

```
(*
                               CS51 Lab 12
                               Imperative Programming and References
*)
```

```
(*
Objective:
```

This lab provides practice with reference types and their use in building mutable data structures and in imperative programming more generally. It also gives further practice in using modules to abstract data types.

There are 4 total parts to this lab. Please refer to the following files to complete all exercises:

```
    lab12_part1.ml -- Part 1: Implementing modules
    lab12_part2.ml -- Part 2: Files as modules
-> lab12_part3.ml -- Part 3: Interfaces as abstraction barriers (this file)
    lab12_part4.ml -- Part 4: Polymorphic abstract types
*)
```

```
(*=====
Part 3: Appending mutable lists
```

Recall the definition of the mutable list type from Section 15.4 of the textbook: *)

```
type 'a mlist = 'a mlist_internal ref
  and 'a mlist_internal =
  | Nil
  | Cons of 'a * 'a mlist ;;
```

(* Mutable lists are just like regular lists, except that each Nil or cons is a *reference* to a mutable list, so that it can be updated. *)

```
(*.....
Exercise 5: Construct a function 'mlist_empty : unit -> int mlist' that
returns an empty 'mlist'.
*)
```

```
let mlist_empty () : int mlist =
  failwith "mlist_empty not implemented" ;;
```

(* Now call the function 'mlist_empty' within the REPL. You'll notice that the value returned looks like a record structure with a single 'contents' field. That's because internally, OCaml implements 'ref' values as mutable records. *)

```
(*.....
Exercise 6: Construct a function 'mlist_42 : unit -> int mlist' that
returns an 'mlist' with the single integer element 42.
*)
```

```
let mlist_42 () : int mlist =
  failwith "mlist_42 not implemented" ;;
```

(* Now call the function 'mlist_42' within the REPL. Again, you'll see the telltale record structure with a single 'contents' field. In the future, you'll know why that is.

It's cumbersome to manually build up these mutable lists. Let's build a function that allows us to generate mutable versions of regular (immutable) lists. *)

(*.....
 Exercise 7: Define a polymorphic function `mlist_of_list` that
 converts a regular list to a mutable list, with behavior like this:

```
# let xs = mlist_of_list ["a"; "b"; "c"] ;;
val xs : string mlist =
  {contents = Cons ("a",
    {contents = Cons ("b",
      {contents = Cons ("c",
        {contents = Nil}})}}}}
```

```
# let ys = mlist_of_list [1; 2; 3] ;;
val ys : int mlist =
  {contents = Cons (1,
    {contents = Cons (2,
      {contents = Cons (3,
        {contents = Nil}})}}}}
```

.....*)

```
let mlist_of_list (lst : 'a list) : 'a mlist =
  failwith "mlist_of_list not implemented" ;;
```

(*.....
 Exercise 8: Define a function `mlength` to compute the length of an
 `mlist`. Try to do this without looking at the solution that is given
 in the book. (Don't worry about cycles...yet.)

```
# mlength (ref Nil) ;;
- : int = 0
# mlength (mlist_of_list [1; 2; 3; 4]) ;;
- : int = 4
```

.....*)

```
let mlength (mlst : 'a mlist) : int =
  failwith "length not implemented" ;;
```

(*.....
 Exercise 9: What is the time complexity of the `mlength` function in
 terms of the length of its list argument? Provide the tightest
 complexity class, recorded using the technique from lab 10.

.....*)

```
type complexity =
  | Unanswered
  | Constant
  | Logarithmic
  | Linear
  | LogLinear
  | Quadratic
  | Cubic
  | Exponential ;;
```

```
let length_complexity : complexity = Unanswered ;;
```

(*.....
 Exercise 10: Now, define a function `mappend` that takes a first
 mutable list and a second mutable list and, as a side effect, causes
 the first to *become* (as a side effect) the appending of the two
 lists. A question to think about before you get started:

What is an appropriate return type for the `mappend` function?
 (You can glean our intended answer from the examples below, but
 try to think it through yourself first.)

Examples of use:

```
# let m1 = mlist_of_list [1; 2; 3] ;;
val m1 : int mlist =
  {contents = Cons (1,
    {contents = Cons (2,
      {contents = Cons (3,
        {contents = Nil}})}))}}
```

```
# let m2 = mlist_of_list [4; 5; 6] ;;
val m2 : int mlist =
  {contents = Cons (4,
    {contents = Cons (5,
      {contents = Cons (6,
        {contents = Nil}})}))}}
```

```
# mlength m1 ;;
- : int = 3
```

```
# mappend m1 m2 ;;
- : unit = ()
```

```
# mlength m1 ;;
- : int = 6
```

```
# m1 ;;
- : int mlist =
  {contents = Cons (1,
    {contents = Cons (2,
      {contents = Cons (3,
        {contents = Cons (4,
          {contents = Cons (5,
            {contents = Cons (6,
              {contents = Nil}})}))}})}))}}}
```

.....*)

```
let mappend _ =
  failwith "mappend not implemented" ;;
```

(* What happens when you evaluate the following expressions sequentially in order?

```
# let m = mlist_of_list [1; 2; 3] ;;
# mappend m m ;;
# m ;;
# mlength m ;;
```

Do you understand what's going on? *)