

Growing a Language and Its Interpreter

- I01 Language of arithmetic and *if* expressions
- I02 Absolute value and its *desugaring*
- I03 *Recursive* functions implemented using *substitutions*
- I04 *Environment* instead of substitutions
- I05 *Higher-order* functions using substitutions
- I06 Higher-order functions using environments
- I07 *Nested recursive* definitions using environments

I04: Environment instead of substitutions

Environments are often more efficient alternative to substitutions.

Instead of copying body of function definition and replacing parameter names with argument constants, we do replacement lazily:

- ▶ leave the body as is (no copying!)
- ▶ record map from names to argument constants in the environment
- ▶ when we find a name, look it up in the environment

I04: Factorial Using Environments

```
fact(3)
|  env: Map(n -> 3)
|  (if n then (* n (fact (- n 1))) else 1)           // body as declared
|  fact(2)
|  |  env: Map(n -> 2)
|  |  (if n then (* n (fact (- n 1))) else 1)       // same
|  |  fact(1)
|  |  |  env: Map(n -> 1)
|  |  |  (if n then (* n (fact (- n 1))) else 1)   // still same
|  |  |  fact(0)
|  |  |  |  env: Map(n -> 0)
|  |  |  |  (if n then (* n (fact (- n 1))) else 1) // again same!
|  |  |  +--> 1
|  |  +--> 1
|  +--> 2
+--> 6
```

I03: Evaluation Using Environment

```
def evalE(e: Expr, env: Map[String, BigInt]): BigInt = e match
  case C(c) => c
  case N(n) => env(n) // look up name in the environment
  case BinOp(op, e1, e2) =>
    evalBinOp(op)(evalE(e1, env), evalE(e2, env))
  case IfNonzero(cond, trueE, falseE) =>
    if evalE(cond, env) != 0 then evalE(trueE, env)
    else evalE(falseE, env)
  case Call(fName, args) =>
    defs.get(fName) match
      case Some(f) =>
        val evalArgs = args.map((e: Expr) => evalE(e, env))
        // newEnv additionally maps parameters to arguments
        val newEnv = env ++ f.params.zip(evalArgs)
        evalE(f.body, newEnv)
```