



PAUL G. ALLEN SCHOOL  
OF COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

# CSE341: Programming Languages

## Section 1

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Fall 2019

Adapted from slides by Dan Grossman, Eric Mullen and Ryan Doenges

# *Introduction*

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# *Course Resources*

- We have a ton of course resources. Please use them!
- If you get stuck or need help:
  - Ask questions in Google Group
  - Email the staff list! [cse341-staff@cs.washington.edu](mailto:cse341-staff@cs.washington.edu)
  - Come to Office Hours (on website, you don't need a list of topics before you decide to stop by)
- We're here for you

# *Agenda*

- Setup: get everything running
- ML development workflow
- Shadowing
- Comparison Operators
- Boolean Operators
- Debugging
- Testing

# Setup

- Excellent guide located on the course website:  
[https://courses.cs.washington.edu/courses/cse341/19au/sml\\_emacs.pdf](https://courses.cs.washington.edu/courses/cse341/19au/sml_emacs.pdf)
- You need 3 things installed:
  - Emacs
  - SML
  - SML mode for Emacs

# *ML Development Workflow*

- REPL means **R**ead **E**val **P**rint **L**oop
- **Read**: ask the user for semicolon terminated input
- **Evaluate**: try to run the input as ML code
- **Print**: show the user the result or any error messages produced by evaluation
- **Loop**

# Shadowing

```
val a = 1;
```

a -> int

```
val b = 2;
```

a -> int, b -> int

```
val a = 3;
```

a -> int, b -> int, a -> int

- You can't change a variable, but you can add another with the same name
- When looking for a variable definition, most recent is always used
- Shadowing is usually considered bad style

# Shadowing

```
val a = 1;
```

a -> 1

```
val b = 2;
```

a -> 1, b -> 2

```
val a = 3;
```

a -> 1, b -> 2, a -> 3

- You can't change a variable, but you can add another with the same name
- When looking for a variable definition, most recent is always used
- Shadowing is usually considered bad style



# Shadowing

- This behavior, along with `use` in the REPL can lead to confusing effects
- Suppose I have the following program:

```
val x = 8;  
val y = 2;
```
- I load that into the REPL with `use`. Now, I decide to change my program, and I delete a line, giving this:

```
val x = 8;
```
- I load that into the REPL without restarting the REPL. What goes wrong?
- (Hint: what is the value of `y`?)

# Comparison Operators

- You can compare numbers in SML!
- Each of these operators has 2 subexpressions of type `int`, and produces a `bool`

|                                    |                                  |  |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| <code>=</code> (Equality)          | <code>&lt;</code> (Less than)    | <code>&lt;=</code> (Less than or equal)    |
| <code>&lt;&gt;</code> (Inequality) | <code>&gt;</code> (Greater than) | <code>&gt;=</code> (Greater than or equal) |

# Boolean Operators

- You can also perform logical operations over `bools`!

| Operation            | Syntax                     | Type-Checking   | Evaluation                                   |
|----------------------|----------------------------|---|--|
| <code>andalso</code> | <code>e1 andalso e2</code> | <code>e1</code> and <code>e2</code> have type <code>bool</code> | Same as Java's <code>e1 &amp;&amp; e2</code> |
| <code>orelse</code>  | <code>e1 orelse e2</code>  | <code>e1</code> and <code>e2</code> have type <code>bool</code> | Same as Java's <code>e1    e2</code>         |
| <code>not</code>     | <code>not e1</code>        | <code>e1</code> has type <code>bool</code>                      | Same as Java's <code>!e1</code>              |

- `and` is completely different, we will talk about it later
- `andalso/orelse` are SML built-ins as they use short-circuit evaluation, we will talk about why they have to be built-ins later

# And... Those Bad Styles

- Language does not need `andalso`, `orelse`, or `not`

```
(* e1 andalso e2 *)  
if e1  
then e2  
else false
```

```
(* e1 orelse e2 *)  
if e1  
then true  
else e2
```

```
(* not e1 *)  
if e1  
then false  
else true
```

- Using more concise forms generally much better style
- And definitely please do not do this:

```
(* just say e (!!!) *)  
if e  
then true  
else false
```

# *Debugging*

- DEMO
- Errors can occur at 3 stages:
  - Syntax: Your program is not “valid SML” in some (usually small and annoyingly nitpicky) way
  - Type Check: One of the type checking rules didn’t work out
  - Runtime: Your program did something while running that it shouldn’t
- The best way to debug is to read what you wrote carefully, and think about it.

# Testing

- We don't have a unit testing framework (too heavyweight for 5 weeks)
- You should still test your code!

```
val test1 = ((4 div 4) = 1);
```

# *Emacs Basics*

- Don't be scared!
- Commands have particular notation: C-x means hold Ctrl while pressing x
- Meta key is Alt (thus M-z means hold Alt, press z)
  - C-x C-s is Save File
  - C-x C-f is Open File
  - C-x C-c is Exit Emacs
- C-g is Escape (Abort any partial command you may have entered)
- Consult the installation guide