# $$\sum$$ A Library for Ansi Common Lisp

Christopher Mark Gore cgore@cgore.com http://cgore.com

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8729 Lower Marine Road, Saint Jacob, Illinois 62281 USA.

Web: http://cgore.com Email: cgore@cgore.com

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### Introduction

The  $\Sigma$  library is a generic library of mostly random useful code for ANSI Common Lisp. It is currently only really focused on SBCL, but patches to add support for other systems are more than welcome.

This library started out as a single file, utilities.lisp, that I personally used for shared generic code for all of my Lisp code. Most lispers have a similar file of some name, utilities.lisp, misc.lisp, shared.lisp, or even stuff.lisp, that is just a random collection of useful little generic macros and functions. Mine has grown over the years, and in 2012 I decided that I should try to make it useful to people other than myself.

You can download the library from GitHub at:

https://github.com/cgore/sigma

and I have some other information on it at my own website at:

http://cgore.com/programming/lisp/sigma/

#### 2.1 Getting Lisp

Before using this library you need a working Lisp. I use and recommend SBCL, Steel Bank Common Lisp, which is available at:

http://www.sbcl.org

This is derived from CMUCL, Carnegie Mellon University Common Lisp, which is still under active development and is: available at:

http://www.cons.org/cmucl/

SBCL has information on getting started at:

http://www.sbcl.org/getting.html

If you are using Debian or a similar Linux distribution (including Ubuntu), you can just run as root:

apt-get install sbcl sbcl-doc sbcl-source

#### 2.2 Getting Emacs and Slime

After installing, the best way to interact with any Common Lisp is via SLIME, the Superior Lisp Interaction Mode for EMACS, which is available at:

http://common-lisp.net/project/slime/

This can be installed on Debian by:

apt-get install slime emacs emacs-goodies-el

#### 2.3 Using the Library

First we need to clone the utilities.

mkdir -p /programming/lisp

cd /programming/lisp

git clone git@github.com:cgore/sigma.git

Now we need to make a directory for our project and symlink to the ASDF definition. There are other ways to load ASDF libraries, especially if you want to have them available globally; I strongly recommend you read the documentation to ASDF.

mkdir our-new-project

cd our-new-project

ln -s /programming/lisp/sigma/sigma.asd

Now we need to start up our Lisp REPL. The best way to do this for perfonal use is SLIME from within Emacs, but I will demonstrate using the shell itself here.

sbcl

Now we are in SBCL.

(require :asdf) ; Require ASDF

(require :sigma); Require the system via ASDF.

 $\verb|(sigma:use-all-sigma)| ; This will pollute COMMON-LISP-USER|\\$ 

(sum (loop for i from 1 to 100 collect i)) ;  $Returns\ 5050\ and\ makes$   $Euler\ sad.$ 

Have fun!

### The Behave Package

The behave package contains some useful code for confirming behavior of code, supporting a very basic form of behavior-driven development, BDD. The basic flow is to define the behavior of something, with multiple specs specified within that behavior specification, each consisting of various assertions, such as should=, should-equal, should-not-equal, and many others. If the behavior of the thing doesn't match the specified behavior, then there is some error.

#### 3.1 Macros

#### 3.1.1 The Behavior Macro

The behavior macro is used to specify a block of expected behavior for a thing. It specifies an example group, loosly similar to the describe blocks in Ruby's RSpec. It takes a single argument, the thing we are trying to describe, and then a body of code to evaluate that is evaluated in an implicit progn. It is to be used around a set of examples, or around a set of assertions directly.

#### Syntax

```
(behavior thing \&body body)
```

#### 3.1.2 The Spec Macro

The spec macro is used to indicate a specification for a desired behavior. It will normally serve as a grouping for assertions or nested specs.

#### **Syntax**

```
(spec description \&body body)
```

#### Examples

```
(spec "should pass some tests"
      (should= 12 (foo 3.5))
      (should= 14 (foo 4.22)))
```

#### 3.1.3 The Should Macro

The should macro is the basic building block for most of the behavior checking. It asserts that test returns truthfully for the arguments. Typically you will want to use one of the macros defined on top of should instead of using it directly, such as should=.

#### **Syntax**

```
(should test &rest arguments)
```

```
(should #'= 12 (* 3 4))
(should #'< 4 (* 2 3))
(should #'< 4 5 6 7)
```

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#### 3.1.4 The Should-Not Macro

The should-not macro is identical to the should macro, except that it inverts the result of the call with not.

#### Syntax

(should-not test &rest arguments)

```
(should-not #'< 12 4)
(should-not #'= 12 44)
```

- 3.1.5 The Should-Be-Null Macro
- 3.1.6 The Should-Be-A Macro
- 3.1.7 The Should= Macro
- 3.1.8 The Should/= Macro
- 3.1.9 The Should Macro
- 3.1.10 The Should> Macro
- 3.1.11 The Should<= Macro
- 3.1.12 The Should>= Macro
- 3.1.13 The Should-Eq Macro
- 3.1.14 The Should-Not-Eq Macro
- 3.1.15 The Should-Eql Macro
- 3.1.16 The Should-Not-Eql Macro
- 3.1.17 The Should-Equal Macro
- 3.1.18 The Should-Not-Equal Macro
- 3.1.19 The Should-EqualP Macro
- 3.1.20 The Should-Not-EqualP Macro
- 3.1.21 The Should-String= Macro
- 3.1.22 The Should-Not-String= Macro
- 3.1.23 The Should-String/= Macro
- 3.1.24 The Should-Not-String/= Macro
- 3.1.25 The Should-String< Macro
- 3.1.26 The Should-Not-String< Macro
- 3.1.27 The Should-String> Macro
- 3.1.28 The Should-Not-String> Macro
- 3.1.29 The Should-String<= Macro
- 3.1.30 The Should-Not-String<= Macro
- 3.1.31 The Should-String>= Macro
- 3.1.32 The Should-Not-String>= Macro
- 3.1.33 The Should-String-Equal Macro
- 3.1.34 The Should-Not-String-Equal Macro
- 3.1.35 The Should-String-Not-Equal Macro
- 3.1.36 The Should-Not-String-Not-Equal Macro
- 3.1.37 The Should-String-LessP Macro

### The Control Package

- 4.1.1 The Alf Macro
- 4.1.2 The A?If Macro
- 4.1.3 The AAnd Macro
- 4.1.4 The A?And Macro
- 4.1.5 The Alambda Macro
- 4.1.6 The A?Lambda Macro
- 4.1.7 The ABlock Macro
- 4.1.8 The A?Block Macro
- 4.1.9 The ACond Macro
- 4.1.10 The A?Cond Macro
- 4.1.11 The AWhen Macro
- 4.1.12 The A?When Macro
- 4.1.13 The AWhile Macro
- 4.1.14 The A?While Macro
- 4.1.15 The DeleteF Macro
- 4.1.16 The Do-While Macro
- 4.1.17 The Do-Until Macro
- 4.1.18 The For Macro
- 4.1.19 The Forever Macro
- 4.1.20 The Multicond Macro
- 4.1.21 The OpF Macro
- 4.1.22 The Swap Macro
- 4.1.23 The Swap-Unless Macro

# The Hash Package

#### 5.1 Functions

#### 5.1.1 The IncHash Function

The IncHash function will increment the value in key of the hash, initializing it to 1 if it isn't currently defined.

#### 5.1.2 The DecHash Function

The DecHash function will decrement the value in key of the hash, initializing it to -1 if it isn't currently defined.

### The Numeric Package

- 6.1 Macros
- 6.1.1 The DivF Macro
- 6.1.2 The MultF Macro
- 6.2 Functions
- 6.2.1 The Bit? Function
- 6.2.2 The Choose Function

The *Choose* function computes the binomial coefficient for n and k, typically spoken as n choose k, and usually written mathematically as  $\binom{n}{k}$ .

#### 6.2.3 The Factorial Function

The Factorial function computes n! for positive integers. NB, this isn't intelligent, and uses a loop instead of better approaches.

- 6.2.4 The Fractional-Part Function
- 6.2.5 The Fractional-Value Function
- 6.2.6 The Integer-Range Function
- 6.2.7 The Nonnegative? Function
- 6.2.8 The Nonnegative-Integer? Function
- 6.2.9 The Positive-Integer? Function
- 6.2.10 The Product Function
- 6.2.11 The Sum Function
- 6.2.12 The Unsigned-Integer? Function
- 6.3 Types
- 6.3.1 The Nonnegative-Float Type
- 6.3.2 The Nonnegative-Integer Type
- 6.3.3 The Positive-Float Type
- 6.3.4 The Positive-Integer Type

# The OS Package

#### 7.1 Functions

- 7.1.1 The Perl Function
- 7.1.2 The Python Function
- 7.1.3 The Read-File Function
- 7.1.4 The Read-Lines Function
- 7.1.5 The Ruby Function

#### 7.2 Parameters

- 7.2.1 The \*Perl-Path\* Parameter
- 7.2.2 The \*Python-Path\* Parameter
- 7.2.3 The \*Ruby-Path\* Parameter

# The Probability Package

- 8.1 Macros
- 8.1.1 The Decaying-Probabiliity? Macro
- 8.2 Functions
- 8.2.1 The Probability? Function
- 8.3 Types
- 8.3.1 The Probability Type

### The Random Package

- 9.1 Macros
- 9.1.1 The NShuffle Macro
- 9.2 Functions
- 9.2.1 The Gauss Function
- 9.2.2 The Random-Argument Function
- 9.2.3 The Coin-Toss Function
- 9.2.4 The Random-In-Range Function
- 9.2.5 The Random-In-Ranges Function
- 9.2.6 The Random-Range Function
- 9.2.7 The Randomize-Array Function
- 9.2.8 The Random-Array Function
- 9.3 Generics
- 9.3.1 The Random-Element Generic
- 9.3.2 The Shuffle Generic

# The Sequence Package

10.1	Macros
10.1.1	The Arefable? Macro
10.1.2	The NConcF Macro
10.1.3	The Nthable? Macro
10.1.4	The Set-NthCdr Macro
10.2	Functions
10.2.1	The Array-Values Function
10.2.2	The Nth-From-End Function
10.2.3	The Sequence? Function
10.2.4	The Empty-Sequence? Function
10.2.5	The Join-Symbol-To-All-Following Function
10.2.6	The Join-Symbol-To-All-Preceeding Function
10.2.7	The List-To-Vector Function
10.2.8	The Set-Equal Function
10.2.9	The Simple-Vector-To-List Function
10.2.10	The Sort-Order Function
10.2.11	The The-Last Function
10.2.12	The Vector-To-List Function
10.3	Generics
10.3.1	The Best Generic

10.3.2 The Minimum Generic

10.3.4 The Maximum Generic

The Minimum? Generic

10.3.3

### The String Package

The String package contains useful tools for working with strings.

#### 11.1 Functions

#### 11.1.1 The Character-Range Function

The character-range function returns a list of characters from the *start* to the *end* character. Note that this is returning a list, not a string.

#### **Syntax**

```
(character-range start\ end) \Longrightarrow '(start\ ...\ end)
```

#### **Arguments and Values**

Start The character to start the range with, inclusive.

**End** The character to end the range with, inclusive.

#### Examples

```
(character-range #\a #\e) \Longrightarrow '(#\a #\b #\c #\d #\e) (character-range #\e #\a) \Longrightarrow '(#\a #\b #\c #\d #\e)
```

#### 11.1.2 The Character-Ranges Function

The character-ranges function is a convenience wrapper for character-range function, concatenating several calls and making the resultant list contain only unique instances.

#### **Syntax**

```
(character-ranges start_1 \ end_1 \ldots \Longrightarrow '(character_1 \ldots)
```

#### **Arguments and Values**

 $Start_n$  The character to start the nth range with, inclusive.

 $End_n$  The character to end the nth range with, inclusive.

```
(character-ranges #\a #\c #\x #\z) \Longrightarrow '(#\a #\b #\c #\x #\y #\z) (character-ranges #\a #\c #\a #\c) \Longrightarrow '(#\a #\b #\c)
```

- 11.1.3 The Escape-Tildes Function
- 11.1.4 The Replace-Char Function
- 11.1.5 The StrCat Function
- 11.1.6 The StrMult Function
- 11.1.7 The String-Join Function
- 11.1.8 The Stringify Function
- 11.1.9 The To-String Function
- 11.2 Methods
- 11.2.1 The Split Methods

# The Time-Series Package

12.1	Macros
12.1.1	The Snap-Index Macro
12.2	Functions
12.2.1	The Array-Raster-Line Function
12.2.2	The Distance Function
12.2.3	The Norm Function
12.2.4	The Raster-Line Function
12.2.5	The Similar-Points? Function
12.2.6	The Time-Series? Function
12.2.7	The Time-Multiseries? Function
12.2.8	The TMSref Function
12.2.9	The TMS-Dimensions Function
12.2.10	The TMS-Raster-Line Function
12.2.11	The TMS-Values Function
12.3	Types
12.3.1	The Time-Multiseries Type

# The Truth Package

- 13.1 Functions
- 13.1.1 The [?] Function
- 13.1.2 The Toggle Function
- 13.2 Generics
- 13.2.1 The? Generic

# The Sigma Package

- 14.1 Variables
- 14.1.1 The \*Sigma-Packages\* Variable
- 14.2 Functions
- 14.2.1 The Use-All-Sigma Function