CS450

Structure of Higher Level Languages

Lecture 2: Definitions, function definition, booleans

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Today we will learn...

- evaluation composed expressions step-by-step
- the logical connectives in Racket
- defining variables
- function declarations
- evaluating functions

> Cover up until Section 1.1.8 of the SICP book.

Evaluating a function call

Evaluating a function call

Evaluation works from left-to-right from top-to-bottom

```
#racket lang
; Version 1:
(* 3.14159 (* 10 10))
; Version 2:
(* 3.14159 100)
;          ^^^- Evaluated (* 10 10)
; Version 3:
314.159
;^^^^^^^- Evaluated (* 3.14159 * 100)
```

Arithmetic expressions example

$$\left((11 \cdot 15) + (14 + 4)\right) + \left(\frac{3}{9} - (14 \cdot 3)\right)$$

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$$\left((11 \cdot 15) + (14 + 4)\right) + \left(\frac{3}{9} - (14 \cdot 3)\right)$$

```
(+
  (+
    (* 11 15)
    (+ 14 4))
  (-
    (/ 3 9)
    (* 14 3)))
```

A longer example

```
(+
  (+
    (* 11 15)
    (+ 14 4))
  (-
    (/ 3  9)
    (* 14 3)))
```

```
(+
  (+
    165
    (+ 14 4))
  (-
    (/ 3  9)
    (* 14 3)))
```

```
(+
  (+
    165
    18)
  (-
    (/ 3  9)
    (* 14 3)))
```

```
(+
  183
  (-
    (/ 3  9)
    (* 14 3)))
```

A longer example

```
(+
  (+
    (* 11 15)
    (+ 14 4))
  (-
    (/ 3  9)
    (* 14 3)))
```

```
(+
  (+
    165
    (+ 14 4))
  (-
    (/ 3  9)
    (* 14 3)))
```

```
(+
  (+
    165
    18)
  (-
    (/ 3  9)
    (* 14 3)))
```

```
(+
  183
  (-
    (/ 3  9)
    (* 14 3)))
```

```
(+
  183
  (-
    1/3
    (* 14 3)))
```

```
(+
  183
  (-
    1/3
    42))
```

```
(+
  183
  -125/3)
```

```
424/3
```

Is this example a legal Racket program?

```
#lang racket
sin
```

Is this example a legal Racket program?

```
#lang racket
sin
```

Yes! `sin` is a variable, so a valid expression. Hence, Racket just prints what is in variable `sin`.

```
$ racket sin.rkt
#<procedure:sin>
```

> **Note:** In Racket lingo the word ***procedure*** is a synonym for function.

Racket specification

program = `#lang racket` *expression**
expression = *value* | *variable* | *function-call* | · · ·
value = *number* | · · ·
function-call = `(` *expression*+ `)`

Logic

Values

- Numbers
- Void
- **Booleans**
- Lists
- ...

Boolean, numeric comparisons

```
value = number | boolean | ···
boolean = #t | #f
```

- False: `#f`
- True: anything that is not `#f`
- Logical negation: function `(not e)` negates the boolean result of expression `e`
- Numeric comparisons: `<`, `>`, `≤`, `≥`, `=`

> To avoid subtle bugs, avoid using non-`#t` and non-`#f` values as true. In particular, **contrary to C** the number `0` corresponds to true. ***Tip:*** There is no numeric inequality operator. Instead, use `(not (= x y))`

Logical and/or

```
expression = value | variable | function-call | or | and | ···
or = ( or expression* )
and = ( and expression* )
```

- Logical-and with short-circuit: `and` (0 or more arguments, 0-arguments yield `#t`)
- Logical-or with short-circuit: `or` (0 or more arguments, 0-arguments yield `#f`)

Boolean examples

Operations** and/or **accept multiple parameters. Rectangle intersection:

```
(and (< a-left b-right)
     (> a-right b-left)
     (> a-top b-bottom)
     (< a-bottom b-top))
```

As an example of **short-circuit** logic, the expression

```
(or #t (f x y z))
```

evaluates to `#t` and does **not** evaluate `(f x y z)`. Recall that and also short-circuits.

Branching

Branching with cond

cond evaluates each branch sequentially until the ***first*** branch's condition evaluates to true.

```
expression = value | variable | function-call | or | and | cond
cond = ( cond branch )
branch = [ condition expression ]
condition = expression | else
```

Example

If x is greater than 3 returns 100, otherwise if x is between 1 and 3 return 200, otherwise returns 300:

```
(cond [(> x 3) 100]
      [(> x 1) 200]
      [else 300])
```

Creating variables

Variable definition

A definition ***binds*** a variable to the result of evaluating an expression down to a value.

```
( define identifier expression )
```

Examples

```
#lang racket
(define pi 3.14159)
pi
(* pi 2)
```

```
$ racket def-val.rkt
3.14159
6.28318
```

Revisiting the language specification

A *program* consists of zero or more terms.

```
#lang racket
term*
```

A *term* is either an *expression* or a *definition*.

```
term = expression | definition
```

If everything evaluates down to a value,

then what does `define` evaluate to?

Void

Definitions evaluate to `#<void>`, which is the only value that is not printed to the screen.

```
(define pi 3.14159)      ⟵ A definition evaluates to ⟶ #<void>
```

> The void value cannot be created directly. Another way of getting a void value `#<void>` is by calling function `(void)`.

Try running this program and confirm that its output is empty:

```
#lang racket
(void)
```

Evaluating variable definition

When we execute a Racket program, we have an ***environment*** to bookkeep each variable, that is a map from variable names to values.

```
(define pi 3.14159)
(* pi 2)
```

```
; pi = 3.14159
#<void>
;^^^^^^- Eval define
(* pi 2)
```

```
; pi = 3.14159
; Prints #<void>
(* pi 2)
```

Evaluating variable definition

When we execute a Racket program, we have an ***environment*** to bookkeep each variable, that is a map from variable names to values.

```
(define pi 3.14159)
(* pi 2)
```

```
; pi = 3.14159
#<void>
;^^^^^^- Eval define
(* pi 2)
```

```
; pi = 3.14159
; Prints #<void>
(* pi 2)
```

```
; pi = 3.14159
(* 3.14159 2)
;  ^^^^^^^^- Subst pi
```

```
; pi = 3.14159
6.28318
;^^^^^^^- Eval func
```

```
; pi = 3.14159
; Print 6.28318
```

Beware of re-definitions

The following is legal Racket code:

```
#lang racket
(define pi 3.14159)
(* pi 2)
(define + #f)
(+ pi 2)
```

Redefinitions lead to subtle errors!

- Redefinitions produce subtle side-effects and may void existing assumptions
- As we will see, redefinitions also complicate the semantics and code analysis