



CS 61A SU26

Lecture 19: Scheme Lists

July 23, 2026

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We'll begin at Berkeley time (10 minutes after), as per tradition!

Potpourri

5 min

- Announcements
- Computing in the News

Announcements

- Quiz 3 grades later today
- Quiz 4 logistics [released](#)

- [Harry Potter publisher to receive millions in Anthropic copyright settlement](#) (The Guardian)
 - **"The publisher of Harry Potter has received a multimillion-pound payout** as a beneficiary of a \$1.5bn (£1.12bn) **copyright settlement between the AI startup Anthropic and thousands of authors** over the use of their protected work to power chatbots."
 - "[Bloomsbury](#), which is home to the bestselling novelists [Sarah J Maas](#) and [Susanna Clarke](#) as well as [JK Rowling](#), said it had **14,087 titles** listed within the settlement, with a proposed compensation of about **\$3,000 a title.**"

Review: Scheme

5 min

- / vs. quotient
- let and if: WWSD

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Select all of the following Scheme expressions which evaluate to 2.



(/ <dividend> [divisor] ...)

- **Takes 1 or more arguments**
 - If only the dividend is provided, evaluates to 1 / dividend
 - Otherwise, repeatedly divide
- Performs **true division**
- **Result evaluates to a float only if absolutely necessary**
(see previous slide)
 - Ex: (/ 7 2) evaluates to 3.5 but (/ 6.0 2.0) evaluates to 3

(quotient <dividend> <divisor>)

- **Takes exactly 2 arguments**
- Performs **floor division**
- **Evaluates to integer only if both the dividend and divisor are integers**
 - Otherwise, evaluates to float

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Let and If: What would Scheme display?



Scheme Lists

20 min

- Pairs and Lists
- History of car and cdr
- List Manipulation Basics
- Append
- Map
- Filter
- Reduce

- **Pairs** are a built-in data structure consisting of two fields, a **car** and a **cdr** (like **first** and **rest** in the **Link** class).
 - The first value can contain any data type
 - However, the second value must contain **nil** or a pair
- A **list** is defined as either **nil** or a pair whose **cdr** is another list.

"The **mapping between a higher-level abstraction and the hardware** implementing it gave rise to the use of the names CAR and CDR in LISP... **Clearly, these names are not at all indicative of their functions.** The first LISP implementation was on an IBM 704, a 36 bit computer whose instruction word was divided into four subfields, with a special instruction to access the contents of each field. The "address" and "decrement" fields, each 15 bits, were used to hold the two pointers that made up a list cell, and the LISP operations CAR and CDR were named for the 704 operations that implemented them: "**Contents of Address field to Register" and "**Contents of Decrement field to Register".****

Source: [The Evolution of Abstraction in Programming Languages \(Guarino 1978\)](#)

Want to learn what a "register" is? Take CS 61C!

List Manipulation Basics (1 of 4)

```
scm> (cons 1)
```

Error

```
scm> (cons 1 nil)
```

```
(1)
```

```
scm> (cons 1 (cons 2 (cons 3 nil)))
```

```
(1 2 3)
```

```
scm> (cons (cons 1 nil) (cons 2 nil))
```

```
((1) 2)
```

```
scm> (list 1 2 3)
```

```
(1 2 3)
```

List Manipulation Basics (2 of 4)

```
(define a (cons 1 (cons 2 (cons 3 nil))))  
(define b (cons (cons 1 nil) (cons 2 nil)))  
  
scm> a  
(1 2 3)  
  
scm> (car a)  
1  
  
scm> (cdr a)  
(2 3)  
  
scm> (car (cdr a))  
2  
  
scm> (car (cdr (cdr a)))  
3  
  
scm> (cdr (car b))  
()
```

List Manipulation Basics (3 of 4)

```
scm> (length (list 1 2 3))
```

```
3
```

```
scm> (length nil)
```

```
0
```

```
scm> (length ())
```

```
0
```

```
scm> (length (cons (cons 1 nil) (cons 2 nil)))
```

```
2
```

List Manipulation Basics (4 of 4)

```
scm> (list? nil)
```

```
#t
```

```
scm> (list? (cons 1 nil))
```

```
#t
```

```
scm> (pair? nil)
```

```
#f
```

```
scm> (pair? (cons 1 nil))
```

```
#t
```

```
scm> (null? nil)
```

```
#t
```

```
scm> (null? (cons 1 nil))
```

```
#f
```

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Which of the following diagrams represents the following Scheme list? `(cons 1 (cons (cons 2 (cons (cons 3 nil) nil)) (cons 4 (cons 5 nil))))`



Append

```
scm> (append)
```

```
()
```

```
scm> (append (list 1 2 3) (list 4 5))
```

```
(1 2 3 4 5)
```

```
scm> (append (list 1 2) (list 3 4) (list 5 6))
```

```
(1 2 3 4 5 6)
```

Caution: The behavior of `append` in Scheme is more analogous to `extend` in Python!

```
(map <proc> <lst>)
```

Returns a list constructed by calling **proc** (a one-argument procedure) on each item in **lst**.

```
scm> (map (lambda (x) (* x x)) (list 1 2 3))  
(1 4 9)
```

```
(filter <pred> <lst>)
```

Returns a list consisting of only the elements of `lst` that return true when called on `pred` (a one-argument procedure, aka the predicate).

```
scm> (filter even? (list 1 2 3 4 5))  
(2 4)
```

```
scm> (filter (lambda (x) x) (list 1 "hi" nil 0 #t #f))  
(1 "hi" #t)
```

NOTE: The behavior of `filter` above is what **actually** shows up when in [61A Code](#) and in the staff solution for the Scheme project, but it contradicts our own [specification](#) which states that the only falsy value is `#f`. Please stay tuned on how we will handle this for the Scheme project.

Reduce

```
(reduce <combiner> <lst>)
```

- Returns the result of sequentially combining each element in `lst` using `combiner` (a two-argument procedure).
- `reduce` works from left-to-right, with the existing combined value passed as the first argument and the new value as the second argument.
- `lst` must contain at least one item.

```
scm> (reduce + (list 1 2 3 4))
```

```
10
```

```
scm> (reduce + (list 1))
```

```
1
```

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Map/Filter/Reduce: What would Scheme display?



Quotes

20 min

- Quote
- Quasiquote and Unquote
- Apply
- Eval
- Equality

Quote (Special Form)

(quote <expression>) or '<expression>

Returns the literal **expression** without evaluating it.

```
scm> (quote (1 2 3))
```

```
(1 2 3)
```

```
scm> '(1 2 3)
```

```
(1 2 3)
```

```
scm> (list? '(1 2 3))
```

```
#t
```

```
scm> 'a
```

```
a
```

```
scm> (symbol? 'a)
```

```
#t
```

Quasiquote and Unquote (Special Forms)

`(quasiquote <expression>)` or ``<expression>`

Returns the literal **expression** without evaluating it, unless a subexpression of expression is of the form:

`(unquote <expr2>)` or `,<expr2>`

```
scm> (define a (list 4 5 6))
```

```
a
```

```
scm> (quasiquote (1 2 3 ,a))
```

```
(1 2 3 (4 5 6))
```

```
scm> `(1 2 3 ,a)
```

```
(1 2 3 (4 5 6))
```

Apply

`(apply <procedure> <args>)`

Calls **procedure** with the given **list** of **args**.

More on this when we talk about macros!

```
scm> (apply + (list 1 2 3))
```

6

```
scm> (apply + '(1 2 3))
```

6

`(eval <expression>)`

Evaluates **expression** in the current environment.

```
scm> (eval '(cons 1 (cons 2 nil)))  
(1 2)
```

Equality

	=	eq?	equal?
Arguments	Exactly 2 numbers	Exactly 2 values	Exactly 2 values
Semantics	Returns #t if they are equivalent.	For numbers, booleans, or symbols, returns #t if they are equivalent. Otherwise, returns #t if they refer to the same object in memory (e.g. checks for identity).	Returns #t if they are equivalent (e.g. 2 lists are equivalent if their cars and cdrs are equivalent) (e.g. checks for value equality).
Examples	<pre>scm> (= "hi" "bye") Error scm> (= 5 5) #t</pre>	<pre>(define a (list 1 2 3)) (define b (list 1 2 3)) scm> (eq? a b) #f scm> (eq? "hi" "bye") #f scm> (eq? 5 5) #t</pre>	<pre>(define a (list 1 2 3)) (define b (list 1 2 3)) scm> (equal? a b) #t scm> (equal? "hi" "bye") #f scm> (equal? 5 5) #t</pre>

5 min break

Practice

(reminder to self to use high contrast theme)

30 min

- Reverse
- Mountain

- Implement `reverse`
- Download starter code `19.scm` from the course website under Lecture 19
- Run tests by copying and pasting your code into a new file in code.cs61a.org and clicking on the red test tube button on the top right
- 5 min: Try implementing it yourself
- 5 min: Discuss with someone next to you and compare your implementations
 - What worked?
 - What didn't?
 - Why?

- Implement `mountain`
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