

## Class 46: Variable-Arity Procedures

**Held:** Monday, 20 November 2006

**Summary:** Today we consider how and why to write procedures that can take different numbers of arguments in different situations.

### Related Pages:

- EBoard.
- Lab: Variable-Arity Procedures.
- Reading: Variable-Arity Procedures.

### Notes:

- Time for questions on HW 16.

### Overview:

- Definition of *arity*.
- Why have variable-arity procedures.
- How to write variable-arity procedures.
- Lab.

## Variable-Arity Procedures

- Def. *Arity*: The number of parameters a procedure expects.
- Some procedures naturally take varying numbers of parameters:
  - `+` takes 0 or more parameters.
  - `display` takes 1 or 2 parameters.
  - `map` takes 2 or more parameters.
- It would be nice to be able to write our own procedures of variable arity (that is, varying numbers of parameters).
- Zero or more parameters:  

```
(lambda params  
  body)
```

  - `params` is *not* parenthesized.
  - In your body, treat `params` as a list.
- One or more parameters:

```
(lambda (first . remaining)
  body)
+ In your body, treating remaining as a list.
```

- Two or more parameters:

```
(lambda (first second . remaining)
  body)
+ In your body, treating remaining as a list.
```

## Lab

- Do the laboratory entitled Variable-Arity Procedures.
  - Be prepared to reflect.
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