

Class 08: Writing Your Own Procedures

Held: Monday, 4 February 2008

Summary: We begin to consider how you can write your own procedures and why you might do so.

Related Pages:

- EBoard.
- Lab: Writing Your Own Procedures.
- Reading: Writing Your Own Procedures & How Scheme Evaluates Expressions (version 2).

Notes:

- We'll spend a little bit of time going over the first quiz.
- Are there questions on Assignment 3?
- I still haven't completely caught up on grading, but I'm getting closer.
- Advance notice: Extra credit for attending Thursday's convo.
- There are two readings for tomorrow, one on numeric values and one on symbolic values.

Overview:

- Why define your own procedures?
- How to define your own procedures.

User Defined Procedures

- It's clear that programmers often want to (and need to) define their own procedures.
- By "their own procedures", we mean collections of Scheme commands that are parameterized and referred to by a single name, just like the built-in procedures, such as `square` and `+`, or the DrFu procedures, such as `drawing-hshift` or `turtle-forward`!
- User-defined procedures can add clarity to a program.
 - Rather than looking at *how* code does something, the user of a procedure can focus on *what* the code does.
 - A reader of the program is much more likely to understand a procedure call than the body of the procedures.
- Programmers can avoid repetitive (and, therefore, error prone) code.
 - Rather than retyping the same code again and again, just changing a few values, a programmer can give a name to the same code.
- How do you define your own procedures? Using the following template:

```
(define your-procedure
  (lambda (param1 ... paramn)
    expression1
    ...
    expressionm))
```

- For example,

```
(define square
  (lambda (val)
    (* val val)))
```

- You can (and should) document your procedures so that others can understand what they are supposed to do.
- When the body of a procedure has multiple expressions (as in the template), only the value of the last procedure is returned.

Lab on User-Defined Procedures

- Do the lab.
- Be prepared to reflect (e.g., to describe the most important or most confusing thing you dealt with today). (And no, you can't say "Sam is the most confusing thing I dealt with today.")

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