> int -> ratio = <fun>

At last, it is possible to update few fields of a record at once:

#
# let integer_product integer ratio = { ratio with num = integer * ratio.num };;
val integer_product : int -> ratio -> ratio = <fun>

With this functional update notation, the record on the left-hand side of with is copied except for
the fields on the right-hand side which are updated.

The declaration of a variant type lists all possible forms for values of that type. Each case is
identified by a name, called a constructor, which serves both for constructing values of the variant
type and inspecting them by pattern-matching. Constructor names are capitalized to distinguish
them from variable names (which must start with a lowercase letter). For instance, here is a variant
type for doing mixed arithmetic (integers and floats):
This declaration expresses that a value of type `number` is either an integer, a floating-point number, or the constant `Error` representing the result of an invalid operation (e.g. a division by zero).

Enumerated types are a special case of variant types, where all alternatives are constants:

```ocaml
# type sign = Positive | Negative;

# let sign_int n = if n >= 0 then Positive else Negative;;
val sign_int : int -> sign = <fun>
```

To define arithmetic operations for the `number` type, we use pattern-matching on the two numbers involved:

```ocaml
# let add_num n1 n2 =
# match (n1, n2) with
#   (Int i1, Int i2) ->
#     (* Check for overflow of integer addition *)
#     if sign_int i1 = sign_int i2 && sign_int (i1 + i2) <> sign_int i1
#       then Float(float i1 +. float i2)
#       else Int(i1 + i2)
#   | (Int i1, Float f2) -> Float(float i1 +. f2)
#   | (Float f1, Int i2) -> Float(f1 +. float i2)
#   | (Float f1, Float f2) -> Float(f1 +. f2)
#   | (Error, _) -> Error
#   | (_, Error) -> Error;;
val add_num : number -> number -> number = <fun>
```

Another interesting example of variant type is the built-in `'a option` type which represents either a value of type `'a` or an absence of value:

```ocaml
# type 'a option = Some of 'a | None;;
```

This type is particularly useful when defining function that can fail in common situations, for instance

```ocaml
# let safe_square_root x = if x > 0. then Some(sqrt x) else None;;
val safe_square_root : float -> float option = <fun>
```

The most common usage of variant types is to describe recursive data structures. Consider for example the type of binary trees:

```ocaml
# type 'a btree = Empty | Node of 'a * 'a btree * 'a btree;;
```
This definition reads as follows: a binary tree containing values of type 'a (an arbitrary type) is either empty, or is a node containing one value of type 'a and two subtrees also containing values of type 'a, that is, two 'a btree.

Operations on binary trees are naturally expressed as recursive functions following the same structure as the type definition itself. For instance, here are functions performing lookup and insertion in ordered binary trees (elements increase from left to right):

```ocaml
# let rec member x btree =  
  match btree with  
  | Empty -> false  
  | Node(y, left, right) ->  
    if x = y then true else  
    if x < y then member x left else member x right;;
val member : 'a -> 'a btree -> bool = <fun>

# let rec insert x btree =  
  match btree with  
  | Empty -> Node(x, Empty, Empty)  
  | Node(y, left, right) ->  
    if x <= y then Node(y, insert x left, right)  
    else Node(y, left, insert x right);;
val insert : 'a -> 'a btree -> 'a btree = <fun>
```

### 1.4.1 Record and variant disambiguation

( This subsection can be skipped on the first reading )

Astute readers may have wondered what happens when two or more record fields or constructors share the same name

```ocaml
# type first_record = { x:int; y:int; z:int }  
# type middle_record = { x:int; z:int }  
# type last_record = { x:int };;  
# type first_variant = A | B | C  
# type last_variant = A;;
```

The answer is that when confronted with multiple options, OCaml tries to use locally available information to disambiguate between the various fields and constructors. First, if the type of the record or variant is known, OCaml can pick unambiguously the corresponding field or constructor. For instance:

```ocaml
# let look_at_x_then_z (r: first_record) =  
  let x = r.x in  
  x + r.z;;
val look_at_x_then_z : first_record -> int = <fun>

# let permute (x: first VARIANT) = match x with  
  | A -> (B: first VARIANT)
```
In the first example, \((r:\text{first_record})\) is an explicit annotation telling OCaml that the type of \(r\) is \text{first_record}. With this annotation, OCaml knows that \(r.x\) refers to the \(x\) field of the first record type. Similarly, the type annotation in the second example makes it clear to OCaml that the constructors \(A\), \(B\) and \(C\) come from the first variant type. Contrarily, in the last example, OCaml has inferred by itself that the type of \(r\) can only be \text{first_record} and there are no needs for explicit type annotations.

Those explicit type annotations can in fact be used anywhere. Most of the time they are unnecessary, but they are useful to guide disambiguation, to debug unexpected type errors, or combined with some of the more advanced features of OCaml described in later chapters.

Secondly, for records, OCaml can also deduce the right record type by looking at the whole set of fields used in an expression or pattern:

\[
\text{val } \text{project_and_rotate} : \text{first_record} \rightarrow \text{first_record} = \langle \text{fun} \rangle
\]

Since the fields \(x\) and \(y\) can only appear simultaneously in the first record type, OCaml infers that the type of \(\text{project_and_rotate}\) is \text{first_record} \rightarrow \text{first_record}.

In last resort, if there is not enough information to disambiguate between different fields or constructors, OCaml picks the last defined type amongst all locally valid choices:

\[
\text{val } \text{look_at_xz} : \text{middle_record} \rightarrow \text{int} = \langle \text{fun} \rangle
\]

Here, OCaml has inferred that the possible choices for the type of \(\{x;z\}\) are \text{first_record} and \text{middle_record}, since the type \text{last_record} has no field \(z\). OCaml then picks the type \text{middle_record} as the last defined type between the two possibilities.

Beware that this last resort disambiguation is local: once OCaml has chosen a disambiguation, it sticks to this choice, even if it leads to an ulterior type error:

\[
\text{Error: This expression has type } \text{last_record} \\
\text{The field } y \text{ does not belong to type } \text{last_record}
\]

\[
\text{Error: This variant pattern is expected to have type } \text{last_variant} \\
\text{The constructor } B \text{ does not belong to type } \text{last_variant}
\]
Moreover, being the last defined type is a quite unstable position that may change surreptitiously after adding or moving around a type definition, or after opening a module (see chapter 2). Consequently, adding explicit type annotations to guide disambiguation is more robust than relying on the last defined type disambiguation.

1.5 Imperative features

Though all examples so far were written in purely applicative style, OCaml is also equipped with full imperative features. This includes the usual while and for loops, as well as mutable data structures such as arrays. Arrays are either created by listing semicolon-separated element values between [ | and | ] brackets, or allocated and initialized with the Array.make function, then filled up later by assignments. For instance, the function below sums two vectors (represented as float arrays) componentwise.

```ocaml
# let add_vect v1 v2 =
# let len = min (Array.length v1) (Array.length v2) in
# let res = Array.make len 0.0 in
# for i = 0 to len - 1 do
#   res.(i) <- v1.(i) +. v2.(i)
# done;
# res;;
val add_vect : float array -> float array -> float array = <fun>

# add_vect [| 1.0; 2.0 |] [| 3.0; 4.0 |];;
- : float array = [|4.; 6.|]
```

Record fields can also be modified by assignment, provided they are declared mutable in the definition of the record type:

```ocaml
# type mutable_point = { mutable x: float; mutable y: float };;
type mutable_point = { mutable x : float; mutable y : float; }
# let translate p dx dy =
#   p.x <- p.x +. dx; p.y <- p.y +. dy;;
val translate : mutable_point -> float -> float -> unit = <fun>

# let mypoint = { x = 0.0; y = 0.0 };;
val mypoint : mutable_point = {x = 0.; y = 0.}

# translate mypoint 1.0 2.0;;
- : unit = ()

# mypoint;;
- : mutable_point = {x = 1.; y = 2.}
```

OCaml has no built-in notion of variable – identifiers whose current value can be changed by assignment. (The let binding is not an assignment, it introduces a new identifier with a new scope.) However, the standard library provides references, which are mutable indirection cells, with operators ! to fetch the current contents of the reference and := to assign the contents. Variables can then be emulated by let-binding a reference. For instance, here is an in-place insertion sort over arrays:

```ocaml
# let translate p dx dy =
#   p.x <- p.x +. dx; p.y <- p.y +. dy;;
val translate : mutable_point -> float -> float -> unit = <fun>

# let mypoint = { x = 0.0; y = 0.0 };;
val mypoint : mutable_point = {x = 0.; y = 0.}

# translate mypoint 1.0 2.0;;
- : unit = ()
# mypoint;;
- : mutable_point = {x = 1.; y = 2.}
```
# let insertion_sort a =
#   for i = 1 to Array.length a - 1 do
#     let val_i = a.(i) in
#     let j = ref i in
#     while !j > 0 && val_i < a.(!j - 1) do
#       a.(!j) <- a.(!j - 1);
#       j := !j - 1;
#     done;
#     a.(!j) <- val_i
#   done;
val insertion_sort : 'a array -> unit = <fun>

References are also useful to write functions that maintain a current state between two calls to the function. For instance, the following pseudo-random number generator keeps the last returned number in a reference:

# let current_rand = ref 0;;
val current_rand : int ref = {contents = 0}

# let random () =
#   let r = !current_rand on
#   r := !current_rand * 25713 + 1345;
val random : unit -> int = <fun>

Again, there is nothing magical with references: they are implemented as a single-field mutable record, as follows.

# type 'a ref = { mutable contents: 'a };;
val ( : 'a ref = { contents : 'a; } =
# let ( ! ) r = r.contents;;
val ( ! ) : 'a ref -> 'a = <fun>

# let ( := ) r newval = r.contents <- newval;;
val ( := ) : 'a ref -> 'a -> unit = <fun>

In some special cases, you may need to store a polymorphic function in a data structure, keeping its polymorphism. Doing this requires user-provided type annotations, since polymorphism is only introduced automatically for global definitions. However, you can explicitly give polymorphic types to record fields.

# type idref = { mutable id: 'a. 'a -> 'a };;
val idref = { id: 'a. 'a -> 'a; } =
# let r = {id = fun x -> x};;
val r : idref = {id = <fun>}

# let g s = (s.id 1, s.id true);;
val g : idref -> int * bool = <fun>

# r.id <- (fun x -> print_string "called id\n"; x);;
- : unit = ()
# g r;;
called id
called id
- : int * bool = (1, true)

1.6 Exceptions

OCaml provides exceptions for signalling and handling exceptional conditions. Exceptions can also be used as a general-purpose non-local control structure, although this should not be overused since it can make the code harder to understand. Exceptions are declared with the `exception` construct, and signalled with the `raise` operator. For instance, the function below for taking the head of a list uses an exception to signal the case where an empty list is given.

```ocaml
# exception Empty_list;;
exception Empty_list

# let head l =
# match l with
# [] -> raise Empty_list
# | hd :: tl -> hd;;
val head : 'a list -> 'a = <fun>

# head [1;2];;
- : int = 1
# head [];;
Exception: Empty_list.
```

Exceptions are used throughout the standard library to signal cases where the library functions cannot complete normally. For instance, the `List.assoc` function, which returns the data associated with a given key in a list of (key, data) pairs, raises the predefined exception `Not_found` when the key does not appear in the list:

```ocaml
# List.assoc 1 [(0, "zero"); (1, "one")];;
- : string = "one"
# List.assoc 2 [(0, "zero"); (1, "one")];;
Exception: Not_found.
```

Exceptions can be trapped with the `try...with` construct:

```ocaml
# let name_of_binary_digit digit =
# try
#   List.assoc digit [0, "zero"; 1, "one"]
# with Not_found ->
#   "not a binary digit";;
val name_of_binary_digit : int -> string = <fun>

# name_of_binary_digit 0;;
- : string = "zero"
# name_of_binary_digit (-1);;
- : string = "not a binary digit"
```
The `with` part does pattern matching on the exception value with the same syntax and behavior as `match`. Thus, several exceptions can be caught by one `try...with` construct:

```
# let rec first_named_value values names =
#   try
#     List.assoc (head values) names
#   with
#     | Empty_list -> "no named value"
#     | Not_found -> first_named_value (List.tl values) names;;
val first_named_value : 'a list -> ('a * string) list -> string = <fun>
```

```
# first_named_value [ 0; 10 ] [ 1, "one"; 10, "ten"];;
- : string = "ten"
```

Also, finalization can be performed by trapping all exceptions, performing the finalization, then re-raising the exception:

```
# let temporarily_set_reference ref newval funct =
#   let oldval = !ref in
#   try
#     ref := newval;
#     let res = funct () in
#     ref := oldval;
#     res
#   with x ->
#     ref := oldval;
#     raise x;;
val temporarily_set_reference : 'a ref -> 'a -> (unit -> 'b) -> 'b = <fun>
```

An alternative to `try...with` is to catch the exception while pattern matching:

```
# let assoc_may_map f x l =
#   match List.assoc x l with
#   | exception Not_found -> None
#   | y -> f y;;
val assoc_may_map : ('a -> 'b option) -> 'c -> ('c * 'a) list -> 'b option = <fun>
```

Note that this construction is only useful if the exception is raised between `match...with`. Exception patterns can be combined with ordinary patterns at the toplevel,

```
# let flat_assoc_opt x l =
#   match List.assoc x l with
#   | None | exception Not_found -> None
#   | y -> f y;;
val flat_assoc_opt : 'a -> ('a * 'b option) list -> 'b option = <fun>
```

but they cannot be nested inside other patterns. For instance, the pattern `Some (exception A)` is invalid.

When exceptions are used as a control structure, it can be useful to make them as local as possible by using a locally defined exception. For instance, with

```
# let rec first_named_value values names =
#   try
#     List.assoc (head values) names
#   with
#     | Empty_list -> "no named value"
#     | Not_found -> first_named_value (List.tl values) names;;
val first_named_value : 'a list -> ('a * string) list -> string = <fun>
```

```
# first_named_value [ 0; 10 ] [ 1, "one"; 10, "ten"];;
- : string = "ten"
```
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```ocaml
# let fixpoint f x =
#   let exception Done in
#   let x = ref x in
#   try while true do
#     let y = f !x in
#     if !x = y then raise Done else x := y
#   done; assert false
# with Done -> !x;;
val fixpoint : ('a -> 'a) -> 'a = <fun>
```

the function \( f \) cannot raise a \texttt{Done} exception, which removes an entire class of misbehaving functions.

### 1.7 Lazy expressions

OCaml allows us to defer some computation until later when we need the result of that computation.

We use \texttt{lazy (expr)} to delay the evaluation of some expression \( \texttt{expr} \). For example, we can defer the computation of \( 1+1 \) until we need the result of that expression, \( 2 \). Let us see how we initialize a lazy expression.

```ocaml
# let lazy_two = lazy ( print_endline "lazy_two evaluation"; 1 + 1 );;
val lazy_two : int lazy_t = <lazy>
```

We added \texttt{print_endline "lazy_two evaluation"} to see when the lazy expression is being evaluated.

The value of \texttt{lazy_two} is displayed as \<lazy\>, which means the expression has not been evaluated yet, and its final value is unknown.

Note that \texttt{lazy_two} has type \texttt{int lazy_t}. However, the type \texttt{'a lazy_t} is an internal type name, so the type \texttt{'a Lazy.t} should be preferred when possible.

When we finally need the result of a lazy expression, we can call \texttt{Lazy.force} on that expression to force its evaluation. The function \texttt{force} comes from standard-library module \texttt{Lazy}[23.24].

```ocaml
# Lazy.force lazy_two;;
lazy_two evaluation
- : int lazy_t = lazy 2
```

Notice that our function call above prints “lazy_two evaluation” and then returns the plain value of the computation.

Now if we look at the value of \texttt{lazy_two}, we see that it is not displayed as \<lazy\> anymore but as \texttt{lazy 2}.

```ocaml
# lazy_two;;
- : int lazy_t = lazy 2
```

This is because \texttt{Lazy.force} memoizes the result of the forced expression. In other words, every subsequent call of \texttt{Lazy.force} on that expression returns the result of the first computation without recomputing the lazy expression. Let us force \texttt{lazy_two} once again.
The expression is not evaluated this time; notice that “lazy_two evaluation” is not printed. The result of the initial computation is simply returned.

Lazy patterns provide another way to force a lazy expression.

We can also use lazy patterns in pattern matching.

The lazy expression lazy_expr is forced only if the lazy_guard value yields true once computed. Indeed, a simple wildcard pattern (not lazy) never forces the lazy expression’s evaluation. However, a pattern with keyword lazy, even if it is wildcard, always forces the evaluation of the deferred computation.

1.8 Symbolic processing of expressions

We finish this introduction with a more complete example representative of the use of OCaml for symbolic processing: formal manipulations of arithmetic expressions containing variables. The following variant type describes the expressions we shall manipulate:

```ocaml
# type expression =
#     Const of float
# | Var of string
# | Sum of expression * expression (* e1 + e2 *)
# | Diff of expression * expression (* e1 - e2 *)
# | Prod of expression * expression (* e1 * e2 *)
# | Quot of expression * expression (* e1 / e2 *)
# ;;
type expression =
    Const of float
/ Var of string
/ Sum of expression * expression
/ Diff of expression * expression
/ Prod of expression * expression
/ Quot of expression * expression
```
We first define a function to evaluate an expression given an environment that maps variable names to their values. For simplicity, the environment is represented as an association list.

```ml
# exception Unbound_variable of string;;
exception Unbound_variable of string

# let rec eval env exp =
#   match exp with
#   | Const c -> c
#   | Var v ->
#       (try List.assoc v env with Not_found -> raise (Unbound_variable v))
#   | Sum(f, g) -> eval env f +. eval env g
#   | Diff(f, g) -> eval env f -. eval env g
#   | Prod(f, g) -> eval env f *. eval env g
#   | Quot(f, g) -> eval env f /. eval env g;
val eval : (string * float) list -> expression -> float = <fun>
# eval ["x", 1.0]; ("y", 3.14)] (Prod(Sum(Var "x", Const 2.0), Var "y"));
- : float = 9.42
```

Now for a real symbolic processing, we define the derivative of an expression with respect to a variable \( dv \):

```ml
# let rec deriv exp dv =
#   match exp with
#   | Const c -> Const 0.0
#   | Var v -> if v = dv then Const 1.0 else Const 0.0
#   | Sum(f, g) -> Sum(deriv f dv, deriv g dv)
#   | Diff(f, g) -> Diff(deriv f dv, deriv g dv)
#   | Prod(f, g) -> Sum(Prod(f, deriv g dv), Prod(deriv f dv, g))
#   | Quot(f, g) -> Quot(Diff(Prod(deriv f dv, g), Prod(f, deriv g dv)),
#     Prod(g, g))
#   | ;;
val deriv : expression -> string -> expression = <fun>
# deriv (Quot(Const 1.0, Var "x")) "x";;
- : expression =
  Quot (Diff (Prod (Const 0., Var "x"), Prod (Const 1., Const 1.)),
    Prod (Var "x", Var "x"))

1.9 Pretty-printing

As shown in the examples above, the internal representation (also called abstract syntax) of expressions quickly becomes hard to read and write as the expressions get larger. We need a printer and a parser to go back and forth between the abstract syntax and the concrete syntax, which in the case of expressions is the familiar algebraic notation (e.g. \( 2x+1 \)).

For the printing function, we take into account the usual precedence rules (i.e. \( * \) binds tighter than \( + \)) to avoid printing unnecessary parentheses. To this end, we maintain the current operator
precedence and print parentheses around an operator only if its precedence is less than the current precedence.

```ocaml
# let print_expr exp =
# (* Local function definitions *)
# let open_paren prec op_prec =
#   if prec > op_prec then print_string "(" in
# let close_paren prec op_prec =
#   if prec > op_prec then print_string ")" in
# let rec print prec exp = (* prec is the current precedence *)
#   match exp with
#     Const c -> print_float c
#   | Var v -> print_string v
#   | Sum(f, g) ->
#     open_paren prec 0;
#     print 0 f; print_string " + "; print 0 g;
#     close_paren prec 0
#   | Diff(f, g) ->
#     open_paren prec 0;
#     print 0 f; print_string " - "; print 1 g;
#     close_paren prec 0
#   | Prod(f, g) ->
#     open_paren prec 2;
#     print 2 f; print_string " * "; print 2 g;
#     close_paren prec 2
#   | Quot(f, g) ->
#     open_paren prec 2;
#     print 2 f; print_string " / "; print 3 g;
#     close_paren prec 2
#   in print 0 exp;;
val print_expr : expression -> unit = <fun>
```

```ocaml
# let e = Sum(Prod(Const 2.0, Var "x"), Const 1.0);;
val e : expression = Sum (Prod (Const 2., Var "x"), Const 1.)
```

```ocaml
# print_expr e; print_newline ();
2. * x + 1.
- : unit = ()
```

```ocaml
# print_expr (deriv e "x"); print_newline ();
2. * 1. + 0. * x + 0.
- : unit = ()
```

### 1.10 Printf formats

There is a `printf` function in the `Printf` module (see chapter 2) that allows you to make formatted output more concisely. It follows the behavior of the `printf` function from the C standard library. The `printf` function takes a format string that describes the desired output as a text
interspersed with specifiers (for instance %d, %f). Next, the specifiers are substituted by the following arguments in their order of apparition in the format string:

```ocaml
# Printf.printf "%i + %i is an integer value, %f * %f is a float, %s\n"
# 3 2 4.5 1. "this is a string";;
3 + 2 is an integer value, 4.5 * 1. is a float, "this is a string"
- : unit = ()
```

The OCaml type system checks that the type of the arguments and the specifiers are compatible. If you pass it an argument of a type that does not correspond to the format specifier, the compiler will display an error message:

```ocaml
# Printf.printf "Float value: %F" 42;;
Error: This expression has type int but an expression was expected of type
    float
    Hint: Did you mean `42.`?
```

The `fprintf` function is like `printf` except that it takes an output channel as the first argument. The %a specifier can be useful to define custom printer (for custom types). For instance, we can create a printing template that converts an integer argument to signed decimal:

```ocaml
# let pp_int ppf n = Printf.fprintf ppf "%d" n;;
val pp_int : out_channel -> int -> unit = <fun>
# Printf.printf "Outputting an integer using a custom printer: %a " pp_int 42;;
Outputting an integer using a custom printer: 42 - : unit = ()
```

The advantage of those printers based on the %a specifier is that they can be composed together to create more complex printers step by step. We can define a combinator that can turn a printer for 'a type into a printer for 'a optional:

```ocaml
# let pp_option printer ppf = function
# | None -> Printf.fprintf ppf "None"
# | Some v -> Printf.fprintf ppf "Some(%a)" printer v;;
val pp_option : (out_channel -> 'a -> unit) -> out_channel -> 'a option -> unit = <fun>
# let pp_option printer ppf = function
# | None -> Printf.fprintf ppf "None"
# | Some v -> Printf.fprintf ppf "Some(%a)" printer v;;
val pp_option : (out_channel -> 'a -> unit) -> out_channel -> 'a option -> unit = <fun>
```

```ocaml
# Printf.fprintf stdout
# "The current setting is %a. \nThere is only %a\n"
# (pp_option pp_int) (Some 3)
# (pp_option pp_int) None
# ;;
The current setting is Some(3).
There is only None
- : unit = ()
```

If the value of its argument its `None`, the printer returned by `pp_option` prints `None` otherwise it uses the provided printer to print `Some`.

Here is how to rewrite the pretty-printer using `fprintf`:
# let pp_expr ppf expr =
# let open_paren prec op_prec output =
#   if prec > op_prec then Printf.fprintf output "%s" "(" in
# let close_paren prec op_prec output =
#   if prec > op_prec then Printf.fprintf output "%s" ")" in
# let rec print prec ppf expr =
#   match expr with
#   | Const c -> Printf.fprintf ppf "%F" c
#   | Var v -> Printf.fprintf ppf "%s" v
#   | Sum(f, g) ->
#     open_paren prec 0 ppf;
#     Printf.fprintf ppf "%a + %a" (print 0) f (print 0) g;
#     close_paren prec 0 ppf
#   | Diff(f, g) ->
#     open_paren prec 0 ppf;
#     Printf.fprintf ppf "%a - %a" (print 0) f (print 1) g;
#     close_paren prec 0 ppf
#   | Prod(f, g) ->
#     open_paren prec 2 ppf;
#     Printf.fprintf ppf "%a * %a" (print 2) f (print 2) g;
#     close_paren prec 2 ppf
#   | Quot(f, g) ->
#     open_paren prec 2 ppf;
#     Printf.fprintf ppf "%a / %a" (print 2) f (print 3) g;
#     close_paren prec 2 ppf
#   in print 0 ppf expr;;
val pp_expr : out_channel -> expression -> unit = <fun>

# pp_expr stdout e; print_newline ();
2. * x + 1.
- : unit = ()

# pp_expr stdout (deriv e "x"); print_newline ();
2. * 1. + 0. * x + 0.
- : unit = ()

Due to the way that format string are build, storing a format string requires an explicit type
annotation:

# let str : _ format =
#   "\%i is an integer value, \%F is a float, \%S\n";;

# Printf.printf str 3 4.5 "string value";;
3 is an integer value, 4.5 is a float, "string value"
- : unit = ()
1.11 Standalone OCaml programs

All examples given so far were executed under the interactive system. OCaml code can also be compiled separately and executed non-interactively using the batch compilers `ocamlc` and `ocamlopt`. The source code must be put in a file with extension `.ml`. It consists of a sequence of phrases, which will be evaluated at runtime in their order of appearance in the source file. Unlike in interactive mode, types and values are not printed automatically; the program must call printing functions explicitly to produce some output. The `;;` used in the interactive examples is not required in source files created for use with OCaml compilers, but can be helpful to mark the end of a top-level expression unambiguously even when there are syntax errors. Here is a sample standalone program to print Fibonacci numbers:

```ocaml
(* File fib.ml *)
let rec fib n =
  if n < 2 then 1 else fib (n-1) + fib (n-2);
let main () =
  let arg = int_of_string Sys.argv.(1) in
  print_int (fib arg);
  print_newline ();
  exit 0;;
main ();;
```

`Sys.argv` is an array of strings containing the command-line parameters. `Sys.argv.(1)` is thus the first command-line parameter. The program above is compiled and executed with the following shell commands:

```
$ ocamlc -o fib fib.ml
$ ./fib 10
89
$ ./fib 20
10946
```

More complex standalone OCaml programs are typically composed of multiple source files, and can link with precompiled libraries. Chapters 9 and 12 explain how to use the batch compilers `ocamlc` and `ocamlopt`. Recompilation of multi-file OCaml projects can be automated using third-party build systems, such as the `ocamlbuild` compilation manager.
Chapter 2

The module system

This chapter introduces the module system of OCaml.

2.1 Structures

A primary motivation for modules is to package together related definitions (such as the definitions of a data type and associated operations over that type) and enforce a consistent naming scheme for these definitions. This avoids running out of names or accidentally confusing names. Such a package is called a structure and is introduced by the struct...end construct, which contains an arbitrary sequence of definitions. The structure is usually given a name with the module binding. Here is for instance a structure packaging together a type of priority queues and their operations:

```ocaml
# module PrioQueue =
# struct
#   type priority = int
#   type 'a queue = Empty | Node of priority * 'a * 'a queue * 'a queue
#   let empty = Empty
#   let rec insert queue prio elt =
#     match queue with
#     | Empty -> Node(prio, elt, Empty, Empty)
#     | Node(p, e, left, right) ->
#       if prio <= p
#         then Node(prio, elt, insert right p e, left)
#       else Node(p, e, insert right prio elt, left)
#     exception Queue_is_empty
#   let rec remove_top = function
#     | Empty -> raise Queue_is_empty
#     | Node(prio, elt, left, Empty) -> left
#     | Node(prio, elt, Empty, right) -> right
#     | Node(prio, elt, (Node(lprio, lelt, _, _) as left),
#       (Node(rprio, relt, _, _) as right)) ->
#       if lprio <= rprio
#         then Node(lprio, lelt, remove_top left, right)
```

33
# else Node(rprio, relt, left, remove_top right)
# let extract = function
#   | Empty -> raise Queue_is_empty
#   | Node(rprio, elt, _, _) as queue -> (rprio, elt, remove_top queue)
# end;;

module PrioQueue :
  sig
    type priority = int
    type 'a queue = Empty | Node of priority * 'a * 'a queue *
    val empty : 'a queue
    val insert : 'a queue -> priority -> 'a -> 'a queue
    exception Queue_is_empty
    val remove_top : 'a queue -> 'a queue
    val extract : 'a queue -> priority * 'a * 'a queue
  end

Outside the structure, its components can be referred to using the “dot notation”, that is, identifiers qualified by a structure name. For instance, PrioQueue.insert is the function insert defined inside the structure PrioQueue and PrioQueue.queue is the type queue defined in PrioQueue.

# PrioQueue.insert PrioQueue.empty 1 "hello";;
- : string PrioQueue.queue = Node (1, "hello", PrioQueue.Empty, PrioQueue.Empty)

Another possibility is to open the module, which brings all identifiers defined inside the module in the scope of the current structure.

# open PrioQueue;;
# insert empty 1 "hello";;
- : string PrioQueue.queue = Node (1, "hello", PrioQueue.Empty, PrioQueue.Empty)

Opening a module enables lighter access to its components, at the cost of making it harder to identify in which module a identifier has been defined. In particular, opened modules can shadow identifiers present in the current scope, potentially leading to confusing errors:

# let empty = []
# open PrioQueue in
# let x = 1 :: empty ;;
Error: This expression has type 'a PrioQueue.queue
   but an expression was expected of type int list

A partial solution to this conundrum is to open modules locally, making the components of the module available only in the concerned expression. This can also make the code easier to read – the open statement is closer to where it is used– and to refactor – the code fragment is more self-contained. Two constructions are available for this purpose:

# let open PrioQueue in
# insert empty 1 "hello";;
- : string PrioQueue.queue = Node (1, "hello", Empty, Empty)
Chapter 2. The module system

and

# PrioQueue.(insert empty 1 "hello");
- : string PrioQueuequeue = Node (1, "hello", Empty, Empty)

In the second form, when the body of a local open is itself delimited by parentheses, braces or bracket, the parentheses of the local open can be omitted. For instance,

# PrioQueue.[empty] = PrioQueue.([empty]);;
- : bool = true

# PrioQueue.[empty] = PrioQueue.([empty]);;
- : bool = true

# PrioQueue.{ contents = empty } = PrioQueue.({ contents = empty });;
- : bool = true

becomes

# PrioQueue.[insert empty 1 "hello"];;
- : string PrioQueuequeue list = [Node (1, "hello", Empty, Empty)]

It is also possible to copy the components of a module inside another module by using an include statement. This can be particularly useful to extend existing modules. As an illustration, we could add functions that returns an optional value rather than an exception when the priority queue is empty.

# module PrioQueueOpt =
# struct
#   include PrioQueue
#   let remove_top_opt x =
#     try Some(remove_top x) with Queue_is_empty -> None
#   let extract_opt x =
#     try Some(extract x) with Queue_is_empty -> None
# end;;
module PrioQueueOpt :

  sig
    type priority = int
    type 'a queue =
      'a PrioQueuequeue =
        Empty
    /
      Node of priority * 'a * 'a queue * 'a queue
    val empty : 'a queue
    val insert : 'a queue -> priority -> 'a -> 'a queue
    val remove_top : 'a queue -> 'a queue
    val extract : 'a queue -> priority * 'a * 'a queue
    val remove_top_opt : 'a queue -> 'a queue option
    val extract_opt : 'a queue -> (priority * 'a * 'a queue) option
  end
2.2 Signatures

Signatures are interfaces for structures. A signature specifies which components of a structure are accessible from the outside, and with which type. It can be used to hide some components of a structure (e.g. local function definitions) or export some components with a restricted type. For instance, the signature below specifies the three priority queue operations empty, insert and extract, but not the auxiliary function remove_top. Similarly, it makes the queue type abstract (by not providing its actual representation as a concrete type).

```ocaml
# module type PRIOQUEUE =
# sig
#   type priority = int (* still concrete *)
#   type 'a queue (* now abstract *)
#   val empty : 'a queue
#   val insert : 'a queue -> int -> 'a -> 'a queue
#   val extract : 'a queue -> int * 'a * 'a queue
#   exception Queue_is_empty
# end

module type PRIOQUEUE =
sig
type priority = int
  type 'a queue
  val empty : 'a queue
  val insert : 'a queue -> int -> 'a -> 'a queue
  val extract : 'a queue -> int * 'a * 'a queue
  exception Queue_is_empty
end
```

Restricting the PrioQueue structure by this signature results in another view of the PrioQueue structure where the remove_top function is not accessible and the actual representation of priority queues is hidden:

```ocaml
# module AbstractPrioQueue = (PrioQueue : PRIOQUEUE);
module AbstractPrioQueue : PRIOQUEUE

# AbstractPrioQueue.remove_top ;;
Error: Unbound value AbstractPrioQueue.remove_top

# AbstractPrioQueue.insert AbstractPrioQueue.empty 1 "hello";;
- : string AbstractPrioQueue.queue = <abstr>
```

The restriction can also be performed during the definition of the structure, as in

```ocaml
module PrioQueue = (struct ... end : PRIOQUEUE);
```

An alternate syntax is provided for the above:

```ocaml
module PrioQueue : PRIOQUEUE = struct ... end;;
```

Like for modules, it is possible to include a signature to copy its components inside the current signature. For instance, we can extend the PRIOQUEUE signature with the extract_opt function:
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# module type PRIOQUEUE_WITH_OPT =
# sig
#   include PRIOQUEUE
#   val extract_opt : 'a queue -> (int * 'a * 'a queue) option
# end;
module type PRIOQUEUE_WITH_OPT =
sig
  type priority = int
  type 'a queue
  val empty : 'a queue
  val insert : 'a queue -> int -> 'a -> 'a queue
  val extract : 'a queue -> int * 'a * 'a queue
  exception Queue_is_empty
  val extract_opt : 'a queue -> (int * 'a * 'a queue) option
end

2.3 Functors

Functors are “functions” from modules to modules. Functors let you create parameterized modules and then provide other modules as parameter(s) to get a specific implementation. For instance, a Set module implementing sets as sorted lists could be parameterized to work with any module that provides an element type and a comparison function compare (such as OrderedString):

# type comparison = Less | Equal | Greater;;
type comparison = Less | Equal | Greater

# module type ORDERED_TYPE =
# sig
type t
val compare : t -> t -> comparison
# end;
module type ORDERED_TYPE = sig type t val compare : t -> t -> comparison end

# module Set =
# functor (Elt: ORDERED_TYPE) ->
#   struct
#     type element = Elt.t
#     type set = element list
#     let empty = []
#     let rec add x s =
#       match s with
#       | [] -> [x]
#       | hd::tl ->
#         match Elt.compare x hd with
#         | Equal -> s (* x is already in s *)
#         | Less -> x :: s (* x is smaller than all elements of s *)
#         | Greater -> hd :: add x tl
#     let rec member x s =
#   end
match s with
| [] -> false
| hd::tl ->
  match Elt.compare x hd with
  | Equal -> true (* x belongs to s *)
  | Less -> false (* x is smaller than all elements of s *)
  | Greater -> member x tl
end;;

module Set :
  functor (Elt : ORDERED_TYPE) ->
  sig
    type element = Elt.t
    type set = element list
    val empty : 'a list
    val add : Elt.t -> Elt.t list -> Elt.t list
    val member : Elt.t -> Elt.t list -> bool
  end

By applying the Set functor to a structure implementing an ordered type, we obtain set operations for this type:

module OrderedString =
  struct
    type t = string
    let compare x y = if x = y then Equal else if x < y then Less else Greater
  end;
module OrderedString :
  sig type t = string val compare : 'a -> 'a -> comparison end

module StringSet = Set(OrderedString);;
module StringSet :
  sig
    type element = OrderedString.t
    type set = element list
    val empty : 'a list
    val add : OrderedString.t -> OrderedString.t list -> OrderedString.t list
    val member : OrderedString.t -> OrderedString.t list -> bool
  end

# StringSet.member "bar" (StringSet.add "foo" StringSet.empty);; - : bool = false

2.4 Functors and type abstraction

As in the PrioQueue example, it would be good style to hide the actual implementation of the type set, so that users of the structure will not rely on sets being lists, and we can switch later to another, more efficient representation of sets without breaking their code. This can be achieved by restricting Set by a suitable functor signature:
# module type SETFUNCTOR =
#   functor (Elt: ORDERED_TYPE) ->
#     sig
#       type element = Elt.t (* concrete *)
#       type set (* abstract *)
#       val empty : set
#       val add : element -> set -> set
#       val member : element -> set -> bool
#     end;
module type SETFUNCTOR =
  functor (Elt : ORDERED_TYPE) ->
  sig
    type element = Elt.t
    type set
    val empty : set
    val add : element -> set -> set
    val member : element -> set -> bool
  end

# module AbstractSet = (Set : SETFUNCTOR);
module AbstractSet : SETFUNCTOR

# module AbstractStringSet = AbstractSet(OrderedString);
module AbstractStringSet :
  sig
    type element = OrderedString.t
    type set = AbstractSet(OrderedString).set
    val empty : set
    val add : element -> set -> set
    val member : element -> set -> bool
  end

# AbstractStringSet.add "gee" AbstractStringSet.empty;;
- : AbstractStringSet.set = <abstr>

In an attempt to write the type constraint above more elegantly, one may wish to name the signature of the structure returned by the functor, then use that signature in the constraint:

# module type SET =
#   sig
#     type element
#     type set
#     val empty : set
#     val add : element -> set -> set
#     val member : element -> set -> bool
#   end;
module type SET =
  sig
    type element
    type set
    val empty : set
val add : element -> set -> set
val member : element -> set -> bool

# module WrongSet = (Set : functor(Elt: ORDERED_TYPE) -> SET);
module WrongSet : functor (Elt : ORDERED_TYPE) -> SET

# module WrongStringSet = WrongSet(OrderedString);
module WrongStringSet :
  sig
    type element = WrongSet(OrderedString).element
    type set = WrongSet(OrderedString).set
    val empty : set
    val add : element -> set -> set
    val member : element -> set -> bool
  end

# WrongStringSet.add "gee" WrongStringSet.empty ;;
Error: This expression has type string but an expression was expected of type
WrongStringSet.element = WrongSet(OrderedString).element

The problem here is that SET specifies the type element abstractly, so that the type equality between element in the result of the functor and t in its argument is forgotten. Consequently, WrongStringSet.element is not the same type as string, and the operations of WrongStringSet cannot be applied to strings. As demonstrated above, it is important that the type element in the signature SET be declared equal to Elt.t; unfortunately, this is impossible above since SET is defined in a context where Elt does not exist. To overcome this difficulty, OCaml provides a with type construct over signatures that allows enriching a signature with extra type equalities:

# module AbstractSet2 =
#  (Set : functor(Elt: ORDERED_TYPE) -> (SET with type element = Elt.t));;
module AbstractSet2 : functor (Elt : ORDERED_TYPE) ->
  sig
    type element = Elt.t
    type set
    val empty : set
    val add : element -> set -> set
    val member : element -> set -> bool
  end

As in the case of simple structures, an alternate syntax is provided for defining functors and restricting their result:

module AbstractSet2(Elt: ORDERED_TYPE) : (SET with type element = Elt.t) =
  struct ... end;;

Abstracting a type component in a functor result is a powerful technique that provides a high degree of type safety, as we now illustrate. Consider an ordering over character strings that is different from the standard ordering implemented in the OrderedString structure. For instance, we compare strings without distinguishing upper and lower case.
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# module NoCaseString =
#   struct
#     type t = string
#     let compare s1 s2 =
#       OrderedString.compare (String.lowercase_ascii s1) (String.lowercase_ascii s2)
#   end;;
module NoCaseString : sig type t = string val compare : string -> string -> comparison end

module NoCaseStringSet = AbstractSet(NoCaseString);;
module NoCaseStringSet : sig
  type element = NoCaseString.t
  type set = AbstractSet(NoCaseString).set
  val empty : set
  val add : element -> set -> set
  val member : element -> set -> bool
end

# NoCaseStringSet.add "FOO" AbstractStringSet.empty ;;
Error: This expression has type
    AbstractStringSet.set = AbstractSet(OrderedString).set
but an expression was expected of type
    NoCaseStringSet.set = AbstractSet(NoCaseString).set

Note that the two types AbstractStringSet.set and NoCaseStringSet.set are not compatible, and values of these two types do not match. This is the correct behavior: even though both set types contain elements of the same type (strings), they are built upon different orderings of that type, and different invariants need to be maintained by the operations (being strictly increasing for the standard ordering and for the case-insensitive ordering). Applying operations from AbstractStringSet to values of type NoCaseStringSet.set could give incorrect results, or build lists that violate the invariants of NoCaseStringSet.

2.5 Modules and separate compilation

All examples of modules so far have been given in the context of the interactive system. However, modules are most useful for large, batch-compiled programs. For these programs, it is a practical necessity to split the source into several files, called compilation units, that can be compiled separately, thus minimizing recompilation after changes.

In OCaml, compilation units are special cases of structures and signatures, and the relationship between the units can be explained easily in terms of the module system. A compilation unit $A$ comprises two files:

- the implementation file $A.ml$, which contains a sequence of definitions, analogous to the inside of a struct...end construct;

- the interface file $A.mli$, which contains a sequence of specifications, analogous to the inside of a sig...end construct.
These two files together define a structure named $A$ as if the following definition was entered at top-level:

```ocaml
module $A$: sig (* contents of file $A.mli$ *) end
    = struct (* contents of file $A.ml$ *) end;;
```

The files that define the compilation units can be compiled separately using the `ocamlc -c` command (the `-c` option means “compile only, do not try to link”); this produces compiled interface files (with extension `.cmi`) and compiled object code files (with extension `.cmo`). When all units have been compiled, their `.cmo` files are linked together using the `ocamlc` command. For instance, the following commands compile and link a program composed of two compilation units `Aux` and `Main`:

```bash
$ ocamlc -c Aux.mli  # produces aux.cmi
$ ocamlc -c Aux.ml   # produces aux.cmo
$ ocamlc -c Main.mli # produces main.cmi
$ ocamlc -c Main.ml  # produces main.cmo
$ ocamlc -o theprogram Aux.cmo Main.cmo
```

The program behaves exactly as if the following phrases were entered at top-level:

```ocaml
module Aux: sig (* contents of Aux.mli *) end
    = struct (* contents of Aux.ml *) end;;
module Main: sig (* contents of Main.mli *) end
    = struct (* contents of Main.ml *) end;;
```

In particular, `Main` can refer to `Aux`: the definitions and declarations contained in `Main.ml` and `Main.mli` can refer to definition in `Aux.ml`, using the `Aux.ident` notation, provided these definitions are exported in `Aux.mli`.

The order in which the `.cmo` files are given to `ocamlc` during the linking phase determines the order in which the module definitions occur. Hence, in the example above, `Aux` appears first and `Main` can refer to it, but `Aux` cannot refer to `Main`.

Note that only top-level structures can be mapped to separately-compiled files, but neither functors nor module types. However, all module-class objects can appear as components of a structure, so the solution is to put the functor or module type inside a structure, which can then be mapped to a file.
Chapter 3

Objects in OCaml

(Chapter written by Jérôme Vouillon, Didier Rémy and Jacques Garrigue)

This chapter gives an overview of the object-oriented features of OCaml.

Note that the relationship between object, class and type in OCaml is different than in mainstream object-oriented languages such as Java and C++, so you shouldn’t assume that similar keywords mean the same thing. Object-oriented features are used much less frequently in OCaml than in those languages. OCaml has alternatives that are often more appropriate, such as modules and functors. Indeed, many OCaml programs do not use objects at all.

3.1 Classes and objects

The class `point` below defines one instance variable `x` and two methods `get_x` and `move`. The initial value of the instance variable is 0. The variable `x` is declared mutable, so the method `move` can change its value.

```ocaml
# class point =
# object
#     val mutable x = 0
#     method get_x = x
#     method move d = x <- x + d
# end;;
class point :
    object val mutable x : int method get_x : int method move : int -> unit end
```

We now create a new point `p`, instance of the `point` class.

```ocaml
# let p = new point;;
val p : point = <obj>
```

Note that the type of `p` is `point`. This is an abbreviation automatically defined by the class definition above. It stands for the object type `<get_x : int; move : int -> unit>`, listing the methods of class `point` along with their types.

We now invoke some methods of `p`:
# p#get_x;;
- : int = 0
# p#move 3;;
- : unit = ()
# p#get_x;;
- : int = 3

The evaluation of the body of a class only takes place at object creation time. Therefore, in the following example, the instance variable x is initialized to different values for two different objects.

# let x0 = ref 0;;
val x0 : int ref = {contents = 0}
# class point =
# object
# val mutable x = incr x0; !x0
# method get_x = x
# method move d = x <- x + d
# end;;
class point :
    object val mutable x : int method get_x : int method move : int -> unit end

# new point#get_x;;
- : int = 1
# new point#get_x;;
- : int = 2

The class point can also be abstracted over the initial values of the x coordinate.

# class point = fun x_init ->
# object
# val mutable x = x_init
# method get_x = x
# method move d = x <- x + d
# end;;
class point :
    int ->
    object val mutable x : int method get_x : int method move : int -> unit end

Like in function definitions, the definition above can be abbreviated as:

# class point x_init =
# object
# val mutable x = x_init
# method get_x = x
# method move d = x <- x + d
# end;;
class point :
    int ->
    object val mutable x : int method get_x : int method move : int -> unit end
An instance of the class `point` is now a function that expects an initial parameter to create a point object:

```ocaml
# new point;;
- : int -> point = <fun>
# let p = new point 7;;
val p : point = <obj>
```

The parameter `x_init` is, of course, visible in the whole body of the definition, including methods. For instance, the method `get_offset` in the class below returns the position of the object relative to its initial position.

```ocaml
# class point x_init =
#   object
#     val mutable x = x_init
#     method get_x = x
#     method get_offset = x - x_init
#     method move d = x <- x + d
#   end;;
class point : int -> object
  val mutable x : int
  method get_offset : int
  method get_x : int
  method move : int -> unit
end
```

Expressions can be evaluated and bound before defining the object body of the class. This is useful to enforce invariants. For instance, points can be automatically adjusted to the nearest point on a grid, as follows:

```ocaml
# class adjusted_point x_init =
#   let origin = (x_init / 10) * 10 in
#   object
#     val mutable x = origin
#     method get_x = x
#     method get_offset = x - origin
#     method move d = x <- x + d
#   end;;
class adjusted_point : int -> object
  val mutable x : int
  method get_offset : int
  method get_x : int
  method move : int -> unit
end
```
(One could also raise an exception if the x_init coordinate is not on the grid.) In fact, the same effect could here be obtained by calling the definition of class point with the value of the origin.

```ml
# class adjusted_point x_init = point ((x_init / 10) * 10);
class adjusted_point : int -> point
```

An alternate solution would have been to define the adjustment in a special allocation function:

```ml
# let new_adjusted_point x_init = new point ((x_init / 10) * 10);
val new_adjusted_point : int -> point = <fun>
```

However, the former pattern is generally more appropriate, since the code for adjustment is part of the definition of the class and will be inherited.

This ability provides class constructors as can be found in other languages. Several constructors can be defined this way to build objects of the same class but with different initialization patterns; an alternative is to use initializers, as described below in section 3.4.

### 3.2 Immediate objects

There is another, more direct way to create an object: create it without going through a class.

The syntax is exactly the same as for class expressions, but the result is a single object rather than a class. All the constructs described in the rest of this section also apply to immediate objects.

```ml
# let p =
# object
#   val mutable x = 0
#   method get_x = x
#   method move d = x <- x + d
# end;;
val p : < get_x : int; move : int -> unit > = <obj>
```

Unlike classes, which cannot be defined inside an expression, immediate objects can appear anywhere, using variables from their environment.

```ml
# let minmax x y =
#   if x < y then object method min = x method max = y end
# else object method min = y method max = x end;;
val minmax : 'a -> 'a -> < max : 'a; min : 'a > = <fun>
```

Immediate objects have two weaknesses compared to classes: their types are not abbreviated, and you cannot inherit from them. But these two weaknesses can be advantages in some situations, as we will see in sections 3.3 and 3.10.
3.3 Reference to self

A method or an initializer can invoke methods on self (that is, the current object). For that, self must be explicitly bound, here to the variable \( s \) (\( s \) could be any identifier, even though we will often choose the name self.)

```ocaml
# class printable_point x_init =
# object (s)
#  val mutable x = x_init
#  method get_x = x
#  method move d = x <- x + d
#  method print = print_int s#get_x
# end;

class printable_point :
  int ->
  object
    val mutable x : int
    method get_x : int
    method move : int -> unit
    method print : unit
  end

# let p = new printable_point 7;;
val p : printable_point = <obj>

# p#print;;
7- : unit = ()
```

Dynamically, the variable \( s \) is bound at the invocation of a method. In particular, when the class `printable_point` is inherited, the variable \( s \) will be correctly bound to the object of the subclass.

A common problem with self is that, as its type may be extended in subclasses, you cannot fix it in advance. Here is a simple example.

```ocaml
# let ints = ref [];;
val ints : '_weak1 list ref = {contents = []}

# class my_int =
# object (self)
#  method n = 1
#  method register = ints := self :: !ints
# end;;
Error: This expression has type < n : int; register : 'a; .. >
  but an expression was expected of type '_weak1
Self type cannot escape its class
```

You can ignore the first two lines of the error message. What matters is the last one: putting self into an external reference would make it impossible to extend it through inheritance. We will see in section 3.12 a workaround to this problem. Note however that, since immediate objects are not extensible, the problem does not occur with them.
# let my_int =
#   object (self)
#     method n = 1
#     method register = ints := self :: !ints
#   end;
val my_int : < n : int; register : unit > = <obj>

### 3.4 Initializers

Let-bindings within class definitions are evaluated before the object is constructed. It is also possible to evaluate an expression immediately after the object has been built. Such code is written as an anonymous hidden method called an initializer. Therefore, it can access self and the instance variables.

# class printable_point x_init =
#   let origin = (x_init / 10) * 10 in
#   object (self)
#     val mutable x = origin
#     method get_x = x
#     method move d = x <- x + d
#     method print = print_int self#get_x
#     initializer print_string "new point at "; self#print; print_newline ()
#   end;
class printable_point :
  int ->
  object
    val mutable x : int
    method get_x : int
    method move : int -> unit
    method print : unit
  end

# let p = new printable_point 17;;
new point at 10
val p : printable_point = <obj>

Initializers cannot be overridden. On the contrary, all initializers are evaluated sequentially. Initializers are particularly useful to enforce invariants. Another example can be seen in section 6.1.

### 3.5 Virtual methods

It is possible to declare a method without actually defining it, using the keyword `virtual`. This method will be provided later in subclasses. A class containing virtual methods must be flagged `virtual`, and cannot be instantiated (that is, no object of this class can be created). It still defines type abbreviations (treating virtual methods as other methods.)

# class virtual abstract_point x_init =
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# object (self)
#   method virtual get_x : int
#   method get_offset = self#get_x - x_init
#   method virtual move : int -> unit
# end;
class virtual abstract_point :
  int ->
  object
    method get_offset : int
    method virtual get_x : int
    method virtual move : int -> unit
  end
# class point x_init =
#   object
#     inherit abstract_point x_init
#     val mutable x = x_init
#     method get_x = x
#     method move d = x <- x + d
#   end;
class point :
  int ->
  object
    val mutable x : int
    method get_offset : int
    method get_x : int
    method move : int -> unit
  end

Instance variables can also be declared as virtual, with the same effect as with methods.

# class virtual abstract_point2 =
#   object
#     val mutable virtual x : int
#     method move d = x <- x + d
#   end;
class virtual abstract_point2 :
  object val mutable virtual x : int method move : int -> unit end
# class point2 x_init =
#   object
#     inherit abstract_point2
#     val mutable x = x_init
#     method get_offset = x - x_init
#   end;
class point2 :
  int ->
  object
    val mutable x : int
    method get_offset : int
3.6 Private methods

Private methods are methods that do not appear in object interfaces. They can only be invoked from other methods of the same object.

```ocaml
# class restricted_point x_init =
#   object (self)
#   val mutable x = x_init
#   method get_x = x
#   method private move d = x <- x + d
#   method bump = self#move 1
#   end;

class restricted_point :
  int ->
  object
    val mutable x : int
    method bump : unit
    method get_x : int
    method private move : int -> unit
  end

# let p = new restricted_point 0;;
val p : restricted_point = <obj>

# p#move 10 ;;
Error: This expression has type restricted_point
  It has no method move

# p#bump;;
- : unit = ()
```

Note that this is not the same thing as private and protected methods in Java or C++, which can be called from other objects of the same class. This is a direct consequence of the independence between types and classes in OCaml: two unrelated classes may produce objects of the same type, and there is no way at the type level to ensure that an object comes from a specific class. However a possible encoding of friend methods is given in section 3.17.

Private methods are inherited (they are by default visible in subclasses), unless they are hidden by signature matching, as described below.

Private methods can be made public in a subclass.

```ocaml
# class point_again x =
#   object (self)
#   inherit restricted_point x
#   method virtual move : _
#   end;

class point_again :
```
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```ocaml
int ->
object
  val mutable x : int
  method bump : unit
  method get_x : int
  method move : int -> unit
end
```

The annotation `virtual` here is only used to mention a method without providing its definition. Since we didn’t add the `private` annotation, this makes the method public, keeping the original definition.

An alternative definition is

```ocaml
# class point_again x =
#   object (self : < move : _; ..> )
#     inherit restricted_point x
#   end;;
class point_again :
  int ->
  object
    val mutable x : int
    method bump : unit
    method get_x : int
    method move : int -> unit
  end
```

The constraint on `self`’s type is requiring a public `move` method, and this is sufficient to override `private`.

One could think that a private method should remain private in a subclass. However, since the method is visible in a subclass, it is always possible to pick its code and define a method of the same name that runs that code, so yet another (heavier) solution would be:

```ocaml
# class point_again x =
#   object
#     inherit restricted_point x as super
#     method move = super#move
#   end;;
class point_again :
  int ->
  object
    val mutable x : int
    method bump : unit
    method get_x : int
    method move : int -> unit
  end
```

Of course, private methods can also be virtual. Then, the keywords must appear in this order `method private virtual`.
3.7 Class interfaces

Class interfaces are inferred from class definitions. They may also be defined directly and used to restrict the type of a class. Like class declarations, they also define a new type abbreviation.

```ocaml
# class type restricted_point_type =
#   object
#     method get_x : int
#     method bump : unit
#   end;;
class type restricted_point_type =
   object method bump : unit method get_x : int end

# fun (x : restricted_point_type) -> x;;
- : restricted_point_type -> restricted_point_type = <fun>
```

In addition to program documentation, class interfaces can be used to constrain the type of a class. Both concrete instance variables and concrete private methods can be hidden by a class type constraint. Public methods and virtual members, however, cannot.

```ocaml
# class restricted_point
  x = (restricted_point x : restricted_point_type);;
class restricted_point : int -> restricted_point_type
```

Or, equivalently:

```ocaml
# class restricted_point' x = (restricted_point : int -> restricted_point_type);;
class restricted_point' : int -> restricted_point_type
```

The interface of a class can also be specified in a module signature, and used to restrict the inferred signature of a module.

```ocaml
# module type POINT = sig
#   class restricted_point' : int ->
#     object
#       method get_x : int
#       method bump : unit
#     end
#   end;;
module type POINT =
   sig
     class restricted_point'
       : int -> object method bump : unit method get_x : int end
   end

# module Point : POINT = struct
#   class restricted_point' = restricted_point
# end;;
module Point : POINT
```
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3.8 Inheritance

We illustrate inheritance by defining a class of colored points that inherits from the class of points. This class has all instance variables and all methods of class point, plus a new instance variable c and a new method color.

```ocaml
# class colored_point x (c : string) =
#   object
#     inherit point x
#     val c = c
#     method color = c
#   end;
# class colored_point :
#   int ->
#   string ->
#   object
#     val c : string
#     val mutable x : int
#     method color : string
#     method get_offset : int
#     method get_x : int
#     method move : int -> unit
#   end

# let p' = new colored_point 5 "red";;
val p' : colored_point = <obj>
# p'#get_x, p'#color;;
- : int * string = (5, "red")
```

A point and a colored point have incompatible types, since a point has no method color. However, the function get_x below is a generic function applying method get_x to any object p that has this method (and possibly some others, which are represented by an ellipsis in the type). Thus, it applies to both points and colored points.

```ocaml
# let get_succ_x p = p#get_x + 1;;
val get_succ_x : < get_x : int; .. > -> int = <fun>
# get_succ_x p + get_succ_x p';;
- : int = 8
```

Methods need not be declared previously, as shown by the example:

```ocaml
# let set_x p = p#set_x;;
val set_x : < set_x : 'a; .. > -> 'a = <fun>
# let incr p = set_x p (get_succ_x p);;
val incr : < get_x : int; set_x : int -> 'a; .. > -> 'a = <fun>
```

3.9 Multiple inheritance

Multiple inheritance is allowed. Only the last definition of a method is kept: the redefinition in a subclass of a method that was visible in the parent class overrides the definition in the parent class.
Previous definitions of a method can be reused by binding the related ancestor. Below, `super` is bound to the ancestor `printable_point`. The name `super` is a pseudo value identifier that can only be used to invoke a super-class method, as in `super#print`.

```plaintext
# class printable_colored_point y c =
#   object (self)
#     val c = c
#     method color = c
#     inherit printable_point y as super
#     method! print =
#       print_string "(";
#       super#print;
#       print_string ", ";
#       print_string (self#color);
#       print_string ")"
# end;
class printable_colored_point :
  int ->
  string ->
  object
    val c : string
    val mutable x : int
    method color : string
    method get_x : int
    method move : int -> unit
    method print : unit
end

# let p' = new printable_colored_point 17 "red";;
new point at (10, red)
val p : printable_point = <obj>
# p#print;;
(10, red)- : unit = ()
```

A private method that has been hidden in the parent class is no longer visible, and is thus not overridden. Since initializers are treated as private methods, all initializers along the class hierarchy are evaluated, in the order they are introduced.

Note that for clarity's sake, the method `print` is explicitly marked as overriding another definition by annotating the `method` keyword with an exclamation mark `!`. If the method `print` were not overriding the `print` method of `printable_point`, the compiler would raise an error:

```plaintext
# object
#   method! m = ()
# end;;
Error: The method `m' has no previous definition
```

This explicit overriding annotation also works for `val` and `inherit`:

```plaintext
# class another_printable_colored_point y c c' =
```
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```ocaml
# object (self)
# inherit printable_point y
# inherit! printable_colored_point y c
# val! c = c'
# end;;
class another_printable_colored_point :
  int ->
  string ->
  string ->
  object
    val c : string
    val mutable x : int
    method color : string
    method get_x : int
    method move : int -> unit
    method print : unit
  end

3.10 Parameterized classes

Reference cells can be implemented as objects. The naive definition fails to typecheck:

```ocaml
# class oref x_init =
#   object
#     val mutable x = x_init
#     method get = x
#     method set y = x <- y
#   end;;
Error: Some type variables are unbound in this type:
  class oref :
    'a ->
    object
      val mutable x : 'a
      method get : 'a
      method set : 'a -> unit
    end

The method get has type 'a where 'a is unbound
```

The reason is that at least one of the methods has a polymorphic type (here, the type of the value stored in the reference cell), thus either the class should be parametric, or the method type should be constrained to a monomorphic type. A monomorphic instance of the class could be defined by:

```ocaml
# class oref (x_init:int) =
#   object
#     val mutable x = x_init
#     method get = x
#     method set y = x <- y
#   end;;
class oref :
```
int ->
object val mutable x : int method get : int method set : int -> unit end

Note that since immediate objects do not define a class type, they have no such restriction.

# let new_oref x_init =
# object
#   val mutable x = x_init
#   method get = x
#   method set y = x <- y
# end;;
val new_oref : 'a -> < get : 'a; set : 'a -> unit > = <fun>

On the other hand, a class for polymorphic references must explicitly list the type parameters in its declaration. Class type parameters are listed between [ and ]. The type parameters must also be bound somewhere in the class body by a type constraint.

# class ['a] oref x_init =
# object
#   val mutable x = (x_init : 'a)
#   method get = x
#   method set y = x <- y
# end;;
class ['a] oref :
'a -> object val mutable x : 'a method get : 'a method set : 'a -> unit end

# let r = new oref 1 in r#set 2; (r#get);;
- : int = 2

The type parameter in the declaration may actually be constrained in the body of the class definition. In the class type, the actual value of the type parameter is displayed in the constraint clause.

# class ['a] oref_succ (x_init:'a) =
# object
#   val mutable x = x_init + 1
#   method get = x
#   method set y = x <- y
# end;;
class ['a] oref_succ :
'a ->
object
  constraint 'a = int
  val mutable x : int
  method get : int
  method set : int -> unit
end

Let us consider a more complex example: define a circle, whose center may be any kind of point. We put an additional type constraint in method move, since no free variables must remain unaccounted for by the class type parameters.
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# class ['a] circle (c : 'a) =
#  object
#    val mutable center = c
#    method center = center
#    method set_center c = center <- c
#    method move = (center#move : int -> unit)
#  end;
class ['a] circle :
  'a ->
  object
    constraint 'a = < move : int -> unit; .. >
    val mutable center : 'a
    method center : 'a
    method move : int -> unit
    method set_center : 'a -> unit
  end

An alternate definition of circle, using a constraint clause in the class definition, is shown below. The type #point used below in the constraint clause is an abbreviation produced by the definition of class point. This abbreviation unifies with the type of any object belonging to a subclass of class point. It actually expands to < get_x : int; move : int -> unit; .. >. This leads to the following alternate definition of circle, which has slightly stronger constraints on its argument, as we now expect center to have a method get_x.

# class ['a] circle (c : 'a) =
#  object
#    constraint 'a = #point
#    val mutable center = c
#    method center = center
#    method set_center c = center <- c
#    method move = center#move
#  end;
class ['a] circle :
  'a ->
  object
    constraint 'a = #point
    val mutable center : 'a
    method center : 'a
    method move : int -> unit
    method set_center : 'a -> unit
  end

The class colored_circle is a specialized version of class circle that requires the type of the center to unify with #colored_point, and adds a method color. Note that when specializing a parameterized class, the instance of type parameter must always be explicitly given. It is again written between [ and ].

# class ['a] colored_circle c =
#  object
3.11 Polymorphic methods

While parameterized classes may be polymorphic in their contents, they are not enough to allow polymorphism of method use.

A classical example is defining an iterator.

```ocaml
# class 'a colored_circle :
  'a ->
  object
    constraint 'a = #colored_point
    val mutable center : 'a
    method center : 'a
    method color : string
    method move : int -> unit
    method set_center : 'a -> unit
  end

class 'a colored_circle :
  'a ->
object
  constraint 'a = #colored_point
  val mutable center : 'a
  method center : 'a
  method color : string
  method move : int -> unit
  method set_center : 'a -> unit
end

3.11 Polymorphic methods

While parameterized classes may be polymorphic in their contents, they are not enough to allow polymorphism of method use.

A classical example is defining an iterator.

```ocaml
# class 'a intlist (l : int list) =
# object
#   method empty = (l = [])
#   method fold f (accu : 'a) = List.fold_left f accu l
# end;
class 'a intlist :
  int list ->
  object method empty : bool method fold : ('a -> int -> 'a) -> 'a -> 'a end

At first look, we seem to have a polymorphic iterator, however this does not work in practice.

```ocaml
# let l = new intlist [1; 2; 3];;
val l : _weak2 intlist = <obj>
# l#fold (fun x y -> x+y) 0;;
- : int = 6
# l;;
- : int intlist = <obj>
# l#fold (fun s x -> s ^ Int.to_string x ^ "") "" ;;
Error: This expression has type int but an expression was expected of type string

Our iterator works, as shows its first use for summation. However, since objects themselves are not polymorphic (only their constructors are), using the `fold` method fixes its type for this individual object. Our next attempt to use it as a string iterator fails.
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The problem here is that quantification was wrongly located: it is not the class we want to be polymorphic, but the `fold` method. This can be achieved by giving an explicitly polymorphic type in the method definition.

```ocaml
# class intlist (l : int list) =
# object
#   method empty = (l = [])
#   method fold : 'a. ('a -> int -> 'a) -> 'a -> 'a =
#     fun f accu -> List.fold_left f accu l
# end;;
class intlist :
  int list ->
  object method empty : bool method fold : ('a -> int -> 'a) -> 'a -> 'a end

# let l = new intlist [1; 2; 3];;
val l : intlist = <obj>
# l#fold (fun x y -> x+y) 0;;
- : int = 6
# l#fold (fun s x -> s ^ Int.to_string x ^ " ") "";;
- : string = "1 2 3 
```

As you can see in the class type shown by the compiler, while polymorphic method types must be fully explicit in class definitions (appearing immediately after the method name), quantified type variables can be left implicit in class descriptions. Why require types to be explicit? The problem is that \((\text{int} \to \text{int} \to \text{int}) \to \text{int} \to \text{int}\) would also be a valid type for `fold`, and it happens to be incompatible with the polymorphic type we gave (automatic instantiation only works for toplevel types variables, not for inner quantifiers, where it becomes an undecidable problem.) So the compiler cannot choose between those two types, and must be helped.

However, the type can be completely omitted in the class definition if it is already known, through inheritance or type constraints on self. Here is an example of method overriding.

```ocaml
# class intlist_rev l =
# object
#   inherit intlist l
#   method! fold f accu = List.fold_left f accu (List.rev l)
# end;;
```

The following idiom separates description and definition.

```ocaml
# class type ['a] iterator =
# object
#   method fold : ('b -> 'a -> 'b) -> 'b -> 'b end;;
# class intlist' l =
# object (self : int #iterator)
#   method empty = (l = [])
#   method fold f accu = List.fold_left f accu l
# end;;
```
Note here the \((self : \text{int} \text{#iterator})\) idiom, which ensures that this object implements the interface \text{iterator}.

Polymorphic methods are called in exactly the same way as normal methods, but you should be aware of some limitations of type inference. Namely, a polymorphic method can only be called if its type is known at the call site. Otherwise, the method will be assumed to be monomorphic, and given an incompatible type.

```ocaml
# let sum lst = lst#fold (fun x y -> x+y) 0;;
val sum : < fold : (int -> int -> int) -> int -> 'a; .. > -> 'a = <fun>
# sum l ;;
Error: This expression has type intlist
  but an expression was expected of type
  < fold : (int -> int -> int) -> int -> 'a; .. >
Types for method fold are incompatible
```

The workaround is easy: you should put a type constraint on the parameter.

```ocaml
# let sum (lst : _ #iterator) = lst#fold (fun x y -> x+y) 0;;
val sum : int #iterator -> int = <fun>
```

Of course the constraint may also be an explicit method type. Only occurrences of quantified variables are required.

```ocaml
# let sum lst =
#  (lst : < fold : 'a. ('a -> _ -> 'a) -> 'a -> 'a; .. >)#fold (+) 0;;
val sum : < fold : 'a. ('a -> int -> 'a) -> 'a -> 'a; .. > -> int = <fun>
```

Another use of polymorphic methods is to allow some form of implicit subtyping in method arguments. We have already seen in section 3.8 how some functions may be polymorphic in the class of their argument. This can be extended to methods.

```ocaml
# class type point0 = object method get_x : int end;;
class type point0 = object method get_x : int end

# class distance_point x =
#  object
#    inherit point x
#    method distance : 'a. (#point0 as 'a) -> int =
#      fun other -> abs (other#get_x - x)
#  end;;
class distance_point :
  object
    int ->
    object
      val mutable x : int
      method distance : #point0 -> int
      method get_offset : int
      method get_x : int
      method move : int -> unit
    end
  end

# let p = new distance_point 3 in
```
Note here the special syntax (#point0 as 'a) we have to use to quantify the extensible part of #point0. As for the variable binder, it can be omitted in class specifications. If you want polymorphism inside object field it must be quantified independently.

In method \texttt{m1}, \texttt{o} must be an object with at least a method \texttt{n1}, itself polymorphic. In method \texttt{m2}, the argument of \texttt{n2} and \texttt{x} must have the same type, which is quantified at the same level as 'a.

### 3.12 Using coercions

Subtyping is never implicit. There are, however, two ways to perform subtyping. The most general construction is fully explicit: both the domain and the codomain of the type coercion must be given.

We have seen that points and colored points have incompatible types. For instance, they cannot be mixed in the same list. However, a colored point can be coerced to a point, hiding its \texttt{color} method:

```ocaml
# let colored_point_to_point cp = (cp : colored_point :> point);;
val colored_point_to_point : colored_point -> point = <fun>
# let p = new point 3 and q = new colored_point 4 "blue";;
val p : point = <obj>
val q : colored_point = <obj>
# let l = [p; (colored_point_to_point q)];;
val l : point list = [<obj>; <obj>]
```

An object of type \texttt{t} can be seen as an object of type \texttt{t'} only if \texttt{t} is a subtype of \texttt{t'}. For instance, a point cannot be seen as a colored point.

```ocaml
# (p : point :> colored_point);;
Error: Type point = < get_offset : int; get_x : int; move : int -> unit >
     is not a subtype of
colored_point =
     < color : string; get_offset : int; get_x : int; move : int -> unit >
The first object type has no method color
Indeed, narrowing coercions without runtime checks would be unsafe. Runtime type checks might raise exceptions, and they would require the presence of type information at runtime, which is not the case in the OCaml system. For these reasons, there is no such operation available in the language.

Be aware that subtyping and inheritance are not related. Inheritance is a syntactic relation between classes while subtyping is a semantic relation between types. For instance, the class of colored points could have been defined directly, without inheriting from the class of points; the type of colored points would remain unchanged and thus still be a subtype of points.

The domain of a coercion can often be omitted. For instance, one can define:

```ocaml
# let to_point cp = (cp :> point);;
val to_point : point -> point = <fun>
```

In this case, the function `colored_point_to_point` is an instance of the function `to_point`. This is not always true, however. The fully explicit coercion is more precise and is sometimes unavoidable. Consider, for example, the following class:

```ocaml
# class c0 = object method m = {< >} method n = 0 end;;
class c0 : object ('a) method m : 'a method n : int end
```

The object type `c0` is an abbreviation for `<m : 'a; n : int> as 'a`. Consider now the type declaration:

```ocaml
# class type c1 = object method m : c1 end;;
class type c1 = object method m : c1 end
```

The object type `c1` is an abbreviation for the type `<m : 'a> as 'a`. The coercion from an object of type `c0` to an object of type `c1` is correct:

```ocaml
# fun (x:c0) -> (x : c0 :> c1);;
- : c0 -> c1 = <fun>
```

However, the domain of the coercion cannot always be omitted. In that case, the solution is to use the explicit form. Sometimes, a change in the class-type definition can also solve the problem

```ocaml
# class type c2 = object ('a) method m : 'a end;;
class type c2 = object ('a) method m : 'a end

# fun (x:c0) -> (x :> c2);;
- : c0 -> c2 = <fun>
```

While class types `c1` and `c2` are different, both object types `c1` and `c2` expand to the same object type (same method names and types). Yet, when the domain of a coercion is left implicit and its co-domain is an abbreviation of a known class type, then the class type, rather than the object type, is used to derive the coercion function. This allows leaving the domain implicit in most cases when coercing form a subclass to its superclass. The type of a coercion can always be seen as below:

```ocaml
# let to_c1 x = (x :> c1);;
val to_c1 : c1 -> c1 = <fun>

# let to_c2 x = (x :> c2);;
val to_c2 : c2 -> c2 = <fun>
```
Note the difference between these two coercions: in the case of to_c2, the type
#c2 = < m : 'a; .. > as 'a is polymorphically recursive (according to the explicit recursion in the class type of c2); hence the success of applying this coercion to an object of class c0. On the other hand, in the first case, c1 was only expanded and unrolled twice to obtain < m : < m : c1; .. >; .. > (remember #c1 = < m : c1; .. >), without introducing recursion. You may also note that the type of to_c2 is #c2 -> c2 while the type of to_c1 is more general than #c1 -> c1. This is not always true, since there are class types for which some instances of #c are not subtypes of c, as explained in section 3.16. Yet, for parameterless classes the coercion (_ :> c) is always more general than (_ : #c :> c).

A common problem may occur when one tries to define a coercion to a class c while defining class c. The problem is due to the type abbreviation not being completely defined yet, and so its subtypes are not clearly known. Then, a coercion (_ :> c) or (_ : #c :> c) is taken to be the identity function, as in

# function x -> (x :> 'a);;
- : 'a -> 'a = <fun>

As a consequence, if the coercion is applied to self, as in the following example, the type of self is unified with the closed type c (a closed object type is an object type without ellipsis). This would constrain the type of self be closed and is thus rejected. Indeed, the type of self cannot be closed: this would prevent any further extension of the class. Therefore, a type error is generated when the unification of this type with another type would result in a closed object type.

# class c = object method m = 1 end
# and d = object (self)
# inherit c
#    method n = 2
#    method as_c = (self :> c)
# end;;
Error: This expression cannot be coerced to type c = < m : int >; it has type
  < as_c : c; m : int; n : int; .. >
  but is here used with type c
  Self type cannot escape its class

However, the most common instance of this problem, coercing self to its current class, is detected as a special case by the type checker, and properly typed.

# class c = object (self) method m = (self :> c) end;;
class c : object method m : c end

This allows the following idiom, keeping a list of all objects belonging to a class or its subclasses:

# let all_c = ref [];;
val all_c : '_weak3 list ref = {contents = []}

# class c (m : int) =
#    object (self)
#      method m = m
#      initializer all_c := (self :> c) :: !all_c
#    end;;
class c : int -> object method m : int end
This idiom can in turn be used to retrieve an object whose type has been weakened:

```ocaml
# let rec lookup_obj obj = function [] -> raise Not_found
# | obj' :: l ->
#     if (obj :> <>) = (obj' :> <>) then obj' else lookup_obj obj l ;;
val lookup_obj : < .. > -> (< .. > as 'a) list -> 'a = <fun>

# let lookup_c obj = lookup_obj obj !all_c;;
val lookup_c : < .. > -> < m : int > = <fun>
```

The type `< m : int >` we see here is just the expansion of `c`, due to the use of a reference; we have succeeded in getting back an object of type `c`.

The previous coercion problem can often be avoided by first defining the abbreviation, using a class type:

```ocaml
# class type c' = object method m : int end ;;
class type c' = object method m : int end

# class c : c' = object method m = 1 end
# and d = object (self)
#  inherit c
#  method n = 2
#  method as_c = (self :> c')
# end ;;
class c : c'
and d : object method as_c : c' method m : int method n : int end
```

It is also possible to use a virtual class. Inheriting from this class simultaneously forces all methods of `c` to have the same type as the methods of `c'`.

```ocaml
# class virtual c' = object method virtual m : int end ;;
class virtual c' = object method virtual m : int end

# class c = object (self) inherit c' method m = 1 end ;;
class c : object method m : int end
```

One could think of defining the type abbreviation directly:

```ocaml
# type c' = <m : int > ;;
```

However, the abbreviation `#c'` cannot be defined directly in a similar way. It can only be defined by a class or a class-type definition. This is because a `#`-abbreviation carries an implicit anonymous variable .. that cannot be explicitly named. The closer you get to it is:

```ocaml
# type 'a c'_class = 'a constraint 'a = < m : int; .. > ;;
```

with an extra type variable capturing the open object type.
3.13 Functional objects

It is possible to write a version of class `point` without assignments on the instance variables. The override construct `{< ... >}` returns a copy of “self” (that is, the current object), possibly changing the value of some instance variables.

```ocaml
# class functional_point y =
# object
#   val x = y
#   method get_x = x
#   method move d = {< x = x + d >}
#   method move_to x = {< x >}
# end;

class functional_point : int -> object ('a)
  val x : int
  method get_x : int
  method move : int -> 'a
  method move_to : int -> 'a
end

# let p = new functional_point 7;;
val p : functional_point = <obj>

# p#get_x;;
- : int = 7

# (p#move 3)#get_x;;
- : int = 10

# (p#move_to 15)#get_x;;
- : int = 15

# p#get_x;;
- : int = 7
```

As with records, the form `{< x >}` is an elided version of `{< x = x >}` which avoids the repetition of the instance variable name. Note that the type abbreviation `functional_point` is recursive, which can be seen in the class type of `functional_point`: the type of self is `'a` and `'a` appears inside the type of the method `move`.

The above definition of `functional_point` is not equivalent to the following:

```ocaml
# class bad_functional_point y =
# object
#   val x = y
#   method get_x = x
#   method move d = new bad_functional_point (x+d)
#   method move_to x = new bad_functional_point x
# end;

class bad_functional_point :
```
While objects of either class will behave the same, objects of their subclasses will be different. In a subclass of `bad_functional_point`, the method `move` will keep returning an object of the parent class. On the contrary, in a subclass of `functional_point`, the method `move` will return an object of the subclass.

Functional update is often used in conjunction with binary methods as illustrated in section 6.2.1.

### 3.14 Cloning objects

Objects can also be cloned, whether they are functional or imperative. The library function `Oo.copy` makes a shallow copy of an object. That is, it returns a new object that has the same methods and instance variables as its argument. The instance variables are copied but their contents are shared. Assigning a new value to an instance variable of the copy (using a method call) will not affect instance variables of the original, and conversely. A deeper assignment (for example if the instance variable is a reference cell) will of course affect both the original and the copy.

The type of `Oo.copy` is the following:

```ocaml
# Oo.copy;;
- : (< .. > as 'a) -> 'a = <fun>
```

The keyword `as` in that type binds the type variable `'a` to the object type `< .. >`. Therefore, `Oo.copy` takes an object with any methods (represented by the ellipsis), and returns an object of the same type. The type of `Oo.copy` is different from type `< .. > -> < .. >` as each ellipsis represents a different set of methods. Ellipsis actually behaves as a type variable.

```ocaml
# let p = new point 5;;
val p : point = <obj>
# let q = Oo.copy p;;
val q : point = <obj>
# q#move 7; (p#get_x, q#get_x);;
- : int * int = (5, 12)
```

In fact, `O.o.copy p` will behave as `p#copy` assuming that a public method `copy` with body `{< >}` has been defined in the class of `p`.

Objects can be compared using the generic comparison functions `=` and `< >`. Two objects are equal if and only if they are physically equal. In particular, an object and its copy are not equal.

```ocaml
# let q = Oo.copy p;;
val q : point = <obj>
# p = q, p = p;;
- : bool * bool = (false, true)
```
Other generic comparisons such as (<, <=, ...) can also be used on objects. The relation < defines an unspecified but strict ordering on objects. The ordering relationship between two objects is fixed once for all after the two objects have been created and it is not affected by mutation of fields.

Cloning and override have a non empty intersection. They are interchangeable when used within an object and without overriding any field:

```ocaml
# class copy =
# object
# method copy = < >
# end;;
class copy : object ('a) method copy : 'a end

# class copy =
# object (self)
# method copy = Oo.copy self
# end;;
class copy : object ('a) method copy : 'a end
```

Only the override can be used to actually override fields, and only the `Oo.copy` primitive can be used externally.

Cloning can also be used to provide facilities for saving and restoring the state of objects.

```ocaml
# class backup =
# object (self : 'mytype)
# val mutable copy = None
# method save = copy <- Some {< copy = None >}
# method restore = match copy with Some x -> x | None -> self
# end;;
class backup : object ('a)
  val mutable copy : 'a option
  method restore : 'a
  method save : unit
end
```

The above definition will only backup one level. The backup facility can be added to any class by using multiple inheritance.

```ocaml
# class ['a] backup_ref x = object inherit ['a] oref x inherit backup end;;
class ['a] backup_ref :
  'a ->
  object ('b)
  val mutable copy : 'b option
  val mutable x : 'a
  method get : 'a
  method restore : 'b
  method save : unit
  method set : 'a -> unit
end
```

```ocaml
# let rec get p n = if n = 0 then p # get else get (p # restore) (n-1);;
```
val get : (get : 'b; restore : 'a; .. > as 'a) -> int -> 'b = <fun>

# let p = new backup_ref 0 in
# p # save; p # set 1; p # save; p # set 2;
# [get p 0; get p 1; get p 2; get p 3; get p 4];;
- : int list = [2; 1; 1; 1; 1]

We can define a variant of backup that retains all copies. (We also add a method clear to manually erase all copies.)

# class backup =
# object (self : 'mytype)
#   val mutable copy = None
#   method save = copy <- Some {
#   method restore = match copy with Some x -> x | None -> self
#   method clear = copy <- None
# end;;
class backup :
object ('a)
  val mutable copy : 'a option
  method clear : unit
  method restore : 'a
  method save : unit
end

# class [a] backup_ref x = object inherit [a] oref x inherit backup end;;
class [a] backup_ref :
  'a ->
object ('b)
  val mutable copy : 'b option
  val mutable x : 'a
  method clear : unit
  method get : 'a
  method restore : 'b
  method save : unit
  method set : 'a -> unit
end

# let p = new backup_ref 0 in
# p # save; p # set 1; p # save; p # set 2;
# [get p 0; get p 1; get p 2; get p 3; get p 4];;
- : int list = [2; 1; 0; 0; 0]

3.15 Recursive classes

Recursive classes can be used to define objects whose types are mutually recursive.

# class window =
# object
#   val mutable top_widget = (None : widget option)
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# method top_widget = top_widget
# end
# and widget (w : window) =
# object
# val window = w
# method window = window
# end;;
class window :
  object
    val mutable top_widget : widget option
    method top_widget : widget option
  end
and widget : window -> object val window : window method window : window end

Although their types are mutually recursive, the classes widget and window are themselves independent.

3.16 Binary methods

A binary method is a method which takes an argument of the same type as self. The class comparable below is a template for classes with a binary method leq of type 'a -> bool where the type variable 'a is bound to the type of self. Therefore, #comparable expands to < leq : 'a -> bool; .. > as 'a. We see here that the binder as also allows writing recursive types.

# class virtual comparable =
#  object (_ : 'a)
#  method virtual leq : 'a -> bool
#  end;;
class virtual comparable : object ('a) method virtual leq : 'a -> bool end

We then define a subclass money of comparable. The class money simply wraps floats as comparable objects. We will extend it below with more operations. We have to use a type constraint on the class parameter x because the primitive <= is a polymorphic function in OCaml. The inherit clause ensures that the type of objects of this class is an instance of #comparable.

# class money (x : float) =
#  object
#  inherit comparable
#  val repr = x
#  method value = repr
#  method leq p = repr <= p#value
#  end;;
class money :
  float ->
  object ('a)
    val repr : float
    method leq : 'a -> bool
Note that the type `money` is not a subtype of type `comparable`, as the self type appears in contravariant position in the type of method `leq`. Indeed, an object `m` of class `money` has a method `leq` that expects an argument of type `money` since it accesses its `value` method. Considering `m` of type `comparable` would allow a call to method `leq` on `m` with an argument that does not have a method `value`, which would be an error.

Similarly, the type `money2` below is not a subtype of type `money`.

```plaintext
# class money2 x =
# object
#   inherit money x
#   method times k = {< repr = k *. repr >}
# end;

class money2 :
  float ->
object ('a)
  val repr : float
  method leq : 'a -> bool
  method times : float -> 'a
  method value : float
end
```

It is however possible to define functions that manipulate objects of type either `money` or `money2`: the function `min` will return the minimum of any two objects whose type unifies with `comparable`. The type of `min` is not the same as `comparable -> comparable -> comparable`, as the abbreviation `comparable` hides a type variable (an ellipsis). Each occurrence of this abbreviation generates a new variable.

```plaintext
# let min (x : comparable) y =
#   if x#leq y then x else y;;
val min : (comparable as 'a) -> 'a -> 'a = <fun>
```

This function can be applied to objects of type `money` or `money2`.

```plaintext
# (min (new money 1.3) (new money 3.1))#value;;
- : float = 1.3

# (min (new money2 5.0) (new money2 3.14))#value;;
- : float = 3.14
```

More examples of binary methods can be found in sections 6.2.1 and 6.2.3.

Note the use of `override` for method `times`. Writing `new money2 (k *. repr)` instead of `{< repr = k *. repr >}` would not behave well with inheritance: in a subclass `money3` of `money2` the `times` method would return an object of class `money2` but not of class `money3` as would be expected.

The class `money` could naturally carry another binary method. Here is a direct definition:
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# class money x =
# object (self : 'a)
#   val repr = x
#   method value = repr
#   method print = print_float repr
#   method times k = {< repr = k *. x >}
#   method leq (p : 'a) = repr <= p#value
#   method plus (p : 'a) = {< repr = x +. p#value >}
# end;;
class money :
  float ->
  object ('a)
    val repr : float
    method leq : 'a -> bool
    method plus : 'a -> 'a
    method print : unit
    method times : float -> 'a
    method value : float
  end
e

3.17 Friends

The above class money reveals a problem that often occurs with binary methods. In order to interact with other objects of the same class, the representation of money objects must be revealed, using a method such as value. If we remove all binary methods (here plus and leq), the representation can easily be hidden inside objects by removing the method value as well. However, this is not possible as soon as some binary method requires access to the representation of objects of the same class (other than self).

# class safe_money x =
# object (self : 'a)
#   val repr = x
#   method print = print_float repr
#   method times k = {< repr = k *. x >}
# end;;
class safe_money :
  float ->
  object ('a)
    val repr : float
    method print : unit
    method times : float -> 'a
  end

Here, the representation of the object is known only to a particular object. To make it available to other objects of the same class, we are forced to make it available to the whole world. However we can easily restrict the visibility of the representation using the module system.

# module type MONEY =
Another example of friend functions may be found in section 6.2.3. These examples occur when a group of objects (here objects of the same class) and functions should see each others internal representation, while their representation should be hidden from the outside. The solution is always to define all friends in the same module, give access to the representation and use a signature constraint to make the representation abstract outside the module.
Chapter 4

Labels and variants

(Chapter written by Jacques Garrigue)

This chapter gives an overview of the new features in OCaml 3: labels, and polymorphic variants.

4.1 Labels

If you have a look at modules ending in Labels in the standard library, you will see that function types have annotations you did not have in the functions you defined yourself.

```ocaml
# ListLabels.map;;
- : f:('a -> 'b) -> 'a list -> 'b list = <fun>
# StringLabels.sub;;
- : string -> pos:int -> len:int -> string = <fun>
```

Such annotations of the form name: are called labels. They are meant to document the code, allow more checking, and give more flexibility to function application. You can give such names to arguments in your programs, by prefixing them with a tilde ~.

```ocaml
# let f ~x ~y = x - y;;
val f : x:int -> y:int -> int = <fun>
# let x = 3 and y = 2 in f ~x ~y;;
- : int = 1
```

When you want to use distinct names for the variable and the label appearing in the type, you can use a naming label of the form ~name:. This also applies when the argument is not a variable.

```ocaml
# let f ~x:x1 ~y:y1 = x1 - y1;;
val f : x:int -> y:int -> int = <fun>
# f ~x:3 ~y:2;;
- : int = 1
```
Labels obey the same rules as other identifiers in OCaml, that is you cannot use a reserved keyword (like \texttt{in} or \texttt{to}) as label.

Formal parameters and arguments are matched according to their respective labels\footnote{This correspond to the commuting label mode of Objective Caml 3.00 through 3.02, with some additional flexibility on total applications. The so-called classic mode (\texttt{-nolabels} options) is now deprecated for normal use.}, the absence of label being interpreted as the empty label. This allows commuting arguments in applications. One can also partially apply a function on any argument, creating a new function of the remaining parameters.

\begin{verbatim}
# let f ~x ~y = x - y;;  
val f : x:int -> y:int -> int = <fun>
# f ~y:2 ~x:3;;  
- : int = 1
# ListLabels.fold_left;;
- : f:('a -> 'b -> 'a) -> init:'a -> 'b list -> 'a = <fun>
# ListLabels.fold_left [1;2;3] ~init:0 ~f:( + );;
- : int = 6
# ListLabels.fold_left ~init:0;;
- : f:(int -> 'a -> int) -> 'a list -> int = <fun>
\end{verbatim}

If several arguments of a function bear the same label (or no label), they will not commute among themselves, and order matters. But they can still commute with other arguments.

\begin{verbatim}
# let hline ~x:x1 ~x:x2 ~y = (x1, x2, y);;
val hline : x:'a -> x:'b -> y:'c -> 'a * 'b * 'c = <fun>
# hline ~x:3 ~y:2 ~x:5;;
- : int * int * int = (3, 5, 2)
\end{verbatim}

As an exception to the above parameter matching rules, if an application is total (omitting all optional arguments), labels may be omitted. In practice, many applications are total, so that labels can often be omitted.

\begin{verbatim}
# f 3 2;;
- : int = 1
# ListLabels.map succ [1;2;3];;
- : int list = [2; 3; 4]
\end{verbatim}

But beware that functions like \texttt{ListLabels.fold_left} whose result type is a type variable will never be considered as totally applied.

\begin{verbatim}
# ListLabels.fold_left ( + ) 0 [1;2;3];;
Error: This expression has type int -> int -> int
but an expression was expected of type 'a list
\end{verbatim}

When a function is passed as an argument to a higher-order function, labels must match in both types. Neither adding nor removing labels are allowed.
Chapter 4. Labels and variants

# let h g = g ~x:3 ~y:2;;
val h : (x:int -> y:int -> 'a) -> 'a = <fun>

# h f;;
- : int = 1

# h ( + ) ;;
Error: This expression has type int -> int -> int
but an expression was expected of type x:int -> y:int -> 'a

Note that when you don’t need an argument, you can still use a wildcard pattern, but you must prefix it with the label.

# h (fun ~x:_ ~y -> y+1);;
- : int = 3

### 4.1.1 Optional arguments

An interesting feature of labeled arguments is that they can be made optional. For optional parameters, the question mark ? replaces the tilde ~ of non-optional ones, and the label is also prefixed by ? in the function type. Default values may be given for such optional parameters.

# let bump ?(step = 1) x = x + step;;
val bump : ?step:int -> int -> int = <fun>

# bump 2;;
- : int = 3

# bump ~step:3 2;;
- : int = 5

A function taking some optional arguments must also take at least one non-optional argument. The criterion for deciding whether an optional argument has been omitted is the non-labeled application of an argument appearing after this optional argument in the function type. Note that if that argument is labeled, you will only be able to eliminate optional arguments by totally applying the function, omitting all optional arguments and omitting all labels for all remaining arguments.

# let test ?(x = 0) ?(y = 0) () ?(z = 0) () = (x, y, z);;

# test ();;
- : ?z:int -> unit -> int * int * int = <fun>

# test ~x:2 () ~z:3 ();;
- : int * int * int = (2, 0, 3)

Optional parameters may also commute with non-optional or unlabeled ones, as long as they are applied simultaneously. By nature, optional arguments do not commute with unlabeled arguments applied independently.
# test ~y:2 ~x:3 () ();
- : int * int * int = (3, 2, 0)

# test () () ~z:1 ~y:2 ~x:3;
- : int * int * int = (3, 2, 1)

# (test () ()) ~z:1 ;;

Error: This expression has type int * int * int
This is not a function; it cannot be applied.

Here (test () ()) is already (0,0,0) and cannot be further applied.

Optional arguments are actually implemented as option types. If you do not give a default value,
you have access to their internal representation, type 'a option = None | Some of 'a. You can
then provide different behaviors when an argument is present or not.

# let bump ?step x =
#   match step with
#   | None -> x * 2
#   | Some y -> x + y
# ;;
val bump : ?step:int -> int -> int = <fun>

It may also be useful to relay an optional argument from a function call to another. This can
be done by prefixing the applied argument with ? . This question mark disables the wrapping of
optional argument in an option type.

# let test2 ?x ?y () = test ?x ?y () ();
val test2 : ?x:int -> ?y:int -> unit -> int * int * int = <fun>

# test2 ?x:None;;
- : ?y:int -> unit -> int * int * int = <fun>

4.1.2 Labels and type inference

While they provide an increased comfort for writing function applications, labels and optional
arguments have the pitfall that they cannot be inferred as completely as the rest of the language.

You can see it in the following two examples.

# let h' g = g ~y:2 ~x:3;;
val h' : (y:int -> x:int -> 'a) -> 'a = <fun>

# h' f ;;
Error: This expression has type x:int -> y:int -> int
but an expression was expected of type y:int -> x:int -> 'a

# let bump_it bump x =
#   bump ~step:2 x;;
val bump_it : (step:int -> 'a -> 'b) -> 'a -> 'b = <fun>

# bump_it bump 1 ;;
Error: This expression has type ?step:int -> int -> int
but an expression was expected of type step:int -> 'a -> 'b
The first case is simple: \( g \) is passed \(~y\) and then \(~x\), but \( f \) expects \(~x\) and then \(~y\). This is correctly handled if we know the type of \( g \) to be \( x:\text{int} \rightarrow y:\text{int} \rightarrow \text{int} \) in advance, but otherwise this causes the above type clash. The simplest workaround is to apply formal parameters in a standard order.

The second example is more subtle: while we intended the argument \( \text{bump} \) to be of type \( \text{?step:}\text{int} \rightarrow \text{int} \rightarrow \text{int} \), it is inferred as \( \text{step:}\text{int} \rightarrow \text{int} \rightarrow 'a \). These two types being incompatible (internally normal and optional arguments are different), a type error occurs when applying \( \text{bump} \_\text{it} \) to the real \( \text{bump} \).

We will not try here to explain in detail how type inference works. One must just understand that there is not enough information in the above program to deduce the correct type of \( g \) or \( \text{bump} \). That is, there is no way to know whether an argument is optional or not, or which is the correct order, by looking only at how a function is applied. The strategy used by the compiler is to assume that there are no optional arguments, and that applications are done in the right order.

The right way to solve this problem for optional parameters is to add a type annotation to the argument \( \text{bump} \).

```ml
# let bump_it (bump : ?step:int -> int -> int) x =
#   bump ~step:2 x;;
val bump_it : (?step:int -> int -> int) -> int -> int = <fun>
# bump_it bump 1;;
- : int = 3
```

In practice, such problems appear mostly when using objects whose methods have optional arguments, so that writing the type of object arguments is often a good idea.

Normally the compiler generates a type error if you attempt to pass to a function a parameter whose type is different from the expected one. However, in the specific case where the expected type is a non-labeled function type, and the argument is a function expecting optional parameters, the compiler will attempt to transform the argument to have it match the expected type, by passing \( \text{None} \) for all optional parameters.

```ml
# let twice f (x : int) = f(f x);;
val twice : (int -> int) -> int -> int = <fun>
# twice bump 2;;
- : int = 8
```

This transformation is coherent with the intended semantics, including side-effects. That is, if the application of optional parameters shall produce side-effects, these are delayed until the received function is really applied to an argument.

### 4.1.3 Suggestions for labeling

Like for names, choosing labels for functions is not an easy task. A good labeling is a labeling which

- makes programs more readable,
- is easy to remember,
• when possible, allows useful partial applications.

We explain here the rules we applied when labeling OCaml libraries.

To speak in an “object-oriented” way, one can consider that each function has a main argument, its object, and other arguments related with its action, the parameters. To permit the combination of functions through functionals in commuting label mode, the object will not be labeled. Its role is clear from the function itself. The parameters are labeled with names reminding of their nature or their role. The best labels combine nature and role. When this is not possible the role is to be preferred, since the nature will often be given by the type itself. Obscure abbreviations should be avoided.

ListLabels.map : f:('a -> 'b) -> 'a list -> 'b list

When there are several objects of same nature and role, they are all left unlabeled.

ListLabels.iter2 : f:('a -> 'b -> 'c) -> 'a list -> 'b list -> unit

When there is no preferable object, all arguments are labeled.

BytesLabels.blit :

However, when there is only one argument, it is often left unlabeled.

BytesLabels.create : int -> bytes

This principle also applies to functions of several arguments whose return type is a type variable, as long as the role of each argument is not ambiguous. Labeling such functions may lead to awkward error messages when one attempts to omit labels in an application, as we have seen with ListLabels.fold_left.

Here are some of the label names you will find throughout the libraries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Label</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>f:</td>
<td>a function to be applied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pos:</td>
<td>a position in a string, array or byte sequence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>len:</td>
<td>a length</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>buf:</td>
<td>a byte sequence or string used as buffer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>src:</td>
<td>the source of an operation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dst:</td>
<td>the destination of an operation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>init:</td>
<td>the initial value for an iterator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cmp:</td>
<td>a comparison function, <em>e.g.</em> Pervasives.compare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mode:</td>
<td>an operation mode or a flag list</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All these are only suggestions, but keep in mind that the choice of labels is essential for readability. Bizarre choices will make the program harder to maintain.

In the ideal, the right function name with right labels should be enough to understand the function’s meaning. Since one can get this information with OCamlBrowser or the ocaml toplevel, the documentation is only used when a more detailed specification is needed.
4.2 Polymorphic variants

Variants as presented in section 1.4 are a powerful tool to build data structures and algorithms. However they sometimes lack flexibility when used in modular programming. This is due to the fact that every constructor is assigned to a unique type when defined and used. Even if the same name appears in the definition of multiple types, the constructor itself belongs to only one type. Therefore, one cannot decide that a given constructor belongs to multiple types, or consider a value of some type to belong to some other type with more constructors.

With polymorphic variants, this original assumption is removed. That is, a variant tag does not belong to any type in particular, the type system will just check that it is an admissible value according to its use. You need not define a type before using a variant tag. A variant type will be inferred independently for each of its uses.

Basic use

In programs, polymorphic variants work like usual ones. You just have to prefix their names with a backquote character `.

```ocaml
# ['On; 'Off];;
- : [> 'Off | 'On ] list = ['On; 'Off]

# 'Number 1;;
- : [> 'Number of int ] = 'Number 1

# let f = function 'On -> 1 | 'Off -> 0 | 'Number n -> n;;
val f : [< 'Number of int | 'Off | 'On ] -> int = <fun>

# List.map f ['On; 'Off];;
- : int list = [1; 0]

[>'Off|'On] list means that to match this list, you should at least be able to match `Off and `On, without argument. [<'On|'Off|'Number of int] means that f may be applied to `Off, `On (both without argument), or `Number n where n is an integer. The > and < inside the variant types show that they may still be refined, either by defining more tags or by allowing less. As such, they contain an implicit type variable. Because each of the variant types appears only once in the whole type, their implicit type variables are not shown.

The above variant types were polymorphic, allowing further refinement. When writing type annotations, one will most often describe fixed variant types, that is types that cannot be refined. This is also the case for type abbreviations. Such types do not contain < or >, but just an enumeration of the tags and their associated types, just like in a normal datatype definition.

```ocaml
# type 'a vlist = ['Nil | 'Cons of 'a * 'a vlist];;
type 'a vlist = [ `Cons of 'a * 'a vlist | 'Nil ]

# let rec map f : 'a vlist -> 'b vlist = function
# | 'Nil -> 'Nil
# | 'Cons(a, l) -> 'Cons(f a, map f l)
# ;;
val map : ('a -> 'b) -> 'a vlist -> 'b vlist = <fun>
```
Advanced use

Type-checking polymorphic variants is a subtle thing, and some expressions may result in more complex type information.

```ocaml
# let f = function `A -> `C | `B -> `D | x -> x;;
val f : (>[`A | `B | `C | `D] as 'a) -> 'a = <fun>
```

```ocaml
# f `E;;
- : [>`A | `B | `C | `D | `E] = `E
```

Here we are seeing two phenomena. First, since this matching is open (the last case catches any tag), we obtain the type [>`A | `B] rather than [< `A | `B] in a closed matching. Then, since x is returned as is, input and return types are identical. The notation as 'a denotes such type sharing. If we apply f to yet another tag `E, it gets added to the list.

```ocaml
# let f1 = function `A x -> x = 1 | `B -> true | `C -> false
# let f2 = function `A x -> x = "a" | `B -> true ;;
val f1 : [>`A of int | `B] -> bool = <fun>
val f2 : [< `A of string | `B] -> bool = <fun>
```

```ocaml
# let f x = f1 x && f2 x;;
val f : [>`A of string & int | `B] -> bool = <fun>
```

Here f1 and f2 both accept the variant tags `A and `B, but the argument of `A is int for f1 and string for f2. In f’s type `C, only accepted by f1, disappears, but both argument types appear for `A as int & string. This means that if we pass the variant tag `A to f, its argument should be both int and string. Since there is no such value, f cannot be applied to `A, and `B is the only accepted input.

Even if a value has a fixed variant type, one can still give it a larger type through coercions. Coercions are normally written with both the source type and the destination type, but in simple cases the source type may be omitted.

```ocaml
# type 'a wlist = [`Nil | `Cons of 'a * 'a wlist | `Snoc of 'a wlist * 'a];;
# type 'a wlist = [ `Cons of 'a * `a wlist | `Nil | `Snoc of 'a wlist * 'a ]
```

```ocaml
# let wlist_of_vlist l = (l : 'a vlist :> 'a wlist);;
val wlist_of_vlist : 'a vlist -> 'a wlist = <fun>
```

```ocaml
# let open_vlist l = (l : 'a vlist :> [>`a vlist]);;
val open_vlist : 'a vlist -> [>`a vlist] = <fun>
```

```ocaml
# fun x -> (x : [>`A | `B | `C]);;
- : [>`A | `B | `C] -> [>`A | `B | `C] = <fun>
```

You may also selectively coerce values through pattern matching.
When an or-pattern composed of variant tags is wrapped inside an alias-pattern, the alias is given a type containing only the tags enumerated in the or-pattern. This allows for many useful idioms, like incremental definition of functions.

```ocaml
# let num x = `Num x
# let eval1 eval (`Num x) = x
# let rec eval x = eval1 eval x ;;
val num : 'a -> ['Num of 'a] = <fun>
val eval1 : 'a -> [<`Num of 'b -> 'b] -> 'b = <fun>
val eval : [<`Num of 'a] -> 'a = <fun>

# let plus x y = `Plus(x,y)
# let eval2 eval = function
# | `Plus(x,y) -> eval x + eval y
# | `Num _ as x -> eval1 eval x
# let rec eval x = eval2 eval x ;;
val plus : 'a -> 'b -> ['Plus of 'a * 'b] = <fun>
val eval2 : ('a -> int) -> [<`Num of int / `Plus of 'a * 'a] -> int = <fun>
val eval : ([<`Num of int / `Plus of 'a * 'a as 'a] as 'a) -> int = <fun>
```

To make this even more comfortable, you may use type definitions as abbreviations for or-patterns. That is, if you have defined

```ocaml
type myvariant = `Tag1 of int | `Tag2 of bool,
```

then the pattern `myvariant` is equivalent to writing

```ocaml
(`Tag1(_ : int) | `Tag2(_ : bool)).
```

Such abbreviations may be used alone,

```ocaml
# let f = function
# | #myvariant -> "myvariant"
# | `Tag1 _ -> "Tag1" |
# | `Tag2 _ -> "Tag2";;
val f : [<`Tag1 of int / `Tag2 of bool / `Tag3 ] -> string = <fun>
```

or combined with with aliases.

```ocaml
# let g1 = function `Tag1 _ -> "Tag1" | `Tag2 _ -> "Tag2";;
val g1 : [<`Tag1 of 'a / `Tag2 of 'b ] -> string = <fun>

# let g = function
# | #myvariant as x -> g1 x
# | `Tag3 -> "Tag3";;
val g : [<`Tag1 of int / `Tag2 of bool / `Tag3 ] -> string = <fun>
```

### 4.2.1 Weaknesses of polymorphic variants

After seeing the power of polymorphic variants, one may wonder why they were added to core language variants, rather than replacing them.

The answer is twofold. One first aspect is that while being pretty efficient, the lack of static type information allows for less optimizations, and makes polymorphic variants slightly heavier than core language ones. However noticeable differences would only appear on huge data structures.

More important is the fact that polymorphic variants, while being type-safe, result in a weaker type discipline. That is, core language variants do actually much more than ensuring type-safety,
they also check that you use only declared constructors, that all constructors present in a data-
structure are compatible, and they enforce typing constraints to their parameters.

For this reason, you must be more careful about making types explicit when you use polymorphic
variants. When you write a library, this is easy since you can describe exact types in interfaces,
but for simple programs you are probably better off with core language variants.

Beware also that some idioms make trivial errors very hard to find. For instance, the following
code is probably wrong but the compiler has no way to see it.

```ocaml
# type abc = [\'A | \'B | \'C] ;;
type abc = [\'A | \'B | \'C]

# let f = function
#  | \'As -> "A"
#  | abc -> "other" ;;
val f : [<\'A | \'As | \'B | \'C] -> string = <fun>

# let f : abc -> string = f ;;
val f : abc -> string = <fun>
```

You can avoid such risks by annotating the definition itself.

```ocaml
# let f : abc -> string = function
#  | \'As -> "A"
#  | abc -> "other" ;;
Error: This pattern matches values of type [? \'As]
   but a pattern was expected which matches values of type abc
   The second variant type does not allow tag(s) \'As
```
Chapter 5

Polymorphism and its limitations

This chapter covers more advanced questions related to the limitations of polymorphic functions and types. There are some situations in OCaml where the type inferred by the type checker may be less generic than expected. Such non-genericity can stem either from interactions between side-effect and typing or the difficulties of implicit polymorphic recursion and higher-rank polymorphism.

This chapter details each of these situations and, if it is possible, how to recover genericity.

5.1 Weak polymorphism and mutation

5.1.1 Weakly polymorphic types

Maybe the most frequent examples of non-genericity derive from the interactions between polymorphic types and mutation. A simple example appears when typing the following expression

```ocaml
let store = ref None ;;
val store : '_weak1 option ref = {contents = None}
```

Since the type of `None` is `'a option` and the function `ref` has type `'b -> 'b ref`, a natural deduction for the type of `store` would be `'a option ref`. However, the inferred type, `'weak1 option ref`, is different. Type variables whose name starts with a `_weak` prefix like `_weak1` are weakly polymorphic type variables, sometimes shortened as weak type variables. A weak type variable is a placeholder for a single type that is currently unknown. Once the specific type `t` behind the placeholder type `_weak1` is known, all occurrences of `_weak1` will be replaced by `t`. For instance, we can define another option reference and store an `int` inside:

```ocaml
let another_store = ref None ;;
val another_store : '_weak2 option ref = {contents = None}

let another_store := Some 0;

val another_store = {contents = Some 0}
```

After storing an `int` inside `another_store`, the type of `another_store` has been updated from `_weak2 option ref` to `int option ref`. This distinction between weakly and generic polymorphic type variable protects OCaml programs from unsoundness and runtime errors. To understand
from where unsoundness might come, consider this simple function which swaps a value \( x \) with the value stored inside a \texttt{store} reference, if there is such value:

```ocaml
# let swap store x = match !store with
# | None -> store := Some x; x
# | Some y -> store := Some x; y;;
val swap : 'a option ref -> 'a -> 'a = <fun>
```

We can apply this function to our store

```ocaml
# let one = swap store 1
# let one_again = swap store 2
# let two = swap store 3;;
val one : int = 1
val one_again : int = 1
val two : int = 2
```

After these three swaps the stored value is \( 3 \). Everything is fine up to now. We can then try to swap \( 3 \) with a more interesting value, for instance a function:

```ocaml
# let error = swap store (fun x -> x);;
Error: This expression should not be a function, the expected type is int
```

At this point, the type checker rightfully complains that it is not possible to swap an integer and a function, and that an \texttt{int} should always be traded for another \texttt{int}. Furthermore, the type checker prevents us to change manually the type of the value stored by \texttt{store}:

```ocaml
# store := Some (fun x -> x);;
Error: This expression should not be a function, the expected type is int
```

Indeed, looking at the type of store, we see that the weak type \texttt{'\_weak1} has been replaced by the type \texttt{int}.

```ocaml
# store;;
- : int option ref = {contents = Some 3}
```

Therefore, after placing an \texttt{int} in \texttt{store}, we cannot use it to store any value other than an \texttt{int}. More generally, weak types protect the program from undue mutation of values with a polymorphic type.

Moreover, weak types cannot appear in the signature of toplevel modules: types must be known at compilation time. Otherwise, different compilation units could replace the weak type with different and incompatible types. For this reason, compiling the following small piece of code

```ocaml
let option_ref = ref None
```

yields a compilation error

```
Error: The type of this expression, '\_weak1 option ref, contains type variables that cannot be generalized
```

To solve this error, it is enough to add an explicit type annotation to specify the type at declaration time:
let option_ref: int option ref = ref None

This is in any case a good practice for such global mutable variables. Otherwise, they will pick
out the type of first use. If there is a mistake at this point, this can result in confusing type errors
when later, correct uses are flagged as errors.

5.1.2 The value restriction

Identifying the exact context in which polymorphic types should be replaced by weak types in
a modular way is a difficult question. Indeed the type system must handle the possibility that
functions may hide persistent mutable states. For instance, the following function uses an internal
reference to implement a delayed identity function

# let make_fake_id () =
#   let store = ref None in
#   fun x -> swap store x ;;
val make_fake_id : unit -> 'a -> 'a = <fun>

It would be unsound to apply this fake_id function to values with different types. The function
fake_id is therefore rightfully assigned the type '_weak3 -> '_weak3 rather than 'a -> 'a. At the
same time, it ought to be possible to use a local mutable state without impacting the type of a
function.

To circumvent these dual difficulties, the type checker considers that any value returned by a
function might rely on persistent mutable states behind the scene and should be given a weak type.
This restriction on the type of mutable values and the results of function application is called the
value restriction. Note that this value restriction is conservative: there are situations where the
value restriction is too cautious and gives a weak type to a value that could be safely generalized
to a polymorphic type:

# let not_id = (fun x -> x) (fun x -> x);
val not_id : '_weak4 -> '_weak4 = <fun>

Quite often, this happens when defining function using higher order function. To avoid this problem,
a solution is to add an explicit argument to the function:

# let id_again = fun x -> (fun x -> x) (fun x -> x) x ;;
val id_again : 'a -> 'a = <fun>

With this argument, id_again is seen as a function definition by the type checker and can therefore be generalized. This kind of manipulation is called eta-expansion in lambda calculus and is
sometimes referred under this name.

5.1.3 The relaxed value restriction

There is another partial solution to the problem of unnecessary weak type, which is implemented
directly within the type checker. Briefly, it is possible to prove that weak types that only appear
as type parameters in covariant positions –also called positive positions– can be safely generalized
to polymorphic types. For instance, the type 'a list is covariant in 'a:
Remark that the type inferred for `empty` is `'a list` and not `_weak5 list` that should have occurred with the value restriction since `f ()` is a function application.

The value restriction combined with this generalization for covariant type parameters is called the relaxed value restriction.

5.1.4 Variance and value restriction

Variance describes how type constructors behave with respect to subtyping. Consider for instance a pair of type `x` and `xy` with `x` a subtype of `xy`, denoted `x :> xy`:

```ocaml
# type x = ['X ];
type x = ['X ]
# type xy = ['X | 'Y ];
type xy = ['X | 'Y ]
```

As `x` is a subtype of `xy`, we can convert a value of type `x` to a value of type `xy`:

```ocaml
# let x:x = 'X;;
val x : x = 'X
# let x' = ( x :> xy);;
val x' : xy = 'X
```

Similarly, if we have a value of type `x list`, we can convert it to a value of type `xy list`, since we could convert each element one by one:

```ocaml
# let l:x list = ['X; 'X];;
val l : x list = ['X; 'X]
# let l' = ( l :> xy list);;
val l' : xy list = ['X; 'X]
```

In other words, `x :> xy` implies that `x list :> xy list`, therefore the type constructor `'a list` is covariant (it preserves subtyping) in its parameter `'a`.

Contrarily, if we have a function that can handle values of type `xy`

```ocaml
# let f: xy -> unit = function
# | 'X -> ()
# | 'Y -> ();;
val f : xy -> unit = <fun>
```

it can also handle values of type `x`:

```ocaml
# let f' = (f :> x -> unit);;
val f' : x -> unit = <fun>
```
Note that we can rewrite the type of \( f \) and \( f' \) as

\[
\# \text{ type } 'a \ proc = 'a \rightarrow \text{unit} \\
\# \text{ let } f' = (f: xy \ proc :> x \ proc);; \\
\text{type } 'a \ proc = 'a \rightarrow \text{unit} \\
\text{val } f' : x \ proc = \text{<fun>} 
\]

In this case, we have \( x :> xy \) implies \( xy \ proc :> x \ proc \). Notice that the second subtyping relation reverse the order of \( x \) and \( xy \): the type constructor \('a \ proc\) is contravariant in its parameter \('a\). More generally, the function type constructor \('a \rightarrow 'b\) is covariant in its return type \('b\) and contravariant in its argument type \('a\).

A type constructor can also be invariant in some of its type parameters, neither covariant nor contravariant. A typical example is a reference:

\[
\# \text{ let } x: x \ ref = \text{ref } 'X;; \\
\text{val } x : x \ ref = \{ \text{contents } = 'X\} 
\]

If we were able to coerce \( x \) to the type \( xy \ ref \) as a variable \( xy \), we could use \( xy \) to store the value \('Y\) inside the reference and then use the \( x \) value to read this content as a value of type \( x \), which would break the type system.

More generally, as soon as a type variable appears in a position describing mutable state it becomes invariant. As a corollary, covariant variables will never denote mutable locations and can be safely generalized. For a better description, interested readers can consult the original article by Jacques Garrigue on [http://www.math.nagoya-u.ac.jp/~garrigue/papers/morepoly-long.pdf](http://www.math.nagoya-u.ac.jp/~garrigue/papers/morepoly-long.pdf)

Together, the relaxed value restriction and type parameter covariance help to avoid eta-expansion in many situations.

### 5.1.5 Abstract data types

Moreover, when the type definitions are exposed, the type checker is able to infer variance information on its own and one can benefit from the relaxed value restriction even unknowingly. However, this is not the case anymore when defining new abstract types. As an illustration, we can define a module type collection as:

\[
\# \text{ module type COLLECTION = sig} \\
\# \text{ type } 'a \ t \\
\# \text{ val empty: unit } \rightarrow 'a \ t \\
\# \text{ end} \\
\# \text{ module Implementation = struct} \\
\# \text{ type } 'a \ t = 'a \ list \\
\# \text{ let empty ()= []} \\
\# \text{ end};; \\
\text{module type COLLECTION = sig } 'a \ t \ \text{val empty : unit } \rightarrow 'a \ t \ \text{end} \\
\text{module Implementation :} \\
\text{ sig } 'a \ t = 'a \ list \ \text{val empty : unit } \rightarrow 'a \ list \ \text{end} \\
\# \text{ module List2: COLLECTION = Implementation};; \\
\text{module List2 : COLLECTION}
\]
In this situation, when coercing the module List2 to the module type COLLECTION, the type checker forgets that 'a List2.t was covariant in 'a. Consequently, the relaxed value restriction does not apply anymore:

```ocaml
# List2.empty ();;
- : _weak5 List2.t = <abstr>
```

To keep the relaxed value restriction, we need to declare the abstract type 'a COLLECTION.t as covariant in 'a:

```ocaml
# module type COLLECTION = sig
  type +'a t
  val empty : unit -> 'a t
# end
# module List2 : COLLECTION = Implementation;;
module type COLLECTION = sig type +'a t val empty : unit -> 'a t end
module List2 : COLLECTION
```

We then recover polymorphism:

```ocaml
# List2.empty ();;
- : 'a List2.t = <abstr>
```

### 5.2 Polymorphic recursion

The second major class of non-genericity is directly related to the problem of type inference for polymorphic functions. In some circumstances, the type inferred by OCaml might be not general enough to allow the definition of some recursive functions, in particular for recursive function acting on non-regular algebraic data type.

With a regular polymorphic algebraic data type, the type parameters of the type constructor are constant within the definition of the type. For instance, we can look at arbitrarily nested list defined as:

```ocaml
# type 'a regular_nested = List of 'a list | Nested of 'a regular_nested list
# let l = Nested [ List [1]; Nested [List [2; 3]]; Nested [Nested []] ];;
val l : int regular_nested =
  Nested [ List [1]; Nested [ List [2; 3] ]; Nested [ Nested [] ] ]
```

Note that the type constructor regular_nested always appears as 'a regular_nested in the definition above, with the same parameter 'a. Equipped with this type, one can compute a maximal depth with a classic recursive function

```ocaml
# let rec maximal_depth = function
# | List _ -> 1
# | Nested [] -> 0
# | Nested (a;:q) -> 1 + max (maximal_depth a) (maximal_depth (Nested q));;
val maximal_depth : 'a regular_nested -> int = <fun>
```
Non-regular recursive algebraic data types correspond to polymorphic algebraic data types whose parameter types vary between the left and right side of the type definition. For instance, it might be interesting to define a datatype that ensures that all lists are nested at the same depth:

```ocaml
# type 'a nested = List of 'a list | Nested of 'a list nested;;
type 'a nested = List of 'a list | Nested of 'a list nested
```

Intuitively, a value of type 'a nested is a list of list ... of list of elements a with k nested list. We can then adapt the maximal_depth function defined on regular_depth into a depth function that computes this k. As a first try, we may define

```ocaml
# let rec depth = function
# | List _ -> 1
# | Nested n -> 1 + depth n;;
Error: This expression has type 'a list nested
but an expression was expected of type 'a nested
The type variable 'a occurs inside 'a list
```

The type error here comes from the fact that during the definition of depth, the type checker first assigns to depth the type 'a -> 'b. When typing the pattern matching, 'a -> 'b becomes 'a nested -> 'b, then 'a nested -> int once the List branch is typed. However, when typing the application depth n in the Nested branch, the type checker encounters a problem: depth n is applied to 'a list nested, it must therefore have the type 'a list nested -> 'b. Unifying this constraint with the previous one leads to the impossible constraint 'a list nested = 'a nested. In other words, within its definition, the recursive function depth is applied to values of type 'a t with different types 'a due to the non-regularity of the type constructor nested. This creates a problem because the type checker had introduced a new type variable 'a only at the definition of the function depth whereas, here, we need a different type variable for every application of the function depth.

### 5.2.1 Explicitly polymorphic annotations

The solution of this conundrum is to use an explicitly polymorphic type annotation for the type 'a:

```ocaml
# let rec depth: 'a. 'a nested -> int = function
# | List _ -> 1
# | Nested n -> 1 + depth n;;
```

In the type of depth, 'a. 'a nested -> int, the type variable 'a is universally quantified. In other words, 'a. 'a nested -> int reads as “for all type 'a, depth maps 'a nested values to integers”. Whereas the standard type 'a nested -> int can be interpreted as “let be a type variable 'a, then depth maps 'a nested values to integers”. There are two major differences with these two type expressions. First, the explicit polymorphic annotation indicates to the type checker that it needs
to introduce a new type variable every times the function \texttt{depth} is applied. This solves our problem with the definition of the function \texttt{depth}.

Second, it also notifies the type checker that the type of the function should be polymorphic. Indeed, without explicit polymorphic type annotation, the following type annotation is perfectly valid

\begin{verbatim}
# let sum: 'a -> 'b -> 'c = fun x y -> x + y;;
val sum : int -> int -> int = <fun>
\end{verbatim}

since \texttt{'a,'b and 'c} denote type variables that may or may not be polymorphic. Whereas, it is an error to unify an explicitly polymorphic type with a non-polymorphic type:

\begin{verbatim}
# let sum: 'a 'b 'c. 'a -> 'b -> 'c = fun x y -> x + y;;
Error: This definition has type int -> int -> int which is less general than
  'a 'b 'c. 'a -> 'b -> 'c
\end{verbatim}

An important remark here is that it is not needed to explicit fully the type of \texttt{depth}: it is sufficient to add annotations only for the universally quantified type variables:

\begin{verbatim}
# let rec depth: 'a. 'a nested -> _ = function
#   | List _ -> 1
#   | Nested n -> 1 + depth n;;
val depth : 'a nested -> int = <fun>
# depth ( Nested(List [ [7]; [8] ]) );;
- : int = 2
\end{verbatim}

5.2.2 More examples

With explicit polymorphic annotations, it becomes possible to implement any recursive function that depends only on the structure of the nested lists and not on the type of the elements. For instance, a more complex example would be to compute the total number of elements of the nested lists:

\begin{verbatim}
# let len nested =
#   let map_and_sum f = List.fold_left (fun acc x -> acc + f x) 0 in
#   let rec len: 'a. ('a list -> int ) -> 'a nested -> int =
#     fun nested_len n ->
#       match n with
#       | List l -> nested_len l
#       | Nested n -> len (map_and_sum nested_len) n
#       in
#     len List.length nested;;
val len : 'a nested -> int = <fun>
# len (Nested(Nested(List [ [1;2]; [3] ]; [ [ ]; [4]; [5;6;7]]; [[]] ) ) ) ;;
- : int = 7
\end{verbatim}

Similarly, it may be necessary to use more than one explicitly polymorphic type variables, like for computing the nested list of list lengths of the nested list:
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# let shape n =
#  let rec shape: 'a 'b. (a nested -> int nested) ->
#      ('b list list -> 'a list) -> 'b nested -> int nested
#      = fun nest nested_shape ->
#        function
#        | List l -> raise
#        | Nested (List l) -> nest @@ List (nested_shape l)
#        | Nested n ->
#          let nested_shape = List.map nested_shape in
#          let nest x = nest (Nested x) in
#          shape nest nested_shape n in
#        shape (fun n -> n ) (fun l -> List.map List.length l ) n;;
val shape : 'a nested -> int nested = <fun>

# shape (Nested(Nested(List [ [ [1;2]; [3] ]; [ [] ]; [4]; [5;6;7]]; [] )));;
- : int nested = Nested (List [[2; 1]; [0; 1; 3]; [0]])

5.3 Higher-rank polymorphic functions

Explicit polymorphic annotations are however not sufficient to cover all the cases where the inferred type of a function is less general than expected. A similar problem arises when using polymorphic functions as arguments of higher-order functions. For instance, we may want to compute the average depth or length of two nested lists:

# let average_depth x y = (depth x + depth y) / 2;;
val average_depth : 'a nested -> 'b nested -> int = <fun>

# let average_len x y = (len x + len y) / 2;;
val average_len : 'a nested -> 'b nested -> int = <fun>

# let one = average_len (List [2]) (List [[]]);;
val one : int = 1

It would be natural to factorize these two definitions as:

# let average f x y = (f x + f y) / 2;;
val average : ('a -> int) -> 'a -> 'a -> int = <fun>

However, the type of average len is less generic than the type of average_len, since it requires the type of the first and second argument to be the same:

# average_len (List [2]) (List [[]]);;
- : int = 1

# average len (List [2]) (List [[]]);;
Error: This expression has type 'a list
    but an expression was expected of type int
As previously with polymorphic recursion, the problem stems from the fact that type variables are introduced only at the start of the let definitions. When we compute both \( f \ x \) and \( f \ y \), the type of \( x \) and \( y \) are unified together. To avoid this unification, we need to indicate to the type checker that \( f \) is polymorphic in its first argument. In some sense, we would want \texttt{average} to have type

\[
\texttt{val average: ('a. 'a nested -> int) -> 'a nested -> 'b nested -> int}
\]

Note that this syntax is not valid within OCaml: \texttt{average} has an universally quantified type \( 'a \) inside the type of one of its argument whereas for polymorphic recursion the universally quantified type was introduced before the rest of the type. This position of the universally quantified type means that \texttt{average} is a second-rank polymorphic function. This kind of higher-rank functions is not directly supported by OCaml: type inference for second-rank polymorphic function and beyond is undecidable; therefore using this kind of higher-rank functions requires to handle manually these universally quantified types.

In OCaml, there are two ways to introduce this kind of explicit universally quantified types: universally quantified record fields,

```ocaml
# type 'a nested_reduction = { f:'elt. 'elt nested -> 'a };;
type 'a nested_reduction = { f : 'elt. 'elt nested -> 'a; }
# let boxed_len = { f = len };;
val boxed_len : int nested_reduction = {f = <fun>}
```

and universally quantified object methods:

```ocaml
# let obj_len = object method f:'a. 'a nested -> 'b = len end;;
val obj_len : < f : 'a. 'a nested -> int > = <obj>
```

To solve our problem, we can therefore use either the record solution:

```ocaml
# let average nsm x y = (nsm.f x + nsm.f y) / 2 ;;
val average : int nested_reduction -> 'a nested -> 'b nested -> int = <fun>
```

or the object one:

```ocaml
# let average (obj:<f:'a. 'a nested -> _ > ) x y = (obj#f x + obj#f y) / 2 ;;
val average : < f : 'a. 'a nested -> int > -> 'b nested -> 'c nested -> int = <fun>
```
Chapter 6

Advanced examples with classes and modules

(Chapter written by Didier Rémy)

In this chapter, we show some larger examples using objects, classes and modules. We review many of the object features simultaneously on the example of a bank account. We show how modules taken from the standard library can be expressed as classes. Lastly, we describe a programming pattern known as virtual types through the example of window managers.

6.1 Extended example: bank accounts

In this section, we illustrate most aspects of Object and inheritance by refining, debugging, and specializing the following initial naive definition of a simple bank account. (We reuse the module Euro defined at the end of chapter 3.)

```ocaml
# let euro = new Euro.c;;
val euro : float -> Euro.c = <fun>
# let zero = euro 0.;;
val zero : Euro.c = <obj>
# let neg x = x * (-1.);;
val neg : < times : float -> 'a; .. > -> 'a = <fun>
# class account =
# object
#   val mutable balance = zero
#   method balance = balance
#   method deposit x = balance <- balance + x
#   method withdraw x =
#     if x <= balance then (balance <- balance + (neg x); x) else zero
# end;;
class account :
  object
```

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We now refine this definition with a method to compute interest.

```
# let c = new account in c # deposit (euro 100.); c # withdraw (euro 50.);;
- : Euro.c = <obj>
```

We make the method `interest` private, since clearly it should not be called freely from the outside. Here, it is only made accessible to subclasses that will manage monthly or yearly updates of the account.

We should soon fix a bug in the current definition: the deposit method can be used for withdrawing money by depositing negative amounts. We can fix this directly:

```
# class safe_account =
#  object
#    inherit account
#    method deposit x = if zero#leq x then balance <- balance#plus x
#    end;
# class safe_account :

object
  val mutable balance : Euro.c
  method balance : Euro.c
  method deposit : Euro.c -> unit
  method private interest : unit
  method withdraw : Euro.c -> Euro.c
end
```

However, the bug might be fixed more safely by the following definition:

```
# class safe_account =
#  object
#    inherit account as unsafe
#    method deposit x =
```
if zero#leq x then unsafe # deposit x
else raise (Invalid_argument "deposit")
end;

class safe_account :
  object
    val mutable balance : Euro.c
    method balance : Euro.c
    method deposit : Euro.c -> unit
    method withdraw : Euro.c -> Euro.c
  end

In particular, this does not require the knowledge of the implementation of the method deposit.

To keep track of operations, we extend the class with a mutable field history and a private method trace to add an operation in the log. Then each method to be traced is redefined.

# type 'a operation = Deposit of 'a | Retrieval of 'a;;

# class account_with_history =
#  object (self)
#    inherit safe_account as super
#    val mutable history = []
#    method private trace x = history <- x :: history
#    method deposit x = self#trace (Deposit x); super#deposit x
#    method withdraw x = self#trace (Retrieval x); super#withdraw x
#    method history = List.rev history
#  end;

class account_with_history :
  object
    val mutable balance : Euro.c
    val mutable history : Euro.c operation list
    method balance : Euro.c
    method deposit : Euro.c -> unit
    method history : Euro.c operation list
    method private trace : Euro.c operation -> unit
    method withdraw : Euro.c operation -> Euro.c
  end

One may wish to open an account and simultaneously deposit some initial amount. Although the initial implementation did not address this requirement, it can be achieved by using an initializer.

# class account_with_deposit x =
#  object
#    inherit account_with_history
#    initializer balance <- x
#  end;;

class account_with_deposit :
  Euro.c ->
  object
    val mutable balance : Euro.c
val mutable history : Euro.c operation list
method balance : Euro.c
method deposit : Euro.c -> unit
method history : Euro.c operation list
method private trace : Euro.c operation -> unit
method withdraw : Euro.c -> Euro.c
end

A better alternative is:

# class account_with_deposit x =
# object (self)
#   inherit account_with_history
#   initializer self#deposit x
# end;;
class account_with_deposit :
Euro.c ->
object
  val mutable balance : Euro.c
  val mutable history : Euro.c operation list
  method balance : Euro.c
  method deposit : Euro.c -> unit
  method history : Euro.c operation list
  method private trace : Euro.c operation -> unit
  method withdraw : Euro.c -> Euro.c
end

Indeed, the latter is safer since the call to deposit will automatically benefit from safety checks and from the trace. Let’s test it:

# let ccp = new account_with_deposit (euro 100.) in
# let _balance = ccp#withdraw (euro 50.) in
# ccp#history;;

- : Euro.c operation list = [Deposit <obj>; Retrieval <obj>]

Closing an account can be done with the following polymorphic function:

# let close c = c#withdraw c#balance;;

val close : < balance : 'a; withdraw : 'a -> 'b; .. > -> 'b = <fun>

Of course, this applies to all sorts of accounts.

Finally, we gather several versions of the account into a module Account abstracted over some currency.

# let today () = (01,01,2000) (* an approximation *)
# module Account (M:MONEY) =
# struct
#   type m = M.c
#   let m = new M.c
#   let zero = m 0.
# class bank =
# object (self)
# val mutable balance = zero
# method balance = balance
# val mutable history = []
# method private trace x = history <- x::history
# method deposit x =
# self#trace (Deposit x);
# if zero#leq x then balance <- balance # plus x
# else raise (Invalid_argument "deposit")
# method withdraw x =
# if x#leq balance then
# (balance <- balance # plus (neg x); self#trace (Retrieval x); x)
# else zero
# method history = List.rev history
# end

# class type client_view =
# object
# method deposit : m -> unit
# method history : m operation list
# method withdraw : m -> m
# method balance : m
# end

# class virtual check_client x =
# let y = if (m 100.)#leq x then x
# else raise (Failure "Insufficient initial deposit") in
# object (self)
# initializer self#deposit y
# method virtual deposit: m -> unit
# end

# module Client (B : sig class bank : client_view end) =
# struct
# class account x : client_view =
# object
# inherit B.bank
# inherit check_client x
# end
# let discount x =
# let c = new account x in
# if today() < (1998,10,30) then c # deposit (m 100.); c
# end
# end;

This shows the use of modules to group several class definitions that can in fact be thought of as a single unit. This unit would be provided by a bank for both internal and external uses. This is implemented as a functor that abstracts over the currency so that the same code can be used to
provide accounts in different currencies.

The class \texttt{bank} is the \textit{real} implementation of the bank account (it could have been inlined). This is the one that will be used for further extensions, refinements, etc. Conversely, the client will only be given the client view.

```ocaml
# module Euro_account = Account(Euro);;
# module Client = Euro_account.Client (Euro_account);;
# new Client.account (new Euro.c 100.);;
```

Hence, the clients do not have direct access to the \texttt{balance}, nor the \texttt{history} of their own accounts. Their only way to change their balance is to deposit or withdraw money. It is important to give the clients a class and not just the ability to create accounts (such as the promotional \texttt{discount} account), so that they can personalize their account. For instance, a client may refine the \texttt{deposit} and \texttt{withdraw} methods so as to do his own financial bookkeeping, automatically. On the other hand, the function \texttt{discount} is given as such, with no possibility for further personalization.

It is important to provide the client’s view as a functor \texttt{Client} so that client accounts can still be built after a possible specialization of the \texttt{bank}. The functor \texttt{Client} may remain unchanged and be passed the new definition to initialize a client’s view of the extended account.

```ocaml
# module Investment_account (M : MONEY) =
#   struct
#     type m = M.c
#     module A = Account(M)
#     class bank =
#       object
#         inherit A.bank as super
#         method deposit x =
#           if (new M.c 1000.)#leq x then
#             print_string "Would you like to invest?";
#             super#deposit x
#         end
#       module Client = A.Client
#     end;
```

The functor \texttt{Client} may also be redefined when some new features of the account can be given to the client.

```ocaml
# module Internet_account (M : MONEY) =
#   struct
#     type m = M.c
#     module A = Account(M)
#     class bank =
#       object
#         inherit A.bank
#         method mail s = print_string s
#       end
```
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# class type client_view =
# object
#   method deposit : m -> unit
#   method history : m operation list
#   method withdraw : m -> m
#   method balance : m
#   method mail : string -> unit
# end
# module Client (B : sig class bank : client_view end) =
# struct
#   class account x : client_view =
#     object
#       inherit B.bank
#       inherit A.check_client x
#     end
#   end
# end;;

6.2 Simple modules as classes

One may wonder whether it is possible to treat primitive types such as integers and strings as objects. Although this is usually uninteresting for integers or strings, there may be some situations where this is desirable. The class money above is such an example. We show here how to do it for strings.

6.2.1 Strings

A naive definition of strings as objects could be:

# class ostring s =
# object
#   method get n = String.get s n
#   method print = print_string s
#   method escaped = new ostring (String.escaped s)
# end;

class ostring : string ->
  object
    method escaped : ostring
    method get : int -> char
    method print : unit
  end

However, the method escaped returns an object of the class ostring, and not an object of the current class. Hence, if the class is further extended, the method escaped will only return an object of the parent class.
As seen in section 3.16, the solution is to use functional update instead. We need to create an instance variable containing the representation s of the string.

As shown in the inferred type, the methods escaped and sub now return objects of the same type as the one of the class.

Another difficulty is the implementation of the method concat. In order to concatenate a string with another string of the same class, one must be able to access the instance variable externally. Thus, a method repr returning s must be defined. Here is the correct definition of strings:

``` Ocaml
# class ostring s =
# object (self : 'mytype)
#   val repr = s
#   method repr = repr
#   method get n = String.get repr n
#   method print = print_string repr
#   method escaped = {< repr = String.escaped repr >}
#   method sub start len = {< repr = String.sub s start len >}
# end;

class ostring : string ->
  object (self : 'mytype)
    val repr : string
    method escaped : 'a
    method get : int -> char
    method print : unit
    method sub : int -> int -> 'a
  end
```
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```ocaml
# method concat (t : 'mytype) = {< repr = repr ^ t#repr >}
# end;;
class ostring :
  string ->
  object ('a)
    val repr : string
    method concat : 'a -> 'a
    method escaped : 'a
    method get : int -> char
    method print : unit
    method repr : string
    method sub : int -> int -> 'a
  end

Another constructor of the class string can be defined to return a new string of a given length:

# class cstring n = ostring (String.make n ' ');;
class cstring : int -> ostring

Here, exposing the representation of strings is probably harmless. We do could also hide the representation of strings as we hid the currency in the class money of section 3.17.

Stacks

There is sometimes an alternative between using modules or classes for parametric data types. Indeed, there are situations when the two approaches are quite similar. For instance, a stack can be straightforwardly implemented as a class:

# exception Empty;;
exception Empty
# class ['a] stack =
#  object
#    val mutable l = ([] : 'a list)
#    method push x = l <- x::l
#    method pop = match l with [] -> raise Empty | a::l' -> l <- l'; a
#    method clear = l <- []
#    method length = List.length l
#  end;;
class ['a] stack :
  object
    val mutable l : 'a list
    method clear : unit
    method length : int
    method pop : 'a
    method push : 'a -> unit
  end
```

However, writing a method for iterating over a stack is more problematic. A method fold would have type ('b -> 'a -> 'b) -> 'b -> 'b. Here 'a is the parameter of the stack. The parameter 'b is not related to the class 'a stack but to the argument that will be passed to the method fold. A naive approach is to make 'b an extra parameter of class stack:
# class ['a, 'b] stack2 =
# object
#   inherit ['a] stack
#   method fold f (x : 'b) = List.fold_left f x l
# end;
class ['a, 'b] stack2 :
  object
    val mutable l : 'a list
    method clear : unit
    method fold : ('b -> 'a -> 'b) -> 'b
    method length : int
    method pop : 'a
    method push : 'a -> unit
  end

However, the method fold of a given object can only be applied to functions that all have the same type:

# let s = new stack2;;
val s : ( '_weak1, '_weak2) stack2 = <obj>
# s#fold ( + ) 0;;
- : int = 0
# s;;
- : (int, int) stack2 = <obj>

A better solution is to use polymorphic methods, which were introduced in OCaml version 3.05. Polymorphic methods makes it possible to treat the type variable 'b in the type of fold as universally quantified, giving fold the polymorphic type \texttt{Forall 'b. ('b -> 'a -> 'b) -> 'b -> 'b}. An explicit type declaration on the method fold is required, since the type checker cannot infer the polymorphic type by itself.

# class ['a] stack3 =
# object
#   inherit ['a] stack
#   method fold : 'b. ('b -> 'a -> 'b) -> 'b
#     = fun f x -> List.fold_left f x l
# end;
class ['a] stack3 :
  object
    val mutable l : 'a list
    method clear : unit
    method fold : ('b -> 'a -> 'b) -> 'b
    method length : int
    method pop : 'a
    method push : 'a -> unit
  end

6.2.2 Hashtbl

A simplified version of object-oriented hash tables should have the following class type.
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```ocaml
# class type ['a, 'b] hash_table =
#   object
#   method find : 'a -> 'b
#   method add : 'a -> 'b -> unit
# end;
```

```ocaml
class type ['a, 'b] hash_table =
  object
    method add : 'a -> 'b -> unit
    method find : 'a -> 'b
  end
```

A simple implementation, which is quite reasonable for small hash tables is to use an association list:

```ocaml
# class ['a, 'b] small_hashtbl : ['a, 'b] hash_table =
#   object
#   val mutable table = []
#   method find key = List.assoc key table
#   method add key valeur = table <- (key, valeur) :: table
# end;
```

```ocaml
class ['a, 'b] small_hashtbl : ['a, 'b] hash_table
```

A better implementation, and one that scales up better, is to use a true hash table... whose elements are small hash tables!

```ocaml
# class ['a, 'b] hashtbl size : ['a, 'b] hash_table =
#   object
#   val table = Array.init size (fun i -> new small_hashtbl)
#   method private hash key =
#     (Hashtbl.hash key) mod (Array.length table)
#   method find key = table.(self#hash key) # find key
#   method add key = table.(self#hash key) # add key
# end;
```

```ocaml
class ['a, 'b] hashtbl : int -> ['a, 'b] hash_table
```

### 6.2.3 Sets

Implementing sets leads to another difficulty. Indeed, the method `union` needs to be able to access the internal representation of another object of the same class.

This is another instance of friend functions as seen in section 3.17. Indeed, this is the same mechanism used in the module `Set` in the absence of objects.

In the object-oriented version of sets, we only need to add an additional method `tag` to return the representation of a set. Since sets are parametric in the type of elements, the method `tag` has a parametric type `'a tag`, concrete within the module definition but abstract in its signature. From outside, it will then be guaranteed that two objects with a method `tag` of the same type will share the same representation.

```ocaml
# module type SET =
#   sig
#     type 'a tag
#     class ['a] c :
```
6.3 The subject/observer pattern

The following example, known as the subject/observer pattern, is often presented in the literature as a difficult inheritance problem with inter-connected classes. The general pattern amounts to the definition a pair of two classes that recursively interact with one another.

The class observer has a distinguished method notify that requires two arguments, a subject and an event to execute an action.

```plaintext
# class virtual ['subject, 'event] observer =
# object
#   method virtual notify : 'subject -> 'event -> unit
```
The class `subject` remembers a list of observers in an instance variable, and has a distinguished method `notifyObservers` to broadcast the message `notify` to all observers with a particular event `e`.

```ocaml
# class ['observer, 'event] subject =
#  object (self)
#     val mutable observers = ([]:'observer list)
#     method add_observer obs = observers <- (obs :: observers)
#     method notifyObservers (e : 'event) =
#         List.iter (fun x -> x#notify self e) observers
#  end;

# class ['a, 'event] subject :
#     object ('b)
#         constraint 'a = < notify : 'b -> 'event -> unit; .. >
#         val mutable observers : 'a list
#         method add_observer : 'a -> unit
#         method notifyObservers : 'event -> unit
#     end
```

The difficulty usually lies in defining instances of the pattern above by inheritance. This can be done in a natural and obvious manner in OCaml, as shown on the following example manipulating windows.

```ocaml
# type event = Raise | Resize | Move;;
type event = Raise | Resize | Move
# let string_of_event = function
#    Raise -> "Raise" | Resize -> "Resize" | Move -> "Move";;
val string_of_event : event -> string = <fun>
# let count = ref 0;;
val count : int ref = {contents = 0}

# class ['observer] window_subject =
#    object (self)
#        inherit ['observer, event] subject
#        val mutable position = 0
#        method move x = position <- position + x; self#notifyObservers Move
#        method draw = Printf.printf "{Position = %d}\n" position;
#    end;

# class ['a] window_subject :
#    object ('b)
#        constraint 'a = < notify : 'b -> event -> unit; .. >
#        val mutable observers : 'a list
```
val mutable position : int
method add_observer : 'a -> unit
method draw : unit
method identity : int
method move : int -> unit
method notifyObservers : event -> unit
end

# class ['subject] window_observer =
# object
# inherit ['subject, event] observer
# method notify s e = s#draw
# end;
class ['a] window_observer :
  object
  constraint 'a = < draw : unit; .. >
  method notify : 'a -> event -> unit
end

As can be expected, the type of window is recursive.

# let window = new window_subject;;
val window : < notify : 'a -> event -> unit; _.. > window_subject as 'a = <obj>

However, the two classes of window_subject and window_observer are not mutually recursive.

# let window_observer = new window_observer;;
val window_observer : < draw : unit; _.. > window_observer = <obj>

# window#add_observer window_observer;;
- : unit = ()

# window#move 1;;
{Position = 1}
- : unit = ()

Classes window_observer and window_subject can still be extended by inheritance. For instance, one may enrich the subject with new behaviors and refine the behavior of the observer.

# class ['observer] richer_window_subject =
# object (self)
# inherit ['observer] window_subject
# val mutable size = 1
# method resize x = size <- size + x; self#notifyObservers Resize
# val mutable top = false
# method raise = top <- true; self#notifyObservers Raise
# method draw = Printf.printf "\{Position = %d; Size = \%d\}\n" position size;
# end;
class ['a] richer_window_subject :
  object (\'b)
constraint 'a = < notify : 'b -> event -> unit; .. >
val mutable observers : 'a list
val mutable position : int
val mutable size : int
val mutable top : bool
method add_observer : 'a -> unit
method draw : unit
method identity : int
method move : int -> unit
method notify_observers : event -> unit
method raise : unit
method resize : int -> unit
end

# class [subject] richer_window_observer =
# object
#   inherit [subject] window_observer as super
#   method notify s e = if e <> Raise then s#raise; super#notify s e
# end;
class [a] richer_window_observer :
  object
  constraint 'a = < draw : unit; raise : unit; .. >
  method notify : 'a -> event -> unit
end

We can also create a different kind of observer:

# class [subject] trace_observer =
# object
#   inherit [subject, event] observer
#   method notify s e =
#     Printf.printf
#       "<Window %d <== %s>\n" s#identity (string_of_event e)
# end;
class [a] trace_observer :
  object
  constraint 'a = < identity : int; .. >
  method notify : 'a -> event -> unit
end

and attach several observers to the same object:

# let window = new richer_window_subject;;
val window :
  < notify : 'a -> event -> unit; .. > richer_window_subject as 'a = <obj>

# window#add_observer (new richer_window_observer);
- : unit = ()

# window#add_observer (new trace_observer);
- : unit = ()
# window#move 1; window#resize 2;;
<Window 1 <== Move>
<Window 1 <== Raise>
{Position = 1; Size = 1}
{Position = 1; Size = 1}
<Window 1 <== Resize>
<Window 1 <== Raise>
{Position = 1; Size = 3}
{Position = 1; Size = 3}
- : unit = ()
Part II

The OCaml language
Chapter 7

The OCaml language

Foreword

This document is intended as a reference manual for the OCaml language. It lists the language constructs, and gives their precise syntax and informal semantics. It is by no means a tutorial introduction to the language: there is not a single example. A good working knowledge of OCaml is assumed.

No attempt has been made at mathematical rigor: words are employed with their intuitive meaning, without further definition. As a consequence, the typing rules have been left out, by lack of the mathematical framework required to express them, while they are definitely part of a full formal definition of the language.

Notations

The syntax of the language is given in BNF-like notation. Terminal symbols are set in typewriter font (like this). Non-terminal symbols are set in italic font (like that). Square brackets [...] denote optional components. Curly brackets {...} denotes zero, one or several repetitions of the enclosed components. Curly brackets with a trailing plus sign {...}+ denote one or several repetitions of the enclosed components. Parentheses (…) denote grouping.

7.1 Lexical conventions

Blanks

The following characters are considered as blanks: space, horizontal tabulation, carriage return, line feed and form feed. Blanks are ignored, but they separate adjacent identifiers, literals and keywords that would otherwise be confused as one single identifier, literal or keyword.

Comments

Comments are introduced by the two characters (*, with no intervening blanks, and terminated by the characters *), with no intervening blanks. Comments are treated as blank characters. Comments do not occur inside string or character literals. Nested comments are handled correctly.
Identifiers

```
ident ::= (letter | _) {letter | 0...9 | _ | '}
capitalized-ident ::= (A...Z) {letter | 0...9 | _ | '}
lowercase-ident ::= (a...z | _) {letter | 0...9 | _ | '}
letter ::= A...Z | a...z
```

Identifiers are sequences of letters, digits, _ (the underscore character), and ' (the single quote), starting with a letter or an underscore. Letters contain at least the 52 lowercase and uppercase letters from the ASCII set. The current implementation also recognizes as letters some characters from the ISO 8859-1 set (characters 192–214 and 216–222 as uppercase letters; characters 223–246 and 248–255 as lowercase letters). This feature is deprecated and should be avoided for future compatibility.

All characters in an identifier are meaningful. The current implementation accepts identifiers up to 16000000 characters in length.

In many places, OCaml makes a distinction between capitalized identifiers and identifiers that begin with a lowercase letter. The underscore character is considered a lowercase letter for this purpose.

Integer literals

```
integer-literal ::= [-] (0...9) {0...9 | _}
                | [-] (0x | 0X) (0...9 | A...F | a...f) {0...9 | A...F | a...f | _}
                | [-] (0o | 0O) (0...7) {0...7 | _}
                | [-] (0b | 0B) (0...1) {0...1 | _}
int32-literal ::= integer-literal l
int64-literal ::= integer-literal L
nativeint-literal ::= integer-literal n
```

An integer literal is a sequence of one or more digits, optionally preceded by a minus sign. By default, integer literals are in decimal (radix 10). The following prefixes select a different radix:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefix</th>
<th>Radix</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0x, 0X</td>
<td>hexadecimal (radix 16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0o, 0O</td>
<td>octal (radix 8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0b, 0B</td>
<td>binary (radix 2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(The initial 0 is the digit zero; the O for octal is the letter O.) An integer literal can be followed by one of the letters 1, L or n to indicate that this integer has type int32, int64 or nativeint respectively, instead of the default type int for integer literals. The interpretation of integer literals that fall outside the range of representable integer values is undefined.

For convenience and readability, underscore characters (_.) are accepted (and ignored) within integer literals.
Floating-point literals

\[
float-literal ::= [-] (0\ldots9) \{0\ldots9 | \_\} [. \{0\ldots9 | \_\}] [(e | E) [+ | -] (0\ldots9) \{0\ldots9 | \_\}]
| [-] (0x | 0X) (0\ldots9 | A\ldotsF | a\ldotsf) \{0\ldots9 | A\ldotsF | a\ldotsf | \_\}
| [. \{0\ldots9 | A\ldotsF | a\ldotsf | \_\}] [(p | P) [+ | -] (0\ldots9) \{0\ldots9 | \_\}]
\]

Floating-point decimal literals consist in an integer part, a fractional part and an exponent part. The integer part is a sequence of one or more digits, optionally preceded by a minus sign. The fractional part is a decimal point followed by zero, one or more digits. The exponent part is the character e or E followed by an optional \(+\) or \(-\) sign, followed by one or more digits. It is interpreted as a power of 10. The fractional part or the exponent part can be omitted but not both, to avoid ambiguity with integer literals. The interpretation of floating-point literals that fall outside the range of representable floating-point values is undefined.

Floating-point hexadecimal literals are denoted with the 0x or 0X prefix. The syntax is similar to that of floating-point decimal literals, with the following differences. The integer part and the fractional part use hexadecimal digits. The exponent part starts with the character p or P. It is written in decimal and interpreted as a power of 2.

For convenience and readability, underscore characters (\_) are accepted (and ignored) within floating-point literals.

Character literals

\[
char-literal ::= ' regular-char '
| ' escape-sequence '
\]

\[
escape-sequence ::= \( \backslash (\backslash | " | ' | n | t | b | r | space) \)
| \( \backslash (0\ldots9) (0\ldots9) (0\ldots9) \)
| \( \backslash x (0\ldots9 | A\ldotsF | a\ldotsf) (0\ldots9 | A\ldotsF | a\ldotsf) \)
| \( \backslash o (0\ldots3) (0\ldots7) (0\ldots7) \)
\]

Character literals are delimited by ' (single quote) characters. The two single quotes enclose either one character different from ' and \, or one of the escape sequences below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sequence</th>
<th>Character denoted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>\</td>
<td>backslash ()</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>double quote (&quot;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'</td>
<td>single quote ('')</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\n</td>
<td>linefeed (LF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\r</td>
<td>carriage return (CR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\t</td>
<td>horizontal tabulation (TAB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\b</td>
<td>backspace (BS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\space</td>
<td>space (SPC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\ddd</td>
<td>the character with ASCII code ddd in decimal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\xhh</td>
<td>the character with ASCII code hh in hexadecimal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\ooooo</td>
<td>the character with ASCII code ooo in octal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
String literals

\[
\text{string-literal} ::= " \{ \text{string-character} \} " \\
| \{ \text{quoted-string-id} \mid \{ \text{any-char} \} \mid \text{quoted-string-id} \}
\]

\[
\text{quoted-string-id} ::= \{ \text{a...z} \mid _ \}
\]

\[
\text{string-character} ::= \text{regular-string-char} \\
| \text{escape-sequence} \\
| \text{\textbackslash } \text{newline} \{ \text{space} \mid \text{tab} \}
\]

String literals are delimited by " (double quote) characters. The two double quotes enclose a sequence of either characters different from " and \, or escape sequences from the table given above for character literals, or a Unicode character escape sequence.

A Unicode character escape sequence is substituted by the UTF-8 encoding of the specified Unicode scalar value. The Unicode scalar value, an integer in the ranges 0x0000...0xD7FF or 0xE000...0x10FFFF, is defined using 1 to 6 hexadecimal digits; leading zeros are allowed.

To allow splitting long string literals across lines, the sequence \textbackslash newline \text{spaces-or-tabs} (a backslash at the end of a line followed by any number of spaces and horizontal tabulations at the beginning of the next line) is ignored inside string literals.

Quoted string literals provide an alternative lexical syntax for string literals. They are useful to represent strings of arbitrary content without escaping. Quoted strings are delimited by a matching pair of \{ \text{quoted-string-id} \mid \text{and} \mid \text{quoted-string-id} \} with the same \text{quoted-string-id} on both sides. Quoted strings do not interpret any character in a special way but requires that the sequence \text{\mid quoted-string-id} does not occur in the string itself. The identifier \text{quoted-string-id} is a (possibly empty) sequence of lowercase letters and underscores that can be freely chosen to avoid such issue (e.g. \{\text{hello}\}, \{\text{ext}\text{\mid hello } \{\text{\mid world}\}\text{\mid ext}\}, ...).

The current implementation places practically no restrictions on the length of string literals.

Naming labels

To avoid ambiguities, naming labels in expressions cannot just be defined syntactically as the sequence of the three tokens \~, \text{ident} and \_; and have to be defined at the lexical level.

\[
\text{label-name} ::= \text{lowercase-ident} \\
\text{label} ::= \text{\~ } \text{label-name} : \\
\text{optlabel} ::= \text{? } \text{label-name} : 
\]

Naming labels come in two flavours: \text{label} for normal arguments and \text{optlabel} for optional ones. They are simply distinguished by their first character, either \~ or ?.

Despite \text{label} and \text{optlabel} being lexical entities in expressions, their expansions \text{\~ label-name} : and \text{? label-name} : will be used in grammars, for the sake of readability. Note also that inside type expressions, this expansion can be taken literally, \text{i.e.} there are really 3 tokens, with optional blanks between them.
Chapter 7. The OCaml language

Prefix and infix symbols

\[
\text{infix-symbol} ::= ( | \| | \& | + | \* | / | \$ | % ) \{ \text{operator-char} \} \\
| # \{ \text{operator-char} \}^+
\]

\[
\text{prefix-symbol} ::= ! \{ \text{operator-char} \} \\
| ( ? | ~ ) \{ \text{operator-char} \}^+
\]

\[
\text{operator-char} ::= ! | \$ | % | \& | + | \* | - | . | / | : | : = | : > | ? | \| | ~ | | -
\]

See also the following language extensions: extension operators and extended indexing operators.

Sequences of “operator characters”, such as $$\leftrightarrow$$ or $$!!$$, are read as a single token from the \textit{infix-symbol} or \textit{prefix-symbol} class. These symbols are parsed as prefix and infix operators inside expressions, but otherwise behave like normal identifiers.

Keywords

The identifiers below are reserved as keywords, and cannot be employed otherwise:

\[
\text{and} \quad \text{as} \quad \text{assert} \quad \text{asr} \quad \text{begin} \quad \text{class} \\
\text{constraint} \quad \text{do} \quad \text{done} \quad \text{downto} \quad \text{else} \quad \text{end} \\
\text{exception} \quad \text{external} \quad \text{false} \quad \text{for} \quad \text{fun} \quad \text{function} \\
\text{functor} \quad \text{if} \quad \text{in} \quad \text{include} \quad \text{inherit} \quad \text{initializer} \\
\text{land} \quad \text{lazy} \quad \text{let} \quad \text{lor} \quad \text{lsl} \quad \text{lsl} \\
\text{lxor} \quad \text{match} \quad \text{method} \quad \text{mod} \quad \text{module} \quad \text{mutable} \\
\text{new} \quad \text{nonrec} \quad \text{object} \quad \text{of} \quad \text{open} \quad \text{or} \\
\text{private} \quad \text{rec} \quad \text{sig} \quad \text{struct} \quad \text{then} \quad \text{to} \\
\text{true} \quad \text{try} \quad \text{type} \quad \text{val} \quad \text{virtual} \quad \text{when} \\
\text{while} \quad \text{with}
\]

The following character sequences are also keywords:

\[
!= \quad # \quad \& \quad && \quad ' \quad ( \quad ) \quad * \quad + \quad , \quad - \\
-. \quad -> \quad . \quad .\quad .\quad :\quad :\quad ::\quad ::\quad :=\quad :>\quad ;\quad ;;\quad <=\quad <=\quad >=\quad >\quad ]\quad }>\quad \} \quad ? \quad [ \quad [< \quad [> \quad [|
\]

Note that the following identifiers are keywords of the Camlp4 extensions and should be avoided for compatibility reasons.

\[
\text{parser} \quad \text{value} \quad $ \quad $$ \quad $: \quad <\quad <<\quad >>\quad ??
\]

Ambiguities

Lexical ambiguities are resolved according to the “longest match” rule: when a character sequence can be decomposed into two tokens in several different ways, the decomposition retained is the one with the longest first token.
**Line number directives**

```
linenum-directive ::= # {0...9}+ |
                   # {0...9}+ " " {string-character} " 
```

Preprocessors that generate OCaml source code can insert line number directives in their output so that error messages produced by the compiler contain line numbers and file names referring to the source file before preprocessing, instead of after preprocessing. A line number directive is composed of a # (sharp sign), followed by a positive integer (the source line number), optionally followed by a character string (the source file name). Line number directives are treated as blanks during lexical analysis.

### 7.2 Values

This section describes the kinds of values that are manipulated by OCaml programs.

#### 7.2.1 Base values

**Integer numbers**

Integer values are integer numbers from \(-2^{30}\) to \(2^{30} - 1\), that is \(-1073741824\) to 1073741823. The implementation may support a wider range of integer values: on 64-bit platforms, the current implementation supports integers ranging from \(-2^{62}\) to \(2^{62} - 1\).

**Floating-point numbers**

Floating-point values are numbers in floating-point representation. The current implementation uses double-precision floating-point numbers conforming to the IEEE 754 standard, with 53 bits of mantissa and an exponent ranging from \(-1022\) to 1023.

**Characters**

Character values are represented as 8-bit integers between 0 and 255. Character codes between 0 and 127 are interpreted following the ASCII standard. The current implementation interprets character codes between 128 and 255 following the ISO 8859-1 standard.

**Character strings**

String values are finite sequences of characters. The current implementation supports strings containing up to \(2^{24} - 5\) characters (16777211 characters); on 64-bit platforms, the limit is \(2^{57} - 9\).

#### 7.2.2 Tuples

Tuples of values are written \((v_1, \ldots, v_n)\), standing for the \(n\)-tuple of values \(v_1\) to \(v_n\). The current implementation supports tuple of up to \(2^{22} - 1\) elements (4194303 elements).
7.2.3 Records

Record values are labeled tuples of values. The record value written \{ field_1 = v_1 ; \ldots ; field_n = v_n \} associates the value \( v_i \) to the record field \( field_i \), for \( i = 1 \ldots n \). The current implementation supports records with up to \( 2^{22} - 1 \) fields (4194303 fields).

7.2.4 Arrays

Arrays are finite, variable-sized sequences of values of the same type. The current implementation supports arrays containing up to \( 2^{22} - 1 \) elements (4194303 elements) unless the elements are floating-point numbers (2097151 elements in this case); on 64-bit platforms, the limit is \( 2^{54} - 1 \) for all arrays.

7.2.5 Variant values

Variant values are either a constant constructor, or a non-constant constructor applied to a number of values. The former case is written \( \text{constr} \); the latter case is written \( \text{constr} (v_1, \ldots, v_n) \), where the \( v_i \) are said to be the arguments of the non-constant constructor \( \text{constr} \). The parentheses may be omitted if there is only one argument.

The following constants are treated like built-in constant constructors:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Constant</th>
<th>Constructor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>true</td>
<td>the boolean true</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>()</td>
<td>the “unit” value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[]</td>
<td>the empty list</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The current implementation limits each variant type to have at most 246 non-constant constructors and \( 2^{30} - 1 \) constant constructors.

7.2.6 Polymorphic variants

Polymorphic variants are an alternate form of variant values, not belonging explicitly to a predefined variant type, and following specific typing rules. They can be either constant, written `tag-name`, or non-constant, written `tag-name (v)`.

7.2.7 Functions

Functional values are mappings from values to values.

7.2.8 Objects

Objects are composed of a hidden internal state which is a record of instance variables, and a set of methods for accessing and modifying these variables. The structure of an object is described by the toplevel class that created it.
7.3 Names

Identifiers are used to give names to several classes of language objects and refer to these objects by name later:

- value names (syntactic class value-name),
- value constructors and exception constructors (class constr-name),
- labels (label-name, defined in section 7.1),
- polymorphic variant tags (tag-name),
- type constructors (typeconstr-name),
- record fields (field-name),
- class names (class-name),
- method names (method-name),
- instance variable names (inst-var-name),
- module names (module-name),
- module type names (modtype-name).

These eleven name spaces are distinguished both by the context and by the capitalization of the identifier: whether the first letter of the identifier is in lowercase (written lowercase-ident below) or in uppercase (written capitalized-ident). Underscore is considered a lowercase letter for this purpose.
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Naming objects

\[
\text{value-name ::= lowercase-ident}
\]

\[
\text{operator-name ::= prefix-symbol \mid infix-op}
\]

\[
infix-op ::= \text{infix-symbol}
\]

\[
\text{infix-op ::= * \mid + \mid - \mid . \mid = \mid != \mid < \mid > \mid \text{or} \mid \text{or} \mid \& \mid \&\& \mid :=}
\]

\[
\text{constr-name ::= capitalized-ident}
\]

\[
\text{tag-name ::= capitalized-ident}
\]

\[
\text{typeconstr-name ::= lowercase-ident}
\]

\[
\text{field-name ::= lowercase-ident}
\]

\[
\text{module-name ::= capitalized-ident}
\]

\[
\text{modtype-name ::= ident}
\]

\[
\text{class-name ::= lowercase-ident}
\]

\[
\text{inst-var-name ::= lowercase-ident}
\]

\[
\text{method-name ::= lowercase-ident}
\]

See also the following language extension: extended indexing operators.

As shown above, prefix and infix symbols as well as some keywords can be used as value names, provided they are written between parentheses. The capitalization rules are summarized in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name space</th>
<th>Case of first letter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Values</td>
<td>lowercase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constructors</td>
<td>uppercase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labels</td>
<td>lowercase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polymorphic variant tags</td>
<td>uppercase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceptions</td>
<td>uppercase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type constructors</td>
<td>lowercase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Record fields</td>
<td>lowercase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classes</td>
<td>lowercase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instance variables</td>
<td>lowercase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methods</td>
<td>lowercase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modules</td>
<td>uppercase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module types</td>
<td>any</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note on polymorphic variant tags:* the current implementation accepts lowercase variant tags in addition to capitalized variant tags, but we suggest you avoid lowercase variant tags for portability and compatibility with future OCaml versions.
Referring to named objects

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{value-path} & ::= [\text{module-path} .] \text{value-name} \\
\text{constr} & ::= [\text{module-path} .] \text{constr-name} \\
\text{typeconstr} & ::= [\text{extended-module-path} .] \text{typeconstr-name} \\
\text{field} & ::= [\text{module-path} .] \text{field-name} \\
\text{modtype-path} & ::= [\text{extended-module-path} .] \text{modtype-name} \\
\text{class-path} & ::= [\text{module-path} .] \text{class-name} \\
\text{classtype-path} & ::= [\text{extended-module-path} .] \text{class-name} \\
\text{module-path} & ::= \text{module-name} \{ . \text{module-name} \} \\
\text{extended-module-path} & ::= \text{extended-module-name} \{ . \text{extended-module-name} \} \\
\text{extended-module-name} & ::= \text{module-name} \{ ( \text{extended-module-path} ) \}
\end{align*}
\]

A named object can be referred to either by its name (following the usual static scoping rules for names) or by an access path prefix . name, where prefix designates a module and name is the name of an object defined in that module. The first component of the path, prefix, is either a simple module name or an access path name$_1$ . name$_2$ . . ., in case the defining module is itself nested inside other modules. For referring to type constructors, module types, or class types, the prefix can also contain simple functor applications (as in the syntactic class extended-module-path above) in case the defining module is the result of a functor application.

Label names, tag names, method names and instance variable names need not be qualified: the former three are global labels, while the latter are local to a class.
7.4 Type expressions

\[
\text{typexpr ::= 'ident} \\
\quad \mid - \\
\quad \mid (\text{typexpr}) \\
\quad \mid [[?] \text{label-name : typexpr} \to \text{typexpr}] \\
\quad \mid \text{typexpr \{* typexpr\}^+} \\
\quad \mid \text{typeconstr} \\
\quad \mid \text{typexpr typeconstr} \\
\quad \mid (\text{typexpr \{, typexpr\} typeconstr} \\
\quad \mid \text{typexpr as 'ident} \\
\quad \mid \text{polymorphic-variant-type} \\
\quad \mid <[..]> \\
\quad \mid <\text{method-type \{; method-type\} ; ; . .}> \\
\quad \mid \# \text{class-path} \\
\quad \mid \text{typexpr \# class-path} \\
\quad \mid (\text{typexpr \{, typexpr\} \# class-path} \\
\text{poly-typexpr ::= typexpr} \\
\quad \mid \{'\text{ident}\}^+. \text{typexpr} \\
\text{method-type ::= method-name : poly-typexpr}
\]

See also the following language extensions: first-class modules, attributes and extension nodes.

The table below shows the relative precedences and associativity of operators and non-closed type constructions. The constructions with higher precedences come first.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operator</th>
<th>Associativity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Type constructor application</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-&gt;</td>
<td>right</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Type expressions denote types in definitions of data types as well as in type constraints over patterns and expressions.

Type variables

The type expression 'ident stands for the type variable named ident. The type expression _ stands for either an anonymous type variable or anonymous type parameters. In data type definitions, type variables are names for the data type parameters. In type constraints, they represent unspecified types that can be instantiated by any type to satisfy the type constraint. In general the scope of a named type variable is the whole top-level phrase where it appears, and it can only be generalized when leaving this scope. Anonymous variables have no such restriction. In the following cases, the scope of named type variables is restricted to the type expression where they appear: 1) for universal (explicitly polymorphic) type variables; 2) for type variables that only appear in public method specifications (as those variables will be made universal, as described in section 7.9.1); 3)
for variables used as aliases, when the type they are aliased to would be invalid in the scope of the
enclosing definition (i.e. when it contains free universal type variables, or locally defined types.)

Parenthesized types
The type expression ( typexpr ) denotes the same type as typexpr.

Function types
The type expression typexpr₁ -> typexpr₂ denotes the type of functions mapping arguments of
type typexpr₁ to results of type typexpr₂.

label-name : typexpr₁ -> typexpr₂ denotes the same function type, but the argument is labeled
label.

? label-name : typexpr₁ -> typexpr₂ denotes the type of functions mapping an optional labeled
argument of type typexpr₁ to results of type typexpr₂. That is, the physical type of the function
will be typexpr₁ option -> typexpr₂.

Tuple types
The type expression typexpr₁ * ... * typexprₙ denotes the type of tuples whose elements belong to
types typexpr₁, ..., typexprₙ respectively.

Constructed types
Type constructors with no parameter, as in typeconstr, are type expressions.

The type expression typexpr typeconstr, where typeconstr is a type constructor with one pa-
rameter, denotes the application of the unary type constructor typeconstr to the type typexpr.

The type expression (typexpr₁, ..., typexprₙ) typeconstr, where typeconstr is a type construc-
tor with n parameters, denotes the application of the n-ary type constructor typeconstr to the
types typexpr₁ through typexprₙ.

In the type expression _ typeconstr, the anonymous type expression _ stands in for anony-
mous type parameters and is equivalent to (_,...,_) with as many repetitions of _ as the arity of
typeconstr.

Aliased and recursive types
The type expression typexpr as ' ident denotes the same type as typexpr, and also binds the type
variable ident to type typexpr both in typexpr and in other types. In general the scope of an
alias is the same as for a named type variable, and covers the whole enclosing definition. If the
type variable ident actually occurs in typexpr, a recursive type is created. Recursive types for
which there exists a recursive path that does not contain an object or polymorphic variant type
constructor are rejected, except when the -rectypes mode is selected.

If ' ident denotes an explicit polymorphic variable, and typexpr denotes either an object or
polymorphic variant type, the row variable of typexpr is captured by ' ident, and quantified upon.
Polymorphic variant types

Polymorphic variant types describe the values a polymorphic variant may take.

The first case is an exact variant type: all possible tags are known, with their associated types, and they can all be present. Its structure is fully known.

The second case is an open variant type, describing a polymorphic variant value: it gives the list of all tags the value could take, with their associated types. This type is still compatible with a variant type containing more tags. A special case is the unknown type, which does not define any tag, and is compatible with any variant type.

The third case is a closed variant type. It gives information about all the possible tags and their associated types, and which tags are known to potentially appear in values. The exact variant type (first case) is just an abbreviation for a closed variant type where all possible tags are also potentially present.

In all three cases, tags may be either specified directly in the `tag-name [of typexpr]` form, or indirectly through a type expression, which must expand to an exact variant type, whose tag specifications are inserted in its place.

Full specifications of variant tags are only used for non-exact closed types. They can be understood as a conjunctive type for the argument: it is intended to have all the types enumerated in the specification.

Such conjunctive constraints may be unsatisfiable. In such a case the corresponding tag may not be used in a value of this type. This does not mean that the whole type is not valid: one can still use other available tags. Conjunctive constraints are mainly intended as output from the type checker. When they are used in source programs, unsolvable constraints may cause early failures.

Object types

An object type `< [method-type { ; method-type}] >` is a record of method types.

Each method may have an explicit polymorphic type: `{ ident }+ . typexpr. Explicit polymorphic variables have a local scope, and an explicit polymorphic type can only be unified to an equivalent one, where only the order and names of polymorphic variables may change.

The type `< {method-type ;} .. >` is the type of an object whose method names and types are described by method-type1, ..., method-type-n, and possibly some other methods represented by the ellipsis. This ellipsis actually is a special kind of type variable (called row variable in the literature) that stands for any number of extra method types.
#-types
The type \# class-path is a special kind of abbreviation. This abbreviation unifies with the type of any object belonging to a subclass of class class-path. It is handled in a special way as it usually hides a type variable (an ellipsis, representing the methods that may be added in a subclass). In particular, it vanishes when the ellipsis gets instantiated. Each type expression \# class-path defines a new type variable, so type \# class-path -> \# class-path is usually not the same as type (\# class-path as ident) -> ident.

Use of #-types to abbreviate polymorphic variant types is deprecated. If t is an exact variant type then \#t translates to [\langle t \rangle], and \#t [\langle \ `tag1\ldots `tagk \rangle] translates to [\langle t \ `tag1\ldots `tagk \rangle].

Variant and record types
There are no type expressions describing (defined) variant types nor record types, since those are always named, i.e. defined before use and referred to by name. Type definitions are described in section 7.8.1.

7.5 Constants

constant ::= integer-literal
| int32-literal
| int64-literal
| nativeint-literal
| float-literal
| char-literal
| string-literal
| constr
| false
| true
| ( )
| begin end
| [ ]
| [1 |]
| ` tag-name

See also the following language extension: extension literals.

The syntactic class of constants comprises literals from the four base types (integers, floating-point numbers, characters, character strings), the integer variants, and constant constructors from both normal and polymorphic variants, as well as the special constants false, true, ( ), [ ], and [1 |], which behave like constant constructors, and begin end, which is equivalent to ( ).
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7.6 Patterns

pattern ::= value-name
  | -
  | constant
  | pattern as value-name
  | ( pattern )
  | ( pattern : typexpr )
  | pattern | pattern
  | constr pattern
  | ` tag-name pattern
  | # typeconstr
  | pattern { , pattern }+
  | { field [: typexpr] [= pattern] ; field [: typexpr] [= pattern] ; ... ; }
  | [ pattern { ; pattern } ]
  | pattern :: pattern
  | [ ! pattern { ; pattern } ; ]
  | char-literal .. char-literal
  | lazy pattern
  | exception pattern

See also the following language extensions: local opens, first-class modules, attributes and extension nodes.

The table below shows the relative precedences and associativity of operators and non-closed pattern constructions. The constructions with higher precedences come first.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operator</th>
<th>Associativity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>. .</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lazy (see section 7.6)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constructor application, Tag application</td>
<td>right</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>::</td>
<td>right</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>,</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Patterns are templates that allow selecting data structures of a given shape, and binding identifiers to components of the data structure. This selection operation is called pattern matching; its outcome is either “this value does not match this pattern”, or “this value matches this pattern, resulting in the following bindings of names to values”.

Variable patterns

A pattern that consists in a value name matches any value, binding the name to the value. The pattern _ also matches any value, but does not bind any name.

Patterns are *linear*: a variable cannot be bound several times by a given pattern. In particular, there is no way to test for equality between two parts of a data structure using only a pattern (but when guards can be used for this purpose).
Constant patterns
A pattern consisting in a constant matches the values that are equal to this constant.

Alias patterns
The pattern \textit{pattern} \texttt{1 as value-name} matches the same values as \textit{pattern} \texttt{1}. If the matching against \textit{pattern} \texttt{1} is successful, the name \texttt{value-name} is bound to the matched value, in addition to the bindings performed by the matching against \textit{pattern} \texttt{1}.

Parenthesized patterns
The pattern \( (\textit{pattern} \texttt{1}) \) matches the same values as \textit{pattern} \texttt{1}. A type constraint can appear in a parenthesized pattern, as in \( (\textit{pattern} \texttt{1} : \texttt{typexpr}) \). This constraint forces the type of \textit{pattern} \texttt{1} to be compatible with \texttt{typexpr}.

“Or” patterns
The pattern \textit{pattern} \texttt{1} \text{ or } \textit{pattern} \texttt{2} represents the logical “or” of the two patterns \textit{pattern} \texttt{1} and \textit{pattern} \texttt{2}. A value matches \textit{pattern} \texttt{1} \text{ or } \textit{pattern} \texttt{2} if it matches \textit{pattern} \texttt{1} or \textit{pattern} \texttt{2}. The two sub-patterns \textit{pattern} \texttt{1} and \textit{pattern} \texttt{2} must bind exactly the same identifiers to values having the same types. Matching is performed from left to right. More precisely, in case some value \( v \) matches \textit{pattern} \texttt{1} \text{ or } \textit{pattern} \texttt{2}, the bindings performed are those of \textit{pattern} \texttt{1} when \( v \) matches \textit{pattern} \texttt{1}. Otherwise, value \( v \) matches \textit{pattern} \texttt{2} whose bindings are performed.

Variant patterns
The pattern \texttt{constr (pattern} \texttt{1}, ..., \texttt{pattern} \texttt{n)} matches all variants whose constructor is equal to \texttt{constr}, and whose arguments match \textit{pattern} \texttt{1} ... \textit{pattern} \texttt{n}. It is a type error if \( n \) is not the number of arguments expected by the constructor.

The pattern \texttt{constr _} matches all variants whose constructor is \texttt{constr}.

The pattern \textit{pattern} \texttt{1 :: pattern} \texttt{2} matches non-empty lists whose heads match \textit{pattern} \texttt{1}, and whose tails match \textit{pattern} \texttt{2}.

The pattern [ \textit{pattern} \texttt{1 ;...; pattern} \texttt{n} ] matches lists of length \( n \) whose elements match \textit{pattern} \texttt{1} ... \textit{pattern} \texttt{n}, respectively. This pattern behaves like \textit{pattern} \texttt{1 :: ... :: pattern} \texttt{n :: []}.

Polymorphic variant patterns
The pattern ‘ \textit{tag-name pattern} \texttt{1} matches all polymorphic variants whose tag is equal to \textit{tag-name}, and whose argument matches \textit{pattern} \texttt{1}.

Polymorphic variant abbreviation patterns
If the type [\texttt{'a,\texttt{\ldots}]} \texttt{typeconstr} = [‘ \textit{tag-name} \texttt{1 typexpr} \texttt{1} |...| ‘ \textit{tag-name} \texttt{n typexpr} \texttt{n} ] is defined, then the pattern # \texttt{typeconstr} is a shorthand for the following or-pattern: (‘ \textit{tag-name} \texttt{1 (\_ : typexpr} \texttt{1}) |...| ‘ \textit{tag-name} \texttt{n (\_ : typexpr} \texttt{n})). It matches all values of type [\texttt{\textless typeconstr \texttt{]}].
Tuple patterns
The pattern \texttt{pattern}_1, \ldots, \texttt{pattern}_n matches \(n\)-tuples whose components match the patterns \texttt{pattern}_i through \texttt{pattern}_n. That is, the pattern matches the tuple values \((v_1, \ldots, v_n)\) such that \texttt{pattern}_i matches \(v_i\) for \(i = 1, \ldots, n\).

Record patterns
The pattern \{ field\_1 = \texttt{pattern}_1; \ldots; field\_n = \texttt{pattern}_n \} matches records that define at least the fields field\_1 through field\_n, and such that the value associated to field\_i matches the pattern \texttt{pattern}_i, for \(i = 1, \ldots, n\). A single identifier field\_k stands for field\_k = field\_k, and a single qualified identifier module-path . field\_k stands for module-path . field\_k = field\_k. The record value can define more fields than field\_1 . . . field\_n; the values associated to these extra fields are not taken into account for matching. Optionally, a record pattern can be terminated by \_; _ to convey the fact that not all fields of the record type are listed in the record pattern and that it is intentional. Optional type constraints can be added field by field with \{ field\_1 : typexpr\_1 = \texttt{pattern}_1 ; \ldots; field\_n : typexpr\_n = \texttt{pattern}_n \} to force the type of field\_k to be compatible with typexpr\_k.

Array patterns
The pattern \[\vert \texttt{pattern}_1 ; \ldots; \texttt{pattern}_n \vert \] matches arrays of length \(n\) such that the \(i\)-th array element matches the pattern \texttt{pattern}_i, for \(i = 1, \ldots, n\).

Range patterns
The pattern \texttt{'c'..'d'} is a shorthand for the pattern
\[
\texttt{'c'} \mid \texttt{'c_1'} \mid \texttt{'c_2'} \mid \ldots \mid \texttt{'c_n'} \mid \texttt{'d'}
\]
where \(c_1, c_2, \ldots, c_n\) are the characters that occur between \(c\) and \(d\) in the ASCII character set. For instance, the pattern \texttt{'0'..'9'} matches all characters that are digits.

Lazy patterns
(Introduced in Objective Caml 3.11)

\[
pattern ::= ...
\]

The pattern \texttt{lazy pattern} matches a value \(v\) of type \texttt{Lazy.t}, provided pattern matches the result of forcing \(v\) with \texttt{Lazy.force}. A successful match of a pattern containing \texttt{lazy} sub-patterns forces the corresponding parts of the value being matched, even those that imply no test such as \texttt{lazy value-name} or \texttt{lazy _}. Matching a value with a \texttt{pattern-matching} where some patterns contain \texttt{lazy} sub-patterns may imply forcing parts of the value, even when the pattern selected in the end has no \texttt{lazy} sub-pattern.

For more information, see the description of module \texttt{Lazy} in the standard library (module \texttt{Lazy[23.24]}).
Exception patterns
(Introduced in OCaml 4.02)

A new form of exception pattern, exception pattern, is allowed only as a toplevel pattern or inside a toplevel or-pattern under a match...with pattern-matching (other occurrences are rejected by the type-checker).

Cases with such a toplevel pattern are called “exception cases”, as opposed to regular “value cases”. Exception cases are applied when the evaluation of the matched expression raises an exception. The exception value is then matched against all the exception cases and re-raised if none of them accept the exception (as with a try...with block). Since the bodies of all exception and value cases are outside the scope of the exception handler, they are all considered to be in tail-position: if the match...with block itself is in tail position in the current function, any function call in tail position in one of the case bodies results in an actual tail call.

A pattern match must contain at least one value case. It is an error if all cases are exceptions, because there would be no code to handle the return of a value.
7.7 Expressions

\[\text{expr} ::= \text{value-path} \]
\[\text{constant} \]
\[\text{( expr )} \]
\[\text{begin expr end} \]
\[\text{( expr : typexpr )} \]
\[\text{expr \{, expr\}^+} \]
\[\text{constr expr} \]
\[\text{` tag-name expr} \]
\[\text{expr :: expr} \]
\[\text{[ expr \{; expr\} [;] ]} \]
\[\text{[1 expr \{; expr\} [;] 1]} \]
\[\text{\{ field [: typexpr] [= expr] \{; field [: typexpr] [= expr]\} [;] \} \]
\[\text{\{ expr with field [: typexpr] [= expr] \{; field [: typexpr] [= expr]\} [;] \} \]
\[\text{expr \{argument\}^+} \]
\[\text{prefix-symbol expr} \]
\[\text{- expr} \]
\[\text{- . expr} \]
\[\text{expr infix-op expr} \]
\[\text{expr . field} \]
\[\text{expr . field \textless - expr} \]
\[\text{expr . ( expr )} \]
\[\text{expr . [ expr ]} \]
\[\text{expr . [ expr ] \textless - expr} \]
\[\text{if expr then expr [else expr]} \]
\[\text{while expr do expr done} \]
\[\text{for value-name = expr (to | downto) expr do expr done} \]
\[\text{expr ; expr} \]
\[\text{match expr with pattern-matching} \]
\[\text{function pattern-matching} \]
\[\text{fun \{parameter\}^+ [: typexpr] \rightarrow expr} \]
\[\text{try expr with pattern-matching} \]
\[\text{let [rec] let-binding \{and let-binding\} in expr} \]
\[\text{let exception constr-decl in expr} \]
\[\text{new class-path} \]
\[\text{object class-body end} \]
\[\text{expr \# method-name} \]
\[\text{inst-var-name} \]
\[\text{inst-var-name \textless - expr} \]
\[\text{( expr :: typexpr )} \]
\[\text{( expr : typexpr :: typexpr )} \]
\[\text{\{< [inst-var-name [= expr] \{; inst-var-name [= expr]\} [;] ] >} \]
\[\text{assert expr} \]
\[\text{lazy expr} \]
\[\text{let module module-name \{ ( module-name : module-type ) \} [: module-type] = module-expr in expr} \]
\[\text{let open module-path in expr} \]
\[\text{module-path . ( expr )} \]
\[\text{module-path . [ expr ]} \]
argument ::= expr
| ~ label-name
| ~ label-name : expr
| ? label-name
| ? label-name : expr

pattern-matching ::= [l] pattern [when expr] -> expr { | pattern [when expr] -> expr}

let-binding ::= pattern = expr
| value-name {parameter} [: typexpr] [:> typexpr] = expr
| value-name : poly-typexpr = expr

parameter ::= pattern
| ~ label-name
| ~ ( label-name [: typexpr] )
| ~ label-name : pattern
| ? label-name
| ? ( label-name [: typexpr] [= expr] )
| ? label-name : pattern
| ? label-name : ( pattern [: typexpr] [= expr] )

See also the following language extensions: first-class modules, overriding in open statements, syntax for Bigarray access, attributes, extension nodes and extended indexing operators.

7.7.1 Precedence and associativity

The table below shows the relative precedences and associativity of operators and non-closed constructions. The constructions with higher precedence come first. For infix and prefix symbols, we write “*...” to mean “any symbol starting with *”.


## 7.7.2 Basic expressions

### Constants

An expression consisting in a constant evaluates to this constant.

### Value paths

An expression consisting in an access path evaluates to the value bound to this path in the current evaluation environment. The path can be either a value name or an access path to a value component of a module.

### Parenthesized expressions

The expressions `( expr )` and `begin expr end` have the same value as `expr`. The two constructs are semantically equivalent, but it is good style to use `begin...end` inside control structures:

```
if ... then begin ... ; ... end else begin ... ; ... end
```

and `( ... )` for the other grouping situations.

Parenthesized expressions can contain a type constraint, as in `( expr : typexpr )`. This constraint forces the type of `expr` to be compatible with `typexpr`.

Parenthesized expressions can also contain coercions `( expr [ typexpr ] : typexpr )` (see subsection 7.7.7 below).
Function application

Function application is denoted by juxtaposition of (possibly labeled) expressions. The expression \( expr \ argument_1 \ldots argument_n \) evaluates the expression \( expr \) and those appearing in \( argument_1 \) to \( argument_n \). The expression \( expr \) must evaluate to a functional value \( f \), which is then applied to the values of \( argument_1, \ldots, argument_n \).

The order in which the expressions \( expr, argument_1, \ldots, argument_n \) are evaluated is not specified.

Arguments and parameters are matched according to their respective labels. Argument order is irrelevant, except among arguments with the same label, or no label.

If a parameter is specified as optional (label prefixed by \(?\)) in the type of \( expr \), the corresponding argument will be automatically wrapped with the constructor \texttt{Some}, except if the argument itself is also prefixed by \(?\), in which case it is passed as is. If a non-labeled argument is passed, and its corresponding parameter is preceded by one or several optional parameters, then these parameters are defaulted, i.e. the value \texttt{None} will be passed for them. All other missing parameters (without corresponding argument), both optional and non-optional, will be kept, and the result of the function will still be a function of these missing parameters to the body of \( f \).

As a special case, if the function has a known arity, all the arguments are unlabeled, and their number matches the number of non-optional parameters, then labels are ignored and non-optional parameters are matched in their definition order. Optional arguments are defaulted.

In all cases but exact match of order and labels, without optional parameters, the function type should be known at the application point. This can be ensured by adding a type constraint. Principality of the derivation can be checked in the \texttt{-principal} mode.

Function definition

Two syntactic forms are provided to define functions. The first form is introduced by the keyword \texttt{function}:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{function} & \quad \text{pattern}_1 \quad \rightarrow \quad \text{expr}_1 \\
& | \quad \ldots \\
& | \quad \text{pattern}_n \quad \rightarrow \quad \text{expr}_n
\end{align*}
\]

This expression evaluates to a functional value with one argument. When this function is applied to a value \( v \), this value is matched against each pattern \( \text{pattern}_i \) to \( \text{pattern}_n \). If one of these matchings succeeds, that is, if the value \( v \) matches the pattern \( \text{pattern}_i \) for some \( i \), then the expression \( \text{expr}_i \) associated to the selected pattern is evaluated, and its value becomes the value of the function application. The evaluation of \( \text{expr}_i \) takes place in an environment enriched by the bindings performed during the matching.

If several patterns match the argument \( v \), the one that occurs first in the function definition is selected. If none of the patterns matches the argument, the exception \texttt{Match_failure} is raised.

The other form of function definition is introduced by the keyword \texttt{fun}:

\[
\text{fun} \quad \text{parameter}_1 \ldots \text{parameter}_n \rightarrow \text{expr}
\]

This expression is equivalent to:

\[
\text{fun} \quad \text{parameter}_1 \rightarrow \ldots \text{fun} \quad \text{parameter}_n \rightarrow \text{expr}
\]
An optional type constraint `typexpr` can be added before `->` to enforce the type of the result to be compatible with the constraint `typexpr`:

```plaintext
fun parameter₁...parameterₙ : typexpr -> expr
```

is equivalent to

```plaintext
fun parameter₁ ->...fun parameterₙ -> (expr : typexpr)
```

Beware of the small syntactic difference between a type constraint on the last parameter

```plaintext
fun parameter₁...parameterₙ : typexpr -> expr
```

and one on the result

```plaintext
fun parameter₁...parameterₙ : typexpr -> expr
```

The parameter patterns `~ lab` and `~( lab :: typ )` are shorthands for respectively `~ lab : lab` and `~ lab :: ( lab :: typ )`, and similarly for their optional counterparts.

A function of the form `fun ? lab : ( pattern = expr₀ ) -> expr` is equivalent to

```plaintext
fun ? lab : ident -> let pattern = match ident with Some ident -> ident | None -> expr₀ in expr
```

where `ident` is a fresh variable, except that it is unspecified when `expr₀` is evaluated.

After these two transformations, expressions are of the form

```plaintext
fun [label₁] pattern₁ ->...fun [labelₙ] patternₙ -> expr
```

If we ignore labels, which will only be meaningful at function application, this is equivalent to

```plaintext
function pattern₁ ->...function patternₙ -> expr
```

That is, the `fun` expression above evaluates to a curried function with `n` arguments: after applying this function `n` times to the values `v₁...vₙ`, the values will be matched in parallel against the patterns `pattern₁...patternₙ`. If the matching succeeds, the function returns the value of `expr` in an environment enriched by the bindings performed during the matchings. If the matching fails, the exception `Match_failure` is raised.

**Guards in pattern-matchings**

The cases of a pattern matching (in the `function`, `match` and `try` constructs) can include guard expressions, which are arbitrary boolean expressions that must evaluate to `true` for the match case to be selected. Guards occur just before the `->` token and are introduced by the `when` keyword:

```plaintext
function pattern₁ [when cond₁] -> expr₁
| ... |
| patternₙ [when condₙ] -> exprₙ
```

Matching proceeds as described before, except that if the value matches some pattern `patternᵢ` which has a guard `condᵢ`, then the expression `condᵢ` is evaluated (in an environment enriched by the bindings performed during matching). If `condᵢ` evaluates to `true`, then `exprᵢ` is evaluated and its value returned as the result of the matching, as usual. But if `condᵢ` evaluates to `false`, the matching is resumed against the patterns following `patternᵢ`. 
Local definitions

The `let` and `let rec` constructs bind value names locally. The construct

```
let pattern_1 = expr_1 and ... and pattern_n = expr_n in expr
```

evaluates `expr_1`...`expr_n` in some unspecified order and matches their values against the patterns `pattern_1`...`pattern_n`. If the matchings succeed, `expr` is evaluated in the environment enriched by the bindings performed during matching, and the value of `expr` is returned as the value of the whole `let` expression. If one of the matchings fails, the exception `Match_failure` is raised.

An alternate syntax is provided to bind variables to functional values: instead of writing

```
let ident = fun parameter_1 ... parameter_m -> expr
```
in a `let` expression, one may instead write

```
let ident parameter_1 ... parameter_m = expr
```

Recursive definitions of names are introduced by `let rec`:

```
let rec pattern_1 = expr_1 and ... and pattern_n = expr_n in expr
```
The only difference with the `let` construct described above is that the bindings of names to values performed by the pattern-matching are considered already performed when the expressions `expr_1` to `expr_n` are evaluated. That is, the expressions `expr_1` to `expr_n` can reference identifiers that are bound by one of the patterns `pattern_1`,...,`pattern_n`, and expect them to have the same value as in `expr`, the body of the `let rec` construct.

The recursive definition is guaranteed to behave as described above if the expressions `expr_1` to `expr_n` are function definitions (`fun`... or `function`...), and the patterns `pattern_1`...`pattern_n` are just value names, as in:

```
let rec name_1 = fun ... and ... and name_n = fun ... in expr
```

This defines `name_1`...`name_n` as mutually recursive functions local to `expr`.

The behavior of other forms of `let rec` definitions is implementation-dependent. The current implementation also supports a certain class of recursive definitions of non-functional values, as explained in section 8.1.

Explicit polymorphic type annotations

(Introduced in OCaml 3.12)

Polymorphic type annotations in `let`-definitions behave in a way similar to polymorphic methods:

```
let pattern_1 : typ_1 ... typ_n . typeexpr = expr
```

These annotations explicitly require the defined value to be polymorphic, and allow one to use this polymorphism in recursive occurrences (when using `let rec`). Note however that this is a normal polymorphic type, unifiable with any instance of itself.
It is possible to define local exceptions in expressions: `let exception constr-decl in expr`. The syntactic scope of the exception constructor is the inner expression, but nothing prevents exception values created with this constructor from escaping this scope. Two executions of the definition above result in two incompatible exception constructors (as for any exception definition). For instance, the following assertion is true:

```plaintext
let gen () = let exception A in A
let () = assert(gen () <> gen ())
```

### 7.7.3 Control structures

#### Sequence

The expression `expr1 ; expr2` evaluates `expr1` first, then `expr2`, and returns the value of `expr2`.

#### Conditional

The expression `if expr1 then expr2 else expr3` evaluates to the value of `expr2` if `expr1` evaluates to the boolean `true`, and to the value of `expr3` if `expr1` evaluates to the boolean `false`. The `else expr3` part can be omitted, in which case it defaults to `else ()`.

#### Case expression

The expression

```plaintext
match expr
with  pattern1  ->  expr1
     |  ...            ...
     |  pattern_n  ->  expr_n
```

matches the value of `expr` against the patterns `pattern1` to `pattern_n`. If the matching against `pattern_i` succeeds, the associated expression `expr_i` is evaluated, and its value becomes the value of the whole `match` expression. The evaluation of `expr_j` takes place in an environment enriched by the bindings performed during matching. If several patterns match the value of `expr`, the one that occurs first in the `match` expression is selected. If none of the patterns match the value of `expr`, the exception `Match_failure` is raised.

#### Boolean operators

The expression `expr1 && expr2` evaluates to `true` if both `expr1` and `expr2` evaluate to `true`; otherwise, it evaluates to `false`. The first component, `expr1`, is evaluated first. The second component, `expr2`, is not evaluated if the first component evaluates to `false`. Hence, the expression `expr1 && expr2` behaves exactly as

```plaintext
if expr1 then expr2 else false.
```

The expression `expr1 || expr2` evaluates to `true` if one of the expressions `expr1` and `expr2` evaluates to `true`; otherwise, it evaluates to `false`. The first component, `expr1`, is evaluated first. The second component, `expr2`, is not evaluated if the first component evaluates to `false`. Hence, the expression `expr1 || expr2` behaves exactly as
if expr₁ then true else expr₂.

The boolean operators & and or are deprecated synonyms for (respectively) && and ||.

Loops

The expression while expr₁ do expr₂ done repeatedly evaluates expr₂ while expr₁ evaluates to true. The loop condition expr₁ is evaluated and tested at the beginning of each iteration. The whole while...done expression evaluates to the unit value ()

The expression for name = expr₁ to expr₂ do expr₃ done first evaluates the expressions expr₁ and expr₂ (the boundaries) into integer values n and p. Then, the loop body expr₃ is repeatedly evaluated in an environment where name is successively bound to the values n, n + 1, ..., p − 1, p. The loop body is never evaluated if n > p.

The expression for name = expr₁ downto expr₂ do expr₃ done evaluates similarly, except that name is successively bound to the values n, n − 1, ..., p + 1, p. The loop body is never evaluated if n < p.

In both cases, the whole for expression evaluates to the unit value ().

Exception handling

The expression

try  expr  
with  pattern₁ -> expr₁  
| ...  
| patternₙ -> exprₙ

evaluates the expression expr and returns its value if the evaluation of expr does not raise any exception. If the evaluation of expr raises an exception, the exception value is matched against the patterns pattern₁ to patternₙ. If the matching against pattern₁ succeeds, the associated expression expr₁ is evaluated, and its value becomes the value of the whole try expression. The evaluation of expr₁ takes place in an environment enriched by the bindings performed during matching. If several patterns match the value of expr, the one that occurs first in the try expression is selected. If none of the patterns matches the value of expr, the exception value is raised again, thereby transparently “passing through” the try construct.

7.7.4 Operations on data structures

Products

The expression expr₁ , ..., exprₙ evaluates to the n-tuple of the values of expressions expr₁ to exprₙ. The evaluation order of the subexpressions is not specified.

Variants

The expression constr expr evaluates to the unary variant value whose constructor is constr, and whose argument is the value of expr. Similarly, the expression constr ( expr₁ , ..., exprₙ ) evaluates to the n-ary variant value whose constructor is constr and whose arguments are the values of expr₁, ..., exprₙ.
The expression `constr (expr₁, ..., exprₙ)` evaluates to the variant value whose constructor is `constr`, and whose arguments are the values of `expr₁ ... exprₙ`.

For lists, some syntactic sugar is provided. The expression `expr₁ :: expr₂` stands for the constructor `(: : )` applied to the arguments `(expr₁, expr₂)`, and therefore evaluates to the list whose head is the value of `expr₁` and whose tail is the value of `expr₂`. The expression `[] expr₁; ...; exprₙ []` is equivalent to `expr₁ :: ... :: exprₙ :: []`, and therefore evaluates to the list whose elements are the values of `expr₁` to `exprₙ`.

### Polymorphic variants

The expression `\ tag-name expr` evaluates to the polymorphic variant value whose tag is `tag-name`, and whose argument is the value of `expr`.

### Records

The expression `{ field₁ = expr₁ ; ... ; fieldₙ = exprₙ }` evaluates to the record value `{field₁ = v₁ ; ... ; fieldₙ = vₙ}` where `vᵢ` is the value of `exprᵢ` for `i = 1, ..., n`. A single identifier `fieldₖ` stands for `fieldₖ = fieldₖ`, and a qualified identifier `module-path . fieldₖ` stands for `module-path . fieldₖ = fieldₖ`. The fields `field₁` to `fieldₙ` must all belong to the same record type; each field of this record type must appear exactly once in the record expression, though they can appear in any order. The order in which `expr₁` to `exprₙ` are evaluated is not specified. Optional type constraints can be added after each field `{ field₁ : typexpr₁ = expr₁ ; ... ; fieldₙ : typexprₙ = exprₙ }` to force the type of `fieldₖ` to be compatible with `typexprₖ`.

The expression `{ expr with field₁ = expr₁ ; ... ; fieldₙ = exprₙ }` builds a fresh record with fields `field₁`...`fieldₙ` equal to `expr₁`...`exprₙ`, and all other fields having the same value as in the record `expr`. In other terms, it returns a shallow copy of the record `expr`, except for the fields `field₁`...`fieldₙ`, which are initialized to `expr₁`...`exprₙ`. As previously, single identifier `fieldₖ` stands for `fieldₖ = fieldₖ`, a qualified identifier `module-path . fieldₖ` stands for `module-path . fieldₖ = fieldₖ` and it is possible to add an optional type constraint on each field being updated with `{ expr with field₁ : typexpr₁ = expr₁ ; ... ; fieldₙ : typexprₙ = exprₙ }`.

The expression `expr₁ . field` evaluates `expr₁` to a record value, and returns the value associated to `field` in this record value.

The expression `expr₁ . field <- expr₂` evaluates `expr₁` to a record value, which is then modified in-place by replacing the value associated to `field` in this record by the value of `expr₂`. This operation is permitted only if `field` has been declared `mutable` in the definition of the record type. The whole expression `expr₁ . field <- expr₂` evaluates to the unit value `()`.

### Arrays

The expression `[1 expr₁ ; ... ; exprₙ 1]` evaluates to a `n`-element array, whose elements are initialized with the values of `expr₁` to `exprₙ` respectively. The order in which these expressions are evaluated is unspecified.

The expression `expr₁ . ( exprₙ )` returns the value of element number `expr₂` in the array denoted by `expr₁`. The first element has number `0`; the last element has number `n - 1`, where `n` is the size of the array. The exception `Invalid_argument` is raised if the access is out of bounds.
The expression \( \text{expr}_1 . ( \text{expr}_2 ) \leftarrow \text{expr}_3 \) modifies in-place the array denoted by \( \text{expr}_1 \), replacing element number \( \text{expr}_2 \) by the value of \( \text{expr}_3 \). The exception \texttt{Invalid_argument} is raised if the access is out of bounds. The value of the whole expression is \( () \).

**Strings**

The expression \( \text{expr}_1 . [ \text{expr}_2 ] \) returns the value of character number \( \text{expr}_2 \) in the string denoted by \( \text{expr}_1 \). The first character has number 0; the last character has number \( n - 1 \), where \( n \) is the length of the string. The exception \texttt{Invalid_argument} is raised if the access is out of bounds.

The expression \( \text{expr}_1 . [ \text{expr}_2 ] \leftarrow \text{expr}_3 \) modifies in-place the string denoted by \( \text{expr}_1 \), replacing character number \( \text{expr}_2 \) by the value of \( \text{expr}_3 \). The exception \texttt{Invalid_argument} is raised if the access is out of bounds. The value of the whole expression is \( () \).

**Note:** this possibility is offered only for backward compatibility with older versions of OCaml and will be removed in a future version. New code should use byte sequences and the \texttt{Bytes.set} function.

### 7.7.5 Operators

Symbols from the class \texttt{infix-symbol}, as well as the keywords \( * \), \( + \), \( - \), \( -\), \( = \), \( != \), \( < \), \( > \), \( \& \), \( && \), \( := \), \( mod \), \( land \), \( lor \), \( lxor \), \( lsl \), \( lsr \), and \( asr \) can appear in infix position (between two expressions).

Symbols from the class \texttt{prefix-symbol}, as well as the keywords \( - \) and \( -\) can appear in prefix position (in front of an expression).

Infix and prefix symbols do not have a fixed meaning: they are simply interpreted as applications of functions bound to the names corresponding to the symbols. The expression \( \text{prefix-symbol} \ \text{expr} \) is interpreted as the application \( ( \text{prefix-symbol} ) \ \text{expr} \). Similarly, the expression \( \text{expr}_1 \ \text{infix-symbol} \ \text{expr}_2 \) is interpreted as the application \( ( \text{infix-symbol} ) \ \text{expr}_1 \ \text{expr}_2 \).

The table below lists the symbols defined in the initial environment and their initial meaning. (See the description of the core library module \texttt{Pervasives} in chapter 22 for more details). Their meaning may be changed at any time using \texttt{let ( infix-op ) name1 name2 = ...}.

**Note:** the operators \( && \), \( || \), and \( ~\) are handled specially and it is not advisable to change their meaning.

The keywords \( - \) and \( -\) can appear both as infix and prefix operators. When they appear as prefix operators, they are interpreted respectively as the functions \( (-) \) and \( (--\) ).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operator</th>
<th>Initial meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>Integer addition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- (infix)</td>
<td>Integer subtraction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>~- - (prefix)</td>
<td>Integer negation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td>Integer multiplication.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/</td>
<td>Integer division. Raise Division_by_zero if second argument is zero.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mod</td>
<td>Integer modulus. Raise Division_by_zero if second argument is zero.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>land</td>
<td>Bitwise logical “and” on integers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lor</td>
<td>Bitwise logical “or” on integers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lxor</td>
<td>Bitwise logical “exclusive or” on integers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lsl</td>
<td>Bitwise logical shift left on integers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lsr</td>
<td>Bitwise logical shift right on integers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>asr</td>
<td>Bitwise arithmetic shift right on integers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+.</td>
<td>Floating-point addition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-. (infix)</td>
<td>Floating-point subtraction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>`- -. (prefix)</td>
<td>Floating-point negation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*.</td>
<td>Floating-point multiplication.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/.</td>
<td>Floating-point division.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**</td>
<td>Floating-point exponentiation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@</td>
<td>List concatenation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>`</td>
<td>String concatenation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>!</td>
<td>Dereferencing (return the current contents of a reference).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>:=</td>
<td>Reference assignment (update the reference given as first argument with the value of the second argument).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>=</td>
<td>Structural equality test.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;&gt;</td>
<td>Structural inequality test.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>==</td>
<td>Physical equality test.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>!=</td>
<td>Physical inequality test.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;</td>
<td>Test “less than”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;=</td>
<td>Test “less than or equal”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;</td>
<td>Test “greater than”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;=</td>
<td>Test “greater than or equal”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp;&amp; &amp;</td>
<td>Boolean conjunction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 7.7.6 Objects

#### Object creation

When `class-path` evaluates to a class body, `new class-path` evaluates to a new object containing the instance variables and methods of this class.

When `class-path` evaluates to a class function, `new class-path` evaluates to a function expecting the same number of arguments and returning a new object of this class.
Chapter 7. The OCaml language

Immediate object creation

Creating directly an object through the `object class-body end` construct is operationally equivalent to defining locally a `class class-name = object class-body end` — see sections 7.9.2 and following for the syntax of `class-body` — and immediately creating a single object from it by `new class-name`.

The typing of immediate objects is slightly different from explicitly defining a class in two respects. First, the inferred object type may contain free type variables. Second, since the class body of an immediate object will never be extended, its self type can be unified with a closed object type.

Method invocation

The expression `expr # method-name` invokes the method `method-name` of the object denoted by `expr`.

If `method-name` is a polymorphic method, its type should be known at the invocation site. This is true for instance if `expr` is the name of a fresh object `(let ident = new class-path...)` or if there is a type constraint. Principality of the derivation can be checked in the `-principal` mode.

Accessing and modifying instance variables

The instance variables of a class are visible only in the body of the methods defined in the same class or a class that inherits from the class defining the instance variables. The expression `inst-var-name` evaluates to the value of the given instance variable. The expression `inst-var-name <- expr` assigns the value of `expr` to the instance variable `inst-var-name`, which must be mutable. The whole expression `inst-var-name <- expr` evaluates to `()`. 

Object duplication

An object can be duplicated using the library function `Oo.copy` (see module `Oo`[23.32]). Inside a method, the expression `{< [inst-var-name [= expr] ; inst-var-name [= expr]]>} `returns a copy of self with the given instance variables replaced by the values of the associated expressions. A single instance variable name `id` stands for `id = id`. Other instance variables have the same value in the returned object as in self.

7.7.7 Coercions

Expressions whose type contains object or polymorphic variant types can be explicitly coerced (weakened) to a supertype. The expression `( expr :> typexpr )` coerces the expression `expr` to type `typexpr`. The expression `( expr : typexpr₁ :> typexpr₂ )` coerces the expression `expr` from type `typexpr₁` to type `typexpr₂`.

The former operator will sometimes fail to coerce an expression `expr` from a type `typ₁` to a type `typ₂` even if type `typ₁` is a subtype of type `typ₂`: in the current implementation it only expands two levels of type abbreviations containing objects and/or polymorphic variants, keeping only recursion when it is explicit in the class type (for objects). As an exception to the above algorithm, if both the inferred type of `expr` and `typ` are ground (i.e. do not contain type variables), the former operator behaves as the latter one, taking the inferred type of `expr` as `typ₁`. In case of failure with the former operator, the latter one should be used.
It is only possible to coerce an expression \( expr \) from type \( \text{typ}_1 \) to type \( \text{typ}_2 \), if the type of \( expr \) is an instance of \( \text{typ}_1 \) (like for a type annotation), and \( \text{typ}_1 \) is a subtype of \( \text{typ}_2 \). The type of the coerced expression is an instance of \( \text{typ}_2 \). If the types contain variables, they may be instantiated by the subtyping algorithm, but this is only done after determining whether \( \text{typ}_1 \) is a potential subtype of \( \text{typ}_2 \). This means that typing may fail during this latter unification step, even if some instance of \( \text{typ}_1 \) is a subtype of some instance of \( \text{typ}_2 \). In the following paragraphs we describe the subtyping relation used.

**Object types**

A fixed object type admits as subtype any object type that includes all its methods. The types of the methods shall be subtypes of those in the supertype. Namely,

\[
< \text{met}_1 : \text{typ}_1 ; \ldots ; \text{met}_n : \text{typ}_n >
\]

is a supertype of

\[
< \text{met}_1 : \text{typ}_1' ; \ldots ; \text{met}_n : \text{typ}_n' ; \text{met}_{n+1} : \text{typ}_{n+1}' ; \ldots ; \text{met}_{n+m} : \text{typ}_{n+m}' \mid \ldots >
\]

which may contain an ellipsis \( \ldots \) if every \( \text{typ}_i \) is a supertype of the corresponding \( \text{typ}_i' \).

A monomorphic method type can be a supertype of a polymorphic method type. Namely, if \( \text{typ} \) is an instance of \( \text{typ}' \), then \( 'a_1 \ldots 'a_n . \text{typ} \) is a subtype of \( \text{typ} \).

Inside a class definition, newly defined types are not available for subtyping, as the type abbreviations are not yet completely defined. There is an exception for coercing \( \text{self} \) to the (exact) type of its class: this is allowed if the type of \( \text{self} \) does not appear in a contravariant position in the class type, \( \text{i.e.} \) if there are no binary methods.

**Polymorphic variant types**

A polymorphic variant type \( \text{typ} \) is a subtype of another polymorphic variant type \( \text{typ}' \) if the upper bound of \( \text{typ} \) (\( \text{i.e.} \) the maximum set of constructors that may appear in an instance of \( \text{typ} \)) is included in the lower bound of \( \text{typ}' \), and the types of arguments for the constructors of \( \text{typ} \) are subtypes of those in \( \text{typ}' \). Namely,

\[
[ \ll \mid C_1 \text{ of } \text{typ}_1 \mid \ldots \mid C_n \text{ of } \text{typ}_n \rr ]
\]

which may be a shrinkable type, is a subtype of

\[
[ \gg \mid C_1 \text{ of } \text{typ}_1' \mid \ldots \mid C_n \text{ of } \text{typ}_n' \mid C_{n+1}\text{ of } \text{typ}_{n+1}' \mid \ldots \mid C_{n+m}\text{ of } \text{typ}_{n+m}' \rr ]
\]

which may be an extensible type, if every \( \text{typ}_i \) is a subtype of \( \text{typ}_i' \).

**Variance**

Other types do not introduce new subtyping, but they may propagate the subtyping of their arguments. For instance, \( \text{typ}_1 \ast \text{typ}_2 \) is a subtype of \( \text{typ}_1' \ast \text{typ}_2' \) when \( \text{typ}_1 \) and \( \text{typ}_2 \) are respectively subtypes of \( \text{typ}_1' \) and \( \text{typ}_2' \). For function types, the relation is more subtle: \( \text{typ}_1 \rightarrow \text{typ}_2 \) is a subtype of \( \text{typ}_1' \rightarrow \text{typ}_2' \) if \( \text{typ}_1 \) is a supertype of \( \text{typ}_1' \) and \( \text{typ}_2 \) is a subtype of \( \text{typ}_2' \). For this reason, function types are covariant in their second argument (like tuples), but contravariant in their first argument.
Mutable types, like `array` or `ref` are neither covariant nor contravariant, they are nonvariant, that is they do not propagate subtyping.

For user-defined types, the variance is automatically inferred: a parameter is covariant if it has only covariant occurrences, contravariant if it has only contravariant occurrences, variance-free if it has no occurrences, and nonvariant otherwise. A variance-free parameter may change freely through subtyping, it does not have to be a subtype or a supertype. For abstract and private types, the variance must be given explicitly (see section 7.8.1), otherwise the default is nonvariant. This is also the case for constrained arguments in type definitions.

### 7.7.8 Other

#### Assertion checking

OCaml supports the `assert` construct to check debugging assertions. The expression `assert expr` evaluates the expression `expr` and returns `()` if `expr` evaluates to `true`. If it evaluates to `false` the exception `Assert_failure` is raised with the source file name and the location of `expr` as arguments. Assertion checking can be turned off with the `-noassert` compiler option. In this case, `expr` is not evaluated at all.

As a special case, `assert false` is reduced to `raise (Assert_failure ...)`, which gives it a polymorphic type. This means that it can be used in place of any expression (for example as a branch of any pattern-matching). It also means that the `assert false` “assertions” cannot be turned off by the `-noassert` option.

#### Lazy expressions

The expression `lazy expr` returns a value `v` of type `Lazy.t` that encapsulates the computation of `expr`. The argument `expr` is not evaluated at this point in the program. Instead, its evaluation will be performed the first time the function `Lazy.force` is applied to the value `v`, returning the actual value of `expr`. Subsequent applications of `Lazy.force` to `v` do not evaluate `expr` again. Applications of `Lazy.force` may be implicit through pattern matching (see 7.6).

#### Local modules

The expression `let module module-name = module-expr in expr` locally binds the module expression `module-expr` to the identifier `module-name` during the evaluation of the expression `expr`. It then returns the value of `expr`. For example:

```ocaml
let remove_duplicates comparison_fun string_list =
  let module StringSet =
    Set.Make(struct type t = string
      let compare = comparison_fun end) in
  StringSet.elements
    (List.fold_right StringSet.add string_list StringSet.empty)
val remove_duplicates : (string -> string -> int) -> string list -> string list = <fun>
```
Local opens

The expressions \texttt{let open module-path in expr} and \texttt{module-path . ( expr )} are strictly equivalent. These constructions locally open the module referred to by the module path \texttt{module-path} in the respective scope of the expression \texttt{expr}.

When the body of a local open expression is delimited by \([ \ ], \[| |\], or \{ \}, the parentheses can be omitted. For expression, parentheses can also be omitted for \(< >\). For example, \texttt{module-path . [ expr ]} is equivalent to \texttt{module-path . ([ expr ])}, and \texttt{module-path . [1 expr 1]} is equivalent to \texttt{module-path . ([1 expr 1])}.

7.8 Type and exception definitions

7.8.1 Type definitions

Type definitions bind type constructors to data types: either variant types, record types, type abbreviations, or abstract data types. They also bind the value constructors and record fields associated with the definition.

\[
\begin{align*}
type-definition & := \text{type} \ [\text{nonrec}] \ \text{typedef} \ \{ \text{and typedef} \} \\
typedef & := \{ \text{type-params} \} \ \text{typeconstr-name} \ \text{type-information} \\
type-information & := \{ \text{type-equation} \} \ [\text{type-representation}] \ \{ \text{type-constraint} \} \\
type-equation & := \text{=} \ \text{typexpr} \\
type-representation & := \text{=} \ [\text{or}] \ \text{constr-decl} \ \{ \text{or} \ \text{constr-decl} \} \\
& \quad \mid \text{=} \ \text{record-decl} \\
& \quad \mid \text{=} \ [] \\
type-params & := \text{type-param} \\
& \quad \mid \{ \text{variance} \} \ \text{ident} \\
& \quad \mid \{ \text{variance} \} \ [\text{type-param}] \\
variance & := + \\
& \quad \mid - \\
record-decl & := \{ \text{field-decl} \ [\text{or}] \ \text{field-decl} \ [\text{or}] \}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{constr-decl} & := \{ \text{constr-name} \ [\text{or}] \ [\text{or}] \ [\text{or}] \} \ \text{of constr-args} \\
\text{constr-args} & := \text{typexpr} \ \{ \ast \ \text{typexpr} \} \\
\text{field-decl} & := \{ \text{mutable} \} \ \text{field-name} : \text{poly-typexpr} \\
\text{type-constraint} & := \{ \text{constraint} \} \ \text{ident} = \ \text{typexpr}
\end{align*}
\]

See also the following language extensions: private types, generalized algebraic datatypes, attributes, extension nodes, extensible variant types and inline records.

Type definitions are introduced by the \texttt{type} keyword, and consist in one or several simple definitions, possibly mutually recursive, separated by the \texttt{and} keyword. Each simple definition defines one type constructor.
A simple definition consists in a lowercase identifier, possibly preceded by one or several type parameters, and followed by an optional type equation, then an optional type representation, and then a constraint clause. The identifier is the name of the type constructor being defined.

In the right-hand side of type definitions, references to one of the type constructor name being defined are considered as recursive, unless type is followed by nonrec. The nonrec keyword was introduced in OCaml 4.02.2.

The optional type parameters are either one type variable 'ident, for type constructors with one parameter, or a list of type variables ('ident₁,...,'identₙ), for type constructors with several parameters. Each type parameter may be prefixed by a variance constraint + (resp. -) indicating that the parameter is covariant (resp. contravariant). These type parameters can appear in the type expressions of the right-hand side of the definition, optionally restricted by a variance constraint; i.e. a covariant parameter may only appear on the right side of a functional arrow (more precisely, follow the left branch of an even number of arrows), and a contravariant parameter only the left side (left branch of an odd number of arrows). If the type has a representation or an equation, and the parameter is free (i.e. not bound via a type constraint to a constructed type), its variance constraint is checked but subtyping etc. will use the inferred variance of the parameter, which may be less restrictive; otherwise (i.e. for abstract types or non-free parameters), the variance must be given explicitly, and the parameter is invariant if no variance is given.

The optional type equation = typexpr makes the defined type equivalent to the type expression typexpr: one can be substituted for the other during typing. If no type equation is given, a new type is generated: the defined type is incompatible with any other type.

The optional type representation describes the data structure representing the defined type, by giving the list of associated constructors (if it is a variant type) or associated fields (if it is a record type). If no type representation is given, nothing is assumed on the structure of the type besides what is stated in the optional type equation.

The type representation = [ | constr-decl { | constr-decl } | ] describes a variant type. The constructor declarations constr-decl₁,...,constr-declₙ describe the constructors associated to this variant type. The constructor declaration constr-name of typexpr₁ ×...× typexprₙ declares the name constr-name as a non-constant constructor, whose arguments have types typexpr₁ ... typexprₙ. The constructor declaration constr-name declares the name constr-name as a constant constructor. Constructor names must be capitalized.

The type representation = { | field-decl { | field-decl } | ; | field-decl [ ; | ] } describes a record type. The field declarations field-decl₁,...,field-declₙ describe the fields associated to this record type. The field declaration field-name : poly-typexpr declares field-name as a field whose argument has type poly-typexpr. The field declaration mutable field-name : poly-typexpr behaves similarly; in addition, it allows physical modification of this field. Immutable fields are covariant, mutable fields are non-variant. Both mutable and immutable fields may have explicitly polymorphic types. The polymorphism of the contents is statically checked whenever a record value is created or modified. Extracted values may have their types instantiated.

The two components of a type definition, the optional equation and the optional representation, can be combined independently, giving rise to four typical situations:

**Abstract type: no equation, no representation.**

When appearing in a module signature, this definition specifies nothing on the type constructor, besides its number of parameters: its representation is hidden and it is assumed
incompatible with any other type.

**Type abbreviation: an equation, no representation.**

This defines the type constructor as an abbreviation for the type expression on the right of the = sign.

**New variant type or record type: no equation, a representation.**

This generates a new type constructor and defines associated constructors or fields, through which values of that type can be directly built or inspected.

**Re-exported variant type or record type: an equation, a representation.**

In this case, the type constructor is defined as an abbreviation for the type expression given in the equation, but in addition the constructors or fields given in the representation remain attached to the defined type constructor. The type expression in the equation part must agree with the representation: it must be of the same kind (record or variant) and have exactly the same constructors or fields, in the same order, with the same arguments. Moreover, the new type constructor must have the same arity and the same type constraints as the original type constructor.

The type variables appearing as type parameters can optionally be prefixed by + or - to indicate that the type constructor is covariant or contravariant with respect to this parameter. This variance information is used to decide subtyping relations when checking the validity of -> coercions (see section 7.7.7).

For instance, `type +'a t` declares `t` as an abstract type that is covariant in its parameter; this means that if the type `τ` is a subtype of the type `σ`, then `τ t` is a subtype of `σ t`. Similarly, `type -'a t` declares that the abstract type `t` is contravariant in its parameter: if `τ` is a subtype of `σ`, then `σ t` is a subtype of `τ t`. If no + or - variance annotation is given, the type constructor is assumed non-variant in the corresponding parameter. For instance, the abstract type declaration `type 'a t` means that `τ t` is neither a subtype nor a supertype of `σ t` if `τ` is subtype of `σ`.

The variance indicated by the + and - annotations on parameters is enforced only for abstract and private types, or when there are type constraints. Otherwise, for abbreviations, variant and record types without type constraints, the variance properties of the type constructor are inferred from its definition, and the variance annotations are only checked for conformance with the definition.

The construct `constraint 'ident = typeexpr` allows the specification of type parameters. Any actual type argument corresponding to the type parameter `ident` has to be an instance of `typeexpr` (more precisely, `ident` and `typeexpr` are unified). Type variables of `typeexpr` can appear in the type equation and the type declaration.

### 7.8.2 Exception definitions

```
exception-definition ::= exception constr-decl
                     | exception constr-name = constr
```

Exception definitions add new constructors to the built-in variant type `exn` of exception values. The constructors are declared as for a definition of a variant type.
The form `exception constr-decl` generates a new exception, distinct from all other exceptions in the system. The form `exception constr-name = constr` gives an alternate name to an existing exception.

### 7.9 Classes

Classes are defined using a small language, similar to the module language.

#### 7.9.1 Class types

Class types are the class-level equivalent of type expressions: they specify the general shape and type properties of classes.

```plaintext
class-type ::= [[? label-name :] typexpr -> class-type
                 | class-body-type

class-body-type ::= object [( typexpr )] {class-field-spec} end
                    | [[ typexpr {, typexpr} ] classtype-path
                    | let open module-path in class-body-type

class-field-spec ::= inherit class-body-type
                    | val [mutable] [virtual] inst-var-name : typexpr
                    | val virtual mutable inst-var-name : typexpr
                    | method [private] [virtual] method-name : poly-typexpr
                    | method virtual private method-name : poly-typexpr
                    | constraint typexpr = typexpr
```

See also the following language extensions: attributes and extension nodes.

#### Simple class expressions

The expression `classtype-path` is equivalent to the class type bound to the name `classtype-path`. Similarly, the expression `[ typexpr₁ , . . . , typexprₙ ] classtype-path` is equivalent to the parametric class type bound to the name `classtype-path`, in which type parameters have been instantiated to respectively `typexpr₁, . . . , typexprₙ`.

#### Class function type

The class type expression `typexpr -> class-type` is the type of class functions (functions from values to classes) that take as argument a value of type `typexpr` and return as result a class of type `class-type`.

#### Class body type

The class type expression `object [( typexpr )] {class-field-spec} end` is the type of a class body. It specifies its instance variables and methods. In this type, `typexpr` is matched against the self type, therefore providing a name for the self type.
A class body will match a class body type if it provides definitions for all the components specified in the class body type, and these definitions meet the type requirements given in the class body type. Furthermore, all methods either virtual or public present in the class body must also be present in the class body type (on the other hand, some instance variables and concrete private methods may be omitted). A virtual method will match a concrete method, which makes it possible to forget its implementation. An immutable instance variable will match a mutable instance variable.

Local opens
Local opens are supported in class types since OCaml 4.06.

Inheritance
The inheritance construct `inherit class-body-type` provides for inclusion of methods and instance variables from other class types. The instance variable and method types from `class-body-type` are added into the current class type.

Instance variable specification
A specification of an instance variable is written `val [mutable] [virtual] inst-var-name : typexpr`, where `inst-var-name` is the name of the instance variable and `typexpr` its expected type. The flag `mutable` indicates whether this instance variable can be physically modified. The flag `virtual` indicates that this instance variable is not initialized. It can be initialized later through inheritance.

An instance variable specification will hide any previous specification of an instance variable of the same name.

Method specification
The specification of a method is written `method [private] method-name : poly-typexpr`, where `method-name` is the name of the method and `poly-typexpr` its expected type, possibly polymorphic. The flag `private` indicates that the method cannot be accessed from outside the object.

The polymorphism may be left implicit in public method specifications: any type variable which is not bound to a class parameter and does not appear elsewhere inside the class specification will be assumed to be universal, and made polymorphic in the resulting method type. Writing an explicit polymorphic type will disable this behaviour.

If several specifications are present for the same method, they must have compatible types. Any non-private specification of a method forces it to be public.

Virtual method specification
A virtual method specification is written `method [private] virtual method-name : poly-typexpr`, where `method-name` is the name of the method and `poly-typexpr` its expected type.
Constraints on type parameters

The construct `constraint typexpr_1 = typexpr_2` forces the two type expressions to be equal. This is typically used to specify type parameters: in this way, they can be bound to specific type expressions.

7.9.2 Class expressions

Class expressions are the class-level equivalent of value expressions: they evaluate to classes, thus providing implementations for the specifications expressed in class types.

```plaintext
class-expr ::= class-path
  | [ typexpr {, typexpr} ] class-path
  | ( class-expr )
  | ( class-expr : class-type )
  | class-expr {argument}+
  | fun {parameter}+ -> class-expr
  | let [rec] let-binding {and let-binding} in class-expr
  | object class-body end
  | let open module-path in class-expr
```

```plaintext
class-field ::= inherit class-expr [as lowercase-ident]
  | inherit! class-expr [as lowercase-ident]
  | val [mutable] inst-var-name [: typexpr] = expr
  | val! [mutable] inst-var-name [: typexpr] = expr
  | val virtual mutable inst-var-name : typexpr
  | method [private] method-name {parameter} [: typexpr] = expr
  | method! [private] method-name {parameter} [: typexpr] = expr
  | method [private] method-name : poly-typexpr = expr
  | method! [private] method-name : poly-typexpr = expr
  | method [private] virtual method-name : poly-typexpr
  | method virtual private method-name : poly-typexpr
  | constraint typexpr = typexpr
  | initializer expr
```

See also the following language extensions: locally abstract types, attributes and extension nodes.

Simple class expressions

The expression `class-path` evaluates to the class bound to the name `class-path`. Similarly, the expression `[ typexpr_1, ..., typexpr_n ] class-path` evaluates to the parametric class bound to the name `class-path`, in which type parameters have been instantiated respectively to `typexpr_1, ..., typexpr_n`.

The expression `( class-expr )` evaluates to the same module as `class-expr`.

The expression `( class-expr : class-type )` checks that `class-type` matches the type of `class-expr` (that is, that the implementation `class-expr` meets the type specification `class-type`). The whole
expression evaluates to the same class as \texttt{class-expr}, except that all components not specified in \texttt{class-type} are hidden and can no longer be accessed.

\textbf{Class application}

Class application is denoted by juxtaposition of (possibly labeled) expressions. It denotes the class whose constructor is the first expression applied to the given arguments. The arguments are evaluated as for expression application, but the constructor itself will only be evaluated when objects are created. In particular, side-effects caused by the application of the constructor will only occur at object creation time.

\textbf{Class function}

The expression \texttt{fun \{label-name : \} pattern -> class-expr} evaluates to a function from values to classes. When this function is applied to a value \( v \), this value is matched against the pattern \texttt{pattern} and the result is the result of the evaluation of \texttt{class-expr} in the extended environment.

Conversion from functions with default values to functions with patterns only works identically for class functions as for normal functions.

The expression

\[
\texttt{fun parameter}_1 \ldots \texttt{parameter}_n \rightarrow \texttt{class-expr}
\]

is a short form for

\[
\texttt{fun parameter}_1 \rightarrow \ldots \texttt{fun parameter}_n \rightarrow \texttt{expr}
\]

\textbf{Local definitions}

The \texttt{let} and \texttt{let rec} constructs bind value names locally, as for the core language expressions.

If a local definition occurs at the very beginning of a class definition, it will be evaluated when the class is created (just as if the definition was outside of the class). Otherwise, it will be evaluated when the object constructor is called.

\textbf{Local opens}

Local opens are supported in class expressions since OCaml 4.06.

\textbf{Class body}

\[
\texttt{class-body} ::= \{ \texttt{pattern} [: \texttt{typexpr}] \} \{\texttt{class-field}\}
\]

The expression \texttt{object class-body end} denotes a class body. This is the prototype for an object: it lists the instance variables and methods of an object of this class.

A class body is a class value: it is not evaluated at once. Rather, its components are evaluated each time an object is created.

In a class body, the pattern \( \texttt{(pattern} [: \texttt{typexpr}] \) is matched against self, therefore providing a binding for self and self type. Self can only be used in method and initializers.

Self type cannot be a closed object type, so that the class remains extensible.

Since OCaml 4.01, it is an error if the same method or instance variable name is defined several times in the same class body.
Inheritance

The inheritance construct `inherit class-expr` allows reusing methods and instance variables from other classes. The class expression `class-expr` must evaluate to a class body. The instance variables, methods and initializers from this class body are added into the current class. The addition of a method will override any previously defined method of the same name.

An ancestor can be bound by appending `as lowercase-ident` to the inheritance construct. `lowercase-ident` is not a true variable and can only be used to select a method, i.e. in an expression `lowercase-ident # method-name`. This gives access to the method `method-name` as it was defined in the parent class even if it is redefined in the current class. The scope of this ancestor binding is limited to the current class. The ancestor method may be called from a subclass but only indirectly.

Instance variable definition

The definition `val [mutable] inst-var-name = expr` adds an instance variable `inst-var-name` whose initial value is the value of expression `expr`. The flag `mutable` allows physical modification of this variable by methods.

An instance variable can only be used in the methods and initializers that follow its definition. Since version 3.10, redefinitions of a visible instance variable with the same name do not create a new variable, but are merged, using the last value for initialization. They must have identical types and mutability. However, if an instance variable is hidden by omitting it from an interface, it will be kept distinct from other instance variables with the same name.

Virtual instance variable definition

A variable specification is written `val [mutable] virtual inst-var-name : typexpr`. It specifies whether the variable is modifiable, and gives its type.

Virtual instance variables were added in version 3.10.

Method definition

A method definition is written `method method-name = expr`. The definition of a method overrides any previous definition of this method. The method will be public (that is, not private) if any of the definition states so.

A private method, `method private method-name = expr`, is a method that can only be invoked on self (from other methods of the same object, defined in this class or one of its subclasses). This invocation is performed using the expression `value-name # method-name`, where `value-name` is directly bound to self at the beginning of the class definition. Private methods do not appear in object types. A method may have both public and private definitions, but as soon as there is a public one, all subsequent definitions will be made public.

Methods may have an explicitly polymorphic type, allowing them to be used polymorphically in programs (even for the same object). The explicit declaration may be done in one of three ways: (1) by giving an explicit polymorphic type in the method definition, immediately after the method name, i.e. `method [private] method-name : {‘ident}+ . typexpr = expr`; (2) by a forward declaration of the explicit polymorphic type through a virtual method definition; (3) by importing such a declaration through inheritance and/or constraining the type of `self`. 
Some special expressions are available in method bodies for manipulating instance variables and duplicating self:

\[
expr ::= \ldots
| \text{inst-var-name} \leftarrow expr
| \{< \[\text{inst-var-name} = expr \{; \text{inst-var-name} = expr\} ;\]] >\}
\]

The expression \(\text{inst-var-name} \leftarrow expr\) modifies in-place the current object by replacing the value associated to \(\text{inst-var-name}\) by the value of \(expr\). Of course, this instance variable must have been declared mutable.

The expression \(\{< \text{inst-var-name}_1 = expr_1 \ldots ; \text{inst-var-name}_n = expr_n >\}\) evaluates to a copy of the current object in which the values of instance variables \(\text{inst-var-name}_1, \ldots, \text{inst-var-name}_n\) have been replaced by the values of the corresponding expressions \(expr_1, \ldots, expr_n\).

**Virtual method definition**

A method specification is written \texttt{method [private] virtual method-name : poly-typeexpr.} It specifies whether the method is public or private, and gives its type. If the method is intended to be polymorphic, the type must be explicitly polymorphic.

**Explicit overriding**

Since Ocaml 3.12, the keywords \texttt{inherit!}, \texttt{val!} and \texttt{method!} have the same semantics as \texttt{inherit}, \texttt{val} and \texttt{method}, but they additionally require the definition they introduce to be overriding. Namely, \texttt{method!} requires \texttt{method-name} to be already defined in this class, \texttt{val!} requires \texttt{inst-var-name} to be already defined in this class, and \texttt{inherit!} requires \texttt{class-expr} to override some definitions. If no such overriding occurs, an error is signaled.

As a side-effect, these 3 keywords avoid the warnings 7 (method override) and 13 (instance variable override). Note that warning 7 is disabled by default.

**Constraints on type parameters**

The construct \texttt{constraint typeexpr}_1 = typeexpr_2 forces the two type expressions to be equals. This is typically used to specify type parameters: in that way they can be bound to specific type expressions.

**Initializers**

A class initializer \texttt{initializer expr} specifies an expression that will be evaluated whenever an object is created from the class, once all its instance variables have been initialized.

### 7.9.3 Class definitions

\[
\text{class-definition} ::= \text{class class-binding \{and class-binding\}}
\]
\[
\text{class-binding} ::= [\text{virtual}][[\text{type-parameters}]] \text{class-name} \{\text{parameter}\} \{; \text{class-type}\}
\]
\[
\text{type-parameters} ::= 'ident \{, 'ident\}
A class definition `class class-binding {and class-binding}` is recursive. Each `class-binding` defines a `class-name` that can be used in the whole expression except for inheritance. It can also be used for inheritance, but only in the definitions that follow its own.

A class binding binds the class name `class-name` to the value of expression `class-expr`. It also binds the class type `class-name` to the type of the class, and defines two type abbreviations: `class-name` and `# class-name`. The first one is the type of objects of this class, while the second is more general as it unifies with the type of any object belonging to a subclass (see section 7.4).

**Virtual class**

A class must be flagged virtual if one of its methods is virtual (that is, appears in the class type, but is not actually defined). Objects cannot be created from a virtual class.

**Type parameters**

The class type parameters correspond to the ones of the class type and of the two type abbreviations defined by the class binding. They must be bound to actual types in the class definition using type constraints. So that the abbreviations are well-formed, type variables of the inferred type of the class must either be type parameters or be bound in the constraint clause.

### 7.9.4 Class specifications

```
class-specification ::= class class-spec {and class-spec}
class-spec ::= [virtual] [[ type-parameters ]] class-name : class-type
```

This is the counterpart in signatures of class definitions. A class specification matches a class definition if they have the same type parameters and their types match.

### 7.9.5 Class type definitions

```
class-type-definition ::= class type classtype-def {and classtype-def}
classtype-def ::= [virtual] [[ type-parameters ]] class-name = class-body-type
```

A class type definition `class class-name = class-body-type` defines an abbreviation `class-name` for the class body type `class-body-type`. As for class definitions, two type abbreviations `class-name` and `# class-name` are also defined. The definition can be parameterized by some type parameters. If any method in the class body type is virtual, the definition must be flagged `virtual`.

Two class type definitions match if they have the same type parameters and they expand to matching types.

### 7.10 Module types (module specifications)

Module types are the module-level equivalent of type expressions: they specify the general shape and type properties of modules.
module-type ::= modtype-path
| sig {specification [;;]} end
| functor ( module-name : module-type ) -> module-type
| module-type -> module-type
| module-type with mod-constraint {and mod-constraint}
| ( module-type )
mod-constraint ::= type [type-params] typeconstr type-equation {type-constraint}
| module module-path = extended-module-path

specification ::= val value-name : typexpr
| external value-name : typexpr = external-declaration
| type-definition
| exception constr-decl
| class-specification
| classtype-definition
| module module-name : module-type
| module module-name { ( module-name : module-type ) } : module-type
| module type modtype-name
| module type modtype-name = module-type
| open module-path
| include module-type

See also the following language extensions: recovering the type of a module, substitution inside a signature, type-level module aliases, attributes, extension nodes and generative functors.

7.10.1 Simple module types

The expression modtype-path is equivalent to the module type bound to the name modtype-path. The expression ( module-type ) denotes the same type as module-type.

7.10.2 Signatures

Signatures are type specifications for structures. Signatures sig...end are collections of type specifications for value names, type names, exceptions, module names and module type names. A structure will match a signature if the structure provides definitions (implementations) for all the names specified in the signature (and possibly more), and these definitions meet the type requirements given in the signature.

An optional ;; is allowed after each specification in a signature. It serves as a syntactic separator with no semantic meaning.

Value specifications

A specification of a value component in a signature is written val value-name : typexpr, where value-name is the name of the value and typexpr its expected type.
The form `external value-name : typexpr = external-declaration` is similar, except that it requires in addition the name to be implemented as the external function specified in `external-declaration` (see chapter 19).

Type specifications

A specification of one or several type components in a signature is written `type typedef { and typedef }` and consists of a sequence of mutually recursive definitions of type names.

Each type definition in the signature specifies an optional type equation `= typexpr` and an optional type representation `= constr-decl ... or = { field-decl ... }`. The implementation of the type name in a matching structure must be compatible with the type expression specified in the equation (if given), and have the specified representation (if given). Conversely, users of that signature will be able to rely on the type equation or type representation, if given. More precisely, we have the following four situations:

Abstract type: no equation, no representation.

Names that are defined as abstract types in a signature can be implemented in a matching structure by any kind of type definition (provided it has the same number of type parameters). The exact implementation of the type will be hidden to the users of the structure. In particular, if the type is implemented as a variant type or record type, the associated constructors and fields will not be accessible to the users; if the type is implemented as an abbreviation, the type equality between the type name and the right-hand side of the abbreviation will be hidden from the users of the structure. Users of the structure consider that type as incompatible with any other type: a fresh type has been generated.

Type abbreviation: an equation = typexpr, no representation.

The type name must be implemented by a type compatible with typexpr. All users of the structure know that the type name is compatible with typexpr.

New variant type or record type: no equation, a representation.

The type name must be implemented by a variant type or record type with exactly the constructors or fields specified. All users of the structure have access to the constructors or fields, and can use them to create or inspect values of that type. However, users of the structure consider that type as incompatible with any other type: a fresh type has been generated.

Re-exported variant type or record type: an equation, a representation.

This case combines the previous two: the representation of the type is made visible to all users, and no fresh type is generated.

Exception specification

The specification `exception constr-decl` in a signature requires the matching structure to provide an exception with the name and arguments specified in the definition, and makes the exception available to all users of the structure.
Class specifications

A specification of one or several classes in a signature is written `class class-spec { and class-spec} and consists of a sequence of mutually recursive definitions of class names.

Class specifications are described more precisely in section 7.9.4.

Class type specifications

A specification of one or several clase types in a signature is written `class type classtype-def { and classtype-def} and consists of a sequence of mutually recursive definitions of class type names.

Class type specifications are described more precisely in section 7.9.5.

Module specifications

A specification of a module component in a signature is written `module module-name : module-type, where module-name is the name of the module component and module-type its expected type. Modules can be nested arbitrarily; in particular, functors can appear as components of structures and functor types as components of signatures.

For specifying a module component that is a functor, one may write

```
module module-name ( name₁ : module-type₁ ) ... ( nameₙ : module-typeₙ ) : module-type
```

instead of

```
module module-name : functor ( name₁ : module-type₁ ) -> ... -> module-type
```

Module type specifications

A module type component of a signature can be specified either as a manifest module type or as an abstract module type.

An abstract module type specification `module type modtype-name` allows the name modtype-name to be implemented by any module type in a matching signature, but hides the implementation of the module type to all users of the signature.

A manifest module type specification `module type modtype-name = module-type` requires the name modtype-name to be implemented by the module type module-type in a matching signature, but makes the equality between modtype-name and module-type apparent to all users of the signature.

Opening a module path

The expression `open module-path` in a signature does not specify any components. It simply affects the parsing of the following items of the signature, allowing components of the module denoted by module-path to be referred to by their simple names name instead of path accesses module-path . name. The scope of the open stops at the end of the signature expression.
Including a signature

The expression `include module-type` in a signature performs textual inclusion of the components of the signature denoted by `module-type`. It behaves as if the components of the included signature were copied at the location of the `include`. The `module-type` argument must refer to a module type that is a signature, not a functor type.

7.10.3 Functor types

The module type expression `functor (module-name : module-type₁) -> module-type₂` is the type of functors (functions from modules to modules) that take as argument a module of type `module-type₁` and return as result a module of type `module-type₂`. The module type `module-type₂` can use the name `module-name` to refer to type components of the actual argument of the functor. If the type `module-type₂` does not depend on type components of `module-name`, the module type expression can be simplified with the alternative short syntax `module-type₁ -> module-type₂`. No restrictions are placed on the type of the functor argument; in particular, a functor may take another functor as argument (“higher-order” functor).

7.10.4 The with operator

Assuming `module-type` denotes a signature, the expression `module-type with mod-constraint {and mod-constraint}` denotes the same signature where type equations have been added to some of the type specifications, as described by the constraints following the `with` keyword. The constraint `type [type-parameters] typeconstr = typexpr` adds the type equation `= typexpr` to the specification of the type component named `typeconstr` of the constrained signature. The constraint `module module-path = extended-module-path` adds type equations to all type components of the sub-structure denoted by `module-path`, making them equivalent to the corresponding type components of the structure denoted by `extended-module-path`.

For instance, if the module type name `S` is bound to the signature

```ocaml
sig type t module M: (sig type u end) end
```

then `S with type t=int` denotes the signature

```ocaml
sig type t=int module M: (sig type u end) end
```

and `S with module M = N` denotes the signature

```ocaml
sig type t module M: (sig type u=N.u end) end
```

A functor taking two arguments of type `S` that share their `t` component is written

```ocaml
functor (A: S) (B: S with type t = A.t) ...
```

Constraints are added left to right. After each constraint has been applied, the resulting signature must be a subtype of the signature before the constraint was applied. Thus, the `with` operator can only add information on the type components of a signature, but never remove information.
7.11 Module expressions (module implementations)

Module expressions are the module-level equivalent of value expressions: they evaluate to modules, thus providing implementations for the specifications expressed in module types.

\[
\text{module-expr ::= module-path} \\
\quad | \text{struct} [\text{module-items}] \text{ end} \\
\quad | \text{functor} (\text{module-name} : \text{module-type}) \rightarrow \text{module-expr} \\
\quad | \text{module-expr}\ (\text{module-expr}) \\
\quad | (\text{module-expr}) \\
\quad | (\text{module-expr} : \text{module-type})
\]

\[
\text{module-items ::= \{\};\} (\text{definition} | \text{expr}) \{\{\};\} (\text{definition} | \text{;; expr}) \{\};\}
\]

\[
\text{definition ::= let} [\text{rec}] \text{ let-binding \{and let-binding\}} \\
\quad | \text{external} \text{ value-name} : \text{typexpr} = \text{external-declaration} \\
\quad | \text{type-definition} \\
\quad | \text{exception-definition} \\
\quad | \text{class-definition} \\
\quad | \text{classtype-definition} \\
\quad | \text{module} \text{ module-name}\ \{\ (\text{module-name} : \text{module-type}) \}\ [\ : \text{module-type}] \\
\quad \quad = \text{module-expr} \\
\quad | \text{module type} \text{ modtype-name} = \text{module-type} \\
\quad | \text{open} \text{ module-path} \\
\quad | \text{include} \text{ module-expr}
\]

See also the following language extensions: recursive modules, first-class modules, overriding in open statements, attributes, extension nodes and generative functors.

7.11.1 Simple module expressions

The expression \text{module-path} evaluates to the module bound to the name \text{module-path}.

The expression \((\text{module-expr})\) evaluates to the same module as \text{module-expr}.

The expression \((\text{module-expr} : \text{module-type})\) checks that the type of \text{module-expr} is a subtype of \text{module-type}, that is, that all components specified in \text{module-type} are implemented in \text{module-expr}, and their implementation meets the requirements given in \text{module-type}. In other terms, it checks that the implementation \text{module-expr} meets the type specification \text{module-type}. The whole expression evaluates to the same module as \text{module-expr}, except that all components not specified in \text{module-type} are hidden and can no longer be accessed.

7.11.2 Structures

Structures \text{struct...end} are collections of definitions for value names, type names, exceptions, module names and module type names. The definitions are evaluated in the order in which they appear in the structure. The scopes of the bindings performed by the definitions extend to the end of the structure. As a consequence, a definition may refer to names bound by earlier definitions in the same structure.
For compatibility with toplevel phrases (chapter 10), optional ;; are allowed after and before each definition in a structure. These ;; have no semantic meanings. Similarly, an expr preceded by ;; is allowed as a component of a structure. It is equivalent to let _ = expr, i.e. expr is evaluated for its side-effects but is not bound to any identifier. If expr is the first component of a structure, the preceding ;; can be omitted.

Value definitions
A value definition let [rec] let-binding {and let-binding} bind value names in the same way as a let...in... expression (see section 7.7.2). The value names appearing in the left-hand sides of the bindings are bound to the corresponding values in the right-hand sides.

A value definition external value-name : typexpr = external-declaration implements value-name as the external function specified in external-declaration (see chapter 19).

Type definitions
A definition of one or several type components is written type typedef {and typedef} and consists of a sequence of mutually recursive definitions of type names.

Exception definitions
Exceptions are defined with the syntax exception constr-decl or exception constr-name = constr.

Class definitions
A definition of one or several classes is written class class-binding {and class-binding} and consists of a sequence of mutually recursive definitions of class names. Class definitions are described more precisely in section 7.9.3.

Class type definitions
A definition of one or several classes is written class type classtype-def {and classtype-def} and consists of a sequence of mutually recursive definitions of class type names. Class type definitions are described more precisely in section 7.9.5.

Module definitions
The basic form for defining a module component is module module-name = module-expr, which evaluates module-expr and binds the result to the name module-name.

One can write

    module module-name : module-type = module-expr

instead of

    module module-name = ( module-expr : module-type ).

Another derived form is
module module-name ( name₁ : module-type₁ ) . . . ( nameₙ : module-typeₙ ) = module-expr
which is equivalent to

module module-name = functor ( name₁ : module-type₁ ) -> . . . -> module-expr

Module type definitions

A definition for a module type is written module type modtype-name = module-type. It binds the
name modtype-name to the module type denoted by the expression module-type.

Opening a module path

The expression open module-path in a structure does not define any components nor perform any
bindings. It simply affects the parsing of the following items of the structure, allowing components
of the module denoted by module-path to be referred to by their simple names name instead of path
accesses module-path . name. The scope of the open stops at the end of the structure expression.

Including the components of another structure

The expression include module-expr in a structure re-exports in the current structure all definitions
of the structure denoted by module-expr. For instance, if you define a module S as below

module S = struct type t = int  let x = 2 end

defining the module B as

module B = struct include S  let y = (x + 1 : t) end

is equivalent to defining it as

module B = struct type t = S.t  let x = S.x  let y = (x + 1 : t) end

The difference between open and include is that open simply provides short names for the com-
ponents of the opened structure, without defining any components of the current structure, while
include also adds definitions for the components of the included structure.

7.11.3 Functors

Functor definition

The expression functor ( module-name : module-type ) -> module-expr evaluates to a functor
that takes as argument modules of the type module-type₁, binds module-name to these modules,
evaluates module-expr in the extended environment, and returns the resulting modules as results.
No restrictions are placed on the type of the functor argument; in particular, a functor may take
another functor as argument (“higher-order” functor).

Functor application

The expression module-expr₁ ( module-expr₂ ) evaluates module-expr₁ to a functor and
module-expr₂ to a module, and applies the former to the latter. The type of module-expr₂ must
match the type expected for the arguments of the functor module-expr₁.
7.12 Compilation units

单元接口 ::= \{规格 [ ; ; ]\}

单元实现 ::= [模块项目]

编译单元将模块系统和单独的编译系统连接起来。编译单元由两部分组成：接口和实现。接口包含一系列规格，就像 sig...end 标记表达式内部一样。实现包含一系列定义和表达式，就像 struct...end 模块表达式内部一样。一个编译单元也具有一个名称 unit-name，来自包含接口和实现的文件的名称（参阅第 9 章）更多细节）。一个编译单元的行为大致等同于模块定义

```
module unit-name : sig unit-interface end = struct unit-implementation end
```

编译单元可以引用其他编译单元的名称，就像普通模块一样。例如，如果 U 是一个定义类型 t 的编译单元，其他编译单元可以引用该类型 U.t；它们也可以引用 U 的整体结构。除了其他编译单元的名称外，单元接口或单元实现不能有其他自由变量。换句话说，对接口或实现实行类型检查和编译时，在初始环境中执行

```
name_1 : sig specification_1 end...name_n : sig specification_n end
```

其中 name_1...name_n 是搜索路径中其他编译单元的名称（参阅第 9 章）更多细节）和 specification_1...specification_n 是它们各自的接口。
Chapter 8

Language extensions

This chapter describes language extensions and convenience features that are implemented in OCaml, but not described in the OCaml reference manual.

8.1 Recursive definitions of values

(Introduced in Objective Caml 1.00)

As mentioned in section 7.7.2, the let rec binding construct, in addition to the definition of recursive functions, also supports a certain class of recursive definitions of non-functional values, such as

\[
\text{let rec } \text{name}_1 = 1 :: \text{name}_2 \text{ and } \text{name}_2 = 2 :: \text{name}_1 \text{ in } \text{expr}
\]

which binds \text{name}_1 to the cyclic list 1\::\::2\::1\::2\::..., and \text{name}_2 to the cyclic list 2\::1\::2\::1\::... Informally, the class of accepted definitions consists of those definitions where the defined names occur only inside function bodies or as argument to a data constructor.

More precisely, consider the expression:

\[
\text{let rec } \text{name}_1 = \text{expr}_1 \text{ and } \ldots \text{ and } \text{name}_n = \text{expr}_n \text{ in } \text{expr}
\]

It will be accepted if each one of \text{expr}_1\ldots \text{expr}_n is statically constructive with respect to \text{name}_1\ldots \text{name}_n, is not immediately linked to any of \text{name}_1\ldots \text{name}_n, and is not an array constructor whose arguments have abstract type.

An expression \(e\) is said to be statically constructive with respect to the variables \text{name}_1\ldots \text{name}_n if at least one of the following conditions is true:

- \(e\) has no free occurrence of any of \text{name}_1\ldots \text{name}_n
- \(e\) is a variable
- \(e\) has the form \(\text{fun} \ldots \rightarrow \ldots\)
- \(e\) has the form \(\text{function} \ldots \rightarrow \ldots\)
- \(e\) has the form \(\text{lazy} (\ldots)\)
• e has one of the following forms, where each one of \( \text{expr}_1 \ldots \text{expr}_m \) is statically constructive with respect to \( \text{name}_1 \ldots \text{name}_n \), and \( \text{expr}_0 \) is statically constructive with respect to \( \text{name}_1 \ldots \text{name}_n, \text{xname}_1 \ldots \text{xname}_m \):

- \( \text{let } [\text{rec}] \text{xname}_1 = \text{expr}_1 \text{ and } \ldots \text{ and } \text{xname}_m = \text{expr}_m \text{ in } \text{expr}_0 \)
- \( \text{let module } \ldots \text{ in } \text{expr}_1 \)
- \( \text{constr} (\text{expr}_1, \ldots, \text{expr}_m) \)
- \( \text{`tag-name} (\text{expr}_1, \ldots, \text{expr}_m) \)
- \( [\text{expr}_1 ; \ldots ; \text{expr}_m [\]
- \( \{ \text{field}_1 = \text{expr}_1 ; \ldots ; \text{field}_m = \text{expr}_m \} \)
- \( \{ \text{expr}_1 \text{ with } \text{field}_2 = \text{expr}_2 ; \ldots ; \text{field}_m = \text{expr}_m \} \) where \( \text{expr}_1 \) is not immediately linked to \( \text{name}_1 \ldots \text{name}_n \)
- \( (\text{expr}_1, \ldots, \text{expr}_m) \)
- \( \text{expr}_1 ; \ldots ; \text{expr}_m \)

An expression \( e \) is said to be immediately linked to the variable \( \text{name} \) in the following cases:

• \( e \) is \( \text{name} \)
• \( e \) has the form \( \text{expr}_1 ; \ldots ; \text{expr}_m \) where \( \text{expr}_m \) is immediately linked to \( \text{name} \)
• \( e \) has the form \( \text{let } [\text{rec}] \text{xname}_1 = \text{expr}_1 \text{ and } \ldots \text{ and } \text{xname}_m = \text{expr}_m \text{ in } \text{expr}_0 \) where \( \text{expr}_0 \) is immediately linked to \( \text{name} \) or to one of the \( \text{xname}_i \) such that \( \text{expr}_i \) is immediately linked to \( \text{name} \).

### 8.2 Recursive modules

(Introduced in Objective Caml 3.07)

\[
\text{definition := } \ldots
\mid \text{module rec } \text{module-name : module-type} = \text{module-expr} \\
\quad \{ \text{and module-name : module-type} = \text{module-expr} \}
\]

\[
\text{specification := } \ldots
\mid \text{module rec } \text{module-name : module-type} \{ \text{and module-name : module-type} \}
\]

Recursive module definitions, introduced by the \text{module rec } \ldots \text{and } \ldots \text{ construction, generalize regular module definitions \text{module module-name} = \text{module-expr} \text{ and module specifications \text{module module-name : module-type} by allowing the defining \text{module-expr} \text{ and the module-type} to refer recursively to the module identifiers being defined. A typical example of a recursive module definition is:}

\[
\text{module rec A : sig}
\quad \text{type t = Leaf of string | Node of ASet.t}
\quad \text{val compare: t } \rightarrow \text{ t } \rightarrow \text{ int}
\]
```ocaml
end = struct
  type t = Leaf of string | Node of ASet.t
  let compare t1 t2 = match (t1, t2) with
    | (Leaf s1, Leaf s2) -> Stdlib.compare s1 s2
    | (Leaf _, Node _) -> 1
    | (Node _, Leaf _) -> -1
    | (Node n1, Node n2) -> ASet.compare n1 n2
end
and ASet : Set.S with type elt = A.t
  = Set.Make(A)
```

It can be given the following specification:

```ocaml
module rec A : sig
  type t = Leaf of string | Node of ASet.t
  val compare : t -> t -> int
end
and ASet : Set.S with type elt = A.t
```

This is an experimental extension of OCaml: the class of recursive definitions accepted, as well as its dynamic semantics are not final and subject to change in future releases.

Currently, the compiler requires that all dependency cycles between the recursively-defined module identifiers go through at least one “safe” module. A module is “safe” if all value definitions that it contains have function types $\text{typexpr}_1 \to \text{typexpr}_2$. Evaluation of a recursive module definition proceeds by building initial values for the safe modules involved, binding all (functional) values to $\text{fun } _\to \text{raiseUndefined_recursive_module}$. The defining module expressions are then evaluated, and the initial values for the safe modules are replaced by the values thus computed. If a function component of a safe module is applied during this computation (which corresponds to an ill-founded recursive definition), the $\text{Undefined_recursive_module}$ exception is raised at runtime:

```ocaml
module rec M: sig val f: unit \to int end = struct let f () = N.x end
and N:sig val x: int end = struct let x = M.f () end
Exception: Undefined_recursive_module ("exten.etex", 1, 43).
```

If there are no safe modules along a dependency cycle, an error is raised

```ocaml
module rec M: sig val x: int end = struct let x = N.y end
and N:sig val x: int val y:int end = struct let x = M.x let y = 0 end
Error: Cannot safely evaluate the definition of the following cycle
of recursively-defined modules: $M \to N \to M$.

There are no safe modules in this cycle (see manual section 8.2).
Module $M$ defines an unsafe value, $x$.
Module $N$ defines an unsafe value, $x$.
```

Note that, in the specification case, the module-types must be parenthesized if they use the $\text{with mod-constraint}$ construct.
8.3 Private types

Private type declarations in module signatures, of the form type t = private ..., enable libraries to reveal some, but not all aspects of the implementation of a type to clients of the library. In this respect, they strike a middle ground between abstract type declarations, where no information is revealed on the type implementation, and data type definitions and type abbreviations, where all aspects of the type implementation are publicized. Private type declarations come in three flavors: for variant and record types (section 8.3.1), for type abbreviations (section 8.3.2), and for row types (section 8.3.3).

8.3.1 Private variant and record types

(Introduced in Objective Caml 3.07)

\[
\text{type-representation} ::= \ldots
| = \text{private} \mid \text{constr-decl} \{ \mid \text{constr-decl} \}
| = \text{private} \text{record-decl}
\]

Values of a variant or record type declared private can be de-structured normally in pattern-matching or via the \text{expr}. \text{field} notation for record accesses. However, values of these types cannot be constructed directly by constructor application or record construction. Moreover, assignment on a mutable field of a private record type is not allowed.

The typical use of private types is in the export signature of a module, to ensure that construction of values of the private type always go through the functions provided by the module, while still allowing pattern-matching outside the defining module. For example:

module M : sig
    type t = private A | B of int
    val a : t
    val b : int -> t
end = struct
    type t = A | B of int
    let a = A
    let b n = assert (n > 0); B n
end

Here, the private declaration ensures that in any value of type M.t, the argument to the B constructor is always a positive integer.

With respect to the variance of their parameters, private types are handled like abstract types. That is, if a private type has parameters, their variance is the one explicitly given by prefixing the parameter by a ‘+’ or a ‘-‘, it is invariant otherwise.

8.3.2 Private type abbreviations

(Introduced in Objective Caml 3.11)

\[
\text{type-equation} ::= \ldots
| = \text{private} \text{typexpr}
\]
Unlike a regular type abbreviation, a private type abbreviation declares a type that is distinct from its implementation type `typexpr`. However, coercions from the type to `typexpr` are permitted. Moreover, the compiler "knows" the implementation type and can take advantage of this knowledge to perform type-directed optimizations.

The following example uses a private type abbreviation to define a module of nonnegative integers:

```ocaml
module N : sig
type t = private int
val of_int: int -> t
val to_int: t -> int
end = struct
type t = int
let of_int n = assert (n >= 0); n
let to_int n = n
end
```

The type `N.t` is incompatible with `int`, ensuring that nonnegative integers and regular integers are not confused. However, if `x` has type `N.t`, the coercion `(x :> int)` is legal and returns the underlying integer, just like `N.to_int x`. Deep coercions are also supported: if `l` has type `N.t list`, the coercion `(l :> int list)` returns the list of underlying integers, like `List.map N.to_int l` but without copying the list `l`.

Note that the coercion `(expr :> typexpr)` is actually an abbreviated form, and will only work in presence of private abbreviations if neither the type of `expr` nor `typexpr` contain any type variables. If they do, you must use the full form `(expr : typexpr1 => typexpr2)` where `typexpr1` is the expected type of `expr`. Concretely, this would be `(x : N.t => int)` and `(l : N.t list => int list)` for the above examples.

### 8.3.3 Private row types

(Introduced in Objective Caml 3.09)

```
type-equation ::= ...
| =private typexpr
```

Private row types are type abbreviations where part of the structure of the type is left abstract. Concretely `typexpr` in the above should denote either an object type or a polymorphic variant type, with some possibility of refinement left. If the private declaration is used in an interface, the corresponding implementation may either provide a ground instance, or a refined private type.

```ocaml
module M : sig type c = private < x : int; .. > val o : c end =
struct
  class c = object
    method x = 3
    method y = 2
  end
  let o = new c
end
```
This declaration does more than hiding the \texttt{y} method, it also makes the type \texttt{c} incompatible with any other closed object type, meaning that only \texttt{o} will be of type \texttt{c}. In that respect it behaves similarly to private record types. But private row types are more flexible with respect to incremental refinement. This feature can be used in combination with functors.

\begin{verbatim}
module F(X : sig type c = private < x : int; .. > end) =
  struct
    let get_x (o : X.c) = o#x
  end
module G(X : sig type c = private < x : int; y : int; .. > end) =
  struct
    include F(X)
    let get_y (o : X.c) = o#y
  end
\end{verbatim}

A polymorphic variant type \( [t] \), for example

\begin{verbatim}
type t = ['A of int | 'B of bool]
\end{verbatim}

can be refined in two ways. A definition \([u]\) may add new field to \([t]\), and the declaration

\begin{verbatim}
type u = private [> t]
\end{verbatim}

will keep those new fields abstract. Construction of values of type \([u]\) is possible using the known variants of \([t]\), but any pattern-matching will require a default case to handle the potential extra fields. Dually, a declaration \([u]\) may restrict the fields of \([t]\) through abstraction: the declaration

\begin{verbatim}
type v = private [< t > 'A]
\end{verbatim}

corresponds to private variant types. One cannot create a value of the private type \([v]\), except using the constructors that are explicitly listed as present, ('A n) in this example; yet, when pattern-matching on a \([v]\), one should assume that any of the constructors of \([t]\) could be present.

Similarly to abstract types, the variance of type parameters is not inferred, and must be given explicitly.

### 8.4 Local opens for patterns

(Introduced in OCaml 4.04)

\begin{verbatim}
pattern ::= ...
    | module-path . ( pattern )
    | module-path [ pattern ]
    | module-path [ | pattern | ]
    | module-path {. pattern }
\end{verbatim}

For patterns, local opens are limited to the \texttt{module-path . ( pattern )} construction. This construction locally open the module referred to by the module path \texttt{module-path} in the scope of the pattern \texttt{pattern}.

When the body of a local open pattern is delimited by \([\ ], [ | | ],\) or \{ \}, the parentheses can be omitted. For example, \texttt{module-path .[ pattern ]} is equivalent to \texttt{module-path .([ pattern ])}, and \texttt{module-path .[ | pattern | ]} is equivalent to \texttt{module-path .([ | pattern | ])}.
8.5 Locally abstract types

(Introduced in OCaml 3.12, short syntax added in 4.03)

\[
\text{parameter} ::= \ldots \\
| (\text{type}\{\text{typeconstr-name}\}^+) 
\]

The expression `fun (\text{type}\text{typeconstr-name} \rightarrow \text{expr})` introduces a type constructor named `typeconstr-name` which is considered abstract in the scope of the sub-expression, but then replaced by a fresh type variable. Note that contrary to what the syntax could suggest, the expression `fun (\text{type}\text{typeconstr-name} \rightarrow \text{expr})` itself does not suspend the evaluation of \text{expr} as a regular abstraction would. The syntax has been chosen to fit nicely in the context of function declarations, where it is generally used. It is possible to freely mix regular function parameters with pseudo type parameters, as in:

```ocaml
let f = fun (type t) (foo : t list) -> ...
```

and even use the alternative syntax for declaring functions:

```ocaml
let f (type t) (foo : t list) = ...
```

If several locally abstract types need to be introduced, it is possible to use the syntax `fun (\text{type}\text{typeconstr-name}_1 \ldots \text{typeconstr-name}_n \rightarrow \text{expr})` as syntactic sugar for `fun (\text{type}\text{typeconstr-name}_1 \rightarrow \ldots \rightarrow \text{fun (\text{type}\text{typeconstr-name}_n \rightarrow \text{expr})})`. For instance,

```ocaml
let f = fun (type t u v) -> fun (foo : (t * u * v) list) -> ...
let f' (type t u v) (foo : (t * u * v) list) = ...
```

This construction is useful because the type constructors it introduces can be used in places where a type variable is not allowed. For instance, one can use it to define an exception in a local module within a polymorphic function.

```ocaml
let f (type t) () =
  let module M = struct exception E of t end in
  (fun x -> M.E x), (function M.E x -> Some x | _ -> None)
```

Here is another example:

```ocaml
let sort_uniq (type s) (cmp : s -> s -> int) =
  let module S = Set.Make(struct type t = s let compare = cmp end) in
  fun l ->
      S.elements (List.fold_right S.add l S.empty)
```

It is also extremely useful for first-class modules (see section 8.6) and generalized algebraic datatypes (GADTs: see section 8.11).
Polymorphic syntax  (Introduced in OCaml 4.00)

\[
\text{let-binding} ::= \ldots \\
| \text{value-name : type \{typeconstr-name\}†. typexpr = expr}
\]

\[
\text{class-field} ::= \ldots \\
| \text{method [private] method-name : type \{typeconstr-name\}†. typexpr = expr} \\
| \text{method! [private] method-name : type \{typeconstr-name\}†. typexpr = expr}
\]

The \{(type typeconstr-name\} syntax construction by itself does not make polymorphic the type variable it introduces, but it can be combined with explicit polymorphic annotations where needed. The above rule is provided as syntactic sugar to make this easier:

\[
\text{let rec f : type t1 t2. t1 * t2 list -> t1} = \ldots
\]

is automatically expanded into

\[
\text{let rec f : 't1 't2. 't1 * 't2 list -> 't1} = \\
\text{fun (type t1) (type t2) -> ( \ldots : t1 * t2 list -> t1)}
\]

This syntax can be very useful when defining recursive functions involving GADTs, see the section 8.11 for a more detailed explanation.

The same feature is provided for method definitions.

8.6 First-class modules

(Introduced in OCaml 3.12; pattern syntax and package type inference introduced in 4.00; structural comparison of package types introduced in 4.02.; fewer parens required starting from 4.05)

\[
\text{typexpr ::= \ldots} \\
| (\text{module package-type})
\]

\[
\text{module-expr ::= \ldots} \\
| (\text{val expr [: package-type]})
\]

\[
\text{expr ::= \ldots} \\
| (\text{module module-expr [: package-type]})
\]

\[
\text{pattern ::= \ldots} \\
| (\text{module module-name [: package-type]})
\]

\[
\text{package-type ::= modtype-path} \\
| \text{modtype-path with package-constraint \{and package-constraint\}}
\]

\[
\text{package-constraint ::= type typeconstr = typexpr}
\]

Modules are typically thought of as static components. This extension makes it possible to pack a module as a first-class value, which can later be dynamically unpacked into a module.
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The expression \((\text{module } \text{module-expr} : \text{package-type})\) converts the module (structure or functor) denoted by module expression \(\text{module-expr}\) to a value of the core language that encapsulates this module. The type of this core language value is \((\text{module } \text{package-type})\). The \text{package-type} annotation can be omitted if it can be inferred from the context.

Conversely, the module expression \((\text{val } \text{expr} : \text{package-type})\) evaluates the core language expression \(\text{expr}\) to a value, which must have type \text{module package-type}, and extracts the module that was encapsulated in this value. Again \text{package-type} can be omitted if the type of \(\text{expr}\) is known. If the module expression is already parenthesized, like the arguments of functors are, no additional parens are needed: \text{Map.Make(val key)}.

The pattern \((\text{module } \text{module-name} : \text{package-type})\) matches a package with type \text{package-type} and binds it to \text{module-name}. It is not allowed in toplevel let bindings. Again \text{package-type} can be omitted if it can be inferred from the enclosing pattern.

The \text{package-type} syntactic class appearing in the \((\text{module } \text{package-type})\) type expression and in the annotated forms represents a subset of module types. This subset consists of named module types with optional constraints of a limited form: only non-parametrized types can be specified.

For type-checking purposes (and starting from OCaml 4.02), package types are compared using the structural comparison of module types.

In general, the module expression \((\text{val } \text{expr} : \text{package-type})\) cannot be used in the body of a functor, because this could cause unsoundness in conjunction with applicative functors. Since OCaml 4.02, this is relaxed in two ways: if \text{package-type} does not contain nominal type declarations (i.e. types that are created with a proper identity), then this expression can be used anywhere, and even if it contains such types it can be used inside the body of a generative functor, described in section 8.16. It can also be used anywhere in the context of a local module binding \text{let module module-name = (val expr1 : package-type) in expr2}.

**Basic example** A typical use of first-class modules is to select at run-time among several implementations of a signature. Each implementation is a structure that we can encapsulate as a first-class module, then store in a data structure such as a hash table:

```ocaml
type picture = ...
module type DEVICE = sig
  val draw : picture -> unit
  ...
end
let devices : (string, (module DEVICE)) Hashtbl.t = Hashtbl.create 17
module SVG = struct ...
end
let _ = Hashtbl.add devices "SVG" (module SVG : DEVICE)
module PDF = struct ...
end
let _ = Hashtbl.add devices "PDF" (module PDF: DEVICE)

We can then select one implementation based on command-line arguments, for instance:

```ocaml
let parse_cmdline () = ...
module Device =
  (val (let device_name = parse_cmdline () in
        try Hashtbl.find devices device_name
```
with Not_found ->
  Printf.eprintf "Unknown device %s\n" device_name;
  exit 2)
: DEVICE)

Alternatively, the selection can be performed within a function:

let draw_using_device device_name picture =
  let module Device =
    (val (Hashtbl.find devices device_name) : DEVICE)
  in
  Device.draw picture

**Advanced examples**  With first-class modules, it is possible to parametrize some code over the implementation of a module without using a functor.

let sort (type s) (module Set : Set.S with type elt = s) l =
  Set.elements (List.fold_right Set.add l Set.empty)
val sort : (module Set.S with type elt = 's) -> 's list -> 's list = <fun>

To use this function, one can wrap the [Set.Make](#) functor:

let make_set (type s) cmp =
  let module S = Set.Make(struct
    type t = s
    let compare = cmp
  end) in
  (module S : Set.S with type elt = s)
val make_set : ('s -> 's -> int) -> (module Set.S with type elt = 's) = <fun>

### 8.7 Recovering the type of a module

(Introduced in OCaml 3.12)

\[
\text{module-type ::= ...}
\begin{align*}
| \text{module type of module-expr}
\end{align*}
\]

The construction *module type of module-expr* expands to the module type (signature or functor type) inferred for the module expression *module-expr*. To make this module type reusable in many situations, it is intentionally not strengthened: abstract types and datatypes are not explicitly related with the types of the original module. For the same reason, module aliases in the inferred type are expanded.

A typical use, in conjunction with the signature-level *include* construct, is to extend the signature of an existing structure. In that case, one wants to keep the types equal to types in the original module. This can done using the following idiom.
module type MYHASH = sig
  include module type of struct include Hashtbl end
  val replace: ('a, 'b) t -> 'a -> 'b -> unit
end

The signature MYHASH then contains all the fields of the signature of the module Hashtbl (with strengthened type definitions), plus the new field replace. An implementation of this signature can be obtained easily by using the include construct again, but this time at the structure level:

module MyHash : MYHASH = struct
  include Hashtbl
  let replace t k v = remove t k; add t k v
end

Another application where the absence of strengthening comes handy, is to provide an alternative implementation for an existing module.

module MySet : module type of Set = struct
  ...
end

This idiom guarantees that Myset is compatible with Set, but allows it to represent sets internally in a different way.

## 8.8 Substituting inside a signature

### 8.8.1 Destructive substitutions

(Introduced in OCaml 3.12, generalized in 4.06)

```
mod-constraint  ::=  ...
  |  type [type-params] typeconstr-name := typexpr
  |  module module-path := extended-module-path
```

A “destructive” substitution (with... :=...) behaves essentially like normal signature constraints (with... =...), but it additionally removes the redefined type or module from the signature.

Prior to OCaml 4.06, there were a number of restrictions: one could only remove types and modules at the outermost level (not inside submodules), and in the case of with type the definition had to be another type constructor with the same type parameters.

A natural application of destructive substitution is merging two signatures sharing a type name.

module type Printable = sig
  type t
  val print : Format.formatter -> t -> unit
end
module type Comparable = sig
  type t
  val compare : t -> t -> int
module type PrintableComparable = sig
  include Printable
  include Comparable with type t := t
end

One can also use this to completely remove a field:

module type S = Comparable with type t := int
module type S = sig val compare : int -> int -> int end

or to rename one:

module type S = sig
  type u
  include Comparable with type t := u
end
module type S = sig type u val compare : u -> u -> int end

Note that you can also remove manifest types, by substituting with the same type.

module type ComparableInt = Comparable with type t = int ;;
module type ComparableInt = sig type t = int val compare : t -> t -> int end

module type CompareInt = ComparableInt with type t := int
module type CompareInt = sig val compare : int -> int -> int end

8.8.2 Local substitution declarations
(Introduced in OCaml 4.08)

 specification ::= ...
     type type-subst {and type-subst}
     module module-name := extended-module-path

type-subst ::= [type-params] typeconstr-name := typexpr {type-constraint}

Local substitutions behave like destructive substitutions (with... :=...) but instead of being applied to a whole signature after the fact, they are introduced during the specification of the signature, and will apply to all the items that follow.

This provides a convenient way to introduce local names for types and modules when defining a signature:

module type S = sig
  type t
  module Sub : sig
    type outer := t
    type t
    val to_outer : t -> outer
end
module type S =
  sig type t
    module Sub : sig type t val to_outer : t/1 -> t/2 end
  end

Note that, unlike type declarations, type substitution declarations are not recursive, so substitutions like the following are rejected:

# module type S = sig
#  type 'a poly_list := [ 'Cons of 'a * 'a poly_list | 'Nil ]
# end

Error: Unbound type constructor poly_list

8.9 Type-level module aliases

(Introduced in OCaml 4.02)

\[
\text{specification ::= } \ldots \\
| \text{module module-name = module-path}
\]

The above specification, inside a signature, only matches a module definition equal to module-path. Conversely, a type-level module alias can be matched by itself, or by any supertype of the type of the module it references.

There are several restrictions on module-path:

1. it should be of the form \(M_0.M_1...M_n\) (i.e. without functor applications);
2. inside the body of a functor, \(M_0\) should not be one of the functor parameters;
3. inside a recursive module definition, \(M_0\) should not be one of the recursively defined modules.

Such specifications are also inferred. Namely, when \(P\) is a path satisfying the above constraints,

\[
\text{module } N = P
\]

has type

\[
\text{module } N = P
\]

Type-level module aliases are used when checking module path equalities. That is, in a context where module name \(N\) is known to be an alias for \(P\), not only these two module paths check as equal, but \(F(N)\) and \(F(P)\) are also recognized as equal. In the default compilation mode, this is the only difference with the previous approach of module aliases having just the same module type as the module they reference.

When the compiler flag \(-\text{no-alias-deps}\) is enabled, type-level module aliases are also exploited to avoid introducing dependencies between compilation units. Namely, a module alias referring to a module inside another compilation unit does not introduce a link-time dependency on that compilation unit, as long as it is not dereferenced; it still introduces a compile-time dependency if the interface needs to be read, i.e. if the module is a submodule of the compilation unit, or if some type components are referred to. Additionally, accessing a module alias introduces a link-time
dependency on the compilation unit containing the module referenced by the alias, rather than the
compilation unit containing the alias. Note that these differences in link-time behavior may be
incompatible with the previous behavior, as some compilation units might not be extracted from
libraries, and their side-effects ignored.

These weakened dependencies make possible to use module aliases in place of the -pack mecha-
nism. Suppose that you have a library Mylib composed of modules A and B. Using -pack, one
would issue the command line

```
ocamlc -pack a.cmo b.cmo -o mylib.cmo
```

and as a result obtain a Mylib compilation unit, containing physically A and B as submodules,
and with no dependencies on their respective compilation units. Here is a concrete example of a
possible alternative approach:

1. Rename the files containing A and B to Mylib__A and Mylib__B.

2. Create a packing interface Mylib.ml, containing the following lines.

   ```
   module A = Mylib__A
   module B = Mylib__B
   ```

3. Compile Mylib.ml using -no-alias-deps, and the other files using -no-alias-deps and
   -open Mylib (the last one is equivalent to adding the line open! Mylib at the top of each
   file).

   ```
   ocamlc -c -no-alias-deps Mylib.ml
   ocamlc -c -no-alias-deps -open Mylib Mylib__*.mli Mylib__*.ml
   ```

4. Finally, create a library containing all the compilation units, and export all the compiled
   interfaces.

   ```
   ocamlc -a Mylib*.cmo -o Mylib.cma
   ```

This approach lets you access A and B directly inside the library, and as Mylib.A and Mylib.B from
outside. It also has the advantage that Mylib is no longer monolithic: if you use Mylib.A, only
Mylib__A will be linked in, not Mylib__B.

Note the use of double underscores in Mylib__A and Mylib__B. These were chosen on pur-
pose; the compiler uses the following heuristic when printing paths: given a path Lib__fooBar,
if Lib.FooBar exists and is an alias for Lib__fooBar, then the compiler will always display
Lib.FooBar instead of Lib__fooBar. This way the long Mylib__ names stay hidden and all the
user sees is the nicer dot names. This is how the OCaml standard library is compiled.

8.10 Overriding in open statements

(Introduced in OCaml 4.01)
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\[
\begin{align*}
\text{definition} & ::= \ldots \\
& \quad | \open! \text{module-path} \\
\text{specification} & ::= \ldots \\
& \quad | \open! \text{module-path} \\
\text{expr} & ::= \ldots \\
& \quad | \let \open! \text{module-path} \in \text{expr} \\
\text{class-body-type} & ::= \ldots \\
& \quad | \let \open! \text{module-path} \in \text{class-body-type} \\
\text{class-expr} & ::= \ldots \\
& \quad | \let \open! \text{module-path} \in \text{class-expr}
\end{align*}
\]

Since OCaml 4.01, \texttt{open} statements shadowing an existing identifier (which is later used) trigger the warning 44. Adding a \texttt{!} character after the \texttt{open} keyword indicates that such a shadowing is intentional and should not trigger the warning.

This is also available (since OCaml 4.06) for local opens in class expressions and class type expressions.

\section{8.11 Generalized algebraic datatypes}

(Introduced in OCaml 4.00)

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{constr-decl} & ::= \ldots \\
& \quad | \text{name} : [\text{constr-args} \rightarrow] \text{typexpr} \\
\text{type-param} & ::= \ldots \\
& \quad | [\text{variance}] \\
\end{align*}
\]

Generalized algebraic datatypes, or GADTs, extend usual sum types in two ways: constraints on type parameters may change depending on the value constructor, and some type variables may be existentially quantified. Adding constraints is done by giving an explicit return type (the rightmost \texttt{typexpr} in the above syntax), where type parameters are instantiated. This return type must use the same type constructor as the type being defined, and have the same number of parameters. Variables are made existential when they appear inside a constructor’s argument, but not in its return type.

Since the use of a return type often eliminates the need to name type parameters in the left-hand side of a type definition, one can replace them with anonymous types \texttt{_} in that case.

The constraints associated to each constructor can be recovered through pattern-matching. Namely, if the type of the scrutinee of a pattern-matching contains a locally abstract type, this type can be refined according to the constructor used. These extra constraints are only valid inside the corresponding branch of the pattern-matching. If a constructor has some existential variables, fresh locally abstract types are generated, and they must not escape the scope of this branch.
Recursive functions

Here is a concrete example:

```ocaml
type _ term =
  | Int : int -> int term
  | Add : (int -> int -> int) term
  | App : ('b -> 'a) term * 'b term -> 'a term

let rec eval : type a. a term -> a = function
  | Int n -> n (* a = int *)
  | Add -> (fun x y -> x+y) (* a = int -> int -> int *)
  | App(f,x) -> (eval f) (eval x)
    (* eval called at types (b->a) and b for fresh b *)

let two = eval (App (App (Add, Int 1), Int 1))
val two : int = 2
```

It is important to remark that the function `eval` is using the polymorphic syntax for locally abstract types. When defining a recursive function that manipulates a GADT, explicit polymorphic recursion should generally be used. For instance, the following definition fails with a type error:

```ocaml
let rec eval (type a) : a term -> a = function
  | Int n -> n
  | Add -> (fun x y -> x+y)
  | App(f,x) -> (eval f) (eval x)

Error: This expression has type ($App_'b -> a) term
but an expression was expected of type 'a
The type constructor $App_'b would escape its scope
```

In absence of an explicit polymorphic annotation, a monomorphic type is inferred for the recursive function. If a recursive call occurs inside the function definition at a type that involves an existential GADT type variable, this variable flows to the type of the recursive function, and thus escapes its scope. In the above example, this happens in the branch `App(f,x)` when `eval` is called with `f` as an argument. In this branch, the type of `f` is `$App_'b -> a). The prefix `$ in `App_'b denotes an existential type named by the compiler (see 8.11). Since the type of `eval` is `'a term -> 'a, the call `eval f` makes the existential type `$App_'b flow to the type variable `'a and escape its scope. This triggers the above error.

Type inference

Type inference for GADTs is notoriously hard. This is due to the fact some types may become ambiguous when escaping from a branch. For instance, in the `Int` case above, `n` could have either type `int` or `a`, and they are not equivalent outside of that branch. As a first approximation, type inference will always work if a pattern-matching is annotated with types containing no free type variables (both on the scrutinee and the return type). This is the case in the above example, thanks to the type annotation containing only locally abstract types.

In practice, type inference is a bit more clever than that: type annotations do not need to be immediately on the pattern-matching, and the types do not have to be always closed. As a result, it is usually enough to only annotate functions, as in the example above. Type annotations are
propagated in two ways: for the scrutinee, they follow the flow of type inference, in a way similar to polymorphic methods; for the return type, they follow the structure of the program, they are split on functions, propagated to all branches of a pattern matching, and go through tuples, records, and sum types. Moreover, the notion of ambiguity used is stronger: a type is only seen as ambiguous if it was mixed with incompatible types (equated by constraints), without type annotations between them. For instance, the following program types correctly.

```ocaml
let rec sum : type a. a term -> _ = fun x ->
  let y =
    match x with
    | Int n -> n
    | Add    -> 0
    | App(f,x) -> sum f + sum x
  in y + 1
val sum : 'a term -> int = <fun>
```

Here the return type `int` is never mixed with `a`, so it is seen as non-ambiguous, and can be inferred. When using such partial type annotations we strongly suggest specifying the `-principal` mode, to check that inference is principal.

The exhaustiveness check is aware of GADT constraints, and can automatically infer that some cases cannot happen. For instance, the following pattern matching is correctly seen as exhaustive (the `Add` case cannot happen).

```ocaml
let get_int : int term -> int = function
  | Int n   -> n
  | App(_,_) -> 0
```

**Refutation cases**  (Introduced in OCaml 4.03)

Usually, the exhaustiveness check only tries to check whether the cases omitted from the pattern matching are typable or not. However, you can force it to try harder by adding *refutation cases*:

```
matching-case ::= pattern [when expr] -> expr
               | pattern -> .
```

In presence of a refutation case, the exhaustiveness check will first compute the intersection of the pattern with the complement of the cases preceding it. It then checks whether the resulting patterns can really match any concrete values by trying to type-check them. Wild cards in the generated patterns are handled in a special way: if their type is a variant type with only GADT constructors, then the pattern is split into the different constructors, in order to check whether any of them is possible (this splitting is not done for arguments of these constructors, to avoid non-termination). We also split tuples and variant types with only one case, since they may contain GADTs inside.

For instance, the following code is deemed exhaustive:

```ocaml
type _ t =
  | Int  : int t
  | Bool : bool t
let deep : (char t * int) option -> char = function
  | None    -> 'c'
  | _         -> .
```
Namely, the inferred remaining case is Some _, which is split into Some (Int, _) and Some (Bool, _), which are both untypable because deep expects a non-existing char t as the first element of the tuple. Note that the refutation case could be omitted here, because it is automatically added when there is only one case in the pattern matching.

Another addition is that the redundancy check is now aware of GADTs: a case will be detected as redundant if it could be replaced by a refutation case using the same pattern.

**Advanced examples**  The term type we have defined above is an indexed type, where a type parameter reflects a property of the value contents. Another use of GADTs is singleton types, where a GADT value represents exactly one type. This value can be used as runtime representation for this type, and a function receiving it can have a polytypic behavior.

Here is an example of a polymorphic function that takes the runtime representation of some type t and a value of the same type, then pretty-prints the value as a string:

```ocaml
type _ typ =
 | Int : int typ
 | String : string typ
 | Pair : 'a typ * 'b typ -> ('a * 'b) typ

let rec to_string: type t. t typ -> t -> string =
  fun t x ->
  match t with
  | Int -> Int.to_string x
  | String -> Printf.sprintf "%S" x
  | Pair(t1,t2) ->
    let (x1, x2) = x in
    Printf.sprintf "(%s,%s)" (to_string t1 x1) (to_string t2 x2)
```

Another frequent application of GADTs is equality witnesses.

```ocaml
type (_,_) eq = Eq : ('a,'a) eq
let cast : type a b. (a,b) eq -> a -> b = fun Eq x -> x
```

Here type eq has only one constructor, and by matching on it one adds a local constraint allowing the conversion between a and b. By building such equality witnesses, one can make equal types which are syntactically different.

Here is an example using both singleton types and equality witnesses to implement dynamic types.

```ocaml
let rec eq_type : type a b. a typ -> b typ -> (a,b) eq option =
  fun a b ->
  match a, b with
  | Int, Int -> Some Eq
  | String, String -> Some Eq
  | Pair(a1,a2), Pair(b1,b2) ->
    begin match eq_type a1 b1, eq_type a2 b2 with
    | Some Eq, Some Eq -> Some Eq
    | _ -> None
```
type dyn = Dyn : 'a typ * 'a -> dyn
let get_dyn : type a. a typ -> dyn -> a option =
  fun a (Dyn(b,x)) ->
  match eq_type a b with
  | None -> None
  | Some Eq -> Some x

Existential type names in error messages  (Updated in OCaml 4.03.0)
The typing of pattern matching in presence of GADT can generate many existential types. When necessary, error messages refer to these existential types using compiler-generated names. Currently, the compiler generates these names according to the following nomenclature:

- First, types whose name starts with a $ are existentials.

- $Constr_{a}$ denotes an existential type introduced for the type variable 'a of the GADT constructor Constr:

  type any = Any : 'name -> any
  let escape (Any x) = x
  Error: This expression has type $Any_{name}$
  but an expression was expected of type 'a
  The type constructor $Any_{name}$ would escape its scope

- $Constr$ denotes an existential type introduced for an anonymous type variable in the GADT constructor Constr:

  type any = Any : _ -> any
  let escape (Any x) = x
  Error: This expression has type $Any_{_}$
  but an expression was expected of type 'a
  The type constructor $Any_{_}$ would escape its scope

- $'a$ if the existential variable was unified with the type variable 'a during typing:

  type (arg,result,aux) fn =
  | Fun: (a ->b) -> (a,'b,unit) fn
  | Mem1: (a ->b) * 'a * 'b -> (a, 'b, 'a * 'b) fn
  let apply: (arg,result,_) fn -> 'arg -> 'result = fun f x ->
  match f with
  | Fun f -> f x
  | Mem1 (f,y,fy) -> if x = y then fy else f x
  Error: This pattern matches values of type
  ($'arg,_result,$'arg * 'result) fn
  but a pattern was expected which matches values of type
  ($'arg,_,unit) fn
  The type constructor $'arg would escape its scope
• $\pi_n$ (n a number) is an internally generated existential which could not be named using one of the previous schemes.

As shown by the last item, the current behavior is imperfect and may be improved in future versions.

**Equations on non-local abstract types** (Introduced in OCaml 4.04)

GADT pattern-matching may also add type equations to non-local abstract types. The behavior is the same as with local abstract types. Reusing the above eq type, one can write:

```ocaml
module M : sig type t val x : t val e : (t,int) eq end = struct
  type t = int
  let x = 33
  let e = Eq
end
let x : int = let Eq = M.e in M.x
```

Of course, not all abstract types can be refined, as this would contradict the exhaustiveness check. Namely, built-in types (those defined by the compiler itself, such as int or array), and abstract types defined by the local module, are non-instantiable, and as such cause a type error rather than introduce an equation.

### 8.12 Syntax for Bigarray access

(Introduced in Objective Caml 3.00)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>expression</th>
<th>translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>expr</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>expr .{ expr , expr }</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>expr .{ expr , expr } &lt;- expr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>expr0 .{ expr1 }</td>
<td>Bigarray.Array1.get expr0 expr1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>expr0 .{ expr1 } &lt;- expr</td>
<td>Bigarray.Array1.set expr0 expr1 expr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>expr0 .{ expr1 , expr2 }</td>
<td>Bigarray.Array2.get expr0 expr1 expr2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>expr0 .{ expr1 , expr2 } &lt;- expr</td>
<td>Bigarray.Array2.set expr0 expr1 expr2 expr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>expr0 .{ expr1 , expr2 , expr3 }</td>
<td>Bigarray.Array3.get expr0 expr1 expr2 expr3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>expr0 .{ expr1 , expr2 , expr3 } &lt;- expr</td>
<td>Bigarray.Array3.set expr0 expr1 expr2 expr3 expr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>expr0 .{ expr1 , ... , exprn }</td>
<td>Bigarray.Genarray.get expr0 [ expr1 , ... , exprn ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>expr0 .{ expr1 , ... , exprn } &lt;- expr</td>
<td>Bigarray.Genarray.set expr0 [ expr1 , ... , exprn ] expr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The last two entries are valid for any $n > 3$. 

8.13 Attributes

(Introduced in OCaml 4.02, infix notations for constructs other than expressions added in 4.03)

Attributes are “decorations” of the syntax tree which are mostly ignored by the type-checker but can be used by external tools. An attribute is made of an identifier and a payload, which can be a structure, a type expression (prefixed with :), a signature (prefixed with :) or a pattern (prefixed with ?) optionally followed by a when clause:

\[
\text{attr-id ::= lowercase-ident} \\
| \text{capitalized-ident} \\
| \text{attr-id . attr-id}
\]

\[
\text{attr-payload ::= [module-items]} \\
| : \text{typexpr} \\
| : [\text{specification}] \\
| ? \text{pattern [when expr]}
\]

The first form of attributes is attached with a postfix notation on “algebraic” categories:

\[
\text{attribute ::= [\@ attr-id attr-payload ]} \\
\text{expr ::= ...} \\
| \text{expr attribute} \\
\text{typexpr ::= ...} \\
| \text{typexpr attribute} \\
\text{pattern ::= ...} \\
| \text{pattern attribute} \\
\text{module-expr ::= ...} \\
| \text{module-expr attribute} \\
\text{module-type ::= ...} \\
| \text{module-type attribute} \\
\text{class-expr ::= ...} \\
| \text{class-expr attribute} \\
\text{class-type ::= ...} \\
| \text{class-type attribute}
\]

This form of attributes can also be inserted after the tag-name in polymorphic variant type expressions (tag-spec-first, tag-spec, tag-spec-full) or after the method-name in method-type.

The same syntactic form is also used to attach attributes to labels and constructors in type declarations:
field-decl ::= [mutable] field-name : poly-typexpr {attribute}
constr-decl ::= (constr-name | ()) [of constr-args] {attribute}

Note: when a label declaration is followed by a semi-colon, attributes can also be put after the semi-colon (in which case they are merged to those specified before).

The second form of attributes are attached to “blocks” such as type declarations, class fields, etc:
item-attribute ::= [@@ attr-id attr-payload ]
typedef ::= ...
  | typedef item-attribute
exception-definition ::= exception constr-decl
  | exception constr-name = constr
module-items ::= [ ]; (definition | expr {item-attribute}) [ ]; definition | ; expr {item-attribute} ] [ ;
class-binding ::= ...
  | class-binding item-attribute
class-spec ::= ...
  | class-spec item-attribute
class-type-def ::= ...
  | classtype-def item-attribute
definition ::= let [rec] let-binding {and let-binding}
  | external value-name : typexpr = external-declaration {item-attribute}
  | type-definition
  | exception-definition {item-attribute}
  | class-definition
  | classtype-definition
  | module module-name { ( module-name : module-type ) } [ : module-type ]
    = module-expr {item-attribute}
  | module type modtype-name = module-type {item-attribute}
  | open module-path {item-attribute}
  | include module-expr {item-attribute}
  | module rec module-name : module-type = module-expr {item-attribute}
    {and module-name : module-type = module-expr {item-attribute}}
specification ::= val value-name : typexpr {item-attribute}
  | external value-name : typexpr = external-declaration {item-attribute}
  | type-definition
  | exception constr-decl {item-attribute}
  | class-specification
  | classtype-definition
  | module module-name : module-type {item-attribute}
  | module module-name { ( module-name : module-type ) } : module-type {item-attribute}
  | module type modtype-name {item-attribute}
  | module type modtype-name = module-type {item-attribute}
  | open module-path {item-attribute}
  | include module-type {item-attribute}
class-field-spec ::= ...
  | class-field-spec item-attribute
class-field ::= ...
  | class-field item-attribute
A third form of attributes appears as stand-alone structure or signature items in the module or class sub-languages. They are not attached to any specific node in the syntax tree:

```
floating-attribute ::= [@@@ attr-id attr-payload ]
definition ::= ...
  | floating-attribute
specification ::= ...
  | floating-attribute
class-field-spec ::= ...
  | floating-attribute
class-field ::= ...
  | floating-attribute
```

(Note: contrary to what the grammar above describes, *item-attributes* cannot be attached to these floating attributes in *class-field-spec* and *class-field*.)

It is also possible to specify attributes using an infix syntax. For instance:

```
let[@foo] x = 2 in x + 1 === (let x = 2 [@@foo] in x + 1)
begin[@foo][@bar x] ... end === (begin ... end)[@@foo][@@bar x]
module[@foo] M = ... === module M = ... [@@foo]
type[@foo] t = T === type t = T [@@foo]
method[@foo] m = ... === method m = ... [@@foo]
```

For `let`, the attributes are applied to each bindings:

```
let[@foo] x = 2 and y = 3 in x + y === (let x = 2 [@@foo] and y = 3 in x + y)
let[@foo] x = 2
and[@bar] y = 3 in x + y === (let x = 2 [@@foo] and y = 3 [@bar] in x + y)
```

### 8.13.1 Built-in attributes

Some attributes are understood by the type-checker:

- "ocaml.warning" or "warning", with a string literal payload. This can be used as floating attributes in a signature/structure/object/object type. The string is parsed and has the same effect as the `-w` command-line option, in the scope between the attribute and the end of the current signature/structure/object/object type. The attribute can also be attached to any kind of syntactic item which support attributes (such as an expression, or a type expression) in which case its scope is limited to that item. Note that it is not well-defined which scope is used for a specific warning. This is implementation dependent and can change between versions. Some warnings are even completely outside the control of "ocaml.warning" (for instance, warnings 1, 2, 14, 29 and 50).
- “ocaml.warnerror” or “warnerror”, with a string literal payload. Same as “ocaml.warning”, for the -warn-error command-line option.

- “ocaml.alert” or “alert”: see section 8.22.

- “ocaml.deprecated” or “deprecated”: alias for the “deprecated” alert, see section 8.22.

- “ocaml.deprecated_mutable” or “deprecated_mutable”. Can be applied to a mutable record label. If the label is later used to modify the field (with “expr1 <- expr”), the “deprecated” alert will be triggered. If the payload of the attribute is a string literal, the alert message includes this text.

- “ocaml.ppwarning” or “ppwarning”, in any context, with a string literal payload. The text is reported as warning (22) by the compiler (currently, the warning location is the location of the string payload). This is mostly useful for preprocessors which need to communicate warnings to the user. This could also be used to mark explicitly some code location for further inspection.

- “ocaml.warn_on_literal_pattern” or “warn_on_literal_pattern” annotate constructors in type definition. A warning (52) is then emitted when this constructor is pattern matched with a constant literal as argument. This attribute denotes constructors whose argument is purely informative and may change in the future. Therefore, pattern matching on this argument with a constant literal is unreliable. For instance, all built-in exception constructors are marked as “warn_on_literal_pattern”. Note that, due to an implementation limitation, this warning (52) is only triggered for single argument constructor.

- “ocaml.tailcall” or “tailcall” can be applied to function application in order to check that the call is tailcall optimized. If it it not the case, a warning (51) is emitted.

- “ocaml.inline” or “inline” take either “never”, “always” or nothing as payload on a function or functor definition. If no payload is provided, the default value is “always”. This payload controls when applications of the annotated functions should be inlined.

- “ocaml.inlined” or “inlined” can be applied to any function or functor application to check that the call is inlined by the compiler. If the call is not inlined, a warning (55) is emitted.

- “ocaml.noalloc”, “ocaml.unboxed”and “ocaml.untagged” or “noalloc”, “unboxed” and “untagged” can be used on external definitions to obtain finer control over the C-to-OCaml interface. See 19.11 for more details.

- “ocaml.immediate” or “immediate” applied on an abstract type mark the type as having a non-pointer implementation (e.g. “int”, “bool”, “char” or enumerated types). Mutation of these immediate types does not activate the garbage collector’s write barrier, which can significantly boost performance in programs relying heavily on mutable state.

- ocaml.unboxed or unboxed can be used on a type definition if the type is a single-field record or a concrete type with a single constructor that has a single argument. It tells the compiler to optimize the representation of the type by removing the block that represents the record or the constructor (i.e. a value of this type is physically equal to its argument). In the case of
GADTs, an additional restriction applies: the argument must not be an existential variable, represented by an existential type variable, or an abstract type constructor applied to an existential type variable.

- `ocaml.boxed` or `boxed` can be used on type definitions to mean the opposite of `ocaml.unboxed`: keep the unoptimized representation of the type. When there is no annotation, the default is currently `boxed` but it may change in the future.

- `ocaml.local` or `local` take either `never`, `always`, `maybe` or nothing as payload on a function definition. If no payload is provided, the default is `always`. The attribute controls an optimization which consists in compiling a function into a static continuation. Contrary to inlining, this optimization does not duplicate the function’s body. This is possible when all references to the function are full applications, all sharing the same continuation (for instance, the returned value of several branches of a pattern matching). `never` disables the optimization, `always` asserts that the optimization applies (otherwise a warning 55 is emitted) and `maybe` lets the optimization apply when possible (this is the default behavior when the attribute is not specified). The optimization is implicitly disabled when using the bytecode compiler in debug mode (-g), and for functions marked with an `ocaml.inline` `always` or `ocaml.unrolled` attribute which supersedes `ocaml.local`.

```ocaml
module X = struct
    [@/@warning "+9"] (* locally enable warning 9 in this structure *)
    ...
end
[@/deprecated "Please use module 'Y' instead."]
let x = begin[@/warning "+9"] [..] end
[@/deprecated "Please use type 's' instead."]

let fires_warning_22 x =
    assert (x >= 0) [@/ppwarning "TODO: remove this later"]
Warning 22: TODO: remove this later

let rec is_a_tail_call = function
    | [] -> ()
    | _ :: q -> (is_a_tail_call[@/tailcall]) q
let rec not_a_tail_call = function
    | [] -> []
    | x :: q -> x :: (not_a_tail_call[@/tailcall]) q
Warning 51: expected tailcall

let f x = x [@/inline]
let () = (f[@/inlined]) ()

type fragile =
    | Int of int [@/warn_on_literal_pattern]
    | String of string [@/warn_on_literal_pattern]
```
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let fragile_match_1 = function
| Int 0 -> ()
| _ -> ()
Warning 52: Code should not depend on the actual values of
this constructor’s arguments. They are only for information
and may change in future versions. (See manual section 9.5)
val fragile_match_1 : fragile -> unit = <fun>

let fragile_match_2 = function
| String "constant" -> ()
| _ -> ()
Warning 52: Code should not depend on the actual values of
this constructor’s arguments. They are only for information
and may change in future versions. (See manual section 9.5)
val fragile_match_2 : fragile -> unit = <fun>

module Immediate: sig
  type t [@@immediate]
  val x: t ref
end = struct
  type t = A | B
  let x = ref A
end

8.14 Extension nodes

(Introduced in OCaml 4.02, infix notations for constructs other than expressions added in 4.03,
infix notation (e1 ;%ext e2) added in 4.04.)

Extension nodes are generic placeholders in the syntax tree. They are rejected by the type-
checker and are intended to be “expanded” by external tools such as -ppx rewriters.

Extension nodes share the same notion of identifier and payload as attributes 8.13.

The first form of extension node is used for “algebraic” categories:
A second form of extension node can be used in structures and signatures, both in the module
and object languages:

\[
\text{item-extension} ::= \ [%\ attr-id \ attr-payload \ ]
\]

\[
definition ::= ...
\]

\[
specification ::= ...
\]

\[
class-field-spec ::= ...
\]

\[
class-field ::= ...
\]

An infix form is available for extension nodes when the payload is of the same kind (expression
with expression, pattern with pattern ...).

Examples:

\[
\text{let\%foo } x = 2 \text{ in } x + 1 \quad \Rightarrow \quad [\%\foo \text{ let } x = 2 \text{ in } x + 1]
\]

\[
\text{begin\%foo } \ldots \text{ end} \quad \Rightarrow \quad [\%\foo \text{ begin } \ldots \text{ end}]
\]

\[
x \text{ ;\%foo } 2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad [\%\foo x; 2]
\]

\[
\text{module\%foo } M = \ldots \quad \Rightarrow \quad [\%\foo \text{ module } M = \ldots ]
\]

\[
\text{val\%foo } x : t \quad \Rightarrow \quad [\%\foo : \text{ val } x : t]
\]
When this form is used together with the infix syntax for attributes, the attributes are considered to apply to the payload:

```ocaml
fun%foo[@bar] x -> x + 1 == [%foo (fun x -> x + 1)[@bar ] ];
```

Quoted strings `{|...|}` are particularly interesting for payloads that embed foreign syntax fragments. Those fragments can be interpreted by a preprocessor and turned into OCaml code without requiring escaping quotes. For instance, you can use `%sql `{|...|}` to represent arbitrary SQL statements — assuming you have a ppx-rewriter that recognizes the `%sql` extension.

Note that the word-delimited form, for example `{sql|...|sql}`, should not be used for signaling that an extension is in use. Indeed, the user cannot see from the code whether this string literal has different semantics than they expect. Moreover, giving semantics to a specific delimiter limits the freedom to change the delimiter to avoid escaping issues.

### 8.14.1 Built-in extension nodes

(Introduced in OCaml 4.03)

Some extension nodes are understood by the compiler itself:

- “ocaml.extension_constructor” or “extension_constructor” take as payload a constructor from an extensible variant type (see 8.15) and return its extension constructor slot.

```ocaml
type t = ..
type t += X of int | Y of string
let x = [%extension_constructor X]
let y = [%extension_constructor Y]
# x <> y;;
- : bool = true
```

### 8.15 Extensible variant types

(Introduced in OCaml 4.02)

```
type-representation ::= ...
   | = ..
specification ::= ...
   | type [type-params] typeconstr type-extension-spec
definition ::= ...
   | type [type-params] typeconstr type-extension-def
type-extension-spec ::= += [private] [l] constr-decl {1 constr-decl}
type-extension-def ::= += [private] [l] constr-def {1 constr-def}
constr-def ::= constr-decl
   | constr-name = constr
```
Extensible variant types are variant types which can be extended with new variant constructors. Extensible variant types are defined using ... New variant constructors are added using +=.

module Expr = struct
    type attr = ..
    type attr += Str of string
    type attr +=
        | Int of int
        | Float of float
end

Pattern matching on an extensible variant type requires a default case to handle unknown variant constructors:

let to_string = function
    | Expr.Str s -> s
    | Expr.Int i -> Int.to_string i
    | Expr.Float f -> string_of_float f
    | _ -> "?"

A preexisting example of an extensible variant type is the built-in exn type used for exceptions. Indeed, exception constructors can be declared using the type extension syntax:

type exn += Exc of int

Extensible variant constructors can be rebound to a different name. This allows exporting variants from another module.

# let not_in_scope = Str "Foo";;
Error: Unbound constructor Str

type Expr.attr += Str = Expr.Str

# let now_works = Str "foo";;
val now_works : Expr.attr = Expr.Str "foo"

Extensible variant constructors can be declared private. As with regular variants, this prevents them from being constructed directly by constructor application while still allowing them to be de-structured in pattern-matching.

module B : sig
    type Expr.attr += private Bool of int
    val bool : bool -> Expr.attr
end = struct
    type Expr.attr += Bool of int
    let bool p = if p then Bool 1 else Bool 0
end
# let inspection_works = function
# | B.Bool p -> (p = 1)
# | _ -> true;;
val inspection_works : Expr.attr -> bool = <fun>

# let construction_is_forbidden = B.Bool 1;;
Error: Cannot use private constructor Bool to create values of type Expr.attr

8.15.1 Private extensible variant types
(Introduced in OCaml 4.06)

\[
\text{type-representation} ::= \ldots
\ |
\text{= private ..}
\]

Extensible variant types can be declared \text{private}. This prevents new constructors from being declared directly, but allows extension constructors to be referred to in interfaces.

module Msg : sig
  type t = private ..
module MkConstr (X : sig type t end) : sig
  type t += C of X.t
end
end = struct
  type t = ..
module MkConstr (X : sig type t end) = struct
  type t += C of X.t
end
end

8.16 Generative functors
(Introduced in OCaml 4.02)
A generative functor takes a unit () argument. In order to use it, one must necessarily apply it to this unit argument, ensuring that all type components in the result of the functor behave in a generative way, i.e. they are different from types obtained by other applications of the same functor. This is equivalent to taking an argument of signature sig end, and always applying to struct end, but not to some defined module (in the latter case, applying twice to the same module would return identical types).

As a side-effect of this generativity, one is allowed to unpack first-class modules in the body of generative functors.

### 8.17 Extension-only syntax

(Introduced in OCaml 4.02.2, extended in 4.03)

Some syntactic constructions are accepted during parsing and rejected during type checking. These syntactic constructions can therefore not be used directly in vanilla OCaml. However, -ppx rewriters and other external tools can exploit this parser leniency to extend the language with these new syntactic constructions by rewriting them to vanilla constructions.

#### 8.17.1 Extension operators

(Introduced in OCaml 4.02.2)

Operator names starting with a # character and containing more than one # character are reserved for extensions.
8.17.2 Extension literals
(Introduced in OCaml 4.03)

```
float-literal ::= ...
  | [-] (0...9) {0...9 | _} [. {0...9 | _}] [(e | E) [+ | -] (0...9) {0...9 | _}] [g...z | G...Z]
  | [-] (0x | 0X) (0...9 A...F a...f) {0...9 | A...F | a...f | _}
  [. {0...9 | A...F | a...f | _}] [(p | P) [+ | -] (0...9) {0...9 | _}] [g...z | G...Z]
```

```
int-literal ::= ...
  | [-] (0...9) {0...9 | _} [g...z | G...Z]
  | [-] (0x | 0X) (0...9 A...F a...f) {0...9 | A...F | a...f | _} [g...z | G...Z]
  | [-] (0o | 0O) (0...7) {0...7 | _} [g...z | G...Z]
  | [-] (0b | 0B) (0...1) {0...1 | _} [g...z | G...Z]
```

Int and float literals followed by an one-letter identifier in the range [g.. z | G.. Z] are extension-only literals.

8.18 Inline records
(Introduced in OCaml 4.03)

```
constr-args ::= ...
  | record-decl
```

The arguments of sum-type constructors can now be defined using the same syntax as records. Mutable and polymorphic fields are allowed. GADT syntax is supported. Attributes can be specified on individual fields.

Syntactically, building or matching constructors with such an inline record argument is similar to working with a unary constructor whose unique argument is a declared record type. A pattern can bind the inline record as a pseudo-value, but the record cannot escape the scope of the binding and can only be used with the dot-notation to extract or modify fields or to build new constructor values.

```ocaml
type t =
  | Point of {width: int; mutable x: float; mutable y: float}
  | Other
let v = Point {width = 10; x = 0.; y = 0.}
let scale l = function
  | Point p -> Point {p with x = l *. p.x; y = l *. p.y}
  | Other -> Other
let print = function
  | Point {x; y; _} -> Printf.printf "%f/%f" x y
  | Other -> ()
let reset = function
```
Point p -> p.x <- 0.; p.y <- 0.
| Other -> ()

let invalid = function
| Point p -> p

Error: This form is not allowed as the type of the inlined record could escape.

### 8.19 Documentation comments

(Introduced in OCaml 4.03)

Comments which start with ** are treated specially by the compiler. They are automatically converted during parsing into attributes (see 8.13) to allow tools to process them as documentation.

Such comments can take three forms: floating comments, item comments and label comments. Any comment starting with ** which does not match one of these forms will cause the compiler to emit warning 50.

Comments which start with ** are also used by the ocamldoc documentation generator (see 15). The three comment forms recognised by the compiler are a subset of the forms accepted by ocamldoc (see 15.2).

#### 8.19.1 Floating comments

Comments surrounded by blank lines that appear within structures, signatures, classes or class types are converted into floating-attributes. For example:

```ocaml
type t = T
(** Now some definitions for [t] *)
let mkT = T
```

will be converted to:

```ocaml
type t = T
[@@ocaml.text " Now some definitions for [t] "]
let mkT = T
```

#### 8.19.2 Item comments

Comments which appear immediately before or immediately after a structure item, signature item, class item or class type item are converted into item-attributes. Immediately before or immediately after means that there must be no blank lines, ; ; , or other documentation comments between them. For example:

```ocaml
type t = T
(** A description of [t] *)
```

or
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(** A description of [t] *)
type t = T

will be converted to:

type t = T
[@@ocaml.doc " A description of [t] "]

Note that, if a comment appears immediately next to multiple items, as in:

type t = T
(** An ambiguous comment *)
type s = S

then it will be attached to both items:

type t = T
[@@ocaml.doc " An ambiguous comment "]
type s = S
[@@ocaml.doc " An ambiguous comment "]

and the compiler will emit warning 50.

8.19.3 Label comments

Comments which appear immediately after a labelled argument, record field, variant constructor, object method or polymorphic variant constructor are are converted into attributes. Immediately after means that there must be no blank lines or other documentation comments between them. For example:

type t1 = lbl:int (** Labelled argument *) -> unit
type t2 = {
     fld: int; (** Record field *)
     fld2: float;
}
type t3 =
    | Cstr of string (** Variant constructor *)
    | Cstr2 of string
type t4 = < meth: int * int; (** Object method *) >
type t5 = [
    `PCstr (** Polymorphic variant constructor *)
]

will be converted to:
type t1 = lbl:(int [@ocaml.doc " Labelled argument "]) -> unit

type t2 = {
  fld: int [@ocaml.doc " Record field "];
  fld2: float;
}

type t3 =
  | Cstr of string [@ocaml.doc " Variant constructor "]
  | Cstr2 of string

type t4 = < meth : int * int [@ocaml.doc " Object method "] >

Note that label comments take precedence over item comments, so:

```ocaml
(type t = T of string
 (** Attaches to T not t *)
)
```

will be converted to:

```ocaml
(type t = T of string [@ocaml.doc " Attaches to T not t "])
```

whilst:

```ocaml
(type t = T of string
 (** Attaches to T not t *)
 (** Attaches to t *)
)
```

will be converted to:

```ocaml
(type t = T of string [@ocaml.doc " Attaches to T not t "]
[@ocaml.doc " Attaches to t "]
)
```

In the absence of meaningful comment on the last constructor of a type, an empty comment (***) can be used instead:

```ocaml
(type t = T of string
 (**)
 (** Attaches to t *)
)
```

will be converted directly to

```ocaml
(type t = T of string
[@ocaml.doc " Attaches to t "]
)
```
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Extended indexing operators

(Introduced in 4.06)
dot-ext ::=
| (! | $ | % | & | * | + | - | / | : | = | > | ? | @ | ^ | | | ~) {operator-char}
expr ::= ...
| expr . [module-path .] dot-ext (( expr ) | [ expr ] | { expr }) [<- expr]
operator-name ::= ...
| . dot-ext (() | [] | {}) [<-]

This extension provides syntactic sugar for getting and setting elements for user-defined indexed
types. For instance, we can define python-like dictionaries with
module Dict = struct
include Hashtbl
let ( .%{} ) tabl index = find tabl index
let ( .%{}<- ) tabl index value = add tabl index value
end
let dict =
let dict = Dict.create 10 in
let () =
dict.Dict.%{"one"} <- 1;
let open Dict in
dict.%{"two"} <- 2 in
dict
# dict.Dict.%{"one"};;
- : int = 1

# let open Dict in dict.%{"two"};;
- : int = 2

8.21

Empty variant types

(Introduced in 4.07.0)
type-representation ::= ...
| =|
This extension allows user to define empty variants. Empty variant type can be eliminated by
refutation case of pattern matching.
type t = |
let f (x: t) = match x with _ -> .


8.22 Alerts

(Introduced in 4.08)

Since OCaml 4.08, it is possible to mark components (such as value or type declarations) in signatures with “alerts” that will be reported when those components are referenced. This generalizes the notion of “deprecated” components which were previously reported as warning 3. Those alerts can be used for instance to report usage of unsafe features, or of features which are only available on some platforms, etc.

Alert categories are identified by a symbolic identifier (a lowercase identifier, following the usual lexical rules) and an optional message. The identifier is used to control which alerts are enabled, and which ones are turned into fatal errors. The message is reported to the user when the alert is triggered (i.e. when the marked component is referenced).

The `ocaml.alert` or `alert` attribute serves two purposes: (i) to mark component with an alert to be triggered when the component is referenced, and (ii) to control which alert names are enabled. In the first form, the attribute takes an identifier possibly followed by a message. Here is an example of a value declaration marked with an alert:

```ocaml
module U: sig
val fork : unit -> bool
    [@@alert unix "This function is only available under Unix."]
end
```

Here `unix` is the identifier for the alert. If this alert category is enabled, any reference to `U.fork` will produce a message at compile time, which can be turned or not into a fatal error.

And here is another example as a floating attribute on top of an “.mli” file (i.e. before any other non-attribute item) or on top of an “.ml” file without a corresponding interface file, so that any reference to that unit will trigger the alert:

```ocaml
[@@alert unsafe "This module is unsafe!"]
```

Controlling which alerts are enabled and whether they are turned into fatal errors is done either through the compiler’s command-line option `-alert <spec>` or locally in the code through the `alert` or `ocaml.alert` attribute taking a single string payload `<spec>`. In both cases, the syntax for `<spec>` is a concatenation of items of the form:

- `+id` enables alert `id`.
- `-id` disables alert `id`.
- `++id` turns alert `id` into a fatal error.
- `-id` turns alert `id` into non-fatal mode.
- `@id` equivalent to `++id+id` (enables `id` and turns it into a fatal-error)

As a special case, if `id` is `all`, it stands for all alerts.

Here are some examples:
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(* Disable all alerts, reenables just unix (as a soft alert) and window (as a fatal-error), for the rest of the current structure *)

[@@[alert "-all--all+unix@window"]]

...

let x =
 (* Locally disable the window alert *)
    begin[@alert ":-window"]
        ...
    end

Before OCaml 4.08, there was support for a single kind of deprecation alert. It is now known as the deprecated alert, but legacy attributes to trigger it and the legacy ways to control it as warning 3 are still supported. For instance, passing -w +3 on the command-line is equivalent to -alert +deprecated, and:

val x: int
[@@ocaml.deprecated "Please do something else"]

is equivalent to:

val x: int
[@@ocaml.alert deprecated "Please do something else"]

8.23 Generalized open statements

(Introduced in 4.08)

definition ::= ...
  | open module-expr
  | open! module-expr

specification ::= ...
  | open extended-module-path
  | open! extended-module-path

eexpr ::= ...
  | let open module-expr in expr
  | let open! module-expr in expr

This extension makes it possible to open any module expression in module structures and expressions. A similar mechanism is also available inside module types, but only for extended module paths (e.g. F(X).G(Y)).

For instance, a module can be constrained when opened with
module M = struct let x = 0 let hidden = 1 end
open (M:sig val x: int end)
let y = hidden
Error: Unbound value hidden

Another possibility is to immediately open the result of a functor application

let sort (type x) (x:x list) =
  let open Set.Make(struct type t = x let compare=compare end) in
  elements (of_list x)
val sort : 'x list -> 'x list = <fun>

Going further, this construction can introduce local components inside a structure,

module M = struct
  let x = 0
  open! struct
    let x = 0
    let y = 1
  end
  let w = x + y
end
module M : sig val x : int val w : int end

One important restriction is that types introduced by open struct...end cannot appear in the signature of the enclosing structure, unless they are defined equal to some non-local type. So:

module M = struct
  open struct type 'a t = 'a option = None | Some of 'a end
  let x : int t = Some 1
end
module M : sig val x : int option end

is OK, but:

module M = struct
  open struct type t = A end
  let x = A
end
Error: The type t/3744 introduced by this open appears in the signature
  File "exten.etex", line 3, characters 6-7:
    The value x has no valid type if t/3744 is hidden

is not because x cannot be given any type other than t, which only exists locally. Although the above would be OK if x too was local:
module M: sig end = struct
  open struct
  type t = A
  end
  ...
  open struct let x = A end
  ...
end
module M : sig end

Inside signatures, extended opens are limited to extended module paths,

module type S = sig
  module F: sig end -> sig type t end
  module X: sig end
  open F(X)
  val f: t
end
module type S =
  sig
    module F : sig end -> sig type t end
    module X : sig end
    val f : F(X).t
end

  and not

open struct type t = int end

In those situations, local substitutions(see 8.8.2) can be used instead.
Beware that this extension is not available inside class definitions:

class c =
  let open Set.Make(Int) in
  ...

8.24 Binding operators

(Introduced in 4.08.0)
Users can define *let operators*:

```ocaml
define a let operator:
    let ( let* ) o f =
        match o with
        | None -> None
        | Some x -> f x

let return x = Some x

val ( let* ) : 'a option -> ('a -> 'b option) -> 'b option = <fun>

val return : 'a -> 'a option = <fun>
```

and then apply them using this convenient syntax:

```ocaml
let find_and_sum tbl k1 k2 =
    let* x1 = Hashtbl.find_opt tbl k1 in
    let* x2 = Hashtbl.find_opt tbl k2 in
    return (x1 + x2)

val find_and_sum : ('a, int) Hashtbl.t -> 'a -> 'a -> int option = <fun>
```

which is equivalent to this expanded form:

```ocaml
let find_and_sum tbl k1 k2 =
    ( let* ) (Hashtbl.find_opt tbl k1)
        (fun x1 ->
            ( let* ) (Hashtbl.find_opt tbl k2)
                (fun x2 -> return (x1 + x2)))

val find_and_sum : ('a, int) Hashtbl.t -> 'a -> 'a -> int option = <fun>
```

Users can also define *and operators*:

```ocaml
module ZipSeq = struct
    type 'a t = 'a Seq.t
    open Seq
```
let rec return x = 
  fun () -> Cons(x, return x)
let rec prod a b = 
  fun () ->
    match a (), b () with
    | Nil, _ | _, Nil -> Nil
    | Cons(x, a), Cons(y, b) -> Cons((x, y), prod a b)
  let ( let+ ) f s = map s f
  let ( and+ ) a b = prod a b end

module ZipSeq : 
  sig
    type 'a t = 'a Seq.t
    val return : 'a -> 'a Seq.t
    val prod : 'a Seq.t -> 'b Seq.t -> ('a * 'b) Seq.t
    val ( let+ ) : 'a Seq.t -> ('a -> 'b) -> 'b Seq.t
    val ( and+ ) : 'a Seq.t -> 'b Seq.t -> ('a * 'b) Seq.t
  end

end

open ZipSeq

let sum3 z1 z2 z3 = 
  let+ x1 = z1 
  and+ x2 = z2 
  and+ x3 = z3 in
  x1 + x2 + x3

val sum3 : int Seq.t -> int Seq.t -> int Seq.t -> int Seq.t = <fun>

which is equivalent to this expanded form:

open ZipSeq

let sum3 z1 z2 z3 = 
  ( let+ ) (( and+ ) (( and+ ) z1 z2) z3)
    (fun ((x1, x2), x3) -> x1 + x2 + x3)

val sum3 : int Seq.t -> int Seq.t -> int Seq.t -> int Seq.t = <fun>

8.24.1 Rationale

This extension is intended to provide a convenient syntax for working with monads and applicatives.

An applicative should provide a module implementing the following interface:

module type Applicative_syntax = sig
  type 'a t
  val ( let+ ) : 'a t -> ('a -> 'b) -> 'b t
  val ( and+ ) : 'a t -> 'b t -> ('a * 'b) t
end
where (let+) is bound to the map operation and (and+) is bound to the monoidal product operation.

A monad should provide a module implementing the following interface:

```ocaml
module type Monad_syntax = sig
  include Applicative_syntax
  val (let*) : 'a t -> ('a -> 'b t) -> 'b t
  val (and*) : 'a t -> 'b t -> ('a * 'b) t
end
```

where (let*) is bound to the bind operation, and (and*) is also bound to the monoidal product operation.
Part III

The OCaml tools
Chapter 9

Batch compilation (ocamlc)

This chapter describes the OCaml batch compiler ocamlc, which compiles OCaml source files to bytecode object files and links these object files to produce standalone bytecode executable files. These executable files are then run by the bytecode interpreter ocamlrune.

9.1 Overview of the compiler

The ocamlc command has a command-line interface similar to the one of most C compilers. It accepts several types of arguments and processes them sequentially, after all options have been processed:

- Arguments ending in .mli are taken to be source files for compilation unit interfaces. Interfaces specify the names exported by compilation units: they declare value names with their types, define public data types, declare abstract data types, and so on. From the file x.mli, the ocamlc compiler produces a compiled interface in the file x.cmi.

- Arguments ending in .ml are taken to be source files for compilation unit implementations. Implementations provide definitions for the names exported by the unit, and also contain expressions to be evaluated for their side-effects. From the file x.ml, the ocamlc compiler produces compiled object bytecode in the file x.cmo.

If the interface file x.mli exists, the implementation x.ml is checked against the corresponding compiled interface x.cmi, which is assumed to exist. If no interface x.mli is provided, the compilation of x.ml produces a compiled interface file x.cmi in addition to the compiled object code file x.cmo. The file x.cmi produced corresponds to an interface that exports everything that is defined in the implementation x.ml.

- Arguments ending in .cmo are taken to be compiled object bytecode. These files are linked together, along with the object files obtained by compiling .ml arguments (if any), and the OCaml standard library, to produce a standalone executable program. The order in which .cmo and .ml arguments are presented on the command line is relevant: compilation units are initialized in that order at run-time, and it is a link-time error to use a component of a unit before having initialized it. Hence, a given x.cmo file must come before all .cmo files that refer to the unit x.
• Arguments ending in `.cma` are taken to be libraries of object bytecode. A library of object bytecode packs in a single file a set of object bytecode files (`.cmo` files). Libraries are built with `ocamlc -a` (see the description of the `-a` option below). The object files contained in the library are linked as regular `.cmo` files (see above), in the order specified when the `.cma` file was built. The only difference is that if an object file contained in a library is not referenced anywhere in the program, then it is not linked in.

• Arguments ending in `.c` are passed to the C compiler, which generates a `.o` object file (`.obj` under Windows). This object file is linked with the program if the `-custom` flag is set (see the description of `-custom` below).

• Arguments ending in `.o` or `.a` (`.obj` or `.lib` under Windows) are assumed to be C object files and libraries. They are passed to the C linker when linking in `-custom` mode (see the description of `-custom` below).

• Arguments ending in `.so` (`.dll` under Windows) are assumed to be C shared libraries (DLLs). During linking, they are searched for external C functions referenced from the OCaml code, and their names are written in the generated bytecode executable. The run-time system `ocamlrunc` then loads them dynamically at program start-up time.

The output of the linking phase is a file containing compiled bytecode that can be executed by the OCaml bytecode interpreter: the command named `ocamlrunc`. If a.out is the name of the file produced by the linking phase, the command

```
ocamlrun a.out arg_1 arg_2 ... arg_n
```

executes the compiled code contained in a.out, passing it as arguments the character strings `arg_1` to `arg_n`. (See chapter 11 for more details.)

On most systems, the file produced by the linking phase can be run directly, as in:

```
./a.out arg_1 arg_2 ... arg_n
```

The produced file has the executable bit set, and it manages to launch the bytecode interpreter by itself.

The compiler is able to emit some information on its internal stages. It can output `.cmt` files for the implementation of the compilation unit and `.cmti` for signatures if the option `-bin-annot` is passed to it (see the description of `-bin-annot` below). Each such file contains a typed abstract syntax tree (AST), that is produced during the type checking procedure. This tree contains all available information about the location and the specific type of each term in the source file. The AST is partial if type checking was unsuccessful.

These `.cmt` and `.cmti` files are typically useful for code inspection tools.

### 9.2 Options

The following command-line options are recognized by `ocamlc`. The options `-pack`, `-a`, `-c` and `-output-obj` are mutually exclusive.
Chapter 9. Batch compilation (ocamlc)

-a  Build a library(.cma file) with the object files (.cmo files) given on the command line, instead of linking them into an executable file. The name of the library must be set with the -o option.

If -custom, -cclib or -ccopt options are passed on the command line, these options are stored in the resulting .cmalibrary. Then, linking with this library automatically adds back the -custom, -cclib and -ccopt options as if they had been provided on the command line, unless the -noautolink option is given.

-absname
Force error messages to show absolute paths for file names.

-annot
Dump detailed information about the compilation (types, bindings, tail-calls, etc). The information for file src.ml is put into file src.annot. In case of a type error, dump all the information inferred by the type-checker before the error. The src.annot file can be used with the emacs commands given in emacs/caml-types.el to display types and other annotations interactively.

-args filename
Read additional newline-terminated command line arguments from filename.

-args0 filename
Read additional null character terminated command line arguments from filename.

-bin-annot
Dump detailed information about the compilation (types, bindings, tail-calls, etc) in binary format. The information for file src.ml (resp. src.mli) is put into file src.cmt (resp. src.cmti). In case of a type error, dump all the information inferred by the type-checker before the error. The *.cmt and *.cmti files produced by -bin-annot contain more information and are much more compact than the files produced by -annot.

-c Compile only. Suppress the linking phase of the compilation. Source code files are turned into compiled files, but no executable file is produced. This option is useful to compile modules separately.

-cc ccomp
Use ccomp as the C linker when linking in “custom runtime” mode (see the -custom option) and as the C compiler for compiling .c source files.

-cclib -llibname
Pass the -llibname option to the C linker when linking in “custom runtime” mode (see the -custom option). This causes the given C library to be linked with the program.

-ccopt option
Pass the given option to the C compiler and linker. When linking in “custom runtime” mode, for instance-ccopt -Ldir causes the C linker to search for C libraries in directory dir.(See the -custom option.)
-color mode
Enable or disable colors in compiler messages (especially warnings and errors). The following modes are supported:

  auto
  use heuristics to enable colors only if the output supports them (an ANSI-compatible tty terminal);

  always
  enable colors unconditionally;

  never
  disable color output.

The default setting is 'auto', and the current heuristic checks that the TERM environment variable exists and is not empty or dumb, and that 'isatty(stderr)’ holds.

The environment variable OCAML_COLOR is considered if -color is not provided. Its values are auto/always/never as above.

-error-style mode
Control the way error messages and warnings are printed. The following modes are supported:

  short
  only print the error and its location;

  contextual
  like short, but also display the source code snippet corresponding to the location of the error.

The default setting is contextual.

The environment variable OCAML_ERROR_STYLE is considered if -error-style is not provided. Its values are short/contextual as above.

-compat-32
Check that the generated bytecode executable can run on 32-bit platforms and signal an error if it cannot. This is useful when compiling bytecode on a 64-bit machine.

-config
Print the version number of ocamlc and a detailed summary of its configuration, then exit.

-config-var var
Print the value of a specific configuration variable from the -config output, then exit. If the variable does not exist, the exit code is non-zero. This option is only available since OCaml 4.08, so script authors should have a fallback for older versions.

-custom
Link in “custom runtime” mode. In the default linking mode, the linker produces bytecode that is intended to be executed with the shared runtime system, ocamlrun. In the custom runtime mode, the linker produces an output file that contains both the runtime system and the bytecode for the program. The resulting file is larger, but it can be executed directly,
Chapter 9. Batch compilation (ocamlc)

even if the ocamlrun command is not installed. Moreover, the “custom runtime” mode enables static linking of OCaml code with user-defined C functions, as described in chapter 19.

Unix:

Never use the strip command on executables produced by ocamlc -custom, this would remove the bytecode part of the executable.

Unix:

Security warning: never set the “setuid” or “setgid” bits on executables produced by ocamlc -custom, this would make them vulnerable to attacks.

-dep ocamldep-args
Compute dependencies, as the ocamldep command would do. The remaining arguments are interpreted as if they were given to the ocamldep command.

dllib -libname
Arrange for the C shared library dlllibname.so (dlllibname.dll under Windows) to be loaded dynamically by the run-time system ocamlrun at program start-up time.

dllpath dir
Adds the directory dir to the run-time search path for shared C libraries. At link-time, shared libraries are searched in the standard search path (the one corresponding to the -I option). The -dllpath option simply stores dir in the produced executable file, where ocamlrun can find it and use it as described in section 11.3.

-for-pack module-path
Generate an object file (.cmo) that can later be included as a sub-module (with the given access path) of a compilation unit constructed with -pack. For instance, ocamlc -for-pack P -c A.ml will generate a.cmo that can later be used with ocamlc -pack -o P.cmo a.cmo. Note: you can still pack a module that was compiled without -for-pack but in this case exceptions will be printed with the wrong names.

-g Add debugging information while compiling and linking. This option is required in order to be able to debug the program with ocamldebug (see chapter 16), and to produce stack backtraces when the program terminates on an uncaught exception (see section 11.2).

-i Cause the compiler to print all defined names (with their inferred types or their definitions) when compiling an implementation (.ml file). No compiled files (.cmo and .cmi files) are produced. This can be useful to check the types inferred by the compiler. Also, since the output follows the syntax of interfaces, it can help in writing an explicit interface (.mli file) for a file: just redirect the standard output of the compiler to a .mli file, and edit that file to remove all declarations of unexported names.

-I directory
Add the given directory to the list of directories searched for compiled interface files (.mli), compiled object code files .cmo, libraries (.cma) and C libraries specified with -cclib -lxxx.
By default, the current directory is searched first, then the standard library directory. Directories added with -I are searched after the current directory, in the order in which they were given on the command line, but before the standard library directory. See also option -nostdlib.

If the given directory starts with +, it is taken relative to the standard library directory. For instance, -I +unix adds the subdirectory unix of the standard library to the search path.

-impl filename
Compile the file filename as an implementation file, even if its extension is not .ml.

-intf filename
Compile the file filename as an interface file, even if its extension is not .mli.

-intf-suffix string
Recognize file names ending with string as interface files (instead of the default .mli).

-labels
Labels are not ignored in types, labels may be used in applications, and labelled parameters can be given in any order. This is the default.

-linkall
Force all modules contained in libraries to be linked in. If this flag is not given, unreferenced modules are not linked in. When building a library (option -a), setting the -linkall option forces all subsequent links of programs involving that library to link all the modules contained in the library. When compiling a module (option -c), setting the -linkall option ensures that this module will always be linked if it is put in a library and this library is linked.

-make-runtime
Build a custom runtime system (in the file specified by option -o) incorporating the C object files and libraries given on the command line. This custom runtime system can be used later to execute bytecode executables produced with the ocamlc -use-runtime runtime-name option. See section 19.1.6 for more information.

-match-context-rows
Set the number of rows of context used for optimization during pattern matching compilation. The default value is 32. Lower values cause faster compilation, but less optimized code. This advanced option is meant for use in the event that a pattern-match-heavy program leads to significant increases in compilation time.

-no-alias-deps
Do not record dependencies for module aliases. See section 8.9 for more information.

-no-app-funct
Deactivates the applicative behaviour of functors. With this option, each functor application generates new types in its result and applying the same functor twice to the same argument yields two incompatible structures.
-noassert
Do not compile assertion checks. Note that the special form `assert false` is always compiled because it is typed specially. This flag has no effect when linking already-compiled files.

-noautolink
When linking `.cma` libraries, ignore `-custom`, `-cclib` and `-ccopt` options potentially contained in the libraries (if these options were given when building the libraries). This can be useful if a library contains incorrect specifications of C libraries or C options; in this case, during linking, set `-noautolink` and pass the correct C libraries and options on the command line.

-nolabels
Ignore non-optional labels in types. Labels cannot be used in applications, and parameter order becomes strict.

-nostdlib
Do not include the standard library directory in the list of directories searched for compiled interface files (`.cmi`), compiled object code files (`.cmo`), libraries (`.cma`), and C libraries specified with `-cclib -lxxx`. See also option `-I`.

-o exec-file
Specify the name of the output file produced by the compiler. The default output name is `a.out` under Unix and `camlprog.exe` under Windows. If the `-a` option is given, specify the name of the library produced. If the `-pack` option is given, specify the name of the packed object file produced. If the `-output-obj` option is given, specify the name of the output file produced. If the `-c` option is given, specify the name of the object file produced for the next source file that appears on the command line.

-opaque
When the native compiler compiles an implementation, by default it produces a `.cmx` file containing information for cross-module optimization. It also expects `.cmx` files to be present for the dependencies of the currently compiled source, and uses them for optimization. Since OCaml 4.03, the compiler will emit a warning if it is unable to locate the `.cmx` file of one of those dependencies.

The `-opaque` option, available since 4.04, disables cross-module optimization information for the currently compiled unit. When compiling `.mli` interface, using `-opaque` marks the compiled `.cmi` interface so that subsequent compilations of modules that depend on it will not rely on the corresponding `.cmx` file, nor warn if it is absent. When the native compiler compiles a `.ml` implementation, using `-opaque` generates a `.cmx` that does not contain any cross-module optimization information.

Using this option may degrade the quality of generated code, but it reduces compilation time, both on clean and incremental builds. Indeed, with the native compiler, when the implementation of a compilation unit changes, all the units that depend on it may need to be recompiled – because the cross-module information may have changed. If the compilation unit whose implementation changed was compiled with `-opaque`, no such recompilation needs to occur. This option can thus be used, for example, to get faster edit-compile-test feedback loops.
-open Module
Opens the given module before processing the interface or implementation files. If several
-open options are given, they are processed in order, just as if the statements open! Module1;;
... open! ModuleN;; were added at the top of each file.

-output-obj
Cause the linker to produce a C object file instead of a bytecode executable file. This is
useful to wrap OCaml code as a C library, callable from any C program. See chapter 19,
section 19.7.5. The name of the output object file must be set with the -o option. This
option can also be used to produce a C source file (.c extension) or a compiled shared/dynamic
library (.so extension, .dll under Windows).

-pack
Build a bytecode object file (.cmo file) and its associated compiled interface (.cmi) that
combines the object files given on the command line, making them appear as sub-modules of
the output .cmo file. The name of the output .cmo file must be given with the -o option. For
instance,

ocamlc -pack -o p.cmo a.cmo b.cmo c.cmo

generates compiled files p.cmo and p.cmi describing a compilation unit having three sub-
modules A, B and C, corresponding to the contents of the object files a.cmo, b.cmo and c.cmo.
These contents can be referenced as P.A, P.B and P.C in the remainder of the program.

-pp command
Cause the compiler to call the given command as a preprocessor for each source file. The
output of command is redirected to an intermediate file, which is compiled. If there are no
compilation errors, the intermediate file is deleted afterwards.

-ppx command
After parsing, pipe the abstract syntax tree through the preprocessor command. The module
Ast_mapper, described in section 24.1, implements the external interface of a preprocessor.

-principal
Check information path during type-checking, to make sure that all types are derived in
a principal way. When using labelled arguments and/or polymorphic methods, this flag is
required to ensure future versions of the compiler will be able to infer types correctly, even
if internal algorithms change. All programs accepted in -principal mode are also accepted
in the default mode with equivalent types, but different binary signatures, and this may slow
down type checking; yet it is a good idea to use it once before publishing source code.

-rectypes
Allow arbitrary recursive types during type-checking. By default, only recursive types where
the recursion goes through an object type are supported. Note that once you have created an
interface using this flag, you must use it again for all dependencies.

-runtime-variant suffix
Add the suffix string to the name of the runtime library used by the program. Currently, only
one such suffix is supported: \texttt{d}, and only if the OCaml compiler was configured with option \texttt{-with-debug-runtime}. This suffix gives the debug version of the runtime, which is useful for debugging pointer problems in low-level code such as C stubs.

\texttt{-stop-after pass}
Stop compilation after the given compilation pass. The currently supported passes are: \texttt{parsing, typing}.

\texttt{-safe-string}
Enforce the separation between types \texttt{string} and \texttt{bytes}, thereby making strings read-only. This is the default.

\texttt{-short-paths}
When a type is visible under several module-paths, use the shortest one when printing the type’s name in inferred interfaces and error and warning messages. Identifier names starting with an underscore _ or containing double underscores \texttt{__} incur a penalty of +10 when computing their length.

\texttt{-strict-sequence}
Force the left-hand part of each sequence to have type \texttt{unit}.

\texttt{-strict-formats}
Reject invalid formats that were accepted in legacy format implementations. You should use this flag to detect and fix such invalid formats, as they will be rejected by future OCaml versions.

\texttt{-unboxed-types}
When a type is unboxable (i.e. a record with a single argument or a concrete datatype with a single constructor of one argument) it will be unboxed unless annotated with \texttt{[@@ocaml.boxed]}.

\texttt{-no-unboxed-types}
When a type is unboxable it will be boxed unless annotated with \texttt{[@@ocaml.unboxed]}. This is the default.

\texttt{-unsafe}
Turn bound checking off for array and string accesses (the \texttt{v.(i)} and \texttt{s.[i]} constructs). Programs compiled with \texttt{-unsafe} are therefore slightly faster, but unsafe: anything can happen if the program accesses an array or string outside of its bounds. Additionally, turn off the check for zero divisor in integer division and modulus operations. With \texttt{-unsafe}, an integer division (or modulus) by zero can halt the program or continue with an unspecified result instead of raising a \texttt{Division_by_zero} exception.

\texttt{-unsafe-string}
Identify the types \texttt{string} and \texttt{bytes}, thereby making strings writable. This is intended for compatibility with old source code and should not be used with new software.

\texttt{-use-runtime runtime-name}
Generate a bytecode executable file that can be executed on the custom runtime system
runtime-name, built earlier with ocamlc -make-runtime runtime-name. See section 19.1.6 for more information.

-v Print the version number of the compiler and the location of the standard library directory, then exit.

-verbose
Print all external commands before they are executed, in particular invocations of the C compiler and linker in -custom mode. Useful to debug C library problems.

-version or -vnum
Print the version number of the compiler in short form (e.g. 3.11.0), then exit.

-w warning-list
Enable, disable, or mark as fatal the warnings specified by the argument warning-list. Each warning can be enabled or disabled, and each warning can be fatal or non-fatal. If a warning is disabled, it isn’t displayed and doesn’t affect compilation in any way (even if it is fatal). If a warning is enabled, it is displayed normally by the compiler whenever the source code triggers it. If it is enabled and fatal, the compiler will also stop with an error after displaying it.

The warning-list argument is a sequence of warning specifiers, with no separators between them. A warning specifier is one of the following:

+num
Enable warning number num.

-num
Disable warning number num.

@num
Enable and mark as fatal warning number num.

+num1..num2
Enable warnings in the given range.

-num1..num2
Disable warnings in the given range.

@num1..num2
Enable and mark as fatal warnings in the given range.

+letter
Enable the set of warnings corresponding to letter. The letter may be uppercase or lowercase.

-letter
Disable the set of warnings corresponding to letter. The letter may be uppercase or lowercase.

@letter
Enable and mark as fatal the set of warnings corresponding to letter. The letter may be uppercase or lowercase.
uppercase-letter
  Enable the set of warnings corresponding to uppercase-letter.

lowercase-letter
  Disable the set of warnings corresponding to lowercase-letter.

Warning numbers and letters which are out of the range of warnings that are currently defined are ignored. The warnings are as follows.

1  Suspicious-looking start-of-comment mark.
2  Suspicious-looking end-of-comment mark.
3  Deprecated synonym for the ‘deprecated’ alert
4  Fragile pattern matching: matching that will remain complete even if additional constructors are added to one of the variant types matched.
5  Partially applied function: expression whose result has function type and is ignored.
6  Label omitted in function application.
7  Method overridden.
8  Partial match: missing cases in pattern-matching.
9  Missing fields in a record pattern.
10 Expression on the left-hand side of a sequence that doesn’t have type unit (and that is not a function, see warning number 5).
11 Redundant case in a pattern matching (unused match case).
12 Redundant sub-pattern in a pattern-matching.
13 Instance variable overridden.
14 Illegal backslash escape in a string constant.
15 Private method made public implicitly.
16 Unerasable optional argument.
17 Undeclared virtual method.
18 Non-principal type.
19 Type without principality.
20 Unused function argument.
21 Non-returning statement.
22 Preprocessor warning.
23 Useless record with clause.
24 Bad module name: the source file name is not a valid OCaml module name.
25 Deprecated: now part of warning 8.
26 Suspicious unused variable: unused variable that is bound with let or as, and doesn’t start with an underscore (_) character.
27 Innocuous unused variable: unused variable that is not bound with let nor as, and doesn’t start with an underscore (_) character.
28  Wildcard pattern given as argument to a constant constructor.
29  Unescaped end-of-line in a string constant (non-portable code).
30  Two labels or constructors of the same name are defined in two mutually recursive types.
31  A module is linked twice in the same executable.
32  Unused value declaration.
33  Unused open statement.
34  Unused type declaration.
35  Unused for-loop index.
36  Unused ancestor variable.
37  Unused constructor.
38  Unused extension constructor.
39  Unused rec flag.
40  Constructor or label name used out of scope.
41  Ambiguous constructor or label name.
42  Disambiguated constructor or label name (compatibility warning).
43  Nonoptional label applied as optional.
44  Open statement shadows an already defined identifier.
45  Open statement shadows an already defined label or constructor.
46  Error in environment variable.
47  Illegal attribute payload.
48  Implicit elimination of optional arguments.
49  Absent cmi file when looking up module alias.
50  Unexpected documentation comment.
51  Warning on non-tail calls if @tailcall present.
52 (see 9.5.2)
   Fragile constant pattern.
53  Attribute cannot appear in this context
54  Attribute used more than once on an expression
55  Inlining impossible
56  Unreachable case in a pattern-matching (based on type information).
57 (see 9.5.3)
   Ambiguous or-pattern variables under guard
58  Missing cmix file
59  Assignment to non-mutable value
60  Unused module declaration
61  Unboxable type in primitive declaration
62 Type constraint on GADT type declaration
63 Erroneous printed signature
64 -unsafe used with a preprocessor returning a syntax tree
65 Type declaration defining a new '()' constructor
66 Unused open! statement
A all warnings
C warnings 1, 2.
D Alias for warning 3.
E Alias for warning 4.
F Alias for warning 5.
K warnings 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39.
L Alias for warning 6.
M Alias for warning 7.
P Alias for warning 8.
R Alias for warning 9.
S Alias for warning 10.
U warnings 11, 12.
V Alias for warning 13.
X warnings 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 30.
Y Alias for warning 26.
Z Alias for warning 27.

The default setting is -w +a-4-6-7-9-27-29-32..42-44-45-48-50-60. It is displayed by ocamlc -help. Note that warnings 5 and 10 are not always triggered, depending on the internals of the type checker.

-warn-error warning-list
Mark as fatal the warnings specified in the argument warning-list. The compiler will stop with an error when one of these warnings is emitted. The warning-list has the same meaning as for the -w option: a + sign (or an uppercase letter) marks the corresponding warnings as fatal, a - sign (or a lowercase letter) turns them back into non-fatal warnings, and a @ sign both enables and marks as fatal the corresponding warnings.

Note: it is not recommended to use warning sets (i.e. letters) as arguments to -warn-error in production code, because this can break your build when future versions of OCaml add some new warnings.

The default setting is -warn-error -a+31 (only warning 31 is fatal).

-warn-help
Show the description of all available warning numbers.
-where
   Print the location of the standard library, then exit.

-with-runtime
   Include the runtime system in the generated program. This is the default.

-without-runtime
   The compiler does not include the runtime system (nor a reference to it) in the generated
   program; it must be supplied separately.

-file
   Process file as a file name, even if it starts with a dash (-) character.

-help or -help
   Display a short usage summary and exit.

Contextual control of command-line options
The compiler command line can be modified “from the outside” with the following mechanisms.
These are experimental and subject to change. They should be used only for experimental and
development work, not in released packages.

OCAMLPARAM (environment variable)
A set of arguments that will be inserted before or after the arguments from the command
line. Arguments are specified in a comma-separated list of name=value pairs. A _ is used to
specify the position of the command line arguments, i.e. a=x,_,b=y means that a=x should
be executed before parsing the arguments, and b=y after. Finally, an alternative separator
can be specified as the first character of the string, within the set :|; ,.

ocaml_compiler_internal_params (file in the stdlib directory)
A mapping of file names to lists of arguments that will be added to the command line (and
OCAMLPARAM) arguments.

OCAML_FLEXLINK (environment variable)
Alternative executable to use on native Windows for flexlink instead of the configured value.
Primarily used for bootstrapping.

9.3 Modules and the file system
This short section is intended to clarify the relationship between the names of the modules corre-
sponding to compilation units and the names of the files that contain their compiled interface and
compiled implementation.

The compiler always derives the module name by taking the capitalized base name of the source
file (.ml or .mli file). That is, it strips the leading directory name, if any, as well as the .ml or
.mli suffix; then, it set the first letter to uppercase, in order to comply with the requirement that
module names must be capitalized. For instance, compiling the file mylib/misc.ml provides an
implementation for the module named Misc. Other compilation units may refer to components
defined in mylib/misc.ml under the names Misc. name; they can also do open Misc, then use unqualified names name.

The .cmi and .cmo files produced by the compiler have the same base name as the source file. Hence, the compiled files always have their base name equal (modulo capitalization of the first letter) to the name of the module they describe (for .cmi files) or implement (for .cmo files).

When the compiler encounters a reference to a free module identifier Mod, it looks in the search path for a file named Mod.cmi or mod.cmi and loads the compiled interface contained in that file. As a consequence, renaming .cmi files is not advised: the name of a .cmi file must always correspond to the name of the compilation unit it implements. It is admissible to move them to another directory, if their base name is preserved, and the correct -I options are given to the compiler. The compiler will flag an error if it loads a .cmi file that has been renamed.

Compiled bytecode files (.cmo files), on the other hand, can be freely renamed once created. That’s because the linker never attempts to find by itself the .cmo file that implements a module with a given name: it relies instead on the user providing the list of .cmo files by hand.

9.4 Common errors

This section describes and explains the most frequently encountered error messages.

Cannot find file filename

The named file could not be found in the current directory, nor in the directories of the search path. The filename is either a compiled interface file (.cmi file), or a compiled bytecode file (.cmo file). If filename has the format mod.cmi, this means you are trying to compile a file that references identifiers from module mod, but you have not yet compiled an interface for module mod. Fix: compile mod.mli or mod.ml first, to create the compiled interface mod.cmi.

If filename has the format mod.cmo, this means you are trying to link a bytecode object file that does not exist yet. Fix: compile mod.ml first.

If your program spans several directories, this error can also appear because you haven’t specified the directories to look into. Fix: add the correct -I options to the command line.

Corrupted compiled interface filename

The compiler produces this error when it tries to read a compiled interface file (.cmi file) that has the wrong structure. This means something went wrong when this .cmi file was written: the disk was full, the compiler was interrupted in the middle of the file creation, and so on. This error can also appear if a .cmi file is modified after its creation by the compiler. Fix: remove the corrupted .cmi file, and rebuild it.

This expression has type $t_1$, but is used with type $t_2$

This is by far the most common type error in programs. Type $t_1$ is the type inferred for the expression (the part of the program that is displayed in the error message), by looking at the expression itself. Type $t_2$ is the type expected by the context of the expression; it is deduced by looking at how the value of this expression is used in the rest of the program. If the two types $t_1$ and $t_2$ are not compatible, then the error above is produced.
In some cases, it is hard to understand why the two types $t_1$ and $t_2$ are incompatible. For instance, the compiler can report that “expression of type foo cannot be used with type foo”, and it really seems that the two types foo are compatible. This is not always true. Two type constructors can have the same name, but actually represent different types. This can happen if a type constructor is redefined. Example:

```ocaml
type foo = A | B
let f = function A -> 0 | B -> 1
let foo = C | D
f C
```

This result in the error message “expression C of type foo cannot be used with type foo”.

The type of this expression, $t$, contains type variables that cannot be generalized

Type variables (a, b, ...) in a type $t$ can be in either of two states: generalized (which means that the type $t$ is valid for all possible instantiations of the variables) and not generalized (which means that the type $t$ is valid only for one instantiation of the variables). In a let binding let name = expr, the type-checker normally generalizes as many type variables as possible in the type of expr. However, this leads to unsoundness (a well-typed program can crash) in conjunction with polymorphic mutable data structures. To avoid this, generalization is performed at let bindings only if the bound expression expr belongs to the class of “syntactic values”, which includes constants, identifiers, functions, tuples of syntactic values, etc. In all other cases (for instance, expr is a function application), a polymorphic mutable could have been created and generalization is therefore turned off for all variables occurring in contravariant or non-variant branches of the type. For instance, if the type of a non-value is 'a list the variable is generalizable (list is a covariant type constructor), but not in 'a list -> 'a list (the left branch of -> is contravariant) or 'a ref (ref is non-variant).

Non-generalized type variables in a type cause no difficulties inside a given structure or compilation unit (the contents of a .ml file, or an interactive session), but they cannot be allowed inside signatures nor in compiled interfaces (.cmi file), because they could be used inconsistently later. Therefore, the compiler flags an error when a structure or compilation unit defines a value name whose type contains non-generalized type variables. There are two ways to fix this error:

- Add a type constraint or a .mli file to give a monomorphic type (without type variables) to name. For instance, instead of writing
  ```ocaml
  let sort_int_list = List.sort Stdlib.compare
  (* inferred type 'a list -> 'a list, with 'a not generalized *)
  ```
  write
  ```ocaml
  let sort_int_list = (List.sort Stdlib.compare : int list -> int list);;
  ```
- If you really need name to have a polymorphic type, turn its defining expression into a function by adding an extra parameter. For instance, instead of writing
let map_length = List.map Array.length
(* inferred type 'a array list -> int list, with 'a not generalized *)

write

let map_length lv = List.map Array.length lv

Reference to undefined global mod
This error appears when trying to link an incomplete or incorrectly ordered set of files. Either you have forgotten to provide an implementation for the compilation unit named mod on the command line (typically, the file named mod.cmo, or a library containing that file). Fix: add the missing .ml or .cmo file to the command line. Or, you have provided an implementation for the module named mod, but it comes too late on the command line: the implementation of mod must come before all bytecode object files that reference mod. Fix: change the order of .ml and .cmo files on the command line.

Of course, you will always encounter this error if you have mutually recursive functions across modules. That is, function Mod1.f calls function Mod2.g, and function Mod2.g calls function Mod1.f. In this case, no matter what permutations you perform on the command line, the program will be rejected at link-time. Fixes:

• Put f and g in the same module.
• Parameterize one function by the other. That is, instead of having

   mod1.ml: let f x = ... Mod2.g ...
   mod2.ml: let g y = ... Mod1.f ...

   define

   mod1.ml: let f g x = ... g ...
   mod2.ml: let rec g y = ... Mod1.f g ...

   and link mod1.cmo before mod2.cmo.
• Use a reference to hold one of the two functions, as in:

   mod1.ml: let forward_g =
             ref((fun x -> failwith "forward_g") : <type>)
             let f x = ... !forward_g ...

   mod2.ml: let g y = ... Mod1.f ...
             let _ = Mod1.forward_g := g

The external function f is not available
This error appears when trying to link code that calls external functions written in C. As explained in chapter 19, such code must be linked with C libraries that implement the required f C function. If the C libraries in question are not shared libraries (DLLs), the code must be linked in “custom runtime” mode. Fix: add the required C libraries to the command line, and possibly the -custom option.
9.5 Warning reference

This section describes and explains in detail some warnings:

9.5.1 Warning 9: missing fields in a record pattern

When pattern matching on records, it can be useful to match only few fields of a record. Eliding fields can be done either implicitly or explicitly by ending the record pattern with `; _`. However, implicit field elision is at odd with pattern matching exhaustiveness checks. Enabling warning 9 prioritizes exhaustiveness checks over the convenience of implicit field elision and will warn on implicit field elision in record patterns. In particular, this warning can help to spot exhaustive record pattern that may need to be updated after the addition of new fields to a record type.

```ocaml
type 'a point = {x : 'a; y : 'a}
let dx { x } = x (* implicit field elision: trigger warning 9 *)
let dy { y; _ } = y (* explicit field elision: do not trigger warning 9 *)
```

9.5.2 Warning 52: fragile constant pattern

Some constructors, such as the exception constructors `Failure` and `Invalid_argument`, take as parameter a `string` value holding a text message intended for the user.

These text messages are usually not stable over time: call sites building these constructors may refine the message in a future version to make it more explicit, etc. Therefore, it is dangerous to match over the precise value of the message. For example, until OCaml 4.02, `Array.iter2` would raise the exception `Invalid_argument "arrays must have the same length"

Since 4.03 it raises the more helpful message

`Invalid_argument "Array.iter2: arrays must have the same length"

but this means that any code of the form

```ocaml
try ...
with Invalid_argument "arrays must have the same length" -> ...
```

is now broken and may suffer from uncaught exceptions.

Warning 52 is there to prevent users from writing such fragile code in the first place. It does not occur on every matching on a literal string, but only in the case in which library authors expressed their intent to possibly change the constructor parameter value in the future, by using the attribute `ocaml.warn_on_literal_pattern` (see the manual section on builtin attributes in 8.13.1):

```ocaml
type t =
| Foo of string [@ocaml.warn_on_literal_pattern]
| Bar of string

let no_warning = function
| Bar "specific value" -> 0
```
| _ -> 1

let warning = function
    | Foo "specific value" -> 0
    | _ -> 1

> | Foo "specific value" -> 0
> ^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^
> Warning 52: Code should not depend on the actual values of
> this constructor's arguments. They are only for information
> and may change in future versions. (See manual section 8.5)

In particular, all built-in exceptions with a string argument have this attribute set: Invalid_argument, Failure, Sys_error will all raise this warning if you match for a specific string argument.

Additionally, built-in exceptions with a structured argument that includes a string also have the attribute set: Assert_failure and Match_failure will raise the warning for a pattern that uses a literal string to match the first element of their tuple argument.

If your code raises this warning, you should not change the way you test for the specific string to avoid the warning (for example using a string equality inside the right-hand-side instead of a literal pattern), as your code would remain fragile. You should instead enlarge the scope of the pattern by matching on all possible values.

let warning = function
    | Foo _ -> 0
    | _ -> 1

This may require some care: if the scrutinee may return several different cases of the same pattern, or raise distinct instances of the same exception, you may need to modify your code to separate those several cases.

For example,

try (int_of_string count_str, bool_of_string choice_str) with
    | Failure "int_of_string" -> (0, true)
    | Failure "bool_of_string" -> (-1, false)

should be rewritten into more atomic tests. For example, using the exception patterns documented in Section 7.6, one can write:

match int_of_string count_str with
    | exception (Failure _) -> (0, true)
    | count ->
        begin match bool_of_string choice_str with
            | exception (Failure _) -> (-1, false)
            | choice -> (count, choice)
        end
The only case where that transformation is not possible is if a given function call may raise distinct exceptions with the same constructor but different string values. In this case, you will have to check for specific string values. This is dangerous API design and it should be discouraged: it’s better to define more precise exception constructors than store useful information in strings.

9.5.3 Warning 57: Ambiguous or-pattern variables under guard

The semantics of or-patterns in OCaml is specified with a left-to-right bias: a value \( v \) matches the pattern \( p \mid q \) if it matches \( p \) or \( q \), but if it matches both, the environment captured by the match is the environment captured by \( p \), never the one captured by \( q \).

While this property is generally intuitive, there is at least one specific case where a different semantics might be expected. Consider a pattern followed by a when-guard: \( | \) \( p \) \( \text{when} \) \( g \) \( \rightarrow \) \( e \), for example:

\[
| ((\text{Const} \ x, \_) \mid (_, \text{Const} \ x)) \text{ when } \text{is neutral} \ x \rightarrow \text{branch}
\]

The semantics is clear: match the scrutinee against the pattern, if it matches, test the guard, and if the guard passes, take the branch. In particular, consider the input \((\text{Const} \ a, \text{Const} \ b)\), where \( a \) fails the test \( \text{is neutral} \ a \), while \( b \) passes the test \( \text{is neutral} \ b \). With the left-to-right semantics, the clause above is not taken by its input: matching \((\text{Const} \ a, \text{Const} \ b)\) against the or-pattern succeeds in the left branch, it returns the environment \( x \rightarrow a \), and then the guard \( \text{is neutral} \ a \) is tested and fails, the branch is not taken.

However, another semantics may be considered more natural here: any pair that has one side passing the test will take the branch. With this semantics the previous code fragment would be equivalent to

\[
| (\text{Const} \ x, \_) \text{ when } \text{is neutral} \ x \rightarrow \text{branch}
\]

\[
| (_, \text{Const} \ x) \text{ when } \text{is neutral} \ x \rightarrow \text{branch}
\]

This is not the semantics adopted by OCaml.

Warning 57 is dedicated to these confusing cases where the specified left-to-right semantics is not equivalent to a non-deterministic semantics (any branch can be taken) relatively to a specific guard. More precisely, it warns when guard uses “ambiguous” variables, that are bound to different parts of the scrutinees by different sides of a or-pattern.
Chapter 10

The toplevel system or REPL (ocaml)

This chapter describes the toplevel system for OCaml, that permits interactive use of the OCaml system through a read-eval-print loop (REPL). In this mode, the system repeatedly reads OCaml phrases from the input, then typechecks, compile and evaluate them, then prints the inferred type and result value, if any. The system prints a # (sharp) prompt before reading each phrase.

Input to the toplevel can span several lines. It is terminated by ;; (a double-semicolon). The toplevel input consists in one or several toplevel phrases, with the following syntax:

\[
\text{toplevel-input} ::= \{\text{definition}\}^+ ;; \\
| \text{expr} ;; \\
| \# \text{ident} [\text{directive-argument}] ;;
\]

\[
\text{directive-argument} ::= \text{string-literal} \\
| \text{integer-literal} \\
| \text{value-path} \\
| \text{true} | \text{false}
\]

A phrase can consist of a definition, like those found in implementations of compilation units or in struct...end module expressions. The definition can bind value names, type names, an exception, a module name, or a module type name. The toplevel system performs the bindings, then prints the types and values (if any) for the names thus defined.

A phrase may also consist in a value expression (section 7.7). It is simply evaluated without performing any bindings, and its value is printed.

Finally, a phrase can also consist in a toplevel directive, starting with # (the sharp sign). These directives control the behavior of the toplevel; they are listed below in section 10.2.

Unix:

The toplevel system is started by the command ocaml, as follows:

\[
\text{ocaml options objects} \quad \# \text{interactive mode} \\
\text{ocaml options objects scriptfile} \quad \# \text{script mode}
\]

options are described below. objects are filenames ending in .cmo or .cma; they are loaded into the interpreter immediately after options are set. scriptfile is any file name not ending in .cmo or .cma.
If no scriptfile is given on the command line, the toplevel system enters interactive mode: phrases are read on standard input, results are printed on standard output, errors on standard error. End-of-file on standard input terminates ocaml (see also the #quit directive in section 10.2).

On start-up (before the first phrase is read), if the file .ocamlinit exists in the current directory, its contents are read as a sequence of OCaml phrases and executed as per the #use directive described in section 10.2. The evaluation outcome for each phrase are not displayed. If the current directory does not contain an .ocamlinit file, but the user’s home directory (environment variable HOME) does, the latter is read and executed as described below.

The toplevel system does not perform line editing, but it can easily be used in conjunction with an external line editor such as ledit, ocaml2 or rlwrap (see the Caml Hump http://caml.inria.fr/humps/index_framed_caml.html). Another option is to use ocaml under Gnu Emacs, which gives the full editing power of Emacs (command run-caml from library inf-caml).

At any point, the parsing, compilation or evaluation of the current phrase can be interrupted by pressing ctrl-C (or, more precisely, by sending the INTR signal to the ocaml process). The toplevel then immediately returns to the # prompt.

If scriptfile is given on the command-line to ocaml, the toplevel system enters script mode: the contents of the file are read as a sequence of OCaml phrases and executed, as per the #use directive (section 10.2). The outcome of the evaluation is not printed. On reaching the end of file, the ocaml command exits immediately. No commands are read from standard input. Sys.argv is transformed, ignoring all OCaml parameters, and starting with the script file name in Sys.argv.(0).

In script mode, the first line of the script is ignored if it starts with #!. Thus, it should be possible to make the script itself executable and put as first line #!/usr/local/bin/ocaml, thus calling the toplevel system automatically when the script is run. However, ocaml itself is a #! script on most installations of OCaml, and Unix kernels usually do not handle nested #! scripts. A better solution is to put the following as the first line of the script:

```bash
#!/usr/local/bin/ocamlr /usr/local/bin/ocaml
```

### 10.1 Options

The following command-line options are recognized by the ocaml command.

- **-absname**
  Force error messages to show absolute paths for file names.

- **-args filename**
  Read additional newline-terminated command line arguments from filename. It is not possible to pass a scriptfile via file to the toplevel.

- **-args0 filename**
  Read additional null character terminated command line arguments from filename. It is not possible to pass a scriptfile via file to the toplevel.
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-\texttt{I directory}
Add the given directory to the list of directories searched for source and compiled files. By default, the current directory is searched first, then the standard library directory. Directories added with -I are searched after the current directory, in the order in which they were given on the command line, but before the standard library directory. See also option -\texttt{nostdlib}.

If the given directory starts with +, it is taken relative to the standard library directory. For instance, -I +\texttt{unix} adds the subdirectory \texttt{unix} of the standard library to the search path.

Directories can also be added to the list once the toplevel is running with the \texttt{#directory} directive (section 10.2).

-\texttt{init file}
Load the given file instead of the default initialization file. The default file is \texttt{.ocamlinit} in the current directory if it exists, otherwise \texttt{.ocamlinit} in the user’s home directory.

-\texttt{labels}
Labels are not ignored in types, labels may be used in applications, and labelled parameters can be given in any order. This is the default.

-\texttt{no-app-funct}
Deactivates the applicative behaviour of functors. With this option, each functor application generates new types in its result and applying the same functor twice to the same argument yields two incompatible structures.

-\texttt{noassert}
Do not compile assertion checks. Note that the special form \texttt{assert false} is always compiled because it is typed specially.

-\texttt{nolabels}
Ignore non-optional labels in types. Labels cannot be used in applications, and parameter order becomes strict.

-\texttt{noprompt}
Do not display any prompt when waiting for input.

-\texttt{nopromptcont}
Do not display the secondary prompt when waiting for continuation lines in multi-line inputs. This should be used e.g. when running \texttt{ocaml} in an \texttt{emacs} window.

-\texttt{nostdlib}
Do not include the standard library directory in the list of directories searched for source and compiled files.

-\texttt{ppx command}
After parsing, pipe the abstract syntax tree through the preprocessor \texttt{command}. The module \texttt{Ast.mapper}, described in section 24.1, implements the external interface of a preprocessor.

-\texttt{principal}
Check information path during type-checking, to make sure that all types are derived in
a principal way. When using labelled arguments and/or polymorphic methods, this flag is required to ensure future versions of the compiler will be able to infer types correctly, even if internal algorithms change. All programs accepted in -principal mode are also accepted in the default mode with equivalent types, but different binary signatures, and this may slow down type checking; yet it is a good idea to use it once before publishing source code.

-rectypes
Allow arbitrary recursive types during type-checking. By default, only recursive types where the recursion goes through an object type are supported.

-safestring
Enforce the separation between types string and bytes, thereby making strings read-only. This is the default.

-short-paths
When a type is visible under several module-paths, use the shortest one when printing the type’s name in inferred interfaces and error and warning messages. Identifier names starting with an underscore _ or containing double underscores __ incur a penalty of +10 when computing their length.

-stdin
Read the standard input as a script file rather than starting an interactive session.

-strict-sequence
Force the left-hand part of each sequence to have type unit.

-strict-formats
Reject invalid formats that were accepted in legacy format implementations. You should use this flag to detect and fix such invalid formats, as they will be rejected by future OCaml versions.

-unsafe
Turn bound checking off for array and string accesses (the v.(i) and s.[i] constructs). Programs compiled with -unsafe are therefore faster, but unsafe: anything can happen if the program accesses an array or string outside of its bounds.

-unsafe-string
Identify the types string and bytes, thereby making strings writable. This is intended for compatibility with old source code and should not be used with new software.

-v
Print the version number of the compiler and the location of the standard library directory, then exit.

-verbose
Print all external commands before they are executed, Useful to debug C library problems.

-version
Print version string and exit.
-vnum
Print short version number and exit.

-no-version
Do not print the version banner at startup.

-w warning-list
Enable, disable, or mark as fatal the warnings specified by the argument warning-list. Each warning can be enabled or disabled, and each warning can be fatal or non-fatal. If a warning is disabled, it isn’t displayed and doesn’t affect compilation in any way (even if it is fatal). If a warning is enabled, it is displayed normally by the compiler whenever the source code triggers it. If it is enabled and fatal, the compiler will also stop with an error after displaying it.

The warning-list argument is a sequence of warning specifiers, with no separators between them. A warning specifier is one of the following:

+num
Enable warning number num.

-num
Disable warning number num.

@num
Enable and mark as fatal warning number num.

+num1..num2
Enable warnings in the given range.

-num1..num2
Disable warnings in the given range.

@num1..num2
Enable and mark as fatal warnings in the given range.

+letter
Enable the set of warnings corresponding to letter. The letter may be uppercase or lowercase.

-letter
Disable the set of warnings corresponding to letter. The letter may be uppercase or lowercase.

@letter
Enable and mark as fatal the set of warnings corresponding to letter. The letter may be uppercase or lowercase.

uppercase-letter
Enable the set of warnings corresponding to uppercase-letter.

lowercase-letter
Disable the set of warnings corresponding to lowercase-letter.

Warning numbers and letters which are out of the range of warnings that are currently defined are ignored. The warnings are as follows.
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1. Suspicious-looking start-of-comment mark.
2. Suspicious-looking end-of-comment mark.
3. Deprecated synonym for the 'deprecated' alert.
4. Fragile pattern matching: matching that will remain complete even if additional constructors are added to one of the variant types matched.
5. Partially applied function: expression whose result has function type and is ignored.
6. Label omitted in function application.
7. Method overridden.
8. Partial match: missing cases in pattern-matching.
10. Expression on the left-hand side of a sequence that doesn't have type unit (and that is not a function, see warning number 5).
11. Redundant case in a pattern matching (unused match case).
12. Redundant sub-pattern in a pattern-matching.
13. Instance variable overridden.
15. Private method made public implicitly.
17. Undeclared virtual method.
18. Non-principal type.
19. Type without principality.
20. Unused function argument.
22. Preprocessor warning.
23. Useless record with clause.
24. Bad module name: the source file name is not a valid OCaml module name.
25. Deprecated: now part of warning 8.
26. Suspicious unused variable: unused variable that is bound with let or as, and doesn't start with an underscore (_) character.
27. Innocuous unused variable: unused variable that is not bound with let nor as, and doesn't start with an underscore (_) character.
28. Wildcard pattern given as argument to a constant constructor.
29. Unescaped end-of-line in a string constant (non-portable code).
30. Two labels or constructors of the same name are defined in two mutually recursive types.
31. A module is linked twice in the same executable.
32. Unused value declaration.
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33 Unused open statement.
34 Unused type declaration.
35 Unused for-loop index.
36 Unused ancestor variable.
37 Unused constructor.
38 Unused extension constructor.
39 Unused rec flag.
40 Constructor or label name used out of scope.
41 Ambiguous constructor or label name.
42 Disambiguated constructor or label name (compatibility warning).
43 Nonoptional label applied as optional.
44 Open statement shadows an already defined identifier.
45 Open statement shadows an already defined label or constructor.
46 Error in environment variable.
47 Illegal attribute payload.
48 Implicit elimination of optional arguments.
49 Absent cmi file when looking up module alias.
50 Unexpected documentation comment.
51 Warning on non-tail calls if @tailcall present.
52 (see 9.5.2)
    Fragile constant pattern.
53 Attribute cannot appear in this context
54 Attribute used more than once on an expression
55 Inlining impossible
56 Unreachable case in a pattern-matching (based on type information).
57 (see 9.5.3)
    Ambiguous or-pattern variables under guard
58 Missing cmx file
59 Assignment to non-mutable value
60 Unused module declaration
61 Unboxable type in primitive declaration
62 Type constraint on GADT type declaration
63 Erroneous printed signature
64 -unsafe used with a preprocessor returning a syntax tree
65 Type declaration defining a new ’()' constructor
66 Unused open! statement
The default setting is `-w +a-4-6-7-9-27-29-32..42-44-45-48-50-60`. It is displayed by `-help`. Note that warnings 5 and 10 are not always triggered, depending on the internals of the type checker.

`-warn-error warning-list`
Mark as fatal the warnings specified in the argument `warning-list`. The compiler will stop with an error when one of these warnings is emitted. The `warning-list` has the same meaning as for the `-w` option: a `+` sign (or an uppercase letter) marks the corresponding warnings as fatal, a `-` sign (or a lowercase letter) turns them back into non-fatal warnings, and a `@` sign both enables and marks as fatal the corresponding warnings.

Note: it is not recommended to use warning sets (i.e. letters) as arguments to `-warn-error` in production code, because this can break your build when future versions of OCaml add some new warnings.

The default setting is `-warn-error -a+31` (only warning 31 is fatal).

`-warn-help`
Show the description of all available warning numbers.

`-file`
Use `file` as a script file name, even when it starts with a hyphen (-).

`-help` or `-help`
Display a short usage summary and exit.

Unix:
The following environment variables are also consulted:
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OCAMLTOP_INCLUDE_PATH
Additional directories to search for compiled object code files (.cmi, .cmo and .cma).
The specified directories are considered from left to right, after the include directories
specified on the command line via -I have been searched. Available since OCaml 4.08.

OCAMLTOP_UTF_8
When printing string values, non-ascii bytes ( > \0x7E) are printed as decimal escape
sequence if OCAMLTOP_UTF_8 is set to false. Otherwise, they are printed unescaped.

TERM
When printing error messages, the toplevel system attempts to underline visually the
location of the error. It consults the TERM variable to determines the type of output
terminal and look up its capabilities in the terminal database.

HOME
Directory where the .ocamlinit file is searched.

10.2 Toplevel directives

The following directives control the toplevel behavior, load files in memory, and trace program
execution.

Note: all directives start with a # (sharp) symbol. This # must be typed before the directive,
and must not be confused with the # prompt displayed by the interactive loop. For instance, typing
#quit;; will exit the toplevel loop, but typing quit;; will result in an “unbound value quit” error.

General

#help;;
Prints a list of all available directives, with corresponding argument type if appropriate.

#quit;;
Exit the toplevel loop and terminate the ocaml command.

Loading codes

#cd "dir-name";;
Change the current working directory.

#directory "dir-name";;
Add the given directory to the list of directories searched for source and compiled files.

#remove_directory "dir-name";;
Remove the given directory from the list of directories searched for source and compiled
files. Do nothing if the list does not contain the given directory.

#load "file-name";;
Load in memory a bytecode object file (.cmo file) or library file (.cma file) produced by
the batch compiler ocamlc.
#load_rec "file-name";;
Load in memory a bytecode object file (.cmo file) or library file (.cma file) produced by
the batch compiler ocamlc. When loading an object file that depends on other modules
which have not been loaded yet, the .cmo files for these modules are searched and loaded
as well, recursively. The loading order is not specified.

#use "file-name";;
Read, compile and execute source phrases from the given file. This is textual inclusion:
phrases are processed just as if they were typed on standard input. The reading of the
file stops at the first error encountered.

#mod_use "file-name";;
Similar to #use but also wrap the code into a top-level module of the same name as
capitalized file name without extensions, following semantics of the compiler.

For directives that take file names as arguments, if the given file name specifies no directory,
the file is searched in the following directories:

1. In script mode, the directory containing the script currently executing; in interactive
   mode, the current working directory.
2. Directories added with the #directory directive.
3. Directories given on the command line with -I options.
4. The standard library directory.

**Environment queries**

#show_class class-path;;
#show_class_type class-path;;
#show_exception ident;;
#show_module module-path;;
#show_module_type modtype-path;;
#show_type typeconstr;;
#show_val value-path;;
Print the signature of the corresponding component.

#show ident;;
Print the signatures of components with name ident in all the above categories.

**Pretty-printing**

#install_printer printer-name;;
This directive registers the function named printer-name (a value path) as a printer for
values whose types match the argument type of the function. That is, the toplevel loop
will call printer-name when it has such a value to print.

The printing function printer-name should have type Format.formatter -> t -> unit,
where t is the type for the values to be printed, and should output its textual representation
for the value of type t on the given formatter, using the functions provided by the
Format library. For backward compatibility, printer-name can also have type t -> unit
and should then output on the standard formatter, but this usage is deprecated.
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```ocaml
#print_depth n;;
Limit the printing of values to a maximal depth of \textit{n}. The parts of values whose depth exceeds \textit{n} are printed as \ldots (ellipsis).

#print_length n;;
Limit the number of value nodes printed to at most \textit{n}. Remaining parts of values are printed as \ldots (ellipsis).

#remove_printer \textit{printer-name};
Remove the named function from the table of toplevel printers.
```

\textbf{Tracing}

```ocaml
#trace \textit{function-name};;
After executing this directive, all calls to the function named \textit{function-name} will be “traced”. That is, the argument and the result are displayed for each call, as well as the exceptions escaping out of the function, raised either by the function itself or by another function it calls. If the function is curried, each argument is printed as it is passed to the function.

#untrace \textit{function-name};;
Stop tracing the given function.

#untrace_all;;
Stop tracing all functions traced so far.
```

\textbf{Compiler options}

```ocaml
#labels bool;;
Ignore labels in function types if argument is \texttt{false}, or switch back to default behaviour (commuting style) if argument is \texttt{true}.

#ppx "\textit{file-name}";;
After parsing, pipe the abstract syntax tree through the preprocessor command.

#principal bool;;
If the argument is \texttt{true}, check information paths during type-checking, to make sure that all types are derived in a principal way. If the argument is \texttt{false}, do not check information paths.

#rectypes;;
Allow arbitrary recursive types during type-checking. Note: once enabled, this option cannot be disabled because that would lead to unsoundness of the type system.

#warn_error "\textit{warning-list}";;
Treat as errors the warnings enabled by the argument and as normal warnings the warnings disabled by the argument.

#warnings "\textit{warning-list}";;
Enable or disable warnings according to the argument.
```
10.3 The toplevel and the module system

Toplevel phrases can refer to identifiers defined in compilation units with the same mechanisms as for separately compiled units: either by using qualified names (Modulename.localname), or by using the open construct and unqualified names (see section 7.3).

However, before referencing another compilation unit, an implementation of that unit must be present in memory. At start-up, the toplevel system contains implementations for all the modules in the the standard library. Implementations for user modules can be entered with the #load directive described above. Referencing a unit for which no implementation has been provided results in the error Reference to undefined global ...

Note that entering open Mod merely accesses the compiled interface (.cmi file) for Mod, but does not load the implementation of Mod, and does not cause any error if no implementation of Mod has been loaded. The error “reference to undefined global Mod” will occur only when executing a value or module definition that refers to Mod.

10.4 Common errors

This section describes and explains the most frequently encountered error messages.

Cannot find file filename

The named file could not be found in the current directory, nor in the directories of the search path.

If filename has the format mod.cmi, this means you have referenced the compilation unit mod, but its compiled interface could not be found. Fix: compile mod.mli or mod.ml first, to create the compiled interface mod.cmi.

If filename has the format mod.cmo, this means you are trying to load with #load a bytecode object file that does not exist yet. Fix: compile mod.ml first.

If your program spans several directories, this error can also appear because you haven’t specified the directories to look into. Fix: use the #directory directive to add the correct directories to the search path.

This expression has type t₁, but is used with type t₂

See section 9.4.

Reference to undefined global mod

You have neglected to load in memory an implementation for a module with #load. See section 10.3 above.

10.5 Building custom toplevel systems: ocamlmktopo

The ocamlmktopo command builds OCaml toplevels that contain user code preloaded at start-up.

The ocamlmktopo command takes as argument a set of .cmo and .cma files, and links them with the object files that implement the OCaml toplevel. The typical use is:

    ocamlmktopo -o mytoplevel foo.cmo bar.cmo gee.cmo
This creates the bytecode file `mytoplevel`, containing the OCaml toplevel system, plus the code from the three `.cmo` files. This toplevel is directly executable and is started by:

```bash
./mytoplevel
```

This enters a regular toplevel loop, except that the code from `foo.cmo`, `bar.cmo` and `gee.cmo` is already loaded in memory, just as if you had typed:

```ocaml
#load "foo.cmo";;
#load "bar.cmo";;
#load "gee.cmo";;
```

on entrance to the toplevel. The modules `Foo`, `Bar` and `Gee` are not opened, though; you still have to do

```ocaml
open Foo;;
```

yourself, if this is what you wish.

### 10.5.1 Options

The following command-line options are recognized by `ocamlmktop`.

- `-cclib libname`
  Pass the `-l libname` option to the C linker when linking in “custom runtime” mode. See the corresponding option for `ocamlc`, in chapter 9.

- `-ccopt option`
  Pass the given option to the C compiler and linker, when linking in “custom runtime” mode. See the corresponding option for `ocamlc`, in chapter 9.

- `-custom`
  Link in “custom runtime” mode. See the corresponding option for `ocamlc`, in chapter 9.

- `-I directory`
  Add the given directory to the list of directories searched for compiled object code files (`.cmo` and `.cma`).

- `-o exec-file`
  Specify the name of the toplevel file produced by the linker. The default is `a.out`.

### 10.6 The native toplevel: `ocamlnat` (experimental)

This section describes a tool that is not yet officially supported but may be found useful.

OCaml code executing in the traditional toplevel system uses the bytecode interpreter. When increased performance is required, or for testing programs that will only execute correctly when compiled to native code, the `native toplevel` may be used instead.
For the majority of installations the native toplevel will not have been installed along with the rest of the OCaml toolchain. In such circumstances it will be necessary to build the OCaml distribution from source. From the built source tree of the distribution you may use `make natrun-top` to build and execute a native toplevel. (Alternatively `make ocamlnat` can be used, which just performs the build step.)

If the `make install` command is run after having built the native toplevel then the `ocamlnat` program (either from the source or the installation directory) may be invoked directly rather than using `make natruntop`. 
Chapter 11

The runtime system (ocamlrun)

The ocamlrun command executes bytecode files produced by the linking phase of the ocamlc command.

11.1 Overview

The ocamlrun command comprises three main parts: the bytecode interpreter, that actually executes bytecode files; the memory allocator and garbage collector; and a set of C functions that implement primitive operations such as input/output.

The usage for ocamlrun is:

```
ocamlrun options bytecode-executable arg1 ... argn
```

The first non-option argument is taken to be the name of the file containing the executable bytecode. (That file is searched in the executable path as well as in the current directory.) The remaining arguments are passed to the OCaml program, in the string array `Sys.argv`. Element 0 of this array is the name of the bytecode executable file; elements 1 to n are the remaining arguments `arg1` to `argn`.

As mentioned in chapter 9, the bytecode executable files produced by the ocamlc command are self-executable, and manage to launch the ocamlrun command on themselves automatically. That is, assuming `a.out` is a bytecode executable file,

```
a.out arg1 ... argn
```

works exactly as

```
ocamlrun a.out arg1 ... argn
```

Notice that it is not possible to pass options to ocamlrun when invoking `a.out` directly.

Windows:

Under several versions of Windows, bytecode executable files are self-executable only if their name ends in `.exe`. It is recommended to always give `.exe` names to bytecode executables, e.g. compile with `ocamlc -o myprog.exe ...` rather than `ocamlc -o myprog ....`
11.2 Options

The following command-line options are recognized by ocamlrun.

-b When the program aborts due to an uncaught exception, print a detailed “back trace” of the execution, showing where the exception was raised and which function calls were outstanding at this point. The back trace is printed only if the bytecode executable contains debugging information, i.e. was compiled and linked with the -g option to ocamlc set. This is equivalent to setting the b flag in the OCAMLRUNPARAM environment variable (see below).

-I dir Search the directory dir for dynamically-loaded libraries, in addition to the standard search path (see section 11.3).

-m Print the magic number of the bytecode executable given as argument and exit.

-M Print the magic number expected by this version of the runtime and exit.

-p Print the names of the primitives known to this version of ocamlrun and exit.

-v Direct the memory manager to print some progress messages on standard error. This is equivalent to setting v=63 in the OCAMLRUNPARAM environment variable (see below).

-version Print version string and exit.

-vnum Print short version number and exit.

The following environment variables are also consulted:

CAML_LD_LIBRARY_PATH
Additional directories to search for dynamically-loaded libraries (see section 11.3).

OCAMLLIB
The directory containing the OCaml standard library. (If OCAMLLIB is not set, CAMLLIB will be used instead.) Used to locate the ld.conf configuration file for dynamic loading (see section 11.3). If not set, default to the library directory specified when compiling OCaml.

OCAMLRUNPARAM
Set the runtime system options and garbage collection parameters. (If OCAMLRUNPARAM is not set, CAMLRUNPARAM will be used instead.) This variable must be a sequence of parameter specifications separated by commas. A parameter specification is an option letter followed by an = sign, a decimal number (or an hexadecimal number prefixed by 0x), and an optional multiplier. The options are documented below; the last six correspond to the fields of the control record documented in section 23.18.

b (backtrace) Trigger the printing of a stack backtrace when an uncaught exception aborts the program. This option takes no argument.
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- **p** (parser trace) Turn on debugging support for `ocamlyacc`-generated parsers. When this option is on, the pushdown automaton that executes the parsers prints a trace of its actions. This option takes no argument.

- **R** (randomize) Turn on randomization of all hash tables by default (see section 23.20). This option takes no argument.

- **h** The initial size of the major heap (in words).

- **a** (allocation_policy) The policy used for allocating in the OCaml heap. Possible values are 0 for the next-fit policy, and 1 for the first-fit policy. Next-fit is usually faster, but first-fit is better for avoiding fragmentation and the associated heap compactions.

- **s** (minor_heap_size) Size of the minor heap. (in words)

- **i** (major_heap_increment) Default size increment for the major heap. (in words)

- **o** (space_overhead) The major GC speed setting.

- **O** (max_overhead) The heap compaction trigger setting.

- **l** (stack_limit) The limit (in words) of the stack size.

- **v** (verbose) What GC messages to print to stderr. This is a sum of values selected from the following:
  - 1 (= 0x001) Start of major GC cycle.
  - 2 (= 0x002) Minor collection and major GC slice.
  - 4 (= 0x004) Growing and shrinking of the heap.
  - 8 (= 0x008) Resizing of stacks and memory manager tables.
  - 16 (= 0x010) Heap compaction.
  - 32 (= 0x020) Change of GC parameters.
  - 64 (= 0x040) Computation of major GC slice size.
  - 128 (= 0x080) Calling of finalization functions
  - 256 (= 0x100) Startup messages (loading the bytecode executable file, resolving shared libraries).
  - 512 (= 0x200) Computation of compaction-triggering condition.
  - 1024 (= 0x400) Output GC statistics at program exit.

- **c** (cleanup_on_exit) Shut the runtime down gracefully on exit (see `caml_shutdown` in section 19.7.5). The option also enables pooling (as in `caml_startup_pooled`). This mode can be used to detect leaks with a third-party memory debugger.
M (custom_major_ratio) Target ratio of floating garbage to major heap size for out-of-heap memory held by custom values (e.g. bigarrays) located in the major heap. The GC speed is adjusted to try to use this much memory for dead values that are not yet collected. Expressed as a percentage of major heap size. Default: 44. Note: this only applies to values allocated with caml_alloc_custom_mem.

m (custom_minor_ratio) Bound on floating garbage for out-of-heap memory held by custom values in the minor heap. A minor GC is triggered when this much memory is held by custom values located in the minor heap. Expressed as a percentage of minor heap size. Default: 100. Note: this only applies to values allocated with caml_alloc_custom_mem.

n (custom_minor_max_size) Maximum amount of out-of-heap memory for each custom value allocated in the minor heap. When a custom value is allocated on the minor heap and holds more than this many bytes, only this value is counted against custom_minor_ratio and the rest is directly counted against custom_major_ratio. Default: 8192 bytes. Note: this only applies to values allocated with caml_alloc_custom_mem.

The multiplier is $k$, $M$, or $G$, for multiplication by $2^{10}$, $2^{20}$, and $2^{30}$ respectively.

If the option letter is not recognized, the whole parameter is ignored; if the equal sign or the number is missing, the value is taken as 1; if the multiplier is not recognized, it is ignored.

For example, on a 32-bit machine, under bash the command

```
export OCAMLRUNPARAM='b,s=256k,v=0x015'
```

tells a subsequent ocamlrun to print backtraces for uncaught exceptions, set its initial minor heap size to 1 megabyte and print a message at the start of each major GC cycle, when the heap size changes, and when compaction is triggered.

CAMLRUNPARAM

If OCAMLRUNPARAM is not found in the environment, then CAMLRUNPARAM will be used instead.

If CAMLRUNPARAM is also not found, then the default values will be used.

PATH

List of directories searched to find the bytecode executable file.

11.3 Dynamic loading of shared libraries

On platforms that support dynamic loading, ocamlrun can link dynamically with C shared libraries (DLLs) providing additional C primitives beyond those provided by the standard runtime system. The names for these libraries are provided at link time as described in section 19.1.4), and recorded in the bytecode executable file; ocamlrun, then, locates these libraries and resolves references to their primitives when the bytecode executable program starts.

The ocamlrun command searches shared libraries in the following directories, in the order indicated:

1. Directories specified on the ocamlrun command line with the -I option.
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2. Directories specified in the CAML_LD_LIBRARY_PATH environment variable.

3. Directories specified at link-time via the -dllpath option to ocamlc. (These directories are recorded in the bytecode executable file.)

4. Directories specified in the file ld.conf. This file resides in the OCaml standard library directory, and lists directory names (one per line) to be searched. Typically, it contains only one line naming the stublibs subdirectory of the OCaml standard library directory. Users can add there the names of other directories containing frequently-used shared libraries; however, for consistency of installation, we recommend that shared libraries are installed directly in the system stublibs directory, rather than adding lines to the ld.conf file.

5. Default directories searched by the system dynamic loader. Under Unix, these generally include /lib and /usr/lib, plus the directories listed in the file /etc/ld.so.conf and the environment variable LD_LIBRARY_PATH. Under Windows, these include the Windows system directories, plus the directories listed in the PATH environment variable.

11.4 Common errors

This section describes and explains the most frequently encountered error messages.

filename: no such file or directory
If filename is the name of a self-executable bytecode file, this means that either that file does not exist, or that it failed to run the ocamlrun bytecode interpreter on itself. The second possibility indicates that OCaml has not been properly installed on your system.

Cannot exec ocamlrun
(When launching a self-executable bytecode file.) The ocamlrun could not be found in the executable path. Check that OCaml has been properly installed on your system.

Cannot find the bytecode file
The file that ocamlrun is trying to execute (e.g. the file given as first non-option argument to ocamlrun) either does not exist, or is not a valid executable bytecode file.

Truncated bytecode file
The file that ocamlrun is trying to execute is not a valid executable bytecode file. Probably it has been truncated or mangled since created. Erase and rebuild it.

Uncaught exception
The program being executed contains a “stray” exception. That is, it raises an exception at some point, and this exception is never caught. This causes immediate termination of the program. The name of the exception is printed, along with its string, byte sequence, and integer arguments (arguments of more complex types are not correctly printed). To locate the context of the uncaught exception, compile the program with the -g option and either run it again under the ocamldump debugger (see chapter 16), or run it with ocamlrun -b or with the OCAMLRUNPARAM environment variable set to b=1.
Out of memory

The program being executed requires more memory than available. Either the program builds excessively large data structures; or the program contains too many nested function calls, and the stack overflows. In some cases, your program is perfectly correct, it just requires more memory than your machine provides. In other cases, the “out of memory” message reveals an error in your program: non-terminating recursive function, allocation of an excessively large array, string or byte sequence, attempts to build an infinite list or other data structure, ... To help you diagnose this error, run your program with the -v option to ocamlrun, or with the OCAMLRUNPARAM environment variable set to v=63. If it displays lots of “Growing stack...” messages, this is probably a looping recursive function. If it displays lots of “Growing heap...” messages, with the heap size growing slowly, this is probably an attempt to construct a data structure with too many (infinitely many?) cells. If it displays few “Growing heap...” messages, but with a huge increment in the heap size, this is probably an attempt to build an excessively large array, string or byte sequence.
Chapter 12

Native-code compilation (ocamlopt)

This chapter describes the OCaml high-performance native-code compiler `ocamlopt`, which compiles OCaml source files to native code object files and links these object files to produce standalone executables.

The native-code compiler is only available on certain platforms. It produces code that runs faster than the bytecode produced by `ocamlc`, at the cost of increased compilation time and executable code size. Compatibility with the bytecode compiler is extremely high: the same source code should run identically when compiled with `ocamlc` and `ocamlopt`.

It is not possible to mix native-code object files produced by `ocamlopt` with bytecode object files produced by `ocamlc`: a program must be compiled entirely with `ocamlopt` or entirely with `ocamlc`. Native-code object files produced by `ocamlopt` cannot be loaded in the toplevel system `ocaml`.

12.1 Overview of the compiler

The `ocamlopt` command has a command-line interface very close to that of `ocamlc`. It accepts the same types of arguments, and processes them sequentially, after all options have been processed:

- Arguments ending in `.mli` are taken to be source files for compilation unit interfaces. Interfaces specify the names exported by compilation units: they declare value names with their types, define public data types, declare abstract data types, and so on. From the file `x.mli`, the `ocamlopt` compiler produces a compiled interface in the file `x.cmi`. The interface produced is identical to that produced by the bytecode compiler `ocamlc`.

- Arguments ending in `.ml` are taken to be source files for compilation unit implementations. Implementations provide definitions for the names exported by the unit, and also contain expressions to be evaluated for their side-effects. From the file `x.ml`, the `ocamlopt` compiler produces two files: `x.o`, containing native object code, and `x.cmx`, containing extra information for linking and optimization of the clients of the unit. The compiled implementation should always be referred to under the name `x.cmx` (when given a `.o` or `.obj` file, `ocamlopt` assumes that it contains code compiled from C, not from OCaml).

The implementation is checked against the interface file `x.mli` (if it exists) as described in the manual for `ocamlc` (chapter 9).
• Arguments ending in \texttt{.cmx} are taken to be compiled object code. These files are linked together, along with the object files obtained by compiling \texttt{.ml} arguments (if any), and the OCaml standard library, to produce a native-code executable program. The order in which \texttt{.cmx} and \texttt{.ml} arguments are presented on the command line is relevant: compilation units are initialized in that order at run-time, and it is a link-time error to use a component of a unit before having initialized it. Hence, a given $x$ \texttt{.cmx} file must come before all \texttt{.cmx} files that refer to the unit $x$.

• Arguments ending in \texttt{.cmxa} are taken to be libraries of object code. Such a library packs in two files (\texttt{lib.cmxa} and \texttt{lib.a/.lib}) a set of object files (\texttt{.cmx} and \texttt{.o/.obj} files). Libraries are build with \texttt{ocamlopt -a} (see the description of the \texttt{-a} option below). The object files contained in the library are linked as regular \texttt{.cmx} files (see above), in the order specified when the library was built. The only difference is that if an object file contained in a library is not referenced anywhere in the program, then it is not linked in.

• Arguments ending in \texttt{.c} are passed to the C compiler, which generates a \texttt{.o/.obj} object file. This object file is linked with the program.

• Arguments ending in \texttt{.o, .a or .so (.obj, .lib and .dll under Windows)} are assumed to be C object files and libraries. They are linked with the program.

The output of the linking phase is a regular Unix or Windows executable file. It does not need \texttt{ocamrun} to run.

The compiler is able to emit some information on its internal stages. It can output \texttt{.cmt} files for the implementation of the compilation unit and \texttt{.cmti} for signatures if the option \texttt{-bin-annot} is passed to it (see the description of \texttt{-bin-annot} below). Each such file contains a typed abstract syntax tree (AST), that is produced during the type checking procedure. This tree contains all available information about the location and the specific type of each term in the source file. The AST is partial if type checking was unsuccessful.

These \texttt{.cmt} and \texttt{.cmti} files are typically useful for code inspection tools.

### 12.2 Options

The following command-line options are recognized by \texttt{ocamlopt}. The options \texttt{-pack, -a, -shared, -c} and \texttt{-output-obj} are mutually exclusive.

\begin{itemize}
  \item \texttt{-a} \quad Build a library (\texttt{.cmxa} and \texttt{.a/.lib} files) with the object files (\texttt{.cmx} and \texttt{.o/.obj} files) given on the command line, instead of linking them into an executable file. The name of the library must be set with the \texttt{-o} option.

  If \texttt{-cclib} or \texttt{-ccopt} options are passed on the command line, these options are stored in the resulting \texttt{.cmxa} library. Then, linking with this library automatically adds back the \texttt{-cclib} and \texttt{-ccopt} options as if they had been provided on the command line, unless the \texttt{-noautolink} option is given.

  \texttt{-absname}

  Force error messages to show absolute paths for file names.
\end{itemize}
-annot
Dump detailed information about the compilation (types, bindings, tail-calls, etc). The information for file src.ml is put into file src.annot. In case of a type error, dump all the information inferred by the type-checker before the error. The src.annot file can be used with the emacs commands given in emacs/caml-types.el to display types and other annotations interactively.

-args filename
Read additional newline-terminated command line arguments from filename.

-args0 filename
Read additional null character terminated command line arguments from filename.

-bin-annot
Dump detailed information about the compilation (types, bindings, tail-calls, etc) in binary format. The information for file src.ml (resp. src.mli) is put into file src.cmt (resp. src.cmti). In case of a type error, dump all the information inferred by the type-checker before the error. The *.cmt and *.cmti files produced by -bin-annot contain more information and are much more compact than the files produced by -annot.

-c
Compile only. Suppress the linking phase of the compilation. Source code files are turned into compiled files, but no executable file is produced. This option is useful to compile modules separately.

-cc ccomp
Use ccomp as the C linker called to build the final executable and as the C compiler for compiling .c source files.

-cclib -l libname
Pass the -l libname option to the linker. This causes the given C library to be linked with the program.

-ccopt option
Pass the given option to the C compiler and linker. For instance,-ccopt -L dir causes the C linker to search for C libraries in directory dir.

-color mode
Enable or disable colors in compiler messages (especially warnings and errors). The following modes are supported:

  auto
  use heuristics to enable colors only if the output supports them (an ANSI-compatible tty terminal);

  always
  enable colors unconditionally;

  never
  disable color output.
The default setting is 'auto', and the current heuristic checks that the TERM environment variable exists and is not empty or dumb, and that 'isatty(stderr)' holds.

The environment variable OCAML_COLOR is considered if -color is not provided. Its values are auto/always/never as above.

-error-style mode
Control the way error messages and warnings are printed. The following modes are supported:

short
  only print the error and its location;
contextual
  like short, but also display the source code snippet corresponding to the location of the error.

The default setting is contextual.

The environment variable OCAML_ERROR_STYLE is considered if -error-style is not provided. Its values are short/contextual as above.

-compact
Optimize the produced code for space rather than for time. This results in slightly smaller but slightly slower programs. The default is to optimize for speed.

-config
Print the version number of ocamlopt and a detailed summary of its configuration, then exit.

-config-var var
Print the value of a specific configuration variable from the -config output, then exit. If the variable does not exist, the exit code is non-zero. This option is only available since OCaml 4.08, so script authors should have a fallback for older versions.

-depend ocamldap-args
Compute dependencies, as the ocamldap command would do. The remaining arguments are interpreted as if they were given to the ocamldap command.

-for-pack module-path
Generate an object file (.cmx and .o/.obj files) that can later be included as a sub-module (with the given access path) of a compilation unit constructed with -pack. For instance, ocamlopt -for-pack P -c A.ml will generate a.cmx and a.o files that can later be used with ocamlopt -pack -o P.cmx a.cmx. Note: you can still pack a module that was compiled without -for-pack but in this case exceptions will be printed with the wrong names.

-g
Add debugging information while compiling and linking. This option is required in order to produce stack backtraces when the program terminates on an uncaught exception (see section 11.2).

-i
Cause the compiler to print all defined names (with their inferred types or their definitions) when compiling an implementation (.ml file). No compiled files (.cmo and .cmi files) are produced. This can be useful to check the types inferred by the compiler. Also, since the
output follows the syntax of interfaces, it can help in writing an explicit interface (.mli file) for a file: just redirect the standard output of the compiler to a .mli file, and edit that file to remove all declarations of unexported names.

-\texttt{-I} directory
Add the given directory to the list of directories searched for compiled interface files (.cmi), compiled object code files (.cmx), and libraries (.cmxa). By default, the current directory is searched first, then the standard library directory. Directories added with -I are searched after the current directory, in the order in which they were given on the command line, but before the standard library directory. See also option -nostdlib.

If the given directory starts with \texttt{+}, it is taken relative to the standard library directory. For instance, -I +unix adds the subdirectory unix of the standard library to the search path.

-\texttt{-impl} filename
Compile the file \textit{filename} as an implementation file, even if its extension is not .ml.

-\texttt{-inline} \textit{n}
Set aggressiveness of inlining to \textit{n}, where \textit{n} is a positive integer. Specifying -inline 0 prevents all functions from being inlined, except those whose body is smaller than the call site. Thus, inlining causes no expansion in code size. The default aggressiveness, -inline 1, allows slightly larger functions to be inlined, resulting in a slight expansion in code size. Higher values for the -inline option cause larger and larger functions to become candidate for inlining, but can result in a serious increase in code size.

-\texttt{-intf} \textit{filename}
Compile the file \textit{filename} as an interface file, even if its extension is not .mli.

-\texttt{-intf-suffix} \textit{string}
Recognize file names ending with \textit{string} as interface files (instead of the default .mli).

-\texttt{-labels}
Labels are not ignored in types, labels may be used in applications, and labelled parameters can be given in any order. This is the default.

-\texttt{-linkall}
Force all modules contained in libraries to be linked in. If this flag is not given, unreferenced modules are not linked in. When building a library (option -a), setting the -linkall option forces all subsequent links of programs involving that library to link all the modules contained in the library. When compiling a module (option -c), setting the -linkall option ensures that this module will always be linked if it is put in a library and this library is linked.

-\texttt{-linscan}
Use linear scan register allocation. Compiling with this allocator is faster than with the usual graph coloring allocator, sometimes quite drastically so for long functions and modules. On the other hand, the generated code can be a bit slower.

-\texttt{-match-context-rows}
Set the number of rows of context used for optimization during pattern matching compilation.
The default value is 32. Lower values cause faster compilation, but less optimized code. This advanced option is meant for use in the event that a pattern-match-heavy program leads to significant increases in compilation time.

-no-alias-deps
Do not record dependencies for module aliases. See section 8.9 for more information.

-no-app-funct
Deactivates the applicative behaviour of functors. With this option, each functor application generates new types in its result and applying the same functor twice to the same argument yields two incompatible structures.

-noassert
Do not compile assertion checks. Note that the special form assert false is always compiled because it is typed specially. This flag has no effect when linking already-compiled files.

-noautolink
When linking .cmxa libraries, ignore -cclib and -ccopt options potentially contained in the libraries (if these options were given when building the libraries). This can be useful if a library contains incorrect specifications of C libraries or C options; in this case, during linking, set -noautolink and pass the correct C libraries and options on the command line.

-nodynlink
Allow the compiler to use some optimizations that are valid only for code that is never dynlinked.

-nolabels
Ignore non-optional labels in types. Labels cannot be used in applications, and parameter order becomes strict.

-nostdlib
Do not automatically add the standard library directory to the list of directories searched for compiled interface files (.cmi), compiled object code files (.cmx), and libraries (.cmxa). See also option -I.

-o exec-file
Specify the name of the output file produced by the linker. The default output name is a.out under Unix and camlprogs.exe under Windows. If the -a option is given, specify the name of the library produced. If the -pack option is given, specify the name of the packed object file produced. If the -output-obj option is given, specify the name of the output file produced. If the -shared option is given, specify the name of plugin file produced.

-opaque
When the native compiler compiles an implementation, by default it produces a .cmx file containing information for cross-module optimization. It also expects .cmx files to be present for the dependencies of the currently compiled source, and uses them for optimization. Since OCaml 4.03, the compiler will emit a warning if it is unable to locate the .cmx file of one of those dependencies.
The `-opaque` option, available since 4.04, disables cross-module optimization information for the currently compiled unit. When compiling `.ml` interface, using `-opaque` marks the compiled `.cmi` interface so that subsequent compilations of modules that depend on it will not rely on the corresponding `.cmx` file, nor warn if it is absent. When the native compiler compiles a `.ml` implementation, using `-opaque` generates a `.cmx` that does not contain any cross-module optimization information.

Using this option may degrade the quality of generated code, but it reduces compilation time, both on clean and incremental builds. Indeed, with the native compiler, when the implementation of a compilation unit changes, all the units that depend on it may need to be recompiled – because the cross-module information may have changed. If the compilation unit whose implementation changed was compiled with `-opaque`, no such recompilation needs to occur. This option can thus be used, for example, to get faster edit-compile-test feedback loops.

`-open Module`

Opens the given module before processing the interface or implementation files. If several `-open` options are given, they are processed in order, just as if the statements `open! Module1;; ... open! ModuleN;;` were added at the top of each file.

`-output-obj`

Cause the linker to produce a C object file instead of an executable file. This is useful to wrap OCaml code as a C library, callable from any C program. See chapter 19, section 19.7.5. The name of the output object file must be set with the `-o` option. This option can also be used to produce a compiled shared/dynamic library (.so extension, .dll under Windows).

`-pack`

Build an object file (.cmx and .o/.obj files) and its associated compiled interface (.cmi) that combines the .cmx object files given on the command line, making them appear as sub-modules of the output .cmx file. The name of the output .cmx file must be given with the `-o` option. For instance,

```
ccopt -pack -o P.cmx A.cmx B.cmx C.cmx
```

generates compiled files P.cmx, P.o and P.cmi describing a compilation unit having three sub-modules A, B and C, corresponding to the contents of the object files A.cmx, B.cmx and C.cmx. These contents can be referenced as P.A, P.B and P.C in the remainder of the program.

The .cmx object files being combined must have been compiled with the appropriate `-for-pack` option. In the example above, A.cmx, B.cmx and C.cmx must have been compiled with `ccopt -for-pack P`.

Multiple levels of packing can be achieved by combining `-pack` with `-for-pack`. Consider the following example:

```
ccopt -for-pack P.Q -c A.ml ccopt -pack -o Q.cmx -for-pack P A.cmx
ccopt -for-pack P -c B.ml ccopt -pack -o P.cmx Q.cmx B.cmx
```

The resulting P.cmx object file has sub-modules P.Q, P.Q.A and P.B.
-pp  command
  Cause the compiler to call the given command as a preprocessor for each source file. The
  output of command is redirected to an intermediate file, which is compiled. If there are no
  compilation errors, the intermediate file is deleted afterwards.

-ppx  command
  After parsing, pipe the abstract syntax tree through the preprocessor command. The module
  Ast_mapper, described in section 24.1, implements the external interface of a preprocessor.

-principal
  Check information path during type-checking, to make sure that all types are derived in
  a principal way. When using labelled arguments and/or polymorphic methods, this flag is
  required to ensure future versions of the compiler will be able to infer types correctly, even
  if internal algorithms change. All programs accepted in -principal mode are also accepted
  in the default mode with equivalent types, but different binary signatures, and this may slow
  down type checking; yet it is a good idea to use it once before publishing source code.

-rectypes
  Allow arbitrary recursive types during type-checking. By default, only recursive types where
  the recursion goes through an object type are supported. Note that once you have created an
  interface using this flag, you must use it again for all dependencies.

-runtime-variant suffix
  Add the suffix string to the name of the runtime library used by the program. Currently, only
  one such suffix is supported: d, and only if the OCaml compiler was configured with option
  -with-debug-runtime. This suffix gives the debug version of the runtime, which is useful for
  debugging pointer problems in low-level code such as C stubs.

-stop-after pass
  Stop compilation after the given compilation pass. The currently supported passes are:
  parsing, typing.

-S  Keep the assembly code produced during the compilation. The assembly code for the source
    file x.ml is saved in the file x.s.

-shared
  Build a plugin (usually .cmxs) that can be dynamically loaded with the Dynlink module. The
  name of the plugin must be set with the -o option. A plugin can include a number of OCaml
  modules and libraries, and extra native objects (.o, .obj, .a, .lib files). Building native
  plugins is only supported for some operating system. Under some systems (currently, only
  Linux AMD 64), all the OCaml code linked in a plugin must have been compiled without the
  -nodynlink flag. Some constraints might also apply to the way the extra native objects have
  been compiled (under Linux AMD 64, they must contain only position-independent code).

-safe-string
  Enforce the separation between types string and bytes, thereby making strings read-only.
  This is the default.
-short-paths
When a type is visible under several module-paths, use the shortest one when printing the type’s name in inferred interfaces and error and warning messages. Identifier names starting with an underscore _ or containing double underscores __ incur a penalty of +10 when computing their length.

-strict-sequence
Force the left-hand part of each sequence to have type unit.

-strict-formats
Reject invalid formats that were accepted in legacy format implementations. You should use this flag to detect and fix such invalid formats, as they will be rejected by future OCaml versions.

-unboxed-types
When a type is unboxable (i.e. a record with a single argument or a concrete datatype with a single constructor of one argument) it will be unboxed unless annotated with [@@ocaml.boxed].

-no-unboxed-types
When a type is unboxable it will be boxed unless annotated with [@@ocaml.unboxed]. This is the default.

-unsafe
Turn bound checking off for array and string accesses (the v.(i) and s.[i] constructs). Programs compiled with -unsafe are therefore faster, but unsafe: anything can happen if the program accesses an array or string outside of its bounds. Additionally, turn off the check for zero divisor in integer division and modulus operations. With -unsafe, an integer division (or modulus) by zero can halt the program or continue with an unspecified result instead of raising a Division_by_zero exception.

-unsafe-string
Identify the types string and bytes, thereby making strings writable. This is intended for compatibility with old source code and should not be used with new software.

-v
Print the version number of the compiler and the location of the standard library directory, then exit.

-verbose
Print all external commands before they are executed, in particular invocations of the assembler, C compiler, and linker. Useful to debug C library problems.

-version or -vnum
Print the version number of the compiler in short form (e.g. 3.11.0), then exit.

-w warning-list
Enable, disable, or mark as fatal the warnings specified by the argument warning-list. Each warning can be enabled or disabled, and each warning can be fatal or non-fatal. If a warning is disabled, it isn’t displayed and doesn’t affect compilation in any way (even if it is fatal).
If a warning is enabled, it is displayed normally by the compiler whenever the source code triggers it. If it is enabled and fatal, the compiler will also stop with an error after displaying it.

The `warning-list` argument is a sequence of warning specifiers, with no separators between them. A warning specifier is one of the following:

\[+\text{num}\]

Enable warning number \text{num}.

\[-\text{num}\]

Disable warning number \text{num}.

\[@\text{num}\]

Enable and mark as fatal warning number \text{num}.

\[+\text{num}_1..\text{num}_2\]

Enable warnings in the given range.

\[-\text{num}_1..\text{num}_2\]

Disable warnings in the given range.

\[@\text{num}_1..\text{num}_2\]

Enable and mark as fatal warnings in the given range.

\[+\text{letter}\]

Enable the set of warnings corresponding to \text{letter}. The letter may be uppercase or lowercase.

\[-\text{letter}\]

Disable the set of warnings corresponding to \text{letter}. The letter may be uppercase or lowercase.

\[@\text{letter}\]

Enable and mark as fatal the set of warnings corresponding to \text{letter}. The letter may be uppercase or lowercase.

\text{uppercase-letter}

Enable the set of warnings corresponding to \text{uppercase-letter}.

\text{lowercase-letter}

Disable the set of warnings corresponding to \text{lowercase-letter}.

Warning numbers and letters which are out of the range of warnings that are currently defined are ignored. The warnings are as follows.

1 Suspicious-looking start-of-comment mark.
2 Suspicious-looking end-of-comment mark.
3 Deprecated synonym for the ‘deprecated’ alert
4 Fragile pattern matching: matching that will remain complete even if additional constructors are added to one of the variant types matched.
5 Partially applied function: expression whose result has function type and is ignored.
6  Label omitted in function application.
7  Method overridden.
8  Partial match: missing cases in pattern-matching.
9  Missing fields in a record pattern.
10 Expression on the left-hand side of a sequence that doesn’t have type unit (and that is not a function, see warning number 5).
11 Redundant case in a pattern matching (unused match case).
12 Redundant sub-pattern in a pattern-matching.
13 Instance variable overridden.
14 Illegal backslash escape in a string constant.
15 Private method made public implicitly.
16 Unerasable optional argument.
17 Undeclared virtual method.
18 Non-principal type.
19 Type without principality.
20 Unused function argument.
21 Non-returning statement.
22 Preprocessor warning.
23 Useless record with clause.
24 Bad module name: the source file name is not a valid OCaml module name.
25 Deprecated: now part of warning 8.
26 Suspicious unused variable: unused variable that is bound with let or as, and doesn’t start with an underscore (_) character.
27 Innocuous unused variable: unused variable that is not bound with let nor as, and doesn’t start with an underscore (_) character.
28 Wildcard pattern given as argument to a constant constructor.
29 Unescaped end-of-line in a string constant (non-portable code).
30 Two labels or constructors of the same name are defined in two mutually recursive types.
31 A module is linked twice in the same executable.
32 Unused value declaration.
33 Unused open statement.
34 Unused type declaration.
35 Unused for-loop index.
36 Unused ancestor variable.
37 Unused constructor.
38 Unused extension constructor.
Unused rec flag.
Constructor or label name used out of scope.
Ambiguous constructor or label name.
Disambiguated constructor or label name (compatibility warning).
Nonoptional label applied as optional.
Open statement shadows an already defined identifier.
Open statement shadows an already defined label or constructor.
Error in environment variable.
Illegal attribute payload.
Implicit elimination of optional arguments.
Absent cmi file when looking up module alias.
Unexpected documentation comment.
Warning on non-tail calls if @tailcall present.
Fragile constant pattern.
Attribute cannot appear in this context
Attribute used more than once on an expression
Inlining impossible
Unreachable case in a pattern-matching (based on type information).
Ambiguous or-pattern variables under guard
Missing cmx file
Assignment to non-mutable value
Unused module declaration
Unboxable type in primitive declaration
Type constraint on GADT type declaration
Erroneous printed signature
-unsafe used with a preprocessor returning a syntax tree
Type declaration defining a new '()' constructor
Unused open! statement
A all warnings
C warnings 1, 2.
D Alias for warning 3.
E Alias for warning 4.
F Alias for warning 5.
K warnings 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39.
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L Alias for warning 6.
M Alias for warning 7.
P Alias for warning 8.
R Alias for warning 9.
S Alias for warning 10.
U warnings 11, 12.
V Alias for warning 13.
X warnings 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 30.
Y Alias for warning 26.
Z Alias for warning 27.

The default setting is `-w +a-4-6-7-9-27-29-32..42-44-45-48-50-60`. It is displayed by `ocamlopt -help`. Note that warnings 5 and 10 are not always triggered, depending on the internals of the type checker.

- **warn-error warning-list**
  Mark as fatal the warnings specified in the argument `warning-list`. The compiler will stop with an error when one of these warnings is emitted. The `warning-list` has the same meaning as for the `-w` option: a + sign (or an uppercase letter) marks the corresponding warnings as fatal, a - sign (or a lowercase letter) turns them back into non-fatal warnings, and a @ sign both enables and marks as fatal the corresponding warnings.

  Note: it is not recommended to use warning sets (i.e. letters) as arguments to `-warn-error` in production code, because this can break your build when future versions of OCaml add some new warnings.

  The default setting is `-warn-error -a+31` (only warning 31 is fatal).

- **warn-help**
  Show the description of all available warning numbers.

- **where**
  Print the location of the standard library, then exit.

- **with-runtime**
  Include the runtime system in the generated program. This is the default.

- **without-runtime**
  The compiler does not include the runtime system (nor a reference to it) in the generated program; it must be supplied separately.

- **file**
  Process `file` as a file name, even if it starts with a dash (-) character.

- **help**
  Display a short usage summary and exit.
Options for the IA32 architecture  The IA32 code generator (Intel Pentium, AMD Athlon) supports the following additional option:

-ffast-math
Use the IA32 instructions to compute trigonometric and exponential functions, instead of calling the corresponding library routines. The functions affected are: atan, atan2, cos, log, log10, sin, sqrt and tan. The resulting code runs faster, but the range of supported arguments and the precision of the result can be reduced. In particular, trigonometric operations cos, sin, tan have their range reduced to \([-2^{64}, 2^{64}]\).

Options for the AMD64 architecture  The AMD64 code generator (64-bit versions of Intel Pentium and AMD Athlon) supports the following additional options:

-fPIC
Generate position-independent machine code. This is the default.

-fno-PIC
Generate position-dependent machine code.

Contextual control of command-line options
The compiler command line can be modified “from the outside” with the following mechanisms. These are experimental and subject to change. They should be used only for experimental and development work, not in released packages.

OCAMLPARAM (environment variable)
A set of arguments that will be inserted before or after the arguments from the command line. Arguments are specified in a comma-separated list of name=value pairs. A _ is used to specify the position of the command line arguments, i.e. a=x,,b=y means that a=x should be executed before parsing the arguments, and b=y after. Finally, an alternative separator can be specified as the first character of the string, within the set :|; ,.

ocaml_compiler_internal_params (file in the stdlib directory)
A mapping of file names to lists of arguments that will be added to the command line (and OCAMLPARAM) arguments.

OCAML_FLEXLINK (environment variable)
Alternative executable to use on native Windows for flexlink instead of the configured value. Primarily used for bootstrapping.

12.3 Common errors
The error messages are almost identical to those of ocamlc. See section 9.4.
12.4 Running executables produced by ocamlopt

Executables generated by ocamlopt are native, stand-alone executable files that can be invoked directly. They do not depend on the ocamlrunc bytecode runtime system nor on dynamically-loaded C/OCaml stub libraries.

During execution of an ocamlopt-generated executable, the following environment variables are also consulted:

**OCAMLRUNPARAM**

Same usage as in ocamlrunc (see section 11.2), except that option l is ignored (the operating system’s stack size limit is used instead).

**CAMLRUNPARAM**

If OCAMLRUNPARAM is not found in the environment, then CAMLRUNPARAM will be used instead. If CAMLRUNPARAM is not found, then the default values will be used.

12.5 Compatibility with the bytecode compiler

This section lists the known incompatibilities between the bytecode compiler and the native-code compiler. Except on those points, the two compilers should generate code that behave identically.

- Signals are detected only when the program performs an allocation in the heap. That is, if a signal is delivered while in a piece of code that does not allocate, its handler will not be called until the next heap allocation.

- Stack overflow, typically caused by excessively deep recursion, is not always turned into a Stack_overflow exception like the bytecode compiler does. The runtime system makes a best effort to trap stack overflows and raise the Stack_overflow exception, but sometimes it fails and a “segmentation fault” or another system fault occurs instead.

- On ARM and PowerPC processors (32 and 64 bits), fused multiply-add (FMA) instructions can be generated for a floating-point multiplication followed by a floating-point addition or subtraction, as in \( x \ast \cdot \ y \ast \cdot \ z \). The FMA instruction avoids rounding the intermediate result \( x \ast \cdot \ y \), which is generally beneficial, but produces floating-point results that differ slightly from those produced by the bytecode interpreter.

- On IA32 processors only (Intel and AMD x86 processors in 32-bit mode), some intermediate results in floating-point computations are kept in extended precision rather than being rounded to double precision like the bytecode compiler always does. Floating-point results can therefore differ slightly between bytecode and native code.

- The native-code compiler performs a number of optimizations that the bytecode compiler does not perform, especially when the Flambda optimizer is active. In particular, the native-code compiler identifies and eliminates “dead code”, i.e. computations that do not contribute to the results of the program. For example,

```ocaml
let _ = ignore M.f
```
contains a reference to compilation unit \( M \) when compiled to bytecode. This reference forces \( M \) to be linked and its initialization code to be executed. The native-code compiler eliminates the reference to \( M \), hence the compilation unit \( M \) may not be linked and executed. A workaround is to compile \( M \) with the \texttt{-linkall} flag so that it will always be linked and executed, even if not referenced. See also the \texttt{Sysopaque_identity} function from the \texttt{Sys} standard library module.
Chapter 13

Lexer and parser generators (ocamllex, ocamlyacc)

This chapter describes two program generators: ocamllex, that produces a lexical analyzer from a set of regular expressions with associated semantic actions, and ocamlyacc, that produces a parser from a grammar with associated semantic actions.

These program generators are very close to the well-known lex and yacc commands that can be found in most C programming environments. This chapter assumes a working knowledge of lex and yacc: while it describes the input syntax for ocamllex and ocamlyacc and the main differences with lex and yacc, it does not explain the basics of writing a lexer or parser description in lex and yacc. Readers unfamiliar with lex and yacc are referred to “Compilers: principles, techniques, and tools” by Aho, Sethi and Ullman (Addison-Wesley, 1986), or “Lex & Yacc”, by Levine, Mason and Brown (O’Reilly, 1992).

13.1 Overview of ocamllex

The ocamllex command produces a lexical analyzer from a set of regular expressions with attached semantic actions, in the style of lex. Assuming the input file is lexer.mll, executing

    ocamllex lexer.mll

produces OCaml code for a lexical analyzer in file lexer.ml. This file defines one lexing function per entry point in the lexer definition. These functions have the same names as the entry points. Lexing functions take as argument a lexer buffer, and return the semantic attribute of the corresponding entry point.

Lexer buffers are an abstract data type implemented in the standard library module Lexing. The functions Lexing.from_channel, Lexing.from_string and Lexing.from_function create lexer buffers that read from an input channel, a character string, or any reading function, respectively. (See the description of module Lexing in chapter 23.)

When used in conjunction with a parser generated by ocamlyacc, the semantic actions compute a value belonging to the type token defined by the generated parsing module. (See the description of ocamlyacc below.)
13.1.1 Options

The following command-line options are recognized by ocamllex.

-ml  Output code that does not use OCaml’s built-in automata interpreter. Instead, the automaton is encoded by OCaml functions. This option improves performance when using the native compiler, but decreases it when using the bytecode compiler.

-o output-file
    Specify the name of the output file produced by ocamllex. The default is the input file name with its extension replaced by .ml.

-q    Quiet mode. ocamllex normally outputs informational messages to standard output. They are suppressed if option -q is used.

-v or -version
    Print version string and exit.

-vnum
    Print short version number and exit.

-help or -help
    Display a short usage summary and exit.

13.2 Syntax of lexer definitions

The format of lexer definitions is as follows:

{ header }  
let ident = regexp ...  
[refill { refill-handler }]  
rule entrypoint [arg1... argn] =  
    parse regexp { action }  
    | ...  
    | regexp { action }  
and entrypoint [arg1... argn] =  
    parse ...  
and ...  
{ trailer }

Comments are delimited by (* and *), as in OCaml. The parse keyword, can be replaced by the shortest keyword, with the semantic consequences explained below.

Refill handlers are a recent (optional) feature introduced in 4.02, documented below in subsection 13.2.7.
13.2.1 Header and trailer

The header and trailer sections are arbitrary OCaml text enclosed in curly braces. Either or both can be omitted. If present, the header text is copied as is at the beginning of the output file and the trailer text at the end. Typically, the header section contains the open directives required by the actions, and possibly some auxiliary functions used in the actions.

13.2.2 Naming regular expressions

Between the header and the entry points, one can give names to frequently-occurring regular expressions. This is written let ident = regexp. In regular expressions that follow this declaration, the identifier ident can be used as shorthand for regexp.

13.2.3 Entry points

The names of the entry points must be valid identifiers for OCaml values (starting with a lowercase letter). Similarly, the arguments arg1 ... args must be valid identifiers for OCaml. Each entry point becomes an OCaml function that takes n + 1 arguments, the extra implicit last argument being of type Lexing.lexbuf. Characters are read from the Lexing.lexbuf argument and matched against the regular expressions provided in the rule, until a prefix of the input matches one of the rule. The corresponding action is then evaluated and returned as the result of the function.

If several regular expressions match a prefix of the input, the “longest match” rule applies: the regular expression that matches the longest prefix of the input is selected. In case of tie, the regular expression that occurs earlier in the rule is selected.

However, if lexer rules are introduced with the shortest keyword in place of the parse keyword, then the “shortest match” rule applies: the shortest prefix of the input is selected. In case of tie, the regular expression that occurs earlier in the rule is still selected. This feature is not intended for use in ordinary lexical analyzers, it may facilitate the use of ocamlllex as a simple text processing tool.

13.2.4 Regular expressions

The regular expressions are in the style of lex, with a more OCaml-like syntax.

\[
\text{regexp} ::= \ldots
\]

' regular-char | escape-sequence '

A character constant, with the same syntax as OCaml character constants. Match the denoted character.

_ (underscore) Match any character.

eof Match the end of the lexer input.

Note: On some systems, with interactive input, an end-of-file may be followed by more characters. However, ocamlllex will not correctly handle regular expressions that contain eof followed by something else.
"{string-character}"
A string constant, with the same syntax as OCaml string constants. Match the corresponding sequence of characters.

[ character-set ]
Match any single character belonging to the given character set. Valid character sets are:
single character constants 'c'; ranges of characters 'c1'-'c2' (all characters between c1 and c2, inclusive); and the union of two or more character sets, denoted by concatenation.

[ ^ character-set ]
Match any single character not belonging to the given character set.

regexp1 # regexp2
(difference of character sets) Regular expressions regexp1 and regexp2 must be character sets defined with [...] (or a single character expression or underscore _). Match the difference of the two specified character sets.

regexp *
(repetition) Match the concatenation of zero or more strings that match regexp.

regexp +
(strict repetition) Match the concatenation of one or more strings that match regexp.

regexp ?
(option) Match the empty string, or a string matching regexp.

regexp1 | regexp2
(alternative) Match any string that matches regexp1 or regexp2

regexp1 regexp2
(concatenation) Match the concatenation of two strings, the first matching regexp1, the second matching regexp2.

( regexp )
Match the same strings as regexp.

ident
Reference the regular expression bound to ident by an earlier let ident = regexp definition.

regexp as ident
Bind the substring matched by regexp to identifier ident.

Concerning the precedences of operators, # has the highest precedence, followed by *, + and ?, then concatenation, then | (alternation), then as.

13.2.5 Actions
The actions are arbitrary OCaml expressions. They are evaluated in a context where the identifiers defined by using the as construct are bound to subparts of the matched string. Additionally, lexbuf is bound to the current lexer buffer. Some typical uses for lexbuf, in conjunction with the operations on lexer buffers provided by the Lexing standard library module, are listed below.
Lexing.lexeme lexbuf
Return the matched string.

Lexing.lexeme_char lexbuf n
Return the n\textsuperscript{th} character in the matched string. The first character corresponds to n = 0.

Lexing.lexeme_start lexbuf
Return the absolute position in the input text of the beginning of the matched string (i.e. the offset of the first character of the matched string). The first character read from the input text has offset 0.

Lexing.lexeme_end lexbuf
Return the absolute position in the input text of the end of the matched string (i.e. the offset of the first character after the matched string). The first character read from the input text has offset 0.

\textbf{entrypoint} [exp\textsubscript{1} . . . exp\textsubscript{n}] lexbuf
(Where \textit{entrypoint} is the name of another entry point in the same lexer definition.) Recursively call the lexer on the given entry point. Notice that \textit{lexbuf} is the last argument. Useful for lexing nested comments, for example.

### 13.2.6 Variables in regular expressions

The \textbf{as} construct is similar to “\textit{groups}” as provided by numerous regular expression packages. The type of these variables can be \textbf{string}, \textbf{char}, \textbf{string option} or \textbf{char option}.

We first consider the case of linear patterns, that is the case when all \textbf{as} bound variables are distinct. In \textit{regexp \textbf{as ident}}, the type of \textit{ident} normally is \textbf{string} (or \textbf{string option}) except when \textit{regexp} is a character constant, an underscore, a string constant of length one, a character set specification, or an alternation of those. Then, the type of \textit{ident} is \textbf{char} (or \textbf{char option}). Option types are introduced when overall rule matching does not imply matching of the bound sub-pattern. This is in particular the case of (\textit{regexp \textbf{as ident}}) ? and of \textit{regexp\textsubscript{1}} \textbf{as} (\textit{regexp\textsubscript{2} \textbf{as ident}}).

There is no linearity restriction over \textbf{as} bound variables. When a variable is bound more than once, the previous rules are to be extended as follows:

- A variable is a \textbf{char} variable when all its occurrences bind \textbf{char} occurrences in the previous sense.
- A variable is an \textbf{option} variable when the overall expression can be matched without binding this variable.

For instance, in ('a' \textbf{as} x) \textbf{|} ( 'a' (_ \textbf{as} x) ) the variable x is of type \textbf{char}, whereas in ("ab" \textbf{as} x) \textbf{|} ( 'a' (_ \textbf{as} x) ? ) the variable x is of type \textbf{string option}.

In some cases, a successful match may not yield a unique set of bindings. For instance the matching of aba by the regular expression (\textit{('a'|"ab") \textbf{as} x}) (\textit{("ba"|'a') \textbf{as} y}) may result in binding either x to "ab" and y to "a", or x to "a" and y to "ba". The automata produced \textit{ocamllex} on such ambiguous regular expressions will select one of the possible resulting sets of bindings. The selected set of bindings is purposely left unspecified.
13.2.7 Refill handlers

By default, when ocamllex reaches the end of its lexing buffer, it will silently call the refill_buff function of lexbuf structure and continue lexing. It is sometimes useful to be able to take control of refilling action; typically, if you use a library for asynchronous computation, you may want to wrap the refilling action in a delaying function to avoid blocking synchronous operations.

Since OCaml 4.02, it is possible to specify a refill-handler, a function that will be called when refill happens. It is passed the continuation of the lexing, on which it has total control. The OCaml expression used as refill action should have a type that is an instance of

\[
\text{Lexing.lexbuf} \rightarrow 'a \rightarrow \text{Lexing.lexbuf} \rightarrow 'a
\]

where the first argument is the continuation which captures the processing ocamllex would usually perform (refilling the buffer, then calling the lexing function again), and the result type that instantiates \[|a|\] should unify with the result type of all lexing rules.

As an example, consider the following lexer that is parametrized over an arbitrary monad:

```ocaml
{ type token = EOL | INT of int | PLUS

module Make (M : sig
    type 'a t
    val return: 'a -> 'a t
    val bind: 'a t -> ('b t) -> 'b t
    val fail : string -> 'a t

    (* Set up lexbuf *)
    val on_refill : Lexing.lexbuf -> unit t

end)
= struct

let refill_handler k lexbuf =
    M.bind (M.on_refill lexbuf) (fun () -> k lexbuf)

end)

refill {refill_handler}

rule token = parse
| ' ' | [ 0-'9'] as i
    { M.return (INT (int_of_string i)) }
| '+'
    { M.return PLUS }
```
Chapter 13. Lexer and parser generators (ocamllex, ocamlyacc)

13.2.8 Reserved identifiers

All identifiers starting with __ocaml_lex are reserved for use by ocamllex; do not use any such identifier in your programs.

13.3 Overview of ocamlyacc

The ocamlyacc command produces a parser from a context-free grammar specification with attached semantic actions, in the style of yacc. Assuming the input file is grammar.mly, executing

    ocamlyacc options grammar.mly

produces OCaml code for a parser in the file grammar.ml, and its interface in file grammar.mli.

The generated module defines one parsing function per entry point in the grammar. These functions have the same names as the entry points. Parsing functions take as arguments a lexical analyzer (a function from lexer buffers to tokens) and a lexer buffer, and return the semantic attribute of the corresponding entry point. Lexical analyzer functions are usually generated from a lexer specification by the ocamllex program. Lexer buffers are an abstract data type implemented in the standard library module Lexing. Tokens are values from the concrete type token, defined in the interface file grammar.mli produced by ocamlyacc.

13.4 Syntax of grammar definitions

Grammar definitions have the following format:

    %{
    header
    %}
    declarations
    %%
    rules
    %%
    trailer

Comments are enclosed between /* and */ (as in C) in the “declarations” and “rules” sections, and between (* and *) (as in OCaml) in the “header” and “trailer” sections.
13.4.1 Header and trailer

The header and the trailer sections are OCaml code that is copied as is into file `grammar.ml`. Both sections are optional. The header goes at the beginning of the output file; it usually contains `open` directives and auxiliary functions required by the semantic actions of the rules. The trailer goes at the end of the output file.

13.4.2 Declarations

Declarations are given one per line. They all start with a `%` sign.

```plaintext
%token constr ... constr
   Declare the given symbols `constr ... constr` as tokens (terminal symbols). These symbols are added as constant constructors for the `token` concrete type.

%token < typexpr > constr ... constr
   Declare the given symbols `constr ... constr` as tokens with an attached attribute of the given type. These symbols are added as constructors with arguments of the given type for the `token` concrete type. The `typexpr` part is an arbitrary OCaml type expression, except that all type constructor names must be fully qualified (e.g. `Modname.typename`) for all types except standard built-in types, even if the proper `open` directives (e.g. `open Modname`) were given in the header section. That’s because the header is copied only to the `.ml` output file, but not to the `.mli` output file, while the `typexpr` part of a `%token` declaration is copied to both.

%start symbol ... symbol
   Declare the given symbols as entry points for the grammar. For each entry point, a parsing function with the same name is defined in the output module. Non-terminals that are not declared as entry points have no such parsing function. Start symbols must be given a type with the `%type` directive below.

%type < typexpr > symbol ... symbol
   Specify the type of the semantic attributes for the given symbols. This is mandatory for start symbols only. Other nonterminal symbols need not be given types by hand: these types will be inferred when running the output files through the OCaml compiler (unless the `-s` option is in effect). The `typexpr` part is an arbitrary OCaml type expression, except that all type constructor names must be fully qualified, as explained above for `%token`.

%left symbol ... symbol

%right symbol ... symbol

%nonassoc symbol ... symbol

   Associate precedences and associativities to the given symbols. All symbols on the same line are given the same precedence. They have higher precedence than symbols declared before
in a `%left`, `%right` or `%nonassoc` line. They have lower precedence than symbols declared after in a `%left`, `%right` or `%nonassoc` line. The symbols are declared to associate to the left (%left), to the right (%right), or to be non-associative (%nonassoc). The symbols are usually tokens. They can also be dummy nonterminals, for use with the `%prec` directive inside the rules.

The precedence declarations are used in the following way to resolve reduce/reduce and shift/reduce conflicts:

- Tokens and rules have precedences. By default, the precedence of a rule is the precedence of its rightmost terminal. You can override this default by using the `%prec` directive in the rule.
- A reduce/reduce conflict is resolved in favor of the first rule (in the order given by the source file), and ocamlyacc outputs a warning.
- A shift/reduce conflict is resolved by comparing the precedence of the rule to be reduced with the precedence of the token to be shifted. If the precedence of the rule is higher, then the rule will be reduced; if the precedence of the token is higher, then the token will be shifted.
- A shift/reduce conflict between a rule and a token with the same precedence will be resolved using the associativity: if the token is left-associative, then the parser will reduce; if the token is right-associative, then the parser will shift. If the token is non-associative, then the parser will declare a syntax error.
- When a shift/reduce conflict cannot be resolved using the above method, then ocamlyacc will output a warning and the parser will always shift.

13.4.3 Rules

The syntax for rules is as usual:

```
nonterminal :
  symbol ... symbol { semantic-action }
  | ...
  | symbol ... symbol { semantic-action }

;  
```

Rules can also contain the `%prec symbol` directive in the right-hand side part, to override the default precedence and associativity of the rule with the precedence and associativity of the given symbol.

Semantic actions are arbitrary OCaml expressions, that are evaluated to produce the semantic attribute attached to the defined nonterminal. The semantic actions can access the semantic attributes of the symbols in the right-hand side of the rule with the $ notation: $1 is the attribute for the first (leftmost) symbol, $2 is the attribute for the second symbol, etc.

The rules may contain the special symbol error to indicate resynchronization points, as in yacc.

Actions occurring in the middle of rules are not supported.

Nonterminal symbols are like regular OCaml symbols, except that they cannot end with ' (single quote).
13.4.4 Error handling

Error recovery is supported as follows: when the parser reaches an error state (no grammar rules can apply), it calls a function named `parse_error` with the string "syntax error" as argument. The default `parse_error` function does nothing and returns, thus initiating error recovery (see below). The user can define a customized `parse_error` function in the header section of the grammar file.

The parser also enters error recovery mode if one of the grammar actions raises the `Parsing.Parse_error` exception.

In error recovery mode, the parser discards states from the stack until it reaches a place where the error token can be shifted. It then discards tokens from the input until it finds three successive tokens that can be accepted, and starts processing with the first of these. If no state can be uncovered where the error token can be shifted, then the parser aborts by raising the `Parsing.Parse_error` exception.

Refer to documentation on yacc for more details and guidance in how to use error recovery.

13.5 Options

The `ocamlyacc` command recognizes the following options:

- `b prefix`
  Name the output files `prefix.ml`, `prefix.mli`, `prefix.output`, instead of the default naming convention.

- `q`
  This option has no effect.

- `v`
  Generate a description of the parsing tables and a report on conflicts resulting from ambiguities in the grammar. The description is put in file `grammar.output`.

- `version`
  Print version string and exit.

- `vnum`
  Print short version number and exit.

- `file`
  Process file as the grammar specification, even if its name starts with a dash (-) character. This option must be the last on the command line.

At run-time, the `ocamlyacc`-generated parser can be debugged by setting the `p` option in the `OCAMLRUNPARAM` environment variable (see section 11.2). This causes the pushdown automaton executing the parser to print a trace of its action (tokens shifted, rules reduced, etc). The trace mentions rule numbers and state numbers that can be interpreted by looking at the file `grammar.output` generated by `ocamlyacc -v`. 
13.6 A complete example

The all-time favorite: a desk calculator. This program reads arithmetic expressions on standard input, one per line, and prints their values. Here is the grammar definition:

```plaintext
/* File parser.mly */
%token <int> INT
%token PLUS MINUS TIMES DIV
%token LPAREN RPAREN
%token EOL
%left PLUS MINUS /* lowest precedence */
%left TIMES DIV /* medium precedence */
%nonassoc UMINUS /* highest precedence */
%start main /* the entry point */
%type <int> main
%%
main:
    expr EOL { $1 }
    ;
expr:
    INT { $1 }
    | LPAREN expr RPAREN { $2 }
    | expr PLUS expr { $1 + $3 }
    | expr MINUS expr { $1 - $3 }
    | expr TIMES expr { $1 * $3 }
    | expr DIV expr { $1 / $3 }
    | MINUS expr %prec UMINUS { - $2 }
    ;
```

Here is the definition for the corresponding lexer:

```plaintext
(* File lexer.mll *)
{
    open Parser     (* The type token is defined in parser.mli *)
    exception Eof
}
rule token = parse
    [' ' '	']       { token lexbuf }     (* skip blanks *)
    | ['\n']         { EOL }
    | ['0'-'9']+ as lxm { INT(int_of_string lxm) }
    | '+'            { PLUS }
    | '-'            { MINUS }
    | '*'            { TIMES }
    | '/'            { DIV }
    | '('            { LPAREN }
    | ')'            { RPAREN }
    | eof            { raise Eof }
```
Here is the main program, that combines the parser with the lexer:

(* File calc.ml *)
let _ =
  try
    let lexbuf = Lexing.from_channel stdin in
    while true do
      let result = Parser.main Lexer.token lexbuf in
      print_int result; print_newline(); flush stdout
    done
  with Lexer.Eof ->
    exit 0

To compile everything, execute:

  ocamllex lexer.mll    # generates lexer.ml
  ocamlyacc parser.mly  # generates parser.ml and parser.mli
  ocamlc -c parser.mli
  ocamlc -c lexer.ml
  ocamlc -c parser.ml
  ocamlc -c calc.ml
  ocamlc -o calc lexer.cmo parser.cmo calc.cmo

13.7 Common errors

ocamllex: transition table overflow, automaton is too big

The deterministic automata generated by ocamllex are limited to at most 32767 transitions. The message above indicates that your lexer definition is too complex and overflows this limit. This is commonly caused by lexer definitions that have separate rules for each of the alphabetic keywords of the language, as in the following example.

rule token = parse
  "keyword1"  { KWD1 }
| "keyword2"  { KWD2 }
| ...
| "keyword100" { KWD100 }
| [\'A\'-\'Z\' \'a\'-\'z\']\ [\'a\'-\'z\' \'0\'-\'9\' \'_\'] * as id
  { IDENT id}

To keep the generated automata small, rewrite those definitions with only one general “identifier” rule, followed by a hashtable lookup to separate keywords from identifiers:

{ let keyword_table = Hashtbl.create 53
  let _ =
    List.iter (fun (kwd, tok) -> Hashtbl.add keyword_table kwd tok)
Chapter 13. Lexer and parser generators (ocamllex, ocamlyacc)

```
[ "keyword1", KWD1;
  "keyword2", KWD2; ... 
  "keyword100", KWD100 ]
```

```
rule token = parse
  ['A'-'Z' 'a'-'z'] ['A'-'Z' 'a'-'z' '0'-'9' '='_] * as id
  { try
    Hashtbl.find keyword_table id
    with Not_found ->
    IDENT id }
```

ocamllex: Position memory overflow, too many bindings

The deterministic automata generated by ocamllex maintain a table of positions inside the scanned lexer buffer. The size of this table is limited to at most 255 cells. This error should not show up in normal situations.

13.8 Module Depend : Module dependencies.

Warning: this module is unstable and part of compiler-libs[24].

```ocaml
module String :
  Misc.Stdlib.String

  type map_tree =
    | Node of String.Set.t * bound_map
  type bound_map = map_tree String.Map.t
  val make_leaf : string -> map_tree
  val make_node : bound_map -> map_tree
  val weaken_map : String.Set.t -> map_tree -> map_tree
  val free_structure_names : String.Set.t ref
  val pp_deps : string list ref
    dependencies found by preprocessing tools
  val open_module : bound_map -> Longident.t -> bound_map
  val add_use_file : bound_map -> Parsetree.toplevel_phrase list -> unit
  val add_signature : bound_map -> Parsetree.signature -> unit
  val add_implementation : bound_map -> Parsetree.structure -> unit
  val open_module_binding :
    bound_map -> Parsetree.structure -> bound_map
  val add_signature_binding : bound_map -> Parsetree.signature -> bound_map
```
Chapter 14

The browser/editor (ocamlbrowser)

Since OCaml version 4.02, the OCamlBrowser tool and the Labltk library are distributed separately from the OCaml compiler. The project is now hosted at https://forge.ocamlcore.org/projects/labltk/.
Chapter 15

The documentation generator (ocamldoc)

This chapter describes OCamlDoc, a tool that generates documentation from special comments embedded in source files. The comments used by OCamlDoc are of the form (**...**) and follow the format described in section 15.2.

OCamlDoc can produce documentation in various formats: HTML, LATEX, Texinfo, Unix man pages, and dot dependency graphs. Moreover, users can add their own custom generators, as explained in section 15.3.

In this chapter, we use the word element to refer to any of the following parts of an OCaml source file: a type declaration, a value, a module, an exception, a module type, a type constructor, a record field, a class, a class type, a class method, a class value or a class inheritance clause.

15.1 Usage

15.1.1 Invocation

OCamlDoc is invoked via the command ocamldoc, as follows:

    ocamldoc options sourcefiles

Options for choosing the output format

The following options determine the format for the generated documentation.

- html

  Generate documentation in HTML default format. The generated HTML pages are stored in the current directory, or in the directory specified with the -d option. You can customize the style of the generated pages by editing the generated style.css file, or by providing your own style sheet using option -css-style. The file style.css is not generated if it already exists or if -css-style is used.

- latex

  Generate documentation in LATEX default format. The generated LATEX document is saved in
file ocamldoc.out, or in the file specified with the -o option. The document uses the style file ocamldoc.sty. This file is generated when using the -latex option, if it does not already exist. You can change this file to customize the style of your \LaTeX{} documentation.

-texi
Generate documentation in TeXinfo default format. The generated \LaTeX{} document is saved in file ocamldoc.out, or in the file specified with the -o option.

-man
Generate documentation as a set of Unix \texttt{man} pages. The generated pages are stored in the current directory, or in the directory specified with the -d option.

-dot
Generate a dependency graph for the toplevel modules, in a format suitable for displaying and processing by \texttt{dot}. The \texttt{dot} tool is available from \url{https://graphviz.org/}. The textual representation of the graph is written to the file ocamldoc.out, or to the file specified with the -o option. Use \texttt{dot ocamldoc.out} to display it.

-g file.cm[o,a,xs]
Dynamically load the given file, which defines a custom documentation generator. See section 15.4.1. This option is supported by the \texttt{ocamldoc} command (to load .cmo and .cma files) and by its native-code version \texttt{ocamldoc.opt} (to load .cmxs files). If the given file is a simple one and does not exist in the current directory, then ocamldoc looks for it in the custom generators default directory, and in the directories specified with optional -i options.

-customdir
Display the custom generators default directory.

-i directory
Add the given directory to the path where to look for custom generators.

General options

-d dir
Generate files in directory \emph{dir}, rather than the current directory.

-dump file
Dump collected information into file. This information can be read with the -load option in a subsequent invocation of ocamldoc.

-hide modules
Hide the given complete module names in the generated documentation. \emph{modules} is a list of complete module names separated by \texttt{,'}, without blanks. For instance: \texttt{Pervasives,M2,M3}.

-inv-merge-ml-mli
Reverse the precedence of implementations and interfaces when merging. All elements in implementation files are kept, and the -m option indicates which parts of the comments in interface files are merged with the comments in implementation files.
-keep-code
Always keep the source code for values, methods and instance variables, when available.

-load file
Load information from file, which has been produced by ocamldoc -dump. Several -load options can be given.

-m flags
Specify merge options between interfaces and implementations. (see section 15.1.2 for details). flags can be one or several of the following characters:

- d merge description
- a merge @author
- v merge @version
- l merge @see
- s merge @since
- b merge @before
- o merge @deprecated
- p merge @param
- e merge @raise
- r merge @return
- A merge everything

-no-custom-tags
Do not allow custom @-tags (see section 15.2.5).

-no-stop
Keep elements placed after/between the (**/**) special comment(s) (see section 15.2).

-o file
Output the generated documentation to file instead of ocamldoc.out. This option is meaningful only in conjunction with the -latex, -texi, or -dot options.

-pp command
Pipe sources through preprocessor command.

-impl filename
Process the file filename as an implementation file, even if its extension is not .ml.

-intf filename
Process the file filename as an interface file, even if its extension is not .mli.

-text filename
Process the file filename as a text file, even if its extension is not .txt.

-sort
Sort the list of top-level modules before generating the documentation.
-stars
   Remove blank characters until the first asterisk (‘*’) in each line of comments.

-t title
   Use title as the title for the generated documentation.

-intro file
   Use content of file as ocamlc doc text to use as introduction (HTML, \TeX\ and TeXinfo only).
   For HTML, the file is used to create the whole index.html file.

-v Verbose mode. Display progress information.

-version
   Print version string and exit.

-vnum
   Print short version number and exit.

-warn-error
   Treat Ocamldoc warnings as errors.

-hide-warnings
   Do not print OCaml documentation warnings.

-help or -help
   Display a short usage summary and exit.

Type-checking options
OCamldoc calls the OCaml type-checker to obtain type information. The following options impact
the type-checking phase. They have the same meaning as for the ocamlc and ocamlopt commands.

-I directory
   Add directory to the list of directories search for compiled interface files (.cmi files).

-nolabels
   Ignore non-optional labels in types.

-rectypes
   Allow arbitrary recursive types. (See the -rectypes option to ocamlc.)

Options for generating HTML pages
The following options apply in conjunction with the -html option:

-all-params
   Display the complete list of parameters for functions and methods.

-charset charset
   Add information about character encoding being charset (default is iso-8859-1).
Chapter 15. The documentation generator (ocamldoc)

- **colorize-code**
  Colorize the OCaml code enclosed in `[ ]` and `{[ ]}`, using colors to emphasize keywords, etc. If the code fragments are not syntactically correct, no color is added.

- **css-style filename**
  Use `filename` as the Cascading Style Sheet file.

- **index-only**
  Generate only index files.

- **short-functors**
  Use a short form to display functors:

  ```ocaml
  module M : functor (A:Module) -> functor (B:Module2) -> sig .. end
  ```

  is displayed as:

  ```ocaml
  module M (A:Module) (B:Module2) : sig .. end
  ```

**Options for generating \LaTeX files**

The following options apply in conjunction with the `-latex` option:

- **latex-value-prefix prefix**
  Give a prefix to use for the labels of the values in the generated \LaTeX document. The default prefix is the empty string. You can also use the options `-latex-type-prefix`, `-latex-exception-prefix`, `-latex-module-prefix`, `-latex-module-type-prefix`, `-latex-class-prefix`, `-latex-class-type-prefix`, `-latex-attribute-prefix` and `-latex-method-prefix`.

  These options are useful when you have, for example, a type and a value with the same name. If you do not specify prefixes, \LaTeX will complain about multiply defined labels.

- **latex-title n,style**
  Associate style number `n` to the given \LaTeX sectioning command `style`, e.g. `section` or `subsection`. (\LaTeX only.) This is useful when including the generated document in another \LaTeX document, at a given sectioning level. The default association is 1 for `section`, 2 for `subsection`, 3 for `subsubsection`, 4 for `paragraph` and 5 for `subparagraph`.

- **noheader**
  Suppress header in generated documentation.

- **notoc**
  Do not generate a table of contents.

- **notrailer**
  Suppress trailer in generated documentation.

- **sepfiles**
  Generate one `.tex` file per toplevel module, instead of the global `ocamldoc.out` file.
Options for generating TeXinfo files

The following options apply in conjunction with the -texi option:

-esc8
   Escape accented characters in Info files.

-info-entry
   Specify Info directory entry.

-info-section
   Specify section of Info directory.

-noheader
   Suppress header in generated documentation.

-noindex
   Do not build index for Info files.

-notrailer
   Suppress trailer in generated documentation.

Options for generating dot graphs

The following options apply in conjunction with the -dot option:

-dot-colors colors
   Specify the colors to use in the generated dot code. When generating module dependencies, ocamldoc uses different colors for modules, depending on the directories in which they reside. When generating types dependencies, ocamldoc uses different colors for types, depending on the modules in which they are defined. colors is a list of color names separated by ’,’ as in Red,Blue,Green. The available colors are the ones supported by the dot tool.

-dot-include-all
   Include all modules in the dot output, not only modules given on the command line or loaded with the -load option.

-dot-reduce
   Perform a transitive reduction of the dependency graph before outputting the dot code. This can be useful if there are a lot of transitive dependencies that clutter the graph.

-dot-types
   Output dot code describing the type dependency graph instead of the module dependency graph.
Options for generating man files

The following options apply in conjunction with the \texttt{-man} option:

\texttt{-man-mini}

Generate man pages only for modules, module types, classes and class types, instead of pages for all elements.

\texttt{-man-suffix suffix}

Set the suffix used for generated man filenames. Default is '3o', as in \texttt{List.3o}.

\texttt{-man-section section}

Set the section number used for generated man filenames. Default is '3'.

15.1.2 Merging of module information

Information on a module can be extracted either from the \texttt{.mli} or \texttt{.ml} file, or both, depending on the files given on the command line. When both \texttt{.mli} and \texttt{.ml} files are given for the same module, information extracted from these files is merged according to the following rules:

\begin{itemize}
  \item Only elements (values, types, classes, ...) declared in the \texttt{.mli} file are kept. In other terms, definitions from the \texttt{.ml} file that are not exported in the \texttt{.mli} file are not documented.
  \item Descriptions of elements and descriptions in @-tags are handled as follows. If a description for the same element or in the same @-tag of the same element is present in both files, then the description of the \texttt{.ml} file is concatenated to the one in the \texttt{.mli} file, if the corresponding \texttt{-m} flag is given on the command line. If a description is present in the \texttt{.ml} file and not in the \texttt{.mli} file, the \texttt{.ml} description is kept. In either case, all the information given in the \texttt{.mli} file is kept.
\end{itemize}

15.1.3 Coding rules

The following rules must be respected in order to avoid name clashes resulting in cross-reference errors:

\begin{itemize}
  \item In a module, there must not be two modules, two module types or a module and a module type with the same name. In the default HTML generator, modules \texttt{ab} and \texttt{AB} will be printed to the same file on case insensitive file systems.
  \item In a module, there must not be two classes, two class types or a class and a class type with the same name.
  \item In a module, there must not be two values, two types, or two exceptions with the same name.
  \item Values defined in tuple, as in \texttt{let (x,y,z) = (1,2,3)} are not kept by OCamlDoc.
  \item Avoid the following construction:
open Foo (* which has a module Bar with a value x *)
module Foo =
  struct
  module Bar =
    struct
      let x = 1
    end
  end
  let dummy = Bar.x

In this case, OCamlDoc will associate Bar.x to the x of module Foo defined just above, instead of to the Bar.x defined in the opened module Foo.

15.2 Syntax of documentation comments

Comments containing documentation material are called *special comments* and are written between (** and *). Special comments must start exactly with (**. Comments beginning with ( and more than two * are ignored.

15.2.1 Placement of documentation comments

OCamlDoc can associate comments to some elements of the language encountered in the source files. The association is made according to the locations of comments with respect to the language elements. The locations of comments in .mli and .ml files are different.

Comments in .mli files

A special comment is associated to an element if it is placed before or after the element.
A special comment before an element is associated to this element if:

- There is no blank line or another special comment between the special comment and the element. However, a regular comment can occur between the special comment and the element.
- The special comment is not already associated to the previous element.
- The special comment is not the first one of a toplevel module.

A special comment after an element is associated to this element if there is no blank line or comment between the special comment and the element.

There are two exceptions: for constructors and record fields in type definitions, the associated comment can only be placed after the constructor or field definition, without blank lines or other comments between them. The special comment for a constructor with another constructor following must be placed before the ‘|’ character separating the two constructors.

The following sample interface file foo.mli illustrates the placement rules for comments in .mli files.
(** The first special comment of the file is the comment associated with the whole module.*)
(** Special comments can be placed between elements and are kept by the OCamlDoc tool, but are not associated to any element. @-tags in these comments are ignored.*)
*******************************************************************
(** Comments like the one above, with more than two asterisks, are ignored.*)
(** The comment for function f.*)
val f : int -> int -> int
(** The continuation of the comment for function f.*)
(** Comment for exception My_exception, even with a simple comment between the special comment and the exception.*)
(* Hello, I'm a simple comment :-) *)
exception My_exception of (int -> int) * int
(** Comment for type weather*)
type weather =
| Rain of int (** The comment for constructor Rain *)
| Sun (** The comment for constructor Sun *)
(** Comment for type weather2*)
type weather2 =
| Rain of int (** The comment for constructor Rain *)
| Sun (** The comment for constructor Sun *)
(** I can continue the comment for type weather2 here because there is already a comment associated to the last constructor.*)
(** The comment for type my_record*)
type my_record = {
    foo : int ; (** Comment for field foo *)
    bar : string ; (** Comment for field bar *)
}
(** Continuation of comment for type my_record*)
(** Comment for foo*)
val foo : string
(** This comment is associated to foo and not to bar.*)
val bar : string
(** This comment is associated to bar.*)
(** The comment for class my_class*)
class my_class :
    object
        (** A comment to describe inheritance from cl.*)
        inherit cl
        (** The comment for attribute tutu*)
        val mutable tutu : string
        (** The comment for attribute toto.*)
        val toto : int
    end
val titi : string
(** Comment for method toto *)
method toto : string
(** Comment for method m *)
method m : float -> int
end
(** The comment for the class type my_class_type *)
class type my_class_type =
  object
  (** The comment for variable x. *)
  val mutable x : int
  (** The comment for method m. *)
  method m : int -> int
end
(** The comment for module Foo *)
module Foo : 
sig
  (** The comment for x *)
  val x : int
  (** A special comment that is kept but not associated to any element *)
end
(** The comment for module type my_module_type. *)
module type my_module_type =
sig
  (** The comment for value x. *)
  val x : int
  (** The comment for module M. *)
  module M :
    sig
      (** The comment for value y. *)
      val y : int
      (* ... *)
    end
end

Comments in .ml files

A special comment is associated to an element if it is placed before the element and there is no blank line between the comment and the element. Meanwhile, there can be a simple comment between the special comment and the element. There are two exceptions, for constructors and record fields in type definitions, whose associated comment must be placed after the constructor or field definition, without blank line between them. The special comment for a constructor with another constructor
following must be placed before the ']' character separating the two constructors.

The following example of file toto.ml shows where to place comments in a .ml file.

(** The first special comment of the file is the comment associated
to the whole module. *)
(** The comment for function f *)
let f x y = x + y
(** This comment is not attached to any element since there is another
special comment just before the next element. *)
(** Comment for exception My_exception, even with a simple comment
between the special comment and the exception.*)
(* A simple comment. *)
exception My_exception of (int -> int) * int
(** Comment for type weather *)
type weather =
 | Rain of int (** The comment for constructor Rain *)
 | Sun (** The comment for constructor Sun *)
(** The comment for type my_record *)
type my_record =
   {
     foo : int ; (** Comment for field foo *)
     bar : string ; (** Comment for field bar *)
   }
(** The comment for class my_class *)
class my_class =
 object
   (** A comment to describe inheritance from cl *)
   inherit cl
   (** The comment for the instance variable tutu *)
   val mutable tutu = "tutu"
   (** The comment for toto *)
   val toto = 1
   val titi = "titi"
   (** Comment for method toto *)
   method toto = tutu ^ "!
   (** Comment for method m *)
   method m (f : float) = 1
 end
(** The comment for class type my_class_type *)
class type my_class_type =
 object
   (** The comment for the instance variable x. *)
   val mutable x : int
   (** The comment for method m. *)
   method m : int -> int
 end
(** The comment for module Foo *)
module Foo =
  struct
    (** The comment for x *)
    let x = 0
    (** A special comment in the class, but not associated to any element. *)
  end
(** The comment for module type my_module_type. *)
module type my_module_type =
  sig
    (* Comment for value x. *)
    val x : int
    (* ... *)
  end

15.2.2 The Stop special comment

The special comment (**/**) tells OCamlDoc to discard elements placed after this comment, up to the end of the current class, class type, module or module type, or up to the next stop comment. For instance:

class type foo =
  object
    (** comment for method m *)
    method m : string
    (**/**)
    (** This method won't appear in the documentation *)
    method bar : int
  end
(** This value appears in the documentation, since the Stop special comment in the class does not affect the parent module of the class.*)
val foo : string
(**/**)
(** The value bar does not appear in the documentation.*)
val bar : string
(**/**)
(** The type t appears since in the documentation since the previous stop comment toggled off the "no documentation mode". *)
type t = string

The -no-stop option to ocamlcaml occurs the Stop special comments to be ignored.

15.2.3 Syntax of documentation comments

The inside of documentation comments (**...**) consists of free-form text with optional formatting annotations, followed by optional tags giving more specific information about parameters, version,
authors, ... The tags are distinguished by a leading @ character. Thus, a documentation comment has the following shape:

(** The comment begins with a description, which is text formatted according to the rules described in the next section. The description continues until the first non-escaped '@' character.

  @author Mr Smith
  @param x description for parameter x
*)

Some elements support only a subset of all @-tags. Tags that are not relevant to the documented element are simply ignored. For instance, all tags are ignored when documenting type constructors, record fields, and class inheritance clauses. Similarly, a @param tag on a class instance variable is ignored.

At last, (**) is the empty documentation comment.

15.2.4 Text formatting

Here is the BNF grammar for the simple markup language used to format text descriptions.
text ::= \{text-element\}^+

text-element ::= |
\{0\ldots9\}^+ text \} format text as a section header; the integer following \{ indicates the sectioning level. |
\{0\ldots9\}^+ : label text \} same, but also associate the name label to the current point. This point can be referenced by its fully-qualified label in a \{! command, just like any other element. |
{b text } set text in bold. |
{i text } set text in italic. |
{e text } emphasize text. |
{C text } center text. |
{L text } left align text. |
{R text } right align text. |
{ul list } build a list. |
{ol list } build an enumerated list. |
{(': string } text } put a link to the given address (given as string) on the given text. |
[ string ] set the given string in source code style. |
{{ string ]] set the given string in preformatted source code style. |
{v string v} set the given string in verbatim style. |
{" string "} target-specific content (\LaTeX code by default, see details in 15.2.4.4) |
{! string } insert a cross-reference to an element (see section 15.2.4.2 for the syntax of cross-references). |
{!modules: string string ... } insert an index table for the given module names. Used in HTML only. |
{!indexlist} insert a table of links to the various indexes (types, values, modules, ...). Used in HTML only. |
{^ text } set text in superscript. |
{_ text } set text in subscript. |
escaped-string typeset the given string as is; special characters (', ', '(', ')', \ and \') must be escaped by a \textbackslash

| blank-line force a new line.

15.2.4.1 List formatting

list ::= |
{^ text } set text in superscript. |
{_ text } set text in subscript. |
escaped-string typeset the given string as is; special characters (', ', '(', ')', \ and \') must be escaped by a \textbackslash

| blank-line force a new line.

A shortcut syntax exists for lists and enumerated lists:

(** Here is a \{b list\}
- item 1
- item 2
- item 3

The list is ended by the blank line.*

is equivalent to:

(** Here is a {b list}
{ul {- item 1}
 { - item 2}
 { - item 3}}
The list is ended by the blank line.*)

The same shortcut is available for enumerated lists, using ‘+’ instead of ‘-’. Note that only one list can be defined by this shortcut in nested lists.

15.2.4.2 Cross-reference formatting

Cross-references are fully qualified element names, as in the example {!Foo.Bar.t}. This is an ambiguous reference as it may designate a type name, a value name, a class name, etc. It is possible to make explicit the intended syntactic class, using {!type:Foo.Bar.t} to designate a type, and {!val:Foo.Bar.t} a value of the same name.

The list of possible syntactic class is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>tag</th>
<th>syntactic class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>module:</td>
<td>module</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>modtype:</td>
<td>module type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>class:</td>
<td>class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>classtype:</td>
<td>class type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>val:</td>
<td>value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>type:</td>
<td>type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exception:</td>
<td>exception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>attribute:</td>
<td>attribute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>method:</td>
<td>class method</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>section:</td>
<td>ocamldoc section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>const:</td>
<td>variant constructor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>recfield:</td>
<td>record field</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the case of variant constructors or record field, the constructor or field name should be preceded by the name of the correspond type – to avoid the ambiguity of several types having the same constructor names. For example, the constructor Node of the type tree will be referenced as {!tree.Node} or {!const:tree.Node}, or possibly {!Mod1.Mod2.tree.Node} from outside the module.
15.2.4.3 First sentence

In the description of a value, type, exception, module, module type, class or class type, the first sentence is sometimes used in indexes, or when just a part of the description is needed. The first sentence is composed of the first characters of the description, until

- the first dot followed by a blank, or
- the first blank line

outside of the following text formatting: `{ul list}`, `{ol list}`, `[ string ]`, `{[ string ]}`, `{v string v}`, `{% string %}`, `{! string }`, `{^ text }`, `{_ text }.

15.2.4.4 Target-specific formatting

The content inside `{%foo: ... %}` is target-specific and will only be interpreted by the backend `foo`, and ignored by the others. The backends of the distribution are `latex`, `html`, `texi` and `man`. If no target is specified (syntax `{ % ... %}`), `latex` is chosen by default. Custom generators may support their own target prefix.

15.2.4.5 Recognized HTML tags

The HTML tags `<b>`..`/b>`, `<code>`..`/code>`, `<i>`..`/i>`, `<ul>`..`/ul>`, `<ol>`..`/ol>`, `<li>`..`/li>`, `<center>`..`/center>` and `<h[0-9]>..`/h[0-9]> can be used instead of, respectively, `{b␣..}`, `{..}`, `{i␣..}`, `{ul␣..}`, `{ol␣..}`, `{li␣..}`, `{C␣..}` and `{[0-9] ..}`.

15.2.5 Documentation tags (@-tags)

Predefined tags

The following table gives the list of predefined @-tags, with their syntax and meaning.
Chapter 15. The documentation generator (ocamldoc)

| @author string | The author of the element. One author per @author tag. There may be several @author tags for the same element. |
| @deprecated text | The text should describe when the element was deprecated, what to use as a replacement, and possibly the reason for deprecation. |
| @param id text | Associate the given description (text) to the given parameter name id. This tag is used for functions, methods, classes and functors. |
| @raise Exc text | Explain that the element may raise the exception Exc. |
| @return text | Describe the return value and its possible values. This tag is used for functions and methods. |
| @see <URL> text | Add a reference to the URL with the given text as comment. |
| @see 'filename' text | Add a reference to the given file name (written between single quotes), with the given text as comment. |
| @see "document-name" text | Add a reference to the given document name (written between double quotes), with the given text as comment. |
| @since string | Indicate when the element was introduced. |
| @before version text | Associate the given description (text) to the given version in order to document compatibility issues. |
| @version string | The version number for the element. |

Custom tags

You can use custom tags in the documentation comments, but they will have no effect if the generator used does not handle them. To use a custom tag, for example foo, just put @foo with some text in your comment, as in:

(** My comment to show you a custom tag. @foo this is the text argument to the [foo] custom tag. *)

To handle custom tags, you need to define a custom generator, as explained in section 15.3.2.

15.3 Custom generators

OCamldoc operates in two steps:

1. analysis of the source files;
2. generation of documentation, through a documentation generator, which is an object of class Odoc_args.class_generator.

Users can provide their own documentation generator to be used during step 2 instead of the default generators. All the information retrieved during the analysis step is available through the Odoc_info module, which gives access to all the types and functions representing the elements found in the given modules, with their associated description.

The files you can use to define custom generators are installed in the ocamldoc sub-directory of the OCaml standard library.
15.3.1 The generator modules

The type of a generator module depends on the kind of generated documentation. Here is the list of generator module types, with the name of the generator class in the module:

- for HTML: `Odoc_html.Html_generator` (class `html`),
- for \LaTeX: `Odoc_latex.Latex_generator` (class `latex`),
- for TeXinfo: `Odoc_texi.Texi_generator` (class `texi`),
- for man pages: `Odoc_man.Man_generator` (class `man`),
- for graphviz (dot): `Odoc_dot.Dot_generator` (class `dot`),
- for other kinds: `Odoc_gen.Base` (class `generator`).

That is, to define a new generator, one must implement a module with the expected signature, and with the given generator class, providing the `generate` method as entry point to make the generator generates documentation for a given list of modules:

```ocaml
method generate : Odoc_info.Module.t_module list -> unit
```

This method will be called with the list of analysed and possibly merged `Odoc_info.t_module` structures.

It is recommended to inherit from the current generator of the same kind as the one you want to define. Doing so, it is possible to load various custom generators to combine improvements brought by each one.

This is done using first class modules (see chapter 8.6).

The easiest way to define a custom generator is the following this example, here extending the current HTML generator. We don’t have to know if this is the original HTML generator defined in ocaml2doc or if it has been extended already by a previously loaded custom generator:

```ocaml
module Generator (G : Odoc_html.Html_generator) =
struct
  class html =
    object(self)
      inherit G.html as html
      (* ... *)

      method generate module_list =
        (* ... *)
        ()
        (* ... *)
    end
end;;

let _ = Odoc_args.extend_html_generator (module Generator : Odoc_gen.Html_functor);;
```
To know which methods to override and/or which methods are available, have a look at the different base implementations, depending on the kind of generator you are extending:

- for HTML: `odoc_html.ml`,
- for LATEX: `odoc_latex.ml`,
- for TeXinfo: `odoc_texi.ml`,
- for man pages: `odoc_man.ml`,
- for graphviz (dot): `odoc_dot.ml`.

### 15.3.2 Handling custom tags

Making a custom generator handle custom tags (see 15.2.5) is very simple.

#### For HTML

Here is how to develop a HTML generator handling your custom tags.

The class `Odoc_html.Generator.html` inherits from the class `Odoc_html.info`, containing a field `tag_functions` which is a list pairs composed of a custom tag (e.g. "foo") and a function taking a text and returning HTML code (of type `string`). To handle a new tag `bar`, extend the current HTML generator and complete the `tag_functions` field:

```ocaml
module Generator (G : Odoc_html.Html_generator) =
struct
  class html =
    object(self)
      inherit G.html

      (** Return HTML code for the given text of a bar tag. *)
      method html_of_bar t = (* your code here *)

      initializer
        tag_functions <- ("bar", self#html_of_bar) :: tag_functions
    end
  end
end
let _ = Odoc_args.extend_html_generator (module Generator : Odoc_gen.Html_functor);
```

Another method of the class `Odoc_html.info` will look for the function associated to a custom tag and apply it to the text given to the tag. If no function is associated to a custom tag, then the method prints a warning message on `stderr`.

#### For other generators

You can act the same way for other kinds of generators.
15.4 Adding command line options

The command line analysis is performed after loading the module containing the documentation generator, thus allowing command line options to be added to the list of existing ones. Adding an option can be done with the function

\[
\text{Odoc\_args.add\_option} : \text{string} * \text{Arg.spec} * \text{string} \rightarrow \text{unit}
\]

Note: Existing command line options can be redefined using this function.

15.4.1 Compilation and usage

Defining a custom generator class in one file

Let `custom.ml` be the file defining a new generator class. Compilation of `custom.ml` can be performed by the following command:

```
ocamlc -I +ocamldoc -c custom.ml
```

The file `custom.cmo` is created and can be used this way:

```
ocamldoc -g custom.cmo other-options source-files
```

Options selecting a built-in generator to `ocamldoc`, such as `-html`, have no effect if a custom generator of the same kind is provided using `-g`. If the kinds do not match, the selected built-in generator is used and the custom one is ignored.

Defining a custom generator class in several files

It is possible to define a generator class in several modules, which are defined in several files `file1.ml[i]`, `file2.ml[i]`, ..., `filen.ml[i]`. A `.cma` library file must be created, including all these files.

The following commands create the `custom.cma` file from files `file1.ml[i]`, ..., `filen.ml[i]`:

```
ocamlc -I +ocamldoc -c file1.ml[i]
ocamlc -I +ocamldoc -c file2.ml[i]
... 
ocamlc -I +ocamldoc -c filen.ml[i]
ocamlc -o custom.cma -a file1.cmo file2.cmo ... filen.cmo
```

Then, the following command uses `custom.cma` as custom generator:

```
ocamldoc -g custom.cma other-options source-files
```
Chapter 16

The debugger (ocamldebug)

This chapter describes the OCaml source-level replay debugger ocamldebug.

Unix:

The debugger is available on Unix systems that provide BSD sockets.

Windows:

The debugger is available under the Cygwin port of OCaml, but not under the native Win32 ports.

16.1 Compiling for debugging

Before the debugger can be used, the program must be compiled and linked with the -g option: all .cmo and .cma files that are part of the program should have been created with ocamlc -g, and they must be linked together with ocamlc -g.

Compiling with -g entails no penalty on the running time of programs: object files and bytecode executable files are bigger and take longer to produce, but the executable files run at exactly the same speed as if they had been compiled without -g.

16.2 Invocation

16.2.1 Starting the debugger

The OCaml debugger is invoked by running the program ocamldebug with the name of the bytecode executable file as first argument:

    ocamldebug [options] program [arguments]

The arguments following program are optional, and are passed as command-line arguments to the program being debugged. (See also the set arguments command.)

The following command-line options are recognized:

- c count
  Set the maximum number of simultaneously live checkpoints to count.
-cd  dir
   Run the debugger program from the working directory dir, instead of the current directory.
   (See also the cd command.)

-emacs
   Tell the debugger it is executed under Emacs. (See section 16.10 for information on how to
   run the debugger under Emacs.)

-I directory
   Add directory to the list of directories searched for source files and compiled files. (See also
   the directory command.)

-s socket
   Use socket for communicating with the debugged program. See the description of the command
   set socket (section 16.8.6) for the format of socket.

-version
   Print version string and exit.

-vnum
   Print short version number and exit.

-help or -help
   Display a short usage summary and exit.

16.2.2 Initialization file

On start-up, the debugger will read commands from an initialization file before giving control to the
user. The default file is .ocamldebug in the current directory if it exists, otherwise .ocamldebug
in the user’s home directory.

16.2.3 Exiting the debugger

The command quit exits the debugger. You can also exit the debugger by typing an end-of-file
character (usually ctrl-D).

Typing an interrupt character (usually ctrl-C) will not exit the debugger, but will terminate
the action of any debugger command that is in progress and return to the debugger command level.

16.3 Commands

A debugger command is a single line of input. It starts with a command name, which is followed
by arguments depending on this name. Examples:

run
  goto 1000
  set arguments arg1 arg2
A command name can be truncated as long as there is no ambiguity. For instance, \texttt{go 1000} is understood as \texttt{goto 1000}, since there are no other commands whose name starts with \texttt{go}. For the most frequently used commands, ambiguous abbreviations are allowed. For instance, \texttt{r} stands for \texttt{run} even though there are others commands starting with \texttt{r}. You can test the validity of an abbreviation using the \texttt{help} command.

If the previous command has been successful, a blank line (typing just \texttt{RET}) will repeat it.

### 16.3.1 Getting help

The OCaml debugger has a simple on-line help system, which gives a brief description of each command and variable.

\texttt{help}

Print the list of commands.

\texttt{help command}

Give help about the command \texttt{command}.

\texttt{help set variable, help show variable}

Give help about the variable \texttt{variable}. The list of all debugger variables can be obtained with \texttt{help set}.

\texttt{help info topic}

Give help about \texttt{topic}. Use \texttt{help info} to get a list of known topics.

### 16.3.2 Accessing the debugger state

\texttt{set variable value}

Set the debugger variable \texttt{variable} to the value \texttt{value}.

\texttt{show variable}

Print the value of the debugger variable \texttt{variable}.

\texttt{info subject}

Give information about the given subject. For instance, \texttt{info breakpoints} will print the list of all breakpoints.

### 16.4 Executing a program

#### 16.4.1 Events

Events are “interesting” locations in the source code, corresponding to the beginning or end of evaluation of “interesting” sub-expressions. Events are the unit of single-stepping (stepping goes to the next or previous event encountered in the program execution). Also, breakpoints can only be set at events. Thus, events play the role of line numbers in debuggers for conventional languages.

During program execution, a counter is incremented at each event encountered. The value of this counter is referred as the \textit{current time}. Thanks to reverse execution, it is possible to jump back and forth to any time of the execution.

Here is where the debugger events (written $\triangleleft\triangleright$) are located in the source code:
- Following a function application:
  
  \((f \ arg)\)

- On entrance to a function:

  \(fun x y z \rightarrow \quad\)

- On each case of a pattern-matching definition (function, \texttt{match...with} construct, \texttt{try...with} construct):

  \begin{align*}
  \text{function} & \texttt{pat1} \rightarrow \ \texttt{expr1} \\
                     & | \quad\ldots\\
                     & | \ \texttt{patN} \rightarrow \ \texttt{exprN}
  \end{align*}

- Between subexpressions of a sequence:

  \(\texttt{expr1}; \ \texttt{expr2}; \ \ldots; \ \texttt{exprN}\)

- In the two branches of a conditional expression:

  \(\text{if} \ \texttt{cond} \ \texttt{then} \ \texttt{expr1} \ \texttt{else} \ \texttt{expr2}\)

- At the beginning of each iteration of a loop:

  \(\text{while} \ \texttt{cond} \ \texttt{do} \ \texttt{body} \ \texttt{done}\)

  \(\text{for} \ \texttt{i} = \texttt{a} \ \texttt{to} \ \texttt{b} \ \texttt{do} \ \texttt{body} \ \texttt{done}\)

Exceptions: A function application followed by a function return is replaced by the compiler by a jump (tail-call optimization). In this case, no event is put after the function application.

### 16.4.2 Starting the debugged program

The debugger starts executing the debugged program only when needed. This allows setting breakpoints or assigning debugger variables before execution starts. There are several ways to start execution:

- **run**: Run the program until a breakpoint is hit, or the program terminates.

- **goto 0**: Load the program and stop on the first event.

- **goto time**: Load the program and execute it until the given time. Useful when you already know approximately at what time the problem appears. Also useful to set breakpoints on function values that have not been computed at time 0 (see section 16.5).

The execution of a program is affected by certain information it receives when the debugger starts it, such as the command-line arguments to the program and its working directory. The debugger provides commands to specify this information (\texttt{set arguments} and \texttt{cd}). These commands must be used before program execution starts. If you try to change the arguments or the working directory after starting your program, the debugger will kill the program (after asking for confirmation).
16.4.3 Running the program

The following commands execute the program forward or backward, starting at the current time. The execution will stop either when specified by the command or when a breakpoint is encountered.

**run**  
Execute the program forward from current time. Stops at next breakpoint or when the program terminates.

**reverse**  
Execute the program backward from current time. Mostly useful to go to the last breakpoint encountered before the current time.

**step [count]**  
Run the program and stop at the next event. With an argument, do it \textit{count} times. If \textit{count} is 0, run until the program terminates or a breakpoint is hit.

**backstep [count]**  
Run the program backward and stop at the previous event. With an argument, do it \textit{count} times.

**next [count]**  
Run the program and stop at the next event, skipping over function calls. With an argument, do it \textit{count} times.

**previous [count]**  
Run the program backward and stop at the previous event, skipping over function calls. With an argument, do it \textit{count} times.

**finish**  
Run the program until the current function returns.

**start**  
Run the program backward and stop at the first event before the current function invocation.

16.4.4 Time travel

You can jump directly to a given time, without stopping on breakpoints, using the \texttt{goto} command.

As you move through the program, the debugger maintains an history of the successive times you stop at. The \texttt{last} command can be used to revisit these times: each \texttt{last} command moves one step back through the history. That is useful mainly to undo commands such as \texttt{step} and \texttt{next}.

**goto time**  
Jump to the given time.

**last [count]**  
Go back to the latest time recorded in the execution history. With an argument, do it \textit{count} times.

**set history size**  
Set the size of the execution history.
16.4.5 Killing the program

kill
Kill the program being executed. This command is mainly useful if you wish to recompile
the program without leaving the debugger.

16.5 Breakpoints

A breakpoint causes the program to stop whenever a certain point in the program is reached. It
can be set in several ways using the break command. Breakpoints are assigned numbers when set,
for further reference. The most comfortable way to set breakpoints is through the Emacs interface
(see section 16.10).

break
Set a breakpoint at the current position in the program execution. The current position must
be on an event (i.e., neither at the beginning, nor at the end of the program).

break function
Set a breakpoint at the beginning of function. This works only when the functional value of
the identifier function has been computed and assigned to the identifier. Hence this command
cannot be used at the very beginning of the program execution, when all identifiers are still
undefined; use goto time to advance execution until the functional value is available.

break @ [module] line
Set a breakpoint in module module (or in the current module if module is not given), at the
first event of line line.

break @ [module] line column
Set a breakpoint in module module (or in the current module if module is not given), at the
event closest to line line, column column.

break @ [module] # character
Set a breakpoint in module module at the event closest to character number character.

break address
Set a breakpoint at the code address address.

delete [breakpoint-numbers]
Delete the specified breakpoints. Without argument, all breakpoints are deleted (after asking
for confirmation).

info breakpoints
Print the list of all breakpoints.

16.6 The call stack

Each time the program performs a function application, it saves the location of the application (the
return address) in a block of data called a stack frame. The frame also contains the local variables
of the caller function. All the frames are allocated in a region of memory called the call stack. The command `backtrace` (or `bt`) displays parts of the call stack.

At any time, one of the stack frames is “selected” by the debugger; several debugger commands refer implicitly to the selected frame. In particular, whenever you ask the debugger for the value of a local variable, the value is found in the selected frame. The commands `frame`, `up` and `down` select whichever frame you are interested in.

When the program stops, the debugger automatically selects the currently executing frame and describes it briefly as the `frame` command does.

```plaintext
frame
Describe the currently selected stack frame.

frame frame-number
Select a stack frame by number and describe it. The frame currently executing when the program stopped has number 0; its caller has number 1; and so on up the call stack.

backtrace [count], bt [count]
Print the call stack. This is useful to see which sequence of function calls led to the currently executing frame. With a positive argument, print only the innermost `count` frames. With a negative argument, print only the outermost `-count` frames.

up [count]
Select and display the stack frame just “above” the selected frame, that is, the frame that called the selected frame. An argument says how many frames to go up.

down [count]
Select and display the stack frame just “below” the selected frame, that is, the frame that was called by the selected frame. An argument says how many frames to go down.
```

### 16.7 Examining variable values

The debugger can print the current value of simple expressions. The expressions can involve program variables: all the identifiers that are in scope at the selected program point can be accessed.

Expressions that can be printed are a subset of OCaml expressions, as described by the following grammar:

```
simple-exp ::=
  lowercase-ident
  | \{capitalized-ident .\} lowercase-ident
  | *
  | $ integer
  | simple-exp . lowercase-ident
  | simple-exp . ( integer )
  | simple-exp . [ integer ]
  | ! simple-exp
  | ( simple-exp )
```

The first two cases refer to a value identifier, either unqualified or qualified by the path to the structure that define it. `*` refers to the result just computed (typically, the value of a function
application), and is valid only if the selected event is an “after” event (typically, a function application). $integer$ refer to a previously printed value. The remaining four forms select part of an expression: respectively, a record field, an array element, a string element, and the current contents of a reference.

**print variables**
Print the values of the given variables. *print* can be abbreviated as *p*.

**display variables**
Same as *print*, but limit the depth of printing to 1. Useful to browse large data structures without printing them in full. *display* can be abbreviated as *d*.

When printing a complex expression, a name of the form $integer$ is automatically assigned to its value. Such names are also assigned to parts of the value that cannot be printed because the maximal printing depth is exceeded. Named values can be printed later on with the commands *p* $integer$ or *d* $integer$. Named values are valid only as long as the program is stopped. They are forgotten as soon as the program resumes execution.

**set print_depth d**
Limit the printing of values to a maximal depth of *d*.

**set print_length l**
Limit the printing of values to at most *l* nodes printed.

### 16.8 Controlling the debugger

#### 16.8.1 Setting the program name and arguments

**set program file**
Set the program name to *file*.

**set arguments arguments**
Give *arguments* as command-line arguments for the program.

A shell is used to pass the arguments to the debugged program. You can therefore use wildcards, shell variables, and file redirections inside the arguments. To debug programs that read from standard input, it is recommended to redirect their input from a file (using **set arguments < input-file**), otherwise input to the program and input to the debugger are not properly separated, and inputs are not properly replayed when running the program backwards.

#### 16.8.2 How programs are loaded

The *loadingmode* variable controls how the program is executed.

**set loadingmode direct**
The program is run directly by the debugger. This is the default mode.
set loadingmode runtime
  The debugger execute the OCaml runtime ocamlrun on the program. Rarely useful; moreover
  it prevents the debugging of programs compiled in “custom runtime” mode.

set loadingmode manual
  The user starts manually the program, when asked by the debugger. Allows remote debugging
  (see section 16.8.6).

16.8.3 Search path for files

The debugger searches for source files and compiled interface files in a list of directories, the search
path. The search path initially contains the current directory . and the standard library directory. The directory command adds directories to the path.
Whenever the search path is modified, the debugger will clear any information it may have
cached about the files.

directory directorynames
  Add the given directories to the search path. These directories are added at the front, and
  will therefore be searched first.

directory directorynames for modulename
  Same as directory directorynames, but the given directories will be searched only when
  looking for the source file of a module that has been packed into modulename.

directory
  Reset the search path. This requires confirmation.

16.8.4 Working directory

Each time a program is started in the debugger, it inherits its working directory from the current
working directory of the debugger. This working directory is initially whatever it inherited from its
parent process (typically the shell), but you can specify a new working directory in the debugger
with the cd command or the -cd command-line option.

cd directory
  Set the working directory for ocamldump to directory.

pwd
  Print the working directory for ocamldump.

16.8.5 Turning reverse execution on and off

In some cases, you may want to turn reverse execution off. This speeds up the program execution,
and is also sometimes useful for interactive programs.

Normally, the debugger takes checkpoints of the program state from time to time. That is, it
makes a copy of the current state of the program (using the Unix system call fork). If the variable
checkpoints is set to off, the debugger will not take any checkpoints.

set checkpoints on/off
  Select whether the debugger makes checkpoints or not.
16.8.6 Communication between the debugger and the program

The debugger communicates with the program being debugged through a Unix socket. You may need to change the socket name, for example if you need to run the debugger on one machine and your program on another.

```
set socket socket
```

Use `socket` for communication with the program. `socket` can be either a file name, or an Internet port specification `host:port`, where `host` is a host name or an Internet address in dot notation, and `port` is a port number on the host.

On the debugged program side, the socket name is passed through the `CAML_DEBUG_SOCKET` environment variable.

16.8.7 Fine-tuning the debugger

Several variables enable to fine-tune the debugger. Reasonable defaults are provided, and you should normally not have to change them.

```
set processcount count
```

Set the maximum number of checkpoints to `count`. More checkpoints facilitate going far back in time, but use more memory and create more Unix processes.

As checkpointing is quite expensive, it must not be done too often. On the other hand, backward execution is faster when checkpoints are taken more often. In particular, backward single-stepping is more responsive when many checkpoints have been taken just before the current time. To fine-tune the checkpointing strategy, the debugger does not take checkpoints at the same frequency for long displacements (e.g. `run`) and small ones (e.g. `step`). The two variables `bigstep` and `smallstep` contain the number of events between two checkpoints in each case.

```
set bigstep count
```

Set the number of events between two checkpoints for long displacements.

```
set smallstep count
```

Set the number of events between two checkpoints for small displacements.

The following commands display information on checkpoints and events:

```
info checkpoints
```

Print a list of checkpoints.

```
info events [module]
```

Print the list of events in the given module (the current module, by default).
16.8.8 User-defined printers

Just as in the toplevel system (section 10.2), the user can register functions for printing values of certain types. For technical reasons, the debugger cannot call printing functions that reside in the program being debugged. The code for the printing functions must therefore be loaded explicitly in the debugger.

`load_printer "file-name"`

Load in the debugger the indicated `.cmo` or `.cma` object file. The file is loaded in an environment consisting only of the OCaml standard library plus the definitions provided by object files previously loaded using `load_printer`. If this file depends on other object files not yet loaded, the debugger automatically loads them if it is able to find them in the search path. The loaded file does not have direct access to the modules of the program being debugged.

`install_printer printer-name`

Register the function named `printer-name` (a value path) as a printer for objects whose types match the argument type of the function. That is, the debugger will call `printer-name` when it has such an object to print. The printing function `printer-name` must use the `Format` library module to produce its output, otherwise its output will not be correctly located in the values printed by the toplevel loop.

The value path `printer-name` must refer to one of the functions defined by the object files loaded using `load_printer`. It cannot reference the functions of the program being debugged.

`remove_printer printer-name`

Remove the named function from the table of value printers.

16.9 Miscellaneous commands

`list [module] [beginning] [end]`

List the source of module `module`, from line number `beginning` to line number `end`. By default, 20 lines of the current module are displayed, starting 10 lines before the current position.

`source filename`

Read debugger commands from the script `filename`.

16.10 Running the debugger under Emacs

The most user-friendly way to use the debugger is to run it under Emacs. See the file `emacs/README` in the distribution for information on how to load the Emacs Lisp files for OCaml support.

The OCaml debugger is started under Emacs by the command `M-x camldebug`, with argument the name of the executable file `proiname` to debug. Communication with the debugger takes place in an Emacs buffer named `*camldebug-proiname*`. The editing and history facilities of Shell mode are available for interacting with the debugger.

In addition, Emacs displays the source files containing the current event (the current position in the program execution) and highlights the location of the event. This display is updated synchronously with the debugger action.
The following bindings for the most common debugger commands are available in the *camldebug-progname* buffer:

\begin{itemize}
  \item[C-c C-s] (command \texttt{step}): execute the program one step forward.
  \item[C-c C-k] (command \texttt{backstep}): execute the program one step backward.
  \item[C-c N] (command \texttt{next}): execute the program one step forward, skipping over function calls.
  \item[Middle mouse button] (command \texttt{display}): display named value. \$n\$ under mouse cursor (support incremental browsing of large data structures).
  \item[C-c C-p] (command \texttt{print}): print value of identifier at point.
  \item[C-c C-d] (command \texttt{display}): display value of identifier at point.
  \item[C-c C-r] (command \texttt{run}): execute the program forward to next breakpoint.
  \item[C-c C-v] (command \texttt{reverse}): execute the program backward to latest breakpoint.
  \item[C-c L] (command \texttt{last}): go back one step in the command history.
  \item[C-c T] (command \texttt{backtrace}): display backtrace of function calls.
  \item[C-c F] (command \texttt{finish}): run forward till the current function returns.
  \item[C-c <] (command \texttt{up}): select the stack frame below the current frame.
  \item[C-c >] (command \texttt{down}): select the stack frame above the current frame.
\end{itemize}

In all buffers in OCaml editing mode, the following debugger commands are also available:

\begin{itemize}
  \item[C-x C-a C-b] (command \texttt{break}): set a breakpoint at event closest to point
  \item[C-x C-a C-p] (command \texttt{print}): print value of identifier at point
  \item[C-x C-a C-d] (command \texttt{display}): display value of identifier at point
\end{itemize}
Chapter 17

Profiling (ocamlprof)

This chapter describes how the execution of OCaml programs can be profiled, by recording how many times functions are called, branches of conditionals are taken, ...

17.1 Compiling for profiling

Before profiling an execution, the program must be compiled in profiling mode, using the ocamlcp front-end to the ocamlc compiler (see chapter 9) or the ocamloptp front-end to the ocamlopt compiler (see chapter 12). When compiling modules separately, ocamlcp or ocamloptp must be used when compiling the modules (production of .cmo or .cmx files), and can also be used (though this is not strictly necessary) when linking them together.

**Note** If a module (.ml file) doesn’t have a corresponding interface (.mli file), then compiling it with ocamlcp will produce object files (.cmi and .cmo) that are not compatible with the ones produced by ocamlc, which may lead to problems (if the .cmi or .cmo is still around) when switching between profiling and non-profiling compilations. To avoid this problem, you should always have a .mli file for each .ml file. The same problem exists with ocamloptp.

**Note** To make sure your programs can be compiled in profiling mode, avoid using any identifier that begins with __ocaml_prof.

The amount of profiling information can be controlled through the -P option to ocamlcp or ocamloptp, followed by one or several letters indicating which parts of the program should be profiled:

- **a** all options
- **f** function calls : a count point is set at the beginning of each function body
- **i** if ... then ... else ... : count points are set in both then branch and else branch
- **l** while, for loops: a count point is set at the beginning of the loop body
- **m** match branches: a count point is set at the beginning of the body of each branch
try ... with ... branches: a count point is set at the beginning of the body of each branch

For instance, compiling with `ocamlcp -P film` profiles function calls, if...then...else..., loops and pattern matching.

Calling `ocamlcp` or `ocamloptp` without the `-P` option defaults to `-P fm`, meaning that only function calls and pattern matching are profiled.

**Note** For compatibility with previous releases, `ocamlcp` also accepts the `-p` option, with the same arguments and behaviour as `-P`.

The `ocamlcp` and `ocamloptp` commands also accept all the options of the corresponding `ocamlc` or `ocamlopt` compiler, except the `-pp` (preprocessing) option.

### 17.2 Profiling an execution

Running an executable that has been compiled with `ocamlcp` or `ocamloptp` records the execution counts for the specified parts of the program and saves them in a file called `ocamlprof.dump` in the current directory.

If the environment variable `OCAMLPROF_DUMP` is set when the program exits, its value is used as the file name instead of `ocamlprof.dump`.

The dump file is written only if the program terminates normally (by calling `exit` or by falling through). It is not written if the program terminates with an uncaught exception.

If a compatible dump file already exists in the current directory, then the profiling information is accumulated in this dump file. This allows, for instance, the profiling of several executions of a program on different inputs. Note that dump files produced by byte-code executables (compiled with `ocamlcp`) are compatible with the dump files produced by native executables (compiled with `ocamloptp`).

### 17.3 Printing profiling information

The `ocamlprof` command produces a source listing of the program modules where execution counts have been inserted as comments. For instance,

```
ocamlprof foo.ml
```

prints the source code for the `foo` module, with comments indicating how many times the functions in this module have been called. Naturally, this information is accurate only if the source file has not been modified after it was compiled.

The following options are recognized by `ocamlprof`:

- `-args filename`
  Read additional newline-terminated command line arguments from `filename`.

- `-args0 filename`
  Read additional null character terminated command line arguments from `filename`.

- `-f dumpfile`
  Specifies an alternate dump file of profiling information to be read.
-F string
Specifies an additional string to be output with profiling information. By default, ocamlprof will annotate programs with comments of the form (* n *) where n is the counter value for a profiling point. With option -F s, the annotation will be (* sn *).

-impl filename
Process the file filename as an implementation file, even if its extension is not .ml.

-intf filename
Process the file filename as an interface file, even if its extension is not .mli.

-version
Print version string and exit.

-vnum
Print short version number and exit.

-help or --help
Display a short usage summary and exit.

17.4 Time profiling
Profiling with ocamlprof only records execution counts, not the actual time spent within each function. There is currently no way to perform time profiling on bytecode programs generated by ocamlc. For time profiling of native code, users are recommended to use standard tools such as perf (on Linux), Instruments (on macOS) and DTrace. Profiling with gprof is no longer supported.
Chapter 18

The ocamlbuild compilation manager

Since OCaml version 4.03, the ocamlbuild compilation manager is distributed separately from the OCaml compiler. The project is now hosted at https://github.com/ocaml/ocamlbuild/.
Chapter 19

Interfacing C with OCaml

This chapter describes how user-defined primitives, written in C, can be linked with OCaml code and called from OCaml functions, and how these C functions can call back to OCaml code.

19.1 Overview and compilation information

19.1.1 Declaring primitives

\[
definition ::= \ldots \\
| \text{external value-name : typexpr = external-declaration}
\]

\[
\text{external-declaration ::= string-literal [string-literal [string-literal]]}
\]

User primitives are declared in an implementation file or \texttt{struct ... end} module expression using the \texttt{external} keyword:

\[
\text{external name : type = C-function-name}
\]

This defines the value name \texttt{name} as a function with type \texttt{type} that executes by calling the given C function. For instance, here is how the \texttt{input} primitive is declared in the standard library module \texttt{Pervasives}:

\[
\text{external input : in_channel -> bytes -> int -> int -> int = "input"}
\]

Primitives with several arguments are always curried. The C function does not necessarily have the same name as the ML function.

External functions thus defined can be specified in interface files or \texttt{sig ... end} signatures either as regular values

\[
\text{val name : type}
\]

thus hiding their implementation as C functions, or explicitly as “manifest” external functions

\[
\text{external name : type = C-function-name}
\]
The latter is slightly more efficient, as it allows clients of the module to call directly the C function instead of going through the corresponding OCaml function. On the other hand, it should not be used in library modules if they have side-effects at toplevel, as this direct call interferes with the linker’s algorithm for removing unused modules from libraries at link-time.

The arity (number of arguments) of a primitive is automatically determined from its OCaml type in the external declaration, by counting the number of function arrows in the type. For instance, input above has arity 4, and the input C function is called with four arguments. Similarly,

```c
external input2 : in_channel * bytes * int * int -> int = "input2"
```

has arity 1, and the input2 C function receives one argument (which is a quadruple of OCaml values).

Type abbreviations are not expanded when determining the arity of a primitive. For instance,

```c
type int_endo = int -> int
external f : int_endo -> int_endo = "f"
external g : (int -> int) -> (int -> int) = "f"
```

f has arity 1, but g has arity 2. This allows a primitive to return a functional value (as in the f example above): just remember to name the functional return type in a type abbreviation.

The language accepts external declarations with one or two flag strings in addition to the C function’s name. These flags are reserved for the implementation of the standard library.

### 19.1.2 Implementing primitives

User primitives with arity \( n \leq 5 \) are implemented by C functions that take \( n \) arguments of type \texttt{value}, and return a result of type \texttt{value}. The type \texttt{value} is the type of the representations for OCaml values. It encodes objects of several base types (integers, floating-point numbers, strings, ...) as well as OCaml data structures. The type \texttt{value} and the associated conversion functions and macros are described in detail below. For instance, here is the declaration for the C function implementing the \texttt{input} primitive:

```c
CAMLprim value input(value channel, value buffer, value offset, value length)
{
    ...
}
```

When the primitive function is applied in an OCaml program, the C function is called with the values of the expressions to which the primitive is applied as arguments. The value returned by the function is passed back to the OCaml program as the result of the function application.

User primitives with arity greater than 5 should be implemented by two C functions. The first function, to be used in conjunction with the bytecode compiler \texttt{ocamlc}, receives two arguments: a pointer to an array of OCaml values (the values for the arguments), and an integer which is the number of arguments provided. The other function, to be used in conjunction with the native-code compiler \texttt{ocamlopt}, takes its arguments directly. For instance, here are the two C functions for the 7-argument primitive \texttt{Nat.add_nat}:
Chapter 19. Interfacing C with OCaml

CAMLprim value add_nat_native(value nat1, value ofs1, value len1,
    value nat2, value ofs2, value len2,
    value carry_in)
{
    ...
}
CAMLprim value add_nat_bytecode(value * argv, int argn)
{
    return add_nat_native(argv[0], argv[1], argv[2], argv[3],
        argv[4], argv[5], argv[6]);
}

The names of the two C functions must be given in the primitive declaration, as follows:

    external name : type =
        bytecode-C-function-name native-code-C-function-name

For instance, in the case of `add_nat`, the declaration is:

    external add_nat : nat -> int -> int -> nat -> int -> int -> int -> int
        = "add_nat_bytecode" "add_nat_native"

Implementing a user primitive is actually two separate tasks: on the one hand, decoding the
arguments to extract C values from the given OCaml values, and encoding the return value as an
OCaml value; on the other hand, actually computing the result from the arguments. Except for
very simple primitives, it is often preferable to have two distinct C functions to implement these two
tasks. The first function actually implements the primitive, taking native C values as arguments
and returning a native C value. The second function, often called the “stub code”, is a simple
wrapper around the first function that converts its arguments from OCaml values to C values, call
the first function, and convert the returned C value to OCaml value. For instance, here is the stub
code for the `input` primitive:

CAMLprim value input(value channel, value buffer, value offset, value length)
{
    return Val_long(getblock((struct channel *) channel,
        &Byte(buffer, Long_val(offset)),
        Long_val(length)));
}

(Here, `Val_long`, `Long_val` and so on are conversion macros for the type `value`, that will be
described later. The `CAMLprim` macro expands to the required compiler directives to ensure that
the function is exported and accessible from OCaml.) The hard work is performed by the function
getblock, which is declared as:

    long getblock(struct channel * channel, char * p, long n)
    {
        ...
    }
To write C code that operates on OCaml values, the following include files are provided:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Include file</th>
<th>Provides</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>caml/mlvalues.h</td>
<td>definition of the value type, and conversion macros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caml/alloc.h</td>
<td>allocation functions (to create structured OCaml objects)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caml/memory.h</td>
<td>miscellaneous memory-related functions and macros (for GC interface,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in-place modification of structures, etc).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caml/fail.h</td>
<td>functions for raising exceptions (see section 19.4.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caml/callback.h</td>
<td>callback from C to OCaml (see section 19.7).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caml/custom.h</td>
<td>operations on custom blocks (see section 19.9).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caml/intext.h</td>
<td>operations for writing user-defined serialization and deserialization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>functions for custom blocks (see section 19.9).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caml/threads.h</td>
<td>operations for interfacing in the presence of multiple threads (see</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>section 19.9).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These files reside in the caml/ subdirectory of the OCaml standard library directory, which is returned by the command `ocamlc --where` (usually `/usr/local/lib/ocaml` or `/usr/lib/ocaml`).

By default, header files in the caml/ subdirectory give only access to the public interface of the OCaml runtime. It is possible to define the macro `CAML_INTERNALS` to get access to a lower-level interface, but this lower-level interface is more likely to change and break programs that use it.

**Note:** It is recommended to define the macro `CAML_NAME_SPACE` before including these header files. If you do not define it, the header files will also define short names (without the caml_ prefix) for most functions, which usually produce clashes with names defined by other C libraries that you might use. Including the header files without `CAML_NAME_SPACE` is only supported for backward compatibility.

### 19.1.3 Statically linking C code with OCaml code

The OCaml runtime system comprises three main parts: the bytecode interpreter, the memory manager, and a set of C functions that implement the primitive operations. Some bytecode instructions are provided to call these C functions, designated by their offset in a table of functions (the table of primitives).

In the default mode, the OCaml linker produces bytecode for the standard runtime system, with a standard set of primitives. References to primitives that are not in this standard set result in the “unavailable C primitive” error. (Unless dynamic loading of C libraries is supported – see section 19.1.4 below.)

In the “custom runtime” mode, the OCaml linker scans the object files and determines the set of required primitives. Then, it builds a suitable runtime system, by calling the native code linker with:

- the table of the required primitives;
- a library that provides the bytecode interpreter, the memory manager, and the standard primitives;
- libraries and object code files (.o files) mentioned on the command line for the OCaml linker, that provide implementations for the user’s primitives.
This builds a runtime system with the required primitives. The OCaml linker generates bytecode for this custom runtime system. The bytecode is appended to the end of the custom runtime system, so that it will be automatically executed when the output file (custom runtime + bytecode) is launched.

To link in “custom runtime” mode, execute the `ocamlc` command with:

- the `-custom` option;
- the names of the desired OCaml object files (`.cmo` and `.cma` files);
- the names of the C object files and libraries (`.o` and `.a` files) that implement the required primitives. Under Unix and Windows, a library named `libname.a` (respectively, `.lib`) residing in one of the standard library directories can also be specified as `-cclib -l name`.

If you are using the native-code compiler `ocamlopt`, the `-custom` flag is not needed, as the final linking phase of `ocamlopt` always builds a standalone executable. To build a mixed OCaml/C executable, execute the `ocamlopt` command with:

- the names of the desired OCaml native object files (`.cmx` and `.cmxa` files);
- the names of the C object files and libraries (`.o`, `.a`, `.so` or `.dll` files) that implement the required primitives.

Starting with Objective Caml 3.00, it is possible to record the `-custom` option as well as the names of C libraries in an OCaml library file `.cma` or `.cmxa`. For instance, consider an OCaml library `mylib.cma`, built from the OCaml object files `a.cmo` and `b.cmo`, which reference C code in `libmylib.a`. If the library is built as follows:

```
ocamlc -a -o mylib.cma -custom a.cmo b.cmo -cclib -lmylib
```

users of the library can simply link with `mylib.cma`:

```
ocamlc -o myprog mylib.cma ...
```

and the system will automatically add the `-custom` and `-cclib -lmylib` options, achieving the same effect as

```
ocamlc -o myprog -custom a.cmo b.cmo ... -cclib -lmylib
```

The alternative is of course to build the library without extra options:

```
ocamlc -a -o mylib.cma a.cmo b.cmo
```

and then ask users to provide the `-custom` and `-cclib -lmylib` options themselves at link-time:

```
ocamlc -o myprog -custom mylib.cma ... -cclib -lmylib
```

The former alternative is more convenient for the final users of the library, however.
19.1.4 Dynamically linking C code with OCaml code

Starting with Objective Caml 3.03, an alternative to static linking of C code using the -custom code is provided. In this mode, the OCaml linker generates a pure bytecode executable (no embedded custom runtime system) that simply records the names of dynamically-loaded libraries containing the C code. The standard OCaml runtime system ocamlrun then loads dynamically these libraries, and resolves references to the required primitives, before executing the bytecode.

This facility is currently supported and known to work well under Linux, MacOS X, and Windows. It is supported, but not fully tested yet, under FreeBSD, Tru64, Solaris and Irix. It is not supported yet under other Unixes.

To dynamically link C code with OCaml code, the C code must first be compiled into a shared library (under Unix) or DLL (under Windows). This involves 1- compiling the C files with appropriate C compiler flags for producing position-independent code (when required by the operating system), and 2- building a shared library from the resulting object files. The resulting shared library or DLL file must be installed in a place where ocamlrun can find it later at program start-up time (see section 11.3). Finally (step 3), execute the ocamlc command with

- the names of the desired OCaml object files (.cmo and .cma files);
- the names of the C shared libraries (.so or .dll files) that implement the required primitives.

Under Unix and Windows, a library named dllname.so (respectively, .dll) residing in one of the standard library directories can also be specified as -ldll -lmylib.

Do not set the -custom flag, otherwise you're back to static linking as described in section 19.1.3. The ocamlmklib tool (see section 19.14) automates steps 2 and 3.

As in the case of static linking, it is possible (and recommended) to record the names of C libraries in an OCaml .cma library archive. Consider again an OCaml library mylib.cma, built from the OCaml object files a.cmo and b.cmo, which reference C code in dllmylib.so. If the library is built as follows:

    ocamlc -a -o mylib.cma a.cmo b.cmo -ldll -lmylib

users of the library can simply link with mylib.cma:

    ocamlc -o myprog mylib.cma ...

and the system will automatically add the -ldll -lmylib option, achieving the same effect as

    ocamlc -o myprog a.cmo b.cmo ... -ldll -lmylib

Using this mechanism, users of the library mylib.cma do not need to known that it references C code, nor whether this C code must be statically linked (using -custom) or dynamically linked.

19.1.5 Choosing between static linking and dynamic linking

After having described two different ways of linking C code with OCaml code, we now review the pros and cons of each, to help developers of mixed OCaml/C libraries decide.

The main advantage of dynamic linking is that it preserves the platform-independence of bytecode executables. That is, the bytecode executable contains no machine code, and can therefore be
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compiled on platform \( A \) and executed on other platforms \( B, C, \ldots \), as long as the required shared libraries are available on all these platforms. In contrast, executables generated by \texttt{ocamlc -custom} run only on the platform on which they were created, because they embark a custom-tailored runtime system specific to that platform. In addition, dynamic linking results in smaller executables.

Another advantage of dynamic linking is that the final users of the library do not need to have a C compiler, C linker, and C runtime libraries installed on their machines. This is no big deal under Unix and Cygwin, but many Windows users are reluctant to install Microsoft Visual C just to be able to do \texttt{ocamlc -custom}.

There are two drawbacks to dynamic linking. The first is that the resulting executable is not stand-alone: it requires the shared libraries, as well as \texttt{ocamlrun}, to be installed on the machine executing the code. If you wish to distribute a stand-alone executable, it is better to link it statically, using \texttt{ocamlc -custom -ccopt -static} or \texttt{ocamlopt -ccopt -static}. Dynamic linking also raises the “DLL hell” problem: some care must be taken to ensure that the right versions of the shared libraries are found at start-up time.

The second drawback of dynamic linking is that it complicates the construction of the library. The C compiler and linker flags to compile to position-independent code and build a shared library vary wildly between different Unix systems. Also, dynamic linking is not supported on all Unix systems, requiring a fall-back case to static linking in the Makefile for the library. The \texttt{ocamlmklib} command (see section 19.14) tries to hide some of these system dependencies.

In conclusion: dynamic linking is highly recommended under the native Windows port, because there are no portability problems and it is much more convenient for the end users. Under Unix, dynamic linking should be considered for mature, frequently used libraries because it enhances platform-independence of bytecode executables. For new or rarely-used libraries, static linking is much simpler to set up in a portable way.

19.1.6 Building standalone custom runtime systems

It is sometimes inconvenient to build a custom runtime system each time OCaml code is linked with C libraries, like \texttt{ocamlc -custom} does. For one thing, the building of the runtime system is slow on some systems (that have bad linkers or slow remote file systems); for another thing, the platform-independence of bytecode files is lost, forcing to perform one \texttt{ocamlc -custom} link per platform of interest.

An alternative to \texttt{ocamlc -custom} is to build separately a custom runtime system integrating the desired C libraries, then generate “pure” bytecode executables (not containing their own runtime system) that can run on this custom runtime. This is achieved by the \texttt{-make-runtime} and \texttt{-use-runtime} flags to \texttt{ocamlc}. For example, to build a custom runtime system integrating the C parts of the “Unix” and “Threads” libraries, do:

\begin{verbatim}
ocamlc -make-runtime -o /home/me/ocamlunixrun unix.cma threads.cma
\end{verbatim}

To generate a bytecode executable that runs on this runtime system, do:

\begin{verbatim}
ocamlc -use-runtime /home/me/ocamlunixrun -o myprog unix.cma threads.cma your .cmo and .cma files
\end{verbatim}

The bytecode executable \texttt{myprog} can then be launched as usual: \texttt{myprog args} or \texttt{/home/me/ocamlunixrun myprog args}.
Notice that the bytecode libraries `unix.cma` and `threads.cma` must be given twice: when building the runtime system (so that `ocamlc` knows which C primitives are required) and also when building the bytecode executable (so that the bytecode from `unix.cma` and `threads.cma` is actually linked in).

### 19.2 The value type

All OCaml objects are represented by the C type `value`, defined in the include file `caml/mlvalues.h`, along with macros to manipulate values of that type. An object of type `value` is either:

- an unboxed integer;
- a pointer to a block inside the heap (such as the blocks allocated through one of the `caml_alloc_*` functions below);
- a pointer to an object outside the heap (e.g., a pointer to a block allocated by `malloc`, or to a C variable).

#### 19.2.1 Integer values

Integer values encode 63-bit signed integers (31-bit on 32-bit architectures). They are unboxed (unallocated).

#### 19.2.2 Blocks

Blocks in the heap are garbage-collected, and therefore have strict structure constraints. Each block includes a header containing the size of the block (in words), and the tag of the block. The tag governs how the contents of the blocks are structured. A tag lower than `No_scan_tag` indicates a structured block, containing well-formed values, which is recursively traversed by the garbage collector. A tag greater than or equal to `No_scan_tag` indicates a raw block, whose contents are not scanned by the garbage collector. For the benefit of ad-hoc polymorphic primitives such as equality and structured input-output, structured and raw blocks are further classified according to their tags as follows:
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#### 19.2.3 Pointers outside the heap

Any word-aligned pointer to an address outside the heap can be safely cast to and from the type `value`. This includes pointers returned by `malloc`, and pointers to C variables (of size at least one word) obtained with the `&` operator.

Caution: if a pointer returned by `malloc` is cast to the type `value` and returned to OCaml, explicit deallocation of the pointer using `free` is potentially dangerous, because the pointer may still be accessible from the OCaml world. Worse, the memory space deallocated by `free` can later be reallocated as part of the OCaml heap; the pointer, formerly pointing outside the OCaml heap, now points inside the OCaml heap, and this can crash the garbage collector. To avoid these problems, it is preferable to wrap the pointer in a OCaml block with tag `Abstract_tag` or `Custom_tag`.

### 19.3 Representation of OCaml data types

This section describes how OCaml data types are encoded in the `value` type.

#### 19.3.1 Atomic types

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OCaml type</th>
<th>Encoding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>int</td>
<td>Unboxed integer values.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>char</td>
<td>Unboxed integer values (ASCII code).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>float</td>
<td>Blocks with tag <code>Double_tag</code>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bytes</td>
<td>Blocks with tag <code>String_tag</code>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>string</td>
<td>Blocks with tag <code>String_tag</code>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>int32</td>
<td>Blocks with tag <code>Custom_tag</code>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>int64</td>
<td>Blocks with tag <code>Custom_tag</code>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nativeint</td>
<td>Blocks with tag <code>Custom_tag</code>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 19.3.2 Tuples and records

Tuples are represented by pointers to blocks, with tag 0.
Records are also represented by zero-tagged blocks. The ordering of labels in the record type declaration determines the layout of the record fields: the value associated to the label declared first is stored in field 0 of the block, the value associated to the second label goes in field 1, and so on.

As an optimization, records whose fields all have static type float are represented as arrays of floating-point numbers, with tag Double_array_tag. (See the section below on arrays.)

As another optimization, unboxable record types are represented specially; unboxable record types are the immutable record types that have only one field. An unboxable type will be represented in one of two ways: boxed or unboxed. Boxed record types are represented as described above (by a block with tag 0 or Double_array_tag). An unboxed record type is represented directly by the value of its field (i.e. there is no block to represent the record itself).

The representation is chosen according to the following, in decreasing order of priority:

- An attribute ([@boxed] or [@unboxed]) on the type declaration.
- A compiler option (-unboxed-types or -no-unboxed-types).
- The default representation. In the present version of OCaml, the default is the boxed representation.

### 19.3.3 Arrays

Arrays of integers and pointers are represented like tuples, that is, as pointers to blocks tagged 0. They are accessed with the Field macro for reading and the caml_modify function for writing.

Arrays of floating-point numbers (type float array) have a special, unboxed, more efficient representation. These arrays are represented by pointers to blocks with tag Double_array_tag. They should be accessed with the Double_field and Store_double_field macros.

### 19.3.4 Concrete data types

Constructed terms are represented either by unboxed integers (for constant constructors) or by blocks whose tag encode the constructor (for non-constant constructors). The constant constructors and the non-constant constructors for a given concrete type are numbered separately, starting from 0, in the order in which they appear in the concrete type declaration. A constant constructor is represented by the unboxed integer equal to its constructor number. A non-constant constructor declared with n arguments is represented by a block of size n, tagged with the constructor number; the n fields contain its arguments. Example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Constructed term</th>
<th>Representation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>()</td>
<td>Val_int(0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>false</td>
<td>Val_int(0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>true</td>
<td>Val_int(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[]</td>
<td>Val_int(0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h::t</td>
<td>Block with size = 2 and tag = 0; first field contains h, second field t.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As a convenience, `caml/mlvalues.h` defines the macros `Val_unit`, `Val_false` and `Val_true` to refer to `()`, `false` and `true`.

The following example illustrates the assignment of integers and block tags to constructors:

```plaintext
type t =
  | A (* First constant constructor -> integer "Val_int(0)" *)
  | B of string (* First non-constant constructor -> block with tag 0 *)
  | C (* Second constant constructor -> integer "Val_int(1)" *)
  | D of bool (* Second non-constant constructor -> block with tag 1 *)
  | E of t * t (* Third non-constant constructor -> block with tag 2 *)
```

As an optimization, unboxable concrete data types are represented specially; a concrete data type is unboxable if it has exactly one constructor and this constructor has exactly one argument. Unboxable concrete data types are represented in the same ways as unboxable record types: see the description in section 19.3.2.

### 19.3.5 Objects

Objects are represented as blocks with tag `Object_tag`. The first field of the block refers to the object’s class and associated method suite, in a format that cannot easily be exploited from C. The second field contains a unique object ID, used for comparisons. The remaining fields of the object contain the values of the instance variables of the object. It is unsafe to access directly instance variables, as the type system provides no guarantee about the instance variables contained by an object.

One may extract a public method from an object using the C function `caml_get_public_method` (declared in `<caml/mlvalues.h>`). Since public method tags are hashed in the same way as variant tags, and methods are functions taking self as first argument, if you want to do the method call `foo#bar` from the C side, you should call:

```c
callback(caml_get_public_method(foo, hash_variant("bar")), foo);
```

### 19.3.6 Polymorphic variants

Like constructed terms, polymorphic variant values are represented either as integers (for polymorphic variants without argument), or as blocks (for polymorphic variants with an argument). Unlike constructed terms, variant constructors are not numbered starting from 0, but identified by a hash value (an OCaml integer), as computed by the C function `hash_variant` (declared in `<caml/mlvalues.h>`): the hash value for a variant constructor named, say, `VConstr` is `hash_variant("VConstr")`.

The variant value `\texttt{VConstr}` is represented by `hash_variant("VConstr")`. The variant value `\texttt{VConstr}(v)` is represented by a block of size 2 and tag 0, with field number 0 containing `hash_variant("VConstr")` and field number 1 containing `v`.

Unlike constructed values, polymorphic variant values taking several arguments are not flattened. That is, `\texttt{VConstr}(v, w)` is represented by a block of size 2, whose field number 1 contains the representation of the pair `(v, w)`, rather than a block of size 3 containing `v` and `w` in fields 1 and 2.
19.4 Operations on values

19.4.1 Kind tests

- \texttt{Is\_long(}v\texttt{)} is true if value \(v\) is an immediate integer, false otherwise.
- \texttt{Is\_block(}v\texttt{)} is true if value \(v\) is a pointer to a block, and false if it is an immediate integer.

19.4.2 Operations on integers

- \texttt{Val\_long(}l\texttt{)} returns the value encoding the long int \(l\).
- \texttt{Long\_val(}v\texttt{)} returns the long int encoded in value \(v\).
- \texttt{Val\_int(}i\texttt{)} returns the value encoding the int \(i\).
- \texttt{Int\_val(}v\texttt{)} returns the int encoded in value \(v\).
- \texttt{Val\_bool(}x\texttt{)} returns the OCaml boolean representing the truth value of the C integer \(x\).
- \texttt{Bool\_val(}v\texttt{)} returns 0 if \(v\) is the OCaml boolean \texttt{false}, 1 if \(v\) is \texttt{true}.
- \texttt{Val\_true, Val\_false} represent the OCaml booleans \texttt{true} and \texttt{false}.

19.4.3 Accessing blocks

- \texttt{Wosize\_val(}v\texttt{)} returns the size of the block \(v\), in words, excluding the header.
- \texttt{Tag\_val(}v\texttt{)} returns the tag of the block \(v\).
- \texttt{Field(}v, n\texttt{)} returns the value contained in the \(n^{th}\) field of the structured block \(v\). Fields are numbered from 0 to \texttt{Wosize\_val(}v\texttt{)} \(-\) 1.
- \texttt{Store\_field(}b, n, v\texttt{)} stores the value \(v\) in the field number \(n\) of value \(b\), which must be a structured block.
- \texttt{Code\_val(}v\texttt{)} returns the code part of the closure \(v\).
- \texttt{caml\_string\_length(}v\texttt{)} returns the length (number of bytes) of the string or byte sequence \(v\).
- \texttt{Byte(}v, n\texttt{)} returns the \(n^{th}\) byte of the string or byte sequence \(v\), with type \texttt{char}. Bytes are numbered from 0 to \texttt{string\_length(}v\texttt{)} \(-\) 1.
- \texttt{Byte\_u(}v, n\texttt{)} returns the \(n^{th}\) byte of the string or byte sequence \(v\), with type \texttt{unsigned char}. Bytes are numbered from 0 to \texttt{string\_length(}v\texttt{)} \(-\) 1.
- \texttt{String\_val(}v\texttt{)} returns a pointer to the first byte of the string \(v\), with type \texttt{char *}, or, when OCaml is configured with \texttt{-force-safe-string}, with type \texttt{const char *}. This pointer is a valid C string: there is a null byte after the last byte in the string. However, OCaml strings can contain embedded null bytes, which will confuse the usual C functions over strings.
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• Bytes_val(v) returns a pointer to the first byte of the byte sequence v, with type unsigned char *.

• Double_val(v) returns the floating-point number contained in value v, with type double.

• Double_field(v, n) returns the n\textsuperscript{th} element of the array of floating-point numbers v (a block tagged Double_array_tag).

• Store_double_field(v, n, d) stores the double precision floating-point number d in the n\textsuperscript{th} element of the array of floating-point numbers v.

• Data_custom_val(v) returns a pointer to the data part of the custom block v. This pointer has type void * and must be cast to the type of the data contained in the custom block.

• Int32_val(v) returns the 32-bit integer contained in the int32 v.

• Int64_val(v) returns the 64-bit integer contained in the int64 v.

• Nativeint_val(v) returns the long integer contained in the nativeint v.

• caml_field_unboxed(v) returns the value of the field of a value v of any unboxed type (record or concrete data type).

• caml_field_boxed(v) returns the value of the field of a value v of any boxed type (record or concrete data type).

• caml_field_unboxable(v) calls either caml_field_unboxed or caml_field_boxed according to the default representation of unboxable types in the current version of OCaml.

The expressions Field(v, n), Byte(v, n) and Byte_u(v, n) are valid l-values. Hence, they can be assigned to, resulting in an in-place modification of value v. Assigning directly to Field(v, n) must be done with care to avoid confusing the garbage collector (see below).

19.4.4 Allocating blocks

Simple interface

• Atom(t) returns an “atom” (zero-sized block) with tag t. Zero-sized blocks are preallocated outside of the heap. It is incorrect to try and allocate a zero-sized block using the functions below. For instance, Atom(0) represents the empty array.

• caml_alloc(n, t) returns a fresh block of size n with tag t. If t is less than No_scan_tag, then the fields of the block are initialized with a valid value in order to satisfy the GC constraints.

• caml_alloc_tuple(n) returns a fresh block of size n words, with tag 0.

• caml_alloc_string(n) returns a byte sequence (or string) value of length n bytes. The sequence initially contains uninitialized bytes.

• caml_alloc_initialized_string(n, p) returns a byte sequence (or string) value of length n bytes. The value is initialized from the n bytes starting at address p.
• `caml_copy_string(s)` returns a string or byte sequence value containing a copy of the null-terminated C string `s` (a `char *`).

• `caml_copy_double(d)` returns a floating-point value initialized with the `double` `d`.

• `caml_copy_int32(i)`, `caml_copy_int64(i)` and `caml_copy_nativeint(i)` return a value of OCaml type `int32`, `int64` and `nativeint`, respectively, initialized with the integer `i`.

• `caml_alloc_array(f, a)` allocates an array of values, calling function `f` over each element of the input array `a` to transform it into a value. The array `a` is an array of pointers terminated by the null pointer. The function `f` receives each pointer as argument, and returns a value. The zero-tagged block returned by `alloc_array(f, a)` is filled with the values returned by the successive calls to `f`. (This function must not be used to build an array of floating-point numbers.)

• `caml_copy_string_array(p)` allocates an array of strings or byte sequences, copied from the pointer to a string array `p` (a `char **`). `p` must be NULL-terminated.

• `caml_alloc_float_array(n)` allocates an array of floating point numbers of size `n`. The array initially contains uninitialized values.

• `caml_alloc_unboxed(v)` returns the value (of any unboxed type) whose field is the value `v`.

• `caml_alloc_boxed(v)` allocates and returns a value (of any boxed type) whose field is the value `v`.

• `caml_alloc_unboxable(v)` calls either `caml_alloc_unboxed` or `caml_alloc_boxed` according to the default representation of unboxable types in the current version of OCaml.

Low-level interface

The following functions are slightly more efficient than `caml_alloc`, but also much more difficult to use.

From the standpoint of the allocation functions, blocks are divided according to their size as zero-sized blocks, small blocks (with size less than or equal to `Max_young_wosize`), and large blocks (with size greater than `Max_young_wosize`). The constant `Max_young_wosize` is declared in the include file `mlvalues.h`. It is guaranteed to be at least 64 (words), so that any block with constant size less than or equal to 64 can be assumed to be small. For blocks whose size is computed at run-time, the size must be compared against `Max_young_wosize` to determine the correct allocation procedure.

• `caml_alloc_small(n, t)` returns a fresh small block of size `n ≤ Max_young_wosize` words, with tag `t`. If this block is a structured block (i.e. if `t < No_scan_tag`), then the fields of the block (initially containing garbage) must be initialized with legal values (using direct assignment to the fields of the block) before the next allocation.

• `caml_alloc_shr(n, t)` returns a fresh block of size `n`, with tag `t`. The size of the block can be greater than `Max_young_wosize`. (It can also be smaller, but in this case it is more efficient to call `caml_alloc_small` instead of `caml_alloc_shr`.) If this block is a structured block
(i.e. if \( t < \text{No\_scan\_tag} \)), then the fields of the block (initially containing garbage) must be initialized with legal values (using the \text{caml\_initialize} function described below) before the next allocation.

### 19.4.5 Raising exceptions

Two functions are provided to raise two standard exceptions:

- \text{caml\_failwith}(s), where \( s \) is a null-terminated C string (with type \text{char *}), raises exception \text{Failure} with argument \( s \).

- \text{caml\_invalid\_argument}(s), where \( s \) is a null-terminated C string (with type \text{char *}), raises exception \text{Invalid\_argument} with argument \( s \).

Raising arbitrary exceptions from C is more delicate: the exception identifier is dynamically allocated by the OCaml program, and therefore must be communicated to the C function using the registration facility described below in section 19.7.3. Once the exception identifier is recovered in C, the following functions actually raise the exception:

- \text{caml\_raise\_constant}(id) raises the exception \( id \) with no argument;

- \text{caml\_raise\_with\_arg}(id, \( v \)) raises the exception \( id \) with the OCaml value \( v \) as argument;

- \text{caml\_raise\_with\_args}(id, \( n \), \( v \)) raises the exception \( id \) with the OCaml values \( v[0], \ldots, v[n-1] \) as arguments;

- \text{caml\_raise\_with\_string}(id, \( s \)), where \( s \) is a null-terminated C string, raises the exception \( id \) with a copy of the C string \( s \) as argument.

### 19.5 Living in harmony with the garbage collector

Unused blocks in the heap are automatically reclaimed by the garbage collector. This requires some cooperation from C code that manipulates heap-allocated blocks.

#### 19.5.1 Simple interface

All the macros described in this section are declared in the \text{memory.h} header file.

**Rule 1**: A function that has parameters or local variables of type \text{value} must begin with a call to one of the \text{CAMLparam} macros and return with \text{CAMLreturn}, \text{CAMLreturn0}, or \text{CAMLreturnT}. In particular, \text{CAMLlocal} and \text{CAMLxparam} can only be called after \text{CAMLparam}.

There are six \text{CAMLparam} macros: \text{CAMLparam0} to \text{CAMLparam5}, which take zero to five arguments respectively. If your function has no more than 5 parameters of type \text{value}, use the corresponding macros with these parameters as arguments. If your function has more than 5 parameters of type \text{value}, use \text{CAMLparam5} with five of these parameters, and use one or more calls to the \text{CAMLxparam} macros for the remaining parameters (\text{CAMLxparam1} to \text{CAMLxparam5}).

The macros \text{CAMLreturn}, \text{CAMLreturn0}, and \text{CAMLreturnT} are used to replace the C keyword \text{return}. Every occurrence of \text{return \( x \)} must be replaced by \text{CAMLreturn \( (x) \)} if \( x \) has type \text{value},
or CAMLreturnT (t, x) (where t is the type of x); every occurrence of return without argument must be replaced by CAMLreturn0. If your C function is a procedure (i.e. if it returns void), you must insert CAMLreturn0 at the end (to replace C’s implicit return).

**Note:** some C compilers give bogus warnings about unused variables caml__dummy_xxx at each use of CAMLPram and CAMLlocal. You should ignore them.

Example:

```c
void foo (value v1, value v2, value v3)
{
    CAMLPram3 (v1, v2, v3);
    ...
    CAMLreturn0;
}
```

**Note:** if your function is a primitive with more than 5 arguments for use with the byte-code runtime, its arguments are not values and must not be declared (they have types value * and int).

**Rule 2** Local variables of type value must be declared with one of the CAMLlocal macros. Arrays of values are declared with CAMLlocalN. These macros must be used at the beginning of the function, not in a nested block.

The macros CAMLlocal1 to CAMLlocal5 declare and initialize one to five local variables of type value. The variable names are given as arguments to the macros. CAMLlocalN(x, n) declares and initializes a local variable of type value [n]. You can use several calls to these macros if you have more than 5 local variables.

Example:

```c
value bar (value v1, value v2, value v3)
{
    CAMLPram3 (v1, v2, v3);
    CAMLlocal1 (result);
    result = caml_alloc (3, 0);
    ...
    CAMLreturn (result);
}
```

**Rule 3** Assignments to the fields of structured blocks must be done with the Store_field macro (for normal blocks) or Store_double_field macro (for arrays and records of floating-point numbers). Other assignments must not use Store_field nor Store_double_field.

`Store_field (b, n, v)` stores the value `v` in the field number `n` of value `b`, which must be a block (i.e. Is_block(b) must be true).

Example:
value bar (value v1, value v2, value v3)
{
    CAMLparam3 (v1, v2, v3);
    CAMLlocal1 (result);
    result = caml_alloc (3, 0);
    Store_field (result, 0, v1);
    Store_field (result, 1, v2);
    Store_field (result, 2, v3);
    CAMLreturn (result);
}

Warning:  The first argument of Store_field and Store_double_field must be a variable declared by CAMLparam* or a parameter declared by CAMLlocal* to ensure that a garbage collection triggered by the evaluation of the other arguments will not invalidate the first argument after it is computed.

Use with CAMLlocalN:  Arrays of values declared using CAMLlocalN must not be written to using Store_field.  Use the normal C array syntax instead.

Rule 4 Global variables containing values must be registered with the garbage collector using the caml_register_global_root function.

Registration of a global variable v is achieved by calling caml_register_global_root(&v) just before or just after a valid value is stored in v for the first time.  You must not call any of the OCaml runtime functions or macros between registering and storing the value.

A registered global variable v can be un-registered by calling caml_remove_global_root(&v).

If the contents of the global variable v are seldom modified after registration, better performance can be achieved by calling caml_register_generational_global_root(&v) to register v (after its initialization with a valid value, but before any allocation or call to the GC functions), and caml_remove_generational_global_root(&v) to un-register it.  In this case, you must not modify the value of v directly, but you must use caml_modify_generational_global_root(&v, x) to set it to x.  The garbage collector takes advantage of the guarantee that v is not modified between calls to caml_modify_generational_global_root to scan it less often.  This improves performance if the modifications of v happen less often than minor collections.

Note:  The CAML macros use identifiers (local variables, type identifiers, structure tags) that start with caml__. Do not use any identifier starting with caml__ in your programs.

19.5.2 Low-level interface

We now give the GC rules corresponding to the low-level allocation functions caml_alloc_small and caml_alloc_shr.  You can ignore those rules if you stick to the simplified allocation function caml_alloc.

Rule 5 After a structured block (a block with tag less than No_scan_tag) is allocated with the low-level functions, all fields of this block must be filled with well-formed values before the next
allocation operation. If the block has been allocated with \texttt{caml\_alloc\_small}, filling is performed by direct assignment to the fields of the block:

\[
\text{Field}(v, n) = v_n;
\]

If the block has been allocated with \texttt{caml\_alloc\_shr}, filling is performed through the \texttt{caml\_initialize} function:

\[
\text{caml\_initialize}(&\text{Field}(v, n), v_n);
\]

The next allocation can trigger a garbage collection. The garbage collector assumes that all structured blocks contain well-formed values. Newly created blocks contain random data, which generally do not represent well-formed values.

If you really need to allocate before the fields can receive their final value, first initialize with a constant value (e.g. \texttt{Val\_unit}), then allocate, then modify the fields with the correct value (see rule 6).

**Rule 6** Direct assignment to a field of a block, as in

\[
\text{Field}(v, n) = w;
\]

is safe only if \( v \) is a block newly allocated by \texttt{caml\_alloc\_small}; that is, if no allocation took place between the allocation of \( v \) and the assignment to the field. In all other cases, never assign directly. If the block has just been allocated by \texttt{caml\_alloc\_shr}, use \texttt{caml\_initialize} to assign a value to a field for the first time:

\[
\text{caml\_initialize}(&\text{Field}(v, n), w);
\]

Otherwise, you are updating a field that previously contained a well-formed value; then, call the \texttt{caml\_modify} function:

\[
\text{caml\_modify}(&\text{Field}(v, n), w);
\]

To illustrate the rules above, here is a C function that builds and returns a list containing the two integers given as parameters. First, we write it using the simplified allocation functions:

```c
value alloc_list_int(int i1, int i2)
{
    CAMLparam0 ();
    CAMLlocal2 (result, r);

    r = caml_alloc(2, 0); /* Allocate a cons cell */
    Store_field(r, 0, Val_int(i2)); /* car = the integer i2 */
    Store_field(r, 1, Val_int(0)); /* cdr = the empty list [] */
    result = caml_alloc(2, 0); /* Allocate the other cons cell */
    Store_field(result, 0, Val_int(i1)); /* car = the integer i1 */
    Store_field(result, 1, r); /* cdr = the first cons cell */
    CAMLreturn (result);
}
```
Here, the registering of `result` is not strictly needed, because no allocation takes place after it gets its value, but it’s easier and safer to simply register all the local variables that have type `value`.

Here is the same function written using the low-level allocation functions. We notice that the cons cells are small blocks and can be allocated with `caml_alloc_small`, and filled by direct assignments on their fields.

```ocaml
value alloc_list_int(int i1, int i2)
{
    CAMLparam0 ();
    CAMLlocal2 (result, r);

    r = caml_alloc_small(2, 0);    /* Allocate a cons cell */
    Field(r, 0) = Val_int(i2);     /* car = the integer i2 */
    Field(r, 1) = Val_int(0);      /* cdr = the empty list [] */
    result = caml_alloc_small(2, 0);    /* Allocate the other cons cell */
    Field(result, 0) = Val_int(i1);  /* car = the integer i1 */
    Field(result, 1) = r;          /* cdr = the first cons cell */
    CAMLreturn (result);
}
```

In the two examples above, the list is built bottom-up. Here is an alternate way, that proceeds top-down. It is less efficient, but illustrates the use of `caml_modify`.

```ocaml
value alloc_list_int(int i1, int i2)
{
    CAMLparam0 ();
    CAMLlocal2 (tail, r);

    r = caml_alloc_small(2, 0);    /* Allocate a cons cell */
    Field(r, 0) = Val_int(i1);     /* car = the integer i1 */
    Field(r, 1) = Val_int(0);      /* A dummy value */
    tail = caml_alloc_small(2, 0);    /* Allocate the other cons cell */
    Field(tail, 0) = Val_int(i2);  /* car = the integer i2 */
    Field(tail, 1) = Val_int(0);   /* cdr = the empty list [] */
    caml_modify(&Field(r, 1), tail);   /* cdr of the result = tail */
    CAMLreturn (r);
}
```

It would be incorrect to perform `Field(r, 1) = tail` directly, because the allocation of `tail` has taken place since `r` was allocated.

### 19.6 A complete example

This section outlines how the functions from the Unix `curses` library can be made available to OCaml programs. First of all, here is the interface `curses.ml` that declares the `curses` primitives and data types:
(* File curses.ml -- declaration of primitives and data types *)

```ml
(* The type "window" remains abstract *)

type window

external initscr: unit -> window = "caml_curses_initscr"
external endwin: unit -> unit = "caml_curses_endwin"
external refresh: unit -> unit = "caml_curses_refresh"
external wrefresh: window -> unit = "caml_curses_wrefresh"
external newwin: int -> int -> int -> int -> window = "caml_curses_newwin"
external addch: char -> unit = "caml_curses_addch"
external mvwaddch: window -> int -> int -> char -> unit = "caml_curses_mvwaddch"
external addstr: string -> unit = "caml_curses_addstr"
external mvwaddstr: window -> int -> int -> string -> unit = "caml_curses_mvwaddstr"

(* lots more omitted *)
```

To compile this interface:

```bash
ocamlc -c curses.ml
```

To implement these functions, we just have to provide the stub code; the core functions are already implemented in the `curses` library. The stub code file, `curses_stubs.c`, looks like this:

```c
/* File curses_stubs.c -- stub code for curses */
#include <curses.h>
#include <caml/mlvalues.h>
#include <caml/memory.h>
#include <caml/alloc.h>
#include <caml/custom.h>

/* Encapsulation of opaque window handles (of type WINDOW *) as OCaml custom blocks. */

static struct custom_operations curses_window_ops = {
    "fr.inria.caml.curses_windows",
    custom_finalize_default,
    custom_compare_default,
    custom_hash_default,
    custom_serialize_default,
    custom_deserialize_default,
    custom_compare_ext_default,
    custom_fixed_length_default
};

/* Accessing the WINDOW * part of an OCaml custom block */
#define Window_val(v) (*((WINDOW **) Data_custom_val(v)))

/* Allocating an OCaml custom block to hold the given WINDOW * */
static value alloc_window(WINDOW * w)
```
{ 
  value v = alloc_custom(&curses_window_ops, sizeof(WINDOW *), 0, 1);
  Window_val(v) = w;
  return v;
}

value caml_curses_initscr(value unit)
{
  CAMLparam1 (unit);
  CAMLreturn (alloc_window(initscr()));
}

value caml_curses_endwin(value unit)
{
  CAMLparam1 (unit);
  endwin();
  CAMLreturn (Val_unit);
}

value caml_curses_refresh(value unit)
{
  CAMLparam1 (unit);
  refresh();
  CAMLreturn (Val_unit);
}

value caml_curses_wrefresh(value win)
{
  CAMLparam1 (win);
  wrefresh(Window_val(win));
  CAMLreturn (Val_unit);
}

value caml_curses_newwin(value nlines, value ncols, value x0, value y0)
{
  CAMLparam4 (nlines, ncols, x0, y0);
  CAMLreturn (alloc_window(newwin(Int_val(nlines), Int_val(ncols),
                                  Int_val(x0), Int_val(y0))));
}

value caml_curses_addch(value c)
{
  CAMLparam1 (c);
  addch(Int_val(c));   /* Characters are encoded like integers */
  CAMLreturn (Val_unit);
value caml_curses_mvwaddch(value win, value x, value y, value c)
{
    CAMLparam4 (win, x, y, c);
    mvwaddch(Window_val(win), Int_val(x), Int_val(y), Int_val(c));
    CAMLreturn (Val_unit);
}

value caml_curses_addstr(value s)
{
    CAMLparam1 (s);
    addstr(String_val(s));
    CAMLreturn (Val_unit);
}

value caml_curses_mvwaddstr(value win, value x, value y, value s)
{
    CAMLparam4 (win, x, y, s);
    mvwaddstr(Window_val(win), Int_val(x), Int_val(y), String_val(s));
    CAMLreturn (Val_unit);
}

/* This goes on for pages. */

The file curses_stubs.c can be compiled with:

    cc -c -I`ocamlc -where` bruises_stubs.c

or, even simpler,

    ocamlc -c bruises_stubs.c

(When passed a .c file, the ocamlc command simply calls the C compiler on that file, with the right -I option.)

Now, here is a sample OCaml program prog.ml that uses the curses module:

(* File prog.ml -- main program using curses *)
open Curses;;
let main_window = initscr () in
let small_window = newwin 10 5 20 10 in
    mvwaddstr main_window 10 2 "Hello";
    mvwaddstr small_window 4 3 "world";
    refresh();
    Unix.sleep 5;
    endwin();

To compile and link this program, run:
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19.7 Advanced topic: callbacks from C to OCaml

So far, we have described how to call C functions from OCaml. In this section, we show how C functions can call OCaml functions, either as callbacks (OCaml calls C which calls OCaml), or with the main program written in C.

19.7.1 Applying OCaml closures from C

C functions can apply OCaml function values (closures) to OCaml values. The following functions are provided to perform the applications:

- `caml_callback(f, a)` applies the functional value \( f \) to the value \( a \) and returns the value returned by \( f \).
- `caml_callback2(f, a, b)` applies the functional value \( f \) (which is assumed to be a curried OCaml function with two arguments) to \( a \) and \( b \).
- `caml_callback3(f, a, b, c)` applies the functional value \( f \) (a curried OCaml function with three arguments) to \( a \), \( b \) and \( c \).
- `caml_callbackN(f, n, args)` applies the functional value \( f \) to the \( n \) arguments contained in the array of values \( args \).

If the function \( f \) does not return, but raises an exception that escapes the scope of the application, then this exception is propagated to the next enclosing OCaml code, skipping over the C code. That is, if an OCaml function \( f \) calls a C function \( g \) that calls back an OCaml function \( h \) that raises a stray exception, then the execution of \( g \) is interrupted and the exception is propagated back into \( f \).

If the C code wishes to catch exceptions escaping the OCaml function, it can use the functions `caml_callback_exn`, `caml_callback2_exn`, `caml_callback3_exn`, `caml_callbackN_exn`. These functions take the same arguments as their non-\_exn counterparts, but catch escaping exceptions and return them to the C code. The return value \( v \) of the `caml_callback*\_exn` functions must be tested with the macro `Is_exception_result(v)`. If the macro returns “false”, no exception occurred, and \( v \) is the value returned by the OCaml function. If `Is_exception_result(v)` returns “true”, an exception escaped, and its value (the exception descriptor) can be recovered using `Extract_exception(v)`.

**Warning:** If the OCaml function returned with an exception, `Extract_exception` should be applied to the exception result prior to calling a function that may trigger garbage collection. Otherwise, if \( v \) is reachable during garbage collection, the runtime can crash since \( v \) does not contain a valid value.

Example:
value call_caml_f_ex(value closure, value arg)
{
    CAMLparam2(closure, arg);
    CAMLlocal2(res, tmp);
    res = caml_callback_exn(closure, arg);
    if(Is_exception_result(res)) {
        res = Extract_exception(res);
        tmp = caml_alloc(3, 0); /* Safe to allocate: res contains valid value. */
        ...
    }
    CAMLreturn (res);
}

19.7.2 Obtaining or registering OCaml closures for use in C functions

There are two ways to obtain OCaml function values (closures) to be passed to the callback functions described above. One way is to pass the OCaml function as an argument to a primitive function. For example, if the OCaml code contains the declaration

    external apply : ('a -> 'b) -> 'a -> 'b = "caml_apply"

the corresponding C stub can be written as follows:

    CAMLprim value caml_apply(value vf, value vx)
    {
        CAMLparam2(vf, vx);
        CAMLlocal1(vy);
        vy = caml_callback(vf, vx);
        CAMLreturn(vy);
    }

Another possibility is to use the registration mechanism provided by OCaml. This registration mechanism enables OCaml code to register OCaml functions under some global name, and C code to retrieve the corresponding closure by this global name.

On the OCaml side, registration is performed by evaluating Callback.register n v. Here, n is the global name (an arbitrary string) and v the OCaml value. For instance:

    let f x = print_string "f is applied to "; print_int x; print_newline()
    let _ = Callback.register "test function" f

On the C side, a pointer to the value registered under name n is obtained by calling caml_named_value(n). The returned pointer must then be dereferenced to recover the actual OCaml value. If no value is registered under the name n, the null pointer is returned. For example, here is a C wrapper that calls the OCaml function f above:

    void call_caml_f(int arg)
    {
      caml_callback(*caml_named_value("test function"), Val_int(arg));
    }
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The pointer returned by `caml_named_value` is constant and can safely be cached in a C variable to avoid repeated name lookups. The value pointed to cannot be changed from C. However, it might change during garbage collection, so must always be recomputed at the point of use. Here is a more efficient variant of `call_caml_f` above that calls `caml_named_value` only once:

```c
void call_caml_f(int arg)
{
    static const value * closure_f = NULL;
    if (closure_f == NULL) {
        /* First time around, look up by name */
        closure_f = caml_named_value("test function");
    }
    caml_callback(*closure_f, Val_int(arg));
}
```

19.7.3 Registering OCaml exceptions for use in C functions

The registration mechanism described above can also be used to communicate exception identifiers from OCaml to C. The OCaml code registers the exception by evaluating `Callback.register_exception n exn`, where `n` is an arbitrary name and `exn` is an exception value of the exception to register. For example:

```ocaml
exception Error of string
let _ = Callback.register_exception "test exception" (Error "any string")
```

The C code can then recover the exception identifier using `caml_named_value` and pass it as first argument to the functions `raise_constant`, `raise_with_arg`, and `raise_with_string` (described in section 19.4.5) to actually raise the exception. For example, here is a C function that raises the `Error` exception with the given argument:

```c
void raise_error(char * msg)
{
    caml_raise_with_string(*caml_named_value("test exception"), msg);
}
```

19.7.4 Main program in C

In normal operation, a mixed OCaml/C program starts by executing the OCaml initialization code, which then may proceed to call C functions. We say that the main program is the OCaml code. In some applications, it is desirable that the C code plays the role of the main program, calling OCaml functions when needed. This can be achieved as follows:

- The C part of the program must provide a `main` function, which will override the default `main` function provided by the OCaml runtime system. Execution will start in the user-defined `main` function just like for a regular C program.

- At some point, the C code must call `caml_main(argv)` to initialize the OCaml code. The `argv` argument is a C array of strings (type `char **`), terminated with a `NULL` pointer, which
represents the command-line arguments, as passed as second argument to `main`. The OCaml
array `Sys.argv` will be initialized from this parameter. For the bytecode compiler, `argv[0]`
and `argv[1]` are also consulted to find the file containing the bytecode.

- The call to `caml_main` initializes the OCaml runtime system, loads the bytecode (in
the case of the bytecode compiler), and executes the initialization code of the OCaml program.
Typically, this initialization code registers callback functions using `Callback.register`. Once
the OCaml initialization code is complete, control returns to the C code that called `caml_main`.

- The C code can then invoke OCaml functions using the callback mechanism (see
section 19.7.1).

### 19.7.5 Embedding the OCaml code in the C code

The bytecode compiler in custom runtime mode (`ocamlc -custom`) normally appends the bytecode
to the executable file containing the custom runtime. This has two consequences. First, the final
linking step must be performed by `ocamlc`. Second, the OCaml runtime library must be able to find
the name of the executable file from the command-line arguments. When using `caml_main(argv)`
as in section 19.7.4, this means that `argv[0]` or `argv[1]` must contain the executable file name.

An alternative is to embed the bytecode in the C code. The `-output-obj` option to `ocamlc`
is provided for this purpose. It causes the `ocamlc` compiler to output a C object file (.o file,
.obj under Windows) containing the bytecode for the OCaml part of the program, as well as a
caml_startup function. The C object file produced by `ocamlc -output-obj` can then be linked
with C code using the standard C compiler, or stored in a C library.

The `caml_startup` function must be called from the main C program in order to initialize the
OCaml runtime and execute the OCaml initialization code. Just like `caml_main`, it takes one `argv`
parameter containing the command-line parameters. Unlike `caml_main`, this `argv` parameter is
used only to initialize `Sys.argv`, but not for finding the name of the executable file.

The `caml_startup` function calls the uncaught exception handler (or enters the debugger, if
running under ocamldebug) if an exception escapes from a top-level module initialiser. Such exceptions
may be caught in the C code by instead using the `caml_startup_exn` function and testing the
result using `Is_exception_result` (followed by `Extract_exception` if appropriate).

The `-output-obj` option can also be used to obtain the C source file. More interestingly, the
same option can also produce directly a shared library (.so file, .dll under Windows) that contains
the OCaml code, the OCaml runtime system and any other static C code given to `ocamlc` (.o, .a,
respectively, .obj, .lib). This use of `-output-obj` is very similar to a normal linking step, but
instead of producing a main program that automatically runs the OCaml code, it produces a shared
library that can run the OCaml code on demand. The three possible behaviors of `-output-obj` are
selected according to the extension of the resulting file (given with `-o`).

The native-code compiler `ocamlopt` also supports the `-output-obj` option, causing it to output
a C object file or a shared library containing the native code for all OCaml modules on the command-
line, as well as the OCaml startup code. Initialization is performed by calling `caml_startup` (or
caml_startup_exn) as in the case of the bytecode compiler.

For the final linking phase, in addition to the object file produced by `-output-obj`, you will have
to provide the OCaml runtime library (`libcamlrun.a` for bytecode, `libasmrun.a` for native-code),
as well as all C libraries that are required by the OCaml libraries used. For instance, assume the OCaml part of your program uses the Unix library. With `ocamlc`, you should do:

```
  ocamlc -output-obj -o camlcode.o unix.cma other .cmo and .cma files
  cc -o myprog C objects and libraries \ 
    camlcode.o -L'ocamlc -where' -lunix -lcamlrun
```

With `ocamlopt`, you should do:

```
  ocamlopt -output-obj -o camlcode.o unix.cmxa other .cmx and .cmxa files
  cc -o myprog C objects and libraries \ 
    camlcode.o -L'ocamlc -where' -lunix -lasmr
```

**Warning:** On some ports, special options are required on the final linking phase that links together the object file produced by the `-output-obj` option and the remainder of the program. Those options are shown in the configuration file `Makefile.config` generated during compilation of OCaml, as the variable `OC_LDFLAGS`.

- Windows with the MSVC compiler: the object file produced by OCaml have been compiled with the `/MD` flag, and therefore all other object files linked with it should also be compiled with `/MD`.
- other systems: you may have to add one or more of `-lcurses`, `-lm`, `-ldl`, depending on your OS and C compiler.

**Stack backtraces.** When OCaml bytecode produced by `ocamlc -g` is embedded in a C program, no debugging information is included, and therefore it is impossible to print stack backtraces on uncaught exceptions. This is not the case when native code produced by `ocamlopt -g` is embedded in a C program: stack backtrace information is available, but the backtrace mechanism needs to be turned on programmatically. This can be achieved from the OCaml side by calling `Printexc.record_backtrace true` in the initialization of one of the OCaml modules. This can also be achieved from the C side by calling `caml_record_backtrace(Val_int(1));` in the OCaml-C glue code.

**Unloading the runtime.**

In case the shared library produced with `-output-obj` is to be loaded and unloaded repeatedly by a single process, care must be taken to unload the OCaml runtime explicitly, in order to avoid various system resource leaks.

Since 4.05, `caml_shutdown` function can be used to shut the runtime down gracefully, which equals the following:

- Running the functions that were registered with `Pervasives.at_exit`.
- Triggering finalization of allocated custom blocks (see section 19.9). For example, `Pervasives.in_channel` and `Pervasives.out_channel` are represented by custom blocks that enclose file descriptors, which are to be released.
• Unloading the dependent shared libraries that were loaded by the runtime, including dynlink plugins.

• Freeing the memory blocks that were allocated by the runtime with malloc. Inside C primitives, it is advised to use caml_stat_* functions from memory.h for managing static (that is, non-moving) blocks of heap memory, as all the blocks allocated with these functions are automatically freed by caml_shutdown. For ensuring compatibility with legacy C stubs that have used caml_stat_* incorrectly, this behaviour is only enabled if the runtime is started with a specialized caml_startup_pooled function.

As a shared library may have several clients simultaneously, it is made for convenience that caml_startup (and caml_startup_pooled) may be called multiple times, given that each such call is paired with a corresponding call to caml_shutdown (in a nested fashion). The runtime will be unloaded once there are no outstanding calls to caml_startup.

Once a runtime is unloaded, it cannot be started up again without reloading the shared library and reinitializing its static data. Therefore, at the moment, the facility is only useful for building reloadable shared libraries.

19.8 Advanced example with callbacks

This section illustrates the callback facilities described in section 19.7. We are going to package some OCaml functions in such a way that they can be linked with C code and called from C just like any C functions. The OCaml functions are defined in the following mod.ml OCaml source:

(* File mod.ml -- some "useful" OCaml functions *)

let rec fib n = if n < 2 then 1 else fib(n-1) + fib(n-2)

let format_result n = Printf.sprintf "Result is: %d\n" n

(* Export those two functions to C *)

let _ = Callback.register "fib" fib
let _ = Callback.register "format_result" format_result

Here is the C stub code for calling these functions from C:

/* File modwrap.c -- wrappers around the OCaml functions */

#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>
#include <caml/mlvalues.h>
#include <caml/callback.h>

int fib(int n)
{

static const value * fib_closure = NULL;
    if (fib_closure == NULL) fib_closure = caml_named_value("fib");
    return Int_val(caml_callback(*fib_closure, Val_int(n)));
}

char * format_result(int n)
{
    static const value * format_result_closure = NULL;
    if (format_result_closure == NULL)
        format_result_closure = caml_named_value("format_result");
    return strdup(String_val(caml_callback(*format_result_closure, Val_int(n))));
    /* We copy the C string returned by String_val to the C heap
     * so that it remains valid after garbage collection. */
}

We now compile the OCaml code to a C object file and put it in a C library along with the
stub code in modwrap.c and the OCaml runtime system:

    ocamlc -custom -output-obj -o modcaml.o mod.ml
    ocamlc -c modwrap.c
    cp `ocamlc -where` /libcamlrun.a mod.a && chmod +w mod.a
    ar r mod.a modcaml.o modwrap.o

(One can also use ocamlopt -output-obj instead of ocamlc -custom -output-obj. In this
case, replace libcamlrun.a (the bytecode runtime library) by libasmrun.a (the native-code run-
time library).)

Now, we can use the two functions fib and format_result in any C program, just like regular
C functions. Just remember to call caml_startup (or caml_startup_exn) once before.

/* File main.c -- a sample client for the OCaml functions */

#include <stdio.h>
#include <caml/callback.h>

extern int fib(int n);
extern char * format_result(int n);

int main(int argc, char ** argv)
{
    int result;

    /* Initialize OCaml code */
    caml_startup(argv);
    /* Do some computation */
    result = fib(10);
    printf("fib(10) = %s\n", format_result(result));
To build the whole program, just invoke the C compiler as follows:

```bash
cc -o prog -I `ocamlc -where` main.c mod.a -lcurses
```

(On some machines, you may need to put `-ltermcap` or `-lcurses -ltermcap` instead of `-lcurses`.)

### 19.9 Advanced topic: custom blocks

Blocks with tag `Custom_tag` contain both arbitrary user data and a pointer to a C struct, with type `struct custom_operations`, that associates user-provided finalization, comparison, hashing, serialization and deserialization functions to this block.

#### 19.9.1 The `struct custom_operations`

The `struct custom_operations` is defined in `<caml/custom.h>` and contains the following fields:

- **char *identifier**
  
  A zero-terminated character string serving as an identifier for serialization and deserialization operations.

- **void (*finalize)(value v)**
  
  The `finalize` field contains a pointer to a C function that is called when the block becomes unreachable and is about to be reclaimed. The block is passed as first argument to the function. The `finalize` field can also be `custom_finalize_default` to indicate that no finalization function is associated with the block.

- **int (*compare)(value v1, value v2)**
  
  The `compare` field contains a pointer to a C function that is called whenever two custom blocks are compared using OCaml’s generic comparison operators (`=`, `<`, `<=`, `>=`, `<`, `>`) and `compare`). The C function should return 0 if the data contained in the two blocks are structurally equal, a negative integer if the data from the first block is less than the data from the second block, and a positive integer if the data from the first block is greater than the data from the second block.

  The `compare` field can be set to `custom_compare_default`; this default comparison function simply raises `Failure`.

- **int (*compare_ext)(value v1, value v2)**
  
  (Since 3.12.1) The `compare_ext` field contains a pointer to a C function that is called whenever one custom block and one unboxed integer are compared using OCaml’s generic comparison operators (`=`, `<`, `<=`, `>=`, `<`, `>`) and `compare`). As in the case of the `compare` field, the C function should return 0 if the two arguments are structurally equal, a negative integer if the first argument compares less than the second argument, and a positive integer if the first argument compares greater than the second argument.
The `compare_ext` field can be set to `custom_compare_ext_default`; this default comparison function simply raises `Failure`.

- `intnat (*hash)(value v)`
  The `hash` field contains a pointer to a C function that is called whenever OCaml’s generic hash operator (see module `Hashtbl[@23.20]`) is applied to a custom block. The C function can return an arbitrary integer representing the hash value of the data contained in the given custom block. The hash value must be compatible with the `compare` function, in the sense that two structurally equal data (that is, two custom blocks for which `compare` returns 0) must have the same hash value.

  The `hash` field can be set to `custom_hash_default`, in which case the custom block is ignored during hash computation.

- `void (*serialize)(value v, uintnat * bsize_32, uintnat * bsize_64)`
  The `serialize` field contains a pointer to a C function that is called whenever the custom block needs to be serialized (marshaled) using the OCaml functions `output_value` or `Marshal.to_...`. For a custom block, those functions first write the identifier of the block (as given by the `identifier` field) to the output stream, then call the user-provided `serialize` function. That function is responsible for writing the data contained in the custom block, using the `serialize_...` functions defined in `<caml/intext.h>` and listed below. The user-provided `serialize` function must then store in its `bsize_32` and `bsize_64` parameters the sizes in bytes of the data part of the custom block on a 32-bit architecture and on a 64-bit architecture, respectively.

  The `serialize` field can be set to `custom_serialize_default`, in which case the `Failure` exception is raised when attempting to serialize the custom block.

- `uintnat (*deserialize)(void * dst)`
  The `deserialize` field contains a pointer to a C function that is called whenever a custom block with identifier `identifier` needs to be deserialized (un-marshaled) using the OCaml functions `input_value` or `Marshal.from_...`. This user-provided function is responsible for reading back the data written by the `serialize` operation, using the `deserialize_...` functions defined in `<caml/intext.h>` and listed below. It must then rebuild the data part of the custom block and store it at the pointer given as the `dst` argument. Finally, it returns the size in bytes of the data part of the custom block. This size must be identical to the `wsize_32` result of the `serialize` operation if the architecture is 32 bits, or `wsize_64` if the architecture is 64 bits.

  The `deserialize` field can be set to `custom_deserialize_default` to indicate that deserialization is not supported. In this case, do not register the `struct custom_operations` with the deserializer using `register_custom_operations` (see below).

- `const struct custom_fixed_length* fixed_length`
  Normally, space in the serialized output is reserved to write the `bsize_32` and `bsize_64` fields returned by `serialize`. However, for very short custom blocks, this space can be larger than the data itself! As a space optimisation, if `serialize` always returns the same values for `bsize_32` and `bsize_64`, then these values may be specified in the `fixed_length` structure, and do not consume space in the serialized output.
Note: the finalize, compare, hash, serialize and deserialize functions attached to custom block descriptors must never trigger a garbage collection. Within these functions, do not call any of the OCaml allocation functions, and do not perform a callback into OCaml code. Do not use CAMLparam to register the parameters to these functions, and do not use CAMLreturn to return the result.

19.9.2 Allocating custom blocks

Custom blocks must be allocated via caml_alloc_custom or caml_alloc_custom_mem:

\[
\text{caml_alloc_custom}(ops, size, used, max)
\]

returns a fresh custom block, with room for size bytes of user data, and whose associated operations are given by ops (a pointer to a struct custom_operations, usually statically allocated as a C global variable).

The two parameters used and max are used to control the speed of garbage collection when the finalized object contains pointers to out-of-heap resources. Generally speaking, the OCaml incremental major collector adjusts its speed relative to the allocation rate of the program. The faster the program allocates, the harder the GC works in order to reclaim quickly unreachable blocks and avoid having large amount of “floating garbage” (unreferenced objects that the GC has not yet collected).

Normally, the allocation rate is measured by counting the in-heap size of allocated blocks. However, it often happens that finalized objects contain pointers to out-of-heap memory blocks and other resources (such as file descriptors, X Windows bitmaps, etc.). For those blocks, the in-heap size of blocks is not a good measure of the quantity of resources allocated by the program.

The two arguments used and max give the GC an idea of how much out-of-heap resources are consumed by the finalized block being allocated: you give the amount of resources allocated to this object as parameter used, and the maximum amount that you want to see in floating garbage as parameter max. The units are arbitrary: the GC cares only about the ratio used/max.

For instance, if you are allocating a finalized block holding an X Windows bitmap of w by h pixels, and you’d rather not have more than 1 mega-pixels of unreclaimed bitmaps, specify used = w * h and max = 1000000.

Another way to describe the effect of the used and max parameters is in terms of full GC cycles. If you allocate many custom blocks with used/max = 1/N, the GC will then do one full cycle (examining every object in the heap and calling finalization functions on those that are unreachable) every N allocations. For instance, if used = 1 and max = 1000, the GC will do one full cycle at least every 1000 allocations of custom blocks.

If your finalized blocks contain no pointers to out-of-heap resources, or if the previous discussion made little sense to you, just take used = 0 and max = 1. But if you later find that the finalization functions are not called “often enough”, consider increasing the used/max ratio.

\[
\text{caml_alloc_custom_mem}(ops, size, used)
\]

Use this function when your custom block holds only out-of-heap memory (memory allocated with malloc or caml_stat_alloc) and no other resources. used should be the number of bytes of out-of-heap memory that are held by your custom block. This function works like caml_alloc_custom except that the max parameter is under the control of the user (via the custom_major_ratio,
custom_minor_ratio, and custom_minor_max_size parameters) and proportional to the heap sizes.

19.9.3 Accessing custom blocks

The data part of a custom block \( v \) can be accessed via the pointer Data_custom_val(\( v \)). This pointer has type void * and should be cast to the actual type of the data stored in the custom block.

The contents of custom blocks are not scanned by the garbage collector, and must therefore not contain any pointer inside the OCaml heap. In other terms, never store an OCaml value in a custom block, and do not use Field, Store_field nor caml_modify to access the data part of a custom block. Conversely, any C data structure (not containing heap pointers) can be stored in a custom block.

19.9.4 Writing custom serialization and deserialization functions

The following functions, defined in <caml/intext.h>, are provided to write and read back the contents of custom blocks in a portable way. Those functions handle endianness conversions when e.g. data is written on a little-endian machine and read back on a big-endian machine.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>caml_serialize_int_1</td>
<td>Write a 1-byte integer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caml_serialize_int_2</td>
<td>Write a 2-byte integer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caml_serialize_int_4</td>
<td>Write a 4-byte integer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caml_serialize_int_8</td>
<td>Write a 8-byte integer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caml_serialize_float_4</td>
<td>Write a 4-byte float</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caml_serialize_float_8</td>
<td>Write a 8-byte float</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caml_serialize_block_1</td>
<td>Write an array of 1-byte quantities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caml_serialize_block_2</td>
<td>Write an array of 2-byte quantities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caml_serialize_block_4</td>
<td>Write an array of 4-byte quantities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caml_serialize_block_8</td>
<td>Write an array of 8-byte quantities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caml_deserialize_uint_1</td>
<td>Read an unsigned 1-byte integer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caml_deserialize_sint_1</td>
<td>Read a signed 1-byte integer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caml_deserialize_uint_2</td>
<td>Read an unsigned 2-byte integer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caml_deserialize_sint_2</td>
<td>Read a signed 2-byte integer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caml_deserialize_uint_4</td>
<td>Read an unsigned 4-byte integer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caml_deserialize_sint_4</td>
<td>Read a signed 4-byte integer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caml_deserialize_uint_8</td>
<td>Read an unsigned 8-byte integer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caml_deserialize_sint_8</td>
<td>Read a signed 8-byte integer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caml_deserialize_float_4</td>
<td>Read a 4-byte float</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caml_deserialize_float_8</td>
<td>Read an 8-byte float</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caml_deserialize_block_1</td>
<td>Read an array of 1-byte quantities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caml_deserialize_block_2</td>
<td>Read an array of 2-byte quantities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caml_deserialize_block_4</td>
<td>Read an array of 4-byte quantities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caml_deserialize_block_8</td>
<td>Read an array of 8-byte quantities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caml_deserialize_error</td>
<td>Signal an error during deserialization; input_value or Marshal.from_... raise a Failure exception after cleaning up their internal data structures</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Serialization functions are attached to the custom blocks to which they apply. Obviously, deserialization functions cannot be attached this way, since the custom block does not exist yet when deserialization begins! Thus, the struct custom_operations that contain deserialization functions must be registered with the deserializer in advance, using the register_custom_operations function declared in <caml/custom.h>. Deserialization proceeds by reading the identifier off the input stream, allocating a custom block of the size specified in the input stream, searching the registered struct custom_operation blocks for one with the same identifier, and calling its deserialize function to fill the data part of the custom block.

### 19.9.5 Choosing identifiers

Identifiers in struct custom_operations must be chosen carefully, since they must identify uniquely the data structure for serialization and deserialization operations. In particular, consider including a version number in the identifier; this way, the format of the data can be changed later, yet backward-compatible deserialisation functions can be provided.

Identifiers starting with _ (an underscore character) are reserved for the OCaml runtime system; do not use them for your custom data. We recommend to use a URL
19.9.6 Finalized blocks

Custom blocks generalize the finalized blocks that were present in OCaml prior to version 3.00. For backward compatibility, the format of custom blocks is compatible with that of finalized blocks, and the alloc_final function is still available to allocate a custom block with a given finalization function, but default comparison, hashing and serialization functions. `caml_alloc_final(n, f, used, max)` returns a fresh custom block of size \(n+1\) words, with finalization function \(f\). The first word is reserved for storing the custom operations; the other \(n\) words are available for your data. The two parameters \(used\) and \(max\) are used to control the speed of garbage collection, as described for `caml_alloc_custom`.

19.10 Advanced topic: Bigarrays and the OCaml-C interface

This section explains how C stub code that interfaces C or Fortran code with OCaml code can use Bigarrays.

19.10.1 Include file

The include file `<caml/bigarray.h>` must be included in the C stub file. It declares the functions, constants and macros discussed below.

19.10.2 Accessing an OCaml bigarray from C or Fortran

If \(v\) is a OCaml value representing a Bigarray, the expression `Caml_ba_data_val(v)` returns a pointer to the data part of the array. This pointer is of type `void *` and can be cast to the appropriate C type for the array (e.g. `double []`, `char [][10]`, etc).

Various characteristics of the OCaml Bigarray can be consulted from C as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C expression</th>
<th>Returns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><code>Caml_ba_array_val(v)-&gt;num_dims</code></td>
<td>number of dimensions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>Caml_ba_array_val(v)-&gt;dim[i]</code></td>
<td>(i)-th dimension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>Caml_ba_array_val(v)-&gt;flags &amp; BIGARRAY_KIND_MASK</code></td>
<td>kind of array elements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The kind of array elements is one of the following constants:
The following example shows the passing of a two-dimensional Bigarray to a C function and a Fortran function.

```ocaml
extern void my_c_function(double * data, int dimx, int dimy);
extern void my_fortran_function_(double * data, int * dimx, int * dimy);

value caml_stub(value bigarray)
{
  int dimx = Caml_ba_array_val(bigarray)->dim[0];
  int dimy = Caml_ba_array_val(bigarray)->dim[1];
  /* C passes scalar parameters by value */
  my_c_function(Caml_ba_data_val(bigarray), dimx, dimy);
  /* Fortran passes all parameters by reference */
  my_fortran_function_(Caml_ba_data_val(bigarray), &dimx, &dimy);
  return Val_unit;
}

19.10.3 Wrapping a C or Fortran array as an OCaml Bigarray

A pointer $p$ to an already-allocated C or Fortran array can be wrapped and returned to OCaml as a Bigarray using the `caml_ba_alloc` or `caml_ba_alloc_dims` functions.

- `caml_ba_alloc(kind | layout, numdims, p, dims)`

  Return an OCaml Bigarray wrapping the data pointed to by $p$. $kind$ is the kind of array elements (one of the `CAML_BA_` kind constants above). $layout$ is `CAML_BA_C_LAYOUT` for an array with C layout and `CAML_BA_FORTRAN_LAYOUT` for an array with Fortran layout. $numdims$ is the number of dimensions in the array. $dims$ is an array of $numdims$ long integers, giving the sizes of the array in each dimension.

- `caml_ba_alloc_dims(kind | layout, numdims, p, (long) dim1, (long) dim2, ..., (long) dim$numdims$)`

  Same as `caml_ba_alloc`, but the sizes of the array in each dimension are listed as extra arguments in the function call, rather than being passed as an array.

The following example illustrates how statically-allocated C and Fortran arrays can be made available to OCaml.
extern long my_c_array[100][200];
extern float my_fortran_array_[300][400];

value caml_get_c_array(value unit)
{
    long dims[2];
    dims[0] = 100; dims[1] = 200;
    return caml_ba_alloc(CAML_BA_NATIVE_INT | CAML_BA_C_LAYOUT,
                         2, my_c_array, dims);
}

value caml_get_fortran_array(value unit)
{
    return caml_ba_alloc_dims(CAML_BA_FLOAT32 | CAML_BA_FORTRAN_LAYOUT,
                               2, my_fortran_array_, 300L, 400L);
}

19.11 Advanced topic: cheaper C call

This section describe how to make calling C functions cheaper.

   Note: this only applies to the native compiler. So whenever you use any of these methods, you
   have to provide an alternative byte-code stub that ignores all the special annotations.

19.11.1 Passing unboxed values

We said earlier that all OCaml objects are represented by the C type value, and one has to use
macros such as Int_val to decode data from the value type. It is however possible to tell the
OCaml native-code compiler to do this for us and pass arguments unboxed to the C function.
Similarly it is possible to tell OCaml to expect the result unboxed and box it for us.

   The motivation is that, by letting `ocamlopt` deal with boxing, it can often decide to suppress
   it entirely.

   For instance let’s consider this example:

external foo : float -> float -> float = "foo"

let f a b =
    let len = Array.length a in
    assert (Array.length b = len);
    let res = Array.make len 0. in
    for i = 0 to len - 1 do
    res.(i) <- foo a.(i) b.(i)
    done

   Float arrays are unboxed in OCaml, however the C function foo expect its arguments as boxed
   floats and returns a boxed float. Hence the OCaml compiler has no choice but to box a.(i) and
   b.(i) and unbox the result of foo. This results in the allocation of 3 * len temporary float values.
Now if we annotate the arguments and result with [@unboxed], the native-code compiler will be able to avoid all these allocations:

```ocaml
eval foo
  : (float [@unboxed])
  -> (float [@unboxed])
  -> (float [@unboxed])
  = "foo_byte" "foo"
```

In this case the C functions must look like:

```c
CAMLprim double foo(double a, double b)
{
    ...
}

CAMLprim value foo_byte(value a, value b)
{
    return caml_copy_double(foo(Double_val(a), Double_val(b)))
}
```

For convenience, when all arguments and the result are annotated with [@unboxed], it is possible to put the attribute only once on the declaration itself. So we can also write instead:

```ocaml
eval foo : float -> float -> float = "foo_byte" "foo" [@unboxed]
```

The following table summarizes what OCaml types can be unboxed, and what C types should be used in correspondence:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OCaml type</th>
<th>C type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>float</td>
<td>double</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>int32</td>
<td>int32_t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>int64</td>
<td>int64_t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nativeint</td>
<td>intnat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Similarly, it is possible to pass untagged OCaml integers between OCaml and C. This is done by annotating the arguments and/or result with [@untagged]:

```ocaml
eval f : string -> (int [@untagged]) = "f_byte" "f"
```

The corresponding C type must be intnat.

**Note:** do not use the C int type in correspondence with (int [@untagged]). This is because they often differ in size.
19.11.2 Direct C call

In order to be able to run the garbage collector in the middle of a C function, the OCaml native-code compiler generates some bookkeeping code around C calls. Technically it wraps every C call with the C function `caml_c_call` which is part of the OCaml runtime.

For small functions that are called repeatedly, this indirection can have a big impact on performances. However this is not needed if we know that the C function doesn’t allocate and doesn’t raise exceptions. We can instruct the OCaml native-code compiler of this fact by annotating the external declaration with the attribute `@@noalloc`:

```ocaml
external bar : int -> int -> int = "foo" [@@noalloc]
```

In this case calling `bar` from OCaml is as cheap as calling any other OCaml function, except for the fact that the OCaml compiler can’t inline C functions...

19.11.3 Example: calling C library functions without indirection

Using these attributes, it is possible to call C library functions with no indirection. For instance many math functions are defined this way in the OCaml standard library:

```ocaml
external sqrt : float -> float = "caml_sqrt_float" "sqrt"
  [@@unboxed] [@@noalloc]
(** Square root. *)

external exp : float -> float = "caml_exp_float" "exp" [@@unboxed] [@@noalloc]
(** Exponential. *)

external log : float -> float = "caml_log_float" "log" [@@unboxed] [@@noalloc]
(** Natural logarithm. *)
```

19.12 Advanced topic: multithreading

Using multiple threads (shared-memory concurrency) in a mixed OCaml/C application requires special precautions, which are described in this section.

19.12.1 Registering threads created from C

Callbacks from C to OCaml are possible only if the calling thread is known to the OCaml run-time system. Threads created from OCaml (through the `Thread.create` function of the system threads library) are automatically known to the run-time system. If the application creates additional threads from C and wishes to callback into OCaml code from these threads, it must first register them with the run-time system. The following functions are declared in the include file `<caml/threads.h>`.

- `caml_c_thread_register()` registers the calling thread with the OCaml run-time system. Returns 1 on success, 0 on error. Registering an already-registered thread does nothing and returns 0.
• *caml_c_thread_unregister()* must be called before the thread terminates, to unregister it from the OCaml run-time system. Returns 1 on success, 0 on error. If the calling thread was not previously registered, does nothing and returns 0.

### 19.12.2 Parallel execution of long-running C code

The OCaml run-time system is not reentrant: at any time, at most one thread can be executing OCaml code or C code that uses the OCaml run-time system. Technically, this is enforced by a “master lock” that any thread must hold while executing such code.

When OCaml calls the C code implementing a primitive, the master lock is held, therefore the C code has full access to the facilities of the run-time system. However, no other thread can execute OCaml code concurrently with the C code of the primitive.

If a C primitive runs for a long time or performs potentially blocking input-output operations, it can explicitly release the master lock, enabling other OCaml threads to run concurrently with its operations. The C code must re-acquire the master lock before returning to OCaml. This is achieved with the following functions, declared in the include file `<caml/threads.h>`.

• *caml_release_runtime_system()* The calling thread releases the master lock and other OCaml resources, enabling other threads to run OCaml code in parallel with the execution of the calling thread.

• *caml_acquire_runtime_system()* The calling thread re-acquires the master lock and other OCaml resources. It may block until no other thread uses the OCaml run-time system.

After *caml_release_runtime_system()* was called and until *caml_acquire_runtime_system()* is called, the C code must not access any OCaml data, nor call any function of the run-time system, nor call back into OCaml code. Consequently, arguments provided by OCaml to the C primitive must be copied into C data structures before calling *caml_release_runtime_system()* , and results to be returned to OCaml must be encoded as OCaml values after *caml_acquire_runtime_system()* returns.

Example: the following C primitive invokes *gethostbyname* to find the IP address of a host name. The *gethostbyname* function can block for a long time, so we choose to release the OCaml run-time system while it is running.

CAMLprim stub_gethostbyname(value vname)
{
    CAMLparam1 (vname);
    CAMLlocal1 (vres);
    struct hostent * h;
    char * name;

    /* Copy the string argument to a C string, allocated outside the OCaml heap. */
    name = caml_stat_strdup(String_val(vname));
    /* Release the OCaml run-time system */
    caml_release_runtime_system();
    /* Resolve the name */
h = gethostbyname(name);
/* Free the copy of the string, which we might as well do before
   acquiring the runtime system to benefit from parallelism. */
caml_stat_free(name);
/* Re-acquire the OCaml run-time system */
caml_acquire_runtime_system();
/* Encode the relevant fields of h as the OCaml value vres */
... /* Omitted */
/* Return to OCaml */
CAMLreturn (vres);
}

Callbacks from C to OCaml must be performed while holding the master lock to the OCaml run-time system. This is naturally the case if the callback is performed by a C primitive that did not release the run-time system. If the C primitive released the run-time system previously, or the callback is performed from other C code that was not invoked from OCaml (e.g. an event loop in a GUI application), the run-time system must be acquired before the callback and released after:

```c
  caml_acquire_runtime_system();
  /* Resolve OCaml function vfun to be invoked */
  /* Build OCaml argument varg to the callback */
  vres = callback(vfun, varg);
  /* Copy relevant parts of result vres to C data structures */
  caml_release_runtime_system();
```

Note: the acquire and release functions described above were introduced in OCaml 3.12. Older code uses the following historical names, declared in `<caml/signals.h>`:

- `caml_enter_blocking_section` as an alias for `caml_release_runtime_system`
- `caml_leave_blocking_section` as an alias for `caml_acquire_runtime_system`

Intuition: a “blocking section” is a piece of C code that does not use the OCaml run-time system, typically a blocking input/output operation.

### 19.13 Advanced topic: interfacing with Windows Unicode APIs

This section contains some general guidelines for writing C stubs that use Windows Unicode APIs.

**Note:** This is an experimental feature of OCaml: the set of APIs below, as well as their exact semantics are not final and subject to change in future releases.

The OCaml system under Windows can be configured at build time in one of two modes:

- **legacy mode:** All path names, environment variables, command line arguments, etc. on the OCaml side are assumed to be encoded using the current 8-bit code page of the system.
- **Unicode mode:** All path names, environment variables, command line arguments, etc. on the OCaml side are assumed to be encoded using UTF-8.
In what follows, we say that a string has the *OCaml encoding* if it is encoded in UTF-8 when in Unicode mode, in the current code page in legacy mode, or is an arbitrary string under Unix. A string has the *platform encoding* if it is encoded in UTF-16 under Windows or is an arbitrary string under Unix.

From the point of view of the writer of C stubs, the challenges of interacting with Windows Unicode APIs are twofold:

- The Windows API uses the UTF-16 encoding to support Unicode. The runtime system performs the necessary conversions so that the OCaml programmer only needs to deal with the OCaml encoding. C stubs that call Windows Unicode APIs need to use specific runtime functions to perform the necessary conversions in a compatible way.

- When writing stubs that need to be compiled under both Windows and Unix, the stubs need to be written in a way that allow the necessary conversions under Windows but that also work under Unix, where typically nothing particular needs to be done to support Unicode.

The native C character type under Windows is `WCHAR`, two bytes wide, while under Unix it is `char`, one byte wide. A type `char_os` is defined in `<caml/misc.h>` that stands for the concrete C character type of each platform. Strings in the platform encoding are of type `char_os *`.

The following functions are exposed to help write compatible C stubs. To use them, you need to include both `<caml/misc.h>` and `<caml/osdeps.h>`.

- `char_os* caml_stat_strdup_to_os(const char *)` copies the argument while translating from OCaml encoding to the platform encoding. This function is typically used to convert the `char *` underlying an OCaml string before passing it to an operating system API that takes a Unicode argument. Under Unix, it is equivalent to `caml_stat_strdup`.

  **Note:** For maximum backwards compatibility in Unicode mode, if the argument is not a valid UTF-8 string, this function will fall back to assuming that it is encoded in the current code page.

- `char* caml_stat_strdup_of_os(const char_os *)` copies the argument while translating from the platform encoding to the OCaml encoding. It is the inverse of `caml_stat_strdup_to_os`. This function is typically used to convert a string obtained from the operating system before passing it on to OCaml code. Under Unix, it is equivalent to `caml_stat_strdup`.

- `value caml_copy_string_of_os(char_os *)` allocates an OCaml string with contents equal to the argument string converted to the OCaml encoding. This function is essentially equivalent to `caml_stat_strdup_of_os` followed by `caml_copy_string`, except that it avoids the allocation of the intermediate string returned by `caml_stat_strdup_of_os`. Under Unix, it is equivalent to `caml_copy_string`.

  **Note:** The strings returned by `caml_stat_strdup_to_os` and `caml_stat_strdup_of_os` are allocated using `caml_stat_alloc`, so they need to be deallocated using `caml_stat_free` when they are no longer needed.
Example  We want to bind the function `getenv` in a way that works both under Unix and Windows. Under Unix this function has the prototype:

```
char *getenv(const char *);
```

While the Unicode version under Windows has the prototype:

```
WCHAR *_wgetenv(const WCHAR *);
```

In terms of `char_os`, both functions take an argument of type `char_os *` and return a result of the same type. We begin by choosing the right implementation of the function to bind:

```
#ifdef _WIN32
#define getenv_os _wgetenv
#else
#define getenv_os getenv
#endif
```

The rest of the binding is the same for both platforms:

```
/* The following define is necessary because the API is experimental */
#define CAML_INTERNALS

#include <caml/mlvalues.h>
#include <caml/misc.h>
#include <caml/alloc.h>
#include <caml/fail.h>
#include <caml/osdeps.h>
#include <stdlib.h>

CAMLprim value stub_getenv(value var_name)
{
    CAMLparam1(var_name);
    CAMLlocal1(var_value);
    char_os *var_name_os, *var_value_os;

    var_name_os = caml_stat_strdup_to_os(String_val(var_name));
    var_value_os = getenv_os(var_name_os);
    caml_stat_free(var_name_os);

    if (var_value_os == NULL)
        caml_raise_not_found();

    var_value = caml_copy_string_of_os(var_value_os);

    CAMLreturn(var_value);
}
```
19.14 Building mixed C/OCaml libraries: ocamlmklib

The ocamlmklib command facilitates the construction of libraries containing both OCaml code and C code, and usable both in static linking and dynamic linking modes. This command is available under Windows since Objective Caml 3.11 and under other operating systems since Objective Caml 3.03.

The ocamlmklib command takes three kinds of arguments:

- OCaml source files and object files (.cmo, .cmx, .ml) comprising the OCaml part of the library;
- C object files (.o, .a, respectively, .obj, .lib) comprising the C part of the library;
- Support libraries for the C part (-l<lib>);

It generates the following outputs:

- An OCaml bytecode library .cma incorporating the .cmo and .ml OCaml files given as arguments, and automatically referencing the C library generated with the C object files.
- An OCaml native-code library .cmxa incorporating the .cmx and .ml OCaml files given as arguments, and automatically referencing the C library generated with the C object files.
- If dynamic linking is supported on the target platform, a .so (respectively, .dll) shared library built from the C object files given as arguments, and automatically referencing the support libraries.
- A C static library .a(respectively, .lib) built from the C object files.

In addition, the following options are recognized:

-cclib, -ccopt, -I, -linkall
  These options are passed as is to ocamlc or ocamlopt. See the documentation of these commands.

-rpath, -R, -Wl,-rpath, -Wl,-R
  These options are passed as is to the C compiler. Refer to the documentation of the C compiler.

-custom
  Force the construction of a statically linked library only, even if dynamic linking is supported.

-failsafe
  Fall back to building a statically linked library if a problem occurs while building the shared library (e.g. some of the support libraries are not available as shared libraries).

-Ldir
  Add dir to the search path for support libraries (-l<lib>).

-ocamlc cmd
  Use cmd instead of ocamlc to call the bytecode compiler.
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-ocamlopt cmd
  Use cmd instead of ocamlopt to call the native-code compiler.

-o output
  Set the name of the generated OCaml library. ocamlmlib will generate output.cma and/or output.cmxa. If not specified, defaults to a.

-oc outputc
  Set the name of the generated C library. ocamlmlib will generate liboutputc.so (if shared libraries are supported) and liboutputc.a. If not specified, defaults to the output name given with -o.

On native Windows, the following environment variable is also consulted:

OCAML_FLEXLINK
  Alternative executable to use instead of the configured value. Primarily used for bootstrapping.

Example
  Consider an OCaml interface to the standard libz C library for reading and writing compressed files. Assume this library resides in /usr/local/zlib. This interface is composed of an OCaml part zip.cmo/zip.cmx and a C part zipstubs.o containing the stub code around the libz entry points. The following command builds the OCaml libraries zip.cma and zip.cmxa, as well as the companion C libraries dllzip.so and libzip.a:

ocamlmlib -o zip zip.cmo zip.cmx zipstubs.o -lz -L/usr/local/zlib

If shared libraries are supported, this performs the following commands:

ocamlc -a -o zip.cma zip.cmo -dllib -lz -L/usr/local/zlib
  -cclib -lz -ccopt -L/usr/local/zlib
ocamlc -a -o zip.cmx zip.cmx -cclib -lz -L/usr/local/zlib
  -cclib -lz -ccopt -L/usr/local/zlib
gcc -shared -o dllzip.so zipstubs.o -lz -L/usr/local/zlib
ar rc libzip.a zipstubs.o

Note: This example is on a Unix system. The exact command lines may be different on other systems.

If shared libraries are not supported, the following commands are performed instead:

ocamlc -a -custom -o zip.cma zip.cmo -cclib -lz -L/usr/local/zlib
ocamlc -a -o zip.cmx zip.cmx -cclib -lz -L/usr/local/zlib
ar rc libzip.a zipstubs.o

Instead of building simultaneously the bytecode library, the native-code library and the C libraries, ocamlmlib can be called three times to build each separately. Thus,

ocamlmlib -o zip -o zip.cmo -lz -L/usr/local/zlib
builds the bytecode library `zip.cma`, and

```
ocamlmklib -o zip zip.cmx -lz -L/usr/local/zlib
```

builds the native-code library `zip.cmxa`, and

```
ocamlmklib -o zip zipstubs.o -lz -L/usr/local/zlib
```

builds the C libraries `dllzip.so` and `libzip.a`. Notice that the support libraries (`-lz`) and the corresponding options (`-L/usr/local/zlib`) must be given on all three invocations of `ocamlmklib`, because they are needed at different times depending on whether shared libraries are supported.
Chapter 20

Optimisation with Flambda

20.1 Overview

Flambda is the term used to describe a series of optimisation passes provided by the native code compilers as of OCaml 4.03.

Flambda aims to make it easier to write idiomatic OCaml code without incurring performance penalties.

To use the Flambda optimisers it is necessary to pass the `-flambda` option to the OCaml configure script. (There is no support for a single compiler that can operate in both Flambda and non-Flambda modes.) Code compiled with Flambda cannot be linked into the same program as code compiled without Flambda. Attempting to do this will result in a compiler error.

Whether or not a particular ocamlopt uses Flambda may be determined by invoking it with the `-config` option and looking for any line starting with “flambda:”. If such a line is present and says “true”, then Flambda is supported, otherwise it is not.

Flambda provides full optimisation across different compilation units, so long as the .cmx files for the dependencies of the unit currently being compiled are available. (A compilation unit corresponds to a single .ml source file.) However it does not yet act entirely as a whole-program compiler: for example, elimination of dead code across a complete set of compilation units is not supported.

Optimisation with Flambda is not currently supported when generating bytecode.

Flambda should not in general affect the semantics of existing programs. Two exceptions to this rule are: possible elimination of pure code that is being benchmarked (see section 20.14) and changes in behaviour of code using unsafe operations (see section 23.7).

Flambda does not yet optimise array or string bounds checks. Neither does it take hints for optimisation from any assertions written by the user in the code.

Consult the Glossary at the end of this chapter for definitions of technical terms used below.

20.2 Command-line flags

The Flambda optimisers provide a variety of command-line flags that may be used to control their behaviour. Detailed descriptions of each flag are given in the referenced sections. Those sections also describe any arguments which the particular flags take.

Commonly-used options:
-02 Perform more optimisation than usual. Compilation times may be lengthened. (This flag is an abbreviation for a certain set of parameters described in section 20.5.)

-03 Perform even more optimisation than usual, possibly including unrolling of recursive functions. Compilation times may be significantly lengthened.

-Oclassic
Make inlining decisions at the point of definition of a function rather than at the call site(s). This mirrors the behaviour of OCaml compilers not using Flambda. Compared to compilation using the new Flambda inlining heuristics (for example at -02) it produces smaller .cmx files, shorter compilation times and code that probably runs rather slower. When using -Oclassic, only the following options described in this section are relevant: -inlining-report and -inline. If any other of the options described in this section are used, the behaviour is undefined and may cause an error in future versions of the compiler.

-inlining-report
Emit .inlining files (one per round of optimisation) showing all of the inliner's decisions.

Less commonly-used options:

-remove-unused-arguments
Remove unused function arguments even when the argument is not specialised. This may have a small performance penalty. See section 20.10.3.

-unbox-closures
Pass free variables via specialised arguments rather than closures (an optimisation for reducing allocation). See section 20.9.3. This may have a small performance penalty.

Advanced options, only needed for detailed tuning:

-inline
The behaviour depends on whether -Oclassic is used.

- When not in -Oclassic mode, -inline limits the total size of functions considered for inlining during any speculative inlining search. (See section 20.3.6.) Note that this parameter does not control the assessment as to whether any particular function may be inlined. Raising it to excessive amounts will not necessarily cause more functions to be inlined.
- When in -Oclassic mode, -inline behaves as in previous versions of the compiler: it is the maximum size of function to be considered for inlining. See section 20.3.1.

-inline-toplevel
The equivalent of -inline but used when speculative inlining starts at toplevel. See section 20.3.6. Not used in -Oclassic mode.

-inline-branch-factor
Controls how the inliner assesses whether a code path is likely to be hot or cold. See section 20.3.5.
Chapter 20. Optimisation with Flambda

-\texttt{-inline-alloc-cost}, \texttt{-inline-branch-cost}, \texttt{-inline-call-cost}
  Controls how the inliner assesses the runtime performance penalties associated with various operations. See section 20.3.5.

-\texttt{-inline-indirect-cost}, \texttt{-inline-prim-cost}
  Likewise.

-\texttt{-inline-lifting-benefit}
  Controls inlining of functors at toplevel. See section 20.3.5.

-\texttt{-inline-max-depth}
  The maximum depth of any speculative inlining search. See section 20.3.6.

-\texttt{-inline-max-unroll}
  The maximum depth of any unrolling of recursive functions during any speculative inlining search. See section 20.3.6.

-\texttt{-no-unbox-free-vars-of-closures}
  Do not unbox closure variables. See section 20.9.1.

-\texttt{-no-unbox-specialised-args}
  Do not unbox arguments to which functions have been specialised. See section 20.9.2.

-\texttt{-rounds}
  How many rounds of optimisation to perform. See section 20.2.1.

-\texttt{-unbox-closures-factor}
  Scaling factor for benefit calculation when using \texttt{-unbox-closures}. See section 20.9.3.

Notes

- The set of command line flags relating to optimisation should typically be specified to be the same across an entire project. Flambda does not currently record the requested flags in the .cmx files. As such, inlining of functions from previously-compiled units will subject their code to the optimisation parameters of the unit currently being compiled, rather than those specified when they were previously compiled. It is hoped to rectify this deficiency in the future.

- Flambda-specific flags do not affect linking with the exception of affecting the optimisation of code in the startup file (containing generated functions such as currying helpers). Typically such optimisation will not be significant, so eliding such flags at link time might be reasonable.

- Flambda-specific flags are silently accepted even when the \texttt{-flambda} option was not provided to the \texttt{configure} script. (There is no means provided to change this behaviour.) This is intended to make it more straightforward to run benchmarks with and without the Flambda optimisers in effect.

- Some of the Flambda flags may be subject to change in future releases.
20.2.1 Specification of optimisation parameters by round

Flambda operates in *rounds*: one round consists of a certain sequence of transformations that may then be repeated in order to achieve more satisfactory results. The number of rounds can be set manually using the `-rounds` parameter (although this is not necessary when using predefined optimisation levels such as with `-O2` and `-O3`). For high optimisation the number of rounds might be set at 3 or 4.

Command-line flags that may apply per round, for example those with `-cost` in the name, accept arguments of the form:

\[ n \ | \ rounds{n}[,\ldots] \]

- If the first form is used, with a single integer specified, the value will apply to all rounds.
- If the second form is used, zero-based `round` integers specify values which are to be used only for those rounds.

The flags `-Oclassic`, `-O2` and `-O3` are applied before all other flags, meaning that certain parameters may be overridden without having to specify every parameter usually invoked by the given optimisation level.

20.3 Inlining

Inlining refers to the copying of the code of a function to a place where the function is called. The code of the function will be surrounded by bindings of its parameters to the corresponding arguments.

The aims of inlining are:

- to reduce the runtime overhead caused by function calls (including setting up for such calls and returning afterwards);
- to reduce instruction cache misses by expressing frequently-taken paths through the program using fewer machine instructions; and
- to reduce the amount of allocation (especially of closures).

These goals are often reached not just by inlining itself but also by other optimisations that the compiler is able to perform as a result of inlining.

When a recursive call to a function (within the definition of that function or another in the same mutually-recursive group) is inlined, the procedure is also known as *unrolling*. This is somewhat akin to loop peeling. For example, given the following code:

```plaintext
let rec fact x =
  if x = 0 then
    1
  else
    x * fact (x - 1)

let n = fact 4
```
unrolling once at the call site fact 4 produces (with the body of fact unchanged):

```
let n =
  if 4 = 0 then
    1
  else
    4 * fact (4 - 1)
```

This simplifies to:

```
let n = 4 * fact 3
```

Flambda provides significantly enhanced inlining capabilities relative to previous versions of the compiler.

Aside: when inlining is performed

Inlining is performed together with all of the other Flambda optimisation passes, that is to say, after closure conversion. This has three particular advantages over a potentially more straightforward implementation prior to closure conversion:

- It permits higher-order inlining, for example when a non-inlinable function always returns the same function yet with different environments of definition. Not all such cases are supported yet, but it is intended that such support will be improved in future.

- It is easier to integrate with cross-module optimisation, since imported information about other modules is already in the correct intermediate language.

- It becomes more straightforward to optimise closure allocations since the layout of closures does not have to be estimated in any way: it is known. Similarly, it becomes more straightforward to control which variables end up in which closures, helping to avoid closure bloat.

20.3.1 Classic inlining heuristic

In -Oclassic mode the behaviour of the Flambda inliner mimics previous versions of the compiler. (Code may still be subject to further optimisations not performed by previous versions of the compiler: functors may be inlined, constants are lifted and unused code is eliminated all as described elsewhere in this chapter. See sections 20.3.3, 20.8.1 and 20.10. At the definition site of a function, the body of the function is measured. It will then be marked as eligible for inlining (and hence inlined at every direct call site) if:

- the measured size (in unspecified units) is smaller than that of a function call plus the argument of the -inline command-line flag; and

- the function is not recursive.

Non-Flambda versions of the compiler cannot inline functions that contain a definition of another function. However -Oclassic does permit this. Further, non-Flambda versions also cannot inline functions that are only themselves exposed as a result of a previous pass of inlining, but again this is permitted by -Oclassic. For example:
module M : sig
  val i : int
end = struct
  let f x =
    let g y = x + y in
    g
  let h = f 3
  let i = h 4 (* h is correctly discovered to be g and inlined *)
end

All of this contrasts with the normal Flambda mode, that is to say without -Oclassic, where:

• the inlining decision is made at the call site; and

• recursive functions can be handled, by specialisation (see below).

The Flambda mode is described in the next section.

20.3.2 Overview of “Flambda” inlining heuristics

The Flambda inlining heuristics, used whenever the compiler is configured for Flambda and -Oclassic was not specified, make inlining decisions at call sites. This helps in situations where the context is important. For example:

let f b x =
  if b then
    x
  else
    ... big expression ...

let g x = f true x

In this case, we would like to inline f into g, because a conditional jump can be eliminated and the code size should reduce. If the inlining decision has been made after the declaration of f without seeing the use, its size would have probably made it ineligible for inlining; but at the call site, its final size can be known. Further, this function should probably not be inlined systematically: if b is unknown, or indeed false, there is little benefit to trade off against a large increase in code size. In the existing non-Flambda inliner this isn't a great problem because chains of inlining were cut off fairly quickly. However it has led to excessive use of overly-large inlining parameters such as -inline 10000.

In more detail, at each call site the following procedure is followed:

• Determine whether it is clear that inlining would be beneficial without, for the moment, doing any inlining within the function itself. (The exact assessment of benefit is described below.) If so, the function is inlined.

• If inlining the function is not clearly beneficial, then inlining will be performed speculatively inside the function itself. The search for speculative inlining possibilities is controlled by two parameters: the inlining threshold and the inlining depth. (These are described in more detail below.)
If such speculation shows that performing some inlining inside the function would be beneficial, then such inlining is performed and the resulting function inlined at the original call site.

Otherwise, nothing happens.

Inlining within recursive functions of calls to other functions in the same mutually-recursive group is kept in check by an unrolling depth, described below. This ensures that functions are not unrolled to excess. (Unrolling is only enabled if -O3 optimisation level is selected and/or the -inline-max-unroll flag is passed with an argument greater than zero.)

20.3.3 Handling of specific language constructs

Functors

There is nothing particular about functors that inhibits inlining compared to normal functions. To the inliner, these both look the same, except that functors are marked as such.

Applications of functors at toplevel are biased in favour of inlining. (This bias may be adjusted: see the documentation for -inline-lifting-benefit below.)

Applications of functors not at toplevel, for example in a local module inside some other expression, are treated by the inliner identically to normal function calls.

First-class modules

The inliner will be able to consider inlining a call to a function in a first class module if it knows which particular function is going to be called. The presence of the first-class module record that wraps the set of functions in the module does not per se inhibit inlining.

Objects

Method calls to objects are not at present inlined by Flambda.

20.3.4 Inlining reports

If the -inlining-report option is provided to the compiler then a file will be emitted corresponding to each round of optimisation. For the OCaml source file basename.ml the files are named basename.round.inlining.org, with round a zero-based integer. Inside the files, which are formatted as “org mode”, will be found English prose describing the decisions that the inliner took.

20.3.5 Assessment of inlining benefit

Inlining typically results in an increase in code size, which if left unchecked, may not only lead to grossly large executables and excessive compilation times but also a decrease in performance due to worse locality. As such, the Flambda inliner trades off the change in code size against the expected runtime performance benefit, with the benefit being computed based on the number of operations that the compiler observes may be removed as a result of inlining.

For example given the following code:
let f b x =
   if b then
     x
   else
     ... big expression ...

let g x = f true x

it would be observed that inlining of f would remove:

• one direct call;
• one conditional branch.

Formally, an estimate of runtime performance benefit is computed by first summing the cost of the operations that are known to be removed as a result of the inlining and subsequent simplification of the inlined body. The individual costs for the various kinds of operations may be adjusted using the various -inline--cost flags as follows. Costs are specified as integers. All of these flags accept a single argument describing such integers using the conventions detailed in section 20.2.1.

-inline-alloc-cost
  The cost of an allocation.

-inline-branch-cost
  The cost of a branch.

-inline-call-cost
  The cost of a direct function call.

-inline-indirect-cost
  The cost of an indirect function call.

-inline-prim-cost
  The cost of a primitive. Primitives encompass operations including arithmetic and memory access.

(Default values are described in section 20.5 below.)

The initial benefit value is then scaled by a factor that attempts to compensate for the fact that the current point in the code, if under some number of conditional branches, may be cold. (Flambda does not currently compute hot and cold paths.) The factor—the estimated probability that the inliner really is on a hot path—is calculated as $\frac{1}{(1+f)^d}$, where $f$ is set by -inline-branch-factor and $d$ is the nesting depth of branches at the current point. As the inliner descends into more deeply-nested branches, the benefit of inlining thus lessens.

The resulting benefit value is known as the estimated benefit.

The change in code size is also estimated: morally speaking it should be the change in machine code size, but since that is not available to the inliner, an approximation is used.

If the estimated benefit exceeds the increase in code size then the inlined version of the function will be kept. Otherwise the function will not be inlined.

Applications of functors at toplevel will be given an additional benefit (which may be controlled by the -inline-lifting-benefit flag) to bias inlining in such situations towards keeping the inlined version.
20.3.6 Control of speculation

As described above, there are three parameters that restrict the search for inlining opportunities during speculation:

- the *inlining threshold*
- the *inlining depth*
- the *unrolling depth*.

These parameters are ultimately bounded by the arguments provided to the corresponding command-line flags (or their default values):

- `-inline` (or, if the call site that triggered speculation is at toplevel, `-inline-toplevel`);
- `-inline-max-depth`;
- `-inline-max-unroll`.

Note in particular that `-inline` does not have the meaning that it has in the previous compiler or in `-Oclassic` mode. In both of those situations `-inline` was effectively some kind of basic assessment of inlining benefit. However in Flambda inlining mode it corresponds to a constraint on the search; the assessment of benefit is independent, as described above.

When speculation starts the inlining threshold starts at the value set by `-inline` (or `-inline-toplevel` if appropriate, see above). Upon making a speculative inlining decision the threshold is reduced by the code size of the function being inlined. If the threshold becomes exhausted, at or below zero, no further speculation will be performed.

The inlining depth starts at zero and is increased by one every time the inliner descends into another function. It is then decreased by one every time the inliner leaves such function. If the depth exceeds the value set by `-inline-max-depth` then speculation stops. This parameter is intended as a general backstop for situations where the inlining threshold does not control the search sufficiently.

The unrolling depth applies to calls within the same mutually-recursive group of functions. Each time an inlining of such a call is performed the depth is incremented by one when examining the resulting body. If the depth reaches the limit set by `-inline-max-unroll` then speculation stops.

20.4 Specialisation

The inliner may discover a call site to a recursive function where something is known about the arguments: for example, they may be equal to some other variables currently in scope. In this situation it may be beneficial to *specialise* the function to those arguments. This is done by copying the declaration of the function (and any others involved in any same mutually-recursive declaration) and noting the extra information about the arguments. The arguments augmented by this information are known as *specialised arguments*. In order to try to ensure that specialisation is not performed uselessly, arguments are only specialised if it can be shown that they are *invariant*: in other words, during the execution of the recursive function(s) themselves, the arguments never change.
Unless overridden by an attribute (see below), specialisation of a function will not be attempted if:

- the compiler is in `-Oclassic` mode;
- the function is not obviously recursive;
- the function is not closed.

The compiler can prove invariance of function arguments across multiple functions within a recursive group (although this has some limitations, as shown by the example below).

It should be noted that the unboxing of closures pass (see below) can introduce specialised arguments on non-recursive functions. (No other place in the compiler currently does this.)

Example: the well-known `List.iter` function  This function might be written like so:

```ocaml
default
let rec iter f l =
  match l with
  | [] -> ()
  | h :: t ->
    f h;
    iter f t

and used like this:

let print_int x =
  print_endline (Int.to_string x)

let run xs =
  iter print_int (List.rev xs)

The argument `f` to `iter` is invariant so the function may be specialised:

```ocaml
default
let rec iter' f l =
  (* The compiler knows: `f` holds the same value as foo throughout iter'. *)
  match l with
  | [] -> ()
  | h :: t ->
    f h;
    iter' f t
in
  iter' print_int (List.rev xs)

The compiler notes down that for the function `iter'`, the argument `f` is specialised to the constant closure `print_int`. This means that the body of `iter'` may be simplified:
let run xs =
  let rec iter' f l =
    (* The compiler knows: f holds the same value as foo throughout iter'. *)
    match l with
    | [] -> ()
    | h :: t ->
      print_int h; (* this is now a direct call *)
      iter' f t
    in
    iter' print_int (List.rev xs)

The call to print_int can indeed be inlined:

let run xs =
  let rec iter' f l =
    (* The compiler knows: f holds the same value as foo throughout iter'. *)
    match l with
    | [] -> ()
    | h :: t ->
      print_endline (Int.to_string h);
      iter' f t
    in
    iter' print_int (List.rev xs)

The unused specialised argument f may now be removed, leaving:

let run xs =
  let rec iter' l =
    match l with
    | [] -> ()
    | h :: t ->
      print_endline (Int.to_string h);
      iter' t
    in
    iter' (List.rev xs)

Aside on invariant parameters. The compiler cannot currently detect invariance in cases such as the following.

let rec iter_swap f g l =
  match l with
  | [] -> ()
  | 0 :: t ->
    iter_swap g f l
  | h :: t ->
    f h;
    iter_swap f g t
20.4.1 Assessment of specialisation benefit

The benefit of specialisation is assessed in a similar way as for inlining. Specialised argument information may mean that the body of the function being specialised can be simplified: the removed operations are accumulated into a benefit. This, together with the size of the duplicated (specialised) function declaration, is then assessed against the size of the call to the original function.

20.5 Default settings of parameters

The default settings (when not using -Oclassic) are for one round of optimisation using the following parameters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Setting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-inline</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-inline-branch-factor</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-inline-alloc-cost</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-inline-branch-cost</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-inline-call-cost</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-inline-indirect-cost</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-inline-prim-cost</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-inline-lifting-benefit</td>
<td>1300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-inline-toplevel</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-inline-max-depth</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-inline-max-unroll</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-unbox-closures-factor</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

20.5.1 Settings at -O2 optimisation level

When -O2 is specified two rounds of optimisation are performed. The first round uses the default parameters (see above). The second uses the following parameters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Setting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-inline</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-inline-branch-factor</td>
<td>Same as default</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-inline-alloc-cost</td>
<td>Double the default</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-inline-branch-cost</td>
<td>Double the default</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-inline-call-cost</td>
<td>Double the default</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-inline-indirect-cost</td>
<td>Double the default</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-inline-prim-cost</td>
<td>Double the default</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-inline-lifting-benefit</td>
<td>Same as default</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-inline-toplevel</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-inline-max-depth</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-inline-max-unroll</td>
<td>Same as default</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-unbox-closures-factor</td>
<td>Same as default</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
20.5.2 Settings at -O3 optimisation level

When -O3 is specified three rounds of optimisation are performed. The first two rounds are as for -O2. The third round uses the following parameters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Setting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-inline</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-inline-branch-factor</td>
<td>Same as default</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-inline.alloc-cost</td>
<td>Triple the default</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-inline-branch-cost</td>
<td>Triple the default</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-inline-call-cost</td>
<td>Triple the default</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-inline-indirect-cost</td>
<td>Triple the default</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-inline-prim-cost</td>
<td>Triple the default</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-inline-lifting-benefit</td>
<td>Same as default</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-inline-toplevel</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-inline-max-depth</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-inline-max-unroll</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-unbox-closures-factor</td>
<td>Same as default</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

20.6 Manual control of inlining and specialisation

Should the inliner prove recalcitrant and refuse to inline a particular function, or if the observed inlining decisions are not to the programmer’s satisfaction for some other reason, inlining behaviour can be dictated by the programmer directly in the source code. One example where this might be appropriate is when the programmer, but not the compiler, knows that a particular function call is on a cold code path. It might be desirable to prevent inlining of the function so that the code size along the hot path is kept smaller, so as to increase locality.

The inliner is directed using attributes. For non-recursive functions (and one-step unrolling of recursive functions, although @unroll is more clear for this purpose) the following are supported:

@inline always or @inline never

Attached to a declaration of a function or functor, these direct the inliner to either always or never inline, irrespective of the size/benefit calculation. (If the function is recursive then the body is substituted and no special action is taken for the recursive call site(s).) @inline with no argument is equivalent to @inline always.

@inlined always or @inlined never

Attached to a function application, these direct the inliner likewise. These attributes at call sites override any other attribute that may be present on the corresponding declaration. @inlined with no argument is equivalent to @inlined always.

For recursive functions the relevant attributes are:

@specialise always or @specialise never

Attached to a declaration of a function or functor, this directs the inliner to either always or never specialise the function so long as it has appropriate contextual knowledge, irrespective of the size/benefit calculation. @specialise with no argument is equivalent to @specialise always.
@specialised always or @specialised never
Attached to a function application, this directs the inliner likewise. This attribute at a call site overrides any other attribute that may be present on the corresponding declaration. (Note that the function will still only be specialised if there exist one or more invariant parameters whose values are known.) @specialised with no argument is equivalent to @specialised always.

@unrolled $n$
This attribute is attached to a function application and always takes an integer argument. Each time the inliner sees the attribute it behaves as follows:

- If $n$ is zero or less, nothing happens.
- Otherwise the function being called is substituted at the call site with its body having been rewritten such that any recursive calls to that function or any others in the same mutually-recursive group are annotated with the attribute unrolled($n - 1$). Inlining may continue on that body.

As such, $n$ behaves as the “maximum depth of unrolling”.

A compiler warning will be emitted if it was found impossible to obey an annotation from an @inlined or @specialised attribute.

Example showing correct placement of attributes

```ocaml
module F (M : sig type t end) = struct
  let [@inline never] bar x =
    x * 3

  let foo x =
    (bar [@inlined]) (42 + x)
end [@inlined never]

module X = F [@inlined] (struct type t = int end)
```

20.7 Simplification

Simplification, which is run in conjunction with inlining, propagates information (known as approximations) about which variables hold what values at runtime. Certain relationships between variables and symbols are also tracked: for example, some variable may be known to always hold the same value as some other variable; or perhaps some variable may be known to always hold the value pointed to by some symbol.

The propagation can help to eliminate allocations in cases such as:

```ocaml
let f x y =
  ...
  let p = x, y in
  ...
  ... (fst p) ... (snd p) ...
```
The projections from \( p \) may be replaced by uses of the variables \( x \) and \( y \), potentially meaning that \( p \) becomes unused.

The propagation performed by the simplification pass is also important for discovering which functions flow to indirect call sites. This can enable the transformation of such call sites into direct call sites, which makes them eligible for an inlining transformation.

Note that no information is propagated about the contents of strings, even in safe-string mode, because it cannot yet be guaranteed that they are immutable throughout a given program.

## 20.8 Other code motion transformations

### 20.8.1 Lifting of constants

Expressions found to be constant will be lifted to symbol bindings—that is to say, they will be statically allocated in the object file—when they evaluate to boxed values. Such constants may be straightforward numeric constants, such as the floating-point number 42.0, or more complicated values such as constant closures.

Lifting of constants to toplevel reduces allocation at runtime.

The compiler aims to share constants lifted to toplevel such that there are no duplicate definitions. However if \( .cmx \) files are hidden from the compiler then maximal sharing may not be possible.

**Notes about float arrays** The following language semantics apply specifically to constant float arrays. (By “constant float array” is meant an array consisting entirely of floating point numbers that are known at compile time. A common case is a literal such as \([| 42.0; 43.0; |]\).

- Constant float arrays at the toplevel are mutable and never shared. (That is to say, for each such definition there is a distinct symbol in the data section of the object file pointing at the array.)

- Constant float arrays not at toplevel are mutable and are created each time the expression is evaluated. This can be thought of as an operation that takes an immutable array (which in the source code has no associated name; let us call it the *initialising array*) and duplicates it into a fresh mutable array.

  - If the array is of size four or less, the expression will create a fresh block and write the values into it one by one. There is no reference to the initialising array as a whole.

  - Otherwise, the initialising array is lifted out and subject to the normal constant sharing procedure; creation of the array consists of bulk copying the initialising array into a fresh value on the OCaml heap.

### 20.8.2 Lifting of toplevel let bindings

Toplevel \texttt{let}-expressions may be lifted to symbol bindings to ensure that the corresponding bound variables are not captured by closures. If the defining expression of a given binding is found to be constant, it is bound as such (the technical term is a *let-symbol* binding).
Otherwise, the symbol is bound to a (statically-allocated) preallocated block containing one field. At runtime, the defining expression will be evaluated and the first field of the block filled with the resulting value. This initialise-symbol binding causes one extra indirection but ensures, by virtue of the symbol’s address being known at compile time, that uses of the value are not captured by closures.

It should be noted that the blocks corresponding to initialise-symbol bindings are kept alive forever, by virtue of them occurring in a static table of GC roots within the object file. This extended lifetime of expressions may on occasion be surprising. If it is desired to create some non-constant value (for example when writing GC tests) that does not have this extended lifetime, then it may be created and used inside a function, with the application point of that function (perhaps at toplevel)—or indeed the function declaration itself—marked as to never be inlined. This technique prevents lifting of the definition of the value in question (assuming of course that it is not constant).

### 20.9 Unboxing transformations

The transformations in this section relate to the splitting apart of boxed (that is to say, non-immediate) values. They are largely intended to reduce allocation, which tends to result in a runtime performance profile with lower variance and smaller tails.

#### 20.9.1 Unboxing of closure variables

This transformation is enabled unless `-no-unbox-free-vars-of-closures` is provided.

Variables that appear in closure environments may themselves be boxed values. As such, they may be split into further closure variables, each of which corresponds to some projection from the original closure variable(s). This transformation is called unboxing of closure variables or unboxing of free variables of closures. It is only applied when there is reasonable certainty that there are no uses of the boxed free variable itself within the corresponding function bodies.

**Example:** In the following code, the compiler observes that the closure returned from the function `f` contains a variable `pair` (free in the body of `f`) that may be split into two separate variables.

```ocaml
let f x0 x1 = 
  let pair = x0, x1 in 
  Printf.printf "foo\n";
  fun y ->
    fst pair + snd pair + y

After some simplification one obtains:

let f x0 x1 = 
  let pair_0 = x0 in 
  let pair_1 = x1 in 
  Printf.printf "foo\n";
  fun y ->
    pair_0 + pair_1 + y
```
and then:

```ocaml
let f x0 x1 = 
  Printf.printf "foo\n";
  fun y ->
    x0 + x1 + y
```

The allocation of the pair has been eliminated.
This transformation does not operate if it would cause the closure to contain more than twice as many closure variables as it did beforehand.

### 20.9.2 Unboxing of specialised arguments

This transformation is enabled unless `-no-unbox-specialised-args` is provided.

It may become the case during compilation that one or more invariant arguments to a function become specialised to a particular value. When such values are themselves boxed the corresponding specialised arguments may be split into more specialised arguments corresponding to the projections out of the boxed value that occur within the function body. This transformation is called *unboxing of specialised arguments*. It is only applied when there is reasonable certainty that the boxed argument itself is unused within the function.

If the function in question is involved in a recursive group then unboxing of specialised arguments may be immediately replicated across the group based on the dataflow between invariant arguments.

**Example:** Having been given the following code, the compiler will inline `loop` into `f`, and then observe `inv` being invariant and always the pair formed by adding 42 and 43 to the argument `x` of the function `f`.

```ocaml
let rec loop inv xs = 
  match xs with 
  | [] -> fst inv + snd inv 
  | x::xs -> x + loop2 xs inv
and loop2 ys inv = 
  match ys with 
  | [] -> 4 
  | y::ys -> y - loop inv ys

let f x = 
  Printf.printf "%d\n" (loop (x + 42, x + 43) [1; 2; 3])
```

Since the functions have sufficiently few arguments, more specialised arguments will be added. After some simplification one obtains:

```ocaml
let f x = 
  let rec loop' xs inv_0 inv_1 = 
    match xs with 
    | [] -> inv_0 + inv_1 
    | x::xs -> x + loop2' xs inv_0 inv_1
```

and loop2' ys inv_0 inv_1 =  
match ys with  
| [] -> 4  
| y::ys -> y - loop' ys inv_0 inv_1  
inPrintf.printf "\%d\n" (loop' [1; 2; 3] (x + 42) (x + 43))

The allocation of the pair within f has been removed. (Since the two closures for loop' and loop2' are constant they will also be lifted to toplevel with no runtime allocation penalty. This would also happen without having run the transformation to unbox specialise arguments.)

The transformation to unbox specialised arguments never introduces extra allocation.

The transformation will not unbox arguments if it would result in the original function having sufficiently many arguments so as to inhibit tail-call optimisation.

The transformation is implemented by creating a wrapper function that accepts the original arguments. Meanwhile, the original function is renamed and extra arguments are added corresponding to the unboxed specialised arguments; this new function is called from the wrapper. The wrapper will then be inlined at direct call sites. Indeed, all call sites will be direct unless -unbox-closures is being used, since they will have been generated by the compiler when originally specialising the function. (In the case of -unbox-closures other functions may appear with specialised arguments; in this case there may be indirect calls and these will incur a small penalty owing to having to bounce through the wrapper. The technique of direct call surrogates used for -unbox-closures is not used by the transformation to unbox specialised arguments.)

20.9.3 Unboxing of closures

This transformation is not enabled by default. It may be enabled using the -unbox-closures flag.

The transformation replaces closure variables by specialised arguments. The aim is to cause more closures to become closed. It is particularly applicable, as a means of reducing allocation, where the function concerned cannot be inlined or specialised. For example, some non-recursive function might be too large to inline; or some recursive function might offer no opportunities for specialisation perhaps because its only argument is one of type unit.

At present there may be a small penalty in terms of actual runtime performance when this transformation is enabled, although more stable performance may be obtained due to reduced allocation. It is recommended that developers experiment to determine whether the option is beneficial for their code. (It is expected that in the future it will be possible for the performance degradation to be removed.)

Simple example: In the following code (which might typically occur when g is too large to inline) the value of x would usually be communicated to the application of the + function via the closure of g.

let f x =  
let g y =  
  x + y  
in  
(g [@inlined never]) 42
Unboxing of the closure causes the value for \( x \) inside \( g \) to be passed as an argument to \( g \) rather than through its closure. This means that the closure of \( g \) becomes constant and may be lifted to toplevel, eliminating the runtime allocation.

The transformation is implemented by adding a new wrapper function in the manner of that used when unboxing specialised arguments. The closure variables are still free in the wrapper, but the intention is that when the wrapper is inlined at direct call sites, the relevant values are passed directly to the main function via the new specialised arguments.

Adding such a wrapper will penalise indirect calls to the function (which might exist in arbitrary places; remember that this transformation is not for example applied only on functions the compiler has produced as a result of specialisation) since such calls will bounce through the wrapper. To mitigate this, if a function is small enough when weighed up against the number of free variables being removed, it will be duplicated by the transformation to obtain two versions: the original (used for indirect calls, since we can do no better) and the wrapper/rewritten function pair as described in the previous paragraph. The wrapper/rewritten function pair will only be used at direct call sites of the function. (The wrapper in this case is known as a \textit{direct call surrogate}, since it takes the place of another function—the unchanged version used for indirect calls—at direct call sites.)

The \texttt{-unbox-closures-factor} command line flag, which takes an integer, may be used to adjust the point at which a function is deemed large enough to be ineligible for duplication. The benefit of duplication is scaled by the integer before being evaluated against the size.

**Harder example:** In the following code, there are two closure variables that would typically cause closure allocations. One is called \( fv \) and occurs inside the function \( baz \); the other is called \( z \) and occurs inside the function \( bar \). In this toy (yet sophisticated) example we again use an attribute to simulate the typical situation where the first argument of \( baz \) is too large to inline.

```lean
let foo c =
  let rec bar zs fv =
    match zs with
    | [] -> []
    | z::zs ->
      let rec baz f = function
        | [] -> []
        | a::l -> let r = fv + ((f [@inlined never]) a) in r :: baz f l
      in
      (map2 (fun y -> z + y) [z; 2; 3; 4]) @ bar zs fv
  in
  Printf.printf "%d" (List.length (bar [1; 2; 3; 4] c))
```

The code resulting from applying \texttt{-O3 -unbox-closures} to this code passes the free variables via function arguments in order to eliminate all closure allocation in this example (aside from any that might be performed inside \texttt{printf}).
20.10 Removal of unused code and values

20.10.1 Removal of redundant let expressions

The simplification pass removes unused let bindings so long as their corresponding defining expressions have “no effects”. See the section “Treatment of effects” below for the precise definition of this term.

20.10.2 Removal of redundant program constructs

This transformation is analogous to the removal of let-expressions whose defining expressions have no effects. It operates instead on symbol bindings, removing those that have no effects.

20.10.3 Removal of unused arguments

This transformation is only enabled by default for specialised arguments. It may be enabled for all arguments using the -remove-unused-arguments flag.

The pass analyses functions to determine which arguments are unused. Removal is effected by creating a wrapper function, which will be inlined at every direct call site, that accepts the original arguments and then discards the unused ones before calling the original function. As a consequence, this transformation may be detrimental if the original function is usually indirectly called, since such calls will now bounce through the wrapper. (The technique of direct call surrogates used to reduce this penalty during unboxing of closure variables (see above) does not yet apply to the pass that removes unused arguments.)

20.10.4 Removal of unused closure variables

This transformation performs an analysis across the whole compilation unit to determine whether there exist closure variables that are never used. Such closure variables are then eliminated. (Note that this has to be a whole-unit analysis because a projection of a closure variable from some particular closure may have propagated to an arbitrary location within the code due to inlining.)

20.11 Other code transformations

20.11.1 Transformation of non-escaping references into mutable variables

Flambda performs a simple analysis analogous to that performed elsewhere in the compiler that can transform refs into mutable variables that may then be held in registers (or on the stack as appropriate) rather than being allocated on the OCaml heap. This only happens so long as the reference concerned can be shown to not escape from its defining scope.

20.11.2 Substitution of closure variables for specialised arguments

This transformation discovers closure variables that are known to be equal to specialised arguments. Such closure variables are replaced by the specialised arguments; the closure variables may then be removed by the “removal of unused closure variables” pass (see below).
20.12 Treatment of effects

The Flambda optimisers classify expressions in order to determine whether an expression:

- does not need to be evaluated at all; and/or
- may be duplicated.

This is done by forming judgements on the effects and the coeffects that might be performed were the expression to be executed. Effects talk about how the expression might affect the world; coeffects talk about how the world might affect the expression.

Effects are classified as follows:

No effects:
The expression does not change the observable state of the world. For example, it must not write to any mutable storage, call arbitrary external functions or change control flow (e.g. by raising an exception). Note that allocation is not classed as having “no effects” (see below).

- It is assumed in the compiler that expressions with no effects, whose results are not used, may be eliminated. (This typically happens where the expression in question is the defining expression of a let; in such cases the let-expression will be eliminated.)
- It is further assumed that such expressions with no effects may be duplicated (and thus possibly executed more than once).
- Exceptions arising from allocation points, for example “out of memory” or exceptions propagated from finalizers or signal handlers, are treated as “effects out of the ether” and thus ignored for our determination here of effectfulness. The same goes for floating point operations that may cause hardware traps on some platforms.

Only generative effects:
The expression does not change the observable state of the world save for possibly affecting the state of the garbage collector by performing an allocation. Expressions that only have generative effects and whose results are unused may be eliminated by the compiler. However, unlike expressions with “no effects”, such expressions will never be eligible for duplication.

Arbitrary effects:
All other expressions.

There is a single classification for coeffects:

No coeffects:
The expression does not observe the effects (in the sense described above) of other expressions. For example, it must not read from any mutable storage or call arbitrary external functions.

- It is assumed in the compiler that, subject to data dependencies, expressions with neither effects nor coeffects may be reordered with respect to other expressions.
20.13 Compilation of statically-allocated modules

Compilation of modules that are able to be statically allocated (for example, the module corresponding to an entire compilation unit, as opposed to a first class module dependent on values computed at runtime) initially follows the strategy used for bytecode. A sequence of let-bindings, which may be interspersed with arbitrary effects, surrounds a record creation that becomes the module block. The Flambda-specific transformation follows: these bindings are lifted to toplevel symbols, as described above.

20.14 Inhibition of optimisation

Especially when writing benchmarking suites that run non-side-effecting algorithms in loops, it may be found that the optimiser entirely elides the code being benchmarked. This behaviour can be prevented by using the Sys.opaque_identity function (which indeed behaves as a normal OCaml function and does not possess any “magic” semantics). The documentation of the Sys module should be consulted for further details.

20.15 Use of unsafe operations

The behaviour of the Flambda simplification pass means that certain unsafe operations, which may without Flambda or when using previous versions of the compiler be safe, must not be used. This specifically refers to functions found in the Obj module.

In particular, it is forbidden to change any value (for example using Obj.set_field or Obj.set_tag) that is not mutable. (Values returned from C stubs are always treated as mutable.) The compiler will emit warning 59 if it detects such a write—but it cannot warn in all cases. Here is an example of code that will trigger the warning:

```ocaml
let f x = 
  let a = 42, x in 
  (Obj.magic a : int ref) := 1; 
  fst a
```

The reason this is unsafe is because the simplification pass believes that fst a holds the value 42; and indeed it must, unless type soundness has been broken via unsafe operations.

If it must be the case that code has to be written that triggers warning 59, but the code is known to actually be correct (for some definition of correct), then Sys.opaque_identity may be used to wrap the value before unsafe operations are performed upon it. Great care must be taken when doing this to ensure that the opacity is added at the correct place. It must be emphasised that this use of Sys.opaque_identity is only for exceptional cases. It should not be used in normal code or to try to guide the optimiser.

As an example, this code will return the integer 1:

```ocaml
let f x = 
  let a = Sys.opaque_identity (42, x) in 
  (Obj.magic a : int ref) := 1; 
  fst a
```
However the following code will still return 42:

```ocaml
let f x =
  let a = 42, x in
  Sys.opaque_identity (Obj.magic a : int ref) := 1;
  fst a
```

High levels of inlining performed by Flambda may expose bugs in code thought previously to be correct. Take care, for example, not to add type annotations that claim some mutable value is always immediate if it might be possible for an unsafe operation to update it to a boxed value.

### 20.16 Glossary

The following terminology is used in this chapter of the manual.

**Call site**
- See *direct call site* and *indirect call site* below.

**Closed function**
- A function whose body has no free variables except its parameters and any to which are bound other functions within the same (possibly mutually-recursive) declaration.

**Closure**
- The runtime representation of a function. This includes pointers to the code of the function together with the values of any variables that are used in the body of the function but actually defined outside of the function, in the enclosing scope. The values of such variables, collectively known as the *environment*, are required because the function may be invoked from a place where the original bindings of such variables are no longer in scope. A group of possibly mutually-recursive functions defined using *let rec* all share a single closure. (Note to developers: in the Flambda source code a *closure* always corresponds to a single function; a *set of closures* refers to a group of such.)

**Closure variable**
- A member of the environment held within the closure of a given function.

**Constant**
- Some entity (typically an expression) the value of which is known by the compiler at compile time. Constantness may be explicit from the source code or inferred by the Flambda optimisers.

**Constant closure**
- A closure that is statically allocated in an object file. It is almost always the case that the environment portion of such a closure is empty.

**Defining expression**
- The expression *e in let x = e in e’*. 
Direct call site
A place in a program’s code where a function is called and it is known at compile time which function it will always be.

Indirect call site
A place in a program’s code where a function is called but is not known to be a direct call site.

Program
A collection of symbol bindings forming the definition of a single compilation unit (i.e. .cmx file).

Specialised argument
An argument to a function that is known to always hold a particular value at runtime. These are introduced by the inliner when specialising recursive functions; and the unbox-closures pass. (See section 20.4.)

Symbol
A name referencing a particular place in an object file or executable image. At that particular place will be some constant value. Symbols may be examined using operating system-specific tools (for example objdump on Linux).

Symbol binding
Analogous to a let-expression but working at the level of symbols defined in the object file. The address of a symbol is fixed, but it may be bound to both constant and non-constant expressions.

Toplevel
An expression in the current program which is not enclosed within any function declaration.

Variable
A named entity to which some OCaml value is bound by a let expression, pattern-matching construction, or similar.

20.17 Module Spacetime: Profiling of a program’s space behaviour over time.
Currently only supported on x86-64 platforms running 64-bit code.
To use the functions in this module you must:

• configure the compiler with "-spacetime";
• compile to native code. Without these conditions being satisfied the functions in this module will have no effect.

Instead of manually taking profiling heap snapshots with this module it is possible to use an automatic snapshot facility that writes profiling information at fixed intervals to a file. To enable this, all that needs to be done is to build the relevant program using a compiler configured with
-spacetime; and set the environment variable OCAML_SPACETIME_INTERVAL to an integer number of milliseconds giving the interval between profiling heap snapshots. This interval should not be made excessively small relative to the running time of the program. A typical interval to start with might be 1/100 of the running time of the program. The program must exit "normally" (i.e. by calling exit, with whatever exit code, rather than being abnormally terminated by a signal) so that the snapshot file is correctly completed.

When using the automatic snapshot mode the profiling output is written to a file called "spacetime-<pid>" where <pid> is the process ID of the program. (If the program forks and continues executing then multiple files may be produced with different pid numbers.) The profiling output is by default written to the current working directory when the program starts. This may be customised by setting the OCAML_SPACETIME_SNAPSHOT_DIR environment variable to the name of the desired directory.

If using automatic snapshots the presence of the save_event_for_automatic_snapshots function, below, should be noted.

The functions in this module are thread safe.

For functions to decode the information recorded by the profiler, see the Spacetime offline library in otherlibs/.

val enabled : bool

   enabled is true if the compiler is configured with spacetime and false otherwise

module Series :

   sig

      type t

      Type representing a file that will hold a series of heap snapshots together with additional information required to interpret those snapshots.

      val create : path:string -> t

      create ~path creates a series file at path.

      val save_event : ?time:float -> t -> event_name:string -> unit

      save_event writes an event, which is an arbitrary string, into the given series file. This may be used for identifying particular points during program execution when analysing the profile. The optional time parameter is as for Spacetime.Snapshot.take[23.43].

      val save_and_close : ?time:float -> t -> unit

      save_and_close series writes information into series required for interpreting the snapshots that series contains and then closes the series file. This function must be called to produce a valid series file. The optional time parameter is as for Spacetime.Snapshot.take[23.43].
module Snapshot :
  sig

    val take : ?time:float -> Spacetime.Series.t -> unit

    take series takes a snapshot of the profiling annotations on the values in the minor
    and major heaps, together with GC stats, and write the result to the series file. This
    function triggers a minor GC but does not allocate any memory itself. If the optional
    time is specified, it will be used instead of the result of Sys.time[23.49] as the
    timestamp of the snapshot. Such times should start from zero and be monotonically
    increasing. This parameter is intended to be used so that snapshots can be correlated
    against wall clock time (which is not supported in the standard library) rather than
    elapsed CPU time.

  end

val save_event_for_automatic_snapshots : event_name:string -> unit

    Like Spacetime.Series.save_event[23.43], but writes to the automatic snapshot file. This
    function is a no-op if OCAML_SPACETIME_INTERVAL was not set.
Chapter 21

Fuzzing with afl-fuzz

21.1 Overview

American fuzzy lop ("afl-fuzz") is a fuzzer, a tool for testing software by providing randomly-generated inputs, searching for those inputs which cause the program to crash.

Unlike most fuzzers, afl-fuzz observes the internal behaviour of the program being tested, and adjusts the test cases it generates to trigger unexplored execution paths. As a result, test cases generated by afl-fuzz cover more of the possible behaviours of the tested program than other fuzzers.

This requires that programs to be tested are instrumented to communicate with afl-fuzz. The native-code compiler “ocamlopt” can generate such instrumentation, allowing afl-fuzz to be used against programs written in OCaml.

For more information on afl-fuzz, see the website at http://lcamtuf.coredump.cx/afl/

21.2 Generating instrumentation

The instrumentation that afl-fuzz requires is not generated by default, and must be explicitly enabled, by passing the `-afl-instrument` option to ocamlopt.

To fuzz a large system without modifying build tools, OCaml’s `configure` script also accepts the `afl-instrument` option. If OCaml is configured with `afl-instrument`, then all programs compiled by ocamlopt will be instrumented.

21.2.1 Advanced options

In rare cases, it is useful to control the amount of instrumentation generated. By passing the `-afl-inst-ratio N` argument to ocamlopt with N less than 100, instrumentation can be generated for only N% of branches. (See the afl-fuzz documentation on the parameter `AFL_INST_RATIO` for the precise effect of this).

21.3 Example

As an example, we fuzz-test the following program, `readline.ml`:
let _ =
  let s = read_line () in
  match Array.to_list (Array.init (String.length s) (String.get s)) with
  ['s'; 'e'; 'c'; 'r'; 't'; ' '; 'c'; 'o'; 'd'; 'e'] -> failwith "uh oh"
  | _ -> ()

There is a single input (the string "secret code") which causes this program to crash, but finding it by blind random search is infeasible.

Instead, we compile with afl-fuzz instrumentation enabled:

    ocamlopt -afl-instrument readline.ml -o readline

    Next, we run the program under afl-fuzz:

    mkdir input
echo asdf > input/testcase
    mkdir output
    afl-fuzz -i input -o output ./readline

    By inspecting instrumentation output, the fuzzer finds the crashing input quickly.
Part IV

The OCaml library
Chapter 22

The core library

This chapter describes the OCaml core library, which is composed of declarations for built-in types and exceptions, plus the module Stdlib that provides basic operations on these built-in types. The Stdlib module is special in two ways:

- It is automatically linked with the user’s object code files by the ocamlc command (chapter 9).
- It is automatically “opened” when a compilation starts, or when the toplevel system is launched. Hence, it is possible to use unqualified identifiers to refer to the functions provided by the Stdlib module, without adding a open Stdlib directive.

Conventions

The declarations of the built-in types and the components of module Stdlib are printed one by one in typewriter font, followed by a short comment. All library modules and the components they provide are indexed at the end of this report.

22.1 Built-in types and predefined exceptions

The following built-in types and predefined exceptions are always defined in the compilation environment, but are not part of any module. As a consequence, they can only be referred by their short names.

Built-in types

type int

   The type of integer numbers.

type char

   The type of characters.

type bytes

   The type of (writable) byte sequences.
type `string
  The type of (read-only) character strings.

type `float
  The type of floating-point numbers.

type `bool = false | true
  The type of booleans (truth values).

type `unit = ()
  The type of the unit value.

type `exn
  The type of exception values.

type `a array
  The type of arrays whose elements have type `a.

type `a list = [] | :: of `a * `a list
  The type of lists whose elements have type `a.

type `a option = None | Some of `a
  The type of optional values of type `a.

type `int32
  The type of signed 32-bit integers. Literals for 32-bit integers are suffixed by l. See the `Int32[23.22] module.

type `int64
  The type of signed 64-bit integers. Literals for 64-bit integers are suffixed by L. See the `Int64[23.23] module.

type `nativeint
  The type of signed, platform-native integers (32 bits on 32-bit processors, 64 bits on 64-bit processors). Literals for native integers are suffixed by n. See the `Nativeint[23.31] module.

type (`a, `b, `c, `d, `e, `f) format6
  The type of format strings. `a is the type of the parameters of the format, `f is the result type for the printf-style functions, `b is the type of the first argument given to `%a and `%t printing functions (see module `Printf[23.36]), `c is the result type of these functions, and also the type of the argument transmitted to the first argument of kprintf-style functions, `d is the result type for the scanf-style functions (see module `Scanf[23.40]), and `e is the type of the receiver function for the scanf-style functions.

type `a lazy_t
  This type is used to implement the `Lazy[23.24] module. It should not be used directly.
Predefined exceptions

exception Match_failure of (string * int * int)
Exception raised when none of the cases of a pattern-matching apply. The arguments are the location of the match keyword in the source code (file name, line number, column number).

exception Assert_failure of (string * int * int)
Exception raised when an assertion fails. The arguments are the location of the assert keyword in the source code (file name, line number, column number).

exception Invalid_argument of string
Exception raised by library functions to signal that the given arguments do not make sense. The string gives some information to the programmer. As a general rule, this exception should not be caught, it denotes a programming error and the code should be modified not to trigger it.

exception Failure of string
Exception raised by library functions to signal that they are undefined on the given arguments. The string is meant to give some information to the programmer; you must not pattern match on the string literal because it may change in future versions (use Failure _ instead).

exception Not_found
Exception raised by search functions when the desired object could not be found.

exception Out_of_memory
Exception raised by the garbage collector when there is insufficient memory to complete the computation.

exception Stack_overflow
Exception raised by the bytecode interpreter when the evaluation stack reaches its maximal size. This often indicates infinite or excessively deep recursion in the user’s program. (Not fully implemented by the native-code compiler; see section 12.5.)

exception Sys_error of string
Exception raised by the input/output functions to report an operating system error. The string is meant to give some information to the programmer; you must not pattern match on the string literal because it may change in future versions (use Sys_error _ instead).

exception End_of_file
Exception raised by input functions to signal that the end of file has been reached.

exception Division_by_zero
Exception raised by integer division and remainder operations when their second argument is zero.
exception Sys_blocked_io
    A special case of Sys_error raised when no I/O is possible on a non-blocking I/O channel.

exception Undefined_recursive_module of (string * int * int)
    Exception raised when an ill-founded recursive module definition is evaluated. (See section 8.2.) The arguments are the location of the definition in the source code (file name, line number, column number).

22.2 Module Stdlib: The OCaml Standard library.

This module is automatically opened at the beginning of each compilation. All components of this module can therefore be referred by their short name, without prefixing them by Stdlib.

It particular, it provides the basic operations over the built-in types (numbers, booleans, byte sequences, strings, exceptions, lists, arrays, input-output channels, ...) and the standard library modules[22.2].

Exceptions

val raise : exn -> 'a
    Raise the given exception value

val raise_notrace : exn -> 'a
    A faster version raise which does not record the backtrace.
Since: 4.02.0

val invalid_arg : string -> 'a
    Raise exception Invalid_argument with the given string.

val failwith : string -> 'a
    Raise exception Failure with the given string.

exception Exit
    The Exit exception is not raised by any library function. It is provided for use in your programs.

exception Match_failure of (string * int * int)
    Exception raised when none of the cases of a pattern-matching apply. The arguments are the location of the match keyword in the source code (file name, line number, column number).

exception Assert_failure of (string * int * int)
    Exception raised when an assertion fails. The arguments are the location of the assert keyword in the source code (file name, line number, column number).
exception Invalid_argument of string
Exception raised by library functions to signal that the given arguments do not make sense. The string gives some information to the programmer. As a general rule, this exception should not be caught, it denotes a programming error and the code should be modified not to trigger it.

exception Failure of string
Exception raised by library functions to signal that they are undefined on the given arguments. The string is meant to give some information to the programmer; you must not pattern match on the string literal because it may change in future versions (use Failure instead).

exception Not_found
Exception raised by search functions when the desired object could not be found.

exception Out_of_memory
Exception raised by the garbage collector when there is insufficient memory to complete the computation.

exception Stack_overflow
Exception raised by the bytecode interpreter when the evaluation stack reaches its maximal size. This often indicates infinite or excessively deep recursion in the user’s program. (Not fully implemented by the native-code compiler.)

exception Sys_error of string
Exception raised by the input/output functions to report an operating system error. The string is meant to give some information to the programmer; you must not pattern match on the string literal because it may change in future versions (use Sys_error instead).

exception End_of_file
Exception raised by input functions to signal that the end of file has been reached.

exception Division_by_zero
Exception raised by integer division and remainder operations when their second argument is zero.

exception Sys_blocked_io
A special case of Sys_error raised when no I/O is possible on a non-blocking I/O channel.

exception Undefined_recursive_module of (string * int * int)
Exception raised when an ill-founded recursive module definition is evaluated. The arguments are the location of the definition in the source code (file name, line number, column number).
Comparisons

val (=) : 'a -> 'a -> bool
  e1 = e2 tests for structural equality of e1 and e2. Mutable structures (e.g. references and
arrays) are equal if and only if their current contents are structurally equal, even if the two
mutable objects are not the same physical object. Equality between functional values raises
Invalid_argument. Equality between cyclic data structures may not terminate.
Left-associative operator, see Ocaml_operators[23.53] for more information.

val (<>): 'a -> 'a -> bool
  Negation of (=)[22.2]. Left-associative operator, see Ocaml_operators[23.53] for more
information.

val (<=): 'a -> 'a -> bool
  See (>=)[22.2]. Left-associative operator, see Ocaml_operators[23.53] for more information.

val (>) : 'a -> 'a -> bool
  See (>=)[22.2]. Left-associative operator, see Ocaml_operators[23.53] for more information.

val (>=): 'a -> 'a -> bool
  Structural ordering functions. These functions coincide with the usual orderings over
integers, characters, strings, byte sequences and floating-point numbers, and extend them to
a total ordering over all types. The ordering is compatible with ( = ). As in the case of ( = ),
mutable structures are compared by contents. Comparison between functional values
raises Invalid_argument. Comparison between cyclic structures may not terminate.
Left-associative operator, see Ocaml_operators[23.53] for more information.

val compare : 'a -> 'a -> int
  compare x y returns 0 if x is equal to y, a negative integer if x is less than y, and a positive
integer if x is greater than y. The ordering implemented by compare is compatible with the
comparison predicates =, < and > defined above, with one difference on the treatment of the
float value nan[22.2]. Namely, the comparison predicates treat nan as different from any
other float value, including itself; while compare treats nan as equal to itself and less than
any other float value. This treatment of nan ensures that compare defines a total ordering
relation.

  compare applied to functional values may raise Invalid_argument. compare applied to
cyclic structures may not terminate.

  The compare function can be used as the comparison function required by the
Set.Make[23.42] and Map.Make[23.28] functors, as well as the List.sort[23.26] and
Array.sort[23.2] functions.

val min : 'a -> 'a -> 'a
Return the smaller of the two arguments. The result is unspecified if one of the arguments contains the float value \texttt{nan}.

\begin{verbatim}
val max : 'a -> 'a -> 'a
  Return the greater of the two arguments. The result is unspecified if one of the arguments contains the float value \texttt{nan}.
\end{verbatim}

\begin{verbatim}
val (==) : 'a -> 'a -> bool
  \texttt{e1 == e2} tests for physical equality of \texttt{e1} and \texttt{e2}. On mutable types such as references, arrays, byte sequences, records with mutable fields and objects with mutable instance variables, \texttt{e1 == e2} is true if and only if physical modification of \texttt{e1} also affects \texttt{e2}. On non-mutable types, the behavior of \texttt{( == )} is implementation-dependent; however, it is guaranteed that \texttt{e1 == e2} implies \texttt{compare e1 e2 = 0}. Left-associative operator, see \texttt{Ocaml_operators[23.53]} for more information.
\end{verbatim}

\begin{verbatim}
val (!=) : 'a -> 'a -> bool
  Negation of \texttt{(==)}\texttt{[22.2]}. Left-associative operator, see \texttt{Ocaml_operators[23.53]} for more information.
\end{verbatim}

**Boolean operations**

\begin{verbatim}
val not : bool -> bool
  The boolean negation.
\end{verbatim}

\begin{verbatim}
val (&&) : bool -> bool -> bool
  The boolean 'and'. Evaluation is sequential, left-to-right: in \texttt{e1 && e2}, \texttt{e1} is evaluated first, and if it returns \texttt{false}, \texttt{e2} is not evaluated at all. Right-associative operator, see \texttt{Ocaml_operators[23.53]} for more information.
\end{verbatim}

\begin{verbatim}
val (&) : bool -> bool -> bool
  Deprecated. \texttt{(&&)}\texttt{[22.2]} should be used instead. Right-associative operator, see \texttt{Ocaml_operators[23.53]} for more information.
\end{verbatim}

\begin{verbatim}
val (||) : bool -> bool -> bool
  The boolean 'or'. Evaluation is sequential, left-to-right: in \texttt{e1 || e2}, \texttt{e1} is evaluated first, and if it returns \texttt{true}, \texttt{e2} is not evaluated at all. Right-associative operator, see \texttt{Ocaml_operators[23.53]} for more information.
\end{verbatim}

\begin{verbatim}
val (or) : bool -> bool -> bool
  Deprecated. \texttt{(||)}\texttt{[22.2]} should be used instead. Right-associative operator, see \texttt{Ocaml_operators[23.53]} for more information.
\end{verbatim}
Debugging

val __LOC__ : string

__LOC__ returns the location at which this expression appears in the file currently being parsed by the compiler, with the standard error format of OCaml: "File %S, line %d, characters %d-%d".

Since: 4.02.0

val __FILE__ : string

__FILE__ returns the name of the file currently being parsed by the compiler.

Since: 4.02.0

val __LINE__ : int

__LINE__ returns the line number at which this expression appears in the file currently being parsed by the compiler.

Since: 4.02.0

val __MODULE__ : string

__MODULE__ returns the module name of the file being parsed by the compiler.

Since: 4.02.0

val __POS__ : string * int * int * int

__POS__ returns a tuple (file, lnum, cnum, enum), corresponding to the location at which this expression appears in the file currently being parsed by the compiler. file is the current filename, lnum the line number, cnum the character position in the line and enum the last character position in the line.

Since: 4.02.0

val __LOC_OF__ : 'a -> string * 'a

__LOC_OF__ expr returns a pair (loc, expr) where loc is the location of expr in the file currently being parsed by the compiler, with the standard error format of OCaml: "File %S, line %d, characters %d-%d".

Since: 4.02.0

val __LINE_OF__ : 'a -> int * 'a

__LINE_OF__ expr returns a pair (line, expr), where line is the line number at which the expression expr appears in the file currently being parsed by the compiler.

Since: 4.02.0

val __POS_OF__ : 'a -> (string * int * int * int) * 'a
__POS_OF__ expr returns a pair (loc, expr), where loc is a tuple (file, lnum, cnum, enum) corresponding to the location at which the expression expr appears in the file currently being parsed by the compiler. file is the current filename, lnum the line number, cnum the character position in the line and enum the last character position in the line.

Since: 4.02.0

Composition operators

val (|>) : 'a -> ('a -> 'b) -> 'b
Reverse-application operator: x |> f |> g is exactly equivalent to g (f (x)). Left-associative operator, see Ocaml_operators[23.53] for more information.

Since: 4.01

val (@@) : ('a -> 'b) -> 'a -> 'b
Application operator: g @@ f @@ x is exactly equivalent to g (f (x)). Right-associative operator, see Ocaml_operators[23.53] for more information.

Since: 4.01

Integer arithmetic

Integers are Sys.int_size bits wide. All operations are taken modulo $2^{\text{Sys.int_size}}$. They do not fail on overflow.

val (~-) : int -> int
Unary negation. You can also write \(-\) e instead of \(~-\) e. Unary operator, see Ocaml_operators[23.53] for more information.

val (~+) : int -> int
Unary addition. You can also write \(+\) e instead of \(~+\) e. Unary operator, see Ocaml_operators[23.53] for more information.

Since: 3.12.0

val succ : int -> int
succ x is x + 1.

val pred : int -> int
pred x is x - 1.

val (+) : int -> int -> int
Integer addition. Left-associative operator, see Ocaml_operators[23.53] for more information.

val (-) : int -> int -> int
Integer subtraction. Left-associative operator, , see `Ocaml_operators[23.53]` for more information.

```ocaml
val ( * ) : int -> int -> int

Integer multiplication. Left-associative operator, see `Ocaml_operators[23.53]` for more information.
```

```ocaml
val (/) : int -> int -> int

Integer division. Raise `Division_by_zero` if the second argument is 0. Integer division rounds the real quotient of its arguments towards zero. More precisely, if \( x \geq 0 \) and \( y > 0 \), \( x / y \) is the greatest integer less than or equal to the real quotient of \( x \) by \( y \). Moreover, \( (-x) / y = x / (-y) = - (x / y) \). Left-associative operator, see `Ocaml_operators[23.53]` for more information.
```

```ocaml
val (mod) : int -> int -> int

Integer remainder. If \( y \) is not zero, the result of \( x \mod y \) satisfies the following properties: \( x = (x / y) \ast y + x \mod y \) and \( \text{abs}(x \mod y) \leq \text{abs}(y) - 1 \). If \( y = 0 \), \( x \mod y \) raises `Division_by_zero`. Note that \( x \mod y \) is negative only if \( x < 0 \). Raise `Division_by_zero` if \( y \) is zero. Left-associative operator, see `Ocaml_operators[23.53]` for more information.
```

```ocaml
val abs : int -> int

Return the absolute value of the argument. Note that this may be negative if the argument is `min_int`.
```

```ocaml
val max_int : int

The greatest representable integer.
```

```ocaml
val min_int : int

The smallest representable integer.
```

**Bitwise operations**

```ocaml
val (land) : int -> int -> int

Bitwise logical and. Left-associative operator, see `Ocaml_operators[23.53]` for more information.
```

```ocaml
val (lor) : int -> int -> int

Bitwise logical or. Left-associative operator, see `Ocaml_operators[23.53]` for more information.
```

```ocaml
val (lxor) : int -> int -> int

Bitwise logical exclusive or. Left-associative operator, see `Ocaml_operators[23.53]` for more information.
```
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val lnot : int \rightarrow int
  Bitwise logical negation.

val (lsl) : int \rightarrow int \rightarrow int
  n lsl m shifts n to the left by m bits. The result is unspecified if m < 0 or m > Sys.int_size. Right-associative operator, see Ocaml_operators[23.53] for more information.

val (lsr) : int \rightarrow int \rightarrow int
  n lsr m shifts n to the right by m bits. This is a logical shift: zeroes are inserted regardless of the sign of n. The result is unspecified if m < 0 or m > Sys.int_size. Right-associative operator, see Ocaml_operators[23.53] for more information.

val (asr) : int \rightarrow int \rightarrow int
  n asr m shifts n to the right by m bits. This is an arithmetic shift: the sign bit of n is replicated. The result is unspecified if m < 0 or m > Sys.int_size. Right-associative operator, see Ocaml_operators[23.53] for more information.

Floating-point arithmetic

OCaml's floating-point numbers follow the IEEE 754 standard, using double precision (64 bits) numbers. Floating-point operations never raise an exception on overflow, underflow, division by zero, etc. Instead, special IEEE numbers are returned as appropriate, such as infinity for 1.0 /. 0.0, neg_infinity for -1.0 /. 0.0, and nan ('not a number') for 0.0 /. 0.0. These special numbers then propagate through floating-point computations as expected: for instance, 1.0 /. infinity is 0.0, and any arithmetic operation with nan as argument returns nan as result.

val (~-.) : float \rightarrow float
  Unary negation. You can also write -. e instead of ~-. e. Unary operator, see Ocaml_operators[23.53] for more information.

val (~+.) : float \rightarrow float
  Unary addition. You can also write +. e instead of ~+. e. Unary operator, see Ocaml_operators[23.53] for more information.

          Since: 3.12.0

val (+.) : float \rightarrow float \rightarrow float
  Floating-point addition. Left-associative operator, see Ocaml_operators[23.53] for more information.

val (-.) : float \rightarrow float \rightarrow float
  Floating-point subtraction. Left-associative operator, see Ocaml_operators[23.53] for more information.

val ( *. ) : float \rightarrow float \rightarrow float
Floating-point multiplication. Left-associative operator, see `Ocaml_operators` for more information.

```ocaml
val (/.) : float -> float -> float
Floating-point division. Left-associative operator, see `Ocaml_operators` for more information.
```

```ocaml
val ( ** ) : float -> float -> float
Exponentiation. Right-associative operator, see `Ocaml_operators` for more information.
```

```ocaml
val sqrt : float -> float
Square root.
```

```ocaml
val exp : float -> float
Exponential.
```

```ocaml
val log : float -> float
Natural logarithm.
```

```ocaml
val log10 : float -> float
Base 10 logarithm.
```

```ocaml
val expm1 : float -> float
expm1 x computes \( \exp x - 1.0 \), giving numerically-accurate results even if \( x \) is close to 0.0.
```

**Since:** 3.12.0

```ocaml
val log1p : float -> float
log1p x computes \( \log(1.0 + x) \) (natural logarithm), giving numerically-accurate results even if \( x \) is close to 0.0.
```

**Since:** 3.12.0

```ocaml
val cos : float -> float
Cosine. Argument is in radians.
```

```ocaml
val sin : float -> float
Sine. Argument is in radians.
```

```ocaml
val tan : float -> float
Tangent. Argument is in radians.
```

```ocaml
val acos : float -> float
```
Arc cosine. The argument must fall within the range \([-1.0, 1.0]\). Result is in radians and is between 0.0 and \(\pi\).

val \texttt{asin} : \texttt{float} \to \texttt{float}

Arc sine. The argument must fall within the range \([-1.0, 1.0]\). Result is in radians and is between \(-\pi/2\) and \(\pi/2\).

val \texttt{atan} : \texttt{float} \to \texttt{float}

Arc tangent. Result is in radians and is between \(-\pi/2\) and \(\pi/2\).

val \texttt{atan2} : \texttt{float} \to \texttt{float} \to \texttt{float}

\texttt{atan2 y x} returns the arc tangent of \(y /. x\). The signs of \(x\) and \(y\) are used to determine the quadrant of the result. Result is in radians and is between \(-\pi\) and \(\pi\).

val \texttt{hypot} : \texttt{float} \to \texttt{float} \to \texttt{float}

\texttt{hypot x y} returns \(\sqrt{x \times x + y \times y}\), that is, the length of the hypotenuse of a right-angled triangle with sides of length \(x\) and \(y\), or, equivalently, the distance of the point \((x,y)\) to origin. If one of \(x\) or \(y\) is infinite, returns \texttt{infinity} even if the other is \texttt{nan}.

\textbf{Since:} 4.00.0

val \texttt{cosh} : \texttt{float} \to \texttt{float}

Hyperbolic cosine. Argument is in radians.

val \texttt{sinh} : \texttt{float} \to \texttt{float}

Hyperbolic sine. Argument is in radians.

val \texttt{tanh} : \texttt{float} \to \texttt{float}

Hyperbolic tangent. Argument is in radians.

val \texttt{ceil} : \texttt{float} \to \texttt{float}

Round above to an integer value. \texttt{ceil f} returns the least integer value greater than or equal to \(f\). The result is returned as a float.

val \texttt{floor} : \texttt{float} \to \texttt{float}

Round below to an integer value. \texttt{floor f} returns the greatest integer value less than or equal to \(f\). The result is returned as a float.

val \texttt{abs_float} : \texttt{float} \to \texttt{float}

\texttt{abs_float f} returns the absolute value of \(f\).

val \texttt{copysign} : \texttt{float} \to \texttt{float} \to \texttt{float}

\texttt{copysign x y} returns a float whose absolute value is that of \(x\) and whose sign is that of \(y\). If \(x\) is \texttt{nan}, returns \texttt{nan}. If \(y\) is \texttt{nan}, returns either \(x\) or \(-x\), but it is not specified which.

\textbf{Since:} 4.00.0
val mod_float : float -> float -> float
mod_float a b returns the remainder of a with respect to b. The returned value is a -. n *. b, where n is the quotient a /. b rounded towards zero to an integer.

val frexp : float -> float * int
frexp f returns the pair of the significant and the exponent of f. When f is zero, the significant x and the exponent n of f are equal to zero. When f is non-zero, they are defined by f = x *. 2 ** n and 0.5 <= x < 1.0.

val ldexp : float -> int -> float
ldexp x n returns x *. 2 ** n.

val modf : float -> float * float
modf f returns the pair of the fractional and integral part of f.

val float : int -> float
Same as float_of_int[22.2].

val float_of_int : int -> float
Convert an integer to floating-point.

val truncate : float -> int
Same as int_of_float[22.2].

val int_of_float : float -> int
Truncate the given floating-point number to an integer. The result is unspecified if the argument is nan or falls outside the range of representable integers.

val infinity : float
Positive infinity.

val neg_infinity : float
Negative infinity.

val nan : float
A special floating-point value denoting the result of an undefined operation such as 0.0 /. 0.0. Stands for 'not a number'. Any floating-point operation with nan as argument returns nan as result. As for floating-point comparisons, =, <, <=, > and >= return false and <> returns true if one or both of their arguments is nan.

val max_float : float
The largest positive finite value of type float.

val min_float : float
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The smallest positive, non-zero, non-denormalized value of type float.

val epsilon_float : float
  The difference between 1.0 and the smallest exactly representable floating-point number greater than 1.0.

type fpclass =
  | FP_normal
    Normal number, none of the below
  | FP_subnormal
    Number very close to 0.0, has reduced precision
  | FP_zero
    Number is 0.0 or -0.0
  | FP_infinite
    Number is positive or negative infinity
  | FP_nan
    Not a number: result of an undefined operation

The five classes of floating-point numbers, as determined by the classify_float function.

val classify_float : float -> fpclass
  Return the class of the given floating-point number: normal, subnormal, zero, infinite, or not a number.

String operations

More string operations are provided in module String[23.47].

val (^) : string -> string -> string
  String concatenation. Right-associative operator, see Ocaml_operators[23.53] for more information.

Character operations

More character operations are provided in module Char[23.10].

val int_of_char : char -> int
  Return the ASCII code of the argument.

val char_of_int : int -> char
  Return the character with the given ASCII code. Raise Invalid_argument "char_of_int" if the argument is outside the range 0–255.
Unit operations

val ignore : 'a -> unit

Discard the value of its argument and return (). For instance, \texttt{ignore(f x)} discards the result of the side-effecting function \texttt{f}. It is equivalent to \texttt{f x; ()}, except that the latter may generate a compiler warning; writing \texttt{ignore(f x)} instead avoids the warning.

String conversion functions

val string_of_bool : bool -> string

Return the string representation of a boolean. As the returned values may be shared, the user should not modify them directly.

val bool_of_string_opt : string -> bool option

Convert the given string to a boolean.
Return \texttt{None} if the string is not "true" or "false".

Since: 4.05

val bool_of_string : string -> bool

Same as \texttt{bool_of_string_opt[22.2]}, but raise \texttt{Invalid_argument "bool_of_string"} instead of returning \texttt{None}.

val string_of_int : int -> string

Return the string representation of an integer, in decimal.

val int_of_string_opt : string -> int option

Convert the given string to an integer. The string is read in decimal (by default, or if the string begins with \texttt{0u}), in hexadecimal (if it begins with \texttt{0x} or \texttt{0X}), in octal (if it begins with \texttt{0o} or \texttt{0O}), or in binary (if it begins with \texttt{0b} or \texttt{0B}).
The \texttt{0u} prefix reads the input as an unsigned integer in the range \([0, 2*\text{max_int}+1]\). If the input exceeds \texttt{max_int[22.2]} it is converted to the signed integer \texttt{min_int + input - max_int - 1}.
The \texttt{_} (underscore) character can appear anywhere in the string and is ignored.
Return \texttt{None} if the given string is not a valid representation of an integer, or if the integer represented exceeds the range of integers representable in type \texttt{int}.

Since: 4.05

val int_of_string : string -> int

Same as \texttt{int_of_string_opt[22.2]}, but raise \texttt{Failure "int_of_string"} instead of returning \texttt{None}.

val string_of_float : float -> string
Return the string representation of a floating-point number.

val float_of_string_opt : string -> float option

Convert the given string to a float. The string is read in decimal (by default) or in hexadecimal (marked by 0x or 0X).

The format of decimal floating-point numbers is \([-\] dd.ddd (e|E) \[+|\-\] dd \), where d stands for a decimal digit.

The format of hexadecimal floating-point numbers is \([-\] 0(x|X) hh.hhh (p|P) \[+|\-\] dd \), where h stands for an hexadecimal digit and d for a decimal digit.

In both cases, at least one of the integer and fractional parts must be given; the exponent part is optional.

The _ (underscore) character can appear anywhere in the string and is ignored.

Depending on the execution platforms, other representations of floating-point numbers can be accepted, but should not be relied upon.

Return None if the given string is not a valid representation of a float.

Since: 4.05

val float_of_string : string -> float

Same as float_of_string_opt\[22.2\], but raise Failure "float_of_string" instead of returning None.

Pair operations

val fst : 'a * 'b -> 'a

Return the first component of a pair.

val snd : 'a * 'b -> 'b

Return the second component of a pair.

List operations

More list operations are provided in module List\[23.26\].

val (@) : 'a list -> 'a list -> 'a list

List concatenation. Not tail-recursive (length of the first argument). Right-associative operator, see Ocaml_operators\[23.53\] for more information.
**Input/output**

Note: all input/output functions can raise `Sys.error` when the system calls they invoke fail.

```ocaml
type in_channel
  The type of input channel.

type out_channel
  The type of output channel.

val stdin : in_channel
  The standard input for the process.

val stdout : out_channel
  The standard output for the process.

val stderr : out_channel
  The standard error output for the process.
```

**Output functions on standard output**

```ocaml
val print_char : char -> unit
  Print a character on standard output.

val print_string : string -> unit
  Print a string on standard output.

val print_bytes : bytes -> unit
  Print a byte sequence on standard output.
  **Since:** 4.02.0

val print_int : int -> unit
  Print an integer, in decimal, on standard output.

val print_float : float -> unit
  Print a floating-point number, in decimal, on standard output.

val print_endline : string -> unit
  Print a string, followed by a newline character, on standard output and flush standard output.

val print_newline : unit -> unit
  Print a newline character on standard output, and flush standard output. This can be used to simulate line buffering of standard output.
```
Output functions on standard error

val prerr_char : char -> unit
   Print a character on standard error.

val prerr_string : string -> unit
   Print a string on standard error.

val prerr_bytes : bytes -> unit
   Print a byte sequence on standard error.
   Since: 4.02.0

val prerr_int : int -> unit
   Print an integer, in decimal, on standard error.

val prerr_float : float -> unit
   Print a floating-point number, in decimal, on standard error.

val prerr_endline : string -> unit
   Print a string, followed by a newline character on standard error and flush standard error.

val prerr_newline : unit -> unit
   Print a newline character on standard error, and flush standard error.

Input functions on standard input

val read_line : unit -> string
   Flush standard output, then read characters from standard input until a newline character is encountered. Return the string of all characters read, without the newline character at the end.

val read_int_opt : unit -> int option
   Flush standard output, then read one line from standard input and convert it to an integer. Return None if the line read is not a valid representation of an integer.
   Since: 4.05

val read_int : unit -> int
   Same as read_int_opt[22.2], but raise Failure "int_of_string" instead of returning None.

val read_float_opt : unit -> float option
Flush standard output, then read one line from standard input and convert it to a floating-point number.

Return None if the line read is not a valid representation of a floating-point number.

Since: 4.05.0

val read_float : unit -> float

Same as read_float_opt[22.2], but raise Failure "float_of_string" instead of returning None.

General output functions

type open_flag =
| Open_rdonly
  open for reading.
| Open_wronly
  open for writing.
| Open_append
  open for appending: always write at end of file.
| Open_creat
  create the file if it does not exist.
| Open_trunc
  empty the file if it already exists.
| Open_excl
  fail if Open_creat and the file already exists.
| Open_binary
  open in binary mode (no conversion).
| Open_text
  open in text mode (may perform conversions).
| Open_nonblock
  open in non-blocking mode.

Opening modes for open_out_gen[22.2] and open_in_gen[22.2].

val open_out : string -> out_channel

Open the named file for writing, and return a new output channel on that file, positioned at the beginning of the file. The file is truncated to zero length if it already exists. It is created if it does not already exists.

val open_out_bin : string -> out_channel
Same as `open_out[22.2]`, but the file is opened in binary mode, so that no translation takes place during writes. On operating systems that do not distinguish between text mode and binary mode, this function behaves like `open_out[22.2]`.

```ml
val open_out_gen : open_flag list -> int -> string -> out_channel
open_out_gen mode perm filename opens the named file for writing, as described above. The extra argument `mode` specifies the opening mode. The extra argument `perm` specifies the file permissions, in case the file must be created. `open_out[22.2]` and `open_out_bin[22.2]` are special cases of this function.
```

```ml
val flush : out_channel -> unit
Flush the buffer associated with the given output channel, performing all pending writes on that channel. Interactive programs must be careful about flushing standard output and standard error at the right time.
```

```ml
val flush_all : unit -> unit
Flush all open output channels; ignore errors.
```

```ml
val output_char : out_channel -> char -> unit
Write the character on the given output channel.
```

```ml
val output_string : out_channel -> string -> unit
Write the string on the given output channel.
```

```ml
val output_bytes : out_channel -> bytes -> unit
Write the byte sequence on the given output channel.
Since: 4.02.0
```

```ml
val output : out_channel -> bytes -> int -> int -> unit
output oc buf pos len writes len characters from byte sequence buf, starting at offset pos, to the given output channel oc. Raise Invalid_argument "output" if pos and len do not designate a valid range of buf.
```

```ml
val output_substring : out_channel -> string -> int -> int -> unit
Same as `output` but take a string as argument instead of a byte sequence.
Since: 4.02.0
```

```ml
val output_byte : out_channel -> int -> unit
Write one 8-bit integer (as the single character with that code) on the given output channel. The given integer is taken modulo 256.
```

```ml
val output_binary_int : out_channel -> int -> unit
```
Write one integer in binary format (4 bytes, big-endian) on the given output channel. The given integer is taken modulo $2^{32}$. The only reliable way to read it back is through the `input_binary_int` function. The format is compatible across all machines for a given version of OCaml.

```ocaml
val output_value : out_channel -> 'a -> unit
```

Write the representation of a structured value of any type to a channel. Circularities and sharing inside the value are detected and preserved. The object can be read back, by the function `input_value`. See the description of module `Marshal` for more information. `output_value` is equivalent to `Marshal.to_channel` with an empty list of flags.

```ocaml
val seek_out : out_channel -> int -> unit

seek_out chan pos sets the current writing position to pos for channel chan. This works only for regular files. On files of other kinds (such as terminals, pipes and sockets), the behavior is unspecified.
```

```ocaml
val pos_out : out_channel -> int

Return the current writing position for the given channel. Does not work on channels opened with the `Open_append` flag (returns unspecified results).
```

```ocaml
val out_channel_length : out_channel -> int

Return the size (number of characters) of the regular file on which the given channel is opened. If the channel is opened on a file that is not a regular file, the result is meaningless.
```

```ocaml
val close_out : out_channel -> unit

Close the given channel, flushing all buffered write operations. Output functions raise a `Sys_error` exception when they are applied to a closed output channel, except `close_out` and `flush`, which do nothing when applied to an already closed channel. Note that `close_out` may raise `Sys_error` if the operating system signals an error when flushing or closing.
```

```ocaml
val close_out_noerr : out_channel -> unit

Same as `close_out`, but ignore all errors.
```

```ocaml
val set_binary_mode_out : out_channel -> bool -> unit

set_binary_mode_out oc true sets the channel oc to binary mode: no translations take place during output. set_binary_mode_out oc false sets the channel oc to text mode: depending on the operating system, some translations may take place during output. For instance, under Windows, end-of-lines will be translated from \n to \r\n. This function has no effect under operating systems that do not distinguish between text mode and binary mode.
```
General input functions

val open_in : string -> in_channel
  Open the named file for reading, and return a new input channel on that file, positioned at
  the beginning of the file.

val open_in_bin : string -> in_channel
  Same as open_in[22.2], but the file is opened in binary mode, so that no translation takes
  place during reads. On operating systems that do not distinguish between text mode and
  binary mode, this function behaves like open_in[22.2].

val open_in_gen : open_flag list -> int -> string -> in_channel
  open_in_gen mode perm filename opens the named file for reading, as described above.
  The extra arguments mode and perm specify the opening mode and file permissions.
  open_in[22.2] and open_in_bin[22.2] are special cases of this function.

val input_char : in_channel -> char
  Read one character from the given input channel. Raise End_of_file if there are no more
  characters to read.

val input_line : in_channel -> string
  Read characters from the given input channel, until a newline character is encountered.
  Return the string of all characters read, without the newline character at the end. Raise
  End_of_file if the end of the file is reached at the beginning of line.

val input : in_channel -> bytes -> int -> int -> int
  input ic buf pos len reads up to len characters from the given channel ic, storing them
  in byte sequence buf, starting at character number pos. It returns the actual number of
  characters read, between 0 and len (inclusive). A return value of 0 means that the end of
  file was reached. A return value between 0 and len exclusive means that not all requested
  len characters were read, either because no more characters were available at that time, or
  because the implementation found it convenient to do a partial read; input must be called
  again to read the remaining characters, if desired. (See also really_input[22.2] for reading
  exactly len characters.) Exception Invalid_argument "input" is raised if pos and len do
  not designate a valid range of buf.

val really_input : in_channel -> bytes -> int -> int -> unit
  really_input ic buf pos len reads len characters from channel ic, storing them in byte
  sequence buf, starting at character number pos. Raise End_of_file if the end of file is
  reached before len characters have been read. Raise Invalid_argument "really_input" if
  pos and len do not designate a valid range of buf.

val really_input_string : in_channel -> int -> string
really_input_string ic len reads len characters from channel ic and returns them in a new string. Raise End_of_file if the end of file is reached before len characters have been read.

Since: 4.02.0

val input_byte : in_channel -> int
Same as input_char[22.2], but return the 8-bit integer representing the character. Raise End_of_file if an end of file was reached.

val input_binary_int : in_channel -> int
Read an integer encoded in binary format (4 bytes, big-endian) from the given input channel. See output_binary_int[22.2]. Raise End_of_file if an end of file was reached while reading the integer.

val input_value : in_channel -> 'a
Read the representation of a structured value, as produced by output_value[22.2], and return the corresponding value. This function is identical to Marshal.from_channel[23.29]; see the description of module Marshal[23.29] for more information, in particular concerning the lack of type safety.

val seek_in : in_channel -> int -> unit
seek_in chan pos sets the current reading position to pos for channel chan. This works only for regular files. On files of other kinds, the behavior is unspecified.

val pos_in : in_channel -> int
Return the current reading position for the given channel.

val in_channel_length : in_channel -> int
Return the size (number of characters) of the regular file on which the given channel is opened. If the channel is opened on a file that is not a regular file, the result is meaningless. The returned size does not take into account the end-of-line translations that can be performed when reading from a channel opened in text mode.

val close_in : in_channel -> unit
Close the given channel. Input functions raise a Sys_error exception when they are applied to a closed input channel, except close_in, which does nothing when applied to an already closed channel.

val close_in_noerr : in_channel -> unit
Same as close_in, but ignore all errors.

val set_binary_mode_in : in_channel -> bool -> unit
set_binary_mode_in ic true sets the channel ic to binary mode: no translations take place during input. set_binary_mode_out ic false sets the channel ic to text mode: depending on the operating system, some translations may take place during input. For instance, under Windows, end-of-lines will be translated from \r\n to \n. This function has no effect under operating systems that do not distinguish between text mode and binary mode.

Operations on large files

module LargeFile :
  sig
    val seek_out : out_channel -> int64 -> unit
    val pos_out : out_channel -> int64
    val out_channel_length : out_channel -> int64
    val seek_in : in_channel -> int64 -> unit
    val pos_in : in_channel -> int64
    val in_channel_length : in_channel -> int64
  end

Operations on large files. This sub-module provides 64-bit variants of the channel functions that manipulate file positions and file sizes. By representing positions and sizes by 64-bit integers (type int64) instead of regular integers (type int), these alternate functions allow operating on files whose sizes are greater than max_int.

References

type 'a ref =
  { mutable contents : 'a ;
  }

  The type of references (mutable indirection cells) containing a value of type 'a.

val ref : 'a -> 'a ref
  Return a fresh reference containing the given value.

val (!) : 'a ref -> 'a
  \r returns the current contents of reference \r. Equivalent to fun \r -> \r.contents. Unary operator, see Ocaml_operators[23.53] for more information.

val (:=) : 'a ref -> 'a -> unit
  \r := \a stores the value of \a in reference \r. Equivalent to fun \r \a -> \r.contents <- \a. Right-associative operator, see Ocaml_operators[23.53] for more information.

val incr : int ref -> unit
Increment the integer contained in the given reference. Equivalent to \( \text{fun } r \rightarrow r := \text{succ} \ \!r \).

```ocaml
val decr : int ref -> unit
```
Decrement the integer contained in the given reference. Equivalent to \( \text{fun } r \rightarrow r := \text{pred} \ \!r \).

**Result type**

```ocaml
type ('a, 'b) result =
| Ok of 'a
| Error of 'b
```

Since: 4.03.0

**Operations on format strings**

Format strings are character strings with special lexical conventions that define the functionality of formatted input/output functions. Format strings are used to read data with formatted input functions from module `Scanf` and to print data with formatted output functions from modules `Printf` and `Format`.

Format strings are made of three kinds of entities:

- **conversions specifications**, introduced by the special character `'%'` followed by one or more characters specifying what kind of argument to read or print,
- **formatting indications**, introduced by the special character `'@'` followed by one or more characters specifying how to read or print the argument,
- **plain characters** that are regular characters with usual lexical conventions. Plain characters specify string literals to be read in the input or printed in the output.

There is an additional lexical rule to escape the special characters `'%'` and `'@'` in format strings: if a special character follows a `'%'` character, it is treated as a plain character. In other words, `"%"%"` is considered as a plain `'%'` and `"%@"` as a plain `'@'`.

For more information about conversion specifications and formatting indications available, read the documentation of modules `Scanf`, `Printf` and `Format`.

Format strings have a general and highly polymorphic type `(a, b, c, d, e, f) format6`. The two simplified types, `format` and `format4` below are included for backward compatibility with earlier releases of OCaml.

The meaning of format string type parameters is as follows:

- `'a` is the type of the parameters of the format for formatted output functions (printf-style functions); `'a` is the type of the values read by the format for formatted input functions (scanf-style functions).
• 'b is the type of input source for formatted input functions and the type of output target for formatted output functions. For printf-style functions from module Printf[23.36], 'b is typically out_channel; for printf-style functions from module Format[23.16], 'b is typically Format.formatter[23.16]; for scanf-style functions from module Scanf[23.40], 'b is typically Scanf.Scanning.in_channel[23.40].

Type argument 'b is also the type of the first argument given to user's defined printing functions for %a and %t conversions, and user's defined reading functions for %r conversion.

• 'c is the type of the result of the %a and %t printing functions, and also the type of the argument transmitted to the first argument of kprintf-style functions or to the kscanf-style functions.

• 'd is the type of parameters for the scanf-style functions.

• 'e is the type of the receiver function for the scanf-style functions.

• 'f is the final result type of a formatted input/output function invocation: for the printf-style functions, it is typically unit; for the scanf-style functions, it is typically the result type of the receiver function.

```
type ('a, 'b, 'c, 'd, 'e, 'f) format6 = ('a, 'b, 'c, 'd, 'e, 'f) CamlinternalFormatBasics.format6
```

```
type ('a, 'b, 'c, 'd) format4 = ('a, 'b, 'c, 'c, 'd) format6
```

```
type ('a, 'b, 'c) format = ('a, 'b, 'c, 'c) format4
```

```
val string_of_format : ('a, 'b, 'c, 'd, 'e, 'f) format6 -> string
```

Converts a format string into a string.

```
val format_of_string : ('a, 'b, 'c, 'd, 'e, 'f) format6 ->
                    ('a, 'b, 'c, 'd, 'e, 'f) format6
```

format_of_string s returns a format string read from the string literal s. Note:
format_of_string can not convert a string argument that is not a literal. If you need this
functionality, use the more general Scanf.format_from_string[23.40] function.

```
val (^^) :
                    ('a, 'b, 'c, 'd, 'e, 'f) format6 ->
                    ('f, 'b, 'c, 'e, 'g, 'h) format6 ->
                    ('a, 'b, 'c, 'd, 'g, 'h) format6
```

f1 ^^ f2 catenates format strings f1 and f2. The result is a format string that behaves as
the concatenation of format strings f1 and f2: in case of formatted output, it accepts
arguments from f1, then arguments from f2; in case of formatted input, it returns results
from f1, then results from f2. Right-associative operator, see Ocaml_operators[23.53] for
more information.
Program termination

val exit : int -> 'a

   Terminate the process, returning the given status code to the operating system: usually 0 to
   indicate no errors, and a small positive integer to indicate failure. All open output channels
   are flushed with flush_all. An implicit exit 0 is performed each time a program
   terminates normally. An implicit exit 2 is performed if the program terminates early
   because of an uncaught exception.

val at_exit : (unit -> unit) -> unit

   Register the given function to be called at program termination time. The functions
   registered with at_exit will be called when the program does any of the following:
   
   • executes exit[22.2]
   • terminates, either normally or because of an uncaught exception
   • executes the C function caml_shutdown. The functions are called in 'last in, first out'
     order: the function most recently added with at_exit is called first.

Standard library modules

module Arg :
   Arg
module Array :
   Array
module ArrayLabels :
   ArrayLabels
module Bigarray :
   Bigarray
module Bool :
   Bool
module Buffer :
   Buffer
module Bytes :
   Bytes
module BytesLabels :
   BytesLabels
module Callback :
   Callback
module Char :
   Char
module Complex :
   Complex
module Digest :
    Digest
module Ephemeron :
    Ephemeron
module Filename :
    Filename
module Float :
    Float
module Format :
    Format
module Fun :
    Fun
module Gc :
    Gc
module Genlex :
    Genlex
module Hashtbl :
    Hashtbl
module Int :
    Int
module Int32 :
    Int32
module Int64 :
    Int64
module Lazy :
    Lazy
module Lexing :
    Lexing
module List :
    List
module ListLabels :
    ListLabels
module Map :
    Map
module Marshal :
    Marshal
module MoreLabels :
    MoreLabels
module Nativeint :
    Nativeint
module Obj :
module Oo :
   Oo
module Option :
   Option
module Parsing :
   Parsing
module Pervasives :
   Pervasives
module Printexc :
   Printexc
module Printf :
   Printf
module Queue :
   Queue
module Random :
   Random
module Result :
   Result
module Scanf :
   Scanf
module Seq :
   Seq
module Set :
   Set
module Spacetime :
   Spacetime
module Stack :
   Stack
module StdLabels :
   StdLabels
module Stream :
   Stream
module String :
   String
module StringLabels :
   StringLabels
module Sys :
   Sys
module Uchar :
   Uchar
module Unit :
  Unit
module Weak :
  Weak
Chapter 23

The standard library

This chapter describes the functions provided by the OCaml standard library. The modules from the standard library are automatically linked with the user’s object code files by the ocamlc command. Hence, these modules can be used in standalone programs without having to add any .cmo file on the command line for the linking phase. Similarly, in interactive use, these globals can be used in toplevel phrases without having to load any .cmo file in memory.

Unlike the Pervasives module from the core library, the modules from the standard library are not automatically “opened” when a compilation starts, or when the toplevel system is launched. Hence it is necessary to use qualified identifiers to refer to the functions provided by these modules, or to add open directives.

Conventions

For easy reference, the modules are listed below in alphabetical order of module names. For each module, the declarations from its signature are printed one by one in typewriter font, followed by a short comment. All modules and the identifiers they export are indexed at the end of this report.

Overview

Here is a short listing, by theme, of the standard library modules.
Data structures:
- String p. 644 string operations
- Bytes p. 468 operations on byte sequences
- Array p. 433 array operations
- List p. 572 list operations
- StdLabels p. 642 labelized versions of the above 4 modules
- Unit p. 663 unit values
- Bool p. 462 boolean values
- Char p. 488 character operations
- Uchar p. 662 Unicode characters
- Int p. 558 integer values
- Option p. 604 option values
- Result p. 620 result values
- Hashtbl p. 548 hash tables and hash functions
- Random p. 618 pseudo-random number generator
- Set p. 633 sets over ordered types
- Map p. 585 association tables over ordered types
- MoreLabels p. 594 labeled versions of Hashtbl, Set, and Map
- Oo p. 604 useful functions on objects
- Stack p. 640 last-in first-out stacks
- Queue p. 616 first-in first-out queues
- Buffer p. 463 buffers that grow on demand
- Seq p. 632 functional iterators
- Lazy p. 568 delayed evaluation
- Weak p. 664 references that don’t prevent objects from being garbage-collected
- Ephemeron p. 492 ephemerons and weak hash tables
- Bigarray p. 443 large, multi-dimensional, numerical arrays

Arithmetic:
- Complex p. 489 Complex numbers
- Float p. 503 Floating-point numbers
- Int32 p. 560 operations on 32-bit integers
- Int64 p. 564 operations on 64-bit integers
- Nativeint p. 600 operations on platform-native integers

Input/output:
- Format p. 516 pretty printing with automatic indentation and line breaking
- Marshal p. 591 marshaling of data structures
- Printf p. 613 formatting printing functions
- Scanf p. 622 formatted input functions
- Digest p. 491 MD5 message digest
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Parsing:

- **Genlex** p. 547, a generic lexer over streams
- **Lexing** p. 569, the run-time library for lexers generated by `ocamllex`
- **Parsing** p. 606, the run-time library for parsers generated by `ocamlyacc`
- **Stream** p. 642, basic functions over streams

System interface:

- **Arg** p. 429, parsing of command line arguments
- **Callback** p. 488, registering OCaml functions to be called from C
- **Filename** p. 500, operations on file names
- **Gc** p. 540, memory management control and statistics
- **Printexc** p. 607, a catch-all exception handler
- **Spacetime** p. 639, memory profiler
- **Sys** p. 655, system interface

Misc:

- **Fun** p. 539, function values

### 23.1 Module Arg: Parsing of command line arguments.

This module provides a general mechanism for extracting options and arguments from the command line to the program.

Syntax of command lines: A keyword is a character string starting with a `-`. An option is a keyword alone or followed by an argument. The types of keywords are: `Unit`, `Bool`, `Set`, `Clear`, `String`, `Set_string`, `Int`, `Set_int`, `Float`, `Set_float`, `Tuple`, `Symbol`, and `Rest`. `Unit`, `Set` and `Clear` keywords take no argument. A `Rest` keyword takes the remaining of the command line as arguments. Every other keyword takes the following word on the command line as argument. For compatibility with GNU `getopt_long`, `keyword=arg` is also allowed. Arguments not preceded by a keyword are called anonymous arguments.

Examples (cmd is assumed to be the command name):

- **cmd** `-flag` (a unit option)
- **cmd** `-int 1` (an int option with argument 1)
- **cmd** `-string foobar` (a string option with argument "foobar")
- **cmd** `-float 12.34` (a float option with argument 12.34)
- **cmd** `a b c` (three anonymous arguments: "a", "b", and "c")
- **cmd** `a b - c d` (two anonymous arguments and a rest option with two arguments)

```ocaml
type spec =
  | Unit of (unit -> unit)
```
Call the function with unit argument
| Bool of (bool -> unit)
    Call the function with a bool argument
| Set of bool ref
    Set the reference to true
| Clear of bool ref
    Set the reference to false
| String of (string -> unit)
    Call the function with a string argument
| Set_string of string ref
    Set the reference to the string argument
| Int of (int -> unit)
    Call the function with an int argument
| Set_int of int ref
    Set the reference to the int argument
| Float of (float -> unit)
    Call the function with a float argument
| Set_float of float ref
    Set the reference to the float argument
| Tuple of spec list
    Take several arguments according to the spec list
| Symbol of string list * (string -> unit)
    Take one of the symbols as argument and call the function with the symbol
| Rest of (string -> unit)
    Stop interpreting keywords and call the function with each remaining argument
| Expand of (string -> string array)
    If the remaining arguments to process are of the form ["-foo"; "arg"] @ rest
    where "foo" is registered as Expand f, then the arguments f "arg" @ rest are
    processed. Only allowed in parse_and_expand_argv_dynamic.

The concrete type describing the behavior associated with a keyword.

``` Ocaml
type key = string
type doc = string
type usage_msg = string
type anon_fun = string -> unit
val parse : (key * spec * doc) list -> anon_fun -> usage_msg -> unit
```
Arg.parse speclist anon_fun usage_msg parses the command line. speclist is a list of triples (key, spec, doc). key is the option keyword, it must start with a '‐' character. spec gives the option type and the function to call when this option is found on the command line. doc is a one-line description of this option. anon_fun is called on anonymous arguments. The functions in spec and anon_fun are called in the same order as their arguments appear on the command line.

If an error occurs, Arg.parse exits the program, after printing to standard error an error message as follows:

- The reason for the error: unknown option, invalid or missing argument, etc.
- usage_msg
- The list of options, each followed by the corresponding doc string. Beware: options that have an empty doc string will not be included in the list.

For the user to be able to specify anonymous arguments starting with a ‐, include for example ("‐", String anon_fun, doc) in speclist.

By default, parse recognizes two unit options, −help and −help, which will print to standard output usage_msg and the list of options, and exit the program. You can override this behaviour by specifying your own −help and −help options in speclist.

val parse_dynamic : 
(key * spec * doc) list ref ->
anon_fun -> usage_msg -> unit
    Same as Arg.parse[23.1], except that the speclist argument is a reference and may be updated during the parsing. A typical use for this feature is to parse command lines of the form:
- command subcommand options where the list of options depends on the value of the subcommand argument.

Since: 4.01.0

val parse_argv : 
?current:int ref ->
string array ->
(key * spec * doc) list -> anon_fun -> usage_msg -> unit
    Arg.parse_argv ~current args speclist anon_fun usage_msg parses the array args as if it were the command line. It uses and updates the value of ~current (if given), or Arg.current[23.1]. You must set it before calling parse_argv. The initial value of current is the index of the program name (argument 0) in the array. If an error occurs, Arg.parse_argv raises Arg.Bad[23.1] with the error message as argument. If option −help or −help is given, Arg.parse_argv raises Arg.Help[23.1] with the help message as argument.

val parse_argv_dynamic :
Same as Arg.parse_argv[23.1], except that the speclist argument is a reference and may be updated during the parsing. See Arg.parse_dynamic[23.1].

Since: 4.01.0

val parse_and_expand_argv_dynamic : int ref -> string array ref -> (key * spec * doc) list ref -> anon_fun -> string -> unit
Same as Arg.parse_argv_dynamic[23.1], except that the argv argument is a reference and may be updated during the parsing of Expand arguments. See Arg.parse_argv_dynamic[23.1].
Since: 4.05.0

val parse_expand : (key * spec * doc) list -> anon_fun -> usage_msg -> unit
Same as Arg.parse[23.1], except that the Expand arguments are allowed and the Arg.current[23.1] reference is not updated.
Since: 4.05.0

exception Help of string
Raised by Arg.parse_argv when the user asks for help.

exception Bad of string
Functions in spec or anon_fun can raise Arg.Bad with an error message to reject invalid arguments. Arg.Bad is also raised by Arg.parse_argv[23.1] in case of an error.

val usage : (key * spec * doc) list -> usage_msg -> unit
Arg.usage speclist usage_msg prints to standard error an error message that includes the list of valid options. This is the same message that Arg.parse[23.1] prints in case of error. speclist and usage_msg are the same as for Arg.parse[23.1].

val usage_string : (key * spec * doc) list -> usage_msg -> string
Returns the message that would have been printed by Arg.usage[23.1], if provided with the same parameters.

val align :
?limit:int -> (key * spec * doc) list -> (key * spec * doc) list
Align the documentation strings by inserting spaces at the first alignment separator (tab or, if tab is not found, space), according to the length of the keyword. Use a alignment separator as the first character in a doc string if you want to align the whole string. The doc strings corresponding to Symbol arguments are aligned on the next line.

val current : int ref
Position (in Sys.argv[23.49]) of the argument being processed. You can change this value, e.g. to force Arg.parse[23.1] to skip some arguments. Arg.parse[23.1] uses the initial value of Arg.current[23.1] as the index of argument 0 (the program name) and starts parsing arguments at the next element.

val read_arg : string -> string array
Arg.read_arg file reads newline-terminated command line arguments from file file.
Since: 4.05.0

val read_arg0 : string -> string array
Identical to Arg.read_arg[23.1] but assumes null character terminated command line arguments.
Since: 4.05.0

val write_arg : string -> string array -> unit
Arg.write_arg file args writes the arguments args newline-terminated into the file file. If the any of the arguments in args contains a newline, use Arg.write_arg0[23.1] instead.
Since: 4.05.0

val write_arg0 : string -> string array -> unit
Identical to Arg.write_arg[23.1] but uses the null character for terminator instead of newline.
Since: 4.05.0

23.2 Module Array

type 'a t = 'a array
An alias for the type of arrays.

Array operations.
val length : 'a array -> int
Return the length (number of elements) of the given array.

val get : 'a array -> int -> 'a
Array.get a n returns the element number n of array a. The first element has number 0. The last element has number Array.length a - 1. You can also write a.(n) instead of Array.get a n.

Raise Invalid_argument if n is outside the range 0 to (Array.length a - 1).

val set : 'a array -> int -> 'a -> unit
Array.set a n x modifies array a in place, replacing element number n with x. You can also write a.(n) <- x instead of Array.set a n x.

Raise Invalid_argument if n is outside the range 0 to Array.length a - 1.

val make : int -> 'a -> 'a array
Array.make n x returns a fresh array of length n, initialized with x. All the elements of this new array are initially physically equal to x (in the sense of the == predicate). Consequently, if x is mutable, it is shared among all elements of the array, and modifying x through one of the array entries will modify all other entries at the same time.

Raise Invalid_argument if n < 0 or n > Sys.max_array_length. If the value of x is a floating-point number, then the maximum size is only Sys.max_array_length / 2.

val create : int -> 'a -> 'a array
Deprecated. Array.create is an alias for Array.make[23.2].

val create_float : int -> float array
Array.create_float n returns a fresh float array of length n, with uninitialized data.
Since: 4.03

val make_float : int -> float array
Deprecated. Array.make_float is an alias for Array.create_float[23.2].

val init : int -> (int -> 'a) -> 'a array
Array.init n f returns a fresh array of length n, with element number i initialized to the result of f i. In other terms, Array.init n f tabulates the results of f applied to the integers 0 to n-1.

Raise Invalid_argument if n < 0 or n > Sys.max_array_length. If the return type of f is float, then the maximum size is only Sys.max_array_length / 2.

val make_matrix : int -> int -> 'a -> 'a array array
Array.make_matrix dimx dimy e returns a two-dimensional array (an array of arrays) with first dimension dimx and second dimension dimy. All the elements of this new matrix are initially physically equal to e. The element (x,y) of a matrix m is accessed with the notation m.(x).(y).

Raise Invalid_argument if dimx or dimy is negative or greater than Sys.max_array_length[23.49]. If the value of e is a floating-point number, then the maximum size is only Sys.max_array_length / 2.
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val create_matrix : int -> int -> 'a -> 'a array array

Deprecated. Array.create_matrix is an alias for Array.make_matrix[23.2].

val append : 'a array -> 'a array -> 'a array

Array.append v1 v2 returns a fresh array containing the concatenation of the arrays v1 and v2.

Raise Invalid_argument if Array.length v1 + Array.length v2 > Sys.max_array_length.

val concat : 'a array list -> 'a array

Same as Array.append[23.2], but concatenates a list of arrays.

val sub : 'a array -> int -> int -> 'a array

Array.sub a start len returns a fresh array of length len, containing the elements number start to start + len - 1 of array a.

Raise Invalid_argument if start and len do not designate a valid subarray of a; that is, if start < 0, or len < 0, or start + len > Array.length a.

val copy : 'a array -> 'a array

Array.copy a returns a copy of a, that is, a fresh array containing the same elements as a.

val fill : 'a array -> int -> int -> 'a -> unit

Array.fill a ofs len x modifies the array a in place, storing x in elements number ofs to ofs + len - 1.

Raise Invalid_argument if ofs and len do not designate a valid subarray of a.

val blit : 'a array -> int -> 'a array -> int -> int -> unit

Array.blit v1 o1 v2 o2 len copies len elements from array v1, starting at element number o1, to array v2, starting at element number o2. It works correctly even if v1 and v2 are the same array, and the source and destination chunks overlap.

Raise Invalid_argument if o1 and len do not designate a valid subarray of v1, or if o2 and len do not designate a valid subarray of v2.

val to_list : 'a array -> 'a list

Array.to_list a returns the list of all the elements of a.

val of_list : 'a list -> 'a array

Array.of_list l returns a fresh array containing the elements of l.

Raise Invalid_argument if the length of l is greater than Sys.max_array_length.
Iterators

val iter : ('a -> unit) -> 'a array -> unit

_array.iter f a applies function f in turn to all the elements of a. It is equivalent to f
a.(0); f a.(1); ...; f a.(Array.length a - 1); ()..

val iteri : (int -> 'a -> unit) -> 'a array -> unit

Same as _array.iter, but the function is applied with the index of the element as first
argument, and the element itself as second argument.

val map : ('a -> 'b) -> 'a array -> 'b array

_array.map f a applies function f to all the elements of a, and builds an array with the
results returned by f: [| f a.(0); f a.(1); ...; f a.(Array.length a - 1) |].

val mapi : (int -> 'a -> 'b) -> 'a array -> 'b array

Same as _array.map, but the function is applied to the index of the element as first
argument, and the element itself as second argument.

val fold_left : ('a -> 'b -> 'a) -> 'a -> 'b array -> 'a

_array.fold_left f x a computes f (... (f (f x a.(0)) a.(1)) ...) a.(n-1),
where n is the length of the array a.

val fold_right : ('b -> 'a -> 'a) -> 'b array -> 'a -> 'a

_array.fold_right f a x computes f x (f a.(0) (f a.(1) (... (f a.(n-1) x) ...)),
where n is the length of the array a.

Iterators on two arrays

val iter2 : ('a -> 'b -> unit) -> 'a array -> 'b array -> unit

_array.iter2 f a b applies function f to all the elements of a and b. Raise
Invalid_argument if the arrays are not the same size.

Since: 4.03.0

val map2 : ('a -> 'b -> 'c) -> 'a array -> 'b array -> 'c array

_array.map2 f a b applies function f to all the elements of a and b, and builds an array
with the results returned by f: [| f a.(0) b.(0); ...; f a.(Array.length a - 1)
b.(Array.length b - 1) |]. Raise Invalid_argument if the arrays are not the same size.

Since: 4.03.0
Array scanning

val for_all : ('a -> bool) -> 'a array -> bool

Array.for_all p [a1; ...; an] checks if all elements of the array satisfy the predicate p. That is, it returns \((p \ a1) \&\& (p \ a2) \&\& ... \&\& (p \ an)\).

Since: 4.03.0

val exists : ('a -> bool) -> 'a array -> bool

Array.exists p [a1; ...; an] checks if at least one element of the array satisfies the predicate p. That is, it returns \((p \ a1) || (p \ a2) || ... || (p \ an)\).

Since: 4.03.0

val mem : 'a -> 'a array -> bool

mem a l is true if and only if a is structurally equal to an element of l (i.e. there is an x in l such that compare a x = 0).

Since: 4.03.0

val memq : 'a -> 'a array -> bool

Same as Array.mem[23.2], but uses physical equality instead of structural equality to compare elements.

Since: 4.03.0

Sorting

val sort : ('a -> 'a -> int) -> 'a array -> unit

Sort an array in increasing order according to a comparison function. The comparison function must return 0 if its arguments compare as equal, a positive integer if the first is greater, and a negative integer if the first is smaller (see below for a complete specification). For example, compare[22.2] is a suitable comparison function. After calling Array.sort, the array is sorted in place in increasing order. Array.sort is guaranteed to run in constant heap space and (at most) logarithmic stack space.

The current implementation uses Heap Sort. It runs in constant stack space.

Specification of the comparison function: Let a be the array and cmp the comparison function. The following must be true for all x, y, z in a:

- \(cmp \ x \ y > 0\) if and only if \(cmp \ y \ x < 0\)
- if \(cmp \ x \ y \geq 0\) and \(cmp \ y \ z \geq 0\) then \(cmp \ x \ z \geq 0\)

When Array.sort returns, a contains the same elements as before, reordered in such a way that for all i and j valid indices of a:

- \(cmp \ a.(i) \ a.(j) \geq 0\) if and only if \(i \geq j\)
val stable_sort : ('a -> 'a -> int) -> 'a array -> unit
  Same as Array.sort[23.2], but the sorting algorithm is stable (i.e. elements that compare
equal are kept in their original order) and not guaranteed to run in constant heap space.
The current implementation uses Merge Sort. It uses a temporary array of length \(n/2\),
where \(n\) is the length of the array. It is usually faster than the current implementation of
Array.sort[23.2].

val fast_sort : ('a -> 'a -> int) -> 'a array -> unit
  Same as Array.sort[23.2] or Array.stable_sort[23.2], whichever is faster on typical input.

Iterators

val to_seq : 'a array -> 'a Seq.t
  Iterate on the array, in increasing order. Modifications of the array during iteration will be
  reflected in the iterator.
  Since: 4.07

val to_seqi : 'a array -> (int * 'a) Seq.t
  Iterate on the array, in increasing order, yielding indices along elements. Modifications of
  the array during iteration will be reflected in the iterator.
  Since: 4.07

val of_seq : 'a Seq.t -> 'a array
  Create an array from the generator
  Since: 4.07

23.3 Module ArrayLabels

type 'a t = 'a array
  An alias for the type of arrays.

Array operations.

val length : 'a array -> int
  Return the length (number of elements) of the given array.

val get : 'a array -> int -> 'a
  Array.get a n returns the element number \(n\) of array \(a\). The first element has number 0.
The last element has number Array.length a - 1. You can also write \(a.(n)\) instead of
Array.get a n.
  Raise Invalid_argument "index out of bounds" if \(n\) is outside the range 0 to
(Array.length a - 1).
val set : 'a array -> int -> 'a -> unit
  Array.set a n x modifies array a in place, replacing element number n with x. You can also write a.(n) <- x instead of Array.set a n x.
  Raise Invalid_argument "index out of bounds" if n is outside the range 0 to Array.length a - 1.

val make : int -> 'a -> 'a array
  Array.make n x returns a fresh array of length n, initialized with x. All the elements of this new array are initially physically equal to x (in the sense of the == predicate). Consequently, if x is mutable, it is shared among all elements of the array, and modifying x through one of the array entries will modify all other entries at the same time.
  Raise Invalid_argument if n < 0 or n > Sys.max_array_length. If the value of x is a floating-point number, then the maximum size is only Sys.max_array_length / 2.

val create : int -> 'a -> 'a array
  Deprecated. Array.create is an alias for Array.make[23.2].

val init : int -> f:(int -> 'a) -> 'a array
  Array.init n f returns a fresh array of length n, with element number i initialized to the result of f i. In other terms, Array.init n f tabulates the results of f applied to the integers 0 to n-1.
  Raise Invalid_argument if n < 0 or n > Sys.max_array_length. If the return type of f is float, then the maximum size is only Sys.max_array_length / 2.

val make_matrix : dimx:int -> dimy:int -> 'a -> 'a array array
  Array.make_matrix dimx dimy e returns a two-dimensional array (an array of arrays) with first dimension dimx and second dimension dimy. All the elements of this new matrix are initially physically equal to e. The element (x,y) of a matrix m is accessed with the notation m.(x).(y).
  Raise Invalid_argument if dimx or dimy is negative or greater than Sys.max_array_length[23.49]. If the value of e is a floating-point number, then the maximum size is only Sys.max_array_length / 2.

val create_matrix : dimx:int -> dimy:int -> 'a -> 'a array array
  Deprecated. Array.create_matrix is an alias for Array.make_matrix[23.2].

val append : 'a array -> 'a array -> 'a array
  Array.append v1 v2 returns a fresh array containing the concatenation of the arrays v1 and v2.

val concat : 'a array list -> 'a array
  Same as Array.append[23.2], but concatenates a list of arrays.

val sub : 'a array -> pos:int -> len:int -> 'a array
Array.sub a start len returns a fresh array of length len, containing the elements number start to start + len - 1 of array a.

Raise Invalid_argument "Array.sub" if start and len do not designate a valid subarray of a; that is, if start < 0, or len < 0, or start + len > Array.length a.

val copy : 'a array -> 'a array
    Array.copy a returns a copy of a, that is, a fresh array containing the same elements as a.

val fill : 'a array -> pos:int -> len:int -> 'a -> unit
    Array.fill a ofs len x modifies the array a in place, storing x in elements number ofs to ofs + len - 1.
    Raise Invalid_argument "Array.fill" if ofs and len do not designate a valid subarray of a.

val blit :
    src:'a array -> src_pos:int -> dst:'a array -> dst_pos:int -> len:int -> unit
    Array.blit v1 o1 v2 o2 len copies len elements from array v1, starting at element number o1, to array v2, starting at element number o2. It works correctly even if v1 and v2 are the same array, and the source and destination chunks overlap.
    Raise Invalid_argument "Array.blit" if o1 and len do not designate a valid subarray of v1, or if o2 and len do not designate a valid subarray of v2.

val to_list : 'a array -> 'a list
    Array.to_list a returns the list of all the elements of a.

val of_list : 'a list -> 'a array
    Array.of_list l returns a fresh array containing the elements of l.

val iter : f:('a -> unit) -> 'a array -> unit
    Array.iter f a applies function f in turn to all the elements of a. It is equivalent to f a.(0); f a.(1); ...; f a.(Array.length a - 1); ()

val map : f:('a -> 'b) -> 'a array -> 'b array
    Array.map f a applies function f to all the elements of a, and builds an array with the results returned by f: [| f a.(0); f a.(1); ...; f a.(Array.length a - 1) |].

val iteri : f:(int -> 'a -> unit) -> 'a array -> unit
    Same as Array.iter[23.2], but the function is applied to the index of the element as first argument, and the element itself as second argument.

val mapi : f:(int -> 'a -> 'b) -> 'a array -> 'b array
    Same as Array.map[23.2], but the function is applied to the index of the element as first argument, and the element itself as second argument.
val `fold_left` : f:('a -> 'b -> 'a) -> init:'a -> 'b array -> 'a

Array.fold_left f x a computes f (\ldots (f (f x a.0) a.1) \ldots) a.(n-1), where n is the length of the array a.

val `fold_right` : f:('b -> 'a -> 'a) -> init:'a -> 'b array -> 'a

Array.fold_right f a x computes f a.0 (f a.1 (\ldots (f a.(n-1) x) \ldots)), where n is the length of the array a.

Iterators on two arrays

val `iter2` : f:('a -> 'b -> unit) -> 'a array -> 'b array -> unit

Array.iter2 f a b applies function f to all the elements of a and b. Raise Invalid_argument if the arrays are not the same size.

Since: 4.05.0

val `map2` : f:('a -> 'b -> 'c) -> 'a array -> 'b array -> 'c array

Array.map2 f a b applies function f to all the elements of a and b, and builds an array with the results returned by f: [| f a.0 b.0; \ldots; f a.(Array.length a - 1) b.(Array.length b - 1)|]. Raise Invalid_argument if the arrays are not the same size.

Since: 4.05.0

Array scanning

val `exists` : f:('a -> bool) -> 'a array -> bool

Array.exists p [|a1; \ldots; an|] checks if at least one element of the array satisfies the predicate p. That is, it returns (p a1) || (p a2) || \ldots || (p an).

Since: 4.03.0

val `for_all` : f:('a -> bool) -> 'a array -> bool

Array.for_all p [|a1; \ldots; an|] checks if all elements of the array satisfy the predicate p. That is, it returns (p a1) && (p a2) && \ldots && (p an).

Since: 4.03.0

val `mem` : 'a -> set:'a array -> bool

mem x a is true if and only if x is equal to an element of a.

Since: 4.03.0

val `memq` : 'a -> set:'a array -> bool

Same as Array.mem[23.2], but uses physical equality instead of structural equality to compare list elements.

Since: 4.03.0
val create_float : int -> float array

Array.create_float n returns a fresh float array of length n, with uninitialized data.

Since: 4.03

val make_float : int -> float array

Deprecated. Array.make_float is an alias for Array.create_float[23.2].

Sorting

val sort : cmp:('a -> 'a -> int) -> 'a array -> unit

Sort an array in increasing order according to a comparison function. The comparison function must return 0 if its arguments compare as equal, a positive integer if the first is greater, and a negative integer if the first is smaller (see below for a complete specification). For example, compare[22.2] is a suitable comparison function, provided there are no floating-point NaN values in the data. After calling Array.sort, the array is sorted in place in increasing order. Array.sort is guaranteed to run in constant heap space and (at most) logarithmic stack space.

The current implementation uses Heap Sort. It runs in constant stack space.

Specification of the comparison function: Let a be the array and cmp the comparison function. The following must be true for all x, y, z in a:

- \( \text{cmp } x \ y > 0 \) if and only if \( \text{cmp } y \ x < 0 \)
- if \( \text{cmp } x \ y \geq 0 \) and \( \text{cmp } y \ z \geq 0 \) then \( \text{cmp } x \ z \geq 0 \)

When Array.sort returns, a contains the same elements as before, reordered in such a way that for all i and j valid indices of a:

- \( \text{cmp } a \ (i) \ a \ (j) \geq 0 \) if and only if \( i \geq j \)

val stable_sort : cmp:('a -> 'a -> int) -> 'a array -> unit

Same as Array.sort[23.2], but the sorting algorithm is stable (i.e. elements that compare equal are kept in their original order) and not guaranteed to run in constant heap space.

The current implementation uses Merge Sort. It uses \( n/2 \) words of heap space, where \( n \) is the length of the array. It is usually faster than the current implementation of Array.sort[23.2].

val fast_sort : cmp:('a -> 'a -> int) -> 'a array -> unit

Same as Array.sort[23.2] or Array.stable_sort[23.2], whichever is faster on typical input.
Iterators

val to_seq : 'a array -> 'a Seq.t
  Iterate on the array, in increasing order
  Since: 4.07

val to_seqi : 'a array -> (int * 'a) Seq.t
  Iterate on the array, in increasing order, yielding indices along elements
  Since: 4.07

val of_seq : 'a Seq.t -> 'a array
  Create an array from the generator
  Since: 4.07

23.4 Module Bigarray: Large, multi-dimensional, numerical arrays.

This module implements multi-dimensional arrays of integers and floating-point numbers, thereafter referred to as 'Bigarrays', to distinguish them from the standard OCaml arrays described in Array[23.2].

The implementation allows efficient sharing of large numerical arrays between OCaml code and C or Fortran numerical libraries.

The main differences between 'Bigarrays' and standard OCaml arrays are as follows:

- Bigarrays are not limited in size, unlike OCaml arrays. (Normal float arrays are limited to 2,097,151 elements on a 32-bit platform, and normal arrays of other types to 4,194,303 elements.)

- Bigarrays are multi-dimensional. Any number of dimensions between 0 and 16 is supported. In contrast, OCaml arrays are mono-dimensional and require encoding multi-dimensional arrays as arrays of arrays.

- Bigarrays can only contain integers and floating-point numbers, while OCaml arrays can contain arbitrary OCaml data types.

- Bigarrays provide more space-efficient storage of integer and floating-point elements than normal OCaml arrays, in particular because they support 'small' types such as single-precision floats and 8 and 16-bit integers, in addition to the standard OCaml types of double-precision floats and 32 and 64-bit integers.

- The memory layout of Bigarrays is entirely compatible with that of arrays in C and Fortran, allowing large arrays to be passed back and forth between OCaml code and C / Fortran code with no data copying at all.
• Bigarrays support interesting high-level operations that normal arrays do not provide efficiently, such as extracting sub-arrays and 'slicing' a multi-dimensional array along certain dimensions, all without any copying.

Users of this module are encouraged to do open Bigarray in their source, then refer to array types and operations via short dot notation, e.g. Array1.t or Array2.sub. Bigarrays support all the OCaml ad-hoc polymorphic operations:

• comparisons (=, <>, <=, etc, as well as compare[22.2]);
• hashing (module Hash);
• and structured input-output (the functions from the Marshal[23.29] module, as well as output_value[22.2] and input_value[22.2]).

Element kinds
Bigarrays can contain elements of the following kinds:

• IEEE single precision (32 bits) floating-point numbers (Bigarray.float32_elt[23.4]),
• IEEE double precision (64 bits) floating-point numbers (Bigarray.float64_elt[23.4]),
• IEEE single precision (2 * 32 bits) floating-point complex numbers (Bigarray.complex32_elt[23.4]),
• IEEE double precision (2 * 64 bits) floating-point complex numbers (Bigarray.complex64_elt[23.4]),
• 8-bit integers (signed or unsigned) (Bigarray.int8_signed_elt[23.4] or Bigarray.int8_unsigned_elt[23.4]),
• 16-bit integers (signed or unsigned) (Bigarray.int16_signed_elt[23.4] or Bigarray.int16_unsigned_elt[23.4]),
• OCaml integers (signed, 31 bits on 32-bit architectures, 63 bits on 64-bit architectures) (Bigarray.int_elt[23.4]),
• 32-bit signed integers (Bigarray.int32_elt[23.4]),
• 64-bit signed integers (Bigarray.int64_elt[23.4]),
• platform-native signed integers (32 bits on 32-bit architectures, 64 bits on 64-bit architectures) (Bigarray.nativeint_elt[23.4]).

Each element kind is represented at the type level by one of the *_elt types defined below (defined with a single constructor instead of abstract types for technical injectivity reasons).

type float32_elt =
  | Float32_elt

type float64_elt =
  | Float64_elt

type int8_signed_elt =
  | Int8_signed_elt
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```ocaml
type int8_unsigned_elt =
  | Int8_unsigned_elt

type int16_signed_elt =
  | Int16_signed_elt

type int16_unsigned_elt =
  | Int16_unsigned_elt

type int32_elt =
  | Int32_elt

type int64_elt =
  | Int64_elt

type int_elt =
  | Int_elt

type nativeint_elt =
  | Nativeint_elt

type complex32_elt =
  | Complex32_elt

type complex64_elt =
  | Complex64_elt

type ('a, 'b) kind =
  | Float32 : (float, float32_elt) kind
  | Float64 : (float, float64_elt) kind
  | Int8_signed : (int, int8_signed_elt) kind
  | Int8_unsigned : (int, int8_unsigned_elt) kind
  | Int16_signed : (int, int16_signed_elt) kind
  | Int16_unsigned : (int, int16_unsigned_elt) kind
  | Int32 : (int32, int32_elt) kind
  | Int64 : (int64, int64_elt) kind
  | Int : (int, int_elt) kind
  | Nativeint : (nativeint, nativeint_elt) kind
  | Complex32 : (Complex.t, complex32_elt) kind
  | Complex64 : (Complex.t, complex64_elt) kind
  | Char : (char, int8_unsigned_elt) kind
```

To each element kind is associated an OCaml type, which is the type of OCaml values that can be stored in the Bigarray or read back from it. This type is not necessarily the same as the type of the array elements proper: for instance, a Bigarray whose elements are of kind float32_elt contains 32-bit single precision floats, but reading or writing one of its elements from OCaml uses the OCaml type float, which is 64-bit double precision floats.

The GADT type ('a, 'b) kind captures this association of an OCaml type 'a for values read or written in the Bigarray, and of an element kind 'b which represents the actual contents of the Bigarray. Its constructors list all possible associations of OCaml types with element kinds, and are re-exported below for backward-compatibility reasons.

Using a generalized algebraic datatype (GADT) here allows to write well-typed polymorphic functions whose return type depend on the argument type, such as:
let zero : type a b. (a, b) kind -> a = function
| Float32 -> 0.0 | Complex32 -> Complex.zero
| Float64 -> 0.0 | Complex64 -> Complex.zero
| Int8_signed -> 0 | Int8_unsigned -> 0
| Int16_signed -> 0 | Int16_unsigned -> 0
| Int32 -> 0l | Int64 -> 0L
| Int -> 0 | Nativeint -> 0n
| Char -> '\000'

val float32 : (float, float32_elt) kind
See Bigarray.char[23.4].

val float64 : (float, float64_elt) kind
See Bigarray.char[23.4].

val complex32 : (Complex.t, complex32_elt) kind
See Bigarray.char[23.4].

val complex64 : (Complex.t, complex64_elt) kind
See Bigarray.char[23.4].

val int8_signed : (int, int8_signed_elt) kind
See Bigarray.char[23.4].

val int8_unsigned : (int, int8_unsigned_elt) kind
See Bigarray.char[23.4].

val int16_signed : (int, int16_signed_elt) kind
See Bigarray.char[23.4].

val int16_unsigned : (int, int16_unsigned_elt) kind
See Bigarray.char[23.4].

val int : (int, int_elt) kind
See Bigarray.char[23.4].

val int32 : (int32, int32_elt) kind
See Bigarray.char[23.4].

val int64 : (int64, int64_elt) kind
See Bigarray.char[23.4].

val nativeint : (nativeint, nativeint_elt) kind
See Bigarray.char[23.4].

val char : (char, int8_unsigned_elt) kind

As shown by the types of the values above, Bigarrays of kind float32_elt and float64_elt are accessed using the OCaml type float. Bigarrays of complex kinds complex32_elt, complex64_elt are accessed with the OCaml type Complex.t[23.11]. Bigarrays of integer kinds are accessed using the smallest OCaml integer type large enough to represent the array elements: int for 8- and 16-bit integer Bigarrays, as well as OCaml-integer Bigarrays; int32 for 32-bit integer Bigarrays; int64 for 64-bit integer Bigarrays; and nativeint for platform-native integer Bigarrays. Finally, Bigarrays of kind int8_unsigned_elt can also be accessed as arrays of characters instead of arrays of small integers, by using the kind value char instead of int8_unsigned.

val kind_size_in_bytes : ('a, 'b) kind -> int

kind_size_in_bytes k is the number of bytes used to store an element of type k.

Since: 4.03.0

Array layouts

type c_layout =
  | C_layout_typ

See Bigarray.fortran_layout[23.4].

type fortran_layout =
  | Fortran_layout_typ

To facilitate interoperability with existing C and Fortran code, this library supports two different memory layouts for Bigarrays, one compatible with the C conventions, the other compatible with the Fortran conventions.

In the C-style layout, array indices start at 0, and multi-dimensional arrays are laid out in row-major format. That is, for a two-dimensional array, all elements of row 0 are contiguous in memory, followed by all elements of row 1, etc. In other terms, the array elements at (x,y) and (x, y+1) are adjacent in memory.

In the Fortran-style layout, array indices start at 1, and multi-dimensional arrays are laid out in column-major format. That is, for a two-dimensional array, all elements of column 0 are contiguous in memory, followed by all elements of column 1, etc. In other terms, the array elements at (x,y) and (x+1, y) are adjacent in memory.

Each layout style is identified at the type level by the phantom types Bigarray.c_layout[23.4] and Bigarray.fortran_layout[23.4] respectively.

Supported layouts

The GADT type 'a layout represents one of the two supported memory layouts: C-style or Fortran-style. Its constructors are re-exported as values below for backward-compatibility reasons.

type 'a layout =
Generic arrays (of arbitrarily many dimensions)

module Genarray :
  sig

  type ('a, 'b, 'c) t

  The type Genarray.t is the type of Bigarrays with variable numbers of dimensions. Any number of dimensions between 0 and 16 is supported.
  The three type parameters to Genarray.t identify the array element kind and layout, as follows:
  • the first parameter, 'a, is the OCaml type for accessing array elements (float, int, int32, int64, nativeint);
  • the second parameter, 'b, is the actual kind of array elements (float32_elt, float64_elt, int8_signed_elt, int8_unsigned_elt, etc);
  • the third parameter, 'c, identifies the array layout (c_layout or fortran_layout).

  For instance, (float, float32_elt, fortran_layout) Genarray.t is the type of generic Bigarrays containing 32-bit floats in Fortran layout; reads and writes in this array use the OCaml type float.

  val create :
    ('a, 'b) Bigarray.kind ->
    'c Bigarray.layout -> int array -> ('a, 'b, 'c) t

  Genarray.create kind layout dimensions returns a new Bigarray whose element kind is determined by the parameter kind (one of float32, float64, int8_signed, etc) and whose layout is determined by the parameter layout (one of c_layout or fortran_layout). The dimensions parameter is an array of integers that indicate the size of the Bigarray in each dimension. The length of dimensions determines the number of dimensions of the Bigarray.

  For instance, Genarray.create int32 c_layout [|4;6;8|] returns a fresh Bigarray of 32-bit integers, in C layout, having three dimensions, the three dimensions being 4, 6 and 8 respectively.

  Bigarrays returned by Genarray.create are not initialized: the initial values of array elements is unspecified.

  Genarray.create raises Invalid_argument if the number of dimensions is not in the range 0 to 16 inclusive, or if one of the dimensions is negative.

  val num_dims : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> int

  Return the number of dimensions of the given Bigarray.
val dims : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> int array

Genarray.dims a returns all dimensions of the Bigarray a, as an array of integers of length Genarray.num_dims a.

val nth_dim : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> int -> int

Genarray.nth_dim a n returns the n-th dimension of the Bigarray a. The first dimension corresponds to n = 0; the second dimension corresponds to n = 1; the last dimension, to n = Genarray.num_dims a - 1. Raise Invalid_argument if n is less than 0 or greater or equal than Genarray.num_dims a.

val kind : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> ('a, 'b) Bigarray.kind

Return the kind of the given Bigarray.

val layout : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> 'c Bigarray.layout

Return the layout of the given Bigarray.

val change_layout : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> ('d) Bigarray.layout -> ('a, 'b, 'd) t

Genarray.change_layout a layout returns a Bigarray with the specified layout, sharing the data with a (and hence having the same dimensions as a). No copying of elements is involved: the new array and the original array share the same storage space. The dimensions are reversed, such that get v [| a; b |] in C layout becomes get v [| b+1; a+1 |] in Fortran layout.
Since: 4.04.0

val size_in_bytes : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> int

size_in_bytes a is the number of elements in a multiplied by a's Bigarray.kind_size_in_bytes[23.4].
Since: 4.03.0

val get : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> int array -> 'a

Read an element of a generic Bigarray. Genarray.get a [|i1; ...; iN|] returns the element of a whose coordinates are i1 in the first dimension, i2 in the second dimension, ..., iN in the N-th dimension.
If a has C layout, the coordinates must be greater or equal than 0 and strictly less than the corresponding dimensions of a. If a has Fortran layout, the coordinates must be greater or equal than 1 and less or equal than the corresponding dimensions of a. Raise Invalid_argument if the array a does not have exactly N dimensions, or if the coordinates are outside the array bounds.
If N > 3, alternate syntax is provided: you can write a.{i1, i2, ..., iN} instead of Genarray.get a [|i1; ...; iN|]. (The syntax a.{...} with one, two or three coordinates is reserved for accessing one-, two- and three-dimensional arrays as described below.)
val set : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> int array -> 'a -> unit

Assign an element of a generic Bigarray. Genarray.set a [|i1; ...; iN|] v stores the value v in the element of a whose coordinates are i1 in the first dimension, i2 in the second dimension, ..., iN in the N-th dimension.

The array a must have exactly N dimensions, and all coordinates must lie inside the array bounds, as described for Genarray.get; otherwise, Invalid_argument is raised.

If N > 3, alternate syntax is provided: you can write a.{i1, i2, ..., iN} <- v instead of Genarray.set a [|i1; ...; iN|] v. (The syntax a.{...} <- v with one, two or three coordinates is reserved for updating one-, two- and three-dimensional arrays as described below.)

val sub_left :
('a, 'b, Bigarray.c_layout) t ->
int -> int -> ('a, 'b, Bigarray.c_layout) t

Extract a sub-array of the given Bigarray by restricting the first (left-most) dimension. Genarray.sub_left a ofs len returns a Bigarray with the same number of dimensions as a, and the same dimensions as a, except the first dimension, which corresponds to the interval [ofs ... ofs + len - 1] of the first dimension of a. No copying of elements is involved: the sub-array and the original array share the same storage space. In other terms, the element at coordinates [|i1; ...; iN|] of the sub-array is identical to the element at coordinates [|i1+ofs; ...; iN|] of the original array a.

Genarray.sub_left applies only to Bigarrays in C layout. Raise Invalid_argument if ofs and len do not designate a valid sub-array of a, that is, if ofs < 0, or len < 0, or ofs + len > Genarray.nth_dim a 0.

val sub_right :
('a, 'b, Bigarray.fortran_layout) t ->
int -> int -> ('a, 'b, Bigarray.fortran_layout) t

Extract a sub-array of the given Bigarray by restricting the last (right-most) dimension. Genarray.sub_right a ofs len returns a Bigarray with the same number of dimensions as a, and the same dimensions as a, except the last dimension, which corresponds to the interval [ofs ... ofs + len - 1] of the last dimension of a. No copying of elements is involved: the sub-array and the original array share the same storage space. In other terms, the element at coordinates [|i1; ...; iN|] of the sub-array is identical to the element at coordinates [|i1; ...; iN+ofs|] of the original array a.

Genarray.sub_right applies only to Bigarrays in Fortran layout. Raise Invalid_argument if ofs and len do not designate a valid sub-array of a, that is, if ofs < 1, or len < 0, or ofs + len > Genarray.nth_dim a (Genarray.num_dims a - 1).

val slice_left :
Extract a sub-array of lower dimension from the given Bigarray by fixing one or several
of the first (left-most) coordinates. Genarray.slice_left a [\mid i_1; \ldots; i_M\mid]
returns the 'slice' of a obtained by setting the first M coordinates to i_1, \ldots, i_M. If a has
N dimensions, the slice has dimension N - M, and the element at coordinates \[\mid i_1; \ldots; j(N-M)\mid\] in the slice is identical to the element at coordinates \[\mid i_1; \ldots; i_M; j_1; \ldots; j(N-M)\mid\] in the original array a. No copying of elements is involved: the
slice and the original array share the same storage space.
Genarray.slice_left applies only to Bigarrays in C layout. Raise Invalid_argument
if M >= N, or if \[\mid i_1; \ldots; i_M\mid\] is outside the bounds of a.

Extract a sub-array of lower dimension from the given Bigarray by fixing one or several
of the last (right-most) coordinates. Genarray.slice_right a [\mid i_1; \ldots; i_M\mid]
returns the 'slice' of a obtained by setting the last M coordinates to i_1, \ldots, i_M. If a has
N dimensions, the slice has dimension N - M, and the element at coordinates \[\mid j_1; \ldots; j(N-M)\mid\] in the slice is identical to the element at coordinates \[\mid j_1; \ldots; j(N-M); i_1; \ldots; i_M\mid\] in the original array a. No copying of elements is involved: the
slice and the original array share the same storage space.
Genarray.slice_right applies only to Bigarrays in Fortran layout. Raise
Invalid_argument if M >= N, or if \[\mid i_1; \ldots; i_M\mid\] is outside the bounds of a.

Copy all elements of a Bigarray in another Bigarray. Genarray.blit src dst copies
all elements of src into dst. Both arrays src and dst must have the same number of
dimensions and equal dimensions. Copying a sub-array of src to a sub-array of dst
can be achieved by applying Genarray.blit to sub-array or slices of src and dst.

Set all elements of a Bigarray to a given value. Genarray.fill a v stores the value v
in all elements of the Bigarray a. Setting only some elements of a to v can be achieved
by applying Genarray.fill to a sub-array or a slice of a.

Zero-dimensional arrays

module Array0 :
sig
type ('a, 'b, 'c) t
The type of zero-dimensional Bigarrays whose elements have OCaml type 'a, representation kind 'b, and memory layout 'c.

val create : ('a, 'b) Bigarray.kind -> 'c Bigarray.layout -> ('a, 'b, 'c) t

Array0.create kind layout returns a new Bigarray of zero dimension. kind and layout determine the array element kind and the array layout as described for Bigarray.Genarray.create[23.4].

val kind : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> ('a, 'b) Bigarray.kind

Return the kind of the given Bigarray.

val layout : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> 'c Bigarray.layout

Return the layout of the given Bigarray.

val change_layout : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> 'd Bigarray.layout -> ('a, 'b, 'd) t

Array0.change_layout a layout returns a Bigarray with the specified layout, sharing the data with a. No copying of elements is involved: the new array and the original array share the same storage space.
Since: 4.06.0

val size_in_bytes : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> int

size_in_bytes a is a's Bigarray.kind_size_in_bytes[23.4].

val get : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> 'a

Array0.get a returns the only element in a.

val set : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> 'a -> unit

Array0.set a x v stores the value v in a.

val blit : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> unit

Copy the first Bigarray to the second Bigarray. See Bigarray.Genarray.blit[23.4] for more details.

val fill : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> 'a -> unit

Fill the given Bigarray with the given value. See Bigarray.Genarray.fill[23.4] for more details.

val of_value :
('a, 'b) Bigarray.kind ->
'c Bigarray.layout -> 'a -> ('a, 'b, 'c) t
Build a zero-dimensional Bigarray initialized from the given value.

Zero-dimensional arrays. The `Array0` structure provides operations similar to those of `Bigarray.Genarray[23.4]`, but specialized to the case of zero-dimensional arrays that only contain a single scalar value. Statically knowing the number of dimensions of the array allows faster operations, and more precise static type-checking.

Since: 4.05.0

One-dimensional arrays

module Array1 :

sig

  type ('a, 'b, 'c) t

  The type of one-dimensional Bigarrays whose elements have OCaml type 'a, representation kind 'b, and memory layout 'c.

  val create : ('a, 'b) Bigarray.kind -> 'c Bigarray.layout -> int -> ('a, 'b, 'c) t

  Array1.create kind layout dim returns a new Bigarray of one dimension, whose size is dim. kind and layout determine the array element kind and the array layout as described for Bigarray.Genarray.create[23.4].

  val dim : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> int

  Return the size (dimension) of the given one-dimensional Bigarray.

  val kind : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> ('a, 'b) Bigarray.kind

  Return the kind of the given Bigarray.

  val layout : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> 'c Bigarray.layout

  Return the layout of the given Bigarray.

  val change_layout : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> 'd Bigarray.layout -> ('a, 'b, 'd) t

  Array1.change_layout a layout returns a Bigarray with the specified layout, sharing the data with a (and hence having the same dimension as a). No copying of elements is involved: the new array and the original array share the same storage space.

  Since: 4.06.0

  val size_in_bytes : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> int
size_in_bytes a is the number of elements in a multiplied by a's Bigarray.kind_size_in_bytes[23.4].
Since: 4.03.0

val get : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> int -> 'a

Array1.get a x, or alternatively a.{x}, returns the element of a at index x. x must be greater or equal than 0 and strictly less than Array1.dim a if a has C layout. If a has Fortran layout, x must be greater or equal than 1 and less or equal than Array1.dim a. Otherwise, Invalid_argument is raised.

val set : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> int -> 'a -> unit

Array1.set a x v, also written a.{x} <- v, stores the value v at index x in a. x must be inside the bounds of a as described in Bigarray.Array1.get[23.4]; otherwise, Invalid_argument is raised.

val sub : ('a, 'b, 'c) t ->
  int -> int -> ('a, 'b, 'c) t

Extract a sub-array of the given one-dimensional Bigarray. See Bigarray.Genarray.sub_left[23.4] for more details.

val slice : ('a, 'b, 'c) t ->
  int -> ('a, 'b, 'c) Bigarray.Array0.t

Extract a scalar (zero-dimensional slice) of the given one-dimensional Bigarray. The integer parameter is the index of the scalar to extract. See Bigarray.Genarray.slice_left[23.4] and Bigarray.Genarray.slice_right[23.4] for more details.
Since: 4.05.0

val blit : ('a, 'b, 'c) t ->
  ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> unit

Copy the first Bigarray to the second Bigarray. See Bigarray.Genarray.blit[23.4] for more details.

val fill : ('a, 'b, 'c) t ->
  'a -> unit

Fill the given Bigarray with the given value. See Bigarray.Genarray.fill[23.4] for more details.

val of_array :
  ('a, 'b) Bigarray.kind ->
  'c Bigarray.layout -> 'a array -> ('a, 'b, 'c) t

Build a one-dimensional Bigarray initialized from the given array.

val unsafe_get : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> int -> 'a
Like Bigarray.Array1.get\[23.4\], but bounds checking is not always performed. Use with caution and only when the program logic guarantees that the access is within bounds.

```ocaml
def unsafe_set : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> int -> 'a -> unit
  Like Bigarray.Array1.set\[23.4\], but bounds checking is not always performed. Use with caution and only when the program logic guarantees that the access is within bounds.
end
```

One-dimensional arrays. The Array1 structure provides operations similar to those of Bigarray.Genarray\[23.4\], but specialized to the case of one-dimensional arrays. (The Bigarray.Array2\[23.4\] and Bigarray.Array3\[23.4\] structures below provide operations specialized for two- and three-dimensional arrays.) Statically knowing the number of dimensions of the array allows faster operations, and more precise static type-checking.

**Two-dimensional arrays**

```ocaml
module Array2 :
  sig
    type ('a, 'b, 'c) t
      The type of two-dimensional Bigarrays whose elements have OCaml type 'a, representation kind 'b, and memory layout 'c.
    val create :
      ('a, 'b) Bigarray.kind ->
      'c Bigarray.layout -> int -> int -> ('a, 'b, 'c) t
      Array2.create kind layout dim1 dim2 returns a new Bigarray of two dimension, whose size is dim1 in the first dimension and dim2 in the second dimension. kind and layout determine the array element kind and the array layout as described for Bigarray.Genarray.create\[23.4\].
    val dim1 : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> int
      Return the first dimension of the given two-dimensional Bigarray.
    val dim2 : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> int
      Return the second dimension of the given two-dimensional Bigarray.
    val kind : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> ('a, 'b) Bigarray.kind
      Return the kind of the given Bigarray.
```
val layout : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> 'c Bigarray.layout

Return the layout of the given Bigarray.

val change_layout : ('a, 'b, 'c) t ->
 'd Bigarray.layout -> ('a, 'b, 'd) t

Array2.change_layout a layout returns a Bigarray with the specified layout, sharing the data with a (and hence having the same dimensions as a). No copying of elements is involved: the new array and the original array share the same storage space. The dimensions are reversed, such that get v [| a; b |] in C layout becomes get v [| b+1; a+1 |] in Fortran layout.

Since: 4.06.0

val size_in_bytes : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> int

size_in_bytes a is the number of elements in a multiplied by a's Bigarray.kind_size_in_bytes[23.4].

Since: 4.03.0

val get : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> int -> int -> 'a

Array2.get a x y, also written a.{x,y}, returns the element of a at coordinates (x, y). x and y must be within the bounds of a, as described for Bigarray.Genarray.get[23.4]; otherwise, Invalid_argument is raised.

val set : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> int -> int -> 'a -> unit

Array2.set a x y v, or alternatively a.{x,y} <- v, stores the value v at coordinates (x, y) in a. x and y must be within the bounds of a, as described for Bigarray.Genarray.set[23.4]; otherwise, Invalid_argument is raised.

val sub_left : ('a, 'b, Bigarray.c_layout) t ->
  int -> int -> ('a, 'b, Bigarray.c_layout) t

Extract a two-dimensional sub-array of the given two-dimensional Bigarray by restricting the first dimension. See Bigarray.Genarray.sub_left[23.4] for more details. Array2.sub_left applies only to arrays with C layout.

val sub_right : ('a, 'b, Bigarray.fortran_layout) t ->
  int -> int -> ('a, 'b, Bigarray.fortran_layout) t

Extract a two-dimensional sub-array of the given two-dimensional Bigarray by restricting the second dimension. See Bigarray.Genarray.sub_right[23.4] for more details. Array2.sub_right applies only to arrays with Fortran layout.
```
val slice_left : 
  ('a, 'b, Bigarray.c_layout) t -> 
  int -> ('a, 'b, Bigarray.c_layout) Bigarray.Array1.t

Extract a row (one-dimensional slice) of the given two-dimensional Bigarray. The 
integer parameter is the index of the row to extract. See 
Bigarray.Genarray.slice_left[23.4] for more details. Array2.slice_left applies 
only to arrays with C layout.

val slice_right : 
  ('a, 'b, Bigarray.fortran_layout) t -> 
  int -> ('a, 'b, Bigarray.fortran_layout) Bigarray.Array1.t

Extract a column (one-dimensional slice) of the given two-dimensional Bigarray. The 
integer parameter is the index of the column to extract. See 
Bigarray.Genarray.slice_right[23.4] for more details. Array2.slice_right applies 
only to arrays with Fortran layout.

val blit : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> unit

Copy the first Bigarray to the second Bigarray. See Bigarray.Genarray.blit[23.4] for 
more details.

val fill : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> 'a -> unit

Fill the given Bigarray with the given value. See Bigarray.Genarray.fill[23.4] for 
more details.

val of_array :
  ('a, 'b) Bigarray.kind ->
  'c Bigarray.layout -> 'a array array -> ('a, 'b, 'c) t

Build a two-dimensional Bigarray initialized from the given array of arrays.

val unsafe_get : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> int -> int -> 'a

Like Bigarray.Array2.get[23.4], but bounds checking is not always performed.

val unsafe_set : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> int -> int -> 'a -> unit

Like Bigarray.Array2.set[23.4], but bounds checking is not always performed.
```
Three-dimensional arrays

module Array3 :
  sig

  type ('a, 'b, 'c) t
   The type of three-dimensional Bigarrays whose elements have OCaml type 'a, representation kind 'b, and memory layout 'c.

  val create :
    ('a, 'b) Bigarray.kind ->
    'c Bigarray.layout -> int -> int -> int -> ('a, 'b, 'c) t
   Array3.create kind layout dim1 dim2 dim3 returns a new Bigarray of three dimension, whose size is dim1 in the first dimension, dim2 in the second dimension, and dim3 in the third. kind and layout determine the array element kind and the array layout as described for Bigarray.Genarray.create[23.4].

  val dim1 : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> int
   Return the first dimension of the given three-dimensional Bigarray.

  val dim2 : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> int
   Return the second dimension of the given three-dimensional Bigarray.

  val dim3 : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> int
   Return the third dimension of the given three-dimensional Bigarray.

  val kind : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> ('a, 'b) Bigarray.kind
   Return the kind of the given Bigarray.

  val layout : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> 'c Bigarray.layout
   Return the layout of the given Bigarray.

  val change_layout : ('a, 'b, 'c) t ->
    'd Bigarray.layout -> ('a, 'b, 'd) t
   Array3.change_layout a layout returns a Bigarray with the specified layout, sharing the data with a (and hence having the same dimensions as a). No copying of elements is involved: the new array and the original array share the same storage space. The dimensions are reversed, such that get v [ | a; b; c |] in C layout becomes get v [ | c+1; b+1; a+1 |] in Fortran layout.
   Since: 4.06.0

  val size_in_bytes : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> int
size_in_bytes a is the number of elements in a multiplied by a’s Bigarray.kind_size_in_bytes[23.4].

Since: 4.03.0

val get : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> int -> int -> int -> 'a

Array3.get a x y z, also written a.{x,y,z}, returns the element of a at coordinates (x, y, z). x, y and z must be within the bounds of a, as described for Bigarray.Genarray.get[23.4]; otherwise, Invalid_argument is raised.

val set : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> int -> int -> int -> 'a -> unit

Array3.set a x y v, or alternatively a.{x,y,z} <- v, stores the value v at coordinates (x, y, z) in a. x, y and z must be within the bounds of a, as described for Bigarray.Genarray.set[23.4]; otherwise, Invalid_argument is raised.

val sub_left :
 ('a, 'b, Bigarray.c_layout) t ->
 int -> int -> ('a, 'b, Bigarray.c_layout) t

Extract a three-dimensional sub-array of the given three-dimensional Bigarray by restricting the first dimension. See Bigarray.Genarray.sub_left[23.4] for more details. Array3.sub_left applies only to arrays with C layout.

val sub_right :
 ('a, 'b, Bigarray.fortran_layout) t ->
 int -> int -> ('a, 'b, Bigarray.fortran_layout) t

Extract a three-dimensional sub-array of the given three-dimensional Bigarray by restricting the second dimension. See Bigarray.Genarray.sub_right[23.4] for more details. Array3.sub_right applies only to arrays with Fortran layout.

val slice_left_1 :
 ('a, 'b, Bigarray.c_layout) t ->
 int -> int -> ('a, 'b, Bigarray.c_layout) Bigarray.Array1.t

Extract a one-dimensional slice of the given three-dimensional Bigarray by fixing the first two coordinates. The integer parameters are the coordinates of the slice to extract. See Bigarray.Genarray.slice_left[23.4] for more details. Array3.slice_left_1 applies only to arrays with C layout.

val slice_right_1 :
 ('a, 'b, Bigarray.fortran_layout) t ->
 int -> int -> ('a, 'b, Bigarray.fortran_layout) Bigarray.Array1.t

Extract a one-dimensional slice of the given three-dimensional Bigarray by fixing the last two coordinates. The integer parameters are the coordinates of the slice to extract. See Bigarray.Genarray.slice_right[23.4] for more details. Array3.slice_right_1 applies only to arrays with Fortran layout.
val slice_left_2 : ('a, 'b, Bigarray.c_layout) t -> int -> ('a, 'b, Bigarray.c_layout) Bigarray.Array2.t

Extract a two-dimensional slice of the given three-dimensional Bigarray by fixing the first coordinate. The integer parameter is the first coordinate of the slice to extract. See Bigarray.Genarray.slice_left[23.4] for more details. Array3.slice_left_2 applies only to arrays with C layout.

val slice_right_2 : ('a, 'b, Bigarray.fortran_layout) t -> int -> ('a, 'b, Bigarray.fortran_layout) Bigarray.Array2.t

Extract a two-dimensional slice of the given three-dimensional Bigarray by fixing the last coordinate. The integer parameter is the coordinate of the slice to extract. See Bigarray.Genarray.slice_right[23.4] for more details. Array3.slice_right_2 applies only to arrays with Fortran layout.

val blit : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> unit

Copy the first Bigarray to the second Bigarray. See Bigarray.Genarray.blit[23.4] for more details.

val fill : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> 'a -> unit

Fill the given Bigarray with the given value. See Bigarray.Genarray.fill[23.4] for more details.

val of_array : ('a, 'b) Bigarray.kind -> 'c Bigarray.layout -> 'a array array array -> ('a, 'b, 'c) t

Build a three-dimensional Bigarray initialized from the given array of arrays of arrays.

val unsafe_get : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> int -> int -> int -> 'a

Like Bigarray.Array3.get[23.4], but bounds checking is not always performed.

val unsafe_set : ('a, 'b, 'c) t -> int -> int -> int -> 'a -> unit

Like Bigarray.Array3.set[23.4], but bounds checking is not always performed.

end

Three-dimensional arrays. The Array3 structure provides operations similar to those of Bigarray.Genarray[23.4], but specialized to the case of three-dimensional arrays.
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Coercions between generic Bigarrays and fixed-dimension Bigarrays

val genarray_of_array0 : ('a, 'b, 'c) Array0.t -> ('a, 'b, 'c) Genarray.t
  Return the generic Bigarray corresponding to the given zero-dimensional Bigarray.
  Since: 4.05.0

val genarray_of_array1 : ('a, 'b, 'c) Array1.t -> ('a, 'b, 'c) Genarray.t
  Return the generic Bigarray corresponding to the given one-dimensional Bigarray.

val genarray_of_array2 : ('a, 'b, 'c) Array2.t -> ('a, 'b, 'c) Genarray.t
  Return the generic Bigarray corresponding to the given two-dimensional Bigarray.

val genarray_of_array3 : ('a, 'b, 'c) Array3.t -> ('a, 'b, 'c) Genarray.t
  Return the generic Bigarray corresponding to the given three-dimensional Bigarray.

val array0_of_genarray : ('a, 'b, 'c) Genarray.t -> ('a, 'b, 'c) Array0.t
  Return the zero-dimensional Bigarray corresponding to the given generic Bigarray. Raise
  Invalid_argument if the generic Bigarray does not have exactly zero dimension.
  Since: 4.05.0

val array1_of_genarray : ('a, 'b, 'c) Genarray.t -> ('a, 'b, 'c) Array1.t
  Return the one-dimensional Bigarray corresponding to the given generic Bigarray. Raise
  Invalid_argument if the generic Bigarray does not have exactly one dimension.

val array2_of_genarray : ('a, 'b, 'c) Genarray.t -> ('a, 'b, 'c) Array2.t
  Return the two-dimensional Bigarray corresponding to the given generic Bigarray. Raise
  Invalid_argument if the generic Bigarray does not have exactly two dimensions.

val array3_of_genarray : ('a, 'b, 'c) Genarray.t -> ('a, 'b, 'c) Array3.t
  Return the three-dimensional Bigarray corresponding to the given generic Bigarray. Raise
  Invalid_argument if the generic Bigarray does not have exactly three dimensions.

Re-shaping Bigarrays

val reshape :
  ('a, 'b, 'c) Genarray.t ->
  int array -> ('a, 'b, 'c) Genarray.t
  reshape b [|d1;...;dN|] converts the Bigarray b to a N-dimensional array of dimensions
d1...dN. The returned array and the original array b share their data and have the same
layout. For instance, assuming that b is a one-dimensional array of dimension 12, reshape
b [|13;4|] returns a two-dimensional array b' of dimensions 3 and 4. If b has C layout, the
element (x,y) of b' corresponds to the element x * 3 + y of b. If b has Fortran layout, the
element (x,y) of b' corresponds to the element x + (y - 1) * 4 of b. The returned
Bigarray must have exactly the same number of elements as the original Bigarray \( b \). That is, the product of the dimensions of \( b \) must be equal to \( i_1 \times \ldots \times i_N \). Otherwise, \texttt{Invalid_argument} is raised.

\begin{verbatim}
val reshape_0 : ('a, 'b, 'c) Genarray.t -> ('a, 'b, 'c) Array0.t
   Specialized version of Bigarray.reshape[23.4] for reshaping to zero-dimensional arrays.
   Since: 4.05.0

val reshape_1 : ('a, 'b, 'c) Genarray.t -> int -> ('a, 'b, 'c) Array1.t
   Specialized version of Bigarray.reshape[23.4] for reshaping to one-dimensional arrays.

val reshape_2 :
   ('a, 'b, 'c) Genarray.t ->
   int -> int -> ('a, 'b, 'c) Array2.t
   Specialized version of Bigarray.reshape[23.4] for reshaping to two-dimensional arrays.

val reshape_3 :
   ('a, 'b, 'c) Genarray.t ->
   int -> int -> int -> ('a, 'b, 'c) Array3.t
   Specialized version of Bigarray.reshape[23.4] for reshaping to three-dimensional arrays.
\end{verbatim}

### 23.5 Module \texttt{Bool} : Boolean values.

Since: 4.08

#### Booleans

```ocaml
type t = bool =
    | false
    | true
```

The type of booleans (truth values).

The constructors \texttt{false} and \texttt{true} are included here so that they have paths, but they are not intended to be used in user-defined data types.

\begin{verbatim}
val not : bool -> bool
   not \( b \) is the boolean negation of \( b \).

val (&&) : bool -> bool -> bool
   \( e_0 \, && \, e_1 \) is the lazy boolean conjunction of expressions \( e_0 \) and \( e_1 \). If \( e_0 \) evaluates to \texttt{false}, \( e_1 \) is not evaluated. Right-associative operator at precedence level 3/11.

val (||) : bool -> bool -> bool
   \( e_0 \, || \, e_1 \) is the lazy boolean disjunction of expressions \( e_0 \) and \( e_1 \). If \( e_0 \) evaluates to \texttt{true}, \( e_1 \) is not evaluated. Right-associative operator at precedence level 2/11.
\end{verbatim}
Predicates and comparisons

val equal : bool -> bool -> bool
    equal b0 b1 is true iff b0 and b1 are both either true or false.

val compare : bool -> bool -> int
    compare b0 b1 is a total order on boolean values. false is smaller than true.

Converting

val to_int : bool -> int
    to_int b is 0 if b is false and 1 if b is true.

val to_float : bool -> float
    to_float b is 0. if b is false and 1. if b is true.

val to_string : bool -> string
    to_string b is "true" if b is true and "false" if b is false.

23.6 Module Buffer : Extensible buffers.

This module implements buffers that automatically expand as necessary. It provides accumulative concatenation of strings in quasi-linear time (instead of quadratic time when strings are concatenated pairwise).

type t
    The abstract type of buffers.

val create : int -> t
    create n returns a fresh buffer, initially empty. The n parameter is the initial size of the internal byte sequence that holds the buffer contents. That byte sequence is automatically reallocated when more than n characters are stored in the buffer, but shrinks back to n characters when reset is called. For best performance, n should be of the same order of magnitude as the number of characters that are expected to be stored in the buffer (for instance, 80 for a buffer that holds one output line). Nothing bad will happen if the buffer grows beyond that limit, however. In doubt, take n = 16 for instance. If n is not between 1 and Sys.max_string_length[23.49], it will be clipped to that interval.

val contents : t -> string
    Return a copy of the current contents of the buffer. The buffer itself is unchanged.

val to_bytes : t -> bytes
Return a copy of the current contents of the buffer. The buffer itself is unchanged.

Since: 4.02

val sub : t -> int -> int -> string

Buffer.sub b off len returns a copy of len bytes from the current contents of the buffer b, starting at offset off.

Raise Invalid_argument if srcoff and len do not designate a valid range of b.

val blit : t -> int -> bytes -> int -> int -> unit

Buffer.blit src srcoff dst dstoff len copies len characters from the current contents of the buffer src, starting at offset srcoff to dst, starting at character dstoff.

Raise Invalid_argument if srcoff and len do not designate a valid range of src, or if dstoff and len do not designate a valid range of dst.

Since: 3.11.2

val nth : t -> int -> char

Get the n-th character of the buffer. Raise Invalid_argument if index out of bounds

val length : t -> int

Return the number of characters currently contained in the buffer.

val clear : t -> unit

Empty the buffer.

val reset : t -> unit

Empty the buffer and deallocate the internal byte sequence holding the buffer contents, replacing it with the initial internal byte sequence of length n that was allocated by Buffer.create[23.6] n. For long-lived buffers that may have grown a lot, reset allows faster reclamation of the space used by the buffer.

val add_char : t -> char -> unit

add_char b c appends the character c at the end of buffer b.

val add_utf_8_uchar : t -> Uchar.t -> unit


Since: 4.06.0

val add_utf_16le_uchar : t -> Uchar.t -> unit


Since: 4.06.0
val add_utf_16be_uchar : t -> Uchar.t -> unit
    add_utf_16be_uchar b u appends the
    Since: 4.06.0

val add_string : t -> string -> unit
    add_string b s appends the string s at the end of buffer b.

val add_bytes : t -> bytes -> unit
    add_bytes b s appends the byte sequence s at the end of buffer b.
    Since: 4.02

val add_substring : t -> string -> int -> int -> unit
    add_substring b s ofs len takes len characters from offset ofs in string s and appends
    them at the end of buffer b.

val add_subbytes : t -> bytes -> int -> int -> unit
    add_subbytes b sofs len takes len characters from offset ofs in byte sequence s and
    appends them at the end of buffer b.
    Since: 4.02

val add_substitute : t -> (string -> string) -> string -> unit
    add_substitute b f s appends the string pattern s at the end of buffer b with
    substitution. The substitution process looks for variables into the pattern and substitutes
    each variable name by its value, as obtained by applying the mapping f to the variable
    name. Inside the string pattern, a variable name immediately follows a non-escaped $ character
    and is one of the following:

    • a non empty sequence of alphanumeric or _ characters,
    • an arbitrary sequence of characters enclosed by a pair of matching parentheses or curly
      brackets. An escaped $ character is a $ that immediately follows a backslash character;
      it then stands for a plain $. Raise Not_found if the closing character of a parenthesized
      variable cannot be found.

val add_buffer : t -> t -> unit
    add_buffer b1 b2 appends the current contents of buffer b2 at the end of buffer b1. b2 is
    not modified.

val add_channel : t -> in_channel -> int -> unit
    add_channel b ic n reads at most n characters from the input channel ic and stores them
    at the end of buffer b. Raise End_of_file if the channel contains fewer than n characters.
    In this case, the characters are still added to the buffer, so as to avoid loss of data.

val output_buffer : out_channel -> t -> unit
output_buffer oc b writes the current contents of buffer b on the output channel oc.

val truncate : t -> int -> unit

truncate b len truncates the length of b to len Note: the internal byte sequence is not shortened. Raise Invalid_argument if len < 0 or len > length b.

Since: 4.05.0

Iterators

val to_seq : t -> char Seq.t

Iterate on the buffer, in increasing order. Modification of the buffer during iteration is undefined behavior.

Since: 4.07

val to_seqi : t -> (int * char) Seq.t

Iterate on the buffer, in increasing order, yielding indices along chars. Modification of the buffer during iteration is undefined behavior.

Since: 4.07

val add_seq : t -> char Seq.t -> unit

Add chars to the buffer

Since: 4.07

val of_seq : char Seq.t -> t

Create a buffer from the generator

Since: 4.07

Binary encoding of integers

The functions in this section append binary encodings of integers to buffers.

Little-endian (resp. big-endian) encoding means that least (resp. most) significant bytes are stored first. Big-endian is also known as network byte order. Native-endian encoding is either little-endian or big-endian depending on Sys.big_endian.[23.49].

32-bit and 64-bit integers are represented by the int32 and int64 types, which can be interpreted either as signed or unsigned numbers.

8-bit and 16-bit integers are represented by the int type, which has more bits than the binary encoding. Functions that encode these values truncate their inputs to their least significant bytes.

val add_uint8 : t -> int -> unit

add_uint8 b i appends a binary unsigned 8-bit integer i to b.

Since: 4.08

val add_int8 : t -> int -> unit
add_int8 b i appends a binary signed 8-bit integer i to b.
Since: 4.08

val add_uint16_ne : t -> int -> unit
add_uint16_ne b i appends a binary native-endian unsigned 16-bit integer i to b.
Since: 4.08

val add_uint16_be : t -> int -> unit
add_uint16_be b i appends a binary big-endian unsigned 16-bit integer i to b.
Since: 4.08

val add_uint16_le : t -> int -> unit
add_uint16_le b i appends a binary little-endian unsigned 16-bit integer i to b.
Since: 4.08

val add_int16_ne : t -> int -> unit
add_int16_ne b i appends a binary native-endian signed 16-bit integer i to b.
Since: 4.08

val add_int16_be : t -> int -> unit
add_int16_be b i appends a binary big-endian signed 16-bit integer i to b.
Since: 4.08

val add_int16_le : t -> int -> unit
add_int16_le b i appends a binary little-endian signed 16-bit integer i to b.
Since: 4.08

val add_int32_ne : t -> int32 -> unit
add_int32_ne b i appends a binary native-endian 32-bit integer i to b.
Since: 4.08

val add_int32_be : t -> int32 -> unit
add_int32_be b i appends a binary big-endian 32-bit integer i to b.
Since: 4.08

val add_int32_le : t -> int32 -> unit
add_int32_le b i appends a binary little-endian 32-bit integer i to b.
Since: 4.08

val add_int64_ne : t -> int64 -> unit
add_int64_ne b i appends a binary native-endian 64-bit integer i to b.
Since: 4.08

val add_int64_be : t -> int64 -> unit
add_int64_be b i appends a binary big-endian 64-bit integer i to b.
Since: 4.08

val add_int64_le : t -> int64 -> unit
add_int64_ne b i appends a binary little-endian 64-bit integer i to b.
Since: 4.08

23.7 Module Bytes : Byte sequence operations.

A byte sequence is a mutable data structure that contains a fixed-length sequence of bytes. Each byte can be indexed in constant time for reading or writing.

Given a byte sequence s of length l, we can access each of the l bytes of s via its index in the sequence. Indexes start at 0, and we will call an index valid in s if it falls within the range [0...l-1] (inclusive). A position is the point between two bytes or at the beginning or end of the sequence. We call a position valid in s if it falls within the range [0...l] (inclusive). Note that the byte at index n is between positions n and n+1.

Two parameters start and len are said to designate a valid range of s if len >= 0 and start and start+len are valid positions in s.

Byte sequences can be modified in place, for instance via the set and blit functions described below. See also strings (module String[23.47]), which are almost the same data structure, but cannot be modified in place.

Bytes are represented by the OCaml type char.
Since: 4.02.0

val length : bytes -> int
Return the length (number of bytes) of the argument.

val get : bytes -> int -> char
get s n returns the byte at index n in argument s.
Raise Invalid_argument if n is not a valid index in s.

val set : bytes -> int -> char -> unit
set s n c modifies s in place, replacing the byte at index n with c.
Raise Invalid_argument if n is not a valid index in s.

val create : int -> bytes
create n returns a new byte sequence of length n. The sequence is uninitialized and contains arbitrary bytes.

Raise Invalid_argument if n < 0 or n > Sys.max_string_length[23.49].

val make : int -> char -> bytes
make n c returns a new byte sequence of length n, filled with the byte c.

Raise Invalid_argument if n < 0 or n > Sys.max_string_length[23.49].

val init : int -> (int -> char) -> bytes
Bytes.init n f returns a fresh byte sequence of length n, with character i initialized to the result of f i (in increasing index order).

Raise Invalid_argument if n < 0 or n > Sys.max_string_length[23.49].

val empty : bytes
A byte sequence of size 0.

val copy : bytes -> bytes
Return a new byte sequence that contains the same bytes as the argument.

val of_string : string -> bytes
Return a new byte sequence that contains the same bytes as the given string.

val to_string : bytes -> string
Return a new string that contains the same bytes as the given byte sequence.

val sub : bytes -> int -> int -> bytes
sub s start len returns a new byte sequence of length len, containing the subsequence of s that starts at position start and has length len.

Raise Invalid_argument if start and len do not designate a valid range of s.

val sub_string : bytes -> int -> int -> string
Same as sub but return a string instead of a byte sequence.

val extend : bytes -> int -> int -> bytes
extend s left right returns a new byte sequence that contains the bytes of s, with left uninitialized bytes prepended and right uninitialized bytes appended to it. If left or right is negative, then bytes are removed (instead of appended) from the corresponding side of s.

Raise Invalid_argument if the result length is negative or longer than Sys.max_string_length[23.49] bytes.

val fill : bytes -> int -> int -> char -> unit
fill s start len c modifies s in place, replacing len characters with c, starting at start.

Raise Invalid_argument if start and len do not designate a valid range of s.
val blit : bytes -> int -> bytes -> int -> int -> unit
    blit src srcoff dst dstoff len copies len bytes from sequence src, starting at index srcoff, to sequence dst, starting at index dstoff. It works correctly even if src and dst are the same byte sequence, and the source and destination intervals overlap.
    Raise Invalid_argument if srcoff and len do not designate a valid range of src, or if dstoff and len do not designate a valid range of dst.

val blit_string : string -> int -> bytes -> int -> int -> unit
    blit src srcoff dst dstoff len copies len bytes from string src, starting at index srcoff, to byte sequence dst, starting at index dstoff.
    Raise Invalid_argument if srcoff and len do not designate a valid range of src, or if dstoff and len do not designate a valid range of dst.

val concat : bytes -> bytes list -> bytes
    concat sep sl concatenates the list of byte sequences sl, inserting the separator byte sequence sep between each, and returns the result as a new byte sequence.
    Raise Invalid_argument if the result is longer than Sys.max_string_length[23.49] bytes.

val cat : bytes -> bytes -> bytes
    cat s1 s2 concatenates s1 and s2 and returns the result as new byte sequence.
    Raise Invalid_argument if the result is longer than Sys.max_string_length[23.49] bytes.

val iter : (char -> unit) -> bytes -> unit
    iter f s applies function f in turn to all the bytes of s. It is equivalent to f (get s 0); f (get s 1); ...; f (get s (length s - 1)); ()

val iteri : (int -> char -> unit) -> bytes -> unit
    Same as Bytes.iter[23.7], but the function is applied to the index of the byte as first argument and the byte itself as second argument.

val map : (char -> char) -> bytes -> bytes
    map f s applies function f in turn to all the bytes of s (in increasing index order) and stores the resulting bytes in a new sequence that is returned as the result.

val mapi : (int -> char -> char) -> bytes -> bytes
    mapi f s calls f with each character of s and its index (in increasing index order) and stores the resulting bytes in a new sequence that is returned as the result.

val trim : bytes -> bytes
    Return a copy of the argument, without leading and trailing whitespace. The bytes regarded as whitespace are the ASCII characters ' ', '
', '\t'.

val escaped : bytes -> bytes
Return a copy of the argument, with special characters represented by escape sequences, following the lexical conventions of OCaml. All characters outside the ASCII printable range (32..126) are escaped, as well as backslash and double-quote.

Raise `Invalid_argument` if the result is longer than `Sys.max_string_length[23.49]` bytes.

```ocaml
val index : bytes -> char -> int
  index s c returns the index of the first occurrence of byte c in s.
  Raise Not_found if c does not occur in s.

val index_opt : bytes -> char -> int option
  index_opt s c returns the index of the first occurrence of byte c in s or None if c does not occur in s.
  Since: 4.05

val rindex : bytes -> char -> int
  rindex s c returns the index of the last occurrence of byte c in s.
  Raise Not_found if c does not occur in s.

val rindex_opt : bytes -> char -> int option
  rindex_opt s c returns the index of the last occurrence of byte c in s or None if c does not occur in s.
  Since: 4.05

val index_from : bytes -> int -> char -> int
  index_from s i c returns the index of the first occurrence of byte c in s after position i.
  Bytes.index s c is equivalent to Bytes.index_from s 0 c.
  Raise Invalid_argument if i is not a valid position in s. Raise Not_found if c does not occur in s after position i.

val index_from_opt : bytes -> int -> char -> int option
  index_from_opts i c returns the index of the first occurrence of byte c in s after position i or None if c does not occur in s after position i. Bytes.index_opt s c is equivalent to Bytes.index_from_opt s 0 c.
  Raise Invalid_argument if i is not a valid position in s.
  Since: 4.05

val rindex_from : bytes -> int -> char -> int
  rindex_from s i c returns the index of the last occurrence of byte c in s before position i+1. rindex s c is equivalent to rindex_from s (Bytes.length s - 1) c.
  Raise Invalid_argument if i+1 is not a valid position in s. Raise Not_found if c does not occur in s before position i+1.
```
val rindex_from_opt : bytes -> int -> char -> int option

rindex_from_opt s i c returns the index of the last occurrence of byte c in s before position i+1 or None if c does not occur in s before position i+1. rindex_opt s c is equivalent to rindex_from s (Bytes.length s - 1) c.

Raise Invalid_argument if i+1 is not a valid position in s.

Since: 4.05

val contains : bytes -> char -> bool
contains s c tests if byte c appears in s.

val contains_from : bytes -> int -> char -> bool
contains_from s start c tests if byte c appears in s after position start. contains s c is equivalent to contains_from s 0 c.

Raise Invalid_argument if start is not a valid position in s.

val rcontains_from : bytes -> int -> char -> bool
rcontains_from s stop c tests if byte c appears in s before position stop+1.

Raise Invalid_argument if stop < 0 or stop+1 is not a valid position in s.

val uppercase : bytes -> bytes

Deprecated. Functions operating on Latin-1 character set are deprecated. Return a copy of the argument, with all lowercase letters translated to uppercase, including accented letters of the ISO Latin-1 (8859-1) character set.

val lowercase : bytes -> bytes

Deprecated. Functions operating on Latin-1 character set are deprecated. Return a copy of the argument, with all uppercase letters translated to lowercase, including accented letters of the ISO Latin-1 (8859-1) character set.

val capitalize : bytes -> bytes

Deprecated. Functions operating on Latin-1 character set are deprecated. Return a copy of the argument, with the first character set to uppercase, using the ISO Latin-1 (8859-1) character set.

val uncapitalize : bytes -> bytes

Deprecated. Functions operating on Latin-1 character set are deprecated. Return a copy of the argument, with the first character set to lowercase, using the ISO Latin-1 (8859-1) character set.

val uppercase_ascii : bytes -> bytes

Return a copy of the argument, with all lowercase letters translated to uppercase, using the US-ASCII character set.

Since: 4.03.0
val lowercase_ascii : bytes -> bytes
    Return a copy of the argument, with all uppercase letters translated to lowercase, using the
    US-ASCII character set.
    Since: 4.03.0

val capitalize_ascii : bytes -> bytes
    Return a copy of the argument, with the first character set to uppercase, using the
    US-ASCII character set.
    Since: 4.03.0

val uncapitalize_ascii : bytes -> bytes
    Return a copy of the argument, with the first character set to lowercase, using the
    US-ASCII character set.
    Since: 4.03.0

val compare : t -> t -> int
    The comparison function for byte sequences, with the same specification as compare[22.2].
    Along with the type t, this function compare allows the module Bytes to be passed as
    argument to the functors Set.Make[23.42] and Map.Make[23.28].

val equal : t -> t -> bool
    The equality function for byte sequences.
    Since: 4.03.0

Unsafe conversions (for advanced users)

This section describes unsafe, low-level conversion functions between bytes and string. They do
not copy the internal data; used improperly, they can break the immutability invariant on strings
provided by the -safe-string option. They are available for expert library authors, but for most
purposes you should use the always-correct Bytes.to_string[23.7] and Bytes.of_string[23.7]
instead.

val unsafe_to_string : bytes -> string
    Unsafely convert a byte sequence into a string.

To reason about the use of unsafe_to_string, it is convenient to consider an "ownership"
discipline. A piece of code that manipulates some data "owns" it; there are several disjoint
ownership modes, including:

- Unique ownership: the data may be accessed and mutated
- Shared ownership: the data has several owners, that may only access it, not mutate it.
Unique ownership is linear: passing the data to another piece of code means giving up ownership (we cannot write the data again). A unique owner may decide to make the data shared (giving up mutation rights on it), but shared data may not become uniquely-owned again.

`unsafe_to_string s` can only be used when the caller owns the byte sequence `s` – either uniquely or as shared immutable data. The caller gives up ownership of `s`, and gains ownership of the returned string.

There are two valid use-cases that respect this ownership discipline:

1. Creating a string by initializing and mutating a byte sequence that is never changed after initialization is performed.

   ```ocaml
   let string_init len f : string =
     let s = Bytes.create len in
     for i = 0 to len - 1 do Bytes.set s i (f i) done;
     Bytes.unsafe_to_string s
   ```

   This function is safe because the byte sequence `s` will never be accessed or mutated after `unsafe_to_string` is called. The `string_init` code gives up ownership of `s`, and returns the ownership of the resulting string to its caller.

   Note that it would be unsafe if `s` was passed as an additional parameter to the function `f` as it could escape this way and be mutated in the future – `string_init` would give up ownership of `s` to pass it to `f`, and could not call `unsafe_to_string` safely.

   We have provided the `String.init`, `String.map` and `String.mapi` functions to cover most cases of building new strings. You should prefer those over `to_string` or `unsafe_to_string` whenever applicable.

2. Temporarily giving ownership of a byte sequence to a function that expects a uniquely owned string and returns ownership back, so that we can mutate the sequence again after the call ended.

   ```ocaml
   let bytes_length (s : bytes) =
     String.length (Bytes.unsafe_to_string s)
   ```

   In this use-case, we do not promise that `s` will never be mutated after the call to `bytes_length s`. The `String.length` function temporarily borrows unique ownership of the byte sequence (and sees it as a `string`), but returns this ownership back to the caller, which may assume that `s` is still a valid byte sequence after the call. Note that this is only correct because we know that `String.length` does not capture its argument – it could escape by a side-channel such as a memoization combinator.

   The caller may not mutate `s` while the string is borrowed (it has temporarily given up ownership). This affects concurrent programs, but also higher-order functions: if `String.length` returned a closure to be called later, `s` should not be mutated until this closure is fully applied and returns ownership.
val unsafe_of_string : string -> bytes

Unsafely convert a shared string to a byte sequence that should not be mutated.
The same ownership discipline that makes unsafe_to_string correct applies to unsafe_of_string: you may use it if you were the owner of the string value, and you will own the return bytes in the same mode.
In practice, unique ownership of string values is extremely difficult to reason about correctly. You should always assume strings are shared, never uniquely owned.
For example, string literals are implicitly shared by the compiler, so you never uniquely own them.

let incorrect = Bytes.unsafe_of_string "hello"
let s = Bytes.of_string "hello"

The first declaration is incorrect, because the string literal "hello" could be shared by the compiler with other parts of the program, and mutating incorrect is a bug. You must always use the second version, which performs a copy and is thus correct.
Assuming unique ownership of strings that are not string literals, but are (partly) built from string literals, is also incorrect. For example, mutating unsafe_of_string ("foo" ^ s) could mutate the shared string "foo" – assuming a rope-like representation of strings. More generally, functions operating on strings will assume shared ownership, they do not preserve unique ownership. It is thus incorrect to assume unique ownership of the result of unsafe_of_string.
The only case we have reasonable confidence is safe is if the produced bytes is shared – used as an immutable byte sequence. This is possibly useful for incremental migration of low-level programs that manipulate immutable sequences of bytes (for example Marshal.from_bytes[23.29]) and previously used the string type for this purpose.

Iterators

val to_seq : t -> char Seq.t

Iterate on the string, in increasing index order. Modifications of the string during iteration will be reflected in the iterator.
Since: 4.07

val to_seqi : t -> (int * char) Seq.t

Iterate on the string, in increasing order, yielding indices along chars
Since: 4.07

val of_seq : char Seq.t -> t

Create a string from the generator
Since: 4.07
Binary encoding/decoding of integers

The functions in this section binary encode and decode integers to and from byte sequences.

All following functions raise **Invalid_argument** if the space needed at index \( i \) to decode or encode the integer is not available.

Little-endian (resp. big-endian) encoding means that least (resp. most) significant bytes are stored first. Big-endian is also known as network byte order. Native-endian encoding is either little-endian or big-endian depending on **Sys.big_endian**[23.49].

32-bit and 64-bit integers are represented by the **int32** and **int64** types, which can be interpreted either as signed or unsigned numbers.

8-bit and 16-bit integers are represented by the **int** type, which has more bits than the binary encoding. These extra bits are handled as follows:

- Functions that decode signed (resp. unsigned) 8-bit or 16-bit integers represented by **int** values sign-extend (resp. zero-extend) their result.

- Functions that encode 8-bit or 16-bit integers represented by **int** values truncate their input to their least significant bytes.

```ocaml
val get_uint8 : bytes -> int -> int
get_uint8 b i is b’s unsigned 8-bit integer starting at byte index i.
Since: 4.08

val get_int8 : bytes -> int -> int
get_int8 b i is b’s signed 8-bit integer starting at byte index i.
Since: 4.08

val get_uint16_ne : bytes -> int -> int
get_uint16_ne b i is b’s native-endian unsigned 16-bit integer starting at byte index i.
Since: 4.08

val get_uint16_be : bytes -> int -> int
get_uint16_be b i is b’s big-endian unsigned 16-bit integer starting at byte index i.
Since: 4.08

val get_uint16_le : bytes -> int -> int
get_uint16_le b i is b’s little-endian unsigned 16-bit integer starting at byte index i.
Since: 4.08

val get_int16_ne : bytes -> int -> int
get_int16_ne b i is b’s native-endian signed 16-bit integer starting at byte index i.
Since: 4.08

val get_int16_be : bytes -> int -> int
```
get_int16_be b i is b’s big-endian signed 16-bit integer starting at byte index i.
Since: 4.08

val get_int16_le : bytes -> int -> int
get_int16_le b i is b’s little-endian signed 16-bit integer starting at byte index i.
Since: 4.08

val get_int32_ne : bytes -> int -> int32
get_int32_ne b i is b’s native-endian 32-bit integer starting at byte index i.
Since: 4.08

val get_int32_be : bytes -> int -> int32
get_int32_be b i is b’s big-endian 32-bit integer starting at byte index i.
Since: 4.08

val get_int32_le : bytes -> int -> int32
get_int32_le b i is b’s little-endian 32-bit integer starting at byte index i.
Since: 4.08

val get_int64_ne : bytes -> int -> int64
get_int64_ne b i is b’s native-endian 64-bit integer starting at byte index i.
Since: 4.08

val get_int64_be : bytes -> int -> int64
get_int64_be b i is b’s big-endian 64-bit integer starting at byte index i.
Since: 4.08

val get_int64_le : bytes -> int -> int64
get_int64_le b i is b’s little-endian 64-bit integer starting at byte index i.
Since: 4.08

val set_uint8 : bytes -> int -> int -> unit
set_uint8 b i v sets b’s unsigned 8-bit integer starting at byte index i to v.
Since: 4.08

val set_int8 : bytes -> int -> int -> unit
set_int8 b i v sets b’s signed 8-bit integer starting at byte index i to v.
Since: 4.08

val set_uint16_ne : bytes -> int -> int -> unit

val set_int16_ne : bytes -> int -> int -> unit

val set_uint16_be : bytes -> int -> int -> unit

val set_int16_be : bytes -> int -> int -> unit

val set_uint16_le : bytes -> int -> int -> unit

val set_int16_le : bytes -> int -> int -> unit
set_uint16_ne b i v sets b's native-endian unsigned 16-bit integer starting at byte index i to v.
Since: 4.08

val set_uint16_be : bytes -> int -> int -> unit
set_uint16_be b i v sets b's big-endian unsigned 16-bit integer starting at byte index i to v.
Since: 4.08

val set_uint16_le : bytes -> int -> int -> unit
set_uint16_le b i v sets b's little-endian unsigned 16-bit integer starting at byte index i to v.
Since: 4.08

val set_int16_ne : bytes -> int -> int32 -> unit
set_int16_ne b i v sets b's native-endian signed 16-bit integer starting at byte index i to v.
Since: 4.08

val set_int16_be : bytes -> int -> int32 -> unit
set_int16_be b i v sets b's big-endian signed 16-bit integer starting at byte index i to v.
Since: 4.08

val set_int16_le : bytes -> int -> int32 -> unit
set_int16_le b i v sets b's little-endian signed 16-bit integer starting at byte index i to v.
Since: 4.08

val set_int32_ne : bytes -> int -> int32 -> unit
set_int32_ne b i v sets b's native-endian 32-bit integer starting at byte index i to v.
Since: 4.08

val set_int32_be : bytes -> int -> int32 -> unit
set_int32_be b i v sets b's big-endian 32-bit integer starting at byte index i to v.
Since: 4.08

val set_int32_le : bytes -> int -> int32 -> unit
set_int32_le b i v sets b's little-endian 32-bit integer starting at byte index i to v.
Since: 4.08

val set_int64_ne : bytes -> int -> int64 -> unit
set_int64_ne b i v sets b's native-endian 64-bit integer starting at byte index i to v.
Since: 4.08
val set_int64_be : bytes -> int -> int64 -> unit
  set_int64_be b i v sets b’s big-endian 64-bit integer starting at byte index i to v.
  Since: 4.08

val set_int64_le : bytes -> int -> int64 -> unit
  set_int64_le b i v sets b’s little-endian 64-bit integer starting at byte index i to v.
  Since: 4.08

23.8 Module BytesLabels : Byte sequence operations.
  Since: 4.02.0

val length : bytes -> int
  Return the length (number of bytes) of the argument.

val get : bytes -> int -> char
  get s n returns the byte at index n in argument s.
  Raise Invalid_argument if n is not a valid index in s.

val set : bytes -> int -> char -> unit
  set s n c modifies s in place, replacing the byte at index n with c.
  Raise Invalid_argument if n is not a valid index in s.

val create : int -> bytes
  create n returns a new byte sequence of length n. The sequence is uninitialized and
  contains arbitrary bytes.
  Raise Invalid_argument if n < 0 or n > Sys.max_string_length[23.49].

val make : int -> char -> bytes
  make n c returns a new byte sequence of length n, filled with the byte c.
  Raise Invalid_argument if n < 0 or n > Sys.max_string_length[23.49].

val init : int -> f:(int -> char) -> bytes
  init n f returns a fresh byte sequence of length n, with character i initialized to the result
  of f i.
  Raise Invalid_argument if n < 0 or n > Sys.max_string_length[23.49].

val empty : bytes
  A byte sequence of size 0.

val copy : bytes -> bytes
Return a new byte sequence that contains the same bytes as the argument.

val of_string : string -> bytes
Return a new byte sequence that contains the same bytes as the given string.

val to_string : bytes -> string
Return a new string that contains the same bytes as the given byte sequence.

val sub : bytes -> pos:int -> len:int -> bytes
sub s start len returns a new byte sequence of length len, containing the subsequence of s that starts at position start and has length len.
Raise Invalid_argument if start and len do not designate a valid range of s.

val sub_string : bytes -> pos:int -> len:int -> string
Same as sub but return a string instead of a byte sequence.

val extend : bytes -> left:int -> right:int -> bytes
extend s left right returns a new byte sequence that contains the bytes of s, with left uninitialized bytes prepended and right uninitialized bytes appended to it. If left or right is negative, then bytes are removed (instead of appended) from the corresponding side of s.
Raise Invalid_argument if the result length is negative or longer than Sys.max_string_length[23.49] bytes.
Since: 4.05.0

val fill : bytes -> pos:int -> len:int -> char -> unit
fill s start len c modifies s in place, replacing len characters with c, starting at start.
Raise Invalid_argument if start and len do not designate a valid range of s.

val blit :
blit src srcoff dst dstoff len copies len bytes from sequence src, starting at index srcoff, to sequence dst, starting at index dstoff. It works correctly even if src and dst are the same byte sequence, and the source and destination intervals overlap.
Raise Invalid_argument if srcoff and len do not designate a valid range of src, or if dstoff and len do not designate a valid range of dst.

val blit_string :
blit src srcoff dst dstoff len copies len bytes from string src, starting at index srcoff, to byte sequence dst, starting at index dstoff.
Raise Invalid_argument if srcoff and len do not designate a valid range of src, or if dstoff and len do not designate a valid range of dst.
Since: 4.05.0
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val concat : sep:bytes -> bytes list -> bytes
  concat sep sl concatenates the list of byte sequences sl, inserting the separator byte
  sequence sep between each, and returns the result as a new byte sequence.

val cat : bytes -> bytes -> bytes
  cat s1 s2 concatenates s1 and s2 and returns the result as new byte sequence.
  Raise Invalid_argument if the result is longer than Sys.max_string_length[23.49] bytes.
  Since: 4.05.0

val iter : f:(char -> unit) -> bytes -> unit
  iter f s applies function f in turn to all the bytes of s. It is equivalent to f (get s 0);
  f (get s 1); ...; f (get s (length s - 1)); ().

val iteri : f:(int -> char -> unit) -> bytes -> unit
  Same as Bytes.iter[23.7], but the function is applied to the index of the byte as first
  argument and the byte itself as second argument.

val map : f:(char -> char) -> bytes -> bytes
  map f s applies function f in turn to all the bytes of s and stores the resulting bytes in a
  new sequence that is returned as the result.

val mapi : f:(int -> char -> char) -> bytes -> bytes
  mapi f s calls f with each character of s and its index (in increasing index order) and
  stores the resulting bytes in a new sequence that is returned as the result.

val trim : bytes -> bytes
  Return a copy of the argument, without leading and trailing whitespace. The bytes
  regarded as whitespace are the ASCII characters ' ', '\012', '\n', '\r', and '\t'.

val escaped : bytes -> bytes
  Return a copy of the argument, with special characters represented by escape sequences,
  following the lexical conventions of OCaml.

val index : bytes -> char -> int
  index s c returns the index of the first occurrence of byte c in s.
  Raise Not_found if c does not occur in s.

val index_opt : bytes -> char -> int option
  index_opt s c returns the index of the first occurrence of byte c in s or None if c does not
  occur in s.
  Since: 4.05

val rindex : bytes -> char -> int
rindex s c returns the index of the last occurrence of byte c in s.
Raise Not_found if c does not occur in s.

val rindex_opt : bytes -> char -> int option
  rindex_opt s c returns the index of the last occurrence of byte c in s or None if c does not occur in s.
  Since: 4.05

val index_from : bytes -> int -> char -> int
  index_from s i c returns the index of the first occurrence of byte c in s after position i.
  Bytes.index s c is equivalent to Bytes.index_from s 0 c.
  Raise Invalid_argument if i is not a valid position in s. Raise Not_found if c does not occur in s after position i.

val index_from_opt : bytes -> int -> char -> int option
  index_from_opt s i c returns the index of the first occurrence of byte c in s after position i or None if c does not occur in s after position i.
  Bytes.index_opt s c is equivalent to Bytes.index_from_opt s 0 c.
  Raise Invalid_argument if i is not a valid position in s.
  Since: 4.05

val rindex_from : bytes -> int -> char -> int
  rindex_from s i c returns the index of the last occurrence of byte c in s before position i+1.
  rindex s c is equivalent to rindex_from s (Bytes.length s - 1) c.
  Raise Invalid_argument if i+1 is not a valid position in s. Raise Not_found if c does not occur in s before position i+1.

val rindex_from_opt : bytes -> int -> char -> int option
  rindex_from_opt s i c returns the index of the last occurrence of byte c in s before position i+1 or None if c does not occur in s before position i+1.
  rindex_opt s c is equivalent to rindex_from_opt s (Bytes.length s - 1) c.
  Raise Invalid_argument if i+1 is not a valid position in s.
  Since: 4.05

val contains : bytes -> char -> bool
  contains s c tests if byte c appears in s.

val contains_from : bytes -> int -> char -> bool
  contains_from s start c tests if byte c appears in s after position start.
  contains s c is equivalent to contains_from s 0 c.
  Raise Invalid_argument if start is not a valid position in s.
val rcontains_from : bytes -> int -> char -> bool
    rcontains_from s stop c tests if byte c appears in s before position stop+1.
    Raise Invalid_argument if stop < 0 or stop+1 is not a valid position in s.

val uppercase : bytes -> bytes
    Deprecated. Functions operating on Latin-1 character set are deprecated. Return a copy of
    the argument, with all lowercase letters translated to uppercase, including accented letters
    of the ISO Latin-1 (8859-1) character set.

val lowercase : bytes -> bytes
    Deprecated. Functions operating on Latin-1 character set are deprecated. Return a copy of
    the argument, with all uppercase letters translated to lowercase, including accented letters
    of the ISO Latin-1 (8859-1) character set.

val capitalize : bytes -> bytes
    Deprecated. Functions operating on Latin-1 character set are deprecated. Return a copy of
    the argument, with the first character set to uppercase, using the ISO Latin-1 (8859-1)
    character set.

val uncapitalize : bytes -> bytes
    Deprecated. Functions operating on Latin-1 character set are deprecated. Return a copy of
    the argument, with the first character set to lowercase, using the ISO Latin-1 (8859-1)
    character set.

val uppercase_ascii : bytes -> bytes
    Return a copy of the argument, with all lowercase letters translated to uppercase, using the
    US-ASCII character set.
    Since: 4.05.0

val lowercase_ascii : bytes -> bytes
    Return a copy of the argument, with all uppercase letters translated to lowercase, using the
    US-ASCII character set.
    Since: 4.05.0

val capitalize_ascii : bytes -> bytes
    Return a copy of the argument, with the first character set to uppercase, using the
    US-ASCII character set.
    Since: 4.05.0

val uncapitalize_ascii : bytes -> bytes
    Return a copy of the argument, with the first character set to lowercase, using the
    US-ASCII character set.
    Since: 4.05.0
type t = bytes
   An alias for the type of byte sequences.

val compare : t -> t -> int
   The comparison function for byte sequences, with the same specification as compare[22.2].
   Along with the type t, this function compare allows the module Bytes to be passed as argument to the functors Set.Make[23.42] and Map.Make[23.28].

val equal : t -> t -> bool
   The equality function for byte sequences.
   Since: 4.05.0

Iterators

val to_seq : t -> char Seq.t
   Iterate on the string, in increasing index order. Modifications of the string during iteration will be reflected in the iterator.
   Since: 4.07

val to_seqi : t -> (int * char) Seq.t
   Iterate on the string, in increasing order, yielding indices along chars
   Since: 4.07

val of_seq : char Seq.t -> t
   Create a string from the generator
   Since: 4.07

Binary encoding/decoding of integers

The functions in this section binary encode and decode integers to and from byte sequences.
   All following functions raise Invalid_argument if the space needed at index i to decode or encode the integer is not available.
   Little-endian (resp. big-endian) encoding means that least (resp. most) significant bytes are stored first. Big-endian is also known as network byte order. Native-endian encoding is either little-endian or big-endian depending on Sys.big_endian[23.49].
   32-bit and 64-bit integers are represented by the int32 and int64 types, which can be interpreted either as signed or unsigned numbers.
   8-bit and 16-bit integers are represented by the int type, which has more bits than the binary encoding. These extra bits are handled as follows:

   • Functions that decode signed (resp. unsigned) 8-bit or 16-bit integers represented by int values sign-extend (resp. zero-extend) their result.
• Functions that encode 8-bit or 16-bit integers represented by \texttt{int} values truncate their input to their least significant bytes.

\begin{verbatim}
val get_uint8 : bytes \rightarrow \texttt{int} \rightarrow \texttt{int}
  get_uint8 b i is b's unsigned 8-bit integer starting at byte index i.
  Since: 4.08

val get_int8 : bytes \rightarrow \texttt{int} \rightarrow \texttt{int}
  get_int8 b i is b's signed 8-bit integer starting at byte index i.
  Since: 4.08

val get_uint16_ne : bytes \rightarrow \texttt{int} \rightarrow \texttt{int}
  get_uint16_ne b i is b's native-endian unsigned 16-bit integer starting at byte index i.
  Since: 4.08

val get_uint16_be : bytes \rightarrow \texttt{int} \rightarrow \texttt{int}
  get_uint16_be b i is b's big-endian unsigned 16-bit integer starting at byte index i.
  Since: 4.08

val get_uint16_le : bytes \rightarrow \texttt{int} \rightarrow \texttt{int}
  get_uint16_le b i is b's little-endian unsigned 16-bit integer starting at byte index i.
  Since: 4.08

val get_int16_ne : bytes \rightarrow \texttt{int} \rightarrow \texttt{int}
  get_int16_ne b i is b's native-endian signed 16-bit integer starting at byte index i.
  Since: 4.08

val get_int16_be : bytes \rightarrow \texttt{int} \rightarrow \texttt{int}
  get_int16_be b i is b's big-endian signed 16-bit integer starting at byte index i.
  Since: 4.08

val get_int16_le : bytes \rightarrow \texttt{int} \rightarrow \texttt{int}
  get_int16_le b i is b's little-endian signed 16-bit integer starting at byte index i.
  Since: 4.08

val get_int32_ne : bytes \rightarrow \texttt{int} \rightarrow \texttt{int32}
  get_int32_ne b i is b's native-endian 32-bit integer starting at byte index i.
  Since: 4.08

val get_int32_be : bytes \rightarrow \texttt{int} \rightarrow \texttt{int32}
  get_int32_be b i is b's big-endian 32-bit integer starting at byte index i.
  Since: 4.08
\end{verbatim}
val get_int32_le : bytes -> int -> int32
  get_int32_le b i is b's little-endian 32-bit integer starting at byte index i.
  Since: 4.08

val get_int64_ne : bytes -> int -> int64
  get_int64_ne b i is b's native-endian 64-bit integer starting at byte index i.
  Since: 4.08

val get_int64_be : bytes -> int -> int64
  get_int64_be b i is b's big-endian 64-bit integer starting at byte index i.
  Since: 4.08

val get_int64_le : bytes -> int -> int64
  get_int64_le b i is b's little-endian 64-bit integer starting at byte index i.
  Since: 4.08

val set_uint8 : bytes -> int -> int -> unit
  set_uint8 b i v sets b's unsigned 8-bit integer starting at byte index i to v.
  Since: 4.08

val set_int8 : bytes -> int -> int -> unit
  set_int8 b i v sets b's signed 8-bit integer starting at byte index i to v.
  Since: 4.08

val set_uint16_ne : bytes -> int -> int -> unit
  set_uint16_ne b i v sets b's native-endian unsigned 16-bit integer starting at byte index i to v.
  Since: 4.08

val set_uint16_be : bytes -> int -> int -> unit
  set_uint16_be b i v sets b's big-endian unsigned 16-bit integer starting at byte index i to v.
  Since: 4.08

val set_uint16_le : bytes -> int -> int -> unit
  set_uint16_le b i v sets b's little-endian unsigned 16-bit integer starting at byte index i to v.
  Since: 4.08

val set_int16_ne : bytes -> int -> int -> unit
set_int16_ne b i v sets b's native-endian signed 16-bit integer starting at byte index i to v.
Since: 4.08

val set_int16_be : bytes -> int -> int -> unit
set_int16_be b i v sets b's big-endian signed 16-bit integer starting at byte index i to v.
Since: 4.08

val set_int16_le : bytes -> int -> int -> unit
set_int16_le b i v sets b's little-endian signed 16-bit integer starting at byte index i to v.
Since: 4.08

val set_int32_ne : bytes -> int -> int32 -> unit
set_int32_ne b i v sets b's native-endian 32-bit integer starting at byte index i to v.
Since: 4.08

val set_int32_be : bytes -> int -> int32 -> unit
set_int32_be b i v sets b's big-endian 32-bit integer starting at byte index i to v.
Since: 4.08

val set_int32_le : bytes -> int -> int32 -> unit
set_int32_le b i v sets b's little-endian 32-bit integer starting at byte index i to v.
Since: 4.08

val set_int64_ne : bytes -> int -> int64 -> unit
set_int64_ne b i v sets b's native-endian 64-bit integer starting at byte index i to v.
Since: 4.08

val set_int64_be : bytes -> int -> int64 -> unit
set_int64_be b i v sets b's big-endian 64-bit integer starting at byte index i to v.
Since: 4.08

val set_int64_le : bytes -> int -> int64 -> unit
set_int64_le b i v sets b's little-endian 64-bit integer starting at byte index i to v.
Since: 4.08
23.9 Module Callback : Registering OCaml values with the C runtime.

This module allows OCaml values to be registered with the C runtime under a symbolic name, so that C code can later call back registered OCaml functions, or raise registered OCaml exceptions.

val register : string -> 'a -> unit
Callback.register n v registers the value v under the name n. C code can later retrieve a handle to v by calling caml_named_value(n).

val register_exception : string -> exn -> unit
Callback.register_exception n exn registers the exception contained in the exception value exn under the name n. C code can later retrieve a handle to the exception by calling caml_named_value(n). The exception value thus obtained is suitable for passing as first argument to raise_constant or raise_with_arg.

23.10 Module Char : Character operations.

val code : char -> int
Return the ASCII code of the argument.

val chr : int -> char
Return the character with the given ASCII code. Raise Invalid_argument "Char.chr" if the argument is outside the range 0–255.

val escaped : char -> string
Return a string representing the given character, with special characters escaped following the lexical conventions of OCaml. All characters outside the ASCII printable range (32..126) are escaped, as well as backslash, double-quote, and single-quote.

val lowercase : char -> char
Deprecated. Functions operating on Latin-1 character set are deprecated. Convert the given character to its equivalent lowercase character, using the ISO Latin-1 (8859-1) character set.

val uppercase : char -> char
Deprecated. Functions operating on Latin-1 character set are deprecated. Convert the given character to its equivalent uppercase character, using the ISO Latin-1 (8859-1) character set.

val lowercase_ascii : char -> char
Convert the given character to its equivalent lowercase character, using the US-ASCII character set.

Since: 4.03.0
val uppercase_ascii : char -> char
  Convert the given character to its equivalent uppercase character, using the US-ASCII
  character set.
  Since: 4.03.0

val compare : t -> t -> int
  The comparison function for characters, with the same specification as compare[22.2]. Along
  with the type t, this function compare allows the module Char to be passed as argument to
  the functors Set.Make[23.42] and Map.Make[23.28].

val equal : t -> t -> bool
  The equal function for chars.
  Since: 4.03.0

23.11 Module Complex : Complex numbers.

This module provides arithmetic operations on complex numbers. Complex numbers are represented
by their real and imaginary parts (cartesian representation). Each part is represented by a double-
precision floating-point number (type float).

type t =
  { re : float ;
    im : float ;
  }  
  The type of complex numbers. re is the real part and im the imaginary part.

val zero : t
  The complex number 0.

val one : t
  The complex number 1.

val i : t
  The complex number i.

val neg : t -> t
  Unary negation.

val conj : t -> t
Conjugate: given the complex \( x + i.y \), returns \( x - i.y \).

```plaintext
val add : t -> t -> t
  Addition
val sub : t -> t -> t
  Subtraction
val mul : t -> t -> t
  Multiplication
val inv : t -> t
  Multiplicative inverse \((1/z)\).
val div : t -> t -> t
  Division
val sqrt : t -> t
  Square root. The result \( x + i.y \) is such that \( x > 0 \) or \( x = 0 \) and \( y >= 0 \). This function has a discontinuity along the negative real axis.

val norm2 : t -> float
  Norm squared: given \( x + i.y \), returns \( x^2 + y^2 \).
val norm : t -> float
  Norm: given \( x + i.y \), returns \( \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} \).
val arg : t -> float
  Argument. The argument of a complex number is the angle in the complex plane between the positive real axis and a line passing through zero and the number. This angle ranges from \(-\pi\) to \(\pi\). This function has a discontinuity along the negative real axis.

val polar : float -> float -> t
  \( \text{polar norm arg} \) returns the complex having norm \( \text{norm} \) and argument \( \text{arg} \).

val exp : t -> t
  Exponentiation. \( \text{exp z} \) returns \( e \) to the \( z \) power.
val log : t -> t
  Natural logarithm (in base \( e \)).
val pow : t -> t -> t
  Power function. \( \text{pow z1 z2} \) returns \( z1 \) to the \( z2 \) power.
```
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23.12 Module Digest : MD5 message digest.

This module provides functions to compute 128-bit ‘digests’ of arbitrary-length strings or files. The digests are of cryptographic quality: it is very hard, given a digest, to forge a string having that digest. The algorithm used is MD5. This module should not be used for secure and sensitive cryptographic applications. For these kind of applications more recent and stronger cryptographic primitives should be used instead.

```ocaml
type t = string
  The type of digests: 16-character strings.

val compare : t -> t -> int
  The comparison function for 16-character digest, with the same specification as
  compare[22.2] and the implementation shared with String.compare[23.47]. Along with the
  type t, this function compare allows the module Digest to be passed as argument to the
  functors Set.Make[23.42] and Map.Make[23.28].
  Since: 4.00.0

val equal : t -> t -> bool
  The equal function for 16-character digest.
  Since: 4.03.0

val string : string -> t
  Return the digest of the given string.

val bytes : bytes -> t
  Return the digest of the given byte sequence.
  Since: 4.02.0

val substring : string -> int -> int -> t
  Digest.substring s ofs len returns the digest of the substring of s starting at index ofs
  and containing len characters.

val subbytes : bytes -> int -> int -> t
  Digest.subbytes s ofs len returns the digest of the subsequence of s starting at index
  ofs and containing len bytes.
  Since: 4.02.0

val channel : in_channel -> int -> t
  If len is nonnegative, Digest.channel ic len reads len characters from channel ic and
  returns their digest, or raises End_of_file if end-of-file is reached before len characters are
  read. If len is negative, Digest.channel ic len reads all characters from ic until
  end-of-file is reached and return their digest.
```
val file : string -> t

Return the digest of the file whose name is given.

val output : out_channel -> t -> unit

Write a digest on the given output channel.

val input : in_channel -> t

Read a digest from the given input channel.

val to_hex : t -> string

Return the printable hexadecimal representation of the given digest. Raise
Invalid_argument if the argument is not exactly 16 bytes.

val from_hex : string -> t

Convert a hexadecimal representation back into the corresponding digest. Raise
Invalid_argument if the argument is not exactly 32 hexadecimal characters.

Since: 4.00.0

23.13 Module Ephemeron: Ephemerons and weak hash table

Ephemerons and weak hash table are useful when one wants to cache or memorize the computation
of a function, as long as the arguments and the function are used, without creating memory leaks by
continuously keeping old computation results that are not useful anymore because one argument
or the function is freed. An implementation using Hashtbl.t[23.20] is not suitable because all
associations would keep in memory the arguments and the result.

Ephemerons can also be used for “adding” a field to an arbitrary boxed ocaml value: you can
attach an information to a value created by an external library without memory leaks.

Ephemerons hold some keys and one or no data. They are all boxed ocaml values. The keys of
an ephemeron have the same behavior than weak pointers according to the garbage collector. In
fact ocaml weak pointers are implemented as ephemerons without data.

The keys and data of an ephemeron are said to be full if they point to a value, empty if the
value have never been set, have been unset, or was erased by the GC. In the function that accesses
the keys or data these two states are represented by the option type.

The data is considered by the garbage collector alive if all the full keys are alive and if the
ephemeron is alive. When one of the keys is not considered alive anymore by the GC, the data is
emptied from the ephemeron. The data could be alive for another reason and in that case the GC
will not free it, but the ephemeron will not hold the data anymore.

The ephemeron complicates the notion of liveness of values, because it is not anymore an
equivalence with the reachability from root value by usual pointers (not weak and not ephemeron).
With ephemeron the notion of liveness is constructed by the least fixpoint of: A value is alive if:

• it is a root value
• it is reachable from alive value by usual pointers
• it is the data of an alive ephemeron with all its full keys alive

Notes:
• All the types defined in this module cannot be marshaled using `output_value[22.2]` or the functions of the `Marshal[23.29]` module.

Ephemersons are defined in a language agnostic way in this paper: B. Hayes, Ephemeron: a New Finalization Mechanism, OOPSLA’9

```ocaml
module type S =
  sig
    Propose the same interface as usual hash table. However since the bindings are weak, even if `mem h k` is true, a subsequent `find h k` may raise `Not_found` because the garbage collector can run between the two.
    Moreover, the table shouldn’t be modified during a call to `iter`. Use `filter_map_inplace` in this case.
    include Hashtbl.S
    val clean : 'a t -> unit
      remove all dead bindings. Done automatically during automatic resizing,
    val stats_alive : 'a t -> Hashtbl.statistics
      same as `Hashtbl.SeededS.stats[23.20]` but only count the alive bindings
  end
```

The output signature of the functor `Ephemeron.K1.Make[23.13]` and `Ephemeron.K2.Make[23.13]`. These hash tables are weak in the keys. If all the keys of a binding are alive the binding is kept, but if one of the keys of the binding is dead then the binding is removed.

```ocaml
module type SeededS =
  sig
    include Hashtbl.SeededS
    val clean : 'a t -> unit
      remove all dead bindings. Done automatically during automatic resizing,
    val stats_alive : 'a t -> Hashtbl.statistics
      same as `Hashtbl.SeededS.stats[23.20]` but only count the alive bindings
  end
```

module K1 :
  sig

    type ('k, 'd) t
    an ephemeron with one key

    val create : unit -> ('k, 'd) t
    
    Ephemeron.K1.create () creates an ephemeron with one key. The data and the key are empty

    val get_key : ('k, 'd) t -> 'k option
    
    Ephemeron.K1.get_key eph returns None if the key of eph is empty, Some x (where x is the key) if it is full.

    val get_key_copy : ('k, 'd) t -> 'k option
    
    Ephemeron.K1.get_key_copy eph returns None if the key of eph is empty, Some x (where x is a (shallow) copy of the key) if it is full. This function has the same GC friendliness as Weak.get_copy[23.52]
    If the element is a custom block it is not copied.

    val set_key : ('k, 'd) t -> 'k -> unit
    
    Ephemeron.K1.set_key eph el sets the key of eph to be a (full) key to el

    val unset_key : ('k, 'd) t -> unit
    
    Ephemeron.K1.unset_key eph el sets the key of eph to be an empty key. Since there is only one key, the ephemeron starts behaving like a reference on the data.

    val check_key : ('k, 'd) t -> bool
    
    Ephemeron.K1.check_key eph returns true if the key of the eph is full, false if it is empty. Note that even if Ephemeron.K1.check_key eph returns true, a subsequent Ephemeron.K1.get_key[23.13]eph can return None.

    val blit_key : ('k, 'a) t -> ('k, 'b) t -> unit
    

    val get_data : ('k, 'd) t -> 'd option
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Ephemeron.K1.get_data eph returns None if the data of eph is empty, Some x (where x is the data) if it is full.

val get_data_copy : ('k, 'd) t -> 'd option

Ephemeron.K1.get_data_copy eph returns None if the data of eph is empty, Some x (where x is a (shallow) copy of the data) if it is full. This function has the same GC friendliness as Weak.get_copy[23.52]

If the element is a custom block it is not copied.

val set_data : ('k, 'd) t -> 'd -> unit

Ephemeron.K1.set_data eph el sets the data of eph to be a (full) data to el

val unset_data : ('k, 'd) t -> unit

Ephemeron.K1.unset_data eph el sets the key of eph to be an empty key. The ephemeron starts behaving like a weak pointer.

val check_data : ('k, 'd) t -> bool

Ephemeron.K1.check_data eph returns true if the data of the eph is full, false if it is empty. Note that even if Ephemeron.K1.check_data eph returns true, a subsequent Ephemeron.K1.get_data[23.13]eph can return None.

val blit_data : ('a, 'd) t -> ('b, 'd) t -> unit


module Make :
functor (H : Hashtbl.HashedType) -> Ephemeron.S with type key = H.t

Functor building an implementation of a weak hash table

module MakeSeeded :
functor (H : Hashtbl.SeededHashedType) -> Ephemeron.SeededS with type key = H.t

Functor building an implementation of a weak hash table. The seed is similar to the one of Hashtbl.MakeSeeded[23.20].

end

module K2 :
sig

type ('k1, 'k2, 'd) t
an ephemeron with two keys

val create : unit -> ('k1, 'k2, 'd) t
    Same as Ephemeron.K1.create[23.13]

val get_key1 : ('k1, 'k2, 'd) t -> 'k1 option
    Same as Ephemeron.K1.get_key[23.13]

val get_key1_copy : ('k1, 'k2, 'd) t -> 'k1 option
    Same as Ephemeron.K1.get_key_copy[23.13]

val set_key1 : ('k1, 'k2, 'd) t -> 'k1 -> unit
    Same as Ephemeron.K1.set_key[23.13]

val unset_key1 : ('k1, 'k2, 'd) t -> unit
    Same as Ephemeron.K1.unset_key[23.13]

val check_key1 : ('k1, 'k2, 'd) t -> bool
    Same as Ephemeron.K1.check_key[23.13]

val get_key2 : ('k1, 'k2, 'd) t -> 'k2 option
    Same as Ephemeron.K1.get_key[23.13]

val get_key2_copy : ('k1, 'k2, 'd) t -> 'k2 option
    Same as Ephemeron.K1.get_key_copy[23.13]

val set_key2 : ('k1, 'k2, 'd) t -> 'k2 -> unit
    Same as Ephemeron.K1.set_key[23.13]

val unset_key2 : ('k1, 'k2, 'd) t -> unit
    Same as Ephemeron.K1.unset_key[23.13]

val check_key2 : ('k1, 'k2, 'd) t -> bool
    Same as Ephemeron.K1.check_key[23.13]

val blit_key1 : ('k1, 'a, 'b) t -> ('k1, 'c, 'd) t -> unit
    Same as Ephemeron.K1.blit_key[23.13]

val blit_key2 : ('a, 'k2, 'b) t -> ('c, 'k2, 'd) t -> unit
    Same as Ephemeron.K1.blit_key[23.13]
val blit_key12 : ('k1, 'k2, 'a) t -> ('k1, 'k2, 'b) t -> unit
    Same as Ephemeron.K1.blit_key[23.13]

val get_data : ('k1, 'k2, 'd) t -> 'd option
    Same as Ephemeron.K1.get_data[23.13]

val get_data_copy : ('k1, 'k2, 'd) t -> 'd option
    Same as Ephemeron.K1.get_data_copy[23.13]

val set_data : ('k1, 'k2, 'd) t -> 'd -> unit
    Same as Ephemeron.K1.set_data[23.13]

val unset_data : ('k1, 'k2, 'd) t -> unit
    Same as Ephemeron.K1.unset_data[23.13]

val check_data : ('k1, 'k2, 'd) t -> bool
    Same as Ephemeron.K1.check_data[23.13]

val blit_data : ('k1, 'k2, 'd) t -> ('k1, 'k2, 'd) t -> unit
    Same as Ephemeron.K1.blit_data[23.13]

module Make :
  functor (H1 : Hashtbl.HashedType) -> functor (H2 : Hashtbl.HashedType) ->
  Ephemeron.S with type key = H1.t * H2.t
  Functor building an implementation of a weak hash table

module MakeSeeded :
  functor (H1 : Hashtbl.SeededHashedType) -> functor (H2 : Hashtbl.SeededHashedType) ->
  Ephemeron.SeededS with type key = H1.t * H2.t
  Functor building an implementation of a weak hash table. The seed is similar to the
  one of Hashtbl.MakeSeeded[23.20].

end

module Kn :
  sig
    type ('k, 'd) t
    an ephemeron with an arbitrary number of keys of the same type

    val create : int -> ('k, 'd) t
Same as Ephemeron.K1.create

val get_key : ('k, 'd) t -> int -> 'k option
  Same as Ephemeron.K1.get_key

val get_key_copy : ('k, 'd) t -> int -> 'k option
  Same as Ephemeron.K1.get_key_copy

val set_key : ('k, 'd) t -> int -> 'k -> unit
  Same as Ephemeron.K1.set_key

val unset_key : ('k, 'd) t -> int -> unit
  Same as Ephemeron.K1.unset_key

val check_key : ('k, 'd) t -> int -> bool
  Same as Ephemeron.K1.check_key

val blit_key : ('k, 'a) t ->
  int -> ('k, 'b) t -> int -> int -> unit
  Same as Ephemeron.K1.blit_key

val get_data : ('k, 'd) t -> 'd option
  Same as Ephemeron.K1.get_data

val get_data_copy : ('k, 'd) t -> 'd option
  Same as Ephemeron.K1.get_data_copy

val set_data : ('k, 'd) t -> 'd -> unit
  Same as Ephemeron.K1.set_data

val unset_data : ('k, 'd) t -> unit
  Same as Ephemeron.K1.unset_data

val check_data : ('k, 'd) t -> bool
  Same as Ephemeron.K1.check_data

val blit_data : ('k, 'd) t -> ('k, 'd) t -> unit
  Same as Ephemeron.K1.blit_data

module Make :
  functor (H : Hashtbl.HashedType) -> Ephemeron.S with type key = H.t array
Functor building an implementation of a weak hash table

module MakeSeeded :
functor (H : Hashtbl.SeededHashedType) -> Ephemeron.SeededS with type key = H.t array

Functor building an implementation of a weak hash table. The seed is similar to the one of Hashtbl.MakeSeeded[23.20].

end

module GenHashTable :
sig
  Define a hash table on generic containers which have a notion of "death" and aliveness. If a binding is dead the hash table can automatically remove it.

  type equal =
    | ETrue
    | EFalse
    | EDead

    the container is dead

module MakeSeeded :
functor (H : sig

  type t

  keys

  type 'a container

      contains keys and the associated data

  val hash : int -> t -> int

      same as Hashtbl.SeededHashedType

  val equal : 'a container ->
            t -> Ephemeron.GenHashTable.equal

      equality predicate used to compare a key with the one in a container. Can return EDead if the keys in the container are dead

  val create : t ->
              'a -> 'a container

      create key data creates a container from some initials keys and one data

  val get_key : 'a container ->
                t option

      get_key cont returns the keys if they are all alive
val get_data : 'a container -> 'a option
  get_data cont returns the data if it is alive

val set_key_data : 'a container ->
  t -> 'a -> unit
  set_key_data cont modifies the key and data

val check_key : 'a container -> bool
  check_key cont checks if all the keys contained in the data are alive

end ) -> Ephemeron.SeededS  with type key = H.t

Functo building an implementation of an hash table that use the container for keeping
the information given

end


val current_dir_name : string
  The conventional name for the current directory (e.g. . in Unix).

val parent_dir_name : string
  The conventional name for the parent of the current directory (e.g. .. in Unix).

val dir_sep : string
  The directory separator (e.g. / in Unix).
  Since: 3.11.2

val concat : string -> string -> string
  concat dir file returns a file name that designates file file in directory dir.

val is_relative : string -> bool
  Return true if the file name is relative to the current directory, false if it is absolute (i.e. in Unix, starts with /).

val is_implicit : string -> bool
  Return true if the file name is relative and does not start with an explicit reference to the current directory (./ or ../ in Unix), false if it starts with an explicit reference to the root directory or the current directory.

val check_suffix : string -> string -> bool
check_suffix name suff returns true if the filename name ends with the suffix suff.

Under Windows ports (including Cygwin), comparison is case-insensitive, relying on String.lowercase_ascii. Note that this does not match exactly the interpretation of case-insensitive filename equivalence from Windows.

val chop_suffix : string -> string -> string

chop_suffix name suff removes the suffix suff from the filename name. The behavior is undefined if name does not end with the suffix suff. It is thus recommended to use chop_suffix_opt instead.

val chop_suffix_opt : suffix:string -> string -> string option

chop_suffix_opt ~suffix filename removes the suffix from the filename if possible, or returns None if the filename does not end with the suffix.

Under Windows ports (including Cygwin), comparison is case-insensitive, relying on String.lowercase_ascii. Note that this does not match exactly the interpretation of case-insensitive filename equivalence from Windows.

Since: 4.08

val extension : string -> string

extension name is the shortest suffix ext of name0 where:

- name0 is the longest suffix of name that does not contain a directory separator;
- ext starts with a period;
- ext is preceded by at least one non-period character in name0.

If such a suffix does not exist, extension name is the empty string.

Since: 4.04

val remove_extension : string -> string

Return the given file name without its extension, as defined in Filename.extension[23.14]. If the extension is empty, the function returns the given file name.

The following invariant holds for any file name s:

remove_extension s ^ extension s = s

Since: 4.04

val chop_extension : string -> string

Same as Filename.remove_extension[23.14], but raise Invalid_argument if the given name has an empty extension.

val basename : string -> string
Split a file name into directory name / base file name. If name is a valid file name, then concat (dirname name) (basename name) returns a file name which is equivalent to name. Moreover, after setting the current directory to dirname name (with Sys.chdir[23.49]), references to basename name (which is a relative file name) designate the same file as name before the call to Sys.chdir[23.49].

This function conforms to the specification of POSIX.1-2008 for the basename utility.

val dirname : string -> string
See Filename.basename[23.14]. This function conforms to the specification of POSIX.1-2008 for the dirname utility.

val temp_file : ?temp_dir:string -> string -> string -> string
temp_file prefix suffix returns the name of a fresh temporary file in the temporary directory. The base name of the temporary file is formed by concatenating prefix, then a suitably chosen integer number, then suffix. The optional argument temp_dir indicates the temporary directory to use, defaulting to the current result of Filename.get_temp_dir_name[23.14]. The temporary file is created empty, with permissions 0o600 (readable and writable only by the file owner). The file is guaranteed to be different from any other file that existed when temp_file was called. Raise Sys_error if the file could not be created.

Before 3.11.2 no ?temp_dir optional argument

val open_temp_file :
?mode:open_flag list ->
?perms:int ->
?temp_dir:string -> string -> string -> string * out_channel
Same as Filename.temp_file[23.14], but returns both the name of a fresh temporary file, and an output channel opened (atomically) on this file. This function is more secure than temp_file: there is no risk that the temporary file will be modified (e.g. replaced by a symbolic link) before the program opens it. The optional argument mode is a list of additional flags to control the opening of the file. It can contain one or several of Open_append, Open_binary, and Open_text. The default is [Open_text] (open in text mode). The file is created with permissions perms (defaults to readable and writable only by the file owner, 0o600).

Before 4.03.0 no ?perms optional argument
Before 3.11.2 no ?temp_dir optional argument
Raises Sys_error if the file could not be opened.

val get_temp_dir_name : unit -> string
The name of the temporary directory: Under Unix, the value of the TMPDIR environment variable, or "/tmp" if the variable is not set. Under Windows, the value of the TEMP environment variable, or "." if the variable is not set. The temporary directory can be changed with Filename.set_temp_dir_name[23.14].

Since: 4.00.0
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val set_temp_dir_name : string -> unit

Change the temporary directory returned by Filename.get_temp_dir_name§ and used by Filename.temp_file§ and Filename.open_temp_file§. Since: 4.00.0

val temp_dir_name : string

Deprecated. You should use Filename.get_temp_dir_name§ instead. The name of the initial temporary directory: Under Unix, the value of the TMPDIR environment variable, or "/tmp" if the variable is not set. Under Windows, the value of the TEMP environment variable, or "." if the variable is not set. Since: 3.09.1

val quote : string -> string

Return a quoted version of a file name, suitable for use as one argument in a command line, escaping all meta-characters. Warning: under Windows, the output is only suitable for use with programs that follow the standard Windows quoting conventions.

23.15 Module Float: Floating-point arithmetic

OCaml's floating-point numbers follow the IEEE 754 standard, using double precision (64 bits) numbers. Floating-point operations never raise an exception on overflow, underflow, division by zero, etc. Instead, special IEEE numbers are returned as appropriate, such as infinity for 1.0 / 0.0, neg_infinity for -1.0 / 0.0, and nan ('not a number') for 0.0 / 0.0. These special numbers then propagate through floating-point computations as expected: for instance, 1.0 / infinity is 0.0, and any arithmetic operation with nan as argument returns nan as result. Since: 4.07.0

val zero : float

The floating point 0. Since: 4.08.0

val one : float

The floating-point 1. Since: 4.08.0

val minus_one : float

The floating-point -1. Since: 4.08.0

val neg : float -> float

Unary negation.
val add : float -> float -> float
   Floating-point addition.
val sub : float -> float -> float
   Floating-point subtraction.
val mul : float -> float -> float
   Floating-point multiplication.
val div : float -> float -> float
   Floating-point division.
val fma : float -> float -> float -> float
   fma x y z returns x * y + z, with a best effort for computing this expression with a single
   rounding, using either hardware instructions (providing full IEEE compliance) or a software
   emulation. Note: since software emulation of the fma is costly, make sure that you are using
   hardware fma support if performance matters.
   Since: 4.08.0
val rem : float -> float -> float
   rem a b returns the remainder of a with respect to b. The returned value is a -. n *. b,
   where n is the quotient a /. b rounded towards zero to an integer.
val succ : float -> float
   succ x returns the floating point number right after x i.e., the smallest floating-point
   number greater than x. See also Float.next_after[23.15].
   Since: 4.08.0
val pred : float -> float
   pred x returns the floating-point number right before x i.e., the greatest floating-point
   number smaller than x. See also Float.next_after[23.15].
   Since: 4.08.0
val abs : float -> float
   abs f returns the absolute value of f.
val infinity : float
   Positive infinity.
val neg_infinity : float
   Negative infinity.
val nan : float
A special floating-point value denoting the result of an undefined operation such as \(0.0 / 0.0\). Stands for 'not a number'. Any floating-point operation with \texttt{nan} as argument returns \texttt{nan} as result. As for floating-point comparisons, \(=, <, <=, >\) and \(>=\) return \texttt{false} and \(<>\) returns \texttt{true} if one or both of their arguments is \texttt{nan}.

\begin{verbatim}
val pi : float
    The constant pi.

val max_float : float
    The largest positive finite value of type float.

val min_float : float
    The smallest positive, non-zero, non-denormalized value of type float.

val epsilon : float
    The difference between 1.0 and the smallest exactly representable floating-point number greater than 1.0.

val is_finite : float -> bool
    is_finite x is true iff x is finite i.e., not infinite and not Float.nan[23.15].
    Since: 4.08.0

val is_infinite : float -> bool
    is_infinite x is true iff x is Float.infinity[23.15] or Float.neg_infinity[23.15].
    Since: 4.08.0

val is_nan : float -> bool
    is_nan x is true iff x is not a number (see Float.nan[23.15]).
    Since: 4.08.0

val is_integer : float -> bool
    is_integer x is true iff x is an integer.
    Since: 4.08.0

val of_int : int -> float
    Convert an integer to floating-point.

val to_int : float -> int
    Truncate the given floating-point number to an integer. The result is unspecified if the argument is \texttt{nan} or falls outside the range of representable integers.

val of_string : string -> float
\end{verbatim}
Convert the given string to a float. The string is read in decimal (by default) or in hexadecimal (marked by 0x or 0X). The format of decimal floating-point numbers is \([-\] \text{dd.ddd} (e|E) [+-] \text{dd} \), where \text{d} stands for a decimal digit. The format of hexadecimal floating-point numbers is \([-\] 0(x|X) \text{hh.hhh} (p|P) [+-] \text{dd} \), where \text{h} stands for an hexadecimal digit and \text{d} for a decimal digit. In both cases, at least one of the integer and fractional parts must be given; the exponent part is optional. The _ (underscore) character can appear anywhere in the string and is ignored. Depending on the execution platforms, other representations of floating-point numbers can be accepted, but should not be relied upon. Raise Failure "float_of_string" if the given string is not a valid representation of a float.

```ml
val of_string_opt : string -> float option
```
Same as of_string, but returns None instead of raising.

```ml
val to_string : float -> string
```
Return the string representation of a floating-point number.

```ml
type fpclass = fpclass =
| FP_normal
  Normal number, none of the below
| FP_subnormal
  Number very close to 0.0, has reduced precision
| FP_zero
  Number is 0.0 or -0.0
| FP_infinite
  Number is positive or negative infinity
| FP_nan
  Not a number: result of an undefined operation

The five classes of floating-point numbers, as determined by the
Float.classify_float function.

```ml
val classify_float : float -> fpclass
```
Return the class of the given floating-point number: normal, subnormal, zero, infinite, or not a number.

```ml
val pow : float -> float -> float
Exponentiation.
```

```ml
val sqrt : float -> float
Square root.
```

```ml
val exp : float -> float
```
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Exponential.

val log : float -> float
    Natural logarithm.

val log10 : float -> float
    Base 10 logarithm.

val expm1 : float -> float
    expm1 x computes exp x -. 1.0, giving numerically-accurate results even if x is close to 0.0.

val log1p : float -> float
    log1p x computes log(1.0 +. x) (natural logarithm), giving numerically-accurate results even if x is close to 0.0.

val cos : float -> float
    Cosine. Argument is in radians.

val sin : float -> float
    Sine. Argument is in radians.

val tan : float -> float
    Tangent. Argument is in radians.

val acos : float -> float
    Arc cosine. The argument must fall within the range [-1.0, 1.0]. Result is in radians and is between 0.0 and pi.

val asin : float -> float
    Arc sine. The argument must fall within the range [-1.0, 1.0]. Result is in radians and is between -pi/2 and pi/2.

val atan : float -> float
    Arc tangent. Result is in radians and is between -pi/2 and pi/2.

val atan2 : float -> float -> float
    atan2 y x returns the arc tangent of y /. x. The signs of x and y are used to determine the quadrant of the result. Result is in radians and is between -pi and pi.

val hypot : float -> float -> float
    hypot x y returns sqrt(x *. x + y *. y), that is, the length of the hypotenuse of a right-angled triangle with sides of length x and y, or, equivalently, the distance of the point (x,y) to origin. If one of x or y is infinite, returns infinity even if the other is nan.
val cosh : float -> float
    Hyperbolic cosine. Argument is in radians.

val sinh : float -> float
    Hyperbolic sine. Argument is in radians.

val tanh : float -> float
    Hyperbolic tangent. Argument is in radians.

val trunc : float -> float
    trunc x rounds x to the nearest integer whose absolute value is less than or equal to x.
    Since: 4.08.0

val round : float -> float
    round x rounds x to the nearest integer with ties (fractional values of 0.5) rounded away from zero, regardless of the current rounding direction. If x is an integer, +0., -0., nan, or infinite, x itself is returned.
    Since: 4.08.0

val ceil : float -> float
    Round above to an integer value. ceil f returns the least integer value greater than or equal to f. The result is returned as a float.

val floor : float -> float
    Round below to an integer value. floor f returns the greatest integer value less than or equal to f. The result is returned as a float.

val next_after : float -> float -> float
    next_after x y returns the next representable floating-point value following x in the direction of y. More precisely, if y is greater (resp. less) than x, it returns the smallest (resp. largest) representable number greater (resp. less) than x. If x equals y, the function returns y. If x or y is nan, a nan is returned. Note that next_after max_float infinity = infinity and that next_after 0. infinity is the smallest denormalized positive number. If x is the smallest denormalized positive number, next_after x 0. = 0.
    Since: 4.08.0

val copy_sign : float -> float -> float
    copy_sign x y returns a float whose absolute value is that of x and whose sign is that of y. If x is nan, returns nan. If y is nan, returns either x or -. x, but it is not specified which.

val sign_bit : float -> bool
    sign_bit x is true iff the sign bit of x is set. For example sign_bit 1. and signbit 0. are false while sign_bit (-1.) and sign_bit (-0.) are true.
    Since: 4.08.0
val frexp : float -> float * int

frexp f returns the pair of the significant and the exponent of f. When f is zero, the significant x and the exponent n of f are equal to zero. When f is non-zero, they are defined by f = x *. 2 ** n and 0.5 <= x < 1.0.

val ldexp : float -> int -> float

ldexp x n returns x *. 2 ** n.

val modf : float -> float * float

modf f returns the pair of the fractional and integral part of f.

type t = float

An alias for the type of floating-point numbers.

val compare : t -> t -> int

compare x y returns 0 if x is equal to y, a negative integer if x is less than y, and a positive integer if x is greater than y. compare treats nan as equal to itself and less than any other float value. This treatment of nan ensures that compare defines a total ordering relation.

val equal : t -> t -> bool

The equal function for floating-point numbers, compared using Float.compare[23.15].

val min : t -> t -> t

min x y returns the minimum of x and y. It returns nan when x or y is nan. Moreover min (-0.) (+0.) = -0.

Since: 4.08.0

val max : float -> float -> float

max x y returns the maximum of x and y. It returns nan when x or y is nan. Moreover max (-0.) (+0.) = +0.

Since: 4.08.0

val min_max : float -> float -> float * float

min_max x y is (min x y, max x y), just more efficient.

Since: 4.08.0

val min_num : t -> t -> t

min_num x y returns the minimum of x and y treating nan as missing values. If both x and y are nan, nan is returned. Moreover min_num (-0.) (+0.) = -0.

Since: 4.08.0

val max_num : t -> t -> t
max_num x y returns the maximum of x and y treating nan as missing values. If both x and y are nan nan is returned. Moreover max_num (-0.) (+0.) = +0.

Since: 4.08.0

val min_max_num : float -> float -> float * float

min_max_num x y is (min_num x y, max_num x y), just more efficient. Note that in particular min_max_num x nan = (x, x) and min_max_num nan y = (y, y).

Since: 4.08.0

val hash : t -> int

The hash function for floating-point numbers.

module Array :
  sig
    type t = floatarray
    The type of float arrays with packed representation.
    Since: 4.08.0
    
    val length : t -> int
    
    Return the length (number of elements) of the given floatarray.

    val get : t -> int -> float
    get a n returns the element number n of floatarray a.
    Raise Invalid_argument if n is outside the range 0 to (length a - 1).

    val set : t -> int -> float -> unit
    set a n x modifies floatarray a in place, replacing element number n with x.
    Raise Invalid_argument if n is outside the range 0 to (length a - 1).

    val make : int -> float -> t
    make n x returns a fresh floatarray of length n, initialized with x.
    Raise Invalid_argument if n < 0 or n > Sys.max_floatarray_length.

    val create : int -> t
    create n returns a fresh floatarray of length n, with uninitialized data.
    Raise Invalid_argument if n < 0 or n > Sys.max_floatarray_length.

    val init : int -> (int -> float) -> t
    init n f returns a fresh floatarray of length n, with element number i initialized to the result of f i. In other terms, init n f tabulates the results of f applied to the integers 0 to n-1.
    Raise Invalid_argument if n < 0 or n > Sys.max_floatarray_length.
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val append : t -> t -> t

append v1 v2 returns a fresh floatarray containing the concatenation of the floatarrays
v1 and v2.
Raise Invalid_argument if length v1 + length v2 > Sys.max_floatarray_length.

val concat : t list -> t

Same as Float.Array.append[23.15], but concatenates a list of floatarrays.

val sub : t -> int -> int -> t

sub a start len returns a fresh floatarray of length len, containing the elements
number start to start + len - 1 of floatarray a.
Raise Invalid_argument if start and len do not designate a valid subarray of a; that
is, if start < 0, or len < 0, or start + len > length a.

val copy : t -> t

copy a returns a copy of a, that is, a fresh floatarray containing the same elements as a.

val fill : t -> int -> int -> float -> unit

fill a ofs len x modifies the floatarray a in place, storing x in elements number ofs
to ofs + len - 1.
Raise Invalid_argument if ofs and len do not designate a valid subarray of a.

val blit : t -> int -> t -> int -> int -> unit

blit v1 o1 v2 o2 len copies len elements from floatarray v1, starting at element
number o1, to floatarray v2, starting at element number o2. It works correctly even if
v1 and v2 are the same floatarray, and the source and destination chunks overlap.
Raise Invalid_argument if o1 and len do not designate a valid subarray of v1, or if o2
and len do not designate a valid subarray of v2.

val to_list : t -> float list

to_list a returns the list of all the elements of a.

val of_list : float list -> t

of_list l returns a fresh floatarray containing the elements of l.
Raise Invalid_argument if the length of l is greater than
Sys.max_floatarray_length.
Iterators

val iter : (float -> unit) -> t -> unit
iter f a applies function f in turn to all the elements of a. It is equivalent to f a.(0); f a.(1); ...; f a.(length a - 1); ()

val iteri : (int -> float -> unit) -> t -> unit
Same as Float.Array.iter[23.15], but the function is applied with the index of the element as first argument, and the element itself as second argument.

val map : (float -> float) -> t -> t
map f a applies function f to all the elements of a, and builds a floatarray with the results returned by f.

val mapi : (int -> float -> float) -> t -> t
Same as Float.Array.map[23.15], but the function is applied to the index of the element as first argument, and the element itself as second argument.

val fold_left : ('a -> float -> 'a) -> 'a -> t -> 'a
fold_left f x a computes f (... (f x a.(0)) a.(1)) ... a.(n-1), where n is the length of the floatarray a.

val fold_right : (float -> 'a -> 'a) -> t -> 'a -> 'a
fold_right f a x computes f a.(0) (f a.(1) ( ... (f a.(n-1) x) ...)), where n is the length of the floatarray a.

Iterators on two arrays

val iter2 : (float -> float -> unit) -> t -> t -> unit
Array.iter2 f a b applies function f to all the elements of a and b. Raise Invalid_argument if the floatarrays are not the same size.

val map2 : (float -> float -> float) -> t -> t -> t
map2 f a b applies function f to all the elements of a and b, and builds a floatarray with the results returned by f: [| f a.(0) b.(0); ...; f a.(length a - 1) b.(length b - 1)|]. Raise Invalid_argument if the floatarrays are not the same size.
Array scanning

val for_all : (float -> bool) -> t -> bool

for_all p [|a1; ...; an|] checks if all elements of the floatarray satisfy the predicate p. That is, it returns (p a1) && (p a2) && ... && (p an).

val exists : (float -> bool) -> t -> bool

exists p [|a1; ...; an|] checks if at least one element of the floatarray satisfies the predicate p. That is, it returns (p a1) || (p a2) || ... || (p an).

val mem : float -> t -> bool

mem a l is true if and only if there is an element of l that is structurally equal to a, i.e. there is an x in l such that compare a x = 0.

val mem_ieee : float -> t -> bool

Same as Float.Array.mem[23.15], but uses IEEE equality instead of structural equality.

Sorting

val sort : (float -> float -> int) -> t -> unit

Sort a floatarray in increasing order according to a comparison function. The comparison function must return 0 if its arguments compare as equal, a positive integer if the first is greater, and a negative integer if the first is smaller (see below for a complete specification). For example, Pervasives.compare[??] is a suitable comparison function. After calling sort, the array is sorted in place in increasing order. sort is guaranteed to run in constant heap space and (at most) logarithmic stack space.

The current implementation uses Heap Sort. It runs in constant stack space.

Specification of the comparison function: Let a be the floatarray and cmp the comparison function. The following must be true for all x, y, z in a :

- cmp x y > 0 if and only if cmp y x < 0
- if cmp x y ≥ 0 and cmp y z ≥ 0 then cmp x z ≥ 0

When sort returns, a contains the same elements as before, reordered in such a way that for all i and j valid indices of a :

- cmp a.(i) a.(j) ≥ 0 if and only if i ≥ j

val stable_sort : (float -> float -> int) -> t -> unit

Same as Float.Array.sort[23.15], but the sorting algorithm is stable (i.e. elements that compare equal are kept in their original order) and not guaranteed to run in constant heap space.

The current implementation uses Merge Sort. It uses a temporary floatarray of length n/2, where n is the length of the floatarray. It is usually faster than the current implementation of Float.Array.sort[23.15].
val fast_sort : (float -> float -> int) -> t -> unit
    Same as Float.Array.sort[23.15] or Float.Array.stable_sort[23.15], whichever is faster on typical input.

Iterators

val to_seq : t -> float Seq.t
    Iterate on the floatarray, in increasing order. Modifications of the floatarray during iteration will be reflected in the iterator.

val to_seqi : t -> (int * float) Seq.t
    Iterate on the floatarray, in increasing order, yielding indices along elements. Modifications of the floatarray during iteration will be reflected in the iterator.

val of_seq : float Seq.t -> t
    Create an array from the generator.

val map_to_array : (float -> 'a) -> t -> 'a array
    map_to_array f a applies function f to all the elements of a, and builds an array with the results returned by f: [| f a.(0); f a.(1); ...; f a.(length a - 1) |].

val map_from_array : ('a -> float) -> 'a array -> t
    map_from_array f a applies function f to all the elements of a, and builds a floatarray with the results returned by f.

Undocumented functions

val unsafe_get : t -> int -> float
val unsafe_set : t -> int -> float -> unit

end

module ArrayLabels :
    sig
        type t = floatarray
        val length : t -> int
        val get : t -> int -> float
        val set : t -> int -> float -> unit
        val make : int -> float -> t
        val create : int -> t
val init : int -> f:(int -> float) -> t
val append : t -> t -> t
val concat : t list -> t
val sub : t -> pos:int -> len:int -> t
val copy : t -> t
val fill : t -> pos:int -> len:int -> float -> unit
val blit : src:t ->
   src_pos:int -> dst:t -> dst_pos:int -> len:int -> unit
val to_list : t -> float list
val of_list : float list -> t
val iter : f:(float -> unit) -> t -> unit
val iteri : f:(int -> float -> unit) -> t -> unit
val map : f:(float -> float) -> t -> t
val mapi : f:(int -> float -> float) -> t -> t
val fold_left : f:'a -> float -> 'a) -> init:'a -> t -> 'a
val fold_right : f:(float -> 'a -> 'a) -> t -> init:'a -> 'a
val iter2 : f:(float -> float -> unit) ->
   t -> t -> unit
val map2 : f:(float -> float -> float) ->
   t -> t -> t
val for_all : f:(float -> bool) -> t -> bool
val exists : f:(float -> bool) -> t -> bool
val mem : float -> set:t -> bool
val mem_ieee : float -> set:t -> bool
val sort : cmp:(float -> float -> int) -> t -> unit
val stable_sort : cmp:(float -> float -> int) -> t -> unit
val fast_sort : cmp:(float -> float -> int) -> t -> unit
val to_seq : t -> float Seq.t
val to_seqi : t -> (int * float) Seq.t
val of_seq : float Seq.t -> t
val map_to_array : f:(float -> 'a) -> t -> 'a array
val map_from_array : f:'a -> float) -> 'a array -> t
val unsafe_get : t -> int -> float
val unsafe_set : t -> int -> float -> unit
end
23.16 Module Format : Pretty-printing.

This module implements a pretty-printing facility to format values within 'pretty-printing boxes'[23.16] and 'semantic tags'[23.16] combined with a set of printf-like functions[23.16]. The pretty-printer splits lines at specified break hints[23.16], and indents lines according to the box structure. Similarly, semantic tags[23.16] can be used to decouple text presentation from its contents.

This pretty-printing facility is implemented as an overlay on top of abstract formatters[23.16] which provide basic output functions. Some formatters are predefined, notably:

- `Format.std_formatter[23.16]` outputs to stdout[22.2]
- `Format.err_formatter[23.16]` outputs to stderr[22.2]

Most functions in the `Format[23.16]` module come in two variants: a short version that operates on `Format.std_formatter[23.16]` and the generic version prefixed by `pp_` that takes a formatter as its first argument.


Introduction


You may consider this module as providing an extension to the `printf` facility to provide automatic line splitting. The addition of pretty-printing annotations to your regular `printf` format strings gives you fancy indentation and line breaks. Pretty-printing annotations are described below in the documentation of the function `Format.fprintf[23.16]`.

You may also use the explicit pretty-printing box management and printing functions provided by this module. This style is more basic but more verbose than the concise `fprintf` format strings.

For instance, the sequence `open_box 0; print_string "x ="; print_space (); print_int 1; close_box (); print_newline ()` that prints `x = 1` within a pretty-printing box, can be abbreviated as `printf "%s%i%." "x =" 1`, or even shorter `printf "%x =%i%." 1`.  

Rule of thumb for casual users of this library:

- use simple pretty-printing boxes (as obtained by `open_box 0`);
- use simple break hints as obtained by `print_cut ()` that outputs a simple break hint, or by `print_space ()` that outputs a space indicating a break hint;
- once a pretty-printing box is open, display its material with basic printing functions (e. g. `print_int` and `print_string`);
- when the material for a pretty-printing box has been printed, call `close_box ()` to close the box;
• at the end of pretty-printing, flush the pretty-printer to display all the remaining material, e.g. evaluate print_newline ()

The behavior of pretty-printing commands is unspecified if there is no open pretty-printing box. Each box opened by one of the open_ functions below must be closed using close_box for proper formatting. Otherwise, some of the material printed in the boxes may not be output, or may be formatted incorrectly.

In case of interactive use, each phrase is executed in the initial state of the standard pretty-printer: after each phrase execution, the interactive system closes all open pretty-printing boxes, flushes all pending text, and resets the standard pretty-printer.

Warning: mixing calls to pretty-printing functions of this module with calls to Stdlib low level output functions is error prone.

The pretty-printing functions output material that is delayed in the pretty-printer queue and stacks in order to compute proper line splitting. In contrast, basic I/O output functions write directly in their output device. As a consequence, the output of a basic I/O function may appear before the output of a pretty-printing function that has been called before. For instance, Stdlib.print_string "<"; Format.print_string "PRETTY"; Stdlib.print_string ">"; Format.print_string "TEXT"; leads to output <>PRETTYTEXT.

type formatter
    Abstract data corresponding to a pretty-printer (also called a formatter) and all its machinery. See also [23.16].

Pretty-printing boxes

The pretty-printing engine uses the concepts of pretty-printing box and break hint to drive indentation and line splitting behavior of the pretty-printer.

Each different pretty-printing box kind introduces a specific line splitting policy:

• within an horizontal box, break hints never split the line (but the line may be split in a box nested deeper),

• within a vertical box, break hints always split the line,

• within an horizontal/vertical box, if the box fits on the current line then break hints never split the line, otherwise break hint always split the line,

• within a compacting box, a break hint never splits the line, unless there is no more room on the current line.

Note that line splitting policy is box specific: the policy of a box does not rule the policy of inner boxes. For instance, if a vertical box is nested in an horizontal box, all break hints within the vertical box will split the line.

val pp_open_box : formatter -> int -> unit
val open_box : int -> unit
**pp_open_box** \( ppf \ d \) opens a new compacting pretty-printing box with offset \( d \) in the formatter \( ppf \).

Within this box, the pretty-printer prints as much as possible material on every line.

A break hint splits the line if there is no more room on the line to print the remainder of the box.

Within this box, the pretty-printer emphasizes the box structure: a break hint also splits the line if the splitting “moves to the left” (i.e. the new line gets an indentation smaller than the one of the current line).

This box is the general purpose pretty-printing box.

If the pretty-printer splits the line in the box, offset \( d \) is added to the current indentation.

```ml
val pp_close_box : formatter -> unit -> unit
val close_box : unit -> unit

Closes the most recently open pretty-printing box.
```

```ml
val pp_open_hbox : formatter -> unit -> unit
val open_hbox : unit -> unit

\texttt{pp_open_hbox ppf ()} opens a new 'horizontal' pretty-printing box.

This box prints material on a single line.

Break hints in a horizontal box never split the line. (Line splitting may still occur inside boxes nested deeper).

```ml
val pp_open_vbox : formatter -> int -> unit
val open_vbox : int -> unit

\texttt{pp_open_vbox ppf d} opens a new 'vertical' pretty-printing box with offset \( d \).

This box prints material on as many lines as break hints in the box.

Every break hint in a vertical box splits the line.

If the pretty-printer splits the line in the box, \( d \) is added to the current indentation.

```ml
val pp_open_hvbox : formatter -> int -> unit
val open_hvbox : int -> unit

\texttt{pp_open_hvbox ppf d} opens a new 'horizontal/vertical' pretty-printing box with offset \( d \).

This box behaves as an horizontal box if it fits on a single line, otherwise it behaves as a vertical box.

If the pretty-printer splits the line in the box, \( d \) is added to the current indentation.

```

```ml
val pp_open_hovbox : formatter -> int -> unit
val open_hovbox : int -> unit
```
pp_open_hovbox ppf d opens a new 'horizontal-or-vertical' pretty-printing box with offset d.

This box prints material as much as possible on every line.

A break hint splits the line if there is no more room on the line to print the remainder of the box.

If the pretty-printer splits the line in the box, d is added to the current indentation.

**Formatting functions**

val pp_print_string : formatter -> string -> unit
val print_string : string -> unit

pp_print_string ppf s prints s in the current pretty-printing box.

val pp_print_as : formatter -> int -> string -> unit
val print_as : int -> string -> unit

pp_print_as ppf len s prints s in the current pretty-printing box. The pretty-printer formats s as if it were of length len.

val pp_print_int : formatter -> int -> unit
val print_int : int -> unit

Print an integer in the current pretty-printing box.

val pp_print_float : formatter -> float -> unit
val print_float : float -> unit

Print a floating point number in the current pretty-printing box.

val pp_print_char : formatter -> char -> unit
val print_char : char -> unit

Print a character in the current pretty-printing box.

val pp_print_bool : formatter -> bool -> unit
val print_bool : bool -> unit

Print a boolean in the current pretty-printing box.

**Break hints**

A 'break hint' tells the pretty-printer to output some space or split the line whichever way is more appropriate to the current pretty-printing box splitting rules.

Break hints are used to separate printing items and are mandatory to let the pretty-printer correctly split lines and indent items.

Simple break hints are:
• the 'space': output a space or split the line if appropriate,
• the 'cut': split the line if appropriate.

Note: the notions of space and line splitting are abstract for the pretty-printing engine, since those notions can be completely redefined by the programmer. However, in the pretty-printer default setting, “output a space” simply means printing a space character (ASCII code 32) and “split the line” means printing a newline character (ASCII code 10).

val pp_print_space : formatter -> unit -> unit
val print_space : unit -> unit
  pp_print_space ppf () emits a 'space' break hint: the pretty-printer may split the line at this point, otherwise it prints one space.
  pp_print_space ppf () is equivalent to pp_print_break ppf 1 0.

val pp_print_cut : formatter -> unit -> unit
val print_cut : unit -> unit
  pp_print_cut ppf () emits a 'cut' break hint: the pretty-printer may split the line at this point, otherwise it prints nothing.
  pp_print_cut ppf () is equivalent to pp_print_break ppf 0 0.

val pp_print_break : formatter -> int -> int -> unit
val print_break : int -> int -> unit
  pp_print_break ppf nspaces offset emits a 'full' break hint: the pretty-printer may split the line at this point, otherwise it prints nspaces spaces.
  If the pretty-printer splits the line, offset is added to the current indentation.

val pp_print_custom_break :
  formatter ->
  fits:string * int * string -> breaks:string * int * string -> unit
  pp_print_custom_break ppf ~fits:(s1, n, s2) ~breaks:(s3, m, s4) emits a custom break hint: the pretty-printer may split the line at this point.
  If it does not split the line, then the s1 is emitted, then n spaces, then s2.
  If it splits the line, then it emits the s3 string, then an indent (according to the box rules), then an offset of m spaces, then the s4 string.
  While n and m are handled by formatter_out_functions.out_indent, the strings will be handled by formatter_out_functions.out_string. This allows for a custom formatter that handles indentation distinctly, for example, outputs <br/> tags or &nbsp; entities.

  The custom break is useful if you want to change which visible (non-whitespace) characters are printed in case of break or no break. For example, when printing a list

  [a; b; c]

  , you might want to add a trailing semicolon when it is printed vertically:
You can do this as follows:

```plaintext
printf "@[<v 0>[@;<0 2>[<v 0>a;@;b;@;c@]>t]@]\n"
(pp_print_custom_break ~fits:("", 0, "") ~breaks:(";", 0, ""))
```

**Since:** 4.08.0

- `val pp_force_newline : formatter -> unit -> unit`
- `val force_newline : unit -> unit`
  Force a new line in the current pretty-printing box.
  The pretty-printer must split the line at this point.
  Not the normal way of pretty-printing, since imperative line splitting may interfere with current line counters and box size calculation. Using break hints within an enclosing vertical box is a better alternative.

- `val pp_print_if_newline : formatter -> unit -> unit`
- `val print_if_newline : unit -> unit`
  Execute the next formatting command if the preceding line has just been split. Otherwise, ignore the next formatting command.

**Pretty-printing termination**

- `val pp_print_flush : formatter -> unit -> unit`
- `val print_flush : unit -> unit`
  End of pretty-printing: resets the pretty-printer to initial state.
  All open pretty-printing boxes are closed, all pending text is printed. In addition, the pretty-printer low level output device is flushed to ensure that all pending text is really displayed.
  Note: never use `print_flush` in the normal course of a pretty-printing routine, since the pretty-printer uses a complex buffering machinery to properly indent the output; manually flushing those buffers at random would conflict with the pretty-printer strategy and result to poor rendering.
  Only consider using `print_flush` when displaying all pending material is mandatory (for instance in case of interactive use when you want the user to read some text) and when resetting the pretty-printer state will not disturb further pretty-printing.
Warning: If the output device of the pretty-printer is an output channel, repeated calls to `print_flush` means repeated calls to `flush[22.2]` to flush the out channel; these explicit flush calls could foil the buffering strategy of output channels and could dramatically impact efficiency.

```
val pp_print_newline : formatter -> unit -> unit
val print_newline : unit -> unit
```

End of pretty-printing: resets the pretty-printer to initial state. All open pretty-printing boxes are closed, all pending text is printed. Equivalent to `Format.print_flush[23.16]` followed by a new line. See corresponding words of caution for `Format.print_flush[23.16]`. Note: this is not the normal way to output a new line; the preferred method is using break hints within a vertical pretty-printing box.

**Margin**

```
val pp_set_margin : formatter -> int -> unit
val set_margin : int -> unit

pp_set_margin ppf d sets the right margin to d (in characters): the pretty-printer splits lines that overflow the right margin according to the break hints given. Nothing happens if d is smaller than 2. If d is too large, the right margin is set to the maximum admissible value (which is greater than 10 ^ 9). If d is less than the current maximum indentation limit, the maximum indentation limit is decreased while trying to preserve a minimal ratio \( \frac{\text{max-indent}}{\text{margin}} \geq 50\% \) and if possible the current difference \( \text{margin} - \text{max-indent} \).

See also `Format.pp_set_geometry[23.16]`.

```
val pp_get_margin : formatter -> unit -> int
val get_margin : unit -> int

Returns the position of the right margin.
```

**Maximum indentation limit**

```
val pp_set_max_indent : formatter -> int -> unit
val set_max_indent : int -> unit

pp_set_max_indent ppf d sets the maximum indentation limit of lines to d (in characters): once this limit is reached, new pretty-printing boxes are rejected to the left, unless the enclosing box fully fits on the current line. As an illustration,

```
set_margin 10; set_max_indent 5; printf "@[123456@[7@]89A@]@."
```

yields

```
123456
```
because the nested box "@[7@]" is opened after the maximum indentation limit (7>5) and its parent box does not fit on the current line. Either decreasing the length of the parent box to make it fit on a line:

printf "@[123456@[7@]89@]@."

or opening an intermediary box before the maximum indentation limit which fits on the current line

printf "@[123@[456@[7@]89@]A@[]@."

avoids the rejection to the left of the inner boxes and print respectively "123456789" and "123456789A". Note also that vertical boxes never fit on a line whereas horizontal boxes always fully fit on the current line.

Nothing happens if \textit{d} is smaller than 2.

If \textit{d} is too large, the limit is set to the maximum admissible value (which is greater than 10^{-9}).

If \textit{d} is greater or equal than the current margin, it is ignored, and the current maximum indentation limit is kept.

See also \texttt{Format.pp_set_geometry}[23.16].

\begin{verbatim}
val pp_get_max_indent : formatter -> unit -> int
val get_max_indent : unit -> int
\end{verbatim}

Return the maximum indentation limit (in characters).

\section*{Geometry}

Geometric functions can be used to manipulate simultaneously the coupled variables, margin and maximum indentation limit.

\begin{verbatim}
type geometry =
  { max_indent : int ;
    margin : int ;
  }
val check_geometry : geometry -> bool
  Check if the formatter geometry is valid: 1 < max_indent < margin
\end{verbatim}

\begin{verbatim}
val pp_set_geometry : formatter -> max_indent:int -> margin:int -> unit
val set_geometry : max_indent:int -> margin:int -> unit
val pp_safe_set_geometry : formatter -> max_indent:int -> margin:int -> unit
val safe_set_geometry : max_indent:int -> margin:int -> unit
  pp_set_geometry ppf ~max_indent ~margin sets both the margin and maximum indentation limit for ppf.
\end{verbatim}
When \( 1 < \max-indent < \margin \), \( \text{pp_set Geometry} \) \( \text{ppf } \max-indent \ \text{ppf} \margin \) is equivalent to \( \text{pp_set_margin} \) \( \text{ppf} \margin \); \( \text{pp_set_max_indent} \) \( \text{ppf} \max-indent \); and avoids the subtly incorrect \( \text{pp_set_max_indent} \) \( \text{ppf} \max-indent \); \( \text{pp_set_margin} \) \( \text{ppf} \margin \).

Outside of this domain, \( \text{pp_set_geometry} \) raises an invalid argument exception whereas \( \text{pp_safe_set_geometry} \) does nothing.

**Since:** 4.08.0

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{val \( \text{pp_get Geometry} \) : \text{formatter} \to \text{unit} \to \text{geometry} } \\
\text{val \( \text{get Geometry} \) : \text{unit} \to \text{geometry} }
\end{align*}
\]

Return the current geometry of the formatter

**Since:** 4.08.0

**Maximum formatting depth**

The maximum formatting depth is the maximum number of pretty-printing boxes simultaneously open.

Material inside boxes nested deeper is printed as an ellipsis (more precisely as the text returned by \( \text{Format.get_ellipsis_text} \)[23.16] ()).

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{val \( \text{pp_set_max_boxes} \) : \text{formatter} \to \text{int} \to \text{unit} } \\
\text{val \( \text{set_max_boxes} \) : \text{int} \to \text{unit} }
\end{align*}
\]

\( \text{pp_set_max_boxes} \) \( \text{ppf} \max \) sets the maximum number of pretty-printing boxes simultaneously open.

Material inside boxes nested deeper is printed as an ellipsis (more precisely as the text returned by \( \text{Format.get_ellipsis_text} \)[23.16] ()).

Nothing happens if \( \max \) is smaller than 2.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{val \( \text{pp_get_max_boxes} \) : \text{formatter} \to \text{unit} \to \text{int} } \\
\text{val \( \text{get_max_boxes} \) : \text{unit} \to \text{int} }
\end{align*}
\]

Returns the maximum number of pretty-printing boxes allowed before ellipsis.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{val \( \text{pp_over_max_boxes} \) : \text{formatter} \to \text{unit} \to \text{bool} } \\
\text{val \( \text{over_max_boxes} \) : \text{unit} \to \text{bool} }
\end{align*}
\]

Tests if the maximum number of pretty-printing boxes allowed have already been opened.

**Tabulation boxes**

A *tabulation box* prints material on lines divided into cells of fixed length. A tabulation box provides a simple way to display vertical columns of left adjusted text.

This box features command **set_tab** to define cell boundaries, and command **print_tab** to move from cell to cell and split the line when there is no more cells to print on the line.
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Note: printing within tabulation box is line directed, so arbitrary line splitting inside a tabulation box leads to poor rendering. Yet, controlled use of tabulation boxes allows simple printing of columns within module Format[23.16].

val pp_open_tbox : formatter -> unit -> unit
val open_tbox : unit -> unit

open_tbox () opens a new tabulation box.
This box prints lines separated into cells of fixed width.
Inside a tabulation box, special tabulation markers defines points of interest on the line (for instance to delimit cell boundaries). Function Format.set_tab[23.16] sets a tabulation marker at insertion point.
A tabulation box features specific tabulation breaks to move to next tabulation marker or split the line. Function Format.print_tbreak[23.16] prints a tabulation break.

val pp_close_tbox : formatter -> unit -> unit
val close_tbox : unit -> unit

Closes the most recently opened tabulation box.

val pp_set_tab : formatter -> unit -> unit
val set_tab : unit -> unit

Sets a tabulation marker at current insertion point.

val pp_print_tab : formatter -> unit -> unit
val print_tab : unit -> unit

print_tab () emits a ‘next’ tabulation break hint: if not already set on a tabulation marker, the insertion point moves to the first tabulation marker on the right, or the pretty-printer splits the line and insertion point moves to the leftmost tabulation marker.

It is equivalent to print_tbreak 0 0.

val pp_print_tbreak : formatter -> int -> int -> unit
val print_tbreak : int -> int -> unit

print_tbreak nspaces offset emits a ‘full’ tabulation break hint.
If not already set on a tabulation marker, the insertion point moves to the first tabulation marker on the right and the pretty-printer prints nspaces spaces.
If there is no next tabulation marker on the right, the pretty-printer splits the line at this point, then insertion point moves to the leftmost tabulation marker of the box.
If the pretty-printer splits the line, offset is added to the current indentation.
Ellipsis

val pp_set_ellipsis_text : formatter -> string -> unit
val set_ellipsis_text : string -> unit
  Set the text of the ellipsis printed when too many pretty-printing boxes are open (a single
dot, ., by default).

val pp_get_ellipsis_text : formatter -> unit -> string
val get_ellipsis_text : unit -> string
  Return the text of the ellipsis.

Semantic tags

type stag = ..

Semantic tags (or simply tags) are user’s defined annotations to associate user’s specific
operations to printed entities.

Common usage of semantic tags is text decoration to get specific font or text size
rendering for a display device, or marking delimitation of entities (e.g. HTML or TeX
elements or terminal escape sequences). More sophisticated usage of semantic tags
could handle dynamic modification of the pretty-printer behavior to properly print the
material within some specific tags. For instance, we can define an RGB tag like so:

type stag += RGB of {r:int;g:int;b:int}

In order to properly delimit printed entities, a semantic tag must be opened before and
closed after the entity. Semantic tags must be properly nested like parentheses using
Format.pp_open_stag[23.16] and Format.pp_close_stag[23.16].

Tag specific operations occur any time a tag is opened or closed, At each occurrence, two
kinds of operations are performed tag-marking and tag-printing:

- The tag-marking operation is the simpler tag specific operation: it simply writes a tag
  specific string into the output device of the formatter. Tag-marking does not interfere
  with line-splitting computation.
- The tag-printing operation is the more involved tag specific operation: it can print
  arbitrary material to the formatter. Tag-printing is tightly linked to the current
  pretty-printer operations.

Roughly speaking, tag-marking is commonly used to get a better rendering of texts in the
rendering device, while tag-printing allows fine tuning of printing routines to print the same
entity differently according to the semantic tags (i.e. print additional material or even omit
parts of the output).

More precisely: when a semantic tag is opened or closed then both and successive
‘tag-printing’ and ‘tag-marking’ operations occur:
• Tag-printing a semantic tag means calling the formatter specific function
  \texttt{print\_open\_stag} (resp. \texttt{print\_close\_stag}) with the name of the tag as argument:
  that tag-printing function can then print any regular material to the formatter (so that
  this material is enqueued as usual in the formatter queue for further line splitting
  computation).

• Tag-marking a semantic tag means calling the formatter specific function
  \texttt{mark\_open\_stag} (resp. \texttt{mark\_close\_stag}) with the name of the tag as argument: that
  tag-marking function can then return the 'tag-opening marker' (resp. 'tag-closing
  marker') for direct output into the output device of the formatter.

Being written directly into the output device of the formatter, semantic tag marker strings
are not considered as part of the printing material that drives line splitting (in other words,
the length of the strings corresponding to tag markers is considered as zero for line splitting).

Thus, semantic tag handling is in some sense transparent to pretty-printing and does not
interfere with usual indentation. Hence, a single pretty-printing routine can output both
simple 'verbatim' material or richer decorated output depending on the treatment of tags. By default, tags are not active, hence the output is not decorated with tag information. 
Once \texttt{set\_tags} is set to \texttt{true}, the pretty-printer engine honors tags and decorates the
output accordingly.

Default tag-marking functions behave the HTML way: string tags\textsuperscript{[23.16]} are enclosed in "<" and ">" while other tags are ignored; hence, opening marker for tag string "t" is ",closing marker is ".

Default tag-printing functions just do nothing.

Tag-marking and tag-printing functions are user definable and can be set by calling
\texttt{Format.set\_formatter\_stag\_functions}\textsuperscript{[23.16]}.

Semantic tag operations may be set on or off with \texttt{Format.set\_tags}\textsuperscript{[23.16]}. Tag-marking
operations may be set on or off with \texttt{Format.set\_mark\_tags}\textsuperscript{[23.16]}. Tag-printing
operations may be set on or off with \texttt{Format.set\_print\_tags}\textsuperscript{[23.16]}.

type tag = string

| String\_tag of tag
| String\_tag s is a string tag s. String tags can be inserted either by explicitly using
| the constructor String\_tag or by using the dedicated format syntax ":\{\textless s\textgreater ... 
| @\}".

val pp\_open\_stag : formatter \rightarrow stag \rightarrow unit
val open\_stag : stag \rightarrow unit
  pp\_open\_stag ppf t opens the semantic tag named t.

The \texttt{print\_open\_stag} tag-printing function of the formatter is called with t as argument;
then the opening tag marker for t, as given by \texttt{mark\_open\_stag} t, is written into the
output device of the formatter.
val pp_close_stag : formatter -> unit -> unit
val close_stag : unit -> unit
    pp_close_stag ppf () closes the most recently opened semantic tag t.
    The closing tag marker, as given by mark_close_stag t, is written into the output device of the formatter; then the print_close_stag tag-printing function of the formatter is called with t as argument.

val pp_set_tags : formatter -> bool -> unit
val set_tags : bool -> unit
    pp_set_tags ppf b turns on or off the treatment of semantic tags (default is off).

val pp_set_print_tags : formatter -> bool -> unit
val set_print_tags : bool -> unit
    pp_set_print_tags ppf b turns on or off the tag-printing operations.

val pp_set_mark_tags : formatter -> bool -> unit
val set_mark_tags : bool -> unit
    pp_set_mark_tags ppf b turns on or off the tag-marking operations.

val pp_get_print_tags : formatter -> unit -> bool
val get_print_tags : unit -> bool
    Return the current status of tag-printing operations.

val pp_get_mark_tags : formatter -> unit -> bool
val get_mark_tags : unit -> bool
    Return the current status of tag-marking operations.

val pp_set_formatter_out_channel : formatter -> out_channel -> unit
val set_formatter_out_channel : out_channel -> unit
    Redirecting the standard formatter output
    set_formatter_out_channel is equivalent to Format.pp_set_formatter_out_channel[23.16] std_formatter.

val pp_set_formatter_output_functions :
    formatter -> (string -> int -> int -> unit) -> (unit -> unit) -> unit
val set_formatter_output_functions :
    (string -> int -> int -> unit) -> (unit -> unit) -> unit
pp_set_formatter_output_functions ppf out flush redirects the standard pretty-printer output functions to the functions out and flush.

The out function performs all the pretty-printer string output. It is called with a string s, a start position p, and a number of characters n; it is supposed to output characters p to p + n - 1 of s.

The flush function is called whenever the pretty-printer is flushed (via conversion %!, or pretty-printing indications @? or @., or using low level functions print_flush or print_newline).

val pp_get_formatter_output_functions : formatter -> unit -> (string -> int -> int -> unit) * (unit -> unit)
val get_formatter_output_functions : unit -> (string -> int -> int -> unit) * (unit -> unit)

Return the current output functions of the standard pretty-printer.

Redefining formatter output

The Format module is versatile enough to let you completely redefine the meaning of pretty-printing output: you may provide your own functions to define how to handle indentation, line splitting, and even printing of all the characters that have to be printed!

Redefining output functions

type formatter_out_functions =
{ out_string : string -> int -> int -> unit ;
  out_flush : unit -> unit ;
  out_newline : unit -> unit ;
  out_spaces : int -> unit ;
  out_indent : int -> unit ;
}

The set of output functions specific to a formatter:

- the out_string function performs all the pretty-printer string output. It is called with a string s, a start position p, and a number of characters n; it is supposed to output characters p to p + n - 1 of s.
- the out_flush function flushes the pretty-printer output device.
- out_newline is called to open a new line when the pretty-printer splits the line.
- the out_spaces function outputs spaces when a break hint leads to spaces instead of a line split. It is called with the number of spaces to output.
- the out_indent function performs new line indentation when the pretty-printer splits the line. It is called with the indentation value of the new line.

By default:
• fields \texttt{out_string} and \texttt{out_flush} are output device specific; (e.g. \texttt{output_string} and \texttt{flush} for a \texttt{out_channel} device, or \texttt{Buffer.add_substring} and \texttt{ignore} for a \texttt{Buffer.t} output device),

• field \texttt{out_newline} is equivalent to \texttt{out_string } "\n" 0 1;

• fields \texttt{out_spaces} and \texttt{out_indent} are equivalent to \texttt{out_string} (\texttt{String.make n } ' ') 0 n.

Since: 4.01.0

\begin{verbatim}
val pp_set_formatter_out_functions : 
  formatter -> formatter_out_functions -> unit
val set_formatter_out_functions : formatter_out_functions -> unit
  pp_set_formatter_out_functions ppf out_funs Set all the pretty-printer output 
functions of ppf to those of argument out_funs,

This way, you can change the meaning of indentation (which can be something else than 
just printing space characters) and the meaning of new lines opening (which can be 
connected to any other action needed by the application at hand).

Reasonable defaults for functions \texttt{out_spaces} and \texttt{out_newline} are respectively 
\texttt{out_funs.out_string} (\texttt{String.make n } ' ') 0 n and \texttt{out_funs.out_string} "\n" 0 1.

Since: 4.01.0

val pp_get_formatter_out_functions : 
  formatter -> unit -> formatter_out_functions
val get_formatter_out_functions : unit -> formatter_out_functions
  Return the current output functions of the pretty-printer, including line splitting and 
indentation functions. Useful to record the current setting and restore it afterwards.

Since: 4.01.0

Redefining semantic tag operations

\textbf{type formatter_stag_functions =}
\begin{verbatim}
{ mark_open_stag : stag -> string ;
  mark_close_stag : stag -> string ;
  print_open_stag : stag -> unit ;
  print_close_stag : stag -> unit ;
}\end{verbatim}

The semantic tag handling functions specific to a formatter: \texttt{mark} versions are the
'tag-marking' functions that associate a string marker to a tag in order for the
pretty-printing engine to write those markers as 0 length tokens in the output device of the
formatter. \texttt{print} versions are the 'tag-printing' functions that can perform regular printing
when a tag is closed or opened.
val pp_set_formatter_stag_functions : formatter -> formatter_stag_functions -> unit
val set_formatter_stag_functions : formatter_stag_functions -> unit

pp_set_formatter_stag_functions ppf tag_funs changes the meaning of opening and closing semantic tag operations to use the functions in tag_funs when printing on ppf.

When opening a semantic tag with name t, the string t is passed to the opening tag-marking function (the mark_open_stag field of the record tag_funs), that must return the opening tag marker for that name. When the next call to close_stag () happens, the semantic tag name t is sent back to the closing tag-marking function (the mark_close_stag field of record tag_funs), that must return a closing tag marker for that name.

The print_ field of the record contains the tag-printing functions that are called at tag opening and tag closing time, to output regular material in the pretty-printer queue.

val pp_get_formatter_stag_functions : formatter -> unit -> formatter_stag_functions
val get_formatter_stag_functions : unit -> formatter_stag_functions

Return the current semantic tag operation functions of the standard pretty-printer.

Defining formatters

Defining new formatters permits unrelated output of material in parallel on several output devices. All the parameters of a formatter are local to the formatter: right margin, maximum indentation limit, maximum number of pretty-printing boxes simultaneously open, ellipsis, and so on, are specific to each formatter and may be fixed independently.

For instance, given a Buffer.t buffer b, Format.formatter_of_buffer b returns a new formatter using buffer b as its output device. Similarly, given an out_channel output channel oc, Format.formatter_of_out_channel oc returns a new formatter using channel oc as its output device.

Alternatively, given out_funs, a complete set of output functions for a formatter, then Format.formatter_of_out_functions out_funs computes a new formatter using those functions for output.

val formatter_of_out_channel : out_channel -> formatter

formatter_of_out_channel oc returns a new formatter writing to the corresponding output channel oc.

val std_formatter : formatter

The standard formatter to write to standard output.

It is defined as Format.formatter_of_out_channel stdout.

val err_formatter : formatter

A formatter to write to standard error.

It is defined as Format.formatter_of_out_channel stderr.
val formatter_of_buffer : Buffer.t -> formatter
  formatter_of_buffer b returns a new formatter writing to buffer b. At the end of pretty-printing, the formatter must be flushed using Format.pp_print_flush [23.16] or Format.pp_print_newline [23.16], to print all the pending material into the buffer.

val stdbuf : Buffer.t
  The string buffer in which str_formatter writes.

val str_formatter : formatter
  A formatter to output to the Format.stdbuf [23.16] string buffer.
  str_formatter is defined as Format.formatter_of_buffer [23.16] Format.stdbuf [23.16].

val flush_str_formatter : unit -> string
  Returns the material printed with str_formatter, flushes the formatter and resets the corresponding buffer.

val make_formatter :
  (string -> int -> int -> unit) -> (unit -> unit) -> formatter
  make_formatter out flush returns a new formatter that outputs with function out, and flushes with function flush.

  For instance,

  make_formatter
    (Stdlib.output oc)
    (fun () -> Stdlib.flush oc)
  returns a formatter to the out_channel [22.2] oc.

val formatter_of_out_functions : formatter_out_functions -> formatter
  formatter_of_out_functions out_funs returns a new formatter that writes with the set of output functions out_funs.

  See definition of type Format.formatter_out_functions [23.16] for the meaning of argument out_funs.
  Since: 4.06.0

Symbolic pretty-printing

Symbolic pretty-printing is pretty-printing using a symbolic formatter, i.e. a formatter that outputs symbolic pretty-printing items.

When using a symbolic formatter, all regular pretty-printing activities occur but output material is symbolic and stored in a buffer of output items. At the end of pretty-printing, flushing the output buffer allows post-processing of symbolic output before performing low level output operations.

In practice, first define a symbolic output buffer b using:
• let sob = make_symbolic_output_buffer (). Then define a symbolic formatter with:
  • let ppf = formatter_of_symbolic_output_buffer sob

Use symbolic formatter ppf as usual, and retrieve symbolic items at end of pretty-printing by flushing symbolic output buffer sob with:
  • flush_symbolic_output_buffer sob.

**type symbolic_output_item =**
  | Output_flush  
  symbolic flush command
  | Output_newline
  symbolic newline command
  | Output_string of string
  Output_string s: symbolic output for string s
  | Output_spaces of int
  Output_spaces n: symbolic command to output n spaces
  | Output_indent of int
  Output_indent i: symbolic indentation of size i

Items produced by symbolic pretty-printers

**Since:** 4.06.0

**type symbolic_output_buffer**

The output buffer of a symbolic pretty-printer.

**Since:** 4.06.0

**val make_symbolic_output_buffer :** unit -> symbolic_output_buffer

make_symbolic_output_buffer () returns a fresh buffer for symbolic output.

**Since:** 4.06.0

**val clear_symbolic_output_buffer :** symbolic_output_buffer -> unit

clear_symbolic_output_buffer sob resets buffer sob.

**Since:** 4.06.0

**val get_symbolic_output_buffer :**

symbolic_output_buffer -> symbolic_output_item list

get_symbolic_output_buffer sob returns the contents of buffer sob.

**Since:** 4.06.0

**val flush_symbolic_output_buffer :**

symbolic_output_buffer -> symbolic_output_item list
flush_symbolic_output_buffer sob returns the contents of buffer sob and resets buffer sob. flush_symbolic_output_buffer sob is equivalent to let items =
get_symbolic_output_buffer sob in clear_symbolic_output_buffer sob; items

Since: 4.06.0

val add_symbolic_output_item : symbolic_output_buffer -> symbolic_output_item -> unit
add_symbolic_output_item sob itm adds item itm to buffer sob.

Since: 4.06.0

val formatter_of_symbolic_output_buffer : symbolic_output_buffer -> formatter
formatter_of_symbolic_output_buffer sob returns a symbolic formatter that outputs to symbolic_output_buffer sob.

Since: 4.06.0

Convenience formatting functions.

val pp_print_list : ?pp_sep:(formatter -> unit -> unit) ->
(formatter -> 'a list -> unit)
pp_print_list ?pp_sep pp_v ppf l prints items of list l, using pp_v to print each item, and calling pp_sep between items (pp_sep defaults to Format.pp_print_cut[23.16]. Does nothing on empty lists.

Since: 4.02.0

val pp_print_text : formatter -> string -> unit
pp_print_text ppf s prints s with spaces and newlines respectively printed using Format.pp_print_space[23.16] and Format.pp_force_newline[23.16].

Since: 4.02.0

val pp_print_option : ?none:(formatter -> unit -> unit) ->
(formatter -> 'a option -> unit)
pp_print_option ?none pp_v ppf o prints o on ppf using pp_v if o is Some v and none if it is None. none prints nothing by default.

Since: 4.08

val pp_print_result : ok:(formatter -> 'a -> unit) ->
error:(formatter -> 'e -> unit) ->
formatter -> ('a, 'e) result -> unit
pp_print_result ~ok ~error ppf r prints r on ppf using ok if r is Ok _ and error if r is Error _.

Since: 4.08
Formatted pretty-printing

Module Format provides a complete set of printf like functions for pretty-printing using format string specifications.

Specific annotations may be added in the format strings to give pretty-printing commands to the pretty-printing engine.

Those annotations are introduced in the format strings using the @ character. For instance, @ means a space break, @, means a cut, @[ opens a new box, and @] closes the last open box.

val fprintf : formatter -> ('a, formatter, unit) format -> 'a

fprintf ff fmt arg1 ... argN formats the arguments arg1 to argN according to the format string fmt, and outputs the resulting string on the formatter ff.

The format string fmt is a character string which contains three types of objects: plain characters and conversion specifications as specified in thePrintf[23.36] module, and pretty-printing indications specific to the Format module.

The pretty-printing indication characters are introduced by a @ character, and their meanings are:

- @[: open a pretty-printing box. The type and offset of the box may be optionally specified with the following syntax: the < character, followed by an optional box type indication, then an optional integer offset, and the closing > character. Pretty-printing box type is one of h, v, hv, b, or hov. 'h' stands for an 'horizontal' pretty-printing box, 'v' stands for a 'vertical' pretty-printing box, 'hv' stands for an 'horizontal/vertical' pretty-printing box, 'b' stands for an 'horizontal-or-vertical' pretty-printing box demonstrating indentation, 'hov' stands a simple 'horizontal-or-vertical' pretty-printing box. For instance, @[<hov 2> opens an 'horizontal-or-vertical' pretty-printing box with indentation 2 as obtained with open_hovbox 2. For more details about pretty-printing boxes, see the various box opening functions open_*.box.

- @]: close the most recently opened pretty-printing box.

- @,: output a 'cut' break hint, as with print_cut ()

- @ : output a 'space' break hint, as with print_space ()

- @;: output a 'full' break hint as with print_break. The nspaces and offset parameters of the break hint may be optionally specified with the following syntax: the < character, followed by an integer nspaces value, then an integer offset, and a closing > character. If no parameters are provided, the good break defaults to a 'space' break hint.

- @.: flush the pretty-printer and split the line, as with print_newline ()

- @<n>: print the following item as if it were of length n. Hence, printf "%@<0>%s" arg prints arg as a zero length string. If @<n> is not followed by a conversion specification, then the following character of the format is printed as if it were of length n.

- @<n>: open a semantic tag. The name of the tag may be optionally specified with the following syntax: the < character, followed by an optional string specification, and the closing > character. The string specification is any character string that does not contain the closing character >'. If omitted, the tag name defaults to the empty string. For more details about semantic tags, see the functions Format.open_stag[23.16] and Format.close_stag[23.16].
• `@}\`: close the most recently opened semantic tag.

• `@?`: flush the pretty-printer as with `print_flush ()`. This is equivalent to the conversion `%!`.

• `@\n`: force a newline, as with `force_newline ()`, not the normal way of pretty-printing, you should prefer using break hints inside a vertical pretty-printing box.

Note: To prevent the interpretation of a `@` character as a pretty-printing indication, escape it with a `%` character. Old quotation mode `@@` is deprecated since it is not compatible with formatted input interpretation of character '}'.

Example: `printf "@[%s@ %d@]@." "x =" 1 is equivalent to `open_box (); print_string "x ="; print_space (); print_int 1; close_box (); print_newline ()`. It prints `x = 1` within a pretty-printing 'horizontal-or-vertical' box.

```ml
val printf : ('a, formatter, unit) format -> 'a
```

Same as `fprintf` above, but output on `std_formatter`.

```ml
val eprintf : ('a, formatter, unit) format -> 'a
```

Same as `fprintf` above, but output on `err_formatter`.

```ml
val sprintf : ('a, unit, string) format -> 'a
```

Same as `printf` above, but instead of printing on a formatter, returns a string containing the result of formatting the arguments. Note that the pretty-printer queue is flushed at the end of each call to `sprintf`.

In case of multiple and related calls to `sprintf` to output material on a single string, you should consider using `fprintf` with the predefined formatter `str_formatter` and call `flush_str_formatter ()` to get the final result.

Alternatively, you can use `Format.fprintf` with a formatter writing to a buffer of your own: flushing the formatter and the buffer at the end of pretty-printing returns the desired string.

```ml
val asprintf : ('a, formatter, unit, string) format4 -> 'a
```

Same as `printf` above, but instead of printing on a formatter, returns a string containing the result of formatting the arguments. The type of `asprintf` is general enough to interact nicely with `%a` conversions.

**Since:** 4.01.0

```ml
val dprintf : ('a, formatter, unit, formatter -> unit) format4 -> 'a
```

Same as `Format.fprintf`[23.16], except the formatter is the last argument. `dprintf "..." a b c` is a function of type `formatter -> unit` which can be given to a format specifier `%t`.

This can be used as a replacement for `Format.asprintf`[23.16] to delay formatting decisions. Using the string returned by `Format.asprintf`[23.16] in a formatting context forces formatting decisions to be taken in isolation, and the final string may be created prematurely. `Format.dprintf`[23.16] allows delay of formatting decisions until the final formatting context is known. For example:
let t = Format.dprintf "%i@ %i@ %i" 1 2 3 in
...
Format.printf "@[<v>%t@]" t

Since: 4.08.0

val ifprintf : formatter -> ('a, formatter, unit) format -> 'a
  Same as fprintf above, but does not print anything. Useful to ignore some material when conditionally printing.
  Since: 3.10.0

Formatted Pretty-Printing with continuations.

val kfprintf :
  (formatter -> 'a) ->
  formatter -> ('b, formatter, unit, 'a) format4 -> 'b
  Same as fprintf above, but instead of returning immediately, passes the formatter to its first argument at the end of printing.

val kdprintf :
  ((formatter -> unit) -> 'a) ->
  ('b, formatter, unit, 'a) format4 -> 'b
  Same as Format.dprintf[23.16] above, but instead of returning immediately, passes the suspended printer to its first argument at the end of printing.
  Since: 4.08.0

val ikfprintf :
  (formatter -> 'a) ->
  formatter -> ('b, formatter, unit, 'a) format4 -> 'b
  Same as kfprintf above, but does not print anything. Useful to ignore some material when conditionally printing.
  Since: 3.12.0

val ksprintf : (string -> 'a) -> ('b, unit, string, 'a) format4 -> 'b
  Same as sprintf above, but instead of returning the string, passes it to the first argument.

val kasprintf : (string -> 'a) -> ('b, formatter, unit, 'a) format4 -> 'b
  Same as asprintf above, but instead of returning the string, passes it to the first argument.
  Since: 4.03
Deprecated

val bprintf : Buffer.t -> ('a, formatter, unit) format -> 'a

*Deprecated*. This function is error prone. Do not use it. This function is neither compositional nor incremental, since it flushes the pretty-printer queue at each call.

If you need to print to some buffer \(b\), you must first define a formatter writing to \(b\), using

\[
let to_b = formatter_of_buffer b;\]

then use regular calls to \Format.fprintf\ with formatter \(to_b\).

val kprintf : (string -> 'a) -> ('b, unit, string, 'a) format4 -> 'b

*Deprecated*. An alias for \ksprintf\.

val set_all_formatter_output_functions :
  out:(string -> int -> int -> unit) ->
  flush:(unit -> unit) ->
  newline:(unit -> unit) ->
  spaces:(int -> unit) -> unit

*Deprecated*. Subsumed by \set_formatter_out_functions\.

val get_all_formatter_output_functions :
  unit ->
  (string -> int -> int -> unit) * (unit -> unit) * (unit -> unit) *
  (int -> unit)

*Deprecated*. Subsumed by \get_formatter_out_functions\.

val pp_set_all_formatter_output_functions :
  formatter ->
  out:(string -> int -> int -> unit) ->
  flush:(unit -> unit) ->
  newline:(unit -> unit) ->
  spaces:(int -> unit) -> unit

*Deprecated*. Subsumed by \pp_set_formatter_out_functions\.

val pp_get_all_formatter_output_functions :
  formatter ->
  unit ->
  (string -> int -> int -> unit) * (unit -> unit) * (unit -> unit) *
  (int -> unit)

*Deprecated*. Subsumed by \pp_get_formatter_out_functions\.

String tags

val pp_open_tag : formatter -> tag -> unit

*Deprecated*. Subsumed by \Format.pp_open_stag\[23.16\].

val open_tag : tag -> unit
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Deprecation.  Subsumed by Format.open_tag[23.16].

val pp_close_tag : formatter -> unit -> unit
  Deprecation.  Subsumed by Format.pp_close_tag[23.16].

val close_tag : unit -> unit
  Deprecation.  Subsumed by Format.close_tag[23.16].

type formatter_tag_functions =
  { mark_open_tag : tag -> string ;
  mark_close_tag : tag -> string ;
  print_open_tag : tag -> unit ;
  print_close_tag : tag -> unit ;
  }
  Deprecation.  Subsumed by Format.formatter_tag_functions[23.16].

val pp_set_formatter_tag_functions :
  formatter -> formatter_tag_functions -> unit
  Deprecation.  Subsumed by Format.pp_set_formatter_tag_functions[23.16].This
  function will erase non-string tag formatting functions.

val set_formatter_tag_functions : formatter_tag_functions -> unit
  Deprecation.  Subsumed by Format.set_formatter_tag_functions[23.16].

val pp_get_formatter_tag_functions :
  formatter -> unit -> formatter_tag_functions
  Deprecation.  Subsumed by Format.pp_get_formatter_tag_functions[23.16].

val get_formatter_tag_functions : unit -> formatter_tag_functions
  Deprecation.  Subsumed by Format.get_formatter_tag_functions[23.16].

23.17 Module Fun : Function manipulation.

Since: 4.08

Combinators

val id : 'a -> 'a
  id is the identity function.  For any argument x, id x is x.

val const : 'a -> 'b -> 'a
  const c is a function that always returns the value c.  For any argument x, (const c) x is c.
val flip : ('a -> 'b -> 'c) -> 'b -> 'a -> 'c
flip f reverses the argument order of the binary function f. For any arguments x and y, (flip f) x y is f y x.

val negate : ('a -> bool) -> 'a -> bool
negate p is the negation of the predicate function p. For any argument x, (negate p) x is not (p x).

Exception handling

val protect : finally:(unit -> unit) -> (unit -> 'a) -> 'a
protect ~finally work invokes work () and then finally () before work () returns with its value or an exception. In the latter case the exception is re-raised after finally (). If finally () raises an exception, then the exception Fun.Finally_raised is raised instead.

protect can be used to enforce local invariants whether work () returns normally or raises an exception. However, it does not protect against unexpected exceptions raised inside finally () such as Out_of_memory, Stack_overflow, or asynchronous exceptions raised by signal handlers (e.g. Sys.Break).

Note: It is a programming error if other kinds of exceptions are raised by finally, as any exception raised in work () will be lost in the event of a Fun.Finally_raised exception. Therefore, one should make sure to handle those inside the finally.

exception Finally_raised of exn
Finally_raised exn is raised by protect ~finally work when finally raises an exception exn. This exception denotes either an unexpected exception or a programming error. As a general rule, one should not catch a Finally_raised exception except as part of a catch-all handler.

23.18 Module Gc : Memory management control and statistics; finalised values.

type stat =
{ minor_words : float ;
  Number of words allocated in the minor heap since the program was started. This number is accurate in byte-code programs, but only an approximation in programs compiled to native code.

  promoted_words : float ;
  Number of words allocated in the minor heap that survived a minor collection and were moved to the major heap since the program was started.}
major_words : float ;
    Number of words allocated in the major heap, including the promoted words, since
    the program was started.

minor_collections : int ;
    Number of minor collections since the program was started.

major_collections : int ;
    Number of major collection cycles completed since the program was started.

heap_words : int ;
    Total size of the major heap, in words.

heap_chunks : int ;
    Number of contiguous pieces of memory that make up the major heap.

live_words : int ;
    Number of words of live data in the major heap, including the header words.

live_blocks : int ;
    Number of live blocks in the major heap.

free_words : int ;
    Number of words in the free list.

free_blocks : int ;
    Number of blocks in the free list.

largest_free : int ;
    Size (in words) of the largest block in the free list.

fragments : int ;
    Number of wasted words due to fragmentation. These are 1-words free blocks placed
    between two live blocks. They are not available for allocation.

compactions : int ;
    Number of heap compactions since the program was started.

top_heap_words : int ;
    Maximum size reached by the major heap, in words.

stack_size : int ;
    Current size of the stack, in words.

Since: 3.12.0
}

The memory management counters are returned in a stat record.
The total amount of memory allocated by the program since it was started is (in words)
minor_words + major_words - promoted_words. Multiply by the word size (4 on a 32-bit
machine, 8 on a 64-bit machine) to get the number of bytes.
type control =
{ mutable minor_heap_size : int ;
    The size (in words) of the minor heap. Changing this parameter will trigger a minor
    collection. Default: 256k.
mutable major_heap_increment : int ;
    How much to add to the major heap when increasing it. If this number is less than or
equal to 1000, it is a percentage of the current heap size (i.e. setting it to 100 will
double the heap size at each increase). If it is more than 1000, it is a fixed number of
words that will be added to the heap. Default: 15.
mutable space_overhead : int ;
    The major GC speed is computed from this parameter. This is the memory that will
be "wasted" because the GC does not immediately collect unreachable blocks. It is
expressed as a percentage of the memory used for live data. The GC will work more
(use more CPU time and collect blocks more eagerly) if space_overhead is smaller.
Default: 80.
mutable verbose : int ;
    This value controls the GC messages on standard error output. It is a sum of some of
the following flags, to print messages on the corresponding events:
    • 0x001 Start of major GC cycle.
    • 0x002 Minor collection and major GC slice.
    • 0x004 Growing and shrinking of the heap.
    • 0x008 Resizing of stacks and memory manager tables.
    • 0x010 Heap compaction.
    • 0x020 Change of GC parameters.
    • 0x040 Computation of major GC slice size.
    • 0x080 Calling of finalisation functions.
    • 0x100 Bytecode executable and shared library search at start-up.
    • 0x200 Computation of compaction-triggering condition.
    • 0x400 Output GC statistics at program exit. Default: 0.
mutable max_overhead : int ;
    Heap compaction is triggered when the estimated amount of "wasted" memory is
more than max_overhead percent of the amount of live data. If max_overhead is set
to 0, heap compaction is triggered at the end of each major GC cycle (this setting is
intended for testing purposes only). If max_overhead >= 1000000, compaction is
never triggered. If compaction is permanently disabled, it is strongly suggested to set
allocation_policy to 1. Default: 500.
mutable stack_limit : int ;
The maximum size of the stack (in words). This is only relevant to the byte-code runtime, as the native code runtime uses the operating system’s stack. Default: 1024k.

```haskell
mutable allocation_policy : int ;
```

The policy used for allocating in the heap. Possible values are 0 and 1. 0 is the next-fit policy, which is quite fast but can result in fragmentation. 1 is the first-fit policy, which can be slower in some cases but can be better for programs with fragmentation problems. Default: 0.

**Since:** 3.11.0

```haskell
window_size : int ;
```

The size of the window used by the major GC for smoothing out variations in its workload. This is an integer between 1 and 50. Default: 1.

**Since:** 4.03.0

```haskell
custom_major_ratio : int ;
```

Target ratio of floating garbage to major heap size for out-of-heap memory held by custom values located in the major heap. The GC speed is adjusted to try to use this much memory for dead values that are not yet collected. Expressed as a percentage of major heap size. The default value keeps the out-of-heap floating garbage about the same size as the in-heap overhead. Note: this only applies to values allocated with `caml_alloc_custom_mem` (e.g. bigarrays). Default: 44.

**Since:** 4.08.0

```haskell
custom_minor_ratio : int ;
```

Bound on floating garbage for out-of-heap memory held by custom values in the minor heap. A minor GC is triggered when this much memory is held by custom values located in the minor heap. Expressed as a percentage of minor heap size. Note: this only applies to values allocated with `caml_alloc_custom_mem` (e.g. bigarrays). Default: 100.

**Since:** 4.08.0

```haskell
custom_minor_max_size : int ;
```

Maximum amount of out-of-heap memory for each custom value allocated in the minor heap. When a custom value is allocated on the minor heap and holds more than this many bytes, only this value is counted against `custom_minor_ratio` and the rest is directly counted against `custom_major_ratio`. Note: this only applies to values allocated with `caml_alloc_custom_mem` (e.g. bigarrays). Default: 8192 bytes.

**Since:** 4.08.0

```haskell
}
```

The GC parameters are given as a `control` record. Note that these parameters can also be initialised by setting the OCAMLRUNPARAM environment variable. See the documentation of `ocamlrun`.

```haskell
val stat : unit -> stat
```
Return the current values of the memory management counters in a \texttt{stat} record. This function examines every heap block to get the statistics.

\begin{verbatim}
val quick_stat : unit -> stat
    Same as \texttt{stat} except that \texttt{live_words}, \texttt{live_blocks}, \texttt{free_words}, \texttt{free_blocks}, \texttt{largest_free}, and \texttt{fragments} are set to 0. This function is much faster than \texttt{stat} because it does not need to go through the heap.

val counters : unit -> float * float * float
    Return (\texttt{minor_words}, \texttt{promoted_words}, \texttt{major_words}). This function is as fast as \texttt{quick_stat}.

val minor_words : unit -> float
    Number of words allocated in the minor heap since the program was started. This number is accurate in byte-code programs, but only an approximation in programs compiled to native code.
    In native code this function does not allocate.
    \textbf{Since:} 4.04

val get : unit -> control
    Return the current values of the GC parameters in a \texttt{control} record.

val set : control -> unit
    \texttt{set r} changes the GC parameters according to the \texttt{control} record \texttt{r}. The normal usage is:
    \texttt{Gc.set \{ (Gc.get()) with Gc.verbose = 0x00d \}}

val minor : unit -> unit
    Trigger a minor collection.

val major_slice : int -> int
    \texttt{major_slice n} Do a minor collection and a slice of major collection. \texttt{n} is the size of the slice: the GC will do enough work to free (on average) \texttt{n} words of memory. If \texttt{n} = 0, the GC will try to do enough work to ensure that the next automatic slice has no work to do. This function returns an unspecified integer (currently: 0).

val major : unit -> unit
    Do a minor collection and finish the current major collection cycle.

val full_major : unit -> unit
    Do a minor collection, finish the current major collection cycle, and perform a complete new cycle. This will collect all currently unreachable blocks.

val compact : unit -> unit
\end{verbatim}
Perform a full major collection and compact the heap. Note that heap compaction is a lengthy operation.

val print_stat : out_channel -> unit
Print the current values of the memory management counters (in human-readable form) into the channel argument.

val allocated_bytes : unit -> float
Return the total number of bytes allocated since the program was started. It is returned as a float to avoid overflow problems with int on 32-bit machines.

val get_minor_free : unit -> int
Return the current size of the free space inside the minor heap.

Since: 4.03.0

val get_bucket : int -> int
get_bucket n returns the current size of the n-th future bucket of the GC smoothing system. The unit is one millionth of a full GC. Raise Invalid_argument if n is negative, return 0 if n is larger than the smoothing window.

Since: 4.03.0

val get_credit : unit -> int
get_credit () returns the current size of the "work done in advance" counter of the GC smoothing system. The unit is one millionth of a full GC.

Since: 4.03.0

val huge_fallback_count : unit -> int
Return the number of times we tried to map huge pages and had to fall back to small pages. This is always 0 if OCAMLRUNPARAM contains H=1.

Since: 4.03.0

val finalise : ('a -> unit) -> 'a -> unit
finalise f v registers f as a finalisation function for v. v must be heap-allocated. f will be called with v as argument at some point between the first time v becomes unreachable (including through weak pointers) and the time v is collected by the GC. Several functions can be registered for the same value, or even several instances of the same function. Each instance will be called once (or never, if the program terminates before v becomes unreachable).

The GC will call the finalisation functions in the order of deallocation. When several values become unreachable at the same time (i.e. during the same GC cycle), the finalisation functions will be called in the reverse order of the corresponding calls to finalise. If finalise is called in the same order as the values are allocated, that means each value is
finalised before the values it depends upon. Of course, this becomes false if additional dependencies are introduced by assignments.

In the presence of multiple OCaml threads it should be assumed that any particular finaliser may be executed in any of the threads.

Anything reachable from the closure of finalisation functions is considered reachable, so the following code will not work as expected:

\[
\text{let } v = \ldots \text{ in Gc.finalise (fun } _ \rightarrow \ldots v\ldots) \ v
\]

Instead you should make sure that \(v\) is not in the closure of the finalisation function by writing:

\[
\text{let } f = \text{fun } x \rightarrow \ldots \text{ let } v = \ldots \text{ in Gc.finalise } f \ v
\]

The \(f\) function can use all features of OCaml, including assignments that make the value reachable again. It can also loop forever (in this case, the other finalisation functions will not be called during the execution of \(f\), unless it calls \texttt{finalise_release}). It can call \texttt{finalise} on \(v\) or other values to register other functions or even itself. It can raise an exception; in this case the exception will interrupt whatever the program was doing when the function was called.

\texttt{finalise} will raise \texttt{Invalid_argument} if \(v\) is not guaranteed to be heap-allocated. Some examples of values that are not heap-allocated are integers, constant constructors, booleans, the empty array, the empty list, the unit value. The exact list of what is heap-allocated or not is implementation-dependent. Some constant values can be heap-allocated but never deallocated during the lifetime of the program, for example a list of integer constants; this is also implementation-dependent. Note that values of types \texttt{float} are sometimes allocated and sometimes not, so finalising them is unsafe, and \texttt{finalise} will also raise \texttt{Invalid_argument} for them. Values of type \texttt{'}a Lazy.t} (for any \texttt{'}a) are like \texttt{float} in this respect, except that the compiler sometimes optimizes them in a way that prevents \texttt{finalise} from detecting them. In this case, it will not raise \texttt{Invalid_argument}, but you should still avoid calling \texttt{finalise} on lazy values.

The results of calling \texttt{String.make[23.47]}, \texttt{Bytes.make[23.7]}, \texttt{Bytes.create[23.7]}, \texttt{Array.make[23.2]}, and \texttt{ref[22.2]} are guaranteed to be heap-allocated and non-constant except when the length argument is 0.

\texttt{val finalise\_last : (unit \rightarrow \texttt{unit}) \rightarrow 'a \rightarrow \texttt{unit}}

same as \texttt{Gc.finalise[23.18]} except the value is not given as argument. So you can’t use the given value for the computation of the finalisation function. The benefit is that the function is called after the value is unreachable for the last time instead of the first time. So contrary to \texttt{Gc.finalise[23.18]} the value will never be reachable again or used again. In particular every weak pointer and ephemeron that contained this value as key or data is unset before running the finalisation function. Moreover the finalisation functions attached with \texttt{Gc.finalise[23.18]} are always called before the finalisation functions attached with \texttt{Gc.finalise\_last[23.18]}.

\texttt{Since: 4.04}
val finalise_release : unit -> unit

A finalisation function may call finalise_release to tell the GC that it can launch the next finalisation function without waiting for the current one to return.

type alarm

An alarm is a piece of data that calls a user function at the end of each major GC cycle. The following functions are provided to create and delete alarms.

val create_alarm : (unit -> unit) -> alarm

create_alarm f will arrange for f to be called at the end of each major GC cycle, starting with the current cycle or the next one. A value of type alarm is returned that you can use to call delete_alarm.

val delete_alarm : alarm -> unit

delete_alarm a will stop the calls to the function associated to a. Calling delete_alarm a again has no effect.

23.19 Module Genlex : A generic lexical analyzer.

This module implements a simple ‘standard’ lexical analyzer, presented as a function from character streams to token streams. It implements roughly the lexical conventions of OCaml, but is parameterized by the set of keywords of your language.

Example: a lexer suitable for a desk calculator is obtained by

let lexer = make_lexer ["+";"-";"*";"/";"let";"=";"("; ")"]

The associated parser would be a function from token stream to, for instance, int, and would have rules such as:

let rec parse_expr = parser
    | [< n1 = parse_atom; n2 = parse_remainder n1 >] -> n2
and parse_atom = parser
    | [< 'Int n ] -> n
    | [< 'Kwd "("; n = parse_expr; 'Kwd ")" >] -> n
and parse_remainder n1 = parser
    | [< 'Kwd "+"; n2 = parse_expr >] -> n1+n2
    | [< >] -> n1

One should notice that the use of the parser keyword and associated notation for streams are only available through camlp4 extensions. This means that one has to preprocess its sources e. g. by using the "-pp" command-line switch of the compilers.

type token =
    | Kwd of string
    | Ident of string
The type of tokens. The lexical classes are: `Int` and `Float` for integer and floating-point numbers; `String` for string literals, enclosed in double quotes; `Char` for character literals, enclosed in single quotes; `Ident` for identifiers (either sequences of letters, digits, underscores and quotes, or sequences of 'operator characters' such as `+`, `*`, etc); and `Kwd` for keywords (either identifiers or single 'special characters' such as `,`, `)`, etc).

```ocaml
val make Lexer : string list -> char Stream.t -> token Stream.t

Construct the lexer function. The first argument is the list of keywords. An identifier `s` is returned as `Kwd s` if `s` belongs to this list, and as `Ident s` otherwise. A special character `s` is returned as `Kwd s` if `s` belongs to this list, and cause a lexical error (exception `Stream.Error`[23.46] with the offending lexeme as its parameter) otherwise. Blanks and newlines are skipped. Comments delimited by `(*` and `*)` are skipped as well, and can be nested. A `Stream.Failure`[23.46] exception is raised if end of stream is unexpectedly reached.
```

### 23.20 Module Hashtbl : Hash tables and hash functions.

Hash tables are hashed association tables, with in-place modification.

#### Generic interface

```ocaml
type ('a, 'b) t

The type of hash tables from type `a` to type `b`.
```

```ocaml
val create : ?random:bool -> int -> ('a, 'b) t

Hashbl.create n creates a new, empty hash table, with initial size `n`. For best results, `n` should be on the order of the expected number of elements that will be in the table. The table grows as needed, so `n` is just an initial guess.

The optional `random` parameter (a boolean) controls whether the internal organization of the hash table is randomized at each execution of `Hashbl.create` or deterministic over all executions.

A hash table that is created with `~random:false` uses a fixed hash function (`Hashbl.hash[23.20]`) to distribute keys among buckets. As a consequence, collisions between keys happen deterministically. In Web-facing applications or other security-sensitive applications, the deterministic collision patterns can be exploited by a malicious user to create a denial-of-service attack: the attacker sends input crafted to create many collisions in the table, slowing the application down.
A hash table that is created with `~random:true` uses the seeded hash function `Hashtbl.seeded_hash[23.20]` with a seed that is randomly chosen at hash table creation time. In effect, the hash function used is randomly selected among $2^{30}$ different hash functions. All these hash functions have different collision patterns, rendering ineffective the denial-of-service attack described above. However, because of randomization, enumerating all elements of the hash table using `Hashtbl.fold[23.20]` or `Hashtbl.iter[23.20]` is no longer deterministic: elements are enumerated in different orders at different runs of the program.

If no `~random` parameter is given, hash tables are created in non-random mode by default. This default can be changed either programatically by calling `Hashtbl.randomize[23.20]` or by setting the `R` flag in the `OCAMLRUNPARAM` environment variable.

Before `4.00.0` the `random` parameter was not present and all hash tables were created in non-randomized mode.

```
val clear : ('a, 'b) t -> unit

Empty a hash table. Use `reset` instead of `clear` to shrink the size of the bucket table to its initial size.
```

```
val reset : ('a, 'b) t -> unit

Empty a hash table and shrink the size of the bucket table to its initial size.

Since: 4.00.0
```

```
val copy : ('a, 'b) t -> ('a, 'b) t

Return a copy of the given hashtable.
```

```
val add : ('a, 'b) t -> 'a -> 'b -> unit

Hashtbl.add tbl x y adds a binding of x to y in table tbl. Previous bindings for x are not removed, but simply hidden. That is, after performing `Hashtbl.remove[23.20]` tbl x, the previous binding for x, if any, is restored. (Same behavior as with association lists.)
```

```
val find : ('a, 'b) t -> 'a -> 'b

Hashtbl.find tbl x returns the current binding of x in tbl, or raises `Not_found` if no such binding exists.
```

```
val find_opt : ('a, 'b) t -> 'a -> 'b option

Hashtbl.find_opt tbl x returns the current binding of x in tbl, or `None` if no such binding exists.

Since: 4.05
```

```
val find_all : ('a, 'b) t -> 'a -> 'b list

Hashtbl.find_all tbl x returns the list of all data associated with x in tbl. The current binding is returned first, then the previous bindings, in reverse order of introduction in the table.
```
val mem : ('a, 'b) t -> 'a -> bool
    Hashtbl.mem tbl x checks if x is bound in tbl.
val remove : ('a, 'b) t -> 'a -> unit
    Hashtbl.remove tbl x removes the current binding of x in tbl, restoring the previous
    binding if it exists. It does nothing if x is not bound in tbl.
val replace : ('a, 'b) t -> 'a -> 'b -> unit
    Hashtbl.replace tbl x y replaces the current binding of x in tbl by a binding of x to y.
    If x is unbound in tbl, a binding of x to y is added to tbl. This is functionally equivalent to
    Hashtbl.remove[23.20] tbl x followed by Hashtbl.add[23.20] tbl x y.
val iter : ('a -> 'b -> unit) -> ('a, 'b) t -> unit
    Hashtbl.iter f tbl applies f to all bindings in table tbl. f receives the key as first
    argument, and the associated value as second argument. Each binding is presented exactly
    once to f.
    The order in which the bindings are passed to f is unspecified. However, if the table
    contains several bindings for the same key, they are passed to f in reverse order of
    introduction, that is, the most recent binding is passed first.
    If the hash table was created in non-randomized mode, the order in which the bindings are
    enumerated is reproducible between successive runs of the program, and even between
    minor versions of OCaml. For randomized hash tables, the order of enumeration is entirely
    random.
    The behavior is not defined if the hash table is modified by f during the iteration.
val filter_map_inplace : ('a -> 'b -> 'b option) -> ('a, 'b) t -> unit
    Hashtbl.filter_map_inplace f tbl applies f to all bindings in table tbl and update
    each binding depending on the result of f. If f returns None, the binding is discarded. If it
    returns Some new_val, the binding is update to associate the key to new_val.
    Other comments for Hashtbl.iter[23.20] apply as well.
Since: 4.03.0
val fold : ('a -> 'b -> 'c -> 'c) -> ('a, 'b) t -> 'c -> 'c
    Hashtbl.fold f tbl init computes (f kN dN ... (f k1 d1 init)...), where k1 ...
    kN are the keys of all bindings in tbl, and d1 ... dN are the associated values. Each
    binding is presented exactly once to f.
    The order in which the bindings are passed to f is unspecified. However, if the table
    contains several bindings for the same key, they are passed to f in reverse order of
    introduction, that is, the most recent binding is passed first.
    If the hash table was created in non-randomized mode, the order in which the bindings are
    enumerated is reproducible between successive runs of the program, and even between
    minor versions of OCaml. For randomized hash tables, the order of enumeration is entirely
    random.
    The behavior is not defined if the hash table is modified by f during the iteration.
val length : ('a, 'b) t -> int

Hashtbl.length tbl returns the number of bindings in tbl. It takes constant time.
Multiple bindings are counted once each, so Hashtbl.length gives the number of times
Hashtbl.iter calls its first argument.

val randomize : unit -> unit

After a call to Hashtbl.randomize(), hash tables are created in randomized mode by
default: Hashtbl.create[23.20] returns randomized hash tables, unless the ~random:false
optional parameter is given. The same effect can be achieved by setting the R parameter in
the OCAMLRUNPARAM environment variable.

It is recommended that applications or Web frameworks that need to protect themselves
against the denial-of-service attack described in Hashtbl.create[23.20] call
Hashtbl.randomize() at initialization time.

Note that once Hashtbl.randomize() was called, there is no way to revert to the
non-randomized default behavior of Hashtbl.create[23.20]. This is intentional.
Non-randomized hash tables can still be created using Hashtbl.create ~random:false.

Since: 4.00.0

val is_randomized : unit -> bool

return if the tables are currently created in randomized mode by default

Since: 4.03.0

type statistics =
{
  num_bindings : int ;
  num_buckets : int ;
  max_bucket_length : int ;
  bucket_histogram : int array ;
}

Since: 4.00.0

val stats : ('a, 'b) t -> statistics

Hashtbl.stats tbl returns statistics about the table tbl: number of buckets, size of the
biggest bucket, distribution of buckets by size.

Since: 4.00.0
Iterators

val to_seq : ('a, 'b) t -> ('a * 'b) Seq.t
Iterate on the whole table. The order in which the bindings appear in the sequence is
unspecified. However, if the table contains several bindings for the same key, they appear in
reversed order of introduction, that is, the most recent binding appears first.
The behavior is not defined if the hash table is modified during the iteration.
Since: 4.07

val to_seq_keys : ('a, 'b) t -> 'a Seq.t
Same as Seq.map fst (to_seq m)
Since: 4.07

val to_seq_values : ('a, 'b) t -> 'b Seq.t
Same as Seq.map snd (to_seq m)
Since: 4.07

val add_seq : ('a, 'b) t -> ('a * 'b) Seq.t -> unit
Add the given bindings to the table, using Hashtbl.add[23.20]
Since: 4.07

val replace_seq : ('a, 'b) t -> ('a * 'b) Seq.t -> unit
Add the given bindings to the table, using Hashtbl.replace[23.20]
Since: 4.07

val of_seq : ('a * 'b) Seq.t -> ('a, 'b) t
Build a table from the given bindings. The bindings are added in the same order they
appear in the sequence, using Hashtbl.replace_seq[23.20], which means that if two pairs
have the same key, only the latest one will appear in the table.
Since: 4.07

Functorial interface

The functorial interface allows the use of specific comparison and hash functions, either for per-
formance/security concerns, or because keys are not hashable/comparable with the polymorphic
builtins.
For instance, one might want to specialize a table for integer keys:

module IntHash =
struct
  type t = int
  let equal i j = i=j
let hash i = i land max_int
end

module IntHashtbl = Hashtbl.Make(IntHash)

let h = IntHashtbl.create 17 in
IntHashtbl.add h 12 "hello"

This creates a new module IntHashtbl, with a new type 'a IntHashtbl.t of tables from int to 'a. In this example, h contains string values so its type is string IntHashtbl.t.

Note that the new type 'a IntHashtbl.t is not compatible with the type ('a,'b) Hashtbl.t of the generic interface. For example, Hashtbl.length h would not type-check, you must use IntHashtbl.length.

module type HashedType =
  sig
    type t
    The type of the hashtable keys.
    val equal : t -> t -> bool
    The equality predicate used to compare keys.
    val hash : t -> int
    A hashing function on keys. It must be such that if two keys are equal according to equal, then they have identical hash values as computed by hash. Examples: suitable (equal, hash) pairs for arbitrary key types include
    • (equality, Hashtbl.hash[23.20]) for comparing objects by structure (provided objects do not contain floats)
    • (fun x y -> compare x y = 0, Hashtbl.hash[23.20]) for comparing objects by structure and handling nan[22.2] correctly
    • (equality, Hashtbl.hash[23.20]) for comparing objects by physical equality (e.g. for mutable or cyclic objects).
  end

The input signature of the functor Hashtbl.Make[23.20].

module type S =
  sig
    type key
    type 'a t
    val create : int -> 'a t
    val clear : 'a t -> unit
    val reset : 'a t -> unit
Since: 4.00.0

val copy : 'a t -> 'a t
val add : 'a t -> key -> 'a -> unit
val remove : 'a t -> key -> unit
val find : 'a t -> key -> 'a
val find_opt : 'a t -> key -> 'a option

Since: 4.05.0

val find_all : 'a t -> key -> 'a list
val replace : 'a t -> key -> 'a -> unit
val mem : 'a t -> key -> bool
val iter : (key -> 'a -> unit) -> 'a t -> unit
val filter_map_inplace : (key -> 'a -> 'a option) -> 'a t -> unit

Since: 4.03.0

val fold : (key -> 'a -> 'b -> 'b) -> 'a t -> 'b -> 'b
val length : 'a t -> int
val stats : 'a t -> Hashtbl.statistics

Since: 4.00.0

val to_seq : 'a t -> (key * 'a) Seq.t

Since: 4.07

val to_seq_keys : 'a t -> key Seq.t

Since: 4.07

val to_seq_values : 'a t -> 'a Seq.t

Since: 4.07

val add_seq : 'a t -> (key * 'a) Seq.t -> unit

Since: 4.07

val replace_seq : 'a t -> (key * 'a) Seq.t -> unit

Since: 4.07

val of_seq : (key * 'a) Seq.t -> 'a t

Since: 4.07
The output signature of the functor \texttt{Hashtbl.Make}[23.20].

module \textbf{Make} :

\begin{verbatim}
  functor (H : HashedType) -> S with type key = H.t
  
  Functor building an implementation of the hashtable structure. The functor \texttt{Hashtbl.Make}
  returns a structure containing a type \texttt{key} of keys and a type \texttt{'a t} of hash tables associating
  data of type \texttt{'a} to keys of type \texttt{key}. The operations perform similarly to those of the generic
  interface, but use the hashing and equality functions specified in the functor argument \texttt{H}
  instead of generic equality and hashing. Since the hash function is not seeded, the \texttt{create}
  operation of the result structure always returns non-randomized hash tables.
\end{verbatim}

module type \textbf{SeededHashedType} =

\begin{verbatim}
  sig
    type t

    The type of the hashtable keys.
    
    val equal : t -> t -> bool

    The equality predicate used to compare keys.
    
    val hash : int -> t -> int

    A seeded hashing function on keys. The first argument is the seed. It must be the case
    that if \texttt{equal} \texttt{x y} is true, then \texttt{hash seed x = hash seed y} for any value of \texttt{seed}. A
    suitable choice for \texttt{hash} is the function \texttt{Hashtbl.seeded_hash}[23.20] below.
  end
\end{verbatim}

The input signature of the functor \texttt{Hashtbl.MakeSeeded}[23.20].

\textbf{Since:} 4.00.0

module type \textbf{SeededS} =

\begin{verbatim}
  sig
    type key
    type 'a t

    val create : ?random:bool -> int -> 'a t
    val clear : 'a t -> unit
    val reset : 'a t -> unit
    val copy : 'a t -> 'a t
    val add : 'a t -> key -> 'a -> unit
    val remove : 'a t -> key -> unit
    val find : 'a t -> key -> 'a
    val find_opt : 'a t -> key -> 'a option
  end
\end{verbatim}
Since: 4.05.0

val find_all : 'a t -> key -> 'a list
val replace : 'a t -> key -> 'a -> unit
val mem : 'a t -> key -> bool
val iter : (key -> 'a -> unit) -> 'a t -> unit
val filter_map_inplace : (key -> 'a -> 'a option) -> 'a t -> unit

Since: 4.03.0

val fold : (key -> 'a -> 'b -> 'b) -> 'a t -> 'b
val length : 'a t -> int
val stats : 'a t -> Hashtbl.statistics
val to_seq : 'a t -> (key * 'a) Seq.t

Since: 4.07

val to_seq_keys : 'a t -> key Seq.t

Since: 4.07

val to_seq_values : 'a t -> 'a Seq.t

Since: 4.07

val add_seq : 'a t -> (key * 'a) Seq.t -> unit

Since: 4.07

val replace_seq : 'a t -> (key * 'a) Seq.t -> unit

Since: 4.07

val of_seq : (key * 'a) Seq.t -> 'a t

Since: 4.07

end

The output signature of the functor Hashtbl.MakeSeeded[23.20].

Since: 4.00.0

module MakeSeeded :
functor (H : SeededHashedType) -> SeededS with type key = H.t
Functor building an implementation of the hashtable structure. The functor
`Hashtbl.MakeSeeded` returns a structure containing a type `key` of keys and a type `'a t` of
hash tables associating data of type `'a` to keys of type `key`. The operations perform similarly
to those of the generic interface, but use the seeded hashing and equality functions specified
in the functor argument `H` instead of generic equality and hashing. The `create` operation of
the result structure supports the `~random` optional parameter and returns randomized hash
tables if `~random:true` is passed or if randomization is globally on (see
`Hashtbl.randomize`[23.20]).

Since: 4.00.0

The polymorphic hash functions

```ocaml
val hash : 'a -> int

Hashtbl.hash x associates a nonnegative integer to any value of any type. It is guaranteed
that if `x = y` or `Stdlib.compare x y = 0`, then `hash x = hash y`. Moreover, `hash` always
terminates, even on cyclic structures.

val seeded_hash : int -> 'a -> int

A variant of `Hashtbl.hash`[23.20] that is further parameterized by an integer seed.

Since: 4.00.0

val hash_param : int -> int -> 'a -> int

Hashtbl.hash_param meaningful total x computes a hash value for `x`, with the same
properties as for `hash`. The two extra integer parameters `meaningful` and `total` give more
precise control over hashing. Hashing performs a breadth-first, left-to-right traversal of the
structure `x`, stopping after `meaningful` meaningful nodes were encountered, or `total` nodes
(meaningful or not) were encountered. If `total` as specified by the user exceeds a certain
value, currently 256, then it is capped to that value. Meaningful nodes are: integers;
floating-point numbers; strings; characters; booleans; and constant constructors. Larger
values of `meaningful` and `total` means that more nodes are taken into account to compute
the final hash value, and therefore collisions are less likely to happen. However, hashing
takes longer. The parameters `meaningful` and `total` govern the tradeoff between accuracy
and speed. As default choices, `Hashtbl.hash`[23.20] and `Hashtbl.seeded_hash`[23.20] take
`meaningful = 10` and `total = 100`.

val seeded_hash_param : int -> int -> int -> 'a -> int

A variant of `Hashtbl.hash_param`[23.20] that is further parameterized by an integer seed.
Usage: `Hashtbl.seeded_hash_param meaningful total seed x`.

Since: 4.00.0
23.21 Module Int : Integer values.

Integers are Sys.int_size[23.49] bits wide and use two’s complement representation. All operations are taken modulo 2^{Sys.int_size}. They do not fail on overflow.

Since: 4.08

Integers

type t = int
   The type for integer values.

val zero : int
    zero is the integer 0.

val one : int
    one is the integer 1.

val minus_one : int
    minus_one is the integer -1.

val neg : int -> int
    neg x is \(-x\).

val add : int -> int -> int
    add x y is the addition \(x + y\).

val sub : int -> int -> int
    sub x y is the subtraction \(x - y\).

val mul : int -> int -> int
    mul x y is the multiplication \(x * y\).

val div : int -> int -> int
    div x y is the division \(x / y\). See (/)[22.2] for details.

val rem : int -> int -> int
    rem x y is the remainder \(x \text{ mod } y\). See (mod)[22.2] for details.

val succ : int -> int
    succ x is add x 1.

val pred : int -> int
    pred x is sub x 1.
val abs : int -> int
  abs x is the absolute value of x. That is x if x is positive and neg x if x is negative.
  Warning. This may be negative if the argument is Int.min_int[23.21].

val max_int : int
  max_int is the greatest representable integer, \(2^{\text{[Sys.int_size - 1]}} - 1\).

val min_int : int
  min_int is the smallest representable integer, \(-2^{\text{[Sys.int_size - 1]}}\).

val logand : int -> int -> int
  logand x y is the bitwise logical and of x and y.

val logor : int -> int -> int
  logor x y is the bitwise logical or of x and y.

val logxor : int -> int -> int
  logxor x y is the bitwise logical exclusive or of x and y.

val lognot : int -> int
  lognot x is the bitwise logical negation of x.

val shift_left : int -> int -> int
  shift_left x n shifts x to the left by n bits. The result is unspecified if n < 0 or n > Sys.int_size[23.49].

val shift_right : int -> int -> int
  shift_right x n shifts x to the right by n bits. This is an arithmetic shift: the sign bit of x is replicated and inserted in the vacated bits. The result is unspecified if n < 0 or n > Sys.int_size[23.49].

val shift_right_logical : int -> int -> int
  shift_right x n shifts x to the right by n bits. This is a logical shift: zeroes are inserted in the vacated bits regardless of the sign of x. The result is unspecified if n < 0 or n > Sys.int_size[23.49].

Predicates and comparisons

val equal : int -> int -> bool
  equal x y is true iff x = y.

val compare : int -> int -> int
  compare x y is compare[22.2] x y but more efficient.
Converting

val to_float : int -> float
  to_float x is x as a floating point number.

val of_float : float -> int
  of_float x truncates x to an integer. The result is unspecified if the argument is nan or falls outside the range of representable integers.

val to_string : int -> string
  to_string x is the written representation of x in decimal.

23.22  Module Int32 : 32-bit integers.

This module provides operations on the type int32 of signed 32-bit integers. Unlike the built-in int type, the type int32 is guaranteed to be exactly 32-bit wide on all platforms. All arithmetic operations over int32 are taken modulo $2^{32}$.

Performance notice: values of type int32 occupy more memory space than values of type int, and arithmetic operations on int32 are generally slower than those on int. Use int32 only when the application requires exact 32-bit arithmetic.

Literals for 32-bit integers are suffixed by l:

```ocaml
let zero: int32 = 0l
let one: int32 = 1l
let m_one: int32 = -1l
```

val zero : int32
  The 32-bit integer 0.

val one : int32
  The 32-bit integer 1.

val minus_one : int32
  The 32-bit integer -1.

val neg : int32 -> int32
  Unary negation.

val add : int32 -> int32 -> int32
  Addition.

val sub : int32 -> int32 -> int32
Subtraction.

val mul : int32 -> int32 -> int32
  Multiplication.

val div : int32 -> int32 -> int32
  Integer division. Raise Division_by_zero if the second argument is zero. This division rounds the real quotient of its arguments towards zero, as specified for (/)[22.2].

val unsigned_div : int32 -> int32 -> int32
  Same as Int32.div[23.22], except that arguments and result are interpreted as unsigned 32-bit integers.
  Since: 4.08.0

val rem : int32 -> int32 -> int32
  Integer remainder. If y is not zero, the result of Int32.rem x y satisfies the following property: x = Int32.add (Int32.mul (Int32.div x y) y) (Int32.rem x y). If y = 0, Int32.rem x y raises Division_by_zero.

val unsigned_rem : int32 -> int32 -> int32
  Same as Int32.rem[23.22], except that arguments and result are interpreted as unsigned 32-bit integers.
  Since: 4.08.0

val succ : int32 -> int32
  Successor. Int32.succ x is Int32.add x Int32.one.

val pred : int32 -> int32
  Predecessor. Int32.pred x is Int32.sub x Int32.one.

val abs : int32 -> int32
  Return the absolute value of its argument.

val max_int : int32
  The greatest representable 32-bit integer, $2^{31} - 1$.

val min_int : int32
  The smallest representable 32-bit integer, $-2^{31}$.

val logand : int32 -> int32 -> int32
  Bitwise logical and.

val logor : int32 -> int32 -> int32
  Bitwise logical or.
val logxor : int32 -> int32 -> int32
  Bitwise logical exclusive or.

val lognot : int32 -> int32
  Bitwise logical negation.

val shift_left : int32 -> int -> int32
  Int32.shift_left x y shifts x to the left by y bits. The result is unspecified if y < 0 or y >= 32.

val shift_right : int32 -> int -> int32
  Int32.shift_right x y shifts x to the right by y bits. This is an arithmetic shift: the sign bit of x is replicated and inserted in the vacated bits. The result is unspecified if y < 0 or y >= 32.

val shift_right_logical : int32 -> int -> int32
  Int32.shift_right_logical x y shifts x to the right by y bits. This is a logical shift: zeroes are inserted in the vacated bits regardless of the sign of x. The result is unspecified if y < 0 or y >= 32.

val of_int : int -> int32
  Convert the given integer (type int) to a 32-bit integer (type int32). On 64-bit platforms, the argument is taken modulo 2^{32}.

val to_int : int32 -> int
  Convert the given 32-bit integer (type int32) to an integer (type int). On 32-bit platforms, the 32-bit integer is taken modulo 2^{31}, i.e. the high-order bit is lost during the conversion. On 64-bit platforms, the conversion is exact.

val unsigned_to_int : int32 -> int option
  Same as Int32.to_int\[23.22\], but interprets the argument as an unsigned integer. Returns None if the unsigned value of the argument cannot fit into an int.
  Since: 4.08.0

val of_float : float -> int32
  Convert the given floating-point number to a 32-bit integer, discarding the fractional part (truncate towards 0). The result of the conversion is undefined if, after truncation, the number is outside the range [Int32.min_int[23.22], Int32.max_int[23.22]].

val to_float : int32 -> float
  Convert the given 32-bit integer to a floating-point number.

val of_string : string -> int32
Convert the given string to a 32-bit integer. The string is read in decimal (by default, or if the string begins with 0u) or in hexadecimal, octal or binary if the string begins with 0x, 0o or 0b respectively.

The 0u prefix reads the input as an unsigned integer in the range [0, 2*Int32.max_int+1]. If the input exceeds Int32.max_int it is converted to the signed integer Int32.min_int + input - Int32.max_int - 1.

The _ (underscore) character can appear anywhere in the string and is ignored. Raise Failure "Int32.of_string" if the given string is not a valid representation of an integer, or if the integer represented exceeds the range of integers representable in type int32.

val of_string_opt : string -> int32 option
    Same as of_string, but return None instead of raising.
    Since: 4.05

val to_string : int32 -> string
    Return the string representation of its argument, in signed decimal.

val bits_of_float : float -> int32
    Return the internal representation of the given float according to the IEEE 754 floating-point 'single format' bit layout. Bit 31 of the result represents the sign of the float; bits 30 to 23 represent the (biased) exponent; bits 22 to 0 represent the mantissa.

val float_of_bits : int32 -> float
    Return the floating-point number whose internal representation, according to the IEEE 754 floating-point 'single format' bit layout, is the given int32.

type t = int32
    An alias for the type of 32-bit integers.

val compare : t -> t -> int
    The comparison function for 32-bit integers, with the same specification as compare[22.2].
    Along with the type t, this function compare allows the module Int32 to be passed as argument to the functors Set.Make[23.42] and Map.Make[23.28].

val unsigned_compare : t -> t -> int
    Same as Int32.compare[23.22], except that arguments are interpreted as unsigned 32-bit integers.
    Since: 4.08.0

val equal : t -> t -> bool
    The equal function for int32s.
    Since: 4.03.0
23.23 Module Int64 : 64-bit integers.

This module provides operations on the type int64 of signed 64-bit integers. Unlike the built-in int type, the type int64 is guaranteed to be exactly 64-bit wide on all platforms. All arithmetic operations over int64 are taken modulo $2^{64}$.

Performance notice: values of type int64 occupy more memory space than values of type int, and arithmetic operations on int64 are generally slower than those on int. Use int64 only when the application requires exact 64-bit arithmetic.

Literals for 64-bit integers are suffixed by L:

```ml
let zero: int64 = 0L
let one: int64 = 1L
let m_one: int64 = -1L
```

val zero : int64

The 64-bit integer 0.

val one : int64

The 64-bit integer 1.

val minus_one : int64

The 64-bit integer -1.

val neg : int64 -> int64

Unary negation.

val add : int64 -> int64 -> int64

Addition.

val sub : int64 -> int64 -> int64

Subtraction.

val mul : int64 -> int64 -> int64

Multiplication.

val div : int64 -> int64 -> int64

Integer division. Raise Division_by_zero if the second argument is zero. This division rounds the real quotient of its arguments towards zero, as specified for (/)[22.2].

val unsigned_div : int64 -> int64 -> int64

Same as Int64.div[23.23], except that arguments and result are interpreted as unsigned 64-bit integers.

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val rem : int64 -> int64 -> int64

Integer remainder. If \( y \) is not zero, the result of \( \text{Int64.rem} \ x \ y \) satisfies the following property:
\[
x = \text{Int64.add} \ (\text{Int64.mul} \ (\text{Int64.div} \ x \ y) \ y) \ (\text{Int64.rem} \ x \ y)
\]
If \( y = 0 \), \( \text{Int64.rem} \ x \ y \) raises Division_by_zero.

val unsigned_rem : int64 -> int64 -> int64

Same as \( \text{Int64.rem} \) [23.23], except that arguments and result are interpreted as unsigned 64-bit integers.

Since: 4.08.0

val succ : int64 -> int64

Successor. \( \text{Int64.succ} \ x \) is \( \text{Int64.add} \ x \ \text{Int64.one} \).

val pred : int64 -> int64

Predecessor. \( \text{Int64.pred} \ x \) is \( \text{Int64.sub} \ x \ \text{Int64.one} \).

val abs : int64 -> int64

Return the absolute value of its argument.

val max_int : int64

The greatest representable 64-bit integer, \( 2^{63} - 1 \).

val min_int : int64

The smallest representable 64-bit integer, \(-2^{63}\).

val logand : int64 -> int64 -> int64

Bitwise logical and.

val logor : int64 -> int64 -> int64

Bitwise logical or.

val logxor : int64 -> int64 -> int64

Bitwise logical exclusive or.

val lognot : int64 -> int64

Bitwise logical negation.

val shift_left : int64 -> int -> int64

\( \text{Int64.shift_left} \ x \ y \) shifts \( x \) to the left by \( y \) bits. The result is unspecified if \( y < 0 \) or \( y >= 64 \).

val shift_right : int64 -> int -> int64

\( \text{Int64.shift_right} \ x \ y \) shifts \( x \) to the right by \( y \) bits. This is an arithmetic shift: the sign bit of \( x \) is replicated and inserted in the vacated bits. The result is unspecified if \( y < 0 \) or \( y >= 64 \).
val shift_right_logical : int64 -> int -> int64
  Int64.shift_right_logical x y shifts x to the right by y bits. This is a logical shift:
  zeroes are inserted in the vacated bits regardless of the sign of x. The result is unspecified if
  y < 0 or y >= 64.

val of_int : int -> int64
  Convert the given integer (type int) to a 64-bit integer (type int64).

val to_int : int64 -> int
  Convert the given 64-bit integer (type int64) to an integer (type int). On 64-bit platforms,
  the 64-bit integer is taken modulo 2^{63}, i.e. the high-order bit is lost during the conversion.
  On 32-bit platforms, the 64-bit integer is taken modulo 2^{31}, i.e. the top 33 bits are lost
  during the conversion.

val unsigned_to_int : int64 -> int option
  Same as Int64.to_int[23.23], but interprets the argument as an unsigned integer. Returns
  None if the unsigned value of the argument cannot fit into an int.
  Since: 4.08.0

val of_float : float -> int64
  Convert the given floating-point number to a 64-bit integer, discarding the fractional part
  (truncate towards 0). The result of the conversion is undefined if, after truncation, the
  number is outside the range [Int64.min_int[23.23], Int64.max_int[23.23]].

val to_float : int64 -> float
  Convert the given 64-bit integer to a floating-point number.

val of_int32 : int32 -> int64
  Convert the given 32-bit integer (type int32) to a 64-bit integer (type int64).

val to_int32 : int64 -> int32
  Convert the given 64-bit integer (type int64) to a 32-bit integer (type int32). The 64-bit
  integer is taken modulo 2^{32}, i.e. the top 32 bits are lost during the conversion.

val of_nativeint : nativeint -> int64
  Convert the given native integer (type nativeint) to a 64-bit integer (type int64).

val to_nativeint : int64 -> nativeint
  Convert the given 64-bit integer (type int64) to a native integer. On 32-bit platforms, the
  64-bit integer is taken modulo 2^{32}. On 64-bit platforms, the conversion is exact.

val of_string : string -> int64
Convert the given string to a 64-bit integer. The string is read in decimal (by default, or if the string begins with 0u) or in hexadecimal, octal or binary if the string begins with 0x, 0o or 0b respectively.

The 0u prefix reads the input as an unsigned integer in the range \([0, 2\times\text{Int64.max_int}+1]\). If the input exceeds \text{Int64.max_int}\[23.23\] it is converted to the signed integer \(\text{Int64.min_int + input - Int64.max_int - 1}\).

The _ (underscore) character can appear anywhere in the string and is ignored. Raise Failure "\text{Int64.of_string}" if the given string is not a valid representation of an integer, or if the integer represented exceeds the range of integers representable in type int64.

val of_string_opt : string -> int64 option
Same as \text{of_string}, but return \text{None} instead of raising.
Since: 4.05

val to_string : int64 -> string
Return the string representation of its argument, in decimal.

val bits_of_float : float -> int64
Return the internal representation of the given float according to the IEEE 754 floating-point 'double format' bit layout. Bit 63 of the result represents the sign of the float; bits 62 to 52 represent the (biased) exponent; bits 51 to 0 represent the mantissa.

val float_of_bits : int64 -> float
Return the floating-point number whose internal representation, according to the IEEE 754 floating-point 'double format' bit layout, is the given int64.

type \text{t} = \text{int64}
An alias for the type of 64-bit integers.

val compare : \text{t} -> \text{t} -> int
The comparison function for 64-bit integers, with the same specification as \text{compare}\[22.2\]. Along with the type \text{t}, this function \text{compare} allows the module \text{Int64} to be passed as argument to the functors \text{Set.Make}\[23.42\] and \text{Map.Make}\[23.28\].

val unsigned_compare : \text{t} -> \text{t} -> int
Same as \text{Int64.compare}\[23.23\], except that arguments are interpreted as \text{unsigned} 64-bit integers.
Since: 4.08.0

val equal : \text{t} -> \text{t} -> bool
The equal function for int64s.
Since: 4.03.0
Module Lazy: Deferred computations.

A value of type 'a Lazy.t is a deferred computation, called a suspension, that has a result of type 'a. The special expression syntax lazy (expr) makes a suspension of the computation of expr, without computing expr itself yet. "Forcing" the suspension will then compute expr and return its result. Matching a suspension with the special pattern syntax lazy(pattern) also computes the underlying expression and tries to bind it to pattern:

```ml
let lazy_option_map f x =
    match x with
    | lazy (Some x) -> Some (Lazy.force f x)
    | _ -> None
```

Note: If lazy patterns appear in multiple cases in a pattern-matching, lazy expressions may be forced even outside of the case ultimately selected by the pattern matching. In the example above, the suspension x is always computed.

Note: lazy_t is the built-in type constructor used by the compiler for the lazy keyword. You should not use it directly. Always use Lazy.t instead.

Note: Lazy.force is not thread-safe. If you use this module in a multi-threaded program, you will need to add some locks.

Note: if the program is compiled with the -rectypes option, ill-founded recursive definitions of the form let rec x = lazy x or let rec x = lazy(lazy(...(lazy x))) are accepted by the type-checker and lead, when forced, to ill-formed values that trigger infinite loops in the garbage collector and other parts of the run-time system. Without the -rectypes option, such ill-founded recursive definitions are rejected by the type-checker.

exception Undefined
val force : 'a t -> 'a
    force x forces the suspension x and returns its result. If x has already been forced,
    Lazy.force x returns the same value again without recomputing it. If it raised an exception, the same exception is raised again. Raise Lazy.Undefined[23.24] if the forcing of x tries to force x itself recursively.

val force_val : 'a t -> 'a
    force_val x forces the suspension x and returns its result. If x has already been forced,
    force_val x returns the same value again without recomputing it. Raise
    Lazy.Undefined[23.24] if the forcing of x tries to force x itself recursively. If the computation of x raises an exception, it is unspecified whether force_val x raises the same exception or Lazy.Undefined[23.24].

val from_fun : (unit -> 'a) -> 'a t
from_fun f is the same as lazy (f ()) but slightly more efficient.
from_fun should only be used if the function f is already defined. In particular it is always less efficient to write from_fun (fun () -> expr) than lazy expr.
Since: 4.00.0

val from_val : 'a -> 'a t
from_val v returns an already-forced suspension of v. This is for special purposes only and should not be confused with lazy (v).
Since: 4.00.0

val is_val : 'a t -> bool
is_val x returns true if x has already been forced and did not raise an exception.
Since: 4.00.0

val lazy_from_fun : (unit -> 'a) -> 'a t
Deprecated. synonym for from_fun.

val lazy_from_val : 'a -> 'a t
Deprecated. synonym for from_val.

val lazy_is_val : 'a t -> bool
Deprecated. synonym for is_val.

23.25 Module Lexing: The run-time library for lexers generated by ocamllex.

Positions

type position =
{  pos_fname : string ;
  pos_lnum : int ;
  pos_bol : int ;
  pos_cnum : int ;
}

A value of type position describes a point in a source file. pos_fname is the file name; pos_lnum is the line number; pos_bol is the offset of the beginning of the line (number of characters between the beginning of the lexbuf and the beginning of the line); pos_cnum is the offset of the position (number of characters between the beginning of the lexbuf and the position). The difference between pos_cnum and pos_bol is the character offset within the line (i.e. the column number, assuming each character is one column wide).

See the documentation of type lexbuf for information about how the lexing engine will manage positions.
val dummy_pos : position

A value of type position, guaranteed to be different from any valid position.

**Lexer buffers**

```plaintext
type lexbuf =
{  refill_buff : lexbuf -> unit ;
  mutable lex_buffer : bytes ;
  mutable lex_buffer_len : int ;
  mutable lex_abs_pos : int ;
  mutable lex_start_pos : int ;
  mutable lex_curr_pos : int ;
  mutable lex_last_pos : int ;
  mutable lex_last_action : int ;
  mutable lex_eof_reached : bool ;
  mutable lex_mem : int array ;
  mutable lex_start_p : position ;
  mutable lex_curr_p : position ;
}
```

The type of lexer buffers. A lexer buffer is the argument passed to the scanning functions defined by the generated scanners. The lexer buffer holds the current state of the scanner, plus a function to refill the buffer from the input.

Lexers can optionally maintain the lex_curr_p and lex_start_p position fields. This"position tracking"mode is the default, and it corresponds to passing ~with_position:true to functions that create lexer buffers. In this mode, the lexing engine and lexer actions are co-responsible for properly updating the position fields, as described in the next paragraph. When the mode is explicitly disabled (with ~with_position:false), the lexing engine will not touch the position fields and the lexer actions should be careful not to do it either; the lex_curr_p and lex_start_p field will then always hold the dummy_pos invalid position.

Not tracking positions avoids allocations and memory writes and can significantly improve the performance of the lexer in contexts where lex_start_p and lex_curr_p are not needed.

Position tracking mode works as follows. At each token, the lexing engine will copy lex_curr_p to lex_start_p, then change the pos_cnum field of lex_curr_p by updating it with the number of characters read since the start of the lexbuf. The other fields are left unchanged by the lexing engine. In order to keep them accurate, they must be initialised before the first use of the lexbuf, and updated by the relevant lexer actions (i.e. at each end of line – see also new_line).

val from_channel : ?with_positions:bool -> in_channel -> lexbuf

Create a lexer buffer on the given input channel. Lexing.from_channel inchan returns a lexer buffer which reads from the input channel inchan, at the current reading position.

val from_string : ?with_positions:bool -> string -> lexbuf
Create a lexer buffer which reads from the given string. Reading starts from the first character in the string. An end-of-input condition is generated when the end of the string is reached.

val from_function : ?with_positions:bool -> (bytes -> int -> int) -> lexbuf

Create a lexer buffer with the given function as its reading method. When the scanner needs more characters, it will call the given function, giving it a byte sequence s and a byte count n. The function should put n bytes or fewer in s, starting at index 0, and return the number of bytes provided. A return value of 0 means end of input.

val with_positions : lexbuf -> bool

Tell whether the lexer buffer keeps track of position fields lex_curr_p / lex_start_p, as determined by the corresponding optional argument for functions that create lexer buffers (whose default value is true).

When with_positions is false, lexer actions should not modify position fields. Doing it nevertheless could re-enable the with_position mode and degrade performances.

Functions for lexer semantic actions

The following functions can be called from the semantic actions of lexer definitions (the ML code enclosed in braces that computes the value returned by lexing functions). They give access to the character string matched by the regular expression associated with the semantic action. These functions must be applied to the argument lexbuf, which, in the code generated by ocamllex, is bound to the lexer buffer passed to the parsing function.

val lexeme : lexbuf -> string

Lexing.lexeme lexbuf returns the string matched by the regular expression.

val lexeme_char : lexbuf -> int -> char

Lexing.lexeme_char lexbuf i returns character number i in the matched string.

val lexeme_start : lexbuf -> int

Lexing.lexeme_start lexbuf returns the offset in the input stream of the first character of the matched string. The first character of the stream has offset 0.

val lexeme_end : lexbuf -> int

Lexing.lexeme_end lexbuf returns the offset in the input stream of the character following the last character of the matched string. The first character of the stream has offset 0.

val lexeme_start_p : lexbuf -> position

Like lexeme_start, but return a complete position instead of an offset. When position tracking is disabled, the function returns dummy_pos.

val lexeme_end_p : lexbuf -> position
Like lexeme_end, but return a complete position instead of an offset. When position tracking is disabled, the function returns dummy_pos.

val new_line : lexbuf -> unit
Update the lex_curr_p field of the lexbuf to reflect the start of a new line. You can call this function in the semantic action of the rule that matches the end-of-line character. The function does nothing when position tracking is disabled.

Since: 3.11.0

Miscellaneous functions

val flush_input : lexbuf -> unit
Discard the contents of the buffer and reset the current position to 0. The next use of the lexbuf will trigger a refill.

23.26 Module List: List operations.

Some functions are flagged as not tail-recursive. A tail-recursive function uses constant stack space, while a non-tail-recursive function uses stack space proportional to the length of its list argument, which can be a problem with very long lists. When the function takes several list arguments, an approximate formula giving stack usage (in some unspecified constant unit) is shown in parentheses.

The above considerations can usually be ignored if your lists are not longer than about 10000 elements.

type 'a t = 'a list =
| []
| :: of 'a * 'a list
An alias for the type of lists.

val length : 'a list -> int
Return the length (number of elements) of the given list.

val compare_lengths : 'a list -> 'b list -> int
Compare the lengths of two lists. compare_lengths 11 12 is equivalent to compare (length 11) (length 12), except that the computation stops after iterating on the shortest list.

Since: 4.05.0

val compare_length_with : 'a list -> int -> int
Compare the length of a list to an integer. compare_length_with l n is equivalent to compare (length l) n, except that the computation stops after at most n iterations on the list.

Since: 4.05.0
val cons : 'a -> 'a list -> 'a list
  cons x xs is x :: xs
  Since: 4.03.0

val hd : 'a list -> 'a
  Return the first element of the given list. Raise Failure "hd" if the list is empty.

val tl : 'a list -> 'a list
  Return the given list without its first element. Raise Failure "tl" if the list is empty.

val nth : 'a list -> int -> 'a
  Return the n-th element of the given list. The first element (head of the list) is at position 0. Raise Failure "nth" if the list is too short. Raise Invalid_argument "List.nth" if n is negative.

val nth_opt : 'a list -> int -> 'a option
  Return the n-th element of the given list. The first element (head of the list) is at position 0. Return None if the list is too short. Raise Invalid_argument "List.nth" if n is negative.
  Since: 4.05

val rev : 'a list -> 'a list
  List reversal.

val init : int -> (int -> 'a) -> 'a list
  List.init len f is [f 0; f 1; ...; f (len-1)], evaluated left to right.
  Since: 4.06.0
  Raises Invalid_argument if len < 0.

val append : 'a list -> 'a list -> 'a list
  Concatenate two lists. Same as the infix operator @. Not tail-recursive (length of the first argument).

val rev_append : 'a list -> 'a list -> 'a list
  List.rev_append l1 l2 reverses l1 and concatenates it to l2. This is equivalent to List.rev[23.26] l1 @ l2, but rev_append is tail-recursive and more efficient.

val concat : 'a list list -> 'a list
  Concatenate a list of lists. The elements of the argument are all concatenated together (in the same order) to give the result. Not tail-recursive (length of the argument + length of the longest sub-list).

val flatten : 'a list list -> 'a list
  An alias for concat.
Iterators

val iter : ('a -> unit) -> 'a list -> unit
List.iter f [a1; ...; an] applies function f in turn to a1; ...; an. It is equivalent to begin f a1; f a2; ...; f an; () end.

val iteri : (int -> 'a -> unit) -> 'a list -> unit
Same as List.iter[23.26], but the function is applied to the index of the element as first argument (counting from 0), and the element itself as second argument.
Since: 4.00.0

val map : ('a -> 'b) -> 'a list -> 'b list
List.map f [a1; ...; an] applies function f to a1, ..., an, and builds the list [f a1; ...; f an] with the results returned by f. Not tail-recursive.

val mapi : (int -> 'a -> 'b) -> 'a list -> 'b list
Same as List.map[23.26], but the function is applied to the index of the element as first argument (counting from 0), and the element itself as second argument. Not tail-recursive.
Since: 4.00.0

val rev_map : ('a -> 'b) -> 'a list -> 'b list
List.rev_map f l gives the same result as List.rev[23.26] (List.map[23.26] f l), but is tail-recursive and more efficient.

val filter_map : ('a -> 'b option) -> 'a list -> 'b list
filter_map f l applies f to every element of l, filters out the None elements and returns the list of the arguments of the Some elements.
Since: 4.08.0

val fold_left : ('a -> 'b -> 'a) -> 'a -> 'b list -> 'a
List.fold_left f a [b1; ...; bn] is f (... (f (f a b1) b2) ...) bn.

val fold_right : ('a -> 'b -> 'b) -> 'a list -> 'b -> 'b
List.fold_right f [a1; ...; an] b is f a1 (f a2 (... (f an b) ...)). Not tail-recursive.

Iterators on two lists

val iter2 : ('a -> 'b -> unit) -> 'a list -> 'b list -> unit
List.iter2 f [a1; ...; an] [b1; ...; bn] calls in turn f a1 b1; ...; f an bn.
Raise Invalid_argument if the two lists are determined to have different lengths.

val map2 : ('a -> 'b -> 'c) -> 'a list -> 'b list -> 'c list
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List.map2 f [a1; ...; an] [b1; ...; bn] is [f a1 b1; ...; f an bn]. Raise Invalid_argument if the two lists are determined to have different lengths. Not tail-recursive.

val rev_map2 : ('a -> 'b -> 'c) -> 'a list -> 'b list -> 'c list
List.rev_map2 f l1 l2 gives the same result as List.rev[23.26] (List.map2[23.26] f l1 l2), but is tail-recursive and more efficient.

val fold_left2 : ('a -> 'b -> 'c -> 'a) -> 'a -> 'b list -> 'c list -> 'a
List.fold_left2 f a [b1; ...; bn] [c1; ...; cn] is f (... (f (f a b1 c1) b2 c2) ...) bn cn. Raise Invalid_argument if the two lists are determined to have different lengths.

val fold_right2 : ('a -> 'b -> 'c -> 'c) -> 'a list -> 'b list -> 'c -> 'c
List.fold_right2 f [a1; ...; an] [b1; ...; bn] c is f a1 b1 (f a2 b2 (... (f an bn c) ...)). Raise Invalid_argument if the two lists are determined to have different lengths. Not tail-recursive.

List scanning

val for_all : ('a -> bool) -> 'a list -> bool
for_all p [a1; ...; an] checks if all elements of the list satisfy the predicate p. That is, it returns (p a1) && (p a2) && ... && (p an).

val exists : ('a -> bool) -> 'a list -> bool
exists p [a1; ...; an] checks if at least one element of the list satisfies the predicate p. That is, it returns (p a1) || (p a2) || ... || (p an).

val for_all2 : ('a -> 'b -> bool) -> 'a list -> 'b list -> bool
Same as List.for_all[23.26], but for a two-argument predicate. Raise Invalid_argument if the two lists are determined to have different lengths.

val exists2 : ('a -> 'b -> bool) -> 'a list -> 'b list -> bool
Same as List.exists[23.26], but for a two-argument predicate. Raise Invalid_argument if the two lists are determined to have different lengths.

val mem : 'a -> 'a list -> bool
mem a l is true if and only if a is equal to an element of l.

val memq : 'a -> 'a list -> bool
Same as List.mem[23.26], but uses physical equality instead of structural equality to compare list elements.
List searching

val find : ('a -> bool) -> 'a list -> 'a
find p l returns the first element of the list l that satisfies the predicate p. Raise Not_found if there is no value that satisfies p in the list l.

val find_opt : ('a -> bool) -> 'a list -> 'a option
find_opt p l returns the first element of the list l that satisfies the predicate p, or None if there is no value that satisfies p in the list l.
Since: 4.05

val filter : ('a -> bool) -> 'a list -> 'a list
filter p l returns all the elements of the list l that satisfy the predicate p. The order of the elements in the input list is preserved.

val find_all : ('a -> bool) -> 'a list -> 'a list
find_all is another name for List.filter[23.26].

val partition : ('a -> bool) -> 'a list -> 'a list * 'a list
partition p l returns a pair of lists (l1, l2), where l1 is the list of all the elements of l that satisfy the predicate p, and l2 is the list of all the elements of l that do not satisfy p. The order of the elements in the input list is preserved.

Association lists

val assoc : 'a -> ('a * 'b) list -> 'b
assoc a l returns the value associated with key a in the list of pairs l. That is, assoc a [ ...; (a,b); ...] = b if (a,b) is the leftmost binding of a in list l. Raise Not_found if there is no value associated with a in the list l.

val assoc_opt : 'a -> ('a * 'b) list -> 'b option
assoc_opt a l returns the value associated with key a in the list of pairs l. That is, assoc_opt a [ ...; (a,b); ...] = b if (a,b) is the leftmost binding of a in list l. Returns None if there is no value associated with a in the list l.
Since: 4.05

val assq : 'a -> ('a * 'b) list -> 'b
Same as List.assoc[23.26], but uses physical equality instead of structural equality to compare keys.

val assq_opt : 'a -> ('a * 'b) list -> 'b option
Same as List.assoc_opt[23.26], but uses physical equality instead of structural equality to compare keys.
Since: 4.05
val mem_assoc : 'a -> ('a * 'b) list -> bool
   Same as List.assoc[23.26], but simply return true if a binding exists, and false if no bindings exist for the given key.

val mem_assq : 'a -> ('a * 'b) list -> bool
   Same as List.mem_assoc[23.26], but uses physical equality instead of structural equality to compare keys.

val remove_assoc : 'a -> ('a * 'b) list -> ('a * 'b) list
   remove_assoc a l returns the list of pairs l without the first pair with key a, if any. Not tail-recursive.

val remove_assq : 'a -> ('a * 'b) list -> ('a * 'b) list
   Same as List.remove_assoc[23.26], but uses physical equality instead of structural equality to compare keys. Not tail-recursive.

Lists of pairs

val split : ('a * 'b) list -> 'a list * 'b list
   Transform a list of pairs into a pair of lists: split [(a1,b1); ...; (an,bn)] is ([a1; ...; an], [b1; ...; bn]). Not tail-recursive.

val combine : 'a list -> 'b list -> ('a * 'b) list
   Transform a pair of lists into a list of pairs: combine [a1; ...; an] [b1; ...; bn] is [(a1,b1); ...; (an,bn)]. Raise Invalid_argument if the two lists have different lengths. Not tail-recursive.

Sorting

val sort : ('a -> 'a -> int) -> 'a list -> 'a list
   Sort a list in increasing order according to a comparison function. The comparison function must return 0 if its arguments compare as equal, a positive integer if the first is greater, and a negative integer if the first is smaller (see Array.sort for a complete specification). For example, compare[22.2] is a suitable comparison function. The resulting list is sorted in increasing order. List.sort is guaranteed to run in constant heap space (in addition to the size of the result list) and logarithmic stack space.

   The current implementation uses Merge Sort. It runs in constant heap space and logarithmic stack space.

val stable_sort : ('a -> 'a -> int) -> 'a list -> 'a list
   Same as List.sort[23.26], but the sorting algorithm is guaranteed to be stable (i.e. elements that compare equal are kept in their original order).

   The current implementation uses Merge Sort. It runs in constant heap space and logarithmic stack space.
val fast_sort : ('a -> 'a -> int) -> 'a list -> 'a list
Same as List.sort[23.26] or List.stable_sort[23.26], whichever is faster on typical input.

val sort_uniq : ('a -> 'a -> int) -> 'a list -> 'a list
Same as List.sort[23.26], but also remove duplicates.
Since: 4.02.0

val merge : ('a -> 'a -> int) -> 'a list -> 'a list -> 'a list
Merge two lists: Assuming that \( l_1 \) and \( l_2 \) are sorted according to the comparison function \( \text{cmp} \), \( \text{merge} \ \text{cmp} \ l_1 \ l_2 \) will return a sorted list containing all the elements of \( l_1 \) and \( l_2 \). If several elements compare equal, the elements of \( l_1 \) will be before the elements of \( l_2 \). Not tail-recursive (sum of the lengths of the arguments).

Iterators

val to_seq : 'a list -> 'a Seq.t
Iterate on the list
Since: 4.07

val of_seq : 'a Seq.t -> 'a list
Create a list from the iterator
Since: 4.07

23.27 Module ListLabels

type 'a t = 'a list =
| []
| :: of 'a * 'a list
An alias for the type of lists.
List operations.
Some functions are flagged as not tail-recursive. A tail-recursive function uses constant stack space, while a non-tail-recursive function uses stack space proportional to the length of its list argument, which can be a problem with very long lists. When the function takes several list arguments, an approximate formula giving stack usage (in some unspecified constant unit) is shown in parentheses.
The above considerations can usually be ignored if your lists are not longer than about 10000 elements.
val length : 'a list -> int
Return the length (number of elements) of the given list.
val hd : 'a list -> 'a
    Return the first element of the given list. Raise Failure "hd" if the list is empty.

val compare_lengths : 'a list -> 'b list -> int
    Compare the lengths of two lists. compare_lengths l1 l2 is equivalent to compare (length l1) (length l2), except that the computation stops after iterating on the shortest list.
    Since: 4.05.0

val compare_length_with : 'a list -> len:int -> int
    Compare the length of a list to an integer. compare_length_with l n is equivalent to compare (length l) n, except that the computation stops after at most n iterations on the list.
    Since: 4.05.0

val cons : 'a -> 'a list -> 'a list
    cons x xs is x :: xs
    Since: 4.05.0

val tl : 'a list -> 'a list
    Return the given list without its first element. Raise Failure "tl" if the list is empty.

val nth : 'a list -> int -> 'a
    Return the n-th element of the given list. The first element (head of the list) is at position 0. Raise Failure "nth" if the list is too short. Raise Invalid_argument "List.nth" if n is negative.

val nth_opt : 'a list -> int -> 'a option
    Return the n-th element of the given list. The first element (head of the list) is at position 0. Return None if the list is too short. Raise Invalid_argument "List.nth" if n is negative.
    Since: 4.05

val rev : 'a list -> 'a list
    List reversal.

val init : len:int -> f:(int -> 'a) -> 'a list
    List.init len f is f 0; f 1; ...; f (len-1), evaluated left to right.
    Since: 4.06.0
    Raises Invalid_argument if len < 0.

val append : 'a list -> 'a list -> 'a list
    Catenate two lists. Same function as the infix operator @. Not tail-recursive (length of the first argument). The @ operator is not tail-recursive either.
val rev_append : 'a list -> 'a list -> 'a list
   List.rev_append l1 l2 reverses l1 and concatenates it with l2. This is equivalent to
   (List.rev[23.26] l1) @ l2, but rev_append is tail-recursive and more efficient.

val concat : 'a list list -> 'a list
   Concatenate a list of lists. The elements of the argument are all concatenated together (in
   the same order) to give the result. Not tail-recursive (length of the argument + length of
   the longest sub-list).

val flatten : 'a list list -> 'a list
   Same as concat. Not tail-recursive (length of the argument + length of the longest sub-list).

Iterators

val iter : f:(a -> unit) -> 'a list -> unit
   List.iter f [a1; ...; an] applies function f in turn to a1; ...; an. It is equivalent to
   begin f a1; f a2; ...; f an; () end.

val iteri : f:(int -> 'a -> unit) -> 'a list -> unit
   Same as List.iter[23.26], but the function is applied to the index of the element as first
   argument (counting from 0), and the element itself as second argument.
   Since: 4.00.0

val map : f:(a -> 'b) -> 'a list -> 'b list
   List.map f [a1; ...; an] applies function f to a1, ...; an, and builds the list [f a1; ...; f an] with the results returned by f. Not tail-recursive.

val mapi : f:(int -> 'a -> 'b) -> 'a list -> 'b list
   Same as List.map[23.26], but the function is applied to the index of the element as first
   argument (counting from 0), and the element itself as second argument.
   Since: 4.00.0

val rev_map : f:(a -> 'b) -> 'a list -> 'b list
   List.rev_map f l gives the same result as List.rev[23.26] (List.map[23.26] f l), but is
tail-recursive and more efficient.

val filter_map : f:(a -> 'b option) -> 'a list -> 'b list
   filter_map f l applies f to every element of l, filters out the None elements and returns
   the list of the arguments of the Some elements.
   Since: 4.08.0

val fold_left : f:(a -> 'b -> 'a) -> init:'a -> 'b list -> 'a
   List.fold_left f a [b1; ...; bn] is f (... (f (f a b1) b2) ...) bn.
val fold_right : f:('a -> 'b -> 'b) -> 'a list -> init:'b -> 'b
List.fold_right f [a1; ...; an] b is f a1 (f a2 (... (f an b) ...)). Not
tail-recursive.

Iterators on two lists

val iter2 : f:('a -> 'b -> unit) -> 'a list -> 'b list -> unit
List.iter2 f [a1; ...; an] [b1; ...; bn] calls in turn f a1 b1; ...; f an bn.
Raise Invalid_argument if the two lists are determined to have different lengths.

val map2 : f:('a -> 'b -> 'c) -> 'a list -> 'b list -> 'c list
List.map2 f [a1; ...; an] [b1; ...; bn] is [f a1 b1; ...; f an bn]. Raise
Invalid_argument if the two lists are determined to have different lengths. Not
tail-recursive.

val rev_map2 : f:('a -> 'b -> 'c) -> 'a list -> 'b list -> 'c list
List.rev_map2 f l1 l2 gives the same result as List.rev\[23.26\] (List.map2\[23.26\] f l1 l2), but is tail-recursive and more efficient.

val fold_left2 :
  f:('a -> 'b -> 'c -> 'a) -> init:'a -> 'b list -> 'c list -> 'a
List.fold_left2 f a [b1; ...; bn] [c1; ...; cn] is f (... (f (f a b1 c1) b2
c2) ...) bn cn. Raise Invalid_argument if the two lists are determined to have different
lengths.

val fold_right2 :
f:('a -> 'b -> 'c -> 'c) -> 'a list -> 'b list -> init:'c -> 'c
List.fold_right2 f [a1; ...; an] [b1; ...; bn] c is f a1 b1 (f a2 b2 (... (f
an bn c) ...)). Raise Invalid_argument if the two lists are determined to have different
lengths. Not tail-recursive.

List scanning

val for_all : f:('a -> bool) -> 'a list -> bool
for_all p [a1; ...; an] checks if all elements of the list satisfy the predicate p. That is,
it returns (p a1) && (p a2) && ... && (p an).

val exists : f:('a -> bool) -> 'a list -> bool
exists p [a1; ...; an] checks if at least one element of the list satisfies the predicate p.
That is, it returns (p a1) || (p a2) || ... || (p an).

val for_all2 : f:('a -> 'b -> bool) -> 'a list -> 'b list -> bool
Same as List.for_all[23.26], but for a two-argument predicate. Raise Invalid_argument if the two lists are determined to have different lengths.

val exists2 : f:'a -> 'b -> bool) -> 'a list -> 'b list -> bool
    Same as List.exists[23.26], but for a two-argument predicate. Raise Invalid_argument if the two lists are determined to have different lengths.

val mem : 'a -> set:'a list -> bool
    mem a l is true if and only if a is equal to an element of l.

val memq : 'a -> set:'a list -> bool
    Same as List.mem[23.26], but uses physical equality instead of structural equality to compare list elements.

List searching

val find : f:'a -> bool) -> 'a list -> 'a
    find p l returns the first element of the list l that satisfies the predicate p. Raise Not_found if there is no value that satisfies p in the list l.

val find_opt : f:'a -> bool) -> 'a list -> 'a option
    find p l returns the first element of the list l that satisfies the predicate p. Returns None if there is no value that satisfies p in the list l.
    Since: 4.05

val filter : f:'a -> bool) -> 'a list -> 'a list
    filter p l returns all the elements of the list l that satisfy the predicate p. The order of the elements in the input list is preserved.

val find_all : f:'a -> bool) -> 'a list -> 'a list
    find_all is another name for List.filter[23.26].

val partition : f:'a -> bool) -> 'a list -> 'a list * 'a list
    partition p l returns a pair of lists (11, 12), where 11 is the list of all the elements of l that satisfy the predicate p, and 12 is the list of all the elements of l that do not satisfy p. The order of the elements in the input list is preserved.

Association lists

val assoc : 'a -> ('a * 'b) list -> 'b
    assoc a l returns the value associated with key a in the list of pairs l. That is, assoc a [ ...; (a,b); ...] = b if (a,b) is the leftmost binding of a in list l. Raise Not_found if there is no value associated with a in the list l.
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val assoc_opt : 'a -> ('a * 'b) list -> 'b option

assoc_opt a l returns the value associated with key a in the list of pairs l. That is, assoc
a [ ...; (a,b); ...] = b if (a,b) is the leftmost binding of a in list l. Returns None if
there is no value associated with a in the list l.

Since: 4.05

val assq : 'a -> ('a * 'b) list -> 'b

Same as List.assoc[23.26], but uses physical equality instead of structural equality to
compare keys.

val assq_opt : 'a -> ('a * 'b) list -> 'b option

Same as List.assoc_opt[23.26], but uses physical equality instead of structural equality to
compare keys.

Since: 4.05.0

val mem_assoc : 'a -> map:('a * 'b) list -> bool

Same as List.assoc[23.26], but simply return true if a binding exists, and false if no
bindings exist for the given key.

val mem_assq : 'a -> map:('a * 'b) list -> bool

Same as List.mem_assoc[23.26], but uses physical equality instead of structural equality to
compare keys.

val remove_assoc : 'a -> ('a * 'b) list -> ('a * 'b) list

remove_assoc a l returns the list of pairs l without the first pair with key a, if any. Not
tail-recursive.

val remove_assq : 'a -> ('a * 'b) list -> ('a * 'b) list

Same as List.remove_assoc[23.26], but uses physical equality instead of structural equality
to compare keys. Not tail-recursive.

Lists of pairs

val split : ('a * 'b) list -> 'a list * 'b list

Transform a list of pairs into a pair of lists: split [(a1,b1); ...; (an,bn)] is ([a1; ...
...; an], [b1; ...; bn]). Not tail-recursive.

val combine : 'a list -> 'b list -> ('a * 'b) list

Transform a pair of lists into a list of pairs: combine [a1; ...; an] [b1; ...; bn] is
[(a1,b1); ...; (an,bn)]. Raise Invalid_argument if the two lists have different lengths.
Not tail-recursive.
Sorting

val sort : cmp:('a -> 'a -> int) -> 'a list -> 'a list
Sort a list in increasing order according to a comparison function. The comparison function
must return 0 if its arguments compare as equal, a positive integer if the first is greater, and
a negative integer if the first is smaller (see Array.sort for a complete specification). For
example, compare[22.2] is a suitable comparison function. The resulting list is sorted in
increasing order. List.sort is guaranteed to run in constant heap space (in addition to the
size of the result list) and logarithmic stack space.

The current implementation uses Merge Sort. It runs in constant heap space and
logarithmic stack space.

val stable_sort : cmp:('a -> 'a -> int) -> 'a list -> 'a list
Same as List.sort[23.26], but the sorting algorithm is guaranteed to be stable (i.e.
elements that compare equal are kept in their original order).

The current implementation uses Merge Sort. It runs in constant heap space and
logarithmic stack space.

val fast_sort : cmp:('a -> 'a -> int) -> 'a list -> 'a list
Same as List.sort[23.26] or List.stable_sort[23.26], whichever is faster on typical input.

val sort_uniq : cmp:('a -> 'a -> int) -> 'a list -> 'a list
Same as List.sort[23.26], but also remove duplicates.
Since: 4.03.0

val merge : cmp:('a -> 'a -> int) -> 'a list -> 'a list -> 'a list
Merge two lists: Assuming that 11 and 12 are sorted according to the comparison function
cmp, merge cmp 11 12 will return a sorted list containing all the elements of 11 and 12. If
several elements compare equal, the elements of 11 will be before the elements of 12. Not
tail-recursive (sum of the lengths of the arguments).

Iterators

val to_seq : 'a list -> 'a Seq.t
Iterate on the list
Since: 4.07

val of_seq : 'a Seq.t -> 'a list
Create a list from the iterator
Since: 4.07
23.28 Module Map : Association tables over ordered types.

This module implements applicative association tables, also known as finite maps or dictionaries, given a total ordering function over the keys. All operations over maps are purely applicative (no side-effects). The implementation uses balanced binary trees, and therefore searching and insertion take time logarithmic in the size of the map.

For instance:

```ocaml
module IntPairs = 
  struct 
    type t = int * int 
    let compare (x0,y0) (x1,y1) = 
      match Stdlib.compare x0 x1 with 
        0 -> Stdlib.compare y0 y1 
        | c -> c 
    end 

  module PairsMap = Map.Make(IntPairs) 
  let m = PairsMap.(empty |> add (0,1) "hello" |> add (1,0) "world")
```

This creates a new module `PairsMap`, with a new type `'a PairsMap.t` of maps from `int * int` to `'a`. In this example, `m` contains `string` values so its type is `string PairsMap.t`.

```ocaml
module type OrderedType = 
  sig 
    type t 
      The type of the map keys.
 
    val compare : t -> t -> int 
      A total ordering function over the keys. This is a two-argument function f such that f e1 e2 is zero if the keys e1 and e2 are equal, f e1 e2 is strictly negative if e1 is smaller than e2, and f e1 e2 is strictly positive if e1 is greater than e2. Example: a suitable ordering function is the generic structural comparison function compare[22.2].
  end 

  Input signature of the functor Map.Make[23.28].
```

```ocaml
module type S = 
  sig 
    type key 
      The type of the map keys.
  end
```
type 'a t

The type of maps from type key to type 'a.

val empty : 'a t

The empty map.

val is_empty : 'a t -> bool

Test whether a map is empty or not.

val mem : key -> 'a t -> bool

mem x m returns true if m contains a binding for x, and false otherwise.

val add : key -> 'a -> 'a t -> 'a t

add x y m returns a map containing the same bindings as m, plus a binding of x to y.
If x was already bound in m to a value that is physically equal to y, m is returned unchanged (the result of the function is then physically equal to m). Otherwise, the previous binding of x in m disappears.
Before 4.03 Physical equality was not ensured.

val update : key -> ('a option -> 'a option) -> 'a t -> 'a t

update x f m returns a map containing the same bindings as m, except for the binding of x. Depending on the value of y where y is f (find_opt x m), the binding of x is added, removed or updated. If y is None, the binding is removed if it exists; otherwise, if y is Some z then x is associated to z in the resulting map. If x was already bound in m to a value that is physically equal to z, m is returned unchanged (the result of the function is then physically equal to m).
Since: 4.06.0

val singleton : key -> 'a -> 'a t

singleton x y returns the one-element map that contains a binding y for x.
Since: 3.12.0

val remove : key -> 'a t -> 'a t

remove x m returns a map containing the same bindings as m, except for x which is unbound in the returned map. If x was not in m, m is returned unchanged (the result of the function is then physically equal to m).
Before 4.03 Physical equality was not ensured.

val merge :
(key -> 'a option -> 'b option -> 'c option) ->
'a t -> 'b t -> 'c t
merge f m1 m2 computes a map whose keys is a subset of keys of m1 and of m2. The presence of each such binding, and the corresponding value, is determined with the function f. In terms of the find_opt operation, we have find_opt x (merge f m1 m2) = f (find_opt x m1) (find_opt x m2) for any key x, provided that f None None = None.

Since: 3.12.0

val union : (key -> 'a -> 'a -> 'a option) ->
'a t -> 'a t -> 'a t

union f m1 m2 computes a map whose keys is the union of keys of m1 and of m2. When the same binding is defined in both arguments, the function f is used to combine them. This is a special case of merge: union f m1 m2 is equivalent to merge f' m1 m2, where

- f'_key None None = None
- f'_key (Some v) None = Some v
- f'_key None (Some v) = Some v
- f' key (Some v1) (Some v2) = f v1 v2

Since: 4.03.0

val compare : ('a -> 'a -> int) ->
'a t -> 'a t -> int

Total ordering between maps. The first argument is a total ordering used to compare data associated with equal keys in the two maps.

val equal : ('a -> 'a -> bool) ->
'a t -> 'a t -> bool

equal cmp m1 m2 tests whether the maps m1 and m2 are equal, that is, contain equal keys and associate them with equal data. cmp is the equality predicate used to compare the data associated with the keys.

val iter : (key -> 'a -> unit) ->
'a t -> unit

iter f m applies f to all bindings in map m. f receives the key as first argument, and the associated value as second argument. The bindings are passed to f in increasing order with respect to the ordering over the type of the keys.

val fold : (key -> 'a -> 'b -> 'b) ->
'a t -> 'b

fold f m a computes (f kN dN ... (f k1 d1 a)...), where k1 ... kN are the keys of all bindings in m (in increasing order), and d1 ... dN are the associated data.

val for_all : (key -> 'a -> bool) ->
'a t -> bool

for_all p m checks if all the bindings of the map satisfy the predicate p.

Since: 3.12.0

val exists : (key -> 'a -> bool) ->
'a t -> bool
exists p m checks if at least one binding of the map satisfies the predicate p.
Since: 3.12.0

val filter : (key -> 'a -> bool) -> 'a t -> 'a t

filter p m returns the map with all the bindings in m that satisfy predicate p. If p satisfies every binding in m, m is returned unchanged (the result of the function is then physically equal to m)
Before 4.03 Physical equality was not ensured.
Since: 3.12.0

val partition : (key -> 'a -> bool) -> 'a t -> 'a t * 'a t

partition p m returns a pair of maps (m1, m2), where m1 contains all the bindings of s that satisfy the predicate p, and m2 is the map with all the bindings of s that do not satisfy p.
Since: 3.12.0

val cardinal : 'a t -> int

Return the number of bindings of a map.
Since: 3.12.0

val bindings : 'a t -> (key * 'a) list

Return the list of all bindings of the given map. The returned list is sorted in increasing order of keys with respect to the ordering Ord.compare, where Ord is the argument given to Map.Make[23.28].
Since: 3.12.0

val min_binding : 'a t -> key * 'a

Return the binding with the smallest key in a given map (with respect to the Ord.compare ordering), or raise Not_found if the map is empty.
Since: 3.12.0

val min_binding_opt : 'a t -> (key * 'a) option

Return the binding with the smallest key in the given map (with respect to the Ord.compare ordering), or None if the map is empty.
Since: 4.05

val max_binding : 'a t -> key * 'a

Same as Map.S.min_binding[23.28], but returns the binding with the largest key in the given map.
Since: 3.12.0

val max_binding_opt : 'a t -> (key * 'a) option
Same as `Map.S.min_binding_opt`[23.28], but returns the binding with the largest key in the given map.

**Since:** 4.05

val **choose** : `'a t -> key * 'a`

Return one binding of the given map, or raise `Not_found` if the map is empty. Which binding is chosen is unspecified, but equal bindings will be chosen for equal maps.

**Since:** 3.12.0

val **choose_opt** : `'a t -> (key * 'a) option`

Return one binding of the given map, or `None` if the map is empty. Which binding is chosen is unspecified, but equal bindings will be chosen for equal maps.

**Since:** 4.05

val **split** : `key -> 'a t -> 'a t * 'a option * 'a t`

`split x m` returns a triple `(l, data, r)`, where `l` is the map with all the bindings of `m` whose key is strictly less than `x`; `r` is the map with all the bindings of `m` whose key is strictly greater than `x`; `data` is `None` if `m` contains no binding for `x`, or `Some v` if `m` binds `v` to `x`.

**Since:** 3.12.0

val **find** : `key -> 'a t -> 'a`

`find x m` returns the current binding of `x` in `m`, or raises `Not_found` if no such binding exists.

val **find_opt** : `key -> 'a t -> 'a option`

`find_opt x m` returns `Some v` if the current binding of `x` in `m` is `v`, or `None` if no such binding exists.

**Since:** 4.05

val **find_first** : `(key -> bool) -> 'a t -> key * 'a`

`find_first f m`, where `f` is a monotonically increasing function, returns the binding of `m` with the lowest key `k` such that `f k`, or raises `Not_found` if no such key exists.

For example, `find_first (fun k -> Ord.compare k x >= 0) m` will return the first binding `k, v` of `m` where `Ord.compare k x >= 0` (intuitively: `k >= x`), or raise `Not_found` if `x` is greater than any element of `m`.

**Since:** 4.05

val **find_first_opt** : `(key -> bool) -> 'a t -> (key * 'a) option`

`find_first_opt f m`, where `f` is a monotonically increasing function, returns an option containing the binding of `m` with the lowest key `k` such that `f k`, or `None` if no such key exists.

**Since:** 4.05
val find_last : (key -> bool) -> 'a t -> key * 'a

find_last f m, where f is a monotonically decreasing function, returns the binding of m with the highest key k such that f k, or raises Not_found if no such key exists.
Since: 4.05

val find_last_opt : (key -> bool) -> 'a t -> (key * 'a) option

find_last_opt f m, where f is a monotonically decreasing function, returns an option containing the binding of m with the highest key k such that f k, or None if no such key exists.
Since: 4.05

val map : ('a -> 'b) -> 'a t -> 'b t

map f m returns a map with same domain as m, where the associated value a of all bindings of m has been replaced by the result of the application of f to a. The bindings are passed to f in increasing order with respect to the ordering over the type of the keys.

val mapi : (key -> 'a -> 'b) -> 'a t -> 'b t

Same as Map.S.map[23.28], but the function receives as arguments both the key and the associated value for each binding of the map.

Iterators

val to_seq : 'a t -> (key * 'a) Seq.t

Iterate on the whole map, in ascending order of keys
Since: 4.07

val to_seq_from : key -> 'a t -> (key * 'a) Seq.t

to_seq_from k m iterates on a subset of the bindings of m, in ascending order of keys, from key k or above.
Since: 4.07

val add_seq : (key * 'a) Seq.t -> 'a t -> 'a t

Add the given bindings to the map, in order.
Since: 4.07

val of_seq : (key * 'a) Seq.t -> 'a t

Build a map from the given bindings
Since: 4.07
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Output signature of the functor `Map.Make[23.28].`

```
module Make :
  functor (Ord : OrderedType) -> S with type key = Ord.t
  Functor building an implementation of the map structure given a totally ordered type.
```

### 23.29 Module `Marshal`: Marshaling of data structures.

This module provides functions to encode arbitrary data structures as sequences of bytes, which can then be written on a file or sent over a pipe or network connection. The bytes can then be read back later, possibly in another process, and decoded back into a data structure. The format for the byte sequences is compatible across all machines for a given version of OCaml.

Warning: marshaling is currently not type-safe. The type of marshaled data is not transmitted along the value of the data, making it impossible to check that the data read back possesses the type expected by the context. In particular, the result type of the `Marshal.from_*` functions is given as `a`, but this is misleading: the returned OCaml value does not possess type `a` for all `a`; it has one, unique type which cannot be determined at compile-time. The programmer should explicitly give the expected type of the returned value, using the following syntax:

- `(Marshal.from_channel chan : type)`. Anything can happen at run-time if the object in the file does not belong to the given type.

Values of extensible variant types, for example exceptions (of extensible type `exn`), returned by the unmarshaller should not be pattern-matched over through `match ... with or try ... with`, because unmarshalling does not preserve the information required for matching their constructors. Structural equalities with other extensible variant values does not work either. Most other uses such as `Printexc.to_string`, will still work as expected.

The representation of marshaled values is not human-readable, and uses bytes that are not printable characters. Therefore, input and output channels used in conjunction with `Marshal.to_channel` and `Marshal.from_channel` must be opened in binary mode, using e.g. `open_out_bin` or `open_in_bin`; channels opened in text mode will cause unmarshaling errors on platforms where text channels behave differently than binary channels, e.g. Windows.

```
type extern_flags =
  | No_sharing
    Don’t preserve sharing
  | Closures
    Send function closures
  | Compat_32
    Ensure 32-bit compatibility

The flags to the `Marshal.to_*` functions below.
val to_channel : out_channel -> 'a -> extern_flags list -> unit

Marshall.to_channel chan v flags writes the representation of v on channel chan. The flags argument is a possibly empty list of flags that governs the marshaling behavior with respect to sharing, functional values, and compatibility between 32- and 64-bit platforms.

If flags does not contain Marshall.No_sharing, circularities and sharing inside the value v are detected and preserved in the sequence of bytes produced. In particular, this guarantees that marshaling always terminates. Sharing between values marshaled by successive calls to Marshall.to_channel is neither detected nor preserved, though. If flags contains Marshall.No_sharing, sharing is ignored. This results in faster marshaling if v contains no shared substructures, but may cause slower marshaling and larger byte representations if v actually contains sharing, or even non-termination if v contains cycles.

If flags does not contain Marshall.Closures, marshaling fails when it encounters a functional value inside v: only 'pure' data structures, containing neither functions nor objects, can safely be transmitted between different programs. If flags contains Marshall.Closures, functional values will be marshaled as a the position in the code of the program together with the values corresponding to the free variables captured in the closure. In this case, the output of marshaling can only be read back in processes that run exactly the same program, with exactly the same compiled code. (This is checked at un-marshaling time, using an MD5 digest of the code transmitted along with the code position.)

The exact definition of which free variables are captured in a closure is not specified and can vary between bytecode and native code (and according to optimization flags). In particular, a function value accessing a global reference may or may not include the reference in its closure. If it does, unmarshaling the corresponding closure will create a new reference, different from the global one.

If flags contains Marshall.Compat_32, marshaling fails when it encounters an integer value outside the range \([-2^{30}, 2^{30}-1]\) of integers that are representable on a 32-bit platform. This ensures that marshaled data generated on a 64-bit platform can be safely read back on a 32-bit platform. If flags does not contain Marshall.Compat_32, integer values outside the range \([-2^{30}, 2^{30}-1]\) are marshaled, and can be read back on a 64-bit platform, but will cause an error at un-marshaling time when read back on a 32-bit platform. The Marshall.Compat_32 flag only matters when marshaling is performed on a 64-bit platform; it has no effect if marshaling is performed on a 32-bit platform.

val to_bytes : 'a -> extern_flags list -> bytes

Marshall.to_bytes v flags returns a byte sequence containing the representation of v. The flags argument has the same meaning as for Marshall.to_channel[23.29].

Since: 4.02.0

val to_string : 'a -> extern_flags list -> string

Same as to_bytes but return the result as a string instead of a byte sequence.

val to_buffer : bytes -> int -> int -> 'a -> extern_flags list -> int
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Marshal.to_buffer buff ofs len v flags marshals the value v, storing its byte representation in the sequence buff, starting at index ofs, and writing at most len bytes. It returns the number of bytes actually written to the sequence. If the byte representation of v does not fit in len characters, the exception Failure is raised.

val from_channel : in_channel -> 'a

Marshal.from_channel chan reads from channel chan the byte representation of a structured value, as produced by one of the Marshal.to_* functions, and reconstructs and returns the corresponding value.

It raises End_of_file if the function has already reached the end of file when starting to read from the channel, and raises Failure "input_value: truncated object" if it reaches the end of file later during the unmarshalling.

val from_bytes : bytes -> int -> 'a

Marshal.from_bytes buff ofs unmarshals a structured value like Marshal.from_channel[23.29] does, except that the byte representation is not read from a channel, but taken from the byte sequence buff, starting at position ofs. The byte sequence is not mutated.

Since: 4.02.0

val from_string : string -> int -> 'a

Same as from_bytes but take a string as argument instead of a byte sequence.

val header_size : int

The bytes representing a marshaled value are composed of a fixed-size header and a variable-sized data part, whose size can be determined from the header. Marshal.header_size[23.29] is the size, in bytes, of the header. Marshal.data_size[23.29] buff ofs is the size, in bytes, of the data part, assuming a valid header is stored in buff starting at position ofs. Finally, Marshal.total_size[23.29] buff ofs is the total size, in bytes, of the marshaled value. Both Marshal.data_size[23.29] and Marshal.total_size[23.29] raise Failure if buff, ofs does not contain a valid header.

To read the byte representation of a marshaled value into a byte sequence, the program needs to read first Marshal.header_size[23.29] bytes into the sequence, then determine the length of the remainder of the representation using Marshal.data_size[23.29], make sure the sequence is large enough to hold the remaining data, then read it, and finally call Marshal.from_bytes[23.29] to unmarshal the value.

val data_size : bytes -> int -> int

See Marshal.header_size[23.29].

val total_size : bytes -> int -> int

See Marshal.header_size[23.29].
23.30 Module MoreLabels: Extra labeled libraries.

This meta-module provides labelized version of the Hashtbl[23.20], Map[23.28] and Set[23.42] modules.

They only differ by their labels. They are provided to help porting from previous versions of OCaml. The contents of this module are subject to change.

module Hashtbl :
  sig
    type ('a, 'b) t = ('a, 'b) Hashtbl.t
    val create : ?random:bool -> int -> ('a, 'b) t
    val clear : ('a, 'b) t -> unit
    val reset : ('a, 'b) t -> unit
    val copy : ('a, 'b) t -> ('a, 'b) t
    val add : ('a, 'b) t -> key:'a -> data:'b -> unit
    val find : ('a, 'b) t -> 'a -> 'b
    val find_opt : ('a, 'b) t -> 'a -> 'b option
    val find_all : ('a, 'b) t -> 'a -> 'b list
    val mem : ('a, 'b) t -> 'a -> bool
    val remove : ('a, 'b) t -> 'a -> unit
    val replace : ('a, 'b) t -> key:'a -> data:'b -> unit
    val iter : f:(key:'a -> data:'b -> unit) -> ('a, 'b) t -> unit
    val filter_map_inplace : f:(key:'a -> data:'b -> 'b option) -> ('a, 'b) t -> unit
    val fold : f:(key:'a -> data:'b -> 'c -> 'c) -> ('a, 'b) t -> init:'c -> 'c
    val length : ('a, 'b) t -> int
    val randomize : unit -> unit
    val is_randomized : unit -> bool
  type statistics = Hashtbl.statistics
  val stats : ('a, 'b) t -> statistics
  val to_seq : ('a, 'b) t -> ('a * 'b) Seq.t
  val to_seq_keys : ('a, 'b) t -> 'a Seq.t
  val to_seq_values : ('a, 'b) t -> 'b Seq.t
  val add_seq : ('a, 'b) t -> ('a * 'b) Seq.t -> unit
  val replace_seq : ('a, 'b) t -> ('a * 'b) Seq.t -> unit
  val of_seq : ('a * 'b) Seq.t -> ('a, 'b) t
  module type HashedType =
  Hashtbl.HashedType
module type SeededHashedType = Hashtbl.SeededHashedType

module type S =
  sig
    type key
    type 'a t
    val create : int -> 'a t
    val clear : 'a t -> unit
    val reset : 'a t -> unit
    val copy : 'a t -> 'a t
    val add : 'a t -> key:key -> data:'a -> unit
    val remove : 'a t -> key -> unit
    val find : 'a t -> key -> 'a
    val find_opt : 'a t -> key -> 'a option
    val find_all : 'a t -> key -> 'a list
    val replace : 'a t -> key:key -> data:'a -> unit
    val mem : 'a t -> key -> bool
    val iter : f:(key:key -> data:'a -> unit) -> 'a t -> unit
    val filter_map_inplace : f:(key:key -> data:'a -> 'a option) -> 'a t -> unit
    val fold : f:(key:key -> data:'a -> 'b -> 'b) -> 'a t -> init:'b -> 'b
    val length : 'a t -> int
    val stats : 'a t -> MoreLabels.Hashtbl.statistics
    val to_seq : 'a t -> (key * 'a) Seq.t
    val to_seq_keys : 'a t -> key Seq.t
    val to_seq_values : 'a t -> 'a Seq.t
    val add_seq : 'a t ->
      (key * 'a) Seq.t -> unit
    val replace_seq : 'a t ->
      (key * 'a) Seq.t -> unit
    val of_seq : (key * 'a) Seq.t -> 'a t
  end

module type SeededS =
  sig
type key

type 'a t

val create : ?random:bool -> int -> 'a t

val clear : 'a t -> unit

val reset : 'a t -> unit

val copy : 'a t -> 'a t

val add : 'a t ->
  key:key -> data:'a -> unit

val remove : 'a t -> key -> unit

val find : 'a t -> key -> 'a

val find_opt : 'a t ->
  key -> 'a option

val find_all : 'a t -> key -> 'a list

val replace : 'a t ->
  key:key -> data:'a -> unit

val mem : 'a t -> key -> bool

val iter : f:(key:key -> data:'a -> unit) ->
  'a t -> unit

val filter_map_inplace :
  f:(key:key -> data:'a -> 'a option) ->
  'a t -> unit

val fold : f:(key:key -> data:'a -> 'b -> 'b) ->
  'a t -> init:'b -> 'b

val length : 'a t -> int

val stats : 'a t -> MoreLabels.Hashtbl.statistics

val to_seq : 'a t ->
  (key * 'a) Seq.t

val to_seq_keys : 'a t ->
  key Seq.t

val to_seq_values : 'a t -> 'a Seq.t

val add_seq : 'a t ->
  (key * 'a) Seq.t -> unit

val replace_seq : 'a t ->
  (key * 'a) Seq.t -> unit

val of_seq : (key * 'a) Seq.t ->
  'a t

end

module Make :

functor (H : HashedType) -> S with type key = H.t and type 'a t = 'a Hashtbl.Make(H).t
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module MakeSeeded :
  functor (H : SeededHashedType) -> SeededS with type key = H.t and type 'a t
  = 'a Hashtbl.MakeSeeded(H).t
val hash : 'a -> int
val seeded_hash : int -> 'a -> int
val hash_param : int -> int -> 'a -> int
val seeded_hash_param : int -> int -> int -> 'a -> int
end

module Map :
  sig
    module type OrderedType =
      Map.OrderedType
    module type S =
      sig
        type key
        type 'a t
        val empty : 'a t
        val is_empty : 'a t -> bool
        val mem : key -> 'a t -> bool
        val add : key:('a -> 'a t)
        val update : key:('a -> 'a t)
        val singleton : key -> 'a -> 'a t
        val remove : key -> 'a t -> 'a t
        val merge : f:('a t -> 'b option -> 'c option) -> 'a t -> 'a t
        val union : f:('a t -> 'a t) -> 'a t -> 'a t
        val compare : cmp:('a -> 'a -> int) -> 'a t -> 'a t
        val equal : cmp:('a -> 'a -> bool) -> 'a t -> 'a t
        val iter : f:('a : key:('a -> 'a t) -> unit)
        val fold : f:('a : key:('a -> 'a t) -> 'b -> 'b) -> 'a t -> init:'b -> 'b
val for_all : f:(key -> 'a -> bool) -> 'a t -> bool
val exists : f:(key -> 'a -> bool) -> 'a t -> bool
val filter : f:(key -> 'a -> bool) ->
    'a t -> 'a t
val partition : f:(key -> 'a -> bool) ->
    'a t -> 'a t * 'a t
val cardinal : 'a t -> int
val bindings : 'a t -> (key * 'a) list
val min_binding : 'a t -> key * 'a
val min_binding_opt : 'a t -> (key * 'a) option
val max_binding : 'a t -> key * 'a
val max_binding_opt : 'a t -> (key * 'a) option
val choose : 'a t -> key * 'a
val choose_opt : 'a t -> (key * 'a) option
val split : key ->
    'a t ->
    'a t * 'a option * 'a t
val find : key -> 'a t -> 'a
val find_opt : key -> 'a t -> 'a option
val find_first : f:(key -> bool) ->
    'a t -> key * 'a
val find_first_opt : f:(key -> bool) ->
    'a t -> (key * 'a) option
val find_last : f:(key -> bool) ->
    'a t -> key * 'a
val find_last_opt : f:(key -> bool) ->
    'a t -> (key * 'a) option
val map : f:('a -> 'b) -> 'a t -> 'b t
val mapi : f:(key -> 'a -> 'b) ->
    'a t -> 'b t
val to_seq : 'a t -> (key * 'a) Seq.t
val to_seq_from : key ->
    'a t -> (key * 'a) Seq.t
val add_seq : (key * 'a) Seq.t ->
    'a t -> 'a t
val of_seq : (key * 'a) Seq.t -> 'a t

end

module Make :
    functor (Ord : OrderedType) -> S with type key = Ord.t and type 'a t = 'a
Map.Make(Ord).t
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end

module Set :
  sig
    module type OrderedType =
      Set.OrderedType
    module type S =
      sig
        type elt
        type t
        val empty : t
        val is_empty : t -> bool
        val mem : elt -> t -> bool
        val add : elt -> t -> t
        val singleton : elt -> t
        val remove : elt -> t -> t
        val union : t -> t -> t
        val inter : t -> t -> t
        val disjoint : t -> t -> bool
        val diff : t -> t -> t
        val compare : t -> t -> int
        val equal : t -> t -> bool
        val subset : t -> t -> bool
        val iter : f:(elt -> unit) -> t -> unit
        val map : f:(elt -> elt) -> t -> t
        val fold : f:(elt -> 'a -> 'a) -> t -> init:'a -> 'a
        val for_all : f:(elt -> bool) -> t -> bool
        val exists : f:(elt -> bool) -> t -> bool
        val filter : f:(elt -> bool) -> t -> t
        val partition : f:(elt -> bool) -> t -> t

        val cardinal : t -> int
        val elements : t -> elt list
        val min_elt : t -> elt
        val min_elt_opt : t -> elt option
        val max_elt : t -> elt
        val max_elt_opt : t -> elt option
      end

val choose : t -> elt
val choose_opt : t -> elt option
val split : elt ->
  t -> t * bool * t
val find : elt -> t -> elt
val find_opt : elt -> t -> elt option
val find_first : f:(elt -> bool) ->
  t -> elt
val find_first_opt : f:(elt -> bool) ->
  t -> elt option
val find_last : f:(elt -> bool) ->
  t -> elt
val find_last_opt : f:(elt -> bool) ->
  t -> elt option
val of_list : elt list -> t
val to_seq_from : elt ->
  t -> elt Seq.t
val to_seq : t -> elt Seq.t
val add_seq : elt Seq.t -> t -> t
val of_seq : elt Seq.t -> t
end

module Make :
  functor (Ord : OrderedType) -> S with type elt = Ord.t and type t =
  Set.Make(Ord).t
end

23.31 Module Nativeint : Processor-native integers.

This module provides operations on the type nativeint of signed 32-bit integers (on 32-bit platforms) or signed 64-bit integers (on 64-bit platforms). This integer type has exactly the same width as that of a pointer type in the C compiler. All arithmetic operations over nativeint are taken modulo $2^{32}$ or $2^{64}$ depending on the word size of the architecture.

Performance notice: values of type nativeint occupy more memory space than values of type int, and arithmetic operations on nativeint are generally slower than those on int. Use nativeint only when the application requires the extra bit of precision over the int type.

Literals for native integers are suffixed by n:

let zero: nativeint = 0n
let one: nativeint = 1n
let m_one: nativeint = -1n
val zero : nativeint
  The native integer 0.

val one : nativeint
  The native integer 1.

val minus_one : nativeint
  The native integer -1.

val neg : nativeint -> nativeint
  Unary negation.

val add : nativeint -> nativeint -> nativeint
  Addition.

val sub : nativeint -> nativeint -> nativeint
  Subtraction.

val mul : nativeint -> nativeint -> nativeint
  Multiplication.

val div : nativeint -> nativeint -> nativeint
  Integer division. Raise Division_by_zero if the second argument is zero. This division rounds the real quotient of its arguments towards zero, as specified for (/)[22.2].

val unsigned_div : nativeint -> nativeint -> nativeint
  Same as Nativeint.div[23.31], except that arguments and result are interpreted as unsigned native integers.
  Since: 4.08.0

val rem : nativeint -> nativeint -> nativeint
  Integer remainder. If \( y \) is not zero, the result of Nativeint.rem \( x \ y \) satisfies the following properties: Nativeint.zero <= Nativeint.rem \( x \ y \) < Nativeint.abs \( y \) and \( x = Nativeint.add (Nativeint.mul (Nativeint.div \( x \ y \)) y) (Nativeint.rem \( x \ y \)). If \( y = 0 \), Nativeint.rem \( x \ y \) raises Division_by_zero.

val unsigned_rem : nativeint -> nativeint -> nativeint
  Same as Nativeint.rem[23.31], except that arguments and result are interpreted as unsigned native integers.
  Since: 4.08.0

val succ : nativeint -> nativeint
Successor. \texttt{Nativeint.succ} \( x \) is \texttt{Nativeint.add} \( x \) \texttt{Nativeint.one}.

\textbf{val pred : nativeint -> nativeint}

Predecessor. \texttt{Nativeint.pred} \( x \) is \texttt{Nativeint.sub} \( x \) \texttt{Nativeint.one}.

\textbf{val abs : nativeint -> nativeint}

Return the absolute value of its argument.

\textbf{val size : int}

The size in bits of a native integer. This is equal to 32 on a 32-bit platform and to 64 on a 64-bit platform.

\textbf{val max_int : nativeint}

The greatest representable native integer, either \( 2^{31} - 1 \) on a 32-bit platform, or \( 2^{63} - 1 \) on a 64-bit platform.

\textbf{val min_int : nativeint}

The smallest representable native integer, either \( -2^{31} \) on a 32-bit platform, or \( -2^{63} \) on a 64-bit platform.

\textbf{val logand : nativeint -> nativeint -> nativeint}

Bitwise logical and.

\textbf{val logor : nativeint -> nativeint -> nativeint}

Bitwise logical or.

\textbf{val logxor : nativeint -> nativeint -> nativeint}

Bitwise logical exclusive or.

\textbf{val lognot : nativeint -> nativeint}

Bitwise logical negation.

\textbf{val shift_left : nativeint -> int -> nativeint}

\texttt{Nativeint.shift.left} \( x \) \( y \) shifts \( x \) to the left by \( y \) bits. The result is unspecified if \( y < 0 \) or \( y >= \texttt{bitsize} \), where \texttt{bitsize} is 32 on a 32-bit platform and 64 on a 64-bit platform.

\textbf{val shift_right : nativeint -> int -> nativeint}

\texttt{Nativeint.shift.right} \( x \) \( y \) shifts \( x \) to the right by \( y \) bits. This is an arithmetic shift: the sign bit of \( x \) is replicated and inserted in the vacated bits. The result is unspecified if \( y < 0 \) or \( y >= \texttt{bitsize} \).

\textbf{val shift_right_logical : nativeint -> int -> nativeint}

\texttt{Nativeint.shift.right.logical} \( x \) \( y \) shifts \( x \) to the right by \( y \) bits. This is a logical shift: zeroes are inserted in the vacated bits regardless of the sign of \( x \). The result is unspecified if \( y < 0 \) or \( y >= \texttt{bitsize} \).
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val of_int : int -> nativeint
    Convert the given integer (type int) to a native integer (type nativeint).

val to_int : nativeint -> int
    Convert the given native integer (type nativeint) to an integer (type int). The high-order
    bit is lost during the conversion.

val unsigned_to_int : nativeint -> int option
    Same as Nativeint.to_int[23.31], but interprets the argument as an unsigned integer.
    Returns None if the unsigned value of the argument cannot fit into an int.
    Since: 4.08.0

val of_float : float -> nativeint
    Convert the given floating-point number to a native integer, discarding the fractional part
    (truncate towards 0). The result of the conversion is undefined if, after truncation, the
    number is outside the range [Nativeint.min_int[23.31], Nativeint.max_int[23.31]].

val to_float : nativeint -> float
    Convert the given native integer to a floating-point number.

val of_int32 : int32 -> nativeint
    Convert the given 32-bit integer (type int32) to a native integer.

val to_int32 : nativeint -> int32
    Convert the given native integer to a 32-bit integer (type int32). On 64-bit platforms, the
    64-bit native integer is taken modulo 2^{32}, i.e. the top 32 bits are lost. On 32-bit platforms,
    the conversion is exact.

val of_string : string -> nativeint
    Convert the given string to a native integer. The string is read in decimal (by default, or if
    the string begins with 0u) or in hexadecimal, octal or binary if the string begins with 0x, 0o
    or 0b respectively.
    The 0u prefix reads the input as an unsigned integer in the range [0, 2^{Nativeint.max_int+1}]. If the input exceeds Nativeint.max_int[23.31] it is converted
    to the signed integer Int64.min_int + input - Nativeint.max_int - 1.
    Raise Failure "Nativeint.of_string" if the given string is not a valid representation of
    an integer, or if the integer represented exceeds the range of integers representable in type
    nativeint.

val of_string_opt : string -> nativeint option
    Same as of_string, but return None instead of raising.
    Since: 4.05

val to_string : nativeint -> string
Return the string representation of its argument, in decimal.

```haskell
type t = nativeint
    An alias for the type of native integers.

val compare : t -> t -> int
    The comparison function for native integers, with the same specification as compare[22.2].
    Along with the type t, this function compare allows the module Nativeint to be passed as
    argument to the functors Set.Make[23.42] and Map.Make[23.28].

val unsigned_compare : t -> t -> int
    Same as Nativeint.compare[23.31], except that arguments are interpreted as unsigned
    native integers.
    Since: 4.08.0

val equal : t -> t -> bool
    The equal function for native ints.
    Since: 4.03.0
```

23.32 Module 0o : Operations on objects

```haskell
val copy : (< .. > as 'a) -> 'a
    0o.copy o returns a copy of object o, that is a fresh object with the same methods and
    instance variables as o.

val id : < .. > -> int
    Return an integer identifying this object, unique for the current execution of the program.
    The generic comparison and hashing functions are based on this integer. When an object is
    obtained by unmarshaling, the id is refreshed, and thus different from the original object.
    As a consequence, the internal invariants of data structures such as hash table or sets
    containing objects are broken after unmarshaling the data structures.
```

23.33 Module Option : Option values.

Option values explicitly indicate the presence or absence of a value.
Since: 4.08
Options

type 'a t = 'a option =
  | None
  | Some of 'a

The type for option values. Either None or a value Some v.

val none : 'a option
  none is None.

val some : 'a -> 'a option
  some v is Some v.

val value : 'a option -> default:'a -> 'a
  value o ~default is v if o is Some v and default otherwise.

val get : 'a option -> 'a
  get o is v if o is Some v and
  Raises Invalid_argument otherwise.

val bind : 'a option -> ('a -> 'b option) -> 'b option
  bind o f is f v if o is Some v and None if o is None.

val join : 'a option option -> 'a option
  join oo is Some v if oo is Some (Some v) and None otherwise.

val map : ('a -> 'b) -> 'a option -> 'b option
  map f o is None if o is None and Some (f v) is o is Some v.

val fold : none:'a -> some:('b -> 'a) -> 'b option -> 'a
  fold ~none ~some o is none if o is None and some v if o is Some v.

val iter : ('a -> unit) -> 'a option -> unit
  iter f o is f v if o is Some v and () otherwise.

Predicates and comparisons

val is_none : 'a option -> bool
  is_none o is true iff o is None.

val is_some : 'a option -> bool
  is_some o is true iff o is Some o.

val equal : ('a -> 'a -> bool) -> 'a option -> 'a option -> bool
equal eq o0 o1 is true iff o0 and o1 are both None or if they are Some v0 and Some v1 and eq v0 v1 is true.

val compare : ('a -> 'a -> int) -> 'a option -> 'a option -> int
  compare cmp o0 o1 is a total order on options using cmp to compare values wrapped by Some _.
  None is smaller than Some _ values.

Converting

val to_result : none: 'e -> 'a option -> ('a, 'e) result
  to_result ~none o is Ok v if o is Some v and Error none otherwise.

val to_list : 'a option -> 'a list
  to_list o is [] if o is None and [v] if o is Some v.

val to_seq : 'a option -> 'a Seq.t
  to_seq o is o as a sequence. None is the empty sequence and Some v is the singleton sequence containing v.

23.34 Module Parsing : The run-time library for parsers generated by ocamlyacc.

val symbol_start : unit -> int
  symbol_start and Parsing.symbol_end[23.34] are to be called in the action part of a grammar rule only. They return the offset of the string that matches the left-hand side of the rule: symbol_start() returns the offset of the first character; symbol_end() returns the offset after the last character. The first character in a file is at offset 0.

val symbol_end : unit -> int
  See Parsing.symbol_start[23.34].

val rhs_start : int -> int
  Same as Parsing.symbol_start[23.34] and Parsing.symbol_end[23.34], but return the offset of the string matching the nth item on the right-hand side of the rule, where n is the integer parameter to rhs_start and rhs_end. n is 1 for the leftmost item.

val rhs_end : int -> int
  See Parsing.rhs_start[23.34].

val symbol_start_pos : unit -> Lexing.position
  Same as symbol_start, but return a position instead of an offset.
val symbol_end_pos : unit -> Lexing.position
   Same as symbol_end, but return a position instead of an offset.

val rhs_start_pos : int -> Lexing.position
   Same as rhs_start, but return a position instead of an offset.

val rhs_end_pos : int -> Lexing.position
   Same as rhs_end, but return a position instead of an offset.

val clear_parser : unit -> unit
   Empty the parser stack. Call it just after a parsing function has returned, to remove all
   pointers from the parser stack to structures that were built by semantic actions during
   parsing. This is optional, but lowers the memory requirements of the programs.

exception Parse_error
   Raised when a parser encounters a syntax error. Can also be raised from the action part of
   a grammar rule, to initiate error recovery.

val set_trace : bool -> bool
   Control debugging support for ocamlyacc-generated parsers. After Parsing.set_trace
   true, the pushdown automaton that executes the parsers prints a trace of its actions
   (reading a token, shifting a state, reducing by a rule) on standard output.
   Parsing.set_trace false turns this debugging trace off. The boolean returned is the
   previous state of the trace flag.
   Since: 3.11.0

23.35 Module Printexc : Facilities for printing exceptions and in-
   specting current call stack.

type t = exn = ..
   The type of exception values.

val to_string : exn -> string
   Printexc.to_string e returns a string representation of the exception e.

val to_string_default : exn -> string
   Printexc.to_string_default e returns a string representation of the exception e,
   ignoring all registered default exception printers.
   Since: 4.09

val print : ('a -> 'b) -> 'a -> 'b
Printexc.print fn x applies fn to x and returns the result. If the evaluation of fn x raises any exception, the name of the exception is printed on standard error output, and the exception is raised again. The typical use is to catch and report exceptions that escape a function application.

val catch : ('a -> 'b) -> 'a -> 'b

Printexc.catch fn x is similar to Printexc.print[23.35], but aborts the program with exit code 2 after printing the uncaught exception. This function is deprecated: the runtime system is now able to print uncaught exceptions as precisely as Printexc.catch does. Moreover, calling Printexc.catch makes it harder to track the location of the exception using the debugger or the stack backtrace facility. So, do not use Printexc.catch in new code.

val print_backtrace : out_channel -> unit

Printexc.print_backtrace oc prints an exception backtrace on the output channel oc. The backtrace lists the program locations where the most-recently raised exception was raised and where it was propagated through function calls.

If the call is not inside an exception handler, the returned backtrace is unspecified. If the call is after some exception-catching code (before in the handler, or in a when-guard during the matching of the exception handler), the backtrace may correspond to a later exception than the handled one.

Since: 3.11.0

val get_backtrace : unit -> string

Printexc.get_backtrace () returns a string containing the same exception backtrace that Printexc.print_backtrace would print. Same restriction usage than Printexc.print_backtrace[23.35].

Since: 3.11.0

val record_backtrace : bool -> unit

Printexc.record_backtrace b turns recording of exception backtraces on (if b = true) or off (if b = false). Initially, backtraces are not recorded, unless the b flag is given to the program through the OCAMLRUNPARAM variable.

Since: 3.11.0

val backtrace_status : unit -> bool

Printexc.backtrace_status() returns true if exception backtraces are currently recorded, false if not.

Since: 3.11.0

val register_printer : (exn -> string option) -> unit
Printexc.register_printer fn registers fn as an exception printer. The printer should return None or raise an exception if it does not know how to convert the passed exception, and Some s with s the resulting string if it can convert the passed exception. Exceptions raised by the printer are ignored.

When converting an exception into a string, the printers will be invoked in the reverse order of their registrations, until a printer returns a Some s value (if no such printer exists, the runtime will use a generic printer).

When using this mechanism, one should be aware that an exception backtrace is attached to the thread that saw it raised, rather than to the exception itself. Practically, it means that the code related to fn should not use the backtrace if it has itself raised an exception before.

Since: 3.11.2

val use_printers : exn -> string option
Printexc.use_printers e returns None if there are no registered printers and Some s with else as the resulting string otherwise.

Since: 4.09

Raw backtraces

type raw_backtrace

The abstract type raw_backtrace stores a backtrace in a low-level format, instead of directly exposing them as string as the Printexc.get_backtrace() function does.

This allows delaying the formatting of backtraces to when they are actually printed, which may be useful if you record more backtraces than you print.

Raw backtraces cannot be marshalled. If you need marshalling, you should use the array returned by the Printexc.backtrace_slots function of the next section.

Since: 4.01.0

val get_raw_backtrace : unit -> raw_backtrace
Printexc.get_raw_backtrace () returns the same exception backtrace that Printexc.print_backtrace would print, but in a raw format. Same restriction usage than Printexc.print_backtrace[23.35].

Since: 4.01.0

val print_raw_backtrace : out_channel -> raw_backtrace -> unit
Print a raw backtrace in the same format Printexc.print_backtrace uses.

Since: 4.01.0

val raw_backtrace_to_string : raw_backtrace -> string
Return a string from a raw backtrace, in the same format Printexc.get_backtrace uses.

Since: 4.01.0
val raise_with_backtrace : exn -> raw_backtrace -> 'a
  Reraise the exception using the given raw_backtrace for the origin of the exception
  Since: 4.05.0

Current call stack
val get_callstack : int -> raw_backtrace
  Printexc.get_callstack n returns a description of the top of the call stack on the current program point (for the current thread), with at most n entries. (Note: this function is not related to exceptions at all, despite being part of the Printexc module.)
  Since: 4.01.0

Uncaught exceptions
val set_uncaught_exception_handler : (exn -> raw_backtrace -> unit) -> unit
  Printexc.set_uncaught_exception_handler fn registers fn as the handler for uncaught exceptions. The default handler prints the exception and backtrace on standard error output.
  Note that when fn is called all the functions registered with at_exit[^22.2] have already been called. Because of this you must make sure any output channel fn writes on is flushed.
  Also note that exceptions raised by user code in the interactive toplevel are not passed to this function as they are caught by the toplevel itself.
  If fn raises an exception, both the exceptions passed to fn and raised by fn will be printed with their respective backtrace.
  Since: 4.02.0

Manipulation of backtrace information
These functions are used to traverse the slots of a raw backtrace and extract information from them in a programmer-friendly format.

type backtrace_slot
  The abstract type backtrace_slot represents a single slot of a backtrace.
  Since: 4.02

val backtrace_slots : raw_backtrace -> backtrace_slot array option
  Returns the slots of a raw backtrace, or None if none of them contain useful information.
  In the return array, the slot at index 0 corresponds to the most recent function call, raise, or primitive get_backtrace call in the trace.
  Some possible reasons for returning None are as follow:
• none of the slots in the trace come from modules compiled with debug information (-g)
• the program is a bytecode program that has not been linked with debug information enabled (ocamlc -g)

**Since:** 4.02.0

type location =
{ filename : string ;
  line_number : int ;
  start_char : int ;
  end_char : int ;
}

The type of location information found in backtraces. start_char and end_char are positions relative to the beginning of the line.

**Since:** 4.02

module Slot :
  sig

  type t = Printexc.backtrace_slot
  val is_raise : t -> bool
    is_raise slot is true when slot refers to a raising point in the code, and false when it comes from a simple function call.
    **Since:** 4.02

  val is_inline : t -> bool
    is_inline slot is true when slot refers to a call that got inlined by the compiler, and false when it comes from any other context.
    **Since:** 4.04.0

  val location : t -> Printexc.location option
    location slot returns the location information of the slot, if available, and None otherwise.
    Some possible reasons for failing to return a location are as follow:
    • the slot corresponds to a compiler-inserted raise
    • the slot corresponds to a part of the program that has not been compiled with debug information (-g)
    **Since:** 4.02

  val format : int -> t -> string option
format pos slot returns the string representation of slot as
raw_backtrace_to_string would format it, assuming it is the pos-th element of the
backtrace: the 0-th element is pretty-printed differently than the others.
Whole-backtrace printing functions also skip some uninformative slots; in that case,
format pos slot returns None.
Since: 4.02

end

Since: 4.02.0

Raw backtrace slots

type raw_backtrace_slot
This type allows direct access to raw backtrace slots, without any conversion in an
OCaml-usable data-structure. Being process-specific, they must absolutely not be
marshalled, and are unsafe to use for this reason (marshalling them may not fail, but
un-marshalling and using the result will result in undefined behavior).
Elements of this type can still be compared and hashed: when two elements are equal, then
they represent the same source location (the converse is not necessarily true in presence of
inlining, for example).
Since: 4.02.0

val raw_backtrace_length : raw_backtrace -> int
raw_backtrace_length bckt returns the number of slots in the backtrace bckt.
Since: 4.02

val get_raw_backtrace_slot : raw_backtrace -> int -> raw_backtrace_slot
get_raw_backtrace_slot bckt pos returns the slot in position pos in the backtrace bckt.
Since: 4.02

val convert_raw_backtrace_slot : raw_backtrace_slot -> backtrace_slot
Extracts the user-friendly backtrace_slot from a low-level raw_backtrace_slot.
Since: 4.02

val get_raw_backtrace_next_slot : 
raw_backtrace_slot -> raw_backtrace_slot option
get_raw_backtrace_next_slot slot returns the next slot inlined, if any.
Sample code to iterate over all frames (inlined and non-inlined):

(* Iterate over inlined frames *)
let rec iter_raw_backtrace_slot f slot =
f slot;
match get_raw_backtrace_next_slot slot with
| None -> ()
| Some slot' -> iter_raw_backtrace_slot f slot'

(* Iterate over stack frames *)
let iter_raw_backtrace f bt =
  for i = 0 to raw_backtrace_length bt - 1 do
    iter_raw_backtrace_slot f (get_raw_backtrace_slot bt i)
done

Since: 4.04.0

Exception slots

val exn_slot_id : exn -> int
  Printexc.exn_slot_id returns an integer which uniquely identifies the constructor used to
  create the exception value exn (in the current runtime).
  Since: 4.02.0

val exn_slot_name : exn -> string
  Printexc.exn_slot_name exn returns the internal name of the constructor used to create
  the exception value exn.
  Since: 4.02.0

23.36 Module Printf: Formatted output functions.

val fprintf : out_channel -> ('a, out_channel, unit) format -> 'a
  fprintf outchan format arg1 ... argN formats the arguments arg1 to argN according
to the format string format, and outputs the resulting string on the channel outchan.
  The format string is a character string which contains two types of objects: plain characters,
  which are simply copied to the output channel, and conversion specifications, each of which
  causes conversion and printing of arguments.
  Conversion specifications have the following form:
  % [flags] [width] [.precision] type
  In short, a conversion specification consists in the % character, followed by optional
  modifiers and a type which is made of one or two characters.
  The types and their meanings are:
  • d, i: convert an integer argument to signed decimal.
• u, n, l, L, or N: convert an integer argument to unsigned decimal. Warning: n, l, L, and N are used for scanf, and should not be used for printf.

• x: convert an integer argument to unsigned hexadecimal, using lowercase letters.

• X: convert an integer argument to unsigned hexadecimal, using uppercase letters.

• o: convert an integer argument to unsigned octal.

• s: insert a string argument.

• S: convert a string argument to OCaml syntax (double quotes, escapes).

• c: insert a character argument.

• C: convert a character argument to OCaml syntax (single quotes, escapes).

• f: convert a floating-point argument to decimal notation, in the style dddd.ddd.

• F: convert a floating-point argument to OCaml syntax (dddd. or dddd.ddd or d.ddd e+-dd).

• e or E: convert a floating-point argument to decimal notation, in the style d.ddd e+-dd (mantissa and exponent).

• g or G: convert a floating-point argument to decimal notation, in style f or e, E (whichever is more compact). Moreover, any trailing zeros are removed from the fractional part of the result and the decimal-point character is removed if there is no fractional part remaining.

• h or H: convert a floating-point argument to hexadecimal notation, in the style 0xh.hhhh p+-dd (hexadecimal mantissa, exponent in decimal and denotes a power of 2).

• B: convert a boolean argument to the string true or false

• b: convert a boolean argument (deprecated; do not use in new programs).

• ld, li, lu, lx, Lx, lo: convert an int32 argument to the format specified by the second letter (decimal, hexadecimal, etc).

• nd, ni, nu, nx, nX, no: convert a nativeint argument to the format specified by the second letter.

• Ld, Li, Lu, Lx, LX, Lo: convert an int64 argument to the format specified by the second letter.

• a: user-defined printer. Take two arguments and apply the first one to outchan (the current output channel) and to the second argument. The first argument must therefore have type out_channel -> 'b -> unit and the second 'b. The output produced by the function is inserted in the output of fprintf at the current point.

• t: same as %a, but take only one argument (with type out_channel -> unit) and apply it to outchan.

• { fmt %}: convert a format string argument to its type digest. The argument must have the same type as the internal format string fmt.

• ( fmt %): format string substitution. Take a format string argument and substitute it to the internal format string fmt to print following arguments. The argument must have the same type as the internal format string fmt.
• `!`: take no argument and flush the output.
• `%`: take no argument and output one `%` character.
• `@`: take no argument and output one `@` character.
• `,`: take no argument and output nothing: a no-op delimiter for conversion specifications.

The optional **flags** are:

• `-`: left-justify the output (default is right justification).
• `0`: for numerical conversions, pad with zeroes instead of spaces.
• `+`: for signed numerical conversions, prefix number with a `+` sign if positive.
• `space`: for signed numerical conversions, prefix number with a space if positive.
• `#`: request an alternate formatting style for the integer types (\x, \X, \o, \lo, \lX, \Lo, d, i, u, ld, li, lu, Ld, Li, Lu, nd, ni, nu).

The optional **width** is an integer indicating the minimal width of the result. For instance, `%6d` prints an integer, prefixing it with spaces to fill at least 6 characters.

The optional **precision** is a dot . followed by an integer indicating how many digits follow the decimal point in the `%f, %e, %E, %h, and %H conversions or the maximum number of significant digits to appear for the %F, %g and %G conversions. For instance, `%.4f` prints a float with 4 fractional digits.

The integer in a `width` or `precision` can also be specified as `*`, in which case an extra integer argument is taken to specify the corresponding `width` or `precision`. This integer argument precedes immediately the argument to print. For instance, `%.4f` prints a float with as many fractional digits as the value of the argument given before the float.

```ocaml
val printf : ('a, out_channel, unit) format -> 'a
  Same as Printf.fprintf[23.36], but output on stdout.

val eprintf : ('a, out_channel, unit) format -> 'a
  Same as Printf.fprintf[23.36], but output on stderr.

val sprintf : ('a, unit, string) format -> 'a
  Same as Printf.fprintf[23.36], but instead of printing on an output channel, return a string containing the result of formatting the arguments.

val bprintf : Buffer.t -> ('a, Buffer.t, unit) format -> 'a
  Same as Printf.fprintf[23.36], but instead of printing on an output channel, append the formatted arguments to the given extensible buffer (see module Buffer[23.6]).

val fprintf : 'b -> ('a, 'b, 'c, unit) format4 -> 'a
  Same as Printf.fprintf[23.36], but does not print anything. Useful to ignore some material when conditionally printing.

Since: 3.10.0
```
Formatted output functions with continuations.

val kfprintf :
        (out_channel -> 'd) ->
    out_channel -> ('a, out_channel, unit, 'd) format4 -> 'a

Same as fprintf, but instead of returning immediately, passes the out channel to its first argument at the end of printing.

Since: 3.09.0

val ikfprintf : ('b -> 'd) -> 'b -> ('a, 'b, 'c, 'd) format4 -> 'a

Same as kfprintf above, but does not print anything. Useful to ignore some material when conditionally printing.

Since: 4.01.0

val ksprintf : (string -> 'd) -> ('a, unit, string, 'd) format4 -> 'a

Same as sprintf above, but instead of returning the string, passes it to the first argument.

Since: 3.09.0

val kbprintf :
        (Buffer.t -> 'd) ->
    Buffer.t -> ('a, Buffer.t, unit, 'd) format4 -> 'a

Same as bprintf, but instead of returning immediately, passes the buffer to its first argument at the end of printing.

Since: 3.10.0

Deprecated

val kprintf : (string -> 'b) -> ('a, unit, string, 'b) format4 -> 'a

A deprecated synonym for ksprintf.

23.37 Module Queue : First-in first-out queues.

This module implements queues (FIFOs), with in-place modification.

Warning This module is not thread-safe: each Queue.t value must be protected from concurrent access (e.g. with a Mutex.t). Failure to do so can lead to a crash.

type 'a t

The type of queues containing elements of type 'a.

exception Empty

Raised when Queue.take or Queue.peek is applied to an empty queue.

val create : unit -> 'a t

Return a new queue, initially empty.
val add : 'a -> 'a t -> unit
  add x q adds the element x at the end of the queue q.

val push : 'a -> 'a t -> unit
  push is a synonym for add.

val take : 'a t -> 'a
  take q removes and returns the first element in queue q, or raises Queue.Empty[23.37] if the queue is empty.

val take_opt : 'a t -> 'a option
  take_opt q removes and returns the first element in queue q, or returns None if the queue is empty.
  Since: 4.08

val pop : 'a t -> 'a
  pop is a synonym for take.

val peek : 'a t -> 'a
  peek q returns the first element in queue q, without removing it from the queue, or raises Queue.Empty[23.37] if the queue is empty.

val peek_opt : 'a t -> 'a option
  peek_opt q returns the first element in queue q, without removing it from the queue, or returns None if the queue is empty.
  Since: 4.08

val top : 'a t -> 'a
  top is a synonym for peek.

val clear : 'a t -> unit
  Discard all elements from a queue.

val copy : 'a t -> 'a t
  Return a copy of the given queue.

val is_empty : 'a t -> bool
  Return true if the given queue is empty, false otherwise.

val length : 'a t -> int
  Return the number of elements in a queue.

val iter : ('a -> unit) -> 'a t -> unit
iter f q applies f in turn to all elements of q, from the least recently entered to the most recently entered. The queue itself is unchanged.

val fold : ('b -> 'a -> 'b) -> 'b -> 'a t -> 'b
fold f accu q is equivalent to List.fold_left f accu l, where l is the list of q’s elements. The queue remains unchanged.

val transfer : 'a t -> 'a t -> unit
transfer q1 q2 adds all of q1’s elements at the end of the queue q2, then clears q1. It is equivalent to the sequence iter (fun x -> add x q2) q1; clear q1, but runs in constant time.

Iterators

val to_seq : 'a t -> 'a Seq.t
Iterate on the queue, in front-to-back order. The behavior is not defined if the queue is modified during the iteration.

Since: 4.07

val add_seq : 'a t -> 'a Seq.t -> unit
Add the elements from the generator to the end of the queue

Since: 4.07

val of_seq : 'a Seq.t -> 'a t
Create a queue from the generator

Since: 4.07

23.38 Module Random : Pseudo-random number generators (PRNG).

Basic functions

val init : int -> unit
Initialize the generator, using the argument as a seed. The same seed will always yield the same sequence of numbers.

val full_init : int array -> unit
Same as Random.init[23.38] but takes more data as seed.

val self_init : unit -> unit
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Initialize the generator with a random seed chosen in a system-dependent way. If 
/dev/urandom is available on the host machine, it is used to provide a highly random initial 
seed. Otherwise, a less random seed is computed from system parameters (current time, 
process IDs).

val bits : unit -> int
   Return 30 random bits in a nonnegative integer.
   **Before 3.12.0** used a different algorithm (affects all the following functions)

val int : int -> int
   Random.int bound returns a random integer between 0 (inclusive) and bound (exclusive).
   bound must be greater than 0 and less than \(2^{30}\).

val int32 : Int32.t -> Int32.t
   Random.int32 bound returns a random integer between 0 (inclusive) and bound (exclusive).
   bound must be greater than 0.

val nativeint : Nativeint.t -> Nativeint.t
   Random.nativeint bound returns a random integer between 0 (inclusive) and bound (exclusive). bound must be greater than 0.

val int64 : Int64.t -> Int64.t
   Random.int64 bound returns a random integer between 0 (inclusive) and bound (exclusive). bound must be greater than 0.

val float : float -> float
   Random.float bound returns a random floating-point number between 0 and bound (inclusive). If bound is negative, the result is negative or zero. If bound is 0, the result is 0.

val bool : unit -> bool
   Random.bool () returns true or false with probability 0.5 each.

Advanced functions

The functions from module Random.State[23.38] manipulate the current state of the random generator explicitly. This allows using one or several deterministic PRNGs, even in a multi-threaded program, without interference from other parts of the program.

module State :
   sig
     type t
       The type of PRNG states.

     val make : int array -> t
Create a new state and initialize it with the given seed.

``` OCaml 
val make_self_init : unit -> t
```
Create a new state and initialize it with a system-dependent low-entropy seed.

``` OCaml 
val copy : t -> t
```
Return a copy of the given state.

``` OCaml 
val bits : t -> int
val int : t -> int -> int
val int32 : t -> Int32.t -> Int32.t
val nativeint : t -> Nativeint.t -> Nativeint.t
val int64 : t -> Int64.t -> Int64.t
val float : t -> float -> float
val bool : t -> bool
```
These functions are the same as the basic functions, except that they use (and update) the given PRNG state instead of the default one.

``` OCaml 
end
```

``` OCaml 
val get_state : unit -> State.t
```
Return the current state of the generator used by the basic functions.

``` OCaml 
val set_state : State.t -> unit
```
Set the state of the generator used by the basic functions.

### 23.39 Module Result : Result values.
Result values handle computation results and errors in an explicit and declarative manner without resorting to exceptions.

**Since:** 4.08

#### Results

``` OCaml
type ('a, 'e) t = ('a, 'e) result =
 | Ok of 'a
 | Error of 'e
```
The type for result values. Either a value `Ok v` or an error `Error e`.

``` OCaml
val ok : 'a -> ('a, 'e) result
    ok v is Ok v.
```
val error : 'e -> ('a, 'e) result
    error e is Error e.

val value : ('a, 'e) result -> default:'a -> 'a
    value r "default is v if r is 0k v and default otherwise.

val get_ok : ('a, 'e) result -> 'a
    get_ok r = v if r is 0k v and
    Raises Invalid_argument otherwise.

val get_error : ('a, 'e) result -> 'e
    get_error r = e if r is Error e and
    Raises Invalid_argument otherwise.

val bind : ('a, 'e) result ->
    ('a -> ('b, 'e) result) -> ('b, 'e) result
    bind r f is f v if r is 0k v and r if r is Error _.

val join : ('(a, 'e) result, 'e) result -> ('a, 'e) result
    join rr is r if rr is 0k r and rr if rr is Error _.

val map : ('a -> 'b) -> ('a, 'e) result -> ('b, 'e) result
    map f r = Ok (f v) if r is 0k v and r if r is Error _.

val map_error : ('e -> 'f) -> ('a, 'e) result -> ('a, 'f) result
    map_error f r is Error (f e) if r is Error e and r if r is 0k _.

val fold : ok:('a -> 'c) -> error:('e -> 'c) -> ('a, 'e) result -> 'c
    fold ~ok ~error r is ok v if r is 0k v and error e if r is Error e.

val iter : ('a -> unit) -> ('a, 'e) result -> unit
    iter f r = f v if r is 0k v and () otherwise.

val iter_error : ('e -> unit) -> ('a, 'e) result -> unit
    iter_error f r = f e if r is Error e and () otherwise.

Predicates and comparisons

val is_ok : ('a, 'e) result -> bool
    is_ok r is true iff r is 0k _.

val is_error : ('a, 'e) result -> bool
    is_error r is true iff r is Error _.
val equal :
  ok:('a -> 'a -> bool) ->
  error:('e -> 'e -> bool) ->
  ('a, 'e) result -> ('a, 'e) result -> bool

  equal ~ok ~error r0 r1 tests equality of r0 and r1 using ok and error to respectively compare values wrapped by Ok _ and Error _.

val compare :
  ok:('a -> 'a -> int) ->
  error:('e -> 'e -> int) ->
  ('a, 'e) result -> ('a, 'e) result -> int

  compare ~ok ~error r0 r1 totally orders r0 and r1 using ok and error to respectively compare values wrapped by Ok _ and Error _. Ok _ values are smaller than Error _ values.

Converting

val to_option : ('a, 'e) result -> 'a option
  to_option r is r as an option, mapping Ok v to Some v and Error _ to None.

val to_list : ('a, 'e) result -> 'a list
  to_list r is [v] if r is Ok v and [] otherwise.

val to_seq : ('a, 'e) result -> 'a Seq.t
  to_seq r is r as a sequence. Ok v is the singleton sequence containing v and Error _ is the empty sequence.

23.40 Module Scanf : Formatted input functions.

Introduction

Functional input with format strings

The module Scanf[23.40] provides formatted input functions or scanners.

The formatted input functions can read from any kind of input, including strings, files, or anything that can return characters. The more general source of characters is named a formatted input channel (or scanning buffer) and has type Scanf.Scanning.in_channel[23.40]. The more general formatted input function reads from any scanning buffer and is named bscanf.

Generally speaking, the formatted input functions have 3 arguments:

• the first argument is a source of characters for the input,

• the second argument is a format string that specifies the values to read,
the third argument is a receiver function that is applied to the values read.

Hence, a typical call to the formatted input function Scanf.bscanf is `bscanf ic fmt f`, where:

- `ic` is a source of characters (typically a formatted input channel with type `Scanf.Scanning.in_channel`),
- `fmt` is a format string (the same format strings as those used to print material with module `Printf` or `Format`),
- `f` is a function that has as many arguments as the number of values to read in the input according to `fmt`.

A simple example

As suggested above, the expression `bscanf ic "%d" f` reads a decimal integer `n` from the source of characters `ic` and returns `f n`.

For instance,

- if we use `stdin` as the source of characters (`Scanf.Scanning.stdin` is the predefined formatted input channel that reads from standard input),

- if we define the receiver `f` as `let f x = x + 1`,

  then `bscanf Scanning.stdin "%d" f` reads an integer `n` from the standard input and returns `f n` (that is `n + 1`). Thus, if we evaluate `bscanf stdin "%d" f`, and then enter 41 at the keyboard, the result we get is 42.

Formatted input as a functional feature

The OCaml scanning facility is reminiscent of the corresponding C feature. However, it is also largely different, simpler, and yet more powerful: the formatted input functions are higher-order functionals and the parameter passing mechanism is just the regular function application not the variable assignment based mechanism which is typical for formatted input in imperative languages; the OCaml format strings also feature useful additions to easily define complex tokens; as expected within a functional programming language, the formatted input functions also support polymorphism, in particular arbitrary interaction with polymorphic user-defined scanners. Furthermore, the OCaml formatted input facility is fully type-checked at compile time.

Formatted input channel

module Scanning : 
  sig 
    type in_channel
The notion of input channel for the **Scanf** module: those channels provide all
the machinery necessary to read from any source of characters, including a
**in_channel** value. A **Scanf.Scanning.in_channel** value is also called a **formatted input channel** or equivalently a **scanning buffer**. The type
**Scanf.Scanning.scanbuf** below is an alias for **Scanf.in_channel**.
**Since**: 3.12.0

``` haskell
type scanbuf = in_channel
```

The type of scanning buffers. A scanning buffer is the source from which a formatted
input function gets characters. The scanning buffer holds the current state of the scan,
plus a function to get the next char from the input, and a token buffer to store the
string matched so far.

Note: a scanning action may often require to examine one character in advance; when
this 'lookahead' character does not belong to the token read, it is stored back in the
scanning buffer and becomes the next character yet to be read.

``` haskell
val stdin : in_channel
```

The standard input notion for the **Scanf** module. **Scanf.stdin** is the
**Scanf.Scanning.in_channel** formatted input channel attached to **stdin**.
**Note**: in the interactive system, when input is read from **stdin**, the newline
character that triggers evaluation is part of the input; thus, the scanning specifications
must properly skip this additional newline character (for instance, simply add a '\n' as
the last character of the format string).
**Since**: 3.12.0

``` haskell
type file_name = string
```

A convenient alias to designate a file name.
**Since**: 4.00.0

``` haskell
val open_in : file_name -> in_channel
```

**Scanf.open_in** fname returns a **Scanf.Scanning.in_channel** formatted
input channel for bufferized reading in text mode from file fname.
**Note**: **open_in** returns a formatted input channel that efficiently reads characters in
large chunks; in contrast, **from_channel** below returns formatted input channels that
must read one character at a time, leading to a much slower scanning rate.
**Since**: 3.12.0

``` haskell
val open_in_bin : file_name -> in_channel
```

**Scanf.open_in_bin** fname returns a **Scanf.Scanning.in_channel** formatted
input channel for bufferized reading in binary mode from file fname.
**Since**: 3.12.0

``` haskell
val close_in : in_channel -> unit
```
Closes the `in_channel` associated with the given `Scanf.Scanning.in_channel` formatted input channel.

Since: 3.12.0

```ocaml
val from_file : file_name -> in_channel
```

An alias for `Scanf.Scanning.open_in` above.

```ocaml
val from_file_bin : string -> in_channel
```

An alias for `Scanf.Scanning.open_in_bin` above.

```ocaml
val from_string : string -> in_channel
```

`Scanning.from_string s` returns a `Scanf.Scanning.in_channel` formatted input channel which reads from the given string. Reading starts from the first character in the string. The end-of-input condition is set when the end of the string is reached.

```ocaml
val from_function : (unit -> char) -> in_channel
```

`Scanning.from_function f` returns a `Scanf.Scanning.in_channel` formatted input channel with the given function as its reading method. When scanning needs one more character, the given function is called. When the function has no more character to provide, it must signal an end-of-input condition by raising the exception `End_of_file`.

```ocaml
val from_channel : in_channel -> in_channel
```

`Scanning.from_channel ic` returns a `Scanf.Scanning.in_channel` formatted input channel which reads from the regular `in_channel` input channel `ic` argument. Reading starts at current reading position of `ic`.

```ocaml
val end_of_input : in_channel -> bool
```

`Scanning.end_of_input ic` tests the end-of-input condition of the given `Scanf.Scanning.in_channel` formatted input channel.

```ocaml
val beginning_of_input : in_channel -> bool
```

`Scanning.beginning_of_input ic` tests the beginning of input condition of the given `Scanf.Scanning.in_channel` formatted input channel.

```ocaml
val name_of_input : in_channel -> string
```

`Scanning.name_of_input ic` returns the name of the character source for the given `Scanf.Scanning.in_channel` formatted input channel.

Since: 3.09.0

```ocaml
val stdib : in_channel
```

A deprecated alias for `Scanf.Scanning.stdin`, the scanning buffer reading from `stdin`.

end
Type of formatted input functions

type ('a, 'b, 'c, 'd) scanner = ('a, Scanning.in_channel, 'b, 'c, 'a -> 'd, 'd) for-
mat6 -> 'c

The type of formatted input scanners: ('a, 'b, 'c, 'd) scanner is the type of a formatted
input function that reads from some formatted input channel according to some format
string; more precisely, if scan is some formatted input function, then scan ic fmt f
applies f to all the arguments specified by format string fmt, when scan has read those
arguments from the Scanf.Scanning.in_channel[23.40] formatted input channel ic.

For instance, the Scanf.scan[23.40] function below has type ('a, 'b, 'c, 'd) scanner,
since it is a formatted input function that reads from Scanf.Scanning.stdin[23.40]:
scanf fmt f applies f to the arguments specified by fmt, reading those arguments from
stdin[22.2] as expected.

If the format fmt has some %r indications, the corresponding formatted input functions
must be provided before receiver function f. For instance, if read_elem is an input function
for values of type t, then bscanf ic "%r;" read_elem f reads a value v of type t followed
by a ';' character, and returns f v.

Since: 3.10.0

exception Scan_failure of string

When the input can not be read according to the format string specification, formatted
input functions typically raise exception Scan_failure.

The general formatted input function

val bscanf : Scanning.in_channel -> ('a, 'b, 'c, 'd) scanner

bscanf ic fmt r1 ... rN f reads characters from the Scanf.Scanning.in_channel[23.40]
formatted input channel ic and converts them to values according to format string fmt. As a final
step, receiver function f is applied to the values read and gives the result of the bscanf call.

For instance, if f is the function fun s i -> i + 1, then Scanf.sscanf "x= 1" "%s = %i"
f returns 2.

Arguments r1 to rN are user-defined input functions that read the argument corresponding to
the %r conversions specified in the format string.

Format string description
The format string is a character string which contains three types of objects:

• plain characters, which are simply matched with the characters of the input (with a special
case for space and line feed, see [23.40]),

• conversion specifications, each of which causes reading and conversion of one argument for
the function f (see [23.40]),

• scanning indications to specify boundaries of tokens (see scanning [23.40]).
The space character in format strings

As mentioned above, a plain character in the format string is just matched with the next character of the input; however, two characters are special exceptions to this rule: the space character (' ' or ASCII code 32) and the line feed character ('\n' or ASCII code 10). A space does not match a single space character, but any amount of 'whitespace' in the input. More precisely, a space inside the format string matches any number of tab, space, line feed and carriage return characters. Similarly, a line feed character in the format string matches either a single line feed or a carriage return followed by a line feed.

Matching any amount of whitespace, a space in the format string also matches no amount of whitespace at all; hence, the call `bscanf ib "Price = %d $" (fun p -> p)` succeeds and returns 1 when reading an input with various whitespace in it, such as `Price = 1 $`, `Price = 1 $`, or even `Price=1$`.

Conversion specifications in format strings

Conversion specifications consist in the `%` character, followed by an optional flag, an optional field width, and followed by one or two conversion characters.

The conversion characters and their meanings are:

- **d**: reads an optionally signed decimal integer (0-9+).
- **i**: reads an optionally signed integer (usual input conventions for decimal (0-9+), hexadecimal (0x[0-9a-f]+ and 0X[0-9A-F]+), octal (0o[0-7]+), and binary (0b[0-1]+) notations are understood).
- **u**: reads an unsigned decimal integer.
- **x** or **X**: reads an unsigned hexadecimal integer ([0-9a-fA-F]+).
- **o**: reads an unsigned octal integer ([0-7]+).
- **s**: reads a string argument that spreads as much as possible, until the following bounding condition holds:
  - a whitespace has been found (see [23.40]),
  - a scanning indication (see scanning [23.40]) has been encountered,
  - the end-of-input has been reached.

Hence, this conversion always succeeds: it returns an empty string if the bounding condition holds when the scan begins.

- **S**: reads a delimited string argument (delimiters and special escaped characters follow the lexical conventions of OCaml).

- **c**: reads a single character. To test the current input character without reading it, specify a null field width, i.e. use specification %0c. Raise **Invalid_argument**, if the field width specification is greater than 1.
• C: reads a single delimited character (delimiters and special escaped characters follow the lexical conventions of OCaml).

• f, e, E, g, G: reads an optionally signed floating-point number in decimal notation, in the style \textit{dddd.ddd e/E+-dd}.

• h, H: reads an optionally signed floating-point number in hexadecimal notation.

• F: reads a floating point number according to the lexical conventions of OCaml (hence the decimal point is mandatory if the exponent part is not mentioned).

• B: reads a boolean argument (\texttt{true} or \texttt{false}).

• b: reads a boolean argument (for backward compatibility; do not use in new programs).

• ld, li, lu, lx, lX, lo: reads an \texttt{int32} argument to the format specified by the second letter for regular integers.

• nd, ni, nu, nx, nX, no: reads a \texttt{nativeint} argument to the format specified by the second letter for regular integers.

• Ld, Li, Lu, Lx, LX, Lo: reads an \texttt{int64} argument to the format specified by the second letter for regular integers.

• \texttt{[ range ]}: reads characters that matches one of the characters mentioned in the range of characters \texttt{range} (or not mentioned in it, if the range starts with \texttt{^}). Reads a \texttt{string} that can be empty, if the next input character does not match the range. The set of characters from \texttt{c1} to \texttt{c2} (inclusively) is denoted by \texttt{c1-c2}. Hence, \texttt{\%[0-9]} returns a string representing a decimal number or an empty string if no decimal digit is found; similarly, \texttt{\%[0-9a-f]} returns a string of hexadecimal digits. If a closing bracket appears in a range, it must occur as the first character of the range (or just after the \texttt{^} in case of range negation); hence \texttt{[]} matches a ] character and \texttt{[^]} matches any character that is not ]. Use \texttt{%%} and \texttt{%@} to include a \% or a @ in a range.

• r: user-defined reader. Takes the next \texttt{ri} formatted input function and applies it to the scanning buffer \texttt{ib} to read the next argument. The input function \texttt{ri} must therefore have type \texttt{Scanning.in_channel \rightarrow 'a} and the argument read has type \texttt{'a}.

• \texttt{{ fmt } %}: reads a format string argument. The format string read must have the same type as the format string specification \texttt{fmt}. For instance, \texttt{"%{ %i %}"} reads any format string that can read a value of type \texttt{int}; hence, if \texttt{s} is the string \texttt{"fmt:\"number is %u\""}, then \texttt{Scanf.sscanf s "fmt: %{i}%"} succeeds and returns the format string \texttt{"number is %u"}.

• \texttt{( fmt %)}: scanning sub-format substitution. Reads a format string \texttt{rf} in the input, then goes on scanning with \texttt{rf} instead of scanning with \texttt{fmt}. The format string \texttt{rf} must have the same type as the format string specification \texttt{fmt} that it replaces. For instance, \texttt{"%( %i %)"} reads any format string that can read a value of type \texttt{int}. The conversion returns the format string read \texttt{rf}, and then a value read using \texttt{rf}. Hence, if \texttt{s} is the string \texttt{"\%4d\"1234.00"}, then \texttt{Scanf.sscanf s "%(i)%" (fun fmt i -> fmt, i)} evaluates to (\texttt{"%4d", 1234}). This behaviour is not mere format substitution, since the conversion returns the format string read
as additional argument. If you need pure format substitution, use special flag `_` to discard the extraneous argument: conversion `_` (fmt `%`) reads a format string rf and then behaves the same as format string rf. Hence, if s is the string ""%4d"" "1234.00", then `scanf` `sscanf s "%_ (%i\%)"` is simply equivalent to `scanf` `sscanf "1234.00" "%4d"`.

- l: returns the number of lines read so far.
- n: returns the number of characters read so far.
- N or L: returns the number of tokens read so far.
- !: matches the end of input condition.
- %: matches one % character in the input.
- @: matches one @ character in the input.
- ,: does nothing.

Following the % character that introduces a conversion, there may be the special flag `_`: the conversion that follows occurs as usual, but the resulting value is discarded. For instance, if f is the function `fun i -> i + 1`, and s is the string "x = 1", then `scanf` `sscanf s "%_s = %i"` f returns 2.

The field width is composed of an optional integer literal indicating the maximal width of the token to read. For instance, `%6d` reads an integer, having at most 6 decimal digits; `%4f` reads a float with at most 4 characters; and `%8[\000-\255]` returns the next 8 characters (or all the characters still available, if fewer than 8 characters are available in the input).

Notes:
- as mentioned above, a `%s` conversion always succeeds, even if there is nothing to read in the input: in this case, it simply returns "".
- in addition to the relevant digits, '_' characters may appear inside numbers (this is reminiscent to the usual OCaml lexical conventions). If stricter scanning is desired, use the range conversion facility instead of the number conversions.
- the `scanf` facility is not intended for heavy duty lexical analysis and parsing. If it appears not expressive enough for your needs, several alternative exists: regular expressions (module `Str`[27.1]), stream parsers, `ocamllex`-generated lexers, `ocamlyacc`-generated parsers.

### Scanning indications in format strings

Scanning indications appear just after the string conversions `%s` and `%[ range ]` to delimit the end of the token. A scanning indication is introduced by a @ character, followed by some plain character c. It means that the string token should end just before the next matching c (which is skipped). If no c character is encountered, the string token spreads as much as possible. For instance, "%a@\t" reads a string up to the next tab character or to the end of input. If a @ character appears anywhere else in the format string, it is treated as a plain character.

Note:
As usual in format strings, % and @ characters must be escaped using % and @; this rule still holds within range specifications and scanning indications. For instance, format "%a@%a" reads a string up to the next % character, and format "%a@%@" reads a string up to the next @.

The scanning indications introduce slight differences in the syntax of Scanf format strings, compared to those used for the Printf module. However, the scanning indications are similar to those used in the Format module; hence, when producing formatted text to be scanned by Scanf.bscanf, it is wise to use printing functions from the Format module (or, if you need to use functions from Printf, banish or carefully double check the format strings that contain '@' characters).

Exceptions during scanning

Scanners may raise the following exceptions when the input cannot be read according to the format string:

- Raise Scanf.Scan_failure if the input does not match the format.
- Raise Failure if a conversion to a number is not possible.
- Raise End_of_file if the end of input is encountered while some more characters are needed to read the current conversion specification.
- Raise Invalid_argument if the format string is invalid.

Note:

- as a consequence, scanning a %s conversion never raises exception End_of_file: if the end of input is reached the conversion succeeds and simply returns the characters read so far, or "" if none were ever read.

Specialised formatted input functions

val ssscanf : string -> ('a, 'b, 'c, 'd) scanner
    Same as Scanf.bsscanf, but reads from the given string.

val scanf : ('a, 'b, 'c, 'd) scanner
    Same as Scanf.bscanf, but reads from the predefined formatted input channel Scanf.Scanning.stdin that is connected to stdin.

val kscanf :
    Scanning.in_channel ->
    (Scanning.in_channel -> exn -> 'd) -> ('a, 'b, 'c, 'd) scanner
    Same as Scanf.bsscanf, but takes an additional function argument ef that is called in case of error: if the scanning process or some conversion fails, the scanning function aborts and calls the error handling function ef with the formatted input channel and the exception that aborted the scanning process as arguments.
val ksscanf : string -> (Scanning.in_channel -> exn -> 'd) -> ('a, 'b, 'c, 'd) scanner
  Same as Scanf.kscanf[23.40] but reads from the given string.
  Since: 4.02.0

Reading format strings from input
val bscanf_format : Scanning.in_channel -> ('a, 'b, 'c, 'd, 'e, 'f) format6 -> ('a, 'b, 'c, 'd, 'e, 'f) format6 -> 'g
  bscanf_format ic fmt f reads a format string token from the formatted input channel ic,
  according to the given format string fmt, and applies f to the resulting format string value.
  Raise Scanf.Scan_failure[23.40] if the format string value read does not have the same
  type as fmt.
  Since: 3.09.0
val sscanf_format : string -> ('a, 'b, 'c, 'd, 'e, 'f) format6 -> ('a, 'b, 'c, 'd, 'e, 'f) format6 -> 'g
  Same as Scanf.bscanf_format[23.40], but reads from the given string.
  Since: 3.09.0
val format_from_string : string -> ('a, 'b, 'c, 'd, 'e, 'f) format6 -> ('a, 'b, 'c, 'd, 'e, 'f) format6
  format_from_string s fmt converts a string argument to a format string, according to the
  given format string fmt. Raise Scanf.Scan_failure[23.40] if s, considered as a format
  string, does not have the same type as fmt.
  Since: 3.10.0
val unescaped : string -> string
  unescaped s return a copy of s with escape sequences (according to the lexical conventions
  of OCaml) replaced by their corresponding special characters. More precisely,
  Scanf.unescaped has the following property: for all string s, Scanf.unescaped
  (String.escaped s) = s.
  Always return a copy of the argument, even if there is no escape sequence in the argument.
  Raise Scanf.Scan_failure[23.40] if s is not properly escaped (i.e. s has invalid escape
  sequences or special characters that are not properly escaped). For instance,
  Scanf.unescaped "\" will fail.
Since: 4.00.0

Deprecated

val fscanf : in_channel -> ('a, 'b, 'c, 'd) scanner

Deprecated. Scanf.fscanf is error prone and deprecated since 4.03.0.

This function violates the following invariant of the Scanf[23.40] module: To preserve scanning semantics, all scanning functions defined in Scanf[23.40] must read from a user defined Scanf.Scanning.in_channel[23.40] formatted input channel.

If you need to read from a in_channel[22.2] input channel ic, simply define a Scanf.Scanning.in_channel[23.40] formatted input channel as in let ib = Scanf.from_channel ic, then use Scanf.bscanf ib as usual.

val kfscanf :
  in_channel ->
  (Scanning.in_channel -> exn -> 'd) -> ('a, 'b, 'c, 'd) scanner

Deprecated. Scanf.kfscanf is error prone and deprecated since 4.03.0.

23.41 Module Seq : Functional Iterators

The type 'a t is a delayed list, i.e. a list where some evaluation is needed to access the next element. This makes it possible to build infinite sequences, to build sequences as we traverse them, and to transform them in a lazy fashion rather than upfront.

type 'a t = unit -> 'a node

The type of delayed lists containing elements of type 'a. Note that the concrete list node 'a node is delayed under a closure, not a lazy block, which means it might be recomputed every time we access it.

type 'a node =
 | Nil
 | Cons of 'a * 'a t

A fully-evaluated list node, either empty or containing an element and a delayed tail.

val empty : 'a t

The empty sequence, containing no elements.

val return : 'a -> 'a t

The singleton sequence containing only the given element.

val map : ('a -> 'b) -> 'a t -> 'b t
map \( f \) \( \text{seq} \) returns a new sequence whose elements are the elements of \( \text{seq} \), transformed by \( f \). This transformation is lazy, it only applies when the result is traversed.

If \( \text{seq} = \{1;2;3\} \), then \( \text{map} \ f \ \text{seq} = \{f \ 1; f \ 2; f \ 3\} \).

val filter : \('a -> \text{bool}\) -> 'a t -> 'a t

Remove from the sequence the elements that do not satisfy the given predicate. This transformation is lazy, it only applies when the result is traversed.

val filter_map : \('a -> 'b option\) -> 'a t -> 'b t

Apply the function to every element; if \( f \ x = \text{None} \) then \( x \) is dropped; if \( f \ x = \text{Some} \ y \) then \( y \) is returned. This transformation is lazy, it only applies when the result is traversed.

val flat_map : \('a -> 'b t\) -> 'a t -> 'b t

Map each element to a subsequence, then return each element of this sub-sequence in turn. This transformation is lazy, it only applies when the result is traversed.

val fold_left : \('a -> 'b -> 'a\) -> 'a -> 'b t -> 'a

Traverse the sequence from left to right, combining each element with the accumulator using the given function. The traversal happens immediately and will not terminate on infinite sequences.

Also see List.fold_left[23.26]

val iter : \('a -> \text{unit}\) -> 'a t -> unit

Iterate on the sequence, calling the (imperative) function on every element. The traversal happens immediately and will not terminate on infinite sequences.

### 23.42 Module Set : Sets over ordered types.

This module implements the set data structure, given a total ordering function over the set elements. All operations over sets are purely applicative (no side-effects). The implementation uses balanced binary trees, and is therefore reasonably efficient: insertion and membership take time logarithmic in the size of the set, for instance.

The Set.Make[23.42] functor constructs implementations for any type, given a compare function. For instance:

```ocaml
module IntPairs = 
  struct
    type t = int * int
    let compare (x0,y0) (x1,y1) =
      match Stdlib.compare x0 x1 with
      0 -> Stdlib.compare y0 y1
      | c -> c
    end
```
module PairsSet = Set.Make(IntPairs)

let m = PairsSet.(empty |> add (2,3) |> add (5,7) |> add (11,13))

This creates a new module PairsSet, with a new type PairsSet.t of sets of int * int.

module type OrderedType = 
  sig
    type t
    The type of the set elements.

    val compare : t -> t -> int
    A total ordering function over the set elements. This is a two-argument function f such that f e1 e2 is zero if the elements e1 and e2 are equal, f e1 e2 is strictly negative if e1 is smaller than e2, and f e1 e2 is strictly positive if e1 is greater than e2.
    Example: a suitable ordering function is the generic structural comparison function compare[22.2].
  end

Input signature of the functor Set.Make[23.42].

module type S =
  sig
    type elt
    The type of the set elements.

    type t
    The type of sets.

    val empty : t
    The empty set.

    val is_empty : t -> bool
    Test whether a set is empty or not.

    val mem : elt -> t -> bool
    mem x s tests whether x belongs to the set s.

    val add : elt -> t -> t
add x s returns a set containing all elements of s, plus x. If x was already in s, s is returned unchanged (the result of the function is then physically equal to s).

Before 4.03 Physical equality was not ensured.

val singleton : elt -> t

singleton x returns the one-element set containing only x.

val remove : elt -> t -> t

remove x s returns a set containing all elements of s, except x. If x was not in s, s is returned unchanged (the result of the function is then physically equal to s).

Before 4.03 Physical equality was not ensured.

val union : t -> t -> t

Set union.

val inter : t -> t -> t

Set intersection.

val disjoint : t -> t -> bool

Test if two sets are disjoint.

Since: 4.08.0

val diff : t -> t -> t

Set difference: diff s1 s2 contains the elements of s1 that are not in s2.

val compare : t -> t -> int

Total ordering between sets. Can be used as the ordering function for doing sets of sets.

val equal : t -> t -> bool

equal s1 s2 tests whether the sets s1 and s2 are equal, that is, contain equal elements.

val subset : t -> t -> bool

subset s1 s2 tests whether the set s1 is a subset of the set s2.

val iter : (elt -> unit) -> t -> unit

iter f s applies f in turn to all elements of s. The elements of s are presented to f in increasing order with respect to the ordering over the type of the elements.

val map : (elt -> elt) -> t -> t
map \( f \ s \) is the set whose elements are \( f \ a_0, f \ a_1, \ldots, f \ a_N \), where \( a_0, a_1, \ldots, a_N \) are the elements of \( s \).

The elements are passed to \( f \) in increasing order with respect to the ordering over the type of the elements.

If no element of \( s \) is changed by \( f \), \( s \) is returned unchanged. (If each output of \( f \) is physically equal to its input, the returned set is physically equal to \( s \).)

Since: 4.04.0

val fold : (elt -> 'a -> 'a) -> t -> 'a

fold \( f \ s \ a \) computes \((f \ x_N \ldots \ (f \ x_2 \ (f \ x_1 \ a))\ldots)\), where \( x_1 \ldots x_N \) are the elements of \( s \), in increasing order.

val for_all : (elt -> bool) -> t -> bool

for_all \( p \ s \) checks if all elements of the set satisfy the predicate \( p \).

val exists : (elt -> bool) -> t -> bool

exists \( p \ s \) checks if at least one element of the set satisfies the predicate \( p \).

val filter : (elt -> bool) -> t -> t

filter \( p \ s \) returns the set of all elements in \( s \) that satisfy predicate \( p \). If \( p \) satisfies every element in \( s \), \( s \) is returned unchanged (the result of the function is then physically equal to \( s \)).

Before 4.03 Physical equality was not ensured.

val partition : (elt -> bool) -> t -> t * t

partition \( p \ s \) returns a pair of sets \((s_1, s_2)\), where \( s_1 \) is the set of all the elements of \( s \) that satisfy the predicate \( p \), and \( s_2 \) is the set of all the elements of \( s \) that do not satisfy \( p \).

val cardinal : t -> int

Return the number of elements of a set.

val elements : t -> elt list

Return the list of all elements of the given set. The returned list is sorted in increasing order with respect to the ordering \( \text{Ord.compare} \), where \( \text{Ord} \) is the argument given to \( \text{Set.Make[23.42]} \).

val min_elt : t -> elt

Return the smallest element of the given set (with respect to the \( \text{Ord.compare} \) ordering), or raise \( \text{Not_found} \) if the set is empty.

val min_elt_opt : t -> elt option
Return the smallest element of the given set (with respect to the \texttt{Ord.compare} ordering), or \texttt{None} if the set is empty.  

\textbf{Since:} 4.05

\textbf{val} \texttt{max_elt : t -> elt}

Same as \texttt{Set.S.min_elt[23.42]}, but returns the largest element of the given set.

\textbf{val} \texttt{max_elt_opt : t -> elt option}

Same as \texttt{Set.S.min_elt_opt[23.42]}, but returns the largest element of the given set.  

\textbf{Since:} 4.05

\textbf{val} \texttt{choose : t -> elt}

Return one element of the given set, or raise \texttt{Not_found} if the set is empty. Which element is chosen is unspecified, but equal elements will be chosen for equal sets.

\textbf{val} \texttt{choose_opt : t -> elt option}

Return one element of the given set, or \texttt{None} if the set is empty. Which element is chosen is unspecified, but equal elements will be chosen for equal sets.  

\textbf{Since:} 4.05

\textbf{val} \texttt{split : elt -> t -> t * bool * t}

\texttt{split x s} returns a triple \texttt{(l, present, r)}, where \texttt{l} is the set of elements of \texttt{s} that are strictly less than \texttt{x}; \texttt{r} is the set of elements of \texttt{s} that are strictly greater than \texttt{x}; \texttt{present} is \texttt{false} if \texttt{s} contains no element equal to \texttt{x}, or \texttt{true} if \texttt{s} contains an element equal to \texttt{x}.

\textbf{val} \texttt{find : elt -> t -> elt}

\texttt{find x s} returns the element of \texttt{s} equal to \texttt{x} (according to \texttt{Ord.compare}), or raise \texttt{Not_found} if no such element exists.  

\textbf{Since:} 4.01.0

\textbf{val} \texttt{find_opt : elt -> t -> elt option}

\texttt{find_opt x s} returns the element of \texttt{s} equal to \texttt{x} (according to \texttt{Ord.compare}), or \texttt{None} if no such element exists.  

\textbf{Since:} 4.05

\textbf{val} \texttt{find_first : (elt -> bool) -> t -> elt}

\texttt{find_first f s}, where \texttt{f} is a monotonically increasing function, returns the lowest element \texttt{e} of \texttt{s} such that \texttt{f e}, or raises \texttt{Not_found} if no such element exists.  

For example, \texttt{find_first (fun e -> Ord.compare e x >= 0) s} will return the first element \texttt{e} of \texttt{s} where \texttt{Ord.compare e x >= 0} (intuitively: \texttt{e >= x}), or raise \texttt{Not_found} if \texttt{x} is greater than any element of \texttt{s}.  

\textbf{Since:} 4.05
val find_first_opt : (elt -> bool) -> t -> elt option

find_first_opt f s, where f is a monotonically increasing function, returns an option containing the lowest element e of s such that f e, or None if no such element exists.
Since: 4.05

val find_last : (elt -> bool) -> t -> elt

find_last f s, where f is a monotonically decreasing function, returns the highest element e of s such that f e, or raises Not_found if no such element exists.
Since: 4.05

val find_last_opt : (elt -> bool) -> t -> elt option

find_last_opt f s, where f is a monotonically decreasing function, returns an option containing the highest element e of s such that f e, or None if no such element exists.
Since: 4.05

val of_list : elt list -> t

of_list l creates a set from a list of elements. This is usually more efficient than folding add over the list, except perhaps for lists with many duplicated elements.
Since: 4.02.0

Iterators

val to_seq_from : elt -> t -> elt Seq.t

to_seq_from x s iterates on a subset of the elements of s in ascending order, from x or above.
Since: 4.07

val to_seq : t -> elt Seq.t

Iterate on the whole set, in ascending order
Since: 4.07

val add_seq : elt Seq.t -> t -> t

Add the given elements to the set, in order.
Since: 4.07

val of_seq : elt Seq.t -> t

Build a set from the given bindings
Since: 4.07

end
Output signature of the functor Set.Make[23.42].

module Make :
    functor (Ord : OrderedType) -> S with type elt = Ord.t

Functor building an implementation of the set structure given a totally ordered type.

23.43 Module Spacetime : Profiling of a program’s space behaviour over time.

Currently only supported on x86-64 platforms running 64-bit code.

To use the functions in this module you must:

• configure the compiler with "-spacetime";
• compile to native code. Without these conditions being satisfied the functions in this module will have no effect.

Instead of manually taking profiling heap snapshots with this module it is possible to use an automatic snapshot facility that writes profiling information at fixed intervals to a file. To enable this, all that needs to be done is to build the relevant program using a compiler configured with -spacetime; and set the environment variable OCAML_SPACETIME_INTERVAL to an integer number of milliseconds giving the interval between profiling heap snapshots. This interval should not be made excessively small relative to the running time of the program. A typical interval to start with might be 1/100 of the running time of the program. The program must exit "normally" (i.e. by calling exit, with whatever exit code, rather than being abnormally terminated by a signal) so that the snapshot file is correctly completed.

When using the automatic snapshot mode the profiling output is written to a file called "spacetime-<pid>" where <pid> is the process ID of the program. (If the program forks and continues executing then multiple files may be produced with different pid numbers.) The profiling output is by default written to the current working directory when the program starts. This may be customised by setting the OCAML_SPACETIME_SNAPSHOT_DIR environment variable to the name of the desired directory.

If using automatic snapshots the presence of the save_event_for_automatic_snapshots function, below, should be noted.

The functions in this module are thread safe.

For functions to decode the information recorded by the profiler, see the Spacetime offline library in otherlibs/.

val enabled : bool
    enabled is true if the compiler is configured with spacetime and false otherwise

module Series :
    sig
        type t
Type representing a file that will hold a series of heap snapshots together with additional information required to interpret those snapshots.

val create : path:string -> t

create ~path creates a series file at path.

val save_event : ?time:float -> t -> event_name:string -> unit

save_event writes an event, which is an arbitrary string, into the given series file. This may be used for identifying particular points during program execution when analysing the profile. The optional time parameter is as for Spacetime.Snapshot.take.

val save_and_close : ?time:float -> t -> unit

save_and_close series writes information into series required for interpreting the snapshots that series contains and then closes the series file. This function must be called to produce a valid series file. The optional time parameter is as for Spacetime.Snapshot.take.

end

module Snapshot :
  sig

    val take : ?time:float -> Spacetime.Series.t -> unit
    take series takes a snapshot of the profiling annotations on the values in the minor and major heaps, together with GC stats, and write the result to the series file. This function triggers a minor GC but does not allocate any memory itself. If the optional time is specified, it will be used instead of the result of Sys.time as the timestamp of the snapshot. Such times should start from zero and be monotonically increasing. This parameter is intended to be used so that snapshots can be correlated against wall clock time (which is not supported in the standard library) rather than elapsed CPU time.

  end

val save_event_for_automatic_snapshots : event_name:string -> unit

Like Spacetime.Series.save_event, but writes to the automatic snapshot file. This function is a no-op if OCAML_SPACETIME_INTERVAL was not set.

23.44 Module Stack : Last-in first-out stacks.

This module implements stacks (LIFOs), with in-place modification.

type 'a t
The type of stacks containing elements of type 'a.

exception Empty
    Raised when Stack.pop[23.44] or Stack.top[23.44] is applied to an empty stack.

val create : unit -> 'a t
    Return a new stack, initially empty.

val push : 'a -> 'a t -> unit
    push x s adds the element x at the top of stack s.

val pop : 'a t -> 'a
    pop s removes and returns the topmost element in stack s, or raises Stack.Empty[23.44] if
    the stack is empty.

val pop_opt : 'a t -> 'a option
    pop_opt s removes and returns the topmost element in stack s, or returns None if the stack
    is empty.
    Since: 4.08

val top : 'a t -> 'a
    top s returns the topmost element in stack s, or raises Stack.Empty[23.44] if the stack is
    empty.

val top_opt : 'a t -> 'a option
    top_opt s returns the topmost element in stack s, or None if the stack is empty.
    Since: 4.08

val clear : 'a t -> unit
    Discard all elements from a stack.

val copy : 'a t -> 'a t
    Return a copy of the given stack.

val is_empty : 'a t -> bool
    Return true if the given stack is empty, false otherwise.

val length : 'a t -> int
    Return the number of elements in a stack. Time complexity O(1)

val iter : ('a -> unit) -> 'a t -> unit
    iter f s applies f in turn to all elements of s, from the element at the top of the stack to
    the element at the bottom of the stack. The stack itself is unchanged.
val fold : ('b -> 'a -> 'b) -> 'b -> 'a t -> 'b
    fold f accu s is (f (... (f (f accu x1) x2) ...) xn) where x1 is the top of the stack, x2 the second element, and xn the bottom element. The stack is unchanged.
    Since: 4.03

Iterators
val to_seq : 'a t -> 'a Seq.t
    Iterate on the stack, top to bottom. It is safe to modify the stack during iteration.
    Since: 4.07
val add_seq : 'a t -> 'a Seq.t -> unit
    Add the elements from the iterator on the top of the stack.
    Since: 4.07
val of_seq : 'a Seq.t -> 'a t
    Create a stack from the iterator
    Since: 4.07

23.45 Module StdLabels : Standard labeled libraries.
This meta-module provides labeled version of the Array[23.2], Bytes[23.7], List[23.26] and String[23.47] modules.
    They only differ by their labels. Detailed interfaces can be found in arrayLabels.mli, bytesLabels.mli, listLabels.mli and stringLabels.mli.

    module Array :
        ArrayLabels
    module Bytes :
        BytesLabels
    module List :
        ListLabels
    module String :
        StringLabels

23.46 Module Stream : Streams and parsers.

type 'a t
    The type of streams holding values of type 'a.
exception Failure
   Raised by parsers when none of the first components of the stream patterns is accepted.

exception Error of string
   Raised by parsers when the first component of a stream pattern is accepted, but one of the
   following components is rejected.

Stream builders

val from : (int -> 'a option) -> 'a t
   Stream.from f returns a stream built from the function f. To create a new stream element,
   the function f is called with the current stream count. The user function f must return
   either Some <value> for a value or None to specify the end of the stream.
   Do note that the indices passed to f may not start at 0 in the general case. For example, [< '0; '1; Stream.from f >] would call f the first time with count 2.

val of_list : 'a list -> 'a t
   Return the stream holding the elements of the list in the same order.

val of_string : string -> char t
   Return the stream of the characters of the string parameter.

val of_bytes : bytes -> char t
   Return the stream of the characters of the bytes parameter.
   Since: 4.02.0

val of_channel : in_channel -> char t
   Return the stream of the characters read from the input channel.

Stream iterator

val iter : ('a -> unit) -> 'a t -> unit
   Stream.iter f s scans the whole stream s, applying function f in turn to each stream
   element encountered.

Predefined parsers

val next : 'a t -> 'a
   Return the first element of the stream and remove it from the stream. Raise
   Stream.Failure[23.46] if the stream is empty.

val empty : 'a t -> unit
   Return () if the stream is empty, else raise Stream.Failure[23.46].
Useful functions

```ocaml
val peek : 'a t -> 'a option
    Return Some of "the first element" of the stream, or None if the stream is empty.

val junk : 'a t -> unit
    Remove the first element of the stream, possibly unfreezing it before.

val count : 'a t -> int
    Return the current count of the stream elements, i.e. the number of the stream elements
discarded.

val npeek : int -> 'a t -> 'a list
    npeek n returns the list of the n first elements of the stream, or all its remaining elements if
less than n elements are available.
```

23.47 Module String : String operations.

A string is an immutable data structure that contains a fixed-length sequence of (single-byte)
characters. Each character can be accessed in constant time through its index.

Given a string s of length l, we can access each of the l characters of s via its index in the
sequence. Indexes start at 0, and we will call an index valid in s if it falls within the range [0...l-1]
(inclusive). A position is the point between two characters or at the beginning or end of the
string. We call a position valid in s if it falls within the range [0...1] (inclusive). Note that the
character at index n is between positions n and n+1.

Two parameters start and len are said to designate a valid substring of s if len >= 0 and
start and start+len are valid positions in s.

Note: OCaml strings used to be modifiable in place, for instance via the String.set and
String.blit functions described below. This usage is only possible when the compiler is put
in "unsafe-string" mode by giving the -unsafe-string command-line option. This compatibility
mode makes the types string and bytes interchangeable so that functions
expecting byte sequences can also accept strings as arguments and modify them.

The distinction between bytes and string was introduced in OCaml 4.02, and the "unsafe-
string" compatibility mode was the default until OCaml 4.05. Starting with 4.06, the compatibility
mode is opt-in; we intend to remove the option in the future.

```ocaml
val length : string -> int
    Return the length (number of characters) of the given string.

val get : string -> int -> char
    String.get s n returns the character at index n in string s. You can also write s.[n]
    instead of String.get s n.
    Raise Invalid_argument if n not a valid index in s.
```
val set : bytes -> int -> char -> unit
  *Deprecated.* This is a deprecated alias of Bytes.set[23.7]. String.set s n c modifies byte sequence s in place, replacing the byte at index n with c. You can also write s.[n] <- c instead of String.set s n c.
  Raise Invalid_argument if n is not a valid index in s.

val create : int -> bytes
  *Deprecated.* This is a deprecated alias of Bytes.create[23.7]. String.create n returns a fresh byte sequence of length n. The sequence is uninitialized and contains arbitrary bytes.
  Raise Invalid_argument if n < 0 or n > Sys.max_string_length[23.49].

val make : int -> char -> string
  String.make n c returns a fresh string of length n, filled with the character c.
  Raise Invalid_argument if n < 0 or n > Sys.max_string_length[23.49].

val init : int -> (int -> char) -> string
  String.init n f returns a string of length n, with character i initialized to the result of f i (called in increasing index order).
  Raise Invalid_argument if n < 0 or n > Sys.max_string_length[23.49].
  *Since:* 4.02.0

val copy : string -> string
  *Deprecated.* Because strings are immutable, it doesn’t make much sense to make identical copies of them. Return a copy of the given string.

val sub : string -> int -> int -> string
  String.sub s start len returns a fresh string of length len, containing the substring of s that starts at position start and has length len.
  Raise Invalid_argument if start and len do not designate a valid substring of s.

val fill : bytes -> int -> int -> char -> unit
  *Deprecated.* This is a deprecated alias of Bytes.fill[23.7]. String.fill s start len c modifies byte sequence s in place, replacing len bytes with c, starting at start.
  Raise Invalid_argument if start and len do not designate a valid range of s.

val blit : string -> int -> bytes -> int -> int -> unit
  Same as Bytes.blit_string[23.7].

val concat : string -> string list -> string
  String.concat sep sl concatenates the list of strings sl, inserting the separator string sep between each.
  Raise Invalid_argument if the result is longer than Sys.max_string_length[23.49] bytes.
val iter : (char -> unit) -> string -> unit
  String.iter f s applies function f in turn to all the characters of s. It is equivalent to
  f s.[0]; f s.[1]; ...; f s.[String.length s - 1]; ()

val iteri : (int -> char -> unit) -> string -> unit
  Same as String.iter[23.47], but the function is applied to the index of the element as first
  argument (counting from 0), and the character itself as second argument.

  Since: 4.00.0

val map : (char -> char) -> string -> string
  String.map f s applies function f in turn to all the characters of s (in increasing index
  order) and stores the results in a new string that is returned.

  Since: 4.00.0

val mapi : (int -> char -> char) -> string -> string
  String.mapi f s calls f with each character of s and its index (in increasing index order)
  and stores the results in a new string that is returned.

  Since: 4.02.0

val trim : string -> string
  Return a copy of the argument, without leading and trailing whitespace. The characters
  regarded as whitespace are: '\t', '\012', '\n', '\r', and '\t'. If there is neither leading nor
  trailing whitespace character in the argument, return the original string itself, not a copy.

  Since: 4.00.0

val escaped : string -> string
  Return a copy of the argument, with special characters represented by escape sequences,
  following the lexical conventions of OCaml. All characters outside the ASCII printable
  range (32..126) are escaped, as well as backslash and double-quote.

  If there is no special character in the argument that needs escaping, return the original
  string itself, not a copy.

  Raise Invalid_argument if the result is longer than Sys.max_string_length[23.49] bytes.

  The function Scanf.unescaped[23.40] is a left inverse of escaped, i.e. Scanf.unescaped
  (escaped s) = s for any string s (unless escape s fails).

val index : string -> char -> int
  String.index s c returns the index of the first occurrence of character c in string s.
  Raise Not_found if c does not occur in s.

val index_opt : string -> char -> int option
  String.index_opt s c returns the index of the first occurrence of character c in string s,
  or None if c does not occur in s.

  Since: 4.05
val rindex : string -> char -> int
  String.rindex s c returns the index of the last occurrence of character c in string s.
  Raise Not_found if c does not occur in s.

val rindex_opt : string -> char -> int option
  String.rindex_opt s c returns the index of the last occurrence of character c in string s,
  or None if c does not occur in s.
  Since: 4.05

val index_from : string -> int -> char -> int
  String.index_from s i c returns the index of the first occurrence of character c in string s
  after position i. String.index s c is equivalent to String.index_from s 0 c.
  Raise Invalid_argument if i is not a valid position in s. Raise Not_found if c does not
  occur in s after position i.

val index_from_opt : string -> int -> char -> int option
  String.index_from_opt s i c returns the index of the first occurrence of character c in
  string s after position i or None if c does not occur in s after position i.
  String.index_opt s c is equivalent to String.index_from_opt s 0 c. Raise
  Invalid_argument if i is not a valid position in s.
  Since: 4.05

val rindex_from : string -> int -> char -> int
  String.rindex_from s i c returns the index of the last occurrence of character c in string s
  before position i+1. String.rindex s c is equivalent to String.rindex_from s
  (String.length s - 1) c.
  Raise Invalid_argument if i+1 is not a valid position in s. Raise Not_found if c does not
  occur in s before position i+1.

val rindex_from_opt : string -> int -> char -> int option
  String.rindex_from_opt s i c returns the index of the last occurrence of character c in string s
  before position i+1 or None if c does not occur in s before position i+1.
  String.rindex_opt s c is equivalent to String.rindex_from_opt s (String.length s
  - 1) c.
  Raise Invalid_argument if i+1 is not a valid position in s.
  Since: 4.05

val contains : string -> char -> bool
  String.contains s c tests if character c appears in the string s.

val contains_from : string -> int -> char -> bool
String.contains_from s start c tests if character c appears in s after position start.  
String.contains s c is equivalent to String.contains_from s 0 c.

Raise Invalid_argument if start is not a valid position in s.

val rcontains_from : string -> int -> char -> bool
String.rcontains_from s stop c tests if character c appears in s before position stop+1.  
Raise Invalid_argument if stop < 0 or stop+1 is not a valid position in s.

val uppercase : string -> string
  Deprecated. Functions operating on Latin-1 character set are deprecated.Return a copy of the argument, with all lowercase letters translated to uppercase, including accented letters of the ISO Latin-1 (8859-1) character set.

val lowercase : string -> string
  Deprecated. Functions operating on Latin-1 character set are deprecated.Return a copy of the argument, with all uppercase letters translated to lowercase, including accented letters of the ISO Latin-1 (8859-1) character set.

val capitalize : string -> string
  Deprecated. Functions operating on Latin-1 character set are deprecated.Return a copy of the argument, with the first character set to uppercase, using the ISO Latin-1 (8859-1) character set.

val uncapitalize : string -> string
  Deprecated. Functions operating on Latin-1 character set are deprecated.Return a copy of the argument, with the first character set to lowercase, using the ISO Latin-1 (8859-1) character set.

val uppercase_ascii : string -> string
  Return a copy of the argument, with all lowercase letters translated to uppercase, using the US-ASCII character set.
  Since: 4.03.0

val lowercase_ascii : string -> string
  Return a copy of the argument, with all uppercase letters translated to lowercase, using the US-ASCII character set.
  Since: 4.03.0

val capitalize_ascii : string -> string
  Return a copy of the argument, with the first character set to uppercase, using the US-ASCII character set.
  Since: 4.03.0
val uncapitalize_ascii : string -> string
    Return a copy of the argument, with the first character set to lowercase, using the
    US-ASCII character set.
    Since: 4.03.0

type t = string
    An alias for the type of strings.

val compare : t -> t -> int
    The comparison function for strings, with the same specification as compare[22.2]. Along
    with the type t, this function compare allows the module String to be passed as argument
    to the functors Set.Make[23.42] and Map.Make[23.28].

val equal : t -> t -> bool
    The equal function for strings.
    Since: 4.03.0

val split_on_char : char -> string -> string list
    String.split_on_char sep s returns the list of all (possibly empty) substrings of s that
    are delimited by the sep character.
    The function’s output is specified by the following invariants:
    • The list is not empty.
    • Concatenating its elements using sep as a separator returns a string equal to the input
      (String.concat (String.make 1 sep) (String.split_on_char sep s) = s).
    • No string in the result contains the sep character.
    Since: 4.04.0

Iterators

val to_seq : t -> char Seq.t
    Iterate on the string, in increasing index order. Modifications of the string during iteration
    will be reflected in the iterator.
    Since: 4.07

val to_seqi : t -> (int * char) Seq.t
    Iterate on the string, in increasing order, yielding indices along chars
    Since: 4.07

val of_seq : char Seq.t -> t
    Create a string from the generator
    Since: 4.07
23.48  Module StringLabels : String operations.

val length : string -> int
    Return the length (number of characters) of the given string.

val get : string -> int -> char
    String.get s n returns the character at index n in string s. You can also write s.[n]
    instead of String.get s n.
    Raise Invalid_argument if n not a valid index in s.

val set : bytes -> int -> char -> unit
    Deprecated. This is a deprecated alias of BytesLabels.set.
    String.set s n c modifies byte sequence s in place, replacing the byte at index n with c. You can also write
    s.[n] <- c instead of String.set s n c.
    Raise Invalid_argument if n is not a valid index in s.

val create : int -> bytes
    Deprecated. This is a deprecated alias of BytesLabels.create.
    String.create n returns a fresh byte sequence of length n. The sequence is uninitialized and contains
    arbitrary bytes.
    Raise Invalid_argument if n < 0 or n > Sys.max_string_length.

val make : int -> char -> string
    String.make n c returns a fresh string of length n, filled with the character c.
    Raise Invalid_argument if n < 0 or n > Sys.max_string_length.

val init : int -> f:(int -> char) -> string
    init n f returns a string of length n, with character i initialized to the result of f i.
    Raise Invalid_argument if n < 0 or n > Sys.max_string_length.
    Since: 4.02.0

val copy : string -> string
    Return a copy of the given string.

val sub : string -> pos:int -> len:int -> string
    String.sub s start len returns a fresh string of length len, containing the substring of s
    that starts at position start and has length len.
    Raise Invalid_argument if start and len do not designate a valid substring of s.

val fill : bytes -> pos:int -> len:int -> char -> unit
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*Deprecated.* This is a deprecated alias of `BytesLabels.fill[23.8]`. `String.fill s start len c` modifies byte sequence `s` in place, replacing `len` bytes by `c`, starting at `start`. Raise `Invalid_argument` if `start` and `len` do not designate a valid substring of `s`.

```plaintext
String.blit src src_offset dst dst_offset len copies len bytes from the string src, starting
at index src_offset, to byte sequence dst, starting at character number dst_offset.
Raise `Invalid_argument` if src_offset and len do not designate a valid range of src, or if
dst_offset and len do not designate a valid range of dst.

val concat : sep:string -> string list -> string
String.concat sep sl concatenates the list of strings sl, inserting the separator string
sep between each.

val iter : f:(char -> unit) -> string -> unit
String.iter f s applies function f in turn to all the characters of s. It is equivalent to f
s.[0]; f s.[1]; ...; f s.[String.length s - 1]; ()

val iteri : f:(int -> char -> unit) -> string -> unit
Same as `String.iter[23.47]`, but the function is applied to the index of the element as first
argument (counting from 0), and the character itself as second argument.
Since: 4.00.0

val map : f:(char -> char) -> string -> string
String.map f s applies function f in turn to all the characters of s and stores the results
in a new string that is returned.
Since: 4.00.0

val mapi : f:(int -> char -> char) -> string -> string
String.mapi f s calls f with each character of s and its index (in increasing index order)
and stores the results in a new string that is returned.
Since: 4.02.0

val trim : string -> string
Return a copy of the argument, without leading and trailing whitespace. The characters
regarded as whitespace are: ' ', '\012', '\n', '\r', and '\t'. If there is no leading nor
trailing whitespace character in the argument, return the original string itself, not a copy.
Since: 4.00.0

val escaped : string -> string
```
Return a copy of the argument, with special characters represented by escape sequences, following the lexical conventions of OCaml. If there is no special character in the argument, return the original string itself, not a copy. Its inverse function is Scanf.unescaped.

val index : string -> char -> int

String.index s c returns the index of the first occurrence of character c in string s.
Raise Not_found if c does not occur in s.

val index_opt : string -> char -> int option

String.index_opt s c returns the index of the first occurrence of character c in string s, or None if c does not occur in s.
Since: 4.05

val rindex : string -> char -> int

String.rindex s c returns the index of the last occurrence of character c in string s.
Raise Not_found if c does not occur in s.

val rindex_opt : string -> char -> int option

String.rindex_opt s c returns the index of the last occurrence of character c in string s, or None if c does not occur in s.
Since: 4.05

val index_from : string -> int -> char -> int

String.index_from s i c returns the index of the first occurrence of character c in string s after position i. String.index s c is equivalent to String.index_from s 0 c.
Raise Invalid_argument if i is not a valid position in s. Raise Not_found if c does not occur in s after position i.

val index_from_opt : string -> int -> char -> int option

String.index_from_opt s i c returns the index of the first occurrence of character c in string s after position i.
String.index_opt s c is equivalent to String.index_from_opt s 0 c. Raise Invalid_argument if i is not a valid position in s.
Since: 4.05

val rindex_from : string -> int -> char -> int

String.rindex_from s i c returns the index of the last occurrence of character c in string s before position i+1. String.rindex s c is equivalent to String.rindex_from s (String.length s - 1) c.
Raise Invalid_argument if i+1 is not a valid position in s. Raise Not_found if c does not occur in s before position i+1.
val rindex_from_opt : string -> int -> char -> int option

String.rindex_from_opt s i c returns the index of the last occurrence of character c in string s before position i+1 or None if c does not occur in s before position i+1.

String.rindex_opt s c is equivalent to String.rindex_from_opt s (String.length s - 1) c.

Raise Invalid_argument if i+1 is not a valid position in s.

Since: 4.05

val contains : string -> char -> bool

String.contains s c tests if character c appears in the string s.

val contains_from : string -> int -> char -> bool

String.contains_from s start c tests if character c appears in s after position start.
String.contains s c is equivalent to String.contains_from s 0 c.

Raise Invalid_argument if start is not a valid position in s.

val rcontains_from : string -> int -> char -> bool

String.rcontains_from s stop c tests if character c appears in s before position stop+1.

Raise Invalid_argument if stop < 0 or stop+1 is not a valid position in s.

val uppercase : string -> string

Deprecated. Functions operating on Latin-1 character set are deprecated. Return a copy of the argument, with all lowercase letters translated to uppercase, including accented letters of the ISO Latin-1 (8859-1) character set.

val lowercase : string -> string

Deprecated. Functions operating on Latin-1 character set are deprecated. Return a copy of the argument, with all uppercase letters translated to lowercase, including accented letters of the ISO Latin-1 (8859-1) character set.

val capitalize : string -> string

Deprecated. Functions operating on Latin-1 character set are deprecated. Return a copy of the argument, with the first character set to uppercase, using the ISO Latin-1 (8859-1) character set.

val uncapitalize : string -> string

Deprecated. Functions operating on Latin-1 character set are deprecated. Return a copy of the argument, with the first character set to lowercase, using the ISO Latin-1 (8859-1) character set.

val uppercase_ascii : string -> string
Return a copy of the argument, with all lowercase letters translated to uppercase, using the US-ASCII character set.

**Since:** 4.05.0

```ocaml
define lowercase_ascii : string -> string
  return a copy of the argument, with all uppercase letters translated to lowercase, using the US-ASCII character set.
  **Since:** 4.05.0
```

```ocaml
define capitalize_ascii : string -> string
  return a copy of the argument, with the first character set to uppercase, using the US-ASCII character set.
  **Since:** 4.05.0
```

```ocaml
define uncapitalize_ascii : string -> string
  return a copy of the argument, with the first character set to lowercase, using the US-ASCII character set.
  **Since:** 4.05.0
```

```ocaml
define type t = string
  an alias for the type of strings.
```

```ocaml
define val compare : t -> t -> int
  the comparison function for strings, with the same specification as compare[22.2]. along with the type t, this function compare allows the module String to be passed as argument to the functors Set.Make[23.42] and Map.Make[23.28].
```

```ocaml
define val equal : t -> t -> bool
  the equal function for strings.
  **Since:** 4.05.0
```

```ocaml
define val split_on_char : sep:char -> string -> string list
  String.split_on_char sep s returns the list of all (possibly empty) substrings of s that are delimited by the sep character.
  the function’s output is specified by the following invariants:
  • the list is not empty.
  • concatenating its elements using sep as a separator returns a string equal to the input (String.concat (String.make 1 sep) (String.split_on_char sep s) = s).
  • no string in the result contains the sep character.
  **Since:** 4.05.0
```
Iterators

val to_seq : t -> char Seq.t
   Iterate on the string, in increasing index order. Modifications of the string during iteration
   will be reflected in the iterator.
   Since: 4.07

val to_seqi : t -> (int * char) Seq.t
   Iterate on the string, in increasing order, yielding indices along chars
   Since: 4.07

val of_seq : char Seq.t -> t
   Create a string from the generator
   Since: 4.07

23.49 Module Sys : System interface.

Every function in this module raises Sys_error with an informative message when the underlying
system call signal an error.

val argv : string array
   The command line arguments given to the process. The first element is the command name
   used to invoke the program. The following elements are the command-line arguments given
to the program.

val executable_name : string
   The name of the file containing the executable currently running. This name may be
   absolute or relative to the current directory, depending on the platform and whether the
   program was compiled to bytecode or a native executable.

val file_exists : string -> bool
   Test if a file with the given name exists.

val is_directory : string -> bool
   Returns true if the given name refers to a directory, false if it refers to another kind of file.
   Raise Sys_error if no file exists with the given name.
   Since: 3.10.0

val remove : string -> unit
   Remove the given file name from the file system.

val rename : string -> string -> unit
Rename a file. `rename oldpath newpath` renames the file called `oldpath`, giving it `newpath` as its new name, moving it between directories if needed. If `newpath` already exists, its contents will be replaced with those of `oldpath`. Depending on the operating system, the metadata (permissions, owner, etc) of `newpath` can either be preserved or be replaced by those of `oldpath`.

**Since:** 4.06 concerning the "replace existing file" behavior

```ocaml
val getenv : string -> string
  Return the value associated to a variable in the process environment. Raise Not_found if the variable is unbound.

val getenv_opt : string -> string option
  Return the value associated to a variable in the process environment or None if the variable is unbound.
  **Since:** 4.05

val command : string -> int
  Execute the given shell command and return its exit code.

val time : unit -> float
  Return the processor time, in seconds, used by the program since the beginning of execution.

val chdir : string -> unit
  Change the current working directory of the process.

val getcwd : unit -> string
  Return the current working directory of the process.

val readdir : string -> string array
  Return the names of all files present in the given directory. Names denoting the current directory and the parent directory ("." and ".." in Unix) are not returned. Each string in the result is a file name rather than a complete path. There is no guarantee that the name strings in the resulting array will appear in any specific order; they are not, in particular, guaranteed to appear in alphabetical order.

val interactive : bool ref
  This reference is initially set to false in standalone programs and to true if the code is being executed under the interactive toplevel system ocaml.

val os_type : string
  Operating system currently executing the OCaml program. One of
  - "Unix" (for all Unix versions, including Linux and Mac OS X),
  - "Win32" (for MS-Windows, OCaml compiled with MSVC++ or Mingw),
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- "Cygwin" (for MS-Windows, OCaml compiled with Cygwin).

```ocaml
type backend_type =
  | Native
  | Bytecode
  | Other of string

Currently, the official distribution only supports Native and Bytecode, but it can be other backends with alternative compilers, for example, javascript.

Since: 4.04.0

val backend_type : backend_type
  Backend type currently executing the OCaml program.

Since: 4.04.0

val unix : bool
  True if Sys.os_type = "Unix".

Since: 4.01.0

val win32 : bool
  True if Sys.os_type = "Win32".

Since: 4.01.0

val cygwin : bool
  True if Sys.os_type = "Cygwin".

Since: 4.01.0

val word_size : int
  Size of one word on the machine currently executing the OCaml program, in bits: 32 or 64.

val int_size : int
  Size of int, in bits. It is 31 (resp. 63) when using OCaml on a 32-bit (resp. 64-bit) platform. It may differ for other implementations, e.g. it can be 32 bits when compiling to JavaScript.

Since: 4.03.0

val big_endian : bool
  Whether the machine currently executing the Caml program is big-endian.

Since: 4.00.0

val max_string_length : int
  Maximum length of strings and byte sequences.

val max_array_length : int
```
Maximum length of a normal array (i.e. any array whose elements are not of type float). The maximum length of a float array is max_floatarray_length if OCaml was configured with -enable-flat-float-array and max_array_length if configured with -disable-flat-float-array.

val max_floatarray_length : int
  Maximum length of a float array. This is also the maximum length of a float array when OCaml is configured with -enable-flat-float-array.

val runtime_variant : unit -> string
  Return the name of the runtime variant the program is running on. This is normally the argument given to -runtime-variant at compile time, but for byte-code it can be changed after compilation.
  Since: 4.03.0

val runtime_parameters : unit -> string
  Return the value of the runtime parameters, in the same format as the contents of the OCAMLRUNPARAM environment variable.
  Since: 4.03.0

Signal handling

type signal_behavior =
  | Signal_default
  | Signal_ignore
  | Signal_handle of (int -> unit)
  What to do when receiving a signal:

  • Signal_default: take the default behavior (usually: abort the program)
  • Signal_ignore: ignore the signal
  • Signal_handle f: call function f, giving it the signal number as argument.

val signal : int -> signal_behavior -> signal_behavior
  Set the behavior of the system on receipt of a given signal. The first argument is the signal number. Return the behavior previously associated with the signal. If the signal number is invalid (or not available on your system), an Invalid_argument exception is raised.

val set_signal : int -> signal_behavior -> unit
  Same as Sys.signal[23.49] but return value is ignored.
Signal numbers for the standard POSIX signals.

val sigabrt : int
   Abnormal termination

val sigalrm : int
   Timeout

val sigfpe : int
   Arithmetic exception

val sighup : int
   Hangup on controlling terminal

val sigill : int
   Invalid hardware instruction

val sigint : int
   Interactive interrupt (ctrl-C)

val sigkill : int
   Termination (cannot be ignored)

val sigpipe : int
   Broken pipe

val sigquit : int
   Interactive termination

val sigsegy : int
   Invalid memory reference

val sigterm : int
   Termination

val sigusr1 : int
   Application-defined signal 1

val sigusr2 : int
   Application-defined signal 2

val sigchld : int
   Child process terminated

val sigcont : int
Continue

val sigstop : int
Stop

val sigtstp : int
Interactive stop

val sigttin : int
Terminal read from background process

val sigttou : int
Terminal write from background process

val sigvtalrm : int
Timeout in virtual time

val sigprof : int
Profiling interrupt

val sigbus : int
Bus error
Since: 4.03

val sigpoll : int
Pollable event
Since: 4.03

val sigsys : int
Bad argument to routine
Since: 4.03

val sigtrap : int
Trace/breakpoint trap
Since: 4.03

val sigurg : int
Urgent condition on socket
Since: 4.03

val sigxcpu : int
Timeout in cpu time
Since: 4.03
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val sigxfsz : int
    File size limit exceeded
Since: 4.03

exception Break
    Exception raised on interactive interrupt if Sys.catch_break[23.49] is on.

val catch_break : bool -> unit
    catch_break governs whether interactive interrupt (ctrl-C) terminates the program or raises the Break exception. Call catch_break true to enable raising Break, and catch_break false to let the system terminate the program on user interrupt.

val ocaml_version : string
    ocaml_version is the version of OCaml. It is a string of the form "major.minor[.patchlevel][+additional-info]", where major, minor, and patchlevel are integers, and additional-info is an arbitrary string. The [.patchlevel] and [+additional-info] parts may be absent.

val enable_runtime_warnings : bool -> unit
    Control whether the OCaml runtime system can emit warnings on stderr. Currently, the only supported warning is triggered when a channel created by open_* functions is finalized without being closed. Runtime warnings are enabled by default.
Since: 4.03.0

val runtime_warnings_enabled : unit -> bool
    Return whether runtime warnings are currently enabled.
Since: 4.03.0

Optimization

val opaque_identity : 'a -> 'a
    For the purposes of optimization, opaque_identity behaves like an unknown (and thus possibly side-effecting) function.
At runtime, opaque_identity disappears altogether.
    A typical use of this function is to prevent pure computations from being optimized away in benchmarking loops. For example:

        for _round = 1 to 100_000 do
            ignore (Sys.opaque_identity (my_pure_computation ()))
        done

Since: 4.03.0
23.50 Module Uchar : Unicode characters.

Since: 4.03

type t
  The type for Unicode characters.
  A value of this type represents a Unicode scalar
  value[http://unicode.org/glossary/#unicode_scalar_value] which is an integer in the
  ranges 0x0000...0xD7FF or 0xE000...0x10FFFF.

val min : t
  min is U+0000.

val max : t
  max is U+10FFFF.

val bom : t
  bom is U+FEFF, the byte order mark[http://unicode.org/glossary/#byte_order_mark]
  (BOM) character.
  Since: 4.06.0

val rep : t
  rep is U+FFFD, the
  Since: 4.06.0

val succ : t -> t
  succ u is the scalar value after u in the set of Unicode scalar values.
  Raises Invalid_argument if u is Uchar.max[23.50].

val pred : t -> t
  pred u is the scalar value before u in the set of Unicode scalar values.
  Raises Invalid_argument if u is Uchar.min[23.50].

val is_valid : int -> bool
  is_valid n is true iff n is a Unicode scalar value (i.e. in the ranges 0x0000...0xD7FF or
  0xE000...0x10FFFF).

val of_int : int -> t
  of_int i is i as a Unicode character.
  Raises Invalid_argument if i does not satisfy Uchar.is_valid[23.50].

val to_int : t -> int
to_int u is u as an integer.

val is_char : t -> bool
  is_char u is true iff u is a latin1 OCaml character.

val of_char : char -> t
  of_char c is c as a Unicode character.

val to_char : t -> char
  to_char u is u as an OCaml latin1 character.
  Raises Invalid_argument if u does not satisfy Uchar.is_char[23.50].

val equal : t -> t -> bool
  equal u u' is u = u'.

val compare : t -> t -> int
  compare u u' is Stdlib.compare u u'.

val hash : t -> int
  hash u associates a non-negative integer to u.

23.51 Module Unit : Unit values.

Since: 4.08

The unit type

type t = unit =
  | ()
  The unit type.

  The constructor () is included here so that it has a path, but it is not intended to be used in user-defined data types.

val equal : t -> t -> bool
  equal u1 u2 is true.

val compare : t -> t -> int
  compare u1 u2 is 0.

val to_string : t -> string
  to_string b is "()".
23.52 Module Weak : Arrays of weak pointers and hash sets of weak pointers.

Low-level functions

type 'a t

The type of arrays of weak pointers (weak arrays). A weak pointer is a value that the garbage collector may erase whenever the value is not used any more (through normal pointers) by the program. Note that finalisation functions are run before the weak pointers are erased, because the finalisation functions can make values alive again (before 4.03 the finalisation functions were run after).

A weak pointer is said to be full if it points to a value, empty if the value was erased by the GC.

Notes:

• Integers are not allocated and cannot be stored in weak arrays.
• Weak arrays cannot be marshaled using output_value[22.2] nor the functions of the Marshal[23.29] module.

val create : int -> 'a t

Weak.create n returns a new weak array of length n. All the pointers are initially empty. Raise Invalid_argument if n is not comprised between zero and Obj.Ephemeron.max_ephe_length?[??] (limits included).

val length : 'a t -> int

Weak.length ar returns the length (number of elements) of ar.

val set : 'a t -> int -> 'a option -> unit

Weak.set ar n (Some el) sets the nth cell of ar to be a (full) pointer to el; Weak.set ar n None sets the nth cell of ar to empty. Raise Invalid_argument "Weak.set" if n is not in the range 0 to Weak.length[23.52] a - 1.

val get : 'a t -> int -> 'a option

Weak.get ar n returns None if the nth cell of ar is empty, Some x (where x is the value) if it is full. Raise Invalid_argument "Weak.get" if n is not in the range 0 to Weak.length[23.52] a - 1.

val get_copy : 'a t -> int -> 'a option

Weak.get_copy ar n returns None if the nth cell of ar is empty, Some x (where x is a (shallow) copy of the value) if it is full. In addition to pitfalls with mutable values, the interesting difference with get is that get_copy does not prevent the incremental GC from erasing the value in its current cycle (get may delay the erasure to the next GC cycle).
Raise Invalid_argument "Weak.get" if \( n \) is not in the range 0 to \( \text{Weak.length} \[23.52\] a - 1.

If the element is a custom block it is not copied.

val check : 'a t -> int -> bool

\[ \text{Weak.check \ ar \ n} \] returns true if the \( n \)th cell of \( \text{ar} \) is full, false if it is empty. Note that even if \( \text{Weak.check \ ar \ n} \) returns true, a subsequent \( \text{Weak.get} \[23.52\] \ ar \ n \) can return None.

val fill : 'a t -> int -> int -> 'a option -> unit

\[ \text{Weak.fill \ ar \ ofs \ len \ el} \] sets to \( \text{el} \) all pointers of \( \text{ar} \) from \( \text{ofs} \) to \( \text{ofs} + \text{len} - 1 \). Raise Invalid_argument "Weak.fill" if \( \text{ofs} \) and \( \text{len} \) do not designate a valid subarray of \( \text{a} \).

val blit : 'a t -> int -> 'a t -> int -> int -> unit

\[ \text{Weak.blit \ ar1 \ off1 \ ar2 \ off2 \ len} \] copies \( \text{len} \) weak pointers from \( \text{ar1} \) (starting at \( \text{off1} \)) to \( \text{ar2} \) (starting at \( \text{off2} \)). It works correctly even if \( \text{ar1} \) and \( \text{ar2} \) are the same. Raise Invalid_argument "Weak.blit" if \( \text{off1} \) and \( \text{len} \) do not designate a valid subarray of \( \text{ar1} \), or if \( \text{off2} \) and \( \text{len} \) do not designate a valid subarray of \( \text{ar2} \).

**Weak hash sets**

A weak hash set is a hashed set of values. Each value may magically disappear from the set when it is not used by the rest of the program any more. This is normally used to share data structures without inducing memory leaks. Weak hash sets are defined on values from a Hashtbl.Hashtbl[23.20] module; the equal relation and hash function are taken from that module. We will say that \( v \) is an instance of \( x \) if \( \text{equal \ x \ v} \) is true.

The equal relation must be able to work on a shallow copy of the values and give the same result as with the values themselves.

module type S =

sig

  type data

  The type of the elements stored in the table.

  type t

  The type of tables that contain elements of type data. Note that weak hash sets cannot be marshaled using output_value[22.2] or the functions of the Marshal[23.29] module.

  val create : int -> t

  create \( n \) creates a new empty weak hash set, of initial size \( n \). The table will grow as needed.

  val clear : t -> unit

  Remove all elements from the table.
val merge : t -> data -> data

merge t x returns an instance of x found in t if any, or else adds x to t and return x.

val add : t -> data -> unit

add t x adds x to t. If there is already an instance of x in t, it is unspecified which one will be returned by subsequent calls to find and merge.

val remove : t -> data -> unit

remove t x removes from t one instance of x. Does nothing if there is no instance of x in t.

val find : t -> data -> data

find t x returns an instance of x found in t. Raise Not_found if there is no such element.

val find_opt : t -> data -> data option

find_opt t x returns an instance of x found in t or None if there is no such element. Since: 4.05

val find_all : t -> data -> data list

find_all t x returns a list of all the instances of x found in t.

val mem : t -> data -> bool

mem t x returns true if there is at least one instance of x in t, false otherwise.

val iter : (data -> unit) -> t -> unit

iter f t calls f on each element of t, in some unspecified order. It is not specified what happens if f tries to change t itself.

val fold : (data -> 'a -> 'a) -> t -> 'a

fold f t init computes (f d1 (... (f dN init))) where d1 ... dN are the elements of t in some unspecified order. It is not specified what happens if f tries to change t itself.

val count : t -> int

Count the number of elements in the table. count t gives the same result as fold (fun _ n -> n+1) t 0 but does not delay the deallocation of the dead elements.

val stats : t -> int * int * int * int * int * int

Return statistics on the table. The numbers are, in order: table length, number of entries, sum of bucket lengths, smallest bucket length, median bucket length, biggest bucket length.
Chapter 23. The standard library

end

The output signature of the functor Weak.Make[23.52].

module Make :
  functor (H : Hashtbl.HashedType) -> S with type data = H.t

Functor building an implementation of the weak hash set structure. H.equal can’t be the physical equality, since only shallow copies of the elements in the set are given to it.

23.53 Ocaml_operators : Precedence level and associativity of operators

The following table lists the precedence level of all operator classes from the highest to the lowest precedence. A few other syntactic constructions are also listed as references.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operator class</th>
<th>Associativity</th>
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23.52 Weak.Make
Chapter 24

The compiler front-end

This chapter describes the OCaml front-end, which declares the abstract syntax tree used by the compiler, provides a way to parse, print and pretty-print OCaml code, and ultimately allows to write abstract syntax tree preprocessors invoked via the \texttt{-ppx} flag (see chapters 9 and 12).

It is important to note that the exported front-end interface follows the evolution of the OCaml language and implementation, and thus does not provide any backwards compatibility guarantees.

The front-end is a part of \texttt{compiler-libs} library. Programs that use the \texttt{compiler-libs} library should be built as follows:

\begin{verbatim}
  ocamlfind ocamlc other options -package compiler-libs.common other files
  ocamlfind ocamlopt other options -package compiler-libs.common other files
\end{verbatim}

Use of the \texttt{ocamlfind} utility is recommended. However, if this is not possible, an alternative method may be used:

\begin{verbatim}
  ocamlc other options -I +compiler-libs ocamlcommon.cma other files
  ocamlopt other options -I +compiler-libs ocamlcommon.cmxa other files
\end{verbatim}

For interactive use of the \texttt{compiler-libs} library, start \texttt{ocaml} and type

\begin{verbatim}
#load "compiler-libs/ocamlcommon.cma";;
\end{verbatim}

24.1 Module \texttt{Ast_mapper} : The interface of a \texttt{-ppx} rewriter

A \texttt{-ppx} rewriter is a program that accepts a serialized abstract syntax tree and outputs another, possibly modified, abstract syntax tree. This module encapsulates the interface between the compiler and the \texttt{-ppx} rewriters, handling such details as the serialization format, forwarding of command-line flags, and storing state.

\texttt{Ast_mapper.mapper}[24.1] allows to implement AST rewriting using open recursion. A typical mapper would be based on \texttt{Ast_mapper.default_mapper}[24.1], a deep identity mapper, and will fall back on it for handling the syntax it does not modify. For example:

\begin{verbatim}
open Asttypes
open Parsetree
open Ast_mapper
\end{verbatim}
let test_mapper argv =
{ default_mapper with
   expr = fun mapper expr ->
     match expr with
     | { pexp_desc = Pexp_extension (\{ txt = "test" \}, PStr [])} ->
       Ast_helper.Exp.constant (Const_int 42)
     | other -> default_mapper.expr mapper other; }

let () =
  register "ppx_test" test_mapper

This -ppx rewriter, which replaces [%test] in expressions with the constant 42, can be compiled using ocamlc -o ppx_test -I +compiler-libs ocamlcommon.cma ppx_test.ml.

Warning: this module is unstable and part of compiler-libs[24].

A generic Parsetree mapper

type mapper =
{ attribute : mapper -> Parsetree.attribute -> Parsetree.attribute ;
  attributes : mapper -> Parsetree.attribute list -> Parsetree.attribute list ;
  binding_op : mapper -> Parsetree.binding_op -> Parsetree.binding_op ;
  case : mapper -> Parsetree.case -> Parsetree.case ;
  cases : mapper -> Parsetree.case list -> Parsetree.case list ;
  class_declaration : mapper ->
    Parsetree.class_declaration -> Parsetree.class_declaration ;
  class_description : mapper ->
    Parsetree.class_description -> Parsetree.class_description ;
  class_expr : mapper -> Parsetree.class_expr -> Parsetree.class_expr ;
  class_field : mapper -> Parsetree.class_field -> Parsetree.class_field ;
  class_signature : mapper ->
    Parsetree.class_signature -> Parsetree.class_signature ;
  class_structure : mapper -> Parsetree.class_structure -> Parsetree.class_structure ;
  class_type : mapper -> Parsetree.class_type -> Parsetree.class_type ;
  class_type_declaration : mapper ->
    Parsetree.class_type_declaration -> Parsetree.class_type_declaration ;
  class_type_field : mapper -> Parsetree.class_type_field -> Parsetree.class_type_field ;
  constructor_declaration : mapper ->
    Parsetree.constructor_declaration -> Parsetree.constructor_declaration ;
  constructor_field : mapper -> Parsetree.constructor_field -> Parsetree.constructor_field ;
  extension : mapper -> Parsetree.extension -> Parsetree.extension ;
  extension_constructor : mapper ->
    Parsetree.extension_constructor -> Parsetree.extension_constructor ;
  include_declaration : mapper ->
    Parsetree.include_declaration -> Parsetree.include_declaration ;
  include_description : mapper ->
}
Parsetree.include_description -> Parsetree.include_description;
label_declaration : mapper ->
Parsetree.label_declaration -> Parsetree.label_declaration;
location : mapper -> Location.t -> Location.t;
module_binding : mapper -> Parsetree.module_binding -> Parsetree.module_binding;
module_declaration : mapper ->
Parsetree.module_declaration -> Parsetree.module_declaration;
module_substitution : mapper ->
Parsetree.module_substitution -> Parsetree.module_substitution;
module_expr : mapper -> Parsetree.module_expr -> Parsetree.module_expr;
module_type : mapper -> Parsetree.module_type -> Parsetree.module_type;
module_type_declaration : mapper ->
Parsetree.module_type_declaration -> Parsetree.module_type_declaration;
onopen_declaration : mapper -> Parsetree.open_declaration -> Parsetree.open_declaration;
onopen_description : mapper -> Parsetree.open_description -> Parsetree.open_description;
pat : mapper -> Parsetree.pattern -> Parsetree.pattern;
payload : mapper -> Parsetree.payload -> Parsetree.payload;
signature : mapper -> Parsetree.signature -> Parsetree.signature;
signature_item : mapper -> Parsetree.signature_item -> Parsetree.signature_item;
structure : mapper -> Parsetree.structure -> Parsetree.structure;
structure_item : mapper -> Parsetree.structure_item -> Parsetree.structure_item;
typ : mapper -> Parsetree.core_type -> Parsetree.core_type;
type_declaration : mapper -> Parsetree.type_declaration -> Parsetree.type_declaration;
type_extension : mapper -> Parsetree.type_extension -> Parsetree.type_extension;
type_exception : mapper -> Parsetree.type_exception -> Parsetree.type_exception;
type_kind : mapper -> Parsetree.type_kind -> Parsetree.type_kind;
value_binding : mapper -> Parsetree.value_binding -> Parsetree.value_binding;
value_description : mapper ->
Parsetree.value_description -> Parsetree.value_description;
with_constraint : mapper -> Parsetree.with_constraint -> Parsetree.with_constraint;
}

A mapper record implements one "method" per syntactic category, using an open recursion style: each method takes as its first argument the mapper to be applied to children in the syntax tree.

val default_mapper : mapper

A default mapper, which implements a "deep identity" mapping.

Apply mappers to compilation units

val tool_name : unit -> string

Can be used within a ppx preprocessor to know which tool is calling it "ocamlc",
"ocamlopt", "ocamldoc", "ocamldep", "ocaml", ... Some global variables that reflect command-line options are automatically synchronized between the calling tool and the ppx
preprocessor: Clflags.include_dirs[??], Load_path[??], Clflags.open_modules[??], Clflags.for_package[??], Clflags.debug[??].

val apply : source:string -> target:string -> mapper -> unit
Apply a mapper (parametrized by the unit name) to a dumped parsetree found in the source file and put the result in the target file. The structure or signature field of the mapper is applied to the implementation or interface.

val run_main : (string list -> mapper) -> unit
Entry point to call to implement a standalone -ppx rewriter from a mapper, parametrized by the command line arguments. The current unit name can be obtained from Location.input_name[24.3]. This function implements proper error reporting for uncaught exceptions.

Registration API
val register_function : (string -> (string list -> mapper) -> unit) ref
val register : string -> (string list -> mapper) -> unit
Apply the register_function. The default behavior is to run the mapper immediately, taking arguments from the process command line. This is to support a scenario where a mapper is linked as a stand-alone executable.

It is possible to overwrite the register_function to define "-ppx drivers", which combine several mappers in a single process. Typically, a driver starts by defining register_function to a custom implementation, then lets ppx rewriters (linked statically or dynamically) register themselves, and then run all or some of them. It is also possible to have -ppx drivers apply rewriters to only specific parts of an AST.

The first argument to register is a symbolic name to be used by the ppx driver.

Convenience functions to write mappers
val map_opt : ('a -> 'b) -> 'a option -> 'b option
val extension_of_error : Location.error -> Parsetree.extension
Encode an error into an 'ocaml.error' extension node which can be inserted in a generated Parsetree. The compiler will be responsible for reporting the error.

val attribute_of_warning : Location.t -> string -> Parsetree.attribute
Encode a warning message into an 'ocaml.ppwarning' attribute which can be inserted in a generated Parsetree. The compiler will be responsible for reporting the warning.
Helper functions to call external mappers

val add_ppx_context_str : tool_name:string -> Parsetree.structure -> Parsetree.structure
  Extract information from the current environment and encode it into an attribute which is
  prepended to the list of structure items in order to pass the information to an external
  processor.

val add_ppx_context_sig : tool_name:string -> Parsetree.signature -> Parsetree.signature
  Same as add_ppx_context_str, but for signatures.

val drop_ppx_context_str : restore:bool -> Parsetree.structure -> Parsetree.structure
  Drop the ocaml.ppx.context attribute from a structure. If restore is true, also restore the
  associated data in the current process.

val drop_ppx_context_sig : restore:bool -> Parsetree.signature -> Parsetree.signature
  Same as drop_ppx_context_str, but for signatures.

Cookies
Cookies are used to pass information from a ppx processor to a further invocation of itself, when
called from the OCaml toplevel (or other tools that support cookies).

val set_cookie : string -> Parsetree.expression -> unit
val get_cookie : string -> Parsetree.expression option

24.2 Module Asttypes : Auxiliary AST types used by parsetree
and typedtree.

Warning: this module is unstable and part of compiler-libs[24].

type constant =
| Const_int of int
| Const_char of char
| Const_string of string * string option
| Const_float of string
| Const_int32 of int32
| Const_int64 of int64
| Const_nativeint of nativeint

type rec_flag =
| Nonrecursive
| Recursive
type direction_flag =
  | Upto
  | Downto

type private_flag =
  | Private
  | Public
type mutable_flag =
  | Immutable
  | Mutable
type virtual_flag =
  | Virtual
  | Concrete
type override_flag =
  | Override
  | Fresh
type closed_flag =
  | Closed
  | Open
type label = string
type arg_label =
  | Nolabel
  | Labelled of string
  | Optional of string
type 'a loc = 'a Location.loc =
  {  txt : 'a ;
     loc : Location.t ;
  }
type variance =
  | Covariant
  | Contravariant
  | Invariant

24.3 Module Location: Source code locations (ranges of positions), used in parsetree

Warning: this module is unstable and part of compiler-libs[24].

type t = Warnings.loc =
{  loc_start : Lexing.position ;
  loc_end : Lexing.position ;
  loc_ghost : bool ;
Note on the use of Lexing.position in this module. If \( \text{pos\_fname} = "" \), then use \( \text{!input\_name} \) instead. If \( \text{pos\_lnum} = -1 \), then \( \text{pos\_bol} = 0 \). Use \( \text{pos\_cnum} \) and re-parse the file to get the line and character numbers. Else all fields are correct.

\[
\text{val none : t}
\]

An arbitrary value of type \( t \); describes an empty ghost range.

\[
\text{val in\_file : string -> t}
\]

Return an empty ghost range located in a given file.

\[
\text{val init : Lexing.lexbuf -> string -> unit}
\]

Set the file name and line number of the \text{lexbuf} to be the start of the named file.

\[
\text{val curr : Lexing.lexbuf -> t}
\]

Get the location of the current token from the \text{lexbuf}.

\[
\text{val symbol\_rloc : unit -> t}
\]

\[
\text{val symbol\_gloc : unit -> t}
\]

\[
\text{val rhs\_loc : int -> t}
\]

\( \text{rhs\_loc} \ n \) returns the location of the symbol at position \( n \), starting at 1, in the current parser rule.

\[
\text{val rhs\_interval : int -> int -> t}
\]

\[
\text{val get\_pos\_info : Lexing.position -> string * int * int}
\]

\( \text{file, line, char} \)

\[
\text{type 'a loc =}
\]

\{ \text{txt : 'a ;}

\text{loc : t ;}
\}

\[
\text{val mknoloc : 'a -> 'a loc}
\]

\[
\text{val mkloc : 'a -> t -> 'a loc}
\]

\textbf{Input info}

\[
\text{val input\_name : string ref}
\]

\[
\text{val input\_lexbuf : Lexing.lexbuf option ref}
\]

\textbf{Toplevel-specific functions}

\[
\text{val echo\_eof : unit -> unit}
\]

\[
\text{val reset : unit -> unit}
\]
Printing locations

val rewrite_absolute_path : string -> string
rewrite absolute path to honor the BUILD_PATH_PREFIX_MAP variable
(https://reproducible-builds.org/specs/build-path-prefix-map/) if it is set.

val absolute_path : string -> string
val show_filename : string -> string
In -absname mode, return the absolute path for this filename. Otherwise, returns the
filename unchanged.

val print_filename : Format.formatter -> string -> unit
val print_loc : Format.formatter -> t -> unit
val print_locs : Format.formatter -> t list -> unit

Toplevel-specific location highlighting

val highlight_terminfo : Lexing.lexbuf -> Format.formatter -> t list -> unit

Reporting errors and warnings

The type of reports and report printers

type msg = (Format.formatter -> unit) loc
val msg : ?loc:t ->
  ('a, Format.formatter, unit, msg) format4 -> 'a

type report_kind =
  | Report_error
  | Report_warning of string
  | Report_warning_as_error of string
  | Report_alert of string
  | Report_alert_as_error of string

type report =
  { kind : report_kind ;
    main : msg ;
    sub : msg list ;
  };

type report_printer =
  { pp : report_printer -> Format.formatter -> report -> unit ;
    pp_report_kind : report_printer ->
      report -> Format.formatter -> report_kind -> unit ;
    pp_main_loc : report_printer ->
      report -> Format.formatter -> t -> unit ;
    pp_main_txt : report_printer ->
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report ->
Format.formatter -> (Format.formatter -> unit) -> unit ;
pp_submsgs : report_printer ->
report -> Format.formatter -> msg list -> unit ;
pp_submsg : report_printer ->
report -> Format.formatter -> msg -> unit ;
pp_submsg_loc : report_printer ->
report -> Format.formatter -> t -> unit ;
pp_submsg_txt : report_printer ->
report ->
Format.formatter -> (Format.formatter -> unit) -> unit ;

}  

A printer for reports, defined using open-recursion. The goal is to make it easy to define new printers by re-using code from existing ones.

Report printers used in the compiler

val batch_mode_printer : report_printer
val terminfo_toplevel_printer : Lexing.lexbuf -> report_printer
val best_toplevel_printer : unit -> report_printer
    Detects the terminal capabilities and selects an adequate printer

Printing a report

val print_report : Format.formatter -> report -> unit
    Display an error or warning report.

val report_printer : (unit -> report_printer) ref
    Hook for redefining the printer of reports.
    The hook is a unit -> report_printer and not simply a report_printer: this is useful so that it can detect the type of the output (a file, a terminal, ...) and select a printer accordingly.

val default_report_printer : unit -> report_printer
    Original report printer for use in hooks.

Reporting warnings

Converting a Warnings.t into a report

val report_warning : t -> Warnings.t -> report option
    report_warning loc w produces a report for the given warning w, or None if the warning is not to be printed.
val warning_reporter : (t -> Warnings.t -> report option) ref
  Hook for intercepting warnings.

val default_warning_reporter : t -> Warnings.t -> report option
  Original warning reporter for use in hooks.

Printing warnings

val formatter_for_warnings : Format.formatter ref
val print_warning : t -> Format.formatter -> Warnings.t -> unit
  Prints a warning. This is simply the composition of report_warning and print_report.
val prerr_warning : t -> Warnings.t -> unit
  Same as print_warning, but uses !formatter_for_warnings as output formatter.

Reporting alerts

Converting an Alert.t into a report

val report_alert : t -> Warnings.alert -> report option
  report_alert loc w produces a report for the given alert w, or None if the alert is not to be printed.

val alert_reporter : (t -> Warnings.alert -> report option) ref
  Hook for intercepting alerts.

val default_alert_reporter : t -> Warnings.alert -> report option
  Original alert reporter for use in hooks.

Printing alerts

val print_alert : t -> Format.formatter -> Warnings.alert -> unit
  Prints an alert. This is simply the composition of report_alert and print_report.
val prerr_alert : t -> Warnings.alert -> unit
  Same as print_alert, but uses !formatter_for_warnings as output formatter.

val deprecated : ?def:t -> ?use:t -> kind:string -> t -> string -> unit
  Prints a deprecation alert.

val alert : ?def:t ->?
  ?use:t -> kind:string -> t -> string -> unit
  Prints an arbitrary alert.
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Reporting errors

type error = report

An error is a report which report_kind must be Report_error.

val error : ?loc:t -> ?sub:msg list -> string -> error
val errorf :
  ?loc:t ->
  ?sub:msg list ->
  ('a, Format.formatter, unit, error) format4 -> 'a
val error_of_printer :
  ?loc:t ->
  ?sub:msg list ->
  (Format.formatter -> 'a -> unit) -> 'a -> error
val error_of_printer_file : (Format.formatter -> 'a -> unit) -> 'a -> error

Automatically reporting errors for raised exceptions

val register_error_of_exn : (exn -> error option) -> unit

Each compiler module which defines a custom type of exception which can surface as a user-visible error should register a "printer" for this exception using register_error_of_exn. The result of the printer is an error value containing a location, a message, and optionally sub-messages (each of them being located as well).

val error_of_exn : exn -> [ Already_displayed | Ok of error ] option
exception Error of error

Raising Error e signals an error e; the exception will be caught and the error will be printed.

exception Already_displayed_error

Raising Already_displayed_error signals an error which has already been printed. The exception will be caught, but nothing will be printed.

val raise_errorf :
  ?loc:t ->
  ?sub:msg list ->
  ('a, Format.formatter, unit, 'b) format4 -> 'a
val report_exception : Format.formatter -> exn -> unit

Reraise the exception if it is unknown.
24.4 Module Longident : Long identifiers, used in parsetree.

Warning: this module is unstable and part of compiler-libs[24].

type t =
  | Lident of string
  | Ldot of t * string
  | Lapply of t * t
val flatten : t -> string list
val unflatten : string list -> t option
val last : t -> string
val parse : string -> t

To print a longident, see Pprintast.longident[24.7], using Format.asprintf[23.16] to convert to a string.

24.5 Module Parse : Entry points in the parser

Warning: this module is unstable and part of compiler-libs[24].

val implementation : Lexing.lexbuf -> Parsetree.structure
val interface : Lexing.lexbuf -> Parsetree.signature
val toplevel_phrase : Lexing.lexbuf -> Parsetree.toplevel_phrase
val use_file : Lexing.lexbuf -> Parsetree.toplevel_phrase list
val core_type : Lexing.lexbuf -> Parsetree.core_type
val expression : Lexing.lexbuf -> Parsetree.expression
val pattern : Lexing.lexbuf -> Parsetree.pattern

24.6 Module Parsetree : Abstract syntax tree produced by parsing

Warning: this module is unstable and part of compiler-libs[24].

type constant =
  | Pconst_integer of string * char option
  | Pconst_char of char
  | Pconst_string of string * string option
  | Pconst_float of string * char option

Extension points

type attribute =
{ attr_name : string Asttypes.loc ;
  attr_payload : payload ;
  attr_loc : Location.t ;
}

type extension = string Asttypes.loc * payload

type attributes = attribute list

type payload =
  | PStr of structure
  | PSig of signature
  | PTyp of core_type
  | PPat of pattern * expression option

Core language

type core_type =
{ ptyp_desc : core_type_desc ;
  ptyp_loc : Location.t ;
  ptyp_loc_stack : Location.t list ;
  ptyp_attributes : attributes ;
}

type core_type_desc =
  | Ptyp_any
  | Ptyp_var of string
  | Ptyp_arrow of Asttypes.arg_label * core_type * core_type
  | Ptyp_tuple of core_type list
  | Ptyp_constr of Longident.t Asttypes.loc * core_type list
  | Ptyp_object of object_field list * Asttypes.closed_flag
  | Ptyp_class of Longident.t Asttypes.loc * core_type list
  | Ptyp_alias of core_type * string
  | Ptyp_variant of row_field list * Asttypes.closed_flag * Asttypes.label list option
  | Ptyp_poly of string Asttypes.loc list * core_type
  | Ptyp_package of package_type
  | Ptyp_extension of extension

type package_type = Longident.t Asttypes.loc *
  (Longident.t Asttypes.loc * core_type) list

type row_field =
{ prf_desc : row_field_desc ;
  prf_loc : Location.t ;
  prf_attributes : attributes ;
}

type row_field_desc =
  | Rtag of Asttypes.label Asttypes.loc * bool * core_type list
  | Rinherit of core_type

type object_field =
{  pof_desc : object_field_desc ;
  pof_loc : Location.t ;
  pof_attributes : attributes ;
}

type object_field_desc =
  | Otag of Asttypes.label Asttypes.loc * core_type
  | Oinherit of core_type

type pattern =
{  ppat_desc : pattern_desc ;
  ppat_loc : Location.t ;
  ppat_loc_stack : Location.t list ;
  ppat_attributes : attributes ;
}

type pattern_desc =
  | Ppat_any
  | Ppat_var of string Asttypes.loc
  | Ppat_alias of pattern * string Asttypes.loc
  | Ppat_constant of constant
  | Ppat_interval of constant * constant
  | Ppat_tuple of pattern list
  | Ppat_construct of Longident.t Asttypes.loc * pattern option
  | Ppat_variant of Asttypes.label * pattern option
  | Ppat_record of (Longident.t Asttypes.loc * pattern) list * Asttypes.closed_flag
  | Ppat_array of pattern list
  | Ppat_or of pattern * pattern
  | Ppat_constraint of pattern * core_type
  | Ppat_type of Longident.t Asttypes.loc
  | Ppat_lazy of pattern
  | Ppat_unpack of string Asttypes.loc
  | Ppat_exception of pattern
  | Ppat_extension of extension
  | Ppat_open of Longident.t Asttypes.loc * pattern

type expression =
{  pexp_desc : expression_desc ;
  pexp_loc : Location.t ;
  pexp_loc_stack : Location.t list ;
  pexp_attributes : attributes ;
}

type expression_desc =
  | Pexp_ident of Longident.t Asttypes.loc
  | Pexp_constant of constant
  | Pexp_let of Asttypes.rec_flag * value_binding list * expression
  | Pexp_function of case list
  | Pexp_fun of Asttypes.arg_label * expression option * pattern
* expression
| Pexp_apply of expression * (Asttypes.arg_label * expression) list
| Pexp_match of expression * case list
| Pexp_try of expression * case list
| Pexp_tuple of expression list
| Pexp_construct of Longident.t Asttypes.loc * expression option
| Pexp_variant of Asttypes.label * expression option
| Pexp_record of (Longident.t Asttypes.loc * expression) list
* expression option
| Pexp_field of expression * Longident.t Asttypes.loc
| Pexp_setfield of expression * Longident.t Asttypes.loc * expression
| Pexp_array of expression list
| Pexp_ifthenelse of expression * expression * expression option
| Pexp_sequence of expression * expression
| Pexp_while of expression * expression
| Pexp_for of pattern * expression * expression
* Asttypes.direction_flag * expression
| Pexp_constraint of expression * core_type
| Pexp_coerce of expression * core_type option * core_type
| Pexp_send of expression * Asttypes.label Asttypes.loc
| Pexp_new of Longident.t Asttypes.loc
| Pexp_setinstvar of Asttypes.label Asttypes.loc * expression
| Pexp_override of (Asttypes.label Asttypes.loc * expression) list
| Pexp_letmodule of string Asttypes.loc * module_expr * expression
| Pexp_letexception of extension_constructor * expression
| Pexp_assert of expression
| Pexp_lazy of expression
| Pexp_poly of expression * core_type option
| Pexp_object of class_structure
| Pexp_newtype of string Asttypes.loc * expression
| Pexp_pack of module_expr
| Pexp_open of open_declaration * expression
| Pexp_letop of letop
| Pexp_extension of extension
| Pexp_unreachable

type case =
{ pc_lhs : pattern ;
  pc_guard : expression option ;
  pc_rhs : expression ;
}

type letop =
{ let_ : binding_op ;
  ands : binding_op list ;
  body : expression ;
}
type binding_op =
{ pbop_op : string Asttypes.loc ;
  pbop_pat : pattern ;
  pbop_exp : expression ;
  pbop_loc : Location.t ;
}

type value_description =
{ pval_name : string Asttypes.loc ;
  pval_type : core_type ;
  pval_prim : string list ;
  pval_attributes : attributes ;
  pval_loc : Location.t ;
}

type type_declaration =
{ ptype_name : string Asttypes.loc ;
  ptype_params : (core_type * Asttypes.variance) list ;
  ptype_cstrs : (core_type * core_type * Location.t) list ;
  ptype_kind : type_kind ;
  ptype_private : Asttypes.private_flag ;
  ptype_manifest : core_type option ;
  ptype_attributes : attributes ;
  ptype_loc : Location.t ;
}

type type_kind =
| Ptype_abstract
| Ptype_variant of constructor_declaration list
| Ptype_record of label_declaration list
| Ptype_open

type label_declaration =
{ pld_name : string Asttypes.loc ;
  pld.mutable : Asttypes.mutable_flag ;
  pld_type : core_type ;
  pld_loc : Location.t ;
  pld_attributes : attributes ;
}

type constructor_declaration =
{ pcd_name : string Asttypes.loc ;
  pcd_args : constructor_arguments ;
  pcd_res : core_type option ;
  pcd_loc : Location.t ;
  pcd_attributes : attributes ;
}

type constructor_arguments =
| Pcstr_tuple of core_type list
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Pcstr_record of label_declaration list

type type_extension =
{ ptyext_path : Longident.t Asttypes.loc ;
  ptyext_params : (core_type * Asttypes.variance) list ;
  ptyext_constructors : extension_constructor list ;
  ptyext_private : Asttypes.private_flag ;
  ptyext_loc : Location.t ;
  ptyext_attributes : attributes ;
}

type extension_constructor =
{ pext_name : string Asttypes.loc ;
  pext_kind : extension_constructor_kind ;
  pext_loc : Location.t ;
  pext_attributes : attributes ;
}

type type_exception =
{ ptyexn_constructor : extension_constructor ;
  ptyexn_loc : Location.t ;
  ptyexn_attributes : attributes ;
}

type extension_constructor_kind =
  | Pext_decl of constructor_arguments * core_type option
  | Pext_rebind of Longident.t Asttypes.loc

Class language

type class_type =
{ pcty_desc : class_type_desc ;
  pcty_loc : Location.t ;
  pcty_attributes : attributes ;
}

type class_type_desc =
  | Pcty_constr of Longident.t Asttypes.loc * core_type list
  | Pcty_signature of class_signature
  | Pcty_arrow of Asttypes.arg_label * core_type * class_type
  | Pcty_extension of extension
  | Pcty_open of open_description * class_type

type class_signature =
{ pcsig_self : core_type ;
  pcsig_fields : class_type_field list ;
}

type class_type_field =
{ pctf_desc : class_type_field_desc ;
  pctf_loc : Location.t ;
}
type class_type_field_desc =
| Pctf_inherit of class_type
| Pctf_val of (Asttypes.label Asttypes.loc * Asttypes.mutable_flag * Asttypes.virtual_flag * core_type)
| Pctf_method of (Asttypes.label Asttypes.loc * Asttypes.private_flag * Asttypes.virtual_flag * core_type)
| Pctf_constraint of (core_type * core_type)
| Pctf_attribute of attribute
| Pctf_extension of extension

type 'a class_infos =
{ pci_virt : Asttypes.virtual_flag ;
  pci_params : (core_type * Asttypes.variance) list ;
  pci_name : string Asttypes.loc ;
  pci_expr : 'a ;
  pci_loc : Location.t ;
  pci_attributes : attributes ;
}

type class_description = class_type class_infos

type class_type_declaration = class_type class_infos

type class_expr =
{ pcl_desc : class_expr_desc ;
  pcl_loc : Location.t ;
  pcl_attributes : attributes ;
}

type class_expr_desc =
| Pcl_constr of Longident.t Asttypes.loc * core_type list
| Pcl_structure of class_structure
| Pcl_fun of Asttypes.arg_label * expression option * pattern * class_expr
| Pcl_apply of class_expr * (Asttypes.arg_label * expression) list
| Pcl_let of Asttypes.rec_flag * value_binding list * class_expr
| Pcl_constraint of class_expr * class_type
| Pcl_extension of extension
| Pcl_open of open_description * class_expr

type class_structure =
{ pcstr_self : pattern ;
  pcstr_fields : class_field list ;
}

type class_field =
{ pcf_desc : class_field_desc ;
  pcf_loc : Location.t ;
  pcf_attributes : attributes ;
}
type class_field_desc =
  | Pcf_inherit of Asttypes.override_flag * class_expr * string Asttypes.loc option
  | Pcf_val of (Asttypes.label Asttypes.loc * Asttypes.mutable_flag * class_field_kind)
  | Pcf_method of (Asttypes.label Asttypes.loc * Asttypes.private_flag * class_field_kind)
  | Pcf_constraint of (core_type * core_type)
  | Pcf_initializer of expression
  | Pcf_attribute of attribute
  | Pcf_extension of extension

type class_field_kind =
  | Cfk_virtual of core_type
  | Cfk_concrete of Asttypes.override_flag * expression

type class_declaration = class_expr class_infos

Module language

type module_type =
{ pmty_desc : module_type_desc ;
  pmty_loc : Location.t ;
  pmty_attributes : attributes ;
}

type module_type_desc =
  | Pmty_ident of Longident.t Asttypes.loc
  | Pmty_signature of signature
  | Pmty_functor of string Asttypes.loc * module_type option * module_type
  | Pmty_with of module_type * with_constraint list
  | Pmty_typeof of module_expr
  | Pmty_extension of extension
  | Pmty_alias of Longident.t Asttypes.loc

type signature = signature_item list

type signature_item =
{ psig_desc : signature_item_desc ;
  psig_loc : Location.t ;
}

type signature_item_desc =
  | Psig_value of value_description
  | Psig_type of Asttypes.rec_flag * type_declaration list
  | Psig_typesubst of type_declaration list
  | Psig_typext of type_extension
  | Psig_exception of type_exception
  | Psig_module of module_declaration
  | Psig_modsubst of module_substitution
| Psig_recmodule of module_declaration list
| Psig_modtype of module_type_declaration
| Psig_open of open_description
| Psig_include of include_description
| Psig_class of class_description list
| Psig_class_type of class_type_declaration list
| Psig_attribute of attribute
| Psig_extension of extension * attributes

type module_declaration =
{ pmd_name : string Asttypes.loc ;
  pmd_type : module_type ;
  pmd_attributes : attributes ;
  pmd_loc : Location.t ;
}
type module_substitution =
{ pms_name : string Asttypes.loc ;
  pms_manifest : Longident.t Asttypes.loc ;
  pms_attributes : attributes ;
  pms_loc : Location.t ;
}
type module_type_declaration =
{ pmtd_name : string Asttypes.loc ;
  pmtd_type : module_type option ;
  pmtd_attributes : attributes ;
  pmtd_loc : Location.t ;
}
type 'a open_infos =
{ popen_expr : 'a ;
  popen_override : Asttypes.override_flag ;
  popen_loc : Location.t ;
  popen_attributes : attributes ;
}
type open_description = Longident.t Asttypes.loc open_infos
type open_declaration = module_expr open_infos
type 'a include_infos =
{ pincl_mod : 'a ;
  pincl_loc : Location.t ;
  pincl_attributes : attributes ;
}
type include_description = module_type include_infos
type include_declaration = module_expr include_infos
type with_constraint =
| Pwith_type of Longident.t Asttypes.loc * type_declaration
| Pwith_module of Longident.t Asttypes.loc * Longident.t Asttypes.loc
| Pwith_typesubst of Longident.t Asttypes.loc * type_declaration
| Pwith_modsubst of Longident.t Asttypes.loc * Longident.t Asttypes.loc

type module_expr =
{ pmod_desc : module_expr_desc ;
  pmod_loc : Location.t ;
  pmod_attributes : attributes ;
}

type module_expr_desc =
  | Pmod_ident of Longident.t Asttypes.loc
  | Pmod_structure of structure
  | Pmod_functor of string Asttypes.loc * module_type option * module_expr
  | Pmod_apply of module_expr * module_expr
  | Pmod_constraint of module_expr * module_type
  | Pmod_unpack of expression
  | Pmod_extension of extension

type structure = structure_item list

type structure_item =
{ pstr_desc : structure_item_desc ;
  pstr_loc : Location.t ;
}

type structure_item_desc =
  | Pstr_eval of expression * attributes
  | Pstr_value of Asttypes.rec_flag * value_binding list
  | Pstr_primitive of value_description
  | Pstr_type of Asttypes.rec_flag * type_declaration list
  | Pstr_typext of type_extension
  | Pstr_exception of type_exception
  | Pstr_module of module_binding
  | Pstr_recmodule of module_binding list
  | Pstr_modtype of module_type_declaration
  | Pstr_open of open_declaration
  | Pstr_class of class_declaration list
  | Pstr_class_type of class_type_declaration list
  | Pstr_include of include_declaration
  | Pstr_attribute of attribute
  | Pstr_extension of extension * attributes

type value_binding =
{ pvb_pat : pattern ;
  pvb_expr : expression ;
  pvb_attributes : attributes ;
  pvb_loc : Location.t ;
}

type module_binding =
{ pmb_name : string Asttypes.loc ;
  pmb_expr : module_expr ;
  pmb_attributes : attributes ;
  pmb_loc : Location.t ;
}

Toplevel

type toplevel_phrase =
  | Ptop_def of structure
  | Ptop_dir of toplevel_directive
type toplevel_directive =
  { pdir_name : string Asttypes.loc ;
    pdir_arg : directive_argument option ;
    pdir_loc : Location.t ;
  }
type directive_argument =
  { pdira_desc : directive_argument_desc ;
    pdira_loc : Location.t ;
  }
type directive_argument_desc =
  | Pdir_string of string
  | Pdir_int of string * char option
  | Pdir_ident of Longident.t
  | Pdir_bool of bool

24.7 Module Pprintast : Pretty-printers for Parsetree[24.6]

Warning: this module is unstable and part of compiler-libs[24].

type space_formatter = (unit, Format.formatter, unit) format
val longident : Format.formatter -> Longident.t -> unit
val expression : Format.formatter -> Parsetree.expression -> unit
val string_of_expression : Parsetree.expression -> string
val pattern : Format.formatter -> Parsetree.pattern -> unit
val core_type : Format.formatter -> Parsetree.core_type -> unit
val signature : Format.formatter -> Parsetree.signature -> unit
val structure : Format.formatter -> Parsetree.structure -> unit
val string_of_structure : Parsetree.structure -> string
val toplevel_phrase : Format.formatter -> Parsetree.toplevel_phrase -> unit
val top_phrase : Format.formatter -> Parsetree.toplevel_phrase -> unit
val tyvar : Format.formatter -> string -> unit
Print a type variable name, taking care of the special treatment required for the single quote character in second position.
Chapter 25

The unix library: Unix system calls

The unix library makes many Unix system calls and system-related library functions available to OCaml programs. This chapter describes briefly the functions provided. Refer to sections 2 and 3 of the Unix manual for more details on the behavior of these functions.

Not all functions are provided by all Unix variants. If some functions are not available, they will raise Invalid_arg when called.

Programs that use the unix library must be linked as follows:

```
ocamlc other options unix.cma other files
ocamlopt other options unix.cmxa other files
```

For interactive use of the unix library, do:

```
ocamlmktop -o mytop unix.cma
./mytop
```

or (if dynamic linking of C libraries is supported on your platform), start ocaml and type

```
#load "unix.cma";;
```

Windows:
A fairly complete emulation of the Unix system calls is provided in the Windows version of OCaml. The end of this chapter gives more information on the functions that are not supported under Windows.

25.1 Module Unix: Interface to the Unix system.

Note: all the functions of this module (except Unix.error_message[25.1] and Unix.handle_unix_error[25.1]) are liable to raise the Unix.Unix_error[25.1] exception whenever the underlying system call signals an error.

Error report

```
type error =
   | E2BIG
```
Argument list too long

| EACCESS  | Permission denied
| EAGAIN   | Resource temporarily unavailable; try again
| EBADF    | Bad file descriptor
| EBUSY    | Resource unavailable
| ECHILD   | No child process
| EDEADLK  | Resource deadlock would occur
| EDOM     | Domain error for math functions, etc.
| EEXIST   | File exists
| EFAULT   | Bad address
| EFBIG    | File too large
| EINTR    | Function interrupted by signal
| EINVAL   | Invalid argument
| EIO      | Hardware I/O error
| EISDIR   | Is a directory
| EMFILE   | Too many open files by the process
| EMLINK   | Too many links
| ENAMETOOLONG |
Filename too long
  | ENFILE
  | Too many open files in the system
| ENODEV
| No such device
| ENOENT
| No such file or directory
| ENOEXEC
| Not an executable file
| ENOLCK
| No locks available
| ENOMEM
| Not enough memory
| ENOSPC
| No space left on device
| ENOSYS
| Function not supported
| ENOTDIR
| Not a directory
| ENOTEMPTY
| Directory not empty
| ENOTTY
| Inappropriate I/O control operation
| ENXIO
| No such device or address
| EPERM
| Operation not permitted
| EPIPE
| Broken pipe
| ERANGE
| Result too large
| EROFS
| Read-only file system
| ESPIPE
Invalid seek e.g. on a pipe
| ESRCH                  
| No such process
| EXDEV                 
| Invalid link
| EWOULDDBLOCK          
| Operation would block
| EINPROGRESS           
| Operation now in progress
| EALREADY              
| Operation already in progress
| ENOTSOCK              
| Socket operation on non-socket
| EDESTADDRREQ          
| Destination address required
| EMSGSIZE              
| Message too long
| EPROTOTYPE            
| Protocol wrong type for socket
| ENOPROTOOPT           
| Protocol not available
| EPROTOONOSUPPORT      
| Protocol not supported
| ESOCKTNOSUPPORT       
| Socket type not supported
| EOPNOTSUPP            
| Operation not supported on socket
| EPFNOSUPPORT          
| Protocol family not supported
| EAFNOSUPPORT          
| Address family not supported by protocol family
| EADDRINUSE            
| Address already in use
| EADDRNOTAVAIL
Can’t assign requested address
| ENETDOWN
    Network is down
| ENETUNREACH
    Network is unreachable
| ENETRESET
    Network dropped connection on reset
| ECONNABORTED
    Software caused connection abort
| ECONNRESET
    Connection reset by peer
| ENOBUFFS
    No buffer space available
| EISCONN
    Socket is already connected
| ENOTCONN
    Socket is not connected
| ESHUTDOWN
    Can’t send after socket shutdown
| ETOOMANYREFS
    Too many references: can’t splice
| ETIMEDOUT
    Connection timed out
| ECONNREFUSED
    Connection refused
| EHOSTDOWN
    Host is down
| EHOSTUNREACH
    No route to host
| ELOOP
    Too many levels of symbolic links
| EOVERFLOW
    File size or position not representable
| EUNKNOWNERR of int
Unknown error

The type of error codes. Errors defined in the POSIX standard and additional errors from UNIX98 and BSD. All other errors are mapped to EUNKNOWNERR.

exception Unix_error of error * string * string

Raised by the system calls below when an error is encountered. The first component is the error code; the second component is the function name; the third component is the string parameter to the function, if it has one, or the empty string otherwise.

val error_message : error -> string

Return a string describing the given error code.

val handle_unix_error : ('a -> 'b) -> 'a -> 'b

handle_unix_error f x applies f to x and returns the result. If the exception Unix.Unix_error[25.1] is raised, it prints a message describing the error and exits with code 2.

Access to the process environment

val environment : unit -> string array

Return the process environment, as an array of strings with the format “variable=value”. The returned array is empty if the process has special privileges.

val unsafe_environment : unit -> string array

Return the process environment, as an array of strings with the format “variable=value”. Unlike Unix.environment[25.1], this function returns a populated array even if the process has special privileges. See the documentation for Unix.unsafe_getenv[25.1] for more details.

Since: 4.06.0

val getenv : string -> string

Return the value associated to a variable in the process environment, unless the process has special privileges.

Raises Not_found if the variable is unbound or the process has special privileges.

(This function is identical to Sys.getenv[23.49].)

val unsafe_getenv : string -> string

Return the value associated to a variable in the process environment.

Unlike Unix.getenv[25.1], this function returns the value even if the process has special privileges. It is considered unsafe because the programmer of a setuid or setgid program must be careful to avoid using maliciously crafted environment variables in the search path for executables, the locations for temporary files or logs, and the like.

Since: 4.06.0

Raises Not_found if the variable is unbound.
val putenv : string -> string -> unit

Unix.putenv name value sets the value associated to a variable in the process environment. name is the name of the environment variable, and value its new associated value.

Process handling

type process_status =
| WEXITED of int
  The process terminated normally by exit; the argument is the return code.
| WSIGNALED of int
  The process was killed by a signal; the argument is the signal number.
| WSTOPPED of int
  The process was stopped by a signal; the argument is the signal number.

The termination status of a process. See module Sys[23.49] for the definitions of the standard signal numbers. Note that they are not the numbers used by the OS.

type wait_flag =
| WNOHANG
  Do not block if no child has died yet, but immediately return with a pid equal to 0.
| WUNTRACED
  Report also the children that receive stop signals.

Flags for Unix.waitpid[25.1].

val execv : string -> string array -> 'a

execv prog args execute the program in file prog, with the arguments args, and the current process environment. These execv* functions never return: on success, the current program is replaced by the new one.

Raising Unix.Unix_error on failure.

val execve : string -> string array -> string array -> 'a

Same as Unix.execv[25.1], except that the third argument provides the environment to the program executed.

val execvp : string -> string array -> 'a

Same as Unix.execv[25.1], except that the program is searched in the path.

val execvpe : string -> string array -> string array -> 'a

Same as Unix.execve[25.1], except that the program is searched in the path.

val fork : unit -> int
Fork a new process. The returned integer is 0 for the child process, the pid of the child process for the parent process.

On Windows: not implemented, use Unix.create_process[25.1] or threads.

val wait : unit -> int * process_status
Wait until one of the children processes die, and return its pid and termination status.
On Windows: Not implemented, use Unix.waitpid[25.1].

val waitpid : wait_flag list -> int -> int * process_status
Same as Unix.wait[25.1], but waits for the child process whose pid is given. A pid of -1 means wait for any child. A pid of 0 means wait for any child in the same process group as the current process. Negative pid arguments represent process groups. The list of options indicates whether waitpid should return immediately without waiting, and whether it should report stopped children.
On Windows, this function can only wait for a given PID, not any child process.

val system : string -> process_status
Execute the given command, wait until it terminates, and return its termination status.
The string is interpreted by the shell /bin/sh (or the command interpreter cmd.exe on Windows) and therefore can contain redirections, quotes, variables, etc. The result WEXITED 127 indicates that the shell couldn’t be executed.

val getpid : unit -> int
Return the pid of the process.

val getppid : unit -> int
Return the pid of the parent process. On Windows: not implemented (because it is meaningless).

val nice : int -> int
Change the process priority. The integer argument is added to the “nice” value. (Higher values of the “nice” value mean lower priorities.) Return the new nice value.
On Windows: not implemented.

Basic file input/output

type file_descr
The abstract type of file descriptors.

val stdin : file_descr
File descriptor for standard input.

val stdout : file_descr
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File descriptor for standard output.

```ocaml
val stderr : file_descr

File descriptor for standard error.
```

type open_flag =
  | O_RDONLY
    Open for reading
  | O_WRONLY
    Open for writing
  | O_RDWR
    Open for reading and writing
  | O_NONBLOCK
    Open in non-blocking mode
  | O_APPEND
    Open for append
  | O_CREAT
    Create if nonexistent
  | O_TRUNC
    Truncate to 0 length if existing
  | O_EXCL
    Fail if existing
  | O_NOCTTY
    Don’t make this dev a controlling tty
  | O_DSYNC
    Writes complete as ‘Synchronised I/O data integrity completion’
  | O_SYNC
    Writes complete as ‘Synchronised I/O file integrity completion’
  | O_RSYNC
    Reads complete as writes (depending on O_SYNC/O_DSYNC)
  | O_SHARE_DELETE
    Windows only: allow the file to be deleted while still open
  | O_CLOEXEC
    Set the close-on-exec flag on the descriptor returned by Unix.openfile[25.1]. See Unix.set_close_on_exec[25.1] for more information.
  | O_KEEPEXEC
```
Clear the close-on-exec flag. This is currently the default.

The flags to \texttt{Unix.openfile}[25.1].

\begin{verbatim}

\begin{description}
\item[type file_perm = int]
\hspace{1em}The type of file access rights, e.g. \texttt{0o640} is read and write for user, read for group, none for others.

\item[\texttt{val openfile : string -> open_flag list -> file_perm -> file_descr}]
\hspace{1em}Open the named file with the given flags. Third argument is the permissions to give to the file if it is created (see \texttt{Unix.umask}[25.1]). Return a file descriptor on the named file.

\item[\texttt{val close : file_descr -> unit}]
\hspace{1em}Close a file descriptor.

\item[\texttt{val fsync : file_descr -> unit}]
\hspace{1em}Flush file buffers to disk.

\item[\texttt{val read : file_descr -> bytes -> int -> int -> int}]
\hspace{1em}Reads \texttt{len} bytes from descriptor \texttt{fd}, storing them in byte sequence \texttt{buff}, starting at position \texttt{ofs} in \texttt{buff}. Return the number of bytes actually read.

\item[\texttt{val write : file_descr -> bytes -> int -> int -> int}]
\hspace{1em}Writes \texttt{len} bytes to descriptor \texttt{fd}, taking them from byte sequence \texttt{buff}, starting at position \texttt{ofs} in \texttt{buff}. Return the number of bytes actually written. \texttt{write} repeats the writing operation until all bytes have been written or an error occurs.

\item[\texttt{val single_write : file_descr -> bytes -> int -> int -> int}]
\hspace{1em}Same as \texttt{write}, but attempts to write only once. Thus, if an error occurs, \texttt{single_write} guarantees that no data has been written.

\item[\texttt{val write_substring : file_descr -> string -> int -> int -> int}]
\hspace{1em}Same as \texttt{write}, but take the data from a string instead of a byte sequence. \texttt{write_substring} guarantees that no data has been written.

\item[\texttt{val single_write_substring : file_descr -> string -> int -> int -> int}]
\hspace{1em}Same as \texttt{single_write}, but take the data from a string instead of a byte sequence. \texttt{single_write_substring} guarantees that no data has been written.
\end{description}
\end{verbatim}
Interfacing with the standard input/output library

val in_channel_of_descr : file_descr -> in_channel
Create an input channel reading from the given descriptor. The channel is initially in binary mode; use set_binary_mode_in ic false if text mode is desired. Text mode is supported only if the descriptor refers to a file or pipe, but is not supported if it refers to a socket. On Windows, set_binary_mode_in always fails on channels created with this function.

Beware that channels are buffered so more characters may have been read from the file descriptor than those accessed using channel functions. Channels also keep a copy of the current position in the file.

You need to explicitly close all channels created with this function. Closing the channel also closes the underlying file descriptor (unless it was already closed).

val out_channel_of_descr : file_descr -> out_channel
Create an output channel writing on the given descriptor. The channel is initially in binary mode; use set_binary_mode_out oc false if text mode is desired. Text mode is supported only if the descriptor refers to a file or pipe, but is not supported if it refers to a socket. On Windows, set_binary_mode_out always fails on channels created with this function.

Beware that channels are buffered so you may have to flush them to ensure that all data has been sent to the file descriptor. Channels also keep a copy of the current position in the file.

You need to explicitly close all channels created with this function. Closing the channel flushes the data and closes the underlying file descriptor (unless it has already been closed, in which case the buffered data is lost).

val descr_of_in_channel : in_channel -> file_descr
Return the descriptor corresponding to an input channel.

val descr_of_out_channel : out_channel -> file_descr
Return the descriptor corresponding to an output channel.

Seeking and truncating

type seek_command =
| SEEK_SET
  indicates positions relative to the beginning of the file
| SEEK_CUR
  indicates positions relative to the current position
| SEEK_END
  indicates positions relative to the end of the file
Positioning modes for Unix.lseek[25.1].
val lseek : file_descr -> int -> seek_command -> int
  Set the current position for a file descriptor, and return the resulting offset (from the
  beginning of the file).

val truncate : string -> int -> unit
  Truncates the named file to the given size.
  On Windows: not implemented.

val ftruncate : file_descr -> int -> unit
  Truncates the file corresponding to the given descriptor to the given size.
  On Windows: not implemented.

File status

type file_kind =
  S_REG
    Regular file
  S_DIR
    Directory
  S_CHR
    Character device
  S_BLK
    Block device
  S_LNK
    Symbolic link
  S_FIFO
    Named pipe
  S_SOCK
    Socket

type stats =
  { st_dev : int ;
    Device number
    st_ino : int ;
    Inode number
    st_kind : file_kind ;
    Kind of the file
    st_perm : file_perm ;
    }
Access rights

\textbf{st_nlink} : int ;
    Number of links

\textbf{st_uid} : int ;
    User id of the owner

\textbf{st_gid} : int ;
    Group ID of the file’s group

\textbf{st_rdev} : int ;
    Device ID (if special file)

\textbf{st_size} : int ;
    Size in bytes

\textbf{st_atime} : float ;
    Last access time

\textbf{st_mtime} : float ;
    Last modification time

\textbf{st_ctime} : float ;
    Last status change time

}\}

The information returned by the \texttt{Unix.stat}[25.1] calls.

\textbf{val stat} : string \rightarrow \texttt{stats}

Return the information for the named file.

\textbf{val lstat} : string \rightarrow \texttt{stats}

Same as \texttt{Unix.stat}[25.1], but in case the file is a symbolic link, return the information for the link itself.

\textbf{val fstat} : file_descr \rightarrow \texttt{stats}

Return the information for the file associated with the given descriptor.

\textbf{val isatty} : file_descr \rightarrow \texttt{bool}

Return \texttt{true} if the given file descriptor refers to a terminal or console window, \texttt{false} otherwise.
File operations on large files

module LargeFile :
    sig
        val lseek : Unix.file_descr -> int64 -> Unix.seek_command -> int64
            See Unix.lseek[25.1].
        val truncate : string -> int64 -> unit
            See Unix.truncate[25.1].
        val ftruncate : Unix.file_descr -> int64 -> unit
            See Unix.ftruncate[25.1].

    type stats =
        { st_dev : int ;
            Device number
        st_ino : int ;
            Inode number
        st_kind : Unix.file_kind ;
            Kind of the file
        st_perm : Unix.file_perm ;
            Access rights
        st_nlink : int ;
            Number of links
        st_uid : int ;
            User id of the owner
        st_gid : int ;
            Group ID of the file’s group
        st_rdev : int ;
            Device ID (if special file)
        st_size : int64 ;
            Size in bytes
        st_atime : float ;
            Last access time
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```ml
st_mtime : float ;
  Last modification time
st_ctime : float ;
  Last status change time
```

File operations on large files. This sub-module provides 64-bit variants of the functions `Unix.lseek`[25.1] (for positioning a file descriptor), `Unix.truncate`[25.1] and `Unix.ftruncate`[25.1] (for changing the size of a file), and `Unix.stat`[25.1], `Unix.lstat`[25.1] and `Unix.fstat`[25.1] (for obtaining information on files). These alternate functions represent positions and sizes by 64-bit integers (type `int64`) instead of regular integers (type `int`), thus allowing operating on files whose sizes are greater than `max_int`.

Mapping files into memory

```ml
val map_file :
  file_descr ->
  ?pos:int64 ->
  ('a, 'b) Bigarray.kind ->
  'c Bigarray.layout ->
  bool -> int array -> ('a, 'b, 'c) Bigarray.Genarray.t
```

Memory mapping of a file as a Bigarray. `map_file fd kind layout shared dims` returns a Bigarray of kind `kind`, layout `layout`, and dimensions as specified in `dims`. The data contained in this Bigarray are the contents of the file referred to by the file descriptor `fd` (as opened previously with `Unix.openfile`, for example). The optional `pos` parameter is the byte offset in the file of the data being mapped; it defaults to 0 (map from the beginning of the file).

If `shared` is `true`, all modifications performed on the array are reflected in the file. This requires that `fd` be opened with write permissions. If `shared` is `false`, modifications performed on the array are done in memory only, using copy-on-write of the modified pages; the underlying file is not affected.

`Genarray.map_file` is much more efficient than reading the whole file in a Bigarray, modifying that Bigarray, and writing it afterwards.

To adjust automatically the dimensions of the Bigarray to the actual size of the file, the major dimension (that is, the first dimension for an array with C layout, and the last dimension for an array with Fortran layout) can be given as `-1`. `Genarray.map_file` then determines the major dimension from the size of the file. The file must contain an integral
number of sub-arrays as determined by the non-major dimensions, otherwise **Failure** is raised.

If all dimensions of the Bigarray are given, the file size is matched against the size of the Bigarray. If the file is larger than the Bigarray, only the initial portion of the file is mapped to the Bigarray. If the file is smaller than the big array, the file is automatically grown to the size of the Bigarray. This requires write permissions on `fd`.

Array accesses are bounds-checked, but the bounds are determined by the initial call to **map_file**. Therefore, you should make sure no other process modifies the mapped file while you’re accessing it, or a SIGBUS signal may be raised. This happens, for instance, if the file is shrunk.

**Invalid_argument** or **Failure** may be raised in cases where argument validation fails.

**Since:** 4.06.0

---

**Operations on file names**

**val unlink : string -> unit**

Removes the named file.

If the named file is a directory, raises:

- **EPERM** on POSIX compliant system
- **EISDIR** on Linux ≥ 2.1.132
- **EACCESS** on Windows

**val rename : string -> string -> unit**

`rename old new` changes the name of a file from `old` to `new`, moving it between directories if needed. If `new` already exists, its contents will be replaced with those of `old`. Depending on the operating system, the metadata (permissions, owner, etc) of `new` can either be preserved or be replaced by those of `old`.

**val link : ?follow:bool -> string -> string -> unit**

`link ?follow source dest` creates a hard link named `dest` to the file named `source`.

**Raises**

- **ENOSYS** On *Unix* if `~follow:` is requested, but linkat is unavailable.
- **ENOSYS** On *Windows* if `~follow:false` is requested.
File permissions and ownership

type access_permission =
  | R_OK
    Read permission
  | W_OK
    Write permission
  | X_OK
    Execution permission
  | F_OK
    File exists

  Flags for the Unix.access\[25.1\] call.

val chmod : string -> file_perm -> unit
  Change the permissions of the named file.

val fchmod : file_descr -> file_perm -> unit
  Change the permissions of an opened file. On Windows: not implemented.

val chown : string -> int -> int -> unit
  Change the owner uid and owner gid of the named file. On Windows: not implemented
  (make no sense on a DOS file system).

val fchown : file descr -> int -> int -> unit
  Change the owner uid and owner gid of an opened file. On Windows: not implemented
  (make no sense on a DOS file system).

val umask : int -> int
  Set the process’s file mode creation mask, and return the previous mask. On Windows: not implemented.

val access : string -> access_permission list -> unit
  Check that the process has the given permissions over the named file.
  
  Raises Unix_error otherwise.

  On Windows, execute permission X_OK, cannot be tested, it just tests for read permission instead.
Operations on file descriptors

val dup : ?cloexec:bool -> file_descr -> file_descr

Return a new file descriptor referencing the same file as the given descriptor. See Unix.set_close_on_exec[25.1] for documentation on the cloexec optional argument.

val dup2 : ?cloexec:bool -> file_descr -> file_descr -> unit
dup2 fd1 fd2 duplicates fd1 to fd2, closing fd2 if already opened. See Unix.set_close_on_exec[25.1] for documentation on the cloexec optional argument.

val set_nonblock : file_descr -> unit

Set the “non-blocking” flag on the given descriptor. When the non-blocking flag is set, reading on a descriptor on which there is temporarily no data available raises the EAGAIN or EWOULDBLOCK error instead of blocking; writing on a descriptor on which there is temporarily no room for writing also raises EAGAIN or EWOULDBLOCK.

val clear_nonblock : file_descr -> unit

Clear the “non-blocking” flag on the given descriptor. See Unix.set_nonblock[25.1].

val set_close_on_exec : file_descr -> unit

Set the “close-on-exec” flag on the given descriptor. A descriptor with the close-on-exec flag is automatically closed when the current process starts another program with one of the exec, create_process and open_process functions.

It is often a security hole to leak file descriptors opened on, say, a private file to an external program: the program, then, gets access to the private file and can do bad things with it. Hence, it is highly recommended to set all file descriptors “close-on-exec”, except in the very few cases where a file descriptor actually needs to be transmitted to another program.

The best way to set a file descriptor “close-on-exec” is to create it in this state. To this end, the openfile function has O_CLOEXEC and O_KEEPEXEC flags to enforce “close-on-exec” mode or “keep-on-exec” mode, respectively. All other operations in the Unix module that create file descriptors have an optional argument ?cloexec:bool to indicate whether the file descriptor should be created in “close-on-exec” mode (by writing ~cloexec:true) or in “keep-on-exec” mode (by writing ~cloexec:false). For historical reasons, the default file descriptor creation mode is “keep-on-exec”, if no cloexec optional argument is given. This is not a safe default, hence it is highly recommended to pass explicit cloexec arguments to operations that create file descriptors.

The cloexec optional arguments and the O_KEEPEXEC flag were introduced in OCaml 4.05. Earlier, the common practice was to create file descriptors in the default, “keep-on-exec” mode, then call set_close_on_exec on those freshly-created file descriptors. This is not as safe as creating the file descriptor in “close-on-exec” mode because, in multithreaded programs, a window of vulnerability exists between the time when the file descriptor is created and the time set_close_on_exec completes. If another thread spawns another program during this window, the descriptor will leak, as it is still in the “keep-on-exec” mode.
Regarding the atomicity guarantees given by `cloexec:true` or by the use of the `O_CLOEXEC` flag: on all platforms it is guaranteed that a concurrently-executing Caml thread cannot leak the descriptor by starting a new process. On Linux, this guarantee extends to concurrently-executing C threads. As of Feb 2017, other operating systems lack the necessary system calls and still expose a window of vulnerability during which a C thread can see the newly-created file descriptor in “keep-on-exec” mode.

```ocaml
val clear_close_on_exec : file_descr -> unit

Clear the “close-on-exec” flag on the given descriptor. See Unix.set_close_on_exec[25.1].
```

**Directories**

```ocaml
val mkdir : string -> file_perm -> unit

Create a directory with the given permissions (see Unix.umask[25.1]).

val rmdir : string -> unit

Remove an empty directory.

val chdir : string -> unit

Change the process working directory.

val getcwd : unit -> string

Return the name of the current working directory.

val chroot : string -> unit

Change the process root directory. On Windows: not implemented.
```

```ocaml
type dir_handle

The type of descriptors over opened directories.

val opendir : string -> dir_handle

Open a descriptor on a directory

val readdir : dir_handle -> string

Return the next entry in a directory.

Raises End_of_file when the end of the directory has been reached.

val rewinddir : dir_handle -> unit

Reposition the descriptor to the beginning of the directory

val closedir : dir_handle -> unit

Close a directory descriptor.
```
Pipes and redirections

val pipe : ?cloexec:bool -> unit -> file_descr * file_descr

Create a pipe. The first component of the result is opened for reading, that’s the exit to the
pipe. The second component is opened for writing, that’s the entrance to the pipe. See
Unix.set_close_on_exec[25.1] for documentation on the cloexec optional argument.

val mkfifo : string -> file_perm -> unit

Create a named pipe with the given permissions (see Unix.umask[25.1]). On Windows: not
implemented.

High-level process and redirection management

val create_process :
  string ->
  string array -> file_descr -> file_descr -> file_descr -> int

create_process prog args new_stdin new_stdout new_stderr forks a new process that
executes the program in file prog, with arguments args. The pid of the new process is
returned immediately; the new process executes concurrently with the current process. The
standard input and outputs of the new process are connected to the descriptors new_stdin,
new_stdout and new_stderr. Passing e.g. stdout for new_stdout prevents the redirection
and causes the new process to have the same standard output as the current process. The
executable file prog is searched in the path. The new process has the same environment as
the current process.

val create_process_env :
  string ->
  string array -> string array -> file_descr -> file_descr -> file_descr -> int

create_process_env prog args env new_stdin new_stdout new_stderr works as
Unix.create_process[25.1], except that the extra argument env specifies the environment
passed to the program.

val open_process_in : string -> in_channel

High-level pipe and process management. This function runs the given command in parallel
with the program. The standard output of the command is redirected to a pipe, which can
be read via the returned input channel. The command is interpreted by the shell /bin/sh
(or cmd.exe on Windows), cf. system.

val open_process_out : string -> out_channel

Same as Unix.open_process_in[25.1], but redirect the standard input of the command to a
pipe. Data written to the returned output channel is sent to the standard input of the
command. Warning: writes on output channels are buffered, hence be careful to call
flush[22.2] at the right times to ensure correct synchronization.
val open_process : string -> in_channel * out_channel

Same as Unix.open_process_out[25.1], but redirects both the standard input and standard output of the command to pipes connected to the two returned channels. The input channel is connected to the output of the command, and the output channel to the input of the command.

val open_process_full : string -> string array -> in_channel * out_channel * in_channel

Similar to Unix.open_process[25.1], but the second argument specifies the environment passed to the command. The result is a triple of channels connected respectively to the standard output, standard input, and standard error of the command.

val open_process_args_in : string -> string array -> in_channel

High-level pipe and process management. The first argument specifies the command to run, and the second argument specifies the argument array passed to the command. This function runs the command in parallel with the program. The standard output of the command is redirected to a pipe, which can be read via the returned input channel.

Since: 4.08.0

val open_process_args_out : string -> string array -> out_channel

Same as Unix.open_process_args_in[25.1], but redirect the standard input of the command to a pipe. Data written to the returned output channel is sent to the standard input of the command. Warning: writes on output channels are buffered, hence be careful to call flush[22.2] at the right times to ensure correct synchronization.

Since: 4.08.0

val open_process_args : string -> string array -> in_channel * out_channel

Same as Unix.open_process_args_out[25.1], but redirects both the standard input and standard output of the command to pipes connected to the two returned channels. The input channel is connected to the output of the command, and the output channel to the input of the command.

Since: 4.08.0

val open_process_args_full : string -> string array -> string array -> in_channel * out_channel * in_channel

Similar to Unix.open_process_args[25.1], but the third argument specifies the environment passed to the command. The result is a triple of channels connected respectively to the standard output, standard input, and standard error of the command.

Since: 4.08.0

val process_in_pid : in_channel -> int
Return the pid of a process opened via `Unix.open_process_in` or `Unix.open_process_args_in`.

Since: 4.08.0

```ocaml
val process_out_pid : out_channel -> int
```

Return the pid of a process opened via `Unix.open_process_out` or `Unix.open_process_args_out`.

Since: 4.08.0

```ocaml
val process_pid : in_channel * out_channel -> int
```

Return the pid of a process opened via `Unix.open_process` or `Unix.open_process_args`.

Since: 4.08.0

```ocaml
val process_full_pid : in_channel * out_channel * in_channel -> int
```

Return the pid of a process opened via `Unix.open_process_full` or `Unix.open_process_args_full`.

Since: 4.08.0

```ocaml
val close_process_in : in_channel -> process_status
```

Close channels opened by `Unix.open_process_in`, wait for the associated command to terminate, and return its termination status.

```ocaml
val close_process_out : out_channel -> process_status
```

Close channels opened by `Unix.open_process_out`, wait for the associated command to terminate, and return its termination status.

```ocaml
val close_process : in_channel * out_channel -> process_status
```

Close channels opened by `Unix.open_process`, wait for the associated command to terminate, and return its termination status.

```ocaml
val close_process_full :
  in_channel * out_channel * in_channel ->
  process_status
```

Close channels opened by `Unix.open_process_full`, wait for the associated command to terminate, and return its termination status.

### Symbolic links

```ocaml
val symlink : ?to_dir:bool -> string -> string -> unit
```
symlink ?to_dir source dest creates the file dest as a symbolic link to the file source. On Windows, ~to_dir indicates if the symbolic link points to a directory or a file; if omitted, symlink examines source using stat and picks appropriately; if source does not exist then false is assumed (for this reason, it is recommended that the ~to_dir parameter be specified in new code). On Unix, ~to_dir is ignored.

Windows symbolic links are available in Windows Vista onwards. There are some important differences between Windows symlinks and their POSIX counterparts.

Windows symbolic links come in two flavours: directory and regular, which designate whether the symbolic link points to a directory or a file. The type must be correct - a directory symlink which actually points to a file cannot be selected with chdir and a file symlink which actually points to a directory cannot be read or written (note that Cygwin’s emulation layer ignores this distinction).

When symbolic links are created to existing targets, this distinction doesn’t matter and symlink will automatically create the correct kind of symbolic link. The distinction matters when a symbolic link is created to a non-existent target.

The other caveat is that by default symbolic links are a privileged operation. Administrators will always need to be running elevated (or with UAC disabled) and by default normal user accounts need to be granted the SeCreateSymbolicLinkPrivilege via Local Security Policy (secpol.msc) or via Active Directory.

Unix.has_symlink[25.1] can be used to check that a process is able to create symbolic links.

val has_symlink : unit -> bool
Returns true if the user is able to create symbolic links. On Windows, this indicates that the user not only has the SeCreateSymbolicLinkPrivilege but is also running elevated, if necessary. On other platforms, this is simply indicates that the symlink system call is available.

Since: 4.03.0

val readlink : string -> string
Read the contents of a symbolic link.

Polling

val select : 
  file_descr list ->
  file_descr list ->
  file_descr list ->
  float -> file_descr list * file_descr list * file_descr list
Wait until some input/output operations become possible on some channels. The three list arguments are, respectively, a set of descriptors to check for reading (first argument), for writing (second argument), or for exceptional conditions (third argument). The fourth argument is the maximal timeout, in seconds; a negative fourth argument means no timeout
(unbounded wait). The result is composed of three sets of descriptors: those ready for reading (first component), ready for writing (second component), and over which an exceptional condition is pending (third component).

### Locking

```ocaml
type lock_command =
  | F_ULOCK
      Unlock a region

  | F_LOCK
      Lock a region for writing, and block if already locked

  | F_TLOCK
      Lock a region for writing, or fail if already locked

  | F_TEST
      Test a region for other process locks

  | F_RLOCK
      Lock a region for reading, and block if already locked

  | F_TRLOCK
      Lock a region for reading, or fail if already locked

Commands for Unix.lockf[25.1].
```

```ocaml
val lockf : file_descr -> lock_command -> int -> unit

lockf fd cmd size puts a lock on a region of the file opened as fd. The region starts at the current read/write position for fd (as set by Unix.lseek[25.1]), and extends size bytes forward if size is positive, size bytes backwards if size is negative, or to the end of the file if size is zero. A write lock prevents any other process from acquiring a read or write lock on the region. A read lock prevents any other process from acquiring a write lock on the region, but lets other processes acquire read locks on it.

The F_LOCK and F_TLOCK commands attempts to put a write lock on the specified region. The F_RLOCK and F_TRLOCK commands attempts to put a read lock on the specified region. If one or several locks put by another process prevent the current process from acquiring the lock, F_LOCK and F_RLOCK block until these locks are removed, while F_TLOCK and F_TRLOCK fail immediately with an exception. The F_ULOCK removes whatever locks the current process has on the specified region. Finally, the F_TEST command tests whether a write lock can be acquired on the specified region, without actually putting a lock. It returns immediately if successful, or fails otherwise.

What happens when a process tries to lock a region of a file that is already locked by the same process depends on the OS. On POSIX-compliant systems, the second lock operation succeeds and may ”promote” the older lock from read lock to write lock. On Windows, the second lock operation will block or fail.
Signals

Note: installation of signal handlers is performed via the functions \texttt{Sys.signal}[23.49] and \texttt{Sys.set_signal}[23.49].

\begin{verbatim}
val kill : int -> int -> unit
    kill pid sig sends signal number sig to the process with id pid. On Windows, only the 
    \texttt{Sys.sigkill}[23.49] signal is emulated.
\end{verbatim}

\begin{verbatim}
type sigprocmask_command =
    | SIG_SETMASK
    | SIG_BLOCK
    | SIG_UNBLOCK

val sigprocmask : sigprocmask_command -> int list -> int list
    sigprocmask cmd sigs changes the set of blocked signals. If \texttt{cmd} is \texttt{SIG_SETMASK}, blocked 
    signals are set to those in the list \texttt{sigs}. If \texttt{cmd} is \texttt{SIG_BLOCK}, the signals in \texttt{sigs} are added 
    to the set of blocked signals. If \texttt{cmd} is \texttt{SIG_UNBLOCK}, the signals in \texttt{sigs} are removed from 
    the set of blocked signals. \texttt{sigprocmask} returns the set of previously blocked signals.

    When the systhreads version of the \texttt{Thread} module is loaded, this function redirects to 
    \texttt{Thread.sigmask}. I.e., \texttt{sigprocmask} only changes the mask of the current thread.

    On Windows: not implemented (no inter-process signals on Windows).
\end{verbatim}

\begin{verbatim}
val sigpending : unit -> int list
    Return the set of blocked signals that are currently pending.

    On Windows: not implemented (no inter-process signals on Windows).
\end{verbatim}

\begin{verbatim}
val sigsuspend : int list -> unit
    sigsuspend sigs atomically sets the blocked signals to \texttt{sigs} and waits for a non-ignored, 
    non-blocked signal to be delivered. On return, the blocked signals are reset to their initial 
    value.

    On Windows: not implemented (no inter-process signals on Windows).
\end{verbatim}

\begin{verbatim}
val pause : unit -> unit
    Wait until a non-ignored, non-blocked signal is delivered.

    On Windows: not implemented (no inter-process signals on Windows).
\end{verbatim}

Time functions

\begin{verbatim}
type process_times =
    { tms_utime : float ;
        User time for the process 
    tms_stime : float ;
        System time for the process
\end{verbatim}
tms_cutime : float ;
User time for the children processes

tms_cstime : float ;
System time for the children processes
}

The execution times (CPU times) of a process.

type tm =
{  tm_sec : int ;
   Seconds 0..60
  tm_min : int ;
   Minutes 0..59
  tm_hour : int ;
   Hours 0..23
  tm_mday : int ;
   Day of month 1..31
  tm_mon : int ;
   Month of year 0..11
  tm_year : int ;
   Year - 1900
  tm_wday : int ;
   Day of week (Sunday is 0)
  tm_yday : int ;
   Day of year 0..365
  tm_isdst : bool ;
   Daylight time savings in effect
}

The type representing wallclock time and calendar date.

val time : unit -> float
Return the current time since 00:00:00 GMT, Jan. 1, 1970, in seconds.

val gettimeofday : unit -> float
Same as Unix.time[25.1], but with resolution better than 1 second.

val gmtime : float -> tm
Convert a time in seconds, as returned by `Unix.time[25.1]`, into a date and a time. Assumes UTC (Coordinated Universal Time), also known as GMT. To perform the inverse conversion, set the TZ environment variable to "UTC", use `Unix.mktime[25.1]`, and then restore the original value of TZ.

```plaintext
val localtime : float -> tm

Convert a time in seconds, as returned by `Unix.time[25.1]`, into a date and a time. Assumes the local time zone. The function performing the inverse conversion is `Unix.mktime[25.1]`.

val mktime : tm -> float * tm

Convert a date and time, specified by the `tm` argument, into a time in seconds, as returned by `Unix.time[25.1]`. The `tm_isdst`, `tm_wday` and `tm_yday` fields of `tm` are ignored. Also return a normalized copy of the given `tm` record, with the `tm_wday`, `tm_yday`, and `tm_isdst` fields recomputed from the other fields, and the other fields normalized (so that, e.g., 40 October is changed into 9 November). The `tm` argument is interpreted in the local time zone.

val alarm : int -> int

Schedule a `SIGALRM` signal after the given number of seconds.

On Windows: not implemented.

val sleep : int -> unit

Stop execution for the given number of seconds.

val sleepf : float -> unit

Stop execution for the given number of seconds. Like `sleep`, but fractions of seconds are supported.

Since: 4.03.0

val times : unit -> process_times

Return the execution times of the process. On Windows, it is partially implemented, will not report timings for child processes.

val utimes : string -> float -> float -> unit

Set the last access time (second arg) and last modification time (third arg) for a file. Times are expressed in seconds from 00:00:00 GMT, Jan. 1, 1970. If both times are 0.0, the access and last modification times are both set to the current time.

```
(for profiling) decrements both when the process is running and when the system is running on behalf of the process; it sends SIGPROF when expired.

The three kinds of interval timers.

type interval_timer_status =
{ it_interval : float ;
  Period
  it_value : float ;
  Current value of the timer };

val getitimer : interval_timer -> interval_timer_status
  Return the current status of the given interval timer.
  On Windows: not implemented.

val setitimer : interval_timer -> interval_timer_status
  interval_timer_status -> interval_timer_status
  setitimer t s sets the interval timer t and returns its previous status. The s argument is interpreted as follows: s.it_value, if nonzero, is the time to the next timer expiration; s.it_interval, if nonzero, specifies a value to be used in reloading it_value when the timer expires. Setting s.it_value to zero disables the timer. Setting s.it_interval to zero causes the timer to be disabled after its next expiration.
  On Windows: not implemented.

User id, group id

val getuid : unit -> int
  Return the user id of the user executing the process. On Windows, always return 1.

val geteuid : unit -> int
  Return the effective user id under which the process runs. On Windows, always return 1.

val setuid : int -> unit
  Set the real user id and effective user id for the process. On Windows: not implemented.

val getgid : unit -> int
  Return the group id of the user executing the process. On Windows, always return 1.

val getegid : unit -> int
  Return the effective group id under which the process runs. On Windows, always return 1.
val setgid : int -> unit
   Set the real group id and effective group id for the process. On Windows: not implemented.

val getgroups : unit -> int array
   Return the list of groups to which the user executing the process belongs. On Windows, always return \([1]\).

val setgroups : int array -> unit
   setgroups groups sets the supplementary group IDs for the calling process. Appropriate privileges are required. On Windows: not implemented.

val initgroups : string -> int -> unit
   initgroups user group initializes the group access list by reading the group database /etc/group and using all groups of which user is a member. The additional group group is also added to the list. On Windows: not implemented.

type passwd_entry =
{ pw_name : string ;
  pw_passwd : string ;
  pw_uid : int ;
  pw_gid : int ;
  pw_gecos : string ;
  pw_dir : string ;
  pw_shell : string ;
}  
   Structure of entries in the passwd database.

type group_entry =
{ gr_name : string ;
  gr_passwd : string ;
  gr_gid : int ;
  gr_mem : string array ;
}  
   Structure of entries in the groups database.

val getlogin : unit -> string
   Return the login name of the user executing the process.

val getpwnam : string -> passwd_entry
   Find an entry in passwd with the given name.
   Raises Not_found if no such entry exist.
   On Windows, always raise Not_found.

val getgrnam : string -> group_entry
Find an entry in `group` with the given name.

**Raises** `Not_found` if no such entry exist.

On Windows, always raise `Not_found`.

```plaintext
val getpwuid : int -> passwd_entry
```

Find an entry in `passwd` with the given user id.

**Raises** `Not_found` if no such entry exist.

On Windows, always raise `Not_found`.

```plaintext
val getgrgid : int -> group_entry
```

Find an entry in `group` with the given group id.

**Raises** `Not_found` if no such entry exist.

On Windows, always raise `Not_found`.

---

### Internet addresses

**type** `inet_addr`

The abstract type of Internet addresses.

```plaintext
val inet_addr_of_string : string -> inet_addr
```

Conversion from the printable representation of an Internet address to its internal representation. The argument string consists of 4 numbers separated by periods (`XXX.YYY.ZZZ.TTT`) for IPv4 addresses, and up to 8 numbers separated by colons for IPv6 addresses.

**Raises** `Failure` when given a string that does not match these formats.

```plaintext
val string_of_inet_addr : inet_addr -> string
```

Return the printable representation of the given Internet address. See `Unix.inet_addr_of_string` for a description of the printable representation.

```plaintext
val inet_addr_any : inet_addr
```

A special IPv4 address, for use only with `bind`, representing all the Internet addresses that the host machine possesses.

```plaintext
val inet_addr_loopback : inet_addr
```

A special IPv4 address representing the host machine (127.0.0.1).

```plaintext
val inet6_addr_any : inet_addr
```

A special IPv6 address, for use only with `bind`, representing all the Internet addresses that the host machine possesses.

```plaintext
val inet6_addr_loopback : inet_addr
```

A special IPv6 address representing the host machine (::1).
Sockets

type socket_domain =
  | PF_UNIX
    Unix domain
  | PF_INET
    Internet domain (IPv4)
  | PF_INET6
    Internet domain (IPv6)

  The type of socket domains. Not all platforms support IPv6 sockets (type PF_INET6). Windows does not support PF_UNIX.

type socket_type =
  | SOCK_STREAM
    Stream socket
  | SOCK_DGRAM
    Datagram socket
  | SOCK_RAW
    Raw socket
  | SOCK_SEQPACKET
    Sequenced packets socket

  The type of socket kinds, specifying the semantics of communications. SOCK_SEQPACKET is included for completeness, but is rarely supported by the OS, and needs system calls that are not available in this library.

type sockaddr =
  | ADDR_UNIX of string
  | ADDR_INET of inet_addr * int

  The type of socket addresses. ADDR_UNIX name is a socket address in the Unix domain; name is a file name in the file system. ADDR_INET(addr,port) is a socket address in the Internet domain; addr is the Internet address of the machine, and port is the port number.

val socket :
  ?cloexec:bool ->
  socket_domain -> socket_type -> int -> file_descr

  Create a new socket in the given domain, and with the given kind. The third argument is the protocol type; 0 selects the default protocol for that kind of sockets. See Unix.set_close_on_exec[25.1] for documentation on the cloexec optional argument.

val domain_of_sockaddr : sockaddr -> socket_domain
Return the socket domain adequate for the given socket address.

val socketpair : ?cloexec:bool ->
  socket_domain ->
  socket_type -> int -> file_descr * file_descr

Create a pair of unnamed sockets, connected together. See Unix.set_close_on_exec\[25.1\] for documentation on the cloexec optional argument.

val accept : ?cloexec:bool -> file_descr -> file_descr * sockaddr

Accept connections on the given socket. The returned descriptor is a socket connected to the client; the returned address is the address of the connecting client. See Unix.set_close_on_exec\[25.1\] for documentation on the cloexec optional argument.

val bind : file_descr -> sockaddr -> unit

Bind a socket to an address.

val connect : file_descr -> sockaddr -> unit

Connect a socket to an address.

val listen : file_descr -> int -> unit

Set up a socket for receiving connection requests. The integer argument is the maximal number of pending requests.

type shutdown_command =
  | SHUTDOWN_RECEIVE
    Close for receiving
  | SHUTDOWN_SEND
    Close for sending
  | SHUTDOWN_ALL
    Close both

The type of commands for shutdown.

val shutdown : file_descr -> shutdown_command -> unit

Shutdown a socket connection. SHUTDOWN_SEND as second argument causes reads on the other end of the connection to return an end-of-file condition. SHUTDOWN_RECEIVE causes writes on the other end of the connection to return a closed pipe condition (SIGPIPE signal).

val getsockname : file_descr -> sockaddr

Return the address of the given socket.

val getpeерname : file_descr -> sockaddr

Return the address of the host connected to the given socket.
type msg_flag =
    | MSG_OOB
    | MSG_DONTROUTE
    | MSG_PEEK

The flags for Unix.recv[25.1], Unix.recvfrom[25.1], Unix.send[25.1] and Unix.sendto[25.1].

val recv : file_descr -> bytes -> int -> int -> msg_flag list -> int
    Receive data from a connected socket.

val recvfrom :
    file_descr ->
    bytes -> int -> int -> msg_flag list -> int * sockaddr
    Receive data from an unconnected socket.

val send : file_descr -> bytes -> int -> int -> msg_flag list -> int
    Send data over a connected socket.

val send_substring :
    file_descr -> string -> int -> int -> msg_flag list -> int
    Same as send, but take the data from a string instead of a byte sequence.
    
    Since: 4.02.0

val sendto :
    file_descr ->
    bytes -> int -> int -> msg_flag list -> sockaddr -> int
    Send data over an unconnected socket.

val sendto_substring :
    file_descr ->
    string -> int -> int -> msg_flag list -> sockaddr -> int
    Same as sendto, but take the data from a string instead of a byte sequence.
    
    Since: 4.02.0

Socket options

type socket_bool_option =
    | SO_DEBUG
        Record debugging information
    | SO_BROADCAST
        Permit sending of broadcast messages
    | SO_REUSEADDR
Allow reuse of local addresses for bind
| SO_KEEPALIVE
  Keep connection active
| SO_DONTROUTE
  Bypass the standard routing algorithms
| SO_OOBINLINE
  Leave out-of-band data in line
| SO_ACCEPTCONN
  Report whether socket listening is enabled
| TCP_NODELAY
  Control the Nagle algorithm for TCP sockets
| IPV6_ONLY
  Forbid binding an IPv6 socket to an IPv4 address

The socket options that can be consulted with Unix.getsockopt[25.1] and modified with Unix.setsockopt[25.1]. These options have a boolean (true/false) value.

type socket_int_option =
| SO_SNDBUF
  Size of send buffer
| SO_RCVBUF
  Size of received buffer
| SO_ERROR
| SO_TYPE
  Report the socket type
| SO_RCVLOWAT
  Minimum number of bytes to process for input operations
| SO_SNDLOWAT
  Minimum number of bytes to process for output operations

The socket options that can be consulted with Unix.getsockopt_int[25.1] and modified with Unix.setsockopt_int[25.1]. These options have an integer value.

type socket_optint_option =
| SO_LINGER
  Whether to linger on closed connections that have data present, and for how long (in seconds)
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The socket options that can be consulted with Unix.getsockopt_optint[25.1] and modified with Unix.setsockopt_optint[25.1]. These options have a value of type int option, with None meaning “disabled”.

```
type socket_float_option =
  | SO_RCVTIMEO
    Timeout for input operations
  | SO_SNDTIMEO
    Timeout for output operations
The socket options that can be consulted with Unix.getsockopt_float[25.1] and modified with Unix.setsockopt_float[25.1]. These options have a floating-point value representing a time in seconds. The value 0 means infinite timeout.
```

val getsockopt : file_descr -> socket_bool_option -> bool
Return the current status of a boolean-valued option in the given socket.

val setsockopt : file_descr -> socket_bool_option -> bool -> unit
Set or clear a boolean-valued option in the given socket.

val getsockopt_int : file_descr -> socket_int_option -> int
Same as Unix.getsockopt[25.1] for an integer-valued socket option.

val setsockopt_int : file_descr -> socket_int_option -> int -> unit
Same as Unix.setsockopt[25.1] for an integer-valued socket option.

val getsockopt_optint : file_descr -> socket_optint_option -> int option
Same as Unix.getsockopt[25.1] for a socket option whose value is an int option.

val setsockopt_optint :
  file_descr -> socket_optint_option -> int option -> unit
Same as Unix.setsockopt[25.1] for a socket option whose value is an int option.

val getsockopt_float : file_descr -> socket_float_option -> float
Same as Unix.getsockopt[25.1] for a socket option whose value is a floating-point number.

val setsockopt_float : file_descr -> socket_float_option -> float -> unit
Same as Unix.setsockopt[25.1] for a socket option whose value is a floating-point number.

val getsockopt_error : file_descr -> error option
Return the error condition associated with the given socket, and clear it.
High-level network connection functions

val open_connection : sockaddr -> in_channel * out_channel

Connect to a server at the given address. Return a pair of buffered channels connected to the server. Remember to call flush[22.2] on the output channel at the right times to ensure correct synchronization.

val shutdown_connection : in_channel -> unit

“Shut down” a connection established with Unix.open_connection[25.1]; that is, transmit an end-of-file condition to the server reading on the other side of the connection. This does not fully close the file descriptor associated with the channel, which you must remember to free via close_in[22.2].

val establish_server :
  (in_channel -> out_channel -> unit) -> sockaddr -> unit

Establish a server on the given address. The function given as first argument is called for each connection with two buffered channels connected to the client. A new process is created for each connection. The function Unix.establish_server[25.1] never returns normally.

On Windows, it is not implemented. Use threads.

Host and protocol databases

type host_entry =
{  h_name : string ;
  h_aliases : string array ;
  h_addrtype : socket_domain ;
  h_addr_list : inet_addr array ;
}

Structure of entries in the hosts database.

type protocol_entry =
{  p_name : string ;
  p_aliases : string array ;
  p_proto : int ;
}

Structure of entries in the protocols database.

type service_entry =
{  s_name : string ;
  s_aliases : string array ;
  s_port : int ;
  s_proto : string ;
}

Structure of entries in the services database.
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val gethostname : unit -> string
Return the name of the local host.

val gethostbyname : string -> host_entry
Find an entry in hosts with the given name.
Raises Not_found if no such entry exist.

val gethostbyaddr : inet_addr -> host_entry
Find an entry in hosts with the given address.
Raises Not_found if no such entry exist.

val getprotobyname : string -> protocol_entry
Find an entry in protocols with the given name.
Raises Not_found if no such entry exist.

val getprotobynumber : int -> protocol_entry
Find an entry in protocols with the given protocol number.
Raises Not_found if no such entry exist.

val getservbyname : string -> string -> service_entry
Find an entry in services with the given name.
Raises Not_found if no such entry exist.

val getservbyport : int -> string -> service_entry
Find an entry in services with the given service number.
Raises Not_found if no such entry exist.

type addr_info =
{ ai_family : socket_domain ;
  Socket domain
  ai_socktype : socket_type ;
  Socket type
  ai_protocol : int ;
  Socket protocol number
  ai_addr : sockaddr ;
  Address
  ai_canonname : string ;
  Canonical host name
}
Address information returned by `Unix.getaddrinfo[25.1]`.

```ml
type getaddrinfo_option =
  | AI_FAMILY of socket_domain
  Imposing the given socket domain
  | AI_SOCKTYPE of socket_type
  Imposing the given socket type
  | AI_PROTOCOL of int
  Imposing the given protocol
  | AI_NUMERICHOST
  Do not call name resolver, expect numeric IP address
  | AI_CANONNAME
  Fill the `ai_canonname` field of the result
  | AI_PASSIVE
  Set address to “any” address for use with `Unix.bind[25.1]`

Options to `Unix.getaddrinfo[25.1]`.

```val getaddrinfo :
  string -> string -> getaddrinfo_option list -> addr_info list
getaddrinfo host service opts returns a list of `Unix.addr_info[25.1]` records describing socket parameters and addresses suitable for communicating with the given host and service. The empty list is returned if the host or service names are unknown, or the constraints expressed in `opts` cannot be satisfied.

`host` is either a host name or the string representation of an IP address. `host` can be given as the empty string; in this case, the “any” address or the “loopback” address are used, depending whether `opts` contains `AI_PASSIVE`. `service` is either a service name or the string representation of a port number. `service` can be given as the empty string; in this case, the port field of the returned addresses is set to 0. `opts` is a possibly empty list of options that allows the caller to force a particular socket domain (e.g. IPv6 only or IPv4 only) or a particular socket type (e.g. TCP only or UDP only).

```ml
type name_info =
  { ni_hostname : string ;
    Name or IP address of host
    ni_service : string ;
    Name of service or port number
  };

Host and service information returned by `Unix.getnameinfo[25.1]`.

```ml
type getnameinfo_option =
  | NI_NOFQDN
```
Do not qualify local host names

| NI_NUMERICHOST | Always return host as IP address |
| NI_NAMEREQD    | Fail if host name cannot be determined |
| NI_NUMERICSERV | Always return service as port number |
| NI_DGRAM       | Consider the service as UDP-based instead of the default TCP |

Options to Unix.getnameinfo\([25.1]\). 

val getnameinfo : sockaddr -> getnameinfo_option list -> name_info

getnameinfo addr opts returns the host name and service name corresponding to the socket address addr. opts is a possibly empty list of options that governs how these names are obtained.

Raises Not_found if an error occurs.

Terminal interface

The following functions implement the POSIX standard terminal interface. They provide control over asynchronous communication ports and pseudo-terminals. Refer to the termios man page for a complete description.

type terminal_io =
{ mutable c_ignbrk : bool ;
  Ignore the break condition.
 mutable c_brkint : bool ;
  Signal interrupt on break condition.
 mutable c_ignpar : bool ;
  Ignore characters with parity errors.
 mutable c_parmrk : bool ;
  Mark parity errors.
 mutable c_inpck : bool ;
  Enable parity check on input.
 mutable c_istrip : bool ;
  Strip 8th bit on input characters.
 mutable c_inlcr : bool ;
  Map NL to CR on input.
mutable c_igncr : bool;
  Ignore CR on input.
mutable c_icrnl : bool;
  Map CR to NL on input.
mutable c_ixon : bool;
  Recognize XON/XOFF characters on input.
mutable c_ixoff : bool;
  Emit XON/XOFF chars to control input flow.
mutable c_opost : bool;
  Enable output processing.
mutable c_obaud : int;
  Output baud rate (0 means close connection).
mutable c_ibaud : int;
  Input baud rate.
mutable c_csize : int;
  Number of bits per character (5-8).
mutable c_cstopb : int;
  Number of stop bits (1-2).
mutable c_cread : bool;
  Reception is enabled.
mutable c_parenb : bool;
  Enable parity generation and detection.
mutable c_parodd : bool;
  Specify odd parity instead of even.
mutable c_bupcl : bool;
  Hang up on last close.
mutable c_clocal : bool;
  Ignore modem status lines.
mutable c_isig : bool;
  Generate signal on INTR, QUIT, SUSP.
mutable c_icanon : bool;
  Enable canonical processing (line buffering and editing)
mutable c_noflsh : bool;
  Disable flush after INTR, QUIT, SUSP.
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mutable c_echo : bool ;
    Echo input characters.
mutable c_echoe : bool ;
    Echo ERASE (to erase previous character).
mutable c_echok : bool ;
    Echo KILL (to erase the current line).
mutable c_echonl : bool ;
    Echo NL even if c_echo is not set.
mutable c_vintr : char ;
    Interrupt character (usually ctrl-C).
mutable c_vquit : char ;
    Quit character (usually ctrl-\).
mutable c_verase : char ;
    Erase character (usually DEL or ctrl-H).
mutable c_vkill : char ;
    Kill line character (usually ctrl-U).
mutable c_veof : char ;
    End-of-file character (usually ctrl-D).
mutable c_veol : char ;
    Alternate end-of-line char. (usually none).
mutable c_vmin : int ;
    Minimum number of characters to read before the read request is satisfied.
mutable c_vtime : int ;
    Maximum read wait (in 0.1s units).
mutable c_vstart : char ;
    Start character (usually ctrl-Q).
mutable c_vstop : char ;
    Stop character (usually ctrl-S).

val tcgetattr : file_descr -> terminal_io
    Return the status of the terminal referred to by the given file descriptor. On Windows, not implemented.

type setattr_when =
    | TCSANOW
    | TCSADRAIN
    | TCSAFLUSH
val tcsetattr : file_descr -> setattr_when -> terminal_io -> unit
Set the status of the terminal referred to by the given file descriptor. The second argument indicates when the status change takes place: immediately (TCSANOW), when all pending output has been transmitted (TCSADRAIN), or after flushing all input that has been received but not read (TCSAFLUSH). TCSADRAIN is recommended when changing the output parameters; TCSAFLUSH, when changing the input parameters.

On Windows, not implemented.

val tcsendbreak : file_descr -> int -> unit
Send a break condition on the given file descriptor. The second argument is the duration of the break, in 0.1s units; 0 means standard duration (0.25s).

On Windows, not implemented.

val tcdrain : file_descr -> unit
Waits until all output written on the given file descriptor has been transmitted.

On Windows, not implemented.

type flush_queue =
| TCIFLUSH
| TCOFLUSH
| TCIOFLUSH
val tcflush : file_descr -> flush_queue -> unit
Discard data written on the given file descriptor but not yet transmitted, or data received but not yet read, depending on the second argument: TCIFLUSH flushes data received but not read, TCOFLUSH flushes data written but not transmitted, and TCIOFLUSH flushes both.

On Windows, not implemented.

type flow_action =
| TCOOFF
| TCOON
| TCIOFF
| TCION
val tcflow : file_descr -> flow_action -> unit
Suspend or restart reception or transmission of data on the given file descriptor, depending on the second argument: TCOOFF suspends output, TCOON restarts output, TCIOFF transmits a STOP character to suspend input, and TCION transmits a START character to restart input.

On Windows, not implemented.

val setsid : unit -> int
Put the calling process in a new session and detach it from its controlling terminal.

On Windows, not implemented.
25.2 Module UnixLabels: labelized version of the interface

This module is identical to Unix (25.1), and only differs by the addition of labels. You may see these labels directly by looking at unixLabels.mli, or by using the ocamlbrowser tool.
Windows:

The Cygwin port of OCaml fully implements all functions from the Unix module. The native Win32 ports implement a subset of them. Below is a list of the functions that are not implemented, or only partially implemented, by the Win32 ports. Functions not mentioned are fully implemented and behave as described previously in this chapter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Functions</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>fork</td>
<td>not implemented, use <code>create_process</code> or threads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wait</td>
<td>not implemented, use <code>waitpid</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>waitpid</td>
<td>can only wait for a given PID, not any child process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>getppid</td>
<td>not implemented (meaningless under Windows)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nice</td>
<td>not implemented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>truncate, ftruncate</td>
<td>not implemented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>link</td>
<td>implemented (since 3.02)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>symlink, readlink</td>
<td>implemented (since 4.03.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>access</td>
<td>execute permission <code>X_OK</code> cannot be tested, it just tests for read permission instead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fchmod</td>
<td>not implemented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chown, fchown</td>
<td>not implemented (make no sense on a DOS file system)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>umask</td>
<td>not implemented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mkfifo</td>
<td>not implemented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kill</td>
<td>partially implemented (since 4.00.0): only the <code>SIGKILL</code> signal is implemented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pause</td>
<td>not implemented (no inter-process signals in Windows)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>alarm</td>
<td>not implemented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>times</td>
<td>partially implemented, will not report timings for child processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>getitimer, setitimer</td>
<td>not implemented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>getuid, geteuid, getgid, getegid</td>
<td>always return 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>getgroups</td>
<td>always returns <code>[11]</code> (since 2.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>setuid, setgid, setgroups</td>
<td>not implemented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>getpwnam, getpwuid</td>
<td>always raise <code>Not_found</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>getgrnam, getgrgid</td>
<td>always raise <code>Not_found</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>socket_domain</code></td>
<td><code>PF_INET</code> is fully supported; <code>PF_INET6</code> is fully supported (since 4.01.0); <code>PF_UNIX</code> is not supported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>establish_server</td>
<td>not implemented; use threads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>terminal functions (tc*)</td>
<td>not implemented</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 26

The num library: arbitrary-precision rational arithmetic

The num library implements integer arithmetic and rational arithmetic in arbitrary precision. It was split off the core OCaml distribution starting with the 4.06.0 release, and can now be found at https://github.com/ocaml/num.

New applications that need arbitrary-precision arithmetic should use the Zarith library (https://github.com/ocaml/Zarith) instead of the Num library, and older applications that already use Num are encouraged to switch to Zarith. Zarith delivers much better performance than Num and has a nicer API.
Chapter 27

The str library: regular expressions and string processing

The str library provides high-level string processing functions, some based on regular expressions. It is intended to support the kind of file processing that is usually performed with scripting languages such as awk, perl or sed.

Programs that use the str library must be linked as follows:

```
ocamlc other options str.cma other files
ocamlopt other options str.cmxa other files
```

For interactive use of the str library, do:

```
ocamlmktop -o mytop str.cma
./mytop
```

or (if dynamic linking of C libraries is supported on your platform), start ocaml and type

```
#load "str.cma";;
```

27.1 Module Str: Regular expressions and high-level string processing

Regular expressions

```
type regexp

val regexp : string -> regexp
```

The type of compiled regular expressions.

Compile a regular expression. The following constructs are recognized:

- . Matches any character except newline.
- * (postfix) Matches the preceding expression zero, one or several times
• + (postfix) Matches the preceding expression one or several times
• ? (postfix) Matches the preceding expression once or not at all
• [...] Character set. Ranges are denoted with -, as in [a-z]. An initial ^, as in [^0-9], complements the set. To include a ] character in a set, make it the first character of the set. To include a - character in a set, make it the first or the last character of the set.
• ^ Matches at beginning of line: either at the beginning of the matched string, or just after a 'n' character.
• $ Matches at end of line: either at the end of the matched string, or just before a 'n' character.
• \( (infix) Alternative between two expressions.
• \( \) Grouping and naming of the enclosed expression.
• \1 The text matched by the first \( \) expression (\2 for the second expression, and so on up to \9).
• \b Matches word boundaries.
• \ Quotes word boundaries. The special characters are $^.*+?[].

Note: the argument to regexp is usually a string literal. In this case, any backslash character in the regular expression must be doubled to make it past the OCaml string parser. For example, the following expression:

let r = Str.regexp "hello \([A-Za-z]+\)" in
Str.replace_first r "\1" "hello world"

returns the string "world".

In particular, if you want a regular expression that matches a single backslash character, you need to quote it in the argument to regexp (according to the last item of the list above) by adding a second backslash. Then you need to quote both backslashes (according to the syntax of string constants in OCaml) by doubling them again, so you need to write four backslash characters: Str.regexp "\\\\".

val regexp_case_fold : string -> regexp
Same as regexp, but the compiled expression will match text in a case-insensitive way: uppercase and lowercase letters will be considered equivalent.

val quote : string -> string
Str.quote s returns a regexp string that matches exactly s and nothing else.

val regexp_string : string -> regexp
Str.regexp_string s returns a regular expression that matches exactly s and nothing else.

val regexp_string_case_fold : string -> regexp
Str.regexp_string_case_fold is similar to Str.regexp_string[27.1], but the regexp matches in a case-insensitive way.
String matching and searching

val string_match : regexp -> string -> int -> bool
  string_match r s start tests whether a substring of s that starts at position start
  matches the regular expression r. The first character of a string has position 0, as usual.

val search_forward : regexp -> string -> int -> int
  search_forward r s start searches the string s for a substring matching the regular
  expression r. The search starts at position start and proceeds towards the end of the
  string. Return the position of the first character of the matched substring.
  Raises Not_found if no substring matches.

val search_backward : regexp -> string -> int -> int
  search_backward r s last searches the string s for a substring matching the regular
  expression r. The search first considers substrings that start at position last and proceeds
  towards the beginning of string. Return the position of the first character of the matched
  substring.
  Raises Not_found if no substring matches.

val string_partial_match : regexp -> string -> int -> bool
  Similar to Str.string_match[27.1], but also returns true if the argument string is a prefix
  of a string that matches. This includes the case of a true complete match.

val matched_string : string -> string
  matched_string s returns the substring of s that was matched by the last call to one of
  the following matching or searching functions:

  - Str.string_match[27.1]
  - Str.search_forward[27.1]
  - Str.search_backward[27.1]
  - Str.string_partial_match[27.1]
  - Str.global_substitute[27.1]
  - Str.substitute_first[27.1]

  provided that none of the following functions was called in between:

  - Str.global_replace[27.1]
  - Str.replace_first[27.1]
  - Str.split[27.1]
  - Str.bounded_split[27.1]
  - Str.split_delim[27.1]
  - Str.bounded_split_delim[27.1]
• Str.full_split

• Str.bounded_full_split

Note: in the case of global_substitute and substitute_first, a call to matched_string is only valid within the subst argument, not after global_substitute or substitute_first returns.

The user must make sure that the parameter s is the same string that was passed to the matching or searching function.

val match_beginning : unit -> int

match_beginning() returns the position of the first character of the substring that was matched by the last call to a matching or searching function (see Str.matched_string for details).

val match_end : unit -> int

match_end() returns the position of the character following the last character of the substring that was matched by the last call to a matching or searching function (see Str.matched_string for details).

val matched_group : int -> string -> string

matched_group n s returns the substring of s that was matched by the nth group \(\(\ldots\)\) of the regular expression that was matched by the last call to a matching or searching function (see Str.matched_string for details). The user must make sure that the parameter s is the same string that was passed to the matching or searching function.

Raises Not_found if the nth group of the regular expression was not matched. This can happen with groups inside alternatives \|, options ? or repetitions *. For instance, the empty string will match \(\(a\)\)\*, but matched_group 1 "" will raise Not_found because the first group itself was not matched.

val group_beginning : int -> int

group_beginning n returns the position of the first character of the substring that was matched by the nth group of the regular expression that was matched by the last call to a matching or searching function (see Str.matched_string for details).

Raises

• Not_found if the nth group of the regular expression was not matched.

• Invalid_argument if there are fewer than n groups in the regular expression.

val group_end : int -> int

group_end n returns the position of the character following the last character of substring that was matched by the nth group of the regular expression that was matched by the last call to a matching or searching function (see Str.matched_string for details).

Raises
• Not_found if the \text{n}th group of the regular expression was not matched.
• Invalid_argument if there are fewer than \text{n} groups in the regular expression.

Replacement

\text{val global_replace : regexp -> string -> string -> string}
\text{global_replace regexp templ s} returns a string identical to \text{s}, except that all substrings of \text{s} that match \text{regexp} have been replaced by \text{templ}. The replacement template \text{templ} can contain \text{}1, \text{}2, etc; these sequences will be replaced by the text matched by the corresponding group in the regular expression. \text{}0 stands for the text matched by the whole regular expression.

\text{val replace_first : regexp -> string -> string -> string}
\text{replace_first regexp templ s} returns a string identical to \text{s}, except that only the first substring matching the regular expression is replaced.

\text{val global_substitute : regexp -> (string -> string) -> string -> string}
\text{global_substitute regexp subst s} returns a string identical to \text{s}, except that all substrings of \text{s} that match \text{regexp} have been replaced by the result of function \text{subst}. The function \text{subst} is called once for each matching substring, and receives \text{s} (the whole text) as argument.

\text{val substitute_first : regexp -> (string -> string) -> string -> string}
\text{substitute_first regexp subst s} returns a string identical to \text{s}, except that only the first substring matching the regular expression is replaced.

\text{val replace_matched : string -> string -> string}
\text{replace_matched repl s} returns the replacement text \text{repl} in which \text{}1, \text{}2, etc. have been replaced by the text matched by the corresponding groups in the regular expression that was matched by the last call to a matching or searching function (see \text{Str.matched_string} for details). \text{s} must be the same string that was passed to the matching or searching function.

Splitting

\text{val split : regexp -> string -> string list}
\text{split r s} splits \text{s} into substrings, taking as delimiters the substrings that match \text{r}, and returns the list of substrings. For instance, \text{split \ (regexp \ "[ \t\]+") s} splits \text{s} into blank-separated words. An occurrence of the delimiter at the beginning or at the end of the string is ignored.

\text{val bounded_split : regexp -> string -> int -> string list}
Same as Str.split\[27.1\], but splits into at most \(n\) substrings, where \(n\) is the extra integer parameter.

```markdown
val split_delim : regexp \(\to\) string \(\to\) string list
```
Same as Str.split\[27.1\] but occurrences of the delimiter at the beginning and at the end of the string are recognized and returned as empty strings in the result. For instance, `split_delim (regexp " ") " abc "` returns `""
"abc"
""`, while `split with the same arguments` returns `"abc"`.

```markdown
val bounded_split_delim : regexp \(\to\) string \(\to\) int \(\to\) string list
```
Same as Str.bounded_split\[27.1\], but occurrences of the delimiter at the beginning and at the end of the string are recognized and returned as empty strings in the result.

```markdown
type split_result =
| Text of string
| Delim of string
```

```markdown
val full_split : regexp \(\to\) string \(\to\) split_result list
```
Same as Str.split_delim\[27.1\], but returns the delimiters as well as the substrings contained between delimiters. The former are tagged Delim in the result list; the latter are tagged Text. For instance, `full_split (regexp \"[{}]\") \"{ab}\"` returns `[Delim \"\{"\";
Text \"ab\";
Delim \"\}"\"].

```markdown
val bounded_full_split : regexp \(\to\) string \(\to\) int \(\to\) split_result list
```
Same as Str.bounded_split_delim\[27.1\], but returns the delimiters as well as the substrings contained between delimiters. The former are tagged Delim in the result list; the latter are tagged Text.

### Extracting substrings

```markdown
val string_before : string \(\to\) int \(\to\) string
```
String_before \(s\ n\) returns the substring of all characters of \(s\) that precede position \(n\) (excluding the character at position \(n\)).

```markdown
val string_after : string \(\to\) int \(\to\) string
```
String_after \(s\ n\) returns the substring of all characters of \(s\) that follow position \(n\) (including the character at position \(n\)).

```markdown
val first_chars : string \(\to\) int \(\to\) string
```
First_chars \(s\ n\) returns the first \(n\) characters of \(s\). This is the same function as Str.string_before\[27.1\].

```markdown
val last_chars : string \(\to\) int \(\to\) string
```
Last_chars \(s\ n\) returns the last \(n\) characters of \(s\).
Chapter 28

The threads library

Warning: the threads library is deprecated since version 4.08.0 of OCaml. Please switch to system threads, which have the same API. Lightweight threads with VM-level scheduling are provided by third-party libraries such as Lwt, but with a different API.

The threads library allows concurrent programming in OCaml. It provides multiple threads of control (also called lightweight processes) that execute concurrently in the same memory space. Threads communicate by in-place modification of shared data structures, or by sending and receiving data on communication channels.

The threads library is implemented by time-sharing on a single processor. It will not take advantage of multi-processor machines. Using this library will therefore never make programs run faster. However, many programs are easier to write when structured as several communicating processes.

Two implementations of the threads library are available, depending on the capabilities of the operating system:

- System threads. This implementation builds on the OS-provided threads facilities: POSIX 1003.1c threads for Unix, and Win32 threads for Windows. When available, system threads support both bytecode and native-code programs.

- VM-level threads. This implementation performs time-sharing and context switching at the level of the OCaml virtual machine (bytecode interpreter). It is available on Unix systems, and supports only bytecode programs. It cannot be used with native-code programs.

Programs that use system threads must be linked as follows:

```bash
ocamlc -I +threads other options unix.cma threads.cma other files
ocamloo -I +threads other options unix.cmxa threads.cmxa other files
```

Compilation units that use the threads library must also be compiled with the -I +threads option (see chapter 9).
28.1 Module Thread: Lightweight threads for Posix 1003.1c and Win32.

The type of thread handles.

Thread creation and termination

val create : ('a -> 'b) -> 'a -> t
Thread.create funct arg creates a new thread of control, in which the function application funct arg is executed concurrently with the other threads of the program. The application of Thread.create returns the handle of the newly created thread. The new thread terminates when the application funct arg returns, either normally or by raising an uncaught exception. In the latter case, the exception is printed on standard error, but not propagated back to the parent thread. Similarly, the result of the application funct arg is discarded and not directly accessible to the parent thread.

val self : unit -> t
Return the thread currently executing.

val id : t -> int
Return the identifier of the given thread. A thread identifier is an integer that identifies uniquely the thread. It can be used to build data structures indexed by threads.

val exit : unit -> unit
Terminate prematurely the currently executing thread.

val kill : t -> unit
Terminate prematurely the thread whose handle is given.

Suspending threads

val delay : float -> unit
delay d suspends the execution of the calling thread for d seconds. The other program threads continue to run during this time.

val join : t -> unit
join th suspends the execution of the calling thread until the thread th has terminated.

val wait_read : Unix.file_descr -> unit
See Thread.wait_write[28.1].
Chapter 28. The threads library

val wait_write : Unix.file_descr -> unit
This function does nothing in this implementation.

val wait_timed_read : Unix.file_descr -> float -> bool
See Thread.wait_timed_write[28.1].

val wait_timed_write : Unix.file_descr -> float -> bool
Suspend the execution of the calling thread until at least one character or EOF is available for reading (wait_read) or one character can be written without blocking (wait_write) on the given Unix file descriptor. Wait for at most the amount of time given as second argument (in seconds). Return true if the file descriptor is ready for input/output and false if the timeout expired.

These functions return immediately true in the Win32 implementation.

val select :
Unix.file_descr list ->
Unix.file_descr list ->
Unix.file_descr list ->
float -> Unix.file_descr list * Unix.file_descr list * Unix.file_descr list
Suspend the execution of the calling thread until input/output becomes possible on the given Unix file descriptors. The arguments and results have the same meaning as for Unix.select. This function is not implemented yet under Win32.

val wait_pid : int -> int * Unix.process_status
wait_pid p suspends the execution of the calling thread until the process specified by the process identifier p terminates. Returns the pid of the child caught and its termination status, as per Unix.wait. This function is not implemented under MacOS.

val yield : unit -> unit
Re-schedule the calling thread without suspending it. This function can be used to give scheduling hints, telling the scheduler that now is a good time to switch to other threads.

Management of signals

Signal handling follows the POSIX thread model: signals generated by a thread are delivered to that thread; signals generated externally are delivered to one of the threads that does not block it. Each thread possesses a set of blocked signals, which can be modified using Thread.sigmask[28.1]. This set is inherited at thread creation time. Per-thread signal masks are supported only by the system thread library under Unix, but not under Win32, nor by the VM thread library.

val sigmask : Unix.sigprocmask_command -> int list -> int list
sigmask cmd sigs changes the set of blocked signals for the calling thread. If cmd is SIG_SETMASK, blocked signals are set to those in the list sigs. If cmd is SIG_BLOCK, the signals in sigs are added to the set of blocked signals. If cmd is SIG_UNBLOCK, the signals in sigs are removed from the set of blocked signals. sigmask returns the set of previously blocked signals for the thread.
val wait_signal : int list -> int

wait_signal sigs suspends the execution of the calling thread until the process receives one of the signals specified in the list sigs. It then returns the number of the signal received. Signal handlers attached to the signals in sigs will not be invoked. The signals sigs are expected to be blocked before calling wait_signal.

28.2 Module Mutex: Locks for mutual exclusion.

Mutexes (mutual-exclusion locks) are used to implement critical sections and protect shared mutable data structures against concurrent accesses. The typical use is (if m is the mutex associated with the data structure D):

    Mutex.lock m;
    (* Critical section that operates over D *);
    Mutex.unlock m

type t

The type of mutexes.

val create : unit -> t

Return a new mutex.

val lock : t -> unit

Lock the given mutex. Only one thread can have the mutex locked at any time. A thread that attempts to lock a mutex already locked by another thread will suspend until the other thread unlocks the mutex.

val try_lock : t -> bool

Same as Mutex.lock[28.2], but does not suspend the calling thread if the mutex is already locked: just return false immediately in that case. If the mutex is unlocked, lock it and return true.

val unlock : t -> unit

Unlock the given mutex. Other threads suspended trying to lock the mutex will restart.

28.3 Module Condition: Condition variables to synchronize between threads.

Condition variables are used when one thread wants to wait until another thread has finished doing something: the former thread 'waits' on the condition variable, the latter thread 'signals' the
condition when it is done. Condition variables should always be protected by a mutex. The typical use is (if \( D \) is a shared data structure, \( m \) its mutex, and \( c \) is a condition variable):

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Mutex.lock } m; \\
\text{while } \left( \text{some predicate } P \text{ over } D \text{ is not satisfied} \right) \text{ do} \\
\quad \quad \text{Condition.wait } c \; m \\
\text{done;} \\
\left( \text{Modify } D \; \right) \\
\text{if } \left( \text{the predicate } P \text{ over } D \text{ is now satisfied} \right) \text{ then Condition.signal } c; \\
\text{Mutex.unlock } m
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\text{type } t
\]

The type of condition variables.

\[
\text{val create : unit } \rightarrow t
\]

Return a new condition variable.

\[
\text{val wait : } t \rightarrow \text{Mutex.t } \rightarrow \text{unit}
\]

\[
\text{wait } c \; m \text{ atomically unlocks the mutex } m \text{ and suspends the calling process on the condition variable } c. \text{ The process will restart after the condition variable } c \text{ has been signalled. The mutex } m \text{ is locked again before } \text{wait} \text{ returns.}
\]

\[
\text{val signal : } t \rightarrow \text{unit}
\]

\[
\text{signal } c \text{ restarts one of the processes waiting on the condition variable } c.
\]

\[
\text{val broadcast : } t \rightarrow \text{unit}
\]

\[
\text{broadcast } c \text{ restarts all processes waiting on the condition variable } c.
\]

## 28.4 Module Event: First-class synchronous communication.

This module implements synchronous inter-thread communications over channels. As in John Reppy’s Concurrent ML system, the communication events are first-class values: they can be built and combined independently before being offered for communication.

\[
\text{type } \; \text{'}a \text{ channel}
\]

The type of communication channels carrying values of type \( \; \text{'}a \).

\[
\text{val new_channel : unit } \rightarrow \; \text{'}a \text{ channel}
\]

Return a new channel.

\[
\text{type } \; \text{+'a} \text{ event}
\]

The type of communication events returning a result of type \( \; \text{'}a \).

val send : 'a channel -> 'a -> unit event
  send ch v returns the event consisting in sending the value v over the channel ch. The result value of this event is ()..

val receive : 'a channel -> 'a event
  receive ch returns the event consisting in receiving a value from the channel ch. The result value of this event is the value received.

val always : 'a -> 'a event
  always v returns an event that is always ready for synchronization. The result value of this event is v.

val choose : 'a event list -> 'a event
  choose evl returns the event that is the alternative of all the events in the list evl.

val wrap : 'a event -> ('a -> 'b) -> 'b event
  wrap ev fn returns the event that performs the same communications as ev, then applies the post-processing function fn on the return value.

val wrap_abort : 'a event -> (unit -> unit) -> 'a event
  wrap_abort ev fn returns the event that performs the same communications as ev, but if it is not selected the function fn is called after the synchronization.

val guard : (unit -> 'a event) -> 'a event
  guard fn returns the event that, when synchronized, computes fn() and behaves as the resulting event. This allows to compute events with side-effects at the time of the synchronization operation.

val sync : 'a event -> 'a
  'Synchronize' on an event: offer all the communication possibilities specified in the event to the outside world, and block until one of the communications succeed. The result value of that communication is returned.

val select : 'a event list -> 'a
  'Synchronize' on an alternative of events. select evl is shorthand for sync(choose evl).

val poll : 'a event -> 'a option
  Non-blocking version of Event.sync[28.4]: offer all the communication possibilities specified in the event to the outside world, and if one can take place immediately, perform it and return Some r where r is the result value of that communication. Otherwise, return None without blocking.
28.5 Module ThreadUnix: Thread-compatible system calls.

The functionality of this module has been merged back into the Unix[25.1] module. Threaded programs can now call the functions from module Unix[25.1] directly, and still get the correct behavior (block the calling thread, if required, but do not block all threads in the process). Thread-compatible system calls.

Process handling

val execv : string -> string array -> unit
val execve : string -> string array -> string array -> unit
val execvp : string -> string array -> unit
val wait : unit -> int * Unix.process_status
val waitpid : Unix.wait_flag list -> int -> int * Unix.process_status
val system : string -> Unix.process_status

Basic input/output

val read : Unix.file_descr -> bytes -> int -> int -> int
val write : Unix.file_descr -> bytes -> int -> int -> int
val write_substring : Unix.file_descr -> string -> int -> int -> int

Input/output with timeout

val timed_read : Unix.file_descr -> bytes -> int -> int -> float -> int
   See ThreadUnix.timed_write[28.5].
val timed_write : Unix.file_descr -> bytes -> int -> int -> float -> int
   Behave as ThreadUnix.read[28.5] and ThreadUnix.write[28.5], except that
   Unix_error(ETIMEDOUT,_,_) is raised if no data is available for reading or ready for
   writing after d seconds. The delay d is given in the fifth argument, in seconds.
val timed_write_substring :
   Unix.file_descr -> string -> int -> int -> float -> int
   See ThreadUnix.timed_write[28.5].

Polling

val select :
   Unix.file_descr list ->
   Unix.file_descr list ->
   Unix.file_descr list ->
   float -> Unix.file_descr list * Unix.file_descr list * Unix.file_descr list
Pipes and redirections

val pipe : ?cloexec:bool -> unit -> Unix.file_descr * Unix.file_descr
val open_process_in : string -> in_channel
val open_process_out : string -> out_channel
val open_process : string -> in_channel * out_channel

Time

val sleep : int -> unit

Sockets

val socket :
  ?cloexec:bool ->
  Unix.socket_domain -> Unix.socket_type -> int -> Unix.file_descr
val accept :
  ?cloexec:bool -> Unix.file_descr -> Unix.file_descr * Unix.sockaddr
val connect : Unix.file_descr -> Unix.sockaddr -> unit
val recv :
  Unix.file_descr -> bytes -> int -> int -> Unix.msg_flag list -> int
val recvfrom :
  Unix.file_descr ->
  bytes -> int -> int -> Unix.msg_flag list -> int * Unix.sockaddr
val send :
  Unix.file_descr -> bytes -> int -> int -> Unix.msg_flag list -> int
val send_substring :
  Unix.file_descr -> string -> int -> int -> Unix.msg_flag list -> int
val sendto :
  Unix.file_descr ->
  bytes -> int -> int -> Unix.msg_flag list -> Unix.sockaddr -> int
val sendto_substring :
  Unix.file_descr ->
  string -> int -> int -> Unix.msg_flag list -> Unix.sockaddr -> int
val open_connection : Unix.sockaddr -> in_channel * out_channel
Since OCaml 4.09, the\texttt{graphics} library is distributed as an external package. Its new home is:\url{https://github.com/ocaml/graphics}

If you are using the opam package manager, you should install the corresponding \texttt{graphics} package:

\begin{verbatim}
opam install graphics
\end{verbatim}

Before OCaml 4.09, this package simply ensures that the \texttt{graphics} library was installed by the compiler, and starting from OCaml 4.09 this package effectively provides the \texttt{graphics} library.
Chapter 30

The dynlink library: dynamic loading and linking of object files

The dynlink library supports type-safe dynamic loading and linking of bytecode object files (.cmo and .cma files) in a running bytecode program, or of native plugins (usually .cmxs files) in a running native program. Type safety is ensured by limiting the set of modules from the running program that the loaded object file can access, and checking that the running program and the loaded object file have been compiled against the same interfaces for these modules. In native code, there are also some compatibility checks on the implementations (to avoid errors with cross-module optimizations); it might be useful to hide .cmx files when building native plugins so that they remain independent of the implementation of modules in the main program.

Programs that use the dynlink library simply need to link dynlink.cma or dynlink.cmxa with their object files and other libraries.

Note: in order to insure that the dynamically-loaded modules have access to all the libraries that are visible to the main program (and not just to the parts of those libraries that are actually used in the main program), programs using the dynlink library should be linked with -linkall.

30.1 Module Dynlink : Dynamic loading of .cmo, .cma and .cmxs files.

val is_native : bool
    true if the program is native, false if the program is bytecode.

Dynamic loading of compiled files

val loadfile : string -> unit
    In bytecode: load the given bytecode object file (.cmo file) or bytecode library file (.cma file), and link it with the running program. In native code: load the given OCaml plugin file (usually .cmxs), and link it with the running program.
All toplevel expressions in the loaded compilation units are evaluated. No facilities are provided to access value names defined by the unit. Therefore, the unit must itself register its entry points with the main program (or a previously-loaded library) e.g. by modifying tables of functions.

An exception will be raised if the given library defines toplevel modules whose names clash with modules existing either in the main program or a shared library previously loaded with loadfile. Modules from shared libraries previously loaded with loadfile_private are not included in this restriction.

The compilation units loaded by this function are added to the "allowed units" list (see Dynlink.set_allowed_units[30.1]).

val loadfile_private : string -> unit
Same as loadfile, except that the compilation units just loaded are hidden (cannot be referenced) from other modules dynamically loaded afterwards.

An exception will be raised if the given library defines toplevel modules whose names clash with modules existing in either the main program or a shared library previously loaded with loadfile. Modules from shared libraries previously loaded with loadfile_private are not included in this restriction.

An exception will also be raised if the given library defines toplevel modules whose name matches that of an interface depended on by a module existing in either the main program or a shared library previously loaded with loadfile. This applies even if such dependency is only a "module alias" dependency (i.e. just on the name rather than the contents of the interface).

The compilation units loaded by this function are not added to the "allowed units" list (see Dynlink.set_allowed_units[30.1]) since they cannot be referenced from other compilation units.

val adapt_filename : string -> string
In bytecode, the identity function. In native code, replace the last extension with .cmxs.

Access control

val set_allowed_units : string list -> unit
Set the list of compilation units that may be referenced from units that are dynamically loaded in the future to be exactly the given value.

Initially all compilation units composing the program currently running are available for reference from dynamically-linked units. set_allowed_units can be used to restrict access to a subset of these units, e.g. to the units that compose the API for dynamically-linked code, and prevent access to all other units, e.g. private, internal modules of the running program.

Note that Dynlink.loadfile[30.1] changes the allowed-units list.
val allow_only : string list -> unit
allow_only units sets the list of allowed units to be the intersection of the existing allowed units and the given list of units. As such it can never increase the set of allowed units.

val prohibit : string list -> unit
prohibit units prohibits dynamically-linked units from referencing the units named in list units by removing such units from the allowed units list. This can be used to prevent access to selected units, e.g. private, internal modules of the running program.

val main_program_units : unit -> string list
Return the list of compilation units that form the main program (i.e. are not dynamically linked).

val public_dynamically_loaded_units : unit -> string list
Return the list of compilation units that have been dynamically loaded via loadfile (and not via loadfile_private). Note that compilation units loaded dynamically cannot be unloaded.

val all_units : unit -> string list
Return the list of compilation units that form the main program together with those that have been dynamically loaded via loadfile (and not via loadfile_private).

val allow_unsafe_modules : bool -> unit
Govern whether unsafe object files are allowed to be dynamically linked. A compilation unit is ‘unsafe’ if it contains declarations of external functions, which can break type safety. By default, dynamic linking of unsafe object files is not allowed. In native code, this function does nothing; object files with external functions are always allowed to be dynamically linked.

Error reporting

type linking_error = private
| Undefined_global of string
| Unavailable_primitive of string
| Uninitialized_global of string

type error = private
| Not_a_bytecode_file of string
| Inconsistent_import of string
| Unavailable_unit of string
| Unsafe_file
| Linking_error of string * linking_error
| Corrupted_interface of string
| Cannot_open_dynamic_library of exn
| Library's_module_initializers_failed of exn
exception Error of error

   Errors in dynamic linking are reported by raising the Error exception with a description of the error. A common case is the dynamic library not being found on the system: this is reported via Cannot_open_dynamic_library (the enclosed exception may be platform-specific).

val error_message : error -> string

   Convert an error description to a printable message.
Chapter 31

The bigarray library

The bigarray library has now been integrated into OCaml’s standard library.

The bigarray functionality may now be found in the standard library Bigarray module, except for the map_file function which is now part of the Unix library. The documentation has been integrated into the documentation for the standard library.

The legacy bigarray library bundled with the compiler is a compatibility library with exactly the same interface as before, i.e. with map_file included.

We strongly recommend that you port your code to use the standard library version instead, as the changes required are minimal.

If you choose to use the compatibility library, you must link your programs as follows:

```bash
ocamlc other options bigarray.cma other files
ocamlopt other options bigarray.cmxa other files
```

For interactive use of the bigarray compatibility library, do:

```bash
ocamlmktop -o mytop bigarray.cma
./mytop
```

or (if dynamic linking of C libraries is supported on your platform), start ocaml and type 
#load "bigarray.cma";;.
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