

**Remark 1.** The Racket interpreter can maintain two different representations of numeric quantities: fractions and decimal representations. While fractions always represent exact numeric quantities, decimal expansions maintain a finite number of digits to the right of the decimal point. The Racket interpreter will attempt to infer, when dealing with numbers, whether to maintain them as fractions or as decimal expansions. For example

```
> (/ 1 2)
1/2
> (/ 1 2.0)
0.5
> (+ (/ 1 2) (/ 1 3) (/ 1 6))
1
> (+ (/ 1 2) (/ 1 3.0))
0.8333333333333333
>
```

In general, the interpreter will maintain exact expressions for numeric quantities “as long as possible,” expressing them as fractions. You can instruct the interpreter that a number is to be treated as a decimal by including a decimal point: thus 1 is treated as an exact numeric quantity, whereas 1.0 is treated as a decimal expansion. The interpreter knows how to convert fractions to decimals (you can configure the number of digits of accuracy you wish), but will never convert decimals back to fractions (or integers). (So you know, this process is called type-casting.)

Arithmetic expressions like  $(+ 1 1.0)$  pose a problem because the two arguments are of different “types.” In this case, the interpreter will transform the exact argument (1) into a decimal value, and then proceed as though all arguments were decimals (returning a decimal result). Other arithmetic operations are treated similarly.

1. Define  $H_n = \frac{1}{1} + \frac{1}{2} + \dots + \frac{1}{n}$ ; these are referred to as the *harmonic numbers*. A remarkable fact about these numbers is that as  $n$  increases, they turn out to be very close to  $\ln n$ . ( $\ln n$  is the *natural logarithm* of  $n$ .) In particular, as  $n$  increases the difference  $|H_n - \ln n|$  converges to a constant (Euler’s constant). Show how to use SCHEME to compute  $H_n$  and, using this, give an estimate of Euler’s constant. (You may wish to use the SCHEME function  $(\log x)$  which returns the natural logarithm of  $x$ .) So you know you are in the ballpark, Euler’s constant is a little over a half.
2. A integer  $n > 1$  is prime if its only positive divisors are 1 and  $n$ . (The convention is not to call 1 prime.) The following scheme procedure determines if a number is prime.

```
(define (prime? n)
  (define (divisor? k) (= 0 (modulo n k)))
  (define (divisors-upto k)
    (and (> k 1)
         (or (divisor? k) (divisors-upto (- k 1)))))
  (not (divisors-upto (- n 1))))
```

(So, it returns #t for prime numbers like 2, 3, 5, 7, and 11 and #f for composite (that is, non-prime) numbers like 4, 6, 8, and 9.) Using this procedure, write a function *count-primes* so that *(count-primes t)* returns the number of prime numbers between 1 and  $t$ .

3. The Lucas numbers are a sequence of integers, named after Édouard Lucas, which are closely related to the

Fibonacci sequence. In fact, they are defined in very much the same way:

$$L_n = \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if } n = 0, \\ 1 & \text{if } n = 1, \\ L_{n-1} + L_{n-2} & \text{if } n > 1. \end{cases}$$

- (a) Using the recursive description above, define a SCHEME function `Lucas` which takes one parameter,  $n$ , and computes the  $n^{\text{th}}$  Lucas number  $L_n$ .
- (b) The small change in the “base” case when  $n = 0$  seems to make a big difference: compare the first few Lucas numbers with the first few Fibonacci numbers. As you can see, the Lucas numbers are larger, which makes sense, and—in fact—the difference between the  $n^{\text{th}}$  Lucas number and the  $n^{\text{th}}$  Fibonacci number grows as a function of  $n$ .

Consider, however, the ratio of two adjacent Lucas numbers; specifically, define

$$\ell_n = \frac{L_n}{L_{n-1}}.$$

Write a SCHEME function `Lucas-ratio` that computes  $\ell_n$  (given  $n$  as a parameter). Compute a few ratios like  $\ell_{20}, \ell_{21}, \ell_{22}, \dots$ ; what do you notice? (It might be helpful to convince SCHEME to print out the numbers as regular decimal expansions. One way to do that is to add `0.0` to the numbers.)

Now define

$$f_n = \frac{F_n}{F_{n-1}}$$

where  $F_n$  are the Fibonacci numbers. As above, write a SCHEME function `Fibonacci-ratio` to compute  $f_n$  and use it to compute a few ratios like  $f_{20}, f_{21}, f_{22}, \dots$ ; what do you notice?

- (c) *Computing with a promise.* Ask your SCHEME interpreter to compute  $L_{30}$ , then  $L_{35}$ , then  $L_{40}$ . What would you suspect to happen if you asked it to compute  $L_{50}$ ?

Consider the following SCHEME code for a function of four parameters called `fast-Lucas-help`. The function call

`(fast-Lucas-help n k lucas-a lucas-b)`

is supposed to return the  $n^{\text{th}}$  Lucas number *under the promise that it is provided with any pair of previous Lucas numbers*. Specifically, if it is given a number  $k \leq n$  and the two Lucas number  $L_k$  and  $L_{k-1}$  (in the parameters `lucas-a` and `lucas-b`), it will compute  $L_n$ . The idea is this: If it was given  $L_n$  and  $L_{n-1}$  (so that  $k = n$ ), then it simply returns  $L_n$ , which is what was supposed to compute. Otherwise assume  $k < n$ , in which case it knows  $L_k$  and  $L_{k-1}$  and wishes to make some “progress” towards the previous case; to do that, it calls `fast-Lucas-help`, but provides  $L_{k+1}$  and  $L_k$  (which it can compute easily from  $L_k$  and  $L_{k-1}$ ). The code itself:

```
(define (fast-Lucas-help n k luc-a luc-b)
  (if (= n k)
      luc-a
      (fast-Lucas-help n (+ k 1) (+ luc-a luc-b) luc-a)))
```

With this, you can define the function `fast-Lucas` as follows:

```
(define (fast-Lucas n) (fast-Lucas-help n 1 1 2))
```

(After all,  $L_0 = 2$  and  $L_1 = 1$ .)

Enter this code into your SCHEME interpreter. First check that `fast-Lucas` agrees with your previous recursive implementation (`Lucas`) of the Lucas numbers (on, say,  $n = 3, 4, 5, 6$ ). Now evaluate `(fast-Lucas 50)` or `(fast-Lucas 50000)`.

There seems to be something qualitatively different between these two implementations. To explain it, consider a call to `(Lucas k)`; how many total recursive calls does this generate to the function `Lucas` for  $k = 3, 4, 5, 6$ ? Now consider the call to `(fast-Lucas-help k 1 1 2)`; how many recursive calls does this generate to `fast-Lucas-help` for  $k = 3, 4, 5, 6$ ? Specifically, populate the following table (values for  $k = 1, 2$  have been filled-in):

	Recursive calls made by ( <code>Lucas k</code> )	Recursive calls made by ( <code>fast-Lucas-help k 1 1 2</code> )
$k = 1$	0	0
$k = 2$	2	1
$k = 3$		
$k = 4$		
$k = 5$		
$k = 6$		

4. In mathematics and other fields, two quantities  $a > b$  are said to have the *golden ratio* if

$$\frac{a+b}{a} = \frac{a}{b}.$$

For example, the heights of alternate floors of Notre Dame cathedral are in this proportion, as are the spacings of the turrets; the side-lengths of the rectangular area of the Parthenon have this ratio.

Mathematically, it is easy to check that if  $a$  and  $b$  have this relationship then the ratio  $\phi = a/b$  is the unique positive root of the equation  $\phi + 1 = \phi^2$ , which is approximately 1.618.

- (a) An alternate form for the golden ratio is given by  $\phi = 1 + \frac{1}{\phi}$ . This formula can be expanded recursively to the *continued fraction*:

$$\phi = 1 + \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{1 + \ddots}}$$

Define a recursive SCHEME function which takes one parameter,  $n$ , and computes an approximation to the value of this repeated fraction by expanding it to depth  $n$ . To be precise, define

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi_1 &= 1 + \frac{1}{1} = 2, \\ \Phi_2 &= 1 + \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{1}} = \frac{3}{2}, \\ \Phi_3 &= 1 + \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{1}}} = 1\frac{2}{3}, \\ &\dots\end{aligned}$$

or, more elegantly,

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi_1 &= 2, \\ \Phi_n &= 1 + \frac{1}{\Phi_{n-1}} \quad \text{for } n > 1.\end{aligned}$$

Your function, given  $n$ , should return  $\Phi_n$ .

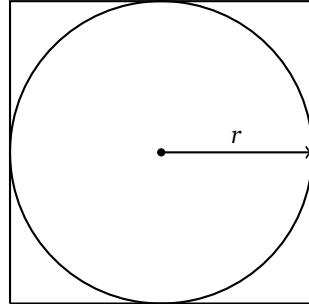
- (b) Another form of the golden ratio is given by the formula  $\phi^2 = 1 + \phi$ . This gives a recursive formula for a *continued square root*:

$$\phi = \sqrt{1 + \sqrt{1 + \sqrt{1 + \sqrt{\dots}}}}$$

Define a SCHEME function that takes one parameter,  $n$ , and computes the  $n^{\text{th}}$  convergent of the golden ratio using the continued square root. (Use the SCHEME function (`sqrt x`) which returns the square root of  $x$ .)

5. Consider the task of approximating the number  $\pi$ . There are many ways to proceed; in this problem you will explore one method based on a process known as *monte-carlo sampling*.

We begin by inscribing a circle (of some radius  $r$ ) inside a square, as shown in the picture.



Then, compute the ratio of the area of the circle to the area of the square. This ratio  $\rho$  is

$$\rho = \frac{\pi r^2}{(2r)^2} = \frac{\pi}{4}.$$

Of course, if we could compute  $\rho$  exactly that would be great, because  $\pi$  is exactly  $4 \cdot \rho$ .

Our strategy will be to *approximate*  $\rho$  by throwing darts randomly into the square. Consider a dart thrown into the square by selecting each of its  $x$  and  $y$  coordinates by drawing randomly (and uniformly) from the interval  $[-r, r]$ . It follows that the probability that the dart lies in the circle is precisely  $\rho$ . If we throw  $n$  random darts into the square according to this rule, we would expect that the fraction that fall in the circle is close to  $\rho$ :

$$\rho \approx \frac{\text{number of darts in the circle}}{n}.$$

The algorithm you are required to write computes an estimate of  $\pi$  via this method. It takes as input an integer  $n$  indicating how many darts should be thrown. It then proceeds by throwing the darts uniformly at random at a square of side 2 centered at the origin (so both the  $x$  and  $y$  coordinates of the spot where the dart lands are random numbers between -1 and 1). The algorithm must determine, for each dart, where it lands (inside or outside the circle?) and tally the darts that fall inside. The estimate for  $\rho$  and therefore  $\pi$  directly follow.

Of course, you will need a mechanism for generating random numbers: The SCHEME function called `random` produces a “random” floating point value between 0 and 1. To obtain a random number in the range  $[-1, 1]$ , for example, you can evaluate the SCHEME expression `(- (* 2 (random)) 1)`. (Why is this syntax correct?)

As for structuring your code, I suggest that you first write a function

```
(define (one-sample) ...)
```

which throws one sample into the square and returns a 1 if the sample fell in the circle, and a 0 otherwise. One easy way to structure this function is to use a `let` statement to first bind two variables  $x$  and  $y$  to two random values. Note that if you have the  $x$  and  $y$  coordinates of a vector in the plane, it is easy to tell if it fell in the circle: this happens exactly when  $x^2 + y^2 \leq 1$ . Then, write a function

```
(define (pi-samples k) ...)
```

which throws  $k$  (random) samples into the unit square and returns the number of them that fell into the circle. Now what?

6. Consider the problem of defining a function `interval-sum` so that `(interval-sum m n)` returns the sum of all the integers between  $m$  and  $n$ . (So, for example `(interval-sum 10 12)` should return the value  $33 = 10 + 11 + 12$ .) One strategy is

```
(define (interval-sum m n)
  (if (= m n)
      m
      (+ n (interval-sum m (- n 1)))))
```

and another solution, which recurses the “other direction” is

```
(define (interval-sum m n)
  (if (= m n)
      m
      (+ m (interval-sum (+ m 1) n))))
```

These both work. It seems like one should be able to combine these to produce another version:

```
(define (interval-sum m n)
  (if (= m n)
      m
      (+ m
          (interval-sum (+ m 1) (- n 1))
          n)))
```

But this only works for certain pairs of input numbers. What’s going on?