CS 61A Spring 2018

Macros & Streams

Discussion 9: April 11, 2018

1 Macros

So far, we've mostly explored similarities between the Python and Scheme languages. For example, the Scheme list data structure is a close analogue to the Python linked list. As another example, we saw how tail-call optimization allows us to write recursive Scheme functions that use a constant amount of space. This makes it feasible to translate iterative code from Python.

On the other hand, **macros** are a Scheme feature that don't have a apparent Python equivalent. Like functions, macros are a useful tool for simplifying code via abstraction. But while functions typically operate on values like numbers and lists, macros have the option of transforming unevaluated code, leading to a whole new world of possibilities!

As a reminder, most Scheme functions do not have side effects. One exception to this is print. Just like in Python, print doesn't return anything! With that in mind, let's consider an example where we want to repeat a piece of code twice.

```
(print 'woof)
```

A first attempt at this might be:

```
scm> (define (twice f) (begin f f))
twice
scm> (twice (print 'woof))
woof
```

Remember that print doesn't return anything! So we would only see the first call to print in this case. The problem here is clear: we need to prevent the expression we want to double from evaluating, and then somehow call it twice.

As an example of this, imagine if the problem were less constrained and we could surround our original expression in a define expression. In that case, we could use higher order functions to get what we want:

```
scm> (define (speak) (print 'woof))
speak
scm> (define (twice f) (begin (f) (f)))
twice
scm> (twice speak)
woof
woof
```

But if the expression is given to us directly, there's no way to "undo" the execution and delay it for later!

macros
bransfirms
unevaluesed code
to new code.

```
scm> (print 1)
1
scm> (print 'hello)
hello
scm> (print '(yes this is dog))
(yes this is dog)
```

(begin Crephrate (print (a hu)) 4)) scm> (define (twice result) (begin (define (f) result) % This won't work! (f)(f))twice scm> (twice (print 'woof)) woof

Clearly, we need a special form, since we cannot evaluate our operand immediately. This is where we apply the define-macro special form.

```
scm> (define-macro (twice f) (list 'begin f f))
twice
```

This looks a bit like a function definition. twice is the name of the macro, and everything that follows in the same list is a required parameter. When we evaluate the macro form, we won't evaluate any parameters immediately. Instead, the body of the macro describes the final expression we want to evaluate, with the unevaluated parameters put in place! Recall that we want a final expression that looks like:

(begin

```
(print 'woof)
(print 'woof))
```

Now, let f be the snippet of print code from earlier (not the result of evaluation, which is simply nothing) The expression:

```
(list 'begin f f)
```

(begin (print 'muf) (print 'muf)

Creates our desired expression, and then finally evaluates it. Note that if we used:

```
'(begin f f)
```

This wouldn't work, since f would stay as f and wouldn't be replaced with our print expression. However, this seems easier to do than calling list a bunch of times. Is there a way to get the best of both worlds?

1.1 Quasiquoting

Recall that the quote special form prevents the Scheme interpreter from executing a following expression. You may have used it in the past to create lists without needing to call functions such as cons and list. However, you cannot create any lists that depend on the results of function evaluation due to the fact that quoting will surpress all evaluation. This is not the case with quasiquoting.

At first glance, the quasiquote (which can be invoked with the backtick ` or the quasiquote special form) behaves exactly the same.

However, using quasiquotes gives you the ability to **unquote** (which can be invoked with the the comma, or the unquote special form). This removes an expression from the quoted context, evaluates it, and places it back in.

```
scm> (define a 1)
scm> '(cons a nil)
(cons a nil)
scm> `(cons a nil)
(cons a nil)
scm> `(cons ,a nil)
(cons 1 nil)
```

By combining quasiquotes and unquoting, we can often save ourselves a lot of trouble when building macro expressions.

As one last example, we can create a quasiquoted version of our macro from earlier:

```
(define-macro (twice f)
  `(begin ,f ,f))
```

Questions

1.1 Write a macro that takes an expression and a number n and repeats the expression n times. For example, (repeat-n expr 2) should behave the same as (twice expr).

Complete the implementation below, making use of the replicate function.

```
(define (replicate x n)
  (if (= n 0) nil
        (cons x (replicate x (- n 1)))))
(define-macro (repeat-n expr n)
```

```
scm> (repeat-n (print '(resistance is futile)) 4)
(resistance is futile)
(resistance is futile)
(resistance is futile)
(resistance is futile)
```

1.2 Write a macro that takes in two expressions and or's them together (applying short-circuiting rules). However, do this without using the or special form. You may also assume the name v1 doesn't appear anywhere outside of our macro. Fill in the implementation below.

```
(define-macro (or-macro expr1 expr2)
```

4 Macros & Streams

1.3 Write a macro that takes in a call expression and strips out every other argument. The first argument is kept, the second is removed, and so on. You may find it helpful to write a helper function.

(define-macro (prune-expr expr)

```
scm> (prune-expr (+ 10))
10
scm> (prune-expr (+ 10 100))
10
scm> (prune-expr (+ 10 100 1000))
1010
scm> (prune-expr (prune-expr (+ 10 100) 'garbage))
10
```

2 Streams

In Python, we can use iterators to represent infinite sequences (for example, the generator for all natural numbers). However, Scheme does not support iterators. Let's see what happens when we try to use a Scheme list to represent an infinite sequence of natural numbers:

Because the second argument to cons is always evaluated, we cannot create an infinite sequence of integers using a Scheme list.

Instead, our Scheme interpreter supports *streams*, which are *lazy* Scheme lists. The first element is represented explicitly, but the rest of the stream's elements are computed only when needed. Computing a value only when it's needed is also known as *lazy evaluation*.

We use the special form cons-stream to create a stream. Note that cons-stream is a special form, because the second operand (naturals (+ n 1))) is *not* evaluated when cons-stream is called. It's only evaluated when cdr-stream is used to inspect the rest of the stream.

- nil is the empty stream
- cons-stream creates a non-empty stream from an initial element and an expression to compute the rest of the stream
- car returns the first element of the stream
- cdr-stream computes and returns the rest of stream

Streams are very similar to Scheme lists. The cdr of a Scheme list is either another Scheme list or nil; likewise, the cdr-stream of a stream is either a stream or nil. The difference is that the expression for the rest of the stream is computed the first time that cdr-stream is called, instead of when cons-stream is used. Subsequent calls to cdr-stream return this value without recomputing it. This allows us to



efficiently work with infinite streams like the naturals example above. We can see

```
this in action by using a non-pure function to compute the rest of the stream:
    scm> (define (compute-rest n)
           (print 'evaluating!)
    ...>
           (cons-stream n nil))
    compute-rest
    scm> (define s (cons-stream 0 (compute-rest 1)))
    scm> (car (cdr-stream s))
   evaluating!
    scm> (car (cdr-stream s))
    Note that the symbol evaluating! is only printed the first time cdr-stream is
                                            Two important components of stream:

Lazy evaluation: 50 et e remainder of the

stream iJn't computed
    called.
    Questions
2.1 What would Scheme display?
    scm> (define (has-even? s)
           (cond ((null? s) #f)
                                                                            so anything we computed.
                 ((even? (car s)) #t)
                 (else (has-even? (cdr-stream s)))))
    has-even?
    scm > (define (f x) (* 3 x))
    f
    scm> (define nums (cons-stream 1 (cons-stream (f 3) (cons-stream (f 5) nil))))
    nums
    scm> nums
    scm> (cdr nums)
                # Cpromine (not forced)].
    scm > (define (f x) (* 2 x))
    scm>_(cdr-stream nums)
         9. # [promite (not forced)])
    scm> (has-even? nums)
       ##
```

2.2 Write a function range-stream which takes a start and end, and returns a stream that represents the integers between start and end - 1 (inclusive).

```
(define (range-stream start end)
```

```
(if (______)
    nil

    (cons-stream _______));
scm> (define s (range-stream 1 5))
s
scm> (car (cdr-stream s))
```

2.3 Write a function slice which takes in a stream s, a start, and an end. It should return a Scheme list that contains the elements of s between index start and end, not including end. If the stream ends before end, you can return nil.

```
(define (slice s start end)
```

```
scm> (slice nat 4 12)
(4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11)
```

2.4 Since streams only evaluate the next element when they are needed, we can combine infinite streams together for interesting results! Use it to define a few of our favorite sequences. We've defined the function combine-with for you below, as well as an example of how to use it to define the stream of even numbers.

For these questions, you may use the naturals stream in addition to combine-with.

(Continued on the next page)

i. (define factorials

iii. Write exp, which returns a stream where the nth term represents the degree-n polynomial expantion for e^x , which is $\sum_{i=0}^n x^i/i!$.

You may use factorials in addition to combine-with and naturals in your solution.

(define (exp x)

scm> (slice (exp 2) 0 5)
(1 3 5 6.333333333 7 7.266666667)

$$e^2 \approx 1 + 2 + \frac{2^3}{3!} + \frac{2^9}{4!} + \frac{2^6}{5!}$$

7.266667.