

Ch 3

Exploring the Syntax of Lisp Code – Ch 3

- **Parentheses** – take the place of many keywords in other languages. Fewer words to memorize and less typing.
- Built in types: lists, symbols, numbers, and strings
- **Command** mode and **data** mode
- Building blocks - cons cells

A List – Stuff Enclosed in Parentheses

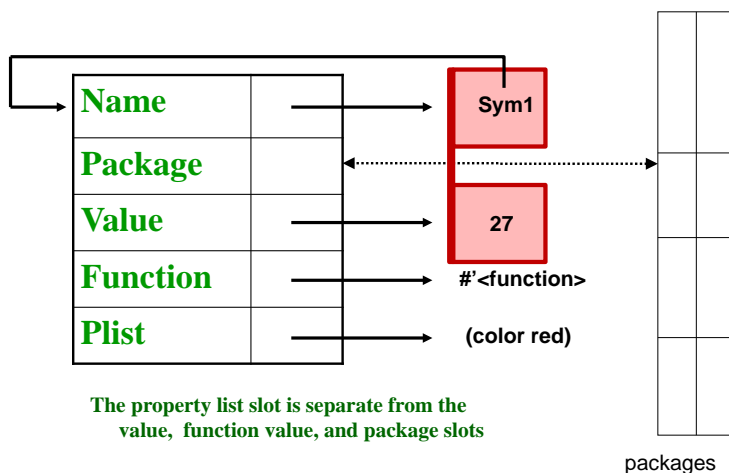
A LIST IN LISP
↓
(Bla bla bla bla bla)

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Symbols

- **Symbols** - the **fundamental data type** in Lisp
- A symbol's name is a **stand-alone word**
- CL symbol names may contain
 - letters,
 - numbers, and
 - characters like + - / * = < > ? ! _.

A Lisp Symbol is More than a Variable



Numbers

- **Integers** e.g. 1, 1234567890, #xDADA
 - **Rational numbers** e.g. 2/3, 543/13
 - **Floating point** e.g. 1.23 456.789
 - **Exponential notation** e.g. 123e0, 123E-3, 0.123e20
 - **Complex** e.g. #c(2 1), #c(2/3 3/4)
- Base 2 – 36!!! b = binary, o = octal, x = hexadecimal**
- s, f, d, l - short, single, double, long double**

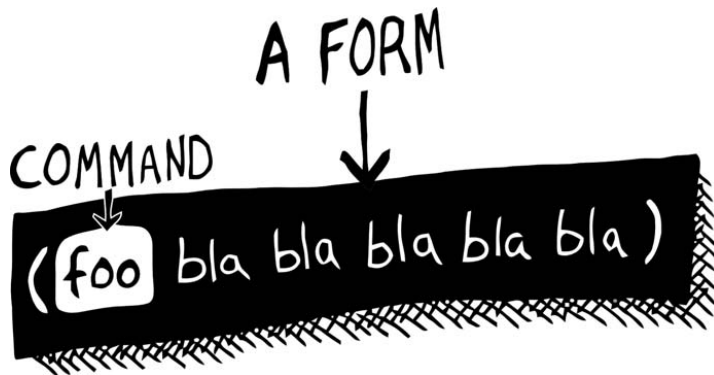
Strings

- To indicate a string in Lisp, surround characters with double quotes.
- "Tutti Frutti"
- Strings evaluate to themselves
- "Silly string " → "Silly string "
- To display a string without the quote marks use the function `princ`
`(princ "Silly string")` →
Silly string

Command Mode

- Whenever you type something in to the Lisp REPL, the interpreter **assumes that you are entering a command** that you want to execute.
- I.e. Lisp always **defaults to code mode**.

How Lisp Distinguishes between Code and Data



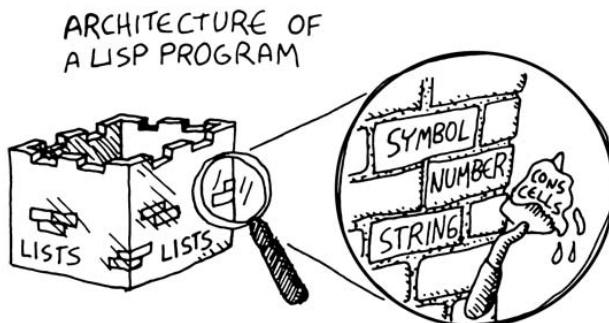
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Data Mode

- Switch into data mode with **QUOTE ' (some data)**
- Is equivalent to **(quote (some data))**

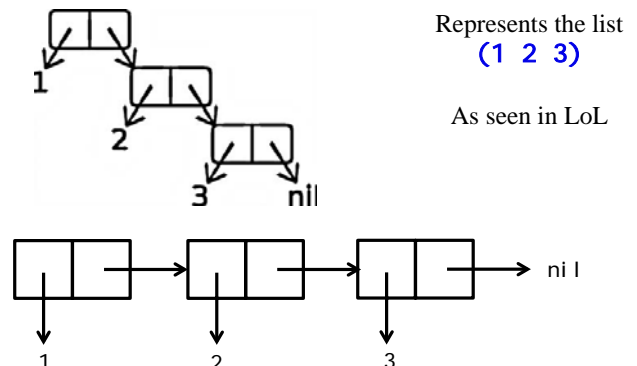
The quote **prevents evaluation**

Building Blocks of Lisp Programs



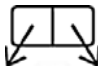
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Lists are Built of Cons Cells



Cons cells may also be drawn with **down** and **right** arrows.
The figure above represents the same list: (1 2 3)

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Lisp Functions to Build Lists

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cons – create a new cons cell

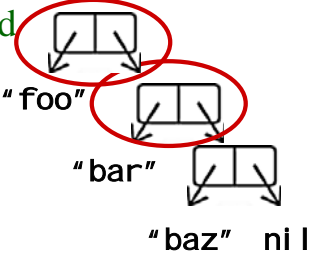
Create a new cc with arg1 as car

(cons 9 ()) →



Functions can be nested

(cons "foo"
 (cons "bar"
 ('("baz"))))



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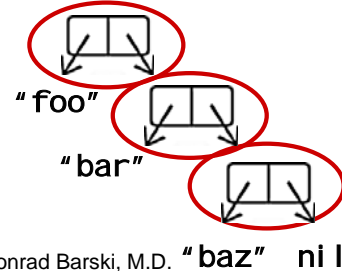


List Functions to Build Lists

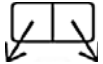
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list – create a new list with a new cons cell pointing to each parameter

(list "foo" "bar" "baz") →
 ("foo" "bar" "baz")



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List Functions to Access Data

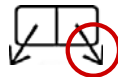
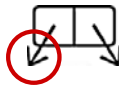
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car – return the first item in the first cons cell

(car ' (9 10)) → 9

cdr – return a reference to the second item in the list

(cdr ' (9 10)) → (10)



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Shortcuts with car & cdr

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(car (car ' ((1) 2 3)))

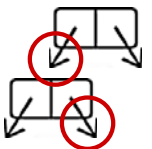
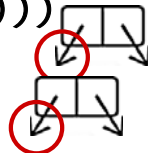
Is equivalent to

(caar ' ((1) 2 3)))

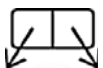
(car (cdr ' ((1) 2 3)))

Is equivalent to

(cadr ' ((1) 2 3)))



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Shortcuts with car & cdr

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(caddr ' ((1) 2 3))

Is equivalent to

???????

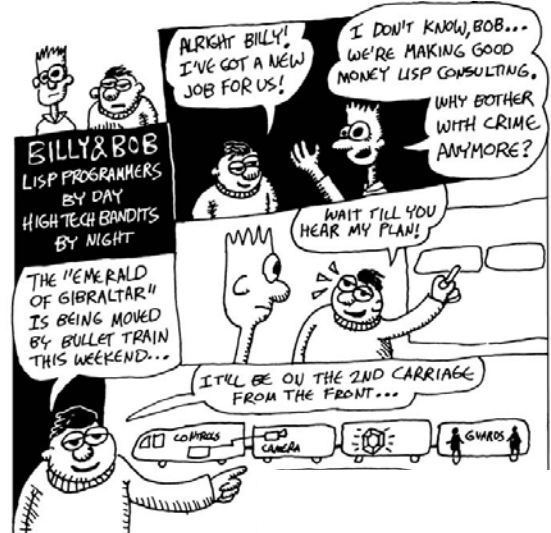
(caddr (cdr ' ((1) 2 3)))

Is equivalent to

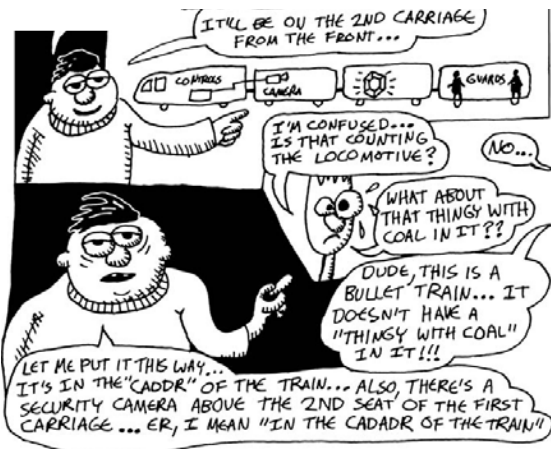
???????

C____R is defined with up to 4 as/ds!!

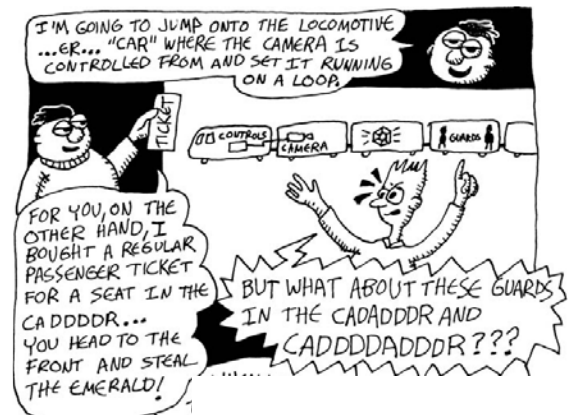
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Summary

- Parentheses for syntax
- Lists, symbols, numbers, and strings
- Cons cells
- Create lists
 - cons
 - list
- Access lists
 - car
 - cdr

