The include syntax in Stak Scheme

@raviqqe

August 17, 2025

Contents

- Stak Scheme
- Progress
 - The include syntax
 - Other R7RS compatibility improvements
- Future work

Stak Scheme

- A bytecode compiler and virtual machine (VM) for Scheme
 - The compiler is written in Scheme.
 - The VM is written in Rust.
- It aims to support the R7RS-small standard.
- Forked from Ribbit Scheme

References

- GitHub
- Website

Progress

- (Almost) full R7RS-small compatibility
 - The include syntax
- The website improvements

The (almost) full R7RS-small compatibility

- Stak Scheme is (almost) fully compatible with R7RS-small.
 - Other than the include and include-ci syntaxes...
 - Stak Scheme does not implement the full numeric tower either.

The include syntax

- The include syntax embeds S-expressions read from a specified path into source code at the location.
 - The include-ci syntax is its case-insensitive variant.
- Its argument must be a string literal.
- The include syntax is in the (scheme base) library.

```
(include "./foo.scm") ; -> (write-string "Hello, world!")
```

The current implementation in Stak Scheme

- The include syntax is the top-level "meta" syntax.
 - Similar to define-library and import library syntaxes.
- It is not part of the (scheme base) library.
- The syntax is processed by the compiler completely statically.
 - You cannot even call it with any arguments of the other macros whose denotations are string literals.

Other compatibility improvements

- define-syntax syntax in define-syntax syntax
- The write, write-simple, and write-shared procedures
- Partial implementation of SRFI 1

Other progress

- Rewriting Aruba in Go.
 - https://github.com/raviqqe/aruba-go
- Monza editor, the textarea element with syntax highlight
- Using a proper terminal library in REPL on the website

Future work

- Unicode support in the (scheme char) library
- close primitive optimization
- Closure space safety
- Stack trace

Summary

• Building Scheme is fun! 😸