

Class 06: Numeric Values

Held: Tuesday, January 30, 2007

Summary: Today we begin our first real exploration of numbers in Scheme.

Related Pages:

- EBoard.
- Lab: Numeric Values.
- Reading: Numeric Values.

Due

- HW 3

Notes:

- Homework 4 is now ready. It is due on Friday.
- For some reason, every semester I forget to write the following: *If you want to ask a question on a homework, please put the word “question” in the subject of the email. If I just get an email like “HW3” or “Exam 1”, I assume that you’re submitting it.*
- Two readings for Wednesday: Characters in Scheme and Strings in Scheme.

Overview:

- Types.
- Review of Reading: Numbers, Kinds of Numbers, and Numeric Operations.
- Lab.
- Reflection.

Types

- As you may have noted in your first experiments with Scheme, Scheme assigns *types* to variables.
- For example, a value might be a list, or a number, or
- Computer scientists often think of types in two different ways:
 - *Data-driven*: A type is a set of values.
 - *Purpose-driven*: A type provides information on the valid operations that may be applied to a piece of data.
- We will alternate between the two definitions.
- Many languages (particularly the ones you’ve reported being familiar with) require you to assign a type to a variable when you declare that variable.
- Scheme does not require you to assign types to variables; it checks the type of each operand when it executes a procedure.

- Scheme also provides procedures that let you determine the type of a value.
- As the semester progresses, you will learn new types.

Scheme's Numeric Types

- Instead of a general “numbers” type, Scheme provides a variety of kinds of numbers.
- Integers are numbers without a fractional component.
- Rational numbers can be expressed as the ratio of two integers.
- Real numbers appear somewhere on the number line.
 - In mathematics, real numbers can be rational or irrational.
 - In Scheme, real numbers are all rational.
- Complex numbers may include an *imaginary* component.
- Scheme also represents some numbers exactly and some numbers inexactly.
- It may surprise you to see which numbers are represented inexactly. (We'll return to this issue later.)
- Some important numeric predicates (procedures that return true or false): `number?`, `real?`, `rational?`, `complex?`, `integer?`, `exact?`, and `inexact?`.
- Some important numeric procedures: `numerator`, `denominator`, `quotient`, and `sqrt`.

Lab

- Any questions?
- Do the lab on numbers.
- Reflect.

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