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;;;; Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs, 2. ed.      ;;;;
;;;; Section 1.1, Exercise 1.5                                       ;;;;
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;;;; Date: 2019-02-11                                              ;;;;
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;;;; QUESTION:
;;;; Ben Bitdiddle has invented a test to determine whether the
;;;; interpreter he is faced with is using applicative-order
;;;; evaluation or normal-order evaluation. He defines the following
;;;; two procedures:

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```
(define (p) (p))
```

```
(define (test x y)
  (if (= x 0)
      0
      y))
```

```
;;;; Then he evaluates the expression
```

```
(test 0 (p))
```

```

;;;; What behavior will Ben observe with an interpreter that uses
;;;; applicative-order evaluation? What behavior will he observe with
;;;; an interpreter that uses normal-order evaluation? Explain your
;;;; answer. (Assume that the evaluation rule for the special form if
;;;; is the same whether the interpreter is using normal or applicative
;;;; order: The predicate expression is evaluated first, and the result
;;;; determines whether to evaluate the consequent or the alternative
;;;; expression.)

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;;;; WRITE YOUR ANSWER HERE:
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;
; The first DEFINE it's used to create a procedure "p" without any
; parameters. This procedure just return the value of procedure "p",
; that is, procedure p is "recursively" returning the value of "p"
; itself.

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```
(define (p) (p))
```

```
p
; compound procedure
```

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; The second DEFINE it's used to create a procedure "test" with 2
; arguments, "x" and "y". If the value of x is 0, return 0, else
; return y value.

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```
(define (test x y)
  (if (= x 0)
      0
      y))
```

```
(test 0 1)
```

```
; 0
```

```
(test 1 1)
; 1

; The "magic" is on the third expression:
(test 0 (p))

; The result of this expression it's dependent on the type of
; substitution model used by the interpreter: applicative-order or
; normal-order.
;
; a) If applicative-order, the interpreter FIRST EVALUATES the
; parameters, replacing it by the value of the subexpressions. But
; evaluating (p) just return "p" itself, so the interpreter
; continues to evaluate and ends in an infinite loop:
; 1) Evaluate (test 0 (p))
; 2) Evaluate subexpression 0, and return 0. Now we have:
;    (test 0 (p))
; 3) Now evaluate subexpression (p): this return the value of
;    procedure p, which is p itself. Now we have:
;    (test 0 (p))
; 4) Woops! It's need to evaluate the (p) subexpression again
;    because of applicative-order. Evaluating (p) again, we have:
;    (test 0 (p))
; 5) And so on... we have an infinite loop. The problem was the
;    applicative-order: THE ARGUMENTS ARE EVALUATED FIRST AND THEN
;    THESE VALUES ARE SUBSTITUTED IN FURTHER EXPRESSION. The
;    important point to note is this:
;
;    APPLICATIVE-ORDER: the arguments are evaluated first, and only
;    after obtaining the value of the subexpression, the
;    substitution continues.
;
; b) If normal-order: the interpreter FIRST EXPAND the procedures and
; the subexpressions are NOT EVALUATED until it's needed. We have:
; 1) Evaluate (test 0 (p))
; 2) Expand to: (if (= 0 0) 0 (p))
; 3) Now the interpreter evaluates (= 0 0), which is #t, and so the
;    procedure return 0:
;    0
; 4) The important point is:
;
;    NORMAL-ORDER: the interpreter FIRST EXPAND the procedures and
;    DO NOT EVALUATE subexpression until when it's needed.
```