



# Functional Programming

## Lecture 2: Lambda abstraction

Viliam Lisý

Artificial Intelligence Center  
Department of Computer Science  
FEE, Czech Technical University in Prague

[viliam.lisy@fel.cvut.cz](mailto:viliam.lisy@fel.cvut.cz)

# Last lecture

- What is (pure) functional programming
- Why do we care about it?
- Recursion is the main tool
- Scheme
  - s-expression, quote, identifiers, define, if, cond, lists

# Evaluation strategy

Defines the order of evaluating the expressions

influences program termination, not the result

Evaluation of scheme is eager (or strict)

left to right

evaluate all arguments before executing a function

Evaluation of some special forms is lazy

if, and, or, **lambda**

# Append

Append one list to another

```
(define (append2 a b)
  (cond
    ((null? a) b)
    (#t (cons (car a)
               (append2 (cdr a) b))))
)
```

# Program vs. data

There is practically no difference between program and data

- Contrast to C or Java
- Easy ad hoc creation of functions
- Easy modification of the program in run time

# Equality

Function = is only for numbers

Equivalence of the objects `eqv?`

```
(eqv? 1 1), (eqv? 'a 'a) ==> #t
```

```
(eqv? (list 'a) (list 'a)) ==> #f
```

More restrictive version is `eq?`

Typically the same pointer

Recursive version of `eqv?` on lists is

```
(equal? (list 'a) (list 'a)) ==> #t
```

# Debugging Basics

## Tracing function calls and returns

```
#lang scheme  
(require racket/trace)  
(trace append2)  
(untrace append2)
```

## Helper print-outs

```
(begin (display x) <do-work>)
```

# Lambda abstraction

A construction for creating nameless procedures

```
(lambda (arg1 ... argN) <expr>)
```

Define for functions is an abbreviation

```
(define (<var> <formals>) <body>)
```

Is the same as

```
(define <var>  
  (lambda (<formals>) <body>))
```

# Filter

Returns the elements from a list that satisfy a given predicate

```
(define (my-filter pred list)
  (cond ((null? list) list)
        ((pred (car list))
         (cons
          (car list)
          (my-filter pred (cdr list))))
        ) )
(#t (my-filter pred (cdr list)))
)
```

# Scheme syntax

E in Expressions

I in Identifiers (variables)

K in Constants

$E ::= K \mid I \mid (E_0 E^*) \mid (\text{lambda } (I^*) E_2) \mid (\text{define } I E')$

# Let

## Motivation

reuse of computation/result is often required

e.g., `minimum`, `roots` from the labs

```
(let ( (<var1> <exp1>)  
      (<var2> <exp2>))  
      <body-using-var1-var2>)
```

# Implementing let

```
(let ((x <exp1>)
      (y <exp2>)) <body>)
```

Can be implemented as

```
((lambda (x y) <body>) <exp1> <exp2>)
```

# Let as lambda

```
(define (my-min3 ls)
  (if (null? (cdr ls))
      (car ls)
      ((lambda (m)
         (if (> (car ls) m)
             (car ls)
             m)
        ) (my-min3 (cdr ls))))
) ) )
```

# Merge sort - split

```
(define (split ls)
  (cond
    ((null? ls) (cons '() '()))
    ((null? (cdr ls)) (cons ls '()))
    (#t (let ((p (split (cddr ls))))
           (cons (cons (car ls) (car p))
                 (cons (cadr ls) (cdr p)))))
  )
)
```

# Merge sort - merge

```
(define (merge as bs)
  (cond
    ((null? as) bs)
    ((null? bs) as)
    ((<= (car as) (car bs))
     (cons (car as) (merge (cdr as) bs)))
    (#t (merge bs as)))
  )
)
```

# Merge sort

```
(define (merge-sort ls)
  (cond
    ((null? ls) ls)
    ((null? (cdr ls)) ls)
    (#t (let ((p (split ls))
              (sas (merge-sort (car p)))
              (sbs (merge-sort (cdr p))))
          )
        (merge sas sbs)
      )))
```

# Implementing let

```
(let ((x <exp1>)
      (y <exp2>)) <body>)
```

Can be implemented as

```
((lambda (x y) <body>) <exp1> <exp2>)
```

# Let\*

We might want to use the earlier definitions in the following.

```
(let ((x <exp>))  
      (let ((y <exp-with-x>)) <body-x-y>)
```

Equivalent to

```
(let* ((x <exp>)  
       (y <exp-with-x>)) <body-x-y>)
```

# Merge sort

```
(define (merge-sort ls)
  (cond
    ((null? ls) ls)
    ((null? (cdr ls)) ls)
    (#t (let* ((p (split ls))
               (sas (merge-sort (car p)))
               (sbs (merge-sort (cdr p))))
           )
          (merge sas sbs)
        )))
```

# Scheme home assignments

Three connected assignments

Robot simulation

Population evaluation

Code synthesis

Why this assignment?

Work on your own

Submit by midnight of the day of your lab

<https://cw.felk.cvut.cz/brute/> (in 2 weeks)