bal - an extensible tool for keeping accounts in order and studying past spending habits

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ABSTRACT

Gives basic overview of the package and provides a full reference manual to the various Guile Scheme functions bal exposes. This documentation can be freely modified and redistributed under the terms of the GNU Free Documentation License.

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1. Introduction

bal is an extensible personal account manager, recording all the good, bad, terrible, and mundane financial decisions you make and helping you plan for the future. It is extensible because its prompt is simply a Guile Scheme interpreter (where you don't enclose the outer S-expression in parenthesis) so it can execute arbitrary code on your transactions. It has a built-in function for making Scheme functions interactive that allows you to specify that the function takes "accounts" or "transactions" (which are simply Scheme lists with certain values) as arguments and have the user select the account or transaction from a menu.

The main interface is a command prompt interface using the Scheme interpreter with some built-in C functions that can be called from Scheme, but of course, other interfaces could be developed by running Scheme code at the interpreter.

This document describes basic usage of **bal** using the built-in functions and gives a full reference manual to the functions that are available from Scheme to aid in writing your own code to automate whatever tasks your financial life needs automated (for example, a script to update the value of your stock or mutual fund holdings by fetching the latest prices from the internet).

2. Basic usage

3. All bal functions