

Today

CSC324H Principle of Programming Languages (Week 4)

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- Assignment 2 is due Oct. 8, 2009, 6:00pm sharp
- Term test 1: Oct. 8, from 6:10-7:00pm, BA1210
 - Closed book
 - 20% policy
 - Content covers up till today's material
 - Check course website for more details
- Scheme
 - Different types of recursion
 - Efficiency and tail recursion
 - Let and let* (letrec later)
 - Unbounded lambda and a taste of high-order functions

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Basic Functions

- Predicate functions
- (if <predicate> <consequence>
<alternative>) ; optional
- (cond (<p1> <e1>
<p2> <e2>
...
(else <e>)) ; optional
- (lambda (<formal parameters>) <body>)
- (define (f x1 ... xm) <body>)
- (define f (lambda (x1 ... xm) <body>))

Review

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Basic Recursion

- Recursion general strategies
- Several example: computing x^n , $n!$

Now, Let's continue today ...

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Different Types of Recursion

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Length of a list

- Given a list, compute its length. There is already a built-in length function that computes this. We can also define our own version of length:

```
(define (length x)
```

```
)
```

```
> (length '(1 2 3))
```

```
3
```

- The recursion used in length is called "[cdr-recursion](#)".
 - At each step, a shorter list is passed to the next function call.
 - Also a [linear](#) recursion.

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Tracing Length

- Tracing (by hand) a call to length:

Call: (length '(a b c))

Trace:

(length '(a b c))

(+ 1 (length '(b c)))

(+ 1 (+ 1 (length '(c))))

(+ 1 (+ 1 (+ 1 (length ())))))

(+ 1 (+ 1 (+ 1 0)))

(+ 1 (+ 1 1))

(+ 1 2)

3

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Tail Recursion

Tail-recursion:

- There is at most one recursive call made in any execution of function body.
- The recursive call is in the last function application in function body.
- Can drastically decrease the amount of stack space used and improve efficiency in implementation.
- Tail-recursion is implemented very efficiently and should be used whenever possible.

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Atomcount

- Parameter: a (possibly nested) list.
- Result: the number of atoms in the list.

```
(define (atomcount x)
```

```
)
```

```
> (atomcount '(1 2))
```

```
2
```

```
> (atomcount '(1 (2 (3)) (5)))
```

```
4
```

- This is called "[car-cdr recursion](#)".
 - We go off in two directions at once.

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Tail recursion: length

- Program:

```
(define (length lst) )
```

```
(define length-tail
```

```
)
```

- Trace:

```
(length-tail '(a b c) 0)
```

```
=> (length-tail '(b c) 1)
```

```
=> (length-tail '(c) 2)
```

```
=> (length-tail '() 3)
```

```
<= 3
```

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Append

- append is a built-in function that, given two lists L1 and L2, returns a list formed by appending L2 to L1.

```
> (append '(1 2) '(3 4 5))
```

```
(1 2 3 4 5)
```

```
> (append '(1 2) '(3 (4) 5))
```

```
(1 2 3 (4) 5)
```

```
> (append '() '(1 4 5))
```

```
(1 4 5)
```

```
> (append '(1 4 5) '())
```

```
(1 4 5)
```

```
> (append '() '())
```

```
()
```

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Define Append

```
(define (append list1 list2)
```

```
)
```

- It is a **flat** recursion
 - recursion only applies to the “top” elements of a list

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Odd and Even

- (evenlen? lst) returns #t if length of lst is even, #f otherwise;
(oddden? lst) returns #t if length of lst is odd, #f otherwise

```
(define evenlen?
```

```
)
```

```
(define oddlen?
```

```
)
```

- It is a **mutual** recursion
 - Two functions that call each other rather than themselves

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Flatten a List

- (flatten lst) returns a flat list that contains all elements in, lst, on any level, in order

```
(define flatten
```

```
)
```

- This is **deep** recursion
 - (aka tree recursion) recursion applied over all items
 - e.g., car-cdr recursion

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Recursion Type Summary

- cdr recursion
- car-cdr recursion
- Linear recursion
- Flat recursion
- Deep recursion
- Mutual recursion
- A special recursion -- **tail** recursion (Efficiency)

Different classifications from different aspects

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Efficiency

Efficiency

- A function that, given two lists, returns -1 if both lists are empty, and otherwise returns the length of the longest list:

```
(define (longest-nonzero x y)
  (cond ((and (null? x) (null? y)) -1)
        ((> (length x) (length y)) (length x))
        (else (length y))
  )
)
```

- Problem: Evaluating the same expression twice.
 - length is called on the same argument more than once.
 - We'd like to be able to reuse the result instead.
- Without an assignment statement, what can we do?

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Efficiency: Helper Function

- One solution: Bind values to parameters in a helper function:

```
> (longest-nonzero '(a b c) '(a b))
3
```

- Observe that length is now called on each argument just once.
 - The results can be used more than once within the helper function, since they are bound to the helper function's parameters.

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Efficiency: Let, Let* and Letrec

- What if we don't want to define a helper function? How can we still reuse the results of a function call?
- Solution: Use a let, let* or letrec construct that binds variables to expression results.
- General form:
**(let ((var1 expr1) ... (varn exprn))
 <expression>)**
**(let* ((var1 expr1) ... (varn exprn))
 <expression>)**
- This is not the same as variable assignment, since it doesn't let us modify the value of a variable.
 - This is just a convenient way of doing what helper functions already let us do.

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Efficiency: Let and Let*

- Both establish the variables to have values in the expression.
 - What's the difference between let and let*?
- let does the binding in parallel (which means the order of binding has no effect).
- let* does the binding in sequence.

Earlier definitions can be used in later ones.

For example,

```
> (let ((x 2) (y (+ x 1))) (+ x y))
```

Error: reference to an identifier before its definition: x

```
> (let* ((x 2) (y (+ x 1))) (+ x y))
```

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Longest-nonzero with let

```
(define (longest-nonzero x y)
```

```
)
```

- Observe that length is called on each argument just once.
- Another possible improvement:
 - Note that length gets called (twice) even when x and y are both empty.
 - It might be faster to perform a null? test first, and postpone the let definitions until after this test.

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Let and Let* Examples

```
> (let ((x 2)) (* x x))
```

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```
> (let ((x 4)) (let ((y (+ x 2))) (* x y)))
```

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```
> (let ((x 4) (y (+ x 2))) (* x y))
```

reference to undefined identifier: x

```
> (let* ((x 4) (y (+ x 2))) (* x y))
```

24

```
> (let ((x 4)) (let ((x 6) (y (+ x 2))) (* x y)))
```

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```
> (let ((x 4)) (let* ((x 6) (y (+ x 2))) (* x y)))
```

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Longest-nonzero yet again

```
(define (longest-nonzero x y)
  (if (and (null? x) (null? y))
      -1
      (let ((lenx (length x))
            (leny (length y)))
        (if (> lenx leny) lenx leny)
      )))
```

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Another Inefficient Example

- Let's write a function `rev`, to return its parameter with the elements in reverse order.
- Note that there is already a built-in reverse function that does this.

```
(define (rev lst)
```

```
)  
> (rev '(1 2 3))  
(3 2 1)
```

- It works, but there are a lot of list operations going on.

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A More Efficient Way: Tail Recursion

```
> (rev '(a b c d))
```

```
(d c b a)
```

- Now each element of the original list only needs to be added to another list once, and it goes on the front, where the work is cheap.
- Observe that `rev-acc`'s second parameter "accumulates" the result.

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Tracing rev

Call: (rev '(a b c d))

Trace:

```
(rev '(a b c d))  
(rev-rec '(a b c d) ())  
(rev-rec '(b c d) '(a))  
(rev-rec '(c d) '(b a))  
(rev-rec '(d) '(c b a))  
(rev-rec () '(d c b a))  
'(d c b a)
```

- Note that whenever `rev-rec` makes a recursive call, it returns whatever the recursive call returns (there is no further computation).

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letrec

- (`letrec` ((var1 expr1) ... (varn exprn)) body)
- Scope: Each binding of a variable has the entire `letrec` expression as its region, variables are visible within expressions as well
- recursion
- Evaluation: `expr1`, ..., `exprn` are evaluated in an undefined order, saved, and then assigned to `var1`, ..., `varn`, with the appearance of being evaluated in parallel.

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Letrec Examples: rev

```
(define reverse
  (lambda (lst)
    (letrec ((reverse-acc
              (lambda (lst rev)
                (if (null? lst) rev
                    (reverse-acc (cdr lst)
                                  (cons (car lst) rev))))))
      (reverse-acc lst '()))))
```

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Letrec Examples: length

```
(define (length lst)
  (letrec ((length-tail
            (lambda (lst len)
              (if (null? lst) len
                  (length-tail (cdr lst) (+ len 1))))))
    (length-tail lst 0)))
```

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Unbounded Lambda

- Write a function (sum ...), which has unlimited number of arguments and it returns the sum of all arguments. E.g.,
> (sum) ; if there is no argument
“expecting at least one argument”
> (sum 0)
0
> (sum 3 4 6)
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Unbounded Lambda

```
(define sum
  (lambda (arg)
    (cond ((null? arg)
           (display "expecting at least one argument"))
          ((null? (cdr arg)) (car arg))
          (else (+ (car arg) (apply sum (cdr arg)))))))
```

OR

```
(define (sum . arg)
  (cond ((null? arg)
         (display "expecting at least one argument"))
        ((null? (cdr arg)) (car arg))
        (else (+ (car arg) (apply sum (cdr arg))))))
```

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A Taste of Higher-Order Functions

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Apply

- (apply proc obj1 ... objn list1... listn)
- returns: the result of applying proc to obj ... and the elements of list
- apply is useful when some or all of the arguments to be passed to a procedure are in a list, since it frees the programmer from explicitly destructuring the list.
- Examples:
(apply + '(4 5)) => 9
(apply min 5 1 3 '(6 8 3 2 5)) => 1

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Map

- (map proc list1... listn)
- All lists must be the same length
- returns: A list of applying proc to all i^{th} ($i=1..n$) elements of each list
- Examples:
(map abs '(-4 5 0 -1)) => (4 5 0 1)
(apply * '(1 3 5) '(6 8 3)) => (6 24 15)

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Exercises (1)

- write a function called `swapFirstTwo` that takes a list `L`, and swaps the first two elements of `L`. e.g:
> (`swapFirstTwo` '(1 2 3 4))
(2 1 3 4)
- Write a function called `swapTwoInLists` that takes a list `L` whose elements are themselves lists, and returns a list of all the elements in all the lists in `L`, but with the first two elements in each list swapped. e.g.
> (`swapTwoInLists` '((1 2 3) (4 5 6) (7 8)))
(2 1 3 5 4 6 8 7)

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Exercises (2)

- Write a function called `cdrLists` that takes a list `L` whose elements are themselves lists, and returns a list giving all the elements in the `cdrs` of these lists. e.g:
> (`cdrLists` '((1 2) (3 4 5) (6)))
(2 4 5)
- Write a function called `addSums` that takes a list `L` of numbers, and returns the total of all sums from 0 to each number. e.g.
> (`addSums` '(1 3 5)) ; this is 1 + 6 + 15
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- Re-write `addSums` so that your solution uses tail recursion. You'll need to write an appropriate helper function.

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