

Exceptions

Raise Statements

Python exceptions are raised with a raise statement

raise <expression>

<expression> must evaluate to a subclass of BaseException or an instance of one

Exceptions are constructed like any other object. E.g., TypeError('Bad argument!')

TypeError -- A function was passed the wrong number/type of argument

NameError -- A name wasn't found

RecursionError -- Too many recursive calls

(Demo)

Try Statements

```
Try statements handle exceptions
```

```
<try suite>
```

Execution rule:

The <try suite> is executed first

If, during the course of executing the <try suite>, an exception is raised that is not handled otherwise, and

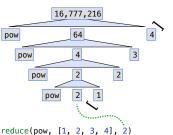
If the class of the exception inherits from <exception class>, then

The <except suite> is executed, with <name> bound to the exception $\ensuremath{\text{constant}}$

Example: Reduce

Reducing a Sequence to a Value

```
def reduce(f, s, initial):
    """Combine elements of s pairwise using f, starting with initial.
    E.g., reduce(mul, [2, 4, 8], 1) is equivalent to mul(mul(mul(1, 2), 4), 8).
    >>> reduce(mul, [2, 4, 8], 1)
                                                              pow
f is ...
                                                                 pow
  a two-argument function
s is ...
                                                                     pow
  a sequence of values that can be the second argument
  a value that can be the first argument
                                              (Demo)
```



Programming Languages

Programming Languages

A computer typically executes programs written in many different programming languages

Machine languages: statements are interpreted by the hardware itself

- A fixed set of instructions invoke operations implemented by the circuitry of the central processing unit (CPU)
- Operations refer to specific hardware memory addresses; no abstraction mechanisms

High-level languages: statements & expressions are interpreted by another program or compiled (translated) into another language

- Provide means of abstraction such as naming, function definition, and objects
- Abstract away system details to be independent of hardware and operating system

Python 3

def square(x):
 return x * x

from dis import dis
dis(square)

Python 3 Byte Code

LOAD_FAST	0 (x)
LOAD_FAST	0 (x)
BINARY_MULTIPLY	
RETURN_VALUE	

Parsing

Metalinguistic Abstraction

A powerful form of abstraction is to define a new language! E.g.,

Problem domain: The MediaWiki mark-up language was designed for generating static web pages. It has built-in elements for text formatting and cross-page linking. It is used, for example, to create Wikipedia pages

A programming language has:

- Syntax: The legal statements and expressions in the language
- Semantics: The execution/evaluation rule for those statements and expressions

Reading Scheme Lists

A Scheme list is written as elements in parentheses:

```
(<element_0> <element_1> ... <element_n>)
```

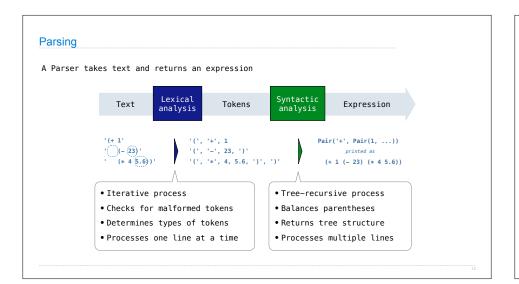
A Scheme list

Each <element> can be a combination or primitive

```
(+ (* 3 (+ (* 2 4) (+ 3 5))) (+ (- 10 7) 6))
```

The task of parsing a language involves coercing a string representation of an expression to the expression itself

(Demo)



Syntactic Analysis

Syntactic analysis identifies the hierarchical structure of an expression, which may be nested

Each call to scheme_read consumes the input tokens for exactly one expression

Base case: symbols and numbers

Recursive call: scheme read sub-expressions and combine them

Scheme-Syntax Calculator

(Demo)

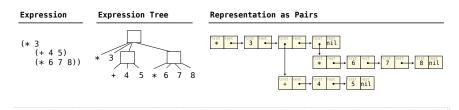
Calculator Syntax

The Calculator language has primitive expressions and call expressions. (That's it!)

A primitive expression is a number: 2 -4 5.6

A call expression is a combination that begins with an operator (+, -, *, /) followed by 0 or more expressions: (+ 1 2 3) (/ 3 (+ 4 5))

Expressions are represented as Scheme lists (Pair instances) that encode tree structures.



Calculator Semantics

The value of a calculator expression is defined recursively.

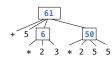
Primitive: A number evaluates to itself.

Call: A call expression evaluates to its argument values combined by an operator.

- +: Sum of the arguments
- *: Product of the arguments
- -: If one argument, negate it. If more than one, subtract the rest from the first.
- /: If one argument, invert it. If more than one, divide the rest from the first.

Expression

Expression Tree



Evaluation

The Eval Function

The eval function computes the value of an expression, which is always a number

It is a generic function that dispatches on the type of the expression (primitive or call)

Implementation

Language Semantics

```
def calc_eval(exp):
                                                           A number evaluates...
    if isinstance(exp, (int, float)):
                                          Recursive call
                                                                to itself
                                         returns a number
        return exp
                                         for each operand A call expression evaluates...
    elif isinstance(exp, Pair):
                                                               to its argument values
        arguments = exp.rest.map(calc_eval)
                                                               combined by an operator
        return calc_apply(exp.first, arguments)
    else:
                          '+', '-',
'*', '/'
                                       A Scheme list
        raise TypeError
                                         of numbers
```

Applying Built-in Operators

The apply function applies some operation to a (Scheme) list of argument values

In calculator, all operations are named by built-in operators: +, -, *, /

Implementation

Language Semantics

Interactive Interpreters

Read-Eval-Print Loop

The user interface for many programming languages is an interactive interpreter

- 1. Print a prompt
- 2. Read text input from the user
- 3. Parse the text input into an expression
- 4. **Evaluate** the expression
- 5. If any errors occur, report those errors, otherwise
- 6. Print the value of the expression and repeat

(Demo)

Raising Exceptions

Exceptions are raised within lexical analysis, syntactic analysis, eval, and apply

Example exceptions

- ${}^{\bullet}\textbf{Lexical analysis:} \ \, \textbf{The token 2.3.4 raises ValueError("invalid numeral")}$
- Syntactic analysis: An extra) raises SyntaxError("unexpected token")
- •Eval: An empty combination raises TypeError("() is not a number or call expression")
- •Apply: No arguments to raises TypeError("- requires at least 1 argument")

(Demo)

Handling Exceptions

An interactive interpreter prints information about each error

A well-designed interactive interpreter should not halt completely on an error, so that the user has an opportunity to try again in the current environment

(Demo)