

Class 08: Procedure Definitions

Held: Friday, February 2, 2007

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

Related Pages:

- EBoard.
- Lab: Defining Your Own Procedures.
- Reading: Defining Your Own Procedures.

Due

- HW 4

Notes:

- Reading for Monday: Boolean values and Predicate procedures.
- Yes, there's a new homework for Tuesday.

Overview:

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

User Defined Procedures

- It's clear that programmers often want to (and need to) define their own procedures.
- 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.
- 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)
    expression-possibly-involving-parameters))
```

- 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.

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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