

Lisp!

Mark Maloof
Department of Computer Science
Georgetown University
Washington, DC 20057

September 12, 2017

Why Lisp?

- ▶ Great for symbolic computation
- ▶ Great for functional programming
- ▶ Learning Lisp will make you a better programmer in other languages

Why Lisp?

- ▶ Great for symbolic computation
- ▶ Great for functional programming
- ▶ Learning Lisp will make you a better programmer in other languages
- ▶ Phillip Greenspun's Tenth Rule of Programming: "Any sufficiently complicated C or Fortran program contains an ad hoc, informally-specified bug-ridden slow implementation of half of Common Lisp."

Symbolic Computation

- ▶ Differentiation:

- ▶ General form: $a^d \Rightarrow da^{d-1}$

- ▶ Application: $n^2 \Rightarrow 2n$

- ▶ DeMorgan's Law:

- ▶ General form: $\neg(\phi \wedge \psi) \Rightarrow \neg\phi \vee \neg\psi$

- ▶ Application: $\neg(\neg p \wedge q \rightarrow r) \Rightarrow \neg\neg p \vee \neg(q \rightarrow r)$

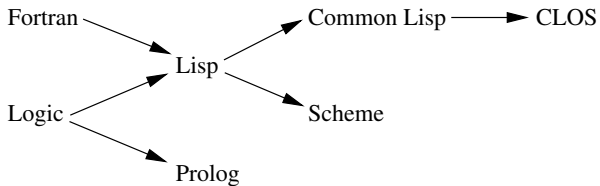
Functional Programming Languages

- ▶ Everything is a function that returns a value, even for loops
- ▶ First-class and higher-order functions
- ▶ Purely functional languages have immutable data structures, which eliminates side effects
- ▶ No side effects means computation can be distributed
- ▶ Pure functional: Haskell
- ▶ “Impure” functional: Common Lisp, Clojure
- ▶ Languages have different degrees of purity.

What is Lisp?

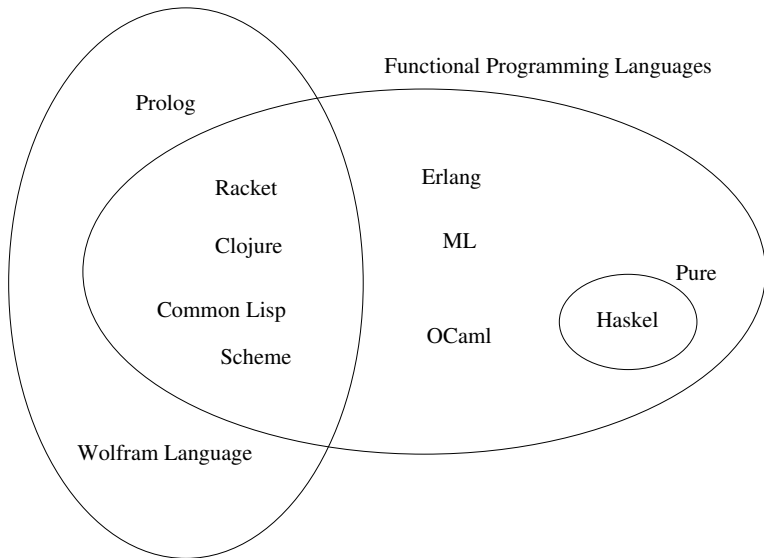
- ▶ Specified by John McCarthy in 1958
- ▶ LISP \equiv LISt Processing
- ▶ Functional programming language
- ▶ Great for symbolic computing; important for AI tasks of the day
 - ▶ Predominant languages of the day were Fortran and COBOL
- ▶ Interpreted, but it can be compiled
- ▶ Great for rapid prototyping

A Lineage of Lisp



Languages for Symbolic Computing

Languages for Symbolic Computing



Why Aren't We Learning Clojure?

- ▶ Clojure is a dialect of Lisp that runs on the Java Virtual Machine
- ▶ Immutable data structures
- ▶ Optimized for concurrency via map-reduce
- ▶ There are oddities (e.g., `doseq` returns `nil`)
- ▶ Clojure is still developing
- ▶ My advice: Go learn it after this class

Things to get your Head Around

- ▶ Most everything in Lisp is a list (a linked list)

Things to get your Head Around

- ▶ Most everything in Lisp is a list (a linked list)
 - ▶ OK, no big deal; I know about linked lists

Things to get your Head Around

- ▶ Most everything in Lisp is a list (a linked list)
 - ▶ OK, no big deal; I know about linked lists
- ▶ Lists can store elements of different types

Things to get your Head Around

- ▶ Most everything in Lisp is a list (a linked list)
 - ▶ OK, no big deal; I know about linked lists
- ▶ Lists can store elements of different types
 - ▶ OK, that's cool; I know about generic programming and class hierarchies

Things to get your Head Around

- ▶ Most everything in Lisp is a list (a linked list)
 - ▶ OK, no big deal; I know about linked lists
- ▶ Lists can store elements of different types
 - ▶ OK, that's cool; I know about generic programming and class hierarchies
- ▶ Most everything is a function that returns a value

Things to get your Head Around

- ▶ Most everything in Lisp is a list (a linked list)
 - ▶ OK, no big deal; I know about linked lists
- ▶ Lists can store elements of different types
 - ▶ OK, that's cool; I know about generic programming and class hierarchies
- ▶ Most everything is a function that returns a value
 - ▶ OK, that's fine; so, no void types. I got it.

Things to get your Head Around

- ▶ Most everything in Lisp is a list (a linked list)
 - ▶ OK, no big deal; I know about linked lists
- ▶ Lists can store elements of different types
 - ▶ OK, that's cool; I know about generic programming and class hierarchies
- ▶ Most everything is a function that returns a value
 - ▶ OK, that's fine; so, no void types. I got it.
- ▶ Functions, function calls, and control structures are also linked lists

Things to get your Head Around

- ▶ Most everything in Lisp is a list (a linked list)
 - ▶ OK, no big deal; I know about linked lists
- ▶ Lists can store elements of different types
 - ▶ OK, that's cool; I know about generic programming and class hierarchies
- ▶ Most everything is a function that returns a value
 - ▶ OK, that's fine; so, no void types. I got it.
- ▶ Functions, function calls, and control structures are also linked lists
 - ▶ Umm, but, aren't linked lists for storing and manipulating data?

Things to get your Head Around

- ▶ Most everything in Lisp is a list (a linked list)
 - ▶ OK, no big deal; I know about linked lists
- ▶ Lists can store elements of different types
 - ▶ OK, that's cool; I know about generic programming and class hierarchies
- ▶ Most everything is a function that returns a value
 - ▶ OK, that's fine; so, no void types. I got it.
- ▶ Functions, function calls, and control structures are also linked lists
 - ▶ Umm, but, aren't linked lists for storing and manipulating data?
- ▶ Consequently, there is no distinction between code and data

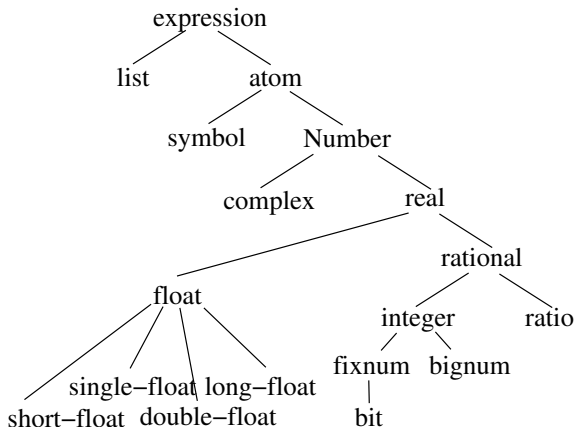
Things to get your Head Around

- ▶ Most everything in Lisp is a list (a linked list)
 - ▶ OK, no big deal; I know about linked lists
- ▶ Lists can store elements of different types
 - ▶ OK, that's cool; I know about generic programming and class hierarchies
- ▶ Most everything is a function that returns a value
 - ▶ OK, that's fine; so, no void types. I got it.
- ▶ Functions, function calls, and control structures are also linked lists
 - ▶ Umm, but, aren't linked lists for storing and manipulating data?
- ▶ Consequently, there is no distinction between code and data
 - ▶ OK, now you lost me

Things to get your Head Around

- ▶ Most everything in Lisp is a list (a linked list)
 - ▶ OK, no big deal; I know about linked lists
- ▶ Lists can store elements of different types
 - ▶ OK, that's cool; I know about generic programming and class hierarchies
- ▶ Most everything is a function that returns a value
 - ▶ OK, that's fine; so, no void types. I got it.
- ▶ Functions, function calls, and control structures are also linked lists
 - ▶ Umm, but, aren't linked lists for storing and manipulating data?
- ▶ Consequently, there is no distinction between code and data
 - ▶ OK, now you lost me
- ▶ And then there are the parentheses...

Lisp Data Types

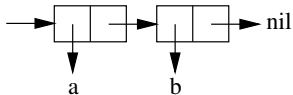


Lists and Function Calls

- ▶ We form lists and function calls using parentheses
- ▶ Prefix notation:
 - ▶ The first element of a list is the operator or function name
- ▶ Use a single quote to prevent evaluation
 - ▶ Empty list: `()`
 - ▶ List: `'(sqrt 4)`
 - ▶ Function Call: `(sqrt 4)`
 - ▶ If-statement: `(if pig 'cow 'dog)`
 - ▶ List: `'(if pig 'cow 'dog)`

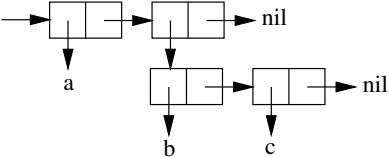
Linked Lists in Lisp

'(a b)



Linked Lists in Lisp

```
'(a (b c))
```



Numeric Operators and Functions

- ▶ +
- ▶ -
- ▶ *
- ▶ sqrt
- ▶ 1+
- ▶ 1-
- ▶ min
- ▶ max
- ▶ expt
- ▶ log
- ▶ abs
- ▶ sin, cos, tan
- ▶ asin, acos, atan
- ▶ floor, ceiling, round, truncate

Output Functions

- ▶ `(format <file-stream> <control-string> <variable-list>)`
- ▶ Example: `(format t "This is a test, ~a~%", 'bob)`
- ▶ Output: This is a test, BOB
- ▶ Basic control codes:
 - ▶ `~a` — any lisp object
 - ▶ `~s` — s-expression
 - ▶ `~d` — decimal
 - ▶ `~f` — float
 - ▶ `~%` — newline character
- ▶ Note that in sbcl output is buffered by default.
- ▶ `(flush-output)`.

prog1 Blocks

- ▶ Syntax:

(prog1
 $\langle form_1 \rangle$
 $\langle form_2 \rangle$
 ...
 $\langle form_n \rangle$)

- ▶ Semantics:

- ▶ Evaluates forms 1– n
- ▶ prog1 evaluates to the valuation of $\langle form_1 \rangle$

progn Blocks

- ▶ Syntax:

```
(progn
  ⟨form1⟩
  ⟨form2⟩
  ...
  ⟨formn⟩)
```

- ▶ Semantics:

- ▶ Evaluates forms 1– n
- ▶ `progn` evaluates to the valuation of $\langle form_n \rangle$

Defining Functions: defun

- ▶ Syntax:

```
(defun <function-name> (<parameter-list>)  
  <form>)
```

- ▶ Semantics:

- ▶ Defines a function with the name *<function-name>* with the parameters *<parameter-list>* and the body *<form>*.
- ▶ Evaluates to the function *<function-name>*

Binding Local Variables: `let` and `let*`

- ▶ Syntax:

```
(let[*] ((⟨variable1⟩ ⟨value1⟩)
        (⟨variable2⟩ ⟨value2⟩)
        ...
        (⟨variablen⟩ ⟨valuen⟩))
  ⟨form⟩)
```

- ▶ Semantics:

- ▶ Defines locally scoped variables 1–*n*
- ▶ Binds or assigns values 1–*n* to variables 1–*n*, respectively
- ▶ Evaluates ⟨*form*⟩
- ▶ `let` evaluates to the valuation of ⟨*form*⟩
- ▶ `let*` forces the sequential assignment of variables 1–*n*

Branching: *if-then-else*, *when*, *unless*

- ▶ Syntax:

```
(if <test>
  <then-form>
  [<else-form>])
```

- ▶ Semantics:

- ▶ Evaluates *<test>*
- ▶ If *<test>* is not *nil*, evaluates *<then-form>*
- ▶ Otherwise, if *<else-form>* is not *nil*, evaluates *<else-form>*
- ▶ *if* evaluates to the form evaluated

- ▶ Also:

- ▶ $(\text{when } \langle test \rangle \langle form \rangle) \equiv (\text{if } \langle test \rangle \langle then-form \rangle)$
- ▶ $(\text{unless } \langle test \rangle \langle form \rangle) \equiv (\text{if } \langle test \rangle \text{ nil } \langle else-form \rangle)$
- ▶ $(\text{unless } (\text{not } \langle test \rangle) \langle form \rangle) \equiv (\text{if } (\text{not } \langle test \rangle) \langle then-form \rangle)$

Relational and Equality Operators and Functions

- ▶ `equalp` — same expression?
- ▶ `equal` — same expression?
- ▶ `eq1` — same symbol or number?
- ▶ `eq` — same symbol?
- ▶ `=` — same number?
- ▶ `atom` — is it an atom?
- ▶ `numberp` — is it a number?
- ▶ `consp` — is it a cons?
- ▶ `listp` — is it a list?
- ▶ `symbolp` — is it a symbol?
- ▶ `boundp` — is it a bound symbol?
- ▶ Also `member`, `null`, `zerop`, `plusp`, `minusp`, `evenp`, `oddp`, `<`, `<=`, `>=`, and `>`.

Nested if-then-else Statements: `cond`

- ▶ Syntax:

```
(cond (<test1> <consequent1>)
      (<test2> <consequent2>)
      ...
      (<testn> <consequentn>))
```

- ▶ Semantics:

- ▶ Evaluates tests 1– n
- ▶ Evaluates the consequent of the first test that is not `nil`
- ▶ `cond` evaluates to the valuation of the consequent or to `nil` if no test is not `nil`
- ▶ Note that the literal `t` always evaluates to true

Looping through Lists: `dolist`

- ▶ Syntax:

```
(dolist (<variable> <list-form> [<result-form>])  
  <form>)
```

- ▶ Semantics:

- ▶ Iterates once for each element in *<list-form>*
- ▶ Assigns the element to *<variable>*
- ▶ Evaluates *<form>*
- ▶ Upon loop termination, evaluates *<result-form>*
- ▶ `dolist` evaluates to the valuation of *<result-form>*

Count-controlled Loops: `dotimes`

- ▶ Syntax:

`(dotimes (<variable> <upper-bound-form> [<result-form>])
 <form>)`

- ▶ Semantics:

- ▶ Iterates over $[0, \langle upper-bound-form \rangle)$
- ▶ Assigns the counter value to $\langle variable \rangle$
- ▶ Evaluates $\langle form \rangle$
- ▶ Upon loop termination, evaluates $\langle result-form \rangle$
- ▶ `dotimes` evaluates to the valuation of $\langle result-form \rangle$

General Looping Construct: do and do*

► Syntax:

```
(do[*]((⟨var1⟩ ⟨init1⟩ ⟨update1⟩)
      (⟨var2⟩ ⟨init2⟩ ⟨update2⟩)
      ...
      (⟨varn⟩ ⟨initn⟩ ⟨updaten⟩))
      (⟨termination-test⟩ ⟨result-form⟩)
      ⟨form⟩)
```

► Semantics:

- Defines locally scoped variables $\langle var_i \rangle$
- Initializes them to $\langle init_i \rangle$
- Loops until $\langle termination-test \rangle$ is not nil by
 - updating $\langle var_i \rangle$ by evaluating $\langle update_i \rangle$
 - evaluating $\langle form \rangle$
- Upon loop termination, evaluates $\langle result-form \rangle$
- do evaluates to the valuation of $\langle result-form \rangle$
- do* forces the sequential assignment of $\langle var_i \rangle$

Arrays

▶ Creation

- ▶ `(setf single (make-array '(4)))`

- ▶ `(setf double (make-array '(2 4)))`

- ▶

- `(setf double (make-array '(2 4) :initial-element nil)) ;`

▶ Access

- ▶ `(format t "~a~%" (aref single 1))`

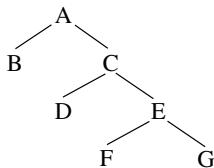
- ▶ `(format t "~a~%" (aref double 0 0))`

▶ Assignment

- ▶ `(setf (aref single 1) 'hoya)`

- ▶ `(setf (aref double 0 0) 'saxa)`

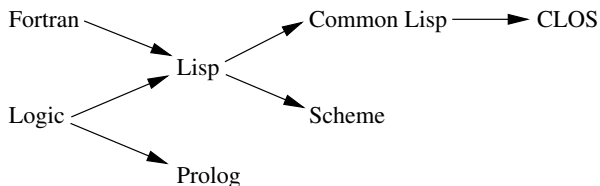
Binary Trees



```
(A (B nil nil)
  (C (D nil nil)
    (E (F nil nil)
      (G nil nil))))
```

```
(A (B)
  (C (D)
    (E (F)
      (G))))
```

Graphs



```
(setf (get 'fortran 'influenced) '(lisp))  
(setf (get 'logic 'influenced) '(lisp prolog))  
(setf (get 'lisp 'influenced) '(scheme common-lisp))  
(setf (get 'common-lisp 'influenced) '(clos))
```

Things We Won't Cover

- ▶ Dotted Lists
- ▶ Types
- ▶ Strings
- ▶ Serious File I/O
- ▶ Packages
- ▶ Hash Tables
- ▶ Structures (aka records)
- ▶ Exceptions: throw and catch
- ▶ Programmer-defined macros
- ▶ CLOS: classes, properties, methods
- ▶ Many, many functions, forms, and macros