

CSC151.02 2013F, Class 26: Recursion with Helper Procedures

Overview

- Admin.
- Basics of helper recursion.
- A term: Tail recursion.
- Lab.

Admin

- Pick new partners!
 - You must work with someone new
- Upcoming EC opportunities
 - Football, 1 pm, Saturday
 - Men's soccer, 1:30 pm, Saturday
 - CS Table Friday: Ambient Belonging
 - ...
- Other upcoming stuff
 - Mentor session 7:30 pm Thursday
 - ...

Basics of helper recursion

```
#lang racket
(require gigls/unsafe)

(define sum1
  (lambda (lst)
    (if (null? lst)
        0
        (+ (car lst) (sum1 (cdr lst))))))

(define sum2
  (lambda (lst)
    (sum2-helper lst 0)))

(define sum2-helper
  (lambda (lst partial-sum)
    (if (null? lst)
        partial-sum
        (sum2-helper (cdr lst) (+ (car lst) partial-sum)))))
```

A term: Tail recursion

- In the original sum (sum1), we've delayed a lot of the work (sum (list 1 2 3 4)) => (+ 1 (+ 2 (+ 3 (+ 4 (sum1 null))))))
- In the new version, we do the work as we go, and when we reach the end, we have no work left to do (yay!)
- If you can write recursive procedures that don't have delayed work when they reach the base case, they run a bit more efficiently.
- This is called "tail recursion"

Lab

- Consider $42 - -18 - 23 - 4$
 - Do we interpret it as $((42 - -18) - 23) - 4$
 - Or as $(42 - (-18 - (23 - 4)))$
 - First interpretation, in Scheme $(- (- (- 42 -18) 23) 4)$
 - Second interpretation, in Scheme $(- 42 (- -18 (- 23 4)))$
 - The brightest value (brightest '("0/0/0" "63/63/63" "127/127/127" "191/191/191" "255/255/255"))
 - Let's count total calls based on the length of the list
 - $\text{calls}(1) = 1$; Just the outermost
 - $\text{calls}(2) = 1 + 2*1 = 3$; The call plus the two recursive calls on length 1
 - $\text{calls}(3) = 1 + 2*3 = 7$; The call plus the two recursive calls on length 2
 - $\text{calls}(4) = 1 + 2*7 = 15$; The call plus the two recursive calls on length 3
 - $\text{calls}(n) = 1 + 2*\text{calls}(n-1)$
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Samuel A. Rebelsky, rebelsky@grinnell.edu

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