

Topic & Link	Description	Note
Last updated on:	2026-02-17	
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		
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 - Macros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Edebug and macros <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instrumenting macro calls</li> <li>Specification list</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
The pcase macro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The case of pcase - by Andrew Favia . Provides examples. of how to use pcase.</li> </ul>	
Elisp Libraries		
Learning GNU Emacs - Ch 11.7 - Building your own Lisp Library		
GNU Emacs Manual - Libraries of Lisp Code for Emacs	Describe the <b>load-file</b> and <b>load-library</b> functions, the impact of <b>load-prefer-newer</b> and <b>load-path</b> variables. It also describes the lower-level <b>load</b> 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
GNU Emacs Manual - Ch 5 - Lists	<a href="https://www.gnu.org/software/emacs/manual/html_node/elisp/Lists.html#Lists">https://www.gnu.org/software/emacs/manual/html_node/elisp/Lists.html#Lists</a>	
GNU Emacs Manual - Ch 6 - Sequences, Arrays & Vector	<a href="https://www.gnu.org/software/emacs/manual/html_node/elisp/Sequences-Arrays-Vectors.html#Sequences-Arrays-Vectors">https://www.gnu.org/software/emacs/manual/html_node/elisp/Sequences-Arrays-Vectors.html#Sequences-Arrays-Vectors</a>	
GNU Emacs Manual - Ch 7 - Hash Tables	<a href="https://www.gnu.org/software/emacs/manual/html_node/elisp/Hash-Tables.html#Hash-Tables">https://www.gnu.org/software/emacs/manual/html_node/elisp/Hash-Tables.html#Hash-Tables</a>	
List Modifications @ EmacsWiki	<a href="https://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/ListModification">https://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/ListModification</a>	

Emacs Lisp - Strings Operations

Topic	Reference	Note
GNU Emacs Manual - Ch 4 - Strings and Characters	<a href="https://www.gnu.org/software/emacs/manual/html_node/elisp/Strings-and-Characters.html#Strings-and-Characters">https://www.gnu.org/software/emacs/manual/html_node/elisp/Strings-and-Characters.html#Strings-and-Characters</a>	

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

#### Emacs Lisp - Control Structures

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

#### References - ELisp Code Techniques

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

#### ELisp - Inserting text

Topic	URL	Note
How do I get emacs to insert text into an arbitrary file?	<a href="https://superuser.com/questions/297774/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</a>	- Use the function: (insert "text")

#### ELisp - Lack of Tail Call Optimization

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

#### Reference - Speeding Up Emacs

Topic	URL	Note
Optimizing Emacs Startup @ Emacs Wiki	<a href="https://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/OptimizingEmacsStartup">https://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/OptimizingEmacsStartup</a>	
What can I do to speed up my start-up? @ StackExchange	<a href="https://emacs.stackexchange.com/questions/2286/what-can-i-do-to-speed-up-my-start-up">https://emacs.stackexchange.com/questions/2286/what-can-i-do-to-speed-up-my-start-up</a>	Has a list of do and don't .-
How can I make Emacs start-up faster? @ StackOverflow	<a href="https://stackoverflow.com/questions/778716/how-can-i-make-emacs-start-up-faster">https://stackoverflow.com/questions/778716/how-can-i-make-emacs-start-up-faster</a>	Another set of ideas listed.
Emacs speed up 1000%	<a href="http://blog.binchen.org/posts/emacs-speed-up-1000.html">http://blog.binchen.org/posts/emacs-speed-up-1000.html</a>	Speed up by copying to RAM
Speeding Up Emacs	<a href="https://anuragpeshne.github.io/essays/emacsSpeed.html">https://anuragpeshne.github.io/essays/emacsSpeed.html</a>	Describes using the <b>use-package</b> 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	<a href="https://oremacs.com/2015/02/24/emacs-speed-test/">https://oremacs.com/2015/02/24/emacs-speed-test/</a>	Also use the <b>use-package</b> . Use profile-dotemacs.el
Speedup Emacs startup using byte-compiled Elisp files	<a href="https://coderwall.com/p/_4irmw/speedup-emacs-startup-using-byte-compiled-elisp-files">https://coderwall.com/p/_4irmw/speedup-emacs-startup-using-byte-compiled-elisp-files</a>	Just a reminder of the techniques described in the GNU Emacs manual.

#### Reference - Emacs (generic)

Topic	Description	Note
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.	
Emacs blog - emacsshorror		
Emacs blog - emacsninja		