Class 48: Variable-Arity Procedures

Held: Friday, April 27, 2007

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.

Due
- HW 16

Notes:
- Exam 3 distributed.
- EC for Monday’s Alumna Scholar talk by Dr. Nesbitt.

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:
  ```lisp
  (lambda (params
             body)
    (lambda (params not parentesized.
    (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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