

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 19

## 1. Abstraction using Higher Order Procedures

Let's take a look at using abstraction on common patterns.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <pre>(* 2 5) (* 2 8) (* 2 54)</pre>   | <pre>(* 3 2) (* 3 17) (* 3 4.1)</pre>                 |
| <pre>(define double   (lambda (x)     (* 2 x)))</pre>                       | <pre>(define triple   (lambda (x)     (* 3 x)))</pre> |
| <pre>(define make-mult   (lambda (n)     (lambda (x)       (* n x))))</pre> |   |

## 3. Higher Order Procedures

Write a function `swap` that takes a function `f`, and returns a function, that takes two arguments, and returns `f` with the variables swapped:  $(f\ x\ y) == ((swap\ f)\ y\ x)$  For example,  $((swap\ -)\ 4\ 5) \Rightarrow 1$ .

```
(define swap
```

```
)
```

## 2. Composing Procedures

Now try to write the function `compose` that takes two functions, `f` and `g`, and returns a function, that takes one argument, and composes `f` and `g` on that argument.

```
(define compose
```

```
)
```

Let's trace through the evaluation of the following expression:

```
((compose double cube) 3)
(( (λ (f g) (λ (x) (f (g x)))) double cube) 3)
((λ (x) (double (cube x))) 3)
(double (cube 3))
54
```

Notice that there's no magic here. We just used the same rules for evaluation that we've been using all along – the substitution model!

Using `compose`, define the function `^5/2` which takes a number `x` and computes  $x^{5/2}$ .

```
(define ^5/2
  )
```

## 5. Repeated Composition of Procedures

We saw how to compose two procedures to produce another procedure. For example, we can define the following.

```
(define fourth-power (compose square square))
(define eight-power (compose square (compose square square)))
... and so on ...
```

Let's write a (very strange) function called **repeated** that takes a function **f** and an integer **n**, and composes **f**, **n** times. For example:

```
(define fourth-power (repeated square 2))
(define eight-power (repeated square 3))
... and so on ...

(define (repeated proc n)

)
```

Let's look at a simple example:

```
(define fourth-power (repeated square 2))
```

## 6. Iterative Repeated

Guess what.. Now that we've written the recursive version of **repeated**, let's write the iterative version.

```
(define (repeated proc n)

)

)
```

## 7. More Higher-Order Procedures

Write a function **snoc** that takes two arguments **a** and **b** and returns a function, that when called with **#t** returns **a** and when called with **#f** returns **b**.

```
(define snoc
```

What do we have once we define the following?

```
(define (rac x) (x #t))
(define (rdc x) (x #f))
```

```
)
```

Here's an even more elegant (albeit more obscure) way of doing the same thing. Can you figure out how this is working?

```
(define snoc (lambda (x y) (lambda (f) (f x y))))
(define rac (lambda (p) (p (lambda (a b) a))))
(define rdc (lambda (p) (p (lambda (a b) b))))
```