Welcome to CS 135 (Winter 2019)

Instructor: Dan Holtby

Other course personnel: see website for details

- ISAs (Instructional Support Assistants)
- IAs (Instructional Apprentices)
- ISC (Instructional Support Coordinator)

Web page (main information source):
https://www.student.cs.uwaterloo.ca/~cs135/

Themes of the course

- Design (the art of creation)
- Abstraction (finding commonality, neglecting details)
- Refinement (revisiting and improving initial ideas)
- Syntax (how to say it), expressiveness (how easy it is to say and understand), and semantics (the meaning of what’s being said)
- Communication (in general)

The approach is by learning how to think about solving problems using a computer.

Lectures

2 sections on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Textbook: “How to Design Programs (First Edition)” (HtDP) by Felleisen, Flatt, Findler, Krishnamurthi (http://www.htdp.org)

Presentation handouts: available on Web page and as printed coursepack from media.doc (MC 2018)

Participation marks: to encourage active learning

- Based on “clickers” (purchase at the Bookstore; register in A0) and several multiple-choice questions in each lecture
- One mark for any answer; second mark for correct answer
Tutorials

- 3 sections on Fridays
- Reinforces lectures with additional examples and problem-solving sessions
- Often directly applicable to the upcoming assignment
- Take your laptop and clicker

You should definitely be attending if your assignment marks are below 80%.

Assignments

Timing: About 10 assignments, typically due Tuesday at 9:00PM

Software: DrRacket v7.1 (http://racket-lang.org)

Computer labs: MC 3003, 3004, 3005, 3027, 2062, 2063. Available for your use, but no scheduled labs. Most students use their own computers.

A0: Due soon. Must complete before you are allowed to submit any subsequent assignment


Exams

- Midterm (March 4th)
- Final (date to be determined by the Registrar)

Do not make holiday travel plans before you know the date of all your final exams AND take into account the snow dates.
Marking Scheme

• 20% Assignments (roughly weekly)
• 25% Midterm exam
• 50% Final exam
• 5% Participation (on best 75% of the clicker questions)

To pass the course:

⇒ Your weighted assignment average must be 50% or greater.
⇒ Your weighted exam average must be 50% or greater.

Getting Help

• Tutors have regular office hours. Schedule on web site.
• Instructors also have office hours.
• Piazza: An on-line forum where you can ask questions, other students and instructors answer them.
  – Regularly check the official assignment pinned posts
  – Use meaningful subject headings (not just “A3 problem”; what’s your specific problem?)
  – Search previous posts before posting; Don’t duplicate!
  – Possible to post privately if necessary

Suggestions for success

Read the CS135 Survival Guide as soon as possible. Find it on the course web site under “Course Materials”.

• Keep up with the readings (keep ahead if possible).
• Keep up with your assignments. Start them early. This is key!
• Go over your assignments and exams; learn from your mistakes.
• Visit office hours as needed; earlier is better.
• Follow our advice on approaches to writing programs (e.g. design recipe, templates).
Suggestions for success (cont.)

- Integrate exam study into your weekly routine.
- Go beyond the minimum required (e.g. do extra exercises).
- Maintain a “big picture” perspective: look beyond the immediate task or topic.
- Read your mail sent to your UW email account.
- Attend lectures; take notes

Academic Integrity

- You must do your own work.
- Policy 71 - Student Discipline: plagiarism, sharing assignments, etc.
- Running out of time? It is better to hand in a partial assignment or nothing than to hand in someone else’s work.
- Be careful about posting code to Piazza. If it looks like it could have come from your assignment, don’t post it (publicly).

Intellectual Property

The teaching material used is CS 135 are the property of its authors.
This includes:

- Lecture slides and instructor written notes
- Assignment specifications and solutions
- Tutorial slides and notes
- Examinations and solutions

Sharing this material without the IP owner’s permission is a violation of IP rights.
**Programming language design**

**Imperative**: based on frequent changes to data
- Examples: machine language, Java, C++, Turing, VB

**Functional**: based on the computation of new values rather than the transformation of old ones.
- Examples: Excel formulas, LISP, ML, Haskell, Erlang, F#, Mathematica, XSLT, Clojure.
- More closely connected to mathematics
- Easier to design and reason about programs

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**Racket**
- a functional programming language
- minimal but powerful syntax
- small toolbox with ability to construct additional required tools
- interactive evaluator
- used in education and research since 1975
- a dialect of Scheme
- Graduated set of teaching languages are a subset of Racket

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**Functional vs. Imperative**

Functional and imperative programming share many concepts. However, they require you to think differently about your programs.

If you have had experience with imperative programming, you may find it difficult to adjust initially.

By the end of CS 136, you will be able to express computations in both these styles, and understand their advantages and disadvantages.
Values, expressions, & functions

Values are numbers or other mathematical objects.
Examples: 5, $4/9$, $\pi$.

Expressions combine values with operators and functions.
Examples: $5 + 2$, $\sin(2\pi)$, $\sqrt{\frac{2}{100\pi}}$.

Functions generalize similar expressions.
Example...

Values, expressions, & functions (cont)

Values are numbers or other mathematical objects.
Expressions combine values with operators and functions.
Functions generalize similar expressions.
Example:

$$3^2 + 4(3) + 2$$
$$6^2 + 4(6) + 2$$
$$7^2 + 4(7) + 2$$

are generalized by the function
$$f(x) = x^2 + 4x + 2.$$  

Functions in mathematics

Definitions: $f(x) = x^2$, $g(x, y) = x + y$

These definitions consist of:

- the name of the function (e.g. $g$)
- its parameters (e.g. $x, y$)
- an algebraic expression using the parameters as placeholders for values to be supplied in the future
Function application

Definitions: \( f(x) = x^2, g(x, y) = x + y \)

An application of a function supplies arguments for the parameters, which are substituted into the algebraic expression.

An example: \( g(1, 3) = 1 + 3 = 4 \)

The arguments supplied may themselves be applications.

Example: \( g(g(1, 3), f(3)) \)

Function Application (cont)

Definitions: \( f(x) = x^2, g(x, y) = x + y \)

We evaluate each of the arguments to yield values.

Evaluation by substitution:
\[
\begin{align*}
g(g(1, 3), f(3)) &= \\
g(1 + 3, f(3)) &= \\
g(4, f(3)) &= \\
g(4, 3^2) &= \\
g(4, 9) &= 4 + 9 = 13
\end{align*}
\]

Many possible substitutions

Definitions: \( f(x) = x^2, g(x, y) = x + y \)

There are many mathematically valid substitutions:
\[
\begin{align*}
g(g(1, 3), f(3)) &= g(1 + 3, f(3))... \\
g(g(1, 3), f(3)) &= g(g(1, 3), 3^2)... \\
g(g(1, 3), f(3)) &= g(1, 3) + f(3)...
\end{align*}
\]

We'd like a canonical form for two reasons:
- Easier for us to think about
- When we extend this idea to programming, we’ll find cases where different orderings result in different values
Canonical substitutions

Two rules:

- Functions are applied to values
- When there is a choice of possible substitutions, always take the leftmost choice.

Now, for any expression:

- there is at most one choice of substitution;
- the computed final result is the same as for other choices.

The use of parentheses: ordering

In arithmetic expressions, we often place operators between their operands.

Example: $3 - 2 + 4/5$.

We have some rules (division before addition, left to right) to specify order of operation.

Sometimes these do not suffice, and parentheses are required.

Example: $(6 - 4)/(5 + 7)$.

The use of parentheses: functions

If we treat infix operators (+, −, etc.) like functions, we don’t need parentheses to specify order of operations:

Example: $3 - 2$ becomes $- (3, 2)$

Example: $(6 - 4)/(5 + 7)$ becomes $/(-(6, 4), +(5, 7))$

The substitution rules we developed for functions now work uniformly for functions and operators.

Parentheses now have only one use: function application.
The use of parentheses: functions

Racket writes its functions slightly differently: the function name moves \textit{inside} the parentheses, and the commas are changed to spaces.

Example: $g(1, 3)$ becomes $(g \ 1 \ 3)$

Example: $(6 - 4)/(5 + 7)$ becomes $(/ (-\ 6\ 4) (+\ 5\ 7))$

These are valid Racket expressions (once $g$ is defined).

Functions and mathematical operations are treated exactly the same way in Racket.

Expressions in Racket

$3 - 2 + 4/5$ becomes $(+ (-\ 3\ 2) (/\ 4\ 5))$

$(6 - 4)(3 + 2)$ becomes $(\star (-\ 6\ 4) (+\ 3\ 2))$

Extra parentheses are harmless in arithmetic expressions.

They are harmful in Racket.

Only use parentheses when necessary (to signal a function application or some other Racket syntax).

Evaluating a Racket expression

We use a process of substitution, just as with our mathematical expressions.

Each step is indicated using the ‘yields’ symbol $\Rightarrow$.

$(\star (-\ 6\ 4) (+\ 3\ 2))$

$\Rightarrow (\star 2 (+\ 3\ 2))$

$\Rightarrow (\star 2\ 5)$

$\Rightarrow 10$
The DrRacket environment

- Designed for education, powerful enough for “real” use
- Sequence of language levels keyed to textbook
- Includes good development tools
- Two windows: Interactions (now) and Definitions (later)
- Interactions window: a read-evaluate-print loop (REPL)

Setting the Language in DrRacket

CS 135 will progress through the Teaching Languages starting with
Beginning Student.

1. Under the Language tab, select Choose Language ...
2. Select Beginning Student under Teaching Languages
3. Click the Show Details button in the bottom left
4. Under Constant Style, select true false empty

Remember to follow steps 3 and 4 each time you change the language.

Note about Constant Style

In the DrRacket documentation, you will see #true, #false, () instead of true, false, empty, respectively.

In CS 135 exams and stepper questions you must use true, false, empty.
Numbers in Racket

- Integers in Racket are unbounded.
- Rational numbers are represented exactly.
- Expressions whose values are not rational numbers are flagged as being inexact.

Example: (sqrt 2) evaluates to #i1.414213562370951.

We will not use inexact numbers much (if at all).

Expressions in Racket

Racket has many built-in functions which can be used in expressions:

- Arithmetic operators: +, −, ×, ÷
- Constants: e, pi
- Functions: (abs x), (max x y ...), (ceiling x) (expt x y), (exp x), (cos x), ...

Look in DrRacket’s “Help Desk”. The web page that opens has many sections. The most helpful is under Teaching, then “How to Design Programs Languages”, section 1.5.

Racket expressions causing errors

What is wrong with each of the following?

- (5 × 14)
- (* (5) 3)
- (+ (* 2 4)
- (* + 3 5 2)
- (/ 25 0)
Defining functions in mathematics

\[ f(x) = x^2 \]

\[ g(x, y) = x + y \]

Defining functions in Racket

\[(\text{define} \ g \ x \ y) (\text{+} \ x \ y))\]

Our definitions \( f(x) = x^2 \), \( g(x, y) = x + y \) become

\[(\text{define} \ (f \ x) \ (\text{sqr} \ x))\]

\[(\text{define} \ (g \ x \ y) \ (\text{+} \ x \ y))\]

\text{define} is a special form (looks like a Racket function, but not all of its arguments are evaluated).

It binds a name to an expression (which uses the parameters that follow the name).
A function definition consists of:

- a name for the function,
- a list of parameters,
- a single “body” expression.

The body expression typically uses the parameters together with other built-in and user-defined functions.

**Applying user-defined functions in Racket**

An application of a user-defined function substitutes arguments for the corresponding parameters throughout the definition’s expression.

```
(define (g x y) (+ x y))
```

The substitution for (g 3 5) would be (+ 3 5).

When faced with choices of substitutions, we use the same rules defined earlier: apply functions only when all arguments are simple values; when you have a choice, take the leftmost one.

 Evaluating expressions:

```
(g (g 1 3) (f 3))  \Rightarrow  \Rightarrow  (g (+ 1 3) (f 3))  \Rightarrow  (g 4 (f 3))  \Rightarrow  (g (sqr 3))  \Rightarrow  (g 4 9)  \Rightarrow  (+ 4 9)  \Rightarrow  13
```

\( g(g(1, 3), f(3)) \)

\( = (g(1 + 3), f(3)) \)

\( = (g(4, f(3))) \)

\( = g(4, 3^2) \)

\( = g(4, 9) \)

\( = (4 + 9) \)

\( = 13 \)
Each parameter name has meaning only within the body of its function.

\[
\text{(define (f x y) (+ x y))}
\]

\[
\text{(define (g x z) (* x z))}
\]

The two uses of \(x\) are independent.

Additionally, the following two function definitions define the \textit{same} function:

\[
\text{(define (f x y) (+ x y))}
\]

\[
\text{(define (f a b) (+ a b))}
\]

DrRacket’s Definitions window

- Can accumulate definitions and expressions
- Run button loads contents into Interactions window
- Can save and restore Definitions window
- Provides a Stepper to let one evaluate expressions step-by-step
- Features: error highlighting, subexpression highlighting, syntax checking

Programs in Racket

A Racket program is a sequence of definitions and expressions.

The expressions are evaluated, using substitution, to produce values.

Expressions may also make use of \textit{special forms} (e.g. define), which look like functions, but don’t necessarily evaluate all their arguments.
Defining constants in Racket

The definitions \( k = 3, p = k^2 \) become

\[
\text{(define } k \text{ 3)} \\
\text{(define } p \text{ (sqr } k)\text{)}
\]

The effect of \((\text{define } k \text{ 3})\) is to bind the name \( k \) to the value 3.

In \((\text{define } p \text{ (sqr } k)\text{)},\) the expression \((\text{sqr } k)\) is first evaluated to give 9, and then \( p \) is bound to that value.

Advantages of constants

- Can give meaningful names to useful values (e.g. interest-rate, passing-grade, and starting-salary).
- Reduces typing and errors when such values need to be changed
- Makes programs easier to understand
- Constants can be used in any expression, including the body of function definitions
- Sometimes (incorrectly) called variables, but their values cannot be changed (until CS 136)

Scope: where an identifier has effect within the program.

- The smallest enclosing scope has priority
- Can’t duplicate identifiers within the same scope

\[
\text{(define } f \text{ 3)} \\
\text{(define } (f x) \text{ (sqr } x)\text{)}
\]

Racket Error: \( f: \) this name was defined...
Goals of this module

You should understand the basic syntax of Racket, how to form expressions properly, and what DrRacket might do when given an expression causing an error.

You should be comfortable with these terms: function, parameter, application, argument, constant, expression.

You should be able to define and use simple arithmetic functions.

You should understand the purposes and uses of the Definitions and Interactions windows in DrRacket.