

ClojureBridge New York City

New York, NY

June 02 - 04, 2017

Basics

The List

Logic Theorist (1956)

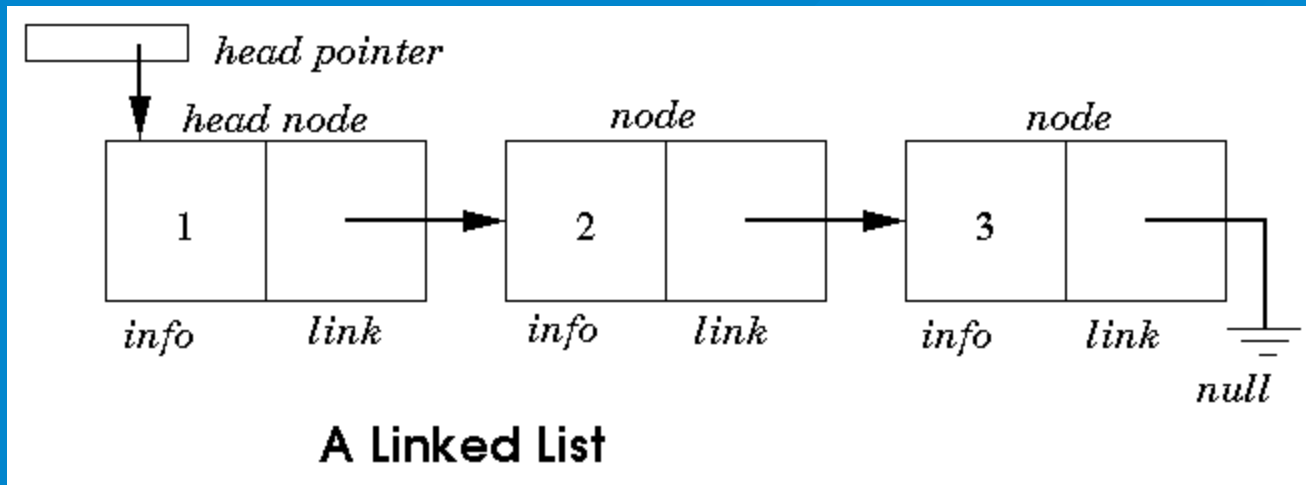
Allen Newell and Herbert Simon

Thinking Machine

12 34 Logic Theorist

- Generate mathematical proofs
 - Brute force
 - Heuristic solution
- Programmed by Cliff Shaw
- Discovery of the *linked list*
 - Flexible data structure
 - Recursive data structure

The Linked List

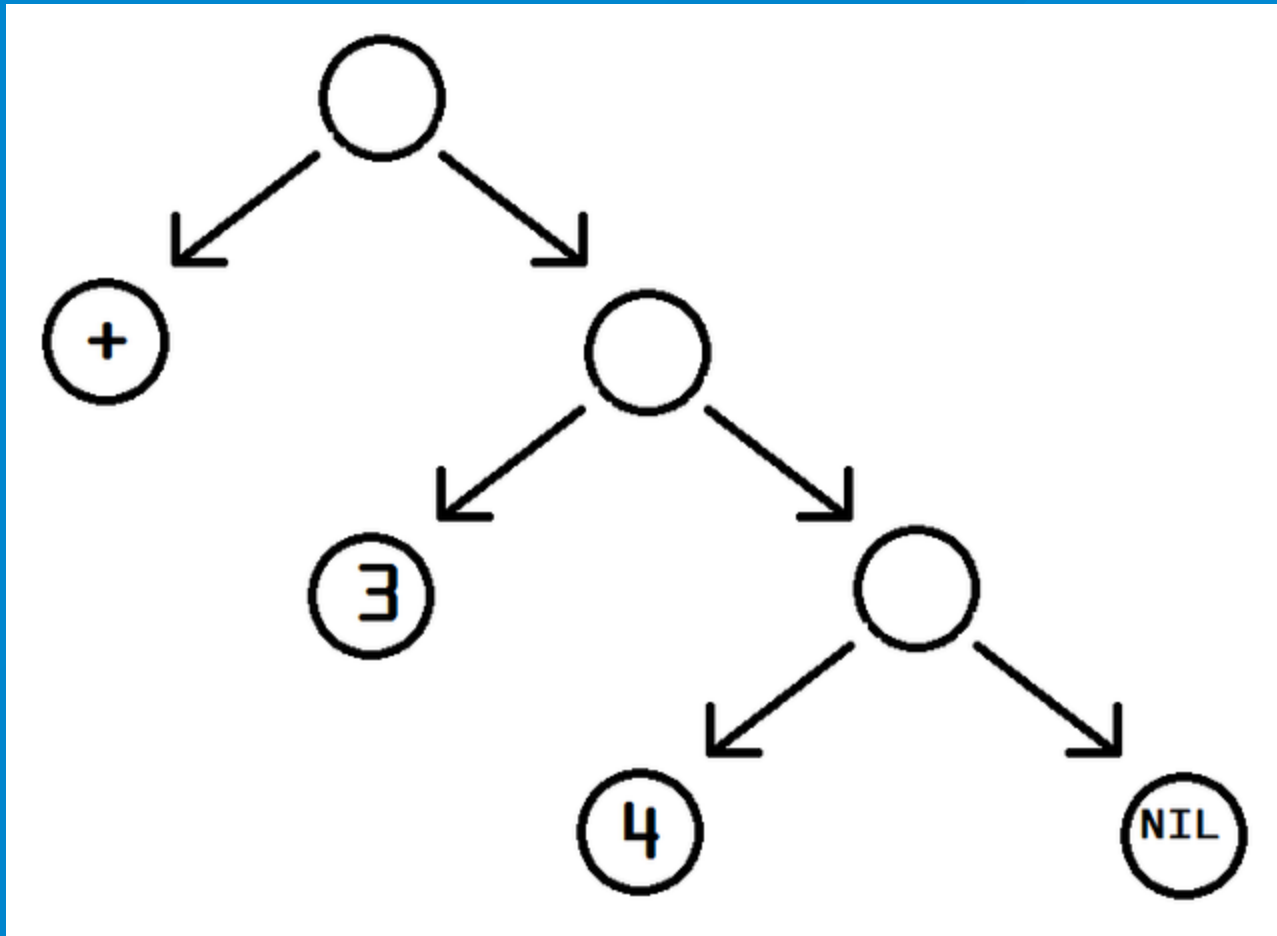


$\begin{smallmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{smallmatrix}$ Logic Theorist

Result

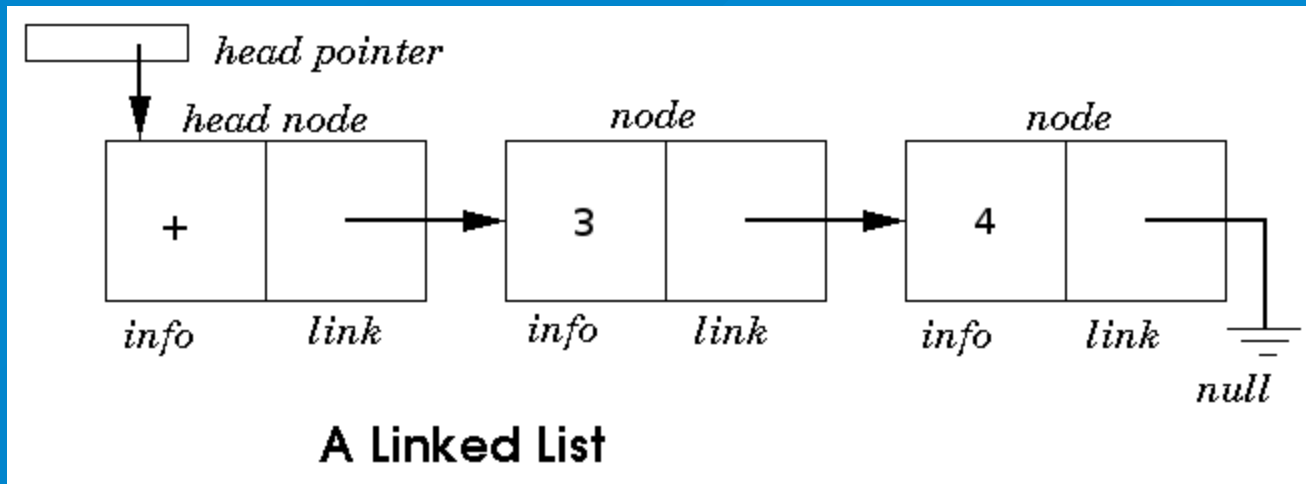
- Proved 38 of the first 52 theorems in Whitehead and Russell's *Principia Mathematica*
- In some cases, found more elegant solutions

S-expressions



S-expressions

Represented as a List



S-expressions

Mathematical Expression - a combination of symbols that are well-formed according to syntactical rules. An arithmetical expression: `3 + 4`

Symbolic Expressions - a combination of symbols that are well-formed according to the structure of a nested binary tree. Directly expressed in first-order logic `(+ 3 4)`

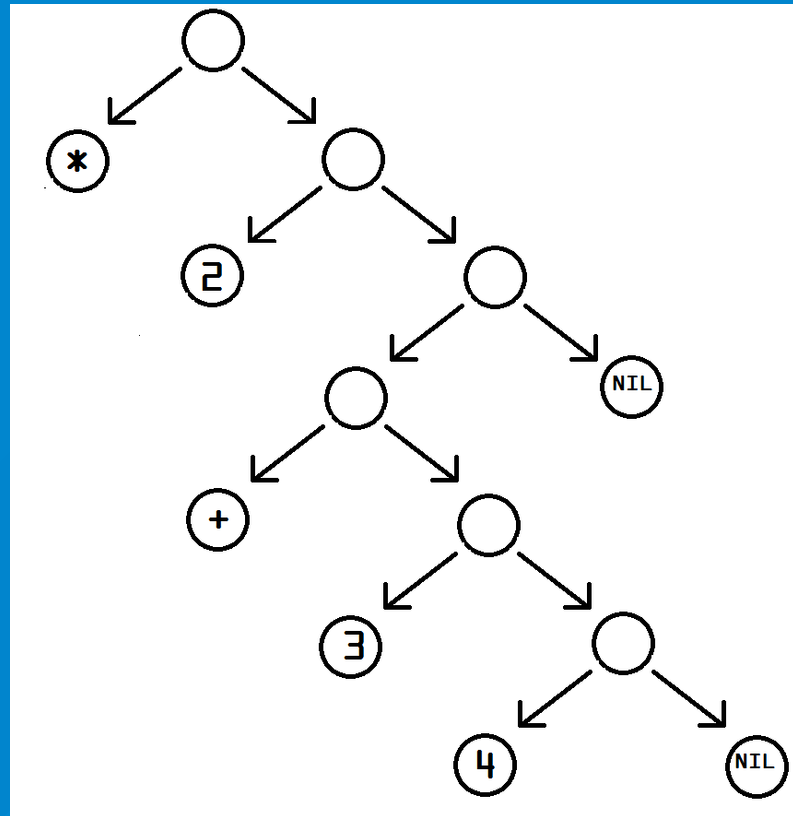
Clojure programs are composed of s-expressions.

S-expressions

```
(+ 3 4)
```

- Represents a *syntax tree* as a list. It contains three atoms: `+`, `3`, `4`.
- Represents a *form* when evaluated by Clojure
 - A *symbol* for an addition function called `+`
 - Two numeric literals, `3` and `4`

Prefix Notation



`(* 2 (+ 3 4))` **vs** `(2 * (3 + 4))`

S-expressions

Prefix Notation

(Those Parentheses)

- The parentheses ensure there is a unique parse tree for each expression.
- "Unique readability"
- `(predicate argument)`

S-expressions

Forms

Form - any s-expression meant to be evaluated

```
(+ 3 4)  
> 7
```

```
(* 2 (+ 3 4))  
> 14
```

Forms

12 34 Scalars: Numbers

Numeric literals are forms. They evaluate to themselves:

```
33
```

```
> 33
```

Forms

Scalars: Strings

A string is a form. It is denoted by quote marks, `" "`. They evaluate to themselves:

```
"Hello World"
```

```
> "Hello World"
```

Forms

Scalars: Symbols

Symbols are forms. They evaluate to what they name:

`inc` is a symbol that names a function

∴ Depending on the editor:

- `inc` \Rightarrow `#object[clojure.core/inc ...]`
- `inc` \Rightarrow `#function[clojure.core/inc]`

Forms



Documentation

- `doc` prints documentation for the form denoted by the symbol
- `(use 'clojure.repl)`
 - `(doc inc) ⇒ clojure.core/inc ...`
 - `(doc +) ⇒ clojure.core/+ ...`
 - `(doc 1) ⇒`
`ClassCastException java.lang.Long cannot be cast to clojure.lang.Symbol`

Forms



Documentation

Cheatsheet: <https://clojure.org/api/cheatsheet>

Forms



Scalars: Java Symbols

Symbols that begin with a dot to a Java class:

```
(.toUpperCase "ClojureBridge") ⇒ "CLOJUREBRIDGE"
```

Forms

Collections: Lists

A list is also a form. It is denoted by parentheses, `()`. If the first element is a *symbol*, it's evaluated:

```
(inc 2)
```

```
> 3
```

```
(+)
```

```
> 0
```

```
(+ 2 1)
```

```
> 3
```

Forms and S-expressions Revisited

Form - any s-expression meant to be evaluated

- Scalar Form: `33` \Rightarrow `33`
- Collection Form: `(+ 3 4)` \Rightarrow `7`

Forms and S-expressions Revisited

Collection: `(1 2 3)`

- `(1 2 3) ⇒ ERROR`
 - This is data - a collection of numbers - not intended for evaluation
 - For example, there is no function called `1`

Forms and S-expressions

Revisited

Collection: `(1 2 3)`

- `(list 1 2 3) ⇒ (1 2 3)`
 - This is code - a collection of symbols and literals - intended for evaluation
 - Calls `list` and returns a collection of numbers called a list

Forms and S-expressions

Revisited

Unevaluated Form

```
(quote (+ 1 2))
```

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

```
'(a b c)
```

```
> (a b c)
```


S-expressions

Homoiconicity

S-expressions are used to represent **both** source **code** and **data**.

- A syntax tree is a **data** structure represented as a list, which can be evaluated as **code**
 - `(list '+ 1 2)` \Rightarrow `(+ 1 2)`
 - Evaluates to a list, which describes a function call

S-expressions

Homoiconicity

S-expressions are used to represent **both** source **code** and **data**.

- A form is **code** represented as a list, which can be evaluated to yield **data**
 - `(list 1 2 3)` \Rightarrow `(1 2 3)`
 - Evaluates to a list, which describes a collection

Boolean

Binary Predicates

- `(predicate argument)`
- Boolean forms
 - `(false? false) ⇒ true`
 - `(false? nil) ⇒ false`
 - `(nil? 0) ⇒ false`
 - `(true? ()) ⇒ false`
 - `(zero? 0) ⇒ true`

Boolean

Special Form

- `(if test then else?)`
- Evaluates *test*

Special Form

Special forms are:

- Symbols
- Only special when at the head of a list

Boolean

Conditionals

Branches based on the result of a form's evaluation

- `false` and `nil` are false
 - `(if nil "true" "false")` \Rightarrow `false`
 - `(if false "true" "false")` \Rightarrow `false`

Boolean

Conditionals

Branches based on the result of a form's evaluation

- `true` and everything else is true
 - `(if true "true" "false") ⇒ true`
 - `(if 88 "true" "false") ⇒ true`
 - `(if () "true" "false") ⇒ true`
- `(if (true? ()) "true" "false") ⇒ false`

Conditionals

`if`

`=`, `>`, `>=`, `<`, `<=`, `==`, `not=`

```
(if (< 22 33)  
  "true"  
  "false")
```

```
> "true"
```


Conditionals

cond

- `(cond & clauses)`
- Forms as pairs
- Returns the first logical true

```
(cond
  (< -9 0) "negative"
  (> 9 0) "positive"
  :else "zero")
```

```
> "negative"
```

Conditionals

condp

Branches based on the result of a form's evaluation

- Binary predicate (`>`, `<`, `zero?`, etc...) and expression (scalar or collection)
- Test expression, result expression pairs
- Default expression

Conditionals

condp

```
(condp pred expr & clauses)
```

```
(condp = 5  
  1 "one"  
  2 "two"  
  3 "three"  
  "too high")
```

Conditionals

case

(case e & clauses)

```
(case (quote ()))  
  (()) "empty sequence"  
  ((1 2)) "my sequence"  
  "default")
```

```
> "empty sequence"
```

```
(case '(1 2) ... "default" )
```

```
> "my sequence"
```