Implementing continuations: ANF and CPS conversion

CS 245 — Spring 2019

Logistics

- I am gone after this afternoon (until weekend)
- No labs tomorrow
- Exam topics:
 - https://docs.google.com/document/d/ 1yxTsObP87Ssp_LQgBjfaZgK8zf69JGdgSrluE0Gj99w/
- Project 5 is last project in the class: distributed ~Thursday-Friday, due last day of class
- Tentatively: nothing in finals period.

A common idiom for call/cc is to let-bind the current continuation.

```
(let ([cc (call/cc (lambda (k) k))])
    ...)
```

Note that applying call/cc on the identity function is exactly the same as applying it on the u-combinator!

Why is this the case?

call/cc makes a tail call to (lambda (k) ...), so the body of the function is the same return point as the captured continuation k!

This return point ... is the same as this one...

```
(let ([cc (call/cc (lambda (k) (k k)))])
```

...and calling k on itself, returns k to itself!

Returning value v is the same as *calling* that saved return point *on* v.

```
(let ([cc (call/cc (lambda (k) k))])
  ;; loop body goes here
  (if (jump-to-top?)
        (cc cc)
        return-value))
```

Continuations can be used to jump back to a previous point.

Just as we could have invoked call/cc on the u-combinator, to jump back to the let-binding of cc, returning cc, we call (cc cc).

A simple use of continuations is to implement a *preemptive return*.

What if we wanted to return from fun within the right-hand-side of the let form?

Binds the return-point of the current call to fun to a continuation return.

```
(define (fun x)
  (call/cc (lambda (return)
    (let ([y (if (p? x)
                   (return x))])
      (g \times y)))))
```

Uses the continuation return to jump back to the return point of fun and yield value x instead of binding y and calling g.

Try an example. What do each of these 3 examples return? (Hint: Racket evaluates argument expressions left to right.)

```
(call/cc (lambda (k0)
             (+ 1 (call/cc (lambda (k1)
                             (+ 1 (k0 3))))))
(call/cc (lambda (k0)
           (+ 1 (call/cc (lambda (k1)
                            (+ 1 (k0 (k1 3)))))))
  (call/cc (lambda (k0)
              (+ 1)
                 (call/cc (lambda (k1)
                            (+1(k13)))
                 (k0 1))))
```

Stack-passing (CEK) semantics

(implementing first-class continuations)

C Control-expression

Term-rewriting / textual reduction Context and redex for deterministic eval

CE Control & Env machine Big-step, explicit closure creation

CES Store-passing machine
Passes addr->value map in evaluation order

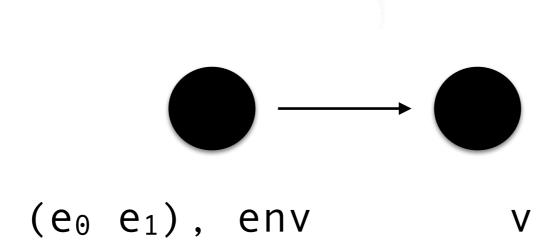
CEK Stack-passing machine
Passes a list of stack frames, small-step

 $(e_0, env) \Downarrow ((\lambda (x) e_2), env') \qquad (e_1, env) \Downarrow v_1 \qquad (e_2, env'[x \mapsto v_1]) \Downarrow v_2$ $((e_0 e_1), env) \Downarrow v_2$

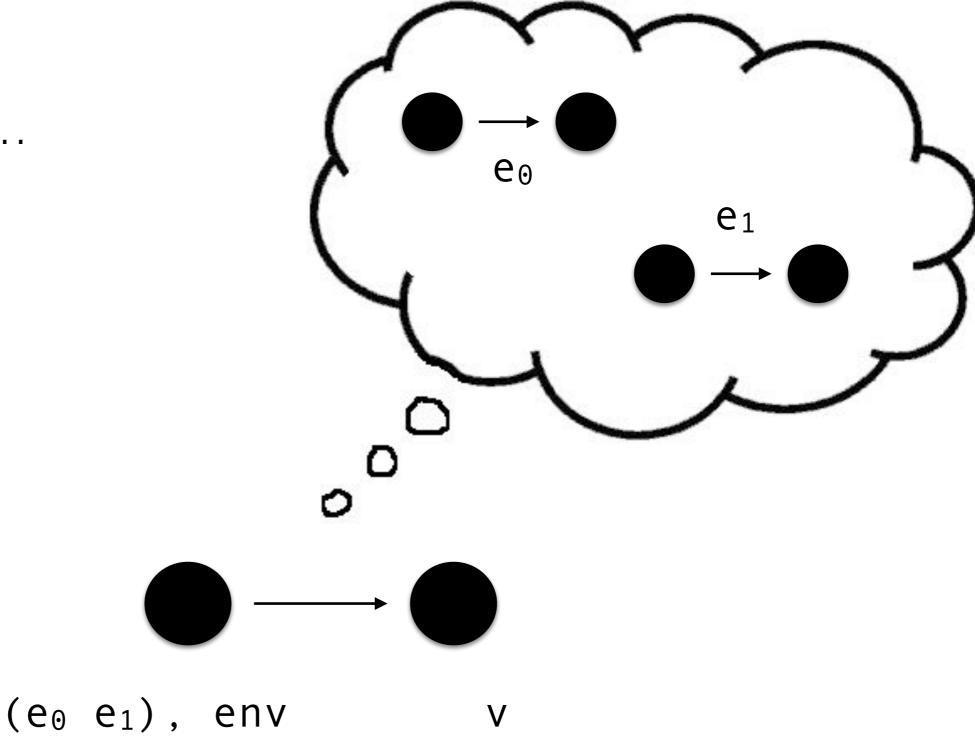
 $((\lambda (x) e), env) \psi ((\lambda (x) e), env)$

 $(x, env) \Downarrow env(x)$

Previously...



Previously...



```
(define (interp e env)
  (match e
            [(? symbol? x)]
              (hash-ref env x)]
            [`(\lambda (,x),e_0)]
             `(clo (\lambda (,x) ,e<sub>0</sub>) ,env)]
            [ (, e_0, e_1) ]
              (define v<sub>0</sub> (interp e<sub>0</sub> env))
              (define v_1 (interp e_1 env))
              (match v<sub>0</sub>
                 [`(clo (\lambda (,x) ,e<sub>2</sub>) ,env)
                  (interp e_2 (hash-set env x v_1))]))
```

```
e ::= (\lambda (x) e)
| (e e)
| x
| (call/cc (\lambda (x) e))
```

```
k ::= \textbf{halt} \mid \textbf{ar}(e, env, k) \\ \mid \textbf{fn}(v, k) \rangle
e ::= (\lambda) (x) e)
\mid (e e) \\ \mid x \\ \mid (call/cc (\lambda (x) e))
```

k ::= halt | ar(e, env, k) | fn(v, k) | e ::=
$$(\lambda (x) e)$$
 | $(e e)$ | $(x e)$ | $(call/cc (\lambda (x) e))$ | $(v e)$ |

```
((e_0 e_1), env, k) \rightarrow (e_0, env, ar(e_1, env, k))
                (x, env, ar(e_1, env_1, k_1)) \rightarrow (e_1, env_1, fn(env(x), k_1))
 ((\lambda (x) e), env, ar(e_1, env_1, k_1)) \rightarrow (e_1, env_1, fn(((\lambda (x) e), env), k_1))
(x, env, fn(((\lambda (x_1) e_1), env_1), k_1)) \rightarrow (e_1, env_1[x_1 \mapsto env(x)], k_1)
      ((\lambda (x) e), env, fn(((\lambda (x_1) e_1), env_1), k_1))
                                                        \rightarrow (e<sub>1</sub>, env<sub>1</sub>[x<sub>1</sub> \mapsto ((\lambda (x) e), env)], k<sub>1</sub>)
```

call/cc semantics

```
((call/cc (\lambda (x) e_0)), env, k) \rightarrow (e_0, env[x \mapsto k], k) ((\lambda (x) e_0), env, \textbf{fn}(k_0, k_1)) \rightarrow ((\lambda (x) e_0), env, k_0) (x, env, \textbf{fn}(k_0, k_1)) \rightarrow (x, env, k_0)
```

$$e ::= ... | (let ([x e_0]) e_1)$$

$$k ::= \dots \mid \mathbf{let}(x, e, env, k)$$

$$(x, env, let(x_1, e_1, env_1, k_1)) \rightarrow (e_1, env_1[x_1 \mapsto env(x)], k_1)$$

$$((\lambda (x) e), env, let(x_1, e_1, env_1, k_1)) \rightarrow (e_1, env_1[x_1 \mapsto ((\lambda (x) e), env)], k_1)$$

```
(x, env, \mathbf{fn}(((\lambda (x_1) e_1), env_1), k_1)) \rightarrow (e_1, env_1[x_1 \mapsto env(x)], k_1)
((\lambda (x) e), env, \mathbf{fn}(((\lambda (x_1) e_1), env_1), k_1))
\rightarrow (e_1, env_1[x_1 \mapsto ((\lambda (x) e), env)], k_1)
```

These are nearly identical because a let form is just an immediate application of a lambda!

 $(x, env, let(x_1, e_1, env_1, k_1)) \rightarrow (e_1, env_1[x_1 \mapsto env(x)], k_1)$

 $((\lambda (x) e), env, let(x_1, e_1, env_1, k_1)) \rightarrow (e_1, env_1[x_1 \mapsto ((\lambda (x) e), env)], k_1)$

CEK-machine evaluation

```
(e_0, [], ()) \rightarrow \dots
\rightarrow \dots
\rightarrow \dots
\rightarrow \dots
\rightarrow (x, env, halt) \rightarrow env(x)
```

consider the following question.

Is it possible to take an arbitrary Racket/Scheme program and transform it systematically so that no function ever returns?

ANF conversion

Conversion to *administrative normal form (ANF)* means rewriting the language so that the only continuation is a let-continuation!

Subexpressions must be let-bound to a temp. variable.

CPS conversion

Conversion to *Continuation-passing style (CPS)* means encoding continuations explicitly as first-class functions (which makes it easy to compile away call/cc!) and passing them forward at each call site (just as our CEK interpreter passed forward K). Every call becomes a tail call, and return points become calls to continuations.

CPS conversion

Assume the current continuation is bound to a variable k. In this case, a let-form *extends* the current continuation by defining a new lambda that saves k (the tail of the stack) in its environment:

(Note that continuations are passed a continuation, but ignore it.)

$$(let ([fun (f x)]) \longrightarrow (f (lambda (_ fun)) (fun y))$$

$$(fun y)) \longrightarrow (fun k y))$$

and a returned value (e.g., a lambda) is instead passed to the current continuation (Note: when applying a kont the first parameter is ignored):

$$(lambda (x) x) \longrightarrow (k k (lambda (x) x))$$

Visualizing CPS (example)

(fib 4)

$$(fib 3)$$

fn {+} $(fib (-n 2)) [n = 4]$

(fib 1)

{1}

(fib 0)

```
fn {+} {1}
fn {+} (fib (- n 2)) [n = 3]
fn {+} (fib (- n 2)) [n = 4]
```

0

IR

```
IR
```

1

```
IR
```

```
IR
```

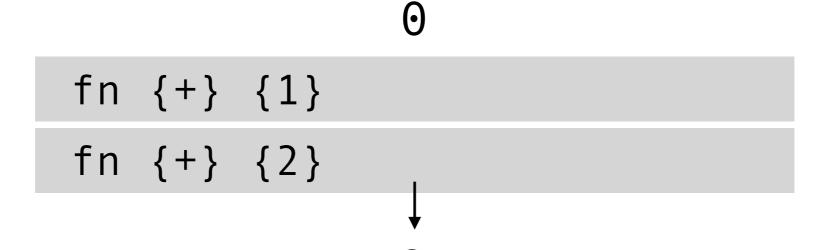
IR

```
IR
```

1

```
IR
```

IR



```
(define (fib n)
       (let ([c (<= n 1)])
          (if c
              n
ANF
             _{0}(let([n-1(-n1)])
               _{1}(let ([v0 (fib n-1)])
                   _{2}(let ([n-2 (- n 2)])
                     _{3}(let ([v1 (fib n-2)])
                       4(let ([s (+ v0 v1)])
                         5S))))))))
```

```
(define (fib n)
  (let ([c (<= n 1)])
    (if c
        n
       _{0}(let ([n-1 (- n 1)])
          _{1}(let ([v0 (fib n-1)])
             _{2}(let([n-2(-n2)])
               _{3}(let ([v1 (fib n-2)])
                 4(let ([s (+ v0 v1)])
                    5S))))))))
```

```
(define (fib n)
  (let ([c (<= n 1)])
    (if c
        n
       _{0}(let ([n-1 (- n 1)])
          _{1}(let ([v0 (fib n-1)])
             _{2}(let([n-2(-n2)])
               _{3}(let ([v1 (fib n-2)])
                 4(let ([s (+ v0 v1)])
                    5S))))))))
```

```
(fib 2) letk v0 e_2 [n=3,n-1=2,...] letk v0 e_2 [n=4,n-1=3,...]
```

```
(define (fib n)
  (let ([c (<= n 1)])
    (if c
        n
       _{0}(let([n-1(-n1)])
         _{1}(let ([v0 (fib n-1)])
             _{2}(let([n-2(-n2)])
               _{3}(let ([v1 (fib n-2)])
                 _{4}(let ([s (+ v0 v1)])
                    5S))))))))
```

(fib 1) -> 1
letk v0
$$e_2$$
 [n=2,n-1=1,...]
letk v0 e_2 [n=3,n-1=2,...]
letk v0 e_2 [n=4,n-1=3,...]

```
(define (fib n)
  (let ([c (<= n 1)])
    (if c
        n
       _{0}(let([n-1(-n1)])
         _{1}(let ([v0 (fib n-1)])
             _{2}(let([n-2(-n2)])
               _{3}(let ([v1 (fib n-2)])
                 _{4}(let ([s (+ v0 v1)])
                    5S))))))))
```

(fib 0)
$$-> 0$$

letk v1 e₄ [v0=1,n=2,n-1=1,...]
letk v0 e₂ [n=3,n-1=2,...]
letk v0 e₂ [n=4,n-1=3,...]

```
(define (fib n)
  (let ([c (<= n 1)])
    (if c
        n
       _{0}(let([n-1(-n1)])
         _{1}(let ([v0 (fib n-1)])
             _{2}(let([n-2(-n2)])
               _{3}(let ([v1 (fib n-2)])
                 _{4}(let ([s (+ v0 v1)])
                    5S))))))))
```

$$s \quad [s=1, v0=1, v1=0, ...]$$
 letk $v0 \quad e_2 \quad [n=3, n-1=2, ...]$ letk $v0 \quad e_2 \quad [n=4, n-1=3, ...]$

```
(define (fib n)
  (let ([c (<= n 1)])
    (if c
        n
       _{0}(let([n-1(-n1)])
         _{1}(let ([v0 (fib n-1)])
             _{2}(let([n-2(-n2)])
               _{3}(let ([v1 (fib n-2)])
                 4(let ([s (+ v0 v1)])
                   5S))))))))
```

```
(define (fib n)
  (let ([c (<= n 1)])
    (if c
        n
       _{0}(let ([n-1 (- n 1)])
          _{1}(let ([v0 (fib n-1)])
             _{2}(let([n-2(-n2)])
               _{3}(let ([v1 (fib n-2)])
                 4(let ([s (+ v0 v1)])
                    5S))))))))
```

s [
$$s=2, v0=1, v1=1,...$$
]
letk $v0$ e_2 [$n=4, n-1=3,...$]

```
(define (fib n)
  (let ([c (<= n 1)])
    (if c
        n
       _{0}(let ([n-1 (- n 1)])
          _{1}(let ([v0 (fib n-1)])
             _{2}(let([n-2(-n2)])
               _{3}(let ([v1 (fib n-2)])
                 4(let ([s (+ v0 v1)])
                    5S))))))))
```

```
(fib 2)
letk v1 e<sub>4</sub> [v0=2,n=4,n-1=3,...]
```

```
(define (fib n)
  (let ([c (<= n 1)])
    (if c
        n
       _{0}(let([n-1(-n1)])
         _{1}(let ([v0 (fib n-1)])
             _{2}(let([n-2(-n2)])
               _{3}(let ([v1 (fib n-2)])
                 4(let ([s (+ v0 v1)])
                   5S))))))))
```

```
(define (fib n)
  (let ([c (<= n 1)])
    (if c
        n
       _{0}(let([n-1(-n1)])
         _{1}(let ([v0 (fib n-1)])
             _{2}(let([n-2(-n2)])
               _{3}(let ([v1 (fib n-2)])
                 _{4}(let ([s (+ v0 v1)])
                    5S))))))))
```

$$(fib 0) -> 0$$
letk v1 e₄ [v0=1,n=2,n-1=3,...]
letk v1 e₄ [v0=2,n=4,n-1=3,...]

```
(define (fib n k)
            (let ([c (<= n 1)])
               (if c
                    (k n)
                    (let ([n-1 (- n 1)])
CPS
                      (fib n-1
                         (lambda (v0)
                            (let ([n-2 (- n 2)])
                               (fib n-2
                                 (lambda (v1)
                                    (let ([s (+ v0 v1)])
For simplicity, in this example, the added
parameter 'k' comes last, by convention,
                                       (k s))))))))))
   and is not added to continuations
(which is only needed for first-class konts
```

(fib 4 print)

so they may be treated as functions).

```
(define (fib n k)
  (let ([c (<= n 1)])
    (if c
        (k n)
        (let ([n-1 (- n 1)])
          (fib n-1
            (lambda (v0)
               (let ([n-2 (- n 2)])
                 (fib n-2
                   (lambda (v1)
                     (let ([s (+ v0 v1)])
                       (k s))))))))))
```

```
(define (fib n k)
        (let ([c (<= n 1)])
          (if c
               (k n)
               (let ([n-1 (- n 1)])
                  (fib n-1
                    (lambda (v0)
                      (let ([n-2 (- n 2)])
                         (fib n-2
                           (lambda (v1)
                             (let ([s (+ v0 v1)])
                                (k s))))))))))
                                              print
                              (lambda (v0) ...)

n=4 k=
           (lambda (v0) ...)
(fib 2 k)
            n=3
```

```
(define (fib n k)
  (let ([c (<= n 1)])
    (if c
        (k n)
        (let ([n-1 (- n 1)])
          (fib n-1
             (lambda (v0)
               (let ([n-2 (- n 2)])
                 (fib n-2
                   (lambda (v1)
                     (let ([s (+ v0 v1)])
                       (k s))))))))))
```

```
(define (fib n k)
  (let ([c (<= n 1)])
    (if c
        (k n)
        (let ([n-1 (- n 1)])
          (fib n-1
            (lambda (v0)
               (let ([n-2 (- n 2)])
                 (fib n-2
                   (lambda (v1)
                     (let ([s (+ v0 v1)])
                       (k s))))))))))
```

```
(define (fib n k)
  (let ([c (<= n 1)])
    (if c
        (k n)
        (let ([n-1 (- n 1)])
          (fib n-1
             (lambda (v0)
               (let ([n-2 (- n 2)])
                 (fib n-2
                   (lambda (v1)
                     (let ([s (+ v0 v1)])
                       (k s))))))))))
```

```
(fib 0 k)  \begin{array}{c} \text{(lambda (v1) ...)} \\ \text{n=2 v0=1} \\ \text{k} \end{array}   \begin{array}{c} \text{(lambda (v0) ...)} \\ \text{n=4} \\ \text{k} \end{array}   \begin{array}{c} \text{print} \\ \text{(lambda (v0) ...)} \\ \text{n=4} \\ \text{k} \end{array}
```

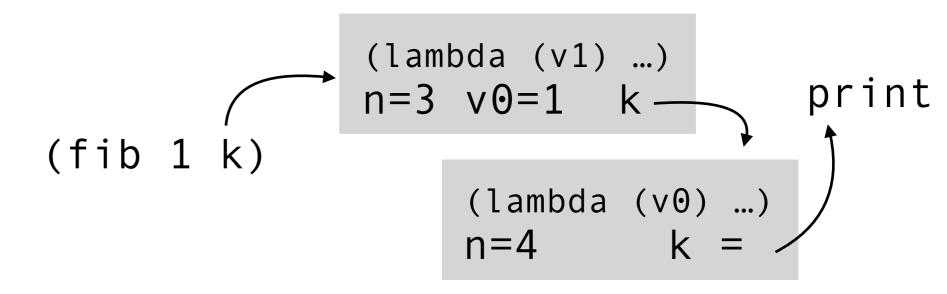
```
(define (fib n k)
  (let ([c (<= n 1)])
    (if c
        (k n)
        (let ([n-1 (- n 1)])
          (fib n-1
            (lambda (v0)
               (let ([n-2 (- n 2)])
                 (fib n-2
                   (lambda (v1)
                     (let ([s (+ v0 v1)])
                       (k s))))))))))
```

```
(k 0) (lambda (v1) ...) n=2 \ v0=1 \ k (lambda (v0) ...) n=3 \ k = - print n=4 \ k = -
```

```
(define (fib n k)
  (let ([c (<= n 1)])
    (if c
        (k n)
        (let ([n-1 (- n 1)])
          (fib n-1
            (lambda (v0)
               (let ([n-2 (- n 2)])
                 (fib n-2
                   (lambda (v1)
                     (let ([s (+ v0 v1)])
                       (k s))))))))))
```

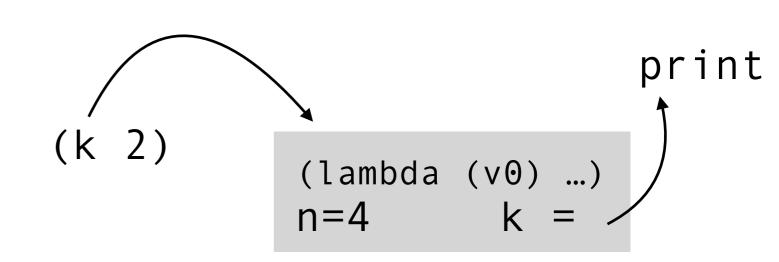
```
(k 1)  \begin{array}{c} \text{(lambda (v0) ...)} \\ \text{n=3} & \text{k} = \\ \\ \text{(lambda (v0) ...)} \\ \text{n=4} & \text{k} = \\ \end{array}
```

```
(define (fib n k)
  (let ([c (<= n 1)])
    (if c
        (k n)
        (let ([n-1 (- n 1)])
          (fib n-1
            (lambda (v0)
               (let ([n-2 (- n 2)])
                 (fib n-2
                   (lambda (v1)
                     (let ([s (+ v0 v1)])
                       (k s))))))))))
```

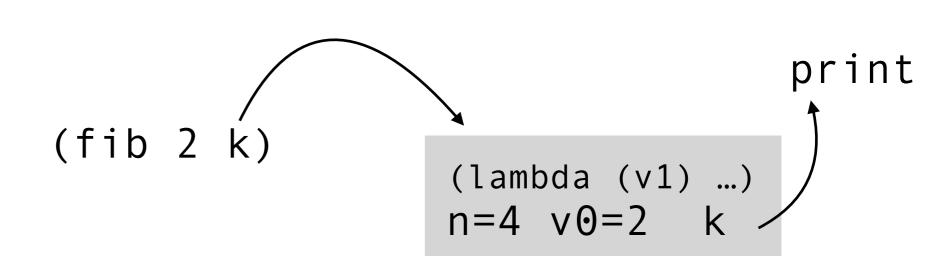


```
(define (fib n k)
  (let ([c (<= n 1)])
    (if c
        (k n)
        (let ([n-1 (- n 1)])
          (fib n-1
            (lambda (v0)
               (let ([n-2 (- n 2)])
                 (fib n-2
                   (lambda (v1)
                     (let ([s (+ v0 v1)])
                       (k s))))))))))
```

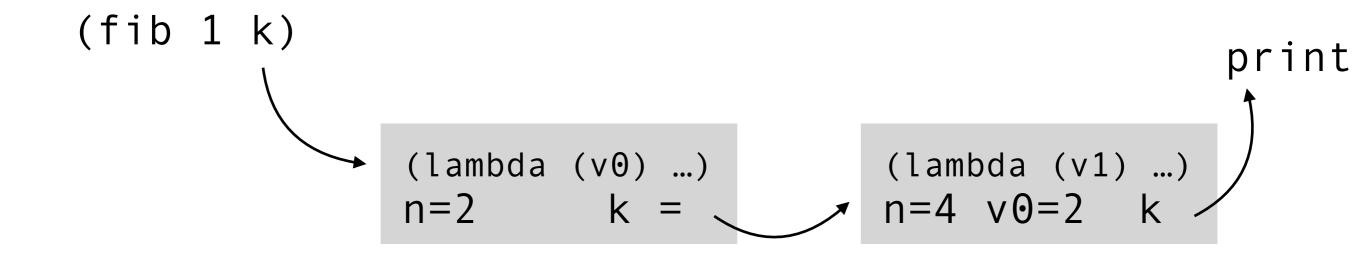
```
(define (fib n k)
  (let ([c (<= n 1)])
    (if c
        (k n)
        (let ([n-1 (- n 1)])
          (fib n-1
             (lambda (v0)
               (let ([n-2 (- n 2)])
                 (fib n-2
                   (lambda (v1)
                     (let ([s (+ v0 v1)])
                       (k s))))))))))
```



```
(define (fib n k)
  (let ([c (<= n 1)])
    (if c
        (k n)
        (let ([n-1 (- n 1)])
          (fib n-1
            (lambda (v0)
               (let ([n-2 (- n 2)])
                 (fib n-2
                   (lambda (v1)
                     (let ([s (+ v0 v1)])
                       (k s))))))))))
```



```
(define (fib n k)
  (let ([c (<= n 1)])
    (if c
        (k n)
        (let ([n-1 (- n 1)])
          (fib n-1
             (lambda (v0)
               (let ([n-2 (- n 2)])
                 (fib n-2
                   (lambda (v1)
                     (let ([s (+ v0 v1)])
                       (k s))))))))))
```



```
(define (fib n k)
  (let ([c (<= n 1)])
    (if c
        (k n)
        (let ([n-1 (- n 1)])
          (fib n-1
             (lambda (v0)
               (let ([n-2 (- n 2)])
                 (fib n-2
                   (lambda (v1)
                     (let ([s (+ v0 v1)])
                       (k s))))))))))
```

```
(k 1)

(lambda (v0) ...)

n=2

(lambda (v1) ...)

n=4

v0=2

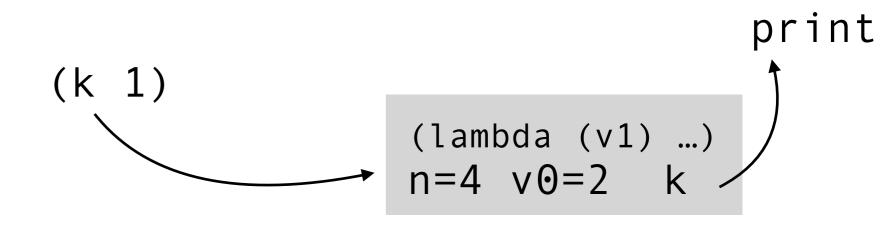
k=1
```

```
(define (fib n k)
  (let ([c (<= n 1)])
    (if c
        (k n)
        (let ([n-1 (- n 1)])
          (fib n-1
             (lambda (v0)
               (let ([n-2 (- n 2)])
                 (fib n-2
                   (lambda (v1)
                     (let ([s (+ v0 v1)])
                       (k s))))))))))
```

```
(define (fib n k)
  (let ([c (<= n 1)])
    (if c
        (k n)
        (let ([n-1 (- n 1)])
          (fib n-1
             (lambda (v0)
               (let ([n-2 (- n 2)])
                 (fib n-2
                   (lambda (v1)
                     (let ([s (+ v0 v1)])
                       (k s))))))))))
```

```
(k 0) print (lambda (v1) ...)  n=2 \ v0=1 \ k   n=4 \ v0=2 \ k
```

```
(define (fib n k)
  (let ([c (<= n 1)])
    (if c
        (k n)
        (let ([n-1 (- n 1)])
          (fib n-1
            (lambda (v0)
               (let ([n-2 (- n 2)])
                 (fib n-2
                   (lambda (v1)
                     (let ([s (+ v0 v1)])
                       (k s))))))))))
```



```
(define (fib n k)
  (let ([c (<= n 1)])
    (if c
        (k n)
        (let ([n-1 (- n 1)])
          (fib n-1
            (lambda (v0)
               (let ([n-2 (- n 2)])
                 (fib n-2
                   (lambda (v1)
                     (let ([s (+ v0 v1)])
                       (k s))))))))))
```

