Procedures

CSE 413, Autumn 2002

Programming Languages

http://www.cs.washington.edu/education/courses/413/02au/

Readings and References

- Reading
  - » Sections 1.1.6-1.1.8, *Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs*, by Abelson, Sussman, and Sussman
- Other References
  - » Section 4.1, *Revised^5 Report on the Algorithmic Language Scheme (R5RS)*

Combinations

- (operator operand operand)
- There are numerous pre-defined operators
- We can define our own, arbitrarily complex operators (functions, procedures) as well
- This is a key capability by which we can operate at higher levels of abstraction

Define and name a procedure

- **`(define (`**⟨*name*⟩ ⟨*formal params*⟩**`)`** ⟨*body*⟩**`)`**
  - » **`define`** - special form
  - » *name* - the name that the procedure is bound to
  - » *formal params* - names used within the body of procedure
  - » *body* - expression (or sequence of expressions) that will be evaluated when the procedure is called.
  - » The result of the last expression in the body will be returned as the result of the procedure call

Example definitions

```
(define pi 3.1415926535)

(define (area-of-disk r)
  (* pi (* r r)))

(define (area-of-ring outer inner)
  (- (area-of-disk outer)
     (area-of-disk inner)))
```

Defined procedures are "first class"

- Compound procedures that we define are used exactly the same way the primitive procedures provided in Scheme are used
  - » names of built-in procedures are not treated specially; they are simply names that have been pre-defined
  - » you can't tell whether a name stands for a primitive (built-in) procedure or a compound (defined) procedure by looking at the name or how it is used

Evaluation example

- **`(area-of-ring 4 1)`**
  - » evaluate operator **`area-of-ring`** => procedure definition
  - » evaluate 4 => 4
  - » evaluate 1 => 1
  - » apply the procedure to the arguments

Booleans

- Recall that one type of data object is boolean
  - » **`#t`** (true) or **`#f`** (false)
- We can use these explicitly or by calculating them in expressions that yield boolean values
- An expression that yields a true or false value is called a predicate
  - » **`#t`** => **`#t`**
  - » **`(< 5 5)`** => **`#f`**
  - » **`(> pi 0)`** => **`#t`**

Conditional expressions

- As in all languages, we need to be able to make decisions based on inputs and do something depending on the result
- A predicate expression is evaluated
  - » true or false
- The consequent expression is evaluated if the predicate is true

Special form: **cond**

- **(cond** ⟨*clause*$_1$⟩ ⟨*clause*$_2$⟩ **...** ⟨*clause*$_n$⟩**)**
- each clause is of the form
  - » **(**⟨*predicate*⟩ ⟨*expression*⟩**)**
  - » where ⟨*predicate*⟩ is a boolean expression and ⟨*expression*⟩ is the consequent expression to execute if ⟨*predicate*⟩ is true
- the last clause can be of the form
  - » **(else** ⟨*expression*⟩**)**
  - » in which case ⟨*expression*⟩ is executed if none of the preceding ⟨*predicates*⟩ were true

Example: sign.scm

```
; return the sign of x as -1, 0, or 1

(define (sign x)
  (cond
    ((< x 0) -1)
    ((= x 0) 0)
    ((> x 0) +1)))
```

`also interest-rate.scm`

Special form: `if`

- **`(if`** ⟨*predicate*⟩ ⟨*consequent*⟩ ⟨*alternate*⟩**`)`**
- **`(if`** ⟨*predicate*⟩ ⟨*consequent*⟩ **`)`**

- ⟨*predicate*⟩ is a boolean expression
- ⟨*consequent*⟩ is the expression to execute if ⟨*predicate*⟩ is true
- ⟨*alternate*⟩ is the expression to execute if ⟨*predicate*⟩ is false

Examples : abs.scm, true-false.scm

```
; absolute value function
(define (abs a)
  (if (< a 0)
      (- a)
      a))

; return 1 if arg is true, 0 if arg is false
(define (true-false arg)
  (if arg 1 0))
```

Logical composition

- **(and** $\langle e_1 \rangle \langle e_2 \rangle \ldots \langle e_n \rangle$**)**
- **(or** $\langle e_1 \rangle \langle e_2 \rangle \ldots \langle e_n \rangle$**)**
- **(not** $\langle e \rangle$**)**

- Scheme interprets the expressions e_i one at a time in left-to-right order until it can tell the correct answer
  - » ie, these are short-circuit operators

in-range.scm

```
; true if val is lo <= val <= hi

(define (in-range lo val hi)
  (and (<= lo val)
       (<= val hi)))
```

Newton's method for square root

- Guess a value y for the square root of x
- Is it close enough to the desired value $\sqrt[2]{x}$?
  - » ie, is y^2 close to x?
- If yes, then done. Return recent guess.
- If no, then new guess is average of current $guess$ and $\frac{x}{guess}$
- Repeat with new guess

sqrta.scm

```
; Square root using Newton's method

(define (average a b)
  (/ (+ a b) 2.0))

(define (good-enough? guess x)
  (< (abs (- (* guess guess) x)) 0.001))

(define (improve guess x)
  (average guess (/ x guess)))

(define (sqrt-iter guess x)
  (if (good-enough? guess x)
      guess
      (sqrt-iter (improve guess x) x )))

(define (sqrta x)
  (sqrt-iter 1.0 x))
```

auxiliary functions

```
; Square root using Newton's method

(define (average a b)
  (/ (+ a b) 2.0))

(define (good-enough? guess x)
  (< (abs (- (* guess guess) x)) 0.001))

(define (improve guess x)
  (average guess (/ x guess)))
```

iterator and main functions

```
(define (sqrt-iter guess x)
  (if (good-enough? guess x)
      guess
      (sqrt-iter (improve guess x) x )))

(define (sqrta x)
  (sqrt-iter 1.0 x))
```

sqrt-iter

- Our first example of recursion
- Note that this recursion is used to implement a loop (an iteration)
  - » We will see this over and over in Scheme
- Iteration is calling the same block of code with a changing set of parameters
- The syntax of the procedure is recursive but the resulting process is iterative
  - » more on this next lecture