1 Higher Order Functions

A Note on Lambda Expressions

A lambda expression evaluates to a function, called a lambda function. In
the code above, \texttt{lambda y: x + y} is a lambda expression, and can be read
as a function that takes in one parameter \texttt{y} and returns \texttt{x + y}.

A lambda expression by itself evaluates to a function but does not bind it to
a name. Also note that the return expression of this function is not evaluated
until the lambda is called. This is similar to how defining a new function
using a \texttt{def} statement does not execute the functions body until it is later
called.

```python
>>> what = lambda x : x + 5
>>> what
<function <lambda> at 0xf3f490>
```

Unlike \texttt{def} statements, lambda expressions can be used as an operator or
an operand to a call expression. This is because they are simply one-line
expressions that evaluate to functions.

```python
>>> (lambda y: y + 5)(4)
9
>>> (lambda f, x: f(x))(lambda y: y + 1, 10)
11
```
HOFs in Environment Diagrams

Recall that an environment diagram keeps track of all the variables that have been defined and the values they are bound to. However, values are not necessarily only integers and strings. Environment diagrams can model more complex programs that utilize higher order functions.

```python
x = 4
def add_num(x):
    return lambda y: x + y

add_two = add_num(2)
add_two(3)
```

Lambdas are represented similarly to functions in environment diagrams, but since they lack intrinsic names, the lambda symbol ($\lambda$) is used instead. The parent of any function (including lambdas) is always the frame in which the function is defined. It is useful to include the parent in environment diagrams in order to find variables that are not defined in the current frame. In the previous example, when we call `add_two` (which is really the lambda function), we need to know what $x$ is in order to compute $x + y$. Since $x$ is not in the frame $f_2$, we look at the frame’s parent, which is $f_1$. There, we find $x$ is bound to 2.

As illustrated above, higher order functions that return a function have their return value represented with a pointer to the function object.
Questions

1.1 Draw the environment diagram that results from executing the code below.

```python
def curry2(h):
    def f(x):
        def g(y):
            return h(x, y)
        return g
    return f
make_adder = curry2(lambda x, y: x + y)
add_three = make_adder(3)
add_four = make_adder(4)
five = add_three(2)
```

Solution: pythontutor
1.2 Write curry2 as a lambda function

\[
\text{curry2} = \lambda h : \lambda x : \lambda y : h(x, y)
\]

1.3 Draw the environment diagram that results from executing the code below.

```python
n = 7

def f(x):
    n = 8
    return x + 1

def g(x):
    n = 9
def h():
    return x + 1
    return h

def f(f, x):
    return f(x + n)
f = f(g, n)
g = (\lambda y: y())(f)
```
Video Walkthrough
pythontutor
The following question is extremely difficult. Something like this would not appear on the exam. Nonetheless, it’s a fun problem to try.

Draw the environment diagram that results from executing the code below.

Note that using the + operator with two strings results in the second string being appended to the first. For example "C" + "S" concatenates the two strings into one string "CS"

```python
1  y = "y"
2  h = y
3  def y(y):
4      h = "h"
5      if y == h:
6          return y + "i"
7  y = lambda y: y(h)
8  return lambda h: y(h)
9  y = y(y)(y)
```

[Environment diagram]

Video walkthrough
pythontutor
Writing Higher Order Functions

1.5 Write a function that takes in a function `cond` and a number `n` and prints numbers from 1 to `n` where calling `cond` on that number returns True.

```python
def keep_ints(cond, n):
    '''Print out all integers 1..i..n where cond(i) is true

>>> def is_even(x):
...    # Even numbers have remainder 0 when divided by 2.
...    return x % 2 == 0
>>> keep_ints(is_even, 5)
2
4
'''

i = 1
while i <= n:
    if cond(i):
        print(i)
    i += 1
```

Video walkthrough
1.6 Write a function similar to `keep_ints` like before, but now it takes in a number `n` and returns a function that has one parameter `cond`. The returned function prints out numbers from 1 to `n` where calling `cond` on that number returns `True`.

```python
def make_keeper(n):
    """Returns a function which takes one parameter cond and prints out all integers 1..i..n where calling cond(i) returns True."

    >>> def is_even(x):
    ...     # Even numbers have remainder 0 when divided by 2.
    ...     return x % 2 == 0
    >>> make_keeper(5)(is_even)
    2
    4
    """
```

```python
def do_keep(cond):
    i = 1

    while i <= n:
        if cond(i):
            print(i)
        i += 1

    return do_keep
```

Video Walkthrough
Write a function `and_add` that takes a one-argument function `f` and a number `n` as arguments. It should return a function that takes one argument, and does the same thing as the function `f`, except also adds `n` to the result.

```python
def and_add(f, n):
    """Return a new function. This new function takes an argument x and returns f(x) + n.
    """
    return lambda x: f(x) + n

>>> def square(x):
...     return x * x
>>> new_square = and_add(square, 3)
>>> new_square(4)  # 4 * 4 + 3
19

```