

# Scheme and how it works

↳ built around lists

(1 2 3) ←

In Scheme  
data and  
code is  
(almost)  
interchangeable

notation	<u>American</u>	<u>British</u>
()	paren	brackets
[]	brackets	sq. brackets
{ }	(curly) braces	curly brackets

---

(+ 1 2) → 3

mking a function call

(\* 3 5) → 15

---

In Scheme, I use a ' to indicate that a list should not be executed

car - first item in a list  
cdr - everything except first item

(car '(a b c))



a

item

(cdr '(a b c))



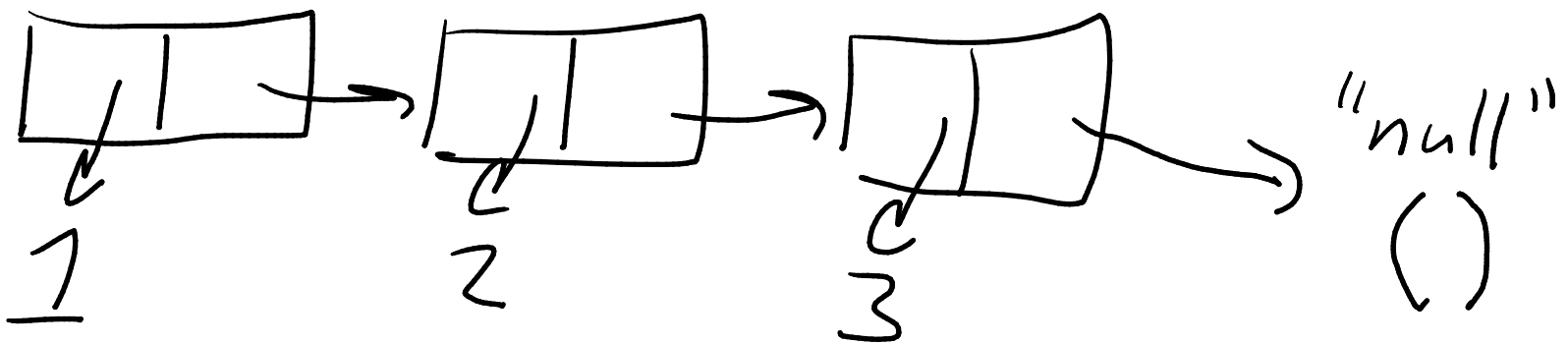
(b c)

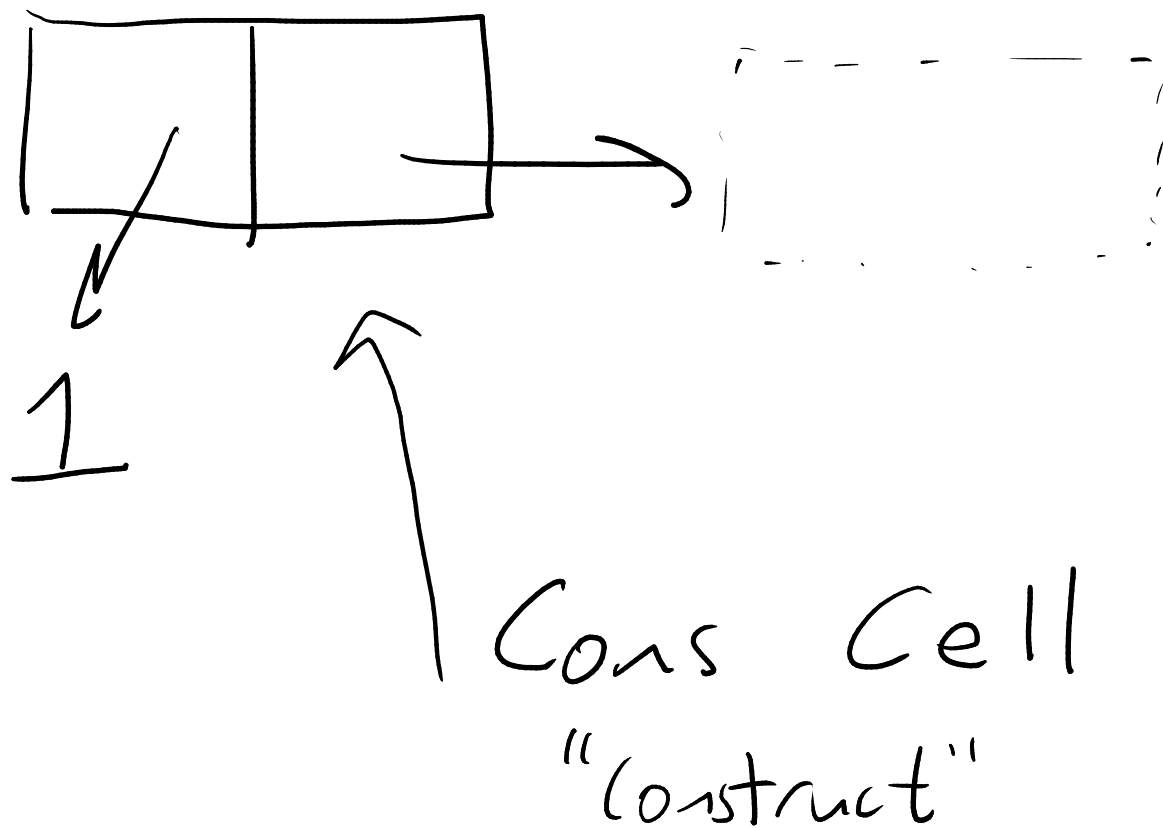
list

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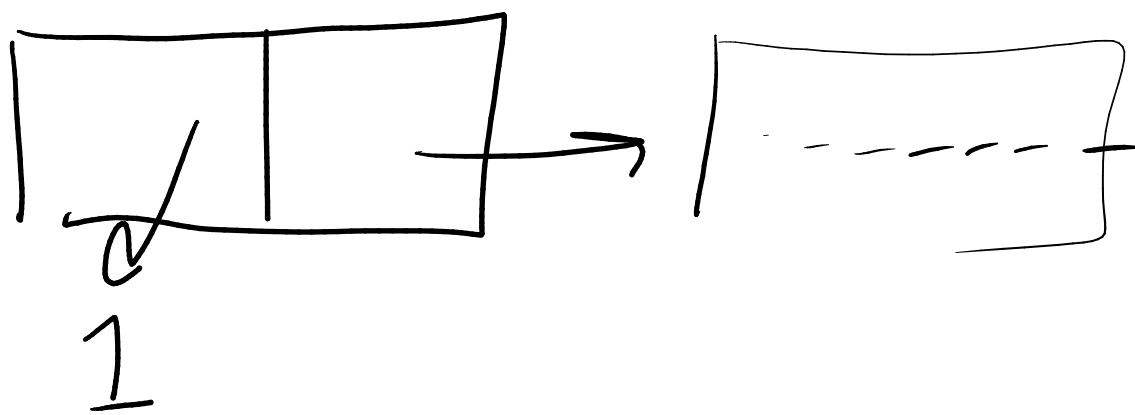
Underneath, all lists in Scheme  
are linked lists

(1 2 3)





A list is a chain of cons cells (pairs)



In 1957 (John McCarthy)

He used CPU registers to make things faster

- shoehorned the first half into "address register"

----- second half -----  
"decrement register"

address reg    decrement register



1

first item of list:

contents of address register

rest of list: car

contents of decrement register

cdr

---

How to create new functions

Built in "function" that is used  
to make functions

[Python: def]

Scheme: lambda - creates  
functions

Make a function to add two  
numbers

(lambda (x y) (+ x y))

(lambda (x y)  
 (+ x y))



(lambda (x y)  
 (+ x y)  
)

---

(define add-nums  
 (lambda (x y)  
 (+ x y)))