

Environments and Closures summary

Environment:

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|-----|-----|--|
| var | val | reference to a local environment containing variables from the enclosing let or lambda |
| var | val | |
| var | val | |

Closure:

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| list of formal parameter names | code (body of the procedure) | pointer to the local environment that was current when the closure was created |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--|

Create a procedure:

A user-defined procedure (a.k.a. **closure**) is created when a `lambda` expression is evaluated. The body of the procedure is not evaluated at this time.

Apply a closure (user-defined procedure):

1. The expressions for the procedure and its arguments are evaluated.
2. A new local environment is created.
 - a. Each variable from the procedure's formal parameter list is bound to the corresponding value from the actual argument list.
 - b. The new environment's "pointer to an enclosing environment" is set to be a copy of the local environment pointer **that is the third part of the closure**.
3. The body of the procedure is evaluated, using this new local environment. If a variable is not found in this local environment or something it points to, look in the global environment. If not in global environment either, it is an error.

Evaluate a `let` expression:

1. Evaluate (in the current environment) the expressions to get the values to be assigned to the `let` variables.
2. Create a new local environment that has bindings for the `let` variables. The "enclosing environment" pointer points to the current environment.
3. Evaluate the body of the `let` in this new environment, as in 3 above.

Evaluate a `letrec` expression:

1. Create a new local environment, similar to a `let` environment, except that:
 - a. The "saved environment" pointers of any closures that are bound to the `letrec` variables point to the new `letrec` environment, not the enclosing environment.
2. Evaluate the body of the `letrec` in this new environment, as in 3 above.