



The Scheme Programming Language

Expressions

An expression is evaluated in an environment (that gives symbols meaning) to produce a value.

Local frame: "the course instructor" has a specific meaning for a particular course.

Global frame: "multiply" is an operation that everyone knows about.

Local before Global: in a particular context, "multiply" can mean something different.

Scheme programs consist of expressions, which can be:

- Self-evaluating expressions: 2 3.3 true
- Symbols: + quotient not
- Call expressions: (quotient 10 2) (f x)
- Special forms: (if a b c) (let ((x 2)) (+ x 1))

Primitive expressions

Combinations

(Demo)

Defining Functions/Procedures

No **return** in Scheme; the value of a call expression is the value of the **last** body expression of the procedure

```
>>> def sum_squares(x, y): scm> (define (sum-squares x y) return x * x + y * y (+ (* x x) (* y y)))
```

Instead of multiple return statements, Scheme uses nested conditional expressions.

Python vs Scheme: Call Expressions

A call expression in Scheme has the parentheses on the outside.

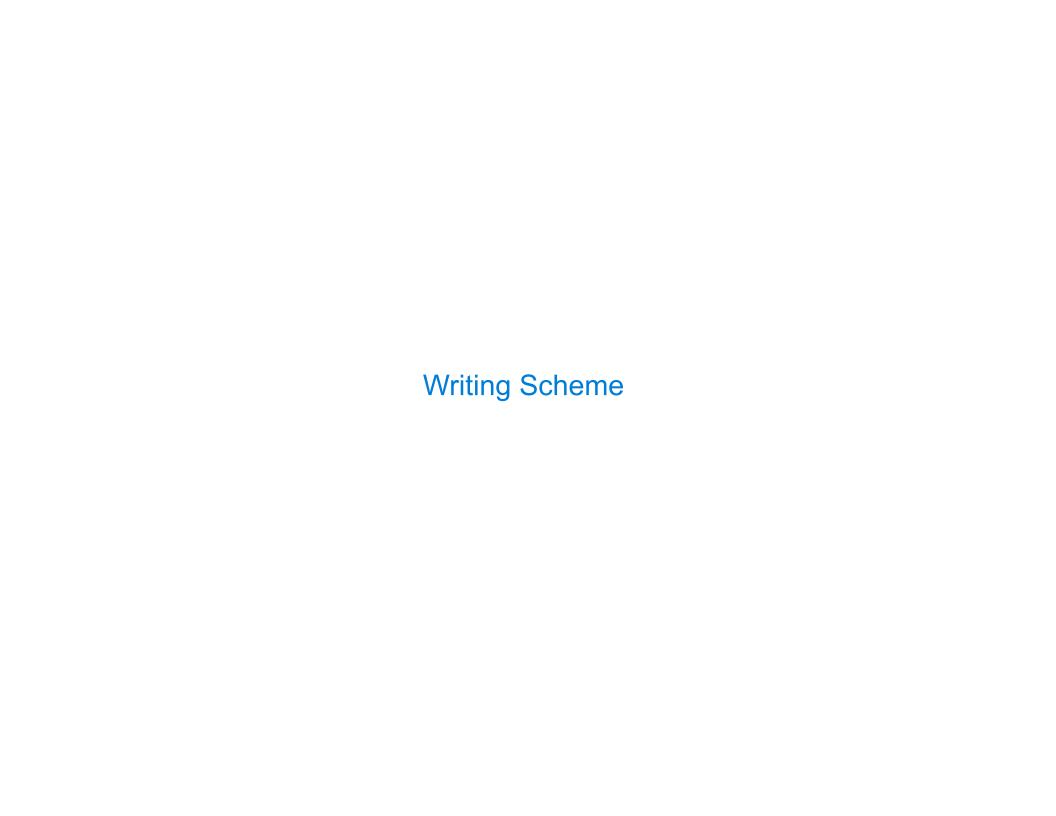
Some Scheme combinations are **not** call expressions because they are special forms.

```
>>> def f(x):
    print(x)
    return False
>>> f(3) and f(4)
3
False
scm> (define (f x) (print x) False)
f
scm> (and (f 3) (f 4))
3
#f
```

Python vs Scheme: Iteration

Scheme has no for/while statements, so recursion is required to iterate.

```
>>> def sum_first_n(n):
                                                  scm> (define (sum-first-n n)
        return sum(range(1, n + 1))
                                                         (define (f k total)
                                                           (if (> k n)
>>> def sum_first_n(n):
                                                               total
        total = 0
                                                               (f (+ k 1) (+ total k))))
                                                         (f 1 0))
        for k in range(1, n + 1):
            total += k
                                                  sum-first-n
        return total
                                                  scm> (sum-first-n 5)
                                                  15
    def sum_first_n(n):
        k = 1
        total = 0
        while k <= n:
            k, total = k + 1, total + k
        return total
>>> sum_first_n(5)
15
```



Example: A-Plus-Abs-B

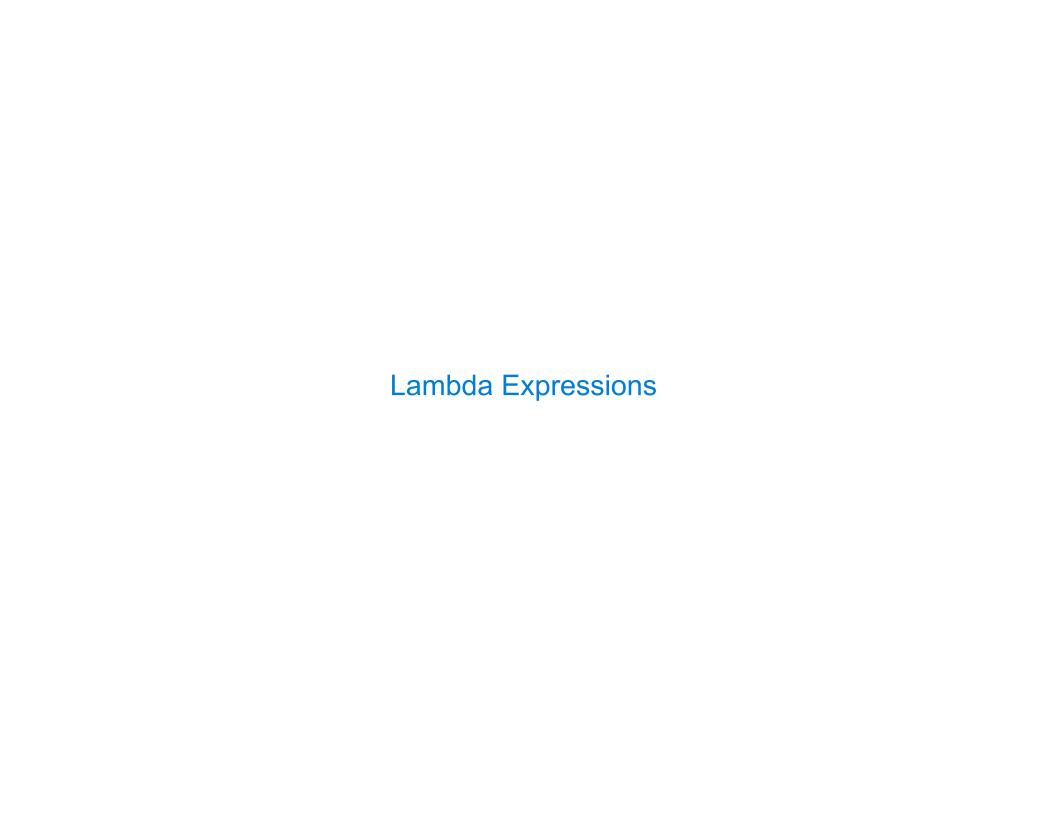
a-plus-abs-b takes numbers a and b and returns a + abs(b) without calling abs.

```
def a_plus_abs_b(a, b):
    """Return a+abs(b), but without calling abs.

>>> a_plus_abs_b(2, 3)
5
>>> a_plus_abs_b(2, -3)
5
>>> a_plus_abs_b(-1, 4)
3
>>> a_plus_abs_b(-1, -4)
3
    """

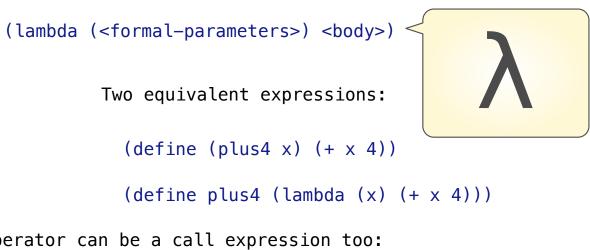
if b < 0:
    f = _sub_
else:
    f = _add_
return f(a, b)</pre>
(define (a-plus-abs-b a b)

( (if (< b 0) - +) a b))
```



Lambda Expressions

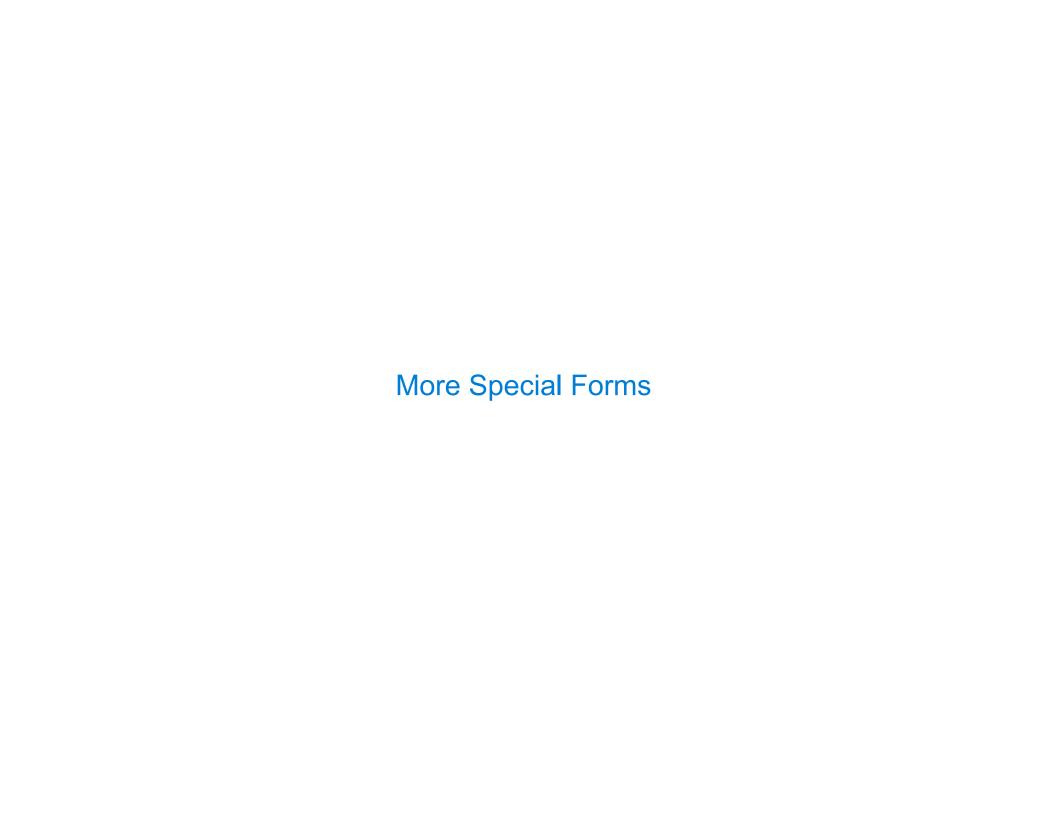
Lambda expressions evaluate to anonymous procedures



An operator can be a call expression too:

What Would Scheme Do?

```
((lambda (g y) (g (g y))) (lambda (x) (+ x 1)) 3)
(define (f g)
   (lambda (y) (g (g y))))
((f (lambda (x) (* x x))) 3)
```



Cond & Begin

The cond special form that behaves like if-elif-else statements in Python

```
if x > 10:
                                                                 (print
    print('big')
                          (cond ((> x 10) (print 'big))
                                                                   (cond ((> \times 10) 'big)
elif x > 5:
                                ((> x 5) (print 'medium))
                                                                         ((> \times 5)
                                                                                    'medium)
    print('medium')
                                          (print 'small)))
                                                                         (else
                                                                                    'small)))
                                (else
else:
    print('small')
```

The begin special form combines multiple expressions into one expression

Let Expressions

The let special form binds symbols to values temporarily; just for one expression