

Learn about closures and trampolines

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1 DONE learn about lexical scope in Elisp

```
(setq test (lexical-let ((foo "bar"))
  (lambda ()
    foo)))

(funcall test)

(let ((foo "something-else"))
  (funcall test))
```

2 DONE learn about trampolines

Based on: <http://www.datchley.name/recursion-tail-calls-and-trampolines/>

Elisp does not have optimization for tail recursion. For this issue one can use an higher order function to avoid overflowing the stack:

```
(defun range (s e &optional res)
  (let ((res (cons s res)))
    (if (eql s e)
        (reverse res)
        (range (if (< s e) (+ 1 s) (- 1 s)) e res))))

(range 1 4)
```

For big numbers this fails:

```
(range 1 31181)
```

Important: the following apply only if lexical binding is enabled (we need closures):

```
(setq lexical-binding t)
```

We can introduce the trampoline function:

```
(defun trampoline (fn &rest args)
  (progn
    (message "%s" fn)
    (setf v (apply fn args))
    (while (functionp v)
      (message "%s" v)
      (setf v (funcall v)))
    v))
```

Note that we keep applying function calls (that do not accumulate in the stack) until we get a non callable value.

We need to modify the range function, as it must return something that we can execute singularly instead its recursive call:

```
(defun range (s e &optional res)
  (let ((res (cons s res)))
    (if (eql s e)
        (reverse res)
        (lambda ()
          (range
            (if (< s e) (+ 1 s) (- 1 s))
            e
            res))))))
```

```
(trampoline #'range 1 4)
```

So we have basically split recursive calls in independent function calls (and saved our stack).