

# Lambda?

You Keep Using that Letter

@KevlinHenney

λ

AWS

wavelength

Half-Life

$\lambda$

calculus

decay constant

$\lambda$ -calculus

# A SET OF POSTULATES FOR THE FOUNDATION OF LOGIC.<sup>1</sup>

BY ALONZO CHURCH.<sup>2</sup>

**1. Introduction.** In this paper we present a set of postulates for the foundation of formal logic, in which we avoid use of the free, or real, variable, and in which we introduce a certain restriction on the law of excluded middle as a means of avoiding the paradoxes connected with the mathematics of the transfinite.

Our reason for avoiding use of the free variable is that we require that every combination of symbols belonging to our system, if it represents a proposition at all, shall represent a particular proposition, unambiguously, and without the addition of verbal explanations. That the use of the free variable involves violation of this requirement, we believe is readily seen. For example, the identity

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character of uniqueness  
or absolute truth to any  
particular system of logic.

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The entities of formal logic are abstractions, invented because of their use in describing and systematizing facts of experience or observation, and their properties, determined in rough outline by this intended use, depend for their exact character on the arbitrary choice of the inventor.

A SET OF POSTULATES FOR THE FOUNDATION  
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# AN UNSOLVABLE PROBLEM OF ELEMENTARY NUMBER THEORY.<sup>1</sup>

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**1. Introduction.** There is a class of problems of elementary number theory which can be stated in the form that it is required to find an effectively calculable function  $f$  of  $n$  positive integers, such that  $f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = 2^2$  is a necessary and sufficient condition for the truth of a certain proposition of elementary number theory involving  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  as free variables.

An example of such a problem is the problem to find a means of determining of any given positive integer  $n$  whether or not there exist positive integers  $x, y, z$ , such that  $x^n + y^n = z^n$ . For this may be interpreted, required to find an effectively calculable function  $f$ , such that  $f(n)$  is equal to 2 if and only if there exist positive integers  $x, y, z$ , such that  $x^n + y^n = z^n$ . Clearly

In 1911 Russell & Whitehead published Principia Mathematica, with the goal of providing a solid foundation for all of mathematics. In 1931 Gödel's Incompleteness Theorem shattered the dream, showing that for any consistent axiomatic system there will always be theorems that cannot be proven within the system.

*Adrian Colyer*

<https://blog.acolyer.org/2020/02/03/measure-mismeasure-fairness/>

One premise of many models of fairness in machine learning is that you can measure ('prove') fairness of a machine learning model from within the system – i.e. from properties of the model itself and perhaps the data it is trained on.

To show that a machine learning model is fair, you need information from outside of the system.

*Adrian Colyer*

<https://blog.acolyer.org/2020/02/03/measure-mismeasure-fairness/>

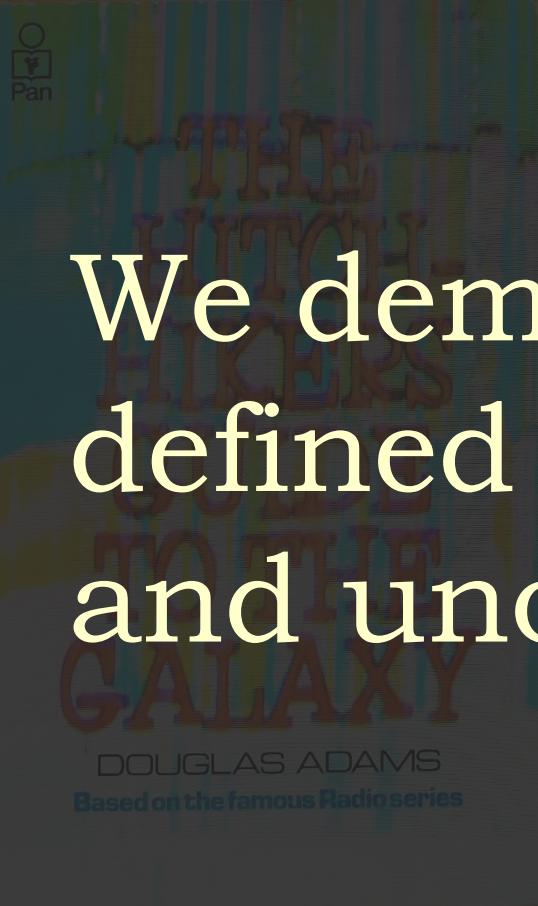


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## **LISP 1.5 Programmer's Manual**

**The Computation Center  
and Research Laboratory of Electronics**

**Massachusetts Institute of Technology**



Despite the fancy name, a  
lambda is just a function...  
peculiarly... without a name.

*<https://rubymonk.com/learning/books/1-ruby-primer/chapters/34-lambdas-and-blocks-in-ruby/lessons/77-lambdas-in-ruby>*

There are only two hard things  
in Computer Science: cache  
invalidation and naming things.

*Phil Karlton*

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# We select a particular list of

ANSWERABLE PROBLEMS OF ELEMENTARY NUMBER

THEORY.<sup>1</sup>

symbols, consisting of the

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symbols {, }, (, ), λ, [ , ],

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set of symbols  $a, b, c, \dots$  to  
be called *variables*.

# And we define the word AN UNSOLVABLE PROBLEM OF ELEMENTARY NUMBER

THEORY.<sup>1</sup>

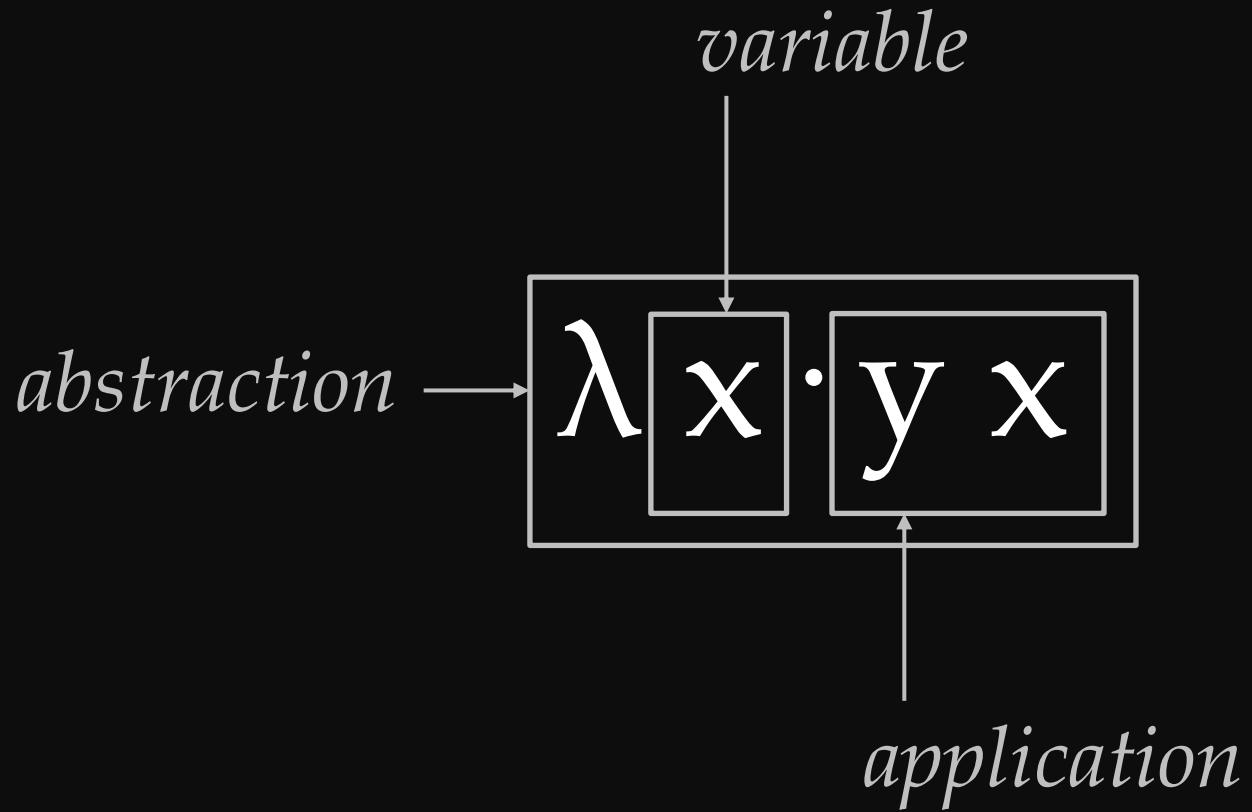
*formula* to mean any finite sequence of symbols out of this list.

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$$f(x) = formula$$

$f \rightarrow \lambda x \cdot formula$



*bound variable*


$$f \rightarrow \lambda x \cdot y x$$


*abbreviation*



*free variable*

square( $x$ ) =  $x \times x$

square  $\rightarrow \lambda x \cdot x \times x$

square  $\rightarrow \lambda$    $\cdot$    $\times$  

$\square \rightarrow \lambda \circlearrowleft \cdot \circlearrowleft \times \circlearrowleft$

□ 7

square 7

$$(\lambda x \cdot x \times x)^7$$

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## ELEMENTARY NUMBER THEORY

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# NUMBER

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0

$0 \rightarrow \lambda f \cdot \lambda x \cdot x$

$1 \rightarrow \lambda f \cdot \lambda x \cdot f(x)$

$2 \rightarrow \lambda f \cdot \lambda x \cdot f(f(x))$

$3 \rightarrow \lambda f \cdot \lambda x \cdot f(f(f(x)))$

$4 \rightarrow \lambda f \cdot \lambda x \cdot f(f(f(f(x))))$

$5 \rightarrow \lambda f \cdot \lambda x \cdot f(f(f(f(f(x))))$

$6 \rightarrow \lambda f \cdot \lambda x \cdot f(f(f(f(f(f(x))))))$

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$1 \rightarrow \lambda f x \cdot f x$

$2 \rightarrow \lambda f x \cdot f^2 x$

$3 \rightarrow \lambda f x \cdot f^3 x$

$4 \rightarrow \lambda f x \cdot f^4 x$

$5 \rightarrow \lambda f x \cdot f^5 x$

$6 \rightarrow \lambda f x \cdot f^6 x$

$0 \rightarrow \lambda f x \cdot f^0 x$

$1 \rightarrow \lambda f x \cdot f^1 x$

$2 \rightarrow \lambda f x \cdot f^2 x$

$3 \rightarrow \lambda f x \cdot f^3 x$

$4 \rightarrow \lambda f x \cdot f^4 x$

$5 \rightarrow \lambda f x \cdot f^5 x$

$6 \rightarrow \lambda f x \cdot f^6 x$

7

7. times

7.times { | i | puts i }

0

1

2

3

4

5

6

$0 \rightarrow \lambda f x \cdot x$

$1 \rightarrow \text{succ } 0$

$2 \rightarrow \text{succ succ } 0$

$3 \rightarrow \text{succ succ succ } 0$

$4 \rightarrow \text{succ succ succ succ } 0$

$5 \rightarrow \text{succ succ succ succ succ } 0$

$6 \rightarrow \text{succ succ succ succ succ succ } 0$

$0 \rightarrow \lambda f x \cdot x$

$1 \rightarrow \text{succ}^1 0$

$2 \rightarrow \text{succ}^2 0$

$3 \rightarrow \text{succ}^3 0$

$4 \rightarrow \text{succ}^4 0$

$5 \rightarrow \text{succ}^5 0$

$6 \rightarrow \text{succ}^6 0$

$0 \rightarrow \lambda f x \cdot x$

$1 \rightarrow \text{succ } 0$

$2 \rightarrow \text{succ } 1$

$3 \rightarrow \text{succ } 2$

$4 \rightarrow \text{succ } 3$

$5 \rightarrow \text{succ } 4$

$6 \rightarrow \text{succ } 5$

$$\text{succ} \rightarrow \lambda n f x \cdot f(n f x)$$

You may have heard of lambdas before. Perhaps you've used them in other languages.

<https://rubymonk.com/learning/books/1-ruby-primer/chapters/34-lambdas-and-blocks-in-ruby/lessons/77-lambdas-in-ruby>

```
auto square(auto x)
{
    return x * x;
}
```

```
auto square = [](auto x)
{
    return x * x;
};
```

square(7)

```
[](auto x)
{
    return x * x;
}(7)
```

```
[](auto x) {return x * x;}(7)
```

They're anonymous, little  
functional spies sneaking  
into the rest of your code.

*<https://rubymonk.com/learning/books/1-ruby-primer/chapters/34-lambdas-and-blocks-in-ruby/lessons/77-lambdas-in-ruby>*

**Excel is the world's  
most popular  
functional language**

**Simon Peyton-Jones**

## **LISP 1.5 Programmer's Manual**

**The Computation Center  
and Research Laboratory of Electronics**

**Massachusetts Institute of Technology**



(lambda (x) (\* x x))

```
((lambda (x) (* x x)) 7)
```

LAST NIGHT I DRIFTED OFF  
WHILE READING A LISP BOOK.

HUH?

SUDDENLY, I WAS BATHED  
IN A SUFFUSION OF BLUE.

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HUH?

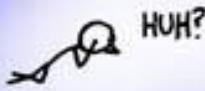
SUDDENLY, I WAS BATHED  
IN A SUFFUSION OF BLUE.

AT ONCE, JUST LIKE THEY SAID, I FELT A  
GREAT ENLIGHTENMENT. I SAW THE NAKED  
STRUCTURE OF LISP CODE UNFOLD BEFORE ME.



THE PATTERNS AND METAPATTERNS DANCED.  
SYNTAX FADED, AND I SWAM IN THE PURITY OF  
QUANTIFIED CONCEPTION. OF IDEAS MANIFEST.

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TRULY, THIS WAS THE LANGUAGE FROM WHICH THE GODS WROUGHT THE UNIVERSE.



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NO, IT'S NOT.

IT'S NOT?



I MEAN, OSTENSIBLY, YES. HONESTLY, WE HACKED MOST OF IT TOGETHER WITH PERL.

We lost the documentation on quantum mechanics.  
You'll have to decode the regexes yourself.

# Revised Report on the Algorithmic Language

# Algol 68

Edited by

A. van Wijngaarden, B. J. Mailloux,  
L E I Peck C H A Koster M Sintzoff

*(int x) int: x \* x*

```
proc (int) int square;  
square := (int x) int: x * x;  
int result := square (7);
```

((*int* x) *int*: x \* x) (7)

Lambdas in Ruby are  
also objects, just like  
everything else!

*<https://rubymonk.com/learning/books/1-ruby-primer/chapters/34-lambdas-and-blocks-in-ruby/lessons/77-lambdas-in-ruby>*

The venerable master Qc Na was walking with his student, Anton. Hoping to prompt the master into a discussion, Anton said “Master, I have heard that objects are a very good thing — is this true?”

Qc Na looked pityingly at his student and replied, “Foolish pupil — objects are merely a poor man’s closures.”

The concept of closures was developed in the 1960s for the mechanical evaluation of expressions in the  $\lambda$ -calculus.

Peter J. Landin defined the term *closure* in 1964 as having an *environment part* and a *control part*.

[\*https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Closure\\_\(computer\\_programming\)\*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Closure_(computer_programming))

Joel Moses credits Landin with introducing the term *closure* to refer to a lambda expression whose open bindings (free variables) have been closed by (or bound in) the lexical environment, resulting in a *closed expression, or closure.*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Closure\\_\(computer\\_programming\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Closure_(computer_programming))

This usage was subsequently adopted by Sussman and Steele when they defined Scheme in 1975, a lexically scoped variant of LISP, and became widespread.

*[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Closure\\_\(computer\\_programming\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Closure_(computer_programming))*

Chastised, Anton took his leave from his master and returned to his cell, intent on studying closures. He carefully read the entire “Lambda: The Ultimate...” series of papers and its cousins, and implemented a small Scheme interpreter with a closure-based object system.

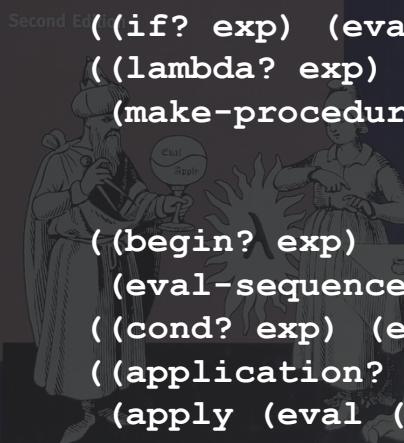
# Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs

Second Edition



Harold Abelson and  
Gerald Jay Sussman  
with Julie Sussman

```
(define (eval exp env)
  (cond ((self-evaluating? exp) exp)
        ((variable? exp) (lookup-variable-value exp env))
        ((quoted? exp) (text-of-quotation exp))
        ((assignment? exp) (eval-assignment exp env))
        ((definition? exp) (eval-definition exp env))
        ((if? exp) (eval-if exp env))
        ((lambda? exp)
         (make-procedure (lambda-parameters exp)
                         (lambda-body exp)
                         env))
        ((begin? exp)
         (eval-sequence (begin-actions exp) env))
        ((cond? exp) (eval (cond->if exp) env))
        ((application? exp)
         (apply (eval (operator exp) env)
                (list-of-values (operands exp) env))))
        (else
         (error "Unknown expression type -- EVAL" exp))))
```



Harold Abelson and  
Gerald Jay Sussman  
*LISP*

**(define (eval exp env)**

Structure and  
Interpretation  
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Programs

**Second Edition**

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**(cond ((self-evaluating? exp) exp)**

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**((definition? exp) (eval-definition exp env))**

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**((lambda? exp)**

**(make-procedure (lambda-parameters exp)**

**(lambda-body exp)**

**env))**

**((begin? exp)**

**(eval-sequence (begin-actions exp) env))**

**((cond? exp) (eval (cond->if exp) env))**

**((application? exp)**

**(apply (eval (operator exp) env)**

**(list-of-values (operands exp) env))))**

**(else (error "Unknown expression type -- EVAL" exp))))**

This work developed out of an initial attempt to understand the actorness of actors.

This interpreter attempted to intermix the use of actors and LISP lambda expressions in a clean manner.

“Scheme: An Interpreter for Extended Lambda Calculus”  
Gerald Jay Sussman & Guy L Steele Jr

When it was completed, we discovered that the “actors” and the lambda expressions were identical in implementation.

“Scheme: An Interpreter for Extended Lambda Calculus”  
Gerald Jay Sussman & Guy L Steele Jr

On his next walk with Qc Na, Anton attempted to impress his master by saying “Master, I have diligently studied the matter, and now understand that objects are truly a poor man’s closures.”

Qc Na responded by hitting Anton with his stick, saying “When will you learn? Closures are a poor man’s object.”

At that moment, Anton became enlightened.

<http://people.csail.mit.edu/gregs/l1-discuss-archive-html/msg03277.html>

# On Understanding Data Abstraction, Revisited

William R. Cook

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## Abstract

In 1985 Luca Cardelli and Peter Wegner, my advisor, published an ACM Computing Surveys paper called “On understanding types, data abstraction, and polymorphism”. Their work kicked off a flood of research on semantics and type theory for object-oriented programming, which continues to this day. Despite 25 years of research, there is still widespread confusion about the two forms of data abstraction, *abstract data types* and *objects*. This essay attempts to explain the differences and also why the differences matter.

**Categories and Subject Descriptors** D.3.3 [Programming Languages]: Language Constructs and Features—Abstract data types; D.3.3 [Programming Languages]: Language

So what is the point of asking this question? Everyone knows the answer. It’s in the textbooks. The answer may be a little fuzzy, but nobody feels that it’s a big issue. If I didn’t press the issue, everyone would nod and the conversation would move on to more important topics. But I do press the issue. I don’t say it, but they can tell I have an agenda.

My point is that the textbooks mentioned above are wrong! Objects and abstract data types are not the same thing, and neither one is a variation of the other. They are fundamentally different and in many ways complementary, in that the strengths of one are the weaknesses of the other. The issues are obscured by the fact that most modern programming languages support both objects and abstract data types, often blending them together into one syntactic form.

# On Understanding Data Abstraction, Revisited

# $\lambda$ -calculus was the

# first object-oriented language.

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cepts and Semantics—Object and class structures; D.3.3 [Programming Languages]: Language Elements—Object-oriented programming languages

```
stack<std::string> words;  
  
assert(words.depth() == 0);  
assert(words.top() == std::nullopt);  
  
words = words.push("C");  
words = words.push("C++");  
  
assert(words.depth() == 2);  
assert(words.top() == "C++");  
  
words = words.pop();  
  
assert(words.top() == "C");
```

```
template<typename T>
struct stack
{
    stack();
    stack(const T & head, const stack & tail);
    std::function<std::size_t()> depth;
    std::function<std::optional<T>()> top;
    std::function<stack()> pop;
    std::function<stack(const T &)> push;
};
```

```
stack() :  
    depth(  
        ),  
    top(  
        ),  
    pop(  
        ),  
    push(  
        )  
{  
}
```

```
stack() :  
    depth(  
        []  
            { return 0; }),  
    top(  
        ),  
    pop(  
        ),  
    push(  
        )  
{  
}
```

```
stack() :  
    depth(  
        []  
            { return 0; }),  
    top(  
        []  
            { return std::nullopt; }),  
    pop()  
        ),  
    push()  
        )  
{  
}
```

```
stack() :  
    depth(  
        []  
            { return 0; }),  
    top(  
        []  
            { return std::nullopt; }),  
    pop(  
        []  
            { return stack(); }),  
    push(  
        )  
{  
}
```

```
stack() :  
    depth(  
        []  
            { return 0; }),  
    top(  
        []  
            { return std::nullopt; }),  
    pop(  
        []  
            { return stack(); }),  
    push(  
        [] (const auto & new_top)  
            { return stack(new_top, stack()); })  
{  
}
```

```
stack(const T & head, const stack & tail) :
    depth(
        [=]
            { return 1 + tail.depth(); }),
    top(
        [=]
            { return head; }),
    pop(
        [=]
            { return tail; }),
    push(
        [=] (const auto & new_top)
            { return stack(new_top, tail.push(head)); })
{  
}
```

```
stack(const T & head, const stack & tail) :
    depth(
        [size = 1 + tail.depth()]
            { return size; }),
    top(
        [head]
            { return head; }),
    pop(
        [tail]
            { return tail; }),
    push(
        [head, tail] (const auto & new_top)
            { return stack(new_top, tail.push(head)); })
{  
}
```

# STRUCTURED PROGRAMMING

O.-J. DAHL, E. W. DIJKSTRA  
and C. A. R. HOARE

One of the most powerful mechanisms for program structuring [...] is the block and procedure concept.

Ole-Johan Dahl and C A R Hoare  
“Hierarchical Program Structures”

```
begin
    ref(Rock) array items(1:capacity);
    integer count;
    integer procedure Depth; ...
    ref(Rock) procedure Top; ...
    procedure Push(top); ...
    procedure Pop; ...
    count := 0
end;
```

A procedure which is capable of giving rise to block instances which survive its call will be known as a class; and the instances will be known as objects of that class.

Ole-Johan Dahl and C A R Hoare  
“Hierarchical Program Structures”

```
class Stack(capacity);
    integer capacity;
begin
    ref(Rock) array items(1:capacity);
    integer count;
    integer procedure Depth; ...
    ref(Rock) procedure Top; ...
    procedure Push(top); ...
    procedure Pop; ...
    count := 0
end;
```

We could, of course, use any notation we want; do not laugh at notations; invent them, they are powerful.  
In fact, mathematics is, to a large extent, invention of better notations.

Richard Feynman

λ

λa

â

Aa

λa

λ

Lambda



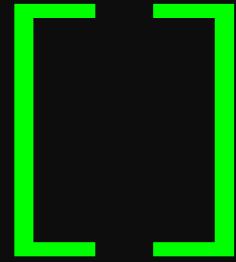
function

fin



**=>**

- >

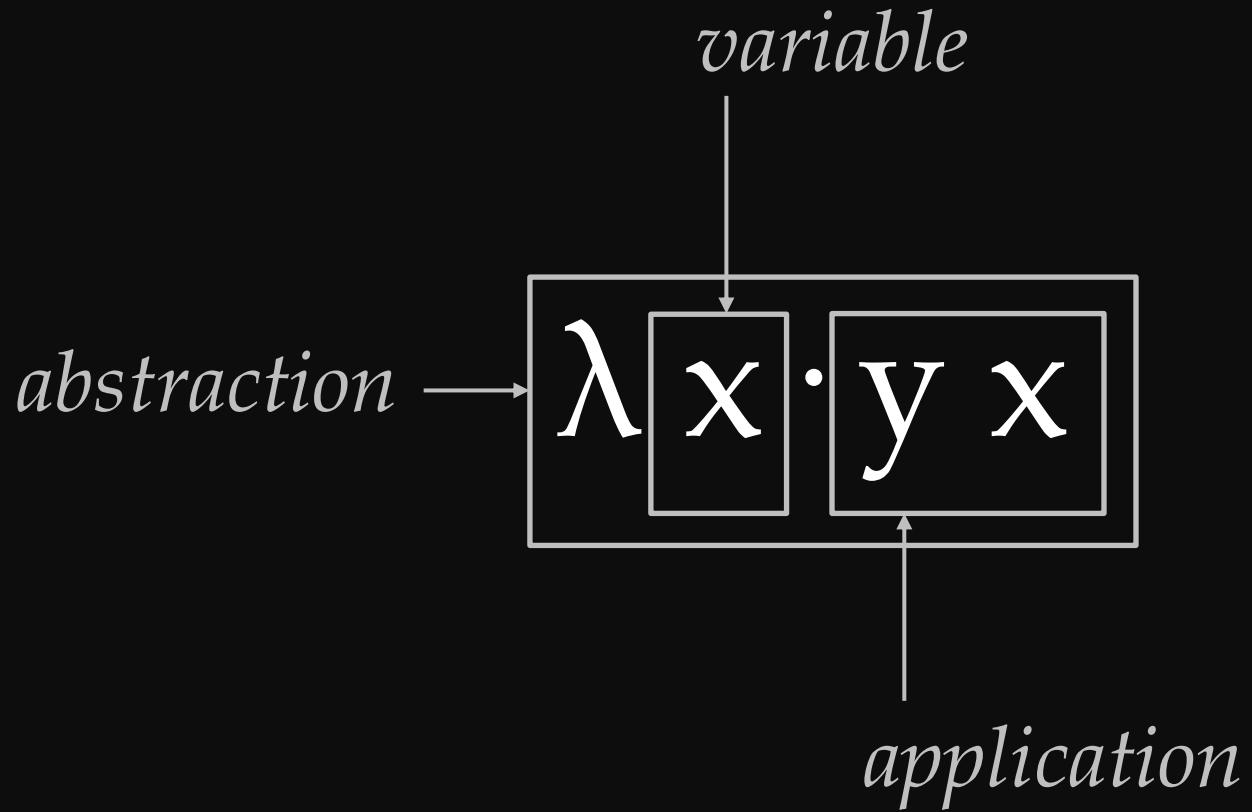


[] () {}

[] () {} ()



[ [ ] ] ( [ ] () [ [ ] ] { } = { } ) ( )



*abstraction*

*variable*

*application*



```
[] (auto x) {return x * x;}(7)
```



# THE HITCH- HIKERS GUIDE TO THE GALAXY

DOUGLAS ADAMS

Based on the famous Radio series



“Oh God,” muttered Ford, slumped against a bulkhead and started to count to ten. He was desperately worried that one day sentient life forms would forget how to do this. Only by counting could humans demonstrate their independence of computers.

GALACTIC

DOUGLAS ADAMS

Based on the famous Radio series

$0 \rightarrow \lambda f \cdot \lambda x \cdot x$

$1 \rightarrow \lambda f \cdot \lambda x \cdot f(x)$

$2 \rightarrow \lambda f \cdot \lambda x \cdot f(f(x))$

$3 \rightarrow \lambda f \cdot \lambda x \cdot f(f(f(x)))$

$4 \rightarrow \lambda f \cdot \lambda x \cdot f(f(f(f(x))))$

$5 \rightarrow \lambda f \cdot \lambda x \cdot f(f(f(f(f(x))))$

$6 \rightarrow \lambda f \cdot \lambda x \cdot f(f(f(f(f(f(x))))))$

0 = f => x => x

1 = f => x => f(x)

2 = f => x => f(f(x))

3 = f => x => f(f(f(x)))

4 = f => x => f(f(f(f(x))))

5 = f => x => f(f(f(f(f(x)))))

6 = f => x => f(f(f(f(f(f(x))))))

$\_0 = f \Rightarrow x \Rightarrow x$

$\_1 = \text{succ}(\_0)$

$\_2 = \text{succ}(\_1)$

$\_3 = \text{succ}(\_2)$

$\_4 = \text{succ}(\_3)$

$\_5 = \text{succ}(\_4)$

$\_6 = \text{succ}(\_5)$

$\text{succ} = n \Rightarrow f \Rightarrow x \Rightarrow f(n(f)(x))$

```
auto succ =  
[] (auto n)  
{  
    return [=] (auto f)  
    {  
        return [=] (auto x)  
        {  
            return f(n(f)(x));  
        };  
    };  
};
```

```
auto _0 =
[](auto f)
{
    return [=](auto x)
    {
        return x;
    };
};
```

```
auto _0 = ...;
auto _1 = succ(_0);
auto _2 = succ(_1);
auto _3 = succ(_2);
auto _4 = succ(_3);
auto _5 = succ(_4);
auto _6 = succ(_5);
```

```
auto plus_1 = [] (auto n)
{
    return n + 1;
};
```

0

\_

\_0(plus\_1)

0

1

2

3

4

5

6

\_0(plus\_1)(0)

\_1(plus\_1)(0)

\_2(plus\_1)(0)

\_3(plus\_1)(0)

\_4(plus\_1)(0)

\_5(plus\_1)(0)

\_6(plus\_1)(0)

```
auto plus_1 = [] (auto n)
{
    return n + lexical_cast<decltype(n)>(1);
};
```

0

1

2

3

4

5

6

\_0(plus\_1)(0)

\_1(plus\_1)(0)

\_2(plus\_1)(0)

\_3(plus\_1)(0)

\_4(plus\_1)(0)

\_5(plus\_1)(0)

\_6(plus\_1)(0)

_0(plus_1)(""s)	
_1(plus_1)(""s)	1
_2(plus_1)(""s)	11
_3(plus_1)(""s)	111
_4(plus_1)(""s)	1111
_5(plus_1)(""s)	11111
_6(plus_1)(""s)	111111

square

```
auto square = [] (auto m)
{
    return _2(m);
};
```

square(\_7)

square(\_7)(plus\_1)

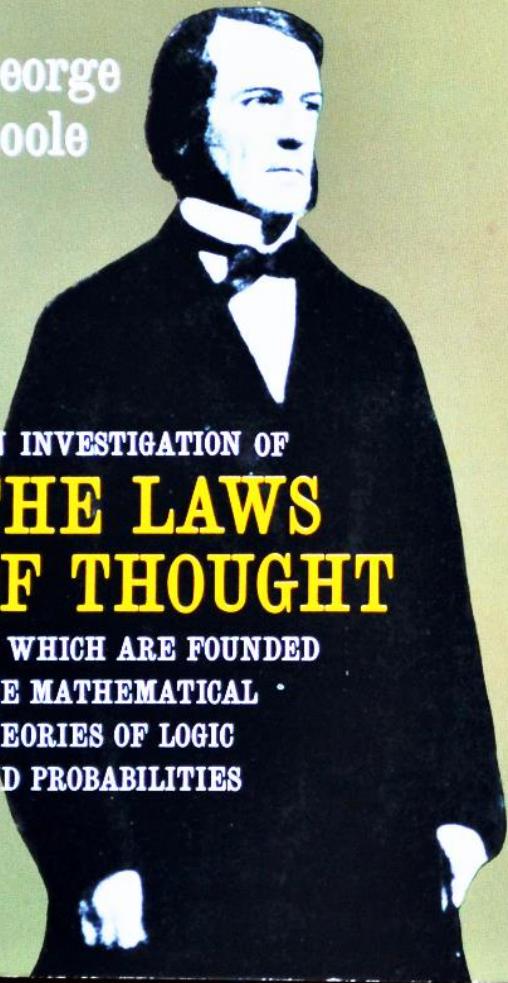
square(\_7)(plus\_1)(0)

49

George  
Boole

AN INVESTIGATION OF  
**THE LAWS  
OF THOUGHT**

ON WHICH ARE FOUNDED  
THE MATHEMATICAL  
THEORIES OF LOGIC  
AND PROBABILITIES



true

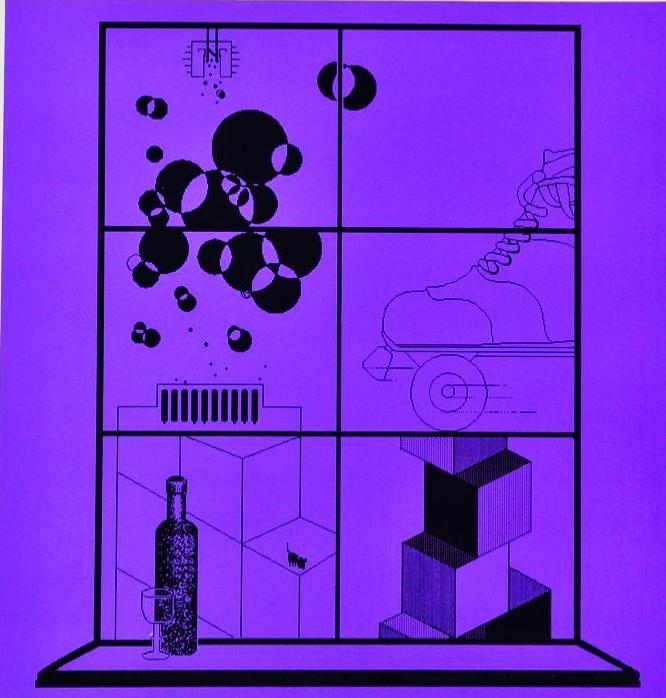
false

true  $\rightarrow \lambda a b \cdot a$

false  $\rightarrow \lambda a b \cdot b$

# SMALLTALK-80

THE LANGUAGE



Adele Goldberg and David Robson

```
7 * 7 < limit
```

```
ifTrue: [^ '👍']
```

```
ifFalse: [^ '👎']
```

True

ifTrue: ToDo ifFalse: ignore  
^ ToDo value

False

ifTrue: ignore ifFalse: ToDo  
^ ToDo value

false → λ a b · b

false → λ ☺ ☹ • ☹

false → λ f x · x

false = 0

SECOND EDITION

---

THE

---



---

PROGRAMMING  
LANGUAGE

---

BRIAN W. KERNIGHAN  
DENNIS M. RITCHIE

PRENTICE HALL SOFTWARE SERIES

pair  $\rightarrow \lambda x y f \cdot f(x)(y)$

first  $\rightarrow \lambda p \cdot p(\lambda x y \cdot x)$

second  $\rightarrow \lambda p \cdot p(\lambda x y \cdot y)$

pair	$\rightarrow \lambda x y f \cdot f x y$
first	$\rightarrow \lambda p \cdot p \text{ true}$
second	$\rightarrow \lambda p \cdot p \text{ false}$

cons	$\rightarrow \lambda x y f \cdot f x y$
car	$\rightarrow \lambda p \cdot p \text{ true}$
cdr	$\rightarrow \lambda p \cdot p \text{ false}$
nil	$\rightarrow \text{false}$

## **LISP 1.5 Programmer's Manual**

**The Computation Center  
and Research Laboratory of Electronics**

**Massachusetts Institute of Technology**

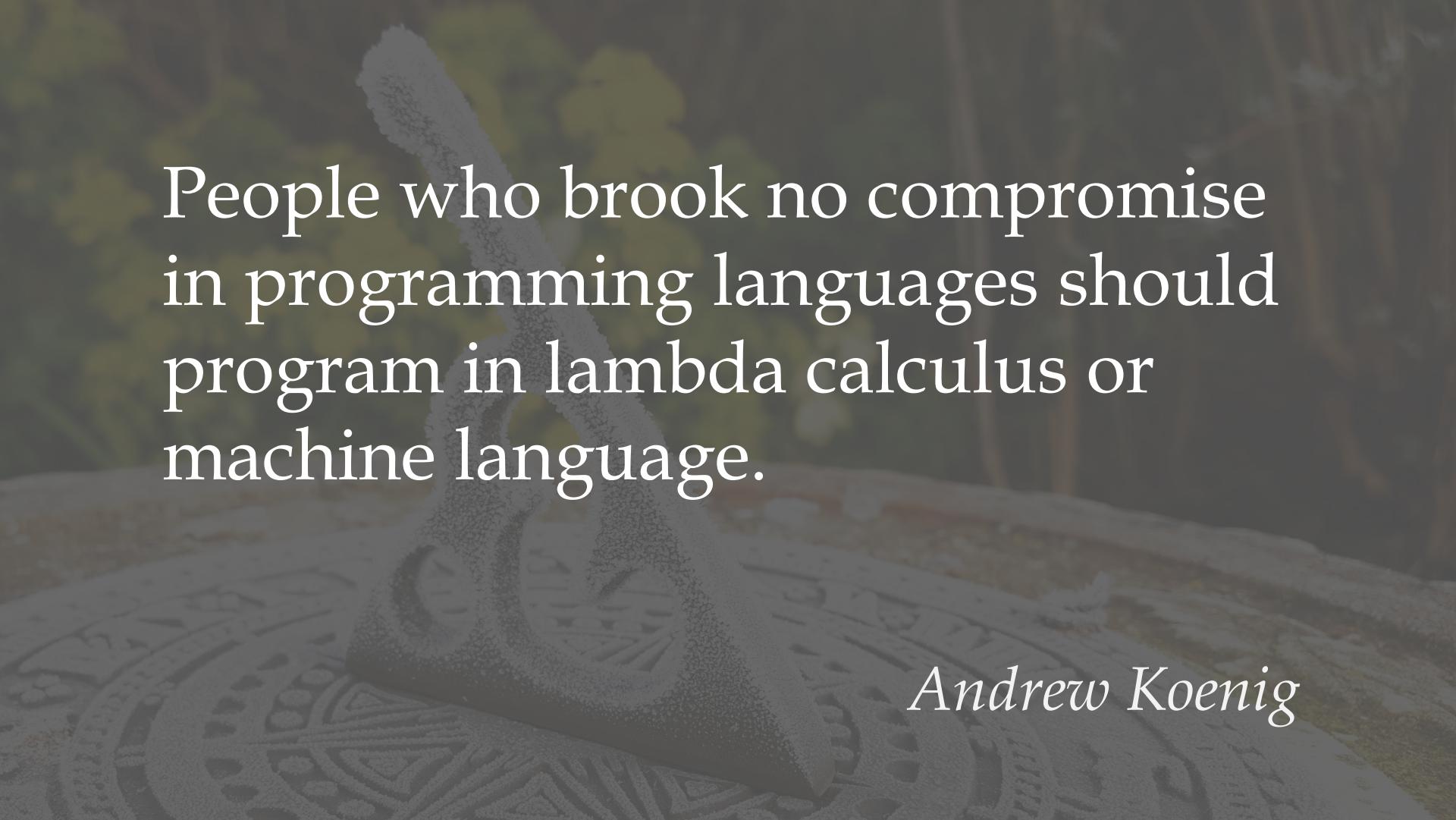


cons	$\rightarrow \lambda x y f \cdot f x y$
car	$\rightarrow \lambda p \cdot p \text{ true}$
cdr	$\rightarrow \lambda p \cdot p \text{ false}$
nil	$\rightarrow \text{false}$

push	$\rightarrow \lambda x y f \cdot f x y$
top	$\rightarrow \lambda p \cdot p \text{ true}$
pop	$\rightarrow \lambda p \cdot p \text{ false}$
stack	$\rightarrow \text{false}$



λ

A grayscale photograph of a person sitting on a wooden bench in a park. They are wearing a dark hoodie and light-colored pants, and are looking down at a laptop computer they are holding in their lap. The background shows trees and a path.

People who brook no compromise  
in programming languages should  
program in lambda calculus or  
machine language.

*Andrew Koenig*