Exceptions

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
- **KeyError** -- A key wasn't found in a dictionary
- **RecursionError** -- Too many recursive calls

(Demo)
Try Statements

Try statements handle exceptions

```python
try:
    <try suite>
    except <exception class> as <name>:
        <except 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

Handling Exceptions

Exception handling can prevent a program from terminating

```python
>>> try:
    x = 1/0
except ZeroDivisionError as e:
    print('handling a', type(e))
    x = 0
handling a <class 'ZeroDivisionError'>
>>> x
0
```

Reducing a Sequence to a Value

```python
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(1, 2), 4), 8).
    >>> reduce(mul, [2, 4, 8], 1)
    64
    >>> reduce(pow, [1, 2, 3, 4], 2)
```

Example: Reduce

```python
64
reduce(pow, [1, 2, 3, 4], 2)
```
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

```
def square(x):
    return x * x
```

**Python 3 Byte Code**

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

Metalinguistic Abstraction

A powerful form of abstraction is to define a new language that is tailored to a particular type of application or problem domain

**Type of application**: Erlang was designed for concurrent programs. It has built-in elements for expressing concurrent communication. It is used, for example, to implement chat servers with many simultaneous connections

**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

To create a new programming language, you either need a:
- **Specification**: A document describe the precise syntax and semantics of the language
- **Canonical Implementation**: An interpreter or compiler for the language
Reading Scheme Lists

A Scheme list is written as elements in parentheses:

\[
(\text{element}_0 \ \text{element}_1 \ \ldots \ \text{element}_n)
\]

Each \text{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

Parsing

A Parser takes text and returns an expression

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Lexical analysis</th>
<th>Tokens</th>
<th>Syntactic analysis</th>
<th>Expression</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>'(+ 1'</td>
<td>'(', '+', 1</td>
<td>'('</td>
<td>'('</td>
<td>'(+ 1 (-&gt; 23) (* 4 5.6))'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'(- 23)'</td>
<td>'(', '-', 23</td>
<td>')'</td>
<td>')'</td>
<td>'Pair('', 'Pair(1, ...))'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'(* 4 5.6)'</td>
<td>'(', '*', 4, 5.6</td>
<td>')'</td>
<td>')'</td>
<td>'Pair('', 'Pair(, ', ')')'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

\[
'((', '+', 1, '(', '-', 23, ')), ('(', '+', 4, 5.6, ')), ('))
\]

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.

**Expression**           **Expression Tree**           **Representation as Pairs**

(∗ 3
 (+ 4 5)
 (∗ 6 7 8))

**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

− : If one argument, negate it. If more than one, subtract the rest from the first.

∗ : Product of the arguments

/ : If one argument, invert it. If more than one, divide the rest from the first.

**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).

```
def calc_eval(exp):
    if isinstance(exp, (int, float)):
        return exp
    elif isinstance(exp, Pair):
        arguments = exp.rest.map(calc_eval)
        return calc_apply(exp.first, arguments)
    else:
        raise TypeError
```

**Language Semantics**

A number evaluates...

to itself

A call expression evaluates...

to its argument values

combined by an operator

A Scheme list 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: +, -, *, /

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Implementation</th>
<th>Language Semantics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><code>def calc_apply(operator, args):</code></td>
<td><code>def calc_apply(operator, args):</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>if operator == '+':</code></td>
<td><code>if operator == '+':</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>    return reduce(add, args, 0)</code></td>
<td><code>    return reduce(add, args, 0)</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>elif operator == '-':</code></td>
<td><code>elif operator == '-':</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>    ...</code></td>
<td><code>    ...</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>elif operator == '*':</code></td>
<td><code>elif operator == '*':</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>    ...</code></td>
<td><code>    ...</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>elif operator == '/':</code></td>
<td><code>elif operator == '/':</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>    ...</code></td>
<td><code>    ...</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>else:</code></td>
<td><code>else:</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>    raise TypeError</code></td>
<td><code>    raise TypeError</code></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Raising Exceptions

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

Example exceptions
- **Lexical analysis**: 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")
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.