Feedback

• Assignments
  - Handout not well documented
  - Systems concepts unfamiliar to students
  - Taking too long relative to course units
  - More thorough tests

• Lectures
  - Generally positive reaction!
  - Access to materials used in class
  - Keeping questions on track
  - Language practice vs. language theory
Unit goals

• Core tenets of functional programming
  - Immutability, functions everywhere, rich type system
  - Putting OCaml into practice

• Basic theory of programming languages
  - Formalized type systems and runtime semantics
  - Focus on proving language safety

• Advanced abstractions for data and control
  - Data: algebraic data types, polymorphic/existential types
  - Control: exceptions, continuations, coroutines
Today’s goals

- OCaml syntax and semantics
- Functional programming model
OCaml is a functional PL

• Functional PLs are widely studied in academia
  - Haskell, OCaml, Standard ML are all over 20 years old!
  - Embody many principles of academic PLs

• Yet to see widespread adoption
  - But ideas trickle slowly into the mainstream
Let’s learn OCaml!