



Liberal Arts Trivia: Physics



• Count Alessandro Antonio Anastasio Volta was a 19th-century Italian physicist. Volta studied what we now call capacitance, developing separate means to study both electrical potential V and charge Q, and discovering that for a given object they are proportional. His experiments in "animal electricity", in which two different metals were connected in series with frog's legs, eventually led to his most famous discovery. What was it?

fast-fibo

define (fast-fibo n)
(define (fib-helper a b left)
(if (<= left 0)
b
(fib-helper b (+ a b) (- left 1))))
(fib-helper 1 1 (- n 2)))

#13

#15

Fast-Fibo Results > (fast-fibo 10)

55

> (time (fast-fibo 61)) cpu time: 0 real time: 0 gc time: 0 2504730781961

The original fibo would take at least 2.5 Trillion applications. A 2.5 GHz computer does 2.5 *Billion* simple operations per second, so 2.5 Trillion applications operations take ~1000 seconds.

Each application of fibo involves hundreds of simple operations...

;;; The Earth's mass is 6.0 x 10²⁴ kg
> (define mass-of-earth (* 6 (expt 10 24)))
;;; A typical rabbit's mass is 2.5 kilograms
> (define mass-of-rabbit 2.5)
> (/ (* mass-of-rabbit (fast-fibo 60)) mass-of-earth)
6.450036483e-013
> (/ (* mass-of-rabbit (fast-fibo 120)) mass-of-earth)
2.2326496895795693
According to Bonacci's model, after less than 10
years, rabbits would out-weigh the Earth!



Beware the Bunnies!! Beware the Sneezewort!!



> (/ (* mass-of-rabbit (fast-fibo 60)) mass-of-earth)

> (/ (* mass-of-rabbit (fast-fibo 120)) mass-of-earth)

;;; The Earth's mass is 6.0 x 10²⁴ kg > (define mass-of-earth (* 6 (expt 10 24)))

> (define mass-of-rabbit 2.5)

6.450036483e-013

;;; A typical rabbit's mass is 2.5 kilograms



#16



PS2 Question (define (find-best-hand hands) (car (sort hands higher-hand?))) (define (find-best lst cf) (if (= 1 (length lst)) (car lst) (pick-better cf (car lst) (find-best (cdr lst) cf)))) (define (pick-better cf num1 num2) (if (cf num1 num2) num1 num2)) (define (find-best-hand hands) (find-best hands higher-hand?))	Simple Sorting • Can we use find-best to implement sort? • Yes! • Use (find-best lst) to find the best • Remove it from the list • Adding it to the answer
which is better and by now much?	Repeat until the list is empty empty crazy blue tree by Victor Malaret, Folami Williams
<pre>#25 Simple Sort ;; cf = comparison function (define (sort lst cf) ;; simple sort (if (null? lst) lst (let ((best (find-best lst cf))) (cons best (sort (delete lst best) cf)))))) ;; delete lst x = (filter (not (eq? x #27</pre>	#26 Sorting Hands (define (sort lst cf) (if (null? lst) lst (let ((best (find-best lst cf))) (cons best (sort (delete lst best) cf))))) (define (sort-hands lst) (sort lst higher-hand?))
<pre>Sorting (define (sort lst cf) (if (null? lst) lst (let ((best (find-best lst cf))) (cons best (sort (delete lst best) cf))))) (define (find-best lst cf) (if (= 1 (length lst)) (car lst)</pre>	 Sorting Cost What grows? -n = the number of elements in lst How much work are the pieces? find-best: delete:

 Sorting Cost What grows? n = the number of elements in lst How much work are the pieces? find-best: work scales as n (increases by one) delete: work scales as n (increases by one) How many times does sort evaluate find-best and delete? 	 Sorting Cost What grows? n = the number of elements in lst How much work are the pieces? find-best: work scales as n (increases by one) delete: work scales as n (increases by one) How many times does sort evaluate find-best and delete? n Total cost: scales as
 Sorting Cost What grows? n = the number of elements in lst How much work are the pieces? find-best: work scales as n (increases by one) delete: work scales as n (increases by one) How many times does sort evaluate find-best and delete? n Total cost: scales as n² 	Sorting Cost (define (sort lst cf) (if (null? lst) lst (let ((best (find-best lst cf))) (cons best (sort (delete lst best) cf))))) (define (find-best lst cf) (if (= 1 (length lst)) (car lst) (pick-better cf (car lst) (find-best (cdr lst) cf)))) If we double the length of the list, the amount of work approximately quadruples: there are twice as many applications of find-best, and each one takes twice as long
 Liberal Arts Trivia: Medicine Nicolae Paulescu was a 20th century physiologist and professor of medicine. He is considered the true discoverer of hormone that causes most of the body's cells to take up glucose from the blood. His first experiments involved an aqueous pancreatic extract which, when injected into a diabetic dog, proved to have a normalizing effect on blood sugar levels. Name the hormone. 	*34 Liberal Arts Trivia: Sailing • Name the collection of apparatus through which the force of the wind is transferred to the ship in order to propel it forward - this includes the masts, yardarms, sails, spars and cordage.



