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Comments in Lisp

- ; comments aligned to the same line
- > ;; aligned for the next line and outside functions

- > ;;; comments of headings of functions
- > ;;; comments of major sections, files

Condition expressions

= equality of numbers

equal structural isomorphism (same values)

eq both arguments the same in memory

eql identical objects – for numbers their values are compared; for structural objects their memory position are compared

and, or logical and, or

More predicates

```
T for an empty list
(null s)
                 T for atomic symbols
(symbol s)
                 T for numbers s
(number s)
                 T for cons value s (i.e. it has car and
(consp s)
                 cdr)
                 T for list s (maybe empty)
(listp s)
```

Selectors/accessors

```
> cxx...xr selectors - combinations of car/cdr
 (caar x) = (car (car x)) (cadr x) = (car (cdr x))
  x)) ...
Similarly caaar, caadr, ..., cdddr, caaaar, caaadr, ...,
  cddddr
        (length s)
                              how many elements in s
        (nth n s)
                              n-th element of list s (leftmost is 0th!)
       (nthcdr n s)
                              n-th cdr
       (last s)
                              last cons cell
       (butlast s)
                              list's without the last element
        (butlast s n)
                              n elements from the end removed
```

Standard, but could be defined:

```
defun nth (N S) ; N-th element of list S (cond ((= N 0) (car S)) ; car is 0th!
(defun nth (N S)
        (T (nth (1- N) (cdr S)))
) )
(defun nthcdr (N S); n-th cdr
 (cond ((= N 0) S)
        (T (nthcdr (1- N) (cdr S)))
) )
(defun last (S)
                                      : the last cons cell
 (cond ((null S) NIL)
        ((null (cdr S) S)
        (T (last (cdr S)))
) )
(defun butlast (S); list S without the last element
  (cond ((or (null S) (null (cdr S)) NIL)
         (T (cons (car S)
                  (butlast (cdr S))
) ) ) )
```

More functions

```
(member
              Elm Lst)
                                 looks for Elm in Lst, returns the part starting
                                 with Elm
(remove Elm Lst)
                                 deletes Elm from Lst (returns a copy)
(subst New Old Lst)
                                 substitutes New for Old in Lst
                                 (returns a copy)
(nsubst New Old Lst)
                                 substitutes New for Old in Lst
                                 (returns a modified Lst)
(reverse Lst)
                                 reverses Lst (returns a fresh list)
```

Again, they could be defined:

```
(defun member (Elm Lst)
 (cond ((null Lst) NIL)
       ((eql Elm (car Lst)) Lst); eq, eql, equal ...
       (T (member Elm (cdr Lst)))
) )
(defun remove (Elm Lst)
 (cond ((null Lst) NIL)
       ((eql Elm (car Lst)); Elm found?
       (remove Elm (cdr Lst)))
) )
(defun subst (New Old Lst)
  (cond ((null Lst) NIL)
       ((eql Old (car Lst))
        (cons New
             (subst New Old (cdr Lst))))
       (T (cons (car Lst)
               (subst New Old (cdr Lst))))
) )
       ; what about substitution in all levels ???
```

Again, they could be defined:

```
(defun nsubst (New Old Lst); a modifying substitution
  (cond ((null Lst) NIL)
        ((eql Old (car Lst))
         (setf (car Lst) New)
         (setf (cdr Lst) (nsubst New Old (cdr Lst)))
         Lst)
        (T (setf (cdr Lst) (nsubst New Old (cdr Lst)))
           Lst)
) )
         ; calls for some improvement ...
;; How do we reverse a list ??? Recursion classics ...
(defun reverse (Lst)
  (if (null Lst) NIL
    (append (reverse (cdr Lst))
            (list (car Lst)))))
(defun append (X Y)
  (if (null X) Y
    (cons (car X)
          (append (cdr X) Y))))
```

Again, they could be defined:

Computation:

```
CL-USER 1 > (rev S)
0 REV > ...
  >> LST : (A B C)
 1 REV-ITER > ...
    >> LST : (A B C) >> ACC : NIL
    2 REV-ITER > ...
      >> LST : (B C) >> ACC : (A)
      3 REV-ITER > ...
        >> LST : (C) >> ACC : (B A)
        4 REV-ITER > ...
          >> LST : NIL >> ACC : (C B A)
        4 REV-ITER < ...
          << VALUE-0 : (C B A)
      3 REV-ITER < ...
        << VALUE-0 : (C B A)
    2 REV-ITER < ...
      << VALUE-0 : (C B A)
  1 REV-ITER < ...
    << VALUE-0 : (C B A)
0 REV < ...
  << VALUE-0 : (C B A)
```

In a simplified presentation:

```
(rev (A B C))
  (rev-iter (A B C) () )
    (rev-iter (B C) (A) )
      (rev-iter (C) (B A) )
        (rev-iter () (C B A) ) \rightarrow (C B A)
        returned (C B A)
      returned (C B A)
    returned (C B A)
  returned (C B A)
returned (C B A)
```

Recursion

General rule of recursive design

- 1. first test for **trivial cases** (such as 0, 1, NIL, atom, ...)
- then develop branches with recursive calls in which the procedure is applied to reduced arguments (such as

Important note: recursion is implemented with the use of pushdown store (stack) data structure.

A simple example

```
;;; copying a list (the highest level only)
(defun Copy (S)
 (if (null S) NIL
   (cons (car S) (Copy (cdr S))) ))
;;; Now copying at all levels
(defun CopyAll (S)
  (cond ((null S) nil)
         ((atom S) S); remember this case!!
         ((cons (CopyAll (car S))
                (CopyAll (cdr S))))))
```

Taxonomy of recursion

Taxonomy of recursion

```
linear recursion
;; just one recursive call
(defun linLen (s)
(if (null s) 0
     (1+ (linLen (cdr s))); deferred operation
tail recursion
(defun trLen (s) (tailLen s 0))
;; one recursive call, no pending operations
(defun tailLen (s acc)
 (if (null s) acc
      (tailLen (cdr s) (1+ acc))
;; acc - accumulator
```

Tail recursion

- nothing to do after the function returns except returning its value
- the most efficient type of recursion from the implementation point of view:
 - > Saving a new stack frame for each recursive call is a waste! The current stack frame can be reused. (All better compilers of functional languages always do tail-recursion optimisation.)
- > can be mechanically transformed into explicit iteration

Tail recursion

Another example:

```
(defun factorial (N)
;;;"Compute the factorial of N."
(if (= N 0)
1
(* N (factorial (- N 1)))))
(defun fast-factorial (N)
;;;"A tail-recursive version of factorial."
(fast-factorial-aux N 1))
(defun fast-factorial-aux (N ACC)
;;;"Multiply A by the factorial of N."
(if (= N 0) A (fast-factorial-aux (- N 1) (* N A))))
```

Examples

to be discussed using the board...