

Abstract

(NO)WEB HYPERTEXT SYSTEM IN EMACS (WHYSE) is an integrated development environment for Noweb and \LaTeX within Emacs, similar to EDE but not sharing development principles. It is based off of an academic paper written in 1991 by Brown and Czejdo. A paper describing this implementation—written in Noweb and browsable, editable, and auditable with WHYSE, or readable in the printed form—is hoped to be submitted to The Journal of Open Source Software (JOSS) before the year 2024. N.B.: the paper will include historical information about literate programming, and citations (especially of those given credit in the «Commentary» for ideating WHYSE itself).

Users of WHYSE in Emacs are expected to be familiar with Noweb; this does not include how Noweb is built from source (that is arcane, supposedly). It may, however, include the writing of filters implemented with Sed, AWK, or other languages. Users must know how to write a custom command-line for noweave (read the manual section regarding the `-v` option). If you only know how to call the noweave command you're reading the wrong document. Read the Noweb manual first, please. Developers of WHYSE extensions should read the Noweb Hacker's Guide until they understand it, afterwards reading this documentation several times until the full implementation is understood. I recommend modifying the system using itself to keep organized, and writing literately; you'll thank yourself later for doing so.

1 Projects

The organization of this literate program is *linear*, with aspects of the program explained as the user would encounter them, more or less. A user will read from the package description that they should call an interactive command to create a project. The WHYSE application has a single interactive command: `whyse`. The command loads the first element of the customization variable `w-registered-projects`, considering that the default project, or it opens the “Easy Customization Interface” (`M-x customize`): an effective prompt to enter the necessary information.

A customization group for WHYSE is defined to organize its customization variables, and these details are explained before moving on to explain the struct used during runtime.

```
1 (Customization and global variables 1)≡ (22b) 3b>
  (defgroup whyse nil
    "noWeb HYpertext System in Emacs"
    :tag "WHYSE"
    :group 'applications)

  (defcustom w-registered-projects nil
    "This variable stores all of the projects that are known to WHYSE."
    :group 'whyse
    :type '(repeat w-project-widget)
    :require 'widget
    :tag "WHYSE Registered Projects")

  (defvar w-parse-success t
    "A simple boolean regarding the success or fialure of the last attempt to parse a buffer of Noweb tool
  Defines:
    w-parse-success, used in chunk 10b.
    w-registered-projects, used in chunk 3a.
    whyse, used in chunks 20 and 25.
```

The `w-project-widget` type used for the registered projects variable is a simple list widget containing the name of the project and its Noweb source file, along with a filename for a shell script which generates the Noweb tool syntax for this project. Each Noweb project has a different command-line, and some are complex enough to have a makefile, or multiple makefiles! Noweb itself is an example of that level of complexity. The shell script is later executed by WHYSE upon loading the project, and the standard output captured for parsing by a PEG parser.

```
2 <Widgets 2>≡ (22b)
(define-widget 'w-project-widget 'list
  "The WHYSE project widget type."
  :format "\n%v\n"
  :offset 0
  :indent 0

  ;; NOTE: the convert-widget keyword with the argument
  ;; 'widget-types-convert-widget is absolutely necessary for ARGS to be
  ;; converted to widgets.
  :convert-widget 'widget-types-convert-widget
  :args '((editable-field
            :format "%t: %v"
            :tag "Name"
            :value ""))

    (file
      :tag "Noweb source file (*.nw)"
      :format "%t: %v"
      :valid-regexp ".*\\.nw$"
      :value "")

    (string
      :tag "A shell command to run a shell script to generates Noweb tool syntax"
      :format "%t: %v"
      :documentation "A shell script which will produce the
Noweb tool syntax. Any shell commands involved with
noweave should be included, but totex should of course
be excluded from this script. The script should output
the full syntax to standard output. See the Noweb
implementation of WHYSE for explanation."
      :value "")))
```

An example of what the list generated from the information entered into Customize would look like is given here for elucidation (as it would exist in a custom-set-variables form).

```
'(w-registered-projects
'(("noWeb HYpertext System in Emacs"
 "~/Desktop/whyse.nw"
 "make -C ~/Desktop --silent --file ~/src/whyse/Makefile tool-syntax"))
nil
(widget))
```

```
3a <WHYSE 3a>≡ (22b)
  (defun whyse ()
    (interactive)
    (if-let ((w-load-default-project?)
              (default-project (cl-first w-registered-projects))
              (project (make-w-project :name (cl-first default-project)
                                       :noweb (cl-second default-project)
                                       :script (cl-third default-project))))
      (progn <convert the Noweb to tool format and parse it with the PEG 4b>
              ;; TODO: define the following chunks.
              ;; @<@<compile the parse tree into DDL and send it to the database>
              ;; @<@<create the atomic window layout and insert the navigation widgets>
              )
      <open Customize to register projects 3c>)))
```

Defines:

whyse, used in chunks 20 and 25.

Uses w-load-default-project? 3b and w-registered-projects 1.

WHYSE is likely to be useful for very large literate programs, so the command is designed to initialize from an existing project without prompt. In more verbose terms: unless w-load-default-project? is non-nil and w-registered-projects includes at least one element, Customize will be opened to customize the WHYSE group when whyse is invoked.

```
3b <Customization and global variables 1>+≡ (22b) <1
  (defcustom w-load-default-project? t
    "Non-nil values mean the system will load the default project.

    nil will cause the interactive command 'whyse' to open Customize on
    its group of variables."
    :type 'boolean
    :group 'whyse
    :tag "Load default project when 'whyse' is invoked?")
```

Defines:

w-load-default-project?, used in chunk 3.

```
3c <open Customize to register projects 3c>≡ (3a)
  (message
    "No WHYSE projects registered, or 'w-load-default-project?' is nil. %s"
    (customize-group 'whyse))
  Uses w-load-default-project? 3b.
```

4a *⟨WHYSE project structure 4a⟩*≡ (22b)

```
(cl-defstruct w-project
  "A WHYSE project"
  ;; Fundamental
  name
  noweb
  script
  database-file
  database-connection

  ;; Usage
  frame

  ;; Metadata
  (date-created (ts-now))
  date-last-edited
  date-last-exported

  ;; TODO: limit with a customization variable so that it does not grow too large.
  history-sql-commands)
```

Instances of this struct are only initialized with a few values: `name`, `noweb`, and `script`. The rest of the fields either have default values dependent upon the input data (like the `database-file`, `database-connection`, and `date-created`), or are given values when appropriate later in operation (such as `date-last-exported`) or upon initialization (`frame`).

Initialization when the interactive command is called is covered next; to summarize: `w-project-load-hook` is run.

2 System initialization from new projects

To summarize this section, since it is longer than the previous section, the object to *⟨convert the Noweb to tool format and parse it with the PEG 4b⟩*, which is thus the name of a code chunk used in `whyse`.

In more explicit words, this section describes the actions that occur when a user invokes `whyse` interactively (with *M-x*) and the preconditions have been met; the `whyse` function has already been introduced, and only the “meaty” business end of its operation has been left undefined until now. Ergo, *⟨convert the Noweb to tool format and parse it with the PEG 4b⟩* gathers together the functionality that converts a Noweb to its tool syntax with a project’s specified shell script, and parses the text before the next section of body forms is executed. Those send the parsed text to the database, and finally create the atomic window for the IDE in the active frame.

4b *⟨convert the Noweb to tool format and parse it with the PEG 4b⟩*≡ (3a)

```
(with-temp-buffer
  (insert (shell-command-to-string (w-project-script project)))
  (goto-char (point-min))
  (message "Noweb parse:\n%S" (w-parse-current-buffer-with-rules)))
```

Uses `w-parse-current-buffer-with-rules` 10b.

2.1 Conversion to tool syntax

WHYSE could have been written to call the noweave programs itself, but that is less configurable than providing the opportunity to let the user configure this on their own. It respects Noweb's pipelined architecture, and keeps things as transparent as possible. What should be written in Emacs Lisp is written therein, and what shouldn't be implemented in Elisp is not. The tool syntax is thus obtained by running the shell script configured for the project by calling it with the command-line provided in the third element of an entry in `w-registered-projects`.

```
5a <run the project shell script to obtain the tool syntax 5a>≡
  (make-process
   :name "w-tool-generation"
   :buffer (get-buffer buffer)
   :command `("bash" ;; likely BASH on a GNU system, hoping for the 'command-string' option.
              "-c"
              (,@(w-project-script project)))

   :stderr (generate-new-buffer "WHYSE tool generation standard error stream")
   :sentinel (lambda (process event-string)
               (message "%S: %s" process event-string)))
```

The PEG for Noweb's tool syntax is run on the result of the shell script, and this value consumed by the parent of this chunk.

2.2 Database initialization

Every project should have a database file located somewhere within the user's Emacs directory; if the user is a Spacemacs user, then Spacemacs' cache directory is used, otherwise the database is made in the user's Emacs directory and not a sub-directory thereof.

The form used to create the absolute path for the location of the database joins three things: the user's Emacs directory, `nil` or Spacemacs' cache directory, and the name of the project with `".db"` appended. Note that concatenating `nil` with a string is the same as returning the string unchanged.

```
5b <return a filename for the project database 5b>≡ (5c)
  (file-name-concat
   ;; Usually ~/.emacs.d/
   user-emacs-directory
   ;; 'nil' or the Spacemacs cache directory.
   (when (f-directory? (expand-file-name ".cache" user-emacs-directory))
     ".cache")
   ;; PROJECT-NAME.db
   (concat (w-project-name project)
           ".db"))
```

For `SQLITE`, the path name of the database to connect to or create is sufficient to establish a connection, so the next step is to connect to the database and store the connection object in the appropriate slot of the project struct.

```
5c <create the database 5c>≡
  (setf (w-project-database-connection project)
        (emacsql-sqlite
         (w-project-database-file <return a filename for the project database 5b>)))
```

The only thing left to do is establish the schema of the tables, which is done by mapping over several EMACSQL s-expressions.

```

6  (map over SQL s-expressions, creating the tables 6)≡
    (-map (emacs sql (w-project-database-connection project) it)

      ;; A list of SQL s-expressions to create the tables.
      '([:create-table module
        ([module-name
          content
          file-name
          section-name
          (displacement integer)
          (module-number integer :primary-key)]])

        [:create-table parent-child
          ([ (parent integer)
            (child integer)
            (line-number integer)
            (:primary-key [parent
                          child]) ]])

        [:create-table identifier-used-in-module
          ([ (identifier-name
            (module-number integer)
            (line-number integer)
            type-of-usage]
            (:primary-key [identifier-name
                          module-number
                          line-number
                          type-of-usage]) ]])

        [:create-table topic-referenced-in-module
          ([ (topic-name nil)
            (module-number integer)
            (:primary-key [topic-name
                          module-number]) ]]) ]))

```

Module	Module	Index
Code	documentation	
	(prior or	
	posterior)	
????????????????		
? AWK Scripts ?		
????????????????		
Console		

Figure 1: Simple drawing of WHYSE frame layout

2.3 Frame creation and atomic window specification

A frame like in Figure 2.3 should be created.

```
7 <Get project frame 7>≡
  (progn
    (select-frame (w-project-frame project))
    (switch-to-buffer (generate-new-buffer (w-project-name project))
      nil
      'force-same-window)
    (let* ((window-right (split-window-right))
           (parent-window (window-parent window-right)))
      (window-make-atom parent-window)
      (display-buffer-in-atom-window
        (get-buffer-create (format "Module Index<%s>"
                                   (w-project-name project)))
        '((window . ,parent-window) (window-height . 8)))))
```

3 System initialization from existing projects

WHYSE loads a project by running the shell script stored in the third element of the project list (which is pointed to by the script slot in the struct).

3.1 Initializing from an existing project

With a default project available, WHYSE runs `w-project-load-hook` with the struct of the default project let-bound as `project`. Much of the functionality of WHYSE is implemented with the default hook, and extensions to WHYSE should be implemented by editing the WHYSE Noweb source and recompiling it, or extending the existing system with more hook functions added to the aforementioned hook list variable.

If the project's database file is empty (zero-bytes) or does not exist then the database is created from scratch. If the database already exists, the first module is loaded and the database is not changed.

```
8 <delete the database if it already exists, but only if it's an empty file 8>≡
;; Unless the SQLite database's size is zero or it doesn't exist, move it to the user's trash directory.
(let ((w-dbfile (w-project-database-file project)))
  (unless (or (not (file-exists-p w-dbfile))
              (= 0 (file-attribute-size (file-attributes w-dbfile))))

    ;; TODO: Is there a better way to do this? 'backup-buffer'?
    (copy-file w-dbfile (concat w-dbfile "~") t)

    ;; TODO: ensure that this AREA of code is reasonable before release.
    ;; It may have been written to ease development only.
    (let ((delete-by-moving-to-trash t))
      (delete-file w-dbfile t)))
```


4 Loading Noweb source files

To parse a noweb source file, the file needs to be loaded into a temporary buffer, then it can be parsed.

A simple usage of NOWEB is given next, which shows that noweave does not include the header keyword, nor autodefinitions, usages, or indexing by default. Those are further stages in the UNIX pipeline defined by the user with noweave command-line program options and flags.

The WHYSE system parses the tool syntax emitted by markup, and early development versions (prior to version 0.n-devel) completely ignore Noweb keywords out of that scope.

An example of a command-line a user may execute is given next.

```
[bryce@fedora whyse]$ noweave -v -autodefs elisp -index whyse.nw 1>/dev/null
RCS version name $Name: $
RCS id $Id: noweave.nw,v 1.7 2008/10/06 01:03:24 nr Exp $
(echo @header latex
/usr/local/lib/markup whyse.nw
echo @trailer latex
) |
/usr/local/lib/autodefs.elisp |
/usr/local/lib/finduses |
/usr/local/lib/noidx |
/usr/local/lib/totex
```

Ergo, the simplified pipeline—using Emacs Lisp autodefinitions provided in KNOWEB (written by JOSEPH S. RIEL)—is as follows:

```
markup whyse.nw | autodefs.elisp | finduses | noidx
```

4.0.1 In-development

For an existing project (during development, that is WHYSE) to be loaded, it must minimally be:

1. Parsed, then stored in a database
2. Navigable with WHYSE
 - (a) Frame and Windows
 - (b) Navigation buttons... at least for modules

This means diagramming the database schema, creating it in EmacsSQL, creating validating functions for existing databases, exceptions for malformed databases, and documenting that in L^AT_EX.

Navigation with WHYSE is multi-part:

1. Query the database for a list of modules, and
2. Create a buffer for the text content retrieved

Exporting a project from the database and editing the project in an in-memory state are further objectives, but they will be archived after the above two have been implemented in a basic form.

4.0.2 TODO

The following features need to be implemented:

1. Project export from database to Noweb format
2. Editing of modules, documentation, and Awk code
3. Navigation with indices
4. Implement indices widgets

5 Parsing

This section covers the parsing of the Noweb tool syntax produced by a project shell script (described in SECTION SIGN HERE 1). The following blocks of LISP code use the PEG Emacs Lisp package to provide for automatic parser generation from a formal PEG grammar based off of the exhaustive description given in the Noweb Hacker's Guide.

5.1 PEG rules

Every character of an input text to be parsed by parsing expressions in a PEG must be defined in terminal rules of the formal grammar. The root rule in the grammar for Noweb tool syntax is the appropriately named noweb rule. Beginning with-peg-rules brought into scope, the root rule noweb is ran on the buffer containing the tool syntax produced by the project shell script.

The grammar can be broken into five sections, each covering some part of parsing.

```
10a  <PEG rules 10a>≡ (10b)
      <high-level Noweb tool syntax structure 11a>
      <files and their paths 11c>
      <chunks and their boundaries 12>
      <quotations 14e>
      <keyword definitions 15a>
      <meta rules 11b>

10b  <buffer parsing function 10b>≡ (22b 25)
      ;;; Parsing expression grammar (PEG) rules
      (defun w-parse-current-buffer-with-rules ()
        "Parse the current buffer with the PEG defined for Noweb tool syntax."
        (with-peg-rules
          (<PEG rules 10a>))
        (let (w-peg-parser-within-codep)
          (peg-run
            (peg noweb)
            (lambda (lst)
              (setq w-parse-success nil)
              (pop-to-buffer (with-current-buffer
                              (generate-new-buffer "<WHYSE Parse failure log>")
                              (insert (format "PEXes which failed:\n%S" lst))
                              (current-buffer))))))))))
```

Defines:

w-parse-current-buffer-with-rules, used in chunks 4b and 25.

Uses w-parse-success 1 25.

As stated, the `noweb` rule defines the root expression—or starting expression—for the grammar. The tool syntax of Noweb is simply a list of one or more files, which are each composed of at least one chunk. Ergo, the following *high-level Noweb tool syntax structure 11a* is defined.

11a *high-level Noweb tool syntax structure 11a* \equiv (10a)

```
;; Overall Noweb structure
(noweb (bob) (not header) (+ file) (not trailer) (eob))
```

It is a fatal error for WHYSE if the header or trailer wrapper keywords appear in the text it is to parse. They are totally irrelevant, and only matter for the final back-ends (T_EX, L^AT_EX, or HTML) that produce human-readable documentation.

The grammar needs to address the fact that the syntax of the Noweb tool format is highly line-oriented, given the influence of AWK on the design and usage of Noweb (a historical version was entirely implemented in AWK). The following *meta rules 11b* define rules which organize the constructs of a line-oriented, or data-oriented, syntax.

11b *meta rules 11b* \equiv (10a)

```
;; Helpers
(nl (eol) "\n")
(!eol (+ (not "\n") (any)))
(spc " ")
```

TODO: Review the following paragraph and rephrase it.

With the *meta rules 11b* enabling easier definitions of what a given “keyword” looks like, the concept of a file needs to be defined. A file is “anything that looks like a file to Noweb”. However, by default, only the chunk named “*” (it’s chunk header is `«*»`) is tangled when no specific root chunk is given on the command line.

TODO: Write about the need for the overall document to be separate from the one-or-more files specified in the document. Exempli gratia: the current document, contained in `whyse.el` and `test-parser-with-temporary-buffer.el`. If these two files were tangled at the same time, such that the output file discovery ability of Noweb was used, then there would be more than one file in the intermediate tool syntax, but still a single preceding documentation chunk before the first file, and a single succeeding documentation chunk after the last file.

11c *files and their paths 11c* \equiv (10a)

```
;; Technically, file is a tagging keyword, but that classification only
;; makes sense in the Hacker’s guide, not in the syntax.
(file (bol) "@file" spc (substring path) nl
  (list (and (+ chunk) (* nwnl)
    (list (or (and x-chunks i-identifiers)
      (and i-identifiers x-chunks)))))
  ;; Trailing documentation chunk and new-lines
  (opt chunk)
  (opt (+ nl)))
  '(path chunk-list - (list path chunk-list)))
(path (opt (or ".." ".") (* path-component) file-name)
(path-component (and path-separator (+ [word])))
(path-separator ["\\\/"])
(file-name (+ (or [word] "."))))
```

NOTE: Writing PEXes for matching file names was the most difficult part I have encountered so far, as it has forced me to understand that a first reading of documentation is usually not sufficient to understand a complex library in an area of programming I have not practiced in before (language parsing).

Because chunks must not overlap, but can nest, the beginnings of chunks need to be pushed to the parsing stack and the end of a chunk needs to be popped off of it. The stack pushing operations in `kind` and `ordinal` delimit chunks by their kinds and number, and the stack actions in the `end` rule check that the chunk-related tokens on the stack are balanced.

```

12 <chunks and their boundaries 12>≡ (10a) 13a▷
(chunk begin (list (* chunk-contents)) end)
(begin (bol) "@begin" spc kind
  ;; (action (message "A chunk was entered; kind: %s" (cl-first peg-stack)))
  spc ordinal (eol) nl
  (action (if (string= (cl-second peg-stack) "code")
    (setq w-peg-parser-within-codep t))))
(end (bol) "@end" spc kind
  ;; (action (message "A chunk was exited; kind: %s" (cl-first peg-stack)))
  spc ordinal (eol) nl
  (action (setq w-peg-parser-within-codep nil))
  '(kind-one ordinal-one keywords kind-two ordinal-two -
    (if (and (= ordinal-one ordinal-two) (string= kind-one kind-two))
      ;;; Push the contents of the chunk to the stack in a cons
      ;;; cell with the car being a list of the kind and number.
      ;;; E.g.:
      ;; (("code" 3) . (@text @nl @text @nl))
      (cons (cons kind-one ordinal-one) keywords)
      (error "There was an issue with unbalanced or improperly nested chunks.")))
  (ordinal (substring [0-9] (* [0-9])))
  '(number - (string-to-number number)))
(kind (substring (or "code" "docs"))))

```

Valid `chunk-contents` is somewhat confusing, because chunks can contain many types of information other than text and new lines. The definition of what is valid follows.

1. `text`
2. `nl`
3. `defn name`
4. `use name`
5. `line n`
6. `language language`
7. `index ...`
8. `xref ...`

Any other keywords are invalid inside a code block. An example of an invalid keyword is anything related to quotations! *This restriction only applies to code blocks, however, and documentation chunks may contain quotations, of course.* As an exception, the keywords were originally banned inside code chunks, but to parse the noweb document in which WHYSE itself was written it needed to be adjusted. The grammar should be studied again to ensure that textual description and reality are in step.

13a $\langle \text{chunks and their boundaries 12} \rangle + \equiv$ (10a) $\langle 12 \ 14c \rangle$

```

(chunk-contents
(or
  (structural keywords 13c)
  (tagging keywords 14a)
  x-notused
  (tool errors 14b)))

```

It is easier to handle the fatal keyword appearing inside chunks when it is a permissible keyword to appear inside a chunk; this allows the parser to consider a chunk with fatal inside of it *as a valid chunk*, but that does not mean that a chunk with a fatal keyword inside it does not invalidate a Noweb, it still does: the fatal keyword causes a fatal crash in parsing regardless. Those structural keywords which may be used inside the contents of a chunk are given next.

13b $\langle \text{structural keywords (except quotations) 13b} \rangle \equiv$ (13c)

```

;; structural
text
nwnl ;; Noweb's @nl keyword, as differentiated from the rule nl := "\n".
defn
use ;; NOTE: related to the 'identifier-used-in-module' table.

```

All structural keywords, then, are:

13c $\langle \text{structural keywords 13c} \rangle \equiv$ (13a)

```

(structural keywords (except quotations) 13b)
quotation

```

- 14a *<tagging keywords 14a>*≡ (13a)
- ```
;; tagging
line
language
;; index
i-define-or-use
i-definitions
;; xref
x-prev-or-next-def
x-continued-definitions-of-the-current-chunk
i-usages
x-usages
x-label
x-ref
```
- 14b *<tool errors 14b>*≡ (13a)
- ```
;; error
fatal
```

The fundamental keywords are text and nwnl (new line, per Noweb convention). Text keywords contain source text, and any new lines in the source text are replaced with the appropriate number of nwnl keywords (per convention).

- 14c *<chunks and their boundaries 12>*+≡ (10a) <13a 14d>
- ```
(text (bol) "@text" spc (substring (* (and (not "\n") (any)))) nl
 '(txt - (list 'text txt)))
(nwnl (bol) (substring "@nl" nl))
```

Nowebs are built from chunks, so the definition and usage of (i.e. references to) a chunk are important keywords.

- 14d *<chunks and their boundaries 12>*+≡ (10a) <14c>
- ```
(defn "@defn" spc (substring !eol) nl
  '(name - (cons "chunk" name)))

(use (bol) "@use" spc (substring !eol) nl
  '(chunk-name - (if chunk-name
                    (cons "Chunk usage (child)" chunk-name)
                    (error "UH-OH! There's a syntax error in the tool output!"))))
```

Documentation may contain text and newlines, represented by @text and [@nwnl]. It may also contain quoted code bracketed by @quote . . . @endquote. Every @quote must be terminated by an @endquote within the same chunk. Quoted code corresponds to the `construct` in the noweb source.

- 14e *<quotations 14e>*≡ (10a)
- ```
(quotation (bol) "@quote" nl
 (action (when w-peg-parser-within-codep
 (error "The parser found a quotation within a code chunk. A @fatal should have been
 (substring (+ (and (not "@endquote") (any))))
 ;; (list (* (or text nwnl defn use i-define-or-use x-ref)))
 (bol) "@endquote" nl
 '(lst - (cons "Quotation" lst))))
```

15a *<keyword definitions 15a>*≡ (10a) 15b>

```
(line (bol) "@line" spc (substring ordinal) nl
 '(o - (cons "@line" o)))

(language (bol) "@language" spc (substring words-eol))
```

The indexing and cross-referencing abilities of Noweb are excellent features which enable a reader to navigate through a printed (off-line) or on-line version of the literate document quite nicely. These functionalities each begin with a rule which matches only part of a line of the tool syntax since there are many indexing and cross-referencing keywords. The common part of each line is a rule which merely matches the @index or @xref keyword. The rest of the lines are handled by a list of rules in index-keyword or xref-keyword.

The *Noweb Hacker's Guide* lists these two lines in the “Tagging keywords” table, indicating that it’s unlikely (or forbidden) that the index or xref keywords would appear alone without any subsequent information on the same line.

```
@index ... Index information.
@xref ... Cross-reference information
```

There are many keywords defined by the Noweb tool syntax, so they are referenced in this block and defined and documented separately. Some of these keywords are delimiters, so they are not given full “keyword” status (defined as a PEX rule) but exist as constants in the definition of a rule that defines the grouping.

15b *<keyword definitions 15a>*+≡ (10a) <15a

```
;; Index
<indexing and cross-referencing set-off words 15c>
<fundamental indexing keywords, which are restricted to within a code chunk 16a>
<the index of identifiers 16d>
<unsupported indexing keywords 17a>

;; Cross-reference
<cross-referencing keywords 17b>

;; Error
<error-causing keywords 18a>
```

Further keywords are categorized neatly as Indexing or Cross-referencing keywords, so they are contained in subsections.

## 5.2 indexing

Indexing keywords, both those used within chunks and those used outside of chunks, are defined in this section. The «fundamental indexing keywords, which are restricted to within a code chunk», index definitions or usages of identifiers and track the definitions of identifiers in a chunk and the usages of identifiers in a chunk. They may seem redundant, but are not; the *Noweb Hacker's Guide* offers a better explanation of the differences.

15c *<indexing and cross-referencing set-off words 15c>*≡ (15b)

```
(idx (bol) "@index" spc)
(xr (bol) "@xref" spc)
```

16a *<fundamental indexing keywords, which are restricted to within a code chunk 16a>*≡ (15b)

```
(i-define-or-use
 idx
 (substring (or "defn" "use")) spc (substring !eol) nl
 (action
 (unless w-peg-parser-within-codep
 (error "WHYSE parse error: index definition or index usage occurred outside of a code chunk.")))
 '(s1 s2 - (cons s1 s2)))

<identifiers defined in a chunk 16b>
<identifiers used in a chunk 16c>
```

16b *<identifiers defined in a chunk 16b>*≡ (16a)

```
(i-definitions idx "begindefs" nl
 (list (+ (and (+ i-isused) i-defitem)))
 idx "enddefs" nl
 '(definitions - (cons "definitions" definitions)))
(i-isused idx (substring "isused") spc (substring label) nl
 '(u l - (cons u l)))
(i-defitem idx (substring "defitem") spc (substring !eol) nl
 '(d i - (cons d i)))
```

16c *<identifiers used in a chunk 16c>*≡ (16a)

```
(i-usages idx "beginuses" nl
 (list (+ (and (+ i-isdefined) i-useitem)))
 idx "enduses" nl
 '(usages - (cons "usages" usages)))
(i-isdefined idx (substring "isdefined" spc label) nl)
(i-useitem idx (substring "useitem" spc !eol) nl) ;; !eol := ident
```

The summary index of identifiers is a file-specific set of keywords. The index lists all identifiers defined in the file (at least all of those recognized by the autodefinitions filter).

16d *<the index of identifiers 16d>*≡ (15b)

```
(i-identifiers idx "beginindex" nl
 (list (+ i-entry))
 idx "endindex" nl
 '(l - (cons 'i-identifiers l)))
(i-entry idx "entrybegin" spc (substring label spc !eol) nl
 (list (+ (or i-entrydefn i-entryuse)))
 idx "entryend" nl
 '(e l - (cons e l)))
(i-entrydefn idx (substring "entrydefn") spc (substring label) nl
 '(d l - (cons d l)))
(i-entryuse idx (substring "entryuse") spc (substring label) nl
 '(u l - (cons u l)))
```



The following chunk's name is documentation enough for the purposes of WHYSE. See the Noweb Hacker's Guide for more information.

```
17a <unsupported indexing keywords 17a>≡ (15b)
;; @index nl was deprecated in Noweb 2.10, and @index localdefn is not
;; widely used (assumedly) nor well-documented, so it is unsupported by
;; WHYSE (contributions for improved support are welcomed).
(i-localdefn idx "localdefn" spc !eol nl)
(i-nl idx "nl" spc !eol nl (action (error <index nl error message 18b>))))
```

### 5.3 cross referencing

```
17b <cross-referencing keywords 17b>≡ (15b)
(x-label xr (substring "label" spc label) nl)
(x-ref xr (substring "ref" spc label) nl
 '(subst - (cons "ref" (cadr (split-string substr)))))

(x-prev-or-next-def
 xr (substring (or "nextdef" "prevdef")) spc (substring label) nl
 '(chunk-defn label - (append chunk-defn label)))

(x-continued-definitions-of-the-current-chunk
 xr "begindefs" nl
 (list (+ (and xr (substring "defitem") spc (substring label) nl)))
 ;; NOTE: development statement only; remove this before release.
 ;; (action (message "peg-stack := \n%S" peg-stack))
 xr "enddefs" nl)

(x-usages
 xr "beginuses" nl
 (list (+ (and xr "useitem" spc (substring label) nl)))
 xr "enduses" nl)

(x-notused xr "notused" spc (substring !eol) nl
 '(chunk-name - (cons "notused" chunk-name)))

(x-chunks xr "beginchunks" nl
 (list (+ x-chunk))
 xr "endchunks" nl
 '(1 - (cons 'x-chunks 1)))
(x-chunk xr "chunkbegin" spc (substring label) spc (substring !eol) nl
 (list (+ (list (and xr
 (substring (or "chunkuse" "chunkdefn"))
 spc
 (substring label)
 nl))))
 xr "chunkend" nl)

;; Associates label with tag (@xref tag $LABEL $TAG)
(x-tag xr "tag" spc label spc !eol nl)
(label (+ (or "-" [alnum]))) ;; A label never contains whitespace.
```

```

18a <error-causing keywords 18a>≡ (15b)
;; User-errors (header and trailer) and tool-error (fatal)
;; Header and trailer's further text is irrelevant for parsing, because they cause errors.
(header (bol) "@header" ;; formatter options
 (action (error "[ERROR] Do not use totex or tohtml in your noweave pipeline.")))
(trailer (bol) "@trailer" ;; formatter
 (action (error "[ERROR] Do not use totex or tohtml in your noweave pipeline.")))
(fatal (bol) "@fatal"
 (action (error "[FATAL] There was a fatal error in the pipeline. Stash the work area and submit a

18b <index nl error message 18b>≡ (17a)
(string-join
 '("@index nl\" detected."
 "This indicates hand-written @ %def syntax in the Noweb source."
 "This syntax was deprecated in Noweb 2.10, and is entirely unsupported."
 "Write an autodefs AWK script for the language you are using.")
 "\n")

```

## 6 Processing lists into SQL

This section covers how the parsed text generated in the last section is processed, creating a series of SQL statements that will be executed by SQLite using the interface provided by the EmacsSQL package.

First, the overall structure of the parsed text should be diagrammed. The parse tree is a list of noweb documents, each being a list themselves. The first atom of an inner list, corresponding to a document, is the filename of that document (hopefully the same filename as passed on the command-line elsewhere when the document is used).

Deeper, each document-list contains as the second atom a list of all of its contents, which is an association list thereof. Each association in the alist should be self-explanatory.

```

((noweb-document-one ((0 . ()))
 (1 . ())))
(noweb-document-two ((0 . ()))
 (1 . ())))

```

There are many steps to compiling the parse tree into SQL that can be directly executed by the backend database engine, so to *<compile the parse tree into DDL and send it to the database 18c>* is a multi-step process.

```

18c <compile the parse tree into DDL and send it to the database 18c>≡
<collapse text and newline tokens into their largest possible form 19a>
<push the compiled SQL to the database and to the history stack 19b>

```

notangle's output tool syntax, and the parse tree, contain individual text tokens for fragments of whole text lines and form feed characters. These tokens exist because the cross-referencing tokens fragment the text lines, and new lines in the noweb document are treated specially to facilitate this fragmentation. The parsed form of the tool syntax is shown in this example from a development version of WHYSE.

```
(text " and \\textsc{Noweb}'s \\textt{finduses.nw}!")
"@nl"
(text "\\end{enumerate}")
"@nl"
(text "")
"@nl"
```

In this development version it was not fully decided how tokens and the data they correspond to should be arranged, so the newlines are not part of a list, while the text characters are part of an outer plist of which the parentheses are not visible in this example.

To collapse these tokens into a single text token the `peg-stack` must be manipulated carefully. It isn't advisable to manipulate this variable in the course of a PEG grammar's actions, however, there is a use case for it when the previous rules and actions won't accomodate the necessary action without refactoring a larger part of the grammar. In this development version that is not a goal; basic functionality is sought after, not robustness or beauty.

19a *<collapse text and newline tokens into their largest possible form 19a>*≡ (18c)

19b *<push the compiled SQL to the database and to the history stack 19b>*≡ (18c)

```
;; NOTE: the result of evaluating the SQL is pushed to the history stack
;; alongside the SQL that was executed.
(cl-pushnew (cons (emacscl (w-project-database-connection default-project)
 compiled-parse-tree)
 . compiled-parse-tree)
 (w-project-history-sql-commands default-project))
```

## 7 Packaging

Installing an Emacs Lisp package is quite easy if the system is distributed through the GNU Emacs Lisp Package Archive (GNU ELPA), and only slightly less easy if it is distributed through MELPA (Milkypostman’s Emacs Lisp Package Archive). Other package archives have existed, but they are all ephemeral. The most popular alternative to GNU ELPA, Non-GNU ELPA, and MELPA is direct distribution of files through Git servers and the use of a package by the end user to install directly from such.

This software is in-development, so it will only be distributed directly through Git.

WHYSE follows the form of “simple”, single-file packages documented in the Emacs Lisp Reference Manual. The package file, `whyse.el`, is emitted by `notangle` which is called by the Makefile in every target but `clean`. All source development occurs in `whyse.nw` using `POLYMODE`.

The makefile distributed alongside `whyse.nw` in the tarball contains the command-line used to `tangle` and `weave` WHYSE.

```

20a <whyse.el 20a>≡
 <Emacs Lisp package headers 20b>
 <Licensing and copyright 21b>
 <Commentary 22a>
 <Code 22b>
 <EOF 22c>

20b <Emacs Lisp package headers 20b>≡ (20a)
 ;; whyse.el -- noWeb HYpertext System in Emacs -*- lexical-binding: t -*-

 ;; Copyright I 2023 Bryce Carson

 ;; Author: Bryce Carson <bcars268@mtroyal.ca>
 ;; Created 2023-06-18
 ;; Keywords: tools tex hypermedia
 ;; URL: https://cyberscientist.ca/whyse

 ;; This file is not part of GNU Emacs.

Uses whyse I 3a.

20c <whyse-pkg.el 20c>≡
 (define-package "whyse" "0.1" "noWeb HYpertext System in Emacs"
 '(<required packages 21a>))

Uses whyse I 3a.
```

The Emacs Lisp Manual states, regarding the Package-Requires element of an Emacs Lisp package header:

Its format is a list of lists on a single line.

Thus, to prevent spill-over in the printed document, the *⟨required packages 21a⟩* are given on separate lines in the literate document. When the file is tangled, however, a Noweb filter will be used to ensure that all required packages are on a single line by simply removing the new lines from the following code chunk. The same principle is followed for the *⟨file-local variables 22d⟩* chunk.

```
21a ⟨required packages 21a⟩≡ (20c)
 (emacs "25.1")
 (emacsql "20230220")
 (dash "20230617")
 (peg "1.0.1")
 (cl-lib "1.0")
 (ts "20220822")

21b ⟨Licensing and copyright 21b⟩≡ (20a)
 ;; This program is free software: you can redistribute it and/or
 ;; modify it under the terms of the GNU General Public License as
 ;; published by the Free Software Foundation, either version 3 of the
 ;; License, or (at your option) any later version.

 ;; This program is distributed in the hope that it will be useful, but
 ;; WITHOUT ANY WARRANTY; without even the implied warranty of
 ;; MERCHANTABILITY or FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. See the GNU
 ;; General Public License for more details.

 ;; You should have received a copy of the GNU General Public License
 ;; along with this program. If not, see
 ;; <https://www.gnu.org/licenses/>.

 ;; If you cannot contact the author by electronic mail at the address
 ;; provided in the author field above, you may address physical mail as
 ;; below.

 ;; Bryce Carson, BSc Biology alumnus
 ;; ATTN: Dept. of Mathematics and Computing
 ;; Mount Royal University
 ;; 4825 Mount Royal Gate SW
 ;; Calgary, Alberta T3E 6K6
 ;; Canada
```

22a *<Commentary 22a>*≡ (20a)

```

;;; Commentary:
;;; WHYSE was described by Brown and Czedjo in _A Hypertext for Literate
;;; Programming_ (1991).
;;;
;;; Brown, M., Czedjo, B. (1991). A hypertext for literate programming.
;;; In: Akl, S.G., Fiala, F., Koczkodaj, W.W. (eds) Advances in
;;; Computing and Information ICCI '90. ICCI 1990. Lecture Notes in
;;; Computer Science, vol 468. Springer, Berlin, Heidelberg.
;;; https://doi-org.libproxy.mtroyal.ca/10.1007/3-540-53504-7_82.
;;;
;;; A paper describing this implementation--written in Noweb and browsable,
;;; editable, and auditable with WHYSE, or readable in the printed form--is
;;; hoped to be submitted to The Journal of Open Source Software (JOSS)
;;; before the year 2024. N.B.: the paper will include historical
;;; information about literate programming, and citations (especially
;;; of those given credit here for ideating WHYSE itself).
```

22b *<Code 22b>*≡ (20a)

```

;;; Code:
;;; Compiler directives
(eval-when-compile (require 'wid-edit))

;;; Internals
<Customization and global variables 1>
<Widgets 2>
<WHYSE project structure 4a>
<buffer parsing function 10b>

;;; Commands
;;;###autoload
<WHYSE 3a>
```

22c *<EOF 22c>*≡ (20a)

```

(provide 'whyse)

<file-local variables 22d>
```

**TODO** It was said earlier that a filter of some kind is used to ensure that file-local variables are on a single line. I believe I previously had file-local variables written on separate lines which were then joined together onto a single long line to be inserted at the top of a file. I probably then learned how to write a file-local variable block for insertion at the end of the file, as I have below. The earlier statement about this chunk will need to be edited so that it isn't incorrect (no filter is used on this chunk's contents, apparently).

22d *<file-local variables 22d>*≡ (22c)

```

;; Local Variables:
;; mode: emacs-lisp
;; no-byte-compile: t
;; no-native-compile: t
;; End:
```

## 8 Indices

### 8.1 Chunks

*<API-like functions 24>*  
*<buffer parsing function 10b>*  
*<chunks and their boundaries 12>*  
*<Code 22b>*  
*<collapse text and newline tokens into their largest possible form 19a>*  
*<Commentary 22a>*  
*<compile the parse tree into DDL and send it to the database 18c>*  
*<convert the Noweb to tool format and parse it with the PEG 4b>*  
*<create the database 5c>*  
*<cross-referencing keywords 17b>*  
*<Customization and global variables 1>*  
*<delete the database if it already exists, but only if it's an empty file 8>*  
*<Emacs Lisp package headers 20b>*  
*<EOF 22c>*  
*<error-causing keywords 18a>*  
*<file-local variables 22d>*  
*<files and their paths 11c>*  
*<fundamental indexing keywords, which are restricted to within a code chunk 16a>*  
*<Get project frame 7>*  
*<high-level Noweb tool syntax structure 11a>*  
*<identifiers defined in a chunk 16b>*  
*<identifiers used in a chunk 16c>*  
*<index nl error message 18b>*  
*<indexing and cross-referencing set-off words 15c>*  
*<keyword definitions 15a>*  
*<Licensing and copyright 21b>*  
*<map over SQL s-expressions, creating the tables 6>*  
*<meta rules 11b>*  
*<open Customize to register projects 3c>*  
*<PEG rules 10a>*  
*<push the compiled SQL to the database and to the history stack 19b>*  
*<quotations 14e>*  
*<required packages 21a>*  
*<return a filename for the project database 5b>*  
*<run the project shell script to obtain the tool syntax 5a>*  
*<structural keywords 13c>*  
*<structural keywords (except quotations) 13b>*  
*<tagging keywords 14a>*  
*<test-parser-with-temporary-buffer.el 25>*  
*<the index of identifiers 16d>*  
*<tool errors 14b>*  
*<unsupported indexing keywords 17a>*  
*<WHYSE 3a>*  
*<WHYSE project structure 4a>*

$\langle \text{whyse-pkg.el } 20c \rangle$   
 $\langle \text{whyse.el } 20a \rangle$   
 $\langle \text{Widgets } 2 \rangle$

## 8.2 Identifiers

Underlined indices denote definitions; regular indices denote uses.

w-parse-current-buffer-with-rules: 4b, 10b, 25  
 w-parse-success: 1, 10b, 25  
 w-load-default-project?: 3a, 3b, 3c  
 w-registered-projects: 1, 3a  
 whyse: 1, 3a, 20b, 20c, 25

## 9 Appendices

### 9.1 A user-suggested functionality: w-with-project

It was suggested during early development that  $\langle \text{API-like functions } 24 \rangle$  such as w-with-project be written. An early version of such functionality is provided in w-with-project.

24  $\langle \text{API-like functions } 24 \rangle \equiv$   
     ;; This chunk intentionally left blank at this time.



**TODO** Implement w-with-project

## 10 TESTING

**TODO** Adopt the ERT (Emacs Regression Tests) package to test WHYSE features as they are developed and become featureful. When a feature is implemented a test should be written which conforms to the current documentation so that regressions can be caught when changes are made.

### 10.1 Parsing Tests

#### 10.1.1 Parsing tool syntax within a temporary buffer

```
25 <test-parser-with-temporary-buffer.el 25>≡
;; -*- lexical-binding: nil; -*-
(defvar w-parse-success t
 "A simple boolean regarding the success or failure of the last
 attempt to parse a buffer of Noweb tool syntax.")

<buffer parsing function 10b>

(with-temp-buffer
 (insert (shell-command-to-string
 "make -silent -file ~/src/whyse/Makefile tool-syntax"))
 (goto-char (point-min))
 (cl-prettyprint (w-parse-current-buffer-with-rules))
 (pop-to-buffer
 (clone-buffer
 (generate-new-buffer-name
 (format "<WHYSE %s> Parsing tool syntax with a temporary buffer"
 (if w-parse-success "SUCCESS" "FAILURE"))))))

;; Local Variables:
;; mode: lisp-interaction
;; no-byte-compile: t
;; no-native-compile: t
;; eval: (read-only-mode)
;; End:

Defines:
 w-parse-success, used in chunk 10b.
Uses w-parse-current-buffer-with-rules 10b and whyse 1 3a.
```

## 11 EDITORIAL REMARKS

1. **TODO** Interactively develop a function to pop all of the elements off a stack on top of and including the first element in that stack for which a PREDICATE function returns non-nil.
2. **TODO** Modify knoweb to use the typographic conventions of Bert Burgemeister in his Common Lisp Quick Reference.
3. **TODO** Motivating the previous item, modify autodefs.elisp and finduses.nw to work better for LISPs with multiple slots (like Maclisp / Emacs Lisp). There should be no problem differentiating between whyse the customization group, and whyse the function, and whyse the variable. This is a difficult one and probably requires manual annotation, something filters should be used for after hacking on JOSEPH S. RIEL's autodefs.elisp and NOWEB's finduses.nw!

### List of notes

- 1 **TODO:** It was said earlier that a filter of some kind is used to ensure that file-local variables are on a single line. I believe I previously had file-local variables written on separate lines which were then joined together onto a single long line to be inserted at the top of a file. I probably then learned how to write a file-local variable block for insertion at the end of the file, as I have below. The earlier statement about this chunk will need to be edited so that it isn't incorrect (no filter is used on this chunk's contents, apparently). . . . . 22
- 2 **TODO:** Implement w-with-project . . . . . 25
- 3 **TODO:** Adopt the ERT (Emacs Regression Tests) package to test WHYSE features as they are developed and become featureful. When a feature is implemented a test should be written which conforms to the current documentation so that regressions can be caught when changes are made. . . . . 25
- 4 **TODO:** Interactively develop a function to pop all of the elements off a stack on top of and including the first element in that stack for which a PREDICATE function returns non-nil. 26
- 5 **TODO:** Modify knoweb to use the typographic conventions of Bert Burgemeister in his Common Lisp Quick Reference. . . . . 26
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