

Class 24: Revisiting Lists

Held: Wednesday, 7 October 2009

Summary: We explore further details of Scheme's lists. Lists can be a key mechanism for structuring data. We also consider how lists can be used to represent drawings.

Related Pages:

- EBoard.
- Lab: Exploring Lists.
- Reading: Building Data Structures with Heterogeneous Lists.
- Due: Assignment 5: A Miscellany of Image Models.

Notes:

- A few problems on the homework were a bit more difficult than we anticipated. I apologize. (However, I think you're probably now a bit better with building anonymous procedures, and I think that's a good thing.)
- Friday's quiz will include conditionals, `image-compute`, and the new list operations, like `cons`, `car`, and `cdr`.
- Assignment 6 is now ready, and is due Wednesday of next week.
- Looking ahead: No large assignment will be due the week after break.
- Looking further ahead: GIMP (the other one) presents *Rent* (Nov. 13-15).

Overview:

- Lists, Revisited
- New List Operations
- Drawings as Values

Lists, Revisited

- Original notion of lists:
 - Collection of values
 - Homogeneous: All the values in a list are the same type
 - Used primarily with `map` and `for-each`
- Extending that notion
 - Can also be *heterogeneous*: Values in the list may have multiple types
 - Can examine individual elements with `car`, `cdr`, and `list-ref`.
 - Can be extended (creating new lists) with `cons`.
- Why is the new view important?
 - It will soon give us the opportunity to manipulate lists in new and interesting ways.

Implementing Drawings

- We can (and do) use lists to implement drawings.
 - The reading considers a simplified representation, in which the width and height of a drawing are the same.
 - But the general process is the same
 - Group the values in a list
 - When we need to render or manipulate a drawing, use the list operations to extract parts.
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