

Metaprogramming and Reflection Common Lisp

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Syntax

(function-name arg1 arg2 ... argn)



Syntax

```
(function-name arg1 arg2 ... argn)
```

```
> (+ 1 2)
3
```



```
> (cons 3 nil)
(3)
```



```
> (cons 3 nil)
(3)
> (cons 2 (3))
```



```
> (cons 3 nil)
(3)
> (cons 2 (3))
```



```
> (cons 3 nil)
(3)
> (cons 2 (3))
```

```
> (cons 2 '(3))
(2 3)
```



```
> (cons 3 nil)
(3)
> (cons 2 (3))
```

```
> (cons 2 '(3))
(2 3)
> (cons 1 '(2 3))
(1 2 3)
```



```
> (cons 3 nil)
(3)
> (cons 2 (3))
```

```
> (cons 2 '(3))
(2 3)
> (cons 1 '(2 3))
(1 2 3)
> (list 1 2 3)
(1 2 3)
```



```
> (cons 3 nil)
(3)
> (cons 2 (3))
```

```
> (cons 2 '(3))
(2 3)
> (cons 1 '(2 3))
(1 2 3)
> (list 1 2 3)
(1 2 3)
> '(1 2 3)
(1 2 3)
```



```
> (car '(1 2 3))
1
```



```
> (car '(1 2 3))
1
> (cdr '(1 2 3))
(2 3)
```



```
> (car '(1 2 3))
1
> (cdr '(1 2 3))
(2 3)
> (first '(1 2 3))
1
```



```
> (car '(1 2 3))
1
> (cdr '(1 2 3))
(2 3)
> (first '(1 2 3))
1
> (last '(1 2 3) 2)
(2 3)
```



```
> (car '(1 2 3))
1
> (cdr '(1 2 3))
(2\ 3)
> (first '(1 2 3))
1
> (last '(1 2 3) 2)
(2\ 3)
> (last '(1 2 3))
(3)
```



Creating Functions

```
> (defun mult2 (x)
    "Multiplies x by 2"
    (* x 2))
mult2
```



Creating Functions

```
> (defun mult2 (x)
    "Multiplies x by 2"
    (* x 2))
mult2
```

defun is itself a function, it creates functions



Creating Functions

```
> (defun mult2 (x)
    "Multiplies x by 2"
    (* x 2))
mult2
```

defun is itself a function, it creates functions

```
> (mult2 3)
6
```



Studying Functions

```
> #'mult2
#<FUNCTION mult2>
```



Studying Functions

```
> #'mult2
#<FUNCTION mult2>
> (describe #'mult2)
(defun mult2 (x)
   "Multiplies x by 2"
   (* x 2))
```



```
> (mult2 3)
```



```
> (mult2 3)
6
> (funcall #'mult2 3)
6
```



```
> (mult2 3)
6
> (funcall #'mult2 3)
6
> (defvar fmult2 #'mult2)
fmult2
```



```
> (mult2 3)
6
> (funcall #'mult2 3)
6
> (defvar fmult2 #'mult2)
fmult2
> (funcall fmult2 3)
6
```



Summary

In Lisp it is possible to:

- define new functions,
- retrieve a function by name,
- reference a function from a variable,
- call a function from a variable.



Summary

In Lisp it is possible to:

- define new functions,
- retrieve a function by name,
- reference a function from a variable,
- call a function from a variable.

This is very similar to pointer manipulation in C



Function Pointer Manipulation in C

```
int mult2 (int c) {
  return c * 2;
}
```



Function Pointer Manipulation in C

```
int mult2 (int c) {
  return c * 2;
}
```

```
int main(void) {
  int (*fmult2) (int) = mult2;
  (*fmult2)(3);
}
```



```
> (get-source 'mult2)
(nil nil
        (defun mult2 (x)
        "Multiplies x by 2"
        (* x 2)))
```



```
> (get-source 'mult2)
(nil nil
        (defun mult2 (x)
        "Multiplies x by 2"
        (* x 2)))
```

requires ibcl





```
> (defvar smult2
          (third (get-source 'mult2)))
smult2
> smult2
(defun mult2 (x)
    "Multiplies x by 2"
          (* x 2))
```



```
> (first smult2)
defun
```



```
> (first smult2)
defun
> (second smult2)
mult2
```



```
> (first smult2)
defun
> (second smult2)
mult2
> (third smult2)
(x)
```



```
> (first smult2)
defun
> (second smult2)
mult2
> (third smult2)
(x)
> (fourth smult2)
"Multiplies x by 2"
```



```
> (first smult2)
defun
> (second smult2)
mu1t.2
> (third smult2)
(X)
> (fourth smult2)
"Multiplies x by 2"
> (fifth smult2)
(* x 2)
```



```
> (defvar smult10
          (copy-list smult2))
smult10
```





```
> (defvar smult10
     (copy-list smult2))
smult10
> (nsubstitute 10 2 (fifth smult10))
nil
> smult10
(defun mult2 (x)
  "Multiplies x by 2"
  (* x 10))
```



```
> smult10
(defun mult2 (x)
   "Multiplies x by 2"
   (* x 10))
```



```
> smult10
(defun mult2 (x)
   "Multiplies x by 2"
  (* x 10))
> (nsubstitute 'mult10 'mult2
                smult10)
(defun mult10 (x)
   "Multiplies x by 2"
   (* x 10))
```



```
> smult10
(defun mult10 (x)
  "Multiplies x by 2"
  (* x 10))
```





```
> smult10
(defun mult10 (x)
  "Multiplies x by 10"
  (* x 10))
```



```
> smult10
(defun mult10 (x)
  "Multiplies x by 10"
  (* x 10))
> (eval smult10)
mult10
```



```
> smult10
(defun mult10 (x)
  "Multiplies x by 10"
  (* x 10))
> (eval smult10)
mult10
> (mult10 3)
30
```



Summary

- A function definition in Lisp is a list.
- This list can be studied like any list.
- New functions can be created from a list.



Beyond Functions

How would you implement while that executes its body as long as its condition stays true?

> (while condition body)



The While Construct

```
> (setq i 10)
> (while (/= i 0)
        (decf i)
        (format t "i is now: ~s~%" i))
```



The While Construct

```
> (setq i 10)
> (while (/= i 0)
    (decf i)
    (format t "i is now: ~s~%" i))
i is now: 9
i is now: 8
 is now: 7
i is now: 2
 is now: 1
 is now: 0
```



The While Construct: Using Loop

```
> (while (/= i 0)
    (decf i)
    (format t "i is now: ~s~%" i))
> (loop
    (if (not (/= i 0))
      (return)
      (progn
         (decf i)
         (format t "i = ~s~%" i))))
```





doesn't work because parameters are evaluated immediately

```
> (while t nil)
```



Function Evaluation in C

```
int f(int c) {printf("f\n"); return c; }
int g(int c) {printf("g\n"); return c; }
int h(int c) {printf("h\n"); return c; }
int main(void) {
  f(g(h(1)));
}
```



Function Evaluation in C

```
int f(int c) {printf("f\n"); return c; }
int g(int c) {printf("g\n"); return c; }
int h(int c) {printf("h\n"); return c; }
int main(void) {
  f(q(h(1)));
h
```



doesn't work because parameters are evaluated immediately

```
> (while t nil)
```



```
> (while '(/= i 0)
    '(decf i)
    '(format t "i is now: ~s~%" i))
```





works, but using while is less readable than intended



Summary

- Arguments of functions are evaluated first.
- To prevent evaluation, use quote (or ').
- Use eval to evaluate an expression.



The While Construct: Macro



The While Construct: Macro

```
(loop
  (if (not (/= i 0))
    (return)
    (progn
      (decf i)
      (format t "i = ~s~%" i))))
(defmacro while (test &body body)
  (list 'loop
    (list 'if (list 'not test)
      (list 'return)
      (cons 'progn body))))
```



The While Construct: Macro

```
(loop
  (if (not (/= i 0))
    (return)
    (progn
      (decf i)
      (format t "i = ~s~%" i))))
(defmacro while (test &body body)
  \(\loop
     (if (not , test)
        (return)
        (progn , @body))))
```



Macros

Macros are programs that write programs

- they return lists representing Lisp code.
- they don't evaluate their arguments.
- they are evaluated at compile time.









```
(makeClass Speaker (name)
    (makeMethod speak (sentence)
      (format t
        "Listen all of you: ~s~%"
        sentence)))
> (defvar alex (new 'Speaker "Alex"))
> (call alex 'speak "Hello World!")
Listen all of you: "Hello World!"
> (getinstvar alex 'name)
Alex
```



```
> (makeClass Speaker ()
      (makeMethod "..."))
```



```
> (makeClass Speaker ()
      (makeMethod "..."))
```

A class is composed of:

- a name,
- some instance variables,
- and some method definitions.



```
> (makeClass Speaker ()
      (makeMethod "..."))
```

A class is composed of:

- a name,
- some instance variables,
- and some method definitions.



```
(makeClass Speaker ()
  (makeMethod "..."))
(defmacro makeClass (name iVars
                      &body meths)
  (push
     (make-cls
       :name ',name
       :vars ',iVars
       :mths
         ', (mapcar #'eval meths))
     *classes*))
```



```
> (makeMethod speak (sentence)
      (format t "..." sentence))
```



```
> (makeMethod speak (sentence)
      (format t "..." sentence))
```

A method is composed of:

- a name,
- some parameters,
- a body



```
> (makeMethod speak (sentence)
      (format t "..." sentence))
```

A method is composed of:

- a name,
- some parameters,
- a body

```
> (defstruct mth
    name
    lmbd)
```



```
> (makeMethod speak (sentence)
      (format t "..." sentence))
```



, @body)))



```
> (new 'Speaker "Alex")
```



```
> (new 'Speaker "Alex")
```

An object is composed of:

- a reference to its class,
- some values for its instance variables



```
> (new 'Speaker "Alex")
```

An object is composed of:

- a reference to its class,
- some values for its instance variables

```
> (defstruct obj
     cls
     values)
```



```
> (call alex 'speak "Hello World!")
Listen all of you: "Hello World!"
```



```
> (call alex 'speak "Hello World!")
Listen all of you: "Hello World!"
```

A call is a function with:

- the receiver object,
- a method name,
- and a list of parameters.



```
> (call alex 'speak "Hello World!")
Listen all of you: "Hello World!"
```

A call is a function with:

- the receiver object,
- a method name,
- and a list of parameters.

```
(defun call (obj name &rest params)
   "...")
```







> (getinstvar alex 'name)
Alex



```
> (getinstvar alex 'name)
Alex
```

Looking for an instance variable value from its name involves:

- getting the position of the name in the list of all instance variables of the class,
- taking the value at this position in the list of all values of the object.

class:	varname₁	varname ₂	 <i>varname</i> _n

object: value₁ value₂ ... value_n



```
class:
         varname<sub>1</sub>
                      varname<sub>2</sub>
                                        varname<sub>n</sub>
                        value<sub>2</sub>
object:
           value₁
                                         value<sub>n</sub>
(defun getInstVar (obj name)
  (let* ((cls (obj-cls obj))
             (vars (cls-vars cls))
             (pos (position name vars)))
     (nth pos (obj-values obj))))
```



An object must be able to get its instance variables and call methods by using this.



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An object must be able to get its instance variables and call methods by using this.



An object must be able to get its instance variables and call methods by using this.

This requires the system to keep track of the *current* object.



An object must be able to get its instance variables and call methods by using this.

```
> (makeClass Speaker (name)
          (makeMethod getName ()
                (getInstVar 'this 'name)))
> (call alex 'getname)
Alex
```

This requires the system to keep track of the *current* object.

```
> (defparameter *cur-obj* nil)
```



```
(defun getInstVar (obj name)
  (let* ((theObj
            (if (equal obj 'this)
                *cur-obj*
                obj))
         (cls (obj-cls theObj))
         (vars (cls-vars cls))
         (pos (position name vars)))
    (nth pos (obj-values theObj))))
```



```
(defun getInstVar (obj name)
  (let* ((theObj
            (if (equal obj 'this)
                *cur-obj*
                obj))
         (cls (obj-cls theObj))
         (vars (cls-vars cls))
         (pos (position name vars)))
    (nth pos (obj-values theObj))))
```

When is *cur-obj* updated?



```
(defun getInstVar (obj name)
  (let* ((theObj
            (if (equal obj 'this)
                *cur-obj*
                obj))
         (cls (obj-cls theObj))
         (vars (cls-vars cls))
         (pos (position name vars)))
    (nth pos (obj-values theObj))))
```

When is *cur-obj* updated? Before it is *used*!



```
(defun getInstVar (obj name)
  (let* ((theObj
            (if (equal obj 'this)
                *cur-obj*
                obj))
         (cls (obj-cls theObj))
         (vars (cls-vars cls))
         (pos (position name vars)))
    (nth pos (obj-values theObj))))
```

When is *cur-obj* updated? Before it is *used*! As this is only used when a method is executed, the method call needs to do the updating job.



The method call needs to do the updating job:



We also want to pass this as first argument to call:

```
(defun call (obj name &rest params)
  (let* ((theObj
            (if (equal obj 'this)
                *cur-obi*
                obj))
          (cls (obj-cls theObj))
        (mth (getMethod cls name)))
      (setf *cur-obj* theObj)
      (apply (mth-lmbd mth)
             params)))
```



Possible improvements:

- setting of instance variables
- inheritance
- constructors
- dedicated syntax



Creating Domain-Specific Languages

```
(makeClass Speaker (name)
  (makeMethod speak (s)
      (format t "I say: ~a" s))
  (makeMethod getName ()
      (call 'this 'speak "hi!")
      (getInstVar 'this 'name)))
```



Creating Domain-Specific Languages

```
(makeClass Speaker (name)
  (makeMethod speak (s)
     (format t "I say: ~a" s))
  (makeMethod getName ()
     (call 'this 'speak "hi!")
     (getInstVar 'this 'name)))
```

```
(makeMethod getName ()
    {c speak "hi!"}
    {i name})
```



Creating Domain-Specific Languages

```
;; {c speak "hi!"} {i name}
(set-macro-character #\{
 (lambda (str)
   (let ((type (read-char str))
          (1 (read-delimited-list
                           #\} str)))
     (case type
      (#\c '(call 'this
                   ', (car 1)
                   , @ (cdr 1)))
      (#\i '(getInstVar 'this
                          ',(car 1))))))
```



- Lisp has powerful functions to manipulate lists.
- Lisp source code is made of lists.
- As a result, meta-programming is made easy.



Macros

- can be used to create source code,
- don't evaluate their arguments,
- are evaluated at compile time.



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Macros are programs that write programs.



Macros

- can be used to create source code,
- don't evaluate their arguments,
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Macros are programs that write programs.

Macros can also be used to install a new syntax.





```
> (defclass circle ()
          (radius center))
#<standard-class circle>
> (make-instance 'circle)
#<circle {B96E249}>
```



```
> (defclass circle ()
          ((radius :accessor circle-radius)
          (center :accessor circle-center)))
#<standard-class circle>
```



```
> (defclass circle ()
          ((radius :accessor circle-radius)
                (center :accessor circle-center)))
#<standard-class circle>
> (setf c (make-instance 'circle))
#<circle {ABBA7A9}>
```



```
> (defclass circle ()
        ((radius :accessor circle-radius)
        (center :accessor circle-center)))
#<standard-class circle>
> (setf c (make-instance 'circle))
#<circle {ABBA7A9}>
> (setf (circle-radius c) 6)
```



```
> (defclass circle ()
    ((radius :accessor circle-radius)
     (center :accessor circle-center)))
#<standard-class circle>
> (setf c (make-instance 'circle))
#<circle {ABBA7A9}>
 (setf (circle-radius c) 6)
6
  (circle-radius c)
```





```
(defclass circle ()
    ((radius :accessor circle-radius
             :initarg :radius)
     (center :accessor circle-center
             :initarg :center)))
#<standard-class circle>
> (setf c (make-instance 'circle
                            :radius 6))
#<circle {AC27801}>
```



```
(defclass circle ()
    ((radius :accessor circle-radius
             :initarg :radius)
     (center :accessor circle-center
             :initarg :center)))
#<standard-class circle>
> (setf c (make-instance 'circle
                            :radius 6))
#<circle {AC27801}>
 (circle-radius c)
```



```
> (defmethod area ((c circle))
     (* pi (expt (circle-radius c) 2)))
#<standard-method area (circle)>
```







```
> (defmethod area ((c circle))
     (* pi (expt (circle-radius c) 2)))
```



```
> (defmethod area ((c circle))
      (* pi (expt (circle-radius c) 2)))
> (defmethod area :before ((c circle))
      (format t "I'm tired..."))
```



```
> (defmethod area ((c circle))
     (* pi (expt (circle-radius c) 2)))
> (defmethod area :before ((c circle))
          (format t "I'm tired..."))
> (area c)
I'm tired...
113.09733552923255d0
```



(setf cache nil)







```
(defmethod area : around ((c circle))
 (let ((value (from-cache c)))
  (if value
   (progn
     (princ "Using the cache :-)")
     (cdr value))
   (progn
     (princ "So tired...")
     (to-cache c (call-next-method))))))
```



```
(defmethod area : around ((c circle))
 (let ((value (from-cache c)))
  (if value
   (progn
     (princ "Using the cache :-)")
     (cdr value))
   (progn
     (princ "So tired...")
     (to-cache c (call-next-method))))))
> (area c)
So tired...I'm tired...
113,09733552923255d0
```



```
> (area c)
So tired...I'm tired...
113.09733552923255d0
```



```
> (area c)
So tired...I'm tired...
113.09733552923255d0
> (area c)
Using the cache :-)
113.09733552923255d0
```



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