list comprehensions

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"Python's list comprehension syntax is taken (with trivial keyword/symbol modifications) directly from Haskell. The idea was just too good to pass up." wiki.python.org

>>> [x + 42 for x in range(5)]
[42, 43, 44, 45, 46]
>>> [(x, y) for x in [1,2,3] for y in [3,1,4] if x != y]
[(1, 3), (1, 4), (2, 3), (2, 1), (2, 4), (3, 1), (3, 4)]

playing with Haskell

Ranges:

```
prompt> [1..10]
[1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10]
prompt> [1,3..10]
[1,3,5,7,9]
prompt> [10,9..1]
[10,9,8,7,6,5,4,3,2,1]
prompt> [10,8..1]
[10,8,6,4,2]
```

Don't evaluate before you have to:

```
and' :: Bool -> Bool -> Bool
and' False _ = False
and' _ x = x
```

```
prompt> head []
```

*** Exception: prompt.head: empty list
prompt> and' False (head [] == 2)

False

How did this work?

- Expressions are not evaluated when they are bound to variables, but their evaluation is **deferred** until their results are needed by other computations.
- Arguments are not evaluated before they are passed to a function, but only when their values are actually used.
- A **thunk** is an unevaluated value with a recipe that explains how to evaluate it.
- It is possible to **partially evaluate** an expression, for example (thunk, thunk).
- Aside: lookup Racket's thunk function.

length [] = 0
length (_:xs) = 1 + length xs

What do we need to evaluate in the expression length [42¹²³⁴, 42²³⁴⁵, 42³⁴⁵⁶]?

```
length thunk{[42^1234, 42^2345, 42^3456]}
                                                 pattern match
length (_ : thunk{[42^2345, 42^3456]})
                                                 function body
1 + length thunk{[42^2345, 42^3456]}
                                                 pattern match
1 + \text{length} (\_: \text{thunk} \{ [42^{3456}] \} )
                                                 function body
1 + (1 + \text{length thunk}[42^{3456}])
                                                 pattern match
1 + (1 + length (_ : thunk{[]}))
                                                 function body
1 + (1 + (1 + \text{length thunk} \{ [ ] \}))
                                                 pattern match
1 + (1 + (1 + \text{length []}))
                                                 function body
1 + (1 + (1 + 0))
                                                 display
3
```

```
ones = 1 : ones
```

What kind of a thing is ones? What happens if we evaluate ones in the REPL? But we can use it in other ways. For example:

prompt> tenOnes = take 10 ones [1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1]

How does this work? We need to know how take is defined:

```
take _ [] = []
take 0 _ = []
take n (x:xs) = x : take (n-1) xs
```

```
take _ [] = []
take 0 _ = []
take n (x:xs) = x : take (n-1) xs
```

Then:

```
take 3 thunk{ones}
take 3 (1 : thunk{ones})
1: take thunk{3-1} thunk{ones}
1: take 2 (1 : thunk{ones})
1:1 : take thunk{2-1} thunk{ones}
1:1 : take 1 (1 : thunk{ones})
1:1:1 : take thunk{1-1} thunk{ones}
1:1:1 : take 0 _
1:1:1: []
```

pattern match function body pattern match function body pattern match function body pattern match function body

```
More fun examples:
numsFrom n = n : numsFrom (n + 1)
nats = numsFrom 0
nats = 0 : map (+1) nats
squares = map (^2) nats
odds = filter odd nats
evens = filter even nats
fibs = 0 : 1 : zipWith (+) fibs (tail fibs)
fibs = 0:1:[x+y | (x, y) < -zip fibs (tail fibs)]
prime x = null [y | y < - [2..(x-1)], x \mod y == 0]
primes = [x | x <- numsFrom 2, prime x]
primes = filter prime $ numsFrom 2
```