Reading

Read Chapter 5 of our textbook Compilers

Written Assignment 5

- 1. Exercise 5.1.2 (page 310).
- 2. Exercise 5.2.4 (page 317).
- 3. Exercise 5.4.1 (page 336).
- 4. Exercise 5.4.3.

Programming Assignment 5

To our previous language we add *let* expressions, resulting in fairly unassuming Scheme (FUS) programs:

```
prog
                               expr+
expr
                               DOUBLE
                               BOOLEAN
                               ID
                               '(' RATOR expr* ')'
                               '(' 'def' ID expr ')'
                               '(' 'if' expr_1 expr_2 expr_3')'
                               '(' 'print' expr ')'
                               '(' 'let' letvardec expr ')'
                               '(' 'while' expr<sub>1</sub> expr<sub>2</sub> ')'
                               '(' 'begin' expr+ ')'
letvardec
                               '[' ID expr ']'
                               'true' | 'false'
BOOLEAN
RATOR
                               ARITHMETIC | RELATIONAL | LOGICAL
ARITHMETIC
                               '+' | '-' | '*' | '/'
                               '=' |'>' |'<'
RELATIONAL
LOGICAL
                               '&' | '|' | '!'
```

A *let* expression has the form (let $[x \ expr_1] \ expr_2$). Here, in the *let variable declaration* $[x \ expr_1]$, x is called a *let variable* and $expr_1$ is its *let operand*. The expression $expr_2$ is called the *let body*. In the following, x is the *let* variable, 2 is the *let* operand, and $(+x \ x)$ is the *let* body:

$$(let [x 2] (+ x x))$$

Semantically, each *let* operand is evaluated in the environment of the *let* expression and bound to the corresponding *let* variable. The environment consists of a series of nested frames, each of which contains a variable-value pair called a *binding*. To evaluate a *let* expression, the current environment is extended by a new frame that contains the *let* variable binding, and then the *let* body is evaluated in this new environment and the resulting value is returned. For example, consider this:

```
(let [x (* 2 2)] (+ x x))
```

Here the *global environment*, in which the *let* expression gets evaluated, is extended by a frame in which the *let* variable x is bound to the value 4 (which results from evaluating (* 2 2)), and then the *let* body (+ x x) is evaluated in this new environment, yielding the value 8. Next consider this:

```
(let [a 2]
(let [b (+ a 1)]
(+ a b)))
```

The body of the outer *let* expression is evaluated in an environment that extends the global environment with a frame in which *let* variable a is bound to (has the value) 2; let us call this environment E. Then, the *let* operand (+ a 1) is evaluated in environment E, yielding the value 3, which gets bound to let variable b; so environment E is extended by a frame in which E is bound to 3; call this environment E. When (+ a b), the body of the inner *let*, is evaluated in the environment E—which supplies the values 2 and 3 for *let* variables E0 and E1 respectively—it yields the result 5.

I will illustrate program semantics by a series of evaluations. We can use our discussion board to resolve any remaining questions of program semantics:

In the last example, note that variable assignment (using *def*) always creates a binding in the *top-level* environment, even when the assignment appears inside a *let* expression. The last print statement prints 4 since the *let* variable *a* was not affected by the assignment; only the global variable's value was changed.

In class, we discussed blocks that support declaration of local variables, and their implementation through environments formed by a series of nested scopes. You might use that approach in your implementation of *let* expressions.