

| Topic & Link | Description | Note |
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| Last updated on: | 2026-01-21 | |
| Lisp General Learning | | |
| Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs | General intro to Lisp - must read | |
| ELisp - Emacs Lisp | | |
| GNU Emacs Manuals Online | Lists all GNU Emacs manuals, reference cards, etc... | |
| An Introduction To Emacs Lisp Programming - Robert J. Chassell | | Read first. This can also be read in Info mode inside emacs. This is best because you can execute the ELisp code directly. Note , however, that this is a slow rate introductory text. |
| An Introduction To Emacs Lisp Programming - Book Review | | |
| Gnu Emacs Manual - Evaluating Emacs Lisp Expressions | Gnu Emacs manual section on evaluating expressions: list commands available. | |
| Emacs manual - 27.9: evaluating Emacs Lisp Expressions | | |
| Emacs Lisp @ wikipedia | | |
| How to run set interactively | | |
| Emacs Lisp Guide | A quick overview, with links to Emacs Lisp manual on various topics. | |
| Elisp - Symbols & Variables | | |
| GNU Emacs Manual - Ch 8 - Symbols | (symbolp OBJECT) | |
| Emacs keywords: constant variables: symbol whose name start with ':' | (keywordp OBJECT) | |
| Valued constants, defined with (defconst) | - (defconst SYMBOL INITVALUE [DOCSTRING]) - defines as global variable | |
| Variables; defined with (defvar) | - (defvar SYMBOL &optional INITVALUE DOCSTRING) - defines as global variable | |
| GNU Emacs Manual - Ch 11 - Variables | | |
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| GNU Emacs Manual - Ch 14 - Customization Settings | Making variable customizable | |
| Gnu Emacs Manual - Defining Customization variables with: defcustom, deface and defgroup macros | - (defcustom SYMBOL STANDARD DOC &rest ARGS) - (defface FACE SPEC DOC &rest ARGS) - (defgroup SYMBOL MEMBERS DOC &rest ARGS) | |
| Gnu Emacs Manual - Common item keywords (Ch14.1) | - :tag - :group - :link - :load - :require - :version - :package-version | |
| Elisp - Defining Functions/Lambdas | | |
| GNU Emacs Manual - Ch 12 - Functions | | |
| Elisp - Macros | | |
| GNU Emacs Manual - Ch 13 - Macros | | |
| Elisp Libraries | | |
| Learning GNU Emacs - Ch 11.7 - Building your own Lisp Library | | |
| GNU Emacs Manual - Libraries of Lisp Code for Emacs | Describe the load-file and load-library functions, the impact of load-prefer-newer and load-path variables. It also describes the lower-level load function. | |
| GNU Emacs Manual - How Programs Do Loading | | |
| Elisp - Byte-Compile | | |
| GNU Emacs Manual - Ch 16 - Byte Compilation | Top level chapter on byte-compilation | |
| Where and when should emacs lisp files be byte-compiled? @ Stack Exchange | | |
| Command to remove all .elc files in directory tree: | find ~/.emacs.d/ -type f -name "*.elc" -delete | Example for inside ~/.emacs.d |

Emacs Lisp - List/Array/Hash Operations

| Topic | URL | Note |
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| GNU Emacs Manual - Ch 5 - Lists | https://www.gnu.org/software/emacs/manual/html_node/elisp/Lists.html#Lists | |
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| GNU Emacs Manual - Ch 6 - Sequences, Arrays & Vector | https://www.gnu.org/software/emacs/manual/html_node/elisp/Sequences-Arrays-Vectors.html#Sequences-Arrays-Vectors | |
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| GNU Emacs Manual - Ch 7 - Hash Tables | https://www.gnu.org/software/emacs/manual/html_node/elisp/Hash-Tables.html#Hash-Tables | |
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| List Modifications @ EmacsWiki | https://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/ListModification | |

Emacs Lisp - Strings Operations

| Topic | Reference | Note |
|--|---|------|
| GNU Emacs Manual - Ch 4 - Strings and Characters | https://www.gnu.org/software/emacs/manual/html_node/elisp/Strings-and-Characters.html#Strings-and-Characters | |

| Topic | Reference | Note |
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| trim string | https://stackoverflow.com/questions/21357537/how-to-trim-whitespace-from-the-end-of-a-variable#21357675 | - Module: subr-x - Functions: string-trim, string-trim-left, string-trim-left |
| concatenating paths to create file path | https://stackoverflow.com/questions/3964715/what-is-the-correct-way-to-join-multiple-path-components-into-a-single-complete | Use: file-name-as-directory |

Emacs Lisp - Control Structures

| GNU Emacs Manual - Ch 10 - Control Structures | https://www.gnu.org/software/emacs/manual/html_node/elisp/Control-Structures.html#Control-Structures | - Sequencing, conditionals (if, cond, when, unless), combining conditions (and, or, not), iterations (while loops), generators (generic sequences & coroutines), nonlocal exits. |
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References - ELisp Code Techniques

| Topic | URL | Note |
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| Elisp Cookbook @ EmacsWiki | https://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/ElispCookbook | several easy to use code snippets |
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| Elisp: Check If a {function, variable, feature} is Defined/Loaded | http://ergoemacs.org/emacs/elisp_check_defined.html | |

ELisp - Inserting text

| Topic | URL | Note |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| How do I get emacs to insert text into an arbitrary file? | https://superuser.com/questions/297774/how-do-i-get-emacs-to-insert-text-into-an-arbitrary-file | - Use the function: (insert “text”) |

ELisp - Lack of Tail Call Optimization

| Topic | URL | Note |
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| recur - package that implement TCO | https://github.com/VincentToups/recur | Implements a lisp package (recur) that provides TCO. Good description. Author also uses Clojure. |
| tco.el | https://github.com/Wilfred/tco.el | Another implementation |
| Stack Overflow - Why is there no tail recursion optimization in Emacs lisp, not but like other scheme? | https://stackoverflow.com/questions/38493904/why-is-there-no-tail-recursion-optimization-in-emacs-lisp-not-but-like-other-sc | |

Reference - Speeding Up Emacs

| Topic | URL | Note |
|--|---|--|
| Optimizing Emacs Startup @ Emacs Wiki | https://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/OptimizingEmacsStartup | |
| What can I do to speed up my start-up? @ StackExchange | https://emacs.stackexchange.com/questions/2286/what-can-i-do-to-speed-up-my-start-up | Has a list of do and don't .- |
| How can I make Emacs start-up faster? @ StackOverflow | https://stackoverflow.com/questions/778716/how-can-i-make-emacs-start-up-faster | Another set of ideas listed. |
| Emacs speed up 1000% | http://blog.binchen.org/posts/emacs-speed-up-1000.html | Speed up by copying to RAM |
| Speeding Up Emacs | https://anuragpeshne.github.io/essays/emacsSpeed.html | Describes using the use-package as well as esup package |
| To display Emacs init time | (emacs-init-time) | Evaluate this expression to see time it takes to emacs to startup. |
| Profile your Emacs start-up time | https://oremacs.com/2015/02/24/emacs-speed-test/ | Also use the use-package . Use profile-dotemacs.el |
| Speedup Emacs startup using byte-compiled Elisp files | https://coderwall.com/p/4irmw/speedup-emacs-startup-using-byte-compiled-elisp-files | Just a reminder of the techniques described in the GNU Emacs manual. |

Reference - Emacs (generic)

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| What are the best resources for learning Emacs Lisp? | Description of best resources to learn lisp. Worth reading. | |
| An Introduction to Programming in Emacs Lisp | The introduction manual part of Emacs. | |
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| Emacs blog - emacs horror | | |
| Emacs blog - emacs ninja | | |
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