Lists

CSE 413, Autumn 2002
Programming Languages

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

Readings and References

- Reading
  » Sections 2.2-2.2.1, *Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs*, by Abelson, Sussman, and Sussman
- Other References
  » Section 6.3.2, *Revised^5 Report on the Algorithmic Language Scheme (R5RS)*

Pairs are the glue

- Using `cons` to build pairs, we can build data structures of unlimited complexity
- We can roll our own
  » if not too complex or if performance issues
- We can adopt a standard and use it for the basic elements of more complex structures
  » lists

Rational numbers with pairs

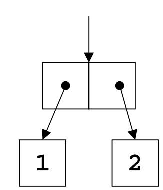
- An example of a fairly simple data structure that could be built directly with pairs

```
(define (make-rat n d)
  (cons n d))

(define (numer x)
  (car x))

(define (denom x)
  (cdr x))
```

`(make-rat 1 2)`

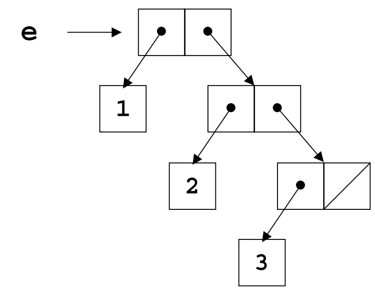


Extensibility

- What if we want to extend the data structure somehow?
- What if we want to define a structure that has more than two elements?
- We can use the pairs to glue pairs together in a more general fashion and so allow more general constructions
  - » Lists

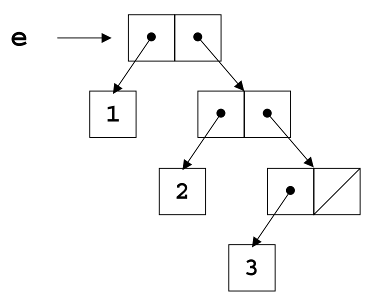
Fundamental list structure

- By convention, a list is a sequence of linked pairs
  - » `car` of each pair is the data element
  - » `cdr` of each pair points to list tail or the empty list



List construction

```
(define e (cons 1 (cons 2 (cons 3 '()))))
```




```
(define e (list 1 2 3))
```

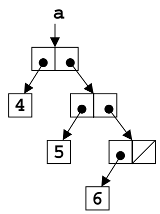

procedure `list`

(list *a b c* ...)

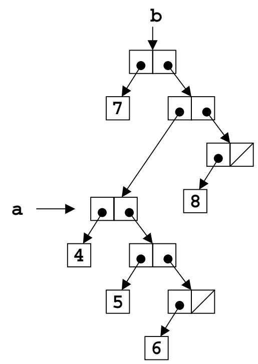
- `list` returns a newly allocated list of its arguments
  - » the arguments can be atomic items like numbers or quoted symbols
  - » the arguments can be other lists
- The backbone structure of a list is always the same
  - » a sequence of linked pairs, ending with a pointer to null (the empty list)
  - » the `car` element of each pair is the list item
  - » the list items can be other lists

List structure

```
(define a (list 4 5 6))
```




```
(define b (list 7 a 8))
```



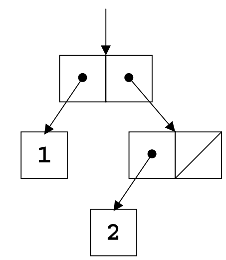
Rational numbers with lists

```
(define (make-rat n d)
  (list n d))

(define (numer x)
  (car x))

(define (denom x)
  (cadr x))
```

```
(make-rat 1 2)
```

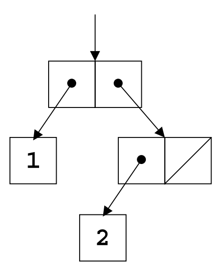


Examples of list building

```
(cons 1 (cons 2 '()))

(cons 1 (list 2))

(list 1 2)
```



Lists and recursion

- A list is zero or more connected pairs
- Each node is a pair
- Thus the parts of a list (this pair, following pairs) are lists
- And so recursion is a natural way to express list operations

cdr down

- We can process each element in turn by processing the first element in the list, then recursively processing the rest of the list

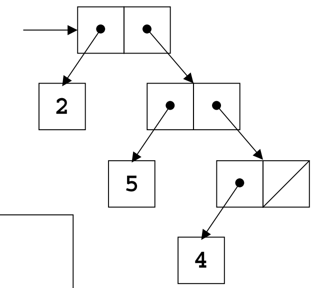
```
(define (length m)
  (if (null? m)
      0
      (+ 1 (length (cdr m)))))
```

base case

reduction step

sum the items in a list

```
(add-items (list 2 5 4))
```




```
(define (add-items m)
  (if (null? m)
      0
      (+ (car m) (add-items (cdr m)))))
```

```
(+ 2 (+ 5 (+ 4 0)))
```

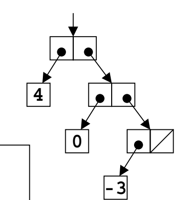

cons up

- We can build a list to return to the caller piece by piece as we go along through the input list

```
(define (reverse m)
  (define (iter shrnk grow)
    (if (null? shrnk)
        grow
        (iter (cdr shrnk) (cons (car shrnk) grow))))
  (iter m '()))
```

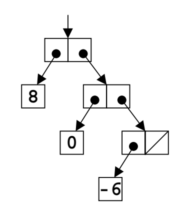

multiply each list element by 2

```
(double-all (list 4 0 -3))
```




```
(define (double-all m)
  (if (null? m)
      '()
      (cons (* 2 (car m)) (double-all (cdr m)))))
```

```
(cons 8 (cons 0 (cons -6 '())))
```



Variable number of arguments

- We can define a procedure that has zero or more required parameters, plus provision for a variable number of parameters to follow
  - » The required parameters are named in the `define` statement as usual
  - » They are followed by a "." and a single parameter name
- At runtime, the single parameter name will be given a list of all the remaining actual parameter values

(same-parity x . y)

```
(define (same-parity x . y)
…

> (same-parity 1 2 3 4 5 6 7)
(1 3 5 7)
> (same-parity 2 3 4 5 6 7)
(2 4 6)
>
```

The first argument value is assigned to x, all the rest are assigned as a list to y

map

- We can use the general purpose function `map` to map over the elements of a list and apply some function to them

```
(define (map p m)
  (if (null? m)
      '()
      (cons (p (car m))
            (map p (cdr m)))))


(define (double-all m)
  (map (lambda (x) (* 2 x)) m))
```