

# Robot Programming with Lisp

## 5. More Functional Programming: Lexical Scope, Closures, Recursion (Macros)

Arthur Niedzwiecki

Institute for Artificial Intelligence  
University of Bremen

November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021

# Contents

## Concepts

Lexical Scope

Closures

Recursion

Macros

## Organizational

Concepts

Organizational

# The let Environment

```
let
```

```
CL-USER> (let ((a 1)
               (b 2))
           (values a b))
```

```
1
2
```

```
CL-USER> (values a b)
The variable A is unbound.
```

```
CL-USER> (defvar some-var 'global)
(let ((some-var 'outer))
  (let ((some-var 'inter))
    (format t "some-var inner: ~a~%" some-var)
    (format t "some-var outer: ~a~%" some-var)
    (format t "global-var: ~a~%" some-var)
```

```
?
```

# The let Environment

```
let
```

```
CL-USER> (let ((a 1)
                (b 2))
           (values a b))
```

```
1
2
```

```
CL-USER> (values a b)
The variable A is unbound.
```

```
CL-USER> (defvar some-var 'global)
(let ((some-var 'outer))
  (let ((some-var 'inter))
    (format t "some-var inner: ~a~%" some-var)
    (format t "some-var outer: ~a~%" some-var)
    (format t "global-var: ~a~%" some-var)
```

```
some-var inner: INTER
some-var outer: OUTER
global-var: GLOBAL
```

# The let Environment [2]

```
let*
```

```
CL-USER> (let ((a 4)
                (a^2 (expt a 2)))
           (values a a^2))
```

The variable A is unbound.

```
CL-USER> (let* ((a 4)
                 (a^2 (expt a 2)))
           (values a a^2))
```

```
4
16
```

# Lexical Variables

In Lisp, non-global **variable values** are, when possible, **determined at compile time**. They are **bound lexically**, i.e. they are bound to the code they're defined in, not to the run-time state of the program.

## Riddle

```
CL-USER> (let* ((lexical-var 304)
                (some-lambda (lambda () (+ lexical-var 100))))
           (setf lexical-var 4)
           (funcall some-lambda))
?
```

# Lexical Variables

In Lisp, non-global **variable values** are, when possible, **determined at compile time**. They are **bound lexically**, i.e. they are bound to the code they're defined in, not to the run-time state of the program.

## Riddle

```
CL-USER> (let* ((lexical-var 304)
                (some-lambda (lambda () (+ lexical-var 100))))
           (setf lexical-var 4)
           (funcall some-lambda))
```

104

This is one single `let` block, therefore `lexical-var` is the same everywhere in the block.

# Lexical Variables [2]

## Lexical scope with `lambda` and `defun`

```
CL-USER> (defun return-x (x)
           (let ((x 304))
             x))
           (return-x 3)
```

?



# Lexical Variables [2]

## Lexical scope with `lambda` and `defun`

```
CL-USER> (defun return-x (x)
           (let ((x 304))
             x))
           (return-x 3)
```

```
304
```

`lambda`-s and `defun`-s create lexical local variables per default.

# Lexical Variables [3]

## More Examples

```
CL-USER> (let* ((lexical-var 304)
                (some-lambda (lambda () (+ lexical-var 100))))
           (setf lexical-var 4)
           (funcall some-lambda))
104
CL-USER> lexical-var
?
```

# Lexical Variables [3]

## More Examples

```
CL-USER> (let* ((lexical-var 304)
                (some-lambda (lambda () (+ lexical-var 100))))
           (setf lexical-var 4)
           (funcall some-lambda))

104
CL-USER> lexical-var
; Evaluation aborted on #<UNBOUND-VARIABLE LEXICAL-VAR {100AA9C403}>.
```

```
CL-USER> (let ((another-var 304)
                (another-lambda (lambda () (+ another-var 100))))
           (setf another-var 4)
           (funcall another-lambda))

?
```

# Lexical Variables [3]

## More Examples

```
CL-USER> (let* ((lexical-var 304)
                (some-lambda (lambda () (+ lexical-var 100))))
           (setf lexical-var 4)
           (funcall some-lambda))
104
CL-USER> lexical-var
; Evaluation aborted on #<UNBOUND-VARIABLE LEXICAL-VAR {100AA9C403}>.
```

```
CL-USER> (let ((another-var 304)
                (another-lambda (lambda () (+ another-var 100))))
           (setf another-var 4)
           (funcall another-lambda))
; caught WARNING:
;   undefined variable: ANOTHER-VAR
; Evaluation aborted on #<UNBOUND-VARIABLE ANOTHER-VAR {100AD51473}>.
```

# Lexical Variables [3]

## More Examples

```
CL-USER> (let ((other-lambda (lambda () (+ other-var 100))))  
          (setf other-var 4)  
          (funcall other-lambda))  
?
```

# Lexical Variables [3]

## More Examples

```
CL-USER> (let ((other-lambda (lambda () (+ other-var 100))))
           (setf other-var 4)
           (funcall other-lambda))
; caught WARNING:
;   undefined variable: OTHER-VAR
104
CL-USER> other-var
4
CL-USER> (describe 'other-var)
COMMON-LISP-USER::OTHER-VAR
 [symbol]
OTHER-VAR names an undefined variable:
  Value: 4
```

# Lexical Variables [3]

## More Examples

```
CL-USER> (let ((some-var 304))
           (defun some-fun () (+ some-var 100))
           (setf some-var 4)
           (funcall #'some-fun))
?
```

# Lexical Variables [3]

## More Examples

```
CL-USER> (let ((some-var 304))
           (defun some-fun () (+ some-var 100))
           (setf some-var 4)
           (funcall #'some-fun))
```

104

```
;; Alt-. on DEFUN brings you to "defboot.lisp"
(defmacro mundanely defun (&environment env name args &body body)
  (multiple-value-bind (forms decls doc) (parse-body body)
    (let* ((lambda-guts `(,args ...))
           (lambda `(lambda ,@lambda-guts)) ...)
      ...
```



# Lexical Variables [4]

## Riddle #2

```
CL-USER> (let ((lex 'initial-value))

           (defun return-lex ()
             lex)

           (defun return-lex-arg (lex)
             (return-lex))

           (format t "return-lex: ~a~%"
                   (return-lex))

           (format t "return-lex-arg: ~a~%"
                   (return-lex-arg 'new-value))

           (format t "return-lex again: ~a~%"
                   (return-lex)))
```

?

# Lexical Variables [4]

## Riddle #2

```
CL-USER> (let ((lex 'initial-value))
  (defun return-lex ()
    lex)
  (defun return-lex-arg (lex)
    (return-lex))
  (format t "return-lex: ~a~%"
    (return-lex))
  (format t "return-lex-arg: ~a~%"
    (return-lex-arg 'new-value))
  (format t "return-lex again: ~a~%"
    (return-lex)))
; caught STYLE-WARNING:
; The variable LEX is defined but never used.
return-lex: INITIAL-VALUE
return-lex-arg: INITIAL-VALUE
return-lex again: INITIAL-VALUE
```

# Dynamic Variables

## Riddle #3

```
CL-USER> (defvar dyn 'initial-value)
CL-USER> (defun return-dyn ()
           dyn)
CL-USER> (defun return-dyn-arg (dyn)
           (return-dyn))
CL-USER>
(format t "return-dyn: ~a~%"
        (return-dyn))
(format t "return-dyn-arg: ~a~%"
        (return-dyn-arg 'new-value))
(format t "return-dyn again: ~a~%"
        (return-dyn))
?
```

# Dynamic Variables

## Riddle #3

```
CL-USER> (defvar dyn 'initial-value)
CL-USER> (defun return-dyn ()
           dyn)
CL-USER> (defun return-dyn-arg (dyn)
           (return-dyn))
CL-USER>
(format t "return-dyn: ~a~%"
        (return-dyn))
(format t "return-dyn-arg: ~a~%"
        (return-dyn-arg 'new-value))
(format t "return-dyn again: ~a~%"
        (return-dyn))
return-dyn: INITIAL-VALUE
return-dyn-arg: NEW-VALUE
return-dyn again: INITIAL-VALUE
```

`defvar` and `defparameter` create dynamically-bound variables.

Concepts

Organizational

# Local Function Definitions

```
flet
```

```
CL-USER> (defun some-pseudo-code ()  
           (flet ((do-something (arg-1)  
                  (format t "doing something ~a now...~%" arg-1)))  
             (format t "hello.~%")  
             (do-something "nice")  
             (format t "hello once again.~%")  
             (do-something "evil"))))
```

```
SOME-PSEUDO-CODE
```

```
CL-USER> (some-pseudo-code)  
hello.  
doing something nice now...  
hello once again.  
doing something evil now...  
NIL  
CL-USER> (do-something)  
; Evaluation aborted on #<UNDEFINED-FUNCTION DO-SOMETHING {101C7A9213}>.
```

# Local Function Definitions [2]

## flet, labels

```
CL-USER> (let* ((lexical-var 304)
                (some-lambda (lambda () (+ lexical-var 100))))
           (let ((lexical-var 4))
             (funcall some-lambda)))
; ?
CL-USER> (let ((lexical-var 304))
          (flet ((some-function () (+ lexical-var 100)))
            (let ((lexical-var 4))
              (some-function))))
; ?
```

# Local Function Definitions [2]

## flet, labels

```
CL-USER> (let* ((lexical-var 304)
                (some-lambda (lambda () (+ lexical-var 100))))
           (let ((lexical-var 4))
               (funcall some-lambda)))
```

```
404
CL-USER> (let ((lexical-var 304))
           (flet ((some-function () (+ lexical-var 100)))
               (let ((lexical-var 4))
                   (some-function))))
```

```
404
CL-USER> (labels ((first-fun () (format t "inside FIRST~%"))
                  (second-fun ()
                               (format t "inside SECOND~%")
                               (first-fun)))
           (second-fun))
```

```
inside SECOND
inside FIRST
```

# Contents

## Concepts

Lexical Scope

Closures

Recursion

Macros

## Organizational



# Closures

## Counter

```
CL-USER> (defun increment-counter ()  
           (let ((counter 0))  
             (incf counter)))  
(increment-counter)  
(increment-counter)
```

1

```
CL-USER> (defvar *counter* 0)  
(defun increment-counter-function ()  
  (incf *counter*))  
(increment-counter-function)  
(increment-counter-function)
```

2

```
CL-USER> (setf *counter* 5)
```

5

```
CL-USER> (increment-counter-function)
```

6

# Closures [2]

## Counter As Closure

```
CL-USER> (let ((counter 0))
           (defun increment-counter-closure ()
             (incf counter)))
           (increment-counter-closure)
           (increment-counter-closure)

2
CL-USER> #'increment-counter-function
#<FUNCTION INCREMENT-COUNTER-FUNCTION>
CL-USER> #'increment-counter-closure
#<CLOSURE INCREMENT-COUNTER-CLOSURE>
CL-USER> counter
; Evaluation aborted on #<UNBOUND-VARIABLE COUNTER {10104CE223}>.
```

*Closure* is a function that, in addition to its specific functionality, also encloses its lexical environment.

→ **Encapsulation!**

Concepts

Organizational

# Closures [3]

## Creating Closures

```
CL-USER> (let ((input (read)))
           (lambda () (print input)))
"some long sentence or whatever"
#<CLOSURE (LAMBDA ()) {10108F062B}>
CL-USER> (funcall *)
"some long sentence or whatever"

CL-USER> (alexandria:curry #'expt 10)
#<CLOSURE (LAMBDA (&REST ALEXANDRIA...) :IN ALEXANDRIA...) {10040F1D8B}>
CL-USER> (funcall * 3)
1000

CL-USER> (defvar *input* (read))
hello
*INPUT*
CL-USER> (lambda () (print *input*))
#<FUNCTION (LAMBDA ()) {100424317B}>
```

Concepts

Organizational

# Contents

## Concepts

Lexical Scope

Closures

Recursion

Macros

## Organizational

# Recursion

## Primitive Example

```
CL-USER> (defun dummy-recursion (my-list)
           (when my-list
             (dummy-recursion (rest my-list))))
DUMMY-RECURSION
CL-USER> (trace dummy-recursion)
(dummy-recursion '(1 2 3 4 5))
0: (DUMMY-RECURSION (1 2 3 4 5))
1: (DUMMY-RECURSION (2 3 4 5))
2: (DUMMY-RECURSION (3 4 5))
3: (DUMMY-RECURSION (4 5))
4: (DUMMY-RECURSION (5))
5: (DUMMY-RECURSION NIL)
5: DUMMY-RECURSION returned NIL
4: DUMMY-RECURSION returned NIL
3: DUMMY-RECURSION returned NIL
2: DUMMY-RECURSION returned NIL
1: DUMMY-RECURSION returned NIL
0: DUMMY-RECURSION returned NIL
```

# Recursion [2]

## Primitive Example #2

```
(defun print-list (list)
  (format t "list: ~a" list)
  (when list
    (format t " -> first: ~a%" (first list))
    (print-list (rest list))))

CL-USER> (print-list '(1 2 3))
list: (1 2 3) -> first: 1
list: (2 3) -> first: 2
list: (3) -> first: 3
list: NIL
NIL
CL-USER> (mapl (lambda (list)
  (format t "list: ~a -> first: ~a%" list (first list)))
  '(1 2 3))
list: (1 2 3) -> first: 1
list: (2 3) -> first: 2
list: (3) -> first: 3
(1 2 3)
```

**Concepts**

Organizational

# Recursion [3]

Length of a List: calculate on the way up

```
CL-USER> (defun my-length (a-list)
           (if (null a-list)
               0
               (+ 1 (my-length (rest a-list)))))
```

MY-LENGTH

```
CL-USER> (trace my-length)
(my-length '(5 a 3 8))
0: (MY-LENGTH (5 A 3 8))
1: (MY-LENGTH (A 3 8))
2: (MY-LENGTH (3 8))
3: (MY-LENGTH (8))
4: (MY-LENGTH NIL)
4: MY-LENGTH returned 0
3: MY-LENGTH returned 1
2: MY-LENGTH returned 2
1: MY-LENGTH returned 3
0: MY-LENGTH returned 4
```

4

Concepts

Organizational

# Recursion [4]

## Length of a list: calculate on the way down — Accumulators

```
CL-USER> (defun my-length-inner (a-list accumulator)
           (if (null a-list)
               accumulator
               (my-length-inner (rest a-list) (1+ accumulator))))
```

```
MY-LENGTH-INNER
```

```
CL-USER> (trace my-length-inner)
```

```
(MY-LENGTH-INNER)
```

```
CL-USER> (my-length-inner '(5 a 3 8) 0)
0: (MY-LENGTH-INNER (5 A 3 8) 0)
1: (MY-LENGTH-INNER (A 3 8) 1)
2: (MY-LENGTH-INNER (3 8) 2)
3: (MY-LENGTH-INNER (8) 3)
4: (MY-LENGTH-INNER NIL 4)
4: MY-LENGTH-INNER returned 4
3: MY-LENGTH-INNER returned 4
2: MY-LENGTH-INNER returned 4
1: MY-LENGTH-INNER returned 4
0: MY-LENGTH-INNER returned 4
```

4 Concepts

Organizational



# Recursion [5]

## Length of a list: passing initial accumulator value

```
CL-USER> (defun my-length-outer (a-list)
           (my-length-inner a-list 0))
```

```
MY-LENGTH-ACC
```

```
CL-USER> (my-length-outer '(5 a 3 8))
```

```
4
```

```
CL-USER> (defun my-length-acc (a-list &optional (accumulator 0))
           (if (null a-list)
               accumulator
               (my-length-acc (rest a-list) (1+ accumulator))))
```

```
MY-LENGTH-ACC
```

```
CL-USER> (my-length-acc '(6 3 nj ws))
```

```
4
```

# Recursion [6]

## Tail Recursion Optimization

```
CL-USER> (trace my-length-acc my-length)
(MY-LENGTH-ACC MY-LENGTH)
CL-USER> (my-length '(a b c))
...
CL-USER> (my-length-acc '(a b c))
...
CL-USER> (proclaim '(optimize speed))
CL-USER> (defun my-length (a-list) ...)
WARNING: redefining COMMON-LISP-USER::MY-LENGTH in DEFUN
CL-USER> (defun my-length-acc (a-list &optional (accumulator 0)) ...)
WARNING: redefining COMMON-LISP-USER::MY-LENGTH-ACC in DEFUN
CL-USER> (my-length-acc '(a b c))
0: (MY-LENGTH-ACC (A B C))
0: MY-LENGTH-ACC returned 3
3
CL-USER> (my-length '(a b c))
0: (MY-LENGTH (A B C))
0: MY-LENGTH returned 3
```

3 Concepts

Organizational

# Recursion [7]

## What Does This Function Do?

```
CL-USER> (defun sigma (n)
           (labels ((sig (c n)
                     (declare (type fixnum n c))
                     (if (zerop n)
                         c
                         (sig (the fixnum (+ n c))
                             (the fixnum (- n 1)))))))
           (sig 0 n)))
```

SIGMA

```
CL-USER> (trace sigma)
```

```
(SIGMA)
```

```
CL-USER> (sigma 5)
```

```
0: (SIGMA 5)
```

```
0: SIGMA returned 15
```

```
15
```

**(declare** (type typespec var\*))

**(the** return-value-type form)

Concepts

Organizational

# Contents

## Concepts

Lexical Scope

Closures

Recursion

Macros

## Organizational

# Generating Code

## Backquote and Coma

```
CL-USER> '(if t 'yes 'no)
(IF T
  'YES
  'NO)
CL-USER> (eval *) ; do not ever use EVAL in code
YES
CL-USER> `(if t 'yes 'no)
(IF T
  'YES
  'NO)
CL-USER> `((+ 1 2) , (+ 3 4) (+ 5 6))
((+ 1 2) 7 (+ 5 6))
CL-USER> (let ((x 26))
  `(if , (oddp x)
      'yes
      'no))
?
```

# Generating Code

## Backquote and Coma

```
CL-USER> '(if t 'yes 'no)
(IF T
  'YES
  'NO)
CL-USER> (eval *) ; do not ever use EVAL in code
YES
CL-USER> `(if t 'yes 'no)
(IF T
  'YES
  'NO)
CL-USER> `((+ 1 2) , (+ 3 4) (+ 5 6))
((+ 1 2) 7 (+ 5 6))
CL-USER> (let ((x 26))
  `(if , (oddp x)
      'yes
      'no))
(IF NIL
  'YES
  'NO)
```

**Concepts**

Organizational

# Generating Code [2]

## Double Quote

```
CL-USER> '(+ 1 5)
'+ 1 5)
CL-USER> (eval *)
(+ 1 5)
CL-USER> (eval *)
6
CL-USER> `(a , (+ 1 2))
`(A , (+ 1 2))
CL-USER> (eval *)
(A 3)
CL-USER> `'(a , (+ 1 2))
'(A 3)
```

# Defining Macros

```
defmacro
```

```
CL-USER> (defun x^3-fun (x)
           (format t "type of X is ~a~%" (type-of x))
           (* x x x))
```

```
CL-USER> (x^3-fun 4)
type of X is (INTEGER 0 4611686018427387903)
64
```

```
CL-USER> (defmacro x^3-macro (x)
           (format t "type of X is ~a~%" (type-of x))
           (* x x x))
```

```
CL-USER> (x^3-macro 4)
type of X is (INTEGER 0 4611686018427387903)
64
```

```
CL-USER> (x^3-macro (+ 2 2))
type of X is CONS
; #<SIMPLE-TYPE-ERROR expected-type: NUMBER datum: (+ 2 2)>.
```

```
CL-USER> (defun use-x^3 (a)
           (x^3-macro a))
type of X is SYMBOL
```

**Concepts** ; caught ERROR: Argument X is not a NUMBER: A

Organizational



## Defining Macros [2]

### macroexpand

```
CL-USER> (defmacro x^3-backquote (x)
           (format t "type of X is ~a~%" (type-of x))
           `(* ,x ,x ,x))
CL-USER> (defun use-x^3 (a)
           (x^3-backquote a))
type of X is SYMBOL
STYLE-WARNING: redefining COMMON-LISP-USER::USE-X^3 in DEFUN
CL-USER> (use-x^3 4)
64
CL-USER> (macroexpand '(x^3-backquote 4))
type of X is (INTEGER 0 4611686018427387903)
(* 4 4 4)
CL-USER> (x^3-backquote (+ 2 2))
type of X is CONS
64
CL-USER> (macroexpand '(x^3-backquote (+ 2 2)))
type of X is CONS
(* (+ 2 2) (+ 2 2) (+ 2 2))
```

Concepts

Organizational

# Defining Macros [3]

## defmacro continued

```
CL-USER> (defmacro x^3-let (x)
           (format t "type of X is ~a~%" (type-of x))
           `(let ((z ,x))
              (* z z z)))
CL-USER> (x^3-let (+ 2 2))
type of X is CONS
64
CL-USER> (macroexpand '(x^3-let (+ 2 2)))
type of X is CONS
(LET ((Z (+ 2 2)))
      (* Z Z Z))
T
```

Macros transform code into other code by means of code.

# Defining Macros [4]

## Macro arguments

```
CL-USER> (defmacro test-macro (&whole whole
                               arg-1
                               &optional (arg-2 1) arg-3)
  (format t "whole: ~a~%" whole)
  (format t "arg-1: ~a~%" arg-1)
  (format t "arg-2: ~a~%arg-3: ~a~%" arg-2 arg-3)
  `,whole)
```

TEST-MACRO

```
CL-USER> (macroexpand '(test-macro something))
```

```
whole: (TEST-MACRO SOMETHING)
```

```
arg-1: SOMETHING
```

```
arg-2: 1
```

```
arg-3: NIL
```

```
'(TEST-MACRO SOMETHING)
```

```
CL-USER> (test-macro something)
```

```
whole: (TEST-MACRO SOMETHING) ...
```

```
(TEST-MACRO SOMETHING)
```

```
CL-USER> (eval *)
```

Concepts

Organizational

# Example Macros

## Some Built-in Ones

```
; Alt-. on when shows you:
(defmacro-mundanely when (test &body forms)
  `(if ,test (progn ,@forms) nil))

; Alt-. on progn shows:
(defmacro-mundanely progn (result &body body)
  (let ((n-result (gensym)))
    `(let ((,n-result ,result))
       ,@body
       ,n-result)))

; Alt-. on ignore-errors:
(defmacro-mundanely ignore-errors (&rest forms)
  `(handler-case (progn ,@forms)
    (error (condition) (values nil condition))))
```

# Example Macros [2]

## More Applications

```
CL-USER> (defmacro get-time ()
           `(the unsigned-byte (get-internal-run-time)))
GET-TIME
```

```
CL-USER> (defmacro definline (name arglist &body body)
           `(progn (declare (inline ,name))
                  (defun ,name ,arglist ,@body)))
DEFINLINE
```

```
CL-USER>
*RELEASE-OR-DEBUG*
CL-USER> (defmacro info (message &rest args)
           (when (eq *release-or-debug* :debug)
             `(format *standard-output* ,message ,@args)))
INFO
CL-USER> (info "bla")
bla
```

# Advanced Macros

## A Better Example

```
CL-USER> (defmacro square (&whole form arg)
  (if (atom arg)
      `(expt ,arg 2)
      (case (car arg)
          (square (if (= (length arg) 2)
                      `(expt ,(nth 1 arg) 4)
                      form))
          (expt (if (= (length arg) 3)
                    (if (numberp (nth 2 arg))
                        `(expt ,(nth 1 arg) ,(* 2 (nth 2 arg)))
                        `(expt ,(nth 1 arg) (* 2 ,(nth 2 arg))))
                    form))
          (otherwise `(expt ,arg 2))))))

CL-USER> (macroexpand '(square (square 3)))
(EXPT 3 4)

CL-USER> (macroexpand '(square (expt 123 4)))
(EXPT 123 8)
```

# Links

- Functional programmer Bible (available for free):

<http://www.paulgraham.com/onlisp.html>

# Info Summary

- Assignment code: `REPO/assignment_4/src/*.lisp`
- Assignment points: 8 points
- Assignment due: 24.11, Wednesday, 23:59 AM German time
- Next class: 25.11, 14:15



# Q & A

Thanks for your attention!