

Class 21: Boolean Values and Predicate Procedures

Held: Friday, 2 October 2009

Summary: We consider the ways in which Scheme supports yes/no questions and procedures that can be used to ask such questions. We also see how such procedures can provide another form of control.

Related Pages:

- EBoard.
- Lab: Boolean Values and Predicate Procedures.
- Reading: Boolean Values and Predicate Procedures.

Notes:

- Don't forget the cool programming languages talk today at noon.
- Exams not graded. Barring continued unexpected circumstances, they will be returned Monday.
- Are there questions on assignment 5?
- Are there questions on problem 6 on Wednesday's lab?
- Reading for Monday: Conditionals.
- It's time for another Lab writeup. Do problems 2-5.
- Have a great Family Weekend!

Overview:

- Boolean values.
- Predicates - Procedures that return Boolean values.
- Combining booleans with `and` and `or`.
- Lab.

Preparation

- What did you learn from the reading? (Let's try to summarize for each other.)
- What questions do you have?

`or` and `and` as control structures

- How does normal procedure application work?
 - Evaluate all the parameters
 - "Plug them in to the body"
 - Evaluate the body
- How does `or` work?
 - It evaluates each parameter, in turn, until one holds (or it runs out of parameters).

- As soon as one holds, it stops and returns that value.
- How does and work?
 - It evaluates each parameter, in turn, until one fails to hold (or it runs out of parameters).
 - As soon as one fails to hold, it stops and returns #f.
- This evaluation strategy means that we can use and and or to evaluate a sequence of expressions, stopping when we get the first acceptable one.

Lab

- Work on the lab.
 - Be prepared to discuss!
 - Writeup: Problem 2-5.
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