CS 61A Fall 2016

Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs

DISCUSSION QUIZ 8 SOLUTIONS

1. (3 points) Pin the Tail

Identify whether or not each of the following procedures uses a constant amount of space in a tail-recursive Scheme implementation (i.e. whether **every** recursive call is a tail call).

(As a reminder, append takes zero or more lists and constructs a new list with all of the lists' elements.) copy is *not* tail-recursive. After the recursive call returns, we still have to apply a lambda procedure.

```
(define (broken lst) (broken (broken lst)))
```

broken is not tail-recursive. One of the recursive calls is not a tail call.

(Assume that this procedure is always called with a last-num that is less than all of the elements in the list.) is-ascending is *not* tail-recursive. The recursive call isn't even in a tail context!

2. (4 points) Hail Recursion

Write a tail-recursive version of hailstone. This procedure accepts a positive integer n and an empty list lst, and returns a list containing the hailstone sequence that starts at n.

As an example, (hailstone 5 '()) would return (5 16 8 4 2 1).

3. (3 points) Humans Need Not Apply

What does eval do (in the context of an interpreter)? What does apply do?

eval parses expressions (all kinds of expressions; eval doesn't discriminate!), evaluating an expression's form to determine its meaning. On the other hand, apply handles function calls (it applies operators to arguments).

eval and apply are mutually recursive. Whenever eval encounters a function call, it sends the expression to apply to do the actual calling. In turn, apply uses eval to evaluate its arguments and to parse the body of user-defined functions.