

Scheme Notes 01

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Resources

- ▶ The software:
 - ▶ <https://racket-lang.org/>
- ▶ Texts:
 - ▶ <https://mitpress.mit.edu/sicp/>
 - ▶ <http://www.scheme.com/tspl3/>
(make sure you use the 3rd edition and not the 4th)
 - ▶ <http://ds26gte.github.io/tyscheme/>

Running the textbook examples

- ▶ Using the racket language is usually best, the examples from *The Scheme Programming Language* should run without modification.
- ▶ The examples from SICP are a little more idiosyncratic. Most of them can be run by installing the sicp package as in these instructions:

[http://stackoverflow.com/questions/19546115/
which-lang-packet-is-proper-for-sicp-in-dr-racket](http://stackoverflow.com/questions/19546115/which-lang-packet-is-proper-for-sicp-in-dr-racket)

Every powerful language has

- ▶ primitive expressions: the simplest entities, such as 3 and +
- ▶ means of combination: building compound elements from simpler ones such as
`(+ 3 4)`
 - ▶ In Scheme combinations are always parentheses, with the operator first and the operands following.
- ▶ means of abstraction: a way for naming compound elements and then manipulating them as units such as
`(define pi 3.14159)`
`(define square (lambda (x) (* x x)))`

The REPL does the following three things:

- ▶ Reads an expression
- ▶ Evaluates it to produce a value
- ▶ Prints the value

The returned value has a small set of types, including number, boolean and procedure. (Later, we'll see symbol, pair, vector, and promise (stream).)

There are 4 types of expressions:

- ▶ Constants: numbers, booleans. Examples:
4 3.141592 #t #f
- ▶ Variables: names for values. We create these using the special form `define`
- ▶ Special forms: have special rules for evaluation. In addition, you may not redefine a special form.
- ▶ Combinations: (`<operator>` `<operands>`). These are sometimes called "function calls" or "procedure applications."

The first two types of expressions (constants and variables) are primitive expressions – they have no parentheses. The second two types are called compound expressions – they have parentheses.

Mantras

- ▶ Every expression has a value
 - ▶ (except for errors, infinite loops and the `define` special form)
- ▶ To find the value of a combination:
 - ▶ Find values of all subexpressions in any order
 - ▶ Apply the value of the first to the values of the rest
- ▶ The value of a `lambda` expression is a procedure

Finding the value of a combination

- ▶ Find values of all subexpressions in any order
- ▶ Apply the value of the first to the values of the rest

(+ (* 2 3) (- 8 2))

(+ (* 2 3) 6)

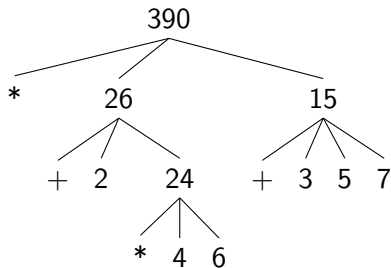
(+ 6 6)

12

Program Evaluation In Lisp

A process of *tree accumulation*.

```
(* (+ 2 (* 4 6))  
   (+ 3 5 7))
```



Introducing Local Variables

```
(let ((x 3)
      (y 4)
      (z 5))
  (+ x (* y z)))  => 23
```

Beware! This will NOT work.

```
(let ((x 3)
      (y (* 2 x))
      (z (* 3 x)))
  (+ x (* y z))) => 57
```

But this will.

```
(let* ((x 3)
      (y (* 2 x))
      (z (* 3 x)))
  (+ x (* y z))) => 57
```

Defining Procedures

Two equivalent ways:

```
(define (square x) (* x x))  
(define square (lambda (x) (* x x)))
```

The first one is more in line with the procedure call:

```
(square 5) => 25
```

Defining Procedures

Two equivalent ways:

```
(define (square x) (* x x))  
(define square (lambda (x) (* x x)))
```

The second one is more in line with defining other things:

```
(define x (* 3 4))  
(define y (list 'a 'b 'c))
```

The action of `define` is simply to give a *name* to the result of an expression.

Defining Procedures

Two equivalent ways:

```
(define (square x) (* x x))  
(define square (lambda (x) (* x x)))
```

The result of a lambda-expression is an anonymous function.
We can name it, as above, or use it without any name at all:

```
(square 5) => 25  
((lambda (x) (* x x)) 5) => 25
```

Solving problems

Newton's method:

If y is a guess for \sqrt{x} , then the average of y and x/y is an even better guess.

x	guess	quotient	average
2	1.0	2.0	1.5
2	1.5	1.3333333333333333	1.4166666666666665
2	1.4166666666666665	1.411764705882353	1.4142156862745097
2	1.4142156862745097	1.41421143847487	1.4142135623746899

...

Evidently, we want to iterate, and keep recomputing these things until we find a value that's close enough.

Newton's Method in Scheme

```
(define sqrt-iter
  (lambda (guess x)
    (if (good-enough? guess x)
        guess
        (sqrt-iter (improve guess x) x))))

(define improve
  (lambda (guess x)
    (average guess (/ x guess))))

(define average
  (lambda (x y) (/ (+ x y) 2)))

(define good-enough?
  (lambda (guess x)
    (< (abs (- (square guess) x)) 0.00001)))

(define square
  (lambda (x) (* x x)))

(define sqrt
  (lambda (x) (sqrt-iter 1.0 x)))
```

Decompose big problems into smaller problems.

Definitions can be nested

```
(define sqrt
  (lambda (x)
    (define good-enough?
      (lambda (guess x)
        (< (abs (- (square guess) x)) 0.001)))
    (define improve
      (lambda (guess x)
        (average guess (/ x guess))))
    (define sqrt-iter
      (lambda (guess x)
        (if (good-enough? guess x)
            guess
            (sqrt-iter (improve guess x) x))))
    (sqrt-iter 1.0 x)))
```

Parameters need not be repeated

```
(define sqrt
  (lambda (x)
    (define good-enough?
      (lambda (guess)
        (< (abs (- (square guess) x)) 0.001)))
    (define improve
      (lambda (guess)
        (average guess (/ x guess))))
    (define sqrt-iter
      (lambda (guess)
        (if (good-enough? guess)
            guess
            (sqrt-iter (improve guess)))))
    (sqrt-iter 1.0)))
```

Introducing local functions with letrec

```
(define sqrt
  (lambda (x)
    (letrec ((good-enough?
              (lambda (guess)
                (< (abs (- (square guess) x)) 0.001)))
              (improve
               (lambda (guess)
                 (average guess (/ x guess))))
              (sqrt-iter
               (lambda (guess)
                 (if (good-enough? guess)
                     guess
                     (sqrt-iter (improve guess))))))
      (sqrt-iter 1.0))))
```

Procedures as parameters

Summation notation:

$$\sum_{i=a}^b f(i) = f(a) + \dots + f(b)$$

In scheme:

```
(define sum
  (lambda (a b f)
    (if (> a b)
        0
        (+ (f a) (sum (+ a 1) b f)))))
```

```
(sum 1 10 square) => 385
```

```
(sum 1 10 (lambda (x) (* x x x))) => 3025
```

Finding fixed points

x is a *fixed point* of f if $x = f(x)$

For some functions you can find fixed points by iterating:

$x, f(x), f(f(x)), f(f(f(x))), \dots$

Fixed points in scheme:

```
(define fixed-point
  (lambda (f)
    (let
      ((tolerance 0.0001)
       (max-iterations 10000))
      (letrec
        ((close-enough?
          (lambda (a b) (< (abs (- a b)) tolerance)))
         (try
          (lambda (guess iterations)
            (let ((next (f guess)))
              (cond ((close-enough? guess next) next)
                    ((> iterations max-iterations) #f)
                    (else (try next (+ iterations 1)))))))
         )
        (try 1.0 0))))))
```

```
(fixed-point cos)  => 0.7390547907469174
(fixed-point sin)  => 0.08420937654137994
(fixed-point (lambda (x) x)) => 1.0
(fixed-point (lambda (x) (+ x 1))) => #f
```

Remember Newton's Method?

```
(define sqrt  
  (lambda (x)  
    (fixed-point (lambda (y) (/ (+ y (/ x y)) 2))))))
```


Procedures as Returned Values

```
(define average-damp  
  (lambda (f)  
    (lambda (x) (/ (+ x (f x)) 2))))
```

```
(define sqrt  
  (lambda (x)  
    (fixed-point (average-damp (lambda (y) (/ x y))))))
```