Class 20: Iteration

Held: Friday, February 26, 2010

Summary: We consider a technique for stepping through the values in a list, and doing some action (e.g., moving a turtle or drawing something with the GIMP tools) for each value in the list.

Related Pages:

- EBoard.
- Lab: Iteration.
- Reading: Iteration.

Notes:

- Reading for Monday: Local Bindings.
- I am eliminating quizzes.
- Assignment 5 is now ready.

Overview:

- A Problem: Drawing Spirals
- A Useful Tool: for-each

The Problem: Making Spirals

- We ended the turtles lab trying to make spirals.
- Basically, you need to move forward a little and turn a little
- Three possible strategies:
  - Move the same amount each time and turn the same amount each time
  - Move a little more each time, and turn the same amount each time
  - Move the same amount each time, and turn a different amount each time
- The first strategy procedures a circle, and is possible to do with repeat.
- The other two strategies seem difficult to do without a lot of hand coding.

The for-each Function

- We’d like to use map, but there are two problems.
  - Officially, you don’t know the order in which the function is applied when you do a map; it could be first to last, it could be last to first; it could be all at the same time.
  - We get back a list, which we really don’t need.
- Scheme provides for-each for situations like this.
- Like map, but for sequences of actions.
- `for-each` is guaranteed to work in order.
- `for-each` doesn’t return anything.