

Class 3: Rules of **Evaluation**

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Menu

Describing Languages

Questions from Notes

Computing photomosaics, non-recursive languages, hardest language elements to learn

Scheme: Grammar and Rules of Evaluation

Code written by Compiler/Interpreter Code machine can run

Compiler translates from code in a highlevel language to machine code.

Scheme uses an interpreter. An interpreter is like a compiler, except it runs quickly and quietly on small bits of code at a time.

John Backus

Chemistry major at UVA (entered 1943) Flunked out after second semester Joined IBM as programmer in 1950

Developed Fortran, first commercially successful programming language and compiler



John Backus, 1924 – 2007

IBM 704 Fortran manual, 1956

STATEMENT	NORMAL SEQUENCING
a = b	Next executable statement
GO TO n	Statement n
GO TO n, (n ₁ ,n ₂ ,,n _m)	Statement last assigned
ASSIGN i TO n	Next executable statement
GO TO (n ₁ ,n ₂ ,,n _m), i	Statement n _i
IF (a) n ₁ ,n ₂ ,n ₃	Statement n ₁ ,n ₂ ,n ₃ as a le
SENSE LIGHT i	Next executable stateme
IF (SENSE LIGHT i) n1,n2	Statement n1, n2 as Sense Rortran
IF (SENSE SWITCH i) n ₁ ,n ₂	" " " as Sense

Describing Languages

Fortran language was described using English Imprecise Verbose, lots to read Ad hoc DO 10 I=1.10 Assigns 1.10 to the variable DO10I DO 10 I=1,10 Loops for I = 1 to 10(Often incorrectly blamed for loss of Mariner-I) Backus wanted a precise way of describing a language

Backus Naur Form

symbol ::= replacement

We can replace symbol with replacement

A ::= B means anywhere you have an A, you can replace it with a B.

- nonterminal symbol that appears on left side of rule
- *terminals* symbol that **never** appears on the left side of a rule

Note: this is named for John Backus for being the first person to advocate using it for describing programming languages, but linguists were using similar techniques much earlier.

Recap: Zero, One, Infinity

word ::= anti-word

This rule can make 0 words.

WOrd ::= hippopotomonstrosesquipedaliophobia This rule can make 1 word.

word ::= anti-word

WOrd ::= hippopotomonstrosesquipedaliophobia These two rules can make infinitely many words, enough to express all ideas in the universe!







Question from Class 1: What other things have changed as much as (or more that!) computing power in your lifetime?

Communication (global IP traffic, PB/month) (Alex) Energy Consumption (world energy use, TW) (Filip) Human (number of cells) (Ouamdwipwaw) Knowledge (Tyson's measure) (Deirdre Regan) National Debt (Michael) TV (number of pixels) (gtc5sn) Wealth (world GDP) (Chris Smith)

10



http://www.wolframalpha.com/input/?i=india+china+brazil+usa+gdp+1990-2011





Assigning Meanings Expressions and Values *Program* ::= ε | *ProgramElement Program* ::= PrimitiveExpression | NameExpression Expression ProgramElement ::= Expression | Definition | ApplicationExpression Definition ::= (define Name Expression) | ProcedureExpression | IfExpression Expression ::= PrimitiveExpression | NameExpression | ApplicationExpression | ProcedureExpression | IfExpression PrimitiveExpression ::= Number | true | false | PrimitiveProcedure When an expression with a value is evaluated, a NameExpression ::= Name ME> E ME value is produced ApplicationExpression ::= (Expression MoreExpressions) MoreExpressions : $\overline{\epsilon}$ Expression MoreExpressions ME>E ProcedureExpression ..= (lambda (Parameters) Expression) Our goal is to define a meaning function, **Eval**, that Parameters ::= $\epsilon \mid Name Parameters$ IfExpression ::= (if Expression_{Pred} Expression_{Consequent} Expression_{Alt}) **Eval**(*Expression*) \Rightarrow **Value** This grammar generates (nearly) all surface forms in the Scheme language. What do we need to do to know the meaning of every Scheme program? 19 **Primitive Expressions Evaluation Rule 1: Primitives** PrimitiveExpression ::= Number | true | false | PrimitiveProcedure If the expression is a *primitive*, it



evaluates to its pre-defined value.

> 2	Primitives are the
2	smallest units of
> true	<i>meaning</i> : they can't
#t	be broken down
>+	further, you need to
# <primitive:+></primitive:+>	know what they mean.

Name Expressions

Expression ::= NameExpression NameExpression ::= Name

Evaluation Rule 2: Names

A name evaluates to the value associated with that name.

- > (define two 2)
- > two
- 2



Get started earlier and take advantage of scheduled help hours