

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
 Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
 6.001—Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs
 Spring Semester, 1999

Recitation – Friday, February 5

1. Practice with Scheme

Write down what Scheme will print in response to the following:

\Rightarrow (define four 4)	\Rightarrow (define a 5)
\Rightarrow four	\Rightarrow (define b (+ 1 a))
\Rightarrow (define six (lambda () 6))	\Rightarrow (+ 2 (if (> b a) b a))
\Rightarrow six	\Rightarrow (if #t 5 (/ 1 0))
\Rightarrow (+ four 1)	\Rightarrow ((if (< a b) + -) a b)
\Rightarrow (+ (four) 1)	\Rightarrow (if (if + #f 2) 3 6)
\Rightarrow (+ six 1)	\Rightarrow (if 0 1 2)
\Rightarrow (+ (six) 1)	\Rightarrow (define n 4)
\Rightarrow (define f-add (lambda (x y) (+ (x) (y))))	\Rightarrow (define increment (lambda (x) (+ x 1)))
\Rightarrow (f-add six (lambda () four))	\Rightarrow (increment n)
	\Rightarrow n

2. Writing Simple Procedures

Write a procedure `max` of two arguments that returns the larger one.

Write a procedure `sign` that takes a number as its argument and returns -1 if it is negative, 1 if it is positive and 0 if the argument is zero.

3. Scoping of Variables

Consider the example below. Notice that `x` is used in multiple places. When do we substitute for `x` and when don't we?

```
⇒ (define x-y*y
    (lambda (x y)
      (- x ((lambda (x) (* x x)) y))))
```

Use the substitution model to evaluate the following expression:

```
⇒ (x-y*y 11 3)
```

Let's examine the function below to try to better understand Scheme's scoping rules.

```
(define scope
  (lambda (x y z)
    (define add-to-y
      (lambda (x) (+ x y)))
    (add-to-y z)))

⇒ (scope 1 2 3)
```

4. Syntactic Sugar

Notice that we use `lambda` a lot – in fact *every* time we write a function. To save us all from writing (and possibly misspelling) `lambda` so much, there's a short-cut.

The following two expressions are equivalent.

<pre>(define <proc> (lambda (<arg1> <arg2> ... <argn>) <body>))</pre>	\iff	<pre>(define (<proc> <arg1> <arg2> ... <argn>) <body>)</pre>
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For example, instead of writing:

```
(define average
  (lambda (x y)
    (/ (+ x y) 2)))
```

we can write:

\iff	<pre>(define (average x y) (/ (+ x y) 2))</pre>
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They are the same, so feel free to use either one. If the syntactic sugar is confusing, then stick with the original for now. The important thing to realize is that in both cases, **the lambda expression is evaluated and then bound to the name**, even if `lambda` isn't written anywhere.

5. A Recursive Procedure

Consider the mathematical definition of factorial:

$$\begin{array}{ll} n! = 1 & \text{for } n = 0 \\ n! = n(n-1)! & \text{for } n > 0 \end{array}$$

Let's write the function `factorial` in Scheme (using the "Syntactic Sugar" as described above):

```
(define (factorial n)
```

```
)
```