

# C311/B521/A596 Programming Languages

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## Notes on the call-bys

### Call-by-value

```
(define foo-by-value
  (lambda (x)
    (bar x)
    x))

(define bar-by-value
  (lambda (y)
    (set! y 10)))

> (foo-by-value 5)
5
```

This is another version of call-by-value using boxes:

```
(define foo-by-value/boxes
  (lambda (x)
    (bar-by-value/boxes (box (unbox x)))
    (unbox x)))

(define bar-by-value/boxes
  (lambda (y)
    (set-box! y 10)))

> (foo-by-value/boxes (box 5))
5
```

### Call-by-reference

```
(define foo-by-ref
  (lambda (x)
    (bar-by-ref x)
    (unbox x)))

(define bar-by-ref
  (lambda (y)
    (set-box! y 10)))

> (foo-by-ref (box 5))
10
```

### Call-by-name

Note that 2 sets of ^^ are printed in both call-by-name examples.

```
(define foo-by-name
  (lambda (th)
    (write (bar-by-name th))
    (newline)
    (th)))

(define bar-by-name
  (lambda (th^)
    (+ (th^) (th^))))

> (foo-by-name (lambda () (begin (write '^^) (newline) (! 5))))
^^
^^
240
^^
120
```

Another version of call-by-name, using boxes:

```

(define foo-by-name/boxes
  (lambda (bth)
    (write (bar-by-name/boxes bth))
    (newline)
    ((unbox bth))))

(define bar-by-name/boxes
  (lambda (bth^)
    (+ ((unbox bth^)) ((unbox bth^)))))

> (foo-by-name/boxes (box (lambda () (begin (write '^^^ (newline) (! 5)))))
^^^
^^^
240
^^^
120

```

## Call-by-need

But in call-by-need, only one ^^ is printed!

```

(define foo-by-need
  (lambda (bth)
    (write (bar-by-need bth))
    (newline)
    ((unbox bth))))

(define bar-by-need
  (lambda (bth^)
    (+ (let ((ans ((unbox bth^))))
        (set-box! bth^ (lambda () ans))
        ans)
      ((unbox bth^)))))

> (foo-by-need (box (lambda () (begin (write '^^^ (newline) (! 5)))))
^^^
240
120

```

## Jensen's Device

Jensen's Device is a technique that relies on call-by-name. Here's an example:

```

(define baz
  (lambda (th)
    (+ (* (th) 5) (* (th) 5) (* (th) 5))))

> (let ((j 0))
  (baz (lambda () (begin (set! j (+ j 1)) j))))
30

```

Note that this will not work in any other call-by, since it relies on evaluating the side effect each time.

[call-by-notes.txt](#) · Last modified: 2013/03/17 00:16 by menzel

