

Gambit Scheme: Inside Out

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WARNING!!!

THIS IS A NUTS-AND-BOLTS TALK!



Give a tour of Gambit Scheme implementation
Programmer's perspective -- how to use it!
Implementation of system -- how it works!

Talk Overview

- Brief overview of Scheme and Gambit
- Compiler and portability
- Highlights of Gambit Scheme language and implementation
- Applications and demos

Scheme and Gambit Overview

Scheme

- 1975: Sussman & Steele design Scheme at MIT
- Few but powerful building blocks
- Small language... "Do it yourself" philosophy
- Scheme is a "Lisp-1": unified name space for functions, macros and variables
- 1978: RABBIT Scheme compiler thesis: *reduce complex constructs to a small core based on the lambda calculus => simple and efficient compiler*

Evolution of Standards

- <u>"Academic era"</u>: concerns for purity
 - Evolution by unanimous consent: R1RS (1978), R2RS (1985), R3RS (1986), R4RS (1991), R5RS (1998) => 50 page spec
- "<u>Real-world era</u>": practical concerns
 - Scheme Request for Implementation (SRFI), over 100 documents, ongoing since 1998
 - Evolution by revolution: R6RS (2007)
 => 160 page spec, controversial, R7RS (?)

Scheme Systems

- Over 50 implementations of Scheme, many toys and over 15 mature systems:
 - <u>Compilers to VM and interpreters</u>: *Gauche, Guile, Kawa, Scheme48, SCM, SISC, Ypsilon*
 - <u>Compilers to native code (including JIT)</u>: *Chez Scheme, Ikarus, Larceny, MIT Scheme, MzScheme, Racket (PLT Scheme)*
 - <u>Compilers to C</u>: Bigloo, Chicken, Gambit-C, Stalin, Petit Larceny

Gambit System Evolution

- 1989: Compiler to M68K, no interpreter, no GC
- 1991: MacGambit
- 1993: Message passing implementation of futures on 90 processor BBN Butterfly
- 1994: C back-end, first commercial use
- 2004: Gambit v4, threads, I/O, LGPL/Apache

Gambit Uses in Academia

- <u>Education</u>: PL concepts, compilers, AI, math (numerical analysis, homework on web)
- <u>Research</u>: concurrent systems, real-time GC, continuations, optimizations, FPGAs, ...
- <u>Compiler research</u>:
 - Scheme as UNCOL: Erlang/Java/JavaScript
 - Scheme -> C/JavaScript/VHDL
 - For embedded sys: BIT, PICBIT, PICOBIT (< 20 kB R4RS on microcontrollers)

Gambit Commercial Uses

- Selling Point: product configuration (Gambit used as back-end for custom OO language)
- *EdScheme*: a Scheme for teaching math
- Parallel Geometry: CAD for exact 3D modeling
- *Quantz*: casual video game (PC/Mac/Linux)
- iPhone games (Farmageddon, Reverso)
- *JazzScheme*: an OO Scheme, with many libraries, GUI, IDE (PC/Mac/Linux)
- Auphelia inc: Enterprise Resource Planning

Gambit-C Goals

- A Scheme system that is
 - conformant to R5RS and robust (no bugs)
 - portable
 - efficient (i.e. fast)
- Provide simple building blocks for
 - developing practical applications
 - building more complex languages
- Avoid "being in the programmer's way"

GSI and GSC

Gambit has 2 main programs

- gsi: interpreter (best for debugging but not fast)
- gsc: compiler (which includes interpreter)

Interpreted and compiled code can be freely mixed

8 gsi	<pre>% gsi fib.scm</pre>
Gambit v4.6.0	55
	<pre>% gsc fib.scm</pre>
<pre>> (load "fib")</pre>	<pre>% gsi fib.o1</pre>
55	55
"/Users/feeley/fib.scm"	<pre>% gsc -exe fib.scm</pre>
> (fib 20)	<pre>% ./fib</pre>
6765	55
> (exit)	<pre>% gsc -c fib.scm</pre>

Compiler and Portability

Portability

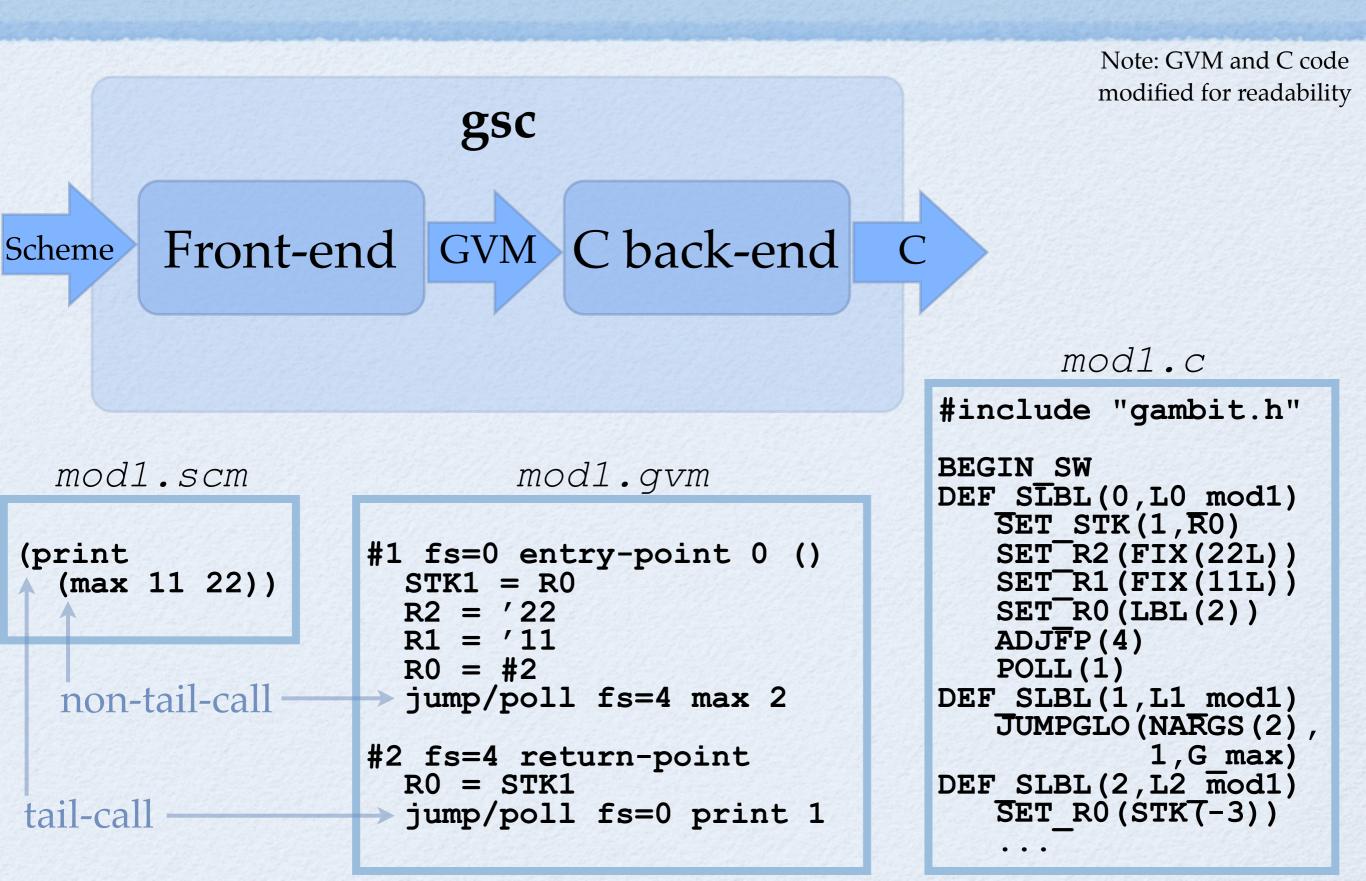


- gsc generates C code that is <u>independent</u> of the target processor, C compiler and OS
- Code is compilable by any C or C++ compiler, on 32/64 bit processors, any endianness
- *Trampolines* are used for supporting tail calls (Scheme stack managed separately from C's)

Gambit Virtual Machine

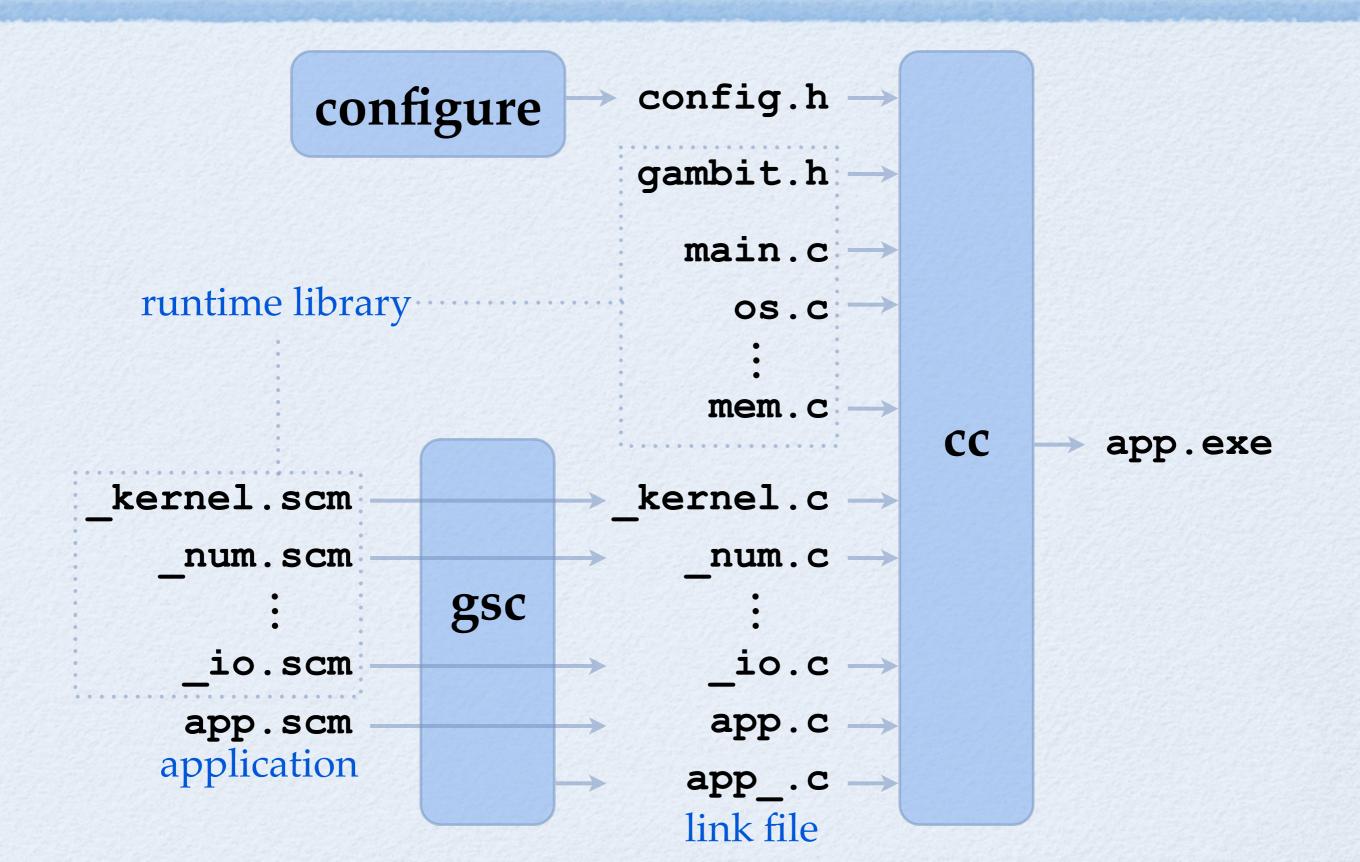
- GVM is the compiler's intermediate language
- Register based VM (nb of regs depends on BE)
- First few parameters in registers, rest on stack
- Stack is allocated implicitly (no push/pop)
- No call instruction, only jump
- jump/poll instruction indicates safe points where interrupts are allowed and where stack and heap overflows are checked

C Back-End



- **gambit.h** allows late binding of GVM implem.
- a **configure** script tunes the **gambit.h** macro definitions to take into account:
 - target OS, C compiler, pointer width, etc
- E.g. trampoline operation **BEGIN_SW** becomes
 - "switch (pc-start) ..." by default
 - "goto * (pc->lbl);" if gcc is used

- Gambit adopts a Scheme-in-Scheme approach
 primitives, interpreter, debugger, bignums, ...
- Non-Scheme code (~ 30%) is mainly for OS interface and is in portable C (no asm code!)
- Runtime relies only on standard C libraries
- Compiled application can be distributed as the set of generated ".c" files (Gambit not needed on the target system, great for embedded sys)



- Compiles "out-of-the box" for Intel, SPARC, PPC, MIPS, ARM, etc
- Porting to a new processor: 0 to 60 minutes
- Unusual porting examples:
 - Nintendo DS (ARM, 4 MB RAM)
 - Linksys WRT54GL (MIPS, 16 MB RAM)
 - iPhone/iTouch (ARM, 128 MB RAM)
 - Xilinx FPGA (PPC, few MB RAM, no OS)

Gambit Scheme Language

Main Extensions

- Declarations
- Namespaces
- Threads, I/O, Serialization
- Scheme Infix eXtension (SIX)
- Foreign Function Interface (FFI)

Declarations

Declarations

- By default Gambit obeys R5RS semantics
- This has an impact on performance
- Declarations allow the programmer to indicate where it is OK to make some assumptions, which enable various optimizations

(car x) ;; 1) read the "car" global variable ;; 2) check that it is a function ;; 3) call the function

(declare (standard-bindings))

(car x) ;; car is known to contain the car ;; function so the compiler can inline it

Other Declarations

(block)	assume global vars defined in this file are not mutated outside it
(fixnum)	fixnum arithmetic only
(flonum)	flonum arithmetic only
(not safe)	assume no type checks fail
(debug)	generate debug info
(not proper-tail-calls)	turn off TCO

Impact on Performance

MacBook Pro 2.8 GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 4 GB RAM

no declaration (i.e. pure R5RS semantics)	5.68 s
(declare (standard-bindings))	4.80 s
+ (declare (block))	3.30 s
+ (declare (fixnum))	2.70 s
+ (declare (not safe))	1.11 s

gcc -02 fib40.c	1.63 s
<pre>sbcl < fib40.lisp (no declaration)</pre>	4.24 s

Main Optimizations

Inlining

- Primitive functions (car, cons, map, ...)
- User functions, including recursive functions
- Speculative inlining of primitive functions (when binding of global var unknown)
- Lambda lifting
- Copy/constant propagation, constant folding

Namespaces

Namespaces

- Namespace declarations allow mapping identifiers to spaces
- They are lexically scoped
- They work by prefixing *unqualified* identifiers into *qualified identifiers* of the form **space#id**

(##namespace ("foo#")) ID -> foo#ID (for all ID)

(##namespace ("bar#" a b)) a->bar#a b->bar#b

Namespaces as Modules

• Can be used as a simple module system

stk#.scm

(##namespace ("stk#" empty push pop))

stk.scm

```
(##namespace ("stk#"))
(##include "~~lib/gambit#.scm")
(##include "stk#.scm")
```

```
(define (empty) '())
(define (push x s) (cons x s))
(define (pop s) (cdr s))
```

~~lib/gambit#.scm

(##namespace

("" cons car cdr define ...))

Namespaces as Modules

```
client.scm
(##include "stk#.scm")
(define (test)
  (pp (pop (empty))))
```

(define (test)
 (pp (stk#pop (stk#empty))))

Namespaces as Modules

• Quiz: Why "##" prefix?

stk#.scm

```
(##namespace
  ("stk#" empty push pop))
```

stk.scm

```
(##namespace ("stk#"))
(##include "~~lib/gambit#.scm")
(##include "stk#.scm")
(define (empty) '())
(define (push x s) (cons x s))
(define (pop s) (cdr s))
```

~~lib/gambit#.scm

(##namespace

("" cons car cdr define ...))

Threads, I/O, Serialization

Threads

- Green threads
- Preemptive scheduler with priorities
- Very lightweight and scalable
- Thread = descriptor (324 bytes) + continuation
- Thread creation/synchronization ~ 0.5 μ s
- O(log N) enqueue / dequeue operations
- Supports millions of active threads (in ~ 1GB)

Threads: API

- API of SRFI-21 "Real-time multithreading"
- Objects: threads, mutexes, condition variables
- Priority inheritance

```
(define n 0)
(define m (make-mutex))
(define (increment)
  (do ((i 100000000 (- i 1))) ((= i 0))
     (mutex-lock! m)
     (set! n (+ n 1))
     (mutex-unlock! m)))
(define threads (list (make-thread increment)
     (make-thread increment)))
(for-each thread-start! threads)
(for-each thread-join! threads)
(print n) => 20000000
```

Threads: Scheduler

- Scheduler is implemented in Scheme
 - *Suspension*: done internally with call/cc
 - *Preemption*: done with heartbeat interrupts
- Threads have
 - a continuation
 - a priority level and a quantum
 - a "specific" field (for thread local storage)
 - a mailbox (for thread-send/receive)

Threads: Mailboxes

- Mailboxes simplify thread interaction
- A mailbox acts as an operation serializer

```
(define (make-server op)
  (thread-start!
   (make-thread
    (lambda ()
      (let loop ()
        (let ((msg (thread-receive)))
          (thread-send (car msg) ;; client
                        (op (cdr msg)))
          (loop)))))))
(define file-server (make-server get-file))
(thread-send file-server
             (cons (current-thread)
                   "/etc/passwd"))
(print (thread-receive)) ;; print file
```

I/0

- I/O is compatible with R5RS text-only model
- Extensions:
 - control over character and EOL encoding
 - binary I/O
 - bulk I/O
 - nonblocking I/O (on all port types)
 - Port types: file, directory, OS process, TCP client, TCP server, string, vector, pipe, ...

I/O: Port Types

• Port types are organized in a *class hierarchy*

• Byte port <: character port <: object port

read/write read-char/write-char

read-u8/write-u8

char encoding

byte port

readtable

char port



I/O: Settings List

• The procedures which create ports allow a *settings list* specifying the set of parameters

```
(define (log-msg msg)
 (with-output-to-file
  (list path: "~/log"
        append: #t
        eol-encoding: 'cr-lf
        char-encoding: 'UTF-8
        output-width: 80)
  (lambda ()
     (println msg))))
(log-msg "hello")
(log-msg "world!")
```

I/O: Directory Ports

- Directory ports allow constant space iteration over directories
- Reading a directory port yields the next entry (directory ports are thus **not** character ports)

I/O: TCP Ports

- 2 kinds: TCP server ports and TCP client ports
- Reading a TCP server port yields a *port* which is the accepted connection with the client (TCP server ports are thus **not** character ports)

I/O: String Port Generalization

- Generalized to objects, characters and bytes
- Pipe ports: port pairs connected by a FIFO
- Useful for interthread communication

```
or vector
(define a
  (open-output-string))
                            (call-with-values
                               (lambda ()
(write (list 1 2 3) a)
                                 (open-string-pipe))
                               (lambda (i o)
(get-output-string a)
            => "(1 2 3)"
                                 (write 1 o) (newline o)
(define b
                                 (write 2 o) (newline o)
  (open-output-vector))
                                 (force-output o)
(write 1 b) (write 2 b)
                                 (println (read i)) ;; 1
(println (read i))) ;; 2
(get-output-vector b)
            => # (1 2)
```

I/O: Nonblocking I/O

- Ports have a timeout for input and output ops, which defaults to infinity, i.e. blocking op
- This can be set for all types of ports including TCP server and directory ports

- Objects can be serialized into byte vectors
- Supports closures, continuations, cycles
- Useful for distributed computing (Termite)
- Source and destination can be of different type (processor, OS, word width, endianness, ...)

• Example: parallel processing

```
;; client somewhere on the network
(define (on address thunk)
 (thread-start!
  (make-thread
   (lambda ()
     (let ((conn (open-tcp-client address)))
       (write (object->u8vector thunk) conn)
       (force-output conn)
       (let ((result (u8vector->object (read conn))))
         (close-port conn)
         result))))))
(define (test n)
 (define (f n)
   (if (< n 2) 1 (* n (f (- n 1)))))
 (/ (thread-join! a) (thread-join! b))))
(test 1000) => 1001
```

 Extra "encoder/decoder" parameter allows custom encoding, which is useful for otherwise unserializable objects (ports, threads, ...)

```
(define (print-to port)
  (lambda (x) (display x port)))
(define a (print-to (current-output-port)))
(define cop-repr 'the-cop) ;; todo: unique record
(define (encoder x)
 (if (eq? x (current-output-port)) cop-repr x))
(define (decoder x)
 (if (eq? x cop-repr) (current-output-port) x))
(define b (object->u8vector a encoder))
(define c (u8vector->object b decoder))
(c "hello") ;; prints to current-output-port
```

Scheme Infix eXtension

SIX: Goals

- Infix syntax close to C/Java
- Multiple goals:
 - Reduce adoption barrier for non-Lispers (emphasize Scheme semantics, not syntax!)
 - Compact notation for arithmetic expressions
 - Built-in parser for compiler course

SIX: "\" Escapes

- Idea: a "\" switches between prefix and infix
- In prefix syntax: \ <infix statement>
- In infix syntax: \ <prefix expression>

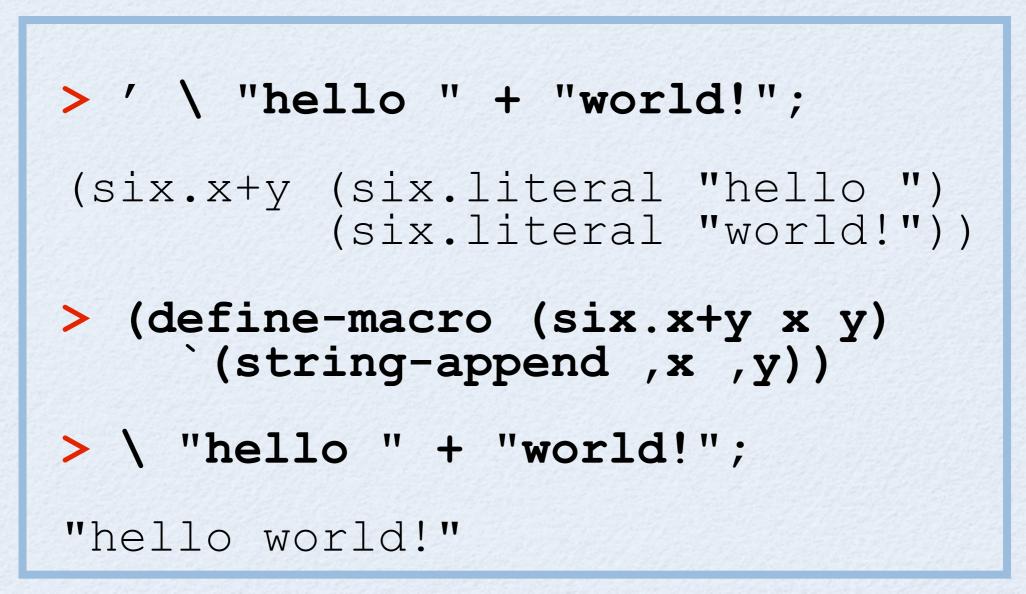
SIX: Syntax

 SIX extends C's syntax with anonymous and nested functions, list constructor, ({...}) blocks, Prolog clauses, etc

```
\ obj foo(int n)
    int fact(int x)
    { if (x<2) 1; else x*fact(x-1); }</pre>
    map(int (int s) { fact(n<<s); },
    [2, 3, 4, 5]);</pre>
  }
(foo 1) => (24
              40320
              20922789888000
              26313083693369353016721801216000000)
```

SIX: Semantics

Reader builds AST as a S-expression
Semantics is given by predefined "six.XXX" macros, which can be redefined



Foreign Function Interface

FFI

- Allows calls between Scheme and C (both ways)
- Useful for linking with C libraries
- Automatic representation conversions:

С	Scheme
int	int
unsigned int	unsigned-int
char	char
char *	char-string or nonnull-char-string or UTF-8-string or
T *	(pointer T[(type-id) [release-fn]]) or (nonnull-pointer T)

etc

FFI: Type Definition

• **c-define-type** gives names to foreign types

(c-define-type boolean int) ;; type alias (c-define-type Window "Window") ;; new type (c-define-type Window* (pointer Window (Window*) "release_Window")) ;; GC and (foreign-release! ptr) call release_fn ;; a type with custom conversion functions: (c-define-type foo "foo" "foo c2s" "foo s2c")

FFI: Calling C

• c-lambda yields a Scheme proxy of C function

```
(c-declare "#include <stdio.h>")
```

```
(c-define-type FILE "FILE")
(c-define-type FILE* (pointer FILE))
```

```
(define fopen
  (c-lambda (char-string char-string) FILE* "fopen"))
```

```
(define fgetc
  (c-lambda (FILE*) int "fgetc"))
```

```
(define fputc
  (c-lambda (int FILE*) int "fputc"))
```

```
(define fclose
  (c-lambda (FILE*) int "fclose"))
```

FFI: Calling Scheme

• **c-define** defines a function callable from C

```
;; hook into Scheme's eval from C:
(c-define (eval-string str)
  (char-string) char-string "eval_string" ""
   (object->string
      (eval (with-input-from-string str read))))
```

Other Extensions

Tables

Hash-tables with several options including:

- Test: eq?, equal?, ...
- Hash function: eq?-hash, equal?-hash, ...
- Load factor limits (low and high)
- Key and value reference "weakness"

```
(define t (make-table test: eq?
    weak-keys: #t))
(define obj (cons 1 2))
(table-set! t obj 99)
(table-ref t obj) => 99
(set! obj #f) ;; GC will remove entry from t
```

Wills

Will objects control object finalization

Serial Numbers

 Serial numbers are used by the printer to identify objects which can't be read

Convenient for debugging

```
> (let ((n 2)) (lambda (x) (* x n)))
#<procedure #2>
> (pp #2)
(lambda (x) (* x n))
> (map #2 '(1 2 3 4 5))
(2 \ 4 \ 6 \ 8 \ 10)
> , (v #2)
1> ,e
n = 2
1> (set! n 10)
1> ,t
> (map #2 '(1 2 3 4 5))
(10 \ 20 \ 30 \ 40 \ 50)
```

Records

- Extensible records (using single inheritance)
 Serializable
- Field attributes

```
(define-type pt x y) ;; (make-pt x y)
;; (pt? obj)
;; (pt-x obj)
;; (pt-x-set! obj val) ...
```

```
(define-type person
  id: B3D36093-BC54-7D78E7CB7ADA
  extender: define-type-of-person
  (name read-only:))
```

```
(define-type-of-person employee
  id: C4DA4307-A1A1-E7F7461E8DDF
  (employer unprintable: equality-skip:))
```

Homogeneous Vectors

Vectors of fixed width integers and floats

```
(define v (make-f64vector 10 3.1416))
```

```
(f64vector-set! v 0 (* 2 (f64vector-ref v 0)))
```

- ;; u8vector unsigned integers
- ;; ul6vector
- ;; u32vector
- ;; u64vector
- ;; s8vector signed integers
- ;; s16vector
- ;; s32vector
- ;; s64vector
- ;; f32vector floating point numbers

```
;; f64vector
```

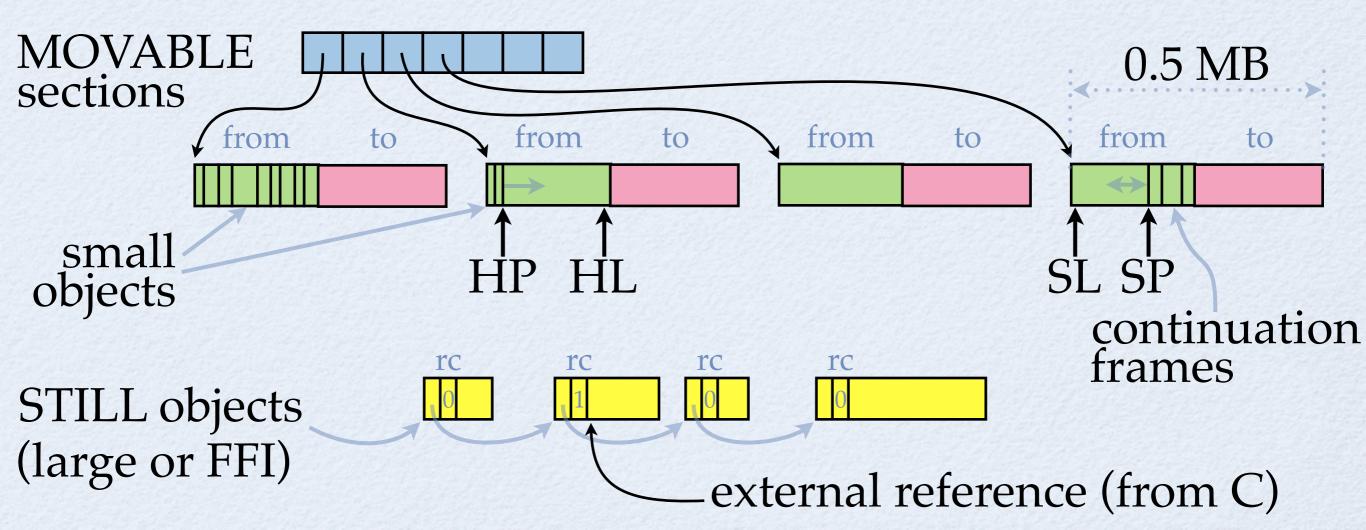
Optional/Named Parameters

- Similar to Common-Lisp
- Optional parameters, by position
- Named parameters use keyword objects

Memory Management

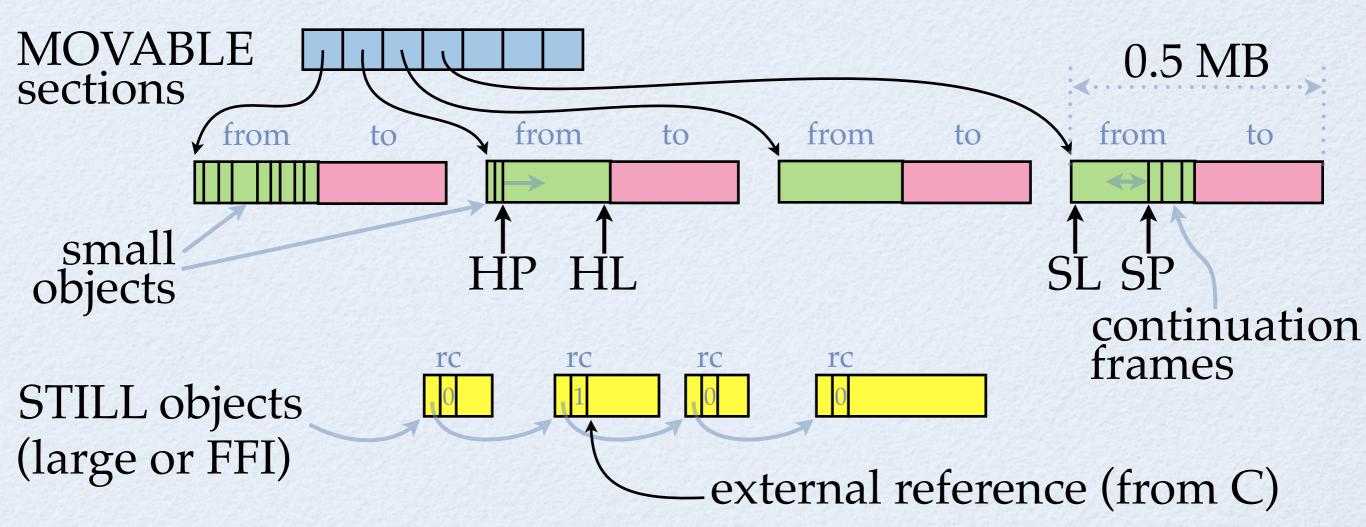
Memory Management

For portability, all memory allocated with malloc
Small objects and cont. frames are <u>MOVABLE</u>
Objects that are large or allocated by FFI are <u>STILL</u>



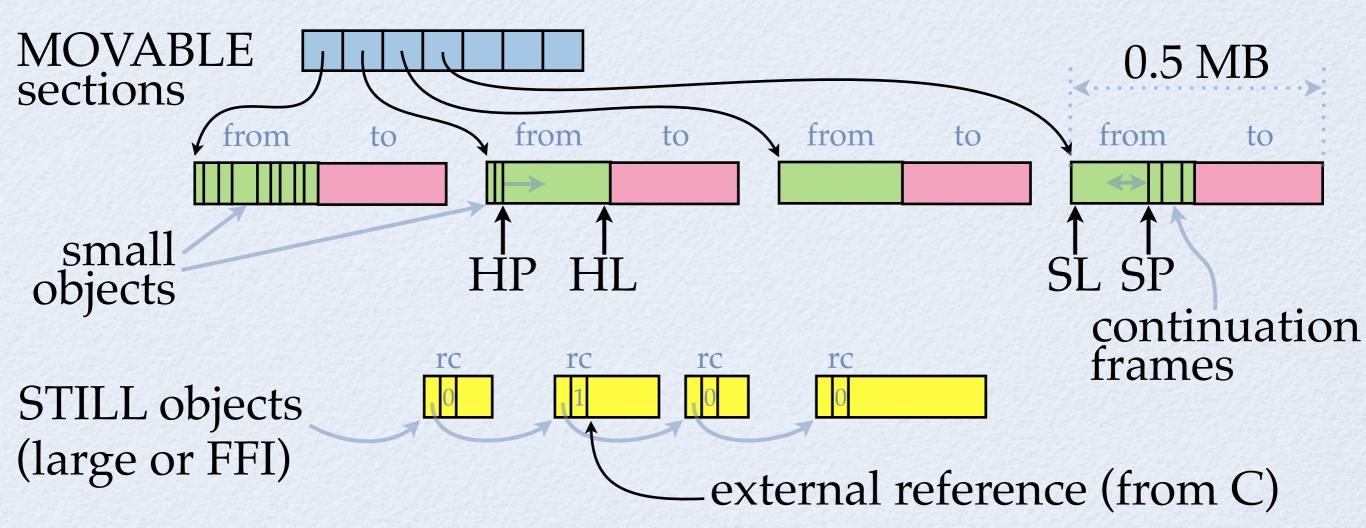
MOVABLE Objects

- Allocation = pointer increment (HP or SP)
- Stop-and-copy compacting GC
- MOVABLE sections added/removed to maintain a given live ratio at end of GC (0.5 by default)



STILL Objects

- Reference count for external refs simplifies FFI
- Mark-sweep compacting GC
- Reclaim when rc=0 <u>and</u> no refs from heap



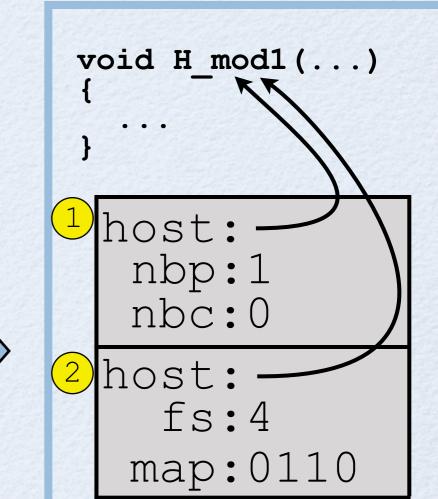
PERMANENT Objects

- Not reclaimed or scanned by GC, C "static"
- Constant objects in Scheme program
- Descriptors of code points in Scheme program
 - function <u>entry points</u>

mod1.c

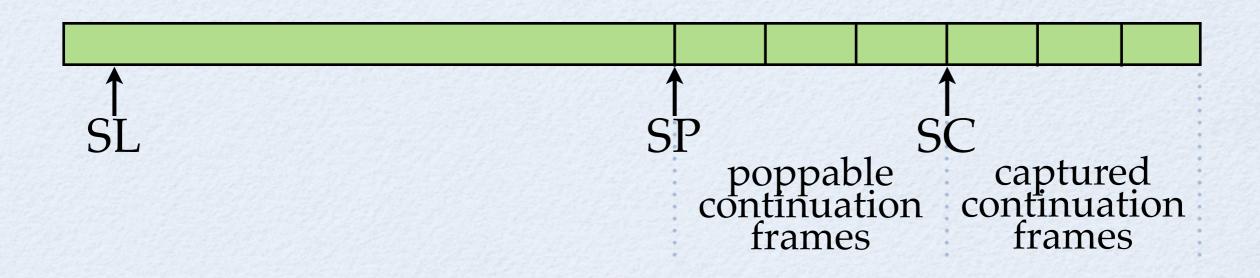
• function call <u>return points</u>

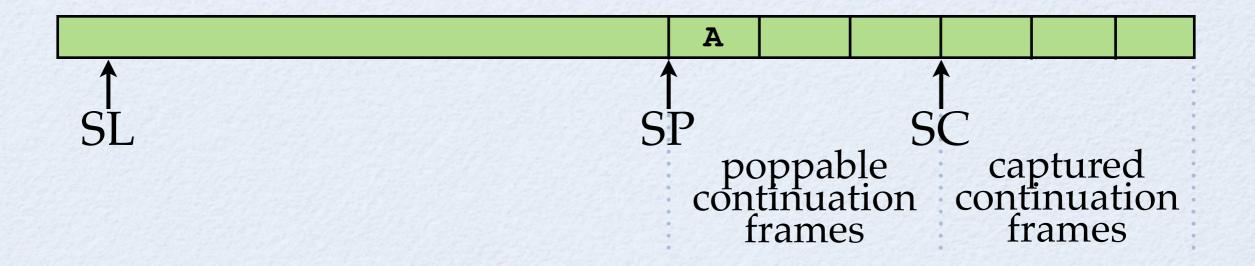
modl.scm
(define f
 (lambda (x)
 l (+ (g x) x)))

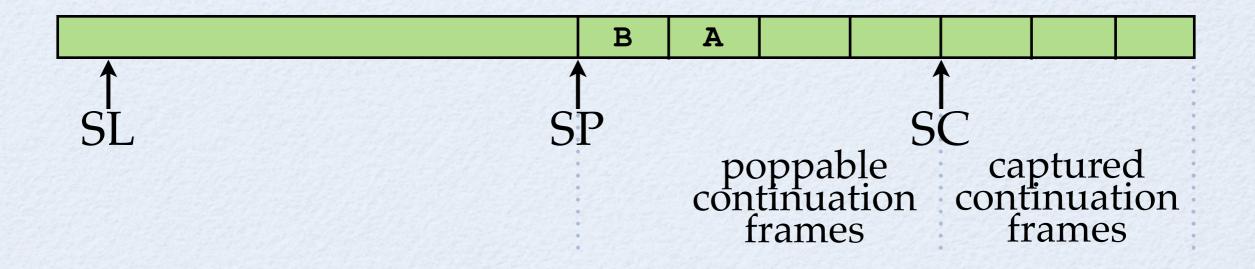


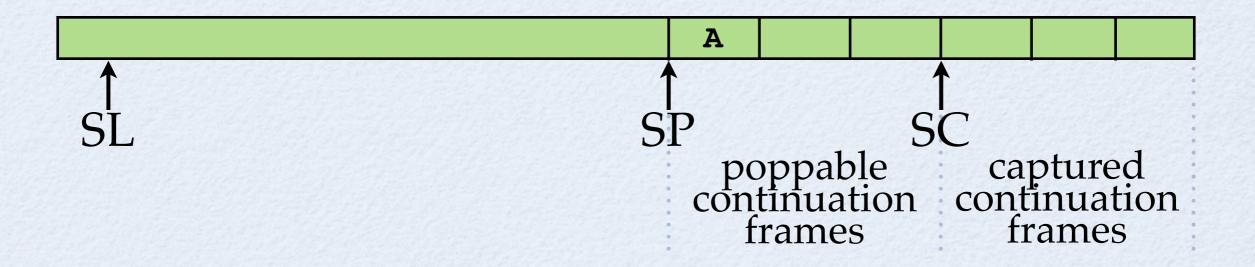
Continuations

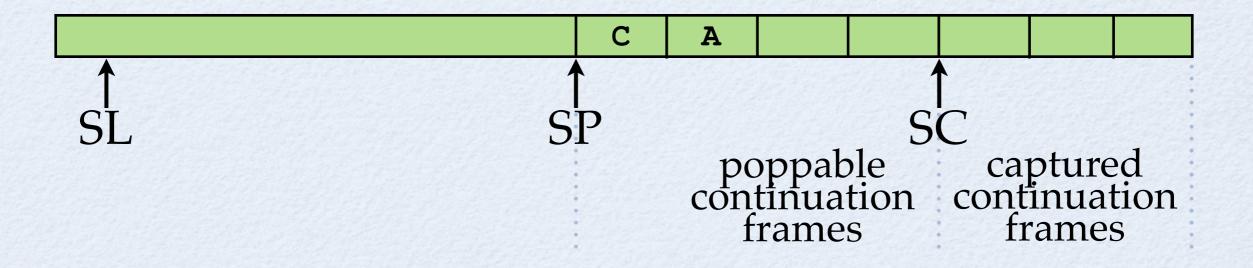
Continuation frames are "pushed" by moving SP
Typically, frames are "popped" on function return
call/cc protects captured frames with: SC := SP
Protected frames are copied to TOS, never popped
Interrupt: SL := SC

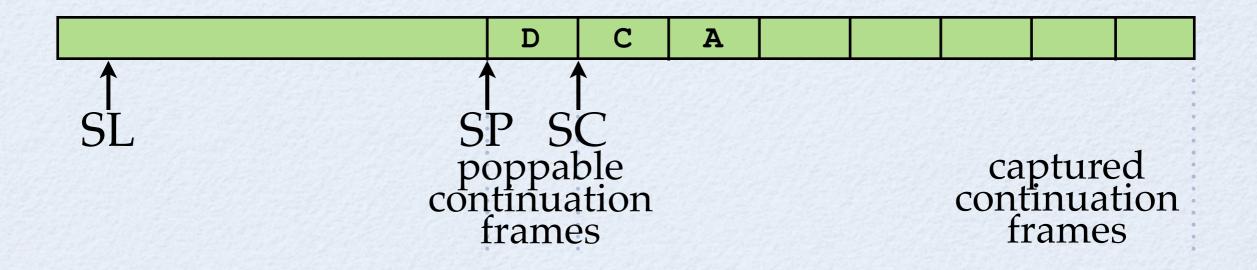


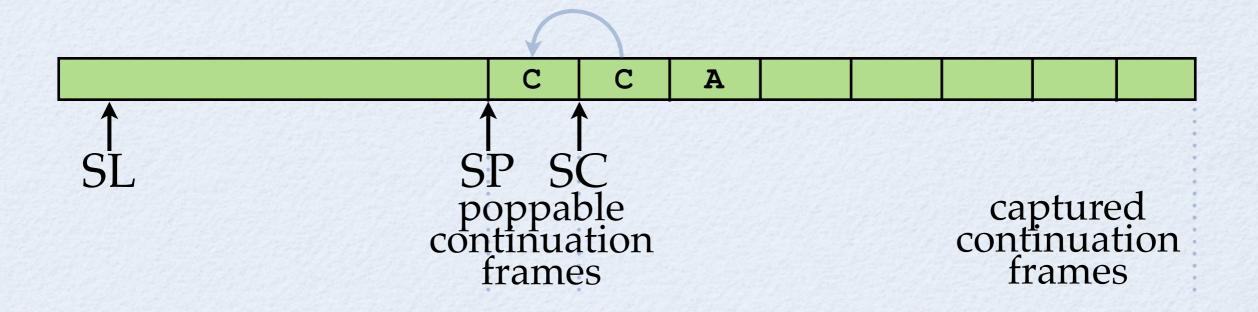


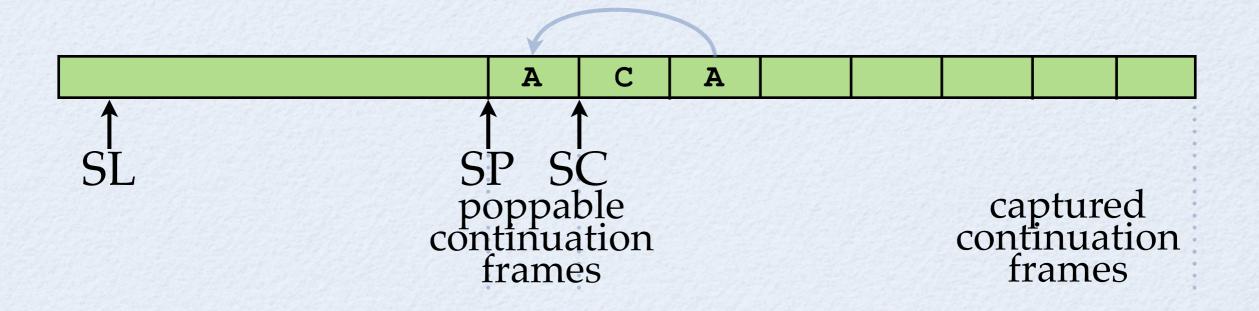












- Live frames are copied to heap by GC (explicit links are added to form a chain of frames)
- Space for link reserved when frame is created
- An "underflow handler" is used to copy the next frame when SP = SC
- No overhead when **call/cc** not called
- Constant time call/cc
- Note: interleaving of frames from different threads

Third Party Stuff

Third Party

- Code repository: Gambit Dumping Grounds
- Libraries: OpenGL, MySQL, HTTP servers,
 Scheme to JS compiler, lexer and LALR parser generator
- Black hole module system
- *JazzScheme* system (OO extension + IDE + libs)
- *statprof* statistical profiler



Gamerizon Inc



iPhone Apps



Emacs Debugging

X emacs@macro.local

000

File Edit Options Buffers Tools Complete In/Out Signals Help 🗅 🗁 📃 🗶 🌆 💽 📇 💥 🔯 Gambit v4.6.0 > (load "fib.scm") "/Users/feeley/fib.scm" > (break fib) > (fib 4) *** STOPPED IN fib, "fib.scm"@2.8 1≻ ,c *** STOPPED IN fib, "fib.scm"@2.8 1>.c *** STOPPED IN fib, "fib.scm"@2.8 1> ,s $| \rangle <$ | #<procedure #2 <> *** STOPPED IN fib. "fib.scm"@2.10 1>,s l≻n 12 *** STOPPED IN fib, "fib.scm"@2.12 1≻ ,s 1 > 22 *** STOPPED IN fib, "fib.scm"@2.7 1> -1:**- *scheme* A11 L24 (Inferior Scheme:run)--11:54PM 1.59--(define (fib n) (if <mark>(< n 2)</mark> n (+ (fib (- n 1)) (fib (- n 2)))) (Scheme) -- 11:54PM 1.59fib.scm A11 L2 📕 Mark set 7

Jedi: Jazz/Gambit IDE

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Emilie: DB Front-End

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NICU-9C	17:00 - 08:00	TAA	9C	IA	1543	ZAI	TAA	IA	9C	TAA	9C	9C	ZAI	TAA	IA	ZAI	9C	2884	3247	330(
RVH/JGH	17:00 - 08:00	1247								1298		1276				1273	1276					
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Blue	17:00 - 08:00	1715	1782	AR	КH	EST	AR	КH	1588	EST	KH	1564	AR	EST	KH	1561	EST	1561	1585	AR		
Yellow	17:00 - 08:00	SS	AAF	OA	SS	AAF	1276	SS	OA	3027	2970	CT	OA	AAF	1276	3585	3475	3475	CT	347!		
ER senior Day	08:00 - 17:00	1669	1669	1744	1748	1748	1748	1744	1748	1767	1671	1767	1771	1771	1767	1744	1744	1670	1679	167		
ER senior Evening	17:00 - 00:00	1669	1744	1744	1748	1744	1744	1744	1744	1679	1767	1767	1771	1767	1767	1744	1744	1679	1679	168:		
ER senior Night	23:00 - 08:00	MW	ZAS	HV	MAG	MAG	NF	NF	MAG	л	ZAS	ZAS	MW	HV	HV		Л	MW				
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Interested?

Google "Gambit Scheme"

- Source and binary distributions
- Gambit wiki
- Gambit mailing list
 - Many thanks to:
 - Guillaume Cartier (JazzScheme)
 - Robert Lizee (Quantz)
 - James Long (Farmageddon)