# CS 360 Programming Languages Lecture 3



### Review

• Cons cell: two-piece structure (like a 2-member struct in C++)

- Also called a pair. left side called "car"; right side called "cdr"
- (cons e1 e2) constructs a new cons cell (and returns it)
- (car e) returns the car part of e; (cdr e) returns the cdr of e
- '(v1 . v2) constructs a "literal" cons cell.
- Drawing cons cells:
  - (cons 1 2)
  - (cons 1 (cons 2 3))
  - (cons (cons 1 2) 3)

## Lists

• Lists are built in Racket using linked lists of cons cells.

Need ways to *build* lists and *access* the pieces...

# **Building Lists**

• The empty list is a value: '()

- In general, a list of values is a value; elements are separated by spaces:
  '(v1 v2 ... vn)
- If e1 evaluates to v1 and e2 evaluates to a list (v2 v3 ... vn), then (cons e1 e2) evaluates to (v v1 v2 v3 ... vn)
  - Key to remember: If e2 is a list, then cons makes a new list with e1 at the front.

## Accessing Lists

- (null? e) evaluates to #t if and only if e evaluates to '().
- If e evaluates to '(v1 v2 ... vn) then (car e) evaluates to v1
  - throw exception if e evaluates to '()
  - Think of **car** as "get the first element of the list."
- If e evaluates to (v1 v2 ... vn) then (cdr e) evaluates to (v2 ... vn)
  - throw exception if e evaluates to ' ()
  - Think of cdr as "get everything but the first element of the list."
  - Notice result is a list

### Box-and-pointer notation with lists

- Key to differentiating pairs from lists: lists never have dots in them.
- '(1 . 2) versus '(1 2)
- How would you create '(1 . 2) with call(s) to cons?
- How would you create '(1 2) with call(s) to cons?
- What does (cons 1 ' (2 3)) create?
- What does (cons '(1) '(2 3)) create?

#### Two other ways to build lists

- list function
  - Makes a list out of all arguments.
  - Arguments can be of any data type.
  - (list e1 e2 ... en) evaluates e1 through en to values
    v1 through vn; returns the list '(v1 v2 ... vn).
- append function
  - Concatenates values inside lists given as arguments.
  - Arguments *must* be lists.
  - (append e1 e2 ... en) evaluates e1 through en to values v1 through vn;
  - If v1 = (v11 v12 ... ) and v2 = (v21 v22 ... ) etc, then return value is (v11 v12 ... v21 v22 ... ).

#### Exercises