

X shell

Spencer Tipping

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Part I

Language reference

Chapter 1

Expansion syntax

```
xh$ echo $foo           # simple variable expansion
xh$ echo $(echo hi)      # command output expansion
xh$ echo ${foo '0 @#}    # #words in first line of val of var foo
xh$ echo ${foo bar} "#}  # number of bytes in quoted string 'foo bar'

xh$ echo $foo[0 1]       # reserved for future use (don't write this)
xh$ echo $foo$bar        # reserved for future use (use ${foo}$bar)

xh$ echo $foo            # quote result with braces
xh$ echo $('foo)         # flatten into multiple lines (be careful!)
xh$ echo @$foo           # flatten into multiple words (one line)
xh$ echo $:foo           # multiple path components (one word)
xh$ echo $"foo           # multiple bytes (one path component)

xh$ echo ${foo}          # same as $foo
xh$ echo ${foo bar bif}  # reserved for future use

xh$ echo ${asdf asdf}    # expands into asdf asdf

xh$ echo $$foo           # $ is right-associative
xh$ echo ^$foo           # expand $foo within calling context
xh$ echo $('foo)         # result of running $('foo within current scope
xh$ $('foo               # this works too
xh$ echo ^$('foo)        # result of running $('foo within calling scope
```

Part II

Bootstrap implementation

Chapter 2

Self-replication

Listing 2.1 boot/xh-header

```
1  #!/usr/bin/env perl
2  BEGIN {
3    print STDERR q{
4    NOTE: Development image
5
6    If you see this note after installing the shell, it's probably because
7    you're running a version that has not yet rebuilt itself (maybe you got the
8    wrong file from the Git repo?). You can do this, but it will be really
9    slow and may use a lot of memory. There are two ways to fix this:
10
11    1. Download the standard image from http://spencertipping.com/xh
12    2. Have this image recompile itself by running xh.recompile-in-place (this
13       will take some time because it stress-tests your Perl runtime)
14
15    Note also that bootstrapping requires Perl 5.14 or later, whereas running a
16    compiled image just requires Perl 5.10.
17
18  };
19  }
20
21  BEGIN {eval(our $xh_bootstrap = q{
22    # xh: the X shell | https://github.com/spencertipping/xh
23    # Copyright (C) 2014, Spencer Tipping
24    # Licensed under the terms of the MIT source code license
25
26    # For the benefit of HTML viewers (long story):
27    # <body style='display:none'>
28    # <script src='http://spencertipping.com/xh/page.js'></script>
29    use 5.014;
```

```

30 package xh;
31 our %modules;
32 our @module_ordering;
33
34 our %compilers = (pl => sub {
35     my $package = $_[0] =~ s/\./::/gr;
36     eval "{package ::$package;\n$_[1]\n}";
37     die "error compiling module $_[0]: $@" if $@;
38 });
39
40 sub defmodule {
41     my ($name, $code, @args) = @_;
42     chomp($modules{$name} = $code);
43     push @module_ordering, $name;
44     my ($base, $extension) = split /\.(?w+)$/, $name;
45     die "undefined module extension '$extension' for $name"
46         unless exists $compilers{$extension};
47     $compilers{$extension}->($base, $code, @args);
48 }
49
50 chomp($modules{bootstrap} = $::xh_bootstrap);
51 undef $::xh_bootstrap;

```

At this point we need a way to reproduce the image. Since the bootstrap code is already stored, we can just wrap it and each defined module into an appropriate BEGIN block.

Listing 2.2 boot/xh-header (continued)

```

1 sub image {
2     my @pieces = "#!/usr/bin/env perl";
3     push @pieces, "BEGIN {eval(our \$_xh_bootstrap = <<'_' )}",
4         $modules{bootstrap},
5         '_';
6     push @pieces, "BEGIN {xh::defmodule('$_', <<'_' )}",
7         $modules{$_},
8         '_ ' for @module_ordering;
9     push @pieces, "xh::main::main;\n__DATA__";
10    join "\n", @pieces;
11 }
12 }}

```

Chapter 3

Data structures

All values in `xh` have the same type, which provides a bunch of operations suited to different purposes. This implementation is based on strings and, as a result, has egregious performance appropriate only for bootstrapping the self-hosting compiler.

Listing 3.1 `modules/v.pl`

```
1 BEGIN {xh::defmodule('xh::v.pl', <<'_'')}
2 sub unbox;
3
4 sub parse_with_quoted {
5   my ($events_to_split, $split_sublists, $s) = @_;
6   my @result;
7   my $current_item = '';
8   my $sublist_depth = 0;
9
10  for my $piece (split /\v+|\s+|\V|\\.|[\\O{}]/, $s) {
11    next unless length $piece;
12    my $depth_before_piece = $sublist_depth;
13    $sublist_depth += $piece =~ /\[({)/;
14    $sublist_depth -= $piece =~ /\]}/;
15
16    if ($split_sublists && !$sublist_depth != !$depth_before_piece) {
17      # Two possibilities. One is that we just closed an item, in which
18      # case we take the piece, concatenate it to the item, and continue.
19      # The other is that we just opened one, in which case we emit what we
20      # have and start a new item with the piece.
21      if ($sublist_depth) {
22        # Just opened one; kick out current item and start a new one.
23        push @result, $current_item if length $current_item;
24        $current_item = $piece;
25      } else {
```



```

26         # Just closed a list; concat and kick out the full item.
27         push @result, "$current_item$piece";
28         $current_item = '';
29     }
30 } elsif (!$sublist_depth && $piece =~ /$events_to_split/) {
31     # If the match produces a group, then treat it as a part of the next
32     # item. Otherwise throw it away.
33     push @result, $current_item if length $current_item;
34     $current_item = $1;
35 } else {
36     $current_item .= $piece;
37 }
38 }
39
40 push @result, $current_item if length $current_item;
41 @result;
42 }
43
44 sub split_lines {parse_with_quoted '\v+', 0, @_}
45 sub split_words {parse_with_quoted '\s+', 0, @_}
46 sub split_path {parse_with_quoted '(/)', 1, @_}
47
48 sub parse_lines {map unbox($_), split_lines @_}
49 sub parse_words {map unbox($_), split_words @_}
50 sub parse_path {map unbox($_), split_path @_}
51
52 sub brace_balance {my $without_escapes = $_[0] =~ s/\\\.//gr;
53     length($without_escapes =~ s/^[^{]*//gr) -
54     length($without_escapes =~ s/^[^}]*/gr)}
55
56 sub escape_braces_in {$_[0] =~ s/([\\\[\\]{}])/\$1/gr}
57
58 sub quote_as_multiple_lines {
59     return escape_braces_in $_[0] if brace_balance $_[0];
60     $_[0];
61 }
62
63 sub brace_wrap {"{" . quote_as_multiple_lines($_[0]) . "}" }
64
65 sub quote_as_line {parse_lines(@_) > 1 ? brace_wrap $_[0] : $_[0]}
66 sub quote_as_word {parse_words(@_) > 1 ? brace_wrap $_[0] : $_[0]}
67 sub quote_as_path {parse_path(@_) > 1 ? brace_wrap $_[0] : $_[0]}
68
69 sub quote_default {brace_wrap $_[0]}
70
71 sub split_by_interpolation {

```

```

72  # Splits a value into constant and interpolated pieces, where
73  # interpolated pieces always begin with $. Adjacent constant pieces may
74  # be split across items. Any active backslash-escapes will be placed on
75  # their own.
76
77  my @result;
78  my $current_item      = '';
79  my $sublist_depth     = 0;
80  my $blocker_count     = 0;      # number of open-braces
81  my $interpolating     = 0;
82  my $interpolating_depth = 0;
83
84  my $closed_something  = 0;
85  my $opened_something  = 0;
86
87  for my $piece (split /([\[\]\{\}\|\.\|\/\|$\|s+)/, $_[0]) {
88      $sublist_depth += $opened_something = $piece =~ /\^[[({$]/;
89      $sublist_depth -= $closed_something = $piece =~ /\^[)]}]/;
90      $blocker_count += $piece eq '{';
91      $blocker_count -= $piece eq '}';
92
93      if (!$interpolating) {
94          # Not yet interpolating, but see if we can find a reason to change
95          # that.
96          if (!$blocker_count && $piece eq '$') {
97              # Emit current item and start interpolating.
98              push @result, $current_item if length $current_item;
99              $current_item = $piece;
100             $interpolating = 1;
101             $interpolating_depth = $sublist_depth;
102         } elsif (!$blocker_count && $piece =~ /\^\|\/) {
103             # The backslash should be interpreted, so emit it as its own piece.
104             push @result, $current_item if length $current_item;
105             push @result, $piece;
106             $current_item = '';
107         } else {
108             # Collect the piece and continue.
109             $current_item .= $piece;
110         }
111     } else {
112         # Grab everything until:
113         #
114         # 1. We close the list in which the interpolation occurred.
115         # 2. We close a list to get back out to the interpolation depth.
116         # 3. We observe whitespace.
117         # 4. We observe a path separator.

```

```

118
119     if ($sublist_depth < $interpolating_depth
120         or $sublist_depth == $interpolating_depth
121         and $piece eq '/' || $piece =~ /^\\s/) {
122         # No longer interpolating because of what we just saw, so emit
123         # current item and start a new constant piece.
124         push @result, $current_item if length $current_item;
125         $current_item = $piece;
126         $interpolating = 0;
127     } elsif ($sublist_depth == $interpolating_depth
128         && $closed_something) {
129         push @result, "$current_item$piece";
130         $current_item = '';
131         $interpolating = 0;
132     } else {
133         # Still interpolating, so collect the piece.
134         $current_item .= $piece;
135     }
136 }
137 }
138
139 push @result, $current_item if length $current_item;
140 @result;
141 }
142
143 sub undo_backslash_escape {
144     return "\n" if $_[0] eq '\n';
145     return "\t" if $_[0] eq '\t';
146     return "\\" if $_[0] eq '\\\\';
147     substr $_[0], 1;
148 }
149
150 sub unbox {
151     my ($s) = @_;
152     my $depth = 0;
153     my $last_depth = 1;
154     for my $piece (grep length, split /(\\.|[\\[\\]{}])/, $s) {
155         $depth += $piece =~ /\[([{}])/;
156         $depth -= $piece =~ /\]([{}])/;
157         return $s if $last_depth <= 0;
158         $last_depth = $depth;
159     }
160     $s =~ s/^\s*[\\([{}](.*)[\\])]\s*$/1/sgr;
161 }
162 -

```

Chapter 4

Evaluator

This bootstrap evaluator is totally cheesy, using Perl's stack and lots of recursion; beyond this, it is slow, allocates a lot of memory, and has absolutely no support for lazy values. Its only redeeming virtue is that it supports macroexpansion.

Listing 4.1 modules/e.pl

```
1 BEGIN {xh::defmodule('xh::e.pl', <<'_'')}
2 sub evaluate;
3 sub interpolate;
4 sub call;
5
6 sub interpolate_wrap {
7     my ($prefix, $unquoted) = @_;
8     return xh::v::quote_as_multiple_lines $unquoted if $prefix =~ /\$/;
9     return xh::v::quote_as_line           $unquoted if $prefix =~ /\@$/;
10    return xh::v::quote_as_word            $unquoted if $prefix =~ /\:$/;
11    return xh::v::quote_as_path           $unquoted if $prefix =~ /\\"$/;
12    xh::v::quote_default $unquoted;
13 }
14
15 sub scope_index_for {
16     my ($carets) = $_[0] =~ /\^\$(\^*)/g;
17     -(1 + length $carets);
18 }
19
20 sub truncated_stack {
21     my ($stack, $index) = @_;
22     return $stack if $index == -1;
23     [@$stack[0 .. @$stack + $index]];
24 }
25
```

```

26 sub interpolate_dollar {
27   my ($binding_stack, $term) = @_;
28
29   # First things first: strip off any prefix operator, then interpolate the
30   # result. We do this because $ is right-associative.
31   my ($prefix, $rhs) = $term =~ /^(\$\^*[@'':]?)(.*)$/sg;
32
33   # Do we have a compound form? If so, then we need to treat the whole
34   # thing as a unit.
35   if ($rhs =~ /^\(\/) {
36     # The exact semantics here are a little subtle. Because the RHS is just
37     # ()-boxed, it should be expanded within the current scope. The actual
38     # evaluation, however, might be happening within a parent scope; we'll
39     # know by looking at the $prefix to check for ^s.
40
41     my $interpolated_rhs = interpolate $binding_stack, $rhs;
42     my $index            = scope_index_for $prefix;
43     my $new_stack        = truncated_stack $binding_stack, $index;
44
45     return interpolate_wrap $prefix,
46                            evaluate $new_stack, $interpolated_rhs;
47   } elsif ($rhs =~ /^\[\/) {
48     # $[] is a way to call a series of functions on a value, just like
49     # Clojure's (-> x y z). Like $(), we always interpolate the terms of
50     # the [] list in the current environment; but any ^s you use (e.g.
51     # $^[ ]) cause the inner functions to be called from a parent scope.
52     # This can be relevant in certain pathological cases that you should
53     # probably never use.
54
55     my ($initial, @fns) = map {interpolate $binding_stack, $_}
56                            $rhs =~ /^\[([^\]]+)$/sg;
57     my $index            = scope_index_for $prefix;
58     my $calling_stack    = truncated_stack $binding_stack, $index;
59
60     # You can use paths as a curried notation within $[] interpolation. For
61     # example:
62     #
63     # > echo $[foo echo/hi]
64     # hi foo
65     #
66     # Lists also work, but there is no difference between () and [], which
67     # is a horrible oversight that should probably be addressed at some
68     # point.
69     $initial = call $calling_stack,
70                   (map {s/^\/\//r} $fns),
71                   $initial

```

```

72     for @fns;
73
74     return interpolate_wrap $prefix, $initial;
75 } elsif ($rhs =~ /\^\{\/) {
76     $rhs = xh::v::unbox $rhs;
77 } else {
78     # It's either a plain word or another $-term. Either way, go ahead and
79     # interpolate it so that it's ready for this operator.
80     $rhs = xh::v::unbox interpolate $binding_stack, $rhs;
81 }
82
83 # Try to unwrap any layers around the RHS. Any braces at this point mean
84 # that it's artificially quoted, or that the RHS is unusable.
85 while ($rhs =~ /\^\{\/) {
86     my $new_rhs = xh::v::unbox $rhs;
87     die "illegal interpolation: $rhs" if $new_rhs eq $rhs;
88     $rhs = $new_rhs;
89 }
90
91 my $index = scope_index_for $prefix;
92 interpolate_wrap $prefix,
93     $$binding_stack[$index]{$rhs}
94     // $$binding_stack[0]{$rhs}
95     // die "unbound var: $rhs (bound vars are ["
96         . join(' ', sort keys %{$$binding_stack[$index]})
97         . "] locally, ["
98         . join(' ', sort keys %{$$binding_stack[0]})
99         . "] globally)";
100 }
101
102 sub interpolate {
103     my ($binding_stack, $x) = @_;
104     join '', map {$_ =~ /\^\$/ ? interpolate_dollar $binding_stack, $_
105         : $_ =~ /\^\$/ ? xh::v::undo_backslash_escape $_
106         : $_ } xh::v::split_by_interpolation $x;
107 }
108
109 sub call {
110     my ($binding_stack, $f, @args) = @_;
111     my $fn = $$binding_stack[-1]{$f}
112         // $$binding_stack[0]{$f}
113         // die "unbound function: $f";
114
115     # Special case: if it's a builtin Perl sub, then just call that directly.
116     return &$fn($binding_stack, @args) if ref $fn eq 'CODE';
117

```

```

118   # Otherwise use xh calling convention.
119   push @$binding_stack,
120       { _ => join ' ', map xh::v::quote_default($_), @args };
121
122   my $result = eval {evaluate $binding_stack, $fn};
123   my $error = "$@ in $f "
124       . join(' ', map xh::v::quote_default($_), @args)
125       . ' at calling stack depth ' . @$binding_stack
126       . " with locals:\n"
127       . join("\n", map " $_ -> $$binding_stack[-1]{$_}",
128           sort keys %{$$binding_stack[-1]}) if $@;
129   pop @$binding_stack;
130   die $error if $error;
131   $result;
132 }
133
134 sub evaluate {
135     my ($binding_stack, $body) = @_ ;
136     my @statements           = xh::v::parse_lines $body;
137     my $result               = '';
138
139     for my $s (@statements) {
140         my $original = $s;
141
142         # Step 1: Do we have a macro? If so, macroexpand before calling
143         # anything. (NOTE: technically incorrect; macros should receive their
144         # arguments with whitespace intact)
145         my @words;
146         while ((@words = xh::v::parse_words $s)[0] =~ /^#/ ) {
147             $s = eval {call $binding_stack, @words};
148             die "$@ in @words (while macroexpanding $original)" if $@;
149         }
150
151         # Step 2: Interpolate the whole command once. Note that we can't wrap
152         # each word at this point, since that would block interpolation
153         # altogether.
154         my $new_s = eval {interpolate $binding_stack, $s};
155         die "$@ in $s (while interpolating from $original)" if $@;
156         $s = $new_s;
157
158         # If that killed our value, then we have nothing to do.
159         next unless length $s;
160
161         # Step 3: See if the interpolation produced multiple lines. If so, we
162         # need to re-expand. Otherwise we can do a single function call.
163         if (xh::v::parse_lines($s) > 1) {

```

```

164     $result = evaluate $binding_stack, $s;
165 } else {
166     # Just one line, so continue normally. At this point we look up the
167     # function and call it. If it's Perl native, then we're set; we just
168     # call that on the newly-parsed arg list. Otherwise delegate to
169     # create a new call frame and locals.
170     $result = eval {call $binding_stack, xh::v::parse_words $s};
171     die "$@ in $s (while evaluating $original)" if $@;
172 }
173 }
174 $result;
175 }
176 _

```


Chapter 5

Globals

At this point we have the evaluator logic, but `xh` code can't do anything because it has no way to create variable bindings. This is solved by defining the `def` function and list/hash accessors.

Listing 5.1 `modules/globals.pl`

```
1 BEGIN {xh::defmodule('xh::globals.pl', <<'_')}  
2 sub def {  
3   my ($binding_stack, %args) = @_;  
4   $$binding_stack[-1]{$_} = $args{$_} for keys %args;  
5   join ' ', keys %args;  
6 }  
7  
8 sub echo {  
9   my ($binding_stack, @args) = @_;  
10  join ' ', @args;  
11 }  
12  
13 sub comment      {''}  
14 sub print_from_xh {print STDERR join(' ', @_[1 .. $#_]), "\n"}  
15  
16 sub perl_eval {  
17   my $result = eval $_[1];  
18   die "$@ while evaluating $_[1]" if $@;  
19   $result;  
20 }  
21  
22 sub assert_eq_macro {  
23   my ($binding_stack, $lhs, $rhs) = @_;  
24  
25   # We should get the same result by evaluating the LHS and RHS; otherwise  
26   # expand into a print statement describing the error.
```

```

27 my $expanded_lhs = xh::e::interpolate $binding_stack, $lhs;
28 my $expanded_rhs = xh::e::interpolate $binding_stack, $rhs;
29
30 $expanded_lhs eq $expanded_rhs
31 ? ''
32 : 'print ' . xh::v::quote_default("$lhs (-> $expanded_lhs)")
33   . ' != '
34   . xh::v::quote_default("$rhs (-> $expanded_rhs)");
35 }
36
37 # Create an interpreter instance that lets us interpret modules written in
38 # XH-script.
39 our $globals = [{def => \&def,
40                  echo => \&echo,
41                  print => \&print_from_xh,
42                  perl => \&perl_eval,
43                  '#' => \&comment,
44                  '#==' => \&assert_eq_macro}];
45
46 sub defglobals {
47     my %vals = @_;
48     $$globals[0]{$_} = $vals{$_} for keys %vals;
49 }
50
51 $xh::compilers{xh} = sub {
52     my ($module_name, $code) = @_;
53     eval {xh::e::evaluate $globals, $code};
54     die "error running $module_name: $@" if $@;
55 }
56 -

```

5.1 List accessors

List elements are accessed using single-character functions, one for each type of list.

Listing 5.2 modules/bootlist.pl

```

1 BEGIN {xh::defmodule('xh::bootlist.pl', <<'_'')}
2 sub wrap_negative {
3     my ($i, $n) = @_;
4     return undef unless length $i;
5     return $n + $i if $i < 0;
6     $i;
7 }
8

```

```

9  sub flexible_range {
10     my ($lower, $upper) = @_;
11     return reverse $upper .. $lower if $upper < $lower;
12     $lower .. $upper;
13 }
14
15 sub expand_subscript;
16 sub expand_subscript {
17     my ($subscript, $n) = @_;
18
19     return [map expand_subscript($_, $n),
20             xh::v::split_words xh::v::unbox $subscript]
21     if $subscript =~ /\{ /;
22
23     return [flexible_range wrap_negative($1, $n) // 0,
24             wrap_negative($2, $n) // $n - 1]
25     if $subscript =~ /^(-?\d*):(-?\d*)$/;
26
27     return wrap_negative $subscript, $n if $subscript =~ /^- /;
28     $subscript;
29 }
30
31 sub dereference_one;
32 sub dereference_one {
33     my ($subscript, $boxed_list) = @_;
34
35     # List homomorphism of subscripts
36     return xh::v::quote_default
37         join ' ', map dereference_one($_, $boxed_list),
38         @$subscript if ref $subscript eq 'ARRAY';
39
40     # Normal numeric lookup, with empty string for out-of-bounds
41     return '' if $subscript =~ /^- /;
42     return $$boxed_list[$subscript] // '' if $subscript =~ /\d+ /;
43
44     if ($subscript =~ s/^\/) {
45         # In this case the boxed list should contain at least words, and
46         # probably whole lines. We word-parse each entry looking for the
47         # first subscript hit.
48         $subscript = xh::v::unbox $subscript;
49         for my $x (@$boxed_list) {
50             my @words = xh::v::parse_words $x;
51             return xh::v::quote_as_word $x if $words[0] eq $subscript;
52         }
53         '';
54     } else {

```

```

55     die "unrecognized subscript form: $subscript";
56 }
57 }
58
59 sub dereference;
60 sub dereference {
61     my ($subscript, $boxed_list) = @_;
62     $subscript = xh::v::quote_as_word $subscript;
63     dereference_one expand_subscript($subscript, scalar(@$boxed_list)),
64         $boxed_list;
65 }
66
67 sub index_lines {dereference $_[1], [xh::v::parse_lines $_[2]]}
68 sub index_words {dereference $_[1], [xh::v::parse_words $_[2]]}
69 sub index_path {dereference $_[1], [xh::v::parse_path $_[2]]}
70 sub index_bytes {dereference $_[1], [map ord, split //, $_[2]]}
71
72 xh::globals::defglobals "" => \&index_lines,
73     "@" => \&index_words,
74     ":" => \&index_path,
75     "\" => \&index_bytes;
76 _

```

Chapter 6

Bootstrap unit tests

This is our first layer of sanity checking for the interpreter. A failure here won't stop `xh` from running, but it will print a diagnostic message so we know something is up.

Listing 6.1 `modules/bootunit.xh`

```
1 # This is a comment and should work properly.
2 # {
3   This is a block comment and should also work.
4 }
5 #== 1 1
6
7 def foo bar
8   #== @$foo      bar
9   #== @$foo      {bar}
10  #== @$foo      (bar)
11  #== @$foo      [bar]
12  #== $foo        {{bar}}
13  #== $(echo $foo) {{bar}}
14  #== @(echo $foo) bar
15
16 def greet {
17   echo hi there, @$_
18 }
19 #== @(greet spencer)      {hi there, spencer}
20 #== @(greet spencer tipping) {hi there, spencer tipping}
21
22 def newdef {
23   # Define stuff within the calling scope; should be equivalent to using
24   # def.
25   echo $^(def @$_)
26 }
```

```

27 newdef x 5
28 #== $@x 5
29
30 def two-statements {
31     def x 10
32     echo $x
33 }
34 #== $@x 5
35 '$two-statements
36 #== $@x 10
37
38 #== $@[there echo/hi] {hi there}
39 #== $@[spencer echo/there echo/hi] {hi there spencer}
40
41 def xs (foo bar bif baz)
42 #== $@(@ 0 $xs) foo
43 #== $@(@ 1 $xs) bar
44 #== $@(@ 2 $xs) bif
45 #== $@(@ 3 $xs) baz
46 #== $@(@ ^foo $xs) foo
47
48 #== $@[$xs @/0] foo
49 #== $@[$xs @/-1] baz
50 #== $@[$xs @/-2] bif
51 #== $@[$xs @/:] {{foo bar bif baz}}
52 #== $@[$xs @/1:] {{bar bif baz}}
53 #== $@[$xs @/:1] {{foo bar}}
54 #== $@[$xs @/:-2] {{foo bar bif}}
55 #== $@[$xs @/3:1] {{baz bif bar}}
56
57 #== $@[$xs @/^bar] bar
58 #== $@[$xs @/^bif] bif
59 #== $@[$xs @/^notfound] {}
60
61 #== $@[$xs @{0 2}] {{foo bif}}
62 #== $@[$xs @{0 2:}] {{foo {bif baz}}}
63 #== $@[$xs @{0 {2:}}] {{foo {{bif baz}}}}
64
65 def associative {
66     foo bar
67     bif baz
68 }
69 #== $@[$associative '/^foo] {{ foo bar}}
70 #== $@[$associative '/^foo @/1] bar
71 #== $@[$associative '/^bif @/1] baz
72 #== $@[$associative '/^bok] {}

```

```

73
74 #== $@[abcd "/0] 97
75 #== $@[abcd "/1:3] {{98 99 100}}
76
77 #== $@[/usr/bin/bash :(^/bin)] /bin
78 #== $@[../.. :/^..] ..
79
80 def #-> {echo #== \${$@[$_ @/0]} ${$_ @/1}}
81 #-> {echo hi} hi

```

Chapter 7

REPL

A totally cheesy bootstrap repl for now. Later on this will be implemented in `xh-script`.

Listing 7.1 `modules/main.pl`

```
1 BEGIN {xh::defmodule('xh::main.pl', <<'_'>)}
2 sub main {
3   # This keeps xh from blocking on stdin when we ask it to compile itself.
4   /^--recompile$/ and return 0 for @ARGV;
5
6   my $list_depth = 0;
7   my $expression = '';
8   my $binding_stack = $xh::globals::globals;
9
10  print "xh\$ ";
11  while (my $line = <STDIN>) {
12    if (!($list_depth += xh::v::brace_balance $line)) {
13      # Collect the line and evaluate everything we have.
14      $expression .= $line;
15
16      my $result = eval {xh::e::evaluate $binding_stack, "$expression"};
17      print "error: $@\n" if length $@;
18      print "$result\n" if length $result;
19
20      $expression = '';
21      print "xh\$ ";
22    } else {
23      $expression .= $line;
24      print '> ' . ' ' x $list_depth;
25    }
26  }
27 }
```


