Recap: Concrete and Abstract Syntax

- Every language *X* has one ***concrete syntax***
- Programmers using language *X* write programs using the concrete syntax
- To represent programs in language *X* for processing with language *Y*, we need an ***abstract syntax*** for *X* programs
- The abstract syntax is specific to *X* in *Y*, but there is more than one choice

’(+ 1 2)

(**plus** (**number** 1) (**number** 2))

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- To represent programs in language *X* for processing with language *Y*, we need an ***abstract syntax*** for *X* programs
- The abstract syntax is specific to *X* in *Y*, but there is more than one choice
- Abstract syntax is ***abstract*** because it omits irrelevant details

(“irrelevant” depends on the analysis task)

Concrete Syntax for the Book Language

```
<prog>  ::=  <expr>
<expr>  ::=  <num>
        ::=  <id>
        ::=  <prim> ( { <expr> }*(,) )
<prim>  ::=  +  |  −  |  *  |  add1  |  sub1
```

Example:

1

Concrete Syntax for the Book Language

```
<prog>  ::=  <expr>
<expr>  ::=  <num>
        ::=  <id>
        ::=  <prim> ( { <expr> }*(,) )
<prim>  ::=  +  |  −  |  *  |  add1  |  sub1
```

Example:

x

Concrete Syntax for the Book Language

```
<prog>   ::=  <expr>
<expr>   ::=  <num>
         ::=  <id>
         ::=  <prim> ( { <expr> }*(,) )
<prim>   ::=  +  |  −  |  *  |  add1  |  sub1
```

Example:

+(1, 2)

Concrete Syntax for the Book Language

```
<prog>   ::=  <expr>
<expr>   ::=  <num>
         ::=  <id>
         ::=  <prim> ( { <expr> }*(,) )
<prim>   ::=  +  |  −  |  *  |  add1  |  sub1
```

Example:

+(1, 2, 3)

Concrete Syntax for the Book Language

```
<prog>   ::=  <expr>
<expr>   ::=  <num>
         ::=  <id>
         ::=  <prim> ( { <expr> }*(,) )
<prim>   ::=  +  |  −  |  *  |  add1  |  sub1
```

Example:

add1(1)

Concrete Syntax for the Book Language

```
<prog>   ::=  <expr>
<expr>   ::=  <num>
         ::=  <id>
         ::=  <prim> ( { <expr> }*(,) )
<prim>   ::=  +  |  −  |  *  |  add1  |  sub1
```

Example:

add1(+(2, **x**))

Abstract Syntax for the Book Language

<prog>	::=	(**a-program** <expr>)
<expr>	::=	(**lit–exp** <num>)
	::=	(**var–exp** <symbol>)
	::=	(**primapp-exp** <prim> (**list** <expr>*))
<prim>	::=	(**add-prim**) **|** (**subtract-prim**)
	::=	(**mult-prim**) **|** (**inc-prim**) **|** (**decr-prim**)

Concrete: 1

Abstract:

(**a-program** (**lit–exp** 1))

Abstract Syntax for the Book Language

<prog>	::=	(**a-program** <expr>)
<expr>	::=	(**lit–exp** <num>)
	::=	(**var–exp** <symbol>)
	::=	(**primapp-exp** <prim> (**list** <expr>*))
<prim>	::=	(**add-prim**) **|** (**subtract-prim**)
	::=	(**mult-prim**) **|** (**inc-prim**) **|** (**decr-prim**)

Concrete: **x**

Abstract:

(**a-program** (**var–exp ’x**))

Abstract Syntax for the Book Language

<prog>	::=	(**a-program** <expr>)
<expr>	::=	(**lit–exp** <num>)
	::=	(**var–exp** <symbol>)
	::=	(**primapp-exp** <prim> (**list** <expr>*))
<prim>	::=	(**add-prim**) **|** (**subtract-prim**)
	::=	(**mult-prim**) **|** (**inc-prim**) **|** (**decr-prim**)

Concrete: +(1, 2)

Abstract:

(**a-program**
 (**primapp-exp** (**add-prim**) (**list** (**lit–exp** 1) (**lit–exp** 2))))

Abstract Syntax for the Book Language

<prog>	::=	(**a-program** <expr>)
<expr>	::=	(**lit–exp** <num>)
	::=	(**var–exp** <symbol>)
	::=	(**primapp-exp** <prim> (**list** <expr>*))
<prim>	::=	(**add-prim**) **|** (**subtract-prim**)
	::=	(**mult-prim**) **|** (**inc-prim**) **|** (**decr-prim**)

But the connection between concrete and abstract examples is only in our heads right now...

Parsing

- Converting concrete syntax to abstract syntax is the job of a ***parser***
- Parsing is a deep topic with a long history...
- ... that we will ignore almost entirely
- The EoPL extensions to Scheme include a parser generator called ***SLLGEN***

(see parser example in DrScheme)

Ways of Evaluating

- So far:

$$*(+(3, 4), -(2,1)) \rightarrow *(7, -(2,1)) \rightarrow *(7,1) \rightarrow 7$$

- Alternative:

$$\frac{+(3,4) = 7 \qquad -(2,1) = 1}{*(+(3,4), -(2,1)) = 7}$$

In other words, to evaluate an expression, first evaluate the sub-expressions, then combine their values

=> a recursive **`eval-expression`** function

eval-expression

(implementation in DrScheme)

- Note: evaluating an identifier is an error for now

Add Conditionals

- Concrete:

<expr> ::= **if** <expr> **then** <expr> **else** <expr>

- Abstract:

<expr> ::= (**if–exp** <expr> <expr> <expr>)

(update implementation in DrScheme)

Add Local Bindings

- Concrete:

  <expr> ::= **let** { <id> = <expr> }* **in** <expr>

- Abstract:

  <expr> ::= (**let–exp** (**list** <symbol>*) (**list** <expr>*) <expr>)

Evaluating an identifier isn't an error anymore... but how does **`eval-expression`** know the value of the identifier?

Evaluating Let

- One possibility: for **let–exp** expressions, **`eval-expression`** could call **`substitute`** on the body
- Another possibility: **`eval-expression`** can perform the substitution lazily, as it goes
  - **`eval-expression`** now takes two arguments: an expression and a set of lazy substitutions
  - the set of lazy substitutions is called an ***environment***

Environments

Implement environments as an ADT with three operations:

- (**empty-env**) : creates an empty environment; i.e., no substitutions
- (**extend-env** <env> (**list** <symbol>*) (**list** <val>*)) : creates a new environment that has the substitutions of <env>, plus (or instead of) the substitution of each <symbol> with <val>
- (**apply-env** <env> <symbol>) : extracts the substitution of <symbol> from <env>

Environment Examples

(**let** ([**s** (**extend-env** '(**x**) '(1) (**empty-env**))])
  (**apply-env s** '**x**))
$\rightarrow\rightarrow$ 1

Environment Examples

```
(let ([s (extend-env '(x y z) '(1 2 3) (empty-env))])
  (apply-env s 'y)
→→ 2
```

Environment Examples

```
(let ([s (extend-env '(x y z) '(1 2 3) (empty-env))])
  (let ([t (extend-env '(a y) '(5 6) s)])
    (apply-env t 'a)
→→ 5
```

Environment Examples

```
(let ([s (extend-env '(x y z) '(1 2 3) (empty-env))])
  (let ([t (extend-env '(a y) '(5 6) s)])
    (apply-env t 'y)
→→ 6
```

Environment Examples

```
(apply-env (empty-env) 'x)
→→ error
```

Implementing Let

(update implementation in DrScheme)