This report describes research done at the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Support for the laboratory’s artificial intelligence research is provided in part by the Advanced Research Projects Agency of the Department of Defense under Office of Naval Research Contract number N00014-80-C-0505.
Preface

The Lisp Machine manual describes both the language and the "operating system" of the Lisp machine. The language, a dialect of Lisp, is completely documented by this manual. The software environment and operating-system-like parts of the system contain many things which are still in a state of flux. This manual confines itself primarily to the stabler parts of the system, and does not address the window system and user interface at all. That documentation will be released as a separate volume at a later time.

Any comments, suggestions, or criticisms will be welcomed. Please send Arpa network mail to BUG-I.MMAN@MIT-AI.

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Note

The Lisp machine is a product of the efforts of many people too numerous to list here and of the unique environment of the M.I.T. Artificial Intelligence Laboratory.

Portions of this manual were written by Richard Stallman, Mike McMahon, and Alan Bawden. The chapter on the LOOP iteration macro is a reprint of Laboratory for Computer Science memo TM-169, by Glenn Burke.
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1. Introduction

1.1 General Information

The Lisp Machine is a new computer system designed to provide a high performance and economical implementation of the Lisp language. It is a personal computation system, which means that processors and main memories are not time-multiplexed: when using a Lisp Machine, you get your own processor and memory system for the duration of the session. It is designed this way to relieve the problems of the running of large Lisp programs on time-sharing systems. Everything on the Lisp Machine is written in Lisp, including all system programs; there is never any need to program in machine language. The system is highly interactive.

The Lisp Machine executes a new dialect of Lisp called Lisp Machine Lisp, developed at the M.I.T. Artificial Intelligence Laboratory for use in artificial intelligence research and related fields. It is closely related to the MacLisp dialect, and attempts to maintain a good degree of compatibility with MacLisp, while also providing many improvements and new features. MacLisp, in turn, is based on Lisp 1.5.

This document is the reference manual for the Lisp Machine Lisp language. This document is not a tutorial, and it sometimes refers to functions and concepts that are not explained until later in the manual. It is assumed that you have a basic working knowledge of some Lisp dialect; you will be able to figure out the rest of the language from this manual.

There are also facilities explained in this manual that are not really part of the Lisp language. Some of these are subroutine packages of general use, and others are tools used in writing programs. However, the Lisp Machine window system, and the major utility programs, are not documented here.

1.2 Structure of the Manual

The manual starts out with an explanation of the language. Chapter 2 explains the different primitive types of Lisp object, and presents some basic predicate functions for testing types. Chapter 3 explains the process of evaluation, which is the heart of the Lisp language. Chapter 4 introduces the basic Lisp control structures.

The next several chapters explain the details of the various primitive data-types of the language, and the functions that deal with them. Chapter 5 deals with conses and the higher-level structures that can be built out of them, such as trees, lists, association lists, and property lists. Chapter 6 deals with symbols, chapter 7 with the various kinds of numbers, and chapter 8 with arrays. Chapter 9 explains character strings, which are a special kind of array.

After this there are some chapters that explain more about functions, function-calling, and related matters. Chapter 10 presents all the kinds of functions in the language, explains function-specs, and tells how to manipulate definitions of functions. Chapters 11 and 12 discuss closures and stack-groups, two facilities useful for creating coroutines and other advanced control and access structures.
Next, a few lower-level issues are dealt with. Chapter 13 explains locatives, which are a kind of pointer to memory cells. Chapter 14 explains the "subprimitive" functions, which are primarily useful for implementation of the Lisp language itself and the Lisp Machine's "operating system". Chapter 15 discusses areas, which give you control over storage allocation and locality of reference.

Chapter 16 discusses the Lisp compiler, which converts Lisp programs into "machine language". Chapter 17 explains the Lisp macro facility, which allows users to write their own extensions to Lisp, extending both the interpreter and the compiler. The next two chapters go into detail about two such extensions, one that provides a powerful iteration control structure (chapter 18), and one that provides a powerful data structure facility (chapter 19).

Chapter 20 documents flavors, a language facility to provide generic functions using the paradigm used in Smalltalk and the Actor families of languages, called "object-oriented programming" or "message passing". Flavors are widely used by the system programs of the Lisp Machine, as well as being available to the user as a language feature.

Chapter 21 explains the Lisp Machine's Input/Output system, including streams and the printed representation of Lisp objects. Chapter 22 documents how to deal with pathnames (the names of files).

Chapter 23 describes the package system, which allows many name spaces within a single Lisp environment. Chapter 24 documents the "system" facility, which helps you create and maintain programs that reside in many files.

Chapter 25 discusses the facilities for multiple processes and how to write programs that use concurrent computation. Chapter 26 explains how exceptional conditions (errors) can be handled by programs, handled by users, and debugged. Chapter 27 explains the instruction set of the Lisp Machine, and tells you how to examine the output of the compiler. Chapter 28 documents some functions for querying the user, chapter 30 explains some functions for manipulating dates and times, and chapter 31 contains other miscellaneous functions and facilities.

1.3 Notational Conventions and Helpful Notes

There are several conventions of notation, and various points that should be understood before reading the manual to avoid confusion. This section explains those conventions.

The symbol "=⇒" will be used to indicate evaluation in examples. Thus, when you see "foo =⇒ nil", this means the same thing as "the result of evaluating foo is (or would have been) nil".

The symbol "=⇒" will be used to indicate macro expansion in examples. This, when you see "(foo bar) =⇒ (aref bar 0)", this means the same thing as "the result of macro-expanding (foo bar) is (or would have been) (aref bar 0)".

A typical description of a Lisp function looks like this:
The function-name function adds together arg1 and arg2, and then multiplies the result by arg3. If arg3 is not provided, the multiplication isn't done. function-name then returns a list whose first element is this result and whose second element is arg4. Here is an example:

(function-name 3 4) => (7 (3 food))
(function-name 1 2 2 'bar) => (6 bar)

Note the use of fonts (typefaces). The name of the function is in bold-face in the first line of the description, and the arguments are in italics. Within the text, printed representations of Lisp objects are in a different bold-fact font, such as (+ faa 56), and argument references are italicized, such as arg1 and arg2. A different, fixed-width font, such as function-name, is used for Lisp examples that are set off from the text.

The word "&optional" in the list of arguments tells you that all of the arguments past this point are optional. The default value can be specified explicitly, as with arg4 whose default value is the result of evaluating the form (foo 3). If no default value is specified, it is the symbol nil. This syntax is used in lambda-lists in the language, which are explained in section 3.2, page 18. Argument lists may also contain "&rest", which is part of the same syntax.

Descriptions of variables, special forms, macros, and methods look like this:

**typical-variable** Variable
The variable typical-variable is used for typical things...

**do-three-times** Special Form
A do-three-times form looks like

(do-three-times form)

It evaluates form three times.

**with-foo-bound-to-nil** Macro
The form (with-foo-bound-to-nil form1 form2 ...) evaluates the forms with the symbol foo bound to nil. It expands as follows:

(with-foo-bound-to-nil
 form1
 form2 ...)

(let ((foo nil))
 form1
 form2 ...)

**message-name** arg1 arg2 &optional arg3 (to flavor-name)
This is the documentation of the effect of sending a message named message-name, with arguments arg1, arg2, and arg3, to an instance of flavor flavor-name.

Most numbers shown are in octal radix (base eight). Spelled out numbers and numbers followed by a decimal point are in decimal. This is because, by default, Lisp Machine Lisp types out numbers in base 8; don't be surprised by this. To change it, see the documentation on the variables ibase and base (page 283).
All uses of the phrase "Lisp reader", unless further qualified, refer to the part of Lisp which reads characters from I/O streams (the read function), and not the person reading this manual.

There are several terms which are used widely in other references on Lisp, but are not used much in this document since they have become largely obsolete and misleading. For the benefit of those who may have seen them before, they are: "S-expression", which means a Lisp object; "Dotted pair", which means a cons; and "Atom", which means, roughly, symbols and numbers and sometimes other things, but not conses. The terms "list" and "tree" are defined in chapter 5, page 48.

The characters acute accent (') (also called "single quote") and semicolon (;) have special meanings when typed to Lisp; they are examples of what are called macro characters. Though the mechanism of macro characters is not of immediate interest to the new user, it is important to understand the effect of these two, which are used in the examples.

When the Lisp reader encounters a ''', it reads in the next Lisp object and encloses it in a quote special form. That is, 'foo-symbol turns into (quote foo-symbol), and (cons 'a 'b) turns into (quote (cons (quote a) (quote b))). The reason for this is that "quote" would otherwise have to be typed in very frequently, and would look ugly.

The semicolon is used as a commenting character. When the Lisp reader sees one, the remainder of the line is discarded.

The character "/" is used for quoting strange characters so that they are not interpreted in their usual way by the Lisp reader, but rather are treated the way normal alphabetic characters are treated. So, for example, in order to give a "/" to the reader, you must type "/", the first "/" quoting the second one. When a character is preceded by a "/" it is said to be slashified. Slashifying also turns off the effects of macro characters such as ''' and ;.

The following characters also have special meanings, and may not be used in symbols without slashification. These characters are explained in detail in the section on printed-representation (section 21.2.2, page 283).

```
  "  Double-quote delimits character strings.
  #  Number-sign introduces miscellaneous reader macros.
  '  Backquote is used to construct list structure.
  ,  Comma is used in conjunction with backquote.
  :  Colon is the package prefix.
  |  Characters between pairs of vertical-bars are quoted.
  o  Circle-cross lets you type in characters using their octal codes.
```

All Lisp code in this manual is written in lower case. In fact, the reader turns all symbols into upper-case, and consequently everything prints out in upper case. You may write programs in whichever case you prefer.

You will see various symbols that have the colon (:) character in their names. By convention, all "keyword" symbols in the Lisp machine system have names starting with a colon. The colon character is not actually part of the print name, but is a package prefix indicating that the symbol belongs to the package with a null name, which means the user package. So, when you print
such a symbol, you won't see the colon if the current package is `user`. However, you should always type in the colons where the manual tells you to. This is all explained in chapter 23; until you read that, just make believe that the colons are part of the names of the symbols, and don't worry that they sometimes don't get printed out for keyword symbols.

This manual documents a number of internal functions and variables, which can be identified by the "si:" prefix in their names. The "si" stands for "system internals". These functions and variables are documented here because they are things you sometimes need to know about. However, they are considered internal to the system and their behavior is not as guaranteed as that of everything else. They may be changed in the future.

Lisp Machine Lisp is descended from MacLisp, and a good deal of effort was expended to try to allow MacLisp programs to run in Lisp Machine Lisp. Throughout the manual, there are notes about differences between the dialects. For the new user, it is important to note that many functions herein exist solely for MacLisp compatibility; they should not be used in new programs. Such functions are clearly marked in the text.

The Lisp Machine character set is not quite the same as that used on I.T.S. nor on Multics; it is described in full detail elsewhere in the manual. The important thing to note for now is that the character "newline" is the same as "return", and is represented by the number 215 octal. (This number should not be built into any programs.)

When the text speaks of "typing Control-Q" (for example), this means to hold down the CTRL key on the keyboard (either of the two), and, while holding it down, to strike the "Q" key. Similarly, to type "Meta-P", hold down either of the META keys and strike "P". To type "Control-Meta-I" hold down both CTRL and META. Unlike ASCII, there are no "control characters" in the character set; Control and Meta are merely things that can be typed on the keyboard.

Many of the functions refer to "areas". The area feature is only of interest to writers of large systems, and can be safely disregarded by the casual user. It is described in chapter 15.
2. Primitive Object Types

2.1 Data Types

This section enumerates some of the various different primitive types of objects in Lisp Machine Lisp. The types explained below include symbols, conses, various types of numbers, two kinds of compiled code objects, locatives, arrays, stack groups, and closures. With each is given the associated symbolic name, which is returned by the function data-type (page 158).

A symbol (these are sometimes called "atoms" or "atomic symbols" by other texts) has a print name, a binding, a definition, a property list, and a package.

The print name is a string, which may be obtained by the function get-pname (page 81). This string serves as the printed representation (see section 21.2.1, page 280) of the symbol. Each symbol has a binding (sometimes also called the "value"), which may be any Lisp object. It is also referred to sometimes as the "contents of the value cell", since internally every symbol has a cell called the value cell which holds the binding. It is accessed by the symeval function (page 78), and updated by the set function (page 78). (That is, given a symbol, you use symeval to find out what its binding is, and use set to change its binding.) Each symbol has a definition, which may also be any Lisp object. It is also referred to as the "contents of the function cell", since internally every symbol has a cell called the function cell which holds the definition. The definition can be accessed by the fsymeval function (page 79), and updated with fset (page 79), although usually the functions get, putprop, and remprop (page 67) are used. The property list is a list of an even number of elements; it can be accessed directly by plist (page 80), and updated directly by setplist (page 80), although usually the functions get, putprop, and remprop (page 67) are used. The property list is used to associate any number of additional attributes with a symbol—attributes not used frequently enough to deserve their own cells as the value and definition do. Symbols also have a package cell, which indicates which "package" of names the symbol belongs to. This is explained further in the section on packages (chapter 23) and can be disregarded by the casual user.

The primitive function for creating symbols is make-symbol (page 82), although most symbols are created by read, intern, or fasload (which call make-symbol themselves.)

A cons is an object that cares about two other objects, arbitrarily named the car and the cdr. These objects can be accessed with car and cdr (page 49), and updated with rplaca and rplacd (page 57). The primitive function for creating conses is cons (page 49).

There are several kinds of numbers in Lisp Machine Lisp. Fixnums represent integers in the range of \(-2^{23}\) to \(2^{23}-1\). Bignums represent integers of arbitrary size, but they are more expensive to use than fixnums because they occupy storage and are slower. The system automatically converts between fixnums and bignums as required. Flonums are floating-point numbers. Small-flonums are another kind of floating-point numbers, with less range and precision, but less computational overhead. Other types of numbers are likely to be added in the future. See chapter 7, page 84 for full details of these types and the conversions between them.

The usual form of compiled, executable code is a Lisp object called a "Function Entry Frame" or "FEF". A FEF contains the code for one function. This is analogous to what Maclisp calls a "subr pointer". FEFs are produced by the Lisp Compiler (chapter 16, page 181), and are
usually found as the definitions of symbols. The printed representation of a FEF includes its name, so that it can be identified.

Another Lisp object which represents executable code is a "micro-code entry". These are the microcoded primitive functions of the Lisp system, and user functions compiled into microcode.

About the only useful thing to do with any of these compiled code objects is to apply it to arguments. However, some functions are provided for examining such objects, for user convenience. See arglist (page 137), args-info (page 138), describe (page 448), and disassemble (page 448).

A locative (see chapter 13, page 156) is a kind of a pointer to a single memory cell anywhere in the system. The contents of this cell can be accessed by cdr (see page 49) and updated by rplacd (see page 57).

An array (see chapter 8, page 98) is a set of cells indexed by a tuple of integer subscripts. The contents of the cells may be accessed and changed individually. There are several types of arrays. Some have cells which may contain any object, while others (numeric arrays) may only contain small positive numbers. Strings are a type of array; the elements are 8-bit unsigned numbers which encode characters.

A list is not a primitive data type, but rather a data structure made up out of conses and the symbol nil. See chapter 5, page 48.

2.2 Predicates

A predicate is a function which tests for some condition involving its arguments and returns the symbol t if the condition is true, or the symbol nil if it is not true. Most of the following predicates are for testing what data type an object has; some other general-purpose predicates are also explained.

By convention, the names of predicates usually end in the letter "p" (which stands for "predicate").

The following predicates are for testing data types. These predicates return t if the argument is of the type indicated by the name of the function, nil if it is of some other type.

\texttt{symbolp arg}
\texttt{symbolp} returns \texttt{t} if its argument is a symbol, otherwise \texttt{nil}.

\texttt{nsymbolp arg}
\texttt{nsymbolp} returns \texttt{nil} if its argument is a symbol, otherwise \texttt{t}.

\texttt{listp arg}
\texttt{listp} returns \texttt{t} if its argument is a cons, otherwise \texttt{nil}. Note that this means (listp \texttt{nil}) is \texttt{nil} even though \texttt{nil} is the empty list. [This may be changed in the future.]
**nlistp arg**

nlistp returns t if its argument is anything besides a cons, otherwise nil. This is the recommended predicate for terminating iterations or recursions on lists. It is, in fact, identical to atom, and so (nlistp nil) returns t. [This may be changed in the future, if and when listp is changed.]

**atom arg**

The predicate atom returns t if its argument is not a cons, otherwise nil.

**fixp arg**

fixp returns t if its argument is a fixnum or a bignum, otherwise nil.

**floatp arg**

floatp returns t if its argument is a flonum or a small flonum, otherwise nil.

**small-floatp arg**

small-floatp returns t if arg is a small flonum, otherwise nil.

**bigp arg**

bigp returns t if arg is a bignum, otherwise nil.

**numberp arg**

numberp returns t if its argument is any kind of number, otherwise nil.

**stringp arg**

stringp returns t if its argument is a string, otherwise nil.

**arrayp arg**

arrayp returns t if its argument is an array, otherwise nil. Note that strings are arrays.

**subrp arg**

subrp returns t if its argument is any compiled code object, otherwise nil. The Lisp Machine system doesn't use the term "subr", but the name of this function comes from Maclisp.

**closurep arg**

closurep returns t if its argument is a closure, otherwise nil.

**entityp arg**

entityp returns t if its argument is an entity, otherwise nil. See section 11.4, page 148 for information about "entities".

**locativep arg**

locativep returns t if its argument is a locative, otherwise nil.

**typep arg &optional type**

typep is really two different functions. With one argument, typep is not really a predicate; it returns a symbol describing the type of its argument. With two arguments, typep is a predicate which returns t if arg is of type type, and nil otherwise. Note that an object can be "of" more than one type, since one type can be a subset of another.
The symbols that can be returned by \texttt{typep} of one argument are:

\begin{itemize}
  \item \texttt{symbol} \hspace{1cm} \texttt{arg} is a symbol.
  \item \texttt{fixnum} \hspace{1cm} \texttt{arg} is a fixnum (not a bignum).
  \item \texttt{bignum} \hspace{1cm} \texttt{arg} is a bignum.
  \item \texttt{flonum} \hspace{1cm} \texttt{arg} is a flonum (not a small-flonum).
  \item \texttt{small-flonum} \hspace{1cm} \texttt{arg} is a small flonum.
  \item \texttt{list} \hspace{1cm} \texttt{arg} is a cons.
  \item \texttt{locative} \hspace{1cm} \texttt{arg} is a locative pointer (see chapter 13, page 156).
  \item \texttt{compiled-function} \hspace{1cm} \texttt{arg} is the machine code for a compiled function (sometimes called a \texttt{FF}.)
  \item \texttt{microcode-function} \hspace{1cm} \texttt{arg} is a function written in microcode.
  \item \texttt{closure} \hspace{1cm} \texttt{arg} is a closure (see chapter 11, page 144).
  \item \texttt{select-method} \hspace{1cm} \texttt{arg} is a select-method table (see page 131).
  \item \texttt{stack-group} \hspace{1cm} \texttt{arg} is a stack-group (see chapter 12, page 149).
  \item \texttt{string} \hspace{1cm} \texttt{arg} is a string.
  \item \texttt{array} \hspace{1cm} \texttt{arg} is an array that is not a string.
  \item \texttt{random} \hspace{1cm} Returned for any built-in data type that does not fit into one of the above categories.
\end{itemize}

\texttt{foo} \hspace{1cm} An object of user-defined data type \texttt{foo} (any symbol). The primitive type of the object could be array, instance, or entity. See Named Structures, page 239, and Flavors, chapter 20, page 245.

The \texttt{type} argument to \texttt{typep} of two arguments can be any of the above keyword symbols (except for \texttt{random}), the name of a user-defined data type (either a named structure or a flavor), or one of the following additional symbols:

\begin{itemize}
  \item \texttt{atom} \hspace{1cm} Any atom (as determined by the \texttt{atom} predicate).
  \item \texttt{fix} \hspace{1cm} Any kind of fixed-point number (fixnum or bignum).
  \item \texttt{float} \hspace{1cm} Any kind of floating-point number (flonum or small-flonum).
  \item \texttt{number} \hspace{1cm} Any kind of number.
  \item \texttt{instance} \hspace{1cm} An instance of any flavor. See chapter 20, page 245.
  \item \texttt{entity} \hspace{1cm} An entity. \texttt{typep} of one argument returns the name of the particular user-defined type of the entity, rather than \texttt{entity}.
\end{itemize}

See also \texttt{data-type}, page 158.

Note that (\texttt{typep nil}) $\Rightarrow$ \texttt{symbol}, and (\texttt{typep nil \texttt{':list}}) $\Rightarrow$ \texttt{nil}; the latter may be changed.
The following functions are some other general purpose predicates.

**eq** \( x \ y \)

\((eq \ x \ y) \Rightarrow t\) if and only if \( x \) and \( y \) are the same object. It should be noted that things that print the same are not necessarily eq to each other. In particular, numbers with the same value need not be eq, and two similar lists are usually not eq.

Examples:
\[
\begin{align*}
(eq 'a 'b) & \Rightarrow \text{nil} \\
(eq 'a 'a) & \Rightarrow \text{t} \\
(eq (cons 'a 'b) (cons 'a 'b)) & \Rightarrow \text{nil} \\
(setq x (cons 'a 'b)) (eq x x) & \Rightarrow \text{t}
\end{align*}
\]

Note that in Lisp Machine Lisp equal fixnums are eq; this is not true in Maclisp. Equality does not imply eq-ness for other types of numbers. To compare numbers, use =; see page 87.

**neq** \( x \ y \)

\((neq \ x \ y) = (\text{not} \ (eq \ x \ y))\). This is provided simply as an abbreviation for typing convenience.

**equal** \( x \ y \)

The equal predicate returns \(t\) if its arguments are similar (isomorphic) objects. (cf. eq) Two numbers are equal if they have the same value and type (for example, a flonum is never equal to a fixnum, even if = is true of them). For conses, equal is defined recursively as the two car's being equal and the two cdr's being equal. Two strings are equal if they have the same length, and the characters composing them are the same; see string-equal, page 117. Alphabetic case is ignored (but see alphabetic-case-affects-string-comparison, page 116). All other objects are equal if and only if they are eq.

Thus equal could have been defined by:
\[
\begin{align*}
&\text{(defun equal (x y)} \\
&(\text{cond ((eq x y) t)} \\
&(\\text{((neq (typep x) (typep y)) nil)} \\
&(\\text{((numberp x) (= x y))} \\
&(\\text{((stringp x) (string-equal x y))} \\
&(\\text{((listp x) (and (equal (car x) (car y))}} \\
&(\\text{((equal (cdr x) (cdr y))))))))
\end{align*}
\]

As a consequence of the above definition, it can be seen that equal may compute forever when applied to looped list structure. In addition, eq always implies equal; that is, if \((eq \ a \ b)\) then \((equal \ a \ b)\). An intuitive definition of equal (which is not quite correct) is that two objects are equal if they look the same when printed out. For example:
\[
\begin{align*}
&\text{(setq a '(1 2 3)} \\
&\text{(setq b '(1 2 3))} \\
&(eq a b) \Rightarrow \text{nil} \\
&(equal a b) \Rightarrow \text{t} \\
&(equal "Foo" "foo") \Rightarrow \text{t}
\end{align*}
\]
not \( x \)
null \( x \)

not returns t if \( x \) is nil, else nil. null is the same as not; both functions are included for the sake of clarity. Use null to check whether something is nil; use not to invert the sense of a logical value. Even though Lisp uses the symbol nil to represent falseness, you shouldn’t make understanding of your program depend on this fortuitously. For example, one often writes:

\[
\text{(cond \((\text{not (null \( 1st \)) ... })
\quad (\ldots ))
\text{ rather than }
\text{(cond \((1st \ldots )}
\quad (\ldots ))
\]

There is no loss of efficiency, since these will compile into exactly the same instructions.
3. Evaluation

The following is a complete description of the actions taken by the evaluator, given a form to evaluate.

If form is a number, the result is form.

If form is a string, the result is form.

If form is a symbol, the result is the binding of form. If form is unbound, an error is signalled. The way symbols are bound is explained in section 3.1, page 13 below.

If form is not any of the above types, and is not a list, an error is signalled.

In all remaining cases, form is a list. The evaluator examines the car of the list to figure out what to do next. There are three possibilities: this form may be a special form, a macro form, or a plain-old function form. Conceptually, the evaluator knows specially about all the symbols whose appearance in the car of a form make that form a special form, but the way the evaluator actually works is as follows. If the car of the form is a symbol, the evaluator finds the object in the function call of the symbol (see chapter 6, page 78) and starts all over as if that object had been the car of the list. If the car isn’t a symbol, then if it’s a cons whose car is the symbol macro, then this is a macro form; if it is a "special function" (see page 129) then this is a special form; otherwise, it should be a regular function, and this is a function form.

If form is a special form, then it is handled accordingly; each special form works differently. All of them are documented in this manual. The internal workings of special forms are explained in more detail in page 129, but this hardly ever affects you.

If form is a macro form, then the macro is expanded as explained in chapter 17.

If form is a function form, it calls for the application of a function to arguments. The car of the form is a function or the name of a function. The cdr of the form is a list of subforms. Each subform is evaluated, sequentially. The values produced by evaluating the subforms are called the "arguments" to the function. The function is then applied to those arguments. Whatever results the function returns are the values of the original form.

There is a lot more to be said about evaluation. The way variables work and the ways in which they are manipulated, including the binding of arguments, is explained in section 3.1, page 13. A basic explanation of functions is in section 3.2, page 18. The way functions can return more than one value is explained in section 3.4, page 26. The description of all of the kinds of functions, and the means by which they are manipulated, is in chapter 10. Macros are explained in chapter 17. The evalhook facility, which lets you do something arbitrary whenever the evaluator is invoked, is explained in section 26.6, page 413. Special forms are described all over the manual; each special form is in the section on the facility it is part of.
3.1 Variables

In Lisp Machine Lisp, variables are implemented using symbols. Symbols are used for many things in the language, such as naming functions, naming special forms, and being keywords; they are also useful to programs written in Lisp, as parts of data structures. But when the evaluator is given a symbol, it treats it as a variable, using the value cell to hold the value of the variable. If you evaluate a symbol, you get back the contents of the symbol's value cell.

There are two different ways of changing the value of a variable. One is to set the variable. Setting a variable changes its value to a new Lisp object, and the previous value of the variable is forgotten. Setting of variables is usually done with the setq special form.

The other way to change the value of a variable is with binding (also called "lambda-binding"). When a variable is bound, its old value is first saved away, and then the value of the variable is made to be the new Lisp object. When the binding is undone, the saved value is restored to be the value of the variable. Bindings are always followed by unbindings. The way this is enforced is that binding is only done by special forms that are defined to bind some variables, then evaluate some subforms, and then unbind those variables. So the variables are all unbound when the form is finished. This means that the evaluation of the form doesn't disturb the values of the variables that are bound; whatever their old value was, before the evaluation of the form, gets restored when the evaluation of the form is completed. If such a form is exited by a non-local exit of any kind, such as *throw (see page 43) or return (see page 41), the bindings are undone whenever the form is exited.

The simplest construct for binding variables is the let special form. The do and prog special forms can also bind variables, in the same way let does, but they also control the flow of the program and so are explained elsewhere (see page 35). let* is just a sequential version of let; the other special forms below are only used for esoteric purposes.

Binding is an important part of the process of applying interpreted functions to arguments. This is explained in the next section.

When a Lisp function is compiled, the compiler understands the use of symbols as variables. However, the compiled code generated by the compiler does not actually use symbols to represent variables. Rather, the compiler converts the references to variables within the program into more efficient references, that do not involve symbols at all. A variable that has been changed by the compiler so that it is not implemented as a symbol is called a "local" variable. When a local variable is bound, a memory cell is allocated in a hidden, internal place (the Lisp control stack) and the value of the variable is stored in this cell. You cannot use a local variable without first binding it; you can only use a local variable inside of a special form that binds that variable. Local variables do not have any "top level" value; they do not even exist outside of the form that binds them.

The variables which are associated with symbols (the kind which are used by non-compiled programs) are called "special" variables.

Local variables and special variables do not behave quite the same way, because "binding" means different things for the two of them. Binding a special variable saves the old value away and then uses the value cell of the symbol to hold the new value, as explained above. Binding a local variable, however, does not do anything to the symbol. In fact, it creates a new memory cell to hold the value, i.e. a new local variable.
Thus, if you compile a function, it may do different things after it has been compiled. Here is an example:

\begin{verbatim}
(setq a 2) ; Set the variable a to the value 2.
(defun foo ()
  (let ((a 5))
    (bar))) ; Bind the symbol a to the value 5.
  ; Call the function bar.
(defun bar ()
  a) ; Define a function named bar.
  ; It just returns the value of the variable a.
(foo) => 5 ; Calling foo returns 5.
(compile 'foo) ; Now compile foo.
(foo) => 2 ; This time, calling foo returns 2.
\end{verbatim}

This is a very bad thing, because the compiler is only supposed to speed things up, without changing what the function does. Why did the function foo do something different when it was compiled? Because a was converted from a special variable into a local variable. After foo was compiled, it no longer had any effect on the value cell of the symbol a, and so the symbol retained its old contents, namely 2.

In most uses of variables in Lisp programs, this problem doesn’t come up. The reason it happened here is because the function bar refers to the symbol a without first binding a to anything. A reference to a variable that you didn’t bind yourself is called a free reference; in this example, bar makes a free reference to a.

We mentioned above that you can’t use a local variable without first binding it. Another way to say this is that you can’t ever have a free reference to a local variable. If you try to do so, the compiler will complain. In order for our functions to work, the compiler must be told not to convert a into a local variable; a must remain a special variable. Normally, when a function is compiled, all variables in it are made to be "local". You can stop the compiler from making a variable local by "declaring" to the compiler that the variable is "special". When the compiler sees references to a variable that has been declared special, it uses the symbol itself as the variable instead of making a local variable.

Variables can be declared by the special forms defvar and defconst (see below), or by explicit compiler declarations (see page 185). The most common use of special variables is as "global" variables: variables used by many different functions throughout a program, that have top-level values.

Had bar been compiled, the compiler would have seen the free reference and printed a warning message: Warning: a declared special. It would have automatically declared a to be special and proceeded with the compilation. It knows that free references mean that special declarations are needed. But when a function is compiled that binds a variable that you want to be treated as a special variable but that you have not explicitly declared, there is, in general, no way for the compiler to automatically detect what has happened, and it will produce incorrect output. So you must always provide declarations for all variables that you want to be treated as special variables.
When you declare a variable to be special using declare rather than local-declare, the declaration is "global"; that is, it applies wherever that variable name is seen. After fuzz has been declared special using declare, all following uses of fuzz will be treated by the compiler as references to the same special variable. Such variables are called "global variables", because any function can use them; their scope is not limited to one function. The special forms defvar and defconst are useful for creating global variables; not only do they declare the variable special, but they also provide a place to specify its initial value, and a place to add documentation. In addition, since the names of these special forms start with "def" and since they are used at the top-level of files, the Lisp Machine editor can find them easily.

Here are the special forms used for setting variables.

**setq Special Form**
The special form (setq var1 form1 var2 form2...) is used to set the value of a variable or of many variables. First form1 is evaluated, and var1 is set to the result. Then form2 is evaluated, and var2 is set to the result, and so on for all the variables. setq returns the last value set, i.e. the result of the evaluation of its last subform.

Example:

```lisp
(setq x (+ 3 2 1) y (cons x nil))
```

x is set to 6, y is set to (6), and the setq form returns (6). Note that the first set was performed before the second form was evaluated, allowing that form to use the new value of x.

**psetq Special Form**
A psetq form is just like asetq form, except that the variables are set "in parallel": first all of the forms are evaluated, and then the symbols are set to the resulting values.

Example:

```lisp
(setq a 1)
(setq b 2)
(psetq a b b a)
```

a => 2
b => 1

Here are the special forms used for binding variables.

**let Special Form**
let is used to bind some variables to some objects. A let form looks like

```
(let ((var1 vform1)
      (var2 vform2)
      ...
      )
  bform1
  bform2
  ...
```

When this form is evaluated, first the vforms are evaluated. Then the vars are bound to the values returned by the corresponding vforms. Thus the bindings happen in parallel; all the vforms are evaluated before any of the vars are bound. Finally, the bforms are evaluated sequentially, the old values of the variables are restored, and the result of the last bform is returned.

DSK:LM.Man;FD.Eva 69 69-MAR-81
**let** *Special Form*

`let` is the same as `let` except that the binding is sequential. Each `var` is bound to the value of its `vform` before the next `vform` is evaluated. This is useful when the computation of a `vform` depends on the value of a variable bound in an earlier `vform`.

**let-if** *Special Form*

`let-if` is a variant of `let` in which the binding of variables is conditional. The variables must all be special variables. The special form

```
(let-if cond
  ((var-1 val-1) (var-2 val-2)...)
  (body-form1 body-form2...))
```

first evaluates the predicate form `cond`. If the result is non-nil, the value forms `val-1`, `val-2`, etc. are evaluated and then the variables `var-1`, `var-2`, etc. are bound to them. If the result is nil, the `vars` and `vals` are ignored. Finally the body forms are evaluated.

**let-globally** *Special Form*

`let-globally` is similar in form to `let` (see page 15). The difference is that `let-globally` does not bind the variables; instead, it saves the old values and sets the variables, and sets up an unwind-protect (see page 44) to set them back. The important difference between `let-globally` and `let` is that when the current stack group (see chapter 12, page 149) co-calls some other stack group, the old values of the variables are *not* restored. Thus `let-globally` makes the new values visible in all stack groups and processes that don’t bind the variables themselves, not just the current stack group.

**progv** *Special Form*

`progv` is a special form to provide the user with extra control over binding. It binds a list of special variables to a list of values, and then evaluates some forms. The lists of special variables and values are computed quantities; this is what makes `progv` different from `let`, `prog`, and `do`.

```
(progv symbol-list value-list form1 form2 ...)
```

first evaluates `symbol-list` and `value-list`, and then binds each symbol to the corresponding value. If too few values are supplied, the remaining symbols are bound to nil. If too many values are supplied, the excess values are ignored.

After the symbols have been bound to the values, the `forms` are evaluated, and finally the symbols' bindings are undone. The result returned is the value of the last form.

Example:

```
(setq a 'foo b 'bar)
(progv (list a b 'b) (list b)
  (list a b foo bar))
  => (foo nil bar nil)
```

During the evaluation of the body of this `progv`, `foo` is bound to `bar`, `bar` is bound to `nil`, `b` is bound to `nil`, and `a` retains its top-level value `foo.`
**progw Special Form**

progw is a somewhat modified kind of progv. Like progv, it only works for special variables. A progw form looks like:

```
(progw vars-and-val-forms-form form1 form2 ...)
```

First, `vars-and-val-forms-form` is evaluated. Its value should be a list that looks like the first subform of a let:

```
((var1 val-form-1)
 (var2 val-form-2)
 ...)
```

Each element of this list is processed in turn, by evaluating the `val-form`, and binding the `var` to the resulting value. Finally, the `forms` are evaluated sequentially, the bindings are undone, and the result of the last `form` is returned. Note that the bindings are sequential, not parallel.

This is a very unusual special form because of the way the evaluator is called on the result of an evaluation. Thus progw is mainly useful for implementing special forms and for functions part of whose contract is that they call the interpreter. For an example of the latter, see `sys:*break-bindings*` (page 452); break implements this by using progw.

Here are the special forms for defining special variables.

**defvar Special Form**

defvar is the recommended way to declare the use of a global variable in a program. Placed at top level in a file,

```
(defvar variable)
```

declares `variable` special for the sake of compilation, and records its location for the sake of the editor so that you can ask to see where the variable is defined. If a second subform is supplied,

```
(defvar variable initial-value)
```

variable is initialized to the result of evaluating the form `initial-value` unless it already has a value, in which case it keeps that value. `initial-value` is not evaluated unless it is used; this is useful if it does something expensive like creating a large data structure.

**defvar** should be used only at top level, never in function definitions, and only for global variables (those used by more than one function). `(defvar foo 'bar)` is roughly equivalent to

```
(declare (special foo))
(if (not (boundp 'foo))
 (setq foo 'bar))
```

```
(defvar variable initial-value documentation)
```

allows you to include a documentation string which describes what the variable is for or how it is to be used. Using such a documentation string is even better than commenting the use of the variable, because the documentation string is accessible to system programs that can show the documentation to you while you are using the machine.

If `defvar` is used in a patch file (see section 24.7, page 366) or is a single form (not a region) evaluated with the editor's compile/evaluate from buffer commands, if there is an initial-value the variable is always set to it regardless of whether it is already bound.
defconst Special Form

defconst is the same as defvar except that if an initial value is given the variable is always set to it regardless of whether it is already bound. The rationale for this is that defvar declares a global variable, whose value is initialized to something but will then be changed by the functions that use it to maintain some state. On the other hand, defconst declares a constant, whose value will never be changed by the normal operation of the program, only by changes to the program. defconst always sets the variable to the specified value so that if, while developing or debugging the program, you change your mind about what the constant value should be, and then you evaluate the defconst form again, the variable will get the new value.

3.2 Functions

In the description of evaluation on page 12, we said that evaluation of a function form works by applying the function to the results of evaluating the argument subforms. What is a function, and what does it mean to apply it? In Lisp Machine Lisp there are many kinds of functions, and applying them may do many different kinds of things. For full details, see chapter 10, page 124. Here we will explain the most basic kinds of functions and how they work. In particular, this section explains lambda lists and all their important features.

The simplest kind of user-defined function is the lambda-expression, which is a list that looks like:

\[(\text{lambda lambda-list body1 body2...})\]

The first element of the lambda-expression is the symbol lambda; the second element is a list called the lambda list, and the rest of the elements are called the body. The lambda list, in its simplest form, is just a list of variables. Assuming that this simple form is being used, here is what happens when a lambda expression is applied to some arguments. First, the number of arguments and the number of variables in the lambda list must be the same, or else an error is signalled. Each variable is bound to the corresponding argument value. Then the forms of the body are evaluated sequentially. After this, the bindings are all undone, and the value of the last form in the body is returned.

This may sound something like the description of let, above. The most important difference is that the lambda-expression is not a form at all; if you try to evaluate a lambda-expression, you will get told that lambda is not a defined function. The lambda-expression is a function, not a form. A let form gets evaluated, and the values to which the variables are bound come from the evaluation of some subforms inside the let form; a lambda-expression gets applied, and the values are the arguments to which it is applied.

The variables in the lambda list are sometimes called parameters, by analogy with other languages. Some other terminologies would refer to these as formal parameters, and to arguments as actual parameters.

Lambda lists can have more complex structure than simply being a list of variables. There are additional features accessible by using certain keywords (which start with ampersand) and/or lists as elements of the lambda list.

The principal weakness of the simple lambda lists is that any function written with one must only take a certain, fixed number of arguments. As we know, many very useful functions, such as list, append, +, and so on, accept a varying number of arguments. Maclisp solved this
problem by the use of \textit{lexprs} and \textit{lsubs}, which were somewhat inelegant since the parameters had to be referred to by numbers instead of names (e.g. \texttt{(arg 3)}). (For compatibility reasons, Lisp Machine Lisp supports lexprs, but they should not be used in new programs).

In general, a function in Lisp Machine Lisp has zero or more \textit{required} parameters, followed by zero or more \textit{optional} parameters, followed by zero or one \textit{rest} parameter. This means that the caller must provide enough arguments so that each of the required parameters gets bound, but he may provide some extra arguments for each of the optional parameters. Also, if there is a rest parameter, he can provide as many extra arguments as he wants, and the rest parameter will be bound to a list of all these extras. Also, optional parameters may have a \textit{default-form}, which is a form to be evaluated to produce the default argument if none is supplied.

Here is the exact explanation of how this all works. When \texttt{apply} (the primitive function that applies functions to arguments) matches up the arguments with the parameters, it follows the following algorithm:

The first required parameter is bound to the first argument. \texttt{apply} continues to bind successive required parameters to the successive arguments. If, during this process, there are no arguments left but there are still some required parameters which have not been bound yet, then an error is caused ("too few arguments").

Next, after all required parameters are handled, \texttt{apply} continues with the optional parameters, binding each argument to each successive parameter. If, during this process, there are no arguments left, each remaining optional parameter's default-form is evaluated, and the parameter is bound to it. This is done one parameter at a time; that is, first one default-form is evaluated, and then the parameter is bound to it, then the next default-form is evaluated, and so on. This allows the default for an argument to depend on the previous argument.

Finally, if there is no rest parameter and there are no remaining arguments, we are finished. If there is no rest parameter but there are still some arguments remaining, an error is caused ("too many arguments"). But if there \textit{is} a rest parameter, it is bound to a list of all of the remaining arguments. (If there are no remaining arguments, it gets bound to \texttt{nil}.)

The way you express which parameters are required, optional, and rest is by means of specially recognized symbols, which are called \&\texttt{-keywords}, in the lambda list. All such symbols’ print names begin with the character ". The list of all such symbols is the value of the symbol \texttt{lambda-list-keywords}.

The keywords used here are \&\texttt{optional} and \&\texttt{rest}. The way they are used is best explained by means of examples; the following are typical lambda lists, followed by descriptions of which parameters are required, optional, and rest.

\begin{verbatim}
(a b c)       a, b, and c are all required. The function must be passed three arguments.
(a b &optional c)       a and b are required, c is optional. The function may be passed either two or three arguments.
(&optional a b c)       a, b, and c are all optional. The function may be passed any number of arguments between zero and three, inclusive.
\end{verbatim}
(&rest a)  a is a rest parameter. The function may be passed any number of arguments.

(a b &optional c d &rest e)

a and b are required, c and d are optional, and e is rest. The function may be passed two or more arguments.

In all of the cases above, the default-form for each parameter is nil. To specify your own default forms, instead of putting a symbol as the element of a lambda list, put in a list whose first element is the symbol (the parameter itself) and whose second element is the default-form. For example:

(a &optional (b 3))

The default-form for b is 3. a is a required parameter, and so it doesn’t have a default form.

(&optional (a 'foo) b (c (syimeval a)) &rest d)

a’s default-form is 'foo, b’s is nil, and c’s is (syimeval a). Note that if the function whose lambda list this is were called on no arguments, a would be bound to the symbol foo, and c would be bound to the binding of the symbol foo; this illustrates the fact that each variable is bound immediately after its default-form is evaluated, and so later default-forms may take advantage of earlier parameters in the lambda list. b and d would be bound to nil.

It is also possible to include, in the lambda list, some other symbols which are bound to the values of their default-forms upon entry to the function. These are not parameters, and they are never bound to arguments; they just get bound, as if they appeared in a let form. (Whether you use these aux-variables or bind the variables with let is a stylistic decision.)

To include such symbols, put them after any parameters, preceded by the &-keyword &aux. Examples:

(a &optional b &rest c &aux d (e 5) (f (cons a e)))

d, e, and f are bound, when the function is called, to nil, 5, and a cons of the first argument and 5.

Note that aux-variables are bound sequentially rather than in parallel.

It is important to realize that the list of arguments to which a rest-parameter is bound is set up in whatever way is most efficiently implemented, rather than in the way that is most convenient for the function receiving the arguments. It is not guaranteed to be a “real” list. Sometimes the rest-args list is stored in the function-calling stack, and loses its validity when the function returns. If a rest-argument is to be returned or made part of permanent list-structure, it must first be copied (see copylist, page page 53), as you must always assume that it is one of these special lists. The system will not detect the error of omitting to copy a rest-argument; you will simply find that you have a value which seems to change behind your back. At other times the rest-args list will be an argument that was given to apply; therefore it is not safe to rplaca this list as you may modify permanent data structure. An attempt to rplacd a rest-args list will be unsafe in this case, while in the first case it would cause an error, since lists in the stack are impossible to rplacd.

There are some other keywords in addition to those mentioned here. See section 10.7, page 135 for a complete list. You only need to know about &optional and &rest in order to understand this manual.

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Lambda lists provide "positional" arguments: the meaning of an argument comes from its position in the lambda list. For example, the first argument to cons is the object that will be the car of the new cons. Sometimes it is desirable to use "keyword" arguments, in which the meaning of an argument comes from a "keyword" symbol that tells the callee which argument this is. While lambda lists do not provide keyword arguments directly, there is a convention for functions that want arguments passed to them in the keyword fashion. The convention is that the function takes a rest-argument, whose value is a list of alternating keyword symbols and argument values. If cons were written as a keyword-style function, then instead of saying

```lisp
(cons 4 (foo))
```

you could say either of

```lisp
(cons ':car 4 ':cdr (foo))
```

```lisp
or

(cons ':cdr (foo) ':car 4)
```

assuming the keyword symbols were :car and :cdr. Keyword symbols are always in the keyword package, and so their printed representations always start with a colon; the reason for this is given in chapter 23.

This use of keyword arguments is only a convention; it is not built into the function-calling mechanism of the language. Your function must contain Lisp programming to take apart the rest parameter and make sense of the keywords and values. The special form keyword-extract (see page 39) may be useful for this.

### 3.3 Some Functions and Special Forms

This section describes some functions and special forms. Some are parts of the evaluator, or closely related to it. Some have to do specifically with issues discussed above such as keyword arguments. Some are just fundamental Lisp forms that are very important.

**eval x**

(eval x) evaluates x, and returns the result.

Example:

```lisp
(setq x 43 foo 'bar)
(eval (list 'cons x 'foo))
=> (43 . bar)
```

It is unusual to explicitly call eval, since usually evaluation is done implicitly. If you are writing a simple Lisp program and explicitly calling eval, you are probably doing something wrong. eval is primarily useful in programs which deal with Lisp itself, rather than programs about knowledge or mathematics or games.

Also, if you are only interested in getting at the value of a symbol (that is, the contents of the symbol's value cell), then you should use the primitive function symeval (see page 78).

Note: the actual name of the compiled code for eval is "si:*eval"; this is because use of the evalhook feature binds the function cell of eval. If you don't understand this, you can safely ignore it.
Note: unlike Maclisp, eval never takes a second argument; there are no "binding context pointers" in Lisp Machine Lisp. They are replaced by Closures (see chapter 11, page 144).

apply \( f \) arglist

(apply \( f \) arglist) applies the function \( f \) to the list of arguments arglist. arglist should be a list; \( f \) can be any function.

Examples:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{(setq fred '+)} & \Rightarrow 3 \\
\text{(setq fred '-)} & \Rightarrow -1 \\
\text{(apply 'cons '((+ 2 3) 4))} & \Rightarrow \\
& ((+ 2 3) . 4) \not= (5 . 4)
\end{align*}
\]

Of course, arglist may be nil.

Note: unlike Maclisp, apply never takes a third argument; there are no "binding context pointers" in Lisp Machine Lisp.

Compare apply with funcall and eval.

funcall \( f \) &rest args

(funcall \( f \) \( a_1 \) \( a_2 \) ... \( a_n \)) applies the function \( f \) to the arguments \( a_1 \), \( a_2 \), ..., \( a_n \). \( f \) may not be a special form nor a macro; this would not be meaningful.

Example:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{(cons 1 2)} & \Rightarrow (1 . 2) \\
\text{(setq cons 'plus)} \\
\text{(funcall cons 1 2)} & \Rightarrow 3
\end{align*}
\]

This shows that the use of the symbol cons as the name of a function and the use of that symbol as the name of a variable do not interact. The cons form invokes the function named cons. The funcall form evaluates the variable and gets the symbol plus, which is the name of a different function.

lexpr-funcall \( f \) &rest args

lexpr-funcall is like a cross between apply and funcall. (lexpr-funcall \( f \) \( a_1 \) \( a_2 \) ... \( a_n \) \( l \)) applies the function \( f \) to the arguments \( a_l \) through \( a_n \) followed by the elements of the list \( l \). Note that since it treats its last argument specially, lexpr-funcall requires at least two arguments.

Examples:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{(lexpr-funcall 'plus 1 1 1 '(1 1))} & \Rightarrow 6 \\
\text{(defun report-error (&rest args)} \\
\text{\ (lexpr-funcall (function format) error-output args))}
\end{align*}
\]

lexpr-funcall with two arguments does the same thing as apply.

Note: the Maclisp functions subrcall, Isubrcall, and arraycall are not needed on the Lisp Machine; funcall is just as efficient. arraycall is provided for compatibility; it ignores its first subform (the Maclisp array type) and is otherwise identical to aref. subrcall and Isubrcall are not provided.
call function &rest argument-specifications

call offers a very general way of controlling what arguments you pass to a function. You can provide either individual arguments a la functional or lists of arguments a la apply, in any order. In addition, you can make some of the arguments optional. If the function is not prepared to accept all the arguments you specify, no error occurs if the excess arguments are optional ones. Instead, the excess arguments are simply not passed to the function.

The argument-specs are alternating keywords (or lists of keywords) and values. Each keyword or list of keywords says what to do with the value that follows. If a value happens to require no keywords, provide () as a list of keywords for it.

Two keywords are presently defined: :optional and :spread. :spread says that the following value is a list of arguments. Otherwise it is a single argument. :optional says that all the following arguments are optional. It is not necessary to specify :optional with all the following argument-specs, because it is sticky.

Example:
```
(call #'foo () x ':spread y '(:optional :spread) z () w)
```
The arguments passed to foo are the value of x, the elements of the value of y, the elements of the value of z, and the value of w. The function foo must be prepared to accept all the arguments which come from x and y, but if it does not want the rest, they are ignored.

quote Special Form

(quote x) simply returns x. It is useful specifically because x is not evaluated; the quote is how you make a form that returns an arbitrary Lisp object. quote is used to include constants in a form.

Examples:
```
(quote x) => x
(setq x (quote (some list))) x => (some list)
```

Since quote is so useful but somewhat cumbersome to type, the reader normally converts any form preceded by a single quote (' ) character into a quote form.

For example,
```
(setq x '(some list))
is converted by read into
(setq x (quote (some list)))
```

function Special Form

function special forms look like (function form). This means different things depending on whether form is a symbol, or a list. (Note that in neither case is form evaluated.)

If you want to pass an anonymous function as an argument to a function, you could just use quote; for example:
```
(mapc (quote (lambda (x) (car x))) some-list)
```
This works fine as far as the evaluator is concerned. However, the compiler cannot tell that the first argument is going to be used as a function; for all it knows, mapc will treat its first argument as a piece of list structure, asking for its car and cdr and so forth. So the compiler cannot compile the function; it must pass the lambda-expression unmodified. This means that the function will not get compiled, which will make it
execute more slowly than it might otherwise.

The function special form is one way to tell the compiler that it can go ahead and compile the lambda-expression. You just use the symbol function instead of quote:

\[(\text{mapc} \ (\text{function} \ (\text{lambda} \ (x) \ (\text{car} \ x))) \ \text{some-list})\]

This will cause the compiler to generate code such that mapc will be passed a compiled-code object as its first argument.

That's what the compiler does with a function special form whose form is not a symbol. The evaluator, when given such a form, just returns form; that is, it treats function just like quote.

To ease typing, the reader converts #'thing into (function thing). So #' is similar to ' except that it produces a function form instead of a quote form. So the above form could be written as

\[(\text{mapc} \ #'(\text{lambda} \ (x) \ (\text{car} \ x)) \ \text{some-list})\]

If form is a symbol, then function returns the contents of the function cell location of form; it is like fsymeval except that it is a special form instead of a function, and so

\[(\text{function} \ \text{fred})\]

is like \[(\text{fsymeval} \ \text{fred})\].

function is the same for the compiler and the interpreter when form is a symbol.

Because of this, using function rules out the possibility of later changing the function definition of x, including tracing it. Care is required!

The other way to tell the compiler that an argument that is a lambda expression should be compiled is for the function that takes the function as an argument to use the &functional keyword in its lambda list; see section 10.7, page 135. The basic system functions that take functions as arguments, such as map and sort, have this &functional keyword and hence quoted lambda-expressions given to them will be recognized as functions by the compiler.

In fact, mapc uses &functional and so the example given above is bogus; in the particular case of the first argument to the function mapc, quote and function are synonymous. It is good style to use function (or #') anyway, to make the intent of the program completely clear.

**false**

Takes no arguments and returns nil.

**true**

Takes no arguments and returns t.

**comment** Special Form

comment ignores its form and returns the symbol comment.

Example:

\[
(\text{defun} \ \text{foo} \ (x) \\
(\text{cond} \ ((\text{null} \ x) \ 0) \\
\quad (t \ (\text{comment} \ x \ \text{has something in it}) \\
\quad \quad (1+ \ (\text{foo} \ (\text{cdr} \ x))))))
\]
Usually it is preferable to comment code using the semicolon-macro feature of the standard input syntax. This allows the user to add comments to his code which are ignored by the lisp reader.

Example:

```lisp
(defun foo (x)
  (cond ((null x) 0)
        (t (1+ (foo (cdr x)))) ; x has something in it
)
```

A problem with such comments is that they are discarded when the form is read into Lisp. If the function is read into Lisp, modified, and printed out again, the comment will be lost. However, this style of operation is hardly ever used; usually the source of a function is kept in an editor buffer and any changes are made to the buffer, rather than the actual list structure of the function. Thus, this is not a real problem.

**progn** *Special Form*

A **progn**-form looks like `(progn form1 form2...)`. The forms are evaluated in order from left to right and the value of the last one is returned. **progn** is the primitive control structure construct for "compound statements". Although lambda-expressions, **cond** forms, **do** forms, and many other control structure forms use **progn** implicitly, that is, they allow multiple forms in their bodies, there are occasions when one needs to evaluate a number of forms for their side-effects and make them appear to be a single form.

Example:

```lisp
(foo (cdr a)
     (progn (setq b (extract frob))
            (car b))
     (cadr b))
```

**prog1** *Special Form*

**prog1** is similar to **progn**, but it returns the value of its first form. It is most commonly used to evaluate an expression with side effects, and return a value which must be computed before the side effects happen.

Example:

```lisp
(setq x (prog1 y (setq y x)))
```

interchanges the values of the variables x and y.

**prog2** *Special Form*

**prog2** is similar to **progn** and **prog1**, but it returns its second form. It is included largely for Maclisp compatibility.

See also **bind** (page 168), which is a subprimitive that gives you maximal control over binding.

The following three functions (**arg**, **setarg**, and **listify**) exist only for compatibility with Maclisp **lexprs**. To write functions that can accept variable numbers of arguments, use the **&optional** and **&rest** keywords (see section 3.2, page 18).
arg \( x \)

(arg nil), when evaluated during the application of a lexpr, gives the number of arguments supplied to that lexpr. This is primarily a debugging aid, since lexprs also receive their number of arguments as the value of their lambda-variable.

(arg \( i \)), when evaluated during the application of a lexpr, gives the value of the \( i \)th argument to the lexpr. \( i \) must be a fixnum in this case. It is an error if \( i \) is less than 1 or greater than the number of arguments supplied to the lexpr.

Example:

```
(defun foo nargs)
  (print (arg 2)) ;print the second argument.
  (+ (arg 1) ;return the sum of the first
      (arg (- nargs 1)))) ;and next to last arguments.
```

setarg \( i \) \( x \)

setarg is used only during the application of a lexpr. (setarg \( i \) \( x \)) sets the lexpr's \( i \)th argument to \( x \). \( i \) must be greater than zero and not greater than the number of arguments passed to the lexpr. After (setarg \( i \) \( x \)) has been done, (arg \( i \)) will return \( x \).

listify \( n \)

(listify \( n \)) manufactures a list of \( n \) of the arguments of a lexpr. With a positive argument \( n \), it returns a list of the first \( n \) arguments of the lexpr. With a negative argument \( n \), it returns a list of the last (abs \( n \)) arguments of the lexpr. Basically, it works as if defined as follows:

```
(defun listify (n)
  (cond ((minusp n)
          (listify1 (arg nil) (+ (arg nil) n 1)))
        (t
         (listify1 n 1))))

(defun listify1 (n m)
  ;auxiliary function.
  (do ((i n (1- i))
       (result nil (cons (arg i) result)))
       (< i m) result))
```

3.4 Multiple Values

The Lisp machine includes a facility by which the evaluation of a form can produce more than one value. When a function needs to return more than one result to its caller, multiple values are a cleaner way of doing this than returning a list of the values or setq'ing special variables to the extra values. In most Lisp function calls, multiple values are not used. Special syntax is required both to produce multiple values and to receive them.

The primitive for producing multiple values is values, which takes any number of arguments and returns that many values. If the last form in the body of a function is a values with three arguments, then a call to that function will return three values. The other primitive for producing multiple values is return, which when given more than one argument returns all its arguments as the values of the prog or do from which it is returning. The variant return-from also can produce multiple values. Many system functions produce multiple values, but they all do it via the values and return primitives.
The special forms for receiving multiple values are `multiple-value`, `multiple-value-bind`, and `multiple-value-list`. These consist of a form and an indication of where to put the values returned by that form. With the first two of these, the caller requests a certain number of returned values. If fewer values are returned than the number requested, then it is exactly as if the rest of the values were present and had the value `nil`. If too many values are returned, the rest of the values are ignored. This has the advantage that you don't have to pay attention to extra values if you don't care about them, but it has the disadvantage that error-checking similar to that done for function calling is not present.

`values &rest args`  
Returns multiple values, the values of its arguments. This is the primitive function for producing multiple values.

`values-list list`  
Returns multiple values, the elements of the `list`. `(values-list '(a b c))` is the same as `(values 'a 'b 'c)`.

`return` and its variants can only be used within the `do` and `prog` special forms and their variants, and so they are explained on page 41.

`multiple-value Special Form`  
`(multiple-value var-list form)` is a special form used for calling a function which is expected to return more than one value. `var-list` should be a list of variables. `form` is evaluated, and the variables in `var-list` are set (not lambda-bound) to the values returned by `form`. If more values are returned than there are variables in `var-list`, then the extra values are ignored. If there are more variables than values returned, extra values of `nil` are supplied. If `nil` appears in the `var-list`, then the corresponding value is ignored (you can't use `nil` as a variable.)

Example:

```lisp
(multiple-value (symbol already-there-p)
                (intern "goo")
               )
```

In addition to its first value (the symbol), `intern` returns a second value, which is `t` if the symbol returned as the first value was already interned, or else `nil` if `intern` had to create it. So if the symbol `goo` was already known, the variable `already-there-p` will be set to `t`, otherwise it will be set to `nil`. The third value returned by `intern` will be ignored.

`multiple-value` is usually used for effect rather than for value; however, its value is defined to be the first of the values returned by `form`.

`multiple-value-bind Special Form`  
This is similar to `multiple-value`, but locally binds the variables which receive the values, rather than setting them. The form looks like:

```lisp
(multiple-value-bind var-list form
               body...)
```

First `form` is evaluated. Then the variables in `var-list` are bound to the values returned by `form`. Then the forms of `body` are evaluated sequentially, the bindings are undone, and the result of the last form in `body` is returned.
**multiple-value-list** *Special Form*

(multiple-value-list form) evaluates form, and returns a list of the values it returned. This is useful for when you don’t know how many values to expect.

Example:

```lisp
(setq a (multiple-value-list (intern "goo")))
```

a => (goo nil #<Package User>)

This is similar to the example of multiple-value above; a will be set to a list of three elements, the three values returned by intern.

Due to the syntactic structure of Lisp, it is often the case that the value of a certain form is the value of a sub-form of it. For example, the value of a cond is the value of the last form in the selected clause. In most such cases, if the sub-form produces multiple values, the original form will also produce all of those values. This passing-back of multiple values of course has no effect unless eventually one of the special forms for receiving multiple values is reached. The exact rule governing passing-back of multiple values is as follows:

If X is a form, and Y is a sub-form of X, then if the value of Y is unconditionally returned as the value of X, with no intervening computation, then all the multiple values returned by Y are returned by X. In all other cases, multiple values or only single values may be returned at the discretion of the implementation; users should not depend on whatever way it happens to work, as it may change in the future or in other implementations. The reason we don’t guarantee non-transmission of multiple values is because such a guarantee would not be very useful and the efficiency cost of enforcing it would be high. Even setq’ing a variable to the result of a form, then returning the value of that variable might be made to pass multiple values by an optimizing compiler which realized that the setq’ing of the variable was unnecessary.

Note that use of a form as an argument to a function never receives multiple values from that form. That is, if the form (foo (bar)) is evaluated and the call to bar returns many values, foo will still only be called on one argument (namely, the first value returned), rather than being called on all the values returned. We choose not to generate several separate arguments from the several values, because this would make the source code obscure; it would not be syntactically obvious that a single form does not correspond to a single argument. Instead, the first value of a form is used as the argument and the remaining values are discarded. Receiving of multiple values is done only with the above-mentioned special forms.

For clarity, descriptions of the interaction of several common special forms with multiple values follow. This can all be deduced from the rule given above.

The body of a defun or a lambda, and variations such as the body of a function, the body of a let, etc., pass back multiple values from the last form in the body.

eval, apply, funcall, and leexpr-funcall pass back multiple values from the function called.

progn passes back multiple values from its last form. progv and progw do so also. prog1 and prog2, however, do not pass back multiple values.

Multiple values are passed back from the last subform of an and or or form, but not from previous forms since the return is conditional. Remember that multiple values are only passed back when the value of a sub-form is unconditionally returned from the containing form. For example, consider the form (or (foo) (bar)). If foo returns a non-nil first value, then only that value will be returned as the value of the form. But if it returns nil (as its first value), then or
returns whatever values the call to `bar` returns.

`cond` passes back multiple values from the last form in the selected clause, but not if the clause is only one long (i.e., the returned value is the value of the predicate) since the return is conditional. This rule applies even to the last clause, where the return is not really conditional (the implementation is allowed to pass or not to pass multiple values in this case, and so you shouldn’t depend on what it does). `t` should be used as the predicate of the last clause if multiple values are desired, to make it clear to the compiler (and any human readers of the code!) that the return is not conditional.

The variants of `cond` such as if, `select`, `selectq`, and `dispatch` pass back multiple values from the last form in the selected clause.

`prog` passes back the number of values given as arguments to the return that returns from it. Recall that `return` can be given many subforms, in which case it causes the `prog` to return many values. `(return form)` looks a bit ambiguous; you might think it returns all the values returned by `form`. In fact, it may or may not; as always the implementation is not constrained not to return extra values, and you should not depend on what it does in this case. If you want to return from a `prog` with all the values returned by a `form`, use `multiple-value-return` (see page 42): `(multiple-value-return form)` returns from a `prog`, passing back all the values of `form`.

`do` behaves like `prog` with respect to return. All the values of the last `exit-form` are returned.

`unwind-protect` does not pass back multiple values. It clearly should, but this is currently difficult to implement. This will be fixed in the future.
4. Flow of Control

Lisp provides a variety of structures for flow of control.

Function application is the basic method for construction of programs. Operations are written as the application of a function to its arguments. Usually, Lisp programs are written as a large collection of small functions, each of which implements a simple operation. These functions operate by calling one another, and so larger operations are defined in terms of smaller ones.

A function may always call itself in Lisp. The calling of a function by itself is known as recursion; it is analogous to mathematical induction.

The performing of an action repeatedly (usually with some changes between repetitions) is called iteration, and is provided as a basic control structure in most languages. The do statement of PL/I, the for statement of Algol/60, and so on, are examples of iteration primitives. Lisp provides two general iteration facilities: do and loop, as well as a variety of special-purpose iteration facilities. (loop is sufficiently complex that it is explained in its own chapter later in the manual; see page 204.) There is also a very general construct to allow the traditional "goto" control structure, called prog.

A conditional construct is one which allows a program to make a decision, and do one thing or another based on some logical condition. Lisp provides the simple one-way conditionals and or, the simple two-way conditional if, and more general multi-way conditionals such as cond and selectq. The choice of which form to use in any particular situation is a matter of personal taste and style.

There are some non-local exit control structures, analogous to the leave, exit, and escape constructs in many modern languages. The general ones are *catch and *throw; there is also return and its variants, used for exiting iteration the constructs do, loop, and prog.

Lisp Machine Lisp also provides a coroutine capability, explained in the section on stack-groups (chapter 12, page 149), and a multiple-process facility (see chapter 25, page 377). There is also a facility for generic function calling using message passing; see chapter 20, page 245.

4.1 Conditionals

if Special Form

if is the simplest conditional form. The "if-then" form looks like:

( if predicate-form then-form )

predicate-form is evaluated, and if the result is non-nil, the then-form is evaluated and its result is returned. Otherwise, nil is returned.

In the "if-then-else" form, it looks like

( if predicate-form then-form else-form )

predicate-form is evaluated, and if the result is non-nil, the then-form is evaluated and its result is returned. Otherwise, the else-form is evaluated and its result is returned.
If there are more than three subforms, if assumes you want more than one else-form; they are evaluated sequentially and the result of the last one is returned, if the predicate returns nil. There is disagreement as to whether this constitutes good programming style or not.

**cond Special Form**

The cond special form consists of the symbol cond followed by several clauses. Each clause consists of a predicate form, called the antecedent, followed by zero or more consequent forms.

\[
\text{cond} \quad (\text{antecedent consequent consequent} \ldots) \\
(\text{antecedent}) \\
(\text{antecedent consequent} \ldots) \\
\ldots 
\]

The idea is that each clause represents a case which is selected if its antecedent is satisfied and the antecedents of all preceding clauses were not satisfied. When a clause is selected, its consequent forms are evaluated.

cond processes its clauses in order from left to right. First, the antecedent of the current clause is evaluated. If the result is nil, cond advances to the next clause. Otherwise, the cdr of the clause is treated as a list consequent forms which are evaluated in order from left to right. After evaluating the consequents, cond returns without inspecting any remaining clauses. The value of the cond special form is the value of the last consequent evaluated, or the value of the antecedent if there were no consequents in the clause. If cond runs out of clauses, that is, if every antecedent evaluates to nil, and thus no case is selected, the value of the cond is nil.

**Example:**

\[
\text{cond} \quad ((\text{zerop x}) \quad ; \text{First clause:} \\
(\quad (+ y 3)) \quad ; (\text{zerop x}) \text{is the antecedent.} \\
(\quad (\text{null y}) \quad ; (\text{null y}) \text{is the consequent.} \\
(\quad (\text{setq y 4}) \quad ; \text{this} \\
(\quad (\text{cons x z})) \quad ; \text{and this.} \\
(\text{z}) \quad ; \text{A clause with no consequents: the antecedent is} \\
(\quad (\text{t}) \quad ; \text{just z. If z is non-nil, it will be returned.} \\
(\quad 105) \quad ; \text{An antecedent of t} \\
) \quad ; \text{is always satisfied.} \\
) \quad ; \text{This is the end of the cond.}
\]

**cond-every Special Form**

cond-every has the same syntax as cond, but executes every clause whose predicate is satisfied, not just the first. If a predicate is the symbol otherwise, it is satisfied if and only if no preceding predicate is satisfied. The value returned is the value of the last consequent form in the last clause whose predicate is satisfied. Multiple values are not returned.
and Special Form

(and form1 form2 ... ) evaluates the forms one at a time, from left to right. If any form evaluates to nil, and immediately returns nil without evaluating the remaining forms. If all the forms evaluate to non-nil values, and returns the value of the last form.

and can be used in two different ways. You can use it as a logical and function, because it returns a true value only if all of its arguments are true. So you can use it as a predicate:

\[
(\text{if } (\text{and } \text{soerates-is-a-person} \\
\quad \text{all-people-are-mortal}) \\
(\text{setq } \text{soerates-is-mortal } t))
\]

Because the order of evaluation is well-defined, you can do

\[
(\text{if } (\text{and } (\text{boundp } 'x) \\
\quad (\text{eq } x '\text{foo})) \\
(\text{setq } y '\text{bar}))
\]

knowing that the x in the eq form will not be evaluated if x is found to be unbound.

You can also use and as a simple conditional form:

\[
(\text{and } (\text{setq temp } (\text{assq } x y)) \\
(\text{rplacd temp } z)) \\
(\text{and } \text{bright-day} \\
\quad \text{glorious-day} \\
\quad (\text{princ } "\text{It is a bright and glorious day."}))
\]

Note: (and) = t, which is the identity for the and operation.

or Special Form

(or form1 form2 ...) evaluates the forms one by one from left to right. If a form evaluates to nil, or proceeds to evaluate the next form. If there are no more forms, or returns nil. But if a form evaluates to a non-nil value, or immediately returns that value without evaluating any remaining forms.

As with and, or can be used either as a logical or function, or as a conditional.

\[
(\text{or } \text{it-is-fish} \\
\quad \text{it-is-fowl} \\
\quad (\text{print } "\text{It is neither fish nor fowl."}))
\]

Note: (or) = nil, the identity for this operation.

selectq Special Form

selectq is a conditional which chooses one of its clauses to execute by comparing the value of a form against various constants, which are typically keyword symbols. Its form is as follows:

\[
(\text{selectq key-form} \\
\quad (\text{test consequent consequent } ...) \\
\quad (\text{test consequent consequent } ...) \\
\quad (\text{test consequent consequent } ...) \\
\quad \ldots)
\]

The first thing selectq does is to evaluate key-form; call the resulting value key. Then selectq considers each of the clauses in turn. If key matches the clause's test, the
consequents of this clause are evaluated, and \texttt{selectq} returns the value of the last consequent. If there are no matches, \texttt{selectq} returns \texttt{nil}.

A test may be any of:

1) A symbol If the \texttt{key} is \texttt{eq} to the symbol, it matches.
2) A number If the \texttt{key} is \texttt{eq} to the number, it matches. Only small numbers (\texttt{fixnums}) will work.
3) A list If the \texttt{key} is \texttt{eq} to one of the elements of the list, then it matches. The elements of the list should be symbols or \texttt{fixnums}.
4) \texttt{t} or \texttt{otherwise} The symbols \texttt{t} and \texttt{otherwise} are special keywords which match anything. Either symbol may be used; it makes no difference; \texttt{t} is mainly for compatibility with Maclisp's caseq construct. To be useful, this should be the last clause in the selectq.

Note that the tests are not evaluated; if you want them to be evaluated use \texttt{select} rather than \texttt{selectq}.

Example:

\begin{verbatim}
(selectq x
  (foo (do-this))
  (bar (do-that))
  ((baz quux mum) (do-the-other-thing))
  (otherwise (ferror nil "Never heard of ~S" x)))
\end{verbatim}

is equivalent to

\begin{verbatim}
(cond ((eq x 'foo) (do-this))
  ((eq x 'bar) (do-that))
  ((memq x '(baz quux mum)) (do-the-other-thing))
  (t (ferror nil "Never heard of ~S" x)))
\end{verbatim}

Also see \texttt{defselect} (page 134), a special form for defining a function whose body is like a selectq.

\textbf{select Special Form}

select is the same as selectq, except that the elements of the tests are evaluated before they are used.

This creates a syntactic ambiguity: if \texttt{(bar baz)} is seen the first element of a clause, is it a list of two forms, or is it one form? select interprets it as a list of two forms. If you want to have a clause whose test is a single form, and that form is a list, you have to write it as a list of one form.

Example:

\begin{verbatim}
(select (frob x)
  (foo 1)
  (bar baz) 2
  (((current-frob)) 4)
  (otherwise 3))
\end{verbatim}

is equivalent to
(let ((var (frob x)))
  (cond ((eq var foo) 1)
        ((or (eq var bar) (eq var baz)) 2)
        ((eq var (current-frob)) 4)
        (t 3)))

**selector** *Special Form*

Selector is the same as select, except that you get to specify the function used for the comparison instead of eq. For example,

```
(selector (frob x) equal
  ('(one two) (frob-one x))
  ('(three four) (frob-three x))
  (otherwise (frob-any x)))
```

is equivalent to

```
(let ((var (frob x)))
  (cond ((equal var '(one two)) (frob-one x))
        ((equal var '(three four)) (frob-three x))
        (t (frob-any x))))
```

**dispatch** *Special Form*

```
(dispatch byte-specifier number clauses...) is the same as select (not selectq), but the key is obtained by evaluating (ldb byte-specifier number). byte-specifier and number are both evaluated. Byte specifiers and ldb are explained on page 94.
```

Example:

```
(princ (dispatch 0202 cat-type
  (0 "Siamese.")
  (1 "Persian.")
  (2 "Alley.")
  (3 (ferror nil
       "S is not a known cat type." cat-type)))
```

It is not necessary to include all possible values of the byte which will be dispatched on.

**selectq-every** *Special Form*

Selectq-every has the same syntax as selectq, but, like cond-every, executes every selected clause instead of just the first one. If an otherwise clause is present, it is selected if and only if no preceding clause is selected. The value returned is the value of the last form in the last selected clause. Multiple values are not returned. Example:

```
(selectq-every animal
  ((cat dog) (setq legs 4))
  ((bird man) (setq legs 2))
  ((cat bird) (put-in-oven animal))
  ((cat dog man) (beware-of animal)))
```

**caseq** *Special Form*

```
The caseq special form is provided for Maclisp compatibility. It is exactly the same as selectq. This is not perfectly compatible with Maclisp, because selectq accepts otherwise as well as t where caseq would not accept otherwise, and because Maclisp does some error-checking that selectq does not. Maclisp programs that use caseq will work correctly so long as they don't use the symbol otherwise as the key.
```
4.2 Iteration

**do Special Form**

The do special form provides a simple generalized iteration facility, with an arbitrary number of "index variables" whose values are saved when the do is entered and restored when it is left, i.e. they are bound by the do. The index variables are used in the iteration performed by do. At the beginning, they are initialized to specified values, and then at the end of each trip around the loop the values of the index variables are changed according to specified rules. do allows the programmer to specify a predicate which determines when the iteration will terminate. The value to be returned as the result of the form may, optionally, be specified.

**do** comes in two varieties.

The more general, so-called "new-style" do looks like:

```lisp
(do ((var init repeat) ...) 
( end-test exit-form ...) 
body...) 
```

The first item in the form is a list of zero or more index variable specifiers. Each index variable specifier is a list of the name of a variable `var`, an initial value form `init`, which defaults to nil if it is omitted, and a repeat value form `repeat`. If `repeat` is omitted, the `var` is not changed between repetitions.

An index variable specifier can also be just the name of a variable, rather than a list. In this case, the variable has an initial value of nil, and is not changed between repetitions.

All assignment to the index variables is done in parallel. At the beginning of the first iteration, all the `init` forms are evaluated, then the `vars` are bound to the values of the `init` forms, their old values being saved in the usual way. Note that the `init` forms are evaluated before the `vars` are bound, i.e. lexically outside of the do. At the beginning of each succeeding iteration those `vars` that have `repeat` forms get set to the values of their respective `repeat` forms. Note that all the `repeat` forms are evaluated before any of the `vars` is set.

The second element of the do-form is a list of an end-testing predicate form `end-test`, and zero or more forms, called the `exit-forms`. This resembles a cond clause. At the beginning of each iteration, after processing of the variable specifiers, the `end-test` is evaluated. If the result is nil, execution proceeds with the body of the do. If the result is not nil, the `exit-forms` are evaluated from left to right and then do returns. The value of the do is the value of the last `exit-form`, or nil if there were no `exit-forms` (not the value of the `end-test` as you might expect by analogy with cond).

Note that the `end-test` gets evaluated before the first time the body is evaluated. do first initializes the variables from the `init` forms, then it checks the `end-test`, then it processes the body, then it deals with the `repeat` forms, then it tests the `end-test` again, and so on. If the `end-test` returns a non-nil value the first time, then the body will never be processed.
If the second element of the form is nil, there is no end-test nor exit-forms, and the body of the do is executed only once. In this type of do it is an error to have repeats. This type of do is no more powerful than let; it is obsolete and provided only for Maclisp compatibility.

If the second element of the form is (nil), the end-test is never true and there are no exit-forms. The body of the do is executed over and over. The infinite loop can be terminated by use of return or *throw.

If a return special form is evaluated inside the body of a do, then the do immediately stops, unbinds its variables, and returns the values given to return. See page 41 for more details about return and its variants. go special forms (see page 41) can also be used inside the body of a do and they mean the same thing that they do inside prog forms, but we discourage their use since they complicate the control structure in a hard-to-understand way.

The other, so-called "old-style" do looks like:

\[
\text{(do \ var \ init \ repeat \ end-test \ body \ ...)}
\]

The first time through the loop \text{var} gets the value of the \text{init} form; the remaining times through the loop it gets the value of the \text{repeat} form, which is re-evaluated each time. Note that the \text{init} form is evaluated before \text{var} is bound, i.e. lexically outside of the do. Each time around the loop, after \text{var} is set, \text{end-test} is evaluated. If it is non-nil, the do finishes and returns nil. If the end-test evaluated to nil, the body of the loop is executed. As with the new-style do, return and go may be used in the body, and they have the same meaning.

Examples of the older variety of do:

\[
(\text{setq n (array-length foo-array)})
(\text{do i 0 (1+ i) (= i n)})
(\text{aset 0 foo-array i}) ; \text{zeros out the array foo-array}
\]

\[
(\text{do zz x (cdr zz) (or (null zz) (zerop (f (car zz))))})
; \text{this applies f to each element of x}
; \text{continuously until f returns zero.}
; \text{Note that the do has no body.}
\]

\text{return forms are often useful to do simple searches:}

\[
(\text{do i 0 (1+ i) (= i n) ; \text{iterate over the length of foo-array.}}
(\text{and (= (aref foo-array i) 5) ; \text{if we find an element which}}
; \text{equals 5,}}
(\text{return i})) ; \text{then return its index.}
\]

Examples of the new form of do:

\[
(\text{do ((i 0 (1+ i)) ; \text{this is just the same as the above example,}}
(n (array-length foo-array)))
((= i n)) ; \text{but written as a new-style do.}
(\text{aset 0 foo-array i}) ; \text{Note how the setq is avoided.}
\]
(do ((z list (cdr z))) ; z starts as list and is cdr'ed each time.
  (y other-list) ; y starts as other-list, and is unchanged by the do.
  (x)) ; x starts as nil and is not changed by the do.
  (nil) ; The end-test is nil, so this is an infinite loop.
(body) ; Presumably the body uses return somewhere.

The construction
(dо ((x е (cdr x))
   (oldx x x))
   (nil x))
(body)

exploits parallel assignment to index variables. On the first iteration, the value of oldx is whatever value x had before the do was entered. On succeeding iterations, oldx contains the value that x had on the previous iteration.

In either form of do, the body may contain no forms at all. Very often an iterative algorithm can be most clearly expressed entirely in the repeats and exit-forms of a new-style do, and the body is empty.

(dо ((x x (cdr x))
   (y y (cdr y))
   (z nil (cons (f x y) z))) ; exploits parallel assignment.
   ((or (null x) (null y))
    (nreverse z)) ; typical use of nreverse.
(body)

is like (maplist 'f x y) (see page 45).

Also see loop (page 204), a general iteration facility based on a keyword syntax rather than a list-structure syntax.

do-named Special Form

Sometimes one do is contained inside the body of an outer do. The return function always returns from the innermost surrounding do, but sometimes you want to return from an outer do while within an inner do. You can do this by giving the outer do a name. You use do-named instead of do for the outer do, and use return-from (see page 42), specifying that name, to return from the do-named.

The syntax of do-named is like do except that the symbol do is immediately followed by the name, which should be a symbol.
Example:

\[
\text{(do-named george ((a 1 (1+ a))}
\text{(d 'foo))}
\text{((> a 4) 7))}
\]

\[
\text{(do ((c b (cdr c))}
\text{((null c))}
...)
\text{(return-from george (cons b d))}
...))
\]

If the symbol t is used as the name, then it will be made "invisible" to returns; that is, returns inside that prog will return to the next outermost level whose name is not t. (return-from t ...) will return from a prog named t. This feature is not intended to be used by user-written code; it is for macros to expand into.

progs and loops can have names just as dos can. Since the same functions are used to return from all of these forms, all of these names are in the same name-space; a return returns from the innermost enclosing iteration form, no matter which of these it is, and so you need to use names if you nest any of them within any other and want to return to an outer one from inside an inner one.

dotimes Special Form
dotimes is a convenient abbreviation for the most common integer iteration. (dotimes (index count) body...) performs body the number of times given by the value of count, with index bound to 0, 1, etc. on successive iterations.

Example:

\[
\text{(do ((i 0 (1+ i))}
\text{(count (// m n)))}
\text{((> i count))}
\text{(frob i))}
\]

except that the name count is not used. Note that i takes on values starting at zero rather than one, and that it stops before taking the value (// m n) rather than after. You can use return and go inside the body, as with do.

dolist Special Form
dolist is a convenient abbreviation for the most common list iteration. (dolist (item list) body...) performs body once for each element in the list which is the value of list, with item bound to the successive elements.

Example:

\[
\text{(dolist (item (frobs foo))}
\text{(mung item))}
\]

is equivalent to:
(do ((1st (frobs foo) (cdr 1st))
     (item))
  ((null 1st))
  (setq item (car 1st))
  (mung item))

except that the name 1st is not used. You can use return and go inside the body, as with do.

**keyword-extract Special Form**

keyword-extract is an aid to writing functions which take keyword arguments in the standard fashion. The form:

```
(keyword-extract key-list iteration-var
  keywords flags other-clauses...)
```

will parse the keywords out into local variables of the function. key-list is a form which evaluates to the list of keyword arguments; it is generally the function’s &rest argument. iteration-var is a variable used to iterate over the list; sometimes other-clauses will use the form

```
(car (setq iteration-var (cdr iteration-var)))
```

to extract the next element of the list. (Note that this is not the same as pop.)

keywords defines the symbols which are keywords to be followed by an argument. Each element of keywords is either the name of a local variable which receives the argument and is also the keyword, or a list of the keyword and the variable, for use when they are different or the keyword is not to go in the keyword package. Thus if keywords is (foo (ugh bletch) bar) then the keywords recognized will be :foo, ugh, and :bar. If :foo is specified its argument will be stored into foo. If :bar is specified its argument will be stored into bar. If ugh is specified its argument will be stored into bletch.

Note that keyword-extract does not bind these local variables; it assumes you will have done that somewhere else in the code that contains the keyword-extract form.

flags defines the symbols which are keywords not followed by an argument. If a flag is seen its corresponding variable is set to t. (You are assumed to have initialized it to nil when you bound it with let or &aux.) As in keywords, an element of flags may be either a variable from which the keyword is deduced, or a list of the keyword and the variable.

If there are any other-clauses, they are selectq clauses selecting on the keyword being processed. These can be used to do special processing of certain keywords for which simply storing the argument into a variable is not good enough. After the other-clauses there will be an otherwise clause to complain about any undefined keywords found in key-list.

**prog Special Form**

prog is a special form which provides temporary variables, sequential evaluation of forms, and a "goto" facility. A typical prog looks like:
The first subform of a `prog` is a list of variables, each of which may optionally have an initialization form. The first thing evaluation of a `prog` form does is to evaluate all of the `init` forms. Then each variable that had an `init` form is bound to its value, and the variables that did not have an `init` form are bound to `nil`.

Example:

```
(prog ((a t) b (c 5) (d (car '(zz . pp))))
    <body>
    tag1
    statement1
    statement2
    tag2
    statement3
    
```

The initial value of `a` is `t`, that of `b` is `nil`, that of `c` is the fixnum `5`, and that of `d` is the symbol `zz`. The binding and initialization of the variables is done in `parallel`; that is, all the initial values are computed before any of the variables are changed. `prog*` (see page 41) is the same as `prog` except that this initialization is sequential rather than parallel.

The part of a `prog` after the variable list is called the `body`. Each element of the body is either a symbol, in which case it is called a `tag`, or anything else (almost always a list), in which case it is called a `statement`.

After `prog` binds the variables, it processes each form in its body sequentially. Tags are skipped over. Statements are evaluated, and their returned values discarded. If the end of the body is reached, the `prog` returns `nil`. However, two special forms may be used in `prog` bodies to alter the flow of control. If `(return x)` is evaluated, `prog` stops processing its body, evaluates `x`, and returns the result. If `(go tag)` is evaluated, `prog` jumps to the part of the body labelled with the `tag`, where processing of the body is continued. `tag` is not evaluated. `return` and `go` and their variants are explained fully below.

The compiler requires that `go` and `return` forms be `lexically` within the scope of the `prog`; it is not possible for a function called from inside a `prog` body to return to the `prog`. That is, the `return` or `go` must be inside the `prog` itself, not inside a function called by the `prog`. (This restriction happens not to be enforced in the interpreter, but since all programs are eventually compiled, the convention should be adhered to. The restriction will be imposed in future implementations of the interpreter.)

See also the `do` special form, which uses a body similar to `prog`. The `do`, `*catch`, and `*throw` special forms are included in Lisp Machine Lisp as an attempt to encourage goto-less programming style, which often leads to more readable, more easily maintained code. The programmer is recommended to use these functions instead of `prog` wherever reasonable.

If the first subform of a `prog` is a non-nil symbol (rather than a variable list), it is the name of the `prog`, and `return-from` (see page 42) can be used to return from it. See `do-named`, page 37.
Example:

```lisp
(prog (x y z) ; x, y, z are prog variables - temporaries.
(setq y (car w) z (cdr w)) ; w is a free variable.
(loop
  (cond ((null y) (return x))
        ((null z) (go err)))
  (setq x (cons (cons (car y) (car z)) x))
  (setq y (cdr y)
         z (cdr z))
  (go loop)
(err
  (break are-you-sure? t)
  (setq z y)
  (go rejoin))
```

**prog** *Special Form*

The **prog** special form is almost the same as prog. The only difference is that the binding and initialization of the temporary variables is done *sequentially*, so each one can depend on the previous ones. For example,

```lisp
(prog* ((y z) (x (car y)))
  (return x))
```

returns the car of the value of z.

**go** *Special Form*

The (go *tag*) special form is used to do a "go-to" within the body of a do or a prog. The *tag* must be a symbol. It is not evaluated. go transfers control to the point in the body labelled by a tag eq to the one given. If there is no such tag in the body, the bodies of lexically containing progs and dos (if any) are examined as well. If no tag is found, an error is signalled.

Example:

```lisp
(prog (x y z)
  (setq x somefrob)
(loop
  do something
  (if some predicate (go endtag))
  do something more
  (if (minusp x) (go loop))
endtag
  (return z))
```

**return** *Special Form*

return is used to exit from a prog-like special form (prog, prog*, do, do-named, dotimes, dolist, loop, etc.) The values of return's arguments are returned by the prog as its values.

In addition, break (see page 451) recognizes the typed-in form (return value) specially. If this form is typed at a break, value will be evaluated and returned as the value of break.
If not specially recognized by break, and not inside a prog-like form, return will cause an error.
Example:

```
(do ((x x (cdr x))
    (n 0 (* n 2)))
  (null x) n)
(cond ((atom (car x))
    (setq n (1+ n)))
  ((memq (caar x) '(sys boom bleah))
    (return n)))
```

Note that the return form is very unusual: it does not ever return a value. A return form may not appear as an argument to a regular function, but only at the top level of a prog or do, or within certain special forms such as conditionals which are within a prog or do. A return as an argument to a regular function would be not only useless but possibly meaningless. The compiler does not bother to know how to compile it correctly in all cases. The same is true of go.

return is usually used with one argument, to return one value, but it can also be used with multiple arguments, to return multiple values from a prog or do. For example,

```
(defun assq (x table)
  (do ((i table (cdr i))
    (n 0 (1+ n)))
  (null i) nil)
  (if (eq (caar i) x)
    (return (car i) n))))
```

This function is like assq, but it returns an additional value which is the index in the table of the entry it found. See section 3.4, page 26 for more information.

**return-from Special Form**

A return-from form looks like (return-from name form1 form2 ...). The forms are evaluated, and then are returned from the innermost containing prog-like special form whose name is name. See the description of do-named (page 37) in which named dos and progs are explained.

**return-list list**

list must not be nil. This function is like return except that the prog returns all of the elements of list; if list has more than one element, the prog does a multiple-value return.

To direct the returned values to a prog or do-named of a specific name, use (return-from name (return-list list)).

**multiple-value-return Special Form**

(multiple-value-return (function arg1 arg2 ...)) applies the function to the arguments, and returns from the current do or prog with the same values as function returns. This function is not very well-named; it is really just a close relative of return.

Also see defunp (page 128), a variant of defun that incorporates a prog into the function body.
4.3 Non-Local Exits

*catch Special Form

*catch is a special form used with the *throw function to do non-local exits. A *catch form looks like (*catch tag form). First tag is evaluated; the result is called the "tag" of the *catch. Then form is evaluated and its value is returned, except that if, during the evaluation of form, the function *throw is called with the same tag as the tag of the *catch, then the evaluation of form is aborted, and the *catch form immediately returns the value that was the second argument to *throw without further evaluating form.

The tag's are used to match up *throw's with *catch's. (*catch 'faa (form)) will catch a (*throw 'faa form) but not a (*throw 'bar form). It is an error if *throw is done when there is no suitable *catch (or catch-all; see below).

The values t and nil for tag are special: a *catch whose tag is one of these values will catch throws to any tag. These are only for internal use by unwind-protect and catch-all respectively. The only difference between t and nil is in the error checking; t implies that after a "cleanup handler" is executed control will be thrown again to the same tag, therefore it is an error if a specific catch for this tag does not exist higher up in the stack. With nil, the error check isn't done.

*catch returns up to four values; trailing null values are not returned for reasons of microcode simplicity, but the values not returned will default to nil if they are received with the multiple-value or multiple-value-bind special forms. If the catch completes normally, the first value is the value of form and the second is nil. If a *throw occurs, the first value is the second argument to *throw, and the second value is the first argument to *throw, the tag thrown to. The third and fourth values are the third and fourth arguments to unwind-stack (see page 44) if that was used in place of *throw; otherwise these values are nil. To summarize, the four values returned by *catch are the value, the tag, the active-frame-count, and the action.

Example

(*catch 'negative
  (mapcar (function (lambda (x)
      (cond ((minusp x)
        (*throw 'negative x))
      (t (f x))))
    y))
which returns a list of f of each element of y if they are all positive, otherwise the first negative member of y.

*throw tag value

*throw is used with *catch as a structured non-local exit mechanism.

(*throw tag x) throws the value of x back to the most recent *catch labelled with tag or t or nil. Other *catches are skipped over. Both x and tag are evaluated, unlike the Maclisp throw function.

The values t, nil, and 0 for tag are reserved and used for internal purposes. nil may not be used, because it would cause an ambiguity in the returned values of *catch. t may only be used with *unwind-stack. 0 and nil are used internally when returning out of an unwind-protect.

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See the description of *catch for further details.

**catch Macro**

**throw Macro**

catch and throw are provided only for Maclisp compatibility. (catch form tag) is the same as (*catch tag form), and (throw form tag) is the same as (*throw tag form). The forms of catch and throw without tags are not supported.

**unwind-stack tag value active-frame-count action**

This is a generalization of *throw provided for program-manipulating programs such as the error handler.

tag and value are the same as the corresponding arguments to *throw.

A tag of t invokes a special feature whereby the entire stack is unwound, and then the function action is called (see below). During this process unwind-protects receive control, but catch-alls do not. This feature is provided for the benefit of system programs which want to unwind a stack completely.

active-frame-count, if non-nil, is the number of frames to be unwound. The definition of a "frame" is implementation-dependent. If this counts down to zero before a suitable *catch is found, the *unwind-stack terminates and that frame returns value to whoever called it. This is similar to Maclisp's return function.

If action is non-nil, whenever the *unwind-stack would be ready to terminate (either due to active-frame-count or due to tag being caught as in *throw), instead action is called with one argument, value. If tag is t, meaning throw out the whole way, then the function action is not allowed to return. Otherwise the function action may return and its value will be returned instead of value from the *catch—or from an arbitrary function if active-frame-count is in use. In this case the *catch does not return multiple values as it normally does when thrown to. Note that it is often useful for action to be a stack-group.

Note that if both active-frame-count and action are nil, *unwind-stack is identical to *throw.

**unwind-protect Special Form**

Sometimes it is necessary to evaluate a form and make sure that certain side-effects take place after the form is evaluated; a typical example is:

```
(progn
  (turn-on-water-faucet)
  (hairy-function 3 nil 'foo)
  (turn-off-water-faucet))
```

The non-local exit facility of Lisp creates a situation in which the above code won’t work, however: if hairy-function should do a *throw to a *catch which is outside of the progn form, then (turn-off-water-faucet) will never be evaluated (and the faucet will presumably be left running). This is particularly likely if hairy-function gets an error and the user tells the error-handler to give up and flush the computation.

In order to allow the above program to work, it can be rewritten using unwind-protect as follows:
(unwind-protect
   (progn (turn-on-water-faucet)
      (hairy-function 3 nil 'foo))
   (turn-off-water-faucet))

If hairy-function does a *throw which attempts to quit out of the evaluation of the
unwind-protect, the (turn-off-water-faucet) form will be evaluated in between the time
of the *throw and the time at which the *catch returns. If the progn returns normally,
then the (turn-off-water-faucet) is evaluated, and the unwind-protect returns the result
of the progn.

One thing to note is that the body of an unwind-protect cannot return multiple values.
[This ought to be fixed, but it's hard.]

The general form of unwind-protect looks like

(unwind-protect protected-form
   cleanup-form1
   cleanup-form2
   ...)

protected-form is evaluated, and when it returns or when it attempts to quit out of the
unwind-protect, the cleanup-forms are evaluated. The value of the unwind-protect is
the value of protected-form.

catch-all Macro

(catch-all form) is like (*catch some-tag form) except that it will catch a *throw to any
tag at all. Since the tag thrown to is the second returned value, the caller of catch-all
may continue throwing to that tag if he wants. The one thing that catch-all will not
catch is a *unwind-stack with a tag of t. catch-all is a macro which expands into
*catch with a tag of nil.

If you think you want this, most likely you are mistaken and you really want unwind­
protect.

4.4 Mapping

map fcn &rest lists
mapc fcn &rest lists
maplist fcn &rest lists
mapcar fcn &rest lists
mapcon fcn &rest lists
mapcan fcn &rest lists

Mapping is a type of iteration in which a function is successively applied to pieces of a
list. There are several options for the way in which the pieces of the list are chosen and
for what is done with the results returned by the applications of the function.

For example, mapcar operates on successive elements of the list. As it goes down the
list, it calls the function giving it an element of the list as its one argument: first the
car, then the cadr, then the caddr, etc., continuing until the end of the list is reached.
The value returned by mapcar is a list of the results of the successive calls to the
function. An example of the use of mapcar would be mapcar'ing the function abs over
the list (1 -2 -4.5 6.0e15 -4.2), which would be written as (mapcar (function abs) '(1
The result is (1 2 4.5 6.0e15 4.2).

In general, the mapping functions take any number of arguments. For example,

\[ (\text{mapcar } f \ x_1 \ x_2 \ldots \ x_n) \]

In this case \( f \) must be a function of \( n \) arguments. mapcar will proceed down the lists \( x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n \) in parallel. The first argument to \( f \) will come from \( x_1 \), the second from \( x_2 \), etc. The iteration stops as soon as any of the lists is exhausted.

There are five other mapping functions besides mapcar. maplist is like mapcar except that the function is applied to the list and successive cdr's of that list rather than to successive elements of the list. map and mapc are like maplist and mapcar respectively, except that they don't return any useful value. These functions are used when the function is being called merely for its side-effects, rather than its returned values. mapcar and mapcon are like mapcar and maplist respectively, except that they combine the results of the function using nconc instead of list. That is, mapcon could have been defined by

\[ (\text{defun mapcon} \ (f \ x \ y) \]
\[ (\text{apply} '\text{nconc} (\text{maplist} f \ x \ y))) \]

Of course, this definition is less general than the real one.

Sometimes a do or a straightforward recursion is preferable to a map; however, the mapping functions should be used wherever they naturally apply because this increases the clarity of the code.

Often \( f \) will be a lambda-expression, rather than a symbol: for example,

\[ (\text{mapcar} (\text{function} (\text{lambda} (x) (\text{cons} x \text{something}))) \text{some-list}) \]

The functional argument to a mapping function must be a function, acceptable to apply—it cannot be a macro or the name of a special form.
Here is a table showing the relations between the six map functions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>successive sublists</th>
<th>successive elements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>its own second argument</td>
<td>map</td>
<td>mapc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>returns</td>
<td>list of the function results</td>
<td>maplist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>nconc of the function results</td>
<td>mapcon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are also functions (mapatoms and mapatoms-all) for mapping over all symbols in certain packages. See the explanation of packages (chapter 23, page 345).
5. Manipulating List Structure

This chapter discusses functions that manipulate conses, and higher-level structures made up of conses such as lists and trees. It also discusses hash tables and resources, which are related facilities.

A cons is a primitive Lisp data object that is extremely simple: it knows about two other objects, called its car and its cdr.

A list is recursively defined to be the symbol nil, or a cons whose cdr is a list. A typical list is a chain of conses: the cdr of each is the next cons in the chain, and the cdr of the last one is the symbol nil. The cars of each of these conses are called the elements of the list. A list has one element for each cons; the empty list, nil, has no elements at all. Here are the printed representations of some typical lists:

- `(foo bar)` ; This list has two elements.
- `(a (b c d) e)` ; This list has three elements.

Note that the second list has three elements: a, `(b c d)`, and e. The symbols b, c, and d are not elements of the list itself. (They are elements of the list which is the second element of the original list.)

A "dotted list" is like a list except that the cdr of the last cons does not have to be nil. This name comes from the printed representation, which includes a "dot" character. Here is an example:

- `(a b . c)`

This "dotted list" is made of two conses. The car of the first cons is the symbol a, and the cdr of the first cons is the second cons. The car of the second cons is the symbol b, and the cdr of the second cons is the symbol c.

A tree is any data structure made up of conses whose cars and cdrs are other conses. The following are all printed representations of trees:

- `(foo bar)`
- `((a . b) (c . d))`
- `((a . b) (c d e f (g . 5) s) (7 . 4))`

These definitions are not mutually exclusive. Consider a cons whose car is a and whose cdr is `(b (c d) e)`. Its printed representation is

- `(a b (c d) e)`

It can be thought of and treated as a cons, or as a list of four elements, or as a tree containing six conses. You can even think of it as a "dotted list" whose last cons just happens to have nil as a cdr. Thus, lists and "dotted lists" and trees are not fundamental data types; they are just ways of thinking about structures of conses.

A circular list is like a list except that the cdr of the last cons, instead of being nil, is the first cons of the list. This means that the conses are all hooked together in a ring, with the cdr of each cons being the next cons in the ring. While these are perfectly good Lisp objects, and there are functions to deal with them, many other functions will have trouble with them. Functions that expect lists as their arguments often iterate down the chain of conses waiting to see a nil, and when handed a circular list this can cause them to compute forever. The printer (see page 294) is one of these functions; if you try to print a circular list the printer will never stop...
producing text. You have to be careful what you do with circular lists.

The Lisp Machine internally uses a storage scheme called "cdr coding" to represent conses. This scheme is intended to reduce the amount of storage used in lists. The use of cdr-coding is invisible to programs except in terms of storage efficiency; programs will work the same way whether or not lists are cdr-coded or not. Several of the functions below mention how they deal with cdr-coding. You can completely ignore all this if you want. However, if you are writing a program that allocates a lot of conses and you are concerned with storage efficiency, you may want to learn about the cdr-coded representation and how to control it. The cdr-coding scheme is discussed in section 5.4, page 59.

5.1 Conses

car x
Returns the car of x.
Example:
(car '(a b c)) => a

cdr x
Returns the cdr of x.
Example:
(cdr '(a b c)) => (b c)

Officially car and cdr are only applicable to conses and locatives. However, as a matter of convenience, car and cdr of nil return nil.

c...r x
All of the compositions of up to four car's and cdr's are defined as functions in their own right. The names of these functions begin with "c" and end with "r", and in between is a sequence of "a"s and "d"s corresponding to the composition performed by the function.
Example:
(cddadr x) is the same as (cdr (cdr (car (cdr x))))
The error checking for these functions is exactly the same as for car and cdr above.

cons x y
cons is the primitive function to create a new cons, whose car is x and whose cdr is y.
Examples:
(cons 'a 'b) => (a . b)
(cons 'a (cons 'b (cons 'c nil))) => (a b c)
(cons 'a '(b c d)) => (a b c d)

ncons x
(ncons x) is the same as (cons x nil). The name of the function is from "nil-cons".
xcons x y
xcons ("exchanged cons") is like cons except that the order of the arguments is reversed. Example:
(xcons 'a 'b) => (b . a)

cons-in-area x y area-number
This function creates a cons in a specific area. (Areas are an advanced feature of storage management, explained in chapter 15; if you aren't interested in them, you can safely skip all this stuff). The first two arguments are the same as the two arguments to cons, and the third is the number of the area in which to create the cons. Example:
(cons-in-area 'a 'b my-area) => (a . b)

ncons-in-area x area-number
(ncons-in-area x area-number) = (cons-in-area x nil area-number)

xcons-in-area x y area-number
(xcons-in-area x y area-number) = (cons-in-area y x area-number)

The backquote reader macro facility is also generally useful for creating list structure, especially mostly-constant list structure, or forms constructed by plugging variables into a template. It is documented in the chapter on macros; see chapter 17, page 191.

car-location cons
car-location returns a locative pointer to the cell containing the car of cons.

Note: there is no cdr-location function; it is difficult because of the cdr-coding scheme (see section 5.4, page 59).

5.2 Lists
length list
length returns the length of list. The length of a list is the number of elements in it. Examples:
(length nil) => 0
(length '(a b c d)) => 4
(length '(a (b c) d)) => 3
length could have been defined by:
(defun length (x)
  (cond ((atom x) 0)
        ((1+ (length (cdr x)))))
or by:
(defun length (x)
  (do ((n 0 (1+ n))
       (y x (cdr y)))
       ((atom y) n)))
except that it is an error to take length of a non-nil atom.
first list
second list
third list
fourth list
fifth list
sixth list
seventh list

These functions take a list as an argument, and return the first, second, etc. element of the list. first is identical to car, second is identical to cadr, and so on. The reason these names are provided is that they make more sense when you are thinking of the argument as a list rather than just as a cons.

rest1 list
rest2 list
rest3 list
rest4 list

restn returns the rest of the elements of a list, starting with element n (counting the first element as the zeroth). Thus rest1 is identical to cdr, rest2 is identical to cddr, and so on. The reason these names are provided is that they make more sense when you are thinking of the argument as a list rather than just as a cons.

nth n list

(nth n list) returns the n’th element of list, where the zeroth element is the car of the list.
Examples:

(nth 1 '(foo bar gack)) => bar
(nth 3 '(foo bar gack)) => nil

If n is greater than the length of the list, nil is returned.

Note: this is not the same as the InterLisp function called nth, which is similar to but not exactly the same as the Lisp Machine function nthcdr. Also, some people have used macros and functions called nth of their own in their Maclisp programs, which may not work the same way; be careful.

nth could have been defined by:

(defun nth (n list)
  (do ((i n (1- i))
       (list (cdr 1)))
       ((zerop i) (car 1))))

nthcdr n list

(nthcdr n list) cdrs list n times, and returns the result.
Examples:

(nthcdr 0 '(a b c)) => (a b c)
(nthcdr 2 '(a b c)) => (c)

In other words, it returns the n’th cdr of the list. If n is greater than the length of the list, nil is returned.

This is similar to InterLisp’s function nth, except that the InterLisp function is one-based instead of zero-based; see the InterLisp manual for details. nthcdr could have been defined by:
(defun nthcdr (n list)
  (do ((i 0 (1+ i))
       (list list (cdr list)))
      (= i n) list))

last list
last returns the last cons of list. If list is nil, it returns nil. Note that last is
unfortunately not analogous to first (first returns the first element of a list, but last
doesn't return the last element of a list); this is a historical artifact.
Example:
  (setq x '(a b c d))
  (last x) => (d)
  (rplacd (last x) '(e f))
  x => '(a b c d e f)
last could have been defined by:
  (defun last (x)
    (cond ((atom x) x)
          ((atom (cdr x)) x)
          ((last (cdr x))) ))

list &rest args
list constructs and returns a list of its arguments.
Example:
  (list 3 4 'a (car '(b . c)) (+ 6 -2)) => (3 4 a b 4)
list could have been defined by:
  (defun list (&rest args)
    (let ((list (make-list (length args))))
      (do ((1 list (cdr 1))
           (a args (cdr a)))
          (null a) list)
      (rplaca 1 (car a)))))

list* &rest args
list* is like list except that the last cons of the constructed list is "dotted". It must be
given at least one argument.
Example:
  (list* 'a 'b 'c 'd) => (a b c . d)
This is like
  (cons 'a (cons 'b (cons 'c 'd)))
More examples:
  (list* 'a 'b) => (a . b)
  (list* 'a) => a

list-in-area area-number &rest args
list-in-area is exactly the same as list except that it takes an extra argument, an area
number, and creates the list in that area.
list*-in-area area-number &rest args

list*-in-area is exactly the same as list* except that it takes an extra argument, an area number, and creates the list in that area.

make-list length &rest options

This creates and returns a list containing length elements. length should be a fixnum. options are alternating keywords and values. The keywords may be either of the following:

:area The value specifies in which area (see chapter 15, page 177) the list should be created. It should be either an area number (a fixnum), or nil to mean the default area.

:initial-value The elements of the list will all be this value. It defaults to nil.

make-list always creates a cdr-coded list (see section 5.4, page 59).

Examples:

(make-list 3) => (nil nil nil)
(make-list 4 :initial-value 7) => (7 7 7 7)

When make-list was originally implemented, it took exactly two arguments: the area and the length. This obsolete form is still supported so that old programs will continue to work, but the new keyword-argument form is preferred.

circular-list &rest args

circular-list constructs a circular list whose elements are args, repeated infinitely. circular-list is the same as list except that the list itself is used as the last cdr, instead of nil. circular-list is especially useful with mapcar, as in the expression

(mapcar (function +) foo (circular-list 5))

which adds each element of foo to 5.

circular-list could have been defined by:

(defun circular-list (&rest elements)
  (setq elements (copylist* elements)
  (rplacd (last elements) elements)
  elements)

copylist list &optional area

Returns a list which is equal to list, but not eq. copylist does not copy any elements of the list: only the conses of the list itself. The returned list is fully cdr-coded (see section 5.4, page 59) to minimize storage. If the list is "dotted", that is, (cdr (last list)) is a non-nil atom, this will be true of the returned list also. You may optionally specify the area in which to create the new copy.

copylist* list &optional area

This is the same as copylist except that the last cons of the resulting list is never cdr-coded (see section 5.4, page 59). This makes for increased efficiency if you rconc something onto the list later.
**copyalist list &optional area**

Copyalist is for copying association lists (see section 5.5, page 61). The list is copied, as in copyalist. In addition, each element of list which is a cons is replaced in the copy by a new cons with the same car and cdr. You may optionally specify the area in which to create the new copy.

**copytree tree**

Copytree copies all the conses of a tree and makes a new tree with the same fringe.

**reverse list**

Reverse creates a new list whose elements are the elements of list taken in reverse order. Reverse does not modify its argument, unlike nreverse which is faster but does modify its argument.

Example:

```
(reverse '(a b (c d) e)) => (e c d b a)
```

Reverse could have been defined by:

```
(defun reverse (x)
  (do ((l x (cdr l))) ; scan down argument,
      (r nil ; putting each element
       (cons (car 1) r))) ; into list, until
     ((null 1) r))) ; no more elements.
```

**nreverse list**

Nreverse reverses its argument, which should be a list. The argument is destroyed by rplacd's all through the list (cf. reverse).

Example:

```
(nreverse '(a b c)) => (c b a)
```

Nreverse could have been defined by:

```
(defun nreverse (x)
  (cond ((null x) nil)
        ((nreverse1 x nil))))
```

```
(defun nreverse1 (x y) ; auxiliary function
  (cond ((null (cdr x)) (rplacd x y))
        ((nreverse1 (cdr x) (rplacd x y))))
    ;; this last call depends on order of argument evaluation.
```

Currently, nreverse does something inefficient with cdr-coded (see section 5.4, page 59) lists, because it just uses rplacd in the straightforward way. This may be fixed someday. In the meantime reverse might be preferable in some cases.

**append &rest lists**

The arguments to append are lists. The result is a list which is the concatenation of the arguments. The arguments are not changed (cf. nconc).

Example:

```
(append '(a b c) '(d e f) nil '(g)) => (a b c d e f g)
```

Append makes copies of the conses of all the lists it is given, except for the last one. So the new list will share the conses of the last argument to append, but all of the other conses will be newly created. Only the lists are copied, not the elements of the lists.
A version of `append` which only accepts two arguments could have been defined by:

```lisp
(defun append2 (x y)
  (cond ((null x) y)
        ((cons (car x) (append2 (cdr x) y)))))
```

The generalization to any number of arguments could then be made (relying on `car` of `nil` being `nil`):

```lisp
(defun append (&rest args)
  (if (< (length args) 2) (car args)
      (append2 (car args)
               (apply 'append (cdr args))))
)
```

These definitions do not express the full functionality of `append`; the real definition minimizes storage utilization by `cdr-coding` (see section 5.4, page 59) the list it produces, using `cdr-next` except at the end where a full node is used to link to the last argument, unless the last argument is `nil` in which case `cdr-nil` is used.

**nconc** &rest lists

`nconc` takes lists as arguments. It returns a list which is the arguments concatenated together. The arguments are changed, rather than copied. (cf. `append`, page 54)

Example:

```lisp
(setq x '(a b c))
(setq y '(d e f))
(nconc x y) => (a b c d e f)
```

Note that the value of `x` is now different, since its last cons has been replaced'd to the value of `y`. If the `nconc` form is evaluated again, it would yield a piece of "circular" list structure, whose printed representation would be `(a b c d e f d e f ... `, repeating forever.

`nconc` could have been defined by:

```lisp
(defun nconc (x y)
  (cond ((null x) y)
        (t (rplacd (last x) y) ;hook y onto x
           x)))
```

; for simplicity, this definition
; only works for 2 arguments.

`; and return the modified x.

**nreconc** x y

`nreconc` is exactly the same as `(nconc (nreverse x) y)` except that it is more efficient. Both `x` and `y` should be lists.

`nreconc` could have been defined by:

```lisp
(defun nreconc (x y)
  (cond ((null x) y)
        ((nreverse1 x y)) ))
```

using the same `nreverse1` as above.
butlast list
This creates and returns a list with the same elements as list, excepting the last element.
Examples:
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{(butlast '(a b c d))} & \Rightarrow (a b c) \\
\text{(butlast '((a b) (c d)))} & \Rightarrow ((a b)) \\
\text{(butlast '(a))} & \Rightarrow \text{nil} \\
\text{(butlast nil)} & \Rightarrow \text{nil}
\end{align*}
\]
The name is from the phrase "all elements but the last".

nbutlast list
This is the destructive version of butlast: it changes the cdr of the second-to-last cons of the list to nil. If there is no second-to-last cons (that is, if the list has fewer than two elements) it returns nil.
Examples:
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{(setq foo '(a b c d))} \\
\text{(nbutlast foo)} & \Rightarrow (a b c) \\
\text{foo} & \Rightarrow (a b c) \\
\text{(nbutlast '(a))} & \Rightarrow \text{nil}
\end{align*}
\]

firstn n list
firstn returns a list of length n, whose elements are the first n elements of list. If list is fewer than n elements long, the remaining elements of the returned list will be nil.
Example:
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{(firstn 2 '(a b c d))} & \Rightarrow (a b) \\
\text{(firstn 0 '(a b c d))} & \Rightarrow \text{nil} \\
\text{(firstn 6 '(a b c d))} & \Rightarrow (a b c d \text{ nil nil})
\end{align*}
\]

nleft n list &optional tail
Returns a "tail" of list, i.e. one of the conses that makes up list, or nil. (nleft n list) returns the last n elements of list. If n is too large, nleft will return list.

(nleft n list tail) takes cdr of list enough times that taking n more cdrs would yield tail, and returns that. You can see that when tail is nil this is the same as the two-argument case. If tail is not eq to any tail of list, nleft will return nil.

ldiff list sublist
list should be a list, and sublist should be one of the conses that make up list. ldiff (meaning "list difference") will return a new list, whose elements are those elements of list that appear before sublist.
Examples:
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{(setq x '(a b c d e))} \\
\text{(setq y (cdddr x))} & \Rightarrow (d e) \\
\text{(ldiff x y)} & \Rightarrow (a b c) \\
\text{but} \\
\text{(ldiff '(a b c d) '(c d))} & \Rightarrow (a b c d)
\end{align*}
\]
since the sublist was not eq to any part of the list.
5.3 Alteration of List Structure

The functions rplaca and rplacd are used to make alterations in already-existing list structure; that is, to change the cars and cdrs of existing conses.

The structure is not copied but is physically altered; hence caution should be exercised when using these functions, as strange side-effects can occur if portions of list structure become shared unbeknownst to the programmer. The nconc, nreverse, nreconc, and nbutlast functions already described, and the delq family described later, have the same property.

`rplaca x y`
- `(rplaca x y)` changes the car of `x` to `y` and returns the modified `x`. `x` must be a cons or a locative. `y` may be any Lisp object.
- Example:
  ```lisp
  (setq x '(a b c))
  (rplaca (cdr x) 'd) => (d c)
  Now x => (a d c)
  ```

`rplacd x y`
- `(rplacd x y)` changes the cdr of `x` to `y` and returns the modified `x`. `x` must be a cons or a locative. `y` may be any Lisp object.
- Example:
  ```lisp
  (setq x '(a b c))
  (rplacd x 'd) => (a . d)
  Now x => (a . d)
  ```

`subst new old tree`
- `(subst new old tree)` substitutes `new` for all occurrences of `old` in `tree`, and returns the modified copy of `tree`. The original `tree` is unchanged, as `subst` recursively copies all of `tree` replacing elements equal to `old` as it goes.
- Example:
  ```lisp
  (subst 'Tempest 'Hurricane '(Shakespeare wrote (The Hurricane)))
  => (Shakespeare wrote (The Tempest))
  ```

`subst` could have been defined by:

```lisp
(defun subst (new old tree)
  (cond ((equal tree old) new) ;if item equal to old, replace.
        ((atom tree) tree) ;if no substructure, return arg.
        ((cons (subst new old (car tree)) ;otherwise recurse.
               (subst new old (cdr tree))))))
```

Note that this function is not "destructive"; that is, it does not change the car or cdr of any already-existing list structure.

Note: certain details of `subst` may be changed in the future. It may possibly be changed to use `eq` rather than `equal` for the comparison, and possibly may substitute only in cars, not in cdrs. This is still being discussed.
\texttt{nsubst new old tree}

\texttt{nsubst} is a destructive version of \texttt{subst}. The list structure of \texttt{tree} is altered by replacing each occurrence of \texttt{old} with \texttt{new}. \texttt{nsubst} could have been defined as

\begin{verbatim}
(defun nsubst (new old tree)
  (cond ((eq tree old) new) ; If item eq to old, replace.
        ((atom tree) tree) ; If no substructure, return arg.
        (t ; Otherwise, recurse.
         (rplaca tree (nsubst new old (car tree)))
         (rplacd tree (nsubst new old (cdr tree))))))
\end{verbatim}

\texttt{sublis alist tree}

\texttt{sublis} makes substitutions for symbols in a tree. The first argument to \texttt{sublis} is an association list (see section 5.5, page 61). The second argument is the tree in which substitutions are to be made. \texttt{sublis} looks at all symbols in the fringe of the tree; if a symbol appears in the association list occurrences of it are replaced by the object it is associated with. The argument is not modified: new conses are created where necessary and only where necessary, so the newly created tree shares as much of its substructure as possible with the old. For example, if no substitutions are made, the result is just the old tree.

Example:

\begin{verbatim}
(sublis '((x . 100) (z . zprime))
  (plus x (minus g z x p) 4))
=> (plus 100 (minus g zprime 100 p) 4)
\end{verbatim}

\texttt{sublis} could have been defined by:

\begin{verbatim}
(defun sublis (alist sexp)
  (cond ((atom sexp)
         (let ((tem (assq sexp alist)))
          (if tem (cdr tem) sexp)))
        ((let ((car (sublis alist (car sexp)))
            (cdr (sublis alist (cdr sexp))))
          (if (and (eq (car sexp) car) (eq (cdr sexp) cdr))
            sexp
            (cons car cdr)))))
\end{verbatim}

\texttt{nsublis alist tree}

\texttt{nsublis} is like \texttt{sublis} but changes the original tree instead of creating new.

\texttt{nsublis} could have been defined by:

\begin{verbatim}
(defun nsublis (alist tree)
  (cond ((atom tree)
         (let ((tem (assq tree alist)))
          (if tem (cdr tem) tree)))
        (t (rplaca tree (nsublis alist (car tree)))
          (rplacd tree (nsublis alist (cdr tree))))))
\end{verbatim}
5.4 Cdr-Coding

This section explains the internal data format used to store conses inside the Lisp Machine. Casual users don’t have to worry about this; you can skip this section if you want. It is only important to read this section if you require extra storage efficiency in your program.

The usual and obvious internal representation of conses in any implementation of Lisp is as a pair of pointers, contiguous in memory. If we call the amount of storage that it takes to store a Lisp pointer a "word", then conses normally occupy two words. One word (say it’s the first) holds the car, and the other word (say it’s the second) holds the cdr. To get the car or cdr of a list, you just reference this memory location, and to change the car or cdr, you just store into this memory location.

Very often, conses are used to store lists. If the above representation is used, a list of \( n \) elements requires two times \( n \) words of memory: \( n \) to hold the pointers to the elements of the list, and \( n \) to point to the next cons or to nil. To optimize this particular case of using conses, the Lisp Machine uses a storage representation called "cdr coding" to store lists. The basic goal is to allow a list of \( n \) elements to be stored in only \( n \) locations, while allowing conses that are not parts of lists to be stored in the usual way.

The way it works is that there is an extra two-bit field in every word of memory, called the "cdr-code" field. There are three meaningful values that this field can have, which are called cdr-normal, cdr-next, and cdr-nil. The regular, non-compact way to store a cons is by two contiguous words, the first of which holds the car and the second of which holds the cdr. In this case, the cdr code of the first word is cdr-normal. (The cdr code of the second word doesn’t matter; as we will see, it is never looked at.) The cons is represented by a pointer to the first of the two words. When a list of \( n \) elements is stored in the most compact way, pointers to the \( n \) elements occupy \( n \) contiguous memory locations. The cdr codes of all these locations are cdr-next, except the last location whose cdr code is cdr-nil. The list is represented as a pointer to the first of the \( n \) words.

Now, how are the basic operations on conses defined to work based on this data structure? Finding the car is easy: you just read the contents of the location addressed by the pointer. Finding the cdr is more complex. First you must read the contents of the location addressed by the pointer, and inspect the cdr-code you find there. If the code is cdr-normal, then you add one to the pointer, read the location it addresses, and return the contents of that location; that is, you read the second of the two words. If the code is cdr-next, you add one to the pointer, and simply return that pointer without doing any more reading; that is, you return a pointer to the next word in the \( n \)-word block. If the code is cdr-nil, you simply return nil.

If you examine these rules, you will find that they work fine even if you mix the two kinds of storage representation within the same list. There’s no problem with doing that.

How about changing the structure? Like car, rplaca is very easy; you just store into the location addressed by the pointer. To do an rplacd you must read the location addressed by the pointer and examine the cdr code. If the code is cdr-normal, you just store into the location one greater than that addressed by the pointer; that is, you store into the second word of the two words. But if the cdr-code is cdr-next or cdr-nil, there is a problem: there is no memory cell that is storing the cdr of the cons. That is the cell that has been optimized out; it just doesn’t exist.
This problem is dealt with by the use of "invisible pointers". An invisible pointer is a special kind of pointer, recognized by its data type (Lisp Machine pointers include a data type field as well as an address field). The way they work is that when the Lisp Machine reads a word from memory, if that word is an invisible pointer then it proceeds to read the word pointed to by the invisible pointer and use that word instead of the invisible pointer itself. Similarly, when it writes to a location, it first reads the location, and if it contains an invisible pointer then it writes to the location addressed by the invisible pointer instead. (This is a somewhat simplified explanation; actually there are several kinds of invisible pointer that are interpreted in different ways at different times, used for things other than the cdr coding scheme.)

Here's how to do an rplacd when the cdr code is cdr-next or cdr-nil. Call the location addressed by the first argument to rplacd L. First, you allocate two contiguous words (in the same area that L points to). Then you store the old contents of L (the car of the cons) and the second argument to rplacd (the new cdr of the cons) into these two words. You set the cdr-code of the first of the two words to cdr-normal. Then you write an invisible pointer, pointing at the first of the two words, into location L. (It doesn't matter what the cdr-code of this word is, since the invisible pointer data type is checked first, as we will see.)

Now, whenever any operation is done to the cons (car, cdr, rplaca, or rplacd), the initial reading of the word pointed to by the Lisp pointer that represents the cons will find an invisible pointer in the addressed cell. When the invisible pointer is seen, the address it contains is used in place of the original address. So the newly-allocated two-word cons will be used for any operation done on the original object.

Why is any of this important to users? In fact, it is all invisible to you; everything works the same way whether or not compact representation is used, from the point of view of the semantics of the language. That is, the only difference that any of this makes is a difference in efficiency. The compact representation is more efficient in most cases. However, if the conses are going to get rplacd’ed, then invisible pointers will be created, extra memory will be allocated, and the compact representation will be seen to degrade storage efficiency rather than improve it. Also, accesses that go through invisible pointers are somewhat slower, since more memory references are needed. So if you care a lot about storage efficiency, you should be careful about which lists get stored in which representations.

You should try to use the normal representation for those data structures that will be subject to rplacd operations, including nconc and nreverse, and the compact representation for other structures. The functions cons, xcons, ncons, and their area variants make conses in the normal representation. The functions list, list*, list-in-area, make-list, and append use the compact representation. The other list-creating functions, including read, currently make normal lists, although this might get changed. Some functions, such as sort, take special care to operate efficiently on compact lists (sort effectively treats them as arrays). nreverse is rather slow on compact lists, currently, since it simple-mindedly uses rplacd, but this will be changed.

(copylist x) is a suitable way to copy a list, converting it into compact form (see page 53).
5.5 Tables

Lisp Machine Lisp includes functions which simplify the maintenance of tabular data structures of several varieties. The simplest is a plain list of items, which models (approximately) the concept of a set. There are functions to add (cons), remove (delete, delq, del, del-if, del-if-not, remove, remq, rem, rem-if, rem-if-not), and search for (member, memq, mem) items in a list. Set union, intersection, and difference functions can be easily written using these.

Association lists are very commonly used. An association list is a list of conses. The car of each cons is a "key" and the cdr is a "datum", or a list of associated data. The functions assoc, assq, ass, memass, and rassoc may be used to retrieve the data, given the key. For example,

\[(\text{(tweety . bird) (sylvester . cat)})\]

is an association list with two elements. Given a symbol representing the name of an animal, it can retrieve what kind of animal this is.

Structured records can be stored as association lists or as stereotyped cons-structures where each element of the structure has a certain car-cdr path associated with it. However, these are better implemented using structure macros (see chapter 19, page 226).

Simple list-structure is very convenient, but may not be efficient enough for large data bases because it takes a long time to search a long list. Lisp Machine Lisp includes hash table facilities for more efficient but more complex tables (see section 5.9, page 69), and a hashing function (sxhash) to aid users in constructing their own facilities.

5.6 Lists as Tables

\texttt{memq item list}

\(\text{(memq item list)}\) returns nil if \textit{item} is not one of the elements of \textit{list}. Otherwise, it returns the sublist of \textit{list} beginning with the first occurrence of \textit{item}; that is, it returns the first cons of the list whose car is \textit{item}. The comparison is made by \texttt{eq}. Because \texttt{memq} returns nil if it doesn't find anything, and something non-nil if it finds something, it is often used as a predicate.

Examples:

\[\text{(memq 'a '(1 2 3 4))} \Rightarrow \text{nil}\]
\[\text{(memq 'a '(g (x a y) c a d e a f))} \Rightarrow (a d e a f)\]

Note that the value returned by \texttt{memq} is \texttt{eq} to the portion of the list beginning with \textit{a}. Thus \texttt{replace} on the result of \texttt{memq} may be used, if you first check to make sure \texttt{memq} did not return \texttt{nil}.

Example:

\[\text{(let ((sublist (memq x z))) (if (not (null sublist))) (replace sublist y))}\]

\texttt{memq} could have been defined by:

\[\text{(defun memq (item list) (cond ((null list) nil) ((eq item (car list)) list) (t (memq item (cdr list)))))}\]
memq is hand-coded in microcode and therefore especially fast.

**member item list**

member is like memq, except equal is used for the comparison, instead of eq.

member could have been defined by:

```
(defun member (item list)
  (cond ((null list) nil)
        ((equal item (car list)) list)
        (t (member item (cdr list))))
```

**mem predicate item list**

mem is the same as memq except that it takes an extra argument which should be a predicate of two arguments, which is used for the comparison instead of eq. (mem 'eq a b) is the same as (memq a b). (mem 'equal a b) is the same as (member a b).

mem is usually used with equality predicates other than eq and equal, such as =, char-equal or string-equal. It can also be used with non-commutative predicates. The predicate is called with item as its first argument and the element of list as its second argument, so

```
(mem #'< 4 list)
```

finds the first element in list for which (< 4 x) is true; that is, it finds the first element greater than or equal to 4.

**find-position-in-list item list**

find-position-in-list looks down list for an element which is eq to item, like memq. However, it returns the numeric index in the list at which it found the first occurrence of item, or nil if it did not find it at all. This function is sort of the complement of nth (see page 51); like nth, it is zero-based.

Examples:

```
(find-position-in-list 'a '(a b c)) => 0
(find-position-in-list 'c '(a b c)) => 2
(find-position-in-list 'e '(a b c)) => nil
```

**find-position-in-list-equal item list**

find-position-in-list-equal is exactly the same as find-position-in-list, except that the comparison is done with equal instead of eq.

**tailp sublist list**

Returns t if sublist is a sublist of list (i.e. one of the conses that makes up list). Otherwise returns nil. Another way to look at this is that tailp returns t if (nthcdr n list) is sublist, for some value of n. tailp could have been defined by:

```
(defun tailp (sublist list)
  (do list list (cdr list) (null list)
    (if (eq sublist list) (null list)
      (return t))))
```
**delq**  \(item\)  \(list\)  \&optional\  \(n\)

\(\text{delq}\ \text{item}\ \text{list}\ \&\text{optional}\ \text{n}\)

\(\text{(delq}\ \text{item}\ \text{list})\)  returns  the  \text{list}  with  all  occurrences  of  \text{item}  removed.  \text{eq}  is  used  for  the  comparison.  The  argument  \text{list}  is  actually  modified  (\text{rplacd'ed})  when  instances  of  \text{item}  are  spliced  out.  \text{delq}  should  be  used  for  value,  not  for  effect.  That  is,  use

\[
\text{(setq} \ a \ \text{(delq} \ \text{'b} \ a))
\]

rather  than

\[
\text{(delq} \ \text{'b} \ \ a)\]

These  two  are  not  equivalent  when  the  first  element  of  the  value  of  \text{a}  is  \text{b}.

\(\text{(delq}\ \text{item}\ \text{list}\ \text{n)}\)  is  like  \(\text{(delq}\ \text{item}\ \text{list)}\)  except  only  the  first  \text{n}  instances  of  \text{item}  are  deleted.  \text{n}  is  allowed  to  be  zero.  If  \text{n}  is  greater  than  or  equal  to  the  number  of  occurrences  of  \text{item}  in  the  list,  all  occurrences  of  \text{item}  in  the  list  will  be  deleted.

Example:

\[
\text{(delq} \ \text{'a} \ \text{'(b} \ \text{a} \ \text{c} \ \text{(a} \ \text{b} \ \text{d} \ \text{a} \ \text{e})}) \Rightarrow \ \text{(b} \ \text{c} \ \text{(a} \ \text{b} \ \text{d} \ \text{e})}
\]

\text{delq}  could  have  been  defined  by:

\[
\text{(defun} \ \text{delq}\ (\text{item}\ \text{list}\ \&\text{optional}\ \text{n}\ 7777777)) :7777777\ \text{as} \ \text{infinity}.\]

\[
\text{(cond} ((\text{or} \ \text{atom}\ \text{list}) \ \text{(zero} \ \text{p} \ \text{n}) \ \text{list})
\]

\[
\quad ((\text{eq} \ \text{item}\ \text{(car}\ \text{list}))
\]

\[
\quad \quad ((\text{delq}\ \text{item}\ \text{(cdr}\ \text{list}) \ (1\ -\ \text{n})))
\]

\[
\quad \quad \text{(t} \ \text{(rplacd}\ \text{list}\ \text{(delq}\ \text{item}\ \text{(cdr}\ \text{list})\ \text{n))))\))
\]

**delete**  \(item\)  \(list\)  \&optional\  \(n\)

\(\text{delete}\ \text{item}\ \text{list}\ \&\text{optional}\ \text{n}\)

\text{delete}  is  the  same  as  \text{delq}  except  that  \text{equal}  is  used  for  the  comparison  instead  of  \text{eq}.

**del**  \text{predicate}  \(item\)  \(list\)  \&optional\  \(n\)

\(\text{del}\ \text{predicate}\ \text{item}\ \text{list}\ \&\text{optional}\ \text{n}\)

\text{del}  is  the  same  as  \text{delq}  except  that  it  takes  an  extra  argument  which  should  be  a  predicate  of  two  arguments,  which  is  used  for  the  comparison  instead  of  \text{eq}.  \(\text{(del} \ \text{'eq} \ \text{a} \ \text{b)}\)  is  the  same  as  \(\text{(delq}\ \text{a} \ \text{b).}\ \text{(cf. mem, page 62}\)

**remq**  \(item\)  \(list\)  \&optional\  \(n\)

\(\text{remq}\ \text{item}\ \text{list}\ \&\text{optional}\ \text{n}\)

\text{remq}  is  similar  to  \text{delq},  except  that  the  list  is  not  altered;  rather,  a  new  list  is  returned.  Examples:

\[
\text{(setq} \ x \ \text{'(a} \ \text{b} \ \text{c} \ \text{d} \ \text{e} \ \text{f})}
\]

\[
\text{(remq} \ \text{'b} \ \text{x}) \Rightarrow \ \text{(a} \ \text{c} \ \text{d} \ \text{e} \ \text{f})
\]

\[
\text{x} \Rightarrow \ \text{(a} \ \text{b} \ \text{c} \ \text{d} \ \text{e} \ \text{f})
\]

\[
\text{(remq} \ \text{'b} \ \text{'(a} \ \text{b} \ \text{c} \ \text{b} \ \text{a} \ \text{b}) 2) \Rightarrow \ \text{(a} \ \text{c} \ \text{a} \ \text{b})
\]

**remove**  \(item\)  \(list\)  \&optional\  \(n\)

\(\text{remove}\ \text{item}\ \text{list}\ \&\text{optional}\ \text{n}\)

\text{remove}  is  the  same  as  \text{remq}  except  that  \text{equal}  is  used  for  the  comparison  instead  of  \text{eq}.

**rem**  \text{predicate}  \(item\)  \(list\)  \&optional\  \(n\)

\(\text{rem}\ \text{predicate}\ \text{item}\ \text{list}\ \&\text{optional}\ \text{n}\)

\text{rem}  is  the  same  as  \text{remq}  except  that  it  takes  an  extra  argument  which  should  be  a  predicate  of  two  arguments,  which  is  used  for  the  comparison  instead  of  \text{eq}.  \(\text{(rem} \ \text{'eq} \ \text{a} \ \text{b)}\)  is  the  same  as  \(\text{(remq}\ \text{a} \ \text{b).}\ \text{(cf. mem, page 62}\)
subset predicate list
rem-if-not predicate list

predicate should be a function of one argument. A new list is made by applying predicate to all of the elements of list and removing the ones for which the predicate returns nil. One of this function’s names (rem-if-not) means “remove if this condition is not true”; i.e. it keeps the elements for which predicate is true. The other name (subset) refers to the function’s action if list is considered to represent a mathematical set.

subset-not predicate list
rem-if predicate list

del-if predicate list

del-if-not predicate list

del-if is just like rem-if except that it modifies list rather than creating a new list.

every list predicate &optional step-function
every returns t if predicate returns non-nil when applied to every element of list, or nil if predicate returns nil for some element. If step-function is present, it replaces cdr as the function used to get to the next element of the list; cddr is a typical function to use here.

some list predicate &optional step-function

some returns a tail of list such that the car of the tail is the first element that the predicate returns non-nil when applied to, or nil if predicate returns nil for every element. If step-function is present, it replaces cdr as the function used to get to the next element of the list; cddr is a typical function to use here.

5.7 Association Lists

assq item alist

(assq item alist) looks up item in the association list (list of conses) alist. The value is the first cons whose car is eq to x, or nil if there is none such.

Examples:

(assq 'r '((a . b) (c . d) (r . x) (s . y) (r . z))) => (r . x)

(assq 'fooo '((foo . bar) (zoo . goo))) => nil

(assq 'b '((a b c) (b c d) (x . y z))) => (b c d)
It is okay to replace the result of `assq` as long as it is not `nil`, if your intention is to "update" the "table" that was `assq`'s second argument.

Example:

```lisp
(setq values '((x . 100) (y . 200) (z . 50)))
(assq 'y values) => (y . 200)
(rplacd (assq 'y values) 201)
(assq 'y values) => (y . 201) now
```

A typical trick is to say `(cdr (assq x y))`. Since the cdr of `nil` is guaranteed to be `nil`, this yields `nil` if no pair is found (or if a pair is found whose cdr is `nil`).

`assq` could have been defined by:

```lisp
(defun assq (item list)
  (cond ((null list) nil)
        ((eq item (caar list)) (car list))
        ((assq item (cdr list))))
```

`assoc item alist`

`assoc` is like `assq` except that the comparison uses `equal` instead of `eq`.

Example:

```lisp
(assoc '(a b) '((x . y) ((a b) . 7) ((c . d) . e)))
=> ((a b) . 7)
```

`assoc` could have been defined by:

```lisp
(defun assoc (item list)
  (cond ((null list) nil)
        ((equal item (caar list)) (car list))
        ((assoc item (cdr list))))
```

`ass predicate item alist`

`ass` is the same as `assq` except that it takes an extra argument which should be a predicate of two arguments, which is used for the comparison instead of `eq`. (ass 'eq a b) is the same as (assq a b). (cf. `mem`, page 62) As with `mem`, you may use non-commutative predicates; the first argument to the predicate is `item` and the second is the key of the element of `alist`.

`memass predicate item alist`

`memass` searches `alist` just like `ass`, but returns the portion of the list beginning with the pair containing `item`, rather than the pair itself. (car (memass x y z)) = (ass x y z). (cf. `mem`, page 62) As with `mem`, you may use non-commutative predicates; the first argument to the predicate is `item` and the second is the key of the element of `alist`.

`rassq item alist`

`rassq` means "reverse assq". It is like `assq`, but it tries to find an element of `alist` whose `cdr` (not `car`) is `eq` to `item`. `rassq` could have been defined by:

```lisp
(defun rassq (item in-list)
  (do 1 in-list (cdr 1) (null 1)
      (and (eq item (cdar 1))
           (return (car 1))))
```

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rassoc item alist
rassoc is to rassq as assoc is to assq. That is, it finds an element whose cdr is equal to item.

rass predicate item alist
rass is to rassq as ass is to assq. That is, it takes a predicate to be used instead of eq. (cf. mem, page 62) As with mem, you may use non-commutative predicates; the first argument to the predicate is item and the second is the cdr of the element of alist.

sassq item alist fen
(sassq item alist fen) is like (assq item alist) except that if item is not found in alist, instead of returning nil, sassq calls the function fen with no arguments. sassq could have been defined by:

    (defun sassq (item alist fen)
       (or (assq item alist)
           (apply fen nil)))

sassq and sassoc (see below) are of limited use. These are primarily leftovers from Lisp 1.5.

sassoc item alist fen
(sassoc item alist fen) is like (assoc item alist) except that if item is not found in alist, instead of returning nil, sassoc calls the function fen with no arguments. sassoc could have been defined by:

    (defun sassoc (item alist fen)
       (or (assoc item alist)
           (apply fen nil)))

pairlis cars cdrs
pairlis takes two lists and makes an association list which associates elements of the first list with corresponding elements of the second list.
Example:

    (pairlis '(beef clams kitty) '(roast fried yu-shiang))
=> ((beef . roast) (clams . fried) (kitty . yu-shiang))

5.8 Property Lists

From time immemorial, Lisp has had a kind of tabular data structure called a property list (plist for short). A property list contains zero or more entries; each entry associates from a keyword symbol (called the indicator) to a Lisp object (called the value or, sometimes, the property). There are no duplications among the indicators; a property-list can only have one property at a time with a given name.

This is very similar to an association list. The difference is that a property list is an object with a unique identity; the operations for adding and removing property-list entries are side-effecting operations which alter the property-list rather than making a new one. An association list with no entries would be the empty list (), i.e. the symbol nil. There is only one empty list, so all empty association lists are the same object. Each empty property-list is a separate and distinct object.

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The implementation of a property list is a memory cell containing a list with an even number (possibly zero) of elements. Each pair of elements constitutes a property: the first of the pair is the indicator and the second is the value. The memory cell is there to give the property list a unique identity and to provide for side-effecting operations.

The term "property list" is sometimes incorrectly used to refer to the list of entries inside the property list, rather than the property list itself. This is regrettable and confusing.

How do we deal with "memory cells" in Lisp; i.e. what kind of Lisp object is a property list? Rather than being a distinct primitive data type, a property list can exist in one of three forms:

1. A property list can be a cons whose cdr is the list of entries and whose car is not used and available to the user to store something.

2. The system associates a property list with every symbol (see section 6.3, page 80). A symbol can be used where a property list is expected; the property-list primitives will automatically find the symbol’s property list and use it.

3. A property list can be a memory cell in the middle of some data structure, such as a list, an array, an instance, or a defstruct. An arbitrary memory cell of this kind is named by a locative (see chapter 13, page 156). Such locatives are typically created with the locf special form (see page 202).

Property lists of the first kind are called "disembodied" property lists because they are not associated with a symbol or other data structure. The way to create a disembodied property list is (ncons nil), or (ncons data) to store data in the car of the property list.

Here is an example of the list of entries inside the property list of a symbol named b1 which is being used by a program which deals with blocks:

```
(color blue on b6 associated-with (b2 b3 b4))
```

There are three properties, and so the list has six elements. The first property's indicator is the symbol color, and its value is the symbol blue. One says that "the value of b1's color property is blue", or, informally, that "b1's color property is blue." The program is probably representing the information that the block represented by b1 is painted blue. Similarly, it is probably representing in the rest of the property list that block b1 is on top of block b6, and that b1 is associated with blocks b2, b3, and b4.

```
get plist indicator
get looks up plist's indicator property. If it finds such a property, it returns the value; otherwise, it returns nil. If plist is a symbol, the symbol's associated property list is used. For example, if the property list of foo is (baz 3), then
(get 'foo 'baz) => 3
(get 'foo 'zoo) => nil
```

```
getl plist indicator-list
getl is like get, except that the second argument is a list of indicators. getl searches down plist for any of the indicators in indicator-list, until it finds a property whose indicator is one of the elements of indicator-list. If plist is a symbol, the symbol's associated property list is used.
```
getl returns the portion of the list inside plist beginning with the first such property which it found. So the car of the returned list is an indicator, and the cadr is the property value. If none of the indicators on indicator-list are on the property list, getl returns nil. For example, if the property list of foo were

\[(\text{bar} \ (1 \ 2 \ 3) \ \text{baz} \ (3 \ 2 \ 1) \ \text{color} \ \text{blue} \ \text{height} \ \text{six-two})\]

then

\[(\text{getl} \ '\text{foo} \ '(\text{baz} \ \text{height}))\]

\[\Rightarrow \ (\text{baz} \ (3 \ 2 \ 1) \ \text{color} \ \text{blue} \ \text{height} \ \text{six-two})\]

When more than one of the indicators in indicator-list is present in plist, which one getl returns depends on the order of the properties. This is the only thing that depends on that order. The order maintained by putprop and defprop is not defined (their behavior with respect to order is not guaranteed and may be changed without notice).

**putprop** plist x indicator

This gives plist an indicator-property of x. After this is done, (get plist indicator) will return x. If plist is a symbol, the symbol's associated property list is used.

Example:

\[(\text{putprop} \ '\text{Nixon} \ '\text{not} \ '\text{crook})\]

**defprop** Special Form

defprop is a form of putprop with "unevaluated arguments", which is sometimes more convenient for typing. Normally it doesn't make sense to use a property list rather than a symbol as the plist argument.

Example:

\[(\text{defprop} \ \text{foo} \ \text{bar} \ \text{next-to})\]

is the same as

\[(\text{putprop} \ '\text{foo} \ '\text{bar} \ '\text{next-to})\]

**remprop** plist indicator

This removes plist's indicator property, by splicing it out of the property list. It returns that portion of the list inside plist of which the former indicator-property was the car. car of what remprop returns is what get would have returned with the same arguments. If plist is a symbol, the symbol's associated property list is used. For example, if the property list of foo was

\[(\text{color} \ \text{blue} \ \text{height} \ \text{six-three} \ \text{near-to} \ \text{bar})\]

then

\[(\text{remprop} \ '\text{foo} \ '\text{height}) \Rightarrow (\text{six-three} \ \text{near-to} \ \text{bar})\]

and foo's property list would be

\[(\text{color} \ \text{blue} \ \text{near-to} \ \text{bar})\]

If plist has no indicator-property, then remprop has no side-effect and returns nil.
5.9 Hash Tables

A hash table is a Lisp object that works something like a property list. Each hash table has a set of entries, each of which associates a particular key with a particular value. The basic functions that deal with hash tables can create entries, delete entries, and find the value that is associated with a given key. Finding the value is very fast even if there are many entries, because hashing is used; this is an important advantage of hash tables over property lists. Hashing is explained in section 5.9.4, page 73.

A given hash table can only associate one value with a given key; if you try to add a second value it will replace the first.

Hash tables come in two kinds, the difference being whether the keys are compared using eq or using equal. In other words, there are hash tables which hash on Lisp objects (using eq) and there are hash tables which hash on trees (using equal). The following discussion refers to the eq kind of hash table; the other kind is described later, and works analogously.

Hash tables of the first kind are created with the function make-hash-table, which takes various options. New entries are added to hash tables with the puthash function. To look up a key and find the associated value, the gethash function is used. To remove an entry, use remhash. Here is a simple example.

(setq a (make-hash-table))
(puthash 'color 'brown a)
(puthash 'name 'fred a)
(gethash 'color a) => brown
(gethash 'name a) => fred

In this example, the symbols color and name are being used as keys, and the symbols brown and fred are being used as the associated values. The hash table has two items in it, one of which associates from color to brown, and the other of which associates from name to fred.

Keys do not have to be symbols; they can be any Lisp object. Likewise values can be any Lisp object. The Lisp function eq is used to compare keys, rather than equal. This means that keys are really objects, but it means that it is not reasonable to use numbers other than fixnums as keys.

When a hash table is first created, it has a size, which is the maximum number of entries it can hold. Usually the actual capacity of the table is somewhat less, since the hashing is not perfectly collision-free. With the maximum possible bad luck, the capacity could be very much less, but this rarely happens. If so many entries are added that the capacity is exceeded, the hash table will automatically grow, and the entries will be rehashed (new hash values will be recomputed, and everything will be rearranged so that the fast hash lookup still works). This is transparent to the caller; it all happens automatically.
The describe function (see page 448) prints a variety of useful information when applied to a hash table.

This hash table facility is similar to the hasarray facility of Interlisp, and some of the function names are the same. However, it is not compatible. The exact details and the order of arguments are designed to be consistent with the rest of the Lisp Machine rather than with Interlisp. For instance, the order of arguments to maphash is different, we do not have the Interlisp "system hash table", and we do not have the Interlisp restriction that keys and values may not be nil. Note, however, that the order of arguments to gethash, puthash, and remhash is not consistent with the Lisp machine's get, putprop, and remprop, either. This is an unfortunate result of the haphazard historical development of Lisp.

If the calling program is using multiprocessing, it must be careful to make sure that there are never two processes both referencing the hash table at the same time. There is no locking built into hash tables; if you have two processes that both want to reference the same hash table, you must arrange mutual exclusion yourself by using a lock or some other means. Even two processes just doing gethash on the same hash table must synchronize themselves, because gethash may be forced by garbage collection to rehash the table. Don't worry about this if you don't use multiprocessing; but if you do use multiprocessing, you will have a lot of trouble if you don't understand this.

Hash tables are implemented with a special kind of array. arrayp of a hash table will return t. However, it is illegal to use normal array operations on a hash table, and in general they will not work. Hash tables should be manipulated only with the functions described below.

5.9.1 Hashing on Eq

This section documents the functions for eq hash tables, which use objects as keys and associate other objects with them.

make-hash-table &rest options
This creates a new hash table. Valid option keywords are:

:size
Sets the initial size of the hash table, in entries, as a fixnum. The default is 100 (octal). The actual size is rounded up from the size you specify to the next size that is "good" for the hashing algorithm. You won't necessarily be able to store this many entries into the table before it overflows and becomes bigger; but except in the case of extreme bad luck you will be able to store almost this many.

:area
Specifies the area in which the hash table should be created. This is just like the :area option to make-array (see page 102). Defaults to nil (i.e. default-cons-area).

:rehash-function
Specifies the function to be used for rehashing when the table becomes full. Defaults to the internal rehashing function that does the usual thing. If you want to write your own rehashing function, you will have to understand all the internals of how hash tables work. These internals are not documented here, as the best way to learn them is to read the source code.
:rehash-size  Specifies how much to increase the size of the hash table when it becomes full. This can be a fixnum which is the number of entries to add, or it can be a flonum which is the ratio of the new size to the old size. The default is 1.3, which causes the table to be made 30% bigger each time it has to grow.

gethash  key  hash-table
Find the entry in hash-table whose key is key, and return the associated value. If there is no such entry, return nil. Returns a second value, which is t if an entry was found or nil if there is no entry for key in this table.

puthash  key  value  hash-table
Create an entry associating key to value; if there is already an entry for key, then replace the value of that entry with value. Returns value. The hash table automatically grows if necessary.

remhash  key  hash-table
Remove any entry for key in hash-table. Returns t if there was an entry or nil if there was not.

maphash  function  hash-table
For each entry in hash-table, call function on two arguments: the key of the entry and the value of the entry.

clrhash  hash-table
Remove all the entries from hash-table. Returns the hash table itself.

5.9.2 Hashing on Equal

This section documents the functions for equal hash tables, which use trees as keys and associate objects with them. The function to make one is slightly different from make-hash-table because the implementations of the two kinds of hash table differ, but analogous operations are provided.

make-equal-hash-table  &rest  options
This creates a new hash table of the equal kind. Valid option keywords are:

:size  Sets the initial size of the hash table, in entries, as a fixnum. The default is 100 (octal). The actual size is rounded up from the size you specify to the next "good" size. You won't necessarily be able to store this many entries into the table before it overflows and becomes bigger; but except in the case of extreme bad luck you will be able to store almost this many.

:area  Specifies the area in which the hash table should be created. This is just like the :area option to make-array (see page 102). Defaults to nil (i.e. default-cons-area).

:rehash-threshold  Specifies how full the table can be before it must grow. This is typically a flonum. The default is 0.8, i.e. 80%.
:growth-factor
Specifies how much to increase the size of the hash table when it becomes full. This is a flonum which is the ratio of the new size to the old size. The default is 1.3, which causes the table to be made 30% bigger each time it has to grow.

gethash-equal key hash-table
Find the entry in hash-table whose key is equal to key, and return the associated value. If there is no such entry, return nil. Returns a second value, which is t if an entry was found or nil if there is no entry for key in this table.

puthash-equal key value hash-table
Create an entry associating key to value; if there is already an entry for key, then replace the value of that entry with value. Returns value. If adding an entry to the hash table exceeds its rehash threshold, it is grown and rehashed so that searching does not become too slow.

remhash-equal key hash-table
Remove any entry for key in hash-table. Returns t if there was an entry or nil if there was not.

maphash-equal function hash-table
For each entry in hash-table, call function on two arguments: the key of the entry and the value of the entry.

clrhash-equal hash-table
Remove all the entries from hash-table. Returns the hash table itself.

5.9.3 Hash Tables and the Garbage Collector

The eq type hash tables actually hash on the address of the representation of the object. When the copying garbage collector changes the addresses of object, it lets the hash facility know so that gethash will rehash the table based on the new object addresses.

There will eventually be an option to make-hash-table which tells it to make a "non-GC-protecting" hash table. This is a special kind of hash table with the property that if one of its keys becomes "garbage", i.e. is an object not known about by anything other than the hash table, then the entry for that key will be silently removed from the table. When these exist they will be documented in this section.
5.9.4 Hash Primitive

Hashing is a technique used in algorithms to provide fast retrieval of data in large tables. A function, known as a "hash function", is created, which takes an object that might be used as a key, and produces a number associated with that key. This number, or some function of it, can be used to specify where in a table to look for the datum associated with the key. It is always possible for two different objects to "hash to the same value"; that is, for the hash function to return the same number for two distinct objects. Good hash functions are designed to minimize this by evenly distributing their results over the range of possible numbers. However, hash table algorithms must still deal with this problem by providing a secondary search, sometimes known as a rehash. For more information, consult a textbook on computer algorithms.

`sxhash` tree

`sxhash` computes a hash code of a tree, and returns it as a fixnum, which may be positive or negative. A property of `sxhash` is that `(equal x y)` implies `= (sxhash x) (sxhash y)`. The number returned by `sxhash` is some possibly large number in the range allowed by fixnums.

Here is an example of how to use `sxhash` in maintaining hash tables of trees:

```lisp
(defun knownp (x &aux i bkt) ; look up x in the table
  (setq i (abs (remainder (sxhash x) 176))) ; the remainder should be reasonably randomized.
  (setq bkt (aref table i)) ; bkt is thus a list of all those expressions that
  ; hash into the same number as does x.
  (memq x bkt))
```

To write an "intern" for trees, one could

```lisp
(defun sintern (x &aux bkt i tem)
  (setq i (abs (remainder (sxhash x) 2n-1))) ; 2n-1 stands for a power of 2 minus one.
  ; this is a good choice to randomize the result of the remainder operation.
  (setq bkt (aref table i))
  (cond ((setq tem (memq x bkt))
        (car tem))
        (t (aset (cons x bkt) table i)
           x)))
```

`sxhash` provides what is called "hashing on equal"; that is, two objects that are equal are considered to be "the same" by `sxhash`. Therefore, `sxhash` is useful for retrieving data when two keys that are not the same object but are equal are considered the same. If you consider two such keys to be different, then you need "hashing on eq", where two different objects are always considered different. In some Lisp implementations, there is an easy way to create a hash function that hashes on eq, namely, by returning the virtual address of the storage associated with the object. But in other implementations, of which Lisp Machine Lisp is one, this doesn't work, because the address associated with an object can be changed by the relocating garbage collector. The hash tables created by `make-hash-table` deal with this problem by using the appropriate subprimitives so that they interface correctly with the garbage collector. If you need a hash table that hashes on eq, it is already provided; if you need an eq hash function for some
other reason, you must build it yourself, either using the provided eq hash table facility or carefully using subprimitives.

5.10 Sorting

Several functions are provided for sorting arrays and lists. These functions use algorithms which always terminate no matter what sorting predicate is used, provided only that the predicate always terminates. The main sorting functions are not stable; that is, equal items may not stay in their original order. If you want a stable sort, use the stable versions. But if you don't care about stability, don't use them since stable algorithms are significantly slower.

After sorting, the argument (be it list or array) has been rearranged internally so as to be completely ordered. In the case of an array argument, this is accomplished by permuting the elements of the array, while in the list case, the list is reordered by rplacd's in the same manner as reverse. Thus if the argument should not be clobbered, the user must sort a copy of the argument, obtainable by fillarray or copylist, as appropriate. Furthermore, sort of a list is like delq in that it should not be used for effect; the result is conceptually the same as the argument but in fact is a different Lisp object.

Should the comparison predicate cause an error, such as a wrong type argument error, the state of the list or array being sorted is undefined. However, if the error is corrected the sort will, of course, proceed correctly.

The sorting package is smart about compact lists; it sorts compact sublists as if they were arrays. See section 5.4, page 59 for an explanation of compact lists, and A. I. Memo 587 by Guy L. Steele Jr. for an explanation of the sorting algorithm.

sort table predicate

The first argument to sort is an array or a list. The second is a predicate, which must be applicable to all the objects in the array or list. The predicate should take two arguments, and return non-nil if and only if the first argument is strictly less than the second (in some appropriate sense).

The sort function proceeds to sort the contents of the array or list under the ordering imposed by the predicate, and returns the array or list modified into sorted order. Note that since sorting requires many comparisons, and thus many calls to the predicate, sorting will be much faster if the predicate is a compiled function rather than interpreted.

Example:

```lisp
(defun mostcar (x)
  (cond ((symbolp x) x)
        ((mostcar (car x))))

(sort 'fooarray
  (function (lambda (x y)
              (alphalessp (mostcar x) (mostcar y))))))
```

If fooarray contained these items before the sort:

```
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```

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(Tokens (The lion sleeps tonight))
(Carpenters (Close to you))
((Rolling Stones) (Brown sugar))
((Beach Boys) (I get around))
(Beatles (I want to hold your hand))

then after the sort fooarray would contain:

((Beach Boys) (I get around))
(Beatles (I want to hold your hand))
(Carpenters (Close to you))
((Rolling Stones) (Brown sugar))
(Tokens (The lion sleeps tonight))

When sort is given a list, it may change the order of the conses of the list (using rplacd), and so it cannot be used merely for side-effect; only the returned value of sort will be the sorted list. This will mess up the original list; if you need both the original list and the sorted list, you must copy the original and sort the copy (see copylist, page 53).

Sorting an array just moves the elements of the array into different places, and so sorting an array for side-effect only is all right.

sortcar x predicate

sortcar is the same as sort except that the predicate is applied to the cars of the elements of x, instead of directly to the elements of x.

Example:

(sortcar '((3 . dog) (1 . cat) (2 . bird)) #'<) => ((1 . cat) (2 . bird) (3 . dog))

Remember that sortcar, when given a list, may change the order of the conses of the list (using rplacd), and so it cannot be used merely for side-effect; only the returned value of sortcar will be the sorted list.

stable-sort x predicate

stable-sort is like sort, but if two elements of x are equal, i.e. predicate returns nil when applied to them in either order, then those two elements will remain in their original order.

stable-sortcar x predicate

stable-sortcar is like sortcar, but if two elements of x are equal, i.e. predicate returns nil when applied to their cars in either order, then those two elements will remain in their original order.

sort-grouped-array array group-size predicate

sort-grouped-array considers its array argument to be composed of records of group-size elements each. These records are considered as units, and are sorted with respect to one another. The predicate is applied to the first element of each record; so the first elements act as the keys on which the records are sorted.
sort-grouped-array-group-key array group-size predicate

This is like sort-grouped-array except that the predicate is applied to four arguments: an array, an index into that array, a second array, and an index into the second array. The predicate should consider each index as the subscript of the first element of a record in the corresponding array, and compare the two records. This is more general than sort-grouped-array since the function can get at all of the elements of the relevant records, instead of only the first element.

5.11 Resources

Storage allocation is handled differently by different computer systems. In many languages, the programmer must spend a lot of time thinking about when variables and storage units are allocated and deallocated. In Lisp, freeing of allocated storage is normally done automatically by the Lisp system; when an object is no longer accessible to the Lisp environment, it is garbage collected. This relieves the programmer of a great burden, and makes writing programs much easier.

However, automatic freeing of storage incurs an expense: more computer resources must be devoted to the garbage collector. If a program is designed to allocate temporary storage, which is then left as garbage, more of the computer must be devoted to the collection of garbage; this expense can be high. In some cases, the programmer may decide that it is worth putting up with the inconvenience of having to free storage under program control, rather than letting the system do it automatically, in order to prevent a great deal of overhead from the garbage collector.

It usually is not worth worrying about freeing of storage when the units of storage are very small things such as conses or small arrays. Numbers are not a problem, either; fixnums and small flonums do not occupy storage, and the system has a special way of garbage-collecting the other kinds of numbers with low overhead. But when a program allocates and then gives up very large objects at a high rate (or large objects at a very high rate), it can be very worthwhile to keep track of that one kind of object manually. Within the Lisp Machine system, there are several programs that are in this position. The Chaosnet software allocates and frees "packets", which are moderately large, at a very high rate. The window system allocates and frees certain kinds of windows, which are very large, moderately often. Both of these programs manage their objects manually, keeping track of when they are no longer used.

When we say that a program "manually frees" storage, it does not really mean that the storage is freed in the same sense that the garbage collector frees storage. Instead, a list of unused objects is kept. When a new object is desired, the program first looks on the list to see if there is one around already, and if there is it uses it. Only if the list is empty does it actually allocate a new one. When the program is finished with the object, it returns it to this list.

The functions and special forms in this section perform the above function. The set of objects forming each such list is called a "resource"; for example, there might be a Chaosnet packet resource. defresource defines a new resource; allocate-resource allocates one of the objects; deallocate-resource frees one of the objects (putting it back on the list); and with-resource temporarily allocates an object and then frees it.
defresource Special Form
The defresource special form is used to define a new resource. The form looks like this:

```
(defresource name
  form1
  form2
  ...
)
```

`name` should be a symbol; it is the name of the resource. The value cell and the function cell of this symbol are both used; therefore, you may not have a variable or a function by the same name as any resource. The `forms` are the body of the defresource form, and should be the body of a function which creates and returns a new object of the desired type. The body gets run when a caller tries to allocate an object and there aren't any on the list.

When the defresource form is evaluated, the body is run once, creating a single object to put on the list. If you specify `(name t)` instead of `name` in the defresource form, this initial creation will be suppressed and the list will be initially empty.

allocate-resource `name`
Allocate an object from the resource specified by `name`. If there is an object on the list, remove it from the list and return it; otherwise, create a new one (using the body of the defresource) and return it.

Note that the with-resource special form is usually what you want to use, rather than allocate-resource itself; see below.

deallocate-resource `name` `resource`
Free the object `resource`, returning it to the list of the resource specified by `name`.

with-resource Special Form
The with-resource special form looks like this:

```
(with-resource (name variable)
  form1
  form2
  ...
)
```

The `forms` are evaluated sequentially with `variable` bound to an object allocated from the resource of the given `name`. with-resource is often more convenient than calling allocate-resource and deallocate-resource. Furthermore it is careful to free the object when the body is exited, whether it returns normally or via *throw. This is done by using unwind-protect; see page 44.

Here is an example of the use of resources:

```
(defresource huge-16b-array
  (make-array 1000 ':type 'art-16b))

(defun do-complex-computation (x y)
  (with-resource (huge-16b-array temp-array)
    ...
    (aset 5 temp-array i)
    ...
  )
)
```

Within the body, the array can be used.

The array is returned at the end.
6. Symbols

6.1 The Value Cell

Each symbol has associated with it a value cell, which refers to one Lisp object. This object is called the symbol's binding or value, since it is what you get when you evaluate the symbol. The binding of symbols to values allows symbols to be used as the implementation of variables in programs.

The value cell can also be empty, referring to no Lisp object, in which case the symbol is said to be unbound. This is the initial state of a symbol when it is created. An attempt to evaluate an unbound symbol causes an error.

Symbols are often used as special variables. Variables and how they work are described in section 3.1, page 13. The symbols nil and t are always bound to themselves; they may not be assigned, bound, or otherwise used as variables. Attempting to change the value of nil or t (usually) causes an error.

set symbol value
set is the primitive for assignment of symbols. The symbol's value is changed to value; value may be any Lisp object. set returns value.
Example:
   (set (cond ((eq a b) 'c)
    (t 'd))
   'foo)
will either set c to foo or set d to foo.

symeval sym
symeval is the basic primitive for retrieving a symbol's value. (symeval sym) returns sym's current binding. This is the function called by eval when it is given a symbol to evaluate. If the symbol is unbound, then symeval causes an error.

boundp sym
boundp returns t if sym is bound; otherwise, it returns nil.

makunbound sym
makunbound causes sym to become unbound.
Example:
   (setq a 1)
a => 1
   (makunbound 'a)
a => causes an error.
makunbound returns its argument.
value-cell-location sym
value-cell-location returns a locative pointer to sym’s value cell. See the section on locatives (chapter 13, page 156). It is preferable to write

(locf (symeval sym))

instead of calling this function explicitly.

This is actually the internal value cell; there can also be an external value cell. For details, see the section on closures (chapter 11, page 144).

Note: the function value-cell-location works on symbols that get converted to local variables (see section 3.1, page 13): the compiler knows about it specially when its argument is a quoted symbol which is the name of a local variable. It returns a pointer to the cell that holds the value of the local variable.

6.2 The Function Cell

Every symbol also has associated with it a function cell. The function cell is similar to the value cell; it refers to a Lisp object. When a function is referred to by name, that is, when a symbol is applied or appears as the car of a form to be evaluated, that symbol’s function cell is used to find its definition, the functional object which is to be applied. For example, when evaluating (+ 5 6), the evaluator looks in +’s function cell to find the definition of +, in this case a FEF containing a compiled program, to apply to 5 and 6.

Maclisp does not have function cells; instead, it looks for special properties on the property list. This is one of the major incompatibilities between the two dialects.

Like the value cell, a function cell can be empty, and it can be bound or assigned. (However, to bind a function cell you must use the bind subprimitive; see page 168.) The following functions are analogous to the value-cell-related functions in the previous section.

fsymeval sym
fsymeval returns sym’s definition, the contents of its function cell. If the function cell is empty, fsymeval causes an error.

fset sym definition
fset stores definition, which may be any Lisp object, into sym’s function cell. It returns definition.

fboundp sym
fboundp returns nil if sym’s function cell is empty, i.e. sym is undefined. Otherwise it returns t.

fmakunbound sym
fmakunbound causes sym to be undefined, i.e. its function cell to be empty. It returns sym.
function-cell-location sym

function-cell-location returns a locative pointer to sym's function cell. See the section on locatives (chapter 13, page 156). It is preferable to write

(lo cf (f s ymeval sym))

rather than calling this function explicitly.

Since functions are the basic building block of Lisp programs, the system provides a variety of facilities for dealing with functions. Refer to chapter 10 for details.

6.3 The Property List

Every symbol has an associated property list. See section 5.8, page 66 for documentation of property lists. When a symbol is created, its property list is initially empty.

The Lisp language itself does not use a symbol's property list for anything. (This was not true in older Lisp implementations, where the print-name, value-cell, and function-cell of a symbol were kept on its property list.) However, various system programs use the property list to associate information with the symbol. For instance, the editor uses the property list of a symbol which is the name of a function to remember where it has the source code for that function, and the compiler uses the property list of a symbol which is the name of a special form to remember how to compile that special form.

Because of the existence of print-name, value, function, and package cells, none of the MacLisp system property names (expr, fexpr, macro, array, subr, lsubr, fsubr, and in former times value and p name) exist in Lisp Machine Lisp.

plist sym

This returns the list which represents the property list of sym. Note that this is not the property list itself; you cannot do get on it.

setplist sym list

This sets the list which represents the property list of sym to list. setplist is to be used with caution (or not at all), since property lists sometimes contain internal system properties, which are used by many useful system functions. Also it is inadvisable to have the property lists of two different symbols be eq, since the shared list structure will cause unexpected effects on one symbol if putprop or remprop is done to the other.

property-cell-location sym

This returns a locative pointer to the location of sym's property-list cell. This locative pointer is equally valid as sym itself, as a handle on sym's property list.
6.4 The Print Name

Every symbol has an associated string called the print-name, or pname for short. This string is used as the external representation of the symbol: if the string is typed in to read, it is read as a reference to that symbol (if it is interned), and if the symbol is printed, print types out the print-name. For more information, see the sections on the reader (see section 21.2.2, page 283) and printer (see section 21.2.1, page 280).

get-pname sym
This returns the print-name of the symbol sym.
Example:
(get-pname 'xyz) => "xyz"

samepnamep sym1 sym2
This predicate returns t if the two symbols sym1 and sym2 have equal print-names; that is, if their printed representation is the same. Upper and lower case letters are normally considered the same. If either or both of the arguments is a string instead of a symbol, then that string is used in place of the print-name. samepnamep is useful for determining if two symbols would be the same except that they are in different packages (see chapter 23, page 345).
Examples:
(samepnamep 'xyz (maknam '(x y z)) => t
(samepnamep 'xyz (maknam '(w x y)) => nil
(samepnamep 'xyz "xyz") => t

This is the same function as string-equal (see page 117).

6.5 The Package Cell

Every symbol has a package cell which is used, for interned symbols, to point to the package which the symbol belongs to. For an uninterned symbol, the package cell contains nil. For information about packages in general, see the chapter on packages, chapter 23, page 345. For information about package cells, see page 352.

6.6 Creating Symbols

The functions in this section are primitives for creating symbols. However, before discussing them, it is important to point out that most symbols are created by a higher-level mechanism, namely the reader and the intern function. Nearly all symbols in Lisp are created by virtue of the reader's having seen a sequence of input characters that looked like the printed representation of a symbol. When the reader sees such a p.r., it calls intern (see page 351), which looks up the sequence of characters in a big table and sees whether any symbol with this print-name already exists. If it does, read uses the already-existing symbol. If it does not, then intern creates a new symbol and puts it into the table, and read uses that new symbol.
A symbol that has been put into such a table is called an *interned* symbol. Interned symbols are normally created automatically; the first time someone (such as the reader) asks for a symbol with a given print-name that symbol is automatically created.

These tables are called *packages*. In the Lisp machine, interned symbols are the province of the *package* system. Although interned symbols are the most commonly used, they will not be discussed further here. For more information, turn to the chapter on packages (chapter 23, page 345).

An *uninterned* symbol is a symbol used simply as a data object, with no special cataloging. An uninterned symbol prints the same as an interned symbol with the same print-name, but cannot be read back in.

The following functions can be used to create uninterned symbols explicitly.

### `make-symbol`  
`pname` &optional `permanent-p`  
This creates a new uninterned symbol, whose print-name is the string `pname`. The value and function bindings will be unbound and the property list will be empty. If `permanent-p` is specified, it is assumed that the symbol is going to be interned and probably kept around forever; in this case it and its `pname` will be put in the proper areas. If `permanent-p` is nil (the default), the symbol goes in the default area and the `pname` is not copied. `permanent-p` is mostly for the use of `intern` itself.

Examples:
```
(setq a (make-symbol "foo") ) => foo
(symeval a) => ERROR!
```

Note that the symbol is *not* interned; it is simply created and returned.

### `copsymbol`  
`sym` `copy-props`  
This returns a new uninterned symbol with the same print-name as `sym`. If `copy-props` is non-nil, then the value and function-definition of the new symbol will be the same as those of `sym`, and the property list of the new symbol will be a copy of `sym`'s. If `copy-props` is nil, then the new symbol will be unbound and undefined, and its property list will be empty.

### `gensym`  
&optional `x`  
gensym invents a print-name, and creates a new symbol with that print-name. It returns the new, uninterned symbol.

The invented print-name is a character prefix (the value of `si:*gensym-prefix`) followed by the decimal representation of a number (the value of `si:*gensym-counter`), e.g. "g0001". The number is increased by one every time gensym is called.

If the argument `x` is present and is a fixnum, then `si:*gensym-counter` is set to `x`. If `x` is a string or a symbol, then `si:*gensym-prefix` is set to the first character of the string or of the symbol's print-name. After handling the argument, gensym creates a symbol as it would with no argument.
Examples:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{if} & \quad (\text{gensym}) \Rightarrow \text{g0007} \\
\text{then} & \quad (\text{gensym 'foo}) \Rightarrow \text{f0008} \\
& \quad (\text{gensym 32.)} \Rightarrow \text{f0032} \\
& \quad (\text{gensym}) \Rightarrow \text{f0033}
\end{align*}
\]

Note that the number is in decimal and always has four digits, and the prefix is always one character.

gensym is usually used to create a symbol which should not normally be seen by the user, and whose print-name is unimportant, except to allow easy distinction by eye between two such symbols. The optional argument is rarely supplied. The name comes from "generate symbol", and the symbols produced by it are often called "gensyms".
7. Numbers

Lisp Machine Lisp includes several types of numbers, with different characteristics. Most numeric functions will accept any type of numbers as arguments and do the right thing. That is to say, they are generic. In MacLisp, there are generic numeric functions (like plus) and there are specific numeric functions (like +) which only operate on a certain type, and are much more efficient. In Lisp Machine Lisp, this distinction does not exist; both function names exist for compatibility but they are identical. The microprogrammed structure of the machine makes it possible to have only the generic functions without loss of efficiency.

The types of numbers in Lisp Machine Lisp are:

- **fixnum**: Fixnums are 24-bit 2's complement binary integers. These are the "preferred, most efficient" type of number.
- **bignum**: Bignums are arbitrary-precision binary integers.
- **flonum**: Flonums are floating-point numbers. They have a mantissa of 32 bits and an exponent of 11 bits, providing a precision of about 9 digits and a range of about $10^{\pm300}$. Stable rounding is employed.
- **small-flonum**: Small flonums are another form of floating-point number, with a mantissa of 18 bits and an exponent of 7 bits, providing a precision of about 5 digits and a range of about $10^{\pm19}$. Stable rounding is employed. Small flonums are useful because, like fixnums, and unlike flonums, they don't require any storage. Computing with small flonums is more efficient than with regular flonums because the operations are faster and consing overhead is eliminated.

Generally, Lisp objects have a unique identity; each exists, independent of any other, and you can use the eq predicate to determine whether two references are to the same object or not. Numbers are the exception to this rule; they don't work this way. The following function, when compiled, may return nil (its behavior is considered undefined, but as this manual is written it actually does return nil):

```lisp
(defun foo ()
  (let ((x (float 5)))
    (eq x (car (cons x nil))))
)
```

This is very strange from the point of view of Lisp's usual object semantics, but the implementation works this way, in order to gain efficiency, and on the grounds that identity testing of numbers is not really an interesting thing to do. So, the rule is that the result of applying eq to numbers is undefined, and may return either t or nil at will. If you want to compare the values of two numbers, use = (see page 87).

Fixnums and small flonums are exceptions to this rule; some system code knows that eq works on fixnums used to represent characters or small integers, and uses memq or assq on them. eq works as well as = as an equality test for fixnums. Small flonums that are = tend to be eq also, but it is unwise to depend on this.

The distinction between fixnums and bignums is largely transparent to the user. The user simply computes with integers, and the system represents some as fixnums and the rest (less efficiently) as bignums. The system automatically converts back and forth between fixnums and bignums based solely on the size of the integer. There are a few "low level" functions which
only work on fixnums; this fact is noted in their documentation. Also when using eq on numbers the user needs to be aware of the fixnum/bignum distinction.

Integer computations cannot "overflow", except for division by zero, since bignums can be of arbitrary size. Floating-point computations can get exponent overflow or underflow, if the result is too large or small to be represented. Exponent overflow always signals an error. Exponent underflow normally signals an error, and assumes 0.0 as the answer if the user says to proceed from the error. However, if the value of the variable underflow is non-nil, the error is skipped and computation proceeds with 0.0 in place of the result that was too small.

When an arithmetic function of more than one argument is given arguments of different numeric types, uniform coercion rules are followed to convert the arguments to a common type, which is also the type of the result (for functions which return a number). When an integer meets a small flonum or a flonum, the result is a small flonum or a flonum (respectively). When a small flonum meets a regular flonum, the result is a regular flonum.

Thus if the constants in a numerical algorithm are written as small flonums (assuming this provides adequate precision), and if the input is a small flonum, the computation will be done in small-flonum mode and the result will a small flonum, while if the input is a large flonum the computations will be done in full precision and the result will be a flonum.

The Iisp machine never automatically converts between flonums and small flonums, in the way it automatically converts between fixnums and bignums, since this would lead either to inefficiency or to unexpected numerical inaccuracies. (When a small flonum meets a flonum, the result is a flonum, but if you use only one type, all the results will be of the same type too.) This means that a small-flonum computation can get an exponent overflow error even when the result could have been represented as a large flonum.

Floating-point numbers retain only a certain number of bits of precision; therefore, the results of computations are only approximate. Large flonums have 31 bits and small flonums have 17 bits, not counting the sign. The method of approximation is "stable rounding". The result of an arithmetic operation will be the flonum which is closest to the exact value. If the exact result falls precisely halfway between two flonums, the result will be rounded down if the least-significant bit is 0, or up if the least-significant bit is 1. This choice is arbitrary but insures that no systematic bias is introduced.

Integer addition, subtraction, and multiplication always produce an exact result. Integer division, on the other hand, returns an integer rather than the exact rational-number result. The quotient is truncated towards zero rather than rounded. The exact rule is that if \( A \) is divided by \( B \), yielding a quotient of \( C \) and a remainder of \( D \), then \( A = B \times C + D \) exactly. \( D \) is either zero or the same sign as \( A \). Thus the absolute value of \( C \) is less than or equal to the true quotient of the absolute values of \( A \) and \( B \). This is compatible with Maclisp and most computer hardware.

Unlike Maclisp, Lisp Machine Lisp does not have number declarations in the compiler. Note that because fixnums and small flonums require no associated storage they are as efficient as declared numbers in Maclisp. Bignums and (large) flonums are less efficient, however bignum and flonum intermediate results are garbage collected in a special way that avoids the overhead of the full garbage collector.
The different types of numbers can be distinguished by their printed representations. A leading or embedded (but not trailing) decimal point, and/or an exponent separated by "e", indicates a flonum. If a number has an exponent separated by "s", it is a small flonum. Small flonums require a special indicator so that naive users will not accidentally compute with the lesser precision. Fixnums and bignums have similar printed representations since there is no numerical value that has a choice of whether to be a fixnum or a bignum; an integer is a bignum if and only if its magnitude too big for a fixnum. See the examples on page 284, in the description of what the reader understands.

7.1 Numeric Predicates

zerop \textit{x}  
Returns \textit{t} if \textit{x} is zero. Otherwise it returns \textit{nil}. If \textit{x} is not a number, zerop causes an error. For flonums, this only returns \textit{t} for exactly 0.0 or 0.0s0; there is no "fuzz".

plusp \textit{x}  
Returns \textit{t} if its argument is a positive number, strictly greater than zero. Otherwise it returns \textit{nil}. If \textit{x} is not a number, plusp causes an error.

minusp \textit{x}  
Returns \textit{t} if its argument is a negative number, strictly less than zero. Otherwise it returns \textit{nil}. If \textit{x} is not a number, minusp causes an error.

oddp \textit{number}  
Returns \textit{t} if \textit{number} is odd, otherwise \textit{nil}. If \textit{number} is not a fixnum or a bignum, oddp causes an error.

evenp \textit{number}  
Returns \textit{t} if \textit{number} is even, otherwise \textit{nil}. If \textit{number} is not a fixnum or a bignum, evenp causes an error.

signp Special Form

signp is used to test the sign of a number. It is present only for Maclisp compatibility, and is not recommended for use in new programs. (signp \textit{test} \textit{x}) returns \textit{t} if \textit{x} is a number which satisfies the \textit{test}, \textit{nil} if it is not a number or does not meet the test. \textit{test} is not evaluated, but \textit{x} is. \textit{test} can be one of the following:

- l \textit{x} < 0
- le \textit{x} ≤ 0
- e \textit{x} = 0
- n \textit{x} ≠ 0
- ge \textit{x} ≥ 0
- g \textit{x} > 0

Examples:

- (signp le 12) => \textit{t}
- (signp n 0) => \textit{nil}
- (signp g 'foo) => \textit{nil}

See also the data-type predicates fixp, floatp, bigp, small-floatp, and numberp (page 8).
7.2 Numeric Comparisons

All of these functions require that their arguments be numbers, and signal an error if given a non-number. They work on all types of numbers, automatically performing any required coercions (as opposed to Maclisp in which generally only the spelled-out names work for all kinds of numbers).

= x y
Returns t if x and y are numerically equal. An integer can be = to a flaunum.

greaterp x y &rest more-args
> x y &rest more-args
greaterp compares its arguments from left to right. If any argument is not greater than the next, greaterp returns nil. But if the arguments are monotonically strictly decreasing, the result is t.
Examples:
(> 4 3) => t
(> 4 3 2 1 0) => t
(> 4 3 1 2 0) => nil

>= x y &rest more-args
\geq x y &rest more-args
\geq compares its arguments from left to right. If any argument is less than the next, \geq returns nil. But if the arguments are monotonically decreasing or equal, the result is t.

lelssp x y &rest more-args
< x y &rest more-args
lessp compares its arguments from left to right. If any argument is not less than the next, lessp returns nil. But if the arguments are monotonically strictly increasing, the result is t.
Examples:
(lessp 3 4) => t
(lessp 1 1) => nil
(lessp 0 1 2 3 4) => t
(lessp 0 1 3 2 4) => nil

\leq x y &rest more-args
\leq x y &rest more-args
\leq compares its arguments from left to right. If any argument is greater than the next, \leq returns nil. But if the arguments are monotonically increasing or equal, the result is t.

\neq x y
Returns t if x is not numerically equal to y, and nil otherwise.

max &rest args
max returns the largest of its arguments.
Example:
(max 1 3 2) => 3
max requires at least one argument.
min &rest args
    min returns the smallest of its arguments.
    Example:
        (min 1 3 2) => 1
    min requires at least one argument.

7.3 Arithmetic

All of these functions require that their arguments be numbers, and signal an error if given a non-number. They work on all types of numbers, automatically performing any required coercions (as opposed to Maclisp, in which generally only the spelled-out versions work for all kinds of numbers, and the "$" versions are needed for flonums).

plus &rest args
+ &rest args
+$ &rest args
    Returns the sum of its arguments. If there are no arguments, it returns 0, which is the identity for this operation.

difference arg &rest args
    Returns its first argument minus all of the rest of its arguments.

minus x
    Returns the negative of x.
    Examples:
        (minus 1) => -1
        (minus -3.0) => 3.0

- arg &rest args
-$ arg &rest args
    With only one argument, - is the same as minus; it returns the negative of its argument.
    With more than one argument, - is the same as difference; it returns its first argument minus all of the rest of its arguments.

abs x
    Returns |x|, the absolute value of the number x. abs could have been defined by:
        (defun abs (x)
            (cond ((minusp x) (minus x))
                  (t x)))

times &rest args
* &rest args
*$_ &rest args
    Returns the product of its arguments. If there are no arguments, it returns 1, which is the identity for this operation.
**quotient** arg &rest args
Returns the first argument divided by all of the rest of its arguments.

```lisp
// arg &rest args
//$ arg &rest args
```

The name of this function is written `//` rather than `/` because `/` is the quoting character in Lisp syntax and must be doubled. With more than one argument, `//` is the same as `quotient`: it returns the first argument divided by all of the rest of its arguments. With only one argument, `(/ x)` is the same as `(/ 1 x)`. The exact rules for the meaning of the quotient and remainder of two integers are given on page 85.

Examples:
```
(/ 3 2) => 1 ;Fixnum division truncates.
(/ -3 -2) => -1
(/ -3 2) => 1
(/ 3 2.0) => 1.5
(/ 2 0) => 1.5
(/ 12 2.3) => 2
(/ 4 0) => .25
```

**remainder** x y
\(x \ mod \ y\)

Returns the remainder of \(x\) divided by \(y\). \(x\) and \(y\) must be integers (fixnums or bignums). The exact rules for the meaning of the quotient and remainder of two integers are given on page 85.
```
(\ 3 2) => 1
(\ -3 2) => -1
(\ 3 -2) => 1
(\ -3 -2) => -1
```

**add1** x
1+ x
1+$ x

`(add1 x)` is the same as `(plus x 1)`.

**sub1** x
1- x
1-$ x

`(sub1 x)` is the same as `(difference x 1)`. Note that the short name may be confusing: `(1- x)` does not mean 1-x; rather, it means x-1.

**gcd** x y
\(\gcd x \ y\)

Returns the greatest common divisor of \(x\) and \(y\). \(x\) and \(y\) must be integers (fixnums or bignums).
These are the internal micro-coded arithmetic functions. There is no reason why anyone should need to write code with these explicitly, since the compiler knows how to generate the appropriate code for plus, +, etc. These names are only here for Maclisp compatibility.

### 7.4 Transcendental Functions

Most of these functions are only for floating-point arguments; if given an integer they will convert it to a flonum. If given a small-flonum, they will return a small-nonum. There are a couple of exceptions, which are documented explicitly.

\[ \text{expt } x \ y \]
\[ \wedge x \ y \]
\[ ^\$ x \ y \]

Returns \( x \) raised to the \( y \)'th power. The result is an integer if both arguments are integers (even if \( y \) is negative!) and floating-point if either \( x \) or \( y \) or both is floating-point. If the exponent is an integer a repeated-squaring algorithm is used, while if the exponent is floating the result is \((\exp (* y (\log x)))\).

\[ \exp x \]

Returns \( e \) raised to the \( x \)'th power, where \( e \) is the base of natural logarithms.

\[ \log x \]

Returns the natural logarithm of \( x \).

\[ \sqrt{x} \]

Returns the square root of \( x \).

\[ \text{isqrt } x \]

Integer square-root. \( x \) must be an integer; the result is the greatest integer less than or equal to the exact square root of \( x \).

\[ \sin x \]

Returns the sine of \( x \), where \( x \) is expressed in radians.

\[ \text{sind } x \]

Returns the sine of \( x \), where \( x \) is expressed in degrees.

\[ \cos x \]

Returns the cosine of \( x \), where \( x \) is expressed in radians.

\[ \text{cosd } x \]

Returns the cosine of \( x \), where \( x \) is expressed in degrees.
atan \( y \ x \)
Returns the arctangent of the angle \( y/x \). It always returns a non-negative number between zero and \( 2\pi \).

atan2 \( y \ x \)
Returns the arctangent of the angle \( y/x \), except that it returns a number between \(-\pi \) and \( \pi \).

7.5 Numeric Type Conversions

These functions are provided to allow specific conversions of data types to be forced, when desired.

fix \( x \)
Converts \( x \) from a flonum (or small-flonum) to an integer, truncating towards negative infinity. The result is a fixnum or a bignum as appropriate. If \( x \) is already a fixnum or a bignum, it is returned unchanged.

fixr \( x \)
Converts \( x \) from a flonum (or small-flonum) to an integer, rounding to the nearest integer. If \( x \) is exactly halfway between two integers, this rounds up (towards positive infinity).
fixr could have been defined by:
\[
\text{(defun fixr (x)}
\text{  \  (if (fixp x) x (fix (+ x 0.5))))}
\]

float \( x \)
Converts any kind of number to a flonum.

small-float \( x \)
Converts any kind of number to a small flonum.

7.6 Logical Operations on Numbers

Except for lsh and rot, these functions operate on both fixnums and bignums. lsh and rot have an inherent word-length limitation and hence only operate on 24-bit fixnums. Negative numbers are operated on in their 2's-complement representation.

logior &rest args
Returns the bit-wise logical inclusive or of its arguments. At least one argument is required.
Example:
\[
(\text{logior 4002 67}) \Rightarrow 4067
\]

logxor &rest args
Returns the bit-wise logical exclusive or of its arguments. At least one argument is required.
Example:
\[
(\text{logxor 2531 7777}) \Rightarrow 5246
\]
**Logical Operations on Numbers**

- **logand** &rest args
  Returns the bit-wise logical and of its arguments. At least one argument is required.
  Examples:
  
  ```lisp
  (logand 3456 707) => 406
  (logand 3456 -100) => 3400
  ```

- **lognot** number
  Returns the logical complement of number. This is the same as logxor'ing number with -1.
  Example:
  
  ```lisp
  (lognot 3456) => -3457
  ```

- **boole** fn &rest args
  boole is the generalization of logand, logior, and logxor. fn should be a fixnum between 0 and 17 octal inclusive; it controls the function which is computed. If the binary representation of fn is abed (a is the most significant bit, d the least) then the truth table for the Boolean operation is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>y</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a</td>
<td>c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>d</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

  If boole has more than three arguments, it is associated left to right; thus,
  
  ```lisp
  (boole fn x y z) = (boole fn (boole fn x y) z)
  ```

  With two arguments, the result of boole is simply its second argument. At least two arguments are required.

  Examples:
  
  ```lisp
  (boole 1 x y) = (logand x y)
  (boole 6 x y) = (logxor x y)
  (boole 2 x y) = (logand (lognot x) y)
  ```

  logand, logior, and logxor are usually preferred over the equivalent forms of boole, to avoid putting magic numbers in the program.

- **bit-test** x y
  bit-test is a predicate which returns t if any of the bits designated by the 1's in x are 1's in y. bit-test is implemented as a macro which expands as follows:

  ```lisp
  (bit-test x y) => (not (zerop (logand x y)))
  ```

- **lsh** x y
  Returns x shifted left y bits if y is positive or zero, or x shifted right |y| bits if y is negative. Zero bits are shifted in (at either end) to fill unused positions. x and y must be fixnums.
Examples:

`(lsh 4 1) => 10 ;(octal)
(lsh 14 -2) => 3
(lsh -1 1) => -2

**ash x y**
Shifts x arithmetically left y bits if y is positive, or right -y bits if y is negative. Unused positions are filled by zeroes from the right, and by copies of the sign bit from the left. Thus, unlike `lsb`, the sign of the result is always the same as the sign of x. If x is a fixnum or a bignum, this is a shifting operation. If x is a flonum, this does scaling (multiplication by a power of two), rather than actually shifting any bits.

**rot x y**
Returns x rotated left y bits if y is positive or zero, or x rotated right |y| bits if y is negative. The rotation considers x as a 24-bit number (unlike MacLisp, which considers x to be a 36-bit number in both the pdp-10 and Multics implementations). x and y must be fixnums.
Examples:

`(rot 1 2) => 4
(rot 1 -2) => 20000000
(rot -1 7) => -1
(rot 15 24.) => 15

**hau1ong x**
This returns the number of significant bits in |x|. x may be a fixnum or a bignum. Its sign is ignored. The result is the least integer strictly greater than the base-2 logarithm of |x|.
Examples:

`(hau1ong 0) => 0
(hau1ong 3) => 2
(hau1ong -7) => 3

**haipart x n**
Returns the high n bits of the binary representation of |x|, or the low -n bits if n is negative. x may be a fixnum or a bignum; its sign is ignored. haipart could have been defined by:

```
(defun haipart (x n)
  (setq x (abs x))
  (if (minusp n)
      (logand x (1- (ash 1 (- n))))
      (ash x (min (- n (hau1ong x)) 0))))
```
7.7 Byte Manipulation Functions

Several functions are provided for dealing with an arbitrary-width field of contiguous bits appearing anywhere in an integer (a fixnum or a bignum). Such a contiguous set of bits is called a byte. Note that we are not using the term byte to mean eight bits, but rather any number of bits within a number. These functions use numbers called byte specifiers to designate a specific byte position within any word. Byte specifiers are fixnums whose two lowest octal digits represent the size of the byte, and whose higher (usually two, but sometimes more) octal digits represent the position of the byte within a number, counting from the right in bits. A position of zero means that the byte is at the right end of the number. For example, the byte-specifier 0010 (i.e. 10 octal) refers to the lowest eight bits of a word, and the byte-specifier 1010 refers to the next eight bits. These byte-specifiers will be stylized below as \texttt{ppss}. The maximum value of the \texttt{ss} digits is 27 (octal), since a byte must fit in a fixnum although bytes can be loaded from and deposited into bignums. (Bytes are always positive numbers.) The format of byte-specifiers is taken from the pdp-10 byte instructions.

\textbf{ldb} ppss \textit{num}

\texttt{ppss} specifies a byte of \textit{num} to be extracted. The \texttt{ss} bits of the byte starting at bit \texttt{pp} are the lowest \texttt{ss} bits in the returned value, and the rest of the bits in the returned value are zero. The name of the function, \texttt{ldb}, means "load byte". \textit{num} may be a fixnum or a bignum.

Example:

\begin{verbatim}
(ldb 0306 4567) => 56
\end{verbatim}

\textbf{load-byte} \textit{num} \textit{position} \textit{size}

This is like \texttt{ldb} except that instead of using a byte specifier, the position and size are passed as separate arguments. The argument order is not analogous to that of \texttt{ldb} so that \texttt{load-byte} can be compatible with Maclisp.

\textbf{ldb-test} ppss \textit{y}

\texttt{ldb-test} is a predicate which returns \texttt{t} if any of the bits designated by the byte specifier \texttt{ppss} are 1's in \textit{y}. That is, it returns \texttt{t} if the designated field is non-zero. \texttt{ldb-test} is implemented as a macro which expands as follows:

\begin{verbatim}
(ldb-test ppss y) => (not (zerop (ldb ppss y)))
\end{verbatim}

\textbf{mask-field} ppss \textit{num}

This is similar to \texttt{ldb}; however, the specified byte of \textit{num} is returned as a number in position \texttt{pp} of the returned word, instead of position 0 as with \texttt{ldb}. \textit{num} must be a fixnum.

Example:

\begin{verbatim}
(mask-field 0306 4567) => 560
\end{verbatim}

\textbf{dpb} byte ppss \textit{num}

Returns a number which is the same as \textit{num} except in the bits specified by \texttt{ppss}. The low \texttt{ss} bits of \texttt{byte} are placed in those bits. \texttt{byte} is interpreted as being right-justified, as if it were the result of \texttt{ldb}. \textit{num} may be a fixnum or a bignum. The name means "deposit byte".

Example:

\begin{verbatim}
(dp 23 0306 4567) => 4237
\end{verbatim}
deposit-byte \textit{num position size byte}

This is like dpb except that instead of using a byte specifier, the \textit{position} and \textit{size} are passed as separate arguments. The argument order is not analogous to that of dpb so that deposit-byte can be compatible with Maclisp.

deposit-field \textit{byte ppss num}

This is like dpb, except that \textit{byte} is not taken to be left-justified; the \textit{ppss} bits of \textit{byte} are used for the \textit{ppss} bits of the result, with the rest of the bits taken from \textit{num}. \textit{num} must be a fixnum.

Example:

\[
\text{(deposit-field 230 0306 4567) => 4237}
\]

The behavior of the following two functions depends on the size of fixnums, and so functions using them may not work the same way on future implementations of the Lisp Machine. Their names start with "\%" because they are more like machine-level subprimitives than the previous functions.

\%logldb \textit{ppss fixnum}

\%logldb is like ldb except that it only loads out of fixnums and allows a byte size of 30 (octal), i.e. all 24 bits of the fixnum including the sign bit.

\%logdpb \textit{byte ppss fixnum}

\%logdpb is like dpb except that it only deposits into fixnums. Using this to change the sign-bit will leave the result as a fixnum, while dpb would produce a bignum result for arithmetic correctness. \%logdpb is good for manipulating fixnum bit-masks such as are used in some internal system tables and data-structures.

7.8 Random Numbers

The functions in this section provide a pseudo-random number generator facility. The basic function you use is \textbf{random}, which returns a new pseudo-random number each time it is called. Between calls, its state is saved in a data object called a \textit{random-array}. Usually there is only one random-array; however, if you want to create a reproducible series of pseudo-random numbers, and be able to reset the state to control when the series starts over, then you need some of the other functions here.

\textbf{random} \&optional \textit{arg random-array}

(random) returns a random fixnum, positive or negative. If \textit{arg} is present, a fixnum between 0 and \textit{arg} minus 1 inclusive is returned. If \textit{random-array} is present, the given array is used instead of the default one (see below). Otherwise, the default random-array is used (and is created if it doesn't already exist). The algorithm is executed inside a without-interrupts (see page 379) so two processes can use the same random-array without colliding.

A random-array consists of an array of numbers, and two pointers into the array. The pointers circulate around the array; each time a random number is requested, both pointers are advanced by one, wrapping around at the end of the array. Thus, the distance forward from the first pointer to the second pointer, allowing for wraparound, stays the same. Let the length of the array be \textit{length} and the distance between the pointers be \textit{offset}. To generate a new random number, each pointer is set to its old value plus one, modulo \textit{length}. Then the two elements of
the array addressed by the pointers are added together; the sum is stored back into the array at
the location where the second pointer points, and is returned as the random number after being
normalized into the right range.

This algorithm produces well-distributed random numbers if length and offset are chosen
carefully, so that the polynomial \( x \times \text{length} + x \times \text{offset} + l \) is irreducible over the mod-2 integers.
The system uses 71. and 35.

The contents of the array of numbers should be initialized to anything moderately random, to
make the algorithm work. The contents get initialized by a simple random number generator,
programmed on a number called the seed. The initial value of the seed is set when the random-array is
created, and it can be changed. To have several different controllable resettable sources of
random numbers, you can create your own random-arrays. If you don’t care about reproducibility
of sequences, just use random without the random-array argument.

**si:random-create-array** length offset seed &optional (area nil)

Creates, initializes, and returns a random-array. length is the length of the array. offset is
the distance between the pointers and should be an integer less than length. seed is the
initial value of the seed, and should be a fixnum. This calls si:random-initialize on the
random array before returning it.

**si:random-initialize** array &optional new-seed

array must be a random-array, such as is created by si:random-create-array. If new­
seed is provided, it should be a fixnum, and the seed is set to it. si:random-initialize
reinitializes the contents of the array from the seed (calling random changes the contents
of the array and the pointers, but not the seed).

### 7.9 24-Bit Numbers

Sometimes it is desirable to have a form of arithmetic which has no overflow checking (which
would produce bignums), and truncates results to the word size of the machine. In Lisp Machine
Lisp, this is provided by the following set of functions. Their answers are only correct modulo
2\(24\).

These functions should not be used for "efficiency"; they are probably less efficient than the
functions which do check for overflow. They are intended for algorithms which require this sort
of arithmetic, such as hash functions and pseudo-random number generation.

**%24-bit-plus** x y

Returns the sum of x and y modulo 2\(24\). Both arguments must be fixnums.

**%24-bit-difference** x y

Returns the difference of x and y modulo 2\(24\). Both arguments must be fixnums.

**%24-bit-times** x y

Returns the product of x and y modulo 2\(24\). Both arguments must be fixnums.
7.10 Double-Precision Arithmetic

These peculiar functions are useful in programs that don’t want to use bignums for one reason or another. They should usually be avoided, as they are difficult to use and understand, and they depend on special numbers of bits and on the use of two's-complement notation.

%multiply-fractions num1 num2
Returns bits 24 through 46 (the most significant half) of the product of num1 and num2. If you call this and %24-bit-times on the same arguments num1 and num2, regarding them as integers, you can combine the results into a double-precision product. If num1 and num2 are regarded as two's-complement fractions, -1 ≤ num < 1, %multiply-fractions returns 1/2 of their correct product as a fraction. (The name of this function isn’t too great.)

%divide-double dividend[24:46] dividend[0:23] divisor
Divides the double-precision number given by the first two arguments by the third argument, and returns the single-precision quotient. Causes an error if division by zero or if the quotient won’t fit in single precision.

%remainder-double dividend[24:46] dividend[0:23] divisor
Divides the double-precision number given by the first two arguments by the third argument, and returns the remainder. Causes an error if division by zero.

%float-double high24 low24
high24 and low24, which must be fixnums, are concatenated to produce a 48-bit unsigned positive integer. A flonum containing the same value is constructed and returned. Note that only the 31 most-significant bits are retained (after removal of leading zeroes.) This function is mainly for the benefit of read.
8. Arrays

An array is a Lisp object that consists of a group of cells, each of which may contain an object. The individual cells are selected by numerical subscripts.

The dimensionality of an array (or, the number of dimensions which the array has) is the number of subscripts used to refer to one of the elements of the array. The dimensionality may be any integer from one to seven, inclusively.

The lowest value for any subscript is zero; the highest value is a property of the array. Each dimension has a size, which is the lowest number which is too great to be used as a subscript. For example, in a one-dimensional array of five elements, the size of the one and only dimension is five, and the acceptable values of the subscript are zero, one, two, three, and four.

The most basic primitive functions for handling arrays are: make-array, which is used for the creation of arrays, aref, which is used for examining the contents of arrays, and aset, which is used for storing into arrays.

An array is a regular Lisp object, and it is common for an array to be the binding of a symbol, or the car or cdr of a cons, or, in fact, an element of an array. There are many functions, described in this chapter, which take arrays as arguments and perform useful operations on them.

Another way of handling arrays, inherited from Maclisp, is to treat them as functions. In this case each array has a name, which is a symbol whose function definition is the array. The Lisp machine supports this style by allowing an array to be applied to arguments, as if it were a function. The arguments are treated as subscripts and the array is referenced appropriately. The store special form (see page 114) is also supported. This kind of array referencing is considered to be obsolete, and is slower than the usual kind. It should not be used in new programs.

There are many types of arrays. Some types of arrays can hold Lisp objects of any type; the other types of arrays can only hold fixnums or flonums. The array types are known by a set of symbols whose names begin with "art-" (for Array Type).

The most commonly used type is called art-q. An art-q array simply holds Lisp objects of any type.

Similar to the art-q type is the art-q-list. Like the art-q, its elements may be any Lisp object. The difference is that the art-q-list array "doubles" as a list; the function g-l-p will take an art-q-list array and return a list whose elements are those of the array, and whose actual substance is that of the array. If you rplaca elements of the list, the corresponding element of the array will change, and if you store into the array, the corresponding element of the list will change the same way. An attempt to rplacd the list will cause an error, since arrays cannot implement that operation.

There is a set of types called art-1b, art-2b, art-4b, art-8b, and art-16b; these names are short for "1 bit", "2 bits", and so on. Each element of an art-nb array is a non-negative fixnum, and only the least significant n bits are remembered in the array; all of the others are discarded. Thus art-1b arrays store only 0 and 1, and if you store a 5 into an art-2b array and look at it later, you will find a 1 rather than a 5.
These arrays are used when it is known beforehand that the fixnums which will be stored are non-negative and limited in size to a certain number of bits. Their advantage over the art-q array is that they occupy less storage, because more than one element of the array is kept in a single machine word. (For example, 32 elements of an art-1b array or 2 elements of an art-16b array will fit into one word).

There are also art-32b arrays which have 32 bits per element. Since fixnums only have 24 bits anyway, these are the same as art-q arrays except that they only hold fixnums.

Character strings are implemented by the art-string array type. This type acts similarly to the art-8b: its elements must be fixnums, of which only the least significant eight bits are stored. However, many important system functions, including read, print, and eval, treat art-string arrays very differently from the other kinds of arrays. These arrays are usually called strings, and chapter 9 of this manual deals with functions that manipulate them.

The art-float array type is a special-purpose type whose elements are flonums. When storing into such an array the value (any kind of number) will be converted to a flonum, using the float function (see page 91). The advantage of storing flonums in an art-float array rather than an art-q array is that the numbers in an art-float array are not true Lisp objects. Instead the array remembers the numerical value, and when it is arref'd creates a Lisp object (a flonum) to hold the value. Because the system does special storage management for bignums and flonums that are intermediate results, the use of art-float arrays can save a lot of work for the garbage-collector and hence greatly increase performance. An intermediate result is a Lisp object passed as an argument, stored in a local variable, or returned as the value of a function, but not stored into a global variable, a non-art-float array, or list structure. art-float arrays also provide a locality of reference advantage over art-q arrays containing flonums, since the flonums are contained in the array rather than being separate objects probably on different pages of memory.

There are three types of arrays which exist only for the implementation of stack groups; these types are called art-stack-group-head, art-special-pdl, and art-reg-pdl. Their elements may be any Lisp object; their use is explained in the section on stack groups (see chapter 12, page 149).

array-types Variable
The value of array-types is a list of all of the array type symbols such as art-q, art-4b, art-string and so on. The values of these symbols are internal array type code numbers for the corresponding type.

array-types array-type-code
Given an internal numeric array-type code, returns the symbolic name of that type.

array-elements-per-q Variable
array-elements-per-q is an association list (see page 64) which associates each array type symbol with the number of array elements stored in one word, for an array of that type. If the value is negative, it is instead the number of words per array element, for arrays whose elements are more than one word long.
array-elements-per-q array-type-code
Given the internal array-type code number, returns the number of array elements stored
in one word, for an array of that type. If the value is negative, it is instead the number
of words per array element, for arrays whose elements are more than one word long.

array-bits-per-element Variable
The value of array-bits-per-element is an association list (see page 64) which associates
each array type symbol with the number of bits of unsigned number it can hold, or nil if
it can hold Lisp objects. This can be used to tell whether an array can hold Lisp objects
or not.

array-bits-per-element array-type-code
Given the internal array-type code numbers, returns the number of bits per cell for
unsigned numeric arrays, or nil for a type of array that can contain Lisp objects.

array-element-size array
Given an array, returns the number of bits that fit in an element of that array. For arrays
that can hold general Lisp objects, the result is 24., assuming you will be storing
unsigned fixnums in the array.

8.1 Extra Features of Arrays

Any array may have an array leader. An array leader is like a one-dimensional art-q array
which is attached to the main array. So an array which has a leader acts like two arrays joined
together. The leader can be stored into and examined by a special set of functions, different from
those used for the main array: array-leader and store-array-leader. The leader is always one­
dimensional, and always can hold any kind of Lisp object, regardless of the type or
dimensionality of the main part of the array.

Very often the main part of an array will be a homogeneous set of objects, while the leader
will be used to remember a few associated non-homogeneous pieces of data. In this case the
leader is not used like an array; each slot is used differently from the others. Explicit numeric
subscripts should not be used for the leader elements of such an array; instead the leader should
be described by a defstruct (see page 228).

By convention, element 0 of the array leader of an array is used to hold the number of
elements in the array that are "active" in some sense. When the zeroth element is used this way,
it is called a fill pointer. Many array-processing functions recognize the fill pointer. For instance,
if a string (an array of type art-string) has seven elements, but its fill pointer contains the value
five, then only elements zero through four of the string are considered to be "active"; the string's
printed representation will be five characters long, string-searching functions will stop after the
fifth element, etc.

The system does not provide a way to turn off the fill-pointer convention; any array that has
a leader must reserve element 0 for the fill pointer or avoid using many of the array functions.

Leader element 1 is used in conjunction with the "named structure" feature to associate a
"data type" with the array; see page 239. Element 1 is only treated specially if the array is
flagged as a named structure.
The following explanation of displaced arrays is probably not of interest to a beginner; the section may be passed over without losing the continuity of the manual.

Normally, an array is represented as a small amount of header information, followed by the contents of the array. However, sometimes it is desirable to have the header information removed from the actual contents. One such occasion is when the contents of the array must be located in a special part of the Lisp Machine’s address space, such as the area used for the control of input/output devices, or the bitmap memory which generates the TV image. Displaced arrays are also used to reference certain special system tables, which are at fixed addresses so the microcode can access them easily.

If you give make-array a fixnum or a locative as the value of the :displaced-to option, it will create a displaced array referring to that location of virtual memory and its successors. References to elements of the displaced array will access that part of storage, and return the contents; the regular aref and aset functions are used. If the array is one whose elements are Lisp objects, caution should be used: if the region of address space does not contain typed Lisp objects, the integrity of the storage system and the garbage collector could be damaged. If the array is one whose elements are bytes (such as an art-4b type), then there is no problem. It is important to know, in this case, that the elements of such arrays are allocated from the right to the left within the 32-bit words.

It is also possible to have an array whose contents, instead of being located at a fixed place in virtual memory, are defined to be those of another array. Such an array is called an indirect array, and is created by giving make-array an array as the value of the :displaced-to option. The effects of this are simple if both arrays have the same type; the two arrays share all elements. An object stored in a certain element of one can be retrieved from the corresponding element of the other. This, by itself, is not very useful. However, if the arrays have different dimensionality, the manner of accessing the elements differs. Thus, by creating a one-dimensional array of nine elements which was indircct to a second, two-dimensional array of three elements by three, then the elements could be accessed in either a one-dimensional or a two-dimensional manner. Weird effects can be produced if the new array is of a different type than the old array; this is not generally recommended. Indirecting an art-mb array to an art-nb array will do the "obvious" thing. For instance, if $m$ is 4 and $n$ is 1, each element of the first array will contain four bits from the second array, in right-to-left order.

It is also possible to create an indirect array in such a way that when an attempt is made to reference it or store into it, a constant number is added to the subscript given. This number is called the index-offset, and is specified at the time the indirect array is created, by giving a fixnum to make-array as the value of the :index-offset option. Similarly, the length of the indirect array need not be the full length of the array it indirccts to; it can be smaller. The nsubstring function (see page 118) creates such arrays. When using index offsets with multi-dimensional arrays, there is only one index offset; it is added in to the "linearized" subscript which is the result of multiplying each subscript by an appropriate coefficient and adding them together.
8.2 Basic Array Functions

**make-array** dimensions &rest options.

This is the primitive function for making arrays. *dimensions* should be a list of fixnums which are the dimensions of the array; the length of the list will be the dimensionality of the array. For convenience when making a one-dimensional array, the single dimension may be provided as a fixnum rather than a list of one fixnum.

*options* are alternating keywords and values. The keywords may be any of the following:

- :area The value specifies in which area (see chapter 15, page 177) the list should be created. It should be either an area number (a fixnum), or nil to mean the default area.

- :type The value should be a symbolic name of an array type; the most common of these is art-q, which is the default. The elements of the array are initialized according to the type: if the array is of a type whose elements may only be fixnums or flonums, then every element of the array will initially be 0 or 0.0; otherwise, every element will initially be nil. See the description of array types on page 98. The value of the option may also be the value of a symbol which is an array type name (that is, an internal numeric array type code).

- :displaced-to If this is not nil, then the array will be a displaced array. If the value is a fixnum or a locative, **make-array** will create a regular displaced array which refers to the specified section of virtual address space. If the value is an array, **make-array** will create an indirect array (see page 101).

- :leader-length The value should be a fixnum. The array will have a leader with that many elements. The elements of the leader will be initialized to nil unless the :leader-list option is given (see below).

- :leader-list The value should be a list. Call the number of elements in the list $n$. The first $n$ elements of the leader will be initialized from successive elements of this list. If the :leader-length option is not specified, then the length of the leader will be $n$. If the :leader-length option is given, and its value is greater than $n$, then the $n$th and following leader elements will be initialized to nil. If its value is less than $n$, an error is signalled. The leader elements are filled in forward order; that is, the car of the list will be stored in leader element 0, the cadr in element 1, and so on.

- :displaced-index-offset If this is present, the value of the :displaced-to option should be an array, and the value should be a non-negative fixnum; it is made to be the index-offset of the created indirect array. (See page 101.)

- :named-structure If this is not nil, it is a symbol to be stored in the named-structure cell of the array. The array will be tagged as a named structure (see page 239.) If the array has a leader, then this symbol will be stored in leader element 1 regardless of the value of the :leader-list option.
Examples:

;; Create a one-dimensional array of five elements.
(make-array 5)

;; Create a two-dimensional array,
;; three by four, with four-bit elements.
(make-array '(3 4) ':type 'art-4b)

;; Create an array with a three-element leader.
(make-array 5 ':leader-length 3)

;; Create an array with a leader, providing
;; initial values for the leader elements.
(setq a (make-array 100 ':type 'art-1b
   ':leader-list '(t nil)))

(array-leader a 0) => t
(array-leader a 1) => nil

;; Create a named-structure with five leader
;; elements, initializing some of them.
(setq b (make-array 20 ':leader-length 5
   ':leader-list '(0 nil foo)
   ':named-structure 'bar))

(array-leader b 0) => 0
(array-leader b 1) => bar
(array-leader b 2) => foo
(array-leader b 3) => nil
(array-leader b 4) => nil

make-array returns the newly-created array, and also returns, as a second value, the number of words allocated in the process of creating the array, i.e. the %structure-total-size of the array.

When make-array was originally implemented, it took its arguments in the following fixed pattern:

(make-array
   area type dimensions
   &optional displaced-to leader
       displaced-index-offset
       named-structure)

leader was a combination of the :leader-length and :leader-list options, and the list was in reverse order. This obsolete form is still supported so that old programs will continue to work, but the new keyword-argument form is preferred.

aref array &rest subscripts

Returns the element of array selected by the subscripts. The subscripts must be fixnums and their number must match the dimensionality of array.

ar-1 array i
ar-2 array i j
ar-3 array i j k

These are obsolete versions of aref that only work for one, two, or three dimensional arrays, respectively. There is no reason ever to use them.
**aset**  
\[ x \ array \ \&\text{rest} \ subscripts \]
Stores \( x \) into the element of \( array \) selected by the \( subscripts \). The \( subscripts \) must be fixnums and their number must match the dimensionality of \( array \). The returned value is \( x \).

**as-1**  
\[ x \ array \ i \]

**as-2**  
\[ x \ array \ i \ j \]

**as-3**  
\[ x \ array \ i \ j \ k \]
These are obsolete versions of \( aset \) that only work for one, two, or three dimensional arrays, respectively. There is no reason ever to use them.

**aloc**  
\[ array \ \&\text{rest} \ subscripts \]
Returns a locative pointer to the element-cell of \( array \) selected by the \( subscripts \). The \( subscripts \) must be fixnums and their number must match the dimensionality of \( array \). See the explanation of locatives in chapter 13, page 156.

**ap-1**  
\[ array \ i \]

**ap-2**  
\[ array \ i \ j \]

**ap-3**  
\[ array \ i \ j \ k \]
These are obsolete versions of \( aloc \) that only work for one, two, or three dimensional arrays, respectively. There is no reason ever to use them.

The compiler turns \( aref \) into \( ar-1 \), \( ar-2 \), etc. according to the number of \( subscripts \) specified, turns \( aset \) into \( as-1 \), \( as-2 \), etc., and turns \( aloc \) into \( ap-1 \), \( ap-2 \), etc. For arrays with more than 3 dimensions the compiler uses the slightly less efficient form since the special routines only exist for 1, 2, and 3 dimensions. There is no reason for any program to call \( ar-1 \), \( as-1 \), \( ar-2 \), etc. explicitly; they are documented because there used to be such a reason, and many old programs use these functions. New programs should use \( aref \), \( aset \), and \( aloc \).

A related function, provided only for Maclisp compatibility, is \( arraycall \) (page 114).

**array-leader**  
\[ array \ i \]
\( array \) should be an array with a leader, and \( i \) should be a fixnum. This returns the \( i \)'th element of \( array \)'s leader. This is analogous to \( aref \).

**store-array-leader**  
\[ x \ array \ i \]
\( array \) should be an array with a leader, and \( i \) should be a fixnum. \( x \) may be any object. \( x \) is stored in the \( i \)'th element of \( array \)'s leader. \( store-array-leader \) returns \( x \). This is analogous to \( aset \).

**ap-leader**  
\[ array \ i \]
\( array \) should be an array with a leader, and \( i \) should be a fixnum. This returns a locative pointer to the \( i \)'th element of \( array \)'s leader. See the explanation of locatives, chapter 13, page 156. This is analogous to \( aloc \).
8.3 Getting Information About an Array

array-type array
Returns the symbolic type of array.
Example:

(setq a (make-array '(3 5)))
(array-type a) => art-q

array-length array
array may be any array. This returns the total number of elements in array. For a one-dimensional array, this is one greater than the maximum allowable subscript. (But if fill pointers are being used, you may want to use array-active-length.)
Example:

(array-length (make-array 3)) => 3
(array-length (make-array '(3 5)))
=> 17 ;octal, which is 15. decimal

array-active-length array
If array does not have a fill pointer, then this returns whatever (array-length array) would have. If array does have a fill pointer, array-active-length returns it. See the general explanation of the use of fill pointers, on page 100.

array-#-dims array
Returns the dimensionality of array. Note that the name of the function includes a "#", which must be slashified if you want to be able to read your program in Maclisp. (It doesn’t need to be slashified for the Lisp machine reader, which is smarter.)
Example:

(array-#-dims (make-array '(3 5))) => 2

array-dimension-n n array
array may be any kind of array, and n should be a fixnum. If n is between 1 and the dimensionality of array, this returns the n'th dimension of array. If n is 0, this returns the length of the leader of array; if array has no leader it returns nil. If n is any other value, this returns nil.
Examples:

(setq a (make-array '(3 5) ':leader-length 7))
(array-dimension-n 1 a) => 3
(array-dimension-n 2 a) => 5
(array-dimension-n 3 a) => nil
(array-dimension-n 0 a) => 7

array-dimensions array
array-dimensions returns a list whose elements are the dimensions of array.
Example:

(setq a (make-array '(3 5)))
(array-dimensions a) => (3 5)

Note: the list returned by (array-dimensions x) is equal to the cdr of the list returned by (arraydims x).
arraydims array
array may be any array; it also may be a symbol whose function cell contains an array, for Maclisp compatibility (see section 8.10, page 113). arraydims returns a list whose first element is the symbolic name of the type of array, and whose remaining elements are its dimensions.

Example:

\[
\text{(setq a (make-array '(3 5)))}
\]
\[
\text{(arraydims a) =\{art-q 3 5\)}
\]

array-in-bounds-p array &rest subscripts
This function checks whether subscripts is a legal set of subscripts for array, and returns t if they are; otherwise it returns nil.

array-displaced-p array
array may be any kind of array. This predicate returns t if array is any kind of displaced array (including an indirect array). Otherwise it returns nil.

array-indirect-p array
array may be any kind of array. This predicate returns t if array is an indirect array. Otherwise it returns nil.

array-indexed-p array
array may be any kind of array. This predicate returns t if array is an indirect array with an index-offset. Otherwise it returns nil.

array-has-leader-p array
array may be any array. This predicate returns t if array has a leader; otherwise it returns nil.

array-leader-length array
array may be any array. This returns the length of array's leader if it has one, or nil if it does not.

8.4 Changing the Size of an Array

adjust-array-size array new-size
If array is a one-dimensional array, its size is changed to be new-size. If array has more than one dimension, its size (array-length) is changed to new-size by changing only the last dimension.

If array is made smaller, the extra elements are lost; if array is made bigger, the new elements are initialized in the same fashion as make-array (see page 102) would initialize them: either to nil or 0, depending on the type of array.

Example:

\[
\text{(setq a (make-array 5))}
\]
\[
\text{(aset 'foo a 4)}
\]
\[
\text{(aref a 4) => foo}
\]
\[
\text{(adjust-array-size a 2)}
\]
\[
\text{(aref a 4) => an error occurs}
\]
If the size of the array is being increased, adjust-array-size may have to allocate a new array somewhere. In that case, it alters array so that references to it will be made to the new array instead, by means of "invisible pointers" (see structure-forward, page 160). adjust-array-size will return this new array if it creates one, and otherwise it will return array. Be careful to be consistent about using the returned result of adjust-array-size, because you may end up holding two arrays which are not the same (i.e. not eq), but which share the same contents.

array-grow array &rest dimensions
array-grow creates a new array of the same type as array, with the specified dimensions. Those elements of array that are still in bounds are copied into the new array. The elements of the new array that are not in the bounds of array are initialized to nil or 0 as appropriate. If array has a leader, the new array will have a copy of it. array-grow returns the new array and also forwards array to it, like adjust-array-size.

Unlike adjust-array-size, array-grow always creates a new array rather than growing or shrinking the array in place. But array-grow of a multi-dimensional array can change all the subscripts and move the elements around in memory to keep each element at the same logical place in the array.

return-array array
This peculiar function attempts to returns array to free storage. If it is displaced, this returns the displaced array itself, not the data that the array points to. Currently return-array does nothing if the array is not at the end of its region, i.e. if it was not the most recently allocated non-list object in its area. This will eventually be renamed to reclaim, when it works for other objects than arrays.

If you still have any references to array anywhere in the Lisp world after this function returns, the garbage collector can get a fatal error if it sees them. Since the form that calls this function must get the array from somewhere, it may not be clear how to legally call return-array. One of the only ways to do it is as follows:

```
(defun func ()
  (let ((array (make-array 100)))
    ;;
    (return-array (progl array (setq array nil)))))
```

so that the variable array does not refer to the array when return-array is called. You should only call this function if you know what you are doing; otherwise the garbage collector can get fatal errors. Be careful.

8.5 Arrays Overlaid With Lists

These functions manipulate art-q-list arrays, which were introduced on page 98.

g-l-p array
array should be an art-q-list array. This returns a list which shares the storage of array.
Adding to the End of an Array

Example:

```lisp
(setq a (make-array 4 ':type 'art-q-list))
(aref a 0) => nil
(setq b (g-l-p a)) => (nil nil nil nil)
(rplaca b t)
b => (t nil nil nil)
(aref a 0) => t
(aset 30 a 2)
b => (t nil 30 nil)
```

The following two functions work strangely, in the same way that store does, and should not be used in new programs.

**get-list-pointer-into-array array-ref**
The argument `array-ref` is ignored, but should be a reference to an art-q-list array by applying the array to subscripts (rather than by aref). This returns a list object which is a portion of the "list" of the array, beginning with the last element of the last array which has been called as a function.

**get-locative-pointer-into-array array-ref**
`get-locative-pointer-into-array` is similar to `get-list-pointer-into-array`, except that it returns a locative, and doesn't require the array to be art-q-list. Use aloc instead of this function in new programs.

8.6 Adding to the End of an Array

**array-push array x**
array must be a one-dimensional array which has a fill pointer, and x may be any object. `array-push` attempts to store x in the element of the array designated by the fill pointer, and increase the fill pointer by one. If the fill pointer does not designate an element of the array (specifically, when it gets too big), it is unaffected and `array-push` returns nil; otherwise, the two actions (storing and incrementing) happen uninterruptibly, and `array-push` returns the former value of the fill pointer, i.e. the array index in which it stored x. If the array is of type art-q-list, an operation similar to nconce has taken place, in that the element has been added to the list by changing the cdr of the formerly last element. The cdr coding is updated to ensure this.

**array-push-extend array x &optional extension**
`array-push-extend` is just like `array-push` except that if the fill pointer gets too large, the array is grown to fit the new element; i.e. it never "fails" the way `array-push` does, and so never returns nil. `extension` is the number of elements to be added to the array if it needs to be grown. It defaults to something reasonable, based on the size of the array.

**array-pop array**
array must be a one-dimensional array which has a fill pointer. The fill pointer is decreased by one, and the array element designated by the new value of the fill pointer is returned. If the new value does not designate any element of the array (specifically, if it had already reached zero), an error is caused. The two operations (decrementing and array referencing) happen uninterruptibly. If the array is of type art-q-list, an operation similar to nbutlast has taken place. The cdr coding is updated to ensure this.
8.7 Copying an Array

`fillarray array x`

array may be any type of array, or, for Maclisp compatibility, a symbol whose function
cell contains an array. There are two forms of this function, depending on the type of x.

If x is a list, then `fillarray` fills up array with the elements of list. If x is too short to fill
up all of array, then the last element of x is used to fill the remaining elements of array.
If x is too long, the extra elements are ignored. If x is nil (the empty list), array is filled
with the default initial value for its array type (nil or 0).

If x is an array (or, for Maclisp compatibility, a symbol whose function cell contains an
array), then the elements of array are filled up from the elements of x. If x is too small,
then the extra elements of array are not affected.

If array is multi-dimensional, the elements are accessed in row-major order: the last
subscript varies the most quickly. The same is true of x if it is an array.

`fillarray` returns array.

`listarray array &optional limit`

array may be any type of array, or, for Maclisp compatibility, a symbol whose function
cell contains an array. `listarray` creates and returns a list whose elements are those of
array. If limit is present, it should be a fixnum, and only the first limit (if there are
more than that many) elements of array are used, and so the maximum length of the
returned list is limit.

If array is multi-dimensional, the elements are accessed in row-major order: the last
subscript varies the most quickly.

`list-array-leader array &optional limit`

array may be any type of array, or, for Maclisp compatibility, a symbol whose function
cell contains an array. `list-array-leader` creates and returns a list whose elements are
those of array's leader. If limit is present, it should be a fixnum, and only the first limit
(if there are more than that many) elements of array's leader are used, and so the
maximum length of the returned list is limit. If array has no leader, nil is returned.

`copy-array-contents from to`

from and to must be arrays. The contents of from is copied into the contents of to,
element by element. If to is shorter than from, the rest of from is ignored. If from is
shorter than to, the rest of to is filled with nil if it is a q-type array, or 0 if it is a
numeric array or a string, or 0.0 if it is a flonum array. This function always returns t.

Note that even if from or to has a leader, the whole array is used; the convention that
leader element 0 is the "active" length of the array is not used by this function. The
leader itself is not copied.

`copy-array-contents` works on multi-dimensional arrays. from and to are "linearized"
subscripts, and column-major order is used, i.e. the first subscript varies fastest (opposite
from fillarray).
copy-array-contents-and-leader from to
This is just like copy-array-contents, but the leader of from (if any) is also copied into to. copy-array-contents copies only the main part of the array.

copy-array-portion from-array from-start from-end to-array to-start to-end
The portion of the array from-array with indices greater than or equal to from-start and less than from-end is copied into the portion of the array to-array with indices greater than or equal to to-start and less than to-end, element by element. If there are more elements in the selected portion of to-array than in the selected portion of from-array, the extra elements are filled with the default value as by copy-array-contents. If there are more elements in the selected portion of from-array, the extra ones are ignored. Multi-dimensional arrays are treated the same way as copy-array-contents treats them. This function always returns t.

bitblt alu width height from-array from-x from-y to-array to-x to-y
from-array and to-array must be two-dimensional arrays of bits or bytes (art-1b, art-2b, art-4b, art-8b, art-16b, or art-32b). bitblt copies a rectangular portion of from-array into a rectangular portion of to-array. The value stored can be a Boolean function of the new value and the value already there, under the control of alu (see below). This function is most commonly used in connection with raster images for TV displays.

The top-left corner of the source rectangle is (aref from-array from-x from-y). The top-left corner of the destination rectangle is (aref to-array to-x to-y). width and height are the dimensions of both rectangles. If width or height is zero, bitblt does nothing.

from-array and to-array are allowed to be the same array. bitblt normally traverses the arrays in increasing order of x and y subscripts. If width is negative, then (abs width) is used as the width, but the processing of the x direction is done backwards, starting with the highest value of x and working down. If height is negative it is treated analogously. When bitblt’ing an array to itself, when the two rectangles overlap, it may be necessary to work backwards to achieve the desired effect, such as shifting the entire array upwards by a certain number of rows. Note that negativity of width or height does not affect the (x,y) coordinates specified by the arguments, which are still the top-left corner even if bitblt starts at some other corner.

If bitblt goes outside the bounds of the source array, it wraps around. This allows such operations as the replication of a small stipple pattern through a large array. If bitblt goes outside the bounds of the destination array, it signals an error.

If src is an element of the source rectangle, and dst is the corresponding element of the destination rectangle, then bitblt changes the value of dst to (boole alu src dst). See the boole function (page 92). There are symbolic names for some of the most useful alu functions; they are tv:alu-seta (plain copy), tv:alu-ior (inclusive or), tv:alu-xor (exclusive or), and tv:alu-andca (and with complement of source).

bitblt is written in highly-optimized microcode and goes very much faster than the same thing written with ordinary aref and aset operations would. Unfortunately this causes bitblt to have a couple of strange restrictions. Wrap-around does not work correctly if from-array is an indirect array with an index-offset. bitblt will signal an error if the first dimensions of from-array and to-array are not both integral multiples of the machine word length. For art-1b arrays, the first dimension must be a multiple of 32, for art-2b
arrays it must be a multiple of 16., etc.

8.8 Matrices and Systems of Linear Equations

The functions in this section perform some useful matrix operations. The matrices are represented as two-dimensional Lisp arrays. These functions are part of the mathematics package rather than the kernel array system, hence the "math:" in the names.

math:multiply-matrices matrix-1 matrix-2 &optional matrix-3
Multipplies matrix-1 by matrix-2. If matrix-3 is supplied, multiply-matrices stores the results into matrix-3 and returns matrix-3; otherwise it creates an array to contain the answer and returns that. All matrices must be two-dimensional arrays, and the first dimension of matrix-2 must equal the second dimension of matrix-1.

math:invert-matrix matrix &optional into-matrix
Computes the inverse of matrix. If into-matrix is supplied, stores the result into it and returns it; otherwise it creates an array to hold the result, and returns that. matrix must be two-dimensional and square. The Gauss-Jordan algorithm with partial pivoting is used. Note: if you want to solve a set of simultaneous equations, you should not use this function; use math:decompose and math:solve (see below).

math:transpose-matrix matrix &optional into-matrix
Transposes matrix. If into-matrix is supplied, stores the result into it and returns it; otherwise it creates an array to hold the result, and returns that. matrix must be a two-dimensional array. into-matrix, if provided, must be two-dimensional and have sufficient dimensions to hold the transpose of matrix.

math:determinant matrix
Returns the determinant of matrix. matrix must be a two-dimensional square matrix.

The next two functions are used to solve sets of simultaneous linear equations. math:decompose takes a matrix holding the coefficients of the equations and produces the LU decomposition; this decomposition can then be passed to math:solve along with a vector of right-hand sides to get the values of the variables. If you want to solve the same equations for many different sets of right-hand side values, you only need to call math:decompose once. In terms of the argument names used below, these two functions exist to solve the vector equation $A x = b$ for $x$. $A$ is a matrix. $b$ and $x$ are vectors.

math:decompose a &optional lu ps
Computes the LU decomposition of matrix a. If lu is non-nil, stores the result into it and returns it; otherwise it creates an array to hold the result, and returns that. The lower triangle of lu, with ones added along the diagonal, is L, and the upper triangle of lu is U, such that the product of L and U is a. Gaussian elimination with partial pivoting is used. The lu array is permuted by rows according to the permutation array ps, which is also produced by this function; if the argument ps is supplied, the permutation array is stored into it; otherwise, an array is created to hold it. This function returns two values: the LU decomposition and the permutation array.
math:solve lu ps b &optional x
This function takes the LU decomposition and associated permutation array produced by
math:decompose, and solves the set of simultaneous equations defined by the original
matrix a and the right-hand sides in the vector b. If x is supplied, the solutions are
stored into it and it is returned; otherwise, an array is created to hold the solutions and
that is returned. b must be a one-dimensional array.

math:list-2d-array array
Returns a list of lists containing the values in array, which must be a two-dimensional
array. There is one element for each row; each element is a list of the values in that row.

math:fill-2d-array array list
This is the opposite of math:list-2d-array. list should be a list of lists, with each
element being a list corresponding to a row. array’s elements are stored from the list.
Unlike fillarray (see page 109), if list is not long enough, math:fill-2d-array "wraps
around", starting over at the beginning. The lists which are elements of list also work
this way.

8.9 Planes

A plane is an array whose bounds, in each dimension, are plus-infinity and minus-infinity; all
integers are legal as indices. Planes are distinguished not by size and shape, but by number of
dimensions alone. When a plane is created, a default value must be specified. At that moment,
every component of the plane has that value. As you can’t ever change more than a finite
number of components, only a finite region of the plane need actually be stored.

The regular array accessing functions don’t work on planes. You can use make-plane to
create a plane, plane-aref or plane-ref to get the value of a component, and plane-aset or
plane-store to store into a component. array-#-dims will work on a plane.

A plane is actually stored as an array with a leader. The array corresponds to a rectangular,
aligned region of the plane, containing all the components in which a plane-store has been done
(and others, in general, which have never been altered). The lowest-coordinate corner of that
rectangular region is given by the plane-origin in the array leader. The highest coordinate corner
can be found by adding the plane-origin to the array-dimensions of the array. The plane­
default is the contents of all the elements of the plane which are not actually stored in the array.
The plane-extension is the amount to extend a plane by in any direction when the plane needs
to be extended. The default is 32.

If you never use any negative indices, then the plane-origin will be all zeroes and you can
use regular array functions, such as aref and aset, to access the portion of the plane which is
actually stored. This can be useful to speed up certain algorithms. In this case you can even use
the bitblt function on a two-dimensional plane of bits or bytes, provided you don’t change the
plane-extension to a number that is not a multiple of 32.
**make-plane** type rank default &optional (extension32.)

Creates and returns a plane. *type* is the array type symbol (e.g. art-1b). *rank* is the number of dimensions. *default* is the default component value as explained above. *extension* is the amount to extend by as explained above.

**plane-origin** plane

A list of numbers, giving the lowest coordinate values actually stored.

**plane-default** plane

This is the contents of the infinite number of plane elements which are not actually stored.

**plane-extension** plane

The amount to extend the plane by in any direction when plane-store is done outside of the currently-stored portion.

**plane-aref** plane &rest subscripts

**plane-ref** plane subscripts

These two functions return the contents of a specified element of a plane. They differ only in the way they take their arguments; plane-aref wants the subscripts as arguments, while plane-ref wants a list of subscripts.

**plane-aset** datum plane &rest subscripts

**plane-store** datum plane subscripts

These two functions store *datum* into the specified element of a plane, extending it if necessary, and return *datum*. They differ only in the way they take their arguments; plane-aset wants the subscripts as arguments, while plane-store wants a list of subscripts.

### 8.10 Maclisp Array Compatibility

The functions in this section are provided only for Maclisp compatibility, and should not be used in new programs.

Fixnum arrays do not exist (however, see the Lisp Machine's small-positive-integer arrays). Flonum arrays exist but you do not use them in the same way; no declarations are required or allowed. "Un-garbage-collected" arrays do not exist. Readtables and obarrays are represented as arrays, but unlike Maclisp special array types are not used. See the descriptions of read (page 292) and intern (page 351) for information about readtables and obarrays (packages). There are no "dead" arrays, nor are Multics "external" arrays provided.

The arraycall function exists for compatibility but should not be used (see aref, page 103.)

Subscripts are always checked for validity, regardless of the value of *rset and whether the code is compiled or not. However, in a multi-dimensional array, an error is only caused if the subscripts would have resulted in a reference to storage outside of the array. For example, if you have a 2 by 7 array and refer to an element with subscripts 3 and 1, no error will be caused despite the fact that the reference is invalid; but if you refer to element 1 by 100, an error will be caused. In other words, subscript errors will be caught if and only if they refer to storage outside the array; some errors are undetected, but they will only clobber some other element of...
the same array rather than clobbering something completely unpredictable.

Currently, multi-dimensional arrays are stored in column-major order rather than row-major order as in Maclisp. Row-major order means that successive memory locations differ in the last subscript, while column-major order means that successive memory locations differ in the first subscript. This has an effect on paging performance when using large arrays; if you want to reference every element in a multi-dimensional array and move linearly through memory to improve locality of reference, you must vary the first subscript fastest rather than the last.

loadarrays and dumparrays are not provided. However, arrays can be put into "QFASL" files; see section 16.7, page 189.

The *rearray function is not provided, since not all of its functionality is available on the Lisp Machine. The most common uses can be replaced by adjust-array-size.

In Maclisp, arrays are usually kept on the array property of symbols, and the symbols are used instead of the arrays. In order to provide some degree of compatibility for this manner of using arrays, the array, *array, and store functions are provided, and when arrays are applied to arguments, the arguments are treated as subscripts and apply returns the corresponding element of the array.

array &quote symbol type &cval &rest dims
   This creates an art-q type array in default-array-area with the given dimensions. (That is, dims is given to make-array as its first argument.) type is ignored. If symbol is nil, the array is returned; otherwise, the array is put in the function cell of symbol, and symbol is returned.

*array symbol type &rest dims
   This is just like array, except that all of the arguments are evaluated.

store Special Form
   The form (store array-ref x) stores x into the specified array element. array-ref should be a form which references an array by calling it as a function (aref forms are not acceptable). First x is evaluated, then array-ref is evaluated, and then the value of x is stored into the array cell last referenced by a function call, presumably the one in array-ref.

xstore x array-ref
   This is just like store, but it is not a special form; this is because the arguments are in the other order. This function only exists for the compiler to compile the store special form into, and should never be used by programs.

arraycall ignored array &rest subscripts
   (arraycall t array sub1 sub2...) is the same as (aref array sub1 sub2...). It exists for Maclisp compatibility.
9. Strings

Strings are a type of array which represent a sequence of characters. The printed representation of a string is its characters enclosed in quotation marks, for example "foo bar". Strings are constants, that is, evaluating a string returns that string. Strings are the right data type to use for text-processing.

Strings are arrays of type art-string; each element holds an eight-bit unsigned fixnum. This is because characters are represented as fixnums, and for fundamental characters only eight bits are used. The functions described in this section provide a variety of useful operations on strings. Several of the functions actually work on any type of one-dimensional array and may be useful for other than string processing. art-16b arrays (arrays of 16-bit positive numbers) are sometimes used instead of strings; the extra bits allow for multiple fonts or an expanded character set. The way characters work, including multiple fonts and the extra bits from the keyboard, is explained in section 21.1, page 276. Note that you can type in the fixnums that represent characters using "#/'" and "#\"; for example, #f reads in as the fixnum that represents the character "f", and #\return reads in as the fixnum that represents the special "return" character. See page 286 for details of this syntax.

In place of a string, most of these functions will accept a symbol or a fixnum as an argument, and will coerce it into a string. Given a symbol, its print name, which is a string, will be used. Given a fixnum, a one-character string containing the character designated by that fixnum will be used.

Since strings are arrays, the usual array-referencing function aref is used to extract the characters of the string as fixnums. For example,

`(aref "frob" 1) => 162 ;lower-case r`

Note that the character at the beginning of the string is element zero of the array (rather than one); as usual in Lisp Machine Lisp, everything is zero-based.

It is also legal to store into strings (using aset). As with rplaca on lists, this changes the actual object; one must be careful to understand where side-effects will propagate to. When you are making strings that you intend to change later, you probably want to create an array with a fill-pointer (see page 100) so that you can change the length of the string as well as the contents. The length of a string is always computed using array-active-length, so that if a string has a fill-pointer, its value will be used as the length.

9.1 Characters

`character x`

`character` coerces `x` to a single character, represented as a fixnum. If `x` is a number, it is returned. If `x` is a string or an array, its first element is returned. If `x` is a symbol, the first character of its p-name is returned. Otherwise, an error occurs. The way characters are represented as fixnums is explained in section 21.1, page 276.
char-equal $ch1$ $ch2$
This is the primitive for comparing characters for equality; many of the string functions call it. $ch1$ and $ch2$ must be fixnums. The result is t if the characters are equal ignoring case and font, otherwise nil. `%ch-char` is the byte-specifier for the portion of a character which excludes the font information.

char-lessp $ch1$ $ch2$
This is the primitive for comparing characters for order; many of the string functions call it. $ch1$ and $ch2$ must be fixnums. The result is t if $ch1$ comes before $ch2$ ignoring case and font, otherwise nil. Details of the ordering of characters are in section 21.1, page 276.

9.2 Upper and Lower Case Letters

alphabetical-case-affects-string-comparison Variable
This variable is normally nil. If it is t, char-equal, char-lessp, and the string searching and comparison functions will distinguish between upper-case and lower-case letters. It is nil, lower-case characters behave as if they were the same character but in upper-case. It is all right to bind this to t around a string operation, but changing its global value to t will break many system functions and user interfaces and so is not recommended.

char-upcase $ch$
If $ch$, which must be a fixnum, is a lower-case alphabetic character its upper-case form is returned; otherwise, $ch$ itself is returned. If font information is present it is preserved.

char-downcase $ch$
If $ch$, which must be a fixnum, is a upper-case alphabetic character its lower-case form is returned; otherwise, $ch$ itself is returned. If font information is present it is preserved.

string-upcase $string$
Returns a copy of $string$, with all lower case alphabetic characters replaced by the corresponding upper case characters.

string-downcase $string$
Returns a copy of $string$, with all upper case alphabetic characters replaced by the corresponding lower case characters.

9.3 Basic String Operations

string $x$
string coerces $x$ into a string. Most of the string functions apply this to their string arguments. If $x$ is a string (or any array), it is returned. If $x$ is a symbol, its pname is returned. If $x$ is a non-negative fixnum less than 400 octal, a one-character-long string containing it is created and returned. If $x$ is a pathname (see chapter 22, page 332), the "string for printing" is returned. Otherwise, an error is signalled.
**string-length** `string`

string-length returns the number of characters in `string`. This is 1 if `string` is a number, the array-active-length (see page 105) if `string` is an array, or the array-active-length of the pname if `string` is a symbol.

**string-equal** `string1` `string2` &optional `(idx1 0)` `(idx2 0)` `lim1` `lim2`

string-equal compares two strings, returning `t` if they are equal and `nil` if they are not. The comparison ignores the extra "font" bits in 16-bit strings and ignores alphabetic case. `equal` calls `string-equal` if applied to two strings.

The optional arguments `idx1` and `idx2` are the starting indices into the strings. The optional arguments `lim1` and `lim2` are the final indices; the comparison stops just before the final index. `lim1` and `lim2` default to the lengths of the strings. These arguments are provided so that you can efficiently compare substrings.

Examples:

```
(string-equal "Foo" "foo") => t
(string-equal "foo" "bar") => nil
(string-equal "element" "select" 0 1 3 4) => t
```

%!string-equal** `string1` `idx1` `string2` `idx2` `count`

%!string-equal is the microcode primitive which `string-equal` calls. It returns `t` if the `count` characters of `string1` starting at `idx1` are char-equal to the `count` characters of `string2` starting at `idx2`, or `nil` if the characters are not equal or if `count` runs off the length of either array.

Instead of a fixnum, `count` may also be `nil`. In this case, %!string-equal compares the substring from `idx1` to `(string-length string1)` against the substring from `idx2` to `(string-length string2)`. If the lengths of these substrings differ, then they are not equal and `nil` is returned.

Note that `string1` and `string2` must really be strings; the usual coercion of symbols and fixnums to strings is not performed. This function is documented because certain programs which require high efficiency and are willing to pay the price of less generality may want to use %!string-equal in place of `string-equal`.

Examples:

To compare the two strings `foo` and `bar`:

```
(%string-equal foo 0 bar 0 nil)
```

To see if the string `foo` starts with the characters "bar":

```
(%string-equal foo 0 "bar" 0 3)
```

**string-lessp** `string1` `string2`

string-lessp compares two strings using dictionary order (as defined by char-lessp). The result is `t` if `string1` is the lesser, or `nil` if they are equal or `string2` is the lesser.

**substring** `string` &optional `end` `area`

This extracts a substring of `string`, starting at the character specified by `start` and going up to but not including the character specified by `end`. `start` and `end` are 0-origin indices. The length of the returned string is `end` minus `start`. If `end` is not specified it defaults to the length of `string`. The area in which the result is to be consed may be optionally specified.
Example:
(substring "Nebuchadnezzar" 4 8) => "chad"

nsubstring &optional end area
nsubstring is the same as substring except that the substring is not copied; instead an
indirect array (see page 101) is created which shares part of the argument string.
Modifying one string will modify the other.

Note that nsubstring does not necessarily use less storage than substring; an nsubstring
of any length uses at least as much storage as a substring 12 characters long. So you
shouldn't use this just "for efficiency"; it is intended for uses in which it is important to
have a substring which, if modified, will cause the original string to be modified too.

string-append &rest rest strings
Any number of strings are copied and concatenated into a single string. With a single
argument, string-append simply copies it. If the first argument is an array, the result
will be an array of the same type. Thus string-append can be used to copy and
concatenate any type of 1-dimensional array.
Example:
(string-append #/! "foo" #/!) => "!foo!"

string-nconc modified-string &rest rest strings
string-nconc is like string-append except that instead of making a new string containing
the concatenation of its arguments, string-nconc modifies its first argument. modified-
string must have a fill-pointer so that additional characters can be tacked onto it.
Compare this with array-push-extend (page 108). The value of string-nconc is
modified-string or a new, longer copy of it; in the latter case the original copy is
forwarded to the new copy (see adjust-array-size, page 106). Unlike nconc, string-
nconc with more than two arguments modifies only its first argument, not every argument
but the last.

string-trim char-set string
This returns a substring of string, with all characters in char-set stripped off of the
beginning and end. char-set is a set of characters, which can be represented as a list of
characters or a string of characters.
Example:
(string-trim '(#\sp) "Dr. No") => "Dr. No"
(string-trim "ab" "abbafooabb") => "foo"

string-left-trim char-list string
This returns a substring of string, with all characters in char-list stripped off of the
beginning. char-set is a set of characters, which can be represented as a list of characters
or a string of characters.

string-right-trim char-list string
This returns a substring of string, with all characters in char-list stripped off of the end.
char-set is a set of characters, which can be represented as a list of characters or a string
of characters.
string-reverse string
Returns a copy of string with the order of characters reversed. This will reverse a 1-dimensional array of any type.

string-reverse string
Returns string with the order of characters reversed, smashing the original string, rather than creating a new one. If string is a number, it is simply returned without consing up a string. This will reverse a 1-dimensional array of any type.

string-pluralize string
string-pluralize returns a string containing the plural of the word in the argument string. Any added characters go in the same case as the last character of string.
Example:
    (string-pluralize "event") => "events"
    (string-pluralize "Man") => "Men"
    (string-pluralize "Can") => "Cans"
    (string-pluralize "key") => "keys"
    (string-pluralize "TRY") => "TRIES"
For words with multiple plural forms depending on the meaning, string-pluralize cannot always do the right thing.

9.4 String Searching

string-search-char char string &optional (from 0) to
string-search-char searches through string starting at the index from, which defaults to the beginning, and returns the index of the first character which is char-equal to char, or nil if none is found. If the to argument is supplied, it is used in place of (string-length string) to limit the extent of the search.
Example:
    (string-search-char #/a "banana") => 1

%string-search-char char string from to
%string-search-char is the microcode primitive which string-search-char and other functions call. string must be an array and char, from, and to must be fixnums. Except for this lack of type-coercion, and the fact that none of the arguments is optional, %string-search-char is the same as string-search-char. This function is documented for the benefit of those who require the maximum possible efficiency in string searching.

string-search-not-char char string &optional (from 0) to
string-search-not-char searches through string starting at the index from, which defaults to the beginning, and returns the index of the first character which is not char-equal to char, or nil if none is found. If the to argument is supplied, it is used in place of (string-length string) to limit the extent of the search.
Example:
    (string-search-not-char #/b "banana") => 1
**string-search**  
key string &optional (from 0) to
string-search searches for the string key in the string string. The search begins at from, which defaults to the beginning of string. The value returned is the index of the first character of the first instance of key, or nil if none is found. If the to argument is supplied, it is used in place of (string-length string) to limit the extent of the search.
Example:

```lisp
(string-search "an" "banana") => 1
(string-search "an" "banana"  2) => 3
```

**string-search-set**  
char-set string &optional (from 0) to
string-search-set searches through string looking for a character which is in char-set. The search begins at the index from, which defaults to the beginning. It returns the index of the first character which is char-equal to some element of char-set, or nil if none is found. If the to argument is supplied, it is used in place of (string-length string) to limit the extent of the search. char-set is a set of characters, which can be represented as a list of characters or a string of characters.
Example:

```lisp
(string-search-set '#(#/ n #/ o) "banana") => 2
(string-search-set "no" "banana") => 2
```

**string-search-not-set**  
char-set string &optional (from 0) to
string-search-not-set searches through string looking for a character which is not in char-set. The search begins at the index from, which defaults to the beginning. It returns the index of the first character which is not char-equal to any element of char-set, or nil if none is found. If the to argument is supplied, it is used in place of (string-length string) to limit the extent of the search. char-set is a set of characters, which can be represented as a list of characters or a string of characters.
Example:

```lisp
(string-search-not-set '#(#/ a #/ b) "banana") => 2
```

**string-reverse-search-char**  
char string &optional from (to 0)
string-reverse-search-char searches through string in reverse order, starting from the index one less than from, which defaults to the length of string, and returns the index of the first character which is char-equal to char, or nil if none is found. Note that the index returned is from the beginning of the string, although the search starts from the end. If the to argument is supplied, it limits the extent of the search.
Example:

```lisp
(string-reverse-search-char #/n "banana") => 4
```

**string-reverse-search-not-char**  
char string &optional from (to 0)
string-reverse-search-not-char searches through string in reverse order, starting from the index one less than from, which defaults to the length of string, and returns the index of the first character which is not char-equal to char, or nil if none is found. Note that the index returned is from the beginning of the string, although the search starts from the end. If the to argument is supplied, it limits the extent of the search.
Example:

```lisp
(string-reverse-search-not-char #/a "banana") => 4
```
string-reverse-search key string &optional from (to 0)

string-reverse-search searches for the string key in the string string. The search proceeds in reverse order, starting from the index one less than from, which defaults to the length of string, and returns the index of the first (leftmost) character of the first instance found, or nil if none is found. Note that the index returned is from the beginning of the string, although the search starts from the end. The from condition, restated, is that the instance of key found is the rightmost one whose rightmost character is before the from'th character of string. If the to argument is supplied, it limits the extent of the search.

Example:

(string-reverse-search "na" "banana") => 4

string-reverse-search-set char-set string &optional from (to 0)

string-reverse-search-set searches through string in reverse order, starting from the index one less than from, which defaults to the length of string, and returns the index of the first character which is char-equal to some element of char-set, or nil if none is found. Note that the index returned is from the beginning of the string, although the search starts from the end. If the to argument is supplied, it limits the extent of the search. char-set is a set of characters, which can be represented as a list of characters or a string of characters.

(string-reverse-search-set "ab" "banana") => 5

string-reverse-search-not-set char-set string &optional from (to 0)

string-reverse-search-not-set searches through string in reverse order, starting from the index one less than from, which defaults to the length of string, and returns the index of the first character which is not char-equal to any element of char-set, or nil if none is found. Note that the index returned is from the beginning of the string, although the search starts from the end. If the to argument is supplied, it limits the extent of the search. char-set is a set of characters, which can be represented as a list of characters or a string of characters.

(string-reverse-search-not-set '(#/a #/n) "banana") => 0

See also intern (page 351), which given a string will return "the" symbol with that print name.

9.5 I/O to Strings

The special forms in this section allow you to create I/O streams which input from or output to a string rather than a real I/O device. See section 21.5.1, page 297 for documentation of I/O streams.

with-input-from-string Special Form

The form

(with-input-from-string (var string)
 body)

evaluates the forms in body with the variable var bound to a stream which reads characters from the string which is the value of the form string. The value of the special form is the value of the last form in its body.
The stream is a function that only works inside the with-input-from-string special form, so be careful what you do with it. You cannot use it after control leaves the body, and you cannot nest two with-input-from-string special forms and use both streams since the special-variable bindings associated with the streams will conflict. It is done this way to avoid any allocation of memory.

After string you may optionally specify two additional "arguments". The first is index:

```
(with-input-from-string (var string index)
  body)
```

uses index as the starting index into the string, and sets index to the index of the first character not read when with-input-from-string returns. If the whole string is read, it will be set to the length of the string. Since index is updated it may not be a general expression; it must be a variable or a setf-able reference. The index is not updated in the event of an abnormal exit from the body, such as a *throw. The value of index is not updated until with-input-from-string returns, so you can’t use its value within the body to see how far the reading has gotten.

Use of the index feature prevents multiple values from being returned out of the body, currently.

```
(with-input-from-string (var string index limit)
  body)
```

uses the value of the form limit, if the value is not nil, in place of the length of the string. If you want to specify a limit but not an index, write nil for index.

### with-output-to-string Special Form

This special form provides a variety of ways to send output to a string through an I/O stream.

```
(with-output-to-string (var)
  body)
```

evaluates the forms in body with var bound to a stream which saves the characters output to it in a string. The value of the special form is the string.

```
(with-output-to-string (var string)
  body)
```

will append its output to the string which is the value of the form string. (This is like the string-nconc function; see page 118.) The value returned is the value of the last form in the body, rather than the string. Multiple values are not returned. string must have an array-leader; element 0 of the array-leader will be used as the fill-pointer. If string is too small to contain all the output, adjust-array-size will be used to make it bigger.

```
(with-output-to-string (var string index)
  body)
```

is similar to the above except that index is a variable or setf-able reference which contains the index of the next character to be stored into. It must be initialized outside the with-output-to-string and will be updated upon normal exit. The value of index is not updated until with-output-to-string returns, so you can’t use its value within the body to see how far the writing has gotten. The presence of index means that string is not required to have a fill-pointer; if it does have one it will be updated.
The stream is a "downward closure" simulated with special variables, so be careful what you do with it. You cannot use it after control leaves the body, and you cannot nest two with-output-to-string special forms and use both streams since the special-variable bindings associated with the streams will conflict. It is done this way to avoid any allocation of memory.

It is OK to use a with-input-from-string and with-output-to-string nested within one another, so long as there is only one of each.

Another way of doing output to a string is to use the format facility (see page 305).

9.6 Maclisp-Compatible Functions

The following functions are provided primarily for Maclisp compatibility.

alphalessp string1 string2
(alphalesp string1 string2) is equivalent to (string-lessp string1 string2).

getchar string index
Returns the index'th character of string as a symbol. Note that 1-origin indexing is used. This function is mainly for Maclisp compatibility; aref should be used to index into strings (however, aref will not coerce symbols or numbers into strings).

getcharn string index
Returns the index'th character of string as a fixnum. Note that 1-origin indexing is used. This function is mainly for Maclisp compatibility; aref should be used to index into strings (however, aref will not coerce symbols or numbers into strings).

ascii x
ascii is like character, but returns a symbol whose print-name is the character instead of returning a fixnum.
Examples:

(ascii 101) => A
(ascii 56) => /

The symbol returned is interned in the current package (see chapter 23, page 345).

maknam char-list
maknam returns an uninterned symbol whose print-name is a string made up of the characters in char-list.
Example:

(maknam '(a b #/0 d)) => ab0d

implode char-list
implode is like maknam except that the returned symbol is interned in the current package.

The samepnamemap function is also provided; see page 81.
Functions

Functions are the basic building blocks of Lisp programs. This chapter describes the functions in Lisp Machine Lisp that are used to manipulate functions. It also explains how to manipulate special forms and macros.

This chapter contains internal details intended for those writing programs to manipulate programs as well as material suitable for the beginner. Feel free to skip sections that look complicated or uninteresting when reading this for the first time.

10.1 What Is a Function?

There are many different kinds of functions in Lisp Machine Lisp. Here are the printed representations of examples of some of them:

```lisp
foo
(lambda (x) (car (last x)))
(named-lambda foo (x) (car (last x))))
(subst (x) (car (last x)))
#:<dtp-gef-pointer 1424771 append>
#:<dtp-u-entry 270 last>
#:<dtp-closure 1477464>
```

We will examine these and other types of functions in detail later in this chapter. There is one thing they all have in common: a function is a Lisp object that can be applied to arguments. All of the above objects may be applied to some arguments and will return a value. Functions are Lisp objects and so can be manipulated in all the usual ways; you can pass them as arguments, return them as values, and make other Lisp objects refer to them.

10.2 Function Specs

The name of a function does not have to be a symbol. Various kinds of lists describe other places where a function can be found. A Lisp object which describes a place to find a function is called a function spec. ("Spec" is short for "specification"). Here are the printed representations of some typical function specs:

```lisp
(foo
 (:property foo bar)
 (:method tv:graphics-mixin :draw-line)
 (:internal foo 1)
 (:within foo bar)
 (:location #:<dtp-locative 7435216>)
```

Function specs have two purposes: they specify a place to remember a function, and they serve to name functions. The most common kind of function spec is a symbol, which specifies that the function cell of the symbol is the place to remember the function. We will see all the kinds of function spec, and what they mean, shortly. Function specs are not the same thing as functions. You cannot, in general, apply a function spec to arguments. The time to use a function spec is when you want to do something to the function, such as define it, look at its definition, or compile it.
Some kinds of functions remember their own names, and some don't. The "name" remembered by a function can be any kind of function spec, although it is usually a symbol. In the examples of functions in the previous section, the one starting with the symbol named lambda, the one whose printed representation included ctp-ief-pointer, and the ctp-u-entry remembered names (the function specs foo, append, and last respectively). The others didn't remember their names.

To define a function spec means to make that function spec remember a given function. This is done with the fdefine function; you give fdefine a function spec and a function, and fdefine remembers the function in the place specified by the function spec. The function associated with a function spec is called the definition of the function spec. A single function can be the definition of more than one function spec at the same time, or of no function specs.

To define a function means to create a new function, and define a given function spec as that new function. This is what the defun special form does. Several other special forms, such as defmethod (page 258) and defselect (page 134) do this too.

These special forms that define functions usually take a function spec, create a function whose name is that function spec, and then define that function spec to be the newly-created function. Most function definitions are done this way, and so usually if you go to a function spec and see what function is there, the function's name will be the same as the function spec. However, if you define a function named foo with defun, and then define the symbol bar to be this same function, the name of the function is unaffected; both foo and bar are defined to be the same function, and the name of that function is foo, not bar.

A function spec's definition in general consists of a basic definition surrounded by encapsulations. Both the basic definition and the encapsulations are functions, but of recognizably different kinds. What defun creates is a basic definition, and usually that is all there is. Encapsulations are made by function-altering functions such as trace and advise. When the function is called, the entire definition, which includes the tracing and advice, is used. If the function is "redefined" with defun, only the basic definition is changed; the encapsulations are left in place. See the section on encapsulations, section 10.10, page 139.

A function spec is a Lisp object of one of the following types:

a symbol
The function is remembered in the function cell of the symbol. See page 79 for an explanation of function cells and the primitive functions to manipulate them.

(:property symbol property)
The function is remembered on the property list of the symbol; doing (get symbol property) would return the function. Storing functions on property lists is a frequently-used technique for dispatching (that is, deciding at run-time which function to call, on the basis of input data).

(:method flavor-name message)
(:method flavor-name method-type message)
The function is remembered inside internal data structures of the flavor system, and in the flavor-method-symbol of the function. See the chapter on flavors (chapter 20, page 245) for details.

(:location pointer)
The function is stored in the cdr of pointer, which may be a locative or a list. This is
for pointing at an arbitrary place which there is no other way to describe. This form of function spec isn’t useful in defun (and related special forms) because the reader has no printed representation for locative pointers and always creates new lists; these function specs are intended for programs that manipulate functions (see section 10.8, page 135).

(within function-to-affect)

This refers to the meaning of the symbol function-to-affect, but only where it occurs in the text of the definition of within-function. If you define this function spec as anything but the symbol function-to-affect itself, then that symbol is replaced throughout the definition of within-function by a new symbol which is then defined as you specify. See the section on function encapsulation (section 10.10, page 139) for more information.

(internal function-spec number)

Some Lisp functions contain internal functions, created by (function (lambda ...)) forms. These internal functions need names when compiled, but they do not have symbols as names; instead they are named by internal function-specs. function-spec is the containing function. number is a sequence number; the first internal function the compiler comes across in a given function will be numbered 0, the next 1, etc. Internal functions are remembered inside the FEF of their containing function.

(symbol property)

If symbol is not recognized as one of the keywords above, this function spec is the same as (property symbol property). This is provided for compatibility with Maclisp, which allows this syntax in certain places. This form should be avoided since symbol might conflict with some existing or future keyword.

Here is an example of the use of a function spec which is not a symbol:

(defun (:property foo bar-maker) (thing &optional kind)
  (set-the 'bar thing (make-bar 'foo thing kind)))

This puts a function on foo’s bar-maker property. Now you can say

(funcall (get 'foo 'bar-maker) 'baz)

Unlike the other kinds of function spec, a symbol can be used as a function. If you apply a symbol to arguments, the symbol’s function definition is used instead. If the definition of the first symbol is another symbol, the definition of the second symbol is used, and so on, any number of times. But this is an exception; in general, you can’t apply function specs to arguments.

10.3 Simple Function Definitions

defun Special Form

defun is the usual way of defining a function which is part of a program. A defun form looks like:

  (defun name lambda-list
    body...)

name is the function spec you wish to define as a function. The lambda-list is a list of the names to give to the arguments of the function. Actually, it is a little more general than that; it can contain lambda-list keywords such as &optional and &rest. (These keywords are explained in section 3.2, page 18 and other keywords are explained in section 10.7, page 135.)
defun creates a list which looks like

\[(\text{named-lambda } \text{name lambda-list body}...\)]

and puts it in the function cell of \text{name}. \text{name} is now defined as a function and can be called by other forms.

Examples:

\[
\text{(defun addone (x)}
\quad (1+ x))
\]

\[
\text{(defun foo (a &optional (b 5) c &rest e &aux j)}
\quad (setq j (+ (addone a) b))
\quad (cond ((not (null c))
\quad (cons j e))
\quad (t j))\)
\]

\text{addone} is a function which expects a number as an argument, and returns a number one larger. \text{foo} is a complicated function which takes one required argument, two optional arguments, and any number of additional arguments which are given to the function as a list named \text{e}.

A declaration (a list starting with \text{declare}) can appear as the first element of the body. It is equivalent to a \text{local-declare} (see page 184) surrounding the entire \text{defun} form. For example,

\[
\text{(defun foo (x)}
\quad (declare (special x))
\quad (bar)) ; \text{bar uses x free.}
\]

is equivalent to and preferable to

\[
\text{(local-declare ((special x))}
\quad (defun foo (x)}
\quad (bar))\)
\]

(It is preferable because the editor expects the open parenthesis of a top-level function definition to be the first character on a line, which isn't possible in the second form without incorrect indentation.)

A documentation string can also appear as the first element of the body (following the declaration, if there is one). (It shouldn't be the only thing in the body; otherwise it is the value returned by the function and so is not interpreted as documentation. A string as an element of a body other than the last element is only evaluated for side-effect, and since evaluation of strings has no side effects, they aren't useful in this position to do any computation, so they are interpreted as documentation.) This documentation string becomes part of the function's debugging info and can be obtained with the function \text{documentation} (see page 137). The first line of the string should be a complete sentence which makes sense read by itself, since there are two editor commands to get at the documentation, one of which is "brief" and prints only the first line. Example:
Operations the User Can Perform on Functions

(defun my-append (&rest lists)
   "Like append but copies all the lists.  
   This is like the Lisp function append, except that 
   append copies all lists except the last, whereas 
   this function copies all of its arguments 
   including the last one."
   ...
)

defunp Macro

Usually when a function uses prog, the prog form is the entire body of the function: the 
definition of such a function looks like (defun name arglist (prog varlist ...)). Although 
the use of prog is generally discouraged, prog fans may want to use this special form. 
For convenience, the defunp macro can be used to produce such definitions. A defunp 
form such as

   (defunp fctn (args)
      form1
      form2
      ...
      formn)

expands into

   (defun fctn (args)
      (prog ()
         form1
         form2
         ...
         (return formn)))

You can think of defunp as being like defun except that you can return out of the 
middle of the function's body.

For more information on defining functions, and other ways of doing so, see section 10.6, 
page 132.

10.4 Operations the User Can Perform on Functions

Here is a list of the various things a user (as opposed to a program) is likely to want to do to 
a function. In all cases, you specify a function spec to say where to find the function.

To print out the definition of the function spec with indentation to make it legible, use 
grinddef (see page 318). This works only for interpreted functions. If the definition is a compiled 
function, it can't be printed out as Lisp code, but its compiled code can be printed by the 
disassemble function (see page 448).

To find out about how to call the function, you can ask to see its documentation, or its 
argument names. (The argument names are usually chosen to have mnemonic significance for the 
caller). Use arglist (page 137) to see the argument names and documentation (page 137) to see 
the documentation string. There are also editor commands for doing these things: the 
CTRL/SHIFT/D and META/SHIFT/D commands are for looking at a function's documentation, 
and CTRL/SHIFT/A is for looking at an argument list. CTRL/SHIFT/A does not ask for the 
function name; it acts on the function which is called by the innermost expression which the
cursor is inside. Usually this is the function which will be called by the form you are in the process of writing.

You can see the function's debugging info alist by means of the function debugging-info (see page 137).

When you are debugging, you can use trace (see page 404) to obtain a printout or a break loop whenever the function is called. You can customize the definition of the function, either temporarily or permanently, using advise (see page 408).

10.5 Kinds of Functions

There are many kinds of functions in Lisp Machine Lisp. This section briefly describes each kind of function. Note that a function is also a piece of data and can be passed as an argument, returned, put in a list, and so forth.

Before we start classifying the functions, we'll first discuss something about how the evaluator works. As we said in the basic description of evaluation on page 12, when the evaluator is given a list whose first element is a symbol, the form may be a function form, a special form, or a macro form. If the definition of the symbol is a function, then the function is just applied to the result of evaluating the rest of the subforms. If the definition is a cons whose car is macro, then it is a macro form; these are explained in chapter 17, page 191. What about special forms?

Conceptually, the evaluator knows specially about all special forms (that's why they're called that). However, the Lisp Machine Lisp implementation actually uses the definition of symbols that name special forms as places to hold pieces of the evaluator. The definitions of such symbols as prog, do, and, or actually hold Lisp objects, which we will call special functions. Each of these functions is the part of the Lisp interpreter that knows how to deal with that special form. Normally you don't have to know about this; it's just part of the hidden internals of how the evaluator works. However, if you try to add encapsulations to and or something like that, knowing this will help you understand the behavior you will get.

Special functions are written like regular functions except that the keywords &quote and &eval (see section 10.7, page 135) are used to make some of the arguments be "quoted" arguments. The evaluator looks at the pattern in which arguments to the special function are "quoted" or not, and it calls the special function in a special way: for each regular argument, it passes the result of evaluating the corresponding subform, but for each "quoted" argument, it passes the subform itself without evaluating it first. For example, cond works by having a special function that takes a "quoted" &rest argument; when this function is called it is passed a list of cond clauses as its argument.

If you apply or funcall a special function yourself, you have to understand what the special form is going to do with its arguments; it is likely to call eval on parts of them. This is different from applying a regular function, which is passed argument values rather than Lisp expressions.

Defining your own special form, by using &quote yourself, can be done; it is a way to extend the Lisp language. Macros are another way of extending the Lisp language. It is preferable to implement language extensions as macros rather than special forms, because macros directly define a Lisp-to-Lisp translation and therefore can be understood by both the interpreter and the compiler. Special forms, on the other hand, only extend the interpreter. The compiler
Kinds of Functions

has to be modified in an ad hoc way to understand each new special form so that code using it can be compiled. Many of the functions documented as special forms in this manual are actually macros, for this reason. Since all real programs are eventually compiled, writing your own special functions is strongly discouraged.

There are four kinds of functions, classified by how they work.

First, there are interpreted functions: you define them with defun, they are represented as list structure, and they are interpreted by the Lisp evaluator.

Secondly, there are compiled functions: they are defined by compile or by loading a qfasl file, they are represented by a special Lisp data type, and they are executed directly by the microcode. Similar to compiled functions are microcode functions, which are written in microcode (either by hand or by the micro-compiler) and executed directly by the hardware.

Thirdly, there are various types of Lisp object which can be applied to arguments, but when they are applied they dig up another function somewhere and apply it instead. These include dtp-select-method, closures, instances, and entities.

Finally, there are various types of Lisp object which, when used as functions, do something special related to the specific data type. These include arrays and stack-groups.

10.5.1 Interpreted Functions

An interpreted function is a piece of list structure which represents a program according to the rules of the Lisp interpreter. Unlike other kinds of functions, an interpreted function can be printed out and read back in (it has a printed representation that the reader understands), can be pretty-printed (see page 318), and can be opened up and examined with the usual functions for list-structure manipulation.

There are three kinds of interpreted functions: lambdas, named-lambdas, and subsbs. A lambda function is the simplest kind. It is a list that looks like this:

\[
\text{lambda}\ \text{lambda-list}\ \text{forms}\ \ldots
\]

The symbol lambda identifies this list as a lambda function. lambda-list is a description of what arguments the function takes; see section 3.2, page 18 for details. The forms make up the body of the function. When the function is called, the argument variables are bound to the values of the arguments as described by lambda-list, and then the forms in the body are evaluated, one by one. The value of the function is the value of its last form.

A named-lambda is like a lambda but contains an extra element in which the system remembers the function's name, documentation, and other information. Having the function's name there allows the error handler and other tools to give the user more information. This is the kind of function that defun creates. A named-lambda function looks like this:

\[
\text{named-lambda}\ \text{name}\ \text{lambda-list}\ \text{body}\ \text{forms}\ \ldots
\]

If the name slot contains a symbol, it is the function's name. Otherwise it is a list whose car is the name and whose cdr is the function's debugging information alist. See debugging-info, page 137.
A subst is just like a lambda as far as the interpreter is concerned. It is a list that looks like this:

```
(subst lambda-list form1 form2...)
```

The difference between a subst and a lambda is the way they are handled by the compiler. A call to a normal function is compiled as a closed subroutine; the compiler generates code to compute the values of the arguments and then apply the function to those values. A call to a subst is compiled as an open subroutine: the compiler incorporates the body forms of the subst into the function being compiled, substituting the argument forms for references to the variables in the subst's lambda-list. This is a simple-minded but useful facility for open or in-line coded functions. It is simple-minded because the argument forms can be evaluated multiple times or out of order, and so the semantics of a subst may not be the same in the interpreter and the compiler. substs are described more fully on page 197, with the explanation of defsubst.

### 10.5.2 Compiled Functions

There are two kinds of compiled functions: macrocoded functions and microcoded functions. The Lisp compiler converts lambda and named-lambda functions into macrocoded functions. A macrocoded function's printed representation looks like:

```
#<dtp-fef-pointer 1424771 append>
```

This type of Lisp object is also called a "Function Entry Frame", or "FEF" for short. Like "car" and "cdr", the name is historical in origin and doesn't really mean anything. The object contains Lisp Machine machine code that does the computation expressed by the function; it also contains a description of the arguments accepted, any constants required, the name, documentation, and other things. Unlike MacLisp "subr-objects", macrocoded functions are full-fledged objects and can be passed as arguments, stored in data structure, and applied to arguments.

The printed representation of a microcoded function looks like:

```
#<dtp-u-entry 270 last>
```

Most microcompiled functions are basic Lisp primitives or subprimitives written in Lisp Machine microcode. You can also convert your own macrocode functions into microcode functions in some circumstances, using the micro-compiler.

### 10.5.3 Other Kinds of Functions

A closure is a kind of function which contains another function and a set of special variable bindings. When the closure is applied, it puts the bindings into effect and then applies the other function. When that returns, the closure bindings are removed. Closures are made with the function closure. See chapter 11, page 144 for more information. Entities are slightly different from closures; see section 11.4, page 148.

A select-method (dtp-select-method) is an a-list of symbols and functions. When one is called the first argument is looked up in the a-list to find the particular function to be called. This function is applied to the rest of the arguments. The a-list may have a list of symbols in place of a symbol, in which case the associated function is called if the first argument is any of the symbols on the list. If cdr of last of the a-list is not nil, it is a default handler function, which gets called if the message key is not found in the a-list. Select-methods can be created with the defselect special form (see page 134).
An instance is a message-receiving object which has some state and a table of message-
handling functions (called *methods*). Refer to the chapter on flavors (chapter 20, page 245) for
further information.

An array can be used as a function. The arguments to the array are the indices and the value
is the contents of the element of the array. This works this way for Maclisp compatibility and is
not recommended usage. Use `aref` (page 103) instead.

A stack group can be called as a function. This is one way to pass control to another stack
group. See chapter 12, page 149.

### 10.6 Function-Defining Special Forms

`defun` is a special form which is put in a program to define a function. `defsubst` and `macro`
are others. This section explains how these special forms work, how they relate to the different
kinds of functions, and how they interface to the rest of the function-manipulation system.

Function-defining special forms typically take as arguments a function spec and a description
of the function to be made, usually in the form of a list of argument names and some forms
which constitute the body of the function. They construct a function, give it the function spec as
its name, and define the function spec to be the new function. Different special forms make
different kinds of functions. `defun` makes a named-lambda function, and `defsubst` makes a
subset function. `macro` makes a macro; though the macro definition is not really a function, it is
like a function as far as definition handling is concerned.

These special forms are used in writing programs because the function names and bodies are
constants. Programs that define functions usually want to compute the functions and their names,
so they use `define`. See page 135.

All of these function-defining special forms alter only the basic definition of the function spec.
Encapsulations are preserved. See section 10.10, page 139.

The special forms only create interpreted functions. There is no special way of defining a
compiled function. Compiled functions are made by compiling interpreted ones. The same special
form which defines the interpreted function, when processed by the compiler, yields the compiled
function. See chapter 16, page 181 for details.

Note that the editor understands these and other "defining" special forms (e.g. `defmethod`,
`defvar`, `defmacro`, `defstruct`, etc.) to some extent, so that when you ask for the definition of
something, the editor can find it in its source file and show it to you. The general convention is
that anything which is used at top level (not inside a function) and starts with `def` should be
a special form for defining things and should be understood by the editor. `defprop` is an exception.

The `defun` special form (and the `defunp` macro which expands into a `defun`) are used for
creating ordinary interpreted functions (see page 126).

For Maclisp compatibility, a *type* symbol may be inserted between *name* and *lambda-list* in
the `defun` form. The following types are understood:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expr</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><code>expr</code></td>
<td>The same as no type.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
lisp machine manual 133 function-defining special forms

fexpr &quote and &rest are prefixed to the lambda list.

macro A macro is defined instead of a normal function.

If lambda-list is a non-nil symbol instead of a list, the function is recognized as a Maclisp leexpr and it is converted in such a way that the arg, setarg, and listify functions can be used to access its arguments (see page 26).

The defsubst special form is used to create subst functions. It is used just like defun but produces a list starting with subst instead of one starting with named-lambda. The subst function acts just like the corresponding named-lambda function when applied, but it can also be open-coded by the compiler. See page 197 for full information.

The macro special form is the primitive means of creating a macro. It gives a function spec a definition which is a macro definition rather than a actual function. A macro is not a function because it cannot be applied, but it can appear as the car of a form to be evaluated. See chapter 17, page 191.

The defselect special form defines a select-method function. See page 134.

Unlike the above special forms, the next two (deff and def) do not create new functions. They simply serve as hints to the editor that a function is being stored into a function spec here, and therefore if someone asks for the source code of the definition of that function spec, this is the place to look for it.

def Special Form
If a function is created in some strange way, wrapping a def special form around the code that creates it informs the editor of the connection. The form
\[
\text{(def function-spec form1 form2 ...})
\]
simply evaluates the forms form1, form2, etc. It is assumed that these forms will create or obtain a function somehow, and make it the definition of function-spec.

Alternatively, you could put (def function-spec) in front of or anywhere near the forms which define the function. The editor only uses it to tell which line to put the cursor on.

deff Special Form
deff is a simplified version of def. The form
\[
\text{(deff function-spec definition-creator)}
\]
evaluates the form definition-creator, which should produce a function, and makes that function the definition of function-spec, which is not evaluated. deff is used for giving a function spec a definition which is not obtainable with the specific defining forms such as defun and macro. For example,
\[
\text{(deff foo 'bar)}
\]
will make foo equivalent to bar, with an indirection so that if bar changes foo will likewise change;
\[
\text{(deff foo (function bar))}
\]
copies the definition of bar into foo with no indirection, so that further changes to bar will have no effect on foo.
@define Macro
This macro turns into nil, doing nothing. It exists for the sake of the @ listing
generation program, which uses it to declare names of special forms which define objects
(such as functions) that @ should cross-reference.

defun-compatibility x
This function is used by defun and the compiler to convert Maclisp-style lexpr, fexpr,
and macro defuns to Lisp Machine definitions. x should be the cdr of a (defun ...) form.
defun-compatibility will return a corresponding (defun ...) or (macro ...) form, in the
usual Lisp Machine format. You shouldn’t ever need to call this yourself.

defselect Special Form

defselect defines a function which is a select-method. This function contains a table of
subfunctions; when it is called, the first argument, a keyword symbol, is looked up in
the table to determine which subfunction to call. Each subfunction can take a different
number of arguments, and have a different pattern of &optional and &rest arguments.
defselect is useful for a variety of "dispatching" jobs. By analogy with the more general
message passing facilities described in chapter 20, page 245, the subfunctions are
sometimes called methods and the first argument is sometimes called a message.

The special form looks like
(defselect (function-spec default-handler no-which-operations)
  (keyword (args...)
           body...)
  (keyword (args...)
           body...)
  ...
)

function-spec is the name of the function to be defined. default-handler is optional; it
must be a symbol and is a function which gets called if the select-method is called with
an unknown message. If default-handler is unsupplied or nil, then an error occurs if an
unknown message is sent. If no-which-operations is non-nil, the :which-operations
method which would normally be supplied automatically is suppressed. The :which­
operations method takes no arguments and returns a list of all the message keywords in
the defselect.

If function-spec is a symbol, and default-handler and no-which-operations are not supplied,
then the first subform of the defselect may be just function-spec by itself, not enclosed in
a list.

The remaining subforms in a defselect define methods. keyword is the message keyword,
or a list of several keywords if several messages are to be handled by the same
subfunction. args is a lambda-list; it should not include the first argument, which is the
message keyword. body is the body of the function.

A method subform can instead look like:
  (keyword . symbol)
In this case, symbol is the name of a function which is to be called when the keyword
message is received. It will be called with the same arguments as the select-method,
including the message symbol itself.
10.7 Lambda-List Keywords

This section documents all the keywords that may appear in the "lambda-list" (argument list) (see section 3.2, page 18) of a function, a macro, or a special form. Some of them are allowed everywhere, while others are only allowed in one of these contexts; those are so indicated.

**lambda-list-keywords** **Variable**

The value of this variable is a list of all of the allowed "&" keywords. Some of these are obsolete and don't do anything; the remaining ones are listed below.

- **&optional** Separates the required arguments of a function from the optional arguments. See section 3.2, page 18.
- **&rest** Separates the required and optional arguments of a function from the rest argument. There may be only one rest argument. See page 19 for full information about rest arguments. See section 3.2, page 18.
- **&aux** Separates the arguments of a function from the auxiliary variables. Following &aux you can put entries of the form
  (variable initial-value-form)
  or just variable if you want it initialized to nil or don't care what the initial value is.

- **&special** Declares the following arguments and/or auxiliary variables to be special within the scope of this function.
- **&local** Turns off a preceding &special for the variables which follow.
- **&functional** Preceding an argument, tells the compiler that the value of this argument will be a function. When a caller of this function is compiled, if it passes a quoted constant argument which looks like a function (a list beginning with the symbol lambda) the compiler will know that it is intended to be a function rather than a list that happens to start with that symbol, and will compile it.
- **&quote** Declares that the following arguments are not to be evaluated. This is how you create a special function. See the caveats about special forms, on page 129.
- **&eval** Turns off a preceding &quote for the arguments which follow.
- **&list-of** This is for macros defined by defmacro only. Refer to page 199.
- **&body** This is for macros defined by defmacro only. It is similar to &rest, but declares to grindef and the code-formatting module of the editor that the body forms of a special form follow and should be indented accordingly. Refer to page 199.

10.8 How Programs Manipulate Definitions

**fdefine** *function-spec definition &optional (carefully nil) (no-query nil)*

This is the primitive which defun and everything else in the system uses to change the definition of a function spec. If carefully is non-nil, which it usually should be, then only the basic definition is changed, the previous basic definition is saved if possible (see undefun, page 137), and any encapsulations of the function such as tracing and advice are carried over from the old definition to the new definition. carefully also causes the user to be queried if the function spec is being redefined by a file different from the one that defined it originally, or if function-spec belongs to a package other than the current
one. However, these warnings are suppressed if either argument *no-query* is non-nil, or if the global variable inhibit-fdefine-warnings is non-nil.

If fdefine is called while a file is being loaded, it records what file the function definition came from so that the editor can find the source code.

If function-spec is a symbol, and it was already defined as a function, and *carefully* is non-nil, the symbol's :previous-definition property is used to save the previous definition. If the previous definition is an interpreted function, it is also saved on the :previous-expr-definition property. These properties are used by the undefun function (page 137), which restores the previous definition, and the uncompile function (page 181), which restores the previous interpreted definition. These things are also done for :method function specs, using the property list of the flavor-method-symbol (see page 259).

defun and the other function-defining special forms all supply *carefully* and nil or nothing for *no-query*. Operations which construct encapsulations, such as trace, are the only ones which use nil for *carefully*.

**inhibit-fdefine-warnings** Variable

This variable is normally nil. Setting it non-nil prevents fdefine from asking about questionable function definitions such as a function being redefined by a different file than defined it originally, or a symbol that belongs to one package being defined by a file that belongs to a different package.

**sys:fdefine-file-pathname** Variable

While loading a file, this is the generic-pathname for the file. The rest of the time it is nil. fdefine uses this to remember what file defines each function.

**fset-carefully** symbol definition &optional force-flag

This function is obsolete. It is equivalent to

```
(fdefine symbol definition t force-flag)
```

**fdefinitionp** function-spec

This returns t if function-spec has a definition, or nil if it does not.

**fdefinition** function-spec

This returns function-spec's definition. If it has none, an error occurs.

**si:fdefinition-location** function-spec

This returns a locative pointing at the cell which contains function-spec's definition. For some kinds of function specs, though not for symbols, this can cause data structure to be created to hold a definition. For example, if function-spec is of the :property kind, then an entry may have to be added to the property list if it isn't already there. In practice, you should write (loct (fdefinition function-spec)) instead of calling this function explicitly.

**si:fdefinition-symbol-or-location** function-spec

This attempts to return a symbol which is equivalent as a function spec to the one supplied. The symbol is not created specially so that si:fdefinition-symbol-or-location can return it. Rather, some kinds of function specs are implemented in such a way that a symbol is already part of the data structure and used to hold the function. si:fdefinition-symbol-or-location is the way to get that symbol. Supplying that symbol as a function
spec is equivalent to supplying \texttt{function-spec}; in addition, the previous definitions of \texttt{function-spec} are stored as properties on that symbol.

For those types of function specs which do not use a symbol's function cell to point to the definition, \texttt{si:definition-symbol-or-location} returns a locative to the cell which is used. Don't do get or putprop on this!

\textbf{undefun} \texttt{function-spec}

If \texttt{function-spec} has a saved previous basic definition, this interchanges the current and previous basic definitions, leaving the encapsulations alone. This undoes the effect of a defun, compile, etc. See also uncompile (page 181).

\section*{10.9 How Programs Examine Functions}

These functions take a function as argument and return information about that function. Some also accept a function spec and operate on its definition. The others do not accept function specs in general but do accept a symbol as standing for its definition. (Note that a symbol is a function as well as a function spec).

\textbf{documentation} \texttt{function}

Given a function or a function spec, this finds its documentation string, which is stored in various different places depending on the kind of function. If there is no documentation, nil is returned.

\textbf{debugging-info} \texttt{function}

This returns the debugging info alist of \texttt{function}, or nil if it has none.

\textbf{arglist} \texttt{function} \&optional \texttt{real-flag}

\texttt{arglist} is given a function or a function spec, and returns its best guess at the nature of the function's lambda-list. It can also return a second value which is a list of descriptive names for the values returned by the function.

If \texttt{function} is a symbol, \texttt{arglist} of its function definition is used.

If the \texttt{function} is an actual lambda-expression, its cadr, the lambda-list, is returned. But if \texttt{function} is compiled, \texttt{arglist} attempts to reconstruct the lambda-list of the original definition, using whatever debugging information was saved by the compiler. Sometimes the actual names of the bound variables are not available, and \texttt{arglist} uses the symbol \texttt{si:*unknown*} for these. Also, sometimes the initialization of an optional parameter is too complicated for \texttt{arglist} to reconstruct; for these it returns the symbol \texttt{si:*hairy*}.

Some functions' real argument lists are not what would be most descriptive to a user. A function may take a \texttt{&rest} argument for technical reasons even though there are standard meanings for the first element of that argument. For such cases, the definition of the function can specify, with a local declaration, a value to be returned when the user asks about the argument list. Example:

\begin{verbatim}
(defun foo (&rest rest-arg)
  (declare (arglist x y &rest z))
  .....)
\end{verbatim}

\texttt{real-flag} allows the caller of \texttt{arglist} to say that the real argument list should be used even
if a declared argument list exists. Note that while normally declares are only for the compiler's benefit, this kind of declare affects all functions, including interpreted functions.

arglist cannot be relied upon to return the exactly correct answer, since some of the information may have been lost. Programs interested in how many and what kind of arguments there are should use args-info instead. In general arglist is to be used for documentation purposes, not for reconstructing the original source code of the function.

When a function returns multiple values, it is useful to give the values names so that the caller can be reminded which value is which. By means of a return-list declaration in the function's definition, entirely analogous to the arglist declaration above, you can specify a list of mnemonic names for the returned values. This list will be returned by arglist as the second value.

(arglist 'arglist)
=> (function &optional real-flag) and (arglist return-list)

args-info function
args-info returns a fixnum called the "numeric argument descriptor" of the function, which describes the way the function takes arguments. This descriptor is used internally by the microcode, the evaluator, and the compiler. function can be a function or a function spec.

The information is stored in various bits and byte fields in the fixnum, which are referenced by the symbolic names shown below. By the usual Lisp Machine convention, those starting with a single "%" are bit-masks (meant to be logand'ed or bit-test'ed with the number), and those starting with "%%%" are byte descriptors (meant to be used with ldb or ldb-test).

Here are the fields:

%%%arg-desc-min-args
This is the minimum number of arguments which may be passed to this function, i.e. the number of "required" parameters.

%%%arg-desc-max-args
This is the maximum number of arguments which may be passed to this function, i.e. the sum of the number of "required" parameters and the number of "optional" parameters. If there is a rest argument, this is not really the maximum number of arguments which may be passed; an arbitrarily-large number of arguments is permitted, subject to limitations on the maximum size of a stack frame (about 200 words).

%arg-desc-evaled-rest
If this bit is set, the function has a "rest" argument, and it is not "quoted".

%arg-desc-quoted-rest
If this bit is set, the function has a "rest" argument, and it is "quoted". Most special forms have this bit.

%arg-desc-fef-quote-hair
If this bit is set, there are some quoted arguments other than the "rest" argument (if any), and the pattern of quoting is too complicated to describe here. The
ADL (Argument Description List) in the FEF should be consulted. This is only for special forms.

%arg-desc-interpreted
This function is not a compiled-code object, and a numeric argument descriptor cannot be computed. Usually args-info will not return this bit, although %args-info will.

%arg-desc-fef-bind-hair
There is argument initialization, or something else too complicated to describe here. The ADL (Argument Description List) in the FEF should be consulted.

Note that %arg-desc-quoted-rest and %arg-desc-evaluated-rest cannot both be set.

%args-info function
This is an internal function: it is like args-info but does not work for interpreted functions. Also, function must be a function, not a function spec. It exists because it has to be in the microcode anyway, for apply and the basic function-calling mechanism.

10.10 Encapsulations

The definition of a function spec actually has two parts: the basic definition, and encapsulations. The basic definition is what functions like defun create, and encapsulations are additions made by trace or advise to the basic definition. The purpose of making the encapsulation a separate object is to keep track of what was made by defun and what was made by trace. If defun is done a second time, it replaces the old basic definition with a new one while leaving the encapsulations alone.

Only advanced users should ever need to use encapsulations directly via the primitives explained in this section. The most common things to do with encapsulations are provided as higher-level, easier-to-use features: trace (see page 404) and advise (see page 468).

The way the basic definition and the encapsulations are defined is that the actual definition of the function spec is the outermost encapsulation; this contains the next encapsulation, and so on. The innermost encapsulation contains the basic definition. The way this containing is done is as follows. An encapsulation is actually a function whose debugging info alist contains an element of the form

(s:encapsulated-definition uninterned-symbol encapsulation-type)

The presence of such an element in the debugging info alist is how you recognize a function to be an encapsulation. An encapsulation is usually an interpreted function (a list starting with named-lambda) but it can be a compiled function also, if the application which created it wants to compile it.

uninterned-symbol's function definition is the thing that the encapsulation contains, usually the basic definition of the function spec. Or it can be another encapsulation, which has in it another debugging info item containing another uninterned symbol. Eventually you get to a function which is not an encapsulation; it does not have the sort of debugging info item which encapsulations all have. That function is the basic definition of the function spec.
Literally speaking, the definition of the function spec is the outermost encapsulation, period. The basic definition is not the definition. If you are asking for the definition of the function spec because you want to apply it, the outermost encapsulation is exactly what you want. But the basic definition can be found mechanically from the definition, by following the debugging info alists. So it makes sense to think of it as a part of the definition. In regard to the function-defining special forms such as defun, it is convenient to think of the encapsulations as connecting between the function spec and its basic definition.

An encapsulation is created with the macro `si:encapsulate`.

**si:encapsulate Macro**

A call to `si:encapsulate` looks like

```
(si:encapsulate function-spec outer-function type
  body-form
  extra-debugging-info)
```

All the subforms of this macro are evaluated. In fact, the macro could almost be replaced with an ordinary function, except for the way `body-form` is handled.

`function-spec` evaluates to the function spec whose definition the new encapsulation should become. `outer-function` is another function spec, which should often be the same one. Its only purpose is to be used in any error messages from `si:encapsulate`.

`type` evaluates to a symbol which identifies the purpose of the encapsulation; it says what the application is. For example, it could be advise or trace. The list of possible types is defined by the system because encapsulations are supposed to be kept in an order according to their type (see `si:encapsulation-standard-order`, page 141). `type` should have an `si:encapsulation-grind-function` property which tells `grind` what to do with an encapsulation of this type.

`body-form` is a form which evaluates to the body of the encapsulation-definition, the code to be executed when it is called. Backquote is typically used for this expression; see section 17.2.2, page 194. `si:encapsulate` is a macro because, while `body` is being evaluated, the variable `si:encapsulated-function` is bound to a list of the form `(function uninterned-symbol)`, referring to the uninterned symbol used to hold the prior definition of `function-spec`. If `si:encapsulate` were a function, `body-form` would just get evaluated normally by the evaluator before `si:encapsulate` ever got invoked, and so there would be no opportunity to bind `si:encapsulated-function`. The form `body-form` should contain `(apply si:encapsulated-function arglist)` somewhere if the encapsulation is to live up to its name and truly serve to encapsulate the original definition. (The variable `arglist` is bound by some of the code which the `si:encapsulate` macro produces automatically. When the body of the encapsulation is run `arglist`'s value will be the list of the arguments which the encapsulation received.)

`extra-debugging-info` evaluates to a list of extra items to put into the debugging info alist of the encapsulation function (besides the one starting with `si:encapsulated-definition` which every encapsulation must have). Some applications find this useful for recording information about the encapsulation for their own later use.

When a special function is encapsulated, the encapsulation is itself a special function with the same argument quoting pattern. (Not all quoting patterns can be handled; if a particular special form's quoting pattern cannot be handled, `si:encapsulate` signals an
error.) Therefore, when the outermost encapsulation is started, each argument has been evaluated or not as appropriate. Because each encapsulation calls the prior definition with `apply`, no further evaluation takes place, and the basic definition of the special form also finds the arguments evaluated or not as appropriate. The basic definition may call `eval` on some of these arguments or parts of them; the encapsulations should not.

Macros cannot be encapsulated, but their expander functions can be: if the definition of `function-spec` is a macro, then `si:encapsulate` automatically encapsulates the expander function instead. In this case, the definition of the unintered symbol is the original macro definition, not just the original expander function. It would not work for the encapsulation to apply the macro definition. So during the evaluation of `body-form`, `si:encapsulated-function` is bound to the form `(cdr (function uninterned-symbol))`, which extracts the expander function from the prior definition of the macro.

Because only the expander function is actually encapsulated, the encapsulation does not see the evaluation or compilation of the expansion itself. The value returned by the encapsulation is the expansion of the macro call, not the value computed by the expansion.

It is possible for one function to have multiple encapsulations, created by different subsystems. In this case, the order of encapsulations is independent of the order in which they were made. It depends instead on their types. All possible encapsulation types have a total order and a new encapsulation is put in the right place among the existing encapsulations according to its type and their types.

**si:encapsulation-standard-order** Variable
The value of this variable is a list of the allowed encapsulation types, in the order that the encapsulations are supposed to be kept in (innermost encapsulations first). If you want to add new kinds of encapsulations, you should add another symbol to this list. Initially its value is:

```
(advise trace si:rename-within)
```

advise encapsulations are used to hold advice (see page 408). trace encapsulations are used for implementing tracing (see page 404). si:rename-within encapsulations are used to record the fact that function specs of the form `(within within-function altered-function)` have been defined. The encapsulation goes on `within-function` (see section 10.10.1, page 143 for more information).

Every symbol used as an encapsulation type must be on the list `si:encapsulation-standard-order`. In addition, it should have an `si:encapsulation-grind-function` property whose value is a function that `grinddef` will call to process encapsulations of that type. This function need not take care of printing the encapsulated function because `grinddef` will do that itself. But it should print any information about the encapsulation itself which the user ought to see. Refer to the code for the grind function for `advise` to see how to write one.

To find the right place in the ordering to insert a new encapsulation, it is necessary to parse existing ones. This is done with the function `si:unencapsulate-function-spec`.
si:unencapsulate-function-spec function-spec &optional encapsulation-types

This takes one function spec and returns another. If the original function spec is undefined, or has only a basic definition (that is, its definition is not an encapsulation), then the original function spec is returned unchanged.

If the definition of function-spec is an encapsulation, then its debugging info is examined to find the uninterned symbol which holds the encapsulated definition, and also the encapsulation type. If the encapsulation is of a type which is to be skipped over, the uninterned symbol replaces the original function spec and the process repeats.

The value returned is the uninterned symbol from inside the last encapsulation skipped. This uninterned symbol is the first one which does not have a definition which is not an encapsulation that should be skipped. Or the value can be function-spec if function-spec's definition is not an encapsulation which should be skipped.

The types of encapsulations to be skipped over are specified by encapsulation-types. This can be a list of the types to be skipped, or nil meaning skip all encapsulations (this is the default). Skipping all encapsulations means returning the uninterned symbol which holds the basic definition of function-spec. That is, the definition of the function spec returned is the basic definition of the function spec supplied. Thus,

(fdefinition (si:unencapsulate-function-spec 'foo))

returns the basic definition of foo, and

(fdefine (si:unencapsulate-function-spec 'foo) 'bar)

sets the basic definition (just like using fdefine with carefully supplied as t).

encapsulation-types can also be a symbol, which should be an encapsulation type; then we skip all types which are supposed to come outside of the specified type. For example, if encapsulation-types is trace, then we skip all types of encapsulations that come outside of trace encapsulations, but we do not skip trace encapsulations themselves. The result is a function spec which is where the trace encapsulation ought to be, if there is one. Either the definition of this function spec is a trace encapsulation, or there is no trace encapsulation anywhere in the definition of function-spec, and this function spec is where it would belong if there were one. For example,

(let ((tem (si:unencapsulate-function-spec spec 'trace)))
  (and (eq tem (si:unencapsulate-function-spec tem '(trace)))
       (si:encapsulate tem spec 'trace '(...body...))))

finds the place where a trace encapsulation ought to go, and makes one unless there is already one there.

(let ((tem (si:unencapsulate-function-spec spec 'trace)))
  (fdefine tem (fdefinition (si:unencapsulate-function-spec tem '(trace))))))

eliminates any trace encapsulation by replacing it by whatever it encapsulates. (If there is no trace encapsulation, this code changes nothing.)

These examples show how a subsystem can insert its own type of encapsulation in the proper sequence without knowing the names of any other types of encapsulations. Only the variable si:encapsulation-standard-order, which is used by si:unencapsulate-function-spec, knows the order.
10.10.1 Rename-Within Encapsulations

One special kind of encapsulation is the type si:rename-within. This encapsulation goes around a definition in which renamings of functions have been done.

How is this used?

If you define, advise, or trace (:within foo bar), then bar gets renamed to altered-bar-within-foo wherever it is called from foo, and foo gets a si:rename-within encapsulation to record the fact. The purpose of the encapsulation is to enable various parts of the system to do what seems natural to the user. For example, grinddef (see page 318) notices the encapsulation, and so knows to print bar instead of altered-bar-within-foo, when grinding the definition of foo.

Also, if you redefine foo, or trace or advise it, the new definition gets the same renaming done (bar replaced by altered-bar-within-foo). To make this work, everyone who alters part of a function definition should pass the new part of the definition through the function si:rename-within-new-definition-maybe.

si:rename-within-new-definition-maybe function-spec new-structure

Given new-structure which is going to become a part of the definition of function-spec, perform on it the replacements described by the si:rename-within encapsulation in the definition of function-spec, if there is one. The altered (copied) list structure is returned.

It is not necessary to call this function yourself when you replace the basic definition because define with carefully supplied as t does it for you. si:encapsulate does this to the body of the new encapsulation. So you only need to call si:rename-within-new-definition-maybe yourself if you are replacing part of the definition.

For proper results, function-spec must be the outer-level function spec. That is, the value returned by si:unencapsulate-function-spec is not the right thing to use. It will have had one or more encapsulations stripped off, including the si:rename-within encapsulation if any, and so no renamings will be done.
11. Closures

A closure is a type of Lisp functional object useful for implementing certain advanced access and control structures. Closures give you more explicit control over the environment, by allowing you to save the environment created by the entering of a dynamic contour (i.e., a lambda, do, prog, progv, let, or any of several other special forms), and then use that environment elsewhere, even after the contour has been exited.

11.1 What a Closure Is

There is a view of lambda-binding which we will use in this section because it makes it easier to explain what closures do. In this view, when a variable is bound, a new value cell is created for it. The old value cell is saved away somewhere and is inaccessible. Any references to the variable will get the contents of the new value cell, and any setq's will change the contents of the new value cell. When the binding is undone, the new value cell goes away, and the old value cell, along with its contents, is restored.

For example, consider the following sequence of Lisp forms:

```lisp
(setq a 3)
(let ((a 10))
  (print (+ a 6)))
(print a)
```

Initially there is a value cell for a, and the setq form makes the contents of that value cell be 3. Then the lambda-combination is evaluated. a is bound to 10: the old value cell, which still contains a 3, is saved away, and a new value cell is created with 10 as its contents. The reference to a inside the lambda expression evaluates to the current binding of a, which is the contents of its current value cell, namely 10. So 16 is printed. Then the binding is undone, discarding the new value cell, and restoring the old value cell which still contains a 3. The final print prints out a 3.

The form (closure var-list function), where var-list is a list of variables and function is any function, creates and returns a closure. When this closure is applied to some arguments, all of the value cells of the variables on var-list are saved away, and the value cells that those variables had at the time closure was called (that is, at the time the closure was created) are made to be the value cells of the symbols. Then function is applied to the argument. (This paragraph is somewhat complex, but it completely describes the operation of closures; if you don't understand it, come back and read it again after reading the next two paragraphs.)

Here is another, lower level explanation. The closure object stores several things inside of it. First, it saves the function. Secondly, for each variable in var-list, it remembers what that variable's value cell was when the closure was created. Then when the closure is called as a function, it first temporarily restores the value cells it has remembered inside the closure, and then applies function to the same arguments to which the closure itself was applied. When the function returns, the value cells are restored to be as they were before the closure was called.
Now, if we evaluate the form

```lisp
(setq a
  (let ((x 3))
    (closure '(x) 'frob)))
```

what happens is that a new value cell is created for x, and its contents is a fixnum 3. Then a closure is created, which remembers the function frob, the symbol x, and that value cell. Finally the old value cell of x is restored, and the closure is returned. Notice that the new value cell is still around, because it is still known about by the closure. When the closure is applied, say by doing `(funcall a 7)`, this value cell will be restored and the value of x will be 3 again. If frob uses x as a free variable, it will see 3 as the value.

A closure can be made around any function, using any form which evaluates to a function. The form could evaluate to a lambda expression, as in `(lambda () x)`, or to a compiled function, as would `(function (lambda () x))`. In the example above, the form is `frob` and it evaluates to the symbol frob. A symbol is also a good function. It is usually better to close around a symbol which is the name of the desired function, so that the closure points to the symbol. Then, if the symbol is redefined, the closure will use the new definition. If you actually prefer that the closure continue to use the old definition which was current when the closure was made, then close around the definition of the symbol rather than the symbol itself. In the above example, that would be done by

```lisp
(closure '(x) (function frob))
```

Because of the way closures are implemented, the variables to be closed over must not get turned into "local variables" by the compiler. Therefore, all such variables must be declared special. This can be done with an explicit `declare` (see page 184), with a special form such as `defvar` (page 17), or with `let-closed` (page 147). In simple cases, a `local-declare` around the binding will do the job. Usually the compiler can tell when a special declaration is missing, but in the case of making a closure the compiler detects this after already acting on the assumption that the variable is local, by which time it is too late to fix things. The compiler will warn you if this happens.

In the Lisp Machine's implementation of closures, lambda-binding never really allocates any storage to create new value cells. Value cells are only created by the closure function itself, when they are needed. Thus, implementors of large systems need not worry about storage allocation overhead from this mechanism if they are not using closures.

Lisp Machine closures are not closures in the true sense, as they do not save the whole variable-binding environment; however, most of that environment is irrelevant, and the explicit declaration of which variables are to be closed allows the implementation to have high efficiency. They also allow the programmer to explicitly choose for each variable whether it is to be bound at the point of call or bound at the point of definition (e.g. creation of the closure), a choice which is not conveniently available in other languages. In addition the program is clearer because the intended effect of the closure is made manifest by listing the variables to be affected.

The implementation of closures (which it not usually necessary for you to understand) involves two kinds of value cells. Every symbol has an internal value cell, which is where its value is normally stored. When a variable is closed over by a closure, the variable gets an external value cell to hold its value. The external value cells behave according to the lambda-binding model used earlier in this section. The value in the external value cell is found through the usual access mechanisms (such as evaluating the symbol, calling `symeval`, etc.), because the internal value cell
is made to contain an invisible pointer to the external value cell currently in effect. A symbol will use such an invisible pointer whenever its current value cell is a value cell that some closure is remembering; at other times, there won't be an invisible pointer, and the value will just reside in the internal value cell.

11.2 Examples of the Use of Closures

One thing we can do with closures is to implement a generator, which is a kind of function which is called successively to obtain successive elements of a sequence. We will implement a function make-list-generator, which takes a list, and returns a generator which will return successive elements of the list. When it gets to the end it should return nil.

The problem is that in between calls to the generator, the generator must somehow remember where it is up to in the list. Since all of its bindings are undone when it is exited, it cannot save this information in a bound variable. It could save it in a global variable, but the problem is that if we want to have more than one list generator at a time, they will all try to use the same global variable and get in each other's way.

Here is how we can use closures to solve the problem:

```
(defun make-list-generator (1)
  (declare (special 1))
  (closure '(1)
    (function (lambda ()
      (prog1 (car 1)
        (setq 1 (cdr 1)))))))
```

Now we can make as many list generators as we like; they won't get in each other's way because each has its own (external) value cell for 1. Each of these value cells was created when the make-list-generator function was entered, and the value cells are remembered by the closures.

The following form uses closures to create an advanced accessing environment:

```
(defun foo ()
  (setq a 5))

(defun bar ()
  (cons a b))

(let ((a 1)
       (b 1))
  (setq x (closure '((a b) 'foo))
       (setq y (closure '((a b) 'bar))))
```

When the let is entered, new value cells are created for the symbols a and b, and two closures are created that both point to those value cells. If we do (funcall x), the function foo will be run, and it will change the contents of the remembered value cell of a to 5. If we then do (funcall y), the function bar will return (5 1). This shows that the value cell of a seen by the closure y is the same value cell seen by the closure x. The top-level value cell of a is unaffected.
11.3 Closure-Manipulating Functions

closure var-list function
   This creates and returns a closure of function over the variables in var-list. Note that all variables on var-list must be declared special if the function is to compile correctly.

   To test whether an object is a closure, use the closurep predicate (see page 8). The typep function will return the symbol closure if given a closure. (typep x 'closure) is equivalent to (closurep x).

symeval-in-closure closure symbol
   This returns the binding of symbol in the environment of closure; that is, it returns what you would get if you restored the value cells known about by closure and then evaluated symbol. This allows you to "look around inside" a closure. If symbol is not closed over by closure, this is just like symeval.

set-in-closure closure symbol x
   This sets the binding of symbol in the environment of closure to x; that is, it does what would happen if you restored the value cells known about by closure and then set symbol to x. This allows you to change the contents of the value cells known about by a closure. If symbol is not closed over by closure, this is just like set.

locate-in-closure closure symbol
   This returns the location of the place in closure where the saved value of symbol is stored. An equivalent thing to write is (locl (symeval-in-closure closure symbol)).

closure-alist closure
   Returns an alist of (symbol, value) pairs describing the bindings which the closure performs when it is called. This list is not the same one that is actually stored in the closure; that one contains pointers to value cells rather than symbols, and closure-alist translates them back to symbols so you can understand them. As a result, clobbering part of this list will not change the closure.

closure-function closure
   Returns the closed function from closure. This is the function which was the second argument to closure when the closure was created.

let-closed Special Form
   When using closures, it is very common to bind a set of variables with initial values, and then make a closure over those variables. Furthermore the variables must be declared as "special" for the compiler. let-closed is a special form which does all of this. It is best described by example:
\begin{verbatim}
(let-closed ((a 5) b (c 'x))
  (function (lambda () ...)))
\end{verbatim}

macro-expands into
\begin{verbatim}
(local-declare ((special a b c))
  (let ((a 5) b (c 'x))
    (closure '((a b c)
      (function (lambda () ...)))))
\end{verbatim}

11.4 Entities

An entity is almost the same thing as a closure; the data type is nominally different but an entity behaves just like a closure when applied. The difference is that some system functions, such as print, operate on them differently. When print sees a closure, it prints the closure in a standard way. When print sees an entity, it calls the entity to ask the entity to print itself.

To some degree, entities are made obsolete by flavors (see chapter 20, page 245). The use of entities as message-receiving objects is explained in section 20.14, page 274.

\begin{verbatim}
extent  variable-list  function
\end{verbatim}

Returns a newly constructed entity. This function is just like the function closure except that it returns an entity instead of a closure.

To test whether an object is an entity, use the entityp predicate (see page 8). The functions symeval-in-closure, closure-alist, closure-function, etc. also operate on entities.
12. Stack Groups

A stack group (usually abbreviated "SG") is a type of Lisp object useful for implementation of certain advanced control structures such as coroutines and generators. Processes, which are a kind of coroutine, are built on top of stack groups (see chapter 25, page 377). A stack group represents a computation and its internal state, including the Lisp stack.

At any time, the computation being performed by the Lisp Machine is associated with one stack group, called the current or running stack group. The operation of making some stack group be the current stack group is called a resumption or a stack group switch; the previously running stack group is said to have resumed the new stack group. The resume operation has two parts: first, the state of the running computation is saved away inside the current stack group, and secondly the state saved in the new stack group is restored, and the new stack group is made current. Then the computation of the new stack group resumes its course.

The stack group itself holds a great deal of state information. It contains the control stack, or "regular PDL". The control stack is what you are shown by the backtracing commands of the error handler (Control-B, Meta-B, and Control-Meta-B); it remembers the function which is running, its caller, its caller's caller, etc., and the point of execution of each function (the "return addresses" of each function). A stack group also contains the environment stack, or "special PDL." This contains all of the values saved by lambda-binding. The name "stack group" derives from the existence of these two stacks. Finally, the stack group contains various internal state information (contents of machine registers and so on).

When the state of the current stack group is saved away, all of its bindings are undone, and when the state is restored, the bindings are put back. Note that although bindings are temporarily undone, unwind-protect handlers are not run by a stack-group switch (see let-globally, page 16).

Each stack group is a separate environment for purposes of function calling, throwing, dynamic variable binding, and condition signalling. All stack groups run in the same address space, thus they share the same Lisp data and the same global (not lambda-bound) variables.

When a new stack group is created, it is empty: it doesn't contain the state of any computation, so it can't be resumed. In order to get things going, the stack group must be set to an initial state. This is done by "presetting" the stack group. To preset a stack group, you supply a function and a set of arguments. The stack group is placed in such a state that when it is first resumed, this function will call those arguments. The function is called the "initial" function of the stack group.
12.1 Resuming of Stack Groups

The interesting thing that happens to stack groups is that they resume each other. When one stack group resumes a second stack group, the current state of Lisp execution is saved away in the first stack group, and is restored from the second stack group. Resuming is also called "switching stack groups".

At any time, there is one stack group associated with the current computation; it is called the current stack group. The computations associated with other stack groups have their states saved away in memory, and they are not computing. So the only stack group that can do anything at all, in particular resuming other stack groups, is the current one.

You can look at things from the point of view of one computation. Suppose it is running along, and it resumes some stack group. Its state is saved away into the current stack group, and the computation associated with the one it called starts up. The original computation lies dormant in the original stack group, while other computations go around resuming each other, until finally the original stack group is resumed by someone. Then the computation is restored from the stack group and gets to run again.

There are several ways that the current stack group can resume other stack groups. This section describes all of them.

Associated with each stack group is a resumer. The resumer is nil or another stack group. Some forms of resuming examine and alter the resumer of some stack groups.

Resuming has another ability: it can transmit a Lisp object from the old stack group to the new stack group. Each stack group specifies a value to transmit whenever it resumes another stack group; whenever a stack group is resumed, it receives a value.

In the descriptions below, let $c$ stand for the current stack group, $s$ stand for some other stack group, and $x$ stand for any arbitrary Lisp object.

Stack groups can be used as functions. They accept one argument. If $c$ calls $s$ as a function with one argument $x$, then $s$ is resumed, and the object transmitted is $x$. When $c$ is resumed (usually—but not necessarily—by $s$), the object transmitted by that resumption will be returned as the value of the call to $s$. This is one of the simple ways to resume a stack group: call it as a function. The value you transmit is the argument to the function, and the value you receive is the value returned from the function. Furthermore, this form of resuming sets $s$'s resumer to be $c$.

Another way to resume a stack group is to use stack-group-return. Rather than allowing you to specify which stack group to resume, this function always resumes the resumer of the current stack group. Thus, this is a good way to resume whoever it was who resumed you, assuming he did it by function-calling. stack-group-return takes one argument which is the object to transmit. It returns when someone resumes the current stack group, and returns one value, the object that was transmitted by that resumption. stack-group-return does not affect the resumer of any stack group.

The most fundamental way to do resuming is with stack-group-resume, which takes two arguments: the stack group, and a value to transmit. It returns when someone resumes the current stack group, returning the value that was transmitted by that resumption, and does not
affect any stack group's resumer.

If the initial function of c attempts to return a value x, the regular kind of Lisp function return cannot take place, since the function did not have any caller (it got there when the stack group was initialized). So instead of normal function returning, a "stack group return" happens. c's resumer is resumed, and the value transmitted is x. c is left in a state ("exhausted") from which it cannot be resumed again; any attempt to resume it will signal an error. Presetting it will make it work again.

Those are the "voluntary" forms of stack group switch: a resumption happens because the computation said it should. There are also two "involuntary" forms, in which another stack group is resumed without the explicit request of the running program.

If an error occurs, the current stack group resumes the error handler stack group. The value transmitted is partially descriptive of the error, and the error handler looks inside the saved state of the erring stack group to get the rest of the information. The error handler recovers from the error by changing the saved state of the erring stack group and then resuming it.

When certain events occur, typically a 1-second clock tick, a sequence break occurs. This forces the current stack group to resume a special stack group called the scheduler (see section 25.1, page 378). The scheduler implements processes by resuming, one after another, the stack group of each process that is ready to run.

**sys:%current-stack-group-previous-stack-group** Variable
The binding of this variable is the resumer of the current stack group.

**sys:%current-stack-group** Variable
The value of sys:%current-stack-group is the stack group which is currently running. A program can use this variable to get its hands on its own stack group.

### 12.2 Stack Group States

A stack group has a state, which controls what it will do when it is resumed. The code number for the state is returned by the function **sys:sg-current-state**. This number will be the value of one of the following symbols. Only the states actually used by the current system are documented here; some other codes are defined but not used.

- **sys:sg-state-active**
  The stack group is the current one.

- **sys:sg-state-resumable**
  The stack group is waiting to be resumed, at which time it will pick up its saved machine state and continue doing what it was doing before.

- **sys:sg-state-awaiting-return**
  The stack group called some other stack group as a function. When it is resumed, it will return from that function call.

- **sys:sg-state-awaiting-initial-call**
  The stack group has been preset (see below) but has never been called. When it is resumed, it will call its initial function with the preset arguments.
sys:sg-state-exhausted
    The stack group's initial function has returned. It cannot be resumed.

sys:sg-state-awaiting-error-recovery
    When a stack group gets an error it goes into this state, which prevents
    anything from happening to it until the error handler has looked at it. In
    the meantime it cannot be resumed.

sys:sg-state-invoke-call-on-return
    When the stack group is resumed, it will call a function. The function
    and arguments are already set up on the stack. The debugger uses this to
    force the stack group being debugged to do things.

12.3 Stack Group Functions

make-stack-group name &optional options
This creates and returns a new stack group. name may be any symbol or string; it is
used in the stack group's printed representation. options is a list of alternating keywords
and values. The options are not too useful; most calls to make-stack-group don't need
any options at all. The options are:

:sg-area The area in which to create the stack group structure itself. Defaults to
the default area (the value of default-cons-area).

:regular-pdl-area The area in which to create the regular PDL. Note that this may not be
any area; only certain areas will do, because regular PDLs are cached in
a hardware device called the pdl buffer. The default is sys:pdl-area.

:special-pdl-area The area in which to create the special PDL. Defaults to the default area
(the value of default-cons-area).

:regular-pdl-size Length of the regular PDL to be created. Defaults to 3000.

:special-pdl-size Length of the special PDL to be created. Defaults to 2000.

:swap-sv-on-call-out
:swap-sv-of-sg-that-calls-me
These flags default to 1. If these are 0, the system does not maintain
separate binding environments for each stack group. You do not want to
use this feature.

:trap-enable This determines what to do if a microcode error occurs. If it is 1 the
system tries to handle the error; if it is 0 the machine halts. Defaults to
1.

:safe If this flag is 1 (the default), a strict call-return discipline among stack-
groups is enforced. If 0, no restriction on stack-group switching is
imposed.
stack-group-preset stack-group function &rest arguments
This sets up stack-group so that when it is resumed, function will be applied to arguments within the stack group. Both stacks are made empty; all saved state in the stack group is destroyed. stack-group-preset is typically used to initialize a stack group just after it is made, but it may be done to any stack group at any time. Doing this to a stack group which is not exhausted will destroy its present state without properly cleaning up by running unwind-protects.

stack-group-resume s x
Resumes s, transmitting the value x. No stack group's resumer is affected.

stack-group-return x
Resumes the current stack group's resumer, transmitting the value x. No stack group's resumer is affected.

symeval-in-stack-group symbol sg
Evaluates the variable symbol in the binding environment of sg. If sg is the current stack group, this is just symeval. Otherwise it looks inside sg to see if symbol is bound there; if so, the binding is returned; if not, the global value is returned. If the variable has no value this will get an unbound-variable error.

There are a large number of functions in the sys: and eh: packages for manipulating the internal details of stack groups. These are not documented here as they are not necessary for most users or even system programmers to know about.

12.4 Input/Output in Stack Groups

Because each stack group has its own set of dynamic bindings, a stack group will not inherit its creator's value of terminal-io (see page 302), nor its caller's, unless you make special provision for this. The terminal-io a stack group gets by default is a "background" stream which does not normally expect to be used. If it is used, it will turn into a "background window" which will request the user's attention. Usually this is because an error printout is trying to be printed on the stream. [This will all be explained in the window system documentation.]

If you write a program that uses multiple stack groups, and you want them all to do input and output to the terminal, you should pass the value of terminal-io to the top-level function of each stack group as part of the stack-group-preset, and that function should bind the variable terminal-io.

Another technique is to use a closure as the top-level function of a stack group. This closure can bind terminal-io and any other variables that are desired to be shared between the stack group and its creator.
12.5 An Example of Stack Groups

The canonical coroutine example is the so-called samefringe problem: Given two trees, determine whether they contain the same atoms in the same order, ignoring parenthesis structure. A better way of saying this is, given two binary trees built out of conses, determine whether the sequence of atoms on the fringes of the trees is the same, ignoring differences in the arrangement of the internal skeletons of the two trees. Following the usual rule for trees, nil in the cdr of a cons is to be ignored.

One way of solving this problem is to use generator coroutines. We make a generator for each tree. Each time the generator is called it returns the next element of the fringe of its tree. After the generator has examined the entire tree, it returns a special "exhausted" flag. The generator is most naturally written as a recursive function. The use of coroutines, i.e., stack groups, allows the two generators to recurse separately on two different control stacks without having to coordinate with each other.

The program is very simple. Constructing it in the usual bottom-up style, we first write a recursive function which takes a tree and stack-group-returns each element of its fringe. The stack-group-return is how the generator coroutine delivers its output. We could easily test this function by changing stack-group-return to print and trying it on some examples.

(defun fringe (tree)
  (cond ((atom tree) (stack-group-return tree))
        (t (fringe (car tree))
           (if (not (null (cdr tree)))
               (fringe (cdr tree))))))

Now we package this function inside another, which takes care of returning the special "exhausted" flag.

(defun fringe1 (tree exhausted)
  (fringe tree)
  exhausted)

The samefringe function takes the two trees as arguments and returns t or nil. It creates two stack groups to act as the two generator coroutines, presets them to run the fringe1 function, then goes into a loop comparing the two fringes. The value is nil if a difference is discovered, or t if they are still the same when the end is reached.

(defun samefringe (tree1 tree2)
  (let ((sg1 (make-stack-group "samefringe1"))
        (sg2 (make-stack-group "samefringe2"))
        (exhausted (ncons nil)))
    (stack-group-preset sg1 #'fringe1 tree1 exhausted)
    (stack-group-preset sg2 #'fringe1 tree2 exhausted)
    (do (v1 v2) (nil)
        (setq v1 (funcall sg1 nil)
               v2 (funcall sg2 nil))
        (cond ((neq v1 v2) (return nil))
              ((eq v1 exhausted) (return t)))))

Now we test it on a couple of examples.
(samefringe '(a b c) '(a (b c))) => t
(samefringe '(a b c) '(a b c d)) => nil

The problem with this is that a stack group is quite a large object, and we make two of them every time we compare two fringes. This is a lot of unnecessary overhead. It can easily be eliminated with a modest amount of explicit storage allocation, using the resource facility (see page 77). While we're at it, we can avoid making the exhausted flag fresh each time; its only important property is that it not be an atom.

(defun samefringe (tree1 tree2)
  (with-resource (samefringe-coroutine sg1)
    (with-resource (samefringe-coroutine sg2)
      (stack-group-preset sg1 '#'fringe1 tree1 exhausted-flag)
      (stack-group-preset sg2 '#'fringe1 tree2 exhausted-flag)
      (do ((v1 v2) (nil))
          ((neq v1 v2) (return nil))
        (setq v1 (funcall sg1 nil)
              v2 (funcall sg2 nil))
      (cond ((eq v1 exhausted-flag) (return t)))))))

Now we can compare the fringes of two trees with no allocation of memory whatsoever.
13. Locatives

13.1 Cells and Locatives

A locative is a type of Lisp object used as a pointer to a cell. Locatives are inherently a more "low level" construct than most Lisp objects; they require some knowledge of the nature of the Lisp implementation. Most programmers will never need them.

A cell is a machine word which can hold a (pointer to a) Lisp object. For example, a symbol has five cells: the print name cell, the value cell, the function cell, the property list cell, and the package cell. The value cell holds (a pointer to) the binding of the symbol, and so on. Also, an array leader of length n has n cells, and an art-q array of n elements has n cells. (Numeric arrays do not have cells in this sense.) A locative is an object that points to a cell; it lets you refer to a cell, so that you can examine or alter its contents.

There are a set of functions which create locatives to cells; the functions are documented with the kind of object to which they create a pointer. See ap-1, ap-leader, car-location, value-cell-location, etc. The macro locf (see page 202) can be used to convert a form which accesses a cell to one which creates a locative pointer to that cell: for example,

\[(\text{locf (fsymeval } x\text{)}) \Rightarrow (\text{function-cell-location } x)\]

locf is very convenient because it saves the writer and reader of a program from having to remember the names of all the functions that create locatives.

13.2 Functions Which Operate on Locatives

Either of the functions car and cdr (see page 49) may be given a locative, and will return the contents of the cell at which the locative points.

For example,

\[(\text{car (value-cell-location } x\text{)})\]

is the same as

\[(\text{symeval } x)\]

Similarly, either of the functions rplaca and rplacd may be used to store an object into the cell at which a locative points.

For example,

\[(\text{rplaca (value-cell-location } x\text{ }) y)\]

is the same as

\[(\text{set } x\text{ } y)\]

If you mix locatives and lists, then it matters whether you use car and rplaca or cdr and rplacd, and care is required. For example, the following function takes advantage of value-cell-location to cons up a list in forward order without special-case code. The first time through the loop, the rplacd is equivalent to (setq res ...); on later times through the loop the rplacd tacks an additional cons onto the end of the list.
(defun simplified-version-of-mapcar (fcn 1st)
  (do ((1st 1st (cdr 1st))
       (res nil)
       (loc (value-cell-location 'res)))
      ((null 1st) res)
      (rplacd loc
        (setq loc (ncons (funcall fcn (car 1st)))))))

You might expect this not to work if it was compiled and res was not declared special, since non-special compiled variables are not represented as symbols. However, the compiler arranges for it to work anyway, by recognizing value-cell-location of the name of a local variable, and compiling it as something other than a call to the value-cell-location function.
14. Subprimitives

Subprimitives are functions which are not intended to be used by the average program, only by "system programs". They allow one to manipulate the environment at a level lower than normal Lisp. They are described in this chapter. Subprimitives usually have names which start with a % character. The "primitives" described in other sections of the manual typically use subprimitives to accomplish their work. The subprimitives take the place of machine language in other systems, to some extent. Subprimitives are normally hand-coded in microcode.

There is plenty of stuff in this chapter that is not fully explained; there are terms that are undefined, there are forward references, and so on. Furthermore, most of what is in here is considered subject to change without notice. In fact, this chapter does not exactly belong in this manual, but in some other more low-level manual. Since the latter manual does not exist, it is here for the interim.

Subprimitives by their very nature cannot do full checking. Improper use of subprimitives can destroy the environment. Subprimitives come in varying degrees of dangerousness. Those without a % sign in their name cannot destroy the environment, but are dependent on "internal" details of the Lisp implementation. The ones whose names start with a % sign can violate system conventions if used improperly. The subprimitives are documented here since they need to be documented somewhere, but this manual does not document all the things you need to know in order to use them. Still other subprimitives are not documented here because they are very specialized. Most of these are never used explicitly by a programmer; the compiler inserts them into the program to perform operations which are expressed differently in the source code.

The most common problem you can cause using subprimitives, though by no means the only one, is to create illegal pointers: pointers that are, for one reason or another, according to storage conventions, not allowed to exist. The storage conventions are not documented; as we said, you have to be an expert to correctly use a lot of the functions in this chapter. If you create such an illegal pointer, it probably will not be detected immediately, but later on parts of the system may see it, notice that it is illegal, and (probably) halt the Lisp Machine.

In a certain sense car, cdr, rplaca, and rplacd are subprimitives. If these are given a locative instead of a list, they will access or modify the cell addressed by the locative without regard to what object the cell is inside. Subprimitives can be used to create locatives to strange places.

14.1 Data Types

data-type arg

data-type returns a symbol which is the name for the internal data-type of the "pointer" which represents arg. Note that some types as seen by the user are not distinguished from each other at this level, and some user types may be represented by more than one internal type. For example, dtp-extended-number is the symbol that data-type would return for either a flonum or a bignum, even though those two types are quite different. The typep function (page 8) is a higher-level primitive which is more useful in most cases; normal programs should always use typep rather than data-type. Some of these type codes are internal tag fields that are never used in pointers that represent Lisp
objects at all, but they are documented here anyway.

dtp-symbol
   The object is a symbol.

dtp-fix
   The object is a fixnum; the numeric value is contained in the
   address field of the pointer.

dtp-small-flonum
   The object is a small flonum; the numeric value is contained in
   the address field of the pointer.

dtp-extended-number
   The object is a flonum or a bignum. This value will also be
   used for future numeric types.

dtp-list
   The object is a cons.

dtp-locative
   The object is a locative pointer.

dtp-array-pointer
   The object is an array.

dtp-fef-pointer
   The object is a compiled function.

dtp-u-entry
   The object is a microcode entry.

dtp-closure
   The object is a closure; see chapter 11, page 144.

dtp-stack-group
   The object is a stack-group; see chapter 12, page 149.

dtp-instance
   The object is an instance of a flavor, i.e. an "active object". See
   chapter 20, page 245.

dtp-entity
   The object is an entity; see section 11.4, page 148.

dtp-select-method
   The object is a "select-method"; see page 131.

dtp-header
   An internal type used to mark the first word of a multi-word
   structure.

dtp-array-header
   An internal type used in arrays.

dtp-symbol-header
   An internal type used to mark the first word of a symbol.

dtp-instance-header
   An internal type used to mark the first word of an instance.

dtp-null
   Nothing to do with nil. This is used in unbound value and
   function cells.

dtp-trap
   The zero data-type, which is not used. This hopes to detect
   microcode bugs.

dtp-free
   This type is used to fill free storage, to catch wild references.

dtp-external-value-cell-pointer
   An "invisible pointer" used for external value cells, which are
   part of the closure mechanism (see chapter 11, page 144), and
   used by compiled code to address value and function cells.

dtp-header-forward
   An "invisible pointer" used to indicate that the structure
   containing it has been moved elsewhere. The "header word" of
   the structure is replaced by one of these invisible pointers. See
   the function structure-forward (page 160).

dtp-body-forward
   An "invisible pointer" used to indicate that the structure
   containing it has been moved elsewhere. This points to the word
containing the header-forward, which points to the new copy of the structure.

\textbf{dtp-one-q-forward} An "invisible pointer" used to indicate that the single cell containing it has been moved elsewhere.

\textbf{dtp-gc-forward} This is used by the copying garbage collector to flag the obsolete copy of an object; it points to the new copy.

\textbf{q-data-types} \textit{Variable}

The value of \texttt{q-data-types} is a list of all of the symbolic names for data types described above under \texttt{data-type}. These are the symbols whose print names begin with "\texttt{dtp-}". The values of these symbols are the internal numeric data-type codes for the various types.

\textbf{q-data-types} \textit{type-code}

Given the internal numeric data-type code, returns the corresponding symbolic name. This "function" is actually an array.

### 14.2 Forwarding

An invisible pointer is a kind of pointer that does not represent a Lisp object, but just resides in memory. There are several kinds of invisible pointer, and there are various rules about where they may or may not appear. The basic property of an invisible pointer is that if the Lisp Machine reads a word of memory and finds an invisible pointer there, instead of seeing the invisible pointer as the result of the read, it does a second read, at the location addressed by the invisible pointer, and returns that as the result instead. Writing behaves in a similar fashion. When the Lisp machine writes a word of memory it first checks to see if that word contains an invisible pointer; if so it goes to the location pointed to by the invisible pointer and tries to write there instead. Many subprimitives that read and write memory do not do this checking.

\textbf{structure-forward} \texttt{old-object new-object}

This causes references to \texttt{old-object} to actually reference \texttt{new-object}, by storing invisible pointers in \texttt{old-object}. It returns \texttt{old-object}.

An example of the use of \texttt{structure-forward} is \texttt{adjust-array-size}. If the array is being made bigger and cannot be expanded in place, a new array is allocated, the contents are copied, and the old array is structure-forwarded to the new one. This forwarding ensures that pointers to the old array, or to cells within it, continue to work. When the garbage collector goes to copy the old array, it notices the forwarding and uses the new array as the copy; thus the overhead of forwarding disappears eventually if garbage collection is in use.

\textbf{follow-structure-forwarding} \texttt{object}

Normally returns \texttt{object}, but if \texttt{object} has been \texttt{structure-forward}ed, returns the object at the end of the chain of forwardings. If \texttt{object} is not exactly an object, but a locative to a cell in the middle of an object, a locative to the corresponding cell in the latest copy of the object will be returned.
forward-value-cell from-symbol to-symbol
This alters from-symbol so that it always has the same value as to-symbol, by sharing its
value cell. A dtp-one-q-forward invisible pointer is stored into from-symbol's value cell.
Do not do this while from-symbol is lambda-bound, as the microcode does not bother to
check for that case and something bad will happen when from-symbol gets unbound. The
microcode check is omitted to speed up binding and unbinding.

To forward one arbitrary cell to another (rather than specifically one value cell to
another), given two locatives do
(%p-store-tag-and-pointer locative1 dtp-one-q-forward locative2)

follow-cell-forwarding loc evcp-p
loc is a locative to a cell. Normally loc is returned, but if the cell has been forwarded,
this follows the chain of forwardings and returns a locative to the final cell. If the cell is
part of a structure which has been forwarded, the chain of structure forwardings is
followed, too. If evcp-p is t, external value cell pointers are followed; if it is nil they are
not.

14.3 Pointer Manipulation

It should again be emphasized that improper use of these functions can damage or destroy the
Lisp environment. It is possible to create pointers with illegal data-type, pointers to non-existent
objects, and pointers to untyped storage which will completely confuse the garbage collector.

%data-type x
Returns the data-type field of x, as a fixnum.

%pointer x
Returns the pointer field of x, as a fixnum. For most types, this is dangerous since the
garbage collector can copy the object and change its address.

%make-pointer data-type pointer
This makes up a pointer, with data-type in the data-type field and pointer in the pointer
field, and returns it. data-type should be an internal numeric data-type code; these are
the values of the symbols that start with dtp-. pointer may be any object; its pointer
field is used. This is most commonly used for changing the type of a pointer. Do not
use this to make pointers which are not allowed to be in the machine, such as dtp-null,
invisible pointers, etc.

%make-pointer-offset data-type pointer offset
This returns a pointer with data-type in the data-type field, and pointer plus offset in the
pointer field. The data-type and pointer arguments are like those of %make-pointer;
offset may be any object but is usually a fixnum. The types of the arguments are not
checked; their pointer fields are simply added together. This is useful for constructing
locative pointers into the middle of an object. However, note that it is illegal to have a
pointer to untyped data, such as the inside of a FEF or a numeric array.
%pointer-difference pointer1 pointer2
Returns a fixnum which is pointer1 minus pointer2. No type checks are made. For the result to be meaningful, the two pointers must point into the same object, so that their difference cannot change as a result of garbage collection.

14.4 Analyzing Structures

%find-structure-header pointer
This subprimitive finds the structure into which pointer points, by searching backward for a header. It is a basic low-level function used by such things as the garbage collector. pointer is normally a locative, but its data-type is ignored. Note that it is illegal to point into an "unboxed" portion of a structure, for instance the middle of a numeric array.

In structure space, the "containing structure" of a pointer is well-defined by system storage conventions. In list space, it is considered to be the contiguous, cdr-coded segment of list surrounding the location pointed to. If a cons of the list has been copied out by rplacd, the contiguous list includes that pair and ends at that point.

%find-structure-leader pointer
This is identical to %find-structure-header, except that if the structure is an array with a leader, this returns a locative pointer to the leader-header, rather than returning the array-pointer itself. Thus the result of %find-structure-leader is always the lowest address in the structure. This is the one used internally by the garbage collector.

%structure-boxed-size object
Returns the number of "boxed Q's" in object. This is the number of words at the front of the structure which contain normal Lisp objects. Some structures, for example FEFs and numeric arrays, contain additional "unboxed Q's" following their "boxed Q's". Note that the boxed size of a PDL (either regular or special) does not include Q's above the current top of the PDL. Those locations are boxed but their contents is considered garbage, and is not protected by the garbage collector.

%structure-total-size object
Returns the total number of words occupied by the representation of object, including boxed Q's, unboxed Q's, and garbage Q's off the ends of PDLs.

14.5 Creating Objects

%allocate-and-initialize data-type header-type header second-word area size
This is the subprimitive for creating most structured-type objects. area is the area in which it is to be created, as a fixnum or a symbol. size is the number of words to be allocated. The value returned points to the first word allocated, and has data-type data-type. Uninterruptibly, the words allocated are initialized so that storage conventions are preserved at all times. The first word, the header, is initialized to have header-type in its data-type field and header in its pointer field. The second word is initialized to second-word. The remaining words are initialized to nil. The flag bits of all words are set to 0. The cdr codes of all words except the last are set to cdr-next; the cdr code of the last word is set to cdr-nil. It is probably a bad idea to rely on this.
The basic functions for creating list-type objects are cons and make-list; no special subprimitive is needed. Closures, entities, and select-methods are based on lists, but there is no primitive for creating them. To create one, create a list and then use %make-pointer to change the data type from dtp-list to the desired type.

%allocate-and-initialize-array header data-length leader-length area size
This is the subprimitive for creating arrays, called only by make-array. It is different from %allocate-and-initialize because arrays have a more complicated header structure.

14.6 Locking Subprimitive

%store-conditional pointer old new
This is the basic locking primitive. pointer is a locative to a cell which is uninterruptibly read and written. If the contents of the cell is eq to old, then it is replaced by new and t is returned. Otherwise, nil is returned and the contents of the cell is not changed.

14.7 I/O Device Subprimitives

%unibus-read address
Returns the contents of the register at the specified Unibus address, as a fixnum. You must specify a full 18-bit address. This is guaranteed to read the location only once. Since the Lisp Machine Unibus does not support byte operations, this always references a 16-bit word, and so address will normally be an even number.

%unibus-write address data
Writes the 16-bit number data at the specified Unibus address, exactly once.

%xbus-read io-offset
Returns the contents of the register at the specified Xbus address. io-offset is an offset into the I/O portion of Xbus physical address space. This is guaranteed to read the location exactly once. The returned value can be either a fixnum or a bignum.

%xbus-write io-offset data
Writes data, which can be a fixnum or a bignum, into the register at the specified Xbus address. io-offset is an offset into the I/O portion of Xbus physical address space. This is guaranteed to write the location exactly once.

sys:%xbus-write-sync w-loc w-data delay sync-loc sync-mask sync-value
Does (%xbus-write w-loc w-data), but first synchronizes to within about one microsecond of a certain condition. The synchronization is achieved by looping until

\( = (\text{logand} (%\text{xbus-read sync-loc} \\ sync-mask) \\ sync-value) \)

is false, then looping until it is true, then looping delay times. Thus the write happens a specified delay after the leading edge of the synchronization condition. The number of microseconds of delay is roughly one third of delay.
### 14.8 Special Memory Referencing

**sys:%halt**

Stops the machine.

**Synopsis**

**%p-contents-offset**  
`base-pointer offset`

This checks the cell pointed to by `base-pointer` for a forwarding pointer. Having followed forwarding pointers to the real structure pointed to, it adds `offset` to the resulting forwarded `base-pointer` and returns the contents of that location.

There is no `%p-contents`, since `car` performs that operation.

**%p-contents-as-locative**  
`pointer`

Given a pointer to a memory location containing a pointer which isn’t allowed to be "in the machine" (typically an invisible pointer) this function returns the contents of the location as a dtp-locative. It changes the disallowed data type to dtp-locative so that you can safely look at it and see what it points to.

**%p-contents-as-locative-offset**  
`base-pointer offset`

This checks the cell pointed to by `base-pointer` for a forwarding pointer. Having followed forwarding pointers to the real structure pointed to, it adds `offset` to the resulting forwarded `base-pointer`, fetches the contents of that location, and returns it with the data type changed to dtp-locative in case it was a type which isn’t allowed to be "in the machine" (typically an invisible pointer). This can be used, for example, to analyze the dtp-external-value-cell-pointer pointers in a FEF, which are used by the compiled code to reference value cells and function cells of symbols.

**%p-store-contents**  
`pointer value`

`value` is stored into the data-type and pointer fields of the location addressed by `pointer`. The cdr-code and flag-bit fields remain unchanged. `value` is returned.

**%p-store-contents-offset**  
`value base-pointer offset`

This checks the cell pointed to by `base-pointer` for a forwarding pointer. Having followed forwarding pointers to the real structure pointed to, it adds `offset` to the resulting forwarded `base-pointer`, and stores `value` into the data-type and pointer fields of that location. The cdr-code and flag-bit fields remain unchanged. `value` is returned.

**%p-store-tag-and-pointer**  
`pointer miscfields ptrfield`

Creates a `Q` by taking 8 bits from `miscfields` and 24 bits from `ptrfield`, and stores that into the location addressed by `pointer`. The low 5 bits of `miscfields` become the data-type, the next bit becomes the flag-bit, and the top two bits become the cdr-code. This is a good way to store a forwarding pointer from one structure to another (for example).

**%p-ldb**  
`ppss pointer`

This is like `ldb` but gets a byte from the location addressed by `pointer`. Note that you can load bytes out of the data type etc. bits, not just the pointer field, and that the word loaded out of need not be a fixnum. The result returned is always a fixnum, unlike `%p-contents` and friends.

---

**DSK:LMMAN;FD.SUB 46**  16-MAR-81
%p-ldb-offset ppss base-pointer offset
This checks the cell pointed to by base-pointer for a forwarding pointer. Having followed forwarding pointers to the real structure pointed to, the byte specified by ppss is loaded from the contents of the location addressed by the forwarded base-pointer plus offset, and returned as a fixnum. This is the way to reference byte fields within a structure without violating system storage conventions.

%p-dpb value ppss pointer
The value, a fixnum, is stored into the byte selected by ppss in the word addressed by pointer. nil is returned. You can use this to alter data types, cdr codes, etc.

%p-dpb-offset value ppss base-pointer offset
This checks the cell pointed to by base-pointer for a forwarding pointer. Having followed forwarding pointers to the real structure pointed to, the value is stored into the byte specified by ppss in the location addressed by the forwarded base-pointer plus offset. nil is returned. This is the way to alter unboxed data within a structure without violating system storage conventions.

%p-mask-field ppss pointer
This is similar to %p-ldb, except that the selected byte is returned in its original position within the word instead of right-aligned.

%p-mask-field-offset ppss base-pointer offset
This is similar to %p-ldb-offset, except that the selected byte is returned in its original position within the word instead of right-aligned.

%p-deposit-field value ppss pointer
This is similar to %p-dpb, except that the selected byte is stored from the corresponding bits of value rather than the right-aligned bits.

%p-deposit-field-offset value ppss base-pointer offset
This is similar to %p-dpb-offset, except that the selected byte is stored from the corresponding bits of value rather than the right-aligned bits.

%p-pointer pointer
Extracts the pointer field of the contents of the location addressed by pointer and returns it as a fixnum.

%p-data-type pointer
Extracts the data-type field of the contents of the location addressed by pointer and returns it as a fixnum.

%p-cdr-code pointer
Extracts the cdr-code field of the contents of the location addressed by pointer and returns it as a fixnum.
%p-flag-bit  pointer
Extraction the flag-bit field of the contents of the location addressed by pointer and returns it as a fixnum.

%p-store-pointer  pointer  value
Clobbers the pointer field of the location addressed by pointer to value, and returns value.

%p-store-data-type  pointer  value
Clobbers the data-type field of the location addressed by pointer to value, and returns value.

%p-store-cdr-code  pointer  value
Clobbers the cdr-code field of the location addressed by pointer to value, and returns value.

%p-store-flag-bit  pointer  value
Clobbers the flag-bit field of the location addressed by pointer to value, and returns value.

%stack-frame-pointer
Returns a locative pointer to its caller's stack frame. This function is not defined in the interpreted Lisp environment; it only works in compiled code. Since it turns into a "misc" instruction, the "caller's stack frame" really means "the frame for the FEF that executed the %stack-frame-pointer instruction".

14.9 Storage Layout Definitions
The following special variables have values which define the most important attributes of the way Lisp data structures are laid out in storage. In addition to the variables documented here, there are many others which are more specialized. They are not documented in this manual since they are in the system package rather than the global package. The variables whose names start with %q are byte specifiers, intended to be used with subprimitives such as %p-fdb. If you change the value of any of these variables, you will probably bring the machine to a crashing halt.

%q-cdr-code  Variable
The field of a memory word which contains the cdr-code. See section 5.4, page 59.

%q-flag-bit  Variable
The field of a memory word which contains the flag-bit. In most data structures this bit is not used by the system and is available for the user.

%q-data-type  Variable
The field of a memory word which contains the data-type code. See page 158.

%q-pointer  Variable
The field of a memory word which contains the pointer address, or immediate data.
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%%q-pointer-within-page Variable
The field of a memory word which contains the part of the address that lies within a single page.

%%q-typed-pointer Variable
The concatenation of the %%q-data-type and %%q-pointer fields.

%%q-all-but-typed-pointer Variable
The field of a memory word which contains the tag fields, %%q-cdr-code and %%q-flag-bit.

%%q-all-but-pointer Variable
The concatenation of all fields of a memory word except for %%q-pointer.

%%q-all-but-cdr-code Variable
The concatenation of all fields of a memory word except for %%q-cdr-code.

%%q-high-half Variable
%%q-low-half Variable
The two halves of a memory word. These fields are only used in storing compiled code.

cdr-normal Variable
cdr-next Variable
cdr-nil Variable
cdr-error Variable
The values of these four variables are the numeric values which go in the cdr-code field of a memory word. See section 5.4, page 59 for the details of cdr-coding.

14.10 Function-Calling Subprimitives

These subprimitives can be used (carefully!) to call a function with the number of arguments variable at run time. They only work in compiled code and are not defined in the interpreted Lisp environment. The preferred higher-level primitive is lexpr-funcall (page 22).

%open-call-block function n-adi-pairs destination
Starts a call to function. n-adi-pairs is the number of pairs of additional information words already %push'ed; normally this should be 0. destination is where to put the result; the useful values are 0 for the value to be ignored, 1 for the value to go onto the stack, 3 for the value to be the last argument to the previous open call block, and 4 for the value to be returned from this frame.

%push value
Pushes value onto the stack. Use this to push the arguments.

%activate-open-call-block
Causes the call to happen.
%pop
Pops the top value off of the stack and returns it as its value. Use this to recover the result from a call made by %open-call-block with a destination of 1.

%assure-pdl-room n-words
Call this before doing a sequence of %push's or %open-call-blocks which will add n-words to the current frame. This subprimitive checks that the frame will not exceed the maximum legal frame size, which is 255 words including all overhead. This limit is dictated by the way stack frames are linked together. If the frame is going to exceed the legal limit, %assure-pdl-room will signal an error.

14.11 Lambda-Binding Subprimitive

bind locative value
Binds the cell pointed to by locative to x, in the caller's environment. This function is not defined in the interpreted Lisp environment; it only works from compiled code. Since it turns into an instruction, the "caller's environment" really means "the binding block for the stack frame that executed the bind instruction". The preferred higher-level primitives which turn into this are let (page 15), let-if (page 16), and progv (page 16). [This will be renamed to %bind in the future.]

14.12 The Paging System

[Someday this may discuss how it works.]

si:wire-page address &optional (wire-p t)
If wire-p is t, the page containing address is wired-down; that is, it cannot be paged-out. If wire-p is nil, the page ceases to be wired-down.

si:unwire-page address
(si:unwire-page address) is the same as (si:wire-page address).

sys:page-in-structure object
Makes sure that the storage which represents object is in main memory. Any pages which have been swapped out to disk are read in, using as few disk operations as possible. Consecutive disk pages are transferred together, taking advantage of the full speed of the disk. If object is large, this will be much faster than bringing the pages in one at a time on demand. The storage occupied by object is defined by the %find-structure-leader and %structure-total-size subprimitives.

sys:page-in-array array &optional from to
This is a version of sys:page-in-structure which can bring in a portion of an array. from and to are lists of subscripts; if they are shorter than the dimensionality of array, the remaining subscripts are assumed to be zero.
sys:page-in-words address n-words
   Any pages in the range of address space starting at address and continuing for n-words
   which have been swapped out to disk are read in with as few disk operations as possible.

sys:page-in-area area-number
sys:page-in-region region-number
   All swapped-out pages of the specified region or area are brought into main memory.

sys:page-out-structure object
sys:page-out-array array &optional from to
sys:page-out-words address n-words
sys:page-out-area area-number
sys:page-out-region region-number
   These are similar to the above, except that pages are written to disk, using as few disk operations as
   possible. The pages are then made flushable; if they are not touched again soon their
   memory will be reclaimed for other pages. Use these operations when you are done with
   a large object, to make the virtual memory system prefer reclaiming that object's memory
   over swapping something else out.

sys:%change-page-status virtual-address swap-status access-status-and-meta-bits
   The page hash table entry for the page containing virtual-address is found and altered as
   specified. t is returned if it was found, nil if it was not (presumably the page is swapped
   out.) swap-status and access-status-and-meta-bits can be nil if those fields are not to be
   changed. This doesn't make any error checks; you can really screw things up if you call
   it with the wrong arguments.

sys:%compute-page-hash virtual-address
   This makes the hashing function for the page hash table available to the user.

sys:%create-physical-page physical-address
   This is used when adjusting the size of real memory available to the machine. It adds an
   entry for the page frame at physical-address to the page hash table, with virtual address
   -1, swap status flushable, and map status 120 (read only). This doesn't make error
   checks; you can really screw things up if you call it with the wrong arguments.

sys:%delete-physical-page physical-address
   If there is a page in the page frame at physical-address, it is swapped out and its entry is
   deleted from the page hash table, making that page frame unavailable for swapping in of
   pages in the future. This doesn't make error checks; you can really screw things up if
   you call it with the wrong arguments.

sys:%disk-restore high-16-bits low-16-bits
   Loads virtual memory from the partition named by the concatenation of the two 16-bit
   arguments, and starts executing it. The name 0 refers to the default load (the one the
   machine loads when it is started up). This is the primitive used by disk-restore (see
   page 373).
Closure Subprimitives

**sys:%disk-save**  
*physical-mem-size high-16-bits low-16-bits*
Copies virtual memory into the partition named by the concatenation of the two 16-bit arguments (0 means the default), then restarts the world, as if it had just been restored. The *physical-mem-size* argument should come from *%sys-com-memory-size* in *system-communication-area*. This is the primitive used by *disk-save* (see page 373).

### 14.13 Closure Subprimitives

These functions deal with things like what closures deal with: the distinction between internal and external value cells and control over how they work.

**sys:%binding-instances**  
*list-of-symbols*
This is the primitive that could be used by closure. First, if any of the symbols in *list-of-symbols* has no external value cell, a new external value cell is created for it, with the contents of the internal value cell. Then a list of locatives, twice as long as *list-of-symbols*, is created and returned. The elements are grouped in pairs: pointers to the internal and external value cells, respectively, of each of the symbols. closure could have been defined by:

```lisp
(defun closure (variables function)  
  (%mak8-pointer dtp-closure (cons function (sys:%binding-instances variables)))))
```

**sys:%using-binding-instances**  
*instance-list*
This function is the primitive operation that invocation of closures could use. It takes a list such as *sys:%binding-instances* returns, and for each pair of elements in the list, it "adds" a binding to the current stack frame, in the same manner that the *bind* function (which should be called *%bind*) does. These bindings remain in effect until the frame returns or is unwound.

*sys:%using-binding-instances* checks for redundant bindings and ignores them. (A binding is redundant if the symbol is already bound to the desired external value cell). This check avoids excessive growth of the special pdl in some cases and is also made by the microcode which invokes closures, entities, and instances.

**sys:%internal-value-cell**  
*symbol*
Returns the contents of the internal value cell of *symbol*. *dtp-one-q-forward* pointers are considered invisible, as usual, but *dtp-external-value-cell-pointers* are *not*; this function can return a *dtp-external-value-cell-pointer*. Such pointers will be considered invisible as soon as they leave the "inside of the machine", meaning internal registers and the stack.
14.14 Microcode Variables

The following variables' values actually reside in the scratchpad memory of the processor. They are put there by dtp-one-q-forward invisible pointers. The values of these variables are used by the microcode. Many of these variables are highly internal and you shouldn't expect to understand them.

%%%microcode-version-number Variable
This is the version number of the currently-loaded microcode, obtained from the version number of the microcode source file.

sys:%number-of-micro-entries Variable
Size of micro-code-entry-area and related areas.

default-cons-area is documented on page 178.

sys: number-cons-area Variable
The area number of the area where bignums and flonums are consed. Normally this variable contains the value of sys:extra-pdl-area, which enables the "temporary storage" feature for numbers, saving garbage collection overhead.

sys:%current-stack-group and sys:%current-stack-group-previous-stack-group are documented on page 151.

sys:%current-stack-group-state Variable
The sg-state of the currently-running stack group.

sys:%current-stack-group-calling-args-pointer Variable
The argument list of the currently-running stack group.

sys:%current-stack-group-calling-args-number Variable
The number of arguments to the currently-running stack group.

sys:%trap-micro-pc Variable
The microcode address of the most recent error trap.

sys:%initial-fef Variable
The function which is called when the machine starts up. Normally this is the definition of si:lisp-top-level.

sys:%initial-stack-group Variable
The stack group in which the machine starts up.

sys:%error-handler-stack-group Variable
The stack group which receives control when a microcode-detected error occurs. This stack group cleans up, signals the appropriate condition, or assigns a stack group to run the debugger on the erring stack group.
**sys:%scheduler-stack-group Variable**

The stack group which receives control when a sequence break occurs.

**sys:%chaos-csr-address Variable**

A fixnum which is the virtual address which maps to the Unibus location of the Chaosnet interface.

**%mar-low Variable**

A fixnum which is the inclusive lower bound of the region of virtual memory subject to the MAR feature (see section 26.7, page 414).

**%mar-high Variable**

A fixnum which is the inclusive upper bound of the region of virtual memory subject to the MAR feature (see section 26.7, page 414).

**sys:%inhibit-read-only Variable**

If non-nil, you can write into read-only areas. This is used by fasload.

self is documented on page 262.

inhibit-scheduling-flag is documented on page 379.

**inhibit-scavenging-flag Variable**

If non-nil, the scavenger is turned off. The scavenger is the quasi-asynchronous portion of the garbage collector, which normally runs during consing operations.

**sys:%region-cons-alarm Variable**

Incremented whenever a new region is allocated.

**sys:%page-cons-alarm Variable**

Increments whenever a new page is allocated.

**sys:%gc-flip-ready Variable**

t while the scavenger is running, nil when there are no pointers to oldspace.

**sys:%gc-generation-number Variable**

A fixnum which is incremented whenever the garbage collector flips, converting one or more regions from newspace to oldspace. If this number has changed, the %pointer of an object may have changed.

**sys:%disk-run-light Variable**

A fixnum which is the virtual address of the TV buffer location of the run-light which lights up when the disk is active. This plus 2 is the address of the run-light for the processor. This minus 2 is the address of the run-light for the garbage collector.

**sys:%loaded-band Variable**

A fixnum which contains the high 24 bits of the name of the disk partition from which virtual memory was booted. Used to create the greeting message.
sys:%disk-blocks-per-track Variable
sys:%disk-blocks-per-cylinder Variable
Configuration of the disk being used for paging. Don’t change these!

sys:%read-compare-enables Variable
A fixnum which controls extra disk error-checking. Bit 0 enables read-compare after a read, bit 1 enables read-compare after a write. Normally this is 0.

sys:currently-prepared-sheet Variable
Used for communication between the window system and the microcoded graphics primitives.

The next four have to do with a metering system which is not yet documented in this manual.

sys:%meter-global-enable Variable
If the metering system is turned on for all stack-groups.

sys:%meter-buffer-pointer Variable
A temporary buffer used by the metering system.

sys:%meter-disk-address Variable
Where the metering system writes its next block of results on the disk.

sys:%meter-disk-count Variable
The number of disk blocks remaining for recording of metering information.

sys:a-memory-location-names Variable
A list of all of the above symbols (and any others added after this documentation was written).

14.15 Meters

read-meter name
Returns the contents of the microcode meter named name, which can be a fixnum or a bignum. name must be one the symbols listed below.

write-meter name value
Writes value, a fixnum or a bignum, into the microcode meter named name. name must be one the symbols listed below.

The microcode meters are as follows:

sys:%count-chaos-transmit-aborts Meter
The number of times transmission on the Chaosnet was aborted, either by a collision or because the receiver was busy.
sys:%count-cons-work  Meter
sys:%count-scavenger-work  Meter
Internal state of the garbage collection algorithm.

sys:%tv-clock-rate  Meter
The number of TV frames per clock sequence break. The default value is 67 which
causes clock sequence breaks to happen about once per second.

sys:%count-first-level-map-reloads  Meter
The number of times the first-level virtual-memory map was invalid and had to be
reloaded from the page hash table.

sys:%count-second-level-map-reloads  Meter
The number of times the second-level virtual-memory map was invalid and had to be
reloaded from the page hash table.

sys:%count-meta-bits-map-reloads  Meter
The number of times the virtual address map was reloaded to contain only "meta bits",
not an actual physical address.

sys:%count-pdl-buffer-read-faults  Meter
The number of read references to the pdl buffer which were virtual memory references
that trapped.

sys:%count-pdl-buffer-write-faults  Meter
The number of write references to the pdl buffer which were virtual memory references
that trapped.

sys:%count-pdl-buffer-memory-faults  Meter
The number of virtual memory references which trapped in case they should have gone to
the pdl buffer, but turned out to be real memory references after all (and therefore were
needlessly slowed down.)

sys:%count-disk-page-reads  Meter
The number of pages read from the disk.

sys:%count-disk-page-writes  Meter
The number of pages written to the disk.

sys:%count-fresh-pages  Meter
The number of fresh (newly-consed) pages created in core, which would have otherwise
been read from the disk.

sys:%count-disk-page-read-operations  Meter
The number of paging read operations; this can be smaller than the number of disk pages
read when more than one page at a time is read.
sys:%count-disk-page-write-operations Meter
    The number of paging write operations; this can be smaller than the number of disk
    pages written when more than one page at a time is written.

sys:%count-disk-prepages-used Meter
    The number of times a page was used after being read in before it was needed.

sys:%count-disk-prepages-not-used Meter
    The number of times a page was read in before it was needed, but got evicted before it
    was ever used.

sys:%count-disk-page-write-waits Meter
    The number of times the machine waited for a page to finish being written out in order
    to evict the page.

sys:%count-disk-page-write-busys Meter
    The number of times the machine waited for a page to finish being written out in order
    to do something else with the disk.

sys:%disk-wait-time Meter
    The time spent waiting for the disk, in microseconds. This can be used to distinguish
    paging time from running time when measuring and optimizing the performance of
    programs.

sys:%count-disk-errors Meter
    The number of recoverable disk errors.

sys:%count-disk-recalibrates Meter
    The number of times the disk seek mechanism was recalibrated, usually as part of error
    recovery.

sys:%count-disk-acc-corrected-errors Meter
    The number of disk errors which were corrected through the error correcting code.

sys:%count-disk-read-compare-differences Meter
    The number of times a read compare was done, no disk error occurred, but the data on
    disk did not match the data in memory.

sys:%count-disk-read-compare-rereads Meter
    The number of times a disk read was done over because after the read a read compare
    was done and did not succeed (either it got an error or the data on disk did not match
    the data in memory).

sys:%count-disk-read-compare-rewrites Meter
    The number of times a disk write was done over because after the write a read compare
    was done and did not succeed (either it got an error or the data on disk did not match
    the data in memory).
**sys:disk-error-log-pointer**  *Meter*
Address of the next entry to be written in the disk error log. The function `si:print-disk-error-log` (see page 450) prints this log.

**sys:count-aged-pages**  *Meter*
The number of times the page ager set an age trap on a page, to determine whether it was being referenced.

**sys:count-age-flushed-pages**  *Meter*
The number of times the page ager saw that a page still had an age trap and hence made it "flushable", a candidate for eviction from main memory.

**sys:aging-depth**  *Meter*
A number from 0 to 3 which controls how long a page must remain unreferenced before it becomes a candidate for eviction from main memory.

**sys:count-findcore-steps**  *Meter*
The number of pages inspected by the page replacement algorithm.

**sys:count-findcore-emergencies**  *Meter*
The number of times no evictable page was found and extra aging had to be done.

**sys:memory-counter-block-names**  *Variable*
A list of all of the above symbols (and any others added after this documentation was written).
15. Areas

Storage in the Lisp machine is divided into areas. Each area contains related objects, of any type. Areas are intended to give the user control over the paging behavior of his program, among other things. By putting related data together, locality can be greatly increased. Whenever a new object is created the area to be used can optionally be specified. For example, instead of using cons you can use cons-in-area (see page 50). Object-creating functions which take keyword arguments generally accept a :area argument. You can also control which area is used by binding default-cons-area (see page 178); most functions that allocate storage use the value of this variable, by default, to specify the area to use.

There is a default Working Storage area which collects those objects which the user has not chosen to control explicitly.

Areas also give the user a handle to control the garbage collector. Some areas can be declared to be "static", which means that they change slowly and the garbage collector should not attempt to reclaim any space in them. This can eliminate a lot of useless copying. A "static" area can be explicitly garbage-collected at infrequent intervals when it is believed that that might be worthwhile.

Each area can potentially have a different storage discipline, a different paging algorithm, and even a different data representation. The microcode will dispatch on an attribute of the area at the appropriate times. The structure of the machine makes the performance cost of these features negligible; information about areas is stored in extra bits in the memory mapping hardware where it can be quickly dispatched on by the microcode; these dispatches usually have to be done anyway to make the garbage collector work, and to implement invisible pointers. This feature is not currently used by the system, except for the list/structure distinction described below.

Each area has a name and a number. The name is a symbol whose value is the number. The number is an index into various internal tables. Normally the name is treated as a special variable, so the number is what is given as an argument to a function that takes an area as an argument. Thus, areas are not Lisp objects; you cannot pass an area itself as an argument to a function; you just pass its number. There is a maximum number of areas (set at cold-load generation time); you can only have that many areas before the various internal tables overflow. Currently (as this manual is written) the limit is 256. areas, of which 64, already exist when you start.

The storage of an area consists of one or more regions. Each region is a contiguous section of address space with certain homogeneous properties. The most important of these is the data representation type. A given region can only store one type. The two types that exist now are list and structure. A list is anything made out of conses (a closure for instance). A structure is anything made out of a block of memory with a header at the front; symbols, strings, arrays, instances, compiled functions, etc. Since lists and structures cannot be stored in the same region, they cannot be on the same page. It is necessary to know about this when using areas to increase locality of reference.

When you create an area, one region is created initially. When you try to allocate memory to hold an object in some area, the system tries to find a region that has the right data representation type to hold this object, and that has enough room for it to fit. If there isn't any
such region, it makes a new one (or signals an error; see the :size option to make-area, below). The size of the new region is an attribute of the area (controllable by the :region-size option to make-area). If regions are too large, memory may get taken up by a region and never used. If regions are too small, the system may run out of regions because regions, like areas, are defined by internal tables that have a fixed size (set at cold-load generation time). Currently (as this manual is written) the limit is 256 regions, of which about 90. already exist when you start. (If you're wondering why the limit on regions isn't higher than the limit on areas, as it clearly ought to be, it's just because both limits have to be multiples of 256. for internal reasons, and 256. regions seem to be enough.)

15.1 Area Functions and Variables

default-cons-area Variable

The value of this variable is the number of the area in which objects are created by default. It is initially the number of working-storage-area. Giving nil where an area is required uses the value of default-cons-area. Note that to put objects into an area other than working-storage-area you can either bind this variable or use functions such as cons-in-area (see page 50) which take the area as an explicit argument.

make-area &rest keywords

Creates a new area, whose name and attributes are specified by the keywords. You must specify a symbol as a name; the name will be setq'ed to the area-number of the new area, and that number will also be returned, so that you can use make-area as the initialization of a defvar. The arguments are taken in pairs, the first being a keyword and the second a "value" for that keyword. The last three keywords documented herein are in the nature of subprimitives; like the stuff in chapter 14, their meaning is system-dependent and is not documented here. The following keywords exist:

:name A symbol which will be the name of the area. This item is required.

:size The maximum allowed size of the area, in words. Defaults to infinite. If the number of words allocated to the area reaches this size, attempting to cons an object in the area will signal an error.

:region-size The approximate size, in words, for regions within this area. The default is the area size if a :size argument was given, otherwise a suitable medium size. Note that if you specify :size and not :region-size, the area will have exactly one region. When making an area which will be very big, it is desirable to make the region size larger than the default region size to avoid creating very many regions and possibly overflowing the system's fixed-size region tables.

:representation

The type of object to be contained in the area's initial region. The default for this keyword can be :list, :structure, or a numeric code. :structure is the default. If you are only going to cons lists in your area, you should specify :list so you don't get a useless structure region.

:gc

The type of garbage-collection to be employed. The choices are :dynamic (which is the default) and :static. :static means that the area will not be copied by the garbage collector, and nothing in the area or pointed to by the area will ever be reclaimed, unless a garbage collection of this area is...
:read-only
With an argument of t, causes the area to be made read-only. Defaults to nil. If an area is read-only, then any attempt to change anything in it (altering a data object in the area, or creating a new object in the area) will signal an error unless sys:%inhibit-read-only (see page 172) is bound to a non-nil value.

:pdl
With an argument of t, makes the area suitable for storing regular-pdls of stack-groups. This is a special attribute due to the pdl-buffer hardware. Defaults to nil. Areas for which this is nil may not be used to store regular-pdls. Areas for which this is t are relatively slow to access; all references to pages in the area will take page faults to check whether the referenced location is really in the pdl-buffer.

sys:%region-map-bits
Lets you specify the map bits explicitly, overriding the specification from the other keywords. This is for special hacks only.

sys:%region-space-type
Lets you specify the space type explicitly, overriding the specification from the other keywords. This is for special hacks only.

sys:%region-scavenge-enable
Lets you override the scavenge-enable bit explicitly. This is an internal flag related to the garbage collector. Don’t mess with this!

Example:
(make-area ':name 'foo-area ':gc ':dynamic ':representation ':list)

describe-area area
area may be the name or the number of an area. Various attributes of the area are printed.

.area-list Variable
The value of area-list is a list of the names of all existing areas. This list shares storage with the internal area name table, so you should not change it.

%area-number pointer
Returns the number of the area to which pointer points, or nil if it does not point within any known area. The data-type of pointer is ignored.

%region-number pointer
Returns the number of the region to which pointer points, or nil if it does not point within any known region. The data-type of pointer is ignored. (This information is generally not very interesting to users; it is important only inside the system.)
area-name number
Given an area number, returns the name. This "function" is actually an array.

See also cons-in-area (page 50), list-in-area (page 52), and room (page 448).

15.2 Interesting Areas

This section lists the names of some of the areas and tells what they are for. Only the ones of the most interest to a user are listed; there are many others.

working-storage-area Variable
This is the normal value of default-cons-area. Most working data are consed in this area.

permanent-storage-area Variable
This area is to be used for "permanent" data, which will (almost) never become garbage. Unlike working-storage-area, the contents of this area are not continually copied by the garbage collector; it is a static area.

cy:pn-string Variable
Print-names of symbols are stored in this area.

cy:nr-sym Variable
This area contains most of the symbols in the Lisp world, except t and nil, which are in a different place for historical reasons.

cy:pkg-area Variable
This area contains packages, principally the hash tables with which intern keeps track of symbols.

macro-compiled-program Variable
FEFs (compiled functions) are put here by the compiler and by fasload.

cy:property-list-area Variable
This area holds the property lists of symbols.

cy:init-list-area Variable

sys:fasl-constants-area Variable
These two areas contain constants used by compiled programs.
16. The Compiler

16.1 The Basic Operations of the Compiler

The purpose of the Lisp compiler is to convert Lisp functions into programs in the Lisp Machine's instruction set, so that they will run more quickly and take up less storage. Compiled functions are represented in Lisp by FEFs (Function Entry Frames), which contain machine code as well as various other information. The printed representation of a FEF is

```
#<DTP-FEF-POINTER address name>
```

If you want to understand the output of the compiler, refer to chapter 27, page 417.

There are three ways to invoke the compiler from the Lisp Machine. First, you may have an interpreted function in the Lisp environment which you would like to compile. The function compile is used to do this. Second, you may have code in an editor buffer which you would like to compile. The Zwei editor has commands to read code into Lisp and compile it. Third, you may have a program (a group of function definitions and other forms) written in a file on the file system. The compiler can translate this file into a QFASL file. Loading in the QFASL file is almost the same as reading in the source file; the difference is that the functions defined in the file will be defined as compiled functions instead of interpreted functions. The qc-file function is used for translating source files into QFASL files.

16.2 How to Invoke the Compiler

```
compile function-spec &optional definition
```

If definition is supplied, it should be a lambda-expression. Otherwise function-spec (this is usually a symbol, but see section 10.2, page 124 for details) should be defined as an interpreted function and its definition will be used as the lambda-expression to be compiled. The compiler converts the lambda-expression into a FEF, saves the lambda-expression as the :previous-expr-definition and :previous-definition properties of function-spec if it is a symbol, and changes function-spec’s definition to be the FEF. (See fdefine, page 135). (Actually, if function-spec is not defined as a lambda-expression, and function-spec is a symbol, compile will try to find a lambda-expression in the :previous-expr-definition property of function-spec and use that instead.)

```
uncompile symbol
```

If symbol is not defined as an interpreted function and it has a :previous-expr-definition property, then uncompile will restore the function cell from the value of the property. (Otherwise, uncompile does nothing and returns "Not compiled".) This "undoes" the effect of compile. See also undefun, page 137.

```
qc-file filename &optional output-file load-flag in-core-flag package functions-defined file-local-declarations dont-set-default-p read-then-process-flag
```

This function takes a formidable number of arguments, but normally only one argument is supplied. The file filename is given to the compiler, and the output of the compiler is written to a file whose name is filename except with a file type of "QFASL". The input format for files to the compiler is described on section 16.3, page 182. Macro definitions, subst definitions, and special declarations created during the compilation are undone.

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when the compilation is finished.

The optional arguments allow certain modifications to the standard procedure. output-file lets you change where the output is written. package lets you specify in what package the source file is to be read. Normally the system knows, or asks interactively, and you need not supply this argument. load-flag and in-core-flag are incomprehensible; you don't want to use them. functions-defined and file-local-declarations are for compiling multiple files as if they were one. don't-set-default-p suppresses the changing of the default file name to filename that normally occurs.

Normally, a form is read from the file and processed and then another form is read and processed, and so on. But if read-then-process-flag is non-nil, the whole source file is read before any of it is processed. This is not done by default; it has the problem that compile-time reader-macros defined in the file will not work properly.

qc-file-load filename
qc-file-load compiles a file and then loads in the resulting QFASL file.

See also the disassemble function (page 448), which lists the instructions of a compiled function in symbolic form.

16.3 Input to the Compiler

The purpose of qc-file is to take a file and produce a translated version which does the same thing as the original except that the functions are compiled: qc-file reads through the input file, processing the forms in it one by one. For each form, suitable binary output is sent to the QFASL file so that when the QFASL file is loaded the effect of that source form will be reproduced. The differences between source files and QFASL files are that QFASL files are in a compressed binary form which reads much faster (but cannot be edited), and that function definitions in QFASL files have been translated from Lisp forms to FEFs.

So, if the source contains a (defun ...) form at top level, then when the QFASL file is loaded, the function will be defined as a compiled function. If the source file contains a form which is not of a type known specially to the compiler, then that form (encoded in QFASL format) will be output "directly" into the QFASL file, so that when the QFASL file is loaded that form will be evaluated. Thus, if the source file contains (setq x 3), then the compiler will put in the QFASL file instructions to set x to 3 at load time (that is, when the QFASL file is loaded into the Lisp environment). It happens that QFASL files have a specific way to setq a symbol. For a more general form, the QFASL file would contain instructions to recreate the list structure of a form and then call eval on it.

Sometimes we want to put things in the file that are not merely meant to be translated into QFASL form. One such occasion is top level macro definitions; the macros must actually get defined within the compiler in order for the compiler to be able to expand them at compile time. So when a macro form is seen, it should (sometimes) be evaluated at compile time, and should (sometimes) be put into the QFASL file.

Another thing we sometimes want to put in a file is compiler declarations. These are forms which should be evaluated at compile time to tell the compiler something. They should not be put into the QFASL file, unless they are useful for working incrementally on the functions in the
Therefore, a facility exists to allow the user to tell the compiler just what to do with a form. One might want a form to be:

- Put into the QFASL file (compiled, of course), or not.
- Evaluated within the compiler, or not.
- Evaluated if the file is read directly into Lisp, or not.

Two forms are recognized by the compiler to allow this. The less general, old-fashioned one is declare; the completely general one is eval-when.

An eval-when form looks like

```
(eval-when times-list
  form1
  form2
  ...
)
```

The times-list may contain one or more of the symbols load, compile, or eval. If load is present, the forms are written into the QFASL file to be evaluated when the QFASL file is loaded (except that defun forms will put the compiled definition into the QFASL file instead). If compile is present, the forms are evaluated in the compiler. If eval is present, the forms are evaluated when read into Lisp; this is because eval-when is defined as a special form in Lisp. (The compiler ignores eval in the times-list.) For example,

```
(eval-when (compile eval) (macro foo (x) (cadr x)))
```

would define foo as a macro in the compiler and when the file is read in interpreted, but not when the QFASL file is fastloaded.

For the rest of this section, we will use lists such as are given to eval-when, e.g. (load eval), (load compile), etc. to describe when forms are evaluated.

A declare form looks like (declare form1 form2 ...). declare is defined in Lisp as a special form which does nothing; so the forms within a declare are not evaluated at eval time. The compiler does the following upon finding form within a declare: if form is a call to either special or unspecial, form is treated as (load compile); otherwise it is treated as (compile).

If a form is not enclosed in an eval-when nor a declare, then the times at which it will be evaluated depend on the form. The following table summarizes at what times evaluation will take place for any given form seen at top level by the compiler.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluates at:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(eval-when times-list form1 ...)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>times-list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(declare (special ...)) or (declare (unspecial ...))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(load compile)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(declare anything-else)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(compile)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(special ...) or (unspecial ...)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(load compile eval)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(macro ...) or (defmacro ...) or (defsubst ...)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(load compile eval)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Compiler Declarations

(comment ...) Ignored at all times.

(compiler-let ((var val) ...) body...) Processes the body in its normal fashion, but at (compile eval) time, the indicated variable bindings are in effect. These variables will typically affect the operation of the compiler or of macros.

(local-declare (decl decl ...) body...) Processes the body in its normal fashion, with the indicated declarations added to the front of the list which is the value of local-declarations.

(defflavor ...) or (defstruct ...) (load compile eval)
(defun ...) or (defmethod ...) or (defselect ...) (load eval), but at load time what is processed is not this form itself, but the result of compiling it.

anything-else (load eval)

Sometimes a macro wants to return more than one form for the compiler top level to see (and to be evaluated). The following facility is provided for such macros. If a form

(progn (quote compile) form1 form2 ...)

is seen at the compiler top level, all of the forms are processed as if they had been at compiler top level. (Of course, in the interpreter they will all be evaluated, and the (quote compile) will harmlessly evaluate to the symbol compile and be ignored.)

eval-when Special Form
An eval-when form looks like

(eval-when times-list form1 form2 ...)

If one of the elements of times-list is the symbol eval, then the forms are evaluated; otherwise eval-when does nothing.

But when seen by the compiler, this special form does the special things described above.

declare Special Form
declare does nothing, and returns the symbol declare.

But when seen by the compiler, this special form does the special things described above.

16.4 Compiler Declarations

This section describes functions meant to be called during compilation, and variables meant to be set or bound during compilation, by using declare or local-declare.

local-declare Special Form
A local-declare form looks like

(local-declare (decl decl2 ...) form1 form2 ...)

Each decl is consed onto the list local-declarations while the forms are being evaluated (in the interpreter) or compiled (in the compiler). There are two uses for this. First, it
can be used to pass information from outer macros to inner macros. Secondly, the compiler will specially interpret certain `decls` as local declarations, which only apply to the compilations of the `forms`. It understands the following forms:

(special var1 var2 ...)
The variables var1, var2, etc. will be treated as special variables during the compilation of the `forms`.

(unspecial var1 var2 ...)
The variables var1, var2, etc. will be treated as local variables during the compilation of the `forms`.

(arglist . arglist)
Putting this local declaration around a `defun` saves arglist as the argument list of the function, to be used instead of its lambda-list if anyone asks what its arguments are. This is purely documentation.

(return-list . values)
Putting this local declaration around a `defun` saves values as the return values list of the function, to be used if anyone asks what values it returns. This is purely documentation.

(def name . definition)
name will be defined for the compiler during the compilation of the `forms`. The compiler uses this to keep track of macros and open-codable functions (defsubsts) defined in the file being compiled. Note that the cdr of this item is a function.

special Special Form
(special var1 var2 ...) causes the variables to be declared to be "special" for the compiler.

unspecial Special Form
(unspecial var1 var2 ...) removes any "special" declarations of the variables for the compiler.

The next three declarations are primarily for Maclisp compatibility.

*expr Special Form
(*expr sym1 sym2 ...) declares sym1, sym2, etc. to be names of functions. In addition it prevents these functions from appearing in the list of functions referenced but not defined printed at the end of the compilation.

*lexpr Special Form
(*lexpr sym1 sym2 ...) declares sym1, sym2, etc. to be names of functions. In addition it prevents these functions from appearing in the list of functions referenced but not defined printed at the end of the compilation.

*fexpr Special Form
(*fexpr sym1 sym2 ...) declares sym1, sym2, etc. to be names of special forms. In addition it prevents these names from appearing in the list of functions referenced but not defined printed at the end of the compilation.
There are some advertised variables whose compile-time values affect the operation of the compiler. The user may set these variables by including in his file forms such as

```
(declare (setq open-code-map-switch t))
```

**run-in-maclisp-switch** Variable

If this variable is non-nil, the compiler will try to warn the user about any constructs which will not work in Maclisp. By no means will all Lisp machine system functions not built in to Maclisp be cause for warnings; only those which could not be written by the user in Maclisp (for example, make-array, value-cell-location, etc.). Also, lambda-list keywords such as &optional and initialized prog variables will be mentioned. This switch also inhibits the warnings for obsolete Maclisp functions. The default value of this variable is nil.

**obsolete-function-warning-switch** Variable

If this variable is non-nil, the compiler will try to warn the user whenever an "obsolete" Maclisp-compatibility function such as maknam or samepnamenr is used. The default value is t.

**allow-variables-in-function-position-switch** Variable

If this variable is non-nil, the compiler allows the use of the name of a variable in function position to mean that the variable's value should be funcall'd. This is for compatibility with old Maclisp programs. The default value of this variable is nil.

**open-code-map-switch** Variable

If this variable is non-nil, the compiler will attempt to produce inline code for the mapping functions (map, mapcar, etc., but not mapatoms) if the function being mapped is an anonymous lambda-expression. This allows that function to reference the local variables of the enclosing function without the need for special declarations. The generated code is also more efficient. The default value is t.

**all-special-switch** Variable

If this variable is non-nil, the compiler regards all variables as special, regardless of how they were declared. This provides full compatibility with the interpreter at the cost of efficiency. The default is nil.

**inhibit-style-warnings-switch** Variable

If this variable is non-nil, all compiler style-checking is turned off. Style checking is used to issue obsolete function warnings and won't-run-in-Maclisp warnings, and other sorts of warnings. The default value is nil. See also the inhibit-style-warnings macro, which acts on one level only of an expression.

**compiler-let** Macro

(compiler-let ((variable value)... body)...), syntactically identical to let, allows compiler switches to be bound locally at compile time, during the processing of the body forms. Example:

```
(compiler-let ((open-code-map-switch nil))
  (map (function (lambda (x) ...)) foo))
```

will prevent the compiler from open-coding the map. When interpreted, compiler-let is equivalent to let. This is so that global switches which affect the behavior of macro expanders can be bound locally.
inhibit-style-warnings Macro
(inhibit-style-warnings form) prevents the compiler from performing style-checking on
the top level of form. Style-checking will still be done on the arguments of form. Both
obsolete function warnings and won't-run-in-Malisp warnings are done by means of the
style-checking mechanism, so, for example,

(setq bar (inhibit-style-warnings (value-cell-location foo)))

will not warn that value-cell-location will not work in Malisp, but

(inhibit-style-warnings (setq bar (value-cell-location foo)))

will warn, since inhibit-style-warnings applies only to the top level of the form inside it
(in this case, to the setq).

16.5 Compiler Source-Level Optimizers

The compiler stores optimizers for source code on property lists so as to make it easy for the
user to add them. An optimizer can be used to transform code into an equivalent but more
efficient form (for example, (eq obj nil) is transformed into (null obj), which can be compiled
better). An optimizer can also be used to tell the compiler how to compile a special form. For
example, in the interpreter do is a special form, implemented by a function which takes quoted
arguments and calls eval. In the compiler, do is expanded in a macro-like way by an optimizer,
into equivalent Lisp code using prog, cond, and go, which the compiler understands.

The compiler finds the optimizers to apply to a form by looking for the compiler:optimizers
property of the symbol which is the car of the form. The value of this property should be a list
of optimizers, each of which must be a function of one argument. The compiler tries each
optimizer in turn, passing the form to be optimized as the argument. An optimizer which returns
the original form unchanged (eq to the argument) has "done nothing", and the next optimizer is
tried. If the optimizer returns anything else, it has "done something", and the whole process
starts over again. This is somewhat like a Markov algorithm. Only after all the optimizers have
been tried and have done nothing is an ordinary macro definition processed. This is so that the
macro definitions, which will be seen by the interpreter, can be overridden for the compiler by
optimizers.

Optimizers should not be used to define new language features, because they only take effect
in the compiler; the interpreter (that is, the evaluator) doesn't know about optimizers. So an
optimizer should not change the effect of a form; it should produce another form that does the
same thing, possibly faster or with less memory or something. That is why they are called
optimizers. If you want to actually change the form to do something else, you should be using
macros.

compiler: add-optimizer optimizer function

Puts optimizer on function's optimizers list if it isn't there already. optimizer is the name
of an optimization function, and function is the name of the function calls to which are to
be processed.
16.6 Files that Maclisp Must Compile

Certain programs are intended to be run both in Maclisp and in Lisp Machine Lisp. Their source files need some special conventions. For example, such Lisp Machine constructs as &aux and &optional must not be used. All special declarations must be enclosed in declares, so that the Maclisp compiler will see them. It is suggested that you turn on run-in-maclisp-switch in such files, which will warn you about a lot of bugs.

The macro-character combination "#Q" causes the object that follows it to be visible only when compiling for the Lisp Machine. The combination "#M" causes the following object to be visible only when compiling for Maclisp. These work only on subexpressions of the objects in the file, however. To conditionize top-level objects, put the macros if-for-lispm and if-for-maclisp around them. (You can only put these around a single object.) The if-for-lispm macro turns off run-in-maclisp-switch within its object, preventing spurious warnings from the compiler. The #Q macro-character does not do this, since it can be used to conditionize any S-expression, not just a top-level form.

To allow a file to detect what environment it is being compiled in, the following macros are provided:

if-for-lispm Macro
If (if-for-lispm form) is seen at the top level of the compiler, form is passed to the compiler top level if the output of the compiler is a QFASL file intended for the Lisp Machine. If the Lisp Machine interpreter sees this it will evaluate form (the macro expands into form).

if-for-maclisp Macro
If (if-for-maclisp form) is seen at the top level of the compiler, form is passed to the compiler top level if the output of the compiler is a FASL file intended for Maclisp (e.g. if the compiler is COMPLR). If the Lisp Machine interpreter sees this it will ignore it (the macro expands into nil).

if-for-maclisp-else-lispm Macro
If (if-for-maclisp-else-lispm form1 form2) is seen at the top level of the compiler, form1 is passed to the compiler top level if the output of the compiler is a FASL file intended for Maclisp; otherwise form2 is passed to the compiler top level.

if-in-lispm Macro
On the Lisp Machine, (if-in-lispm form) causes form to be evaluated; in Maclisp, form is ignored.

if-in-maclisp Macro
In Maclisp, (if-in-maclisp form) causes form to be evaluated; on the Lisp Machine, form is ignored.

When you have two definitions of one function, one conditionalized for one machine and one for the other, put them next to each other in the source file with the second "(defun) indented by one space, and the editor will put both function definitions on the screen when you ask to edit that function.
In order to make sure that those macros and macro-characters are defined when reading the file into the Maclisp compiler, you must make the file start with a prelude, which will have no effect when you compile on the real machine. The prelude can be found in "AI: LMDOC; .COMPL PRELUD"; this will also define most of the standard Lisp Machine macros and reader macros in Maclisp, including defmacro and the backquote facility.

Another useful facility is the form (status feature lispm), which evaluates to t when evaluated on the Lisp machine and to nil when evaluated in Maclisp.

16.7 Putting Data in QFASL Files

It is possible to make a QFASL file containing data, rather than a compiled program. This can be useful to speed up loading of a data structure into the machine, as compared with reading in printed representations. Also, certain data structures such as arrays do not have a convenient printed representation as text, but can be saved in QFASL files. For example, the system stores fonts this way. Each font is in a QFASL file (on the LMFONT directory) which contains the data structures for that font. When the file is loaded, the symbol which is the name of the font gets set to the array which represents the font. Putting data into a QFASL file is often referred to as "fasdumping the data".

In compiled programs, the constants are saved in the QFASL file in this way. The compiler optimizes by making constants which are equal become eq when the file is loaded. This does not happen when you make a data file yourself; identity of objects is preserved. Note that when a QFASL file is loaded, objects that were eq when the file was written are still eq; this does not normally happen with text files.

The following types of objects can be represented in QFASL files: Symbols (but uninterned symbols will be interned when the file is loaded), numbers of all kinds, lists, strings, arrays of all kinds, instances, and FEFs.

When an instance is fasdumped (put into a QFASL file), it is sent a :fasd-form message, which must return a Lisp form which, when evaluated, will recreate the equivalent of that instance. This is because instances are often part of a large data structure, and simply fasdumping all of the instance variables and making a new instance with those same values is unlikely to work. Instances remain eq; the :fasd-form message is only sent the first time a particular instance is encountered during writing of a QFASL file. If the instance does not accept the :fasd-form message, it cannot be fasdumped.

**compiler:fasd-symbol-value filename symbol**

Writes a QFASL file named *filename* which contains the value of *symbol*. When the file is loaded, *symbol* will be setq'ed to the same value. *filename* is parsed with the same defaults that load and qc-file use. The file type defaults to "qfasl".

**compiler:fasd-font name**

Writes the font named *name* into a QFASL file with the appropriate name (on the LMFONT directory).
This is a way to dump a complex data structure into a QFASL file. The values, the function definitions, and some of the properties of certain symbols are put into the QFASL file in such a way that when the file is loaded the symbols will be setqed, fdefined, and putproped appropriately. The user can control what happens to symbols discovered in the data structures being fasdumped.

`filename` is the name of the file to be written. It is parsed with the same defaults that `load` and `qc-file` use. The file type defaults to "qfasl".

`symbols` is a list of symbols to be processed. `properties` is a list of properties which are to be fasdumped if they are found on the symbols. `dump-values-p` and `dump-functions-p` control whether the values and function definitions are also dumped.

`new-symbol-function` is called whenever a new symbol is found in the structure being dumped. It can do nothing, or it can add the symbol to the list to be processed by calling `compiler:fasd-symbol-push`. The value returned by `new-symbol-function` is ignored.
17. Macros

17.1 Introduction to Macros

If eval is handed a list whose car is a symbol, then eval inspects the definition of the symbol to find out what to do. If the definition is a cons, and the car of the cons is the symbol macro, then the definition (i.e. that cons) is called a macro. The cdr of the cons should be a function of one argument. eval applies the function to the form it was originally given, takes whatever is returned, and evaluates that in lieu of the original form.

Here is a simple example. Suppose the definition of the symbol first is

```
(macro lambda (x)
 (list 'car (cadr x)))
```

This thing is a macro: it is a cons whose car is the symbol macro. What happens if we try to evaluate a form (first '(a b c))? Well, eval sees that it has a list whose car is a symbol (namely, first), so it looks at the definition of the symbol and sees that it is a cons whose car is macro; the definition is a macro.

Eval takes the cdr of the cons, which is supposed to be the macro's expander function, and calls it providing as an argument the original form that eval was handed. So it calls (lambda (x) (list 'car (cadr x))) with argument (first '(a b c)). Whatever this returns is the expansion of the macro call. It will be evaluated in place of the original form.

In this case, x is bound to (first '(a b c)), (cadr x) evaluates to '(a b c), and (list 'car (cadr x)) evaluates to (car '(a b c)), which is the expansion. Eval now evaluates the expansion. (car '(a b c)) returns a, and so the result is that (first '(a b c)) returns a.

What have we done? We have defined a macro called first. What the macro does is to translate the form to some other form. Our translation is very simple—it just translates forms that look like (first x) into (car x), for any form x. We can do much more interesting things with macros, but first we will show how to define a macro.

The primitive special form for defining macros is macro. A macro definition looks like this:

```
(macro name (arg)
 body)
```

To define our first macro, we would say

```
(macro first (x)
 (list 'car (cadr x)))
```

Here are some more simple examples of macros. Suppose we want any form that looks like (addone x) to be translated into (plus 1 x). To define a macro to do this we would say

```
(macro addone (x)
 (list 'plus '1 (cadr x)))
```

Now say we wanted a macro which would translate (increment x) into (setq x (1+ x)). This would be:
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(macro increment (x)
  (list 'setq (cadr x) (list '1+ (cadr x))))

Of course, this macro is of limited usefulness. The reason is that the form in the cadr of the increment form had better be a symbol. If you tried (increment (car x)), it would be translated into (setq (car x) (1+ (car x))), and setq would complain. (If you're interested in how to fix this problem, see setf (page 201); but this is irrelevant to how macros work.)

You can see from this discussion that macros are very different from functions. A function would not be able to tell what kind of subforms are around in a call to itself; they get evaluated before the function ever sees them. However, a macro gets to look at the whole form and see just what is going on there. Macros are not functions; if first is defined as a macro, it is not meaningful to apply first to arguments. A macro does not take arguments at all; its expander function takes a Lisp form and turns it into another Lisp form.

The purpose of functions is to compute; the purpose of macros is to translate. Macros are used for a variety of purposes, the most common being extensions to the Lisp language. For example, Lisp is powerful enough to express many different control structures, but it does not provide every control structure anyone might ever possibly want. Instead, if a user wants some kind of control structure with a syntax that is not provided, he can translate it into some form that Lisp does know about.

For example, someone might want a limited iteration construct which increments a variable by one until it exceeds a limit (like the FOR statement of the BASIC language). He might want it to look like

\( \text{FOR a 1 100 (PRINT a) (PRINT (* a a))} \)

To get this, he could write a macro to translate it into

\( \text{(DO a 1 (1+ a) (> a 100) (PRINT a) (PRINT (* a a))}} \)

A macro to do this could be defined with

(macro for (x)
  (cons 'do
    (cons (cadr x)
      (cons (caddr x)
        (cons (list '1+ (cadr x))
          (cons (list '> (cadr x) (cadddr x))
            (cddddr x))))))

Now he has defined his own new control structure primitive, and it will act just as if it were a special form provided by Lisp itself.

17.2 Aids for Defining Macros

The main problem with the definition for the for macro is that it is verbose and clumsy. If it is that hard to write a macro to do a simple specialized iteration construct, one would wonder how anyone could write macros of any real sophistication.

There are two things that make the definition so inelegant. One is that the programmer must write things like "(cadr x)" and "(cddddr x)" to refer to the parts of the form he wants to do things with. The other problem is that the long chains of calls to the list and cons functions are very hard to read.
Two features are provided to solve these two problems. The defmacro macro solves the former, and the "backquote" (') reader macro solves the latter.

17.2.1 Defmacro

Instead of referring to the parts of our form by "(cadr x)" and such, we would like to give names to the various pieces of the form, and somehow have the (cadr x) automatically generated. This is done by a macro called defmacro. It is easiest to explain what defmacro does by showing an example. Here is how you would write the for macro using defmacro:

```
(defmacro for (var lower upper . body)
  (cons 'do
    (cons var
      (cons lower
        (cons (list '+ var)
          (cons (list '> var upper)
            body)))))
```

The (var lower upper . body) is a pattern to match against the body of the macro (to be more precise, to match against the cdr of the argument to the macro). If defmacro tries to match the two lists

```
(var lower upper . body)
```

and

```
(a 1 100 (print a) (print (* a a)))
```

var will get bound to the symbol a, lower to the fixnum 1, upper to the fixnum 100, and body to the list ((print a) (print (* a a))). Then inside the body of the defmacro, var, lower, upper, and body are variables, bound to the matching parts of the macro form.

**defmacro Macro**

defmacro is a general purpose macro-defining macro. A defmacro form looks like

```
(defmacro name pattern . body)
```

The pattern may be anything made up out of symbols and conses. It is matched against the body of the macro form; both pattern and the form are car'ed and cdr'ed identically, and whenever a non-nil symbol is hit in pattern, the symbol is bound to the corresponding part of the form. All of the symbols in pattern can be used as variables within body. name is the name of the macro to be defined. body is evaluated with these bindings in effect, and its result is returned to the evaluator as the expansion of the macro.

Note that the pattern need not be a list the way a lambda-list must. In the above example, the pattern was a "dotted list", since the symbol body was supposed to match the cdddr of the macro form. If we wanted a new iteration form, like for except that our example would look like

```
(for a (1 100) (print a) (print (* a a)))
```

(just because we thought that was a nicer syntax), then we could do it merely by modifying the pattern of the defmacro above: the new pattern would be (var (lower upper) . body).

Here is how we would write our other examples using defmacro:
(defmacro first (the-list)
  (list 'car the-list))

(defmacro addone (form)
  (list 'plus '1 form))

(defmacro increment (symbol)
  (list 'setq symbol (list '1+ symbol)))

All of these were very simple macros and have very simple patterns, but these examples show that we can replace the (cadr x) with a readable mnemonic name such as the-list or symbol, which makes the program clearer, and enables documentation facilities such as the arglist function to describe the syntax of the special form defined by the macro.

There is another version of defmacro which defines displacing macros (see section 17.5, page 198). defmacro has other, more complex features; see section 17.6, page 199.

17.2.2 Backquote

Now we deal with the other problem: the long strings of calls to cons and list. This problem is relieved by introducing some new characters that are special to the Lisp reader. Just as the single-quote character makes it easier to type things of the form (quote x), so will some more new special characters make it easier to type forms that create new list structure. The functionality provided by these characters is called the backquote facility.

The backquote facility is used by giving a backquote character (\textquoteleft{}), followed by a form. If the form does not contain any use of the comma character, the backquote acts just like a single quote: it creates a form which, when evaluated, produces the form following the backquote. For example,

\textquoteleft{}(a b c) \Rightarrow (a b c)
\textquoteleft{}(a b c) \Rightarrow (a b c)

So in the simple cases, backquote is just like the regular single-quote macro. The way to get it to do interesting things is to include a comma somewhere inside of the form following the backquote. The comma is followed by a form, and that form gets evaluated even though it is inside the backquote. For example,

\textquoteleft{}(setq b 1)
\textquoteleft{}(a b c) \Rightarrow (a b c)
\textquoteleft{}(a ,b c) \Rightarrow (a 1 c)
\textquoteleft{}(abc ,(+ b 4) ,( - b 1) (def ,b)) \Rightarrow (abc 5 0 (def 1))

In other words, backquote quotes everything except things preceeded by a comma; those things get evaluated.

A list following a backquote can be thought of as a template for some new list structure. The parts of the list that are preceeded by commas are forms that fill in slots in the template; everything else is just constant structure that will appear in the result. This is usually what you want in the body of a macro; some of the form generated by the macro is constant, the same thing on every invocation of the macro. Other parts are different every time the macro is called, often being functions of the form that the macro appeared in (the "arguments" of the macro). The latter parts are the ones for which you would use the comma. Several examples of this sort of use follow.
When the reader sees the '(a ,b c) it is actually generating a form such as (list 'a b 'c). The actual form generated may use list, cons, append, or whatever might be a good idea; you should never have to concern yourself with what it actually turns into. All you need to care about is what it evaluates to. Actually, it doesn't use the regular functions cons, list, and so forth, but uses special ones instead so that the grinder can recognize a form which was created with the backquote syntax, and print it using backquote so that it looks like what you typed in.

This is generally found to be pretty confusing by most people; the best way to explain further seems to be with examples. Here is how we would write our three simple macros using both the defmacro and backquote facilities.

(defmacro first (the-list)  
  '(car ,the-list))

(defmacro addone (form)  
  '(plus 1 ,form))

(defmacro increment (symbol)  
  '(setq ,symbol (1+ ,symbol)))

To finally demonstrate how easy it is to define macros with these two facilities, here is the final form of the for macro.

(defmacro for (var lower upper . body)  
  '(do ,var ,lower (1+ ,var) (> ,var ,upper) . ,body))

Look at how much simpler that is than the original definition. Also, look how closely it resembles the code it is producing. The functionality of the for really stands right out when written this way.

If a comma inside a backquote form is followed by an "atsign" character (@), it has a special meaning. The ",@" should be followed by a form whose value is a list; then each of the elements of the list is put into the list being created by the backquote. In other words, instead of generating a call to the cons function, backquote generates a call to append. For example, if a is bound to (x y z), then '(1 ,a 2) would evaluate to (1 (x y z) 2), but '(1 ,@a 2) would evaluate to (1 x y z 2).

Here is an example of a macro definition that uses the ",@" construction. Suppose you wanted to extend Lisp by adding a kind of special form called repeat-forever, which evaluates all of its subforms repeatedly. One way to implement this would be to expand

(repeat-forever form1 form2 form3)

into

(prog ()
  a form1
  form2
  form3
  (go a))

You could define the macro by

(defmacro repeat-forever body
  '(prog ()
     a ,@body
     (go a)))
Advanced macro writers sometimes write "macro-defining macros": forms which expand into forms which, when evaluated, define macros. In such macros it is often useful to use nested backquote constructs. The following example illustrates the use of nested backquotes in the writing of macro-defining macros.

This example is a very simple version of defstruct (see page 228). You should first understand the basic description of defstruct before proceeding with this example. The defstruct below does not accept any options, and only allows the simplest kind of items; that is, it only allows forms like

\[
\text{(defstruct (name)}
\item1
\item2
\item3
\item4
...
\)
\]

We would like this form to expand into

\[
\text{(progn 'compile}
\text{(defmacro item1 (x)}
\text{ '(aref ,x 0))}
\text{(defmacro item2 (x)}
\text{ '(aref ,x 1))}
\text{(defmacro item3 (x)}
\text{ '(aref ,x 2))}
\text{(defmacro item4 (x)}
\text{ '(aref ,x 3))}
...
\]

Here is the macro to perform the expansion:

\[
\text{(defmacro defstruct ((name) . items)}
\text{(do ((item-list items (cdr item-list))}
\text{ (ans nil)}
\text{ (i 0 (1+ i)))}
\text{ ((null item-list)}
\text{ '(progn 'compile . , (nreverse ans)))}
\text{ (setq ans}
\text{ (cons '(defmacro ,(car item-list) (x)}
\text{ '(aref ,x ,',i})
\text{ ans))))}
\]

The interesting part of this definition is the body of the (inner) defmacro form: \'(aref ,x ,',i). Instead of using this backquote construction, we could have written (list 'aref x ,i): that is, the ",`` acts like a comma which matches the outer backquote, while the ",`` preceding the "x" matches with the inner backquote. Thus, the symbol i is evaluated when the defstruct form is expanded, whereas the symbol x is evaluated when the accessor macros are expanded.

Backquote can be useful in situations other than the writing of macros. Whenever there is a piece of list structure to be consed up, most of which is constant, the use of backquote can make the program considerably clearer.
17.3 Substitutable Functions

A substitutable function is a function which is open coded by the compiler. It is like any other function when applied, but it can be expanded instead, and in that regard resembles a macro.

**defsubst** Special Form

defsubst is used for defining substitutable functions. It is used just like `defun`.

```
(defsubst name lambda-list . body)
```

and does almost the same thing. It defines a function which executes identically to the one which a similar call to `defun` would define. The difference comes when a function which *calls* this one is compiled. Then, the call will be open-coded by substituting the substitutable function's definition into the code being compiled. The function itself looks like `(subst lambda-list . body)`. Such a function is called a *subst*. For example, if we define

```
(defun foo (a b) (square (+ a b)))
```

then if `foo` is used interpreted, `square` will work just as if it had been defined by `defun`. If `foo` is compiled, however, the squaring will be substituted into it and it will compile just like

```
(defun foo (a b) (* (+ a b) (+ a b)))
```

`square`'s definition would be

```
(subst (x) (* x x))
```

A similar `square` could be defined as a macro, with

```
(defmacro square (x) `(* ,x ,x))
```

In general, anything that is implemented as a subst can be re-implemented as a macro, just by changing the `defsubst` to a `defmacro` and putting in the appropriate backquote and commas. The disadvantage of macros is that they are not functions, and so cannot be applied to arguments. Their advantage is that they can do much more powerful things than *substs* can.

You will notice that the substitution performed is very simple and takes no care about the possibility of computing an argument twice when it really ought to be computed once. For instance, in the current implementation, the functions

```
(defsubst reverse-cons (x y) (cons y x))
(defsubst in-order (a b c) (and (< a b) (< b c)))
```

would present problems. When compiled, because of the substitution a call to `reverse-cons` would evaluate its arguments in the wrong order, and a call to `in-order` could evaluate its second argument twice. This will be fixed at some point in the future, but for now the writer of `defsubst`'s must be cautious. Also all occurrences of the argument names in the body are replaced with the argument forms, wherever they appear. Thus an argument name should not be used in the body for anything else, such as a function name or a symbol in a constant.
17.4 Aids for Debugging Macros

mexp
mexp goes into a loop in which it reads forms and sequentially expands them, printing out the result of each expansion (using the grinder (see page 318) to improve readability). It terminates when it reads an atom (anything that is not a cons). If you type in a form which is not a macro form, there will be no expansions and so it will not type anything out, but just prompt you for another form. This allows you to see what your macros are expanding into, without actually evaluating the result of the expansion.

17.5 Displacing Macros

Every time the the evaluator sees a macro form, it must call the macro to expand the form. If this expansion always happens the same way, then it is wasteful to expand the whole form every time it is reached; why not just expand it once? A macro is passed the macro form itself, and so it can change the car and cdr of the form to something else by using rplaca and rplacd! This way the first time the macro is expanded, the expansion will be put where the macro form used to be, and the next time that form is seen, it will already be expanded. A macro that does this is called a displacing macro, since it displaces the macro form with its expansion.

The major problem with this is that the Lisp form gets changed by its evaluation. If you were to write a program which used such a macro, call grind to look at it, then run the program and call grind again, you would see the expanded macro the second time. Presumably the reason the macro is there at all is that it makes the program look nicer; we would like to prevent the unnecessary expansions, but still let grind display the program in its more attractive form. This is done with the function displace.

Another thing to worry about with displacing macros is that if you change the definition of a displacing macro, then your new definition will not take effect in any form that has already been displaced. If you redefine a displacing macro, an existing form using the macro will use the new definition only if the form has never been evaluated.

displace form expansion
form must be a list. displace replaces the car and cdr of form so that it looks like:
   (si:displaced original-form expansion)
original-form is equal to form but has a different top-level cons so that the replacing mentioned above doesn't affect it. si:displaced is a macro, which returns the caddr of its own macro form. So when the si:displaced form is given to the evaluator, it "expands" to expansion. displace returns expansion.

The grinder knows specially about si:displaced forms, and will grind such a form as if it had seen the original-form instead of the si:displaced form.

So if we wanted to rewrite our addone macro as a displacing macro, instead of writing
   (macro addone (x)
      (list 'plus '1 (cadr x)))
we would write
   (macro addone (x)
      (displace x (list 'plus '1 (cadr x))))
Of course, we really want to use defmacro to define most macros. Since there is no way to get at the original macro form itself from inside the body of a defmacro, another version of it is provided:

**defmacro-displace** Macro

defmacro-displace is just like defmacro except that it defines a displacing macro, using the displace function.

Now we can write the displacing version of addone as

```lisp
(defmacro-displace addone (val)
  (list 'plus '1 val))
```

All we have changed in this example is the defmacro into defmacro-displace. addone is now a displacing macro.

### 17.6 Advanced Features of Defmacro

The pattern in a defmacro is more like the lambda-list of a normal function than revealed above. It is allowed to contain certain &-keywords.

- `&optional` is followed by `variable`, `(variable)`, `(variable default)`, or `(variable default present-p)`, exactly the same as in a function. Note that `default` is still a form to be evaluated, even though `variable` is not being bound to the value of a form. `variable` does not have to be a symbol; it can be a pattern. In this case the first form is disallowed because it is syntactically ambiguous. The pattern must be enclosed in a singleton list. If `variable` is a pattern, `default` can be evaluated more than once.

- Using `&rest` is the same as using a dotted list as the pattern, except that it may be easier to read and leaves a place to put `&aux`.

- `&aux` is the same in a macro as in a function, and has nothing to do with pattern matching.

- `defmacro` has a couple of additional keywords not allowed in functions.

- `&body` is identical to `&rest` except that it informs the editor and the grinder that the remaining subforms constitute a "body" rather than "arguments" and should be indented accordingly.

- `&list-of pattern` requires the corresponding position of the form being translated to contain a list (or `nil`). It matches `pattern` against each element of that list. Each variable in `pattern` is bound to a list of the corresponding values in each element of the list matched by the `&list-of`. This may be clarified by an example. Suppose we want to be able to say things like

```lisp
(send-commands (aref turtle-table i)
  (forward 100)
  (beep)
  (left 90)
  (pen 'down 'red)
  (forward 50)
  (pen 'up))
```

We could define a `send-commands` macro as follows:
(defmacro send-commands (object
   &body &list-of (command . arguments))
   '(let ((o ,object))
      ,(mapcar #'(lambda (com args) '(send o ',com . ,args)
               command arguments))))
Note that this example uses &body together with &list-of, so you don’t see the list itself; the list is just the rest of the macro-form.

You can combine &optional and &list-of. Consider the following example:
(defmacro print-let (x &optional &list-of (vars vals)
   '((base 10.)
      (*nopoint t))))
   '((lambda ,@vars) (print ,x)
      ,@vals))
(print-let foo) =>
   ((lambda (base *nopoint)
      (print foo))
    12
    t)
(print-let foo ((bar 3))) =>
   ((lambda (bar)
      (print foo))
    3)
In this example we aren’t using &body or anything like it, so you do see the list itself; that is why you see parentheses around the (bar 3).

17.7 Functions to Expand Macros

The following two functions are provided to allow the user to control expansion of macros; they are often useful for the writer of advanced macro systems, and in tools that want to examine and understand code which may contain macros.

macroexpand-1 form
If form is a macro form, this expands it (once) and returns the expanded form. Otherwise it just returns form. macroexpand-1 expands defsubst function forms as well as macro forms.

macroexpand form
If form is a macro form, this expands it repeatedly until it is not a macro form, and returns the final expansion. Otherwise, it just returns form. macroexpand expands defsubst function forms as well as macro forms.
17.8 Generalized Variables

In Lisp, a variable is something that can remember one piece of data. The main operations on a variable are to recover that piece of data, and to change it. These might be called access and update. The concept of variables named by symbols, explained in section 3.1, page 13, can be generalized to any storage location that can remember one piece of data, no matter how that location is named.

For each kind of generalized variable, there are typically two functions which implement the conceptual access and update operations. For example, symeval accesses a symbol's value cell, and set updates it. array-leader accesses the contents of an array leader element, and store-array-leader updates it. car accesses the car of a cons, and rplaca updates it.

Rather than thinking of this as two functions, which operate on a storage location somehow deduced from their arguments, we can shift our point of view and think of the access function as a name for the storage location. Thus (symeval 'foo) is a name for the value of foo, and (aref a 105) is a name for the 105th element of the array a. Rather than having to remember the update function associated with each access function, we adopt a uniform way of updating storage locations named in this way, using the setf special form. This is analogous to the way we use the setq special form to convert the name of a variable (which is also a form which accesses it) into a form which updates it.

setf is particularly useful in combination with structure-accessing macros, such as those created with defstruct, because the knowledge of the representation of the structure is embedded inside the macro, and the programmer shouldn't have to know what it is in order to alter an element of the structure.

setf is actually a macro which expands into the appropriate update function. It has a database, explained below, which associates from access functions to update functions.

**setf Macro**

setf takes a form which accesses something, and "inverts" it to produce a corresponding form to update the thing. The form for setf is

```
(setf access-form value)
```

It expands into an update form, which stores the result of evaluating the form value into the place referenced by the access-form.

Examples:

```
(setf (array-leader foo 3) 'bar) ==> (store-array-leader 'bar foo 3)
(setf a 3) ==> (setq a 3)
(setf (plist 'a) '(foo bar)) ==> (setplist 'a '(foo bar))
(setf (aref q 2) 56) ==> (aset 56 q 2)
(setf (cadr w) x) ==> (rplaca (cdr w) x)
```

If access-form invokes a macro or a substitutable function, then setf expands the access-form and starts over again. This lets you use setf together with defstruct accessor macros.

For the sake of efficiency, the code produced by setf does not preserve order of evaluation of the argument forms. This is only a problem if the argument forms have interacting side-effects. For example, if you evaluate...
(setq x 3)
(setq (aref a x) (setq x 4))
then the form might set element 3 or element 4 of the array. We do not guarantee which one it will do; don't just try it and see and then depend on it, because it is subject to change without notice.

Furthermore, the value produced by setf depends on the structure type and is not guaranteed; setf should be used for side effect only.

Besides the access and update conceptual operations on variables, there is a third basic operation, which we might call locate. Given the name of a storage cell, the locate operation will return the address of that cell as a locative pointer (see chapter 13, page 156). This locative pointer is a kind of name for the variable which is a first-class Lisp data object. It can be passed as an argument to a function which operates on any kind of variable, regardless of how it is named. It can be used to bind the variable, using the bind subprimitive (see page 168).

Of course this can only work on variables whose implementation is really to store their value in a memory cell. A variable with an update operation that encrypts the value and an access operation that decrypts it could not have the locate operation, since the value per se is not actually stored anywhere.

**locf Macro**
locf takes a form which accesses some cell, and produces a corresponding form to create a locative pointer to that cell. The form for locf is

```
(locf access-form)
```

Examples:

```
(locf (array-leader foo 3)) ==> (ap-leader foo 3)
(locf a) ==> (value-cell-location 'a)
(locf (plist 'a)) ==> (property-cell-location 'a)
(locf (aref q 2)) ==> (aloc q 2)
```

If access-form invokes a macro or a substitutable function, then locf expands the access-form and starts over again. This lets you use locf together with defstruct accessor macros.

Both setf and locf work by means of property lists. When the form (setf (aref q 2) 56) is expanded, setf looks for the setf property of the symbol aref. The value of the setf property of a symbol should be a cons whose car is a pattern to be matched with the access-form, and whose cdr is the corresponding update-form, with the symbol sival in place of the value to be stored. The setf property of aref is a cons whose car is (aref array . subscripts) and whose cdr is (aset sival array . subscripts). If the transformation which setf is to do cannot be expressed as a simple pattern, an arbitrary function may be used: When the form (setf (foo bar) baz) is being expanded, if the setf property of foo is a symbol, the function definition of that symbol will be applied to two arguments, (foo bar) and baz, and the result will be taken to be the expansion of the setf.

Similarly, the locf function uses the locf property, whose value is analogous. For example, the locf property of aref is a cons whose car is (aref array . subscripts) and whose cdr is (aloc array . subscripts). There is no sival in the case of locf.
incf Macro
Increments the value of a generalized variable. (incf ref) increments the value of ref by 1. (incf ref amount) adds amount to ref and stores the sum back into ref.

incf expands into a setf form, so ref can be anything that setf understands as its access-form. This also means that you should not depend on the returned value of an incf form.

You must take great care with incf because it may evaluate parts of ref more than once. For example,

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{(incf (car (mumble)))} & \Rightarrow \\
\text{(setf (car (mumble))) (1+ (car (mumble)))} & \Rightarrow \\
\text{(rplaca (mumble) (1+ (car (mumble)))))}
\end{align*}
\]

The mumble function is called more than once, which may be significantly inefficient if mumble is expensive, and which may be downright wrong if mumble has side-effects. The same problem can come up with the decf, push, and pop macros (see below).

decf Macro
Decrments the value of a generalized variable. (decf ref) decrements the value of ref by 1. (decf ref amount) subtracts amount from ref and stores the difference back into ref.

decf expands into a setf form, so ref can be anything that setf understands as its access-form. This also means that you should not depend on the returned value of a decf form.

push Macro
Adds an item to the front of a list which is stored in a generalized variable. (push item ref) creates a new cons whose car is the result of evaluating item and whose cdr is the contents of ref, and stores the new cons into ref.

The form

\[
\text{(push (hairy-function x y z) variable)}
\]

replaces the commonly-used construct

\[
\text{(setq variable (cons (hairy-function x y z) variable))}
\]

and is intended to be more explicit and esthetic.

All the caveats that apply to incf apply to push as well: forms within ref may be evaluated more than once. The returned value of push is not defined.

pop Macro
Removes an element from the front of a list which is stored in a generalized variable. (pop ref) finds the cons in ref, stores the cdr of the cons back into ref, and returns the car of the cons.

Example:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{(setq x '((a b c))} \\
\text{(pop x)} & \Rightarrow a \\
\text{x} & \Rightarrow (b c)
\end{align*}
\]

All the caveats that apply to incf apply to pop as well: forms within ref may be evaluated more than once.
18. The LOOP Iteration Macro

18.1 Introduction

loop is a Lisp macro which provides a programmable iteration facility. The same loop module operates compatibly in Lisp Machine Lisp, Maclisp (PDP-10 and Multics), and NIL, and a moderately compatible package is under development for the MDL programming environment. loop was inspired by the "FOR" facility of CLISP in InterLisp; however, it is not compatible and differs in several details.

The general approach is that a form introduced by the word loop generates a single program loop, into which a large variety of features can be incorporated. The loop consists of some initialization (prologue) code, a body which may be executed several times, and some exit (epilogue) code. Variables may be declared local to the loop. The features are concerned with loop variables, deciding when to end the iteration, putting user-written code into the loop, returning a value from the construct, and iterating a variable through various real or virtual sets of values.

The loop form consists of a series of clauses, each introduced by a keyword symbol. Forms appearing in or implied by the clauses of a loop form are classed as those to be executed as initialization code, body code, and/or exit code; within each part of the template that loop fills in, they are executed strictly in the order implied by the original composition. Thus, just as in ordinary Lisp code, side-effects may be used, and one piece of code may depend on following another for its proper operation. This is the principal philosophy difference from InterLisp's "FOR" facility.

Note that loop forms are intended to look like stylized English rather than Lisp code. There is a notably low density of parentheses, and many of the keywords are accepted in several synonymous forms to allow writing of more euphonious and grammatical English. Some find this notation verbose and distasteful, while others find it flexible and convenient. The former are invited to stick to do.

Here are some examples to illustrate the use of loop.

(defun print-elements-of-list (list-of-elements)
  (loop for element in list-of-elements
        do (print element)))

The above function prints each element in its argument, which should be a list. It returns nil.

(defun gather-alist-entries (list-of-pairs)
  (loop for pair in list-of-pairs
        collect (car pair)))

gather-alist-entries takes an association list and returns a list of the "keys": that is, (gather-alist-entries '((foo 1 2) (bar 259) (baz))) returns (foo bar baz).
(defun extract-interesting-numbers (start-value end-value)
  (loop for number from start-value to end-value
        when (interesting-p number) collect number))

The above function takes two arguments, which should be fixnums, and returns a list of all the numbers in that range (inclusive) which satisfy the predicate interesting-p.

(defun find-maximum-element (an-array)
  (loop for i from 0 below (cadr (arraydims an-array))
        maximize (funcall an-array i)))

find-maximum-element returns the maximum of the elements of its argument, a one-dimensional array.

(defun my-remove (object list)
  (loop for element in list
        unless (equal object element) collect element))

my-remove is like the Lisp function delete, except that it copies the list rather than destructively splicing out elements. This is similar, although not identical, to the Lisp Machine function remove.

(defun find-frob (list)
  (loop for element in list
        when (frobp element) return element
        finally (error 'frob not found in list list)))

This returns the first element of its list argument which satisfies the predicate frobp. If none is found, an error is generated.

18.2 Clauses

Internally, loop constructs a prog which includes variable bindings, pre-iteration (initialization) code, post-iteration (exit) code, the body of the iteration, and stepping of variables of iteration to their next values (which happens on every iteration after executing the body).

A clause consists of the keyword symbol and any Lisp forms and keywords which it deals with. For example,

(loop for x in 1 do (print x)),

contains two clauses, "for x in 1" and "do (print x)". Certain of the parts of the clause will be described as being expressions, e.g. (print x) in the above. An expression can be a single Lisp form, or a series of forms implicitly collected with progn. An expression is terminated by the next following atom, which is taken to be a keyword. This syntax allows only the first form in an expression to be atomic, but makes misspelled keywords more easily detectable.

loop uses print-name equality to compare keywords so that loop forms may be written without package prefixes; in Lisp implementations that do not have packages, eq is used for comparison.
Bindings and iteration variable steppings may be performed either sequentially or in parallel, which affects how the stepping of one iteration variable may depend on the value of another. The syntax for distinguishing the two will be described with the corresponding clauses. When a set of things is "in parallel", all of the bindings produced will be performed in parallel by a single lambda binding. Subsequent bindings will be performed inside of that binding environment.

### 18.2.1 Iteration-Driving Clauses

These clauses all create a variable of iteration, which is bound locally to the loop and takes on a new value on each successive iteration. Note that if more than one iteration-driving clause is used in the same loop, several variables are created which all step together through their values; when any of the iterations terminates, the entire loop terminates. Nested iterations are not generated; for those, you need a second loop form in the body of the loop. In order to not produce strange interactions, iteration driving clauses are required to precede any clauses which produce "body" code: that is, all except those which produce prologue or epilogue code (initially and finally), bindings (with), the named clause, and the iteration termination clauses (while and until).

Clauses which drive the iteration may be arranged to perform their testing and stepping either in series or in parallel. They are by default grouped in series, which allows the stepping computation of one clause to use the just-computed values of the iteration variables of previous clauses. They may be made to step "in parallel", as is the case with the do special form, by "joining" the iteration clauses with the keyword and. The form this typically takes is something like

```
(loop ... for x = (f) and for y = init then (g x) ...)
```

which sets x to (f) on every iteration, and binds y to the value of init for the first iteration, and on every iteration thereafter sets it to (g x), where x still has the value from the previous iteration. Thus, if the calls to f and g are not order-dependent, this would be best written as

```
(loop ... for y = init then (g x) for x = (f) ...)
```

because, as a general rule, parallel stepping has more overhead than sequential stepping. Similarly, the example

```
(loop for sublist on some-list
    and for previous = 'undefined then sublist
    ...)
```

which is equivalent to the do construct

```
(do ((sublist some-list (cdr sublist))
    (previous 'undefined sublist))
    (null sublist) ...)
```

in terms of stepping, would be better written as

```
(loop for previous = 'undefined then sublist
    for sublist on some-list
    ...)
```

When iteration driving clauses are joined with and, if the token following the and is not a keyword which introduces an iteration driving clause, it is assumed to be the same as the keyword which introduced the most recent clause; thus, the above example showing parallel stepping could have been written as
(loop for sublist on some-list
       and previous = 'undefined then sublist
    ...)

The order of evaluation in iteration-driving clauses is that those expressions which are only evaluated once are evaluated in order at the beginning of the form, during the variable-binding phase, while those expressions which are evaluated each time around the loop are evaluated in order in the body.

One common and simple iteration driving clause is repeat:

```
repeat expression
```

This evaluates `expression` (during the variable binding phase), and causes the loop to iterate that many times. `expression` is expected to evaluate to a fixnum. If `expression` evaluates to a zero or negative result, the body code will not be executed.

All remaining iteration driving clauses are subdispatches of the keyword for, which is synonymous with `as`. In all of them a variable of iteration is specified. Note that, in general, if an iteration driving clause implicitly supplies an endtest, the value of this iteration variable as the loop is exited (i.e., when the epilogue code is run) is undefined. (This is discussed in more detail in section 18.6.)

Here are all of the varieties of `for` clauses. Optional parts are enclosed in curly brackets. The `data-types` as used here are discussed fully in section 18.4.

```
for var {data-type} in expr1 {by expr2}
```

This iterates over each of the elements in the list `expr1`. If the by subclause is present, `expr2` is evaluated once on entry to the loop to supply the function to be used to fetch successive sublists, instead of `cdr`.

```
for var {data-type} on expr1 {by expr2}
```

This is like the previous `for` format, except that `var` is set to successive sublists of the list instead of successive elements. Note that since `var` will always be a list, it is not meaningful to specify a `data-type` unless `var` is a destructuring pattern, as described in the section on destructuring, page 216. Note also that loop uses a null rather than an atom test to implement both this and the preceding clause.

```
for var {data-type} = expr
```

On each iteration, `expr` is evaluated and `var` is set to the result.

```
for var {data-type} = expr1 then expr2
```

`var` is bound to `expr1` when the loop is entered, and set to `expr2` at all but the first iteration. Since `expr1` is evaluated during the binding phase, it cannot reference other iteration variables set before it; for that, use the following:

```
for var {data-type} first expr1 then expr2
```

This sets `var` to `expr1` on the first iteration, and to `expr2` (re-evaluated) on each succeeding iteration. The evaluation of both expressions is performed inside of the loop binding environment, before the loop body. This allows the first value of `var` to come from the first value of some other iteration variable, allowing such constructs as

```
(loop for term in poly
       for ans first (car term) then (gcd ans (car term))
    finally (return ans))
```
for var\{data-type\} from expr1 \{to expr2\} \{by expr3\}
This performs numeric iteration. var is initialized to expr1, and on each succeeding iteration is incremented by expr3 (default 1). If the to phrase is given, the iteration terminates when var becomes greater than expr2. Each of the expressions is evaluated only once, and the to and by phrases may be written in either order. downto may be used instead of to, in which case var is decremented by the step value, and the endtest is adjusted accordingly. If below is used instead of to, or above instead of downto, the iteration will be terminated before expr2 is reached, rather than after. Note that the to variant appropriate for the direction of stepping must be used for the endtest to be formed correctly; i.e. the code will not work if expr3 is negative or zero. If no limit-specifying clause is given, then the direction of the stepping may be specified as being decreasing by using downfrom instead of from. upfrom may also be used instead of from; it forces the stepping direction to be increasing. The data-type defaults to fixnum.

for var\{data-type\} being expr and its path ...
for var\{data-type\} being [each|the] path ...
This provides a user-definable iteration facility. path names the manner in which the iteration is to be performed. The ellipsis indicates where various path dependent preposition/expression pairs may appear. See the section on Iteration Paths (page 218) for complete documentation.

18.2.2 Bindings
The with keyword may be used to establish initial bindings, that is, variables which are local to the loop but are only set once, rather than on each iteration. The with clause looks like:

with var\{data-type\} \{= expr\}
{and var2 \{data-type\} \{= expr2\}}...
If no expr is given, the variable is initialized to the appropriate value for its data type, usually nil.

with bindings linked by and are performed in parallel; those not linked are performed sequentially. That is,

(loop with a = (foo) and b = (bar) and c ...

binds the variables like

(((lambda (a b c) ...)
 (foo) (bar) nil)

whereas

(loop with a = (foo) with b = (bar a) with c ...)

binds the variables like

(((lambda (a)
   ((lambda (b)
      ((lambda (c) ...)
       nil))
    (bar a)))
  (foo))

All expr's in with clauses are evaluated in the order they are written, in lambda expressions surrounding the generated prog. The loop expression
(loop with a = xa and b = xb
   with c = xc
   for d = xd then (f d)
   and e = xe then (g e d)
   for p in xp
   with q = xq
   then
   (g e d)
   for p in xp
   with q = xq)

produces the following binding contour, where t1 is a loop-generated temporary:

((lambda (a b)
   ((lambda (c)
      xc)
   xa xb)
   ((lambda (d e)
      ((lambda (p t1)
         ((lambda (q) ...
            xq))
      nil xp))
   xd xe))
   xc))

Because all expressions in with clauses are evaluated during the variable binding phase, they are
best placed near the front of the loop form for stylistic reasons.

For binding more than one variable with no particular initialization, one may use the construct
with variable-list {data-type-list} {and ...}
as in
with (i j k t1 t2) (fixnum fixnum fixnum) ...
A slightly shorter way of writing this is
with (i j k) fixnum and (t1 t2) ...
These are cases of destructuring which loop handles specially; destructuring and data type
keywords are discussed in sections 18.5 and 18.4.

Occasionally there are various implementational reasons for a variable not to be given a local
type declaration. If this is necessary, the nodeclare clause may be used:

nodeclare variable-list
The variables in variable-list are noted by loop as not requiring local type declarations.
Consider the following:
(declare (special k) (fixnum k))
(defun foo (l)
  (loop for x in l as k fixnum = (f x) ...))
If k did not have the fixnum data-type keyword given for it, then loop would bind it
to nil, and some compilers would complain. On the other hand, the fixnum keyword
also produces a local fixnum declaration for k; since k is special, some compilers will
complain (or error out). The solution is to do:
(defun foo (l)
  (loop nodeclare (k)
    for x in l as k fixnum = (f x) ...))
which tells loop not to make that local declaration. The nodeclare clause must come before any reference to the variables so noted. Positioning it incorrectly will cause this clause to not take effect, and may not be diagnosed.
18.2.3 Entrance and Exit

Initially *expression*

This puts *expression* into the prologue of the iteration. It will be evaluated before any other initialization code other than the initial bindings. For the sake of good style, the initially clause should therefore be placed after any with clauses but before the main body of the loop.

Finally *expression*

This puts *expression* into the epilogue of the loop, which is evaluated when the iteration terminates (other than by an explicit return). For stylistic reasons, then, this clause should appear last in the loop body. Note that certain clauses may generate code which terminates the iteration without running the epilogue code; this behavior is noted with those clauses. Most notable of these are those described in the section 18.2.7. Aggregated Boolean Tests. This clause may be used to cause the loop to return values in a non-standard way:

```
(loop for n in 1
  sum n into the-sum
  count t into the-count
  finally (return (quotient the-sum the-count)))
```

18.2.4 Side Effects

Do *expression*

Doing *expression*

*expression* is evaluated each time through the loop, as shown in the print-elements-of-list example on page 204.

18.2.5 Values

The following clauses accumulate a return value for the iteration in some manner. The general form is

```
type-of-collection expr {data-type} {into var}
```

where *type-of-collection* is a loop keyword, and *expr* is the thing being "accumulated" somehow. If no into is specified, then the accumulation will be returned when the loop terminates. If there is an into, then when the epilogue of the loop is reached, *var* (a variable automatically bound locally in the loop) will have been set to the accumulated result and may be used by the epilogue code. In this way, a user may accumulate and somehow pass back multiple values from a single loop, or use them during the loop. It is safe to reference these variables during the loop, but they should not be modified until the epilogue code of the loop is reached. For example,

```
(loop for x in list
  collect (foo x) into foo-list
  collect (bar x) into bar-list
  collect (baz x) into baz-list
  finally (return (list foo-list bar-list baz-list)))
```

has the same effect as
(do ((g0001 list (cdr g0001))
    (x) (faa-list) (bar-list) (baz-list))
   ((null g0001)
    (list (nreverse foo-list)
          (nreverse bar-list)
          (nreverse baz-list)))
  (setq x (car g0001))
  (setq foo-list (cons (foo x) foo-list))
  (setq bar-list (cons (bar x) bar-list))
  (setq baz-list (cons (baz x) baz-list)))
except that loop arranges to form the lists in the correct order, obviating the nreverses at the end, and allowing the lists to be examined during the computation.

collect expr {into var}
collecting ...
   This causes the values of expr on each iteration to be collected into a list.
nconc expr {into var}
nconcing ...
append ...
appending ...
   These are like collect, but the results are nconc'd or appended together as appropriate.
   (loop for i from 1 to 3
         nconc (list i (* i i)))
   => (1 1 2 4 3 9)
count expr {into var} {data-type}
counting ...
   If expr evaluates non-nil, a counter is incremented. The data-type defaults to fixnum.
sum expr {data-type} {into var}
summing ...
   Evaluates expr on each iteration, and accumulates the sum of all the values. data-type defaults to number, which for all practical purposes is notype. Note that specifying data-type implies that both the sum and the number being summed (the value of expr) will be of that type.
maximize expr {data-type} {into var}
minimize ...
   Computes the maximum (or minimum) of expr over all iterations. data-type defaults to number. Note that if the loop iterates zero times, or if conditionalization prevents the code of this clause from being executed, the result will be meaningless. If loop can determine that the arithmetic being performed is not contagious (by virtue of data-type being fixnum, flonum, or small-flonum), then it may choose to code this by doing an arithmetic comparison rather than calling either max or min. As with the sum clause, specifying data-type implies that both the result of the max or min operation and the value being maximized or minimized will be of that type.

Not only may there be multiple accumulations in a loop, but a single accumulation may come from multiple places within the same loop form. Obviously, the types of the collection must be compatible. collect, nconc, and append may all be mixed, as may sum and count, and maximize and minimize. For example,
(loop for x in '(a b c) for y in '((1 2) (3 4) (5 6))
    collect x
    append y)
=> (a 1 2 b 3 4 c 5 6)

The following computes the average of the entries in the list list-of-frobs:

(loop for x in list-of-frobs
    count t into count-var
    sum x into sum-var
  finally (return (quotient sum-var count-var)))

18.2.6 Endtests

The following clauses may be used to provide additional control over when the iteration gets terminated, possibly causing exit code (due to finally) to be performed and possibly returning a value (e.g., from collect).

while expr
   If expr evaluates to nil, the loop is exited, performing exit code (if any), and returning any accumulated value. The test is placed in the body of the loop where it is written. It may appear between sequential for clauses.

until expr
   Identical to while (not expr).

This may be needed, for example, to step through a strange data structure, as in

(loop until (top-of-concept-tree? concept)
    for concept = expr then (superior-concept concept) ...)

Note that the placement of the while clause before the for clause is valid in this case because of the definition of this particular variant of for, which binds concept to its first value rather than setting it from inside the loop.

The following may also be of use in terminating the iteration:

loop-finish Macro
   (loop-finish) causes the iteration to terminate "normally", the same as implicit termination by an iteration driving clause, or by the use of while or until—the epilogue code (if any) will be run, and any implicitly collected result will be returned as the value of the loop. For example,

(l loop for x in '(1 2 3 4 5 6)
    collect x
    do (cond ((= x 4) (loop-finish)))
=> (1 2 3 4)

This particular example would be better written as until (= x 4) in place of the do clause.
18.2.7 Aggregated Boolean Tests

All of these clauses perform some test, and may immediately terminate the iteration depending on the result of that test.

always expr

Causes the loop to return t if expr always evaluates non-null. If expr evaluates to nil, the loop immediately returns nil, without running the epilogue code (if any, as specified with the finally clause); otherwise, t will be returned when the loop finishes, after the epilogue code has been run.

never expr

Causes the loop to return t if expr never evaluates non-null. This is equivalent to always (not expr).

thereis expr

If expr evaluates non-nil, then the iteration is terminated and that value is returned, without running the epilogue code.

18.2.8 Conditionalization

These clauses may be used to "conditionalize" the following clause. They may precede any of the side-effecting or value-producing clauses, such as do, collect, always, or return.

when expr

if expr

If expr evaluates to nil, the following clause will be skipped, otherwise not.

unless expr

This is equivalent to when (not expr)).

Multiple conditionalization clauses may appear in sequence. If one test fails, then any following tests in the immediate sequence, and the clause being conditionalized, are skipped.

Multiple clauses may be conditionalized under the same test by joining them with and, as in

(1oop for i from a to b

when (zerop (remainder i 3))

collect i and do (print i))

which returns a list of all multiples of 3 from a to b (inclusive) and prints them as they are being collected.

Conditionals may be nested. For example,

(1oop for i from a to b

when (zerop (remainder i 3))

do (print i)

and when (zerop (remainder i 2))

collect i)

returns a list of all multiples of 6 from a to b, and prints all multiples of 3 from a to b.

Useful with the conditionalization clauses is the return clause, which causes an explicit return of its "argument" as the value of the iteration, bypassing any epilogue code. That is,

when expr1 return expr2

is equivalent to
when expr1 do (return expr2)

Conditionalization of one of the "aggregated boolean value" clauses simply causes the test which would cause the iteration to terminate early not to be performed unless the condition succeeds. For example,

\[
\text{(loop for } x \text{ in 1}
\begin{align*}
\text{when } (\text{significant-p } x) & \text{ do (print } x) \text{ (princ "is significant."):)} \\
& \text{and thereis (extra-special-significant-p } x))
\end{align*}
\]

does not make the extra-special-significant-p check unless the significant-p check succeeds.

The format of a conditionalized clause is typically something like

\[
\text{when expr1 keyword expr2}
\]

If expr2 is the keyword it, then a variable is generated to hold the value of expr1, and that variable gets substituted for expr2. Thus, the composition

\[
\text{when expr return it}
\]

is equivalent to the clause

\[
\text{thereis expr}
\]

and one may collect all non-null values in an iteration by saying

\[
\text{when expression collect it}
\]

If multiple clauses are joined with and, the it keyword may only be used in the first. If multiple whens, unlesses, and/or ifs occur in sequence, the value substituted for it will be that of the last test performed.

### 18.2.9 Miscellaneous Other Clauses

**named name**

This gives the prog which loop generates a name of name, so that one may use the return-from form to return explicitly out of that particular loop:

\[
\text{(loop named sue}
\begin{align*}
\text{... do (loop ... do (return-from sue value) ...) ...}
\end{align*}
\]

The return-from form shown causes value to be immediately returned as the value of the outer loop. Only one name may be given to any particular loop construct. This feature does not exist in the MacLisp version of loop, since MacLisp does not support "named progs".

**return expression**

Immediately returns the value of expression as the value of the loop, without running the epilogue code. This is most useful with some sort of conditionalization, as discussed in the previous section. Unlike most of the other clauses, return is not considered to "generate body code", so it is allowed to occur between iteration clauses, as in

\[
\text{(loop for } entry \text{ in list}
\begin{align*}
\text{when } (\text{not (numberp entry)}) & \text{ return (error ...) as frob = (times entry 2) ...}
\end{align*}
\]

If one instead desires the loop to have some return value when it finishes normally,
one may place a call to the return function in the epilogue (with the finally clause, page 210).

18.3 Loop Synonyms

`define-loop-macro Macro`

(define-loop-macro `keyword) may be used to make `keyword`, a loop keyword (such as `for`), into a Lisp macro which may introduce a loop form. For example, after evaluating `(define-loop-macro `for)`

one may now write an iteration as

(for i from 1 below n do ...)

This facility exists primarily for diehard users of a predecessor of loop. Its unconstrained use is not recommended, as it tends to decrease the transportability of the code and needlessly uses up a function name.

18.4 Data Types

In many of the clause descriptions, an optional data-type is shown. A data-type in this sense is an atomic symbol, and is recognizable as such by loop. These are used for declaration and initialization purposes; for example, in

(loop for x in 1

  maximize x flonum into the-max,

  sum x flonum into the-sum

  ...)

the flonum data-type keyword for the maximize clause says that the result of the max operation, and its "argument" (x), will both be flonums; hence loop may choose to code this operation specially since it knows there can be no contagious arithmetic. The flonum data-type keyword for the sum clause behaves similarly, and in addition causes the-sum to be correctly initialized to 0.0 rather than 0. The flonum keywords will also cause the variables the-max and the-sum to be declared to be flonum, in implementations where such a declaration exists. In general, a numeric data-type more specific than number, whether explicitly specified or defaulted, is considered by loop to be license to generate code using type-specific arithmetic functions where reasonable. The following data-type keywords are recognized by loop (others may be defined; for that, consult the source code):

fixnum An implementation-dependent limited range integer.
flonum An implementation-dependent limited precision floating point number.
small-flonum This is recognized in the Lisp Machine implementation only, where its only significance is for initialization purposes, since no such declaration exists.
integer Any integer (no range restriction).
number Any number.
notype Unspecified type (i.e., anything else).
Note that explicit specification of a non-numeric type for an operation which is numeric (such as the summing clause) may cause a variable to be initialized to nil when it should be 0.

If local data-type declarations must be inhibited, one can use the nodeclare clause, which is described on page 209.

18.5 Destructuring

Destructuring provides one with the ability to "simultaneously" assign or bind multiple variables to components of some data structure. Typically this is used with list structure. For example,

\[ \text{(loop with (foo . bar) = '[(a b c) ...])} \]

has the effect of binding foo to a and bar to (b c).

loop's destructuring support is intended to parallel if not augment that provided by the host Lisp implementation, with a goal of minimally providing destructuring over list structure patterns. Thus, in Lisp implementations with no system destructuring support at all, one may still use list-structure patterns as loop iteration variables, and in with bindings. In NIL, loop also supports destructuring over vectors.

One may specify the data types of the components of a pattern by using a corresponding pattern of the data type keywords in place of a single data type keyword. This syntax remains unambiguous because wherever a data type keyword is possible, a loop keyword is the only other possibility. Thus, if one wants to do

\[ \text{(loop for x in 1 as i fixnum = (car x) and j fixnum = (cadr x) and k fixnum = (cddr x) ...)} \]

and no reference to x is needed, one may instead write

\[ \text{(loop for (i j k) fixnum in 1 ...)} \]

To allow some abbreviation of the data type pattern, an atomic component of the data type pattern is considered to state that all components of the corresponding part of the variable pattern are of that type. That is, the previous form could be written as

\[ \text{(loop for (i j k) fixnum in 1 ...)} \]

This generality allows binding of multiple typed variables in a reasonably concise manner, as in

\[ \text{(loop with (a b c) and (i j k) fixnum ...)} \]

which binds a, b, and c to nil and i, j, and k to 0 for use as temporaries during the iteration, and declares i, j, and k to be fixnums for the benefit of the compiler.

\[ \text{(defun map-over-properties (fn symbol) (loop for (propname propval) on (plist symbol) by 'cddr do (funcall fn symbol propname propval))})} \]

maps fn over the properties on symbol, giving it arguments of the symbol, the property name, and the value of that property.

In Lisp implementations where loop performs its own destructuring, notably Multics Maclisp and Lisp Machine Lisp, one can cause loop to use already provided destructuring support instead:
s1:loop-use-system-destructuring? Variable
This variable only exists in loop implementations in Lisps which do not provide destructuring support in the default environment. It is by default nil. If changed, then loop will behave as it does in Lisps which do provide destructuring support: destructuring binding will be performed using let, and destructuring assignment will be performed using desetq. Presumably if one's personalized environment supplies these macros, then one should set this variable to t; there is, however, little (if any) efficiency loss if this is not done.

18.6 The Iteration Framework

This section describes the way loop constructs iterations. It is necessary if you will be writing your own iteration paths, and may be useful in clarifying what loop does with its input.

loop considers the act of stepping to have four possible parts. Each iteration-driving clause has some or all of these four parts, which are executed in this order:

pre-step-endtest
This is an endtest which determines if it is safe to step to the next value of the iteration variable.

steps Variables which get "stepped". This is internally manipulated as a list of the form (var1 var2 ...); all of those variables are stepped in parallel, meaning that all of the vals are evaluated before any of the vars are set.

post-step-endtest
Sometimes you can't see if you are done until you step to the next value; that is, the endtest is a function of the stepped-to value.

pseudo-steps
Other things which need to be stepped. This is typically used for internal variables which are more conveniently stepped here, or to set up iteration variables which are functions of some internal variable(s) which are actually driving the iteration. This is a list like steps, but the variables in it do not get stepped in parallel.

The above alone is actually insufficient in just about all iteration driving clauses which loop handles. What is missing is that in most cases the stepping and testing for the first time through the loop is different from that of all other times. So, what loop deals with is two four-tuples as above; one for the first iteration, and one for the rest. The first may be thought of as describing code which immediately precedes the loop in the prog, and the second as following the body code—in fact, loop does just this, but severely perturbs it in order to reduce code duplication. Two lists of forms are constructed in parallel: one is the first-iteration endtests and steps, the other the remaining-iterations endtests and steps. These lists have dummy entries in them so that identical expressions will appear in the same position in both. When loop is done parsing all of the clauses, these lists get merged back together such that corresponding identical expressions in both lists are not duplicated unless they are "simple" and it is worth doing.

Thus, one may get some duplicated code if one has multiple iterations. Alternatively, loop may decide to use and test a flag variable which indicates whether one iteration has been performed. In general, sequential iterations have less overhead than parallel iterations, both from the inherent overhead of stepping multiple variables in parallel, and from the standpoint of potential code duplication.
One other point which must be noted about parallel stepping is that although the user iteration variables are guaranteed to be stepped in parallel, the placement of the endtest for any particular iteration may be either before or after the stepping. A notable case of this is

```lisp
(loop for i from 1 to 3 and dummy = (print 'foo)
      collect i)
=> (1 2 3)
```

but prints `foo` four times. Certain other constructs, such as `for var on`, may or may not do this depending on the particular construction.

This problem also means that it may not be safe to examine an iteration variable in the epilogue of the loop form. As a general rule, if an iteration driving clause implicitly supplies an endtest, then one cannot know the state of the iteration variable when the loop terminates. Although one can guess on the basis of whether the iteration variable itself holds the data upon which the endtest is based, that guess may be wrong. Thus,

```lisp
(loop for subl on expr
      ...
      finally (f subl))
```

is incorrect, but

```lisp
(loop as frob = expr while (g frob)
     ...
     finally (f frob))
```

is safe because the endtest is explicitly dissociated from the stepping.

### 18.7 Iteration Paths

Iteration paths provide a mechanism for user extension of iteration-driving clauses. The interface is constrained so that the definition of a path need not depend on much of the internals of `loop`. The typical form of an iteration path is

```lisp
for var {data-type} being {each | the} pathname {preposition | expr} ...
```

`pathname` is an atomic symbol which is defined as a `loop` path function. The usage and defaulting of `data-type` is up to the path function. Any number of `preposition | expr` pairs may be present; the prepositions allowable for any particular path are defined by that path. For example,

```lisp
(loop for x being the array-elements of my-array from 1 to 10
      ...
      )
```

To enhance readability, pathnames are usually defined in both the singular and plural forms; this particular example could have been written as

```lisp
(loop for x being each array-element of my-array from 1 to 10
      ...
      )
```

Another format, which is not so generally applicable, is

```lisp
for var {data-type} being expr0 and its pathname {preposition | expr} ...
```

In this format, `var` takes on the value of `expr0` the first time through the loop. Support for this format is usually limited to paths which step through some data structure, such as the "superiors" of something. Thus, we can hypothesize the `cdrs` path, such that

```lisp
(loop for x being the cdrs of '(a b c . d) collect x)
=> ((b c . d) (c . d) d)
```

but
(loop for x being '(a b c . d) and its cdrs collect x)
=> (((a b c . d) (b c . d) (c . d) d)

To satisfy the anthropomorphic among you, his, her, or their may be substituted for the its
keyword, as may each. Egocentricity is not condoned. Some example uses of iteration paths are
shown in section 18.7.1.

Very often, iteration paths step internal variables which the user does not specify, such as an
index into some data-structure. Although in most cases the user does not wish to be concerned
with such low-level matters, it is occasionally useful to have a handle on such things. loop
provides an additional syntax with which one may provide a variable name to be used as an
"internal" variable by an iteration path, with the using "prepositional phrase". The using phrase
is placed with the other phrases associated with the path, and contains any number of
keyword/variable-name pairs:

(loop for x being the array-elements of a using (index i) ...
which says that the variable i should be used to hold the index of the array being stepped
through. The particular keywords which may be used are defined by the iteration path; the index
keyword is recognized by all loop sequence paths (section 18.7.1.2). Note that any individual
using phrase applies to only one path; it is parsed along with the "prepositional phrases". It is
an error if the path does not call for a variable using that keyword.

By special dispensation, if a pathname is not recognized, then the default-loop-path path
will be invoked upon a syntactic transformation of the original input. Essentially, the loop
fragment

for var being frob
is taken as if it were
for var being default-loop-path in frob
and
for var being expr and its frob ...
is taken as if it were
for var being expr and its default-loop-path in frob
Thus, this "undefined pathname hook" only works if the default-loop-path path is defined.
Obviously, the use of this "hook" is competitive, since only one such hook may be in use, and
the potential for syntactic ambiguity exists if frob is the name of a defined iteration path. This
feature is not for casual use; it is intended for use by large systems which wish to use a special
syntax for some feature they provide.

18.7.1 Pre-Defined Paths

loop comes with two pre-defined iteration path functions; one implements a mapatoms-like
iteration path facility, and the other is used for defining iteration paths for stepping through
sequences.
18.7.1.1 The Interned-Symbols Path

The interned-symbols iteration path is like a mapatoms for loop.

\[
\texttt{(loop for sym being interned-symbols ...)}
\]

iterates over all of the symbols in the current package and its superiors (or, in Maclisp, the current obarray). This is the same set of symbols which mapatoms iterates over, although not necessarily in the same order. The particular package to look in may be specified as in

\[
\texttt{(loop for sym being the interned-symbols in package ...)}
\]

which is like giving a second argument to mapatoms.

In Lisp implementations with some sort of hierarchical package structure such as Lisp Machine Lisp, one may restrict the iteration to be over just the package specified and not its superiors, by using the local-interned-symbols path:

\[
\texttt{(loop for sym being the local-interned-symbols {in package}} \ldots
\]

Example:

\[
\texttt{(defun my-apropos (sub-string &optional (pkg package))}
\texttt{(loop for x being the interned-symbols in pkg}
\texttt{\quad when (string-search sub-string x)
\quad when (or (boundp x) (fboundp x) (plist x))
\quad \quad do (print-interesting-info x))}
\]

In the Lisp Machine and NIL implementations of loop, a package specified with the in preposition may be anything acceptable to the pkg-find-package function. The code generated by this path will contain calls to internal loop functions, with the effect that it will be transparent to changes to the implementation of packages. In the Maclisp implementation, the obarray must be an array pointer, not a symbol with an array property.

18.7.1.2 Sequence Iteration

One very common form of iteration is that over the elements of some object which is accessible by means of an integer index. loop defines an iteration path function for doing this in a general way, and provides a simple interface to allow users to define iteration paths for various kinds of "indexable" data.

define-loop-sequence-path Macro

\[
\texttt{(define-loop-sequence-path path-name-or-names fetch-fun size-fun}
\texttt{\quad sequence-type default-var-type)}
\]

\texttt{path-name-or-names} is either an atomic path name or list of path names. \texttt{fetch-fun} is a function of two arguments: the sequence, and the index of the item to be fetched. (Indexing is assumed to be zero-origined.) \texttt{size-fun} is a function of one argument, the sequence; it should return the number of elements in the sequence. \texttt{sequence-type} is the name of the data-type of the sequence, and \texttt{default-var-type} the name of the data-type of the elements of the sequence. These last two items are optional.
The Lisp Machine implementation of loop utilizes the Lisp Machine array manipulation primitives to define both array-element and array-elements as iteration paths:

\[(\text{define-loop-sequence-path} \ (\text{array-element} \ \text{array-elements}) \ \text{aref} \ \text{array-active-length})\]

Then, the loop clause

\[\text{for } \text{var } \text{being the array-elements of } \text{array}\]

will step \text{var} over the elements of \text{array}, starting from 0. The sequence path function also accepts in as a synonym for of.

The range and stepping of the iteration may be specified with the use of all of the same keywords which are accepted by the loop arithmetic stepper (for \text{var} from \text{...}); they are by, to, downto, from, downfrom, below, and above, and are interpreted in the same manner. Thus,

\[(\text{loop for } \text{var } \text{being the array-elements of } \text{array} \ \text{from } 1 \text{ by } 2 \ \text{...})\]

steps \text{var} over all of the odd elements of \text{array}, and

\[(\text{loop for } \text{var } \text{being the array-elements of } \text{array} \ \text{downto } 0 \ \text{...})\]

steps in "reverse" order.

\[(\text{define-loop-sequence-path} \ (\text{vector-elements} \ \text{vector-element}) \ \text{vref} \ \text{vector-length} \ \text{notype} \ \text{notype})\]

is how the vector-elements iteration path can be defined in NIL (which it is). One can then do such things as

\[(\text{defun cons-a-lot} \ (\text{item} \ \text{&restv} \ \text{other-items}) \n\quad (\text{and} \ \text{other-items}) \n\quad (\text{loop for } \text{x } \text{being the vector-elements of } \text{other-items} \n\quad \quad \text{collect} \ (\text{cons} \ \text{item} \ \text{x}))))\]

All such sequence iteration paths allow one to specify the variable to be used as the index variable, by use of the index keyword with the using prepositional phrase, as described (with an example) on page 219.

### 18.7.2 Defining Paths

This section and the next may not be of interest to those not interested in defining their own iteration paths.

A loop iteration clause (e.g., a for or as clause) produces, in addition to the code which defines the iteration (section 18.6), variables which must be bound, and pre-iteration (prologue) code. This breakdown allows a user-interface to loop which does not have to depend on or know about the internals of loop. To complete this separation, the iteration path mechanism parses the clause before giving it to the user function which will return those items. A function to generate code for a path may be declared to loop with the define-loop-path function:
**define-loop-path Macro**

\[
(defi ne-loop-path \ \text{pathname-or-names} \ \text{path-function} \\
\text{list-of-allowable-prepositions} \\
\text{datum-1} \ \text{datum-2} \ \ldots)
\]

This defines \text{path-function} to be the handler for the path(s) \text{pathname-or-names}, which may be either a symbol or a list of symbols. Such a handler should follow the conventions described below. The \text{datum-i} are optional; they are passed in to \text{path-function} as a list.

The handler will be called with the following arguments:

- **path-name**
  - The name of the path which caused the path function to be invoked.

- **variable**
  - The "iteration variable".

- **data-type**
  - The data type supplied with the iteration variable, or nil if none was supplied.

- **prepositional-phrases**
  - This is a list with entries of the form \(\text{preposition expression}\), in the order in which they were collected. This may also include some supplied implicitly (e.g. of phrases, and in phrases for the default-loop-path path); the ordering will show the order of evaluation which should be followed for the expressions.

- **inclusive?**
  - This is t if \text{variable} should have the starting point of the path as its value on the first iteration (by virtue of being specified with syntax like for \text{var} being \text{expr} and its \text{pathname}), nil otherwise.

- **allowed-prepositions**
  - This is the list of allowable prepositions declared for the pathname that caused the path function to be invoked. It and \text{data} (immediately below) may be used by the path function such that a single function may handle similar paths.

- **data**
  - This is the list of "data" declared for the pathname that caused the path function to be invoked. It may, for instance, contain a canonicalized pathname, or a set of functions or flags to aid the path function in determining what to do. In this way, the same path function may be able to handle different paths.

The handler should return a list of either six or ten elements:

- **variable-bindings**
  - This is a list of variables which need to be bound. The entries in it may be of the form \text{variable}, \text{(variable expression)}, or \text{(variable expression data-type)}. Note that it is the responsibility of the handler to make sure the iteration variable gets bound. All of these variables will be bound in parallel; if initialization of one depends on others, it should be done with a \text{setq} in the \text{prologue-forms}. Returning only the variable without any initialization expression is not allowed if the variable is a destructuring pattern.

- **prologue-forms**
  - This is a list of forms which should be included in the loop prologue.

- **the four items of the iteration specification**
  - These are the four items described in section 18.6, page 217: \text{pre-step-endtest}, \text{steps},
*post-step-endtest*, and *pseudo-steps*.

**Another Four Items of Iteration Specification**

If these four items are given, they apply to the first iteration, and the previous four apply to all succeeding iterations; otherwise, the previous four apply to all iterations.

Here are the routines which are used by *loop* to compare keywords for equality. In all cases, a *token* may be any Lisp object, but a *keyword* is expected to be an atomic symbol. In certain implementations these functions may be implemented as macros.

**si:loop-tequal** *token keyword*

This is the *loop* token comparison function. *token* is any Lisp object; *keyword* is the keyword it is to be compared against. It returns t if they represent the same token, comparing in a manner appropriate for the implementation.

**si:loop-tmember** *token keyword-list*

The member variant of *si:loop-tequal*.

**si:loop-tassoc** *token keyword-alist*

The assoc variant of *si:loop-tequal*.

If an iteration path function desires to make an internal variable accessible to the user, it should call the following function instead of *gensym*:

**si:loop-named-variable** *keyword*

This should only be called from within an iteration path function. If *keyword* has been specified in a using phrase for this path, the corresponding variable is returned; otherwise, *gensym* is called and that new symbol returned. Within a given path function, this routine should only be called once for any given *keyword*.

If the user specifies a using preposition containing any keywords for which the path function does not call *si:loop-named-variable*, *loop* will inform the user of his error.

### 18.7.2.1 An Example Path Definition

Here is an example function which defines the *string-characters* iteration path. This path steps a variable through all of the characters of a string. It accepts the format

```lisp
(loop for var being the string-characters of str ...)
```

The function is defined to handle the path by

```lisp
(define-loop-path string-characters string-chars-path (of))
```
Here is the function:

```
(defun string-chars-path (path-name variable data-type
  prep-phrases inclusive?
  allowed-prepositions data
&aux (bindings nil)
  (prologue nil)
  (string-var (gensym))
  (index-var (gensym))
  (size-var (gensym)))

allowed-prepositions data ; unused variables
; To iterate over the characters of a string, we need
; to save the string, save the size of the string,
; step an index variable through that range, setting
; the user's variable to the character at that index.
; Default the data-type of the user's variable:
(cond ((null data-type) (setq data-type 'fixnum)))
; We support exactly one "preposition", which is
; required, so this check suffices:
(cond ((null prep-phrases)
  (error "Missing OF in iteration path"
    (list path-name variable)))
; We do not support "inclusive" iteration:
(cond ((not (null inclusive?))
  (error "Inclusive stepping not supported"
    (list* path-name variable prep-phrases)))
; Set up the bindings
(setq bindings (list (list variable nil data-type)
  (list string-var (cadar prep-phrases))
  (list index-var 0 'fixnum)
  (list size-var 0 'fixnum)))
; Now set the size variable
(setq prologue (list '((setq ,size-var (string-length ,string-var)))
; and return the appropriate stuff, explained below.
(list bindings
  prologue
  '(
    (= ,index-var ,size-var)
    nil
    nil
    (list variable '((char-n ,string-var ,index-var)
      index-var '(1+ ,index-var)))))
```

The first element of the returned list is the bindings. The second is a list of forms to be placed in the `prologue`. The remaining elements specify how the iteration is to be performed. This example is a particularly simple case, for two reasons: the actual "variable of iteration", `index-var`, is purely internal (being gensymmed), and the stepping of it `(1+)` is such that it may be performed safely without an endtest. Thus `index-var` may be stepped immediately after the setting of the user's variable, causing the iteration specification for the first iteration to be identical to the iteration specification for all remaining iterations. This is advantageous from the standpoint of the optimizations `loop` is able to perform, although it is frequently not possible due
to the semantics of the iteration (e.g., for var first expr1 then expr2) or to subtleties of the stepping. It is safe for this path to step the user's variable in the pseudo-steps (the fourth item of an iteration specification) rather than the "real" steps (the second), because the step value can have no dependencies on any other (user) iteration variables. Using the pseudo-steps generally results in some efficiency gains.

If one desired the index variable in the above definition to be user-accessible through the using phrase feature with the index keyword, the function would need to be changed in two ways. First, index-var should be bound to (si:loop-named-variable 'index) instead of (gensym). Secondly, the efficiency hack of stepping the index variable ahead of the iteration variable must not be done. This is effected by changing the last form to be

```lisp
(list bindings prologue
  nil
  (list index-var '(1+ ,index-var))
  ('(= ,index-var ,size-var)
   (list variable '(char-n ,string-var ,index-var))
   nil
   nil
   ('(= ,index-var ,size-var)
    (list variable '(char-n ,string-var ,index-var))))
```

Note that although the second ‘(= ,index-var ,size-var) could have been placed earlier (where the second nil is), it is best for it to match up with the equivalent test in the first iteration specification grouping.
19. Defstruct

19.1 Introduction to Structure Macros

defstruct provides a facility in Lisp for creating and using aggregate datatypes with named elements. These are like "structures" in PL/I, or "records" in PASCAL. In the last two chapters we saw how to use macros to extend the control structures of Lisp; here we see how they can be used to extend Lisp's data structures as well.

To explain the basic idea, assume you were writing a Lisp program that dealt with space ships. In your program, you want to represent a space ship by a Lisp object of some kind. The interesting things about a space ship, as far as your program is concerned, are its position (X and Y), velocity (X and Y), and mass. How do you represent a space ship?

Well, the representation could be a list of the x-position, y-position, and so on. Equally well it could be an array of five elements, the zeroth being the x-position, the first being the y-position, and so on. The problem with both of these representations is that the "elements" (such as x-position) occupy places in the object which are quite arbitrary, and hard to remember (Hmm, was the mass the third or the fourth element of the array?). This would make programs harder to write and read. What we would like to see are names, easy to remember and to understand. If the symbol foo were bound to a representation of a space ship, then

(ship-x-position foo)

could return its x-position, and

(ship-y-position foo)

its y-position, and so forth. defstruct does just this.

defstruct itself is a macro which defines a structure. For the space ship example above, we might define the structure by saying:

(defstruct (ship)
  ship-x-position
  ship-y-position
  ship-x-velocity
  ship-y-velocity
  ship-mass)

This says that every ship is an object with five named components. (This is a very simple case of defstruct; we will see the general form later.) The evaluation of this form does several things. First, it defines ship-x-position to be a macro which expands into an aref form; that is, (ship-x-position foo) would turn into (aref foo 0). All of the "elements" are defined to refer to sequentially increasing elements of the array, e.g. (ship-mass foo) would turn into (aref foo 4). So a ship is really implemented as an array, although that fact is kept hidden. These macros are called the accessor macros, as they are used to access elements of the structure. (They are actually subs (see section 10.5.1, page 120) rather than macros, so that you can manipulate them as functions (e.g. pass them as arguments to mapcar), but we will continue to refer to them as macros.)

defstruct will also define make-ship to be a macro which expands into a call to make-array which will create an array of the right size (namely, 5 elements). So (setq x (make-ship)) will make a new ship, and x will be bound to it. This macro is called the constructor macro, because
it constructs a new structure.

We also want to be able to change the contents of a structure. To do this, we use the setf macro (see page 201), as follows (for example):

```
(setf (ship-x-position x) 100)
```

Here x is bound to a ship, and after the evaluation of the setf form, the ship-x-position of that ship will be 100. The way this works is that the setf form expands into (aset 100 x 0); again, this is invisible to the programmer.

We can now use the describe-defstruct function to look at the ship object, and see what its contents are:

```
(describe-defstruct x 'ship) =>

#<art-q-5 17073131> is a ship
ship-x-position: 100
ship-y-position: nil
ship-x-velocity: nil
ship-y-velocity: nil
ship-mass: nil

#<art-q-5 17073131>
```

(The describe-defstruct function is explained more fully on page 228.)

By itself, this simple example provides a powerful structure definition tool. But, in fact, defstruct has many other features. First of all, we might want to specify what kind of Lisp object to use for the "implementation" of the structure. The example above implemented a "ship" as an array, but defstruct can also implement structures as array-leaders, lists, and other things. (For array-leaders, the accessor macros expand into calls to array-leader, and for lists, to nth, and so on.)

Most structures are implemented as arrays. Lists take slightly less storage, but elements near the end of a long list are slower to access. Array leaders allow you to have a homogeneous aggregate (the array) and a heterogeneous aggregate with named elements (the leader) tied together into one object.

defstruct allows you to specify to the constructor macro what the various elements of the structure should be initialized to. It also lets you give, in the defstruct form, default values for the initialization of each element.

The defstruct in Lisp Machine Lisp also works in various dialects of Maclisp, and so it has some features that are not useful in the Lisp Machine. When possible, the Maclisp-specific features attempt to do something reasonable or harmless on the Lisp Machine, to make it easier to write code that will run equally well in the Lisp Machine and Maclisp. (Note that this defstruct is not necessarily the default one installed in Maclisp!)
19.2 How to Use Defstruct

**defstruct Macro**

A call to defstruct looks like:

```
(defstruct (name option-1 option-2 ...)
  slot-description-1
  slot-description-2
  ...
)
```

*name* must be a symbol; it is the name of the structure. It is given a `defstruct-description` property that describes the attributes and elements of the structure; this is intended to be used by programs that examine LISP programs, that want to display the contents of structures in a helpful way. *name* is used for other things, described below.

*option-n* may be either a symbol, which should be one of the recognized option names, listed in the next section, or a list, whose car should be one of the option names and the rest of which should be "arguments" to the option. Some options have arguments that default; others require that arguments be given explicitly.

*slot-description-n* may be in any of three forms:

1. `slot-name`
2. `(slot-name default-init)`
3. `((slot-name-1 byte-spec-1 default-init-1)`
   `  (slot-name-2 byte-spec-2 default-init-2)`
   `  ...)`

*slot-name* must always be a symbol, and each *slot-name* is defined as an access macro. Each *slot-description* allocates one entry of the physical structure, even though in form (3) several slots are defined.

In form (1), *slot-name* defines a slot with the given name. An accessor macro will be defined with the name *slot-name* (but see the :conc-name option, page 230). In form (2), the slot is defined the same way, but you specify the default initialization for the slot. Initialization is explained further on page 235. Form (3) lets you use the byte field feature of defstruct, which is explained on page 237.

You can't have two defstructs that both define the same accessor macro. To do so is like defining two functions with the same name; the latest definition is the one that takes effect, and the earlier definition is clobbered. For this reason, as well as for clarity in the code, it is conventional to prefix the names of all of the accessor macros with some text unique to the structure. In the example above, all the names started with `ship-`. The :conc-name option provides such prefixes automatically (see page 230); you can also just put them in yourself as was done in the example.

The `describe-defstruct` function lets you examine an instance of a structure.

**describe-defstruct instance &optional name**

`describe-defstruct` takes an instance of a structure, and prints out a description of the instance, including the contents of each of its slots. *name* should be the name of the structure; you must provide the name of the structure so that `describe-defstruct` can know what structure *instance* is an instance of, and therefore figure out what the names of the slots of *instance* are.
If *instance* is a named structure, you don't have to provide *name*, since it is just the named structure symbol of *instance*. Normally the describe function (see page 448) will call describe-defstruct if it is asked to describe a named structure; however some named structures have their own idea of how to describe themselves. See page 239 for more information about named structures.

19.3 Options to Defstruct

This section explains each of the options that can be given to defstruct.

Here is an example that shows the typical syntax of a call to defstruct that gives several options.

```
(defstruct (foo (:type :array)
  (:make-array (:type 'art-8b :leader-length 3))
  :conc-name
  (:size-symbol foo))
```

The :type option specifies what kind of Lisp object will be used to implement the structure. It must be given one argument, which must be one of the symbols enumerated below, or a user-defined type. If the option itself is not provided, the type defaults to :array. You can define your own types; this is explained on page 242.

- :array Use an array, storing components in the body of the array.
- :named-array Like :array, but make the array a named structure (see page 239) using the name of the structure as the named structure symbol. Element 0 of the array will hold the named structure symbol and so will not be used to hold a component of the structure.
- :array-leader Use an array, storing components in the leader of the array. (See the :make-array option, described below.)
- :named-array-leader Like :array-leader, but make the array a named structure (see page 239) using the name of the structure as the named structure symbol. Element 1 of the leader will hold the named structure symbol and so will not be used to hold a component of the structure.
- :list Use a list.
- :named-list Like :list, but the first element of the list will hold the symbol that is the name of the structure and so will not be used as a component.
- :fixnum-array Like :array, but the type of the array is art-32b.
- :flonum-array Like :array, but the type of the array is art-float.
Options to Defstruct

:tree
The structure is implemented out of a binary tree of conses, with the leaves serving as the slots.

:fixnum
This unusual type implements the structure as a single fixnum. The structure may only have one slot. This is only useful with the byte field feature (see page 237); it lets you store a bunch of small numbers within fields of a fixnum, giving the fields names.

:grouped-array
This is described on page 238.

:constructor
This option takes one argument, which specifies the name of the constructor macro. If the argument is not provided or if the option itself is not provided, the name of the constructor is made by concatenating the string "make-" to the name of the structure. If the argument is provided and is nil, no constructor is defined. Use of the constructor macro is explained on page 235.

:alterant
This option takes one argument, which specifies the name of the alterant macro. If the argument is not provided or if the option itself is not provided, the name of the alterant is made by concatenating the string "alter-" to the name of the structure. If the argument is provided and is nil, no alterant is defined. Use of the alterant macro is explained on page 235.

:default-pointer
Normally, the accessors defined by defstruct expect to be given exactly one argument. However, if the :default-pointer argument is used, the argument to each accessor is optional. If you use an accessor in the usual way it will do the usual thing, but if you invoke it without its argument, it will behave as if you had invoked it on the result of evaluating the form which is the argument to the :default-pointer argument. Here is an example:

```lisp
(defstruct (room (:default-pointer *default-room*))
  (room-name x)
  (room-name)
  (room-contents) => (aref x 0)
  => (aref *default-room* 0)
```

If the argument to the :default-pointer argument is not given, it defaults to the name of the structure.

:conc-name
It is conventional to begin the names of all the accessor macros of a structure with a specific prefix. Usually they all start with the name of the structure followed by a hyphen. The :conc-name option allows you to specify this prefix and have it concatenated onto the front of all the slot names to make the names of the accessor macros. The argument should be a symbol; its print-name is used as the prefix. If the argument is not present, the prefix will be the name of the structure followed by a hyphen. (If this option is not used at all, then there is no prefix; the names of the accessors are the same as the slot names.) Note that in the constructor and alterant macros, you still use the slot names rather than the accessor macro names. Here is an example:
This option is used for building a new structure definition as an extension of an old structure definition. Suppose you have a structure called `person` that looks like this:

```lisp
(defstruct (person :conc-name)
  name
  age
  sex)
```

Now suppose you want to make a new structure to represent an astronaut. Since astronauts are people too, you would like them to also have the attributes of name, age, and sex, and you would like Lisp functions that operate on `person` structures to operate just as well on `astronaut` structures. You can do this by defining `astronaut` with the `:include` option, as follows:

```lisp
(defstruct (astronaut (:include person))
  helmet-size
  (favorite-beverage 'tang))
```

The `:include` option inserts the slots of the included structure at the front of the list of slots for this structure. That is, an astronaut will have five slots; first the three defined in `person`, and then after those the two defined in `astronaut` itself. The accessor macros defined by the `person` structure can be applied to instances of the `astronaut` structure, and they will work correctly. The following examples illustrate how you can use `astronaut` structures:

```lisp
(setq x (make-astronaut name 'buzz
  age 45.
  sex t
  helmet-size 17.5))

(person-name x) => buzz
(favorite-beverage x) => tang
```

Note that the `:conc-name` option was not inherited from the included structure; it only applies to the accessor macros of `person` and not to those of `astronaut`. Similarly, the `:default-pointer` and `:but-first` options, as well as the `:conc-name` option, only apply to the accessor macros for the structure in which they are enclosed; they are not inherited if you `:include` a structure that uses them.

The argument to the `:include` option is required, and must be the name of some previously defined structure of the same type as this structure. `:include` does not work with structures of type `:tree` or of type `:grouped-array`. 

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The following is an advanced feature. Sometimes, when one structure includes another, the default values for the slots that came from the included structure are not what you want. The new structure can specify different default values for the included slots than the included structure specifies, by giving the :include option as:

```
(:include name new-init-i ... new-init-n)
```

Each new-init-i is either the name of an included slot or a list of the form (name-of-included-slot init-form). If it is just a slot name, then in the new structure the slot will have no initial value. Otherwise its initial value form will be replaced by the init-form. The old (included) structure is unmodified.

For example, if we had wanted to define astronaut so that the default age for an astronaut is 45., then we could have said:

```
(defstruct (astronaut (:include person (age 45.)))
  (helmet-size (favorite-beverage 'tang)))
```

**:named**

This means that you want to use one of the "named" types. If you specify a type of :array, :array-leader, or :list, and give the :named option, then the :named-array, :named-array-leader, or :named-list type will be used instead. Asking for type :array and giving the :named option as well is the same as asking for the type :named-array; the only difference is stylistic.

**:make-array**

This option allows you to control those aspects of the array used to implement the structure that are not otherwise constrained by defstruct. For example, you might want to control the area in which the array is allocated. Also, if you are creating a structure of type :array-leader, you almost certainly want to specify the dimensions of the array to be created, and you may want to specify the type of the array. Of course, this option is only meaningful if the structure is, in fact, being implemented by an array.

The argument to the :make-array option should be a list of alternating keyword symbols to the make-array function (see page 102), and forms whose values are the arguments to those keywords. For example, (:make-array (:type 'art-16b)) would request that the type of the array be art-16b. Note that the keyword symbol is not evaluated.

defstruct overrides any of the :make-array options that it needs to. For example, if your structure is of type :array, then defstruct will supply the size of that array regardless of what you say in the :make-array option.

Constructor macros for structures implemented as arrays all allow the keyword :make-array to be supplied. Attributes supplied therein override any :make-array option attributes supplied in the original defstruct form. If some attribute appears in neither the invocation of the constructor nor in the :make-array option to defstruct, then the constructor will chose appropriate defaults.

If a structure is of type :array-leader, you probably want to specify the dimensions of the array. The dimensions of an array are given to :make-array as a position argument rather than a keyword argument, so there is no way to
specify them in the above syntax. To solve this problem, you can use the keyword :dimensions or the keyword :length (they mean the same thing), with a value that is anything acceptable as make-array’s first argument.

:times
This option is used for structures of type :grouped-array to control the number of repetitions of the structure that will be allocated by the constructor macro. The constructor macro will also allow :times to be used as a keyword that will override the value given in the original defstruct form. If :times appears in neither the invocation of the constructor nor in the :make-array option to defstruct, then the constructor will only allocate one instance of the structure.

:size-symbol
The :size-symbol option allows a user to specify a symbol whose value will be the “size” of the structure. The exact meaning of this varies, but in general this number is the one you would need to know if you were going to allocate one of these structures yourself. The symbol will have this value both at compile time and at run time. If this option is present without an argument, then the name of the structure is concatenated with “-size” to produce the symbol.

:size-macro
This is similar to the :size-symbol option. A macro of no arguments is defined that expands into the size of the structure. The name of this macro defaults as with :size-symbol.

:initial-offset
This allows you to tell defstruct to skip over a certain number of slots before it starts allocating the slots described in the body. This option requires an argument (which must be a fixnum) which is the number of slots you want defstruct to skip. To make use of this option requires that you have some familiarity with how defstruct is implementing your structure; otherwise, you will be unable to make use of the slots that defstruct has left unused.

:but-first
This option is best explained by example:

(defun (defstruct (head (:type :list) (:default-pointer person) (:but-first person-head))
  nose
  mouth
  eyes)

The accessors expand like this:

(nose x) ==> (car (person-head x))
(nose) ==> (car (person-head person))

The idea is that :but-first's argument will be an accessor from some other structure, and it is never expected that this structure will be found outside of that slot of that other structure. Actually, you can use any one-argument function, or a macro that acts like a one-argument function. It is an error for the :but-first option to be used without an argument.

:displace
Normally all of the macros defined by defstruct will be simple displacing macros. They will use the function displace to actually change the original macro form, so that it will not have to be expanded over and over (see page 198). The :displace option allows the user to supply some other function to use instead of displace.
The argument to the :displace option should be a two argument function that will be called whenever a macro expansion occurs. The two arguments will be the original form and the form resulting from macro expansion. The value returned by this function will be used for further evaluation. Note that the function displace is the function used if the :displace option isn’t given. The function prog will cause the macro to be expanded every time.

Giving the :displace argument with no arguments, or with an argument of t, or with an argument of displace, is the same as not giving it at all. Giving an argument of nil or prog means to use regular macros instead of displacing macros.

Note that accessor macros are normally subs (unless you give the :callable-accessors option with argument nil). If the accessors are really subs, they are not affected by :displace. However, the constructor and alterant macros, and the :size-macro, are still affected.

:callable-accessors
This option controls whether accessor macros are really functions, and therefore "callable", or whether they are really macros. With an argument of t, or with no argument, or if the option is not provided, then the accessor macros are really functions. Specifically, they are subs, so that they have all the efficiency of macros in compiled programs, while still being function objects that can be manipulated (passed to mapcar, etc.). If the argument is nil then the accessor macros will really be macros; either displacing macros or not, depending on the :displace argument.

:eval-when
Normally the macros defined by defstruct are defined at eval-time, compile-time, and load-time. This option allows the user to control this behavior. The argument to the :eval-when option is just like the list that is the first subform of an eval-when special form (see page 184). For example, (:eval-when (:eval :compile)) will cause the macros to be defined only when the code is running interpreted or inside the compiler.

:property
For each structure defined by defstruct, a property list is maintained for the recording of arbitrary properties about that structure. (That is, there is one property list per structure definition, not one for each instantiation of the structure.)

The :property option can be used to give a defstruct an arbitrary property. (:property property-name value) gives the defstruct a property-name property of value. Neither argument is evaluated. To access the property list, the user will have to look inside the defstruct-description structure himself (see page 240).

:types
In addition to the options listed above, any currently defined type (any legal argument to the :type option) can be used as an option. This is mostly for compatibility with the old version of defstruct. It allows you to say just type instead of (:type type). It is an error to give an argument to one of these options.

:other
Finally, if an option isn’t found among those listed above, defstruct checks the property list of the name of the option to see if it has a non-nil :defstruct-option property. If it does have such a property, then if the option was of the form...
(option-name value), it is treated just like (:property option-name value). That is, the defstruct is given an option-name property of value. It is an error to use such an option without a value.

This provides a primitive way for you to define your own options to defstruct. Several of the options listed above are actually implemented using this mechanism.

19.4 Using the Constructor and Alterant Macros

After you have defined a new structure with defstruct, you can create instances of this structure using the constructor macro, and you can alter the values of its slots using the alterant macro. By default, defstruct defines both the constructor and the alterant, forming their names by concatenating "make-" and "alter-", respectively, onto the name of the structure. You can specify the names yourself by passing the name you want to use as the argument to the :constructor or :alterant options, or specify that you don't want the macro created at all by passing nil as the argument.

19.4.1 Constructor Macros

A call to a constructor macro, in general, has the form

(name-of-constructor-macro
 symbol-1 form-1
 symbol-2 form-2
 . . )

Each symbol may be either the name of a slot of the structure, or a specially recognized keyword. All the forms are evaluated.

If symbol is the name of a slot, then that element of the created structure will be initialized to the value of form. If no symbol is present for a given slot, then the slot will be initialized in accordance with the default initialization specified in the call to defstruct. (In other words, the initialization specified to the constructor overrides the initialization specified to defstruct.) If the defstruct itself also did not specify any initialization, the element's initial value is undefined. You should always specify the initialization, either in the defstruct or in the constructor macro, if you care about the initial value of the slot.

Notes: The order of evaluation of the initialization forms is not necessarily the same as the order in which they appear in the constructor call; you should make sure your code does not depend on the order of evaluation. The forms are re-evaluated on every constructor-macro call, so that if, for example, the form (gensym) were used as an initialization form, then every call to the constructor macro would create a new symbol. The symbols should be slot names, not accessor names (they are different when the :conc-name option is being used).

There are two symbols which are specially recognized by the constructor. They are :make-array, which should only be used for :array and :array-leader type structures (or the named versions of those types), and :times, which should only be used for :grouped-array type structures. If one of these symbols appears instead of a slot name, then it is interpreted just as the :make-array option or the :times option (see page 232), and it overrides what was requested in that option. For example:
Using the Constructor and Alterant Macros

```lisp
(make-ship ship-x-position 10.0
ship-y-position 12.0
:make-array (:leader-length 5 :area disaster-area))
```

19.4.2 Alterant Macros

A call to the alterant macro, in general, has the form

```
(name-of-alterant-macro instance-form
  slot-name-1 form-1
  slot-name-2 form-2
  ...
)
```

`instance-form` is evaluated, and should return an instance of the structure. Each `form` is evaluated, and the corresponding slot is changed to have the result as its new value. The slots are altered after all the `forms` are evaluated, so you can exchange the values of two slots, as follows:

```
(alter-ship enterprise
  ship-x-position (ship-y-position enterprise)
  ship-y-position (ship-x-position enterprise))
```

As with the constructor macro, the order of evaluation of the `forms` is undefined. Using the alterant macro can produce more efficient Lisp than using consecutive sets when you are altering two byte fields of the same object, or when you are using the `:but-first` option.

19.4.3 By-position Constructor Macros

If the `:constructor` option is given as `(:constructor name arglist)`, then instead of making a keyword driven constructor, `defstruct` defines a "function style" constructor, taking arguments whose meaning is determined by the argument's position rather than by a keyword. The `arglist` is used to describe what the arguments to the constructor will be. In the simplest case something like `(:constructor make-foo (a b c))` defines `make-foo` to be a three-argument constructor macro whose arguments are used to initialize the slots named `a`, `b`, and `c`.

In addition, the keywords `&optional`, `&rest`, and `&aux` are recognized in the argument list. They work in the way you might expect, but there are a few fine points worthy of explanation:

```
(:constructor make-foo
  (a &optional b (c 'sea) &rest d &aux e (f 'eff)))
```

This defines `make-foo` to be a constructor of one or more arguments. The first argument is used to initialize the `a` slot. The second argument is used to initialize the `b` slot. If there isn't any second argument, then the default value given in the body of the `defstruct` (if given) is used instead. The third argument is used to initialize the `c` slot. If there isn't any third argument, then the symbol `sea` is used instead. Any arguments following the third argument are collected into a list and used to initialize the `d` slot. If there are three or fewer arguments, then nil is placed in the `d` slot. The `e` slot is not initialized; its initial value is undefined. Finally, the `f` slot is initialized to contain the symbol `eff`.

The actions taken in the `b` and `e` cases were carefully chosen to allow the user to specify all possible behaviors. Note that the `&aux` "variables" can be used to completely override the default initializations given in the body.

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Since there is so much freedom in defining constructors this way, it would be cruel to only allow the :constructor option to be given once. So, by special dispensation, you are allowed to give the :constructor option more than once, so that you can define several different constructors, each with a different syntax.

Note that even these "function style" constructors do not guarantee that their arguments will be evaluated in the order that you wrote them. Also note that you cannot specify the :make-array nor :times information in this form of constructor macro.

19.5 Byte Fields

The byte field feature of defstruct allows you to specify that several slots of your structure are bytes (see section 7.7, page 94) in an integer stored in one element of the structure. For example, suppose we had the following structure:

```
(defstruct (phone-book-entry (:type :list))
  name
  address
  (area-code 617.)
  exchange
  line-number)
```

This will work correctly. However, it wastes space. Area codes and exchange numbers are always less than 1000, and so both can fit into 10 bit fields when expressed as binary numbers. Since Lisp Machine fixnums have (more than) 20 bits, both of these values can be packed into a single fixnum. To tell defstruct to do so, you can change the structure definition to the following:

```
(defstruct (phone-book-entry (:type :list))
  name
  address
  ((area-code 1212 617.)
   (exchange 0012))
  line-number)
```

The magic numbers 1212 and 0012 are byte specifiers to be used with the functions ldb and dpb. The various macros will now expand as follows:

```
(area-code pbe)  ==>  (ldb 1212 (caddr pbe))
(exchange pbe)  ==>  (ldb 0012 (caddr pbe))

(make-phone-book-entry
  name 'Fred Derf
  address '259 Octal St.
  exchange ex
  line-number 7788.)

  ==> (list 'Fred Derf '259 Octal St. (dpb ex 12 2322000) 17154)
```
Grouped Arrays

(alter-phone-book-entry pbe
   area-code ac
   exchange ex)

  => ((lambda (g0530)
      (setf (nth 2 g0530)
            (dpb ac 1212 (dpb ex 12 (nth 2 g0530))))))
   pbe)

Note that the alterant macro is optimized to only read and write the second element of the
list once, even though you are altering two different byte fields within it. This is more efficient
than using two setfs. In general, you can provide arbitrary Lisp forms as the byte specifiers in
the defstruct slot descriptions, but if you happen to provide constants (fixnums), some better
optimizations can be done. You don’t really have to worry about how the expansion happens,
anyway.

If the byte specifier is nil, then the accessor macro will be defined to be the usual kind that
accesses the entire Lisp object, thus returning all the byte field components as a fixnum. These
slots may have default initialization forms. Constructor macros initialize words divided into byte
fields as if they were deposited in in the following order:

1) Initializations for the entire word given in the defstruct form.
2) Initializations for the byte fields given in the defstruct form.
3) Initializations for the entire word given in the constructor macro form.
4) Initializations for the byte fields given in the constructor macro form.

Alterant macros work similarly: the modification for the entire Lisp object is done first,
followed by modifications to specific byte fields. If any byte fields being initialized or altered
overlap each other, the action of the constructor and alterant will be unpredictable.

19.6 Grouped Arrays

The grouped array feature allows you to store several instances of a structure side-by-side
within an array. This feature is somewhat limited; it does not support the :include and :named
options.

The accessor macros are defined to take a first "argument" which should be a fixnum, and is
the index into the array of where this instance of the structure starts. It should be a multiple of
the size of the structure, for things to make sense. The normal "argument" (the structure) is
given to the accessor macros as their second "argument".

Note that the "size" of the structure (as given in the :size symbol and the :size-macro) is
the number of elements in one instance of the structure; the actual length of the array is the
product of the size of the structure and the number of instances. The number of instances to be
created by the constructor macro is given as the argument to the :times option to defstruct, or
the :times keyword of the constructor macro.

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19.7 Named Structures

The named structure feature provides a very simple form of user-defined data type. Any array may be made a named structure, although usually the named option of defstruct is used to create named structures. The principal advantages to a named structure are that it has a more informative printed representation than a normal array and that the describe function knows how to give a detailed description of it. (You don't have to use describe-defstruct, because describe can figure out what the names of the slots of the structure are by looking at the named structure's name.) Because of these improved user-interface features it is recommended that "system" data structures be implemented with named structures.

Another kind of user-defined data type, more advanced but less efficient when just used as a record structure, is provided by the flavor feature (see chapter 20, page 245).

A named structure has an associated symbol, called its "named structure symbol", which represents what user-defined type it is an instance of; the typep function, applied to the named structure, will return this symbol. If the array has a leader, then the symbol is found in element 1 of the leader; otherwise it is found in element 0 of the array. (Note: if a numeric-type array is to be a named structure, it must have a leader, since a symbol cannot be stored in any element of a numeric array.)

If you call typep with two arguments, the first being an instance of a named structure and the second being its named structure symbol, typep will return t. t will also be returned if the second argument is the named structure symbol of a :named defstruct included (using the :include option, see page 231) by the defstruct for this structure. For example, if the structure astronaut includes the structure person, and person is a named structure, then giving typep an instance of an astronaut as the first argument, and the symbol person as the second argument, will return t. This reflects the fact that an astronaut is, in fact, a person, as well as being an astronaut.

You may associate with a named structure a function that will handle various operations that can be done on the named structure. Currently, you can control how the named structure is printed, and what describe will do with it.

To provide such a handler function, make the function be the named-structure-invoke property of the named structure symbol. The functions which know about named structures will apply this handler function to several arguments. The first is a "keyword" symbol to identify the calling function, and the second is the named structure itself. The rest of the arguments passed depend on the caller; any named structure function should have a "&rest" parameter to absorb any extra arguments that might be passed. Just what the function is expected to do depends on the keyword it is passed as its first argument. The following are the keywords defined at present:

:which-operations
    Should return a list of the names of the operations the function handles.

:print-self
    The arguments are :print-self, the named structure, the stream to output to, the current depth in list-structure, and t if slashification is enabled (print1 versus princ). The printed representation of the named structure should be output to the stream. If the named structure symbol is not defined as a function, or :print-self is not in its :which-operations list, the printer will default to a reasonable printed representation, namely:
The si:defstruct-description Structure

The arguments are :describe and the named structure. It should output a description of itself to standard-output. If the named structure symbol is not defined as a function, or :describe is not in its :which-operations list, the describe system will check whether the named structure was created by using the :named option of defstruct; if so, the names and values of the structure’s fields will be enumerated.

The following functions operate on named structures.

named-structure-p x
This semi-predicate returns nil if x is not a named structure; otherwise it returns x’s named structure symbol.

named-structure-symbol x
x should be a named structure. This returns x’s named structure symbol: if x has an array leader, element 1 of the leader is returned, otherwise element 0 of the array is returned.

make-array-into-named-structure array
array is made to be a named structure, and is returned.

named-structure-invoke str op &rest args
str should be a named structure, and op should be a keyword symbol. The handler function of the named structure symbol, found as the value of the named-structure-invoke property of the symbol, is called with appropriate arguments.

19.8 The si:defstruct-description Structure

This section discusses the internal structures used by defstruct that might be useful to programs that want to interface to defstruct nicely. For example, if you want to write a program that examines structures and displays them the way describe (see page 448) and the Inspector do, your program will work by examining these structures. The information in this section is also necessary for anyone who is thinking of defining his own structure types.

Whenever the user defines a new structure using defstruct, defstruct creates an instance of the si:defstruct-description structure. This structure can be found as the si:defstruct-description property of the name of the structure; it contains such useful information as the name of the structure, the number of slots in the structure, and so on.

The si:defstruct-description structure is defined as follows, in the system-internals package (also called the si package): (This is a simplified version of the real definition. There are other slots in the structure which we aren’t telling you about.)
(defstruct (defstruct-description
            (:default-pointer description)
            (:conc-name defstruct-description-))
  
  name
  size
  property-alist
  slot-alist)

The name slot contains the symbol supplied by the user to be the name of his structure, such as spaceship or phone-book-entry.

The size slot contains the total number of locations in an instance of this kind of structure. This is not the same number as that obtained from the :size-symbol or :size-macro options to defstruct. A named structure, for example, usually uses up an extra location to store the name of the structure, so the :size-macro option will get a number one larger than that stored in the defstruct description.

The property-alist slot contains an alist with pairs of the form (property-name . property) containing properties placed there by the :property option to defstruct or by property names used as options to defstruct (see the :property option, page 234).

The slot-alist slot contains an alist of pairs of the form (slot-name . slot-description). A slot-description is an instance of the defstruct-slot-description structure. The defstruct-slot-description structure is defined something like this, also in the si package: (This is a simplified version of the real definition. There are other slots in the structure which we aren’t telling you about.)

(defstruct (defstruct-slot-description
            (:default-pointer slot-description)
            (:conc-name defstruct-slot-description-))
  
  number
  ppss
  init-code
  ref-macro-name)

The number slot contains the number of the location of this slot in an instance of the structure. Locations are numbered starting with 0, and continuing up to one less than the size of the structure. The actual location of the slot is determined by the reference-consing function associated with the type of the structure; see page 243.

The ppss slot contains the byte specifier code for this slot if this slot is a byte field of its location. If this slot is the entire location, then the ppss slot contains nil.

The init-code slot contains the initialization code supplied for this slot by the user in his defstruct form. If there is no initialization code for this slot then the init-code slot contains the symbol si:%%defstruct-empty%%.

The ref-macro-name slot contains the symbol that is defined as a macro that expands into a reference to this slot (that is, the name of the accessor macro).
19.9 Extensions to Defstruct

The macro defstruct-define-type can be used to teach defstruct about new types that it can use to implement structures.

\texttt{defstruct-define-type Macro}

This macro is used for teaching defstruct about new types; it is described in the rest of this chapter.

19.9.1 An Example

Let us start by examining a sample call to defstruct-define-type. This is how the :list type of structure might have been defined:

\begin{verbatim}
(defstruct-define-type :list
  (:cons (initialization-list description keyword-options)
    :list
    '(list ,initialization-list))
  (:ref (slot-number description argument)
    '(nth ,slot-number ,argument)))
\end{verbatim}

This is the simplest possible form of defstruct-define-type. It provides defstruct with two Lisp forms: one for creating forms to construct instances of the structure, and one for creating forms to become the bodies of accessors for slots of the structure.

The keyword :cons is followed by a list of three variables that will be bound while the constructor-creating form is evaluated. The first, initialization-list, will be bound to a list of the initialization forms for the slots of the structure. The second, description, will be bound to the defstruct-description structure for the structure (see page 240). The third variable and the :list keyword will be explained later.

The keyword :ref is followed by a list of three variables that will be bound while the accessor-creating form is evaluated. The first, slot-number, will bound to the number of the slot that the new accessor should reference. The second, description, will be bound to the defstruct-description structure for the structure. The third, argument, will be bound to the form that was provided as the argument to the accessor macro.

19.9.2 Syntax of defstruct-define-type

The syntax of defstruct-define-type is:

\begin{verbatim}
(defstruct-define-type type
  option-1
  option-2
  ...
)
\end{verbatim}

where each option-i is either the symbolic name of an option or a list of the form (option-name . rest). Different options interpret rest in different ways. The symbol type is given an sodefstruct-type-description property of a structure that describes the type completely.
19.9.3 Options to defstruct-define-type

This section is a catalog of all the options currently known about by defstruct-define-type.

:cons

The :cons option to defstruct-define-type is how you supply defstruct with the necessary code that it needs to cons up a form that will construct an instance of a structure of this type.

The :cons option has the syntax:

\[
:\text{cons} \ (\text{inits} \ \text{description} \ \text{keywords}) \ \text{kind} \\
\text{body}
\]

\text{body} is some code that should construct and return a piece of code that will construct, initialize, and return an instance of a structure of this type.

The symbol \text{inits} will be bound to the information that the constructor conser should use to initialize the slots of the structure. The exact form of this argument is determined by the symbol \text{kind}. There are currently two kinds of initialization. There is the :list kind, where \text{inits} is bound to a list of initializations, in the correct order, with nils in uninitialized slots. And there is the :alist kind, where \text{inits} is bound to an alist with pairs of the form (slot-number . init-code).

The symbol \text{description} will be bound to the instance of the defstruct-description structure (see page 240) that defstruct maintains for this particular structure. This is so that the constructor conser can find out such things as the total size of the structure it is supposed to create.

The symbol \text{keywords} will be bound to an alist with pairs of the form (keyword . value), where each \text{keyword} was a keyword supplied to the constructor macro that wasn't the name of a slot, and \text{value} was the Lisp object that followed the keyword. This is how you can make your own special keywords, like the existing :make-array and :times keywords. See the section on using the constructor macro on page 235. You specify the list of acceptable keywords with the :keywords option (see page 244).

It is an error not to supply the :cons option to defstruct-define-type.

:ref

The :ref option to defstruct-define-type is how the user supplies defstruct with the necessary code that it needs to cons up a form that will reference an instance of a structure of this type.

The :ref option has the syntax:

\[
:\text{ref} \ (\text{number} \ \text{description} \ \text{arg-1} \ldots \ \text{arg-n}) \\
\text{body}
\]

\text{body} is some code that should construct and return a piece of code that will reference an instance of a structure of this type.

The symbol \text{number} will be bound to the location of the slot that is to be referenced. This is the same number that is found in the number slot of the defstruct-slot-description structure (see page 241).
The symbol *description* will be bound to the instance of the *defstruct-description* structure that *defstruct* maintains for this particular structure.

The symbols *arg-i* are bound to the forms supplied to the accessor as arguments. Normally there should be only one of these. The last argument is the one that will be defaulted by the :default-pointer option (see page 230). *defstruct* will check that the user has supplied exactly *n* arguments to the accessor macro before calling the reference consing code.

It is an error not to supply the :ref option to *defstruct-define-type*.

**:overhead**

The :overhead option to *defstruct-define-type* is how the user declares to *defstruct* that the implementation of this particular type of structure "uses up" some number of locations in the object actually constructed. This option is used by various "named" types of structures that store the name of the structure in one location.

The syntax of :overhead is: (:overhead *n*) where *n* is a fixnum that says how many locations of overhead this type needs.

This number is only used by the :size-macro and :size-symbol options to *defstruct* (see page 233).

**:named**

The :named option to *defstruct-define-type* controls the use of the :named option to *defstruct*. With no argument, the :named option means that this type is an acceptable "named structure". With an argument, as in (:named *type-name*), the symbol *type-name* should be the name of some other structure type that *defstruct* should use if someone asks for the named version of this type. (For example, in the definition of the :list type the :named option is used like this: (:named :named-list).)

**:keywords**

The :keywords option to *defstruct-define-type* allows the user to define additional constructor keywords for this type of structure. (The :make-array constructor keyword for structures of type :array is an example.) The syntax is: (:keywords keyword-1 ... keyword-*n*) where each *keyword-i* is a symbol that the constructor conses expects to find in the keywords alist (explained above).

**:defstruct**

The :defstruct option to *defstruct-define-type* allows the user to run some code and return some forms as part of the expansion of the *defstruct* macro.

The :defstruct option has the syntax:

```
(:defstruct (description) body)
```

*body* is a piece of code that will be run whenever *defstruct* is expanding a *defstruct* form that defines a structure of this type. The symbol *description* will be bound to the instance of the *defstruct-description* structure that *defstruct* maintains for this particular structure.

The value returned by the *body* should be a list of forms to be included with those that the *defstruct* expands into. Thus, if you only want to run some code at *defstruct*-expand time, and you don't want to actually output any additional code, then you should be careful to return nil from the code in this option.
20. Objects, Message Passing, and Flavors

20.1 Introduction

The object oriented programming style used in the Smalltalk and Actor families of languages is available in Lisp Machine Lisp, and used by the Lisp Machine software system. Its purpose is to perform generic operations on objects. Part of its implementation is simply a convention in procedure calling style; part is a powerful language feature, called Flavors, for defining abstract objects. This chapter attempts to explain what programming with objects and with message passing means, the various means of implementing these in Lisp Machine Lisp, and when you should use them. It assumes no prior knowledge of any other languages.

20.2 Objects

When writing a program, it is often convenient to model what the program does in terms of objects: conceptual entities that can be likened to real-world things. Choosing what objects to provide in a program is very important to the proper organization of the program. In an object-oriented design, specifying what objects exist is the first task in designing the system. In a text editor, the objects might be "pieces of text", "pointers into text", and "display windows". In an electrical design system, the objects might be "resistors", "capacitors", "transistors", "wires", and "display windows". After specifying what objects there are, the next task of the design is to figure out what operations can be performed on each object. In the text editor example, operations on "pieces of text" might include inserting text and deleting text; operations on "pointers into text" might include moving forward and backward; and operations on "display windows" might include redisplaying the window and changing with which "piece of text" the window is associated.

In this model, we think of the program as being built around a set of objects, each of which has a set of operations that can be performed on it. More rigorously, the program defines several types of object (the editor above has three types), and it can create many instances of each type (that is, there can be many pieces of text, many pointers into text, and many windows). The program defines a set of types of object, and the operations that can be performed on any of the instances of each type.

This should not be wholly unfamiliar to the reader. Earlier in this manual, we saw a few examples of this kind of programming. A simple example is disembodied property lists, and the functions get, putprop, and remprop. The disembodied property list is a type of object; you can instantiate one with (cons nil nil) (that is, by evaluating this form you can create a new disembodied property list); there are three operations on the object, namely get, putprop, and remprop. Another example in the manual was the first example of the use of defstruct, which was called a ship. defstruct automatically defined some operations on this object: the operations to access its elements. We could define other functions that did useful things with ships, such as computing their speed, angle of travel, momentum, or velocity, stopping them, moving them elsewhere, and so on.

In both cases, we represent our conceptual object by one Lisp object. The Lisp object we use for the representation has structure, and refers to other Lisp objects. In the property list case, the Lisp object is a list with alternating indicators and values; in the ship case, the Lisp object is
an array whose details are taken care of by defstruct. In both cases, we can say that the object keeps track of an *internal state*, which can be *examined* and *altered* by the operations available for that type of object. `get` examines the state of a property list, and `putprop` alters it; `ship-x-position` examines the state of a ship, and `(setf (ship-mass) 5.0)` alters it.

We have now seen the essence of object-oriented programming. A conceptual object is modelled by a single Lisp object, which bundles up some state information. For every type of object, there is a set of operations that can be performed to examine or alter the state of the object.

### 20.3 Modularity

An important benefit of the object-oriented style is that it lends itself to a particularly simple and lucid kind of modularity. If you have modular programming constructs and techniques available, it helps and encourages you to write programs that are easy to read and understand, and so are more reliable and maintainable. Object-oriented programming lets a programmer implement a useful facility that presents the caller with a set of external interfaces, without requiring the caller to understand how the internal details of the implementation work. In other words, a program that calls this facility can treat the facility as a black box; the program knows what the facility's external interfaces guarantee to do, and that is all it knows.

For example, a program that uses disembodied property lists never needs to know that the property list is being maintained as a list of alternating indicators and values; the program simply performs the operations, passing them inputs and getting back outputs. The program only depends on the external definition of these operations: it knows that if it `putprop` a property, and doesn't `remprop` it (or `putprop` over it), then it can do `get` and be sure of getting back the same thing it put in. The important thing about this hiding of the details of the implementation is that someone reading a program that uses disembodied property lists need not concern himself with how they are implemented: he need only understand what they undertake to do. This saves the programmer a lot of time, and lets him concentrate his energies on understanding the program he is working on. Another good thing about this hiding is that the representation of property lists could be changed, and the program would continue to work. For example, instead of a list of alternating elements, the property list could be implemented as an association list or a hash table. Nothing in the calling program would change at all.

The same is true of the ship example. The caller is presented with a collection of operations, such as `ship-x-position`, `ship-y-position`, `ship-speed`, and `ship-direction`; it simply calls these and looks at their answers, without caring how they did what they did. In our example above, `ship-x-position` and `ship-y-position` would be accessor functions, defined automatically by defstruct, while `ship-speed` and `ship-direction` would be functions defined by the implementor of the ship type. The code might look like this:
The caller need not know that the first two functions were structure accessors and that the second two were written by hand and do arithmetic. Those facts would not be considered part of the black box characteristics of the implementation of the ship type. The ship type does not guarantee which functions will be implemented in which ways; such aspects are not part of the contract between ship and its callers. In fact, ship could have been written this way instead:

```lisp
(defstruct (ship)
  ship-x-position
  ship-y-position
  ship-x-velocity
  ship-y-velocity
  ship-mass)

(defun ship-speed (ship)
  (sqrt (+ (^ (ship-x-velocity ship) 2)
           (^ (ship-y-velocity ship) 2))))

(defun ship-direction (ship)
  (atan (ship-y-velocity ship)
         (ship-x-velocity ship)))
```

In this second implementation of the ship type, we have decided to store the velocity in polar coordinates instead of rectangular coordinates. This is purely an implementation decision; the caller has no idea which of the two ways the implementation works, because he just performs the operations on the object by calling the appropriate functions.

We have now created our own types of objects, whose implementations are hidden from the programs that use them. Such types are usually referred to as abstract types. The object-oriented style of programming can be used to create abstract types by hiding the implementation of the operations, and simply documenting what the operations are defined to do.

Some more terminology: the quantities being held by the elements of the ship structure are referred to as instance variables. Each instance of a type has the same operations defined on it; what distinguishes one instance from another (besides identity (eqness)) is the values that reside in its instance variables. The example above illustrates that a caller of operations does not know what the instance variables are; our two ways of writing the ship operations have different instance variables, but from the outside they have exactly the same operations.
One might ask: "But what if the caller evaluates (aref ship 2) and notices that he gets back
the x-velocity rather than the speed? Then he can tell which of the two implementations were
used." This is true; if the caller were to do that, he could tell. However, when a facility is
implemented in the object-oriented style, only certain functions are documented and advertised:
the functions which are considered to be operations on the type of object. The contract from
ship to its callers only speaks about what happens if the caller calls these functions. The contract
makes no guarantees at all about what would happen if the caller were to start poking around on
his own using aref. A caller who does so is in error; he is depending on something that is not
specified in the contract. No guarantees were ever made about the results of such action, and so
anything may happen; indeed, ship may get reimplemented overnight, and the code that does the
aref will have a different effect entirely and probably stop working. This example shows why the
concept of a contract between a callee and a caller is important: the contract is what specifies the
interface between the two modules.

Unlike some other languages that provide abstract types, Lisp Machine Lisp makes no attempt
to have the language automatically forbid constructs that circumvent the contract. This is
intentional. One reason for this is that the Lisp Machine is an interactive system, and so it is
important to be able to examine and alter internal state interactively (usually from a debugger).
Furthermore, there is no strong distinction between the "system" programs and the "user"
programs on the Lisp Machine; users are allowed to get into any part of the language system and
change what they want to change.

In summary: by defining a set of operations, and making only a specific set of external
entrypoints available to the caller, the programmer can create his own abstract types. These types
can be useful facilities for other programs and programmers. Since the implementation of the
type is hidden from the callers, modularity is maintained, and the implementation can be changed
easily.

We have hidden the implementation of an abstract type by making its operations into
functions which the user may call. The important thing is not that they are functions—in Lisp
everything is done with functions. The important thing is that we have defined a new conceptual
operation and given it a name, rather than requiring anyone who wants to do the operation to
write it out step-by-step. Thus we say (ship-x-velocity s) rather than (aref s 2).

It is just as true of such abstract-operation functions as of ordinary functions that sometimes
they are simple enough that we want the compiler to compile special code for them rather than
really calling the function. (Compiling special code like this is often called open-coding.) The
compiler is directed to do this through use of macros, defsubts, or optimizers. defstruct
arranges for this kind of special compilation for the functions that get the instance variables of a
structure.

When we use this optimization, the implementation of the abstract type is only hidden in a
certain sense. It does not appear in the Lisp code written by the user, but does appear in the
compiled code. The reason is that there may be some compiled functions that use the macros (or
whatever); even if you change the definition of the macro, the existing compiled code will
continue to use the old definition. Thus, if the implementation of a module is changed programs
that use it may need to be recompiled. This is something we sometimes accept for the sake of
efficiency.
In the present implementation of flavors, which is discussed below, there is no such compiler incorporation of nonmodular knowledge into a program, except when the "outside-accessible instance variables" feature is used; see page 267, where this problem is explained further. If you don't use the "outside-accessible instance variables" feature, you don't have to worry about this.

20.4 Generic Operations

Suppose we think about the rest of the program that uses the ship abstraction. It may want to deal with other objects that are like ships in that they are movable objects with mass, but unlike ships in other ways. A more advanced model of a ship might include the concept of the ship's engine power, the number of passengers on board, and its name. An object representing a meteor probably would not have any of these, but might have another attribute such as how much iron is in it.

However, all kinds of movable objects have positions, velocities, and masses, and the system will contain some programs that deal with these quantities in a uniform way, regardless of what kind of object the attributes apply to. For example, a piece of the system that calculates every object's orbit in space need not worry about the other, more peripheral attributes of various types of objects: it works the same way for all objects. Unfortunately, a program that tries to calculate the orbit of a ship will need to know the ship's attributes, and will have to call ship-x-position and ship-y-velocity and so on. The problem is that these functions won't work for meteors. There would have to be a second program to calculate orbits for meteors that would be exactly the same, except that where the first one calls ship-x-position, the second one would call meteor-x-position, and so on. This would be very bad; a great deal of code would have to exist in multiple copies, all of it would have to be maintained in parallel, and it would take up space for no good reason.

What is needed is an operation that can be performed on objects of several different types. For each type, it should do the thing appropriate for that type. Such operations are called generic operations. The classic example of generic operations is the arithmetic functions in most programming languages, including Lisp Machine Lisp. The + (or plus) function will accept either fixnums or flonums, and perform either fixnum addition or flonum addition, whichever is appropriate, based on the data types of the objects being manipulated. In our example, we need a generic x-position operation that can be performed on either ships, meteors, or any other kind of mobile object represented in the system. This way, we can write a single program to calculate orbits. When it wants to know the x position of the object it is dealing with, it simply invokes the generic x-position operation on the object, and whatever type of object it has, the correct operation is performed, and the x position is returned.

A terminology for the use of such generic operations has emerged from the Smalltalk and Actor languages: performing a generic operation is called sending a message. The objects in the program are thought of as little people, who get sent messages and respond with answers. In the example above, the objects are sent x-position messages, to which they respond with their x position. This message passing is how generic operations are performed.

Sending a message is a way of invoking a function. Along with the name of the message, in general, some arguments are passed; when the object is done with the message, some values are returned. The sender of the message is simply calling a function with some arguments, and getting some values back. The interesting thing is that the caller did not specify the name of a procedure to call. Instead, it specified a message name and an object; that is, it said what
operation to perform, and what object to perform it on. The function to invoke was found from this information.

When a message is sent to an object, a function therefore must be found to handle the message. The two data used to figure out which function to call are the type of the object, and the name of the message. The same set of functions are used for all instances of a given type, so the type is the only attribute of the object used to figure out which function to call. The rest of the message besides the name are data which are passed as arguments to the function, so the name is the only part of the message used to find the function. Such a function is called a method. For example, if we send an x-position message to an object of type ship, then the function we find is "the ship type's x-position method". A method is a function that handles a specific kind of message to a specific kind of object; this method handles messages named x-position to objects of type ship.

In our new terminology: the orbit-calculating program finds the x position of the object it is working on by sending that object a message named x-position (with no arguments). The returned value of the message is the x position of the object. If the object was of type ship, then the ship type's x-position method was invoked; if it was of type meteor, then the meteor type's x-position method was invoked. The orbit-calculating program just sends the message, and the right function is invoked based on the type of the object. We now have true generic functions, in the form of message passing: the same operation can mean different things depending on the type of the object.

20.5 Generic Operations in Lisp

How do we implement message passing in Lisp? By convention, objects that receive messages are always functional objects (that is, you can apply them to arguments), and a message is sent to an object by calling that object as a function, passing the name of the message as the first argument, and the arguments of the message as the rest of the arguments. Message names are represented by symbols; normally these symbols are in the keyword package (see chapter 23, page 345) since messages are a protocol for communication between different programs, which may reside in different packages. So if we have a variable my-ship whose value is an object of type ship, and we want to know its x position, we send it a message as follows:

```
(funcall my-ship ':x-position)
```

This form returns the x position as its returned value. To set the ship's x position to 3.0, we send it a message like this:

```
(funcall my-ship ':set-x-position 3.0)
```

It should be stressed that no new features are added to Lisp for message sending; we simply define a convention on the way objects take arguments. The convention says that an object accepts messages by always interpreting its first argument as a message name. The object must consider this message name, find the function which is the method for that message name, and invoke that function.

This raises the question of how message receiving works. The object must somehow find the right method for the message it is sent. Furthermore, the object now has to be callable as a function; objects can't just be defstructs any more, since those aren't functions. But the structure
defined by defstruct was doing something useful: it was holding the instance variables (the
internal state) of the object. We need a function with internal state; that is, we need a coroutine.

Of the Lisp Machine Lisp features presented so far, the most appropriate is the closure (see
chapter 11, page 144). A message-receiving object could be implemented as a closure over a set
of instance variables. The function inside the closure would have a big selectq form to dispatch
on its first argument. (Actually, rather than using closures and a selectq, the Lisp Machine
provides entities and deffselect; see section 11.4, page 148.)

While using closures (or entities) does work, it has several serious problems. The main
problem is that in order to add a new operation to a system, it is necessary to modify a lot of
code; you have to find all the types that understand that operation, and add a new clause to the
selectq. The problem with this is that you cannot textually separate the implementation of your
new operation from the rest of the system; the methods must be interleaved with the other
operations for the type. Adding a new operation should only require adding Lisp code; it should
not require modifying Lisp code.

The conventional way of making generic operations is to have a procedure for each operation,
which has a big selectq for all the types; this means you have to modify code to add a type.
The way described above is to have a procedure for each type, which has a big selectq for all
the operations; this means you have to modify code to add an operation. Neither of these has
the desired property that extending the system should only require adding code, rather than
modifying code.

Closures (and entities) are also somewhat clumsy and crude. A far more streamlined,
convenient, and powerful system for creating message-receiving objects exists; it is called the
Flavor mechanism. With flavors, you can add a new method simply by adding code, without
modifying anything. Furthermore, many common and useful things to do are very easy to do
with flavors. The rest of this chapter describes flavors.

20.6 Simple Use of Flavors

A flavor, in its simplest form, is a definition of an abstract type. New flavors are created
with the defflavor special form, and methods of the flavor are created with the defmethod special
form. New instances of a flavor are created with the make-instance function. This section
explains simple uses of these forms.

For an example of a simple use of flavors, here is how the ship example above would be
implemented.
The code above creates a new flavor. The first subform of the defflavor is ship, which is the name of the new flavor. Next is the list of instance variables; they are the five that should be familiar by now. The next subform is something we will get to later. The rest of the subforms are the body of the defflavor, and each one specifies an option about this flavor. In our example, there is only one option, namely :gettable-instance-variables. This means that for each instance variable, a method should automatically be generated to return the value of that instance variable. The name of the message is a symbol with the same name as the instance variable, but interned on the keyword package. Thus, methods are created to handle the messages :x-position, :y-position, and so on.

Each of the two defmethod forms adds a method to the flavor. The first one adds a handler to the flavor ship for messages named :speed. The second subform is the lambda-list, and the rest is the body of the function that handles the :speed message. The body can refer to or set any instance variables of the flavor, the same as it can with local variables or special variables. When any instance of the ship flavor is invoked with a first argument of :direction, the body of the second defmethod will be evaluated in an environment in which the instance variables of ship refer to the instance variables of this instance (the one to which the message was sent). So when the arguments of atan are evaluated, the values of instance variables of the object to which the message was sent will be used as the arguments. atan will be invoked, and the result it returns will be returned by the instance itself.

Now we have seen how to create a new abstract type: a new flavor. Every instance of this flavor will have the five instance variables named in the defflavor form, and the seven methods we have seen (five that were automatically generated because of the :gettable-instance-variables option, and two that we wrote ourselves). The way to create an instance of our new flavor is with the make-instance function. Here is how it could be used:

(setq my-ship (make-instance 'ship))

This will return an object whose printed representation is:

#<SHIP 13731210>

(Of course, the value of the magic number will vary; it is not interesting anyway.) The argument to make-instance is, as you can see, the name of the flavor to be instantiated. Additional arguments, not used here, are init options, that is, commands to the flavor of which we are making an instance, selecting optional features. This will be discussed more in a moment.
Examination of the flavor we have defined shows that it is quite useless as it stands, since there is no way to set any of the parameters. We can fix this up easily, by putting the `:settable-instance-variables` option into the `defflavor` form. This option tells `defflavor` to generate methods for messages named `:set-x-position`, `:set-y-position`, and so on; each such method takes one argument, and sets the corresponding instance variable to the given value.

Another option we can add to the `defflavor` is `:initable-instance-variables`, to allow us to initialize the values of the instance variables when an instance is first created. `:initable-instance-variables` does not create any methods; instead, it makes initialization keywords named `:x-position`, `:y-position`, etc., that can be used as init-option arguments to `make-instance` to initialize the corresponding instance variables. The set of init options are sometimes called the `init-plist` because they are like a property list.

Here is the improved `defflavor`:

```lisp
(defflavor ship (x-position y-position	x-velocity y-velocity mass)
  ()
  :gettable-instance-variables
  :settable-instance-variables
  :initable-instance-variables)
```

All we have to do is evaluate this new `defflavor`, and the existing flavor definition will be updated and now include the new methods and initialization options. In fact, the instance we generated a while ago will now be able to accept these new messages! We can set the mass of the ship we created by evaluating

```lisp
(funcall my-ship 'set-mass 3.0)
```

and the `mass` instance variable of `my-ship` will properly get set to 3.0. If you want to play around with flavors, it is useful to know that `describe` of an instance tells you the flavor of the instance and the values of its instance variables. If we were to evaluate `(describe my-ship)` at this point, the following would be printed:

```
#<SHIP 13731210>, an object of flavor SHIP,
has instance variable values:
  X-POSITION: unbound
  Y-POSITION: unbound
  X-VELOCITY: unbound
  Y-VELOCITY: unbound
  MASS: 3.0
```

Now that the instance variables are "initable", we can create another ship and initialize some of the instance variables using the `init-plist`. Let's do that and `describe` the result:
(setq her-ship (make-instance 'ship ':x-position 0.0
       ':y-position 2.0
       ':mass 3.5))

===> #<SHIP 13756521>

(describe her-ship)
#<SHIP 13756521>, an object of flavor SHIP,
has instance variable values:
   X-POSITION: 0.0
   Y-POSITION: 2.0
   X-VELOCITY: unbound
   Y-VELOCITY: unbound
   MASS: 3.5

A flavor can also establish default initial values for instance variables. These default values are used when a new instance is created if the values are not initialized any other way. The syntax for specifying a default initial value is to replace the name of the instance variable by a list, whose first element is the name and whose second is a form to evaluate to produce the default initial value. For example:

(defvar *default-x-velocity* 2.0)
(defvar *default-y-velocity* 3.0)

(defflavor ship
   ((x-position 0.0)
    (y-position 0.0)
    (x-velocity *default-x-velocity*)
    (y-velocity *default-y-velocity*)
    mass)
   ()
   :gettable-instance-variables
   :settable-instance-variables
   :initable-instance-variables)

(setq another-ship (make-instance 'ship ':x-position 3.4))

(describe another-ship)
#<SHIP 14563643>, an object of flavor SHIP,
has instance variable values:
   X-POSITION: 3.4
   Y-POSITION: 0.0
   X-VELOCITY: 2.0
   Y-VELOCITY: 3.0
   MASS: unbound

x-position was initialized explicitly, so the default was ignored. y-position was initialized from the default value, which was 0.0. The two velocity instance variables were initialized from their default values, which came from two global variables. mass was not explicitly initialized and did not have a default initialization, so it was left unbound.
There are many other options that can be used in defflavor, and the init options can be used more flexibly than just to initialize instance variables; full details are given later in this chapter. But even with the small set of features we have seen so far, it is easy to write object-oriented programs.

20.7 Mixing Flavors

Now we have a system for defining message-receiving objects so that we can have generic operations. If we want to create a new type called meteor that would accept the same generic operations as ship, we could simply write another defflavor and two more defmethods that looked just like those of ship, and then meteors and ships would both accept the same operations. ship would have some more instance variables for holding attributes specific to ships, and some more methods for operations that are not generic, but are only defined for ships; the same would be true of meteor.

However, this would be a wasteful thing to do. The same code has to be repeated in several places, and several instance variables have to be repeated. The code now needs to be maintained in many places, which is always undesirable. The power of flavors (and the name "flavors") comes from the ability to mix several flavors and get a new flavor. Since the functionality of ship and meteor partially overlap, we can take the common functionality and move it into its own flavor, which might be called moving-object. We would define moving-object the same way as we defined ship in the previous section. Then, ship and meteor could be defined like this:

```
(defflavor ship (engine-power number-of-passengers name) (moving-object) :gettable-instance-variables)
(defflavor meteor (percent-iron) (moving-object) :initable-instance-variables)
```

These defflavor forms use the second subform, which we ignored previously. The second subform is a list of flavors to be combined to form the new flavor; such flavors are called components. Concentrating on ship for a moment (analogous things are true of meteor), we see that it has exactly one component flavor: moving-object. It also has a list of instance variables, which includes only the ship-specific instance variables and not the ones that it shares with meteor. By incorporating moving-object, the ship flavor acquires all of its instance variables, and so need not name them again. It also acquires all of moving-object's methods, too. So with the new definition, ship instances will still accept the :x-velocity and :speed messages, and they will do the same thing. However, the :engine-power message will also be understood (and will return the value of the engine-power instance variable).

What we have done here is to take an abstract type, moving-object, and build two more specialized and powerful abstract types on top of it. Any ship or meteor can do anything a moving object can do, and each also has its own specific abilities. This kind of building can continue; we could define a flavor called ship-with-passenger that was built on top of ship, and it would inherit all of moving-object's instance variables and methods as well as ship's instance variables and methods. Furthermore, the second subform of defflavor can be a list of several components, meaning that the new flavor should combine all the instance variables and methods of all the flavors in the list, as well as the ones those flavors are built on, and so on.
All the components taken together form a big tree of flavors. A flavor is built from its components, its components' components, and so on. We sometimes use the term "components" to mean the immediate components (the ones listed in the defflavor), and sometimes to mean all the components (including the components of the immediate components and so on). (Actually, it is not strictly a tree, since some flavors might be components through more than one path. It is really a directed graph; it can even be cyclic.)

The order in which the components are combined to form a flavor is important. The tree of flavors is turned into an ordered list by performing a top-down, depth-first walk of the tree, including non-terminal nodes before the subtrees they head, and eliminating duplicates. For example, if flavor-1's immediate components are flavor-2 and flavor-3, and flavor-2's components are flavor-4 and flavor-5, and flavor-3's component was flavor-4, then the complete list of components of flavor-1 would be:

flavor-1, flavor-2, flavor-4, flavor-5, flavor-3

The flavors earlier in this list are the more specific, less basic ones; in our example, ship-with-passengers would be first in the list, followed by ship, followed by moving-object. A flavor is always the first in the list of its own components. Notice that flavor-4 does not appear twice in this list. Only the first occurrence of a flavor appears; duplicates are removed. (The elimination of duplicates is done during the walk; if there is a cycle in the directed graph, it will not cause a non-terminating computation.)

The set of instance variables for the new flavor is the union of all the sets of instance variables in all the component flavors. If both flavor-2 and flavor-3 have instance variables named foo, then flavor-1 will have an instance variable named foo, and any methods that refer to foo will refer to this same instance variable. Thus different components of a flavor can communicate with one another using shared instance variables. (Typically, only one component ever sets the variable, and the others only look at it.) The default initial value for an instance variable comes from the first component flavor to specify one.

The way the methods of the components are combined is the heart of the flavor system. When a flavor is defined, a single function, called a combined method, is constructed for each message supported by the flavor. This function is constructed out of all the methods for that message from all the components of the flavor. There are many different ways that methods can be combined; these can be selected by the user when a flavor is defined. The user can also create new forms of combination.

There are several kinds of methods, but so far, the only kinds of methods we have seen are primary methods. The default way primary methods are combined is that all but the earliest one provided are ignored. In other words, the combined method is simply the primary method of the first flavor to provide a primary method. What this means is that if you are starting with a flavor foo and building a flavor bar on top of it, then you can override foo's method for a message by providing your own method. Your method will be called, and foo's will never be called.

Simple overriding is often useful; if you want to make a new flavor bar that is just like foo except that it acts completely differently to a few messages, then this will work. However, often you don't want to completely override the base flavor's (foo's) method; sometimes you want to add some extra things to be done. This is where combination of methods is used.

The usual way methods are combined is that one flavor provides a primary method, and other flavors provide daemon methods. The idea is that the primary method is "in charge" of the main business of handling the message, but other flavors just want to keep informed that the message was processed.
was sent, or just want to do the part of the operation associated with their own area of responsibility.

When methods are combined, a single primary method is found; it comes from the first component flavor that has one. Any primary methods belonging to later component flavors are ignored. This is just what we saw above; bar could override foo's primary method by providing its own primary method.

However, you can define other kinds of methods. In particular, you can define daemon methods. They come in two kinds, before and after. There is a special syntax in defmethod for defining such methods. Here is an example of the syntax. To give the ship flavor an after-daemon method for the :speed message, the following syntax would be used:

```lisp
(defmethod (ship :after :speed) ()
  body)
```

Now, when a message is sent, it is handled by a new function called the combined method. The combined method first calls all of the before daemons, then the primary method, then all the after daemons. Each method is passed the same arguments that the combined method was given. The returned values from the combined method are the values returned by the primary method; any values returned from the daemons are ignored. Before-daemons are called in the order that flavors are combined, while after-daemons are called in the reverse order. In other words, if you build bar on top of foo, then bar's before-daemons will run before any of those in foo, and bar's after-daemons will run after any of those in foo.

The reason for this order is to keep the modularity order correct. If we create flavor-1 built on flavor-2; then it should not matter what flavor-2 is built out of. Our new before-daemons go before all methods of flavor-2, and our new after-daemons go after all methods of flavor-2. Note that if you have no daemons, this reduces to the form of combination described above. The most recently added component flavor is the highest level of abstraction; you build a higher-level object on top of a lower-level object by adding new components to the front. The syntax for defining daemon methods can be found in the description of defmethod below.

To make this a bit more clear, let's consider a simple example that is easy to play with: the :print-self method. The Lisp printer (i.e. the print function; see section 21.2.1, page 280) prints instances of flavors by sending them :print-self messages. The first argument to the :print-self message is a stream (we can ignore the others for now), and the receiver of the message is supposed to print its printed representation on the stream. In the ship example above, the reason that instances of the ship flavor printed the way they did is because the ship flavor was actually built on top of a very basic flavor called vanilla-flavor; this component is provided automatically by defflavor. It was vanilla-flavor's :print-self method that was doing the printing. Now, if we give ship its own primary method for the :print-self message, then that method will take over the job of printing completely; vanilla-flavor's method will not be called at all. However, if we give ship a before-daemon method for the :print-self message, then it will get invoked before the vanilla-flavor message, and so whatever it prints will appear before what vanilla-flavor prints. So we can use before-daemons to add prefixes to a printed representation; similarly, after-daemons can add suffixes.

There are other ways to combine methods besides daemons, but this way is the most common. The more advanced ways of combining methods are explained in a later section; see section 20.12, page 270. The vanilla-flavor and what it does for you are also explained later; see section 20.11, page 269.
### 20.8 Flavor Functions

**defflavor Macro**

A flavor is defined by a form

```
(defflavor flavor-name (var1 var2...) (flav1 flav2...) opt1 opt2...)
```

*flavor-name* is a symbol which serves to name this flavor. It will get an :si:flavor property of the internal data-structure containing the details of the flavor.

```
(typep obj), where obj is an instance of the flavor named flavor-name, will return the symbol flavor-name. (typep obj flavor-name) is t if obj is an instance of a flavor, one of whose components (possibly itself) is flavor-name.
```

*var1, var2, etc.* are the names of the instance-variables containing the local state for this flavor. A list of the name of an instance-variable and a default initialization form is also acceptable: the initialization form will be evaluated when an instance of the flavor is created if no other initial value for the variable is obtained. If no initialization is specified, the variable will remain unbound.

*flav1, flav2, etc.* are the names of the component flavors out of which this flavor is built. The features of those flavors are inherited as described previously.

*opt1, opt2, etc.* are options; each option may be either a keyword symbol or a list of a keyword symbol and arguments. The options to defflavor are described on section 20.9, page 264.

**all-flavor-names* Variable

This is a list of the names of all the flavors that have ever been defflavor'ed.

**defmethod Macro**

A method, that is, a function to handle a particular message sent to an instance of a particular flavor, is defined by a form such as

```
(defmethod (flavor-name method-type message) lambda-list form1 form2...)
```

*flavor-name* is a symbol which is the name of the flavor which is to receive the method. *method-type* is a keyword symbol for the type of method; it is omitted when you are defining a primary method, which is the usual case. *message* is a keyword symbol which names the message to be handled.

The meaning of the *method-type* depends on what kind of method-combination is declared for this message. For instance, for daemons :before and :after are allowed. See section 20.12, page 270 for a complete description of method types and the way methods are combined.

*lambda-list* describes the arguments and "aux variables" of the function: the first argument to the method, which is the message keyword, is automatically handled, and so it is not included in the *lambda-list*. Note that methods may not have &quote arguments; that is they must be functions, not special forms. *form1, form2, etc.* are the function body; the value of the last form is returned.
The variant form

(defmethod (flavor-name message) function)

where function is a symbol, says that flavor-name's method for message is function, a symbol which names a function. That function must take appropriate arguments; the first argument is the message keyword.

If you redefine a method that is already defined, the old definition is replaced by the new one. Given a flavor, a message name, and a method type, there can only be one function, so if you define a :before daemon method for the foo flavor to handle the :bar message, then you replace the previous before-daemon; however, you do not affect the primary method or methods of any other type, message name or flavor.

The function spec for a method (see section 10.2, page 125) looks like:

(:method flavor-name message)

or

(:method flavor-name method-type message)

This is useful to know if you want to trace (page 404) or advise (page 408) a method, or if you want to poke around at the method function itself, e.g. disassemble (page 448) it.

defmethod actually defines a symbol, called the flavor-method-symbol, as a function, and the flavor system goes through that symbol to call the method. The flavor-method-symbol is formed by concatenating (with hyphens) the flavor name, the method type, the message name, and "method" (for example, ship-x-position-method, ship-after-y-velocity-method, ship-combined-mass-method, etc.). The property list of this symbol is used to allow undefun (page 137) and uncompile (page 181) to work. This is likely to be changed in the future.

make-instance flavor-name init-option1 value1 init-option2 value2...

Creates and returns an instance of the specified flavor. Arguments after the first are alternating init-option keywords and arguments to those keywords. These options are used to initialize instance variables and to select arbitrary options, as described above. If the flavor supports the :init message, it is sent to the newly-created object with one argument, the init-plist. This is a disembodied property list containing the init-options specified and those defaulted from the flavor's :default-init-plist. make-instance is an easy-to-call interface to instantiate-flavor; for full details refer to that function.

instantiate-flavor flavor-name init-plist &optional send-init-message-p

return-unhandled-keywords area

This is an extended version of make-instance, giving you more features. Note that it takes the init-plist as an argument, rather than taking a &rest argument of init-options and values.

The init-plist argument must be a disembodied property list; locf of a &rest argument will do. Beware! This property list can be modified; the properties from the default-init-plist are putprop'ed on if not already present, and some :init methods do explicit putprops onto the init-plist.

In the event that :init methods do remprop of properties already on the init-plist (as opposed to simply doing get and putprop), then the init-plist will get rplacd'ed. This means that the actual list of options will be modified. It also means that locf of a &rest argument will not work; the caller of instantiate-flavor must copy its rest argument (e.g. with append); this is because rplacd is not allowed on &rest arguments.
First, if the flavor's method-table and other internal information have not been computed or are not up to date, they are computed. This may take a substantial amount of time and invoke the compiler, but will only happen once for a particular flavor no matter how many instances you make, unless you change something.

Next, the instance variables are initialized. There are several ways this initialization can happen. If an instance variable is declared initable, and a keyword with the same spelling as its name appears in init-plist, it is set to the value specified after that keyword. If an instance variable does not get initialized this way, and an initialization form was specified for it in a defflavor, that form is evaluated and the variable is set to the result. The initialization form may not depend on any instance variables nor on self; it will not be evaluated in the "inside" environment in which methods are called. If an instance variable does not get initialized either of these ways it will be left unbound; presumably an :init method should initialize it (see below). Note that a simple empty disembodied property list is (nil), which is what you should give if you want an empty init-plist. If you use nil, the property list of nil will be used, which is probably not what you want.

If any keyword appears in the init-plist but is not used to initialize an instance variable and is not declared in an :init-keywords option (see page 265) it is presumed to be a misspelling. So any keywords that you handle in an :init handler should also be mentioned in the :init-keywords option of the definition of the flavor.

If the return-unhandled-keywords argument is not supplied, such keywords are complained about by signalling an error. But if return-unhandled-keywords is supplied non-nil, a list of such keywords is returned as the second value of instantiate-flavor.

Note that default values in the init-plist can come from the :default-init-plist option to defflavor. See page 265.

If the send-init-message-p argument is supplied and non-nil, an :init message is sent to the newly-created instance, with one argument, the init-plist. get can be used to extract options from this property-list. Each flavor that needs initialization can contribute an :init method, by defining a daemon.

If the area argument is specified, it is the number of an area in which to cons the instance; otherwise it is consed in the default area.

defwrapper Macro
This is hairy and if you don't understand it you should skip it.

Sometimes the way the flavor system combines the methods of different flavors (the daemon system) is not powerful enough. In that case defwrapper can be used to define a macro which expands into code which is wrapped around the invocation of the methods. This is best explained by an example; suppose you needed a lock locked during the processing of the :foo message to the bar flavor, which takes two arguments, and you have a lock-frobboz special-form which knows how to lock the lock (presumably it generates an unwind-protect). lock-frobboz needs to see the first argument to the message; perhaps that tells it what sort of operation is going to be performed (read or write).
(defwrapper (bar :foo) ((arg1 arg2) . body)
   '(lock-frobboz (self arg1)
     ,body))

The use of the body macro-argument prevents the defwrapper'ed macro from knowing the exact implementation and allows several defwrappers from different flavors to be combined properly.

Note well that the argument variables, arg1 and arg2, are not referenced with commas before them. These may look like defmacro "argument" variables, but they are not. Those variables are not bound at the time the defwrapper-defined macro is expanded and the back-quoting is done; rather the result of that macro-expansion and back-quoting is code which, when a message is sent, will bind those variables to the arguments in the message as local variables of the combined method.

Consider another example. Suppose you thought you wanted a :before daemon, but found that if the argument was nil you needed to return from processing the message immediately, without executing the primary method. You could write a wrapper such as

(defun wrapper (bar :foo) ((arg1) . body)
   '(cond ((null arg1) ; Do nothing if arg1 is nil
           (t before-code
              . ,body))))

Suppose you need a variable for communication among the daemons for a particular message; perhaps the :after daemons need to know what the primary method did, and it is something that cannot be easily deduced from just the arguments. You might use an instance variable for this, or you might create a special variable which is bound during the processing of the message and used free by the methods.

(defun wrapper (bar :foo) (ignore . body)
   '(let ((communication* nil))
     ,body))

Similarly you might want a wrapper which puts a "catch" around the processing of a message so that any one of the methods could throw out in the event of an unexpected condition.

If you change a wrapper, the change may not take effect automatically. You must use recompile-flavor with a third argument of nil to force the effect to propagate into the compiled code which the system generates to implement the flavor. The reason for this is that the flavor system cannot reliably tell the difference between reloading a file containing a wrapper and really redefining the wrapper to be different, and propagating a change to a wrapper is expensive. [This may be fixed in the future.]

Like daemon methods, wrappers work in outside-in order; when you add a defwrapper to a flavor built on other flavors, the new wrapper is placed outside any wrappers of the component flavors. However, all wrappers happen before any daemons happen. When the combined method is built, the calls to the before-daemon methods, primary methods, and after-daemon methods are all placed together, and then the wrappers are wrapped around them. Thus, if a component flavor defines a wrapper, methods added by new flavors will execute within that wrapper's context.
**undefmethod** *Macro*

```lisp
(undefmethod (flavor :before :message))
```

removes the method created by

```lisp
(defmethod (flavor :before :message) (args) ...)
```

To remove a wrapper, use undefmethod with :wrapper as the method type.

**self** *Variable*

When a message is sent to an object, the variable `self` is automatically bound to that object, for the benefit of methods which want to manipulate the object itself (as opposed to its instance variables).

**funcall-self** *message arguments...*

When `self` is an instance or an entity, `(funcall-self args...)` has the same effect as `(funcall self args...)` except that it is a little faster since it doesn't have to re-establish the context in which the instance variables evaluate correctly. If `self` is not an instance (nor an "entity", see section 11.4, page 148), `funcall-self` and `funcall self` do the same thing.

When `self` is an instance, `funcall-self` will only work correctly if it is used in a method or a function, wrapped in a `declare-flavor-instance-variables`, that was called (not necessarily directly) from a method. Otherwise the instance-variables will not be already set up.

**lexpr-funcall-self** *message arguments... list-of-arguments*

This function is a cross between `lexpr-funcall` and `funcall-self`. When `self` is an instance or an entity, `(lexpr-funcall-self args...)` has the same effect as `(lexpr-funcall self args...)` except that it is a little faster since it doesn't have to re-establish the context in which the instance variables evaluate correctly. If `self` is not an instance (nor an "entity", see section 11.4, page 148), `lexpr-funcall-self` and `lexpr-funcall` do the same thing.

**declare-flavor-instance-variables** *Macro*

Sometimes you will write a function which is not itself a method, but which is to be called by methods and wants to be able to access the instance variables of the object `self`. The form

```lisp
(declare-flavor-instance-variables (flavor-name)
  function-definition)
```

surrounds the `function-definition` with a declaration of the instance variables for the specified flavor, which will make them accessible by name. Currently this works by declaring them as special variables, but this implementation may be changed in the future. Note that it is only legal to call a function defined this way while executing inside a method for an object of the specified flavor, or of some flavor built upon it.

**recompile-flavor** *flavor-name &optional single-message (use-old-combined-methods)**

```lisp
(do-dependents)
```

Updates the internal data of the flavor and any flavors that depend on it. If `single-message` is supplied non-nil, only the methods for that message are changed. The system does this when you define a new method that did not previously exist. If `use-old-combined-methods` is `t`, then the existing combined method functions will be used if possible. New ones will only be generated if the set of methods to be called has changed. This is the default. If `use-old-combined-methods` is `nil`, automatically-generated functions to call multiple methods or to contain code generated by wrappers will be regenerated.
unconditionally. If you change a wrapper, you must do `recompile-flavor` with third argument nil in order to make the new wrapper take effect. If `do-dependents` is nil, only the specific flavor you specified will be recompiled. Normally it and all flavors that depend on it will be recompiled.

`recompile-flavor` only affects flavors that have already been compiled. Typically this means it affects flavors that have been instantiated, but does not bother with mixins (see page 268).

`compile-flavor-methods` Macro

The form `(compile-flavor-methods flavor-name-1 flavor-name-2...)`, placed in a file to be compiled, will cause the compiler to include the automatically-generated combined methods for the named flavors in the resulting qfasl file, provided all of the necessary flavor definitions have been made. Furthermore, when the qfasl file is loaded, internal data structures (such as the list of all methods of a flavor) will get generated.

This means that the combined methods get compiled at compile time, and the data structures get generated at load time, rather than both things happening at run time. This is a very good thing to use, since the need to invoke the compiler at run-time makes programs that use flavors slow the first time they are run. (The compiler will still be called if incompatible changes have been made, such as addition or deletion of methods that must be called by a combined method.)

You should only use `compile-flavor-methods` for flavors that are going to be instantiated. For a flavor that will never be instantiated (that is, a flavor that only serves to be a component of other flavors that actually do get instantiated), it is a complete waste of time.

The `compile-flavor-methods` forms should be compiled after all of the information needed to create the combined methods is available. You should put these forms after all of the definitions of all relevant flavors, wrappers, and methods of all components of the flavors mentioned.

When a `compile-flavor-methods` form is seen by the interpreter, the combined methods are compiled and the internal data structures are generated.

`get-handler-for object message`

Given an object and a message, will return that object's method for that message, or `nil` if it has none. When `object` is an instance of a flavor, this function can be useful to find which of that flavor's components supplies the method. If you get back a combined method, you can use the List Combined Methods editor command (page 275) to find out what it does.

This function can be used with other things than flavors, and has an optional argument which is not relevant here and not documented.
flavor-allows-init-keyword-p flavor-name keyword

Returns non-nil if the flavor named flavor-name allows keyword in the init options when it is instantiated, or nil if it does not. The non-nil value is the name of the component flavor which contributes the support of that keyword.

symeval-in-instance instance symbol &optional no-error-p

This function is used to find the value of an instance variable inside a particular instance. Instance is the instance to be examined, and symbol is the instance variable whose value should be returned. If there is no such instance variable, an error is signalled, unless no-error-p is non-nil in which case nil is returned.

set-in-instance instance symbol value

This function is used to alter the value of an instance variable inside a particular instance. Instance is the instance to be altered, symbol is the instance variable whose value should be set, and value is the new value. If there is no such instance variable, an error is signalled.

locate-in-instance instance symbol

Returns a locative pointer to the cell inside instance which holds the value of the instance variable named symbol.

describe-flavor flavor-name

This function prints out descriptive information about a flavor; it is self-explanatory. An important thing it tells you that can be hard to figure out yourself is the combined list of component flavors; this list is what is printed after the phrase "and directly or indirectly depends on".

si:*flavor-compilations* Variable

This variable contains a history of when the flavor mechanism invoked the compiler. It is a list: elements toward the front of the list represent more recent compilations. Elements are typically of the form

   (:method flavor-name type message-name)

and type is typically :combined.

You may setq this variable to nil at any time; for instance before loading some files that you suspect may have missing or obsolete compile-flavor-methods in them.

20.9 Deflavor Options

There are quite a few options to deflavor. They are all described here, although some are for very specialized purposes and not of interest to most users. Each option can be written in two forms; either the keyword by itself, or a list of the keyword and "arguments" to that keyword.

Several of these options declare things about instance variables. These options can be given with arguments which are instance variables, or without any arguments in which case they refer to all of the instance variables listed at the top of the deflavor. This is not necessarily all the instance variables of the component flavors; just the ones mentioned in this flavor's deflavor. When arguments are given, they must be instance variables that were listed at the top of the deflavor; otherwise they are assumed to be misspelled and an error is signalled. It is legal to declare things about instance variables inherited from a component flavor, but to do so you must
list these instance variables explicitly in the instance variable list at the top of the defflavor.

:gettable-instance-variables
Enables automatic generation of methods for getting the values of instance variables. The message name is the name of the variable, in the keyword package (i.e. put a colon in front of it.)

:settable-instance-variables
Enables automatic generation of methods for setting the values of instance variables. The message name is "set-" followed by the name of the variable. All settable instance variables are also automatically made gettable and initable.

:initable-instance-variables
The instance variables listed as arguments, or all instance variables listed in this defflavor if the keyword is given alone, are made initable. This means that they can be initialized through use of a keyword (a colon followed by the name of the variable) as an init-option argument to make-instance.

:init-keywords
The arguments are declared to be keywords in the initialization property-list which are processed by this flavor's :init methods. The system uses this for error-checking: before the system sends the :init message, it makes sure that all the keywords in the init-plist are either initable-instance-variables, or elements of this list. If the caller misspells a keyword or otherwise uses a keyword that no component flavor handles, this feature will signal an error. When you write a :init handler that accepts some keywords, they should be listed in the :init-keywords option of the flavor.

:default-init-plist
The arguments are alternating keywords and value forms, like a property-list. When the flavor is instantiated, these properties and values are put into the init-plist unless already present. This allows one component flavor to default an option to another component flavor. The value forms are only evaluated when and if they are used. For example,

```
(:default-init-plist :frob-array
    (make-array 100))
```

would provide a default "frob array" for any instance for which the user did not provide one explicitly.

:required-instance-variables
Declares that any flavor incorporating this one which is instantiated into an object must contain the specified instance variables. An error occurs if there is an attempt to instantiate a flavor that incorporates this one if it does not have these in its set of instance variables. Note that this option is not one of those which checks the spelling of its arguments in the way described at the start of this section (if it did, it would be useless).

Required instance variables may be freely accessed by methods just like normal instance variables. The difference between listing instance variables here and listing them at the front of the defflavor is that the latter declares that this flavor "owns" those variables and will take care of initializing them, while the former declares that this flavor depends on those variables but that some other flavor must be provided to manage them and whatever features they imply.

:required-methods
The arguments are names of messages which any flavor incorporating this one must handle. An error occurs if there is an attempt to instantiate such a flavor and it is lacking
a method for one of these messages. Typically this option appears in the defflavor for a base flavor (see page 268). Usually this is used when a base flavor does a funcall-self (page 262) to send itself a message that is not handled by the base flavor itself; the idea is that the base flavor will not be instantiated alone, but only with other components (mixins) that do handle the message. This keyword allows the error of having no handler for the message be detected when the flavor is defined (which usually means at compile time) rather than at run time.

:included-flavors

The arguments are names of flavors to be included in this flavor. The difference between declaring flavors here and declaring them at the top of the defflavor is that when component flavors are combined, all the included flavors come after all the regular flavors. Thus included flavors act like defaults. For an example of the use of included flavors, consider the ship example given earlier, and suppose we want to define a relativity-mixin which increases the mass dependent on the speed. We might write,

```
(defflavor relativity-mixin () (moving-object))
(defmethod (relativity-mixin :mass) ()
  (mass (sqrt (- 1 (^ (funcall-self ':speed)
         *speed-of-light*)) 2))))
```

but this would lose because any flavor that had relativity-mixin as a component would get moving-object right after it in its component list. As a base flavor, moving-object should be last in the list of components so that other components mixed in can replace its methods and so that daemon methods combine in the right order. So instead we write,

```
(defflavor relativity-mixin () () (:included-flavors moving-object))
```

which allows relativity-mixin's methods to access moving-object instance variables such as mass (the rest mass), but does not specify a place for moving-object in the list of components. (Actually it puts it at the end, where it will usually be eliminated as a duplicate, unless some other component flavor explicitly mentions the included flavor as a component.)

:no-vanilla-flavor


:default-handler

The argument is the name of a function which is to be called when a message is received for which there is no method. It will be called with whatever arguments the instance was called with, including the message name; whatever values it returns will be returned. If this option is not specified on any component flavor, it defaults to a function which will signal an error.

:ordered-instance-variables

This option is mostly for esoteric internal system uses. The arguments are names of instance variables which must appear first (and in this order) in all instances of this flavor, or any flavor depending on this flavor. This is used for instance variables which are specially known about by microcode, and in connection with the :outside-accessible-instance-variables option. If the keyword is given alone, the arguments default to the list of instance variables given at the top of this defflavor.
:outside-accessible-instance-variables

The arguments are instance variables which are to be accessible from "outside" of this object, that is from functions other than methods. A macro (actually a defsubst) is defined which takes an object of this flavor as an argument and returns the value of the instance variable; self may be used to set the value of the instance variable. The name of the macro is the name of the flavor concatenated with a hyphen and the name of the instance variable. These macros are similar to the accessor macros created by defstruct (see chapter 19, page 226.)

This feature works in two different ways, depending on whether the instance variable has been declared to have a fixed slot in all instances, via the :ordered-instance-variables option.

If the variable is not ordered, the position of its value cell in the instance will have to be computed at run time. This takes noticeable time, although less than actually sending a message would take. An error will be signalled if the argument to the accessor macro is not an instance, or an instance which does not have an instance variable with the appropriate name. However, there is no error check that the flavor of the instance is the flavor the accessor macro was defined for, or a flavor built upon that flavor. This error check would be too expensive.

If the variable is ordered, the compiler will compile a call to the accessor macro into a subprimitive which simply accesses that variable's assigned slot by number. This subprimitive is only 3 or 4 times slower than car. The only error-checking performed is to make sure that the argument is really an instance and is really big enough to contain that slot. There is no check that the accessed slot really belongs to an instance variable of the appropriate name. Any functions that use these accessor macros will have to be recompiled if the number or order of instance variables in the flavor is changed. The system will not know automatically to do this recompilation. If you aren't very careful, you may forget to recompile something, and have a very hard-to-find bug. Because of this problem, and because using these macros is less elegant than sending messages, the use of this option is discouraged. In any case the use of these accessor macros should be confined to the module which owns the flavor, and the "general public" should send messages.

:accessor-prefix

Normally the accessor macro created by the :outside-accessible-instance-variables option to access the flavor f's instance variable v is named f-v. Specifying (:accessor-prefix get$) would cause it to be named get$v instead.

:select-method-order

This is purely an efficiency hack due to the fact that currently the method-table is searched linearly when a message is sent. The arguments are names of messages which are frequently used or for which speed is important. Their methods are moved to the front of the method table so that they are accessed more quickly.

:method-combination

Declares the way that methods from different flavors will be combined. Each "argument" to this option is a list (type order message1 message2...). Message1, message2, etc. are names of messages whose methods are to be combined in the declared fashion. type is a keyword which is a defined type of combination; see section 20.12, page 270. Order is a keyword whose interpretation is up to type; typically it is either :base-flavor-first or

DSK:LMMAN;FLAVOR 70 16-MAR-81
Any component of a flavor may specify the type of method combination to be used for a particular message. If no component specifies a type of method combination, then the default type is used, namely :daemon. If more than one component of a flavor specifies it, then they must agree on the specification, or else an error is signalled.

The list of arguments to this option is remembered on the flavor’s property list as the :documentation property. The (loose) standard for what can be in this list is as follows; this may be extended in the future. A string is documentation on what the flavor is for; this may consist of a brief overview in the first line, then several paragraphs of detailed documentation. A symbol is one of the following keywords:

- :mixin A flavor that you may want to mix with others to provide a useful feature.
- :essential-mixin A flavor that must be mixed in to all flavors of its class, or inappropriate behavior will ensue.
- :lowlevel-mixin A mixin used only to build other mixins.
- :combination A combination of flavors for a specific purpose.
- :special-purpose A flavor used for some internal or kludgey purpose by a particular program, which is not intended for general use.

This documentation can be viewed with the describe-flavor function (see page 264) or the editor’s Meta-X Describe Flavor command (see page 275).

20.10 Flavor Families

The following organization conventions are recommended for all programs that use flavors.

A base flavor is a flavor that defines a whole family of related flavors, all of which will have that base flavor as one of their components. Typically the base flavor includes things relevant to the whole family, such as instance variables, :required-methods and :required-instance-variables declarations, default methods for certain messages, :method-combination declarations, and documentation on the general protocols and conventions of the family. Some base flavors are complete and can be instantiated, but most are not instantiatable and merely serve as a base upon which to build other flavors. The base flavor for the foo family is often named basic-foo.

A mixin flavor is a flavor that defines one particular feature of an object. A mixin cannot be instantiated, because it is not a complete description. Each module or feature of a program is defined as a separate mixin; a usable flavor can be constructed by choosing the mixins for the desired characteristics and combining them, along with the appropriate base flavor. By organizing your flavors this way, you keep separate features in separate flavors, and you can pick and choose among them. Sometimes the order of combining mixins does not matter, but often it does, because the order of flavor combination controls the order in which daemons are invoked and wrappers are wrapped. Such order dependencies would be documented as part of the conventions of the appropriate family of flavors. A mixin flavor that provides the mumble feature is often named mumble-mixin.
If you are writing a program that uses someone else's facility to do something, using that facility's flavors and methods, your program might still define its own flavors, in a simple way. The facility might provide a base flavor and a set of mixins, and the caller can combine these in various combinations depending on exactly what it wants, since the facility probably would not provide all possible useful combinations. Even if your private flavor has exactly the same components as a pre-existing flavor, it can still be useful since you can use its :default-init-alist (see page 265) to select options of its component flavors and you can define one or two methods to customize it "just a little".

20.11 Vanilla Flavor

si:vanilla-flavor  Flavor
Unless you specify otherwise (with the :no-vanilla-flavor option to defflavor), every flavor includes the "vanilla" flavor, which has no instance variables but provides some basic useful methods. Thus, nearly every instance may be assumed to handle the following messages.

:print-self  stream  prindepth  slashify-p
The object should output its printed-representation to a stream. The printer sends this message when it encounters an instance or an entity. The arguments are the stream, the current depth in list-structure (for comparison with prinlevel), and whether slashification is enabled (print vs prin:; see page 280). Vanilla-flavor ignores the last two arguments, and prints something like #$<flavor-name octal-address>. The flavor-name tells you what type of object it is, and the octal-address allows you to tell different objects apart (provided the garbage collector doesn’t move them behind your back).

:describe
The object should describe itself, printing a description onto the standard-output stream. The describe function sends this message when it encounters an instance or an entity. Vanilla-flavor outputs the object, the name of its flavor, and the names and values of its instance-variables, in a reasonable format.

:which-operations
The object should return a list of the messages it can handle. Vanilla-flavor generates the list once per flavor and remembers it, minimizing consing and compute-time. If a new method is added, the list is regenerated the next time someone asks for it.

:get-handler-for  operation
The object should return the method it uses to handle operation. If it has no handler for that message, it should return nil. This is like the get-handler-for function (see page 263), but, of course, you can only use it on objects known to accept messages.

:eval-inside-yourself  form
The argument is a form which is evaluated in an environment in which special variables with the names of the instance variables are bound to the values of the instance variables. It works to setq one of these special variables; the instance variable will be modified. This is mainly intended to be used for debugging. An especially useful value of form is (break t); this gets you a Lisp top level loop inside the environment of the methods of the flavor, allowing you to examine and alter instance variables, and run functions that use the instance variables.
:funcall-inside-yourself function &rest args

function is applied to args in an environment in which special variables with the names of the instance variables are bound to the values of the instance variables. It works to setq one of these special variables; the instance variable will be modified. This is mainly intended to be used for debugging.

20.12 Method Combination

As was mentioned earlier, there are many ways to combine methods. The way we have seen is called the :daemon type of combination. To use one of the others, you use the :method-combination option to defflavor (see page 267) to say that all the methods for a certain message to this flavor, or a flavor built on it, should be combined in a certain way.

The following types of method combination are supplied by the system. It is possible to define your own types of method combination; for information on this, see the code. Note that for most types of method combination other than :daemon you must define the order in which the methods are combined, either :base-flavor-first or :base-flavor-last. In this context, base-flavor means the last element of the flavor's fully-expanded list of components.

Which method type keywords are allowed depends on the type of method combination selected. Many of them allow only untyped methods. There are also certain method types used for internal purposes.

:daemon This is the default type of method combination. All the :before methods are called, then the primary (untyped) method for the outermost flavor that has one is called, then all the :after methods are called. The value returned is the value of the primary method.

:progn All the methods are called, inside a progn special form. No typed methods are allowed. This means that all of the methods are called, and the result of the combined method is whatever the last of the methods returns.

:or All the methods are called, inside an or special form. No typed methods are allowed. This means that each of the methods is called in turn. If a method returns a non-nil value, that value is returned and none of the rest of the methods are called; otherwise, the next method is called. In other words, each method is given a chance to handle the message; if it doesn't want to handle the message, it should return nil, and the next method will get a chance to try.

:and All the methods are called, inside an and special form. No typed methods are allowed. The basic idea is much like :or; see above.

:list Calls all the methods and returns a list of their returned values. No typed methods are allowed.

:inverse-list Calls each method with one argument; these arguments are successive elements of the list which is the sole argument to the message. No typed methods are allowed. Returns no particular value. If the result of a list-combined message is sent back with an :inverse-list-combined message, with the same ordering and with corresponding method definitions, each component flavor receives the value which came from that flavor.
Here is a table of all the method types used in the standard system (a user can add more, by defining new forms of method-combination).

(no type) If no type is given to defmethod, a primary method is created. This is the most common type of method.

:before :after These are used for the before-daemon and after-daemon methods used by :daemon method-combination.

:default If there are no untyped methods among any of the flavors being combined, then the :default methods (if any) are treated as if they were untyped. If there are any untyped methods, the :default methods are ignored.

Typically a base-flavor (see page 268) will define some default methods for certain of the messages understood by its family. When using the default kind of method-combination these default methods will not be called if a flavor provides its own method. But with certain strange forms of method-combination (for example the base-flavor uses a :default method to achieve its desired effect.

:wrapper Used internally by defwrapper.

:combined Used internally for automatically-generated combined methods.

The most common form of combination is :daemon. One thing may not be clear: when do you use a :before daemon and when do you use an :after daemon? In some cases the primary method performs a clearly-defined action and the choice is obvious: :before launch-rocket puts in the fuel, and :after launch-rocket turns on the radar tracking.

In other cases the choice can be less obvious. Consider the :init message, which is sent to a newly-created object. To decide what kind of daemon to use, we observe the order in which daemon methods are called. First the :before daemon of the highest level of abstraction is called, then :before daemons of successively lower levels of abstraction are called, and finally the :before daemon (if any) of the base flavor is called. Then the primary method is called. After that, the :after daemon for the lowest level of abstraction is called, followed by the :after daemons at successively higher levels of abstraction.

Now, if there is no interaction among all these methods, if their actions are completely orthogonal, then it doesn't matter whether you use a :before daemon or an :after daemon. It makes a difference if there is some interaction. The interaction we are talking about is usually done through instance variables; in general, instance variables are how the methods of different component flavors communicate with each other. In the case of the :init message, the init-plist can be used as well. The important thing to remember is that no method knows beforehand which other flavors have been mixed in to form this flavor; a method cannot make any assumptions about how this flavor has been combined, and in what order the various components are mixed.

This means that when a :before daemon has run, it must assume that none of the methods for this message have run yet. But the :after daemon knows that the :before daemon for each of the other flavors has run. So if one flavor wants to convey information to the other, the first one should "transmit" the information in a :before daemon, and the second one should "receive" it in an :after daemon. So while the :before daemons are run, information is "transmitted"; that is, instance variables get set up. Then, when the :after daemons are run, they can look at the
instance variables and act on their values.

In the case of the :init method, the :before daemons typically set up instance variables of the object based on the init-plist, while the :after daemons actually do things, relying on the fact that all of the instance variables have been initialized by the time they are called.

Of course, since flavors are not hierarchically organized, the notion of levels of abstraction is not strictly applicable. However, it remains a useful way of thinking about systems.

### 20.13 Implementation of Flavors

An object which is an instance of a flavor is implemented using the data type dtp-instance. The representation is a structure whose first word, tagged with dtp-instance-header, points to a structure (known to the microcode as an "instance descriptor") containing the internal data for the flavor. The remaining words of the structure are value cells containing the values of the instance variables. The instance descriptor is a defstruct which appears on the $\textit{flavor}$ property of the flavor name. It contains, among other things, the name of the flavor, the size of an instance, the table of methods for handling messages, and information for accessing the instance variables.

defflavor creates such a data structure for each flavor, and links them together according to the dependency relationships between flavors.

A message is sent to an instance simply by calling it as a function, with the first argument being the message keyword. The microcode binds self to the object, binds the instance variables (as special closure variables) to the value cells in the instance, and calls a dtp-select-method associated with the flavor. This dtp-select-method associates the message keyword to the actual function to be called. If there is only one method, this is that method, otherwise it is an automatically-generated function, called the combined method (see page 256), which calls the appropriate methods in the right order. If there are wrappers, they are incorporated into this combined method.

The function-specifier syntax (:method $\textit{flavor-name}$ optional-method-type message-name) is understood by fdefine and related functions. It is preferable to refer to methods this way rather than by explicit use of the flavor-method-symbol (see page 259).

#### 20.13.1 Order of Definition

There is a certain amount of freedom to the order in which you do defflavor's, defmethod's, and defwrapper's. This freedom is designed to make it easy to load programs containing complex flavor structures without having to do things in a certain order. It is considered important that not all the methods for a flavor need be defined in the same file. Thus the partitioning of a program into files can be along modular lines.

The rules for the order of definition are as follows.

Before a method can be defined (with defmethod or defwrapper) its flavor must have been defined (with defflavor). This makes sense because the system has to have a place to remember the method, and because it has to know the instance-variables of the flavor if the method is to be compiled.
When a flavor is defined (with `defflavor`) it is not necessary that all of its component flavors be defined already. This is to allow `defflavor`'s to be spread between files according to the modularity of a program, and to provide for mutually-included flavors (see the `:included-flavors` `defflavor` option, page 266). Methods can be defined for a flavor some of whose component flavors are not yet defined, however in certain cases compiling those methods will produce a spurious warning that an instance variable was declared special (because the system did not realize it was an instance variable). In the current implementation these warnings may be ignored, although that may not always be true in the future.

The methods automatically generated by the `:gettable-instance-variables` and `:settable-instance-variables` `defflavor` options (see page 265) are generated at the time the `defflavor` is done.

The first time a flavor is instantiated, the system looks through all of the component flavors and gathers various information. At this point an error will be signalled if not all of the components have been `defflavored`. This is also the time at which certain other errors are detected, for instance lack of a required instance-variable (see the `:required-instance-variables` `defflavor` option, page 265). The combined methods (see page 256) are generated at this time also, unless they already exist. They will already exist if `compile-flavor-methods` was used, but if those methods are obsolete because of changes made to component flavors since the compilation, new combined methods will be made.

After a flavor has been instantiated, it is possible to make changes to it. These changes will affect all existing instances if possible. This is described more fully immediately below.

### 20.13.2 Changing a Flavor

You can change anything about a flavor at any time. You can change the flavor's general attributes by doing another `defflavor` with the same name. You can add or modify methods by doing `defmethod`'s. If you do a `defmethod` with the same flavor-name, message-name, and (optional) method-type as an existing method, that method is replaced with the new definition. You can remove a method with `undefmethod` (see page 262).

These changes will always propagate to all flavors that depend upon the changed flavor. Normally the system will propagate the changes to all existing instances of the changed flavor and all flavors that depend on it. However, this is not possible when the flavor has been changed so drastically that the old instances would not work properly with the new flavor. This happens if you change the number of instance variables, which changes the size of an instance. It also happens if you change the order of the instance variables (and hence the storage layout of an instance), or if you change the component flavors (which can change several subtle aspects of an instance). The system does not keep a list of all the instances of each flavor, so it cannot find the instances and modify them to conform to the new flavor definition. Instead it gives you a warning message, on the `error-output` stream, to the effect that the flavor was changed incompatibly and the old instances will not get the new version. The system leaves the old flavor data-structure intact (the old instances will continue to point at it) and makes a new one to contain the new version of the flavor. If a less drastic change is made, the system modifies the original flavor data-structure, thus affecting the old instances that point at it. However, if you redefine methods in such a way that they only work for the new version of the flavor, then trying to use those methods with the old instances won't work.
One exception to this is that changes to defwrapper's are never automatically propagated. This is because doing so is expensive and the system cannot tell whether you really changed it or just redefined it to be the same as it was. (Note that the initial definition of a wrapper is propagated, but redefinitions of it are not.) See the documentation of defwrapper for more details.

20.13.3 Restrictions

There is presently an implementation restriction that when using daemons, the primary method may return at most three values if there are any :after daemons. This is because the combined method needs a place to remember the values while it calls the daemons. This will be fixed some day.

In this implementation, all message names must be in the keyword package, in order for the flavor-method-symbols (see page 259) to be unique, and for various tools in the editor to work correctly.

20.14 Entities

An entity is a Lisp object; the entity is one of the primitive datatypes provided by the Lisp Machine system (the data-type function (see page 158) will return dtp-entity if it is given an entity). Entities are just like closures: they have all the same attributes and functionality. The only difference between the two primitive types is their data type; entities are clearly distinguished from closures because they have a different data type. The reason there is an important difference between them is that various parts of the (not so primitive) Lisp system treat them differently. The Lisp functions that deal with entities are discussed in section 11.4, page 148.

A closure is simply a kind of function, but an entity is assumed to be a message-receiving object. Thus, when the Lisp printer (see section 21.2.1, page 280) is given a closure, it prints a simple textual representation, but when it is handed an entity, it sends the entity a :print-self message, which the entity is expected to handle. The describe function (see page 448) also sends entities messages when it is handed them. So when you want to make a message-receiving object out of a closure, as described on page 251, you should use an entity instead.

Usually there is no point in using entities instead of flavors. Entities were introduced into Lisp Machine Lisp before flavors were, and perhaps they would not have been had flavors already existed. Flavors have had considerably more attention paid to efficiency and to good tools for using them.

Entities are created with the entity function (see page 148). The function part of an entity should usually be a function created by defselect (see page 134).
20.15 Useful Editor Commands

Since we presently lack an editor manual, this section briefly documents some editor commands that are useful in conjunction with flavors.

**meta-.**

The meta-. (Edit Definition) command can find the definition of a flavor in the same way that it can find the definition of a function.

Edit Definition can find the definition of a method if you give

```
 (:method flavor type message)
```

as the function name. The keyword :method may be omitted. Completion will occur on the flavor name and message name as usual with Edit Definition.

**meta-X Describe Flavor**

Asks for a flavor name in the mini-buffer and describes its characteristics. When typing the flavor name you have completion over the names of all defined flavors (thus this command can be used to aid in guessing the name of a flavor). The display produced is mouse sensitive where there are names of flavors and of methods; as usual the right-hand mouse button gives you a menu of operations and the left-hand mouse button does the most common operation, typically positioning the editor to the source code for the thing you are pointing at.

**meta-X List Methods**

**meta-X Edit Methods**

Asks you for a message in the mini-buffer and lists all the flavors which have a method for that message. You may type in the message name, point to it with the mouse, or let it default to the message which is being sent by the Lisp form the cursor is inside of. List Methods produces a mouse-sensitive display allowing you to edit selected methods or just see which flavors have methods, while Edit Methods skips the display and proceeds directly to editing the methods. As usual with this type of command, the editor command control-. is redefined to advance the editor cursor to the next method in the list, reading in its source file if necessary. Typing control-. while the display is on the screen edits the first method.

**meta-X List Combined Methods**

**meta-X Edit Combined Methods**

Asks you for a message and a flavor in two mini-buffers and lists all the methods which would be called if that message were sent to an instance of that flavor. You may point to the message and flavor with the mouse, and there is completion for the flavor name. As in List/Edit Methods, the display is mouse sensitive and the Edit version of the command skips the display and proceeds directly to the editing phase.

List Combined Methods can be very useful for telling what a flavor will do in response to a message. It shows you the primary method, the daemons, and the wrappers and lets you see the code for all of them; type control-. to get to successive ones.
21. The I/O System

The Lisp Machine provides a powerful and flexible system for performing input and output to peripheral devices. To allow device independent I/O (that is, to allow programs to be written in a general way so that the program's input and output may be connected with any device), the Lisp Machine I/O system provides the concept of an "I/O stream". What streams are, the way they work, and the functions to create and manipulate streams, are described in this chapter. This chapter also describes the Lisp "I/O" operations read and print, and the printed representation they use for Lisp objects.

21.1 The Character Set

The Lisp Machine represents characters as fixnums. The mapping between these numbers and the characters is listed here. The mapping is similar to ASCII, but somewhat modified to allow the use of the so-called SAIL extended graphics, while avoiding certain ambiguities present in ITS. For a long time ITS treated the Backspace, Control-I-t and Lambda keys on the keyboard identically as character code 10 octal; this problem is avoided from the start in the Lisp Machine's mapping.

It is worth pointing out that although the Lisp machine character set is different from the pdp-10 character set, when files are transferred between Lisp machines and pdp-10's the characters are automatically converted. Details of the mapping are explained below.

Fundamental characters are eight bits wide. Those less than 200 octal (with the 200 bit off) and only those are printing graphics; when output to a device they are assumed to print a character and move the "cursor" one character position to the right. (All software provides for variable-width fonts, so the term "character position" shouldn't be taken too literally.)

Characters in the range of 200 to 236 inclusive are used for special characters. Character 200 is a "null character", which does not correspond to any key on the keyboard. The null character is not used for anything much; fasload uses it internally. Characters 201 through 236 correspond to the special function keys on the keyboard such as Return and Call. The remaining characters are reserved for future expansion.

It should never be necessary for a user or a source program to know these numerical values. Indeed, they are likely to be changed in the future. There are symbolic names for all characters; see below.

Most of the special characters do not normally appear in files (although it is not forbidden for files to contain them). These characters exist mainly to be used as "commands" from the keyboard.

A few special characters, however, are "format effectors" which are just as legitimate as printing characters in text files. The names and meanings of these characters are:

Return The "carriage return" character which separates lines of text. Note that the pdp-10 convention that lines are ended by a pair of characters, "carriage return" and "line feed", is not used.
The "page separator" character which separates pages of text.

The "tabulation" character which spaces to the right until the next "tab stop". Tab stops are normally every 8 character positions.

The space character is considered to be a printing character whose printed image happens to be blank, rather than a format effector.

In some contexts, a fixnum can hold both a character code and a font number for that character. The following byte specifiers are defined:

\%%ch-char \textit{Variable}

The value of \%%ch-char is a byte specifier for the field of a fixnum character which holds the character code.

\%%ch-font \textit{Variable}

The value of \%%ch-font is a byte specifier for the field of a fixnum character which holds the font number.

Characters read in from the keyboard include a character code and control bits. A character cannot contain both a font number and control bits, since these data are both stored in the same bits. The following byte specifiers are provided:

\%%kbd-char \textit{Variable}

The value of \%%kbd-char is a byte specifier for the field of a keyboard character which holds the normal eight-bit character code.

\%%kbd-control \textit{Variable}

The value of \%%kbd-control is a byte specifier for the field of a keyboard character which is 1 if either Control key was held down.

\%%kbd-meta \textit{Variable}

The value of \%%kbd-meta is a byte specifier for the field of a keyboard character which is 1 if either Meta key was held down.

\%%kbd-super \textit{Variable}

The value of \%%kbd-super is a byte specifier for the field of a keyboard character which is 1 if either Super key was held down.

\%%kbd-hyper \textit{Variable}

The value of \%%kbd-hyper is a byte specifier for the field of a keyboard character which is 1 if either Hyper key was held down.

This bit is also set if Control and/or Meta is typed in combination with Shift and a letter. Shift is much easier than Hyper to reach with the left hand.

\%%kbd-control-meta \textit{Variable}

The value of \%%kbd-control-meta is a byte specifier for the four-bit field of a keyboard character which contains the above control bits. The least-significant bit is Control. The most significant bit is Hyper.
The following fields are used by some programs that encode signals from the mouse in a the format of a character. Refer to the window system documentation for an explanation of how these characters are generated.

%%%kbd-mouse Variable
The value of %%%kbd-mouse is a byte specifier for the bit in a keyboard character which indicates that the character is not really a character, but a signal from the mouse.

%%%kbd-mouse-button Variable
The value of %%%kbd-mouse-button is a byte specifier for the field in a mouse signal which says which button was clicked. The value is 0, 1, or 2 for the left, middle, or right button, respectively.

%%%kbd-mouse-n-clicks Variable
The value of %%%kbd-mouse-n-clicks is a byte specifier for the field in a mouse signal which says how many times the button was clicked. The value is one less than the number of times the button was clicked.

When any of the control bits (Control, Meta, Super, or Hyper) is set in conjunction with a letter, the letter will always be upper-case. The character codes which consist of a lower-case letter and non-zero control bits are "holes" in the character set which are never used for anything. Note that when Shift is typed in conjunction with Control and/or Meta and a letter, it means Hyper rather than Shift.

Since the control bits are not part of the fundamental 8-bit character codes, there is no way to express keyboard input in terms of simple character codes. However, there is a convention which the relevant programs accept for encoding keyboard input into a string of characters: if a character has its Control bit on, prefix it with an Alpha. If a character has its Meta bit on, prefix it with a Beta. If a character has both its Control and Meta bits on, prefix it with an Epsilon. If a character has its Super bit on, prefix it with a Pi. If a character has its Hyper bit on, prefix it with a Lambda. To get an Alpha, Beta, Epsilon, Pi, Lambda, or Equivalence into the string, quote it by prefixing it with an Equivalence.

When characters are written to a file server computer that normally uses the ASCII character set to store text, Lisp Machine characters are mapped into an encoding that is reasonably close to an ASCII transliteration of the text. When a file is written, the characters are converted into this encoding, and the inverse transformation is done when a file is read back. No information is lost. Note that the length of a file, in characters, will not be the same measured in original Lisp Machine characters as it will measured in the encoded ASCII characters. In the currently implemented ASCII file servers, the following encoding is used. All printing characters and any characters not mentioned explicitly here are represented as themselves. Codes 010 (lambda), 011 (gamma), 012 (delta), 014 (plus-minus), 015 (circle-plus), 177 (integral), 200 through 207 inclusive, 213 (delete/vt), and 216 and anything higher, are preceded by a 177; that is, 177 is used as a "quoting character" for these codes. Codes 210 (overstrike), 211 (tab), 212 (line), and 214 (page), are converted to their ASCII cognates, namely 010 (backspace), 011 (horizontal tab), 012 (line feed), and 014 (form feed) respectively. Code 215 (return) is converted into 015 (carriage return) followed by 012 (line feed). Code 377 is ignored completely, and so cannot be stored in files.
### The Character Set

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>ASCII Code</th>
<th>Decimal Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center-dot (·)</td>
<td>040</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Down arrow (↓)</td>
<td>041</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpha (α)</td>
<td>042</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beta (β)</td>
<td>043</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And-sign (∧)</td>
<td>044</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not-sign (~)</td>
<td>045</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epsilon (ε)</td>
<td>046</td>
<td>106</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pi (π)</td>
<td>047</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lambda (λ)</td>
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<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gamma (γ)</td>
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<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delta (δ)</td>
<td>052</td>
<td>112</td>
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<td>Uparrow (↑)</td>
<td>053</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plus-minus (±)</td>
<td>054</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circle-plus (●)</td>
<td>055</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infinity (∞)</td>
<td>056</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partial delta (∂)</td>
<td>057</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left horseshoe (⌈)</td>
<td>060</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right horseshoe (⌉)</td>
<td>061</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up horseshoe (⌜)</td>
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<td>122</td>
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<tr>
<td>Down horseshoe (⌝)</td>
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<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Universal quantifier (∀)</td>
<td>064</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existential quantifier (∃)</td>
<td>065</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circle-X (⊗)</td>
<td>066</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double-arrow (→)</td>
<td>067</td>
<td>127</td>
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<tr>
<td>Left arrow (←)</td>
<td>070</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right arrow (→)</td>
<td>071</td>
<td>131</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not-equals (≠)</td>
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<td>132</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diamond (●)</td>
<td>073</td>
<td>133</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less-or-equal (≤)</td>
<td>074 &lt;</td>
<td>134 \</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater-or-equal (≥)</td>
<td>075 &gt;</td>
<td>135 \</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equivalence (=)</td>
<td>076 &gt;</td>
<td>136 ^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Or (∨)</td>
<td>077 ?</td>
<td>137 _</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>ASCII Code</th>
<th>Decimal Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Null character</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overstrike</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stop-output</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clear</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delete/vt</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terminal escape</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macro/backnext</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

237-377 reserved for the future

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**The Lisp Machine Character Set**

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21.2 Printed Representation

People cannot deal directly with Lisp objects, because the objects live inside the machine. In order to let us get at and talk about Lisp objects, Lisp provides a representation of objects in the form of printed text; this is called the printed representation. This is what you have been seeing in the examples throughout this manual. Functions such as print, prin1, and prin take a Lisp object, and send the characters of its printed representation to a stream. These functions (and the internal functions they call) are known as the printer. The read function takes characters from a stream, interprets them as a printed representation of a Lisp object, builds a corresponding object and returns it; it and its subfunctions are known as the reader. (Streams are explained in section 21.5.1, page 297.)

This section describes in detail what the printed representation is for any Lisp object, and just what read does. For the rest of the chapter, the phrase "printed representation" will usually be abbreviated as "p.r."

21.2.1 What the Printer Produces

The printed representation of an object depends on its type. In this section, we will consider each type of object and explain how it is printed.

Printing is done either with or without slashification. The non-slashified version is nicer looking in general, but if you give it to read it won't do the right thing. The slashified version is carefully set up so that read will be able to read it in. The primary effects of slashification are that special characters used with other than their normal meanings (e.g. a parenthesis appearing in the name of a symbol) are preceded by slashes or cause the name of the symbol to be enclosed in vertical bars, and that symbols which are not from the current package get printed out with their package prefixes (a package prefix looks like a symbol followed by a colon).

For a fixnum or a bignum: if the number is negative, the printed representation begins with a minus sign ("-"). Then, the value of the variable base is examined. If base is a positive fixnum, the number is printed out in that base (base defaults to 8); if it is a symbol with a si:princ-function property, the value of the property will be applied to two arguments: minus of the number to be printed, and the stream to which to print it (this is a hook to allow output in Roman numerals and the like); otherwise the value of base is invalid and an error is signalled. Finally, if base equals 10, and the variable *nopoint is nil, a decimal point is printed out. Slashification does not affect the printing of numbers.

**base Variable**

The value of base is a number which is the radix in which fixnums are printed, or a symbol with a si:princ-function property. The initial value of base is 8.

***nopoint Variable**

If the value of *nopoint is nil, a trailing decimal point is printed when a fixnum is printed out in base 10. This allows the numbers to be read back in correctly even if ibase is not 10 at the time of reading. If *nopoint is non-nil, the trailing decimal points are suppressed. The initial value of *nopoint is nil.
For a flonum: the printer first decides whether to use ordinary notation or exponential notation. If the magnitude of the number is too large or too small, such that the ordinary notation would require an unreasonable number of leading or trailing zeroes, then exponential notation will be used. The number is printed as an optional leading minus sign, one or more digits, a decimal point, one or more digits, and an optional trailing exponent, consisting of the letter "e", an optional minus sign, and the power of ten. The number of digits printed is the "correct" number; no information present in the flonum is lost, and no extra trailing digits are printed that do not represent information in the flonum. Feeding the p.r. of a flonum back to the reader is always supposed to produce an equal flonum. Flonums are always printed in decimal; they are not affected by slashification nor by base and *nopoint.

For a small flonum: the printed representation is very similar to that of a flonum, except that exponential notation is always used and the exponent is delimited by "s" rather than "e".

For a symbol: if slashification is off, the p.r. is simply the successive characters of the print-name of the symbol. If slashification is on, two changes must be made. First, the symbol might require a package prefix in order that read work correctly, assuming that the package into which read will read the symbol is the one in which it is being printed. See the section on packages (chapter 23, page 345) for an explanation of the package name prefix. Secondly, if the p.r. would not read in as a symbol at all (that is, if the print-name looks like a number, or contains special characters), then the p.r. must have some quoting for those characters, either by the use of slashes ("/") before each special character, or by the use of vertical bars ("|") around the whole name. The decision whether quoting is required is done using the readtable (see section 21.2.6, page 289), so it is always accurate provided that readtable has the same value when the output is read back in as when it was printed.

For a string: if slashification is off, the p.r. is simply the successive characters of the string. If slashification is on, the string is printed between double quotes, and any characters inside the string which need to be preceeded by slashes will be. Normally these are just double-quote and slash. Compatibly with Maclisp, carriage return is not ignored inside strings and vertical bars.

For an instance or an entity: if the object has a method for the :print-self message, that message is sent with three arguments: the stream to print to, the current depth of list structure (see below), and whether slashification is enabled. The object should print a suitable printed representation on the stream. See chapter 20, page 245 for documentation on instances. Most such objects print like "any other data type" below, except with additional information such as a name. Some objects print only their name when slashification is not in effect (when primed).

For an array which is a named structure: if the array has a named structure symbol with a named-structure-involve property which is the name of a function, then that function is called on five arguments: the symbol :print-self, the object itself, the stream to print to, the current depth of list structure (see below), and whether slashification is enabled. A suitable printed representation should be sent to the stream. This allows a user to define his own p.r. for his named structures; more information can be found in the named structure section (see page 239). If the named structure symbol does not have a named-structure-involve property, the printed-representation is like that for random data-types: a number sign and a less than sign, the named structure symbol, the numerical address of the array, and a greater than sign.

Other arrays: the p.r. starts with a number sign and a less-than sign. Then the "art-" symbol for the array type is printed. Next the dimensions of the array are printed, separated by hyphens. This is followed by a space, the machine address of the array, and a greater-than sign.
Conses: The p.r. for conses tends to favor lists. It starts with an open-parenthesis. Then, the car of the cons is printed, and the cdr of the cons is examined. If it is nil, a close parenthesis is printed. If it is anything else but a cons, space dot space followed by that object is printed. If it is a cons, we print a space and start all over (from the point after we printed the open-parenthesis) using this new cons. Thus, a list is printed as an open-parenthesis, the p.r.'s of its elements separated by spaces, and a close-parenthesis.

This is how the usual printed representations such as (a b (foo bar) c) are produced.

The following additional feature is provided for the p.r. of conses: as a list is printed, print maintains the length of the list so far, and the depth of recursion of printing lists. If the length exceeds the value of the variable prinlength, print will terminate the printed representation of the list with an ellipsis (three periods) and a close-parenthesis. If the depth of recursion exceeds the value of the variable prinlevel, then the list will be printed as "***". These two features allow a kind of abbreviated printing which is more concise and suppresses detail. Of course, neither the ellipsis nor the "***" can be interpreted by read, since the relevant information is lost.

**prinlevel Variable**

prinlevel can be set to the maximum number of nested lists that can be printed before the printer will give up and just print a "***". If it is nil, which it is initially, any number of nested lists can be printed. Otherwise, the value of prinlevel must be a fixnum.

**prinlength Variable**

prinlength can be set to the maximum number of elements of a list that will be printed before the printer will give up and print a "...". If it is nil, which it is initially, any length list may be printed. Otherwise, the value of prinlength must be a fixnum.

For any other data type: the p.r. starts with a number sign and a less-than sign ("<"), the "dtp-" symbol for this datatype, a space, and the octal machine address of the object. Then, if the object is a microcoded function, compiled function, or stack group, its name is printed. Finally a greater-than sign (">") is printed.

Including the machine address in the p.r. makes it possible to tell two objects of this kind apart without explicitly calling eq on them. This can be very useful during debugging. It is important to know that if garbage collection is turned on, objects will occasionally be moved, and therefore their octal machine addresses will be changed. It is best to shut off garbage collection temporarily when depending on these numbers.

None of the p.r.'s beginning with a number sign can be read back in, nor, in general, can anything produced by instances, entities, and named structures. Just what read accepts is the topic of the next section.
21.2.2 What The Reader Accepts

The purpose of the reader is to accept characters, interpret them as the p.r. of a Lisp object, and return a corresponding Lisp object. The reader cannot accept everything that the printer produces; for example, the p.r.'s of arrays (other than strings), compiled code objects, closures, stack groups etc. cannot be read in. However, it has many features which are not seen in the printer at all, such as more flexibility, comments, and convenient abbreviations for frequently-used unwieldy constructs.

This section shows what kind of p.r.'s the reader understands, and explains the readable, reader macros, and various features provided by read.

In general, the reader operates by recognizing tokens in the input stream. Tokens can be self-delimiting or can be separated by delimiters such as whitespace. A token is the p.r. of an atomic object such as a symbol or a number, or a special character such as a parenthesis. The reader reads one or more tokens until the complete p.r. of an object has been seen, and then constructs and returns that object.

The reader understands the p.r.'s of fixnums in a way more general than is employed by the printer. Here is a complete description of the format for fixnums.

Let a simple fixnum be a string of digits, optionally preceded by a plus sign or a minus sign, and optionally followed by a trailing decimal point. A simple fixnum will be interpreted by read as a fixnum. If the trailing decimal point is present, the digits will be interpreted in decimal radix; otherwise, they will be considered as a number whose radix is the value of the variable ibase.

ibase Variable
The value of ibase is a number which is the radix in which fixnums are read. The initial value of ibase is 8.

read will also understand a simple fixnum, followed by an underscore ("_") or a circumflex (^), followed by another simple fixnum. The two simple fixnums will be interpreted in the usual way, then the character in between indicates an operation to be performed on the two fixnums. The underscore indicates a binary "left shift"; that is, the fixnum to its left is doubled the number of times indicated by the fixnum to its right. The circumflex multiplies the fixnum to its left by ibase the number of times indicated by the fixnum to its right. (The second simple fixnum is not allowed to have a leading minus sign.) Examples: 645_6 means 64500 (in octal) and 645^3 means 645000.

Here are some examples of valid representations of fixnums to be given to read:

4
23456.
-546
+45^+6
2_11

The syntax for bignums is identical to the syntax for fixnums. A number is a bignum rather than a fixnum if and only if it is too large to be represented as a fixnum. Here are some examples of valid representations of bignums:
The syntax for a flonum is an optional plus or minus sign, optionally some digits, a decimal point, and one or more digits. Such a flonum or a simple fixnum, followed by an "e" (or "E") and a simple fixnum, is also a flonum; the fixnum after the "e" is the exponent of 10 by which the number is to be scaled. (The exponent is not allowed to have a trailing decimal point.) If the exponent is introduced by "s" (or "S") rather than "e", the number is a small-flonum. Here are some examples of printed-representations that read as flonums:

0.0
1.5
14.0
0.01
.707
-.3
+3.14159
6.03e23
1E-9
1.e3

Here are some examples of printed-representations that read as small-flonums:

0s0
1.5s9
-42s3
1.s5

A string of letters, numbers, and "extended alphabetic" characters is recognized by the reader as a symbol, provided it cannot be interpreted as a number. Alphabetic case is ignored in symbols; lower-case letters are translated to upper-case. When the reader sees the p.r. of a symbol, it internis it on a package (see chapter 23, page 345 for an explanation of interning and the package system). Symbols may start with digits; you could even have one named "-345T"; read will accept this as a symbol without complaint. If you want to put strange characters (such as lower-case letters, parentheses, or reader macro characters) inside the name of a symbol, put a slash before each strange character. If you want to have a symbol whose print-name looks like a number, put a slash before some character in the name. You can also enclose the name of a symbol in vertical bars, which quotes all characters inside, except vertical bars and slashes, which must be quoted with slash.

Examples of symbols:

foo
bar/(baz/)
34w23
[Frob Sale]

The reader will also recognize strings, which should be surrounded by double-quotes. If you want to put a double-quote or a slash inside a string, preceed it by a slash.
Examples of strings:
"This is a typical string."
"That is known as a /"cons cell/" in Lisp."

When read sees an open parenthesis, it knows that the p.r. of a cons is coming, and calls itself recursively to get the elements of the cons or the list that follows. Any of the following are valid:

(foo . bar)
(foo bar baz)
(foo . (bar . (baz . nil)))
(foo bar . quux)

The first is a cons, whose car and cdr are both symbols. The second is a list, and the third is exactly the same as the second (although print would never produce it). The fourth is a "dotted list": the cdr of the last cons cell (the second one) is not nil, but quux.

Whenever the reader sees any of the above, it creates new cons cells; it never returns existing list structure. This contrasts with the case for symbols, as very often read returns symbols that it found interned in the package rather than creating new symbols itself. Symbols are the only thing that work this way.

The dot that separates the two elements of a dotted-pair p.r. for a cons is only recognized if it is surrounded by delimiters (typically spaces). Thus dot may be freely used within print-names of symbols and within numbers.

If the circle-X (\'\") character is encountered, it is an octal escape, which may be useful for including weird characters in the input. The next three characters are read and interpreted as an octal number, and the character whose code is that number replaces the circle-X and the digits in the input stream. This character is always taken to be an alphabetic character, just as if it had been preceded by a slash.

21.2.3 Macro Characters

Certain characters are defined to be macro characters. When the reader sees one of these, it calls a function associated with the character. This function reads whatever syntax it likes and returns the object represented by that syntax. Macro characters are always token delimiters; however, they are not recognized when quoted by slash or vertical bar, nor when inside a string. Macro characters are a syntax-extension mechanism available to the user. Lisp comes with several predefined macro characters:

Quote (') is an abbreviation to make it easier to put constants in programs. 'foo reads the same as (quote foo).

Semicolon (;) is used to enter comments. The semicolon and everything up through the next carriage return are ignored. Thus a comment can be put at the end of any line without affecting the reader.

Backquote (\') makes it easier to write programs to construct lists and trees by using a template. See section 17.2.2, page 194 for details.
Comma (,) is part of the syntax of backquote and is invalid if used other than inside the body of a backquote. See section 17.2.2, page 194 for details.

Sharp sign (#) introduces a number of other syntax extensions. See the following section. Unlike the preceding characters, sharp sign is not a delimiter. A sharp sign in the middle of a symbol is an ordinary character.

The function set-syntax-macro-char (see page 289) can be used to define your own macro characters.

21.2.4 Sharp-sign Abbreviations

The reader's syntax includes several abbreviations introduced by sharp sign (#). These take the general form of a sharp sign, a second character which identifies the syntax, and following arguments. Certain abbreviations allow a decimal number or certain special "modifier" characters between the sharp sign and the second character. Here are the currently-defined sharp sign constructs; more are likely to be added in the future.

#I /x reads in as the number which is the character code for the character x. For example, #/a is equivalent to 141 but clearer in its intent. This is the recommended way to include character constants in your code. Note that the slash causes this construct to be parsed correctly by the editors, Emacs and Zwei.

As in strings, upper and lower-case letters are distinguished after #/. Any character works after #/, even those that are normally special to read, such as parentheses. Even non-printing characters may be used, although for them #\ is preferred.

The character can be modified with control and meta bits by inserting one or more special characters between the # and the /. #a/x generates Control-x. #b/x generates Meta-x. #c/x generates Super-x. #d/x generates Hyper-x. These can be combined, for instance #e/f generates Super-Meta-ampersand. Also, #/x is an abbreviation for #a/b/x. When control bits are specified, and x is a lower-case alphabetic character, the character code for the upper-case version of the character is produced.

#\ name reads in as the number which is the character code for the non-printing character symbolized by name. A large number of character names are recognized; these are documented below (section 21.2.5, page 288). In general, the names that are written on the keyboard keys are accepted. The abbreviations cr for return and sp for space are accepted and generally preferred, since these characters are used so frequently. The page separator character is called page, although form and clear-screen are also accepted since the keyboard has one of those legends on the page key. The rules for reading name are the same as those for symbols; thus upper and lower-case letters are not distinguished, and the name must be terminated by a delimiter such as a space, a carriage return, or a parenthesis.

When the system types out the name of a special character, it uses the same table as the #\ reader; therefore any character name typed out is acceptable as input.

The character can be modified with control and meta bits by inserting special characters as with #/.
#~x is exactly like #a/x if the input is being read by the Lisp machine; it generates Control-x. In Maclisp x is converted to upper case and then exclusive-or'ed with 100 (octal). Thus #~x always generates the character returned by tyi if the user holds down the control key and types x. (In Maclisp #a/x sets the bit set by the Control key when the TTY is open in FIXNUM mode.)

#'foo is an abbreviation for (function foo). foo is the p.r. of any object. This abbreviation can be remembered by analogy with the ' macro-character, since the function and quote special forms are somewhat analogous.

#. #.foo evaluates foo (the p.r. of a Lisp form) at read time, unless the compiler is doing the reading, in which case it is arranged that foo will be evaluated when the QFASL file is loaded. This is a way, for example, to include in your code complex list-structure constants which cannot be written with quote. Note that the reader does not put quote around the result of the evaluation. You must do this yourself if you want it, typically by using the ' macro-character. An example of a case where you do not want quote around it is when this object is an element of a constant list.

#O #O number reads number in octal regardless of the setting of ibase. Actually, any expression can be prefixed by #O; it will be read with ibase bound to 8.

#X #X number reads number in radix 16. (hexadecimal) regardless of the setting of ibase. As with #O, any expression can be prefixed by #X. [Unfortunately #X does not completely work, currently, since it does not cause the letters A through F to be recognized as numbers. This does not seem to have bothered anyone.]

#R #radixR number reads number in radix radix regardless of the setting of ibase. As with #O, any expression can be prefixed by #radixR; it will be read with ibase bound to radix. radix must consist of only digits, and it is read in decimal.

For example, #3R102 is another way of writing 11, and #11R32 is another way of writing 35. Bases larger than ten do not work completely, since there are only ten digit characters.

#Q #Q foo reads as foo if the input is being read by the Lisp machine, otherwise it reads as nothing (whitespace).

#M #M foo reads as foo if the input is being read into Maclisp, otherwise it reads as nothing (whitespace).

#N #N foo reads as foo if the input is being read into NIL or compiled to run in NIL, otherwise it reads as nothing (whitespace). Also, during the reading of foo, the reader temporarily defines various NIL-compatible sharp-sign abbreviations (such as #! and #") in order to parse the form correctly, even though its not going to be evaluated.

#+ This abbreviation provides a read-time conditionalization facility similar to, but more general than, that provided by #M, #N, and #Q. It is used as #+feature form. If feature is a symbol, then this is read as form if (status feature feature) is t. If (status feature feature) is nil, then this is read as whitespace. Alternately, feature may be a boolean expression composed of and, or, and not operators and symbols representing items which may appear on the (status features) list. (or lispm amber) represents evaluation of the predicate (or (status feature lispm) (status feature amber)) in the read-time environment.
For example, \# + lispm form makes form exist if being read by the Lisp machine, and is thus equivalent to \#Q form. Similarly, \# + maclisp form is equivalent to \#M form. \# + (or lispm nil) form will make form exist on either the Lisp machine or in NIL. Note that items may be added to the (status features) list by means of (status feature feature), thus allowing the user to selectively interpret or compile pieces of code by parameterizing this list. See page 455.

\# - \# - feature form is equivalent to \# + (not feature) form.

\#< This is not legal reader syntax. It is used in the p.r. of objects which cannot be read back in. Attempting to read a \#< will cause an error.

The function set-syntax-#-macro-char (see page 290) can be used to define your own sharp sign abbreviations.

### 21.2.5 Special Character Names

The following are the recognized special character names, in alphabetical order except with synonyms together and linked with equal signs. These names can be used after a "#\" to get the character code for that character. Most of these characters type out as this name enclosed in a lozenge. First we list the special function keys.

 activations | break | call | clear-input | clear-
 abort = vt | delete = vt | end | hand-down | hand-left |
 hand-right | hand-up | help | hold-output |*
 i | ii | iii | iv |
 line = If | macro = back-next | network | page = clear-screen | form |
 overstrike = backspace = bs | page = clear-screen | form |
 quote | resume | return = cr | rubout |
 space = sp | status | stop-output | system |
 tab | terminal = esc |*|

These are printing characters which also have special names because they may be hard to type on a pdp-10.

 alternation | circle-plus | delta | gamma |
 integral | lambda | plus-minus | uparrow |

The following are special characters sometimes used to represent single and double mouse clicks. The buttons can be called either 1, m, r or 1, 2, 3 depending on stylistic preference. These characters all contain the %%%kbd-mouse bit.

**mouse-l-1** = mouse-1-1
**mouse-l-2** = mouse-1-2
**mouse-m-1** = mouse-2-1
**mouse-m-2** = mouse-2-2
**mouse-r-1** = mouse-3-1
**mouse-r-2** = mouse-3-2
21.2.6 The Readtable

There is a data structure called the readable which is used to control the reader. It contains information about the syntax of each character. Initially it is set up to give the standard Lisp meanings to all the characters, but the user can change the meanings of characters to alter and customize the syntax of characters. It is also possible to have several readtables describing different syntaxes and to switch from one to another by binding the symbol readable.

readable Variable

The value of readable is the current readtable. This starts out as the initial standard readtable. You can bind this variable to temporarily change the readable being used.

si:initial-readtable Variable

The value of si:initial-readtable is the initial standard readtable. You should not ever change the contents of this readtable; only examine it, by using it as the from-readtable argument to copy-readtable or set-syntax-from-char.

The user can program the reader by changing the readtable in any of three ways. The syntax of a character can be set to one of several predefined possibilities. A character can be made into a macro character, whose interpretation is controlled by a user-supplied function which is called when the character is read. The user can create a completely new readtable, using the readable compiler (LMIO;RTC) to define new kinds of syntax and to assign syntax classes to characters. Use of the readable compiler is not documented here.

copy-readtable &optional from-readtable to-readtable

from-readtable, which defaults to the current readtable, is copied. If to-readtable is unsupplied or nil, a fresh copy is made. Otherwise to-readtable is clobbered with the copy. Use copy-readtable to get a private readtable before using the following functions to change the syntax of characters in it. The value of readable at the start of a Lisp machine session is the initial standard readtable, which usually should not be modified.

set-syntax-from-char to-char from-char &optional to-readtable from-readtable

Makes the syntax of to-char in to-readtable be the same as the syntax of from-char in from-readtable. to-readtable defaults to the current readtable, and from-readtable defaults to the initial standard readtable.

set-character-translation from-char to-char &optional readable

Changes readable so that from-char will be translated to to-char upon read-in, when readable is the current readtable. This is normally used only for translating lower case letters to upper case. Character translations are turned off by slash, string quotes, and vertical bars. readable defaults to the current readable.

set-syntax-macro-char char function &optional readable

Causes char to be a macro character which when read calls function. readable defaults to the current readable.

function is called with two arguments: list-so-far and the input stream. When a list is being read, list-so-far is that list (nil if this is the first element). At the "top level" of read, list-so-far is the symbol :toplevel. After a dotted-pair dot, list-so-far is the symbol :after-dot. function may read any number of characters from the input stream and process them however it likes.
The function should return three values, called \textit{thing}, \textit{type}, and \textit{splice-p}. \textit{thing} is the object read. If \textit{splice-p} is nil, \textit{thing} is the result. If \textit{splice-p} is non-nil, then when reading a list \textit{thing} replaces the list being read—often it will be \textit{list-so-far} with something else \texttt{conc}’ed onto the end. At top-level and after a dot if \textit{splice-p} is non-nil the \textit{thing} is ignored and the macro-character does not contribute anything to the result of \texttt{read}. \textit{type} is a historical artifact and is not really used; nil is a safe value. Most macro character functions return just one value and let the other two default to nil.

\textit{function} should not have any side-effects other than on the stream and \textit{list-so-far}. Because of the way the \texttt{rubout-handler} works, \textit{function} can be called several times during the reading of a single expression in which the macro character only appears once.

\texttt{char} is given the same syntax that single-quote, backquote, and comma have in the initial readtable (it is called \texttt{:macro syntax}).

\begin{description}
\item[set-syntax-\#-macro-char char function &optional readable] Causes \textit{function} to be called when \#char is read. \textit{readable} defaults to the current readtable. The function's arguments and return values are the same as for normal macro characters, documented above. When \textit{function} is called, the special variable \texttt{six:sharp-argument} contains nil or a number which is the number or special bits between the \# and char.
\item[set-syntax-from-description char description &optional readable] Sets the syntax of \textit{char} in \textit{readtable} to be that described by the symbol \textit{description}. The following descriptions are defined in the standard \textit{readtable}:
\begin{description}
\item[si:alphabetic] An ordinary character such as "A".
\item[si:break] A token separator such as "(". (Obviously left parenthesis has other properties besides being a break.
\item[si:whitespace] A token separator which can be ignored, such as " ".
\item[si:single] A self-delimiting single-character symbol. The initial readtable does not contain any of these.
\item[si:slash] The character quoter. In the initial readtable this is "/".
\item[si:verticalbar] The symbol print-name quoter. In the initial readtable this is ":".
\item[si:doublequote] The string quoter. In the initial readtable this is "".
\item[si:macro] A macro character. Don’t use this, use set-syntax-macro-char.
\item[sic:circlecross] The octal escape for special characters. In the initial readtable this is "\texttt{o}".
\end{description}
\end{description}

These symbols will probably be moved to the standard keyword package at some point. \textit{readtable} defaults to the current readtable.

\begin{description}
\item[setsyntax character arg2 arg3] This exists only for Maclisp compatibility. The above functions are preferred in new programs. The syntax of \textit{character} is altered in the current \textit{readtable}, according to \textit{arg2} and \textit{arg3}. \textit{character} can be a fixnum, a symbol, or a string, i.e. anything acceptable to the \textit{character} function. \textit{arg2} is usually a keyword; it can be in any package since this is a Maclisp compatibility function. The following values are allowed for \textit{arg2}:
\end{description}
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Input Functions

:macro

The character becomes a macro character. \texttt{arg3} is the name of a function to be invoked when this character is read. The function takes no arguments, may \texttt{tyi} or read from \texttt{standard-input} (i.e. may call \texttt{tyi} or read without specifying a stream), and returns an object which is taken as the result of the read.

:splicing

Like :macro but the object returned by the macro function is a list which is nconc into the list being read. If the character is read not inside a list (at top level or after a dotted-pair dot), then it may return \texttt{()} which means it is ignored, or \texttt{(obj)} which means that \texttt{obj} is read.

:single

The character becomes a self-delimiting single-character symbol. If \texttt{arg3} is a fixnum, the character is translated to that character.

nil

The syntax of the character is not changed, but if \texttt{arg3} is a fixnum, the character is translated to that character.

a symbol

The syntax of the character is changed to be the same as that of the character \texttt{arg2} in the standard initial readtable. \texttt{arg2} is converted to a character by taking the first character of its print name. Also if \texttt{arg3} is a fixnum, the character is translated to that character.

\texttt{setsyntax-sharp-macro} \texttt{character type function} \&optional \texttt{readtable}

This exists only for Maclisp compatibility. \texttt{set-syntax-\#-macro-char} is preferred. If \texttt{function} is \texttt{nil}, \texttt{# character} is turned off, otherwise it becomes a macro which calls \texttt{function}. \texttt{type} can be :macro, :peek-macro, :splicing, or :peek-splicing. The splicing part controls whether \texttt{function} returns a single object or a list of objects. Specifying \texttt{peek} causes \texttt{character} to remain in the input stream when \texttt{function} is called; this is useful if \texttt{character} is something like a left parenthesis. \texttt{function} gets one argument, which is \texttt{nil} or the number between the \texttt{#} and the \texttt{character}.

21.3 Input Functions

Most of these functions take optional arguments called \texttt{stream} and \texttt{eof-option}. \texttt{stream} is the stream from which the input is to be read; if unsupplied it defaults to the value of \texttt{standard-input}. The special pseudo-streams \texttt{nil} and \texttt{t} are also accepted, mainly for Maclisp compatibility. \texttt{nil} means the value of \texttt{standard-input} (i.e. the default) and \texttt{t} means the value of \texttt{terminal-io} (i.e. the interactive terminal). This is all more-or-less compatible with Maclisp, except that instead of the variable \texttt{standard-input} Maclisp has several variables and complicated rules. For detailed documentation of streams, refer to section 21.5.1, page 297.

\texttt{eof-option} controls what happens if input is from a file (or any other input source that has a definite end) and the end of the file is reached. If no \texttt{eof-option} argument is supplied, an error will be signalled. If there is an \texttt{eof-option}, it is the value to be returned. Note that an \texttt{eof-option} of \texttt{nil} means to return \texttt{nil} if the end of the file is reached; it is not equivalent to supplying no \texttt{eof-option}.

Functions such as \texttt{read} which read an "object" rather than a single character will always signal an error, regardless of \texttt{eof-option}, if the file ends in the middle of an object. For example, if a file does not contain enough right parentheses to balance the left parentheses in it, \texttt{read} will complain. If a file ends in a symbol or a number immediately followed by end-of-file, \texttt{read} will read the symbol or number successfully and when called again will see the end-of-file and obey...
eof-option. If a file contains ignorable text at the end, such as blank lines and comments, read will not consider it to end in the middle of an object and will obey eof-option.

These end-of-file conventions are not completely compatible with Maclisp. Maclisp's deviations from this are generally considered to be bugs rather than features.

The preferred order of arguments is the stream first and then the eof-option. However, if the first argument is not a plausible stream and the second argument is missing or a stream, then the first argument is assumed to be the eof-option rather than the stream. This mainly for compatibility with old Maclisp programs, but some programs may find it useful to specify an eof-option while reading from standard-input.

Note that all of these functions will echo their input if used on an interactive stream (one which supports the :rubout-handler operation; see below.) The functions that input more than one character at a time (read, readline) allow the input to be edited using rubout. typeek echoes all of the characters that were skipped over if tyi would have echoed them; the character not removed from the stream is not echoed either.

read &optional stream eof-option
read reads in the printed representation of a Lisp object from stream, builds a corresponding Lisp object, and returns the object. The details have been explained above.

read-preserve-delimiters Variable
Certain printed representations given to read, notably those of symbols and numbers, require a delimiting character after them. (Lists do not, because the matching close parenthesis serves to mark the end of the list.) Normally read will throw away the delimiting character if it is "whitespace", but will preserve it (with a :untyi stream operation) if the character is syntactically meaningful, since it may be the start of the next expression.

If read-preserve-delimiters is bound to t around a call to read, no delimiting characters will be thrown away, even if they are whitespace. This may be useful for certain reader macros or special syntaxes.

tyi &optional stream eof-option
tyi inputs one character from stream and returns it. The character is echoed if stream is interactive, except that Rubout is not echoed. The Control, Meta, etc. shifts echo as prefix alpha, beta, etc.

The :tyi stream operation is preferred over the tyi function for some purposes. Note that it does not echo. See section 21.5.2, page 297.

readline &optional stream eof-option
readline reads in a line of text, terminated by a carriage return. It returns the line as a character string, without the return character. This function is usually used to get a line of input from the user.
**readch** &optional stream eof-option

This function is provided only for Maclisp compatibility, since in the Lisp Machine characters are always represented as fixnums. readch is just like tyi, except that instead of returning a fixnum character, it returns a symbol whose print name is the character read in. The symbol is interned in the current package. This is just like a Maclisp "character object".

**typeek** &optional peek-type stream eof-option

This function is provided mainly for Maclisp compatibility; the :listen stream operation is usually clearer (see page 298).

What typeek does depends on the peek-type, which defaults to nil. With a peek-type of nil, typeek returns the next character to be read from stream, without actually removing it from the input stream. The next time input is done from stream the character will still be there; in general, (= (typeek) (tyi)) is t.

If peek-type is a fixnum less than 1000 octal, then typeek reads characters from stream until it gets one equal to peek-type. That character is not removed from the input stream.

If peek-type is t, then typeek skips over input characters until the start of the printed representation of a Lisp object is reached. As above, the last character (the one that starts an object) is not removed from the input stream.

The form of typeek supported by Maclisp in which peek-type is a fixnum not less than 1000 octal is not supported, since the readtable formats of the Maclisp reader and the Lisp Machine reader are quite different.

Characters passed over by typeek are echoed if stream is interactive.

The following functions are related functions which do not operate on streams. Most of the text at the beginning of this section does not apply to them.

**read-from-string** string &optional eof-option (idx 0)

The characters of string are given successively to the reader, and the Lisp object built by the reader is returned. Macro characters and so on will all take effect. If string has a fill-pointer it controls how much can be read.

eof-option is what to return if the end of the string is reached, as with other reading functions. idx is the index in the string of the first character to be read.

read-from-string returns two values; the first is the object read and the second is the index of the first character in the string not read. If the entire string was read, this will be either the length of the string or 1 more than the length of the string.

Example:

(read-from-string "(a b c)") => (a b c) and 7.

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readlist  char-list
This function is provided mainly for Maclisp compatibility. char-list is a list of characters. The characters may be represented by anything that the function character accepts: fixnums, strings, or symbols. The characters are given successively to the reader, and the Lisp object built by the reader is returned. Macro characters and so on will all take effect.

If there are more characters in char-list beyond those needed to define an object, the extra characters are ignored. If there are not enough characters, an "eof in middle of object" error is signalled.

See also the with-input-from-string special form (page 121).

21.4 Output Functions

These functions all take an optional argument called stream, which is where to send the output. If unsupplied stream defaults to the value of standard-output. If stream is nil, the value of standard-output (i.e. the default) is used. If it is t, the value of terminal-io is used (i.e. the interactive terminal). If stream is a list of streams, then the output is performed to all of the streams (this is not implemented yet, and an error is signalled in this case). This is all more-or-less compatible with Maclisp, except that instead of the variable standard-output Maclisp has several variables and complicated rules. For detailed documentation of streams, refer to section 21.5.1, page 297.

prin1  x  &optional  stream
prin1 outputs the printed representation of x to stream, with slashification (see page 280). x is returned.

prin1-then-space  x  &optional  stream
prin1-then-space is like prin1 except that output is followed by a space.

print  x  &optional  stream
print is just like prin1 except that output is preceded by a carriage return and followed by a space. x is returned.

princ  x  &optional  stream
princ is just like prin1 except that the output is not slashified. x is returned.

tyoc  char  &optional  stream
tyoc outputs the character char to stream.

terpri  &optional  stream
terpri outputs a carriage return character to stream.

    The format function (see page 305) is very useful for producing nicely formatted text. It can do anything any of the above functions can do, and it makes it easy to produce good looking messages and such. format can generate a string or output to a stream.

    The grndaf function (see page 318) is useful for formatting Lisp programs.
See also the with-output-to-string special form (page 122).

**stream-copy-until-eof** from-stream to-stream &optional leader-size

*stream-copy-until-eof* inputs characters from *from-stream* and outputs them to *to-stream*, until it reaches the end-of-file on the *from-stream*. For example, if *x* is bound to a stream for a file opened for input, then (stream-copy-until-eof *x* terminal-io) will print the file on the console.

If *from-stream* supports the :line-in operation and *to-stream* supports the :line-out operation, then *stream-copy-until-eof* will use those operations instead of :tyi and :tyo, for greater efficiency. *leader-size* will be passed as the argument to the :line-in operation.

**cursorpos** &rest args

This function exists primarily for Maclisp compatibility. Usually it is preferable to send the appropriate messages (see the window system documentation).

*cursorpos* normally operates on the standard-output stream; however, if the first argument is a stream or t (meaning terminal-io) then *cursorpos* uses that stream and looks at the following arguments as described below. Note that *cursorpos* only works on streams which are capable of these operations, for instance windows.

**(cursorpos)** => (line column), the current cursor position.

**(cursorpos line column)** moves the cursor to that position. It returns t if it succeeds and nil if it doesn't.

**(cursorpos op)** performs a special operation coded by *op*, and returns t if it succeeds and nil if it doesn't. *op* is tested by string comparison, it is not a keyword symbol and may be in any package.

- F Moves one space to the right.
- B Moves one space to the left.
- D Moves one line down.
- U Moves one line up.
- T Homes up (moves to the top left corner). Note that t as the first argument to *cursorpos* is interpreted as a stream, so a stream must be specified if the T operation is used.
- Z Home down (moves to the bottom left corner).
- A Advances to a fresh line. See the :fresh-line stream operation.
- C Clears the window.
- E Clear from the cursor to the end of the window.
- L Clear from the cursor to the end of the line.
- K Clear the character position at the cursor.
- X B then K.

**exploden** *x*

*exploden* returns a list of characters (as fixnums) which are the characters that would be typed out by (princ *x*) (i.e. the unslashified printed representation of *x*).

Example:

**(exploden '(+ /12 3))** => (50 53 40 61 62 40 63 51)
expodec \( x \)

expodec returns a list of characters represented by symbols which are the characters that would be typed out by (princ \( x \)) (i.e. the unslashified printed representation of \( x \)).

Example:

\[
\text{(expodec ' (+ /12 3))} \Rightarrow ( / ( + / /1 /2 / /3 / ))
\]

(Note that there are slashified spaces in the above list.)

explode \( x \)

explode returns a list of characters represented by symbols which are the characters that would be typed out by (print \( x \)) (i.e. the slashified printed representation of \( x \)).

Example:

\[
\text{(explode ' (+ /12 3))} \Rightarrow ( / ( + / /1 /2 / /3 / ))
\]

(Note that there are slashified spaces in the above list.)

flatsize \( x \)

flatsize returns the number of characters in the slashified printed representation of \( x \).

flutc \( x \)

flutc returns the number of characters in the unslashified printed representation of \( x \).
21.5 I/O Streams

21.5.1 What Streams Are

Many programs accept input characters and produce output characters. The method for performing input and output to one device is very different from the method for some other device. We would like our programs to be able to use any device available, but without each program having to know about each device.

In order to solve this problem, we introduce the concept of a stream. A stream is a source and/or sink of characters. A set of operations is available with every stream; operations include things like "output a character" and "input a character". The way to perform an operation to a stream is the same for all streams, although what happens inside the stream is very different depending on what kind of a stream it is. So all a program has to know is how to deal with streams.

A stream is a message-receiving object. This means that it is something that you can apply to arguments. The first argument is a keyword symbol which is the name of the operation you wish to perform. The rest of the arguments depend on what operation you are doing. Message-passing is explained in the flavor chapter (chapter 20, page 245).

Some streams can only do input, some can only do output, and some can do both. Some operations are only supported by some streams. Also, there are some operations which the stream may not support by itself, but will work anyway, albeit slowly, because the "stream default handler" can handle them. If you have a stream, there is an operation called :which-operations that will return a list of the names of all of the operations that are supported "natively" by the stream. All streams support :which-operations, and so it may not be in the list itself.

21.5.2 General Purpose Stream Operations

Here are some simple operations. Listed are the name of the operation, what arguments it takes, and what it does.

:tyo char
The stream will output the character char. For example, if s is bound to a stream, then the form

(funcall s ':tyo #/B)

will output a "B" to the stream.

:tyi &optional eof
The stream will input one character and return it. For example, if the next character to be read in by the stream is a "C", then the form

(funcall s ':tyi)

will return the value of #/C (that is, 103 octal). Note that the :tyi operation will not "echo" the character in any fashion; it just does the input. The tyi function (see page 292) will do echoing when reading from the terminal.
The optional eof argument to the :tyi message tells the stream what to do if it gets to the end of the file. If the argument is not provided or is nil, the stream will return nil at the end of file. Otherwise it will signal an error, and print out the argument as the error message. Note that this is not the same as the eof-option argument to read, :tyi, and related functions.

:untyi char
The stream will remember the character char, and the next time a character is input, it will return the saved character. In other words, :untyi means "stuff this character back into the input source". For example,

```lisp
(defun s ' :untyi 120)
(funcall s ':tyi) => 120
```

This operation is used by read, and any stream which supports :tyi must support :untyi as well. Note that you are only allowed to :untyi one character before doing a :tyi, and you aren't allowed to :untyi a different character than the last character you read from the stream. Some streams implement :untyi by saving the character, while others implement it by backing up the pointer to a buffer.

:which-operations
Returns a list of the operations supported "natively" by the stream. Example:

```lisp
(funcall s ' :which-operations)
  => (:tyi :tyo :untyi :line-out :listen)
```

Any stream must either support :tyo, or support both :tyi and :untyi. There are several other, more advanced input and output operations which will work on any stream that can do input or output (respectively). Some streams support these operations themselves; you can tell by looking at the list returned by the :which-operations operation. Others will be handled by the "stream default handler" even if the stream does not know about the operation itself. However, in order for the default handler to do one of the more advanced output operations, the stream must support :tyo, and for the input operations the stream must support :tyi (and :untyi).

Here is the list of such operations:

:listen
On an interactive device, the :listen operation returns non-nil if there are any input characters immediately available, or nil if there is no immediately available input. On a non-interactive device, the operation always returns non-nil except at end-of-file, by virtue of the default handler. The main purpose of :listen is to test whether the user has hit a key, perhaps trying to stop a program in progress.

:fresh-line
This tells the stream that it should position itself at the beginning of a new line; if the stream is already at the beginning of a fresh line it will do nothing, otherwise it will output a carriage return. For streams which don’t support this, the default handler will always output a carriage return.
:string-out string &optional start end
The characters of the string are successively output to the stream. This operation is provided for two reasons; first, it saves the writing of a loop which is used very often, and second, many streams can perform this operation much more efficiently than the equivalent sequence of :tyo operations. If the stream doesn't support :string-out itself, the default handler will turn it into a bunch of :tyos.

If start and end are not supplied, the whole string is output. Otherwise a substring is output: start is the index of the first character to be output (defaulting to 0), and end is one greater than the index of the last character to be output (defaulting to the length of the string). Callers need not pass these arguments, but all streams that handle :string-out must check for them and interpret them appropriately.

;line-out string &optional start end
The characters of the string, followed by a carriage return character, are output to the stream. start and end optionally specify a substring, as with :string-out. If the stream doesn't support :line-out itself, the default handler will turn it into a bunch of :tyos.

;line-in &optional leader
The stream should input one line from the input source, and return it as a string with the carriage return character stripped off. Contrary to what you might assume from its name, this operation is not much like the readline function.

Many streams have a string which is used as a buffer for lines. If this string itself were returned, there would be problems caused if the caller of the stream attempted to save the string away somewhere, because the contents of the string would change when the next line was read in. In order to solve this problem, the string must be copied. On the other hand, some streams don't reuse the string, and it would be wasteful to copy it on every :line-in operation. This problem is solved by using the leader argument to :line-in. If leader is nil (the default), the stream will not bother to copy the string, and the caller should not rely on the contents of that string after the next operation on the stream. If leader is t, the stream will make a copy. If leader is a fixnum then the stream will make a copy with an array leader leader elements long. (This is used by the editor, which represents lines of buffers as strings with additional information in their array-leaders, to eliminate an extra copy operation.)

If the stream reaches the end-of-file while reading in characters, it will return the characters it has read in as a string, and return a second value of t. The caller of the stream should therefore arrange to receive the second value, and check it to see whether the string returned was a whole line or just the trailing characters after the last carriage return in the input source.

:clear-input
The stream clears any buffered input. If the stream does not handle this, the default handler will ignore it.
:clear-output
The stream clears any buffered output. If the stream does not handle this, the default handler will ignore it.

:finish
This is for output streams to buffered asynchronous devices, such as the Chaosnet. :finish waits until the currently pending I/O operation has been completed. It does not do anything itself; it is just used to await completion of an operation. If there is buffered output for which I/O has not yet been started, it remains buffered. Do :force-output before :finish if you do not want this effect. If the stream does not handle this, the default handler will ignore it.

:force-output
This is for output streams to buffered asynchronous devices, such as the Chaosnet. :force-output causes any buffered output to be sent to the device. It does not wait for it to complete; use :finish for that. If a stream supports :force-output, then :tyo, :string-out, and :line-out may have no visible effect until a :force-output is done. If the stream does not handle this, the default handler will ignore it.

:close &optional mode
The stream is "closed", and no further operations should be performed on it. However, it is all right to :close a closed stream. If the stream does not handle :close, the default handler will ignore it.

The mode argument is normally not supplied. If it is :abort, we are abnormally exiting from the use of this stream. If the stream is outputting to a file, and has not been closed already, the stream's newly-created file will be deleted; it will be as if it was never opened in the first place. Any previously existing file with the same name will remain, undisturbed.

21.5.3 Special Purpose Stream Operations

There are several other defined operations which the default handler cannot deal with; if the stream does not support the operation itself, then sending that message will cause an error. This section documents the most commonly-used, least device-dependent stream operations. Windows, files, and Chaosnet connections have their own special stream operations which are documented separately.

:rubout-handler options function &rest args
This is supported by interactive streams such as windows on the TV terminal, and is described in its own section below (see section 21.7, page 319).

:beep &optional type
This is supported by interactive streams. It attracts the attention of the user by making an audible beep and/or flashing the screen. type is a keyword selecting among several different beeping noises. The allowed types have not yet been defined and type is currently ignored.
:tyi-no-hang &optional eof
Just like :tyi except that if it would be necessary to wait in order to get the character, returns nil instead. This lets the caller efficiently check for input being available and get the input if there is any. :tyi-no-hang is different from :listen because it reads a character and because it is not simulated by the default-handler for streams which don't support it.

:untyo-mark
This is used by the grinder (see page 318) if the output stream supports it. It takes no arguments. The stream should return some object which indicates where output has gotten up to in the stream.

:untyo-mark
This is used by the grinder (see page 318) in conjunction with :untyo-mark. It takes one argument, which is something returned by the :untyo-mark operation of the stream. The stream should back up output to the point at which the object was returned.

:read-cursorpos &optional (units':pixel)
This operation is supported by windows. It returns two values: the current x and y coordinates of the cursor. It takes one optional argument, which is a symbol indicating in what units x and y should be; the symbols :pixel and :character are understood. :pixel means that the coordinates are measured in display pixels (bits), while :character means that the coordinates are measured in characters horizontally and lines vertically.

This operation, and :set-cursorpos, are used by the format "~T" request (see page 308), which is why "~T" doesn't work on all streams. Any stream that supports this operation must support :set-cursorpos as well.

:clear-screen
Erases the screen area on which this stream displays. Non-window streams don't support this operation.

There are many other special-purpose stream operations for graphics. They are not documented here, but in the window-system documentation. No claim that the above operations are the most useful subset should be implied.
21.5.4 Standard Streams

There are several variables whose values are streams used by many functions in the Lisp system. These variables and their uses are listed here. By convention, variables which are expected to hold a stream capable of input have names ending with -input, and similarly for output. Those expected to hold a bidirectional stream have names ending with -io.

**standard-input Variable**
In the normal Lisp top-level loop, input is read from standard-input (that is, whatever stream is the value of standard-input). Many input functions, including tyi and read, take a stream argument which defaults to standard-input.

**standard-output Variable**
In the normal Lisp top-level loop, output is sent to standard-output (that is, whatever stream is the value of standard-output). Many output functions, including tyo and print, take a stream argument which defaults to standard-output.

**error-output Variable**
The value of error-output is a stream to which error messages should be sent. Normally this is the same as standard-output, but standard-output might be bound to a file and error-output left going to the terminal. [This seems not be used by things which ought to use it.]

**query-io Variable**
The value of query-io is a stream which should be used when asking questions of the user. The question should be output to this stream, and the answer read from it. The reason for this is that when the normal input to a program may be coming from a file, questions such as "Do you really want to delete all of the files in your directory??" should be sent directly to the user, and the answer should come from the user, not from the data file. query-io is used by fquery and related functions; see page 436.

**terminal-io Variable**
The value of terminal-io is the stream which connects to the user's console. In an "interactive" program, it will be the window from which the program is being run; I/O on this stream will read from the keyboard and display on the TV. However, in a "background" program which does not normally talk to the user, terminal-io defaults to a stream which does not ever expect to be used. If it is used, perhaps by an error printout, it turns into a "background" window and requests the user's attention.

**trace-output Variable**
The value of trace-output is the stream on which the trace function prints its output.

**eh: error-handler-io Variable**
If non-nil, this is the stream which the error handler should use. This is used during debugging to divert the error handler to a stream which is known to work. The default value of nil causes the error handler to use error-output [or should, anyway].

standard-input, standard-output, error-output, trace-output, and query-io are initially bound to synonym streams which pass all operations on to the stream which is the value of terminal-io. Thus any operations performed on those streams will go to the TV terminal.
No user program should ever change the value of terminal-io. A program which wants (for example) to divert output to a file should do so by binding the value of standard-output; that way error messages sent to error-output can still get to the user by going through terminal-io, which is usually what is desired.

**make-syn-stream** symbol

`make-syn-stream` creates and returns a "synonym stream" (syn for short). Any operations sent to this stream will be redirected to the stream which is the value of `symbol`. A synonym stream is actually a symbol named `symbol-syn-stream` whose function definition is `symbol`, with a property that declares it to be a legitimate stream. The generated symbol is interned in the same package as `symbol`.

**make-broadcast-stream** &rest streams

Returns a stream which only works in the output direction. Any output sent to this stream will be sent to all of the streams given. The :which-operations is the intersection of the :which-operations of all of the streams. The value(s) returned by a stream operation are the values returned by the last stream in `streams`.

### 21.5.5 Making Your Own Stream

Here is a sample output stream, which accepts characters and conses them onto a list.

```lisp
(defvar the-list nil)
(defun list-output-stream (op &optional arg1 &rest rest)
  (selectq op
    (:tyo
      (setq the-list (cons arg1 the-list)))
    (:which-operations ':tyo)
    (otherwise
      (stream-default-handler (function list-output-stream)
        op arg1 rest))))
```

The lambda-list for a stream must always have one required parameter (op), one optional parameter (arg1), and a rest parameter (rest). This allows an arbitrary number of arguments to be passed to the default handler. This is an output stream, and so it supports the :tyo operation. Note that all streams must support :which-operations. If the operation is not one that the stream understands (e.g. :string-out), it calls the stream-default-handler. The calling of the default handler is *required*, since the willingness to accept :tyo indicates to the caller that :string-out will work.

Here is a typical input stream, which generates successive characters of a list.
(defvar the-list) ;Put your input list here
(defvar untyied-char nil)
(defun list-input-stream (op &optional arg1 &rest rest)
  (selectq op
    (:tyi
      (cond ((not (null untyied-char))
        (prog1 untyied-char (setq untyied-char nil)))
          ((null the-list)
            (and arg1 (error arg1)))
          (t (prog1 (car the-list)
            (setq the-list (cdr the-list))))))
    (:untyi
      (setq untyied-char arg1))
    (:which-operations '((:tyi :untyi))
    (otherwise
      (stream-default-handler (function list-input-stream)
        op arg1 rest)))))

The important things to note are that :untyi must be supported, and that the stream must check for having reached the end of the information, and do the right thing with the argument to the :tyi operation.

The above stream uses a free variable (the-list) to hold the list of characters, and another one (untyied-char) to hold the :untyied character (if any). You might want to have several instances of this type of stream, without their interfering with one another. This is a typical example of the usefulness of closures in defining streams. The following function will take a list, and return a stream which generates successive characters of that list.

(defun make-a-list-input-stream (list)
  (let-closed ((list list) (untyied-char nil))
    (function list-input-stream)))

The above streams are very simple and primitive. When designing a more complex stream, it is useful to have some tools to aid in the task. The defselect function (page 134) aids in defining message-receiving functions. The flavor system (chapter 20, page 245) provides powerful and elaborate facilities for programming message-receiving objects.

**stream-default-handler stream op arg1 rest**

stream-default-handler tries to handle the op operation on stream, given arguments of arg1 and the elements of rest. The exact action taken for each of the defined operations is explained with the documentation on that operation, above.
21.6 Formatted Output

There are two ways of doing general formatted output. One is the function \texttt{format}. The other is the \texttt{output} subsystem. \texttt{format} uses a control string written in a special format specifier language to control the output format. \texttt{output} provides Lisp functions to do output in particular formats.

For simple tasks in which only the most basic format specifiers are needed, \texttt{format} is easy to use and has the advantage of brevity. For more complicated tasks, the format specifier language becomes obscure and hard to read. Then \texttt{output} becomes advantageous because it works with ordinary Lisp control constructs.

For formatting Lisp code (as opposed to text and tables), there is the grinder (see page 318).

21.6.1 The Format Function

\texttt{format destination control-string \&rest args}

\texttt{format} is used to produce formatted output. \texttt{format} outputs the characters of \texttt{control-string}, except that a tilde ("~") introduces a directive. The character after the tilde, possibly preceded by prefix parameters and modifiers, specifies what kind of formatting is desired. Most directives use one or more elements of \texttt{args} to create their output; the typical directive puts the next element of \texttt{args} into the output, formatted in some special way.

The output is sent to \texttt{destination}. If \texttt{destination} is \texttt{nil}, a string is created which contains the output; this string is returned as the value of the call to \texttt{format}. In all other cases \texttt{format} returns no interesting value (generally it returns \texttt{nil}). If \texttt{destination} is a stream, the output is sent to it. If \texttt{destination} is \texttt{t}, the output is sent to standard-output. If \texttt{destination} is a string with an array-leader, such as would be acceptable to \texttt{string-nconc} (see page 118), the output is added to the end of that string.

A directive consists of a tilde, optional prefix parameters separated by commas, optional colon (":"), and atsign ("@") modifiers, and a single character indicating what kind of directive this is. The alphabetic case of the character is ignored. The prefix parameters are generally decimal numbers. Examples of control strings:

\texttt{"-S"} ; This is an S directive with no parameters.
\texttt{"-3, 4:@s"} ; This is an S directive with two parameters, 3 and 4,
; and both the colon and atsign flags.
\texttt{"-, 4$"} ; The first prefix parameter is omitted and takes
; on its default value, while the second is 4.

\texttt{format} includes some extremely complicated and specialized features. It is not necessary to understand all or even most of its features to use \texttt{format} efficiently. The beginner should skip over anything in the following documentation that is not immediately useful or clear. The more sophisticated features are there for the convenience of programs with complicated formatting requirements.

Sometimes a prefix parameter is used to specify a character, for instance the padding character in a right- or left-justifying operation. In this case a single quote ("'") followed by the desired character may be used as a prefix parameter, so that you don’t have to know the decimal numeric
values of characters in the character set. For example, you can use
"~5,'0d" instead of "~5,'48d"
to print a decimal number in five columns with leading zeros.

In place of a prefix parameter to a directive, you can put the letter V, which takes an
argument from args as a parameter to the directive. Normally this should be a number but it
doesn't really have to be. This feature allows variable column-widths and the like. Also, you can
use the character # in place of a parameter; it represents the number of arguments remaining to
be processed.

Here are some relatively simple examples to give you the general flavor of how format is
used.

```lisp
(format nil "foo") => "foo"
(setq x 5)
(format nil "The answer is ~D." x) => "The answer is 5."
(format nil "The answer is ~3D." x) => "The answer is 5."
(setq y "elephant")
(format nil "Look at the ~A!" y) => "Look at the elephant!"
(format nil "The character ~:@C is strange." 1003)
=> "The character Meta-β (Top-X) is strange."
(setq n 3)
(format nil "~D item~:P found." n) => "3 items found."
(format nil "~R dog~:[s are~; is~] here." n (= n 1))
=> "three dogs are here."
(format nil "~R dog~:*~[~1; is~:s are~] here." n)
=> "three dogs are here."
(format nil "Here ~[~1;is~:are~] ~:~R pupp~:@P." n)
=> "Here are three puppies."
```

The directives will now be described. arg will be used to refer to the next argument from
args.

~A arg, any Lisp object, is printed without slashification (as by prin1). ~A prints () if
arg is nil; this is useful when printing something that is always supposed to be a list.
~nA inserts spaces on the right, if necessary, to make the column width at least n.
The @ modifier causes the spaces to be inserted on the left rather than the right.
~mincol,colinc,minpad,padcharA is the full form of ~A, which allows elaborate control
of the padding. The string is padded on the right with at least minpad copies of
padchar; padding characters are then inserted colinc characters at a time until the total
width is at least mincol. The defaults are 0 for mincol and minpad, 1 for colinc, and
space for padchar.

~S This is just like ~A, but arg is printed with slashification (as by prin1 rather than
prin1).

~D arg, a number, is printed as a decimal integer. Unlike print, ~D will never put a
decimal point after the number. ~nD uses a column width of n; spaces are inserted
on the left if the number requires less than n columns for its digits and sign. If the
number doesn't fit in n columns, additional columns are used as needed. ~n,mD uses
m as the pad character instead of space. If arg is not a number, it is printed in ~A
format and decimal base. The @ modifier causes the number's sign to be printed
always; the default is only to print it if the number is negative. The : modifier causes
commas to be printed between groups of three digits; the third prefix parameter may be used to change the character used as the comma. Thus the most general form of \texttt{\textasciitilde D} is \texttt{\textasciitilde mincol,padchar,commacharD}.

\texttt{\textasciitilde O} This is just like \texttt{\textasciitilde D} but prints in octal instead of decimal.

\texttt{\textasciitilde F} \textit{arg} is printed in floating point. \texttt{\textasciitilde nF} rounds \textit{arg} to a precision of \textit{n} digits. The minimum value of \textit{n} is 2, since a decimal point is always printed. If the magnitude of \textit{arg} is too large or too small, it is printed in exponential notation. If \textit{arg} is not a number, it is printed in \texttt{\textasciitilde A} format. Note that the prefix parameter \textit{n} is not \texttt{mincol}; it is the number of digits of precision desired. Examples:

\begin{verbatim}
(format nil "-2F" 5) => "5.0"
(format nil "-4F" 5) => "5.0"
(format nil "-4F" 1.5) => "1.5"
(format nil "-4F" 3.14159265) => "3.142"
(format nil "-3F" 1e10) => "1.0e10"
\end{verbatim}

\texttt{\textasciitilde E} \textit{arg} is printed in exponential notation. This is identical to \texttt{\textasciitilde F}, including the use of a prefix parameter to specify the number of digits, except that the number is always printed with a trailing exponent, even if it is within a reasonable range.

\texttt{\textasciitilde C} \texttt{\textasciitilde character arg} is put in the output. \textit{arg} is treated as a keyboard character (see page 277), thus it may contain extra control-bits. These are printed first by representing them with Greek letters: alpha ($\alpha$) for Control, beta ($\beta$) for Meta, epsilon ($\epsilon$) for Control and Meta, lambda ($\lambda$) for Hyper, pi ($\pi$) for Super. If the character itself is alf, beta, epsilon, lambda, pi, or equivalence-sign ($\equiv$), then it is preceded by an equivalence-sign to quote it.

With the colon flag \texttt{\textasciitilde :C}, the names of the control bits are spelled out (e.g. "Control-Meta-F"), and also non-printing characters are represented by their names (e.g. "Return") rather than being output as themselves.

With both colon and atsign \texttt{\textasciitilde :@C}, the colon-only format is printed, and then if the character requires the Top, Front, or Greek shift key(s) to type it, this fact is mentioned (e.g. "\textasciitilde V (Top-U)"). This is the format used for telling the user about a key he is expected to type, for instance in prompt messages.

For all three of these formats, if the character is not a keyboard character but a mouse "character", it is printed as "Mouse-", the name of the button, "-", and the number of clicks.

With just an atsign \texttt{\textasciitilde @C}, the character is printed in such a way that the Lisp reader can understand it, using "#/" or "/#".

\texttt{\textasciitilde %} Outputs a carriage return. \texttt{\textasciitilde n%} outputs \textit{n} carriage returns. No argument is used. Simply putting a carriage return in the control string would work, but \texttt{\textasciitilde %} is usually used because it makes the control string look nicer in the Lisp source program.

\texttt{\textasciitilde &} The \texttt{:fresh-line} operation is performed on the output stream. Unless the stream knows that it is already at the front of a line, this outputs a carriage return. \texttt{\textasciitilde n&} does a \texttt{:fresh-line} operation and then outputs \textit{n}-1 carriage returns.

\texttt{\textasciitilde \textasciitilde \textasciitilde} Outputs a page separator character (#\textasciitilde page). \texttt{\textasciitilde n\textasciitilde} does this \textit{n} times. With a : modifier, if the output stream supports the \texttt{:clear-screen} operation this directive clears
the screen, otherwise it outputs page separator character(s) as if no : modifier were present. \ is vertical bar, not capital l.

\~X
Outputs a space. \~nX outputs n spaces.

\~
Outputs a tilde. \~n outputs n tildes.

\~<CR>
Tilde immediately followed by a carriage return ignores the carriage return and any whitespace at the beginning of the next line. With a :, the whitespace is left in place. With an @, the carriage return is left in place. This directive is typically used when a format control string is too long to fit nicely into one line of the program.

\~*
arg is ignored. \~n* ignores the next n arguments. \~:* "ignores backwards"; that is, it backs up in the list of arguments so that the argument last processed will be processed again. \~n:* backs up n arguments. When within a \~{ construct (see below), the ignoring (in either direction) is relative to the list of arguments being processed by the iteration.

\~P
If arg is not 1, a lower-case "s" is printed. ("P" is for "plural"). \~:P does the same thing, after doing a \~:*; that is, it prints a lower-case s if the last argument was not 1. \~@P prints "y" if the argument is 1, or "ies" if it is not. \~:@P does the same thing, but backs up first.

\~T
Spaces over to a given column. \~n,mT will output sufficient spaces to move the cursor to column n. If the cursor is already past column n, it will output spaces to move it to column n+mk, for the smallest integer value k possible. n and m default to 1. Without the colon flag, n and m are in units of characters; with it, they are in units of pixels. Note: this operation only works properly on streams that support the :read-cursorpos and :set-cursorpos stream operations (see page 301). On other streams, any \~T operation will simply output two spaces. When format is creating a string, \~T will work, assuming that the first character in the string is at the left margin.

\~R
\~R prints arg as a cardinal English number, e.g. four. \~:R prints arg as an ordinal number, e.g. fourth. \~@R prints arg as a Roman numeral, e.g. IV. \~:@R prints arg as an old Roman numeral, e.g. III.

\~nR prints arg in radix n. The flags and any remaining parameters are used as for the \~D directive. Indeed, \~D is the same as \~10R. The full form here is therefore \~radix,mincol,padchar,commacharR.

\~nG
"Goes to" the nth argument. \~0G goes back to the first argument in args. Directives after a \~nG will take sequential arguments after the one gone to. When within a \~{ construct, the "goto" is relative to the list of arguments being processed by the iteration. This is an "absolute goto"; for a "relative goto", see \~*.

\~[str0~;str1~;...~;strn~]
This is a set of alternative control strings. The alternatives (called clauses) are separated by \~; and the construct is terminated by \~]. For example,

"~[Siamese ~;Manx ~;Persian ~;Tortoise-Shell ~
~;Tiger ~;Yu-Shiang ~]kitty"
The argth alternative is selected; 0 selects the first. If a prefix parameter is given (i.e. \~n), then the parameter is used instead of an argument (this is useful only if the parameter is "# "). If arg is out of range no alternative is selected. After the selected alternative has been processed, the control string continues after the \~].
~[str0~;str1~;...~;strn~;default~] has a default case. If the last ~; used to separate clauses is instead ~;, then the last clause is an "else" clause, which is performed if no other clause is selected. For example,

"~[Siamese ~; Manx ~; Persian ~; Tiger ~
~; Yu-Hsiang ~; Bad ~] kitty"

~[~tag00, tag01, ..., str0...tag10, tag11, ..., str1...~] allows the clauses to have explicit tags. The parameters to each ~; are numeric tags for the clause which follows it. That clause is processed which has a tag matching the argument. If ~a1,a2,b1,b2,...; (note the colon) is used, then the following clause is tagged not by single values but by ranges of values a1 through a2 (inclusive), b1 through b2, etc. ~; with no parameters may be used at the end to denote a default clause. For example,

"~[~+, -, *, //; operator ~'A,'Z,'a,'z; letter ~
~'0,'9; digit ~; other ~]"

~[false~; true~] selects the false control string if arg is nil, and selects the true control string otherwise.

~@[true~] tests the argument. If it is not nil, then the argument is not used up, but is the next one to be processed, and the one clause is processed. If it is nil, then the argument is used up, and the clause is not processed. For example,

(setq prinlevel nil prinlength 5)
(format nil "~@[PRINLEVEL=~D~]~@[PRINLEVEL=~D~]"
prinlevel prinlength)
=> "PRINLEVEL=5"

The combination of ~[ and # is useful, for example, for dealing with English conventions for printing lists:

(setq foo "Items:~-#[none~; ~S~; ~S and ~
~S~; ~@([-1; and~] ~S~; ~]+]~]).")
(format nil foo)
=> "Items: none."
(format nil foo 'foo)
=> "Items: FOO."
(format nil foo 'foo 'bar)
=> "Items: FOO and BAR."
(format nil foo 'foo 'bar 'baz)
=> "Items: FOO, BAR, and BAZ."
(format nil foo 'foo 'bar 'baz 'quux)
=> "Items: FOO, BAR, BAZ, and QUUX."

~;
Separates clauses in ~[ and ~< constructions. It is undefined elsewhere.

~}
Terminates a ~[. It is undefined elsewhere.

~{str~}
This is an iteration construct. The argument should be a list, which is used as a set of arguments as if for a recursive call to format. The string str is used repeatedly as the control string. Each iteration can absorb as many elements of the list as it likes; if str uses up two arguments by itself, then two elements of the list will get used up each time around the loop. If before any iteration step the list is empty, then the iteration is terminated. Also, if a prefix parameter n is given, then there will be at most n repetitions of processing of str. Here are some simple examples:

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(format nil "Here it is: {~S~}." '(a b c))
=> "Here it is: A B C."
(format nil "Pairs of things: {<-~S,-~S>-}." '(a 1 b 2 c 3))
=> "Pairs of things: <A,1> <B,2> <C,3>.")

~:{str~} is similar, but the argument should be a list of sublists. At each repetition
step one sublist is used as the set of arguments for processing str; on the next
repetition a new sublist is used, whether or not all of the last sublist had been
processed. Example:
(format nil "Pairs of things: {<-S,-S>-}." '(([a 1] [b 2] [c 3])))
=> "Pairs of things: <A,1> <B,2> <C,3>.")

~@{str~} is similar to ~{str~}, but instead of using one argument which is a list,
all the remaining arguments are used as the list of arguments for the iteration.
Example:
(format nil "Pairs of things: ~@{<-S,-S>-}." 'a 1 'b 2 'c 3)
=> "Pairs of things: <A,1> <B,2> <C,3>.")

~:@{str~} combines the features of ~:{str~} and ~@{str~}. All the remaining
arguments are used, and each one must be a list. On each iteration the next argument
is used as a list of arguments to str. Example:
(format nil "Pairs of things: ~:@{<-S,-S>-}." '((a 1) [b 2] 'c 3))
=> "Pairs of things: <A,1> <B,2> <C,3>.")

Terminating the repetition construct with ~:} instead of ~} forces str to be processed
at least once even if the initial list of arguments is null (however, it will not override
an explicit prefix parameter of zero).

If str is empty, then an argument is used as str. It must be a string, and precedes
any arguments processed by the iteration. As an example, the following are
equivalent:
(lexpr-funcall #'format stream string args)
(format stream "~1{:-}" string args)
This will use string as a formatting string. The ~1{ says it will be processed at most
once, and the ~:} says it will be processed at least once. Therefore it is processed
exactly once, using args as the arguments.

As another example, the format function itself uses format-error (a routine internal to
the format package) to signal error messages, which in turn uses ferror, which uses
format recursively. Now format-error takes a string and arguments, just like format,
but also prints some additional information: if the control string in ctl-string actually
is a string (it might be a list—see below), then it prints the string and a little arrow
showing where in the processing of the control string the error occurred. The variable
ctl-index points one character after the place of the error.
```lisp
(defun format-error (string &rest args)
  (if (stringp ctl-string)
      (ferror nil "~-1{-}:~-%VT’~-%3X/~-A/"-%~" string args (+ ctl-index 3) ctl-string)
      (ferror nil "~-1{-}:" string args»)
)

This first processes the given string and arguments using ~1{~;}, then tabs a variable amount for printing the down-arrow, then prints the control string between double-quotes. The effect is something like this:

(format t "The item is a ~[Foo~;Bar~;Loser~]." 'quux)

>>ERROR: The argument to the FORMAT "~[" command must be a number

"The item is a ~[Foo~;Bar~;Loser~]."

... ~}
Terminates a ~{. It is undefined elsewhere.

~<
~mincol,colinc,minpad,padchar<text~> justifies text within a field at least mincol wide. 
text may be divided up into segments with ~;~ the spacing is evenly divided between
the text segments. With no modifiers, the leftmost text segment is left justified in the
field, and the rightmost text segment right justified; if there is only one, as a special
case, it is right justified. The : modifier causes spacing to be introduced before the
first text segment; the @ modifier causes spacing to be added after the last. Minpad,
default 0, is the minimum number of padchar (default space) padding characters to be
output between each segment. If the total width needed to satisfy these constraints is
greater than mincol, then mincol is adjusted upwards in colinc increments. colinc
defaults to 1. mincol defaults to 0. For example,

(format nil "~10<foo~;bar~>") => "foo bar"
(format nil "~10:<foo~;bar~>") => " foo bar"
(format nil "~10:@<foo~;bar~>") => " foo bar"
(format nil "~10<foobar~>") => " foobar"
(format nil "~10:foo@bar~") => " foobar"
(format nil "~100<foobar~>") => "foobar "
(format nil "~10:@<foobar~>") => " foobar"
(format nil "$~10,,,('*<<-3f~>" 2.59023) => "$*******2.59"

Note that text may include format directives. The last example illustrates how the ~<
directive can be combined with the ~f directive to provide more advanced control over
the formatting of numbers.

Here are some examples of the use of ~< within a ~< construct. ~< is explained in
detail below, however the general idea is that it eliminates the segment in which it
appears and all following segments if there are no more arguments.

(format nil "~15<<S~;~~S~;~~S~">" 'foo)
=> "FOO"
(format nil "~15<<S~;~~S~;~~S~">" 'foo 'bar)
=> "FOO BAR"
(format nil "~15<<S~;~~S~;~~S~">" 'foo 'bar 'baz)
=> "FOO BAR BAZ"
```
The idea is that if a segment contains a ~^, and format runs out of arguments, it just stops there instead of getting an error, and it as well as the rest of the segments are ignored.

If the first clause of a ~< is terminated with ~; instead of ~:, then it is used in a special way. All of the clauses are processed (subject to ~^, of course), but the first one is omitted in performing the spacing and padding. When the padded result has been determined, then if it will fit on the current line of output, it is output, and the text for the first clause is discarded. If, however, the padded text will not fit on the current line, then the text segment for the first clause is output before the padded text. The first clause ought to contain a carriage return (~%). The first clause is always processed, and so any arguments it refers to will be used; the decision is whether to use the resulting segment of text, not whether to process the first clause. If the ~; has a prefix parameter n, then the padded text must fit on the current line with n character positions to spare to avoid outputting the first clause's text. For example, the control string

"~% ; ~{~<<%; ~1 ; ~S~->~",~} .~%"

can be used to print a list of items separated by commas, without breaking items over line boundaries, and beginning each line with "~;". The prefix parameter 1 in ~1; accounts for the width of the comma which will follow the justified item if it is not the last element in the list, or the period if it is. If ~; has a second prefix parameter, then it is used as the width of the line, thus overriding the natural line width of the output stream. To make the preceding example use a line width of 50, one would write

"~% ; ~{~<<%; ~1,50 ; ~S~->~",~} .~%"

If the second argument is not specified, then format sees whether the stream handles the ~size-in-characters~ message. If it does, then format sends that message and uses the first returned value as the line length in characters. If it doesn't, format uses 95. as the line length.

Rather than using this complicated syntax, one can often call the function "format:print-list" (see page 313).

\~> Terminates a ~$. It is undefined elsewhere.

\~^ This is an escape construct. If there are no more arguments remaining to be processed, then the immediately enclosing ~{ or ~< construct is terminated. If there is no such enclosing construct, then the entire formatting operation is terminated. In the ~< case, the formatting is performed, but no more segments are processed before doing the justification. The ~^ should appear only at the beginning of a ~< clause, because it aborts the entire clause. ~^ may appear anywhere in a ~{ construct.

If a prefix parameter is given, then termination occurs if the parameter is zero. (Hence ~^ is the same as ~ # ~.) If two parameters are given, termination occurs if they are equal. If three are given, termination occurs if the second is between the other two in ascending order. Of course, this is useless if all the prefix parameters are constants; at least one of them should be a # or a \ V parameter.

If ~^ is used within a ~{ construct, then it merely terminates the current iteration step (because in the standard case it tests for remaining arguments of the current step only); the next iteration step commences immediately. To terminate the entire iteration
process, use \~:\^.

\~Q  
An escape to arbitrary user-supplied code.  \textit{arg} is called as a function; its arguments are the prefix parameters to \~Q, if any.  \textit{args} can be passed to the function by using the V prefix parameter.  The function may output to standard-output and may look at the variables \texttt{format:colon-flag} and \texttt{format:atsign-flag}, which are t or nil to reflect the : and @ modifiers on the \~Q.  For example,

\begin{verbatim}
  (format t "\~VQ" foo bar)
\end{verbatim}

is a fancy way to say

\begin{verbatim}
  (funcall bar foo)
\end{verbatim}

and discard the value.  Note the reversal of order; the V is processed before the Q.

The user can define his own directives.  How to do this is not documented here; read the code.  Names of user-defined directives longer than one character may be used if they are enclosed in backslashes (e.g. \~4,3\GRAPH\).

\texttt{format} also allows \texttt{control-string} to be a list of strings and lists, which is processed from left to right.  Strings are simply printed.  Lists are taken as directives; the first element is the directive letter, and the remaining elements are the prefix parameters to the directive.  If the car of a list is not a recognized directive, the list is simply evaluated as a form; anything it writes to the standard-output stream will appear in the result of \texttt{format}.

\texttt{format:print-list}  \texttt{destination element-format list \&optional separator start-line tilde-brace-options}

This function provides a simpler interface for the specific purpose of printing comma-separated lists with no list element split across two lines; see the description of the \~;; directive (page 312) to see the more complex way to do this within \texttt{format}.  \texttt{destination} tells where to send the output; it can be t, nil, a string-\texttt{nconc}-able string, or a stream, as with \texttt{format}.  \texttt{element-format} is a \texttt{format} control-string which tells how to print each element of \texttt{list}; it is used as the body of a \"\~\{...\}" construct.  \texttt{separator}, which defaults to \",\" (comma, space) is a string which goes after each element except the last.  \texttt{format} control commands are not recommended in \texttt{separator}.  \texttt{start-line}, which defaults to three spaces, is a \texttt{format} control-string which is used as a prefix at the beginning of each line of output, except the first.  \texttt{format} control commands are allowed in \texttt{separator}, but they should not swallow arguments from \texttt{list}.  \texttt{tilde-brace-options} is a string inserted before the opening \"\="; it defaults to the null string, but allows you to insert colon and/or atsign.  The line-width of the stream is computed the same way that the \~;; command computes it; it is not possible to override the natural line-width of the stream.
21.6.2 The Output Subsystem

The formatting functions associated with the output subsystem allow you to do formatted output using Lisp-style control structure. Instead of a directive in a format control string, there is one formatting function for each kind of formatted output.

The calling conventions of the formatting functions are all similar. The first argument is usually the datum to be output. The second argument is usually the minimum number of columns to use. The remaining arguments are options—alternating keywords and values.

Options which most functions accept include :padchar, followed by a character to use for padding; :minpad, followed by the minimum number of padding characters to output after the data; and :tab-period, followed by the distance between allowable places to stop padding. To make the meaning of :tab-period clearer, if the value of :tab-period is 5, the minimum size of the field is 10, and the value of :minpad is 2, then a datum that takes 9 characters will be padded out to 15 characters. The requirement to use at least two characters of padding means it can't fit into 10 characters, and the :tab-period of 5 means the next allowable stopping place is at 10+5 characters. The default values for :minpad and :tab-period, if they are not specified, are zero and one. The default value for :padchar is space.

The formatting functions always output to standard-output and do not require an argument to specify the stream. The macro format:output allows you to specify the stream or a string, just as format does, and also makes it convenient to concatenate constant and variable output.

format:output Macro

format:output makes it convenient to intersperse arbitrary output operations with printing of constant strings. A call to format:output looks like this:

(format:output stream string-or-form string-or-form ...)

standard-output is bound to stream, and each string-or-form is processed in succession from left to right. If it is a string it is printed, otherwise it is evaluated and the value is discarded. Presumably the forms will send output to standard-output.

If stream is written as nil, then the output is put into a string which is returned by format:output. If stream is written as t, then the output goes to the prevailing value of standard-output. Otherwise stream is a form which must evaluate to a stream.

Here is an example:

(format:output t "FOO is " (prin1 foo) " now." (terpri))

Because format:output is a macro, what matters about stream is not whether it evaluates to t or nil, but whether it is actually written as t or nil.

format:outfmt Macro

Some system functions ask for a format control string and arguments, to be printed later. If you wish to generate the output using the formatted output functions, you can use format:outfmt.

(format:outfmt string-or-form string-or-form ...)

produces a control argument which will eventually make format print the desired output (this is a list whose one element is a string containing the output). A call to format:outfmt can be used as the second argument to ferror, for example:
(ferror nil (format:outfmt "Foo is " (format:onum foo) " which is too large"))

format:onum number &optional radix minwidth &rest options
format:onum outputs number in base radix, padding to at least minwidth columns and obeying the other padding options specified as described above.

radix can be a number, or it can be :roman, :english, or :ordinal. The default radix is 10. (decimal).

Two special keywords are allowed as options: :signed and :commas. :signed with value t means print a sign even if the number is positive. :commas with value t means print a comma every third digit in the customary way. These options are meaningful only with numeric radices.

format:ofloat number &optional n-digits force-exponential-notation minwidth &rest options
format:ofloat outputs number as a floating point number using n-digits digits. If force-exponential-notation is non-nil, then an exponent is always used. minwidth and options are used to control padding as usual.

format:ostring string &optional minwidth &rest options
format:ostring outputs string, padding to at least minwidth columns if minwidth is not nil, and obeying the other padding options specified as described above.

Normally the contents of the string are left-justified; any padding follows the data. The special option :right-justify causes the padding to come before the data. The amount of padding is not affected.

The argument need not really be a string. Any Lisp object is allowed, and it is output by princ.

format:oprint object &optional minwidth &rest options
format:oprint prints object, any Lisp object, padding to at least minwidth columns if minwidth is not nil, and obeying the padding options specified as described above.

Normally the data are left justified; any padding follows. The special option :right-justify causes the padding to come before the data. The amount of padding is not affected.

The printing of the object is done with prin1.

format:ochar character &optional style top-explain minwidth &rest options
format:ochar outputs character in one of three styles, selected by the style argument. minwidth and options control padding as usual.

If style is :read, nil, or not specified, then the character is printed using #/ or #\ so that it could be read back in.

If style is :editor, then the output is in the style of the string "Meta-Rubout".

If style is :sail, a somewhat more abbreviated style is used in which alpha, beta, etc. are used to represent "Control" and "Meta", and shorter names for characters are also used when possible. See section 21.1, page 276.

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top-explain is useful with the :editor and :sail styles. It says that any character which has
to be typed using the Top or Greek keys should be followed by an explanation of how to
type it. For example: "a (Top-Z)" or "a (Greek-a)", depending on the type of
keyboard in use.

format:tab mincol &rest options
format:tab outputs padding at least until column mincol. It is the only formatting
function which bases its actions on the actual cursor position rather than the width of
what is being output. The padding options :padchar, :minpad, and :tab-period are
obeyed. Thus, at least the :minpad number of padding characters are output even if that
goes past mincol, and once past mincol, padding can only stop at a multiple of :tab­period characters past mincol.

In addition, if the :terpri option is t, then if column mincol is passed, format:tab starts a
new line and indents it to mincol.

The :unit option specifies the units of horizontal position. The default is to count in units
of characters. If :unit is specified as :pixel, then the computation (and the argument
mincol and the :minpad and :tab-period options) are in units of pixels.

format:pad Macro
format:pad is used for printing several items in a fixed amount of horizontal space,
padding between them to use up any excess space. A call to format:pad looks like this:
(format:pad (minwidth oplions ...)
body-forms)
Each of the body-forms prints one item. The padding goes between items. The entire
format:pad always uses at least minwidth columns; any columns that the items don’t need
are distributed as padding between the items. If that isn’t enough space, then more space
is allocated in units controlled by the :tab-period option until there is enough space. If
it’s more than enough, the excess is used as padding.

If the :minpad option is specified, then at least that many pad characters must go
between each pair of items.

Padding goes only between items. If you want to treat several actual pieces of output as
one item, put a prog around them. If you want padding before the first item or after
the last, as well as between the items, include a dummy item nil at the beginning or the
end.

If there is only one item, it is right justified. One item followed by nil is left-justified.
One item preceded and followed by nil is centered. Therefore, format:pad can be used
to provide the usual padding options for a function which does not provide them itself.

format:plural number singular &optional plural
format:plural outputs either the singular or the plural form of a word depending on the
value of number. The singular is used if and only if number is 1. singular specifies the
singular form of the word. string-pluralize is used to compute the plural, unless plural
is explicitly specified.
It is often useful for number to be a value returned by format:onum, which returns its argument. For example:

(format:plural (format:onum n-frobs) "frob")

will print "1 frob" or "2 frobs".

format:breakline Macro

format:breakline is used to go to the next line if there is not enough room for something to be output on the current line. A call to format:breakline looks like this:

(format:breakline linel print-if-terpri
print-always ...)

The print-always forms print the text which is supposed to fit on the line. linel is the column before which the text must end. If it doesn't end before that column, then format:breakline moves to the next line and executes the print-if-terpri form before doing the print-always forms.

Constant strings are allowed as well as forms for print-if-terpri and print-always. A constant string is just printed.

To go to a new line unconditionally, simply call terpri.

Here is an example which prints the elements of a list, separated by commas, breaking lines between elements when necessary.

(defun pcl (list linel)
  (do ((1 list (cdr 1))) ((null 1))
    (format:breakline linel " "
     (princ (car 1))
     (and (cdr 1) (princ ", "))))
21.6.3 Formatting Lisp Code

`grinddef` Special Form
Prints the definitions of one or more functions, with indentation to make the code readable. Certain other "pretty-printing" transformations are performed: The quote special form is represented with the ' character. Displacing macros are printed as the original code rather than the result of macro expansion. The code resulting from the backquote ('') reader macro is represented in terms of '.

The subforms to `grinddef` are the function specs whose definitions are to be printed; the usual way `grinddef` is used is with a form like `(grinddef foo)` to print the definition of foo. When one of these subforms is a symbol, if the symbol has a value its value is pretty-printed also. Definitions are printed as `defun` special forms, and values are printed as `setq` special forms.

If a function is compiled, `grinddef` will say so and try to find its previous interpreted definition by looking on an associated property list (see `uncompile` (page 181). This will only work if the function's interpreted definition was once in force; if the definition of the function was simply loaded from a QFASL file, `grinddef` will not find the interpreted definition and will not be able to do anything useful.

With no subforms, `grinddef` assumes the same arguments as when it was last called.

Pretty-prints obj on stream, putting up to width characters per line. This is the primitive interface to the pretty-printer. Note that it does not support variable-width fonts. If the width argument is supplied, it is how many characters wide the output is to be. If width is unsupplied or nil, `grind-top-level` will try to figure out the "natural width" of the stream, by sending a :size-in-characters message to the stream and using the first returned value. If the stream doesn't handle that message, a width of 95. characters is used instead.

The remaining optional arguments activate various strange features and usually should not be supplied. These options are for internal use by the system, and are only documented here for completeness. If `untyo-p` is t, the :untyo and :untyo-mark operations will be used on stream, speeding up the algorithm somewhat. `displaced` controls the checking for displacing macros; it is the symbol which flags a place that has been displaced, or nil to disable the feature. If `terpri-p` is nil, `grind-top-level` does not advance to a fresh line before printing.

If `notify-fun` is non-nil, it is a function of three arguments which is called for each "token" in the pretty-printed output. Tokens are atoms, open and close parentheses, and reader macro characters such as '. The arguments to `notify-fun` are the token, its "location" (see next paragraph), and t if it is an atom or nil if it is a character.

loc is the "location" (typically a cons) whose car is obj. As the grinder recursively descends through the structure being printed, it keeps track of the location where each thing came from, for the benefit of the `notify-fun`, if any. This makes it possible for a program to correlate the printed output with the list structure. The "location" of a close parenthesis is t, because close parentheses have no associated location.
21.7 Rubout Handling

The rubout handler is a feature of all interactive streams, that is, streams which connect to terminals. Its purpose is to allow the user to edit minor mistakes in typing. At the same time, it is not supposed to get in the way; input is to be seen by Lisp as soon as a syntactically complete form has been typed. The definition of "syntactically complete form" depends on the function that is reading from the stream; for read, it is a Lisp expression.

Some interactive streams ("editing Lisp listeners") have a rubout handler which allows input to be edited with the full power of the Zwei editor. Other streams have a simple rubout handler which just allows rubbing out of single characters, and a few simple commands like clearing the screen and erasing the entire input typed so far. This section describes the general protocol used to deal with any rubout handler, and it also discusses the simple rubout handler and what commands it deals with.

The tricky thing about the rubout handler is the need for it to figure out when you are all done. The idea of a rubout handler is that you can type in characters, and they are saved up in a buffer so that if you change your mind, you can rub them out and type different characters. However, at some point, the rubout handler has to decide that the time has come to stop putting characters into the buffer, and let the function, such as read, start processing the characters. This is called "activating". The right time to activate depends on the function calling the rubout handler, and may be very complicated (if the function is read, figuring out when one Lisp expression has been typed requires knowledge of all the various printed representations, what all currently-defined reader macros do, and so on). Rubout handlers should not have to know how to parse the characters in the buffer to figure out what the caller is reading and when to activate; only the caller should have to know this. The rubout handler interface is organized so that the calling function can do all the parsing, while the rubout handler does all the handling of rubouts, and the two are kept completely separate.

The basic way that the rubout handler works is as follows. When an input function that reads an "object", such as read or readline (but not tyi), is called to read from a stream which has :rubout-handler in its :which-operations list, that function "enters" the rubout handler. It then goes ahead :tying characters from the stream. Because control is inside the rubout handler, the stream will echo these characters so the user can see what he is typing. (Normally echoing is considered to be a higher-level function outside of the province of streams, but when the higher-level function tells the stream to enter the rubout handler it is also handing it the responsibility for echoing). The rubout handler is also saving all these characters in a buffer, for reasons disclosed in the following paragraph. When the function, read or whatever, decides it has enough input, it returns and control "leaves" the rubout handler. That was the easy case.

If the user types a rubout, a *throw is done, out of all recursive levels of read, reader macros, and so forth, back to the point where the rubout handler was entered. Also the rubout is echoed by erasing from the screen the character which was rubbed out. Now the read is tried over again, re-reading all the characters which had been typed and not rubbed out, not echoing them this time. When the saved characters have been exhausted, additional input is read from the user in the usual fashion.

The effect of this is a complete separation of the functions of rubout handling and parsing, while at the same time mingling the execution of these two functions in such a way that input is always "activated" at just the right time. It does mean that the parsing function (in the usual case, read and all macro-character definitions) must be prepared to be thrown through at any
time and should not have non-trivial side-effects, since it may be called multiple times.

If an error occurs while inside the rubout handler, the error message is printed and then additional characters are read. When the user types a rubout, it rubs out the error message as well as the character that caused the error. The user can then proceed to type the corrected expression; the input will be reparsed from the beginning in the usual fashion.

The simple rubout handler also recognizes the special characters Clear-Input, Clear-Screen, and Delete. (These are Clear, Form, and VT on old keyboards.) Clear-Screen clears the screen and echoes back the buffered input. Clear-Input is like hitting enough rubouts to flush all the buffered input. Delete is like Clear-Screen in that it echoes back the input, but it does not clear the screen. [It should be moved to a different key, shouldn't it?]

If a character with control shifts (Control, Meta, Super, or Hyper) is typed at a rubout handler that does not support the full set of editing commands, such as the simple rubout handler, it beeps and ignores the character. These characters are reserved in this context for editing use. The rubout handler based on the Zwei editor interprets control characters in the usual Zwei way: as editing commands, allowing you to edit your buffered input. When not inside the rubout handler, and when typing at a program that uses control characters for its own purposes, control characters are treated the same as ordinary characters.

The following explanation tells you how to write your own function that invokes the rubout handler. The functions read and readline both work this way. You should use the readline example, below, as a template for writing your own function.

The way that the rubout handler is entered is complicated, since a *catch must be established. The variable rubout-handler is non-nil if the current process is inside the rubout handler. This is used to handle recursive calls to read from inside reader macros and the like. If rubout-handler is nil, and the stream being read from has :rubout-handler in its :which-operations, functions such as read send the :rubout-handler message to the stream with arguments of a list of options, the function, and its arguments. The rubout handler initializes itself and establishes its *catch, then calls back to the specified function with rubout-handler bound to t. User-written input reading functions should follow this same protocol, to get the same input editing benefits as read and readline.

rubout-handler Variable

* if control is inside the rubout handler in this process.

As an example of how to use the rubout handler, here is a simplified version of the readline function. It doesn't bother about end-of-file handling, use of :line-in for efficiency, etc.
(defun readline1 (stream)
  ;; If stream does rubout handling, get inside rubout handler
  (cond ((and (not rubout-handler)
             (memq ':rubout-handler
                (funcall stream ':which-operations)))
          (funcall stream ':rubout-handler () #'readline1 stream))
        ;; Accumulate characters until return
        (t (do ((ch (funcall stream ':tyi)
                  (funcall stream ':tyi))
                (len 100)
                (string (make-array 100 ':type 'art-string))
                (idx 0))
              ((or (null ch) (= ch #\cr))
               (adjust-array-size string idx)
               string)
            (if (= idx len)
                (adjust-array-size string (setq len (+ len 40)))
                (aset ch string idx)
                (setq idx (1+ idx))))))

The first argument to the :rubout-handler message is a list of options. The second argument is the function that the rubout handler should call to do the reading, and the rest of the arguments are passed to that function. Note that in the example above, readline1 is sending the :rubout-handler message passing itself as the function, and its own arguments as the arguments. This is the usual thing to do. It isn’t passing any options.

Each option in the list of options given as the first argument to the :rubout-handler message consists of a list whose first element is a keyword and whose remaining elements are "arguments" to that keyword. Note that this is not the same format as the arguments to a typical function that takes keyword arguments; rather this is an a-list of options. The standard options are:

(:full-rubout val)
If the user rubs out all the characters he typed, then control will be returned from the rubout handler immediately. Two values are returned; the first is nil and the second is val. In the absence of this option, the rubout handler would simply wait for more characters to be typed in, and would ignore any additional rubouts.

(:pass-through char1 char2...)
The characters char1, char2, etc. are not to be treated as special by the rubout handler. You can use this to override the default processing of characters such as Clear-Input and to receive control characters. Any function that reads input and uses non-printing characters for anything should list them in a :pass-through option. This way, if input is being rubout-handled by the editor, those non-printing characters will get their desired meaning rather than their meaning as editor commands.

(:prompt function)
(:reprompt function)
When it is time for the user to be prompted, function is called with two arguments. The first is a stream it may print on; the second is the character which caused the need for prompting, e.g. #\clear-input or #\clear-

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The :read and :print Stream Operations

A stream can specially handle the reading and printing of objects by handling the :read and :print stream operations. Note that these operations are optional and most streams do not support them.

If the read function is given a stream which has :read in its which-operations, then instead of reading in the normal way it sends the :read message to the stream with one argument, read’s eof-option if it had one or a magic internal marker if it didn’t. Whatever the stream returns is what read returns. If the stream wants to implement the :read operation by internally calling read, it must use a different stream which does not have :read in its which-operations.

If a stream has :print in its which-operations, it may intercept all object printing operations, including those due to the print, prin1, and princ functions, those due to format, and those used internally, for instance in printing the elements of a list. The stream receives the :print message with three arguments: the object being printed, the prindepth (for comparison against the prinlevel variable), and slashify-p (t for prin1, nil for princ). If the stream returns nil, then normal printing takes place as usual. If the stream returns non-nil, then print does nothing; the stream is assumed to have output an appropriate printed representation for the object. The two following functions are useful in this connection; however, they are in the system-internals package and may be changed without much notice.

si:print-object object prindepth slashify-p stream &optional which-operations
Outputs the printed-representation of object to stream, as modified by prindepth and slashify-p. This is the internal guts of the Lisp printer. When a stream’s :print handler calls this function, it should supply the list (string-out) for which-operations, to prevent itself from being called recursively. Or it can supply nil if it does not want to receive :string-out messages.

si:print-list list prindepth slashify-p stream which-operations
This is the part of the Lisp printer that prints lists. A stream’s :print handler can call this function, passing along its own arguments and its own which-operations, to arrange for a list to be printed the normal way and the stream’s :print hook to get a chance at each of the list’s elements.
21.9 Accessing Files

The Lisp Machine can access files on a variety of remote file servers, which are typically (but not necessarily) accessed through the Chaosnet, as well as accessing files on the Lisp Machine itself, if the machine has its own file system. This section tells you how to get a stream which reads or writes a given file, and what the device-dependent operations on that stream are. Files are named with pathnames. Since pathnames are quite complex they have their own chapter; see chapter 22, page 332.

with-open-file Special Form
(with-open-file (stream pathname options) body1 body2...) evaluates the body forms with the variable stream bound to a stream which reads or writes the file named by the value of pathname. options should evaluate to a keyword or list of keywords. These options control whether the stream is for input from an existing file or output to a new file, whether the file is text or binary, etc.

When control leaves the body, either normally or abnormally (via *throw), the file is closed. If a new output file is being written, and control leaves abnormally, the file is aborted and it is as if it were never written. Because it always closes the file, even when an error exit is taken, with-open-file is preferred over open. Opening a large number of files and forgetting to close them tends to break some remote file servers, ITS's for example.

pathname is the name of the file to be opened; it can be a pathname object, a string, a symbol, or a Maclisp-compatible "namelist". It can be anything acceptable to fs:parse-pathname; the complete rules for parsing pathnames are explained in chapter 22, page 332.

If an error, such as file not found, occurs the user is asked to supply an alternate pathname, unless this is overridden by options. At that point he can quit out or enter the error handler, if the error was not due to a misspelled pathname.

options is either a single symbol or a (possibly-null) list of symbols. The following option symbols are recognized:

:in, :read Select opening for input (the default).
:out, :write, :print Select opening for output; a new file is to be created.
:fixnum Select binary mode, otherwise character mode is used. Note that fixnum mode uses 16-bit binary words and is not compatible with Maclisp fixnum mode which uses 36-bit words. On the pdp-10, fixnum files are stored with two 16-bit words per pdp-10 word, left-justified and in pdp-10 byte order.
:ascii The opposite of :fixnum. This is the default.
:single, :block Ignored for compatibility with the Maclisp open function.
:byte-size Must be followed by a number in the options list, and must be used in combination with :fixnum. The number is the number of bits per byte, which can be from 1 to 16. On a pdp-10 file server these bytes will be packed into words in the standard way defined by the ILDB instruction.
The :tyi stream operation will (of course) return the bytes one at a time.

:probe

The file is not being opened to do I/O, but only to find out information about it. A stream is returned but the normal I/O messages should not be sent to it. The special file-attribute messages described below (see section 21.9.3, page 329) may be sent. It is as if the stream were immediately closed after opening it. :probe implies :noerror and :fixnum.

:noerror

If the file cannot be opened, then instead of returning a stream, a string containing the error message is returned. If :noerror was not specified, this error string would have been displayed and the user would have been asked to supply an alternate pathname.

:super-image

Disables the special treatment of rubout in ascii files. Normally rubout is an escape which causes the following character to be interpreted specially, allowing all characters from 0 through 376 to be stored. This applies to pdp-10 file servers only.

:raw

Disables all character set translation in ascii files. This applies to pdp-10 file servers only.

:deleted

:temporary

These options are for TOPS-20 file servers only. They specify TOPS-20-specific attributes of the file to be opened.

For compatibility with the Maclisp open function (see below), which uses the same keywords as with-open-file, the keyword symbols can be in any package and need not be prefixed with colons. Lisp machine programs should include the colons for consistency of style.

For example, evaluating any of the forms

\[
\text{(with-open-file (foo "info;dir >" ':in) \ldots)} \\
\text{(with-open-file (foo "INFO;DIR >" '(:read)) \ldots)} \\
\text{(with-open-file (foo "DIR > INFO;" ':'read) \ldots)}
\]

will open the file "AI: INFO; DIR >" (assuming AI is the current default file server), and will return an input stream which will return successive characters of the file.

open pathname options

Returns a stream which is connected to the specified file. Unlike Maclisp, the open function only creates streams for files; streams for other devices are created by other functions. The pathname and options arguments are the same as in with-open-file; see above. If an error, such as file not found, occurs, the user is asked to supply an alternate pathname, unless this is overridden by options.

When the caller is finished with the stream, it should close the file by using the :close operation or the close function. The with-open-file special form does this automatically, and so is usually preferred. open should only be used when the control structure of the program necessitates opening and closing of a file in some way more complex than the simple way provided by with-open-file. Any program that uses open should set up unwind-protect handlers (see page 44) to close its files in the event of an abnormal exit.
The close function simply sends the :close message to stream.

**renamef** file new-name &optional (error-p t)

file can be a pathname or a stream which is open to a file. The specified file is renamed to new-name (a pathname). If error-p is t, then if an error occurs it will be signalled as a Lisp error. If error-p is nil and an error occurs, the error message will be returned as a string, otherwise t will be returned.

**deletef** file &optional (error-p t)

file can be a pathname or a stream which is open to a file. The specified file is deleted. If error-p is t, then if an error occurs it will be signalled as a Lisp error. If error-p is nil and an error occurs, the error message will be returned as a string, otherwise t will be returned.

**probef** pathname

Returns nil if there is no file named pathname, otherwise returns the a pathname which is the true name of the file, which can be different from pathname because of file links, version numbers, etc.

**fs:close-all-files**

Closes all open files. This is useful when a program has run wild opening files and not closing them.

### 21.9.1 Loading Files

To load a file is to read through the file, evaluating each form in it. Programs are typically stored in files; the expressions in the file are mostly special forms such as defun and defvar which define the functions and variables of the program.

Loading a compiled (or QFASL) file is similar, except that the file does not contain text but rather pre-digested expressions created by the compiler which can be loaded more quickly.

These functions are for loading single files. There is a system for keeping track of programs which consist of more than one file; for further information refer to chapter 24, page 359.

**load** pathname &optional pkg nonexistent-ok dont-set-default

This function loads the file named by pathname into the Lisp environment. If the file is a QFASL file, it calls fastload; otherwise it calls readfile. Normally the file is read into its "home" package, but if pkg is supplied it is the package in which the file is to be read. pkg can be either a package or the name of a package as a string or a symbol. If pkg is not specified, load prints a message saying what package the file is being loaded into. If nonexistent-ok is specified, load just returns if the file cannot be opened.

pathname can be anything acceptable to fs:parse-pathname; pathnames and the complete rules for parsing them are explained in chapter 22, page 332. pathname is defaulted from fs:load-pathname-defaults (see page 337), which is the set of defaults used by load, qc-file, and similar functions. Normally load updates the pathname defaults from pathname, but if dont-set-default is specified this is suppressed.
If *pathname* contains an FN1 but no FN2, *load* will first look for the file with an FN2 of QFASL, then it will look for an FN2 of >. For non-ITS file systems, this generalizes to: if *pathname* specifies a type and/or a version, *load* loads that file. Otherwise it first looks for a type-QFASL file, then a type-LISP file, in both cases looking for the newest version.

**readfile** *pathname* &optional *pkg* *no-msg-p*

*readfile* is the version of *load* for text files. It reads and evaluates each expression in the file. As with *load*, *pkg* can specify what package to read the file into. Unless *no-msg-p* is t, a message is printed indicating what file is being read into what package. The defaulting of *pathname* is the same as in *load*.

**fasload** *pathname* &optional *pkg* *no-msg-p*

*fasload* is the version of *load* for QFASL files. It defines functions and performs other actions as directed by the specifications inserted in the file by the compiler. As with *load*, *pkg* can specify what package to read the file into. Unless *no-msg-p* is t, a message is printed indicating what file is being read into what package. The defaulting of *pathname* is the same as in *load*.

### 21.9.2 File Property Lists

Any text file can contain a "property list" which specifies several attributes of the file. The above loading functions, the compiler, and the editor look at this property list. File property lists are especially useful in program source files, i.e. a file that is intended to be loaded (or compiled and then loaded).

If the first non-blank line in the file contains the three characters "-*-", some text, and "-**-" again, the text is recognized as the file's property list. Each property consists of the property name, a colon, and the property value. If there is more than one property they are separated by semicolons. An example of such a property list is:

```
; -** Mode:Lisp; Package:Cellophane; Base:10 -**
```

The semicolon makes this line look like a comment rather than a Lisp expression. This defines three properties: mode, package, and base. Another example is:

```
. This is part of the Lisp machine manual. -** Mode:Bolio -**
```

A property name is made up of letters, numbers, and otherwise-undefined punctuation characters such as hyphens. A property value can be such a name, or a decimal number, or several such items separated by commas. Spaces may be used freely to separate tokens. Upper and lower-case letters are not distinguished. There is no quoting convention for special characters such as colons and semicolons. Thus file property lists are similar in spirit to Lisp property lists.

The file property list format actually has nothing to do with Lisp; it is just a convention for placing some information into a file that is easy for a program to interpret. The Emacs editor on the pdp-10 knows how to interpret these property lists (primarily in order to look at the Mode property).

Within the Lisp Machine, there exists a parser for file property lists that creates some Lisp data structure that corresponds to the file property list. When a file property list is read in, it is converted into Lisp objects as follows: Symbols are read in the keyword package. Numbers are read in decimal. If a property value contains any commas, then the commas separate several
expressions which are formed into a list.

When a file is edited, loaded, or compiled, its file property list is read in and the properties are stored on the property list of the generic pathname (see section 22.3, page 337) for that file, where they can be retrieved with the :get and :plist messages. So the way you examine the properties of a file is usually to use messages to a pathname object that represents the generic pathname of a file. Note that there other properties there, too. The function fs:file-read-property-list (see below) reads the file property list of a file and sets up the properties on the generic pathname; editing, loading, or compiling a file will call this function, but you can call it yourself if you want to examine the properties of an arbitrary file.

If the property list text contains no colons, it is an old Emacs format, containing only the value of the Mode property.

The following are some of the property names allowed and what they mean.

- **Mode**: The editor major mode to be used when editing this file. This is typically the name of the language in which the file is written. The most common values are Lisp and Text.
- **Package**: The name of the package into which the file is to be loaded. See chapter 23, page 345 for information about packages.
- **Base**: The number base in which the file is written. This affects both ibase and base, since it is confusing to have the input and output bases be different. The most common values are 8 and 10.
- **Lowercase**: If the property value is not nil, the file is written in lower-case letters and the editor does not translate to upper case. (The editor does not translate to upper case by default unless the user selects "Electric Shift Lock" mode.)
- **Fonts**: The property value is a list of font names, separated by commas. The editor uses this for files which are written in more than one font.
- **Backspace**: If the property value is not nil, the file may contain backspaces which cause characters to overprint on each other. The default is to disallow overprinting and display backspaces the way other special function keys are displayed. This default is to prevent the confusion that can be engendered by overstruck text.
- **Patch-File**: If the property value is not nil, the file is a "patch file". When it is loaded the system will not complain about function redefinitions. Furthermore, the remembered source file names for functions defined in this file will not be changed to this file, but will be left as whatever file the function came from originally. In a patch file, the defvar special-form turns into defconst; thus patch files will always reinitialize variables.

You are free to define additional file properties of your own. However, you should choose names that are different from all the names above, and from any names likely to be defined by anybody else's programs, to avoid accidental name conflicts.

The following function is the parser for file property lists.
fs:file-read-property-list pathname stream

pathname should be a pathname object (not a string or namelist, but an actual pathname); usually it is a generic pathname (see section 22.3, page 337). stream should be a stream that has been opened and is pointing to the beginning of the file whose file property list is to be parsed. This function reads from the stream until it gets the file property list, parses it, puts corresponding properties onto the property list of pathname, and finally sets the stream back to the beginning of the file by using the :set-pointer file stream operation (see page 330).

The fundamental way that programs in the Lisp Machine react to the presence of properties on a file's file property list is to examine the property list in the generic pathname. However, there is another way that is more convenient for some applications. File properties can cause special variables to be bound whenever Lisp expressions are being read from the file—when the file is being loaded, when it is being compiled, when it is being read from by the editor, and when its QFASL file is being loaded. This is how the Package and Base properties work. You can also deal with properties this way, by using the following function:

fs:file-property-bindings pathname

This function examines the property list of pathname, and finds all those property names that have fs:file-property-bindings properties. Each such property name specifies a set of variables to bind, and a set of values to which to bind them. This function returns two values: a list of all the variables, and a list of all the corresponding values. Usually you use this function by calling it on a generic pathname what has had fs:file-read-property-list done on it, and then you use the two returned values as the first two subforms to a progv special form (see page 16). Inside the body of the progv the specified bindings will be in effect.

Usually pathname is a generic pathname. It can also be a locative, in which case it is interpreted to be the property list itself.

Of the standard property names, the following ones have fs:file-property-bindings, with the following effects. Package binds the variable package (see page 351) to the package. Base binds the variables base (see page 280) and ibase (see page 283) to the value. Patch-file binds fs:this-is-a-patch-file to the value.

Any properties whose names do not have a fs:file-property-bindings property are ignored completely.

You can also add your own property names that affect bindings. If an indicator symbol has an fs:file-property-bindings property, the value of that property is a function which is called when a file with a file property of that name is going to be read from. The function is given three arguments: the file pathname, the property name, and the property value. It must return two values: a list of variables to be bound and a list of values to bind them to. The function for the Base keyword could have been defined by:
(defun (:base file-property-bindings) (file ignore bse)
  (if (not (and (typep bse 'fixnum)
                (> bse 1)
                (< bse 37.)))
      (error nil "File ~A has an illegal -*- Base:~-s -*-" file bse)
      (values (list 'base 'ibase) (list bse bse))

21.9.3 File Stream Operations

The following messages may be sent to file streams, in addition to the normal I/O messages
which work on all streams. Note that several of these messages are useful to send to a file stream
which has been closed. Some of these messages use pathnames; refer to chapter 22, page 332 for
an explanation of pathnames.

:pathname
Returns the pathname that was opened to get this stream. This may not be identical to
the argument to open, since missing components will have been filled in from defaults,
and the pathname may have been replaced wholesale if an error occurred in the attempt
to open the original pathname.

:truename
Returns the pathname of the file actually open on this stream. This can be different from
what :pathname returns because of file links, logical devices, mapping of "newest"
version to a particular version number, etc. For an output stream the truename is not
meaningful until after the stream has been closed, at least when the file server is an ITS.

:qfaslp
Returns t if the file has a magic flag at the front that says it is a QFASL file, nil if it is
an ordinary file.

:length
Returns the length of the file, in bytes or characters. For text files on pdp-10 file servers,
this is the number of pdp-10 characters, not Lisp machine characters. The numbers are
different because of character-set translation; see page 278 for a full explanation. For an
output stream the length is not meaningful until after the stream has been closed, at least
when the file server is an ITS.

:creation-date
Returns the creation date of the file, as a number which is a universal time. See the
chapter on the time package (chapter 30, page 441).

:info
Returns a string which contains the version number and creation date of the file. This
can be used to tell if the file has been modified between two opens. For an output
stream the info is not meaningful until after the stream has been closed, at least when the
file server is an ITS.
:set-byte-size new-byte-size
   This is only allowed on binary ("fixnum mode") file streams. The byte size can be
changed to any number of bits from 1 to 16.

:delete &optional (error-p t)
   Deletes the file open on this stream. For the meaning of error-p, see the deletef
function. The file doesn't really go away until the stream is closed.

:rename new-name &optional (error-p t)
   Renames the file open on this stream. For the meaning of error-p, see the renamef
function.

:read-pointer
   Returns the current position within the file, in characters (bytes in fixnum mode). For
text files on pdp-10 file servers, this is the number of lisp machine characters, not pdp-
10 characters. The numbers are different because of character-set translation.

:set-pointer new-pointer
   Sets the reading position within the file to new-pointer (bytes in fixnum mode). For text
files on pdp-10 file servers, this will not do anything reasonable unless new-pointer is 0,
because of character-set translation. This operation is for input streams only.

:rewind
   This is the same as :set-pointer 0. This operation is for input streams only.

:get-input-buffer &optional eof
   Returns three values: a buffer array, the index in that array of the next input byte, and
a count of the number of bytes remaining in the array. If the end of the file has been
reached, returns nil or signals an error, based on the eof argument, just like the :tyi
message. After reading as many bytes from the array as you care to, you must send the
:advance-input-buffer message. This operation is for input streams only. It is a kludge
to provide for faster input from files.

:advance-input-buffer &optional new-pointer
   If new-pointer is non-nil, it is the index in the buffer array of the next byte to be read.
If new-pointer is nil, the entire buffer has been used up. This operation is for input
streams only.

File output streams implement the :finish and :force-output messages.

21.10 Accessing Directories

fs:directory-list pathname &rest options
   Finds all the files that match pathname of the file and whose cdr is a list of the
properties of the file; thus the element is a "disembodied" property list and get may be
used to access the file's properties. The car of one element is nil; the properties in this
element are properties of the file system as a whole rather than of a specific file.

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The matching is done by using the asterisk character (*) as a wild-card character. The exact syntactic details are host-dependent, but in general a pathname component that consists of just a * matches any value of that component, and a pathname component that contains * and other characters matches any character in the starred positions and requires the specified characters otherwise.

The options are keywords which modify the operation. The following options are currently defined:

:noerror If a file-system error (such as no such directory) occurs during the operation, normally an error will be signalled and the user will be asked to supply a new pathname. However, if :noerror is specified then in the event of an error a string describing the error will be returned as the result of fs:directory-list. This is identical to the :noerror option to open.

:deleted This is for TOPS-20 file servers. It specifies that deleted (but not yet expunged) files are to be included in the directory listing.

The properties that may appear in the list of property lists returned by fs:directory-list are host-dependent to some extent. The following properties are those that are defined for both ITS and TOPS-20 file servers. This set of properties is likely to be extended or changed in the future.

:length-in-bytes The length of the file expressed in terms of the basic units in which it is written (characters in the case of a text file).

:byte-size The number of bits in one of those units.

:length-in-blocks The length of the file in terms of the file system's unit of storage allocation.

:block-size The number of bits in one of those units.

:creation-date The date the file was created, as a universal time. See chapter 30, page 441.

:reference-date The most recent date that the file was used, as a universal time.

:author The name of the person who created the file, as a string.

:not-backed-up t if the file exists only on disk, nil if it has been backed up on magnetic tape.
22. Naming of Files

A Lisp Machine generally has access to many file systems. While it may have its own file system on its own disks, usually a community of Lisp Machine users want to have a shared file system accessible by any of the Lisp Machines over a network. These shared file systems can be implemented by any computer that is capable of providing file system service. A file server computer may be a special-purpose computer that does nothing but service file system requests from computers on a network, or it might be an existing time-sharing system.

Programs need to use names to designate files within these file systems. The main difficulty in dealing with names of files is that different file systems have different naming formats for files. For example, in the ITS file system, a typical name looks like:

DSK: GEORGE; FOO QFASL

with DSK being a device name, GEORGE being a directory name, FOO being the first file name and QFASL being the second file name. However, in TOPS-20, a similar file name is expressed as:

PS: <GEORGE> FOO QFASL

It would be unreasonable for each program that deals with file names to be expected to know about each different file name format that exists; in fact, new formats could get added in the future, and existing programs should retain their abilities to manipulate the names.

The functions and flavors described in this chapter exist to solve this problem. They provide an interface through which a program can deal with names of files and manipulate them without depending on anything about their syntax. This lets a program deal with multiple remote file servers simultaneously, using a uniform set of conventions.

22.1 Pathnames

All file systems dealt with by the Lisp machine are mapped into a common model, in which files are named by something called a pathname. A pathname always has six components, described below. These components are the common interface that allows programs to work the same way with different file systems; the mapping of the pathname components into the concepts peculiar to each file system is taken care of by the pathname software. This mapping is described for each file system later in this chapter.

These are the components of a pathname. They will be clarified by an example below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>host</td>
<td>The name of the file system machine on which the file resides.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>device</td>
<td>Corresponds to the &quot;device&quot; or &quot;file structure&quot; concept in many host file systems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>directory</td>
<td>The name of a group of related files belonging to a single user or project. Corresponds to the &quot;directory&quot; concept in many host file systems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>name</td>
<td>The name of a group of files which can be thought of as conceptually the &quot;same&quot; file.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>type</td>
<td>Corresponds to the &quot;filetype&quot; or &quot;extension&quot; concept in many host file systems. This says what kind of file this is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>version</td>
<td>Corresponds to the &quot;version number&quot; concept in many host file systems. This is a number which increments every time the file is modified.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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As an example, consider a Lisp program named CONCH. If it belongs to GEORGE, who uses the FISH machine, the host would be FISH, the device would be the default probably, and the directory would be GEORGE. On this directory would be a number of files related to the CONCH program. The source code for this program would live in a set of files with name CONCH, type LISP, and versions 1, 2, 3, etc. The compiled form of the program would live in files named CONCH with type QFASL; each would have the same version number as the source file that it came from. If the program had a documentation file, it would have type INFO.

Note that a pathname is not necessarily the name of a specific file. Rather, it is a way to get to a file; a pathname need not correspond to any file that actually exists, and more than one pathname can refer to the same file. For example, the pathname with a version of "newest" will refer to the same file as a pathname with the same components except a certain number as the version. In systems with links, multiple file names, logical devices, etc. two pathnames that look quite different may really turn out to address the same file. To get from a pathname to a file requires doing a file system operation such as open.

A pathname is an instance of a flavor (see chapter 20, page 245); exactly which flavor depends on what the host of the pathname is. If \( p \) is a pathname, then (typep \( p \) 'fs:pathname) will return t. (fs is the file-system package.) There are functions for manipulating pathnames, and there are also messages that can be sent to them. These are described later in this chapter.

Two important operations of the pathname system are parsing and merging. Parsing is the conversion of a string—which might be something typed in by the user when asked to supply the name of a file—into a pathname object. This involves finding out what host the pathname is for, then using the file name syntax conventions of that host to parse the string into the standard pathname components. Merging is the operation which takes a pathname with missing components and supplies values for those components from a set of defaults.

Since each kind of file server can have its own character string representation of names of its files, there has to be a different parser for each of these representations, capable of examining such a character string and figuring out what each component is. The parsers all work differently. How can the parsing operation know which parser to use? The first thing that the parser does is to figure out which host this filename belongs to. A filename character string may specify a host explicitly, by having the name of the host, followed by a colon, either at the beginning or the end of the string. For example, the following strings all specify hosts explicitly:

- \( \text{AI: COMMON; GEE WHIZ} \) ; This specifies host AI.
- \( \text{COMMON; GEE WHIZ AI:} \) ; So does this.
- \( \text{AI: ARC: USERS1; FOO BAR} \) ; So does this.
- \( \text{ARC: USERS1; FOO BAR AI:} \) ; So does this.
- \( \text{EE:PS:<COMMON>GEE.WHIZ.5} \) ; This specifies host EE.
- \( \text{PS:<COMMON>GEE.WHIZ.5 EE:} \) ; So does this.

If the string does not specify a host explicitly, the parser will assume some particular host is the one in question, and will use the parser for that host's file system. The optional arguments passed to the parsing function (fs:parse-pathname) tell it which host to assume. Note: the parser won't be confused by strings starting with "DSK: " or "PS: " because it knows that neither of those is a valid host name. (If some file system's syntax allowed file names that start with the name of a valid host followed by a colon, there could be problems.)

Pathnames, like symbols, are interned. This means that there is only one pathname object with a given set of components. If a character string is parsed into components, and some
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pathname object with exactly those components already exists, then the parser returns the existing pathname object rather than creating a new one. The main reason for this is that a pathname has a property list (see section 5.8, page 66). The system stores properties on pathnames to remember information about the file or family of files to which that pathname refers. So you can parse a character-string that represents a filename, and then look at its property list to get various information known about that pathname. The components of a pathname are never modified once the pathname has been created, just as the print-name of a symbol is never modified. The only thing that can be modified is the property list.

A pathname can be converted into a string, which is in the file name syntax of its host's file system, except that the name of the host followed by a colon is inserted at the front. print of a pathname (~S in format) prints it like a lisp object (using the usual "#'" syntax), while print of a pathname (~A in format) prints it like a file name of the host file system. The string function, applied to a pathname, returns the string that print would print. Thus pathnames may be used as arguments to functions like string-append.

Not all of the components of a pathname need to be specified. If a component of a pathname is missing, its value is nil. Before a file server can do anything interesting with a file, such as opening the file, all the missing components of a pathname must be filled in from defaults. But pathnames with missing components are often handed around inside the machine, since almost all pathnames typed by users do not specify all the components explicitly. The host is not allowed to be missing from any pathname; since the behavior of a pathname is host-dependent to some extent, it has to know what its host is. All pathnames have host attributes, even if the string being parsed does not specify one explicitly.

A component of a pathname can also be the special symbol :unspecifie. This means that the component has been explicitly determined not to be there, as opposed to being missing. One way this can occur is with generic pathnames, which refer not to a file but to a whole family of files. The version, and usually the type, of a generic pathname are :unspecific. Another way :unspecific is used has to do with mapping of pathnames into file systems such as ITS that do not have all six components. A component that is really not there will be :unspecific in the pathname. When a pathname is converted to a string, nil and :unspecific both cause the component not to appear in the string. The difference occurs in the merging operation, where nil will be replaced with the default for that component, while :unspecific is left alone.

What values are allowed for components of a pathname depends, in general, on the pathname's host. However, in order for pathnames to be usable in a system-independent way certain global conventions are adhered to. These conventions are stronger for the type and version than for the other components, since the type and version are actually understood by many programs, while the other components are usually just treated as something supplied by the user which just needs to be remembered.

The type is always a string (unless it is one of the special symbols nil and :unspecific). Many programs that deal with files have an idea of what type they want to use. For example, Lisp source programs are "lisp", compiled Lisp programs are "qfasl", text files are "text", tags files are "tags", etc. Just what characters are allowed in the type, and how many, is system dependent.

The version is either a number (specifically, a positive fixnum), or a special symbol nil and :unspecific have been explained above. :newest refers to the largest version number that exists when reading a file, or that number plus one when writing a new file. :oldest refers to the
smallest version number that exists. Some file systems may define other special version symbols, such as :installed for example.

The host is always a string. The Lisp machine has a fixed list of hosts that it knows about.

The device, directory, and name are more system-dependent. These can be strings (with host-dependent rules on allowed characters and length), or they can be structured. A structured component is a list of strings. This is used for file system features such as hierarchical directories. The system is arranged so that programs do not need to know about structured components unless they do host-dependent operations. Giving a string as a pathname component to a host that wants a structured value converts the string to the appropriate form. Giving a structured component to a host that does not understand them converts it to a string by taking the first element and ignoring the rest.

Some host file systems have features that do not fit into this pathname model. For instance, directories might be accessible as files, there might be complicated structure in the directories or names, or there might be relative directories, such as "<" in Multics. These features appear in the parsing of strings into pathnames, which is one reason why the strings are written in host-dependent syntax. Pathnames for hosts with these features are also likely to handle additional messages besides the common ones documented in this chapter, for the benefit of host-dependent programs which want to access those features. However, note that once your program depends on any such features, it will only work for certain file servers and not others; in general, it is a good idea to make your program work just as well no matter what file server is being used.

### 22.2 Defaults and Merging

When the user is asked to type in a pathname, it is of course unreasonable to require the user to type a complete pathname, containing all components. Instead there are defaults, so that components not specified by the user can be supplied automatically by the system. Each program that deals with pathnames typically has its own set of defaults.

The system defines an object called a defaults a-list. Functions are provided to create one, get the default pathname out of one, merge a pathname with one, and store a pathname back into one. A defaults a-list can remember more than one default pathname if defaults are being kept separately for each host; this is controlled by the variable fs:*defaults-are-per-host*. The main primitive for using defaults is the function fs:merge-pathname-defaults (see page 338).

In place of a defaults a-list, you may use just a pathname. Defaulting one pathname from another is useful for cases such as a program that has an input file and an output file, and asks the user for the name of both, letting the unsupplied components of one name default from the other. Unspecified components of the output pathname will come from the input pathname, except that the type should default not to the type of the input but to the appropriate default type for output from this program.

The implementation of a defaults a-list is an association list of host names and default pathnames. The host name nil is special and holds the defaults for all hosts, when defaults are not per-host.
The \textit{merging} operation takes as input a pathname, a defaults \texttt{a-list} (or another pathname), a
default type, and a default version, and returns a pathname. Basically, the missing components
in the pathname are filled in from the defaults \texttt{a-list}, except that if no type is specified the
default type is used, and if no version is specified the default version is used. By default, the
default type is \texttt{:unspecific}, meaning that if the input pathname has no type, the user really wants
a file with no type. Programs that have a default type for the files they manipulate will supply it
to the merging operation. The default version is usually \texttt{:newest}; if no version is specified the
newest version in existence should be used. The default type and version can be \texttt{nil}, to preserve
the information that they were missing in the input pathname.

The full details of the merging rules are as follows. First, if the pathname explicitly specifies
a host and does not supply a device, then the device will be the default file device for that host.
Next, if the pathname does not specify a host, device, directory, or name, that component comes
from the defaults.

The merging rules for the type and version are more complicated, and depend on whether the
pathname specifies a name. If the pathname doesn't specify a name, then the type and version,
if not provided, will come from the defaults, just like the other components. However, if the
pathname does specify a name, then the type and version are not affected by the defaults. The
reason for this is that the type and version "belong to" some other filename, and are unlikely to
have anything to do with the new one you are typing in. Finally, if this process leaves the type
or version missing, the default type or default version is used (these were inputs to the merging
operation).

The effect of all this is that if the user supplies just a name, the host, device, and directory
will come from the defaults, but the type and version will come from the default type and default
version arguments to the merging operation. If the user supplies nothing, or just a directory, the
name, type, and version will come over from the defaults together. If the host's file name syntax
provides a way to input a type or version without a name, the user can let the name default but
supply a different type or version than the one in the defaults.

The following special variables are parts of the pathname interface that are relevant to
defaults.

\texttt{fs:*defaults-are-per-host* Variable}
This is a user customization option intended to be set by a user's LISP\texttt{M} INIT file (see
section 31.5, page 453). The default value is \texttt{nil}, which means that each program's set of
defaults contains only one default pathname. If you type in just a host name and a colon, the
other components of the name will default from the previous host, with appropriate
translation to the new host's pathname syntax. If \texttt{fs:*defaults-are-per-host*} is set to \texttt{t},
each program's set of defaults will maintain a separate default pathname for each host. If
you type in just a host name and a colon, the last file that was referenced on that host
will be used.

\texttt{fs:*default-pathname-defaults* Variable}
This is the default defaults \texttt{a-list}; if the pathname primitives that need a set of defaults
are not given one, they use this one. Most programs, however, should have their own
defaults rather than using these.
**fs:load-pathname-defaults Variable**  
This is the defaults a-list for the load and qc-file functions. Other functions may share these defaults if they deem that to be an appropriate user interface.

**fs:last-file-opened Variable**  
This is the pathname of the last file that was opened. Occasionally this is useful as a default. Since some programs deal with files without notifying the user, you must not expect the user to know what the value of this symbol is. Using this symbol as a default may cause unfortunate surprises, and so such use is discouraged.

### 22.3 Generic Pathnames

A generic pathname stands for a whole family of files. The property list of a generic pathname is used to remember information about the family, some of which (such as the package) comes from the `=-*=` line (see section 21.9.2, page 326) of a source file in the family. All types of files with that name, in that directory, belong together. They are different members of the same family; for example, they might be source code, compiled code, and documentation for a program. All versions of files with that name, in that directory, belong together.

The generic pathname of pathname `p` has the same host, device, directory, and name as `p` does. However, it has a version of :unspecific. Furthermore, if the type of `p` is one of the elements of `fs:*known-types*`, then it has a type of :unspecific; otherwise it has the same type as `p`. The reason that the type of the generic pathname works this way is that in some file systems, like ITS, the type component may actually be part of the file name; ITS files named "DIRECTIONS" and "DIRECT ORY" do not belong together.

The :generic-pathname message to a pathname returns its corresponding generic pathname. See page 341.

**fs:*known-types* Variable**  
This is a list of the file types which are "not important"; constructing a generic pathname will strip off the file type if it is in this list. File types not in this list are really part of the name in some sense. The initial list is

(`"lisp" "qfasl" "text" nil :unspecific)

Some users may need to add to this list.

### 22.4 Pathname Functions

These functions are what programs use to parse and default file names that have been typed in or otherwise supplied by the user.

**fs:parse-pathname thing &optional host defaults**  
This turns `thing`, which can be a pathname, a string, a symbol, or a Maclisp-style name list, into a pathname. Most functions which are advertised to take a pathname argument call `fs:parse-pathname` on it so that they will accept anything that can be turned into a pathname.
This function does not do defaulting, even though it has an argument named defaults; it only does parsing. The host and defaults arguments are there because in order to parse a string into a pathname, it is necessary to know what host it is for so that it can be parsed with the file name syntax peculiar to that host. If thing does not contain a manifest host name, then if host is non-nil, it is the host name to use, as a string. If thing is a string, a manifest host name may be at the beginning or the end, and consists of the name of a host followed by a colon. If host is nil then the host name is obtained from the default pathname in defaults. If defaults is not supplied, the default defaults (fs:*defaultpathname-defaults*) are used.

Note that if host is specified, and thing contains a host name, an error is signalled if they are not the same host.

**fs:merge-pathname-defaults** pathname &optional defaults default-type default-version

Fills in unspecified components of pathname from the defaults, and returns a new pathname. This is the function that most programs should call to process a file name supplied by the user. pathname can be a pathname, a string, a symbol, or a Mac1isp namelist. The returned value will always be a pathname. The merging rules are documented on page 335.

If defaults is a pathname, rather than a defaults a-list, then the defaults are taken from its components. This is how you merge two pathnames (in Mac1isp that operation is called merge).

defaults defaults to the value of fs:*default-pathname-defaults* if unsupplied. default-type defaults to :unspecific. default-version defaults to :newest.

**fs:merge-and-set-pathname-defaults** pathname &optional defaults default-type default-version

This is the same as fs:merge-pathname-defaults except that after it is done the result is stored back into defaults. This is handy for programs that have "sticky" defaults. (If defaults is a pathname rather than a defaults a-list, then no storing back is done.) The optional arguments default the same way as in fs:merge-pathname-defaults.

This function yields a pathname given its components.

**fs:make-pathname** &rest options

The options are alternating keywords and values, which specify the components of the pathname. Missing components default to nil, except the host (all pathnames must have a host). The :defaults option specifies what defaults to get the host from if none is specified. The other options allowed are :host, :device, :structured-device, :directory, :structured-directory, :name, :structured-name, :type, and :version.
These functions are used to manipulate defaults a-lists directly.

**fs:make-pathname-defaults**

Creates a defaults a-list initially containing no defaults. Asking this empty set of defaults for its default pathname before anything has been stored into it will return the file 'FOO' on the user's home directory on the host he logged in to.

**fs:default-pathname &optional defaults host default-type default-version**

This is the primitive function for getting a default pathname out of a defaults a-list. Specifying the optional arguments `host`, `default-type`, and `default-version` to be non-nil forces those fields of the returned pathname to contain those values.

If `fs:*defaults-are-per-host*` is nil (its default value), this gets the one relevant default from the a-list. If it is t, this gets the default for `host` if one is specified, otherwise for the host most recently used.

If `defaults` is not specified, the default defaults are used.

This function has an additional optional argument `internal-p`, which users should never supply.

**fs:set-default-pathname pathname &optional defaults**

This is the primitive function for updating a set of defaults. It stores `pathname` into `defaults`. If `defaults` is not specified, the default defaults are used.

These functions return useful information.

**fs:user-homedir &optional host reset-p**

Returns the pathname of the logged-in user's home directory on `host`, which defaults to the host the user logged in to. Home directory is a somewhat system-dependent concept, but from the point of view of the Lisp machine it is the directory where the user keeps personal files such as init files and mail. This function returns a pathname without any name, type, or version component (those components are all nil). If `reset-p` is specified non-nil, the machine the user is logged in to is changed to be `host`.

**fs:init-file-pathname program-name &optional host**

Returns the pathname of the logged-in user's init file for the program `program-name`, on the `host`, which defaults to the host the user logged in to. Programs that load init files containing user customizations call this function to find where to look for the file, so that they need not know the separate init file name conventions of each host operating system. The `program-name` "LISPM" is used by the `login` function.

These functions are useful for poking around.

**fs:describe-pathname pathname**

If `pathname` is a pathname object, this describes it, showing you its properties (if any) and information about files with that name that have been loaded into the machine. If `pathname` is a string, this describes all interned pathnames that match that string, ignoring components not specified in the string. One thing this is useful for is finding what directory a file whose name you remember is in. Giving `describe` (see page 448) a pathname object will do the same thing as this function will.
**fs:pathname-plist pathname**

Parses and defaults `pathname` then returns the list of properties of that pathname.

**fs:*pathname-hash-table* Variable**

This is the hash table in which pathname objects are interned. Applying the function `maphash-equal` to this will extract all the pathnames in the world.

### 22.5 Pathname Messages

This section documents the messages a user may send to a pathname object. Pathnames handle some additional messages which are only intended to be sent by the file system itself, and therefore are not documented here. Someone who wanted to add a new host to the system would need to understand those internal messages. This section also does not document messages which are peculiar to pathnames of a particular host; those would be documented under that host.

- `:host` (to pathname)
- `:device` (to pathname)
- `:directory` (to pathname)
- `:name` (to pathname)
- `:type` (to pathname)
- `:version` (to pathname)

These return the components of the pathname. The returned values can be strings, special symbols, or lists of strings in the case of structured components. The type will always be a string or a symbol. The version will always be a number or a symbol.

- `:new-device dev` (to pathname)
- `:new-structured-device dev` (to pathname)
- `:new-directory dir` (to pathname)
- `:new-structured-directory dir` (to pathname)
- `:new-name name` (to pathname)
- `:new-structured-name name` (to pathname)
- `:new-type type` (to pathname)
- `:new-version version` (to pathname)

These return a new pathname which is the same as the pathname they are sent to except that the value of one of the components has been changed. The "structured" messages expect a list of strings. If the component is not structured on this host, the first string in the list is used and the rest are ignored. The "unstructured" messages expect a string (or a special symbol), but accept a list of strings if this host allows this component to be structured.

- `:new-pathname &rest options` (to pathname)

This returns a new pathname which is the same as the pathname it is sent to except that the values of some of the components have been changed. `options` is a list of alternating keywords and values. The keywords all specify values of pathname components; they are `:host`, `:device`, `:structured-device`, `:directory`, `:structured-directory`, `:name`, `:structured-name`, `:type`, and `:version`. 
:generic-pathname (to pathname)
Returns the generic pathname for the family of files of which this pathname is a member.
See section 22.3, page 337 for documentation on generic pathnames.

Messages to get a path name string out of a pathname object:

:string-for-printing (to pathname)
Returns a string which is the printed representation of the path name. This is the same
as what you get if you princ the pathname or take string of it.

:string-for-wholine (to pathname)
Returns a string which may be compressed in order to fit in the wholine.

:string-for-editor (to pathname)
Returns a string which is the path name with its components rearranged so that the name
is first. The editor uses this form to name its buffers.

:string-for-dired (to pathname)
Returns a string to be used by the directory editor. The string contains only the name,
type, and version.

:string-for-host (to pathname)
Returns a string which is the path name the way the host file system likes to see it.

Messages to manipulate the property list of a pathname:

:get indicator (to pathname)
:get list-of-indicators (to pathname)
:putprop value indicator (to pathname)
:remprop indicator (to pathname)
:plist (to pathname)
These manipulate the pathname’s property list analogously to the functions of the same
names (see page 67), which don’t (currently) work on instances.

22.6 Host File Systems Supported

This section lists the host file systems supported, gives an example of the pathname syntax for
each system, and discusses any special idiosyncracies. More host types will no doubt be added in
the future.
22.6.1 ITS

An ITS pathname looks like "HOST: DEVICE: DIR; FOO 69". The default device is DSK: but other devices such as ML:, ARC:, DVR:, or PTR: may be used.

ITS does not exactly fit the virtual file system model, in that a file name has two components (FN1 and FN2) rather than three (name, type, and version). Consequently to map any virtual pathname into an ITS filename, it is necessary to choose whether the FN2 will be the type or the version. The rule is that usually the type goes in the FN2 and the version is ignored; however, certain types (LISP and TEXT) are ignored and instead the version goes in the FN2. Also if the type is :unspecific the FN2 is the version.

Given an ITS filename, it is converted into a pathname by making the FN2 the version if it is "<", ">", or a number. Otherwise the FN2 becomes the type. ITS pathnames allow the special version symbols :oldest and :newest, which correspond to "<" and ">" respectively. If a version is specified, the type is always :unspecific. If a type is specified, the version is :newest unless the type is a normally-ignored type (such as LISP) in which case the version is :unspecific so that it does not override the type.

Each component of an ITS pathname is mapped to upper case and truncated to six characters.

Special characters (space, colon, and semicolon) in a component of an ITS pathname can be quoted by prefixing them with right horseshoe (\(\textasciitilde\)) or equivalence sign (=). Right horseshoe is the same character code in the Lisp machine character set as control-Q in the ITS character set.

An ITS pathname can have a structured name, which is a list of two strings, the FN1 and the FN2. In this case there is neither a type nor a version.

An ITS pathname with an FN2 but no FN1 (i.e. a type and/or version but no name) is represented with the placeholder FN1 "~", because ITS pathname syntax provides no way to write an FN2 without an FN1 before it.

The ITS init file naming convention is "homedir; user program".

\texttt{fs:*\textsc{its-uninteresting-types}* Variable}

The ITS file system does not have separate file types and version numbers; both components are stored in the "FN2". This variable is a list of the file types which are "not important"; files with these types use the FN2 for a version number. Files with other types use the FN2 for the type and do not have a version number. The initial list is

\(\texttt{("lisp" "text" nil :unspecific)}\)

Some users may need to add to this list.

\texttt{:fn1 (to \textsc{its-pathname})}
\texttt{:fn2 (to \textsc{its-pathname})}

These two messages return a string which is the FN1 or FN2 host-dependent component of the pathname.
22.6.2 TOPS-20

A TOPS-20 pathname looks like "HOST:DEVICE:<DIRECTORY>NAME.TYPE.VERSION". The default device is PS:

TOPS-20 pathnames are mapped to upper case. Special characters (including lowercase letters) are quoted with the circle-x (®) character, which has the same character code in the Lisp machine character set as control-V in the TOPS-20 character set.

TOPS-20 pathnames allow the special version symbols :oldest and :newest, which correspond to "..-2" and "..0" respectively.

The directory component of a TOPS-20 pathname may be structured. The directory <FOO.BAR> is represented as the list ("FOO" "BAR").

The TOPS-20 init file naming convention is "<user>program.INIT".

When there is an attempt to display a TOPS-20 file name in the who-line and there isn't enough room to show the entire name, the name is truncated and followed by a center-dot character to indicate that there is more to the name than can be displayed.

22.7 Maclisp Conversion

This section briefly discusses how to convert from Maclisp I/O and filename functions to the corresponding but often more general Lisp machine ones.

The functions load, open, probef, renamef, and deletef are upward compatible. Most of them take optional additional arguments to do additional things, usually connected with error handling. Where Maclisp wants to see a file name in the form of a symbol or a list, the Lisp machine will accept those or a string or a pathname object.

load keeps defaults, which it updates from the file name it is given.

The old-I/O functions uread, crunit, etc. do not exist in the Lisp machine. fasload exists but is a function rather than a special form.

There is a special form, with-open-file, which should replace most calls to open. See page 323.

The functions for manipulating file names themselves are different. The system will accept a namelist as a pathname, but will never create a namelist. mergef is replaced by fs:file-merge-pathname-defaults. defaultf is replaced by fs:default-pathname or fs:set-default-pathname, depending on whether it is given an argument. namestring is replaced by the :string-for-printing message to a pathname, or the string function. namelist is approximately replaced by fs:parse-pathname. (status udir) and (status homedir) are approximately replaced by fs:user-homedir. The truename function is replaced by the probef function, which returns the truename if the file exists or nil if it doesn't. The directory and allfiles functions are replaced by fs:directory-list.
22.8 Examples

The following examples illustrate some of the rules of parsing and merging. They assume that
the default host is an ITS host named AI.

If we parse the string "AI:COMMON;NOMEN 5" (by calling fs:parse-pathname), we get
back a pathname that prints as #\{ITS-PATHNAME "AI: COMMON; NOMEN 5"\}. Its host is
"AI", its device is "DSK" (because of the rule that when you specify a host and don't specify a
device, the standard file-storage device for that host is used), its name is "COMMON", its type is
nonexistent (:unspecific), and its version is 5. Call this pathname p.

Parsing just the string "foo" returns a pathname that prints as #\{ITS-PATHNAME "AI:
FOO"\}. The host is "AI", the name is "FOO", and all the other components are unspecified.

If we merge this with p (by calling fs:merge-pathname-defaults with this pathname as its
first argument and p as its second), the result is a pathname that prints as #\{ITS-PATHNAME
"AI: COMMON; FOO" \}. with host "AI", device "DSK", directory "COMMON", name
"FOO", type :unspecific, and version :newest. This is because of the rule that when a name is
explicitly specified, the type and version of the defaults are ignored. The version, 5, was ignored,
and the version of the result came from the default-version argument to fs:merge-pathname-
defaults, which had the value :newest. The type, similarly, came from the default-type
argument, which had the value :unspecific.

Parsing "FOO BAR" returns a pathname that prints as #\{ITS-PATHNAME "AI: FOO
BAR" \}. It has host "AI", name "FOO", and type "BAR"; the directory is nil and the version is
:newest. Merging this with p gives a pathname that prints as #\{ITS-PATHNAME "AI:
COMMON; FOO BAR" \}; it has host "AI", device "DSK", directory "COMMON", name
"FOO", type "BAR", and version :newest. If we ask for the generic pathname of this new
pathname, what we get prints exactly the same, but one of its components is different: its
version is :unspecific. This difference does not appear in the printed representation because ITS
filenames cannot convey both a meaningful type and a meaningful version number at the same
time.
23. Packages

23.1 The Need for Multiple Contexts

A Lisp program is a collection of function definitions. The functions are known by their names, and so each must have its own name to identify it. Clearly a programmer must not use the same name for two different functions.

The Lisp machine consists of a huge Lisp environment, in which many programs must coexist. All of the "operating system", the compiler, the editor, and a wide variety of programs are provided in the initial environment. Furthermore, every program which the user uses during his session must be loaded into the same environment. Each of these programs is composed of a group of functions; apparently each function must have its own distinct name to avoid conflicts. For example, if the compiler had a function named pull, and the user loaded a program which had its own function named pull, the compiler's pull would be redefined, probably breaking the compiler.

It would not really be possible to prevent these conflicts, since the programs are written by many different people who could never get together to hash out who gets the privilege of using a specific name such as pull.

Now, if we are to enable two programs to coexist in the Lisp world, each with its own function pull, then each program must have its own symbol named "pull", because there can't be two function definitions on the same symbol. This means that separate "name spaces"—mappings between names and symbols—must be provided for the two programs. The package system is designed to do just that.

Under the package system, the author of a program or a group of closely related programs identifies them together as a "package". The package system associates a distinct name space with each package.

Here is an example: suppose there are two programs named chaos and arpa, for handling the Chaosnet and Arpanet respectively. The author of each program wants to have a function called get-packet, which reads in a packet from the network (or something). Also, each wants to have a function called allocate-pbuf, which allocates the packet buffer. Each "get" routine first allocates a packet buffer, and then reads bits into the buffer; therefore, each version of get-packet should call the respective version of allocate-pbuf.

Without the package system, the two programs could not coexist in the same Lisp environment. But the package feature can be used to provide a separate name space for each program. What is required is to declare a package named chaos to contain the Chaosnet program, and another package arpa to hold the Arpanet program. When the Chaosnet program is read into the machine, its symbols would be entered in the chaos package's name space. So when the Chaosnet program's get-packet referred to allocate-pbuf, the allocate-pbuf in the chaos name space would be found, which would be the allocate-pbuf of the Chaosnet program—the right one. Similarly, the Arpanet program's get-packet would be read in using the arpa package's name space and would refer to the Arpanet program's allocate-pbuf.
To understand what is going on here, you should keep in mind how Lisp reading and loading works. When a file is gotten into the Lisp machine, either by being read or by being fastloaded, the file itself obviously cannot contain Lisp objects; it contains printed representations of those objects. When the reader encounters a printed representation of a symbol, it calls intern to look up that string in some name space and find a corresponding symbol. The package system arranges that the correct name space is used whenever a file is loaded.

23.2 The Organization of Name Spaces

We could simply let every name space be implemented as one obarray, e.g., one big table of symbols. The problem with this is that just about every name space wants to include the whole Lisp language: car, cdr, and so on should be available to every program. We would like to share the main Lisp system between several name spaces without making many copies.

Instead of making each name space be one big array, we arrange packages in a tree. Each package has a "superpackage" or "parent", from which it "inherits" symbols. Also, each package has a table, or "obarray", of its own additional symbols. The symbols belonging to a package are simply those in the package's own obarray, followed by those belonging to the superpackage. The root of the tree of packages is the package called global, which has no superpackage. global contains car and cdr and all the rest of the standard Lisp system. In our example, we might have two other packages called chaos and arpa, each of which would have global as its parent. Here is a picture of the resulting tree structure:

```
/-------------------------\
|                        |
|  global                |
|  \                        |
|   chaos                |
|   \                    |
|    arpa                |
```

In order to make the sharing of the global package work, the intern function is made more complicated than in basic Lisp. In addition to the string or symbol to intern, it must be told which package to do it in. First it searches for a symbol with the specified name in the obarray of the specified package. If nothing is found there, intern looks at its superpackage, and then at the superpackage's superpackage, and so on, until the name is found or a root package such as global is reached. When intern reaches the root package, and doesn't find the symbol there either, it decides that there is no symbol known with that name, and adds a symbol to the originally specified package.

Since you don't normally want to worry about specifying packages, intern normally uses the "current" package, which is the value of the symbol package. This symbol serves the purpose of the symbol obarray in Maclisp.

Here's how that works in the above example. When the Chaosnet program is read into the Lisp world, the current package would be the chaos package. Thus all of the symbols in the Chaosnet program would be interned on the chaos package. If there is a reference to some well known global symbol such as append, intern would look for "append" on the chaos package, not find it, look for "append" on global, and find the regular Lisp append symbol, and return that. If, however, there is a reference to a symbol which the user made up himself (say it is called get-packet), the first time he uses it, intern won't find it on either chaos nor global. So intern will make a new symbol named get-packet, and install it on the chaos package. When get-packet is referred to later in the Chaosnet program, intern will find get-packet on the
chaos package.

When the Arpanet program is read in, the current package would be arpa instead of chaos. When the Arpanet program refers to append, it gets the global one; that is, it shares the same one that the Chaosnet program got. However, if it refers to get-packet, it will not get the same one the Chaosnet program got, because the chaos package is not being searched. Rather, the arpa and global packages are getting searched. So intern will create a new get-packet and install it on the arpa package.

So what has happened is that there are two get-packets: one for chaos and one for arpa. The two programs are loaded together without name conflicts.

23.3 Shared Programs

Now, a very important feature of the Lisp machine is that of "shared programs"; if one person writes a function to, say, print numbers in Roman numerals, any other function can call it to print Roman numerals. This contrasts sharply with PDP-10 system programs, in which Roman numerals have been independently reimplemented several times (and the ITS filename parser several dozen times).

For example, the routines to manipulate a robot arm might be a separate program, residing in a package named arm. If we have a second program called blocks (the blocks world, of course) which wanted to manipulate the arm, it would want to call functions which are defined on the arm obarray, and therefore not in blocks's own name space. Without special provision, there would be no way for any symbols not in the blocks name space to be part of any blocks functions.

The colon character ("::") has a special meaning to the Lisp reader. When the reader sees a colon preceded by the name of a package, it will read in the next Lisp object with package bound to that package. The way blocks would call a function named go-up defined in arm would be by asking to call arm:go-up, because "go-up would be interned on the arm package. What arm:go-up means precisely is "the symbol named go-up in the name space of the package arm."

Similarly, if the chaos program wanted to refer to the arpa program's allocate-pbuf function (for some reason), it would simply call arpa:allocate-pbuf.

An important question which should occur at this point is how the names of packages are associated with their obarrays and other data. This is done by means of the "refname-alist" which each package has. This alist associates strings called reference names or refnames with the packages they name. Normally, a package's refname-alist contains an entry for each subpackage, associating the subpackage with its name. In addition, every package has its own name defined as a refname, referring to itself. However, the user can add any other refnames, associating them with any packages he likes. This is useful when multiple versions of a program are loaded into different packages. Of course, each package inherits its superpackage's refnames just as it does symbols.

In our example, since arm is a subpackage of global, the name arm is on global's refname-alist, associated with the arm package. Since blocks is also a subpackage of global, when arm:go-up is seen the string "arm" is found on global's refname alist.
When you want to refer to a symbol in a package which you and your superpackages have no
renames for—say, a subpackage named foo of a package named bar which is under global—you
can use multiple colons. For example, the symbol finish in that package foo could be referred to
as foo:bar:finish. What happens here is that the second name, bar, is interpreted as a rename
in the context of the package foo.

23.4 Declaring Packages

Before any package can be referred to or loaded, it must be declared. This is done with the
special form package-declare, which tells the package system all sorts of things, including the
name of the package, the place in the package hierarchy for the new package to go, its estimated
size, and some of the symbols which belong in it.

Here is a sample declaration:

\(\text{package-declare foo global 1000} \)
\(\quad ()\)
\(\quad (\text{shadow array-push adjust-array-size})\)
\(\quad (\text{extern foo-entry})\)

What this declaration says is that a package named foo should be created as an inferior of
global, the package which contains advertised global symbols. Its obarray should initially be large
enough to hold 1000 symbols, though it will grow automatically if that isn’t enough. Unless there
is a specific reason to do otherwise, you should make all of your packages direct inferiors of
global. The size you give is increased slightly to be a good value for the hashing algorithm used.

After the size comes the "file-alist", which is given as () in the example. This is an obsolete
feature which is not normally used. The "system"-defining facilities should be used instead. See
chapter 24, page 359.

Finally, the foo package "shadows" array-push and adjust-array-size, and "externs" foo-
entry. What shadowing means is that the foo package should have its own versions of those
symbols, rather than inheriting its superpackage’s versions. Symbols by these names will be added
to the foo package even though there are symbols on global already with those names. This
allows the foo package to redefine those functions for itself without redefining them in the global
package for everyone else. Whatever externing means is that the foo package is allowed to redefine
foo-entry as inherited from the global package, so that it is redefined for everybody. If foo
attempts to redefine a function such as car which is present in the global package but neither
shadowed nor externed, confirmation from the user will be requested.

Note that externing doesn’t actually put any symbols into the global package. It just asserts
permission to redefine symbols already there. This is deliberate; the intent is to enable the
maintainers of the global package to keep control over what symbols are present in it. Because
inserting a new symbol into the global package can cause trouble to unsuspecting programs which
expect that symbol to be private, this is not supposed to be done in a decentralized manner by
programs written by one user and used by another unsuspecting user. Here is an example of the
trouble that could be caused: if there were two user programs, each with a function named
move-square, and move-square were put on the global package, all of a sudden the two
functions would share the same symbol, resulting in a name conflict. While all the definitions of
the functions in global are actually supplied by subpackages which extern them (global contains
no files of its own), the list of symbol names is centralized in one place, the file “AI: LISP2;
GLOBAL "", and this file is not changed without notifying everyone, and updating the documentation in this manual.

Certain other things may be found in the declarations of various internal system packages. They are arcane and needed only to compensate for the fact that parts of those packages are actually loaded before the package system is. They should not be needed by any user package.

Your package declarations should go into separate files containing only package declarations. Group them however you like, one to a file or all in one file. Such files can be read with load. It doesn't matter what package you load them into, so use user, since that has to be safe.

If the declaration for a package is read in twice, no harm is done. If you edit the size to replace it with a larger one, the package will be expanded. At the moment, however, there is no way to change the list of shadowings or externals; such changes will be ignored. Also, you can't change the superpackage. If you edit the superpackage name and read the declaration in again, you will create a new, distinct package without changing the old one.

**package-declare Macro**

The package-declare macro is used to declare a package to the package system. Its form is:

```
(package-declare name superpackage size file-alist option-1 option-2 ...)
```

The interpretation of the declaration is complicated; see section 23.4, page 348.

**describe-package**

```
(describe-package package-name)
```

is equivalent to

```
(describe (pkg-find-package package-name))
```

that is, it describes the package whose name is `package-name`.

### 23.5 Packages and Writing Code

The unsophisticated user need never be aware of the existence of packages when writing his programs. He should just load all of his programs into the package user, which is also what console type-in is interned in. Since all the functions which users are likely to need are provided in the global package, which is user's superpackage, they are all available. In this manual, functions which are not on the global package are documented with colons in their names, so typing the name the way it is documented will work.

However, if you are writing a generally useful tool, you should put it in some package other than user, so that its internal functions will not conflict with names other users use. Whether for this reason or for any other, if you are loading your programs into packages other than user there are special constructs that you will need to know about.

One time when you as the programmer must be aware of the existence of packages is when you want to use a function or variable in another package. To do this, write the name of the package, a colon, and then the name of the symbol, as in `eine:ed-get-defaulted-file-name`. You will notice that symbols in other packages print out that way, too. Sometimes you may need to refer to a symbol in a package whose superior is not global. When this happens, use multiple colons, as in `foo:bar:ugh`, to refer to the symbol `ugh` in the package named `bar` which is under the package named `foo`.

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Another time that packages intrude is when you use a "keyword": when you check for eqness against a constant symbol, or pass a constant symbol to someone else who will check for it using eq. This includes using the symbol as either argument to get. In such cases, the usual convention is that the symbol should reside in the user package, rather than in the package with which its meaning is associated. To make it easy to specify user, a colon before a symbol, as in :select, is equivalent to specifying user by name, as in user:select. Since the user package has no subpackages, putting symbols into it will not cause name conflicts.

Why is this convention used? Well, consider the function make-array, which takes one required argument followed by any number of keyword arguments. For example,

\[(make-array 100 'leader-length 10 'type art-string)\]

specifies, after the first required argument, two options with names leader-length and type and values 10 and art-string. The file containing this function's definition is in the system-internals package, but the function is available to everyone without the use of a colon prefix because the symbol make-array is itself inherited from global. But all the keyword names, such as type, are short and should not have to exist in global. However, it would be a shame if all callers of make-array had to specify system-internals: before the name of each keyword. After all, those callers can include programs loaded into user, which should by rights not have to know about packages at all. Putting those keywords in the user package solves this problem. The correct way to type the above form would be

\[(make-array 100 ':leader-length 10 ':type art-string)\]

Exactly when should a symbol go in user? At least, all symbols which the user needs to be able to pass as an argument to any function in global must be in user if they aren't themselves in global. Symbols used as keywords for arguments by any function should usually be in user, to keep things consistent. However, when a program uses a specific property name to associate its own internal memoranda with symbols passed in from outside, the property name should belong to the program's package, so that two programs using the same property name in that way don't conflict.

23.6 Shadowing

Suppose the user doesn't like the system nth function; he might be a former Interlisp user, and expect a completely different meaning from it. Were he to say (defun nth ---) in his program (call it snail) he would clobber the global symbol named "nth", and so affect the "nth" in everyone else's name space. (Actually, if he had not "externed" the symbol "nth", the redefinition would be caught and the user would be warned.)

In order to allow the snail package to have its own (defun nth ---) without interfering with the rest of the Lisp environment, it must "shadow" out the global symbol "nth" by putting a new symbol named "nth" on its own obarray. Normally, this is done by writing (shadow nth) in the declaration of the snail package. Since intern looks on the subpackage's obarray before global, it will find the programmer's own nth, and never the global one. Since the global one is now impossible to see, we say it has been "shadowed."

Having shadowed nth, if it is sometimes necessary to refer to the global definition, this can be done by writing global: nth. This works because the rename global is defined in the global package as a name for the global package. Since global is the superpackage of the snail package, all renames defined by global, including "global", are available in snail.
23.7 Packages and Interning

The function intern allows you to specify a package as the second argument. It can be specified either by giving the package object itself, or by giving a string or symbol which is the name of the package. intern returns three values. The first is the interned symbol. The second is t if the symbol is old (was already present, not just added to the obarray). The third is the package in which the symbol was actually found. This can be either the specified package or one of its superiors.

When you don’t specify the second argument to intern, the current package, which is the value of the symbol package, is used. This happens, in particular, when you call read. Bind the symbol package temporarily to the desired package, before calling things which call intern, when you want to specify the package. When you do this, the function pkg-find-package, which converts a string into the package it names, may be useful. While most functions that use packages will do this themselves, it is better to do it only once when package is bound. The function pkg-goto sets package to a package specified by a string. You shouldn’t usually need to do this, but it can be useful to "put the keyboard inside" a package when you are debugging.

package Variable
The value of package is the current package; many functions which take packages as optional arguments default to the value of package, including intern and related functions.

pkg-goto &optional pkg
pkg may be a package or the name of a package. pkg is made the current package. It defaults to the user package.

pkg-bind Macro
The form of the pkg-bind macro is (pkg-bind pkg . body). pkg may be a package or a package name. The forms of the body are evaluated sequentially with the variable package bound to pkg.
Example:

   (pkg-bind "zwei"
     (read-from-string function-name))

There are actually four forms of the intern function: regular intern, intern-soft, intern-local, and intern-local-soft. -soft means that the symbol should not be added to the package if there isn’t already one; in that case, all three values are nil. -local means that the superpackages should not be searched. Thus, intern-local can be used to cause shadowing. intern-local-soft is a good low-level primitive for when you want complete control of what to search and when to add symbols. All four forms of intern return the same three values, except that the soft forms return nil nil nil when the symbol isn’t found.

intern string &optional (pkg package)
intern searches pkg and its superpackages sequentially, looking for a symbol whose print-name is equal to string. If it finds such a symbol, it returns three values: the symbol, t, and the package on which the symbol is interned. If it does not find one, it creates a new symbol with a print name of string, interns it into the package pkg, and returns the new symbol, nil, and pkg.
If `string` is not a string but a symbol, `intern` searches for a symbol with the same print-name. If it doesn’t find one, it interns `string`—rather than a newly-created symbol—in `pkg` (even if it is also interned in some other package) and returns it.

**Intern-local** `string` &optional `(pkg package)`

`intern` searches `pkg` (but not its superpackages), looking for a symbol whose print-name is equal to `string`. If it finds such a symbol, it returns three values: the symbol, `t`, and `pkg`. If it does not find one, it creates a new symbol with a print name of `string`, and returns the new symbol, `nil`, and `pkg`.

If `string` is not a string but a symbol, and no symbol with that print-name is already interned in `pkg`, **intern-local** interns `string`—rather than a newly-created symbol—in `pkg` (even if it is also interned in some other package) and returns it.

**Intern-soft** `string` &optional `(pkg package)`

`intern` searches `pkg` and its superpackages sequentially, looking for a symbol whose print-name is equal to `string`. If it finds such a symbol, it returns three values: the symbol, `t`, and the package on which the symbol is interned. If it does not find one, it returns `nil`, `nil`, and `nil`.

**Intern-local-soft** `string` &optional `(pkg package)`

`intern` searches `pkg` (but not its superpackages), looking for a symbol whose print-name is equal to `string`. If it finds such a symbol, it returns three values: the symbol, `t`, and `pkg`. If it does not find one, it returns `nil`, `nil`, and `nil`.

Each symbol remembers which package it belongs to. While you can intern a symbol in any number of packages, the symbol will only remember one: normally, the first one it was interned in, unless you clobber it. This package is available as `(symbol-package symbol)`. If the value is `nil`, the symbol believes that it is uninterned.

The printer also implicitly uses the value of `package` when printing symbols. If slashification is on, the printer tries to print something such that if it were given back to the reader, the same object would be produced. If a symbol which is not in the current name space were just printed as its print name and read back in, the reader would intern it on the wrong package, and return the wrong symbol. So the printer figures out the right colon prefix so that if the symbol’s printed representation were read back in to the same package, it would be interned correctly. The prefix is only printed if slashification is on, i.e. `print` prints it and `princ` does not.

**Remob** `symbol` &optional `package`

`remob` removes `symbol` from `package` (the name means "REMove from OArray"). `symbol` itself is unaffected, but `intern` will no longer find it on `package`. `remob` is always "local", in that it removes only from the specified package and not from any superpackages. It returns `t` if the symbol was found to be removed. `package` defaults to the contents of the symbol’s package cell, the package it is actually in. (Sometimes a symbol can be in other packages also, but this is unusual.)
symbol-package symbol
Returns the contents of symbol's package cell, which is the package which owns symbol, or nil if symbol is uninterned.

package-cell-location symbol
Returns a locative pointer to symbol's package cell. It is preferable to write
(locf (symbol-package symbol))
rather than calling this function explicitly.

mapatoms function &optional (package package) (superiors-p t)
function should be a function of one argument. mapatoms applies function to all of the symbols in package. If superiors-p is t, then the function is also applied to all symbols in package's superpackages. Note that the function will be applied to shadowed symbols in the superpackages, even though they are not in package's name space. If that is a problem, function can try applying intern in package on each symbol it gets, and ignore it if it is not eq to the result of intern; this measure is rarely needed.

mapatoms-all function &optional (package "global")
function should be a function of one argument. mapatoms-all applies function to all of the symbols in package and all of package's subpackages. Since package defaults to the global package, this normally gets at all of the symbols in all packages. It is used by such functions as apropos and who-calls (see page 447)
Example:
(mapatoms-all
 (function
   (lambda (x)
     (and (alphalessp 'z x)
          (print x)))))

pkg-create-package name &optional (super package) (size 200)
pkg-create-package creates and returns a new package. Usually packages are created by package-declare, but sometimes it is useful to create a package just to use as a hash table for symbols, or for some other reason.

If name is a list, its first element is taken as the package name and the second as the program name; otherwise, name is taken as both. In either case, the package name and program name are coerced to strings. super is the superpackage for this package; it may be nil, which is useful if you only want the package as a hash table, and don't want it to interact with the rest of the package system. size is the size of the package; as in package-declare it is rounded up to a "good" size for the hashing algorithm used.

pkg-kill pkg
pkg may be either a package or the name of a package. The package should have a superpackage and no subpackages. pkg-kill takes the package off its superior's subpackage list and rename alist.
pkg-find-package  x  &optional  (create-p  nil)  (under  "global")

pkg-find-package  tries  to  interpret  x  as  a  package.  Most  of  the  functions  whose
descriptions  say  "...  may  be  either  a  package  or  the  name  of  a  package"  call  pkg-find-
package  to  interpret  their  package  argument.

If  x  is  a  package,  pkg-find-package  returns  it.  Otherwise  it  should  be  a  symbol  or
string,  which  is  taken  to  be  the  name  of  a  package.  The  name  is  looked  up  on  the
renamc  alists  of  package  and  its  superpackages,  the  same  as  if  it  had  been  typed  as  part
of  a  colon  prefix.  If  this  finds  the  package,  it  is  returned.  Otherwise,  create-p  controls
what  happens.  If  create-p  is  nil,  an  error  is  signalled.  If  create-p  is  :find,  nil  is  returned.
If  create-p  is  :ask  the  user  is  asked  whether  to  create  it.  Otherwise,  a  new  package  is
created,  and  installed  as  an  inferior  of  under.

A  package  is  implemented  as  a  stmcture,  created  by  defstruct.  The  following  accessor  macros
are  available  on  the  global  package:

pkg-name  The  name  of  the  package,  as  a  string.
pkg-refname-alist  The  renamc  alist  of  the  package,  associating  strings  with  packages.
pkg-super-package  The  superpackage  of  the  package.

23.8  Status  Information

The  current  package—where  your  type-in  is  being  interned—is  always  the  value  of  the  symbol
package.  A  package  is  a  named  structure  which  prints  out  nicely,  so  examining  the  value  of
package  is  the  best  way  to  find  out  what  the  current  package  is.  (It  is  also  displayed  in  the
who-line.) Normally,  it  should  be  user,  except  when  inside  compilation  or  loading  of  a  file
belonging  to  some  other  package.

To  get  more  information  on  the  current  package  or  any  other,  use  the  function  describe-
package.  Specify  either  a  package  object  or  a  string  which  is  a  renamc  for  the  desired  package
as  the  argument.  This  will  print  out  everything  except  a  list  of  all  the  symbols  in  the  package.  If
you  want  that,  use  (mapatoms  'print  package  nil).  describe  of  a  package  will  call  describe-
package.

23.9  Packages,  Loading,  and  Compilation

It's  obvious  that  every  file  has  to  be  loaded  into  the  right  package  to  serve  its  purpose.  It
may  not  be  so  obvious  that  every  file  must  be  compiled  in  the  right  package,  but  it's  just  as  true.
Luckily,  this  usually  happens  automatically.

When  you  have  mentioned  a  file  in  a  package's  file-alist,  requesting  to  compile  that  file  with
qc-file  or  loading  it  with  load  automatically  selects  that  package  to  perform  the  operation.

The  system  can  get  the  package  of  a  source  file  from  its  "file  property  list"  (see  section  21.9.2,
page 326).  For  instance,  you  can  put  at  the  front  of  your  file  a  line  such  as  ";  -*  Mode:Lisp;
Package:System-Internals  -*".  The  compiler  puts  the  package  name  into  the  QFASL  file  for  use
when  it  is  loaded.  If  a  file  is  not  mentioned  in  a  package's  file-alist  and  doesn't  have  such  a
package  specification  in  it,  the  system  loads  it  into  the  current  package,  and  tells  you  what  it  did.
23.10 Subpackages

Usually, each independent program occupies one package, which is directly under global in the hierarchy. But large programs, such as Macsyma, are usually made up of a number of sub-programs, which are maintained by a small number of people. We would like each sub-program to have its own name space, since the program as a whole has too many names for anyone to remember. So, we can make each sub-program into its own package. However, this practice requires special care.

It is likely that there will be a fair number of functions and symbols which should be shared by all of the sub-programs of Macsyma. These symbols should reside in a package named mcsyma, which would be directly under global. Then, each part of mcsyma (which might be called sin, risch, input, and so on) would have its own package, with the mcsyma package as its superpackage. To do this, first declare the mcsyma package, and then declare the risch, sin, etc. packages, specifying mcsyma as the superpackage for each of them. This way, each sub-program gets its own name space. All of these declarations would probably be in a together in a file called something like "macpkg".

However, to avoid a subtle pitfall (described in detail in the appendix), it is necessary that the mcsyma package itself contain no files; only a set of symbols specified at declaration time. This list of symbols is specified using shadow in the declaration of the mcsyma package. At the same time, the file-alist specified in the declaration must be nil (otherwise, you will not be allowed to create the subpackages). The symbols residing in the mcsyma package can have values and definitions, but these must all be supplied by files in mcsyma's subpackages (which must "extern" those symbols as necessary). Note that this is exactly the same treatment that global receives: all its functions are actually defined in files which are loaded into system-internals (si), compiler, etc.

To demonstrate the full power and convenience of this scheme, suppose there were a second huge program called owl which also had a subprogram called input (which, presumably, does all of the inputting for owl), and one called database. Then a picture of the hierarchy of packages would look like this:

```
  global
  |________________________\________________________
  |                         |
  mcsyma                   owl
  |                         |
  |________________________
  |                         |
  (others) risch sin input input database (others)
```

Now, the risch program and the sin program both do integration, and so it would be natural for each to have a function called integrate. From inside sin, sin's integrate would be referred to as "integrate" (no prefix needed), while risch's would be referred to as "risch:integrate". Similarly, from inside risch, risch's own integrate would be called "integrate", whereas sin's would be referred to as "sin:integrate".

If sin's integrate were a recursive function, the implementor would be referring to it from within sin itself, and would be happy that he need not type out "sin:integrate" every time; he can just say "integrate".
From inside the macsyma package or any of its other sub-packages, the two functions would be referred to as "sin:integrate" and as "risch:integrate". From anywhere else in the hierarchy, they would have to be called "macsyma:sin:integrate" and "macsyma:risch:integrate".

Similarly, assume that each of the input packages has a function called get-line. From inside macsyma or any of macsyma's subprograms (other than input), the relevant function would be called input:get-line, and the irrelevant one owl:input:get-line. The converse is true for owl and its sub-programs. Note that there is no problem arising from the fact that both owl and macsyma have subprograms of the same name (input).

You might also want to put Macsyma's get-line function on the macsyma package. Then, from anywhere inside Macsyma, the function would be called get-line; from the owl package and subpackages it could be referred to as macsyma: get-line.

23.11 Initialization of the Package System

This section describes how the package system is initialized when generating a new software release of the Lisp Machine system; none of this should affect users.

When the world begins to be loaded, there is no package system. There is one "obarray", whose format is different from that used by the package system. After sufficiently much of the Lisp environment is present for it to be possible to initialize the package system, that is done. At that time, it is necessary to split the symbols of the old-style obarray up among the various initial packages.

The first packages created by initialization are the most important ones: global, system, user, and system-internals. All of the symbols already present are placed in one of those packages. By default, a symbol goes into system-internals... Only those placed on special lists go into one of the others. These lists are the file "AI: L1SPM2; GLOBAL >" of symbols which belong in global, and the file "AI: L1SPM2; SYSTEM >" of symbols which go in system.

After the four basic packages exist, the package system's definition of intern is installed, and packages exist. Then, the other initial packages format, compiler, zwei, etc. are declared and loaded using package-declare and pkg-load, in almost the normal manner. The exception is that a few of the symbols present before packages exist really belong in one of these packages. Their package declarations contain calls to forward and borrow, which exist only for this purpose and are meaningful only in package declarations, and are used to move the symbols as appropriate. These declarations are kept in the file "AI: LISP; PKGDCL >".

`globalize symbol &optional (package "global")`

Sometimes it will be discovered that a symbol which ought to be in global is not there, and the file defining it has already been loaded, thus mistakenly creating a symbol with that name in a package which ought just to inherit the one from global. When this happens, you can correct the situation by doing (globalize "symbol-name"). This function creates a symbol with the desired name in global, merges whatever value, function definition, and properties can be found on symbols of that name together into the new symbol (complaining if there are conflicts), and forwards those slots of the existing symbols to the slots of the new one using one-q-forward pointers, so that they will appear to be one and the same symbol as far as value, function definition, and property list are concerned. They cannot all be made eq to each other, but globalize does the next-best
thing: it takes an existing symbol from user, if there is one, to put it in global. Since people who check for eq are normally supposed to specify user anyway, they will not perceive any effect from moving the symbol from user into global.

If globalize is given a symbol instead of a string as argument, the exact symbol specified is put into global. You can use this when a symbol in another package, which should have been inherited from global, is being checked for with eq—as long as there are not two different packages doing so. But, if the symbol is supposed to be in global, there usually should not be.

If the argument package is specified, then the symbol is moved into that package from all its subpackages, rather than into global.

23.12 Initial Packages

The initially present packages include:

- **global**: Contains advertised global functions.
- **user**: Used for interning the user’s type-in. Contains all keyword symbols.
- **sys or system**: Contains internal global symbols used by various system programs. global is for symbols global to the Lisp language, while system is for symbols global to the Lisp machine “operating system”.
- **si or system-internals**: Contains subroutines of many advertised system functions. si is a subpackage of sys.
- **compiler**: Contains the compiler. compiler is a subpackage of sys.
- **zwei**: Contains the editor.
- **chaos**: Contains the Chaosnet controller.
- **tv**: Contains the window system.
- **format**: Contains the function format and its associated subfunctions. There are quite a few others, it would be pointless to list them all.

Packages which are used for special sorts of data:

- **fonts**: Contains the names of all fonts.
- **format**: Contains the keywords for format, as well as the code.

Here is a picture depicting the initial package hierarchy:
global

user zwei chaos system tv format fonts (etc)

system-internals  compiler
24. Maintaining Large Systems

Most programs of any size will reside in more than one file on the file computer. This improves the program's overall modularity and divides it into manageable chunks for editing and compiling. However, it is also valuable to consider the program as a single unit to be compiled and/or loaded into the Lisp machine environment. To do this efficiently requires knowing what files have changed, for example which files need to be recompiled, and what relationships exist between the various files, for example that a file containing macro definitions must be loaded before another file can be compiled. The system facility described in this chapter does this.

24.1 Defining a System

defsystem Special Form

(defsystem name (keyword args...) (keyword args...) ...) defines a system named name. The options selected by the keywords are explained in detail later. In general, they fall into two categories: properties of the system and transformations. A transformation is an operation such as compiling or loading which takes one or more files and does something to them. The simplest system is a set of files and a transformation to be performed on them.

Here are a few examples.

(defsystem msys
  (:compile-load ("AI: GEORGE; PROG1" "AI: GEORG2; PROG2")))

(defsystem zmail
  (:name "ZMail")
  (:pathname-default "AI: ZMAIL:"
  (:package zwei)
  (:module defs "DEFS")
  (:module mult "MULT" :package tv)
  (:module main ("TOP" "COMNDS" "MAIL" "USER" "WINDOW"
                  "FILTER" mult "COMETH")
  (:compile-load defs)
  (:compile-load main (:fasload defs)))

(defsystem bar
  (:module reader-macros "RMAC")
  (:module other-macros "MACROS")
  (:module main-program "MAIN")
  (:compile-load reader-macros)
  (:compile-load other-macros (:fasload reader-macros))
  (:compile-load main-program (:fasload reader-macros other-macros)))

The first example defines a new system called msys, which consists of two files, both of which are to be compiled and loaded. The second example is somewhat more complicated. What all the options mean will be specified shortly, but the primary difference is that there is a file defs which must be loaded before the rest of the files (main) can be compiled. The final
example has two levels of dependency. reader-macros must be compiled and loaded before other-macros can be compiled. Both reader-macros and other-macros must then be loaded before main-program can be compiled.

The defsystem options other than transformations are:

:name Specifies a "pretty" version of the name for the system, for use in printing.

:component-systems Specifies the names of other systems used to make up this system. Performing an operation on a system with component systems is equivalent to performing the same operation on all the individual systems. Format is (:component-systems names...).

:package Specifies the package in which transformations are performed. A package specified here will override one in the *- line of the file in question.

:pathname-default Gives a local default within the definition of the system for strings to be parsed into pathnames. Typically this specifies the directory, when all the files of a system are on the same directory.

:module Allows assigning a name to a set of files within the system. This name can then be used instead of repeating the filenames. The format is (:module name files options...). files is a module-specification, which can be any of the following:

- a string This is a file name.
- a symbol This is a module name. It stands for all of the files which are in that module of this system.
- an external module component
  This is a list of the form (system-name module-names...), to specify modules in another system. It stands for all of the files which are in all of those modules.
- a list of module components
  A module component is any of the above, or the following:

- a list of file names
  This is used in the case where the names of the input and output files of a transformation are not related according to the standard naming conventions, for example when a QFASL file has a different name or resides on a different directory than the source file. The file names in the list are used from left to right, thus the first name is the source file. Each file name after the first in the list is defaulted from the previous one in the list.

  To avoid syntactic ambiguity, this is allowed as a module component but not as a module specification.

The currently defined options for the :module clause are

:package Overrides any package specified for the whole system for transformations performed on just this module.
In the second defsystem example above, there are three modules. The first two each has only one file, and the third one (main) is made up both files and another module. To take examples of the other possibilities,

```lisp
(:module prog ("AI: GEORGE; PROG" "AI: GEORG2; PROG"))
(:module foo (defs (zmail defs)))
```

The prog module consists of one file, but it lives in two directories, GEORGE and GEORG2. If this were a Lisp program, that would mean that the file "AI: GEORGE; PROG" would be compiled into "AI: GEORG2; PROG" QFASL. The foo module consists of two other modules, the defs module in the same system, and the defs module in the zmail system. It is not generally useful to compile files that belong to other systems, thus this foo module would not normally be the subject of a transformation. However, dependencies (defined below) use modules and need to be able to refer to (depend on) modules of other systems.

### 24.2 Transformations

Transformations are of two types, simple and complex. A simple transformation is a single operation on a file, such as compiling it or loading it. A complex transformation takes the output from one transformation and performs another transformation on it, for example, loading the results of compilation.

The general format of a simple transformation is `(name input dependencies condition)`. `input` is usually a module specification or another transformation whose output is used. The transformation `name` is to be performed on all the files in the module, or all the output files of the other transformation.

`dependencies` and `condition` are optional.

`dependencies` is a transformation specification, either a list `(transformation-name module-names...)`, or a list of such lists. A `module-name` is either a symbol which is the name of a module in the current system, or a list `(system-name module-names...)`. A dependency declares that all of the indicated transformations must be performed on the indicated modules before the current transformation itself can take place. Thus in the zmail example above, the defs module must have the `:fasload` transformation performed on it before the `:compile` transformation can be performed on main.

`condition` is a predicate which specifies when the transformation should take place. Generally it defaults according to the type of the transformation. The defined simple transformations are:

- **:fasload** Calls the fasload function to load the indicated files, which must be QFASL files. The `condition` defaults to `si:file-newer-than-installed-p`, which is `t` if a newer version of the file exists on the file computer than was read into the current environment.

- **:readfile** Calls the readfile function to read in the indicated files. Use this for files that are not to be compiled. `condition` defaults to `si:file-newer-than-installed-p`.

- **:compile** Calls the qc-file function to compile the indicated files. `condition` defaults to `si:file-newer-than-file-p` which returns `t` if the source file has been written more recently than the binary file.
The defined complex transformations are

:compile-load (compile-load input compile-dependencies load-dependencies compile-condition load-condition) is the same as (fasload (compile input compile-dependencies compile-condition) load-dependencies load-condition). This is the most commonly-used transformation. Everything after input is optional.

:compile-load-init
See page 366.

As was explained above, each filename in an input specification can in fact be a list of strings for the case where the source file of a program differs from the binary file in more than just the file type. In fact, every filename is treated as if it were an infinite list of filenames with the last filename, or in the case of a single string the only filename, repeated forever at the end. Each simple transformation takes some number of input filename arguments, and some number of output filename arguments. As transformations are performed, these arguments are taken from the front of the filename list. The input arguments are actually removed and the output arguments left as input arguments to the next higher transformation. To make this clearer, consider the prog module above having the :compile-load transformation performed on it. This means that prog is given as the input to the :compile transformation and the output from this transformation is given as the input to the :fasload transformation. The :compile transformation takes one input filename argument, the name of a lisp source file, and one output filename argument, the name of the qfasl file. The :fasload transformation takes one input filename argument, the name of a qfasl file, and no output filename arguments. So, for the first and only file in the prog module, the filename argument list looks like ("AI: GEORGE; PROG" "AI: GEORG2; PROG" "AI: GEORG2; PROG" ...). The :compile transformation is given arguments of "AI: GEORGE; PROG" and "AI: GEORG2; PROG" and the filename argument list which it outputs as the input to the :fasload transformation is ("AI: GEORG2; PROG" "AI: GEORG2; PROG" ...). The :fasload transformation then is given its one argument of "AI: GEORG2; PROG".

24.3 Making a System

make-system name &rest keywords

The make-system function does the actual work of compiling and loading. In the example above, if PROG1 and PROG2 have both been compiled recently, then

(make-system 'mysys)

will load them as necessary. If either one might also need to be compiled, then

(make-system 'mysys ':compile)

will do that first as necessary.

make-system lists what transformations it is going to perform on what files, asks the user for confirmation, then performs the transformations. Before each transformation a message is printed listing the transformation being performed, the file it is being done to, and the package. This behavior can be altered by keywords.

These are the keywords recognized by the make-system function and what they do.

:noconfirm Assumes a yes answer for all questions that would otherwise be asked of the user.

:selective Asks the user whether or not to perform each transformation that appears to be needed for each file.

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Adding New Keywords to make-system

24.4 Adding New Keywords to make-system

make-system keywords are defined as functions on the si:make-system-keyword property of the keyword. The functions are called with no arguments. Some of the relevant variables they can use are

si:*system-being-made* Variable
The internal data structure which represents the system being made.

si:*make-system-forms-to-be-evaluated-before* Variable
A list of forms which are evaluated before the transformations are performed.

si:*make-system-forms-to-be-evaluated-after* Variable
A list of forms which are evaluated after the transformations have been performed.

si:*make-system-forms-to-be-evaluated-finally* Variable
A list of forms which are evaluated after the body of make-system has completed. This differs from si:*make-system-forms-to-be-evaluated-after* in that these forms are evaluated outside of the "compiler context", which sometimes makes a difference.

si:*query-type* Variable
Controls how questions are asked. Its normal value is :normal. :noconfirm means no questions will be asked and :selective asks a question for each individual file transformation.

si:*silent-p* Variable
If t, no messages are printed out.

si:*batch-mode-p* Variable
If t, :batch was specified.
Adding New Options for defsystem

si:*redo-all* Variable
If t, all transformations are performed, regardless of the condition functions.

si:*top-level-transformations* Variable
A list of the names of transformations that will be performed, such as (:fasload :readfile).

si:*file-transformation-function* Variable
The actual function that gets called with the list of transformations that need to be performed. The default is si:do-file-transformations.

si:define-make-system-special-variable variable value
Causes variable to be bound to value, which is evaluated at make-system time, during the body of the call to make-system. This allows you to define new variables similar to those listed above. This "function" is really a special form; it does not evaluate its arguments.

make-system keywords can have effect either directly when called, or by pushing a form to be evaluated onto si:*make-system-forms-to-be-evaled-after* or one of the other two similar lists. In general, the only useful thing to do is to set some special variable defined by si:define-make-system-special-variable. In addition to the ones mentioned above, user-defined transformations may have their behavior controlled by new special variables, which can be set by new keywords. If you want to get at the list of transformations to be performed, for example, the right way would be to set si:*file-transformation-function to a new function, which then might call si:do-file-transformations with a possibly modified list. That is how the :print-only keyword works.

24.5 Adding New Options for defsystem

Options to defsystem are defined as macros on the si:defsystem-macro property of the option keyword. Such a macro can expand into an existing option or transformation, or it can have side effects and return nil. There are several variables they can use; the only one of general interest is

si:*system-being-defined* Variable
The internal data structure which represents the system which is currently being constructed.

si:define-defsystem-special-variable variable value
Causes variable to be bound to value during the expansion of the defsystem special form. This allows you to define new variables similar to the one listed above. This "function" is really a special form; it does not evaluate its arguments.

si:define-simple-transformation Special Form
This is the most convenient way to define a new simple transformation. The form is

(si:define-simple-transformation name function
  default-condition input-file-types output-file-types
  pretty-names compile-like load-like)

For example,
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More Esoteric Transformations

\[(\text{si:define-simple-transformation :compile si:qc-file-l}
\text{si:file-newer-than-file-p} \text{("LISP") \text{("QFASL")})}\]

\text{input-file-types} \text{and} \text{output-file-types} \text{are how a transformation specifies how many input filenames and output filenames it should receive as arguments, in this case one of each. They also, obviously, specify the default file type for these pathnames. The si:qc-file-l function is mostly like qc-file, except for its interface to packages. It takes input-file and output-file arguments.}

\text{pretty-names}, \text{compile-like}, \text{and load-like} \text{are optional.}

\text{pretty-names} \text{specifies how messages printed for the user should print the name of the transformation. It can be a list of the imperative \text{("Compile")}, the present participle \text{("Compiling")}, and the past participle \text{("compiled"). Note that the past participle is not capitalized, because it is not used at the beginning of a sentence. pretty-names can be just a string, which is taken to be the imperative, and the system will conjugate the participles itself. If pretty-names is omitted or \text{nil it defaults to the name of the transformation.}}

\text{compile-like and load-like} \text{say when the transformation should be performed. Compile-like transformations are performed when the \text{:compile} keyword is given to make-system. Load-like transformations are performed unless the \text{:noload} keyword is given to make-system. By default compile-like is \text{t but load-like is nil.}}

Complex transformations are just defined as normal macro expansions, for example,

\[(\text{defmacro (:compile-load si:defsystem-macro)}
(\text{input &optional com-dep load-dep com-cond load-cond})
\text{\'(:fasload (:compile ,input ,com-dep ,com-cond)}
\text{,load-dep ,load-cond))}\]

\text{24.6 More Esoteric Transformations}

\text{It is sometimes useful to specify a transformation upon which something else can depend, but which is not performed by default, but rather only when requested because of that dependency. The transformation nevertheless occupies a specific place in the hierarchy. The \text{:skip defsystem} macro allows specifying a transformation of this type. For example, suppose there is a special compiler for the read table which is not ordinarily loaded into the system. The compiled version should still be kept up to date, and it needs to be loaded if ever the read table needs to be recompiled.}

\text{(defsystem reader}
(\text{(:pathname-default "AI: LMIO:"})
(\text{:package system-internals})
(\text{:module defs "RDDEFS"})
(\text{:module reader "READ"})
(\text{:module read-table-compiler "RTC"})
(\text{:module read-table "RDTBL"})
(\text{:compile-load defs})
(\text{:compile-load reader (:fasload defs)})
(\text{:skip :fasload (:compile read-table-compiler)})
(\text{,:rtc-compile-load read-table (:fasload read-table-compiler))})

\text{Assume that there is a complex transformation :rtc-compile-load which is like :compile-load,}

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except that it is built on a transformation called something like :rtc-compile, which uses the read table compiler rather than the Lisp compiler. In the above system, then, if the :rtc-compile transformation is to be performed, the :fasload transformation must be done on read-table-compiler first, that is the read table compiler must be loaded if the read table is to be recompiled. If you say (make-system 'reader ':compile), then the :compile transformation will still happen on the read-table-compiler module, compiling the read table compiler if need be. But if you say (make-system 'reader), the reader and the read table will be loaded, but the :skip keeps this from happening to the read table compiler.

So far nothing has been said about what can be given as a condition for a transformation except for the default functions which check for a source file being newer than the binary and so on. In general, any function which takes the same arguments as the transformation function (e.g. qc-file) and returns t if the transformation needs to be performed, can be in this place as a symbol, including for example a closure. To take an example, suppose there is a file which contains compile-flavor-methods for a system, and which should therefore be recompiled if any of the flavor method definitions change. In this case, the condition function for compiling that file should return t if either the source of that file itself or any of the files that define the flavors has changed. This is what the :compile-load-init complex transformation is for. It is defined like this:

```
(defmacro (:compile-load-init si:defsystem-macro)
  (input add-dep &optional com-dep load-dep
   &aux function)
  (setq function (let-closed "*additional-dependent-modules*
    add-dep)
      'compile-load-init-condition)
    '(:fasload (:compile ,input ,com-dep ,function)
      load-dep))

(defun compile-load-init-condition (source-file qfasl-file)
  (or (si:file-newer-than-file-p source-file qfasl-file)
    (local-declare ((special *additional-dependent-modules*)
      (si:other-files-newer-than-file-p
        *additional-dependent-modules*
        qfasl-file)))
)
```

The condition function which will be generated when this macro is used returns t either if si:file-newer-than-file-p would with those arguments, or if any of the other files in add-dep, which presumably is a module specification, are newer than the qfasl file.

### 24.7 The Patch Facility

The patch facility allows a system maintainer to manage new releases of a large system and issue patches to correct bugs. It is designed to be used to maintain both the Lisp machine system itself, and applications systems that are large enough to be loaded up and saved on a disk partition.

When a system of programs is very large, it needs to be maintained. Often problems are found and need to be fixed, or other little changes need to be made. However, it takes a long time to load up all of the files that make up such a system, and so rather than having every user load up all the files every time he wants to use the system, usually the files just get loaded once into a Lisp world, and then the Lisp world is saved away on a disk partition. Users then use this
disk partition, and copies of it are distributed. The problem is that since the users don't load up the system every time they want to use it, they don't get all the latest changes.

The purpose of the patch system is to solve this problem. A patch file is a little file that, when you load it, updates the old version of the system into the new version of the system. Most often, patch files just contain new function definitions; old functions are redefined to do their new thing. When you want to use a system, you first use the Lisp environment saved on the disk, and then you load all the latest patches. Patch files are very small, so loading them doesn't take much time. You can even load the saved environment, load up the latest patches, and then save it away, to save future users the trouble of even loading the patches. (Of course, new patches may be made later, and then these will have to be loaded if you want to get the very latest version.)

For every system, there is a series of patches that have been made to that system. To get the latest version of the system, you load each patch file in the series, in order. Sooner or later, the maintainer of a system will want to stop building more and more patches, and recompile everything, starting afresh. A complete recompilation is also necessary when a system is changed in a far-reaching way, that can't be done with a small patch; for example, if you completely reorganize a program, or change a lot of names or conventions, you might need to completely recompile it to make it work again. After a complete recompilation has been done, the old patch files are no longer suitable to use; loading them in might even break things.

The way all this is kept track of is by labelling each version of a system with a two-part number. The two parts are called the major version number and the minor version number. The minor version number is increased every time a new patch is made; the patch is identified by the major and minor version number together. The major version number is increased when the program is completely recompiled, and at that time the minor version number is reset to zero. A complete system version is identified by the major version number, followed by a dot, followed by the minor version number.

To clarify this, here is a typical scenario. A new system is created; its initial version number is 1.0. Then a patch file is created; the version of the program that results from loading the first patch file into version 1.0 is called 1.1. Then another patch file might be created, and loading that patch file into system 1.1 creates version 1.2. Then the entire system is recompiled, creating version 2.0 from scratch. Now the two patch files are irrelevant, because they fix old software; the changes that they reflect are integrated into system 2.0.

Note that the second patch file should only be loaded into system 1.1 in order to create system 1.2; you shouldn't load it into 1.0 or any other system besides 1.1. It is important that all the patch files be loaded in the proper order, for two reasons. First, it is very useful that any system numbered 1.1 be exactly the same software as any other system numbered 1.1, so that if somebody reports a bug in version 1.1, it is clear just which software is being complained about. Secondly, one patch might patch another patch; loading them in some other order might have the wrong effect.

The patch facility keeps track, in the file system, of all the patch files that exist, remembering which version each one creates. There is a separate numbered sequence of patch files for each major version of each system. All of them are stored in the file system, and the patch facility keeps track of where they all are.
For each patchable system there is a file called the `system definition file` that tells where to find all the other information, and tells which major version of the system is the latest one that has been generated. These files and how to make them are described below.

As you are running on a Lisp Machine, you can tell the patch facility about a system by calling `si:add-patchable-system` (see page 369) telling it the name of the system definition file. By doing this, you add this system to the list of all systems "present" in the world. For each system that is present, the patch facility keeps track of which version of each system is present, and where the data on that system reside in the file system. This information can be used to update the Lisp world automatically to the latest versions of all the systems it contains. Once a system is present, you can ask for the latest patches to be loaded, ask which patches are already loaded, and add new patches.

You can also load in patches or whole new systems and then save the entire Lisp environment away in a disk partition. This is explained on section 24.8, page 371.

When a Lisp Machine is booted, it prints out a line of information telling you what systems are present, and which version of each system is loaded. This information is returned by the function `si:system-version-info`. It is followed by a text string containing any additional information that was requested by whoever created the current disk partition (see `disk-save`, page 373).

`print-system-modifications &rest system-names`

With no arguments, this lists all the systems present in this world and, for each system, all the patches that have been made to it. For each patch it shows the major version number (which will always be the same since a world can only contain one major version), the minor version number, and an explanation of what the patch does, as typed in by the person who made the patch.

If `print-system-modifications` is called with arguments, only the modifications to the systems named are listed.

`si:get-system-version &optional system`

Returns two values, the major and minor version numbers of the version of `system` currently loaded into the machine, or `nil` if that system is not present. `system` defaults to "System".

`si:system-version-info &optional (briefp nil)`

This returns a string giving information about which systems and what versions of the systems are loaded into the machine, and what microcode version is running. A typical string for it to produce is:

"System 65.12, ZMail 19.1, microcode 739"

If `briefp` is `t`, it suppresses the microcode version, the name `System`, and the commas:

"65.12 ZMail 19.1"
24.7.1 Defining a System

In order to use the patch facility one must create a system definition file which contains the parameters of your system. This file contains the printed representation of a list of the form:

\[(\text{name} \text{ major-version} \text{ patch-dir-names} \text{ patch-names} \text{ nil})\]

The items of the list have the following meanings:

- **name**: A string which is the name of your system. This should be different from the name of any other system. The name "System" is the name of the Lisp Machine system itself.

- **major-version**: The major version number of the most recent version of your system. Once you initialize this the patch facility will maintain it automatically for you, rewriting your system definition file.

- **patch-dir-names**: A format control string which is used to get the name of the patch directory file for a given major version. There is one patch directory file for each major version of each system, used by the patch facility to keep track of the patches to that major version. The format control string is passed one "argument": the major version number. For example, if patch-dir-names is "AI: MYDIR; MY-D (PDIR)", the patch directory file for major version 259 would be AI: MYDIR; MY259 (PDIR). Be sure to leave room in the name for a sufficient number of digits of major version; remember that ITS filenames have only six characters.

- **patch-names**: A format control string which is used to get the name of the patch file for a given major and minor version. This patch file holds the changes in that version from its predecessor. The format control string is passed two "arguments": the major version number and the minor version number. For example, if patch-names is "AI: MYDIR; ~D.~D" the source version of the patch file for major version 259 and minor version 69 would be AI: MYDIR; 259.69. Note that "~" is used so that the patch file can be saved several times or edited.

Patch files get compiled, hence there will also be files with names like 259.69 QFASL.

The nil at the end is used in the in-core version of this data structure and should always be nil in the file. The system definition file for the Lisp machine system is AI: LMPAT; SYSTEM (PDIR) and contains

\["\text{System}" 48. \text{"AI: LMPAT; SYS-D (PDIR)" "AI: LMPAT; ~D.~D" NIL}\]

Having created your system definition file, arrange the procedure for loading your system so that after it is all loaded, it will invoke the si:add-patchable-system function, as follows.

\[\text{si:add-patchable-system name system-definition-file \&optional new-major-version}\]

Tells the patch facility about a system. name is its name (a string). system-definition-file is the file name of its system definition file. If new-major-version is t, you are making a new release and the major version number will be incremented. The system definition file will be written out with the new major version number. If new-major-version is nil (the default), the major version number remains unchanged.
After loading your system, you can save it with the disk-save function (see page 373). disk-save will ask you for any additional information you want printed as part of the greeting when the machine is booted. This is in addition to the names and versions of all the systems present in this world. If the system version will not fit in the 16-character field allocated in the disk label, disk-save will ask you to type in an abbreviated form.

[Clearly "patchable system" in the above sense and "systems" in the sense of defsystem ought to be related; they aren't currently, for historical reasons, but we hope to fix this soon.]

24.7.2 Loading Patches

load-patches &rest options

This function is used to bring the current world up to the latest minor version of whichever major version it is, for all systems present, or for certain specified systems. If there are any patches available, load-patches will offer to read them in. With no arguments, load-patches updates all the systems present in this world.

options is a list of keywords. Some keywords are followed by an argument. The following options are accepted:

:systems list list is a list of names of systems to be brought up to date. If this option is not specified, all systems are processed.

:verbose Print an explanation of what is being done. This is the default.

:selective For each patch, say what it is and then ask the user whether or not to load it. This is the default. If the user answers "P", selective mode is turned off for any remaining patches to the current system.

:noselective Turns off :selective.

:silent Turns off both :selective and :verbose. In :silent mode all necessary patches are loaded without printing anything and without querying the user.

Currently load-patches is not called automatically, but the system may be changed to offer to load patches when the user logs in, in order to keep things up to date.

24.7.3 Making Patches

There are two editor commands that are used to create patch files. During a typical maintenance session on a system you will make several edits to its source files. The patch system can be used to copy these edits into a patch file so that they can be automatically incorporated into the system to create a new minor version. Edits in a patch file can be modified function definitions, new functions, modified defvar's and defconst's, or arbitrary forms to be evaluated, even including load's of new files.

Meta-X Add Patch adds the region (if there is one) or else the current "defun" to the patch file currently being constructed. The first time you give this command it will ask you what system you are patching, allocate a new minor version number, and start constructing the patch file for that version. If you change a function, you should recompile it, test it, then once it works use Add Patch to put it in the patch file.
The patch file being constructed is in an editor buffer. If you mistakenly add something which doesn’t work, you can select the buffer containing the patch file and delete it. Then later you can add patch the corrected version.

While you are making your patch file, the minor version number that has been allocated for you is reserved so that nobody else can use it. This way if two people are patching a system at the same time, they will not both get the same minor version number.

After making and testing all of your patches, use meta-X Finish Patch to install the patch file so that other users can load it. This will compile the patch file if you have not done so yourself (patches are always compiled). It will ask you for a comment describing the reason for the patch; load-patches and print-system-modifications print these comments.

After finishing your patch, if you do another add patch it will ask you which system again and start a new minor version. Note that you can only be putting together patches for one system at a time.

If you start making a patch file and for some reason never do a finish patch (you decide to give up or your machine crashes), the minor version number that you were working on will remain reserved. Since patch files must always be loaded in strictly sequential order, nobody will be able to load any further patches made to this major version past this point. You must manually edit the patch directory file for this major version, removing the line corresponding to the aborted patch. It is OK for a minor version number to be skipped.

24.8 Saving New Versions: Disk Partitions

24.8.1 Concepts

The make-system and load-patches functions, described above, load software into the Lisp world. This takes time; it is wasteful for everyone to sit through this loading of software every time the software is to be used. Usually someone loads up software into a Lisp world and then saves away the whole Lisp world in a partition on a disk. This section explains how to do this and other things.

A Lisp Machine disk is divided into several named partitions (also called "bands" sometimes). Partitions can be used for many things. Every disk has a partition named PAGE, which is used to implement the virtual memory of the Lisp Machine. When you run Lisp, this is where the Lisp world actually resides. There are also partitions that hold saved images of the Lisp Machine microcode, conventionally named MC$n$ (where $n$ is a digit), and partitions that hold saved images of Lisp worlds, conventionally named LOD$n$. A saved image of a Lisp world is also called a "virtual memory load" or "system load".

The directory of partitions is in a special block on the disk called the label. When you "cold-boot" a Lisp Machine by typing CTRL/META/CTRL/META-Rubout, the machine checks the label to see which two partitions contain two important "files": the current microcode load, and the current saved image of the Lisp world. These are kept separate so that the microcode can be easily changed without going through the time-consuming process of generating a new system load. When you "cold-boot", the contents of the current microcode band are loaded into the microcode memory, and then the contents of the current saved image of the Lisp world is copied into the

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PAGE partition. Then Lisp starts running.

For each partition, the directory of partitions contains a brief textual description of the contents of the partition. For microcode partitions, a typical description might be "UCADR 739"; this means that version 739 of the microcode is in the partition. For saved Lisp images, it is a little more complicated. Ideally, the description would say which versions of which systems are loaded into the band. Unfortunately, there isn't enough room for that in most cases. A typical description is "65.8 ZMail 19.1", meaning that this band contains version 65.8 of System and version 19.1 of ZMail. The description is created when a Lisp world is saved away by disk-save (see below).

24.8.2 Manipulating the Label

print-disk-label &optional (unit 0) (stream standard-output)
Print a description of the label of the disk specified by unit onto stream. The description starts with the name of the disk pack, various information about the disk that is generally uninteresting, and the names of the two current load partitions (microcode and saved Lisp image). This is followed by one line of description for each partition. Each one has a name, disk address, size, and textual description. The two partitions that are the current load partitions, used when you cold-boot, are preceded by asterisks. unit may be the unit number of the disk (most Lisp machines just have one unit, numbered 0), or the "host name" of another Lisp Machine on the Chaosnet (in which case the label of unit 0 on that machine will be printed, and the user of that machine will be notified that you are looking at his label).

set-current-band partition-name
Set the current saved Lisp image partition to be partition-name. If partition-name is a number, the name LOOn will be used.

set-current-microload partition-name
Set the current microcode partition to be partition-name. If partition-name is a number, the name MCRn will be used.

When using the functions to set the current load partitions, be extra sure that you are specifying the correct partition. Having done it, cold-booting the machine will reload from those partitions. Some versions of the microcode will not work with some versions of the Lisp system, and if you set the two current partitions incompatibly, cold-booting the machine will fail; you will need an expert to fix this.

si:edit-disk-label unit &optional init-p
This runs an interactive label editor on the specified unit. This editor allows you to change any field in the label. The HELP key documents the commands. You have to be an expert to need this and to understand what it does, so the commands are not documented here. Ask someone if you need help.
print-loaded-band &optional format-dest
Tells you what you are currently running. This includes where it came from on the disk and what version of each system is present in your Lisp environment. format-dest defaults to t; if it is nil the answer will be returned as a string rather than printed out.

disk-restore &optional partition
Allows booting from a band other than the current one. partition may be the name or the number of a disk partition containing a virtual-memory load, or nil or omitted, meaning to use the current partition. The specified partition is copied into the paging area of the disk and then started.

Although you can use this to boot a different Lisp image than the installed one, this does not provide a way to boot a different microcode image. disk-restore brings up the new band with the currently running microcode.

disk-restore asks the user for confirmation before doing it.

24.8.3 Updating Software

Of all the procedures described in this section, the most common one is to take a partition containing a Lisp image, update it to have all the latest patches, and save it away into a partition.

The way you do this is to start by cold-booting the machine, to get a fresh, empty system. Next, you must log in as something whose INIT file does not affect the Lisp world noticeably (so that when you save away the Lisp image, the side-effects of the INIT file won’t get saved too); you can log in as "LISPM". Now you can load in any new software you want; usually you just do (load-patches) and answer the questions, to bring all the present patchable systems up to date, but you might also add a new system and load it up.

When you’re done loading everything, do (print-disk-label) to find a band in which to save your new Lisp world. It is best not to reuse the current band, since if something goes wrong during the saving of the partition, while you have written, say, half of the band that is current, it may be impossible to cold-boot the machine. Once you have found the partition, you use the disk-save function to save everything into that partition.

disk-save partition-name
Save the current Lisp world in the designated partition. partition-name may be a partition name (a string), or it may be a number in which case the name LODn is used.

It first asks you for yes-or-no confirmation that you really want to reuse the named partition. Then it tries to figure out what to put into the textual description of the label. It starts with the brief version of s:system-version-info (see page 368). Then it asks you for an "additional comment" to append to this; usually you just type a return here, but you can also add a comment that will be returned by s:system-version-info (and thus printed when the system is booted) from then on. If this doesn’t fit into the fixed size available for the textual description, it asks you to retypie the whole thing (the version info as well as your comment) in a compressed form that will fit. The compressed version will appear in the textual description in print-disk-label.

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The Lisp environment is then saved away into the designated partition, and then the equivalent of a cold-boot from that partition is done.

Once the patched system has been successfully saved and the system comes back up, you can make it current with set-current-band.

Please don’t save patched systems that have had the editor or the compiler run. This works, but it makes the saved system a lot bigger. You should try to do as little as possible between the time you cold-boot and the time you save the partition, in order to produce a clean saved environment.

24.8.4 Installing New Software

The version numbers of the current microcode and system are announced to the INFO-LISPM mailing list. When a new system becomes available, mail is sent to the list explaining where to find the new system and what is new about it. Sometimes a microcode and a system go together, and the new system will not work with the old microcode and vice versa. When this happens extra care is required to avoid getting incompatible loads current at the same time so that the machine will not be able to boot itself.

All of the extant microcode versions can be found on the LISPM directory on AI. Microcode version \textit{\texttt{nnn}} is in AI: LISPM1; UCADR \textit{\texttt{nnnMCR}}. To copy a new microcode version into one of the microcode load partitions, first do a (print-disk-label) to ensure that the partition you intend to bash is not the current one; if it was, and something went wrong in the middle of loading the new microcode, it would be impossible to cold-boot, and this is hard to fix.

Then, install the microcode (on the non-current partition) by using \texttt{si:load-mcr-file}.

\texttt{si:load-mcr-file microcode-file partition-name}

Load the contents of the file \texttt{microcode-file} into the designated partition. Usually \texttt{microcode-file} looks like "AI: LISPM1; UCADR \textit{\texttt{nnnMCR}}", and \texttt{partition-name} is "MCR1" or "MCR2". This takes about 30 seconds.

The system load, unlike the microcode load, is much too large to fit in an AI file. Therefore, the only way to install an updated system on a machine is to copy it from another machine that already has it. So the first step is to find a machine that is not in use and has the desired system. We will call this the source machine. The machine where the new system will be installed is the target machine. You can see who is logged into which machines, see which ones are free, and use print-disk-label with an argument to examine the label of that machine's disk and see if it has the system you want.

The function for actually copying a system load partition off of another machine is called as follows. Before doing this, double-check the partition names by printing the labels of both machines, and make sure no one is using the source machine.

\texttt{si:receive-band source-host source-band target-band}

Copy the partition on source-host's partition named \texttt{source-band} onto the local machine's partition named \texttt{target-band}. ("Band" means "partition"). This takes about ten minutes. It types out the size of the partition in pages, and types a number every 100 pages telling how far it has gotten. It puts up a display on the remote machine saying what's going
To go the other direction, use \texttt{si:transmit-band}.

\texttt{si:transmit-band source-band target-host target-band}

This is just like \texttt{si:receive-band}, except you use it on the source machine instead of the target machine. It copies the local machine's partition named \texttt{source-band} onto target-machine's partition named \texttt{target-band}.

After transferring the band, it is good practice to make sure that it really was copied successfully by comparing the original and the copy. All of the known reasons for errors during band transfer have (of course) been corrected, but peace of mind is valuable. If the copy was not perfectly faithful, you might not find out about it until a long time later, when you use whatever part of the system that had not been copied properly.

\texttt{si:compare-band source-host source-band target-band}

This is like \texttt{si:receive-band}, except that it does not change anything. It compares the two bands and complains about any differences.

Having gotten the current microcode load and system load copied into partitions on your machine, you can make them current using \texttt{set-current-microload} and \texttt{set-current-band}. Double-check everything with \texttt{print-disk:label}. Then cold-boot the machine, and the new system should come up in a half-minute or so.

If the microcode you installed is not the same version as was installed on the source machine from which you got the system load, you will need to follow the procedure given below under "installing new microcode". This can happen if someone hasn't installed the current microcode yet on that other machine.

### 24.8.5 Installing New Microcode

When an existing system is to be used with a new microcode, certain changes need to be made to the system, and it should then be dumped back out with the changes. Usually new microcode is released only along with a new system, so you hardly ever have to do this. The error handler has a table of errors that are detected by microcode. The hardware/microcode debugger (CC) has a microcode symbol table. These symbols are used when debugging other machines, and are also used by certain metering programs. These tables should be updated when a new microcode is installed.

The error-handler will automatically update its table (from a file on the AI:LISPM; directory) when the machine is booted with the new microcode. The CC symbol table is updated by the following procedure:

\begin{verbatim}
   (login 'lispm)
   (pkg-goto 'cadr)
   (cc-load-ucode-symbols "AI: LISPM1; UCADR mnnSYM")
   (pkg-goto)
\end{verbatim}

where \texttt{mnn} is the microcode version number. This operation will take a minute or two; after it has read in most of the file the machine will stop for a long time while it sorts the symbols. It will look like it has crashed, but it hasn't, really, and will eventually come back.
After booting the system with the new microcode and following the above procedure, the updated system should be saved with `disk-save` as explained above. Note that this operation does not change the system version number. Once the new band is verified to work, the old band can be removed from the label with `si:edit-disk-label` if desired.
25. Processes

The Lisp machine supports multi-processing; several computations can be executed "concurrently" by placing each in a separate process. A process is like a processor, simulated by software. Each process has its own "program counter", its own stack of function calls and its own special-variable binding environment in which to execute its computation. (This is implemented with stack groups, see chapter 12, page 149.)

If all the processes are simply trying to compute, the machine time-slices between them. This is not a particularly efficient mode of operation since dividing the finite memory and processor power of the machine among several processes certainly cannot increase the available power and in fact wastes some of it in overhead. The way processes are normally used is different; there can be several on-going computations, but at a given moment only one or two processes will be trying to run. The rest will be either waiting for some event to occur, or stopped, that is, not allowed to compete for resources.

A process waits for an event by means of the process-wait primitive, which is given a predicate function which defines the event being waited for. A module of the system called the process scheduler periodically calls that function. If it returns nil the process continues to wait; if it returns t the process is made runnable and its call to process-wait returns, allowing the computation to proceed.

A process may be active or stopped. Stopped processes are never allowed to run; they are not considered by the scheduler, and so will never become the current process until they are made active again. The scheduler continually tests the waiting functions of all the active processes, and those which return non-nil values are allowed to run. When you first create a process with process-create, it is inactive.

A process has two sets of Lisp objects associated with it, called its run reasons and its arrest reasons. These sets are implemented as lists. Any kind of object can be in these sets; typically keyword symbols and active objects such as windows and other processes are found. A process is considered active when it has at least one run reason and no arrest reasons. A process that is not active is stopped, is not referenced by the processor scheduler, and does not compete for machine resources.

To get a computation to happen in another process, you must first create a process, and then say what computation you want to happen in that process. The computation to be executed by a process is specified as an initial function for the process and a list of arguments to that function. When the process starts up it applies the function to the arguments. In some cases the initial function is written so that it never returns, while in other cases it performs a certain computation and then returns, which stops the process.

To reset a process means to throw (see *throw, page 43) out of its entire computation, then force it to call its initial function again. Resetting a process clears its waiting condition, and so if it is active it will become runnable. To preset a function is to set up its initial function (and arguments), and then reset it. This is how you start up a computation in a process.

All processes in a Lisp machine run in the same virtual address space, sharing the same set of Lisp objects. Unlike other systems which have special restricted mechanisms for inter-process
communication, the Lisp machine allows processes to communicate in arbitrary ways through shared Lisp objects. One process can inform another of an event simply by changing the value of a global variable. Buffers containing messages from one process to another can be implemented as lists or arrays. The usual mechanisms of atomic operations, critical sections, and interlocks are provided (see %store-conditional (page 163), without-interrupts (page 379), and process-lock (page 381).

A process is a Lisp object, an instance of one of several flavors of process (see chapter 20, page 245). The remainder of this chapter describes the messages you can send to a process, the functions you can apply to a process, and the functions and variables a program running in a process can use to manipulate its process.

25.1 The Scheduler

At any time there is a set of active processes; as described above, these are all the processes which are not stopped. Each active process is either currently running, trying to run, or waiting for some condition to become true. The active processes are managed by a special stack group called the scheduler, which repeatedly cycles through the active processes, determining for each process whether it is ready to be run, or whether it is waiting. The scheduler determines whether a process is ready to run by applying the process's wait-function to its wait-argument-list. If the wait-function returns a non-nil value, then the process is ready to run; otherwise, it is waiting. If the process is ready to run, the scheduler resumes the current stack group of the process.

When a process's wait-function returns non-nil, the scheduler will resume its stack group and let it proceed. The process is now the current process, that is, the one process that is running on the machine. The scheduler sets the variable current-process to it. It will remain the current process and continue to run until either it decides to wait, or a sequence break occurs. In either case, the scheduler stack group will be resumed and it will continue to cycle through the active processes. This way, each process that is ready to run will get its share of time in which to execute.

A process can wait for some condition to become true by calling process-wait (see page 379), which will set up its wait-function and wait-argument-list accordingly, and resume the scheduler stack group. A process can also wait for just a moment by calling process-allow-schedule (see page 380), which resumes the scheduler stack group but leaves the process runnable; it will run again as soon as all other runnable processes have had a chance.

A sequence break is a kind of interrupt that is generated by the Lisp system for any of a variety of reasons; when it occurs, the scheduler is resumed. The function sb-on (see page 380) can be used to control when sequence breaks occur. The default is to sequence break once a second. Thus if a process runs continuously without waiting, it will be forced to return control to the scheduler once a second so that any other runnable processes will get their turn.

The system does not generate a sequence break when a page fault occurs; thus time spent waiting for a page to come in from the disk is "charged" to a process the same as time spent computing, and cannot be used by other processes. It is done this way for the sake of simplicity; this allows the whole implementation of the process system to reside in ordinary virtual memory, and not to have to worry specially about paging. The performance penalty is small since Lisp machines are personal computers, not multiplexed among a large number of processes. Usually only one process at a time is runnable.

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A process's wait function is free to touch any data structure it likes and to perform any computation it likes. Of course, wait functions should be kept simple, using only a small amount of time and touching only a small number of pages, or system performance will be impacted since the wait function will consume resources even when its process is not running. If a wait function gets an error, the error will occur inside the scheduler. All scheduling will come to a halt and the user will be thrown into the error handler. Wait functions should be written in such a way that they cannot get errors. Note that process-wait calls the wait function once before giving it to the scheduler, so an error due simply to bad arguments will not occur inside the scheduler.

Note well that a process's wait function is executed inside the scheduler stack-group, not inside the process. This means that a wait function may not access special variables bound in the process. It is allowed to access global variables. It could access variables bound by a process through the closure mechanism (chapter 11, page 144), but more commonly any values needed by the wait function are passed to it as arguments.

current-process Variable
The value of current-process is the process which is currently executing, or nil while the scheduler is running. When the scheduler calls a process's wait-function, it binds current-process to the process so that the wait-function can access its process.

without-interrupts Special Form
The special form (without-interrupts form1 form2 ...) evaluates the body forms form1, form2, etc. with inhibit-scheduling-flag bound to t. This is the recommended way to lock out multi-processing over a small critical section of code to prevent timing errors. In other words the body is an atomic operation. The value(s) of a without-interrupts is/are the value(s) of the last form in the body.
Examples:

(without-interrupts
  (push item list))

(without-interrupts
  (cond ((memq item list)
         (setq list (delq item list))
         t)
         (t nil)))

inhibit-scheduling-flag Variable
The value of inhibit-scheduling-flag is normally nil. If it is t, sequence breaks are deferred until inhibit-scheduling-flag becomes nil again. This means that no process other than the current process can run.

process-wait whostate function &rest arguments
This is the primitive for waiting. The current process waits until the application of function to arguments returns non-nil (at which time process-wait returns). Note that function is applied in the environment of the scheduler, not the environment of the process-wait, so bindings in effect when process-wait was called will not be in effect when function is applied. Be careful when using any free references in function. whostate is a string containing a brief description of the reason for waiting. If the who-line at the bottom of the screen is looking at this process, it will show whostate.
Examples:

```
(process-wait "sleep"
  #'(lambda (now)
      (> (time-difference (time) now) 100.))
  (time))

(process-wait "Buffer"
  #'(lambda (b) (not (zerop (buffer-n-things b)))
       the-buffer)
```

**process-sleep** *interval*

This simply waits for *interval* sixtieths of a second, and then returns. It uses `process-wait`.

**process-allow-schedule**

This function simply waits momentarily; all other processes will get a chance to run before the current process runs again.

**sys:scheduler-stack-group** *Variable*

This is the stack group in which the scheduler executes.

**sys:clock-function-list** *Variable*

This is a list of functions to be called by the scheduler (with no arguments) 60 times a second. These functions implement various system overhead operations such as blinking the blinking cursor on the screen.

**sys:active-processes** *Variable*

This is the scheduler’s data-structure. It is a list of lists, where the car of each element is an active process or nil and the cdr is information about that process.

**sys:all-processes** *Variable*

This is a list of all the processes in existence. It is mainly for debugging.

**si:initial-process** *Variable*

This is the process in which the system starts up when it is booted.

**si:sb-on** &optional *when*

`si:sb-on` controls what events cause a sequence break, i.e. when re-scheduling occurs. The following keywords are names of events which can cause a sequence break.

- **:clock**  This event happens periodically based on a clock. The default period is one second. See `sys:%tv-clock-rate`, page 174.
- **:keyboard**  Happens when a character is received from the keyboard.
- **:chaos**  Happens when a packet is received from the Chaosnet, or transmission of a packet to the Chaosnet is completed.
- **:call**  Happens when the CALL key on the keyboard is typed. This doesn’t work.
Since the keyboard and Chaosnet are heavily buffered, there is no particular advantage to enabling the :keyboard and :chaos events, unless the :clock event is disabled.

With no argument, sb-on returns a list of keywords for the currently enabled events.

With an argument, the set of enabled events is changed. The argument can be a keyword, a list of keywords, nil (which disables sequence breaks entirely since it is the empty list), or a number which is the internal mask, not documented here.

25.2 Locks

A lock is a software construct used for synchronization of two processes. A lock is either held by some process, or is free. When a process tries to seize a lock, it waits until the lock is free, and then it becomes the process holding the lock. When it is finished, it unlocks the lock, allowing some other process to seize it. A lock protects some resource or data structure so that only one process at a time can use it.

In the Lisp Machine, a lock is a locative pointer to a cell. If the lock is free, the cell contains nil; otherwise it contains the process that holds the lock. The process-lock and process-unlock functions are written in such a way as to guarantee that two processes can never both think that they hold a certain lock; only one process can ever hold a lock at a time.

process-lock locative
This is used to seize the lock which locative points to. If necessary, process-lock will wait until the lock becomes free. When process-lock returns, the lock has been seized.

process-unlock locative
This is used to unlock the lock which locative points to. If the lock is free or was locked by some other process, an error is signaled. Otherwise the lock is unlocked.

It is a good idea to use unwind-protect to make sure that you unlock any lock that you seize. For example, if you write

```
(unwind-protect
  (progn (process-lock lock-3)
         (function-1)
         (function-2))
  (process-unlock lock-3))
```
then even if function-1 or function-2 does a *throw, lock-3 will get unlocked correctly. Particular programs that use locks often define special forms which package this unwind-protect up into a convenient stylistic device.

process-lock and process-unlock are written in terms of a sub-primitive function called %store-conditional (see page 163), which is sometimes useful in its own right.
25.3 Creating a Process

There are two ways of creating a process. One is to create a "permanent" process which you will hold on to and manipulate as desired. The other way is to say simply, "call this function on these arguments in another process, and don’t bother waiting for the result." In the latter case you never actually use the process itself as an object.

process-create name &rest options

Creates and returns a process named name. The process will not be capable of running until it has been reset or preset in order to initialize the state of its computation.

The options are alternating keywords and values which allow you to specify things about the process, however no options are necessary if you aren’t doing anything unusual. The following options are allowed:

:simple-p Specifying t here gives you a simple process (see page 387).
:flavor Specifies the flavor of process to be created. See section 25.5, page 386 for a list of all the flavors of process supplied by the system.
:stack-group The stack group the process is to use. If this option is not specified a stack group will be created according to the relevant options below.
:warm-boot-action What to do with the process when the machine is booted. See page 385.
:quantum See page 384.
:priority See page 384.
:run-reasons Lets you supply an initial run reason. The default is nil.
:arrest-reasons Lets you supply an initial arrest reason. The default is nil.
:sg-area The area in which to create the stack group. The default is the value of default-cons-area.
:regular-pdl-area The area in which to create the stack group’s regular pdl. The default is sys:linear-pdl-area.
:special-pdl-area The area in which to create the stack group’s special binding pdl. The default is the value of default-cons-area.
:regular-pdl-size How big to make the stack group’s regular pdl. The default is large enough for most purposes.
:special-pdl-size How big to make the stack group’s special binding pdl. The default is large enough for most purposes.
:swap-sv-on-call-out
:swap-sv-of-sg-that-calls-me
:trap-enable Specify those attributes of the stack group. You don’t want to use these.
If you specify :flavor, there can be additional options provided by that flavor.

The following three functions allow you to call a function and have its execution happen asynchronously in another process. This can be used either as a simple way to start up a process which will run "forever", or as a way to make something happen without having to wait for it complete. When the function returns, the process is returned to a pool of free processes, making these operations quite efficient. The only difference between these three functions is in what happens if the machine is booted while the process is still active.

Normally the function to be run should not do any I/O to the terminal. Refer to section 12.4, page 153 for a discussion of the issues.

```lisp
(process-run-function name function &rest args)
```

Creates a process named `name`, presets it so it will apply `function` to `args`, and starts it running. If the machine is warm-booted, the process is flushed (see page 386). If it is then reset, `function` will be called again.

```lisp
(process-run-temporary-function name function &rest args)
```

Creates a process named `name`, presets it so it will apply `function` to `args`, and starts it running. If the machine is warm-booted, the process is killed (returned to the free pool).

```lisp
(process-run-restartable-function name function &rest args)
```

Creates a process named `name`, presets it so it will apply `function` to `args`, and starts it running. If the machine is warm-booted, the process is reset and restarted.

25.4 Process Messages

These are the messages that can be sent to any flavor of process. Certain process flavors may define additional messages. Not all possible messages are listed here, only those of interest "to the user".

25.4.1 Process Attributes

: name (to process)

Returns the name of the process, which was the first argument to `process-create` or `process-run-function` when the process was created. The name is a string which appears in the printed-representation of the process, stands for the process in the who-line and the peek display, etc.

: stack-group (to process)

Returns the stack group currently executing on behalf of this process. This can be different from the initial-stack-group if the process contains several stack groups which coroutine among themselves, or if the process is in the error-handler, which runs in its own stack group.

Note that the stack-group of a simple process (see page 387) is not a stack group at all, but a function.
:initial-stack-group (to process)
  Returns the stack group the initial-function is called in when the process starts up or is reset.

:initial-form (to process)
  Returns the initial "form" of the process. This isn't really a Lisp form; it is a cons
  whose car is the initial-function and whose cdr is the list of arguments to which that
  function is applied when the process starts up or is reset.

  In a simple process (see page 387), the initial form is a list of one element, the process's
  function.

  To change the initial form, send the :preset message (see page 385).

:wait-function (to process)
  Returns the process's current wait-function, which is the predicate used by the scheduler
to determine if the process is runnable. This is #t true if the process is running, and
#f false if the process has no current computation (just created, initial function has
returned, or "flushed" (see page 386).

:wait-argument-list (to process)
  Returns the arguments to the process's current wait-function. This will frequently be the
&rest argument to process-wait in the process's stack, rather than a true list. The
system always uses it in a safe manner, i.e. it forgets about it before process-wait
returns.

:whostate (to process)
  Returns a string which is the state of the process to go in the who-line at the bottom of
the screen. This is "run" if the process is running or trying to run, otherwise the reason
why the process is waiting. If the process is stopped, then this whostate string is ignored
and the who-line displays arrest if the process is arrested or stop if the process has no
run reasons.

:quantum (to process)
 :set-quantum 60ths (to process)
  Returns or change the number of 60ths of a second this process is allowed to run without
waiting before the scheduler will run someone else. The quantum defaults to 1 second.

:quantum-remaining (to process)
  Returns the amount of time remaining for this process to run, in 60ths of a second.

:priority (to process)
 :set-priority priority-number (to process)
  Returns or change the priority of this process. The larger the number, the more this
process gets to run. Within a priority level the scheduler runs all runnable processes in a
round-robin fashion. Regardless of priority a process will not run for more than its
quantum. The default priority is 0, and no normal process uses other than 0.
:warm-boot-action (to process)
:set-warm-boot-action action (to process)
Return or change the process's warm-boot-action, which controls what happens if the machine is booted while this process is active. This can be nil, which means to "flush" the process (see page 386), or a function to call. The default is si:process-warm-boot-restart, which resets the process, causing it to start over at its initial function. You can also use si:process-warm-boot-reset, which throws out of the process' computation and kills the process.

:simple-p (to process)
Returns nil for a normal process, t for a simple process. See page 387.

25.4.2 Run and Arrest Reasons

:run-reasons (to process)
Returns the list of run reasons, which are the reasons why this process should be active (allowed to run).

:run-reason object (to process)
Adds object to the process's run reasons. This can activate the process.

:revoke-run-reason object (to process)
Removes object from the process's run reasons. This can stop the process.

:arrest-reasons (to process)
Returns the list of arrest reasons, which are the reasons why this process should be inactive (forbidden to run).

:arrest-reason object (to process)
Adds object to the process's arrest reasons. This can stop the process.

:revoke-arrest-reason object (to process)
Removes object from the process's arrest reasons. This can activate the process.

:active-p (to process)
:runnable-p (to process)
These two messages are the same. t is returned if the process is active, i.e. it can run if its wait-function allows. nil is returned if the process is stopped.

25.4.3 Bashing the Process

:preset function &rest args (to process)
Sets the process's initial function to function and initial arguments to args. The process is then reset so that it will throw out of any current computation and start itself up by applying function to args. A :preset message to a stopped process will return immediately, but will not activate the process, hence the process will not really apply function to args until it is activated later.
:reset &optional no-unwind kill (to process)
Forces the process to throw out of its present computation and apply its initial function to its initial arguments, when it next runs. The throwing out is skipped if the process has no present computation (e.g. it was just created), or if the no-unwind option so specifies. The possible values for no-unwind are:

:unless-current
nil Unwind unless the stack group to be unwound is the one we are currently executing in, or belongs to the current process.
:always Unwind in all cases. This may cause the message to throw through its caller instead of returning.
:t Never unwind.

If kill is t, the process is to be killed after unwinding it. This is for internal use by the :kill message only.

A :reset message to a stopped process will return immediately, but will not activate the process, hence the process will not really get reset until it is activated later.

:flush (to process)
Forces the process to wait forever. A process may not :flush itself. Flushing a process is different from stopping it, in that it is still active and hence if it is reset or preset it will start running again.

:kill (to process)
Gets rid of the process. It is reset, stopped, and removed from sys:all-processes.

:interrupt function &rest args (to process)
Forces the process to apply function to args. When function returns, the process will continue the interrupted computation. If the process is waiting, it wakes up, calls function, then waits again when function returns.

If the process is stopped it will not apply function to args immediately, but later when it is activated. Normally the :interrupt message returns immediately, but if the process's stack group is in an unusual internal state it may have to wait for it to get out of that state.

25.5 Process Flavors

These are the flavors of process provided by the system. It is possible for users to define additional flavors of their own.

si:process Flavor
This is the standard default kind of process.
si:simple-process  Flavor
A simple process is one which has no stack group; instead it has a function which is
applied to no arguments whenever the wait-function returns t. Simple processes run inside
the scheduler stack group until they return, and of course cannot have any state since
they have no stack-group. Simple processes are a low-overhead mechanism for certain
purposes. For example, packets received from the Chaosnet are examined and distributed
to the proper receiver by a simple process which wakes up whenever there are any
packets in the input buffer.

Asking for the stack group of a simple process does not signal an error, but returns the
process's function instead.

A simple process cannot wait by calling process-wait; it must call si:set-process-wait
and then return.

25.6 Other Process Functions

process-enable process
Activates process by revoking all its run and arrest reasons, then giving it a run reason of
:enable.

process-reset-and-enable process
Resets process then enables it.

process-disable process
Stops process by revoking all its run reasons. Also revokes all its arrest reasons.

The remaining functions in this section are obsolete, since they simply duplicate what can be done
by sending a message. They are documented here because their names are in the global package.

process-preset process function &rest args
Just sends a :preset message.

process-reset process
Just sends a :reset message.

process-name process
Gets the name of a process, like the :name message.

process-stack-group process
Gets the current stack group of a process, like the :stack-group message.

process-initial-stack-group process
Gets the initial stack group of a process, like the :initial-stack-group message.

process-initial-form process
Gets the initial "form" of a process, like the :initial-form message.
**process-wait-function process**
Gets the current wait-function of a process, like the :wait-function message.

**process-wait-argument-list p**
Gets the arguments to the current wait-function of a process, like the :wait-argument-list message.

**process-whostate p**
Gets the current who-line state string of a process, like the :whostate message.
26. Errors and Debugging

The first section of this chapter explains how programs can handle errors, by means of condition handlers. It also explains how a program can signal an error if it detects something it doesn't like.

The second explains how users can handle errors, by means of an interactive debugger; that is, it explains how to recover if you do something wrong. A new user of the Lisp machine, or someone who just wants to know how to deal with errors and not how to cause them, should ignore the first section and skip ahead to section 26.2, page 398.

The remaining sections describe some other debugging facilities. Anyone who is going to be writing programs for the Lisp machine should familiarize himself with these.

The trace facility provides the ability to perform certain actions at the time a function is called or at the time it returns. The actions may be simple typeout, or more sophisticated debugging functions.

The advise facility is a somewhat similar facility for modifying the behavior of a function.

The step facility allows the evaluation of a form to be intercepted at every step so that the user may examine just what is happening throughout the execution of the form.

The MAR facility provides the ability to cause a trap on any memory reference to a word (or a set of words) in memory. If something is getting clobbered by agents unknown, this can help track down the source of the clobberage.

26.1 The Error System

26.1.1 Conditions

Programmers often want to control what action is taken by their programs when errors or other exceptional situations occur. Usually different situations are handled in different ways, and in order to express what kind of handling each situation should have, each situation must have an associated name. In Lisp Machine Lisp there is the concept of a condition. Every condition has a name, which is a symbol. When an unusual situation occurs, some condition is signalled, and a handler for that condition is invoked.

When a condition is signalled, the system (essentially) searches up the stack of nested function invocations looking for a handler established to handle that condition. The handler is a function which gets called to deal with the condition. The condition mechanism itself is just a convenient way for finding an appropriate handler function given the name of an exceptional situation. On top of this is built the error-condition system, which defines what arguments are passed to a handler function and what is done with the values returned by a handler function. Almost all current use of the condition mechanism is for errors, but the user may find other uses for the underlying mechanism.

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The search for an appropriate handler is done by the function `signal`:

```lisp
(signal condition-name &rest args)
```

`signal` searches through all currently-established condition handlers, starting with the most recent. If it finds one that will handle the condition `condition-name`, then it calls that handler with a first argument of `condition-name`, and with `args` as the rest of the arguments. If the first value returned by the handler is nil, `signal` will continue searching for another handler; otherwise, it will return the first two values returned by the handler. If `signal` doesn't find any handler that returns a non-nil value, it will return nil.

Condition handlers are established through the `condition-bind` special form:

```lisp
(condition-bind ((cond-1 hand-1)
     (cond-2 hand-2)
     ...
     )
     body)
```

Each `cond-n` is either the name of a condition, or a list of names of conditions, or nil. If it is nil, a handler is set up for all conditions (this does not mean that the handler really has to handle all conditions, but it will be offered the chance to do so, and can return nil for conditions which it is not interested in). Each `hand-n` is a form which is evaluated to produce a handler function. The handlers are established sequentially such that the `cond-1` handler would be looked at first.

Example:

```lisp
(condition-bind ((:wrong-type-argument 'my-wta-handler)
     ((lossage-1 lossage-2) lossage-handler))
     (princ "Hello there.")
     (= t 69))
```

This first sets up the function `my-wta-handler` to handle the `:wrong-type-argument` condition. Then, it sets up the value of the symbol `lossage-handler` to handle both the `lossage-1` and `lossage-2` conditions. With these handlers set up, it prints out a message and then runs headlong into a wrong-type-argument error by calling the function `=` with an argument which is not a number. The condition handler `my-wta-handler` will be given a chance to handle the error. `condition-bind` makes use of ordinary variable binding, so that if the `condition-bind` form is thrown through, the handlers will be disestablished. This also means that condition handlers are established only within the current stack-group.
26.1.2 Error Conditions

This section is incorrect. The mechanism by which errors are signalled does not work. It will be redesigned someday.

The use of the condition mechanism by the error system defines an additional protocol for what arguments are passed to error-condition handlers and what values they may return.

There are basically four possible responses to an error: proceeding, restarting, throwing, or entering the debugger. The default action, taken if no handler exists or deigns to handle the error (returns non-nil), is to enter the debugger. A handler may give up on the execution that produced the error by throwing (see *throw, page 43). Proceeding means to repair the error and continue execution. The exact meaning of this depends on the particular error, but it generally takes the form of supplying a replacement for an unacceptable argument to some function, and retrying the invocation of that function. Restarting means throwing to a special standard catch-tag, error-restart. Handlers cause proceeding and restarting by returning certain special values, described below.

Each error condition is signalled with some parameters, the meanings of which depend on the condition. For example, the condition :unbound-variable, which means that something tried to find the value of a symbol which was unbound, is signalled with at least one parameter, the unbound symbol. It is always all right to signal an error condition with extra parameters beyond those whose meanings are defined by the condition.

An error condition handler is applied to several arguments. The first argument is the name of the condition that was signalled (a symbol). This allows the same function to handle several different conditions, which is useful if the handling of those conditions is very similar. (The first argument is also the name of the condition for non-error conditions.) The second argument is a format control string (see the description of format, on page 305). The third argument is t if the error is proceedable; otherwise it is nil. The fourth argument is t if the error is restartable; otherwise it is nil. The fifth argument is the name of the function that signalled the error, or nil if the signaller can't figure out the correct name to pass. The rest of the arguments are the parameters with which the condition was signalled. If the format control string is used with these parameters, a readable English message should be produced. Since more information than just the parameters might be needed to print a reasonable message, the program signalling the condition is free to pass any extra parameters it wants to, after the parameters which the condition is defined to take. This means that every handler must expect to be called with an arbitrarily high number of arguments, so every handler should have a &rest argument (see page 19).

An error condition handler may return any of several values. If it returns nil, then it is stating that it does not wish to handle the condition after all; the process of signalling will continue looking for a prior handler (established farther down on the stack) as if the handler which returned nil had not existed at all. (This is also true for non-error conditions.) If the handler does wish to handle the condition, it can try to proceed from the error if it is proceedable, or restart from it if it is restartable, or it can throw to a catch tag. Proceeding and restarting are done by returning two values. The first value is one of the following symbols:

`:return` If the error was signalled by calling cerror, the second value is returned as the value of cerror. If the error was signalled by calling ferror, proceeding is not allowed. If the error was detected by the Lisp system, the error will be proceeded from, using the second value if a data object is needed. For example,
for an :undefined-function error, the handler's second value will be used as the function to be called, in place of the non-existent function definition.

**eh:return-value**

If the error was signalled by calling ferror or cerror, the second value is returned from that function, regardless of whether the error was proceedable. If the error was detected by the Lisp system, the second value is returned as the result of the function in which the error was detected. It should be obvious that :return-value allows you to do things that are totally unanticipated by the program that got the error.

**:error-restart** The second value is thrown to the catch tag error-restart. The condition handler must not return any other sort of values. However, it can legitimately throw to any tag instead of returning at all. If a handler tries to proceed an unproceedable error or restart an unrestartable one, an error is signalled.

Note that if the handler returns nil, it is not said to have handled the error; rather, it has decided not to handle it, but to "continue to signal" it so that someone else may handle it. If an error is signalled and none of the handlers for the condition decide to handle it, the debugger is entered.

Here is an example of an excessively simple handler for the :wrong-type-argument condition.

[Note that this code does not work in system 56.]

```
;;; This function handles the :wrong-type-argument condition,
;;; which takes two defined parameters: a symbol indicating
;;; the correct type, and the bad value.
(defun sample-wta-handler (condition control-string
proceedable-flag restartable-flag
function correct-type bad-value
&rest rest)
  (prog ()
    (format error-output "~%There was an error in ~S~%" function)
    (lexpr-funcall (function format) error-output control-string correct-type bad-value rest)
    (cond ((and proceedable-flag
             (yes-or-no-p "Do you want use nil instead?"))
             (return 'return nil))
           (t (return nil))))) ; don't handle
```

If an error condition reaches the error handler, the RESUME (or control-C) command may be used to continue from it. If the condition name has a eh:proceed property, that property is called as a function with two arguments, the stack-group and the "ete" (an internal error-handler data structure). Usually it will ignore these arguments. If this function returns, its value will be returned from the ferror or cerror that signalled the condition. If no such property exists, the error-handler asks the user for a form, evaluates it, and causes ferror or cerror to return that value. Putting such a property on can be used to change the prompt for this form, avoid asking the user, or change things in more far-reaching ways.
26.1.3 Signalling Errors

Some error conditions are signalled by the Lisp system when it detects that something has gone wrong. Lisp programs can also signal errors, by using any of the functions ferror, cerror, or error. ferror is the most commonly used of these. cerror is used if the signaller of the error wishes to make the error be proceedable or restartable, or both. error is provided for Maclisp compatibility.

A ferror or cerror that doesn’t have any particular condition to signal should use nil as the condition name. The only kind of handler that will be invoked by the signaller in this case is the kind that handles all conditions, such as is set up by

\[
\text{condition-bind} \ ((\text{nil} \ \text{something}) \ ... \ ...) \ \ ...
\]

In practice, the nil condition is used a great deal.

**ferror** condition-name control-string &rest params

ferror signals the error condition condition-name. The associated error message is obtained by calling format (see section 21.6.1, page 305) on control-string and params. The error is neither proceedable nor restartable, so ferror will not return unless the user forces it to by intervening with the debugger. In most cases condition-name is nil, which means that no condition-handler is likely to be found and the debugger will be entered.

Examples:

```lisp
(cond ((> sz 60)
   (ferror nil
     "The size, ~S, was greater than the maximum" sz)
   (t (foo sz)))

(defun func (a b)
 (cond ((and (> a 3) (not (symbolp b)))
        (ferror ':wrong-type-argument
          "The name, ~S, must be a symbol" symbolp b)
        (t (func-internal a b))))
```

If the error is not handled and the debugger is entered, the error message is printed by calling format with control-string as the control string and the elements of params as the additional arguments. Alternatively, the formatted output functions (page 314) can be used to generate the error message:

```lisp
(ferror nil
 (format:outfmt "Frob has "
   (format:plural (format:onum n-elts)
     " element")
   " which is too few"))
```

In this case params are not used for printing the error message, and often none are needed. They may still be useful as information for condition handlers, and those that a condition is documented to expect should always be supplied.
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cerror proceedable-flag restartable-flag condition-name control-string &rest params
cerror is just like ferror (see above) except for proceedable-flag and restartable-flag. If
cerror is called with a non-nil proceedable-flag, the caller should be prepared to accept
the returned value of cerror and use it to retry the operation that failed. Similarly, if he
passes cerror a non-nil restartable-flag, he should be sure that there is a *catch above
him for the tag error-restart.

If proceedable-flag is t and the error goes to the debugger, if the user says to proceed
from the error he will be asked for a replacement object which cerror will return. If
proceedable-flag is not t and not nil, the user will not be asked for a replacement object
and cerror will return no particular value when the error is proceeded.

Note: Many programs that want to signal restartable errors will want to use the error­
restart special form; see page 395.
Example:

(do ()
  ((symbolp a))
  ; Do this stuff until a becomes a symbol.
  (setq a (cerror t nil ':wrong-type-argument
                   "The argument ~2G~A was ~1G~S, which is not ~3G~A"
                   'symbolp a 'a "a symbol")))

Note: the form in this example is so useful that there is a standard special form to do it,
called check-arg (see page 395).

erro message &optional object interrupt
erro is provided for Maclisp compatibility. In Maclisp, the functionality of erro is,
especially, that message gets printed, preceded by object if present, and that interrupt,
if present, is a user interrupt channel to be invoked.

In order to fit this definition into the Lisp Machine way of handling errors, erro is
defined to be:

(cerror (not (null interrupt))
  nil
  (or (get interrupt 'eh:condition-name)
      interrupt)
  (if (missing? object) ; If no object given
      "~:*~A"
      "~$~A")
  object
  message)

Here is what that means in English: first of all, the condition to be signalled is nil if
interrupt is nil. If there is some condition whose meaning is close to that of one of the
Maclisp user interrupt channels, the name of that channel has an eh:condition-name
property, and the value of that property is the name of the condition to signal. Otherwise, interrupt
is the name of the condition to signal; probably there will be no
handler and the debugger will be entered.

If interrupt is specified, the error will be proceedable. The error will not be restartable.
The format control string and the arguments are chosen so that the right error message
gets printed, and the handler is passed everything there is to pass.
error-restart *Macro*

error-restart is useful for denoting a section of a program that can be restarted if certain errors occur during its execution. An error-restart form looks like:

```lisp
(error-restart
 form-1
 form-2
 ...)
```

The forms of the body are evaluated sequentially. If an error occurs within the evaluation of the body and is restarted (by a condition handler or the debugger), the evaluation resumes at the beginning of the error-restart's body. The only way a restartable error can occur is if cerror is called with a second argument of t.

Example:

```lisp
(error-restart
 (setq a (* b d))
 (cond ((> a maxtemp)
      (cerror nil t 'overheat
              "The frammistat will overheat by ~D. degrees!"
             (- a maxtemp))))
 (setq q (cons a a))
)
```

If the cerror happens, and the handler invoked (or the debugger) restarts the error, then evaluation will continue with the (setq a (* b d)), and the condition (> a maxtemp) will get checked again.

error-restart is implemented as a macro that expands into:

```lisp
(progn
 (prog ()
   (loop (*catch 'error-restart
       (return (progn
         form-1
         form-2
         ...
       ))
   )
   (go loop))
)
```

check-arg *Macro*

The check-arg form is useful for checking arguments to make sure that they are valid. A simple example is:

```lisp
(check-arg foo stringp "a string")
```

foo is the name of an argument whose value should be a string. stringp is a predicate of one argument, which returns t if the argument is a string. "a string" is an English description of the correct type for the variable.

The general form of check-arg is:

```lisp
(check-arg var-name
           predicate
           description
           type-symbol)
```

var-name is the name of the variable whose value is of the wrong type. If the error is proceeded this variable will be setq'ed to a replacement value. predicate is a test for whether the variable is of the correct type. It can be either a symbol whose function definition takes one argument and returns non-nil if the type is correct, or it can be a non-atomic form which is evaluated to check the type, and presumably contains a
reference to the variable \textit{var-name}. \textit{description} is a string which expresses \textit{predicate} in English, to be used in error messages. \textit{type-symbol} is a symbol which is used by condition handlers to determine what type of argument was expected. It may be omitted if it is to be the same as \textit{predicate}, which must be a symbol in that case.

The use of the \textit{type-symbol} is not really well-defined yet, but the intention is that if it is \textit{numberp} (for example), the condition handlers can tell that a number was needed, and might try to convert the actual supplied value to a number and proceed.

[We need to establish a conventional way of "registering" the type-symbols to be used for various expected types. It might as well be in the form of a table right here.]

The \textit{predicate} is usually a symbol such as \texttt{fixp}, \texttt{stringp}, \texttt{listp}, or \texttt{closurep}, but when there isn't any convenient predefined predicate, or when the condition is complex, it can be a form. In this case you should supply a \textit{type-symbol} which encodes the type. For example:

\begin{verbatim}
(check-arg a
  (and (numberp a) (≤ a 10.) (> a 0.))
  "a number from one to ten"
  "one-to-ten")
\end{verbatim}

If this error got to the debugger, the message

\begin{quote}
The argument \texttt{a} was 17, which is not a number from one to ten.
\end{quote}

would be printed.

In general, what constitutes a valid argument is specified in three ways in a \texttt{check-arg}: \textit{description} is human-understandable, \textit{type-symbol} is program-understandable, and \textit{predicate} is executable. It is up to the user to ensure that these three specifications agree.

\texttt{check-arg} uses \textit{predicate} to determine whether the value of the variable is of the correct type. If it is not, \texttt{check-arg} signals the \texttt{:wrong-type-argument} condition, with four parameters. First, \textit{type-symbol} if it was supplied, or else \textit{predicate} if it was atomic, or else \texttt{nil}. Second, the bad value. Third, the name of the argument (\textit{var-name}). Fourth, a string describing the proper type (\textit{description}). If the error is proceeded, the variable is set to the value returned, and \texttt{check-arg} starts over, checking the type again. Note that only the first two of these parameters are defined for the \texttt{:wrong-type-argument} condition, and so \texttt{:wrong-type-argument} handlers should only depend on the meaning of these two.

\subsection*{26.1.4 Standard Condition Names}

Some condition names are used by the kernel Lisp system, and are documented below; since they are of global interest, they are on the keyword package. Programs outside the kernel system are free to define their own condition names; it is intended that the description of a function include a description of any conditions that it may signal, so that people writing programs that call that function may handle the condition if they desire. When you decide what package your condition names should be in, you should apply the same criteria you would apply for determining which package a function name should be in; if a program defines its own condition names, they should not be on the keyword package. For example, the condition names \texttt{chaos:bad-packet-format} and \texttt{arpa:bad-packet-format} should be distinct. For further discussion, see chapter 23, page 345.
The following table lists all standard conditions and the parameters they take; more will be added in the future. These are all error-conditions, so in addition to the condition name and the parameters, the handler receives the other arguments described above.

- **<wrong-type-argument type-name value>**
  
  *value* is the offending argument and *type-name* is a symbol for what type is required. Often, *type-name* is a predicate which returns non-nil if applied to an acceptable value. If the error is proceeded, the value returned by the handler should be a new value for the argument to be used instead of the one which was of the wrong type.

- **<inconsistent-arguments list-of-inconsistent-argument-values>**
  
  These arguments were inconsistent with each other, but the fault does not belong to any particular one of them. This is a catch-all, and it would be good to identify subcases in which a more specific categorization can be made. If the error is proceeded, the value returned by the handler will be returned by the function whose arguments were inconsistent.

- **<wrong-number-of-arguments function number-of-args-supplied list-of-args-supplied>**
  
  *function* was invoked with the wrong number of arguments. The elements of *list-of-args-supplied* have already been evaluated. If the error is proceeded, the value returned should be a value to be returned by *function*.

- **<invalid-function function-name>**
  
  The name had a function definition but it was no good for calling. You can proceed, supplying a value to return as the value of the call to the function.

- **<invalid-form form>**
  
  The so-called *form* was not a meaningful form for eval. Probably it was of a bad data type. If the error is proceeded, the value returned should be a new form; eval will use it instead.

- **<undefined-function function-name>**
  
  The symbol *function-name* was not defined as a function. If the error is proceeded, then the value returned will be used instead of the (non-existent) definition of *function-name*.

- **<unbound-variable variable-name>**
  
  The symbol *variable-name* had no value. If the error is proceeded, then the value returned will be used instead of the (non-existent) value of *variable-name*.

### 26.1.5 Errset

As in Maclisp, there is an errset facility which allows a very simple form of error handling. If an error occurs inside an errset, and no condition handler handles it, i.e. the debugger would be entered, control is returned (thrown) to the errset. The errset can control whether or not the debugger's error message is printed. All errors are caught by errset, whether they are signalled by ferror, cerror, error, or the Lisp system itself.

A problem with errset is that it is too powerful; it will apply to any unhandled error at all. If you are writing code that anticipates some specific error, you should find out what condition that error signals and set up a handler. If you use errset and some unanticipated error crops up, you may not be told—this can cause very strange bugs. Note that the variable errset allows all
errsets to be disabled for debugging purposes.

**errset Special Form**

The special form `(errset form flag)` catches errors during the evaluation of `form`. If an error occurs, the usual error message is printed unless `flag` is `nil`. Then control is thrown and the errset-form returns `nil`. `flag` is evaluated first and is optional, defaulting to `t`. If no error occurs, the value of the errset-form is a list of one element, the value of `form`.

**errset Variable**

If this variable is non-nil, errset-forms are not allowed to trap errors. The debugger is entered just as if there was no errset. This is intended mainly for debugging. The initial value of `errset` is `nil`.

**err Special Form**

This is for Maclisp compatibility only and should not be used.

`(err)` is a dumb way to cause an error. If executed inside an errset, that errset returns `nil`, and no message is printed. Otherwise an unseen throw-tag error occurs.

`(err form)` evaluates `form` and causes the containing errset to return the result. If executed when not inside an errset, an unseen throw-tag error occurs.

`(err form flag)`, which exists in Maclisp, is not supported.

### 26.2 The Debugger

When an error condition is signalled and no handlers decide to handle the error, an interactive debugger is entered to allow the user to look around and see what went wrong, and to help him continue the program or abort it. This section describes how to use the debugger.

#### 26.2.1 Entering the Debugger

There are two kinds of errors; those generated by the Lisp Machine’s microcode, and those generated by Lisp programs (by using `ferror` or related functions). When there is a microcode error, the debugger prints out a message such as the following:

```
>>TRAP 5543 (TRANS-TRAP)
The symbol FOOBAR is unbound.
While in the function *EVAL + SI:LISP-TOP-LEVEL1
```

The first line of this error message indicates entry to the debugger and contains some mysterious internal microcode information: the micro program address, the microcode trap name and parameters, and a microcode backtrace. Users can ignore this line in most cases. The second line contains a description of the error in English. The third line indicates where the error happened by printing a very abbreviated “backtrace” of the stack (see below); in the example, it is saying that the error was signalled inside the function `*eval`, which was called by `si:lisp-top-level1`.

Here is an example of an error from Lisp code:

```
DSK:LMMAN;ERRORS 57
```
>>ERROR: The argument X was 1, which is not a symbol.
    While in the function FOO + *EVAL + SI:LISP-TOP-LEVEL1

Here the first line contains the English description of the error message, and the second line contains the abbreviated backtrace. foo signalled the error by calling ferror, however ferror is censored out of the backtrace.

After the debugger’s initial message it prints the function that got the error and its arguments.

The debugger can be manually entered either by causing an error (e.g. by typing a ridiculous symbol name such as ahsdof at the Lisp read-eval-print loop) or by typing the BREAK key with the META shift held down while the program is reading from the terminal. Typing the BREAK key with both CONTROL and META held down will force the program into the debugger immediately, even if it is running. If the BREAK key is typed without META, it puts you into a read-eval-print loop using the break function (see page 451) rather into the debugger.

ah process
   Stops process and calls the debugger on it so that you can look at its current state. Exit the debugger with the Control-Z command and ah will release the process and return. process can be a window, in which case the window’s process will be used.

   If process is not a process but a stack group, the current state of the stack group will be examined. The caller should ensure that no one tries to resume that stack group while the debugger is looking at it.

26.2.2 How to Use the Debugger

Once inside the debugger, the user may give a wide variety of commands. This section describes how to give the commands, and then explains them in approximate order of usefulness. A summary is provided at the end of the listing.

When the error handler is waiting for a command, it prompts with an arrow:

   →

At this point, you may either type in a Lisp expression, or type a command (a Control or Meta character is interpreted as a command, whereas most normal characters are interpreted as the first character of an expression). If you type the HELP key or the ? key, you will get some introductory help with the error handler.

If you type a Lisp expression, it will be interpreted as a Lisp form, and will be evaluated in the context of the function which got the error. That is, all bindings which were in effect at the time of the error will be in effect when your form is evaluated, with certain exceptions explained below. The result of the evaluation will be printed, and the debugger will prompt again with an arrow. If, during the typing of the form, you change your mind and want to get back to the debugger’s command level, type the ABORT key or a Control-G; the debugger will respond with an arrow prompt. In fact, at any time that typein is expected from you, while you are in the debugger, you may type ABORT or Control-G to flush what you are doing and get back to command level. This read-eval-print loop maintains the values of +, *, and - just as the top-level one does.
If an error occurs in the evaluation of the Lisp expression you type, you will get into a second error handler looking at the new error. You can abort the computation and get back to the first error by typing the ABORT key (see below). However, if the error is trivial the abort will be done automatically and the original error message will be reprinted.

Various debugger commands ask for Lisp objects, such as an object to return, or the name of a catch-tag. Whenever it tries to get a Lisp object from you, it expects you to type in a form; it will evaluate what you type in. This provides greater generality, since there are objects to which you might want to refer that cannot be typed in (such as arrays). If the form you type is non-trivial (not just a constant form), the debugger will show you the result of the evaluation, and ask you if it is what you intended. It expects a Y or N answer (see the function y-or-n-p, page 435), and if you answer negatively it will ask you for another form. To quit out of the command, just type ABORT or Control-G.

When the debugger evaluates a form, the variable bindings at the point of error are in effect with the following exceptions:

- terminal-io is rebound to the stream the error handler is using. eh:old-terminal-io is bound to the value terminal-io had at the point of error.
- standard-input and standard-output are rebound to be synonymous with terminal-io; their old bindings are saved in eh:old-standard-input and eh:old-standard-output.
- + and * are rebound to the error handler's previous form and previous value. When the debugger is first entered, + is the last form typed, which is typically the one that caused the error, and * is the value of the previous form.
- evalhook (see page 413) is rebound to nil, turning off the step facility if it had been in use when the error occurred.

Note that the variable bindings are those in effect at the point of error, not those of the current frame being looked at. This may be changed in the future.

### 26.2.3 Debugger Commands

All debugger commands are single characters, usually with the Control or Meta bits. The single most useful command is ABORT (or Control-Z), which exits from the debugger and throws out of the computation that got the error. This is the ABORT key, not a 5-letter command. ITS users should note that Control-Z is not CALL. Often you are not interested in using the debugger at all and just want to get back to Lisp top level; so you can do this in one character.

The ABORT command returns control to the most recent read-eval-print loop. This can be Lisp top level, a break, or the debugger command loop associated with another error. Typing ABORT multiple times will throw back to successively older read-eval-print or command loops until top level is reached. Typing Control-Meta-ABORT, on the other hand, will always throw to top level. Control-Meta-ABORT is not a debugger command, but a system command which is always available no matter what program you are in.
Note that typing ABORT in the middle of typing a form to be evaluated by the debugger aborts that form, and returns to the debugger's command level, while typing ABORT as a debugger command returns out of the debugger and the erring program, to the previous command level.

Self-documentation is provided by the HELP or ? command, which types out some documentation on the debugger commands, including any special commands which apply to the particular error currently being handled.

Often you want to try to proceed from the error. To do this, use the RESUME (or Control-C) command. The exact way RESUME works depends on the kind of error that happened. For some errors, there is no standard way to proceed at all, and RESUME will just tell you this and return to the debugger's command level. For the very common "unbound variable" error, it will get a Lisp object from you, which will be used in place of the (nonexistent) value of the symbol. For unbound-variable or undefined-function errors, you can also just type Lisp forms to set the variable or define the function, and then type RESUME; it will proceed without asking anything.

The debugger knows about a "current stack frame", and there are several commands which use it. The initially "current" stack frame is the one which signalled the error; either the one which got the microcode-detected error, or the one which called ferror, error, or error. When the debugger starts it up it shows you this frame in the following format:

```
FOO:
  Arg 0 (X): 13
  Arg 1 (Y): 1
```

and so on. This means that foo was called with two arguments, whose names (in the Lisp source code) are x and y. The current values of x and y are 13 and 1 respectively. These may not be the original arguments if foo happens to setq its argument variables.

The CLEAR-SCREEN (or Control-L) command clears the screen, retypes the error message that was initially printed when the debugger was entered, and then prints out a description of the current frame, in the above format.

Several commands are provided to allow you to examine the Lisp control stack and to make other frames current than the one which got the error. The control stack (or "regular pdl") keeps a record of all functions which are currently active. If you call foo at Lisp's top level, and it calls bar, which in turn calls baz, and baz gets an error, then a backtrace (a backwards trace of the stack) would show all of this information. The debugger has two backtrace commands. Control-B simply prints out the names of the functions on the stack; in the above example it would print

```
BAZ ← BAR ← FOO ← SI:*EVAL ← SI:LISP-TOP-LEVEL1 ← SI:LISP-TOP-LEVEL
```

The arrows indicate the direction of calling. The Meta-B command prints a more extensive backtrace, indicating the names of the arguments to the functions and their current values; for the example above it might look like:
The Debugger

BAZ:
Arg 0 (X): 13
Arg 1 (Y): 1

BAR:
Arg 0 (ADDEND): 13

FOO:
Arg 0 (FROB): (A B C . D)
and so on.

The Control-N command moves "down" to the "next" frame (that is, it changes the current frame to be the frame which called it), and prints out the frame in this same format. Control-P moves "up" to the "previous" frame (the one which this one called), and prints out the frame in the same format. Meta-< moves to the top of the stack, and Meta-> to the bottom; both print out the new current frame: Control-S asks you for a string, and searches the stack for a frame whose executing function's name contains that string. That frame becomes current and is printed out. These commands are easy to remember since they are analogous to editor commands.

Meta-L prints out the current frame in "full screen" format, which shows the arguments and their values, the local variables and their values, and the machine code with an arrow pointing to the next instruction to be executed. Refer to chapter 27, page 417 for help in reading this machine code.

Meta-N moves to the next frame and prints it out in full-screen format, and Meta-P moves to the previous frame and prints it out in full-screen format. Meta-S is like Control-S but does a full-screen display.

Commands such as Control-N and Meta-N, which are meaningful to repeat, take a prefix numeric argument and repeat that many times. The numeric argument is typed by using Control- or Meta- and the number keys, as in the editor.

Control-E puts you into the editor, looking at the source code for the function in the current frame. This is useful when you have found a function which caused the error and needs to be fixed. The editor command Control-Z will return to the error handler, if it is still there.

Meta-C is similar to Control-C, but in the case of an unbound variable or undefined function, actually setsq the variable or defines the function, so that the error will not happen again. Control-C (or RESUME) provides a replacement value but does not actually change the variable.

Control-R is used to return a value from the current frame; the frame that called that frame continues running as if the function of the current frame had returned. This command prompts you for a form, which it will evaluate; it returns the resulting value, possibly after confirming it with you.

The Control-T command does a *throw to a given tag with a given value; you are prompted for the tag and the value.

Control-Meta-R is a variation of Control-R; it starts the current frame over with the same function and arguments. If the function has been redefined in the meantime (perhaps you edited it and fixed its bug) the new definition is used. Control-Meta-R asks for confirmation before
The Control-Meta-N, Control-Meta-P, and Control-Meta-B commands are like the corresponding Control- commands but don’t censor the stack. When running interpreted code, the error handler tries to skip over frames that belong to functions of the interpreter, such as *eval, prog, and cond, and only show “interesting” functions. The Control-Meta-U command goes up the stack to the next interesting function, and makes that the current frame.

Control-Meta-A takes a numeric argument $n$, and prints out the value of the $n$th argument of the current frame. It leaves * set to the value of the argument, so that you can use the Lisp read-eval-print loop to examine it. It also leaves + set to a locative pointing to the argument on the stack, so that you can change that argument (by calling rplacd on the locative). Control-Meta-L is similar, but refers to the $n$th local variable of the frame. Control-Meta-F is similar but refers to the function executing in the frame; it ignores its numeric argument and doesn’t allow you to change the function.

Control-Meta-W calls the window error handler, a display-oriented debugger which is not documented in this manual. It should, however, be usable without further documentation.

26.2.4 Summary of Commands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Command</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>Control-A</td>
<td>Print argument list of function in current frame.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control-Meta-A</td>
<td>Examine or change the $n$th argument of the current frame.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control-B</td>
<td>Print brief backtrace.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meta-B</td>
<td>Print longer backtrace.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control-Meta-B</td>
<td>Print longer backtrace with no censoring of interpreter functions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control-C or RESUME</td>
<td>Attempt to continue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meta-C</td>
<td>Attempt to continue, setting the unbound variable or otherwise &quot;permanently&quot; fixing the error.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control-Meta-C</td>
<td>Attempt to restart (see the error-restart special form, page 395).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control-E</td>
<td>Edit the source code for the function in the current frame.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control-Meta-F</td>
<td>Set * to the function in the current frame.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control-G or ABORT</td>
<td>Quit to command level. This is not a command, but something you can type to escape from typing in a form.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control-L or CLEAR SCREEN</td>
<td>Redisplay error message and current frame.</td>
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<td>Full-screen typeout of current frame.</td>
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<td>Control-Meta-L</td>
<td>Get local variable $n$.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Control-N or LINE</td>
<td>Move to next frame. With argument, move down $n$ frames.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meta-N</td>
<td>Move to next frame with full-screen typeout. With argument, move down $n$ frames.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control-Meta-N</td>
<td>Move to next frame even if it is &quot;uninteresting&quot;. With argument, move down $n$ frames.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DSK:LMMAN;ERRORS 57 16-MAR-81
Control-P or RETURN  Move to previous frame. With argument, move up $n$ frames.
Meta-P               Move to previous frame with full-screen typeout. With argument, move up $n$ frames.
Control-Meta-N      Move to previous frame even if it is "uninteresting". With argument, move up $n$ frames.
Control-R           Return a value from the current frame.
Meta-R               Return multiple values from the current frame (doesn’t work currently).
Control-Meta-R      Reinvoke the function in the current frame (throw back to it and start it over at its beginning.)
Control-S           Search for a frame containing a specified function.
Meta-S               Same as control-S but does a full display.
Control-T           Throw a value to a tag.
Control-Meta-U      Move up the stack to the previous "interesting" frame.
Control-Meta-W      Call the window error handler.
Control-Z or ABORT  Abort the computation and throw back to the most recent break or debugger, to the program's "command level", or to Lisp top level.
? or Help            Print a help message.
Meta<                Go to top of stack.
Meta>                Go to bottom of stack.
Control-0 through Control-Meta-9
                      Numeric arguments to the following command are specified by typing a decimal number with Control and/or Meta held down.

26.3 Tracing Function Execution

The trace facility allows the user to trace some functions. When a function is traced, certain special actions will be taken when it is called, and when it returns. The default tracing action is to print a message when the function is called, showing its name and arguments, and another message when the function returns, showing its name and value(s).

The trace facility is closely compatible with Maclisp. One invokes it through the trace and untrace special forms, whose syntax is described below. Alternatively, you can use the trace system by clicking "trace" in the system menu, or by using the "meta-X Trace" command in the editor. This allows you to select the trace options from a menu instead of having to remember the following syntax.

trace Special Form
A trace form looks like:
(TRACE spec-1 spec-2 ...)

Each spec can take any of the following forms:

a symbol     This is a function name, with no options. The function will be traced in the default way, printing a message each time it is called and each time it
returns.

A list `(function-name option-1 option-2 ...)`

*function-name* is a symbol and the *options* control how it is to be traced. The various options are listed below. Some options take "arguments", which should be given immediately following the option name.

A list `(:function function-spec option-1 option-2 ...)`

This is like the previous form except that *function-spec* need not be a symbol (see section 10.2, page 124). It exists because if *function-name* was a list in the previous form, it would instead be interpreted as the following form:

A list `((function-1 function-2 ...) option-1 option-2 ...)`

All of the functions are traced with the same options. Each *function* can be either a symbol or a general function-spec.

The following trace options exist:

`:break pred`  Causes a breakpoint to be entered after printing the entry trace information but before applying the traced function to its arguments, if and only if *pred* evaluates to non-nil.

`:exitbreak pred`  This is just like break except that the breakpoint is entered after the function has been executed and the exit trace information has been printed, but before control returns.

`:error`  Causes the error handler to be called when the function is entered. Use RESUME (or Control-C) to continue execution of the function. If this option is specified, there is no printed trace output other than the error message printed by the error handler.

`:step`  Causes the function to be single-stepped whenever it is called. See the documentation on the step facility, section 26.5, page 411.

`:entrycond pred`  Causes trace information to be printed on function entry only if *pred* evaluates to non-nil.

`:exitcond pred`  Causes trace information to be printed on function exit only if *pred* evaluates to non-nil.

`:cond pred`  This specifies both :exitcond and :entrycond together.

`:wherein function`  Causes the function to be traced only when called, directly or indirectly, from the specified function *function*. One can give several trace specs to trace, all specifying the same function but with different wherein options, so that the function is traced in different ways when called from different functions.

This is different from advise-within, which only affects the function being advised when it is called directly from the other function. The trace :wherein option means that when the traced function is called, the special tracing actions occur if the other function is the caller of this function, or its caller's caller, or its caller's caller's caller, etc.

`:argpd1 pdf`  This specifies a symbol *pdf*, whose value is initially set to nil by trace. When the function is traced, a list of the current recursion level for the
function, the function's name, and a list of arguments is consed onto the pdl when the function is entered, and cdr'ed back off when the function is exited. The pdl can be inspected from within a breakpoint, for example, and used to determine the very recent history of the function. This option can be used with or without printed trace output. Each function can be given its own pdl, or one pdl may serve several functions.

:entryprint form
  The form is evaluated and the value is included in the trace message for calls to the function. You can give this option more than once, and all the values will appear, preceded by \.

:exitprint form
  The form is evaluated and the value is included in the trace message for returns from the function. You can give this option more than once, and all the values will appear, preceded by \.

:print form
  The form is evaluated and the value is included in the trace messages for both calls to and returns from the function. You can give this option more than once, and all the values will appear, preceded by \.

:entry list
  This specifies a list of arbitrary forms whose values are to be printed along with the usual entry-trace. The list of resultant values, when printed, is preceded by \ to separate it from the other information.

:exit list
  This is similar to entry, but specifies expressions whose values are printed with the exit-trace. Again, the list of values printed is preceded by \.

:arg :value :both nil
  These specify which of the usual trace printouts should be enabled. If :arg is specified, then on function entry the name of the function and the values of its arguments will be printed. If :value is specified, then on function exit the returned value(s) of the function will be printed. If :both is specified, both of these will be printed. If nil is specified, neither will be printed. If none of these four options are specified the default is to :both. If any further options appear after one of these, they will not be treated as options! Rather, they will be considered to be arbitrary forms whose values are to be printed on entry and/or exit to the function, along with the normal trace information. The values printed will be preceded by a \, and follow any values specified by :entry or :exit. Note that since these options "swallow" all following options, if one is given it should be the last option specified.

If the variable arglist is used in any of the expressions given for the :cond, :break, :entry, or :exit options, or after the :arg, :value, :both, or nil option, when those expressions are evaluated the value of arglist will be bound to a list of the arguments given to the traced function. Thus

\( \text{trace (foo :break (null (car arglist)))} \)

would cause a break in foo if and only if the first argument to foo is nil. arglist should perhaps have a colon, but it can be omitted because this is the name of a system function and therefore global.

Similarly, the variable values will be a list of the resulting values of the traced function. For obvious reasons, this should only be used with the :exit option. values should perhaps have a colon, but it can be omitted because this is the name of a system function and therefore global.
The trace specifications may be "factored", as explained above. For example,

\begin{verbatim}
(trace ((foo bar) :break (bad-p arglist) :value))
\end{verbatim}

is equivalent to

\begin{verbatim}
(trace (foo :break (bad-p arglist) :value)
   (bar :break (bad-p arglist) :value))
\end{verbatim}

Since a list as a function name is interpreted as a list of functions, non-atomic function names
(see section 10.2, page 124) are specified as follows:

\begin{verbatim}
(trace (:function (:method flavor :message) :break t))
\end{verbatim}

trace returns as its value a list of names of all functions it traced. If called with no
arguments, as just (trace), it returns a list of all the functions currently being traced.

If you attempt to trace a function already being traced, trace calls untrace before setting up
the new trace.

Tracing is implemented with encapsulation (see section 10.10, page 139), so if the function is
redefined (e.g. with defun or by loading it from a QFASL file) the tracing will be transferred
from the old definition to the new definition.

Tracing output is printed on the stream which is the value of trace-output. This is
synonymous with terminal-io unless you change it.

\textbf{untrace} \textit{Special Form}

untrace is used to undo the effects of trace and restore functions to their normal,
untraced state. untrace will take multiple specifications, e.g. (untrace foo quux fuphoo).
Calling untrace with no arguments will untrace all functions currently being traced.

Unlike Maclisp, if there is an error trace (or untrace) will invoke the error system and give
an English message, instead of returning lists with question marks in them. Also, the remtrace
function is not provided, since it is unnecessary.

\textbf{trace-compile-flag} \textit{Variable}

If the value of trace-compile-flag is non-nil, the functions created by trace will get
compiled, allowing you to trace special forms such as cond without interfering with the
execution of the tracing functions. The default value of this flag is nil.

26.4 Advising a Function

To advise a function is to tell it to do something extra in addition to its actual definition. It
is done by means of the function advise. The something extra is called a piece of advice, and it
can be done before, after, or around the definition itself. The advice and the definition are
independent, in that changing either one does not interfere with the other. Each function can be
given any number of pieces of advice.

Advising is fairly similar to tracing, but its purpose is different. Tracing is intended for
temporary changes to a function to give the user information about when and how the function is
called and when and with what value it returns. Advising is intended for semi-permanent changes
to what a function actually does. The differences between tracing and advising are motivated by
this difference in goals.
Advice can be used for testing out a change to a function in a way which is easy to retract. In this case, you would call advise from the terminal. It can also be used for customizing a function which is part of a program written by someone else. In this case you would be likely to put a call to advise in one of your source files or your login init file, rather than modifying the other person’s source code.

Advising is implemented with encapsulation (see section 10.10, page 139), so if the function is redefined (e.g. with defun or by loading it from a QFASL file) the advice will be transferred from the old definition to the new definition.

advice Special Form
A function is advised by the special form

```
(advice function class name position
 form1 form2 ...)
```

None of this is evaluated. function is the function to put the advice on. It is usually a symbol, but any function spec is allowed (see section 10.2, page 1124). The forms are the advice; they get evaluated when the function is called. class should be either :before, :after, or :around, and says when to execute the advice (before, after, or around the execution of the definition of the function). The meaning of :around advice is explained a couple of sections below.

name is used to keep track of multiple pieces of advice on the same function. name is an arbitrary symbol which is remembered as the name of this particular piece of advice. If you have no name in mind, use nil; then we say the piece of advice is anonymous. A given function and class can have any number of pieces of anonymous advice, but it can have only one piece of named advice for any one name. If you try to define a second one, it replaces the first. Advice for testing purposes is usually anonymous. Advice used for customizing someone else’s program should usually be named so that multiple customizations to one function have separate names. Then, if you reload a customization that is already loaded, it does not get put on twice.

position says where to put this piece of advice in relation to others of the same class already present on the same function. If position is nil, the new advice goes in the default position: it usually goes at the beginning (where it is executed before the other advice), but if it is replacing another piece of advice with the same name, it goes in the same place that the old piece of advice was in.

If you wish to specify the position, position can be the numerical index of which existing piece of advice to insert this one before. Zero means at the beginning; a very large number means at the end. Or, position can be the name of an existing piece of advice of the same class on the same function; the new advice is inserted before that one.

For example,

```
(advice factorial :before negative-arg-check nil
   (if (minusp (first arglist))
       (ferror nil "factorial of negative argument")))
```

This modifies the factorial function so that if it is called with a negative argument it signals an error instead of running forever.
**unadvise Special Form**

\[(\text{unadvise function class position})\]

removes pieces of advice. None of its "arguments" are evaluated. \text{function} and \text{class} have the same meaning as they do in the function advise. \text{position} specifies which piece of advice to remove. It can be the numeric index (zero means the first one) or it can be the name of the piece of advice.

\text{unadvise} can remove more than one piece of advice if some of its arguments are missing. If \text{position} is missing or nil, then all advice of the specified class on the specified function is removed. If \text{class} is missing or nil as well, then all advice on the specified function is removed. (\text{unadvise}) removes all advice on all functions, since \text{function} is not specified.

The following are the primitive functions for adding and removing advice. Unlike the above special forms, these are functions and can be conveniently used by programs. \text{advise} and \text{unadvise} are actually macros which expand into calls to these two.

\text{s1:advise-1 function class name position forms}

Adds advice. The arguments have the same meaning as in advise. Note that the \text{forms} argument is not a &rest argument.

\text{s1:unadvise-1 function \&optional class position}

Removes advice. If \text{class} or \text{position} is nil or unspecified, all classes of advice or advice at all positions with all names is removed.

You can find out manually what advice a function has with \text{grinddef}, which grinds the advice on the function as forms which are calls to advise. These are in addition to the definition of the function.

To poke around in the advice structure with a program, you must work with the encapsulation mechanism's primitives. See section 10.10, page 139.

\text{s1:advised-functions Variable}

A list of all functions which have been advised.

### 26.4.1 Designing the Advice

For advice to interact usefully with the definition and intended purpose of the function, it must be able to interface to the data flow and control flow through the function. We provide conventions for doing this.

The list of the arguments to the function can be found in the variable \text{arglist}. \text{:before} advice can replace this list, or an element of it, to change the arguments passed to the definition itself. If you replace an element, it is wise to copy the whole list first with

\[\text{setq arglist (copylist arglist)}\]

After the function's definition has been executed, the list of the values it returned can be found in the variable \text{values}. \text{:after} advice can set this variable or replace its elements to cause different values to be returned.
All the advice is executed within a **prog**, so any piece of advice can exit the entire function with **return**. The arguments of the **return** will be returned as the values of the function. No further advice will be executed. If a piece of **before** advice does this, then the function's definition will not even be called.

26.4.2 :around Advice

A piece of **before** or **after** advice is executed entirely before or entirely after the definition of the function. **around** advice is wrapped around the definition; that is, the call to the original definition of the function is done at a specified place inside the piece of **around** advice. You specify where by putting the symbol :do-it in that place.

For example, (+ 5 :do-it) as a piece of **around** advice would add 5 to the value returned by the function. This could also be done by (setq values (list (+ 5 (car values)))) as **after** advice.

When there is more than one piece of **around** advice, they are stored in a sequence just like **before** and **after** advice. Then, the first piece of advice in the sequence is the one started first. The second piece is substituted for :do-it in the first one. The third one is substituted for :do-it in the second one. The original definition is substituted for :do-it in the last piece of advice.

**around** advice can access arglist, but values is not set up until the outermost **around** advice returns. At that time, it is set to the value returned by the **around** advice. It is reasonable for the advice to receive the values of the :do-it (e.g. with multiple-value-list) and fool with them before returning them (e.g. with values-list).

**around** advice can return from the **prog** at any time, whether the original definition has been executed yet or not. It can also override the original definition by failing to contain :do-it. Containing two instances of :do-it may be useful under peculiar circumstances. If you are careless, the original definition may be called twice, but something like

```
(if (foo) (+ 5 :do-it) (* 2 :do-it))
```

will certainly work reasonably.

26.4.3 Advising One Function Within Another

It is possible to advise the function foo only for when it is called directly from a specific other function bar. You do this by advising the function specifier (:within bar foo). That works by finding all occurrences of foo in the definition of bar and replacing them with altered-foo-within-bar. This can be done even if bar's definition is compiled code. This symbol starts off with foo as its definition; then it, rather than foo, is advised. The system remembers that foo has been replaced inside bar, so that if you change the definition of bar, or advise it, then the replacement is propagated to the new definition or to the advice. If you remove all the advice on (:within bar foo), so that its definition becomes the symbol foo again, then the replacement is unmade and everything returns to its original state.

`(grindef bar)` will print foo where it originally appeared, rather than altered-foo-within-bar, so the replacement will not be seen. Instead, grindef will print out calls to advise to describe all the advice that has been put on foo or anything else within bar.
An alternate way of putting on this sort of advice is to use advise-within.

**advise-within** *Special Form*

```
(advise-within within-function function-to-advice
  class name position
  forms...)
```

advises function-to-advice only when called directly from the function within-function. The other arguments mean the same thing as with advise. None of them are evaluated.

To remove advice from (:within bar foo), you can use unadvise on that function specifier. Alternatively, you can use unadvise-within.

**unadvise-within** *Special Form*

```
(unadvise-within within-junction function-to-advice class position)
```

removes advice which has been placed on (:within within-function function-to-advice). The arguments class and position are interpreted as for unadvise. For example, if those two are omitted, then all advice placed on function-to-advice within within-function is removed. Additionally, if function-to-advice is omitted, all advice on any function within within-function is removed. If there are no arguments, than all advice on one function within another is removed. Other pieces of advice, which have been placed on one function and not limited to within another, are not removed.

(unadvise) removes absolutely all advice, including advice for one function within another.

The function versions of advise-within and unadvise-within are called si:advise-within-1 and si:unadvise-within-1. advise-within and unadvise-within are macros which expand into calls to the other two.

### 26.5 Stepping Through an Evaluation

The Step facility gives you the ability to follow every step of the evaluation of a form, and examine what is going on. It is analogous to a single-step proceed facility often found in machine-language debuggers. If your program is doing something strange, and it isn't obvious how it's getting into its strange state, then the stepper is for you.

There are two ways to enter the stepper. One is by use of the step function.

**step** *form*

This evaluates form with single stepping. It returns the value of form.

For example, if you have a function named foo, and typical arguments to it might be t and 3, you could say

```
(step '(foo t 3))
```

and the form (foo t 3) will be evaluated with single stepping.

The other way to get into the stepper is to use the :step option of trace (see page 404). If a function is traced with the :step option, then whenever that function is called it will be single stepped.
Note that any function to be stepped must be interpreted; that is, it must be a lambda-expression. Compiled code cannot be stepped by the stepper.

When evaluation is proceeding with single stepping, before any form is evaluated, it is (partially) printed out, preceded by a forward arrow (→) character. When a macro is expanded, the expansion is printed out preceded by a double arrow (↔) character. When a form returns a value, the form and the values are printed out preceded by a backwards arrow (←) character; if there is more than one value being returned, an and-sign (∧) character is printed between the values.

Since the forms may be very long, the stepper does not print all of a form; it truncates the printed representation after a certain number of characters. Also, to show the recursion pattern of who calls whom in a graphic fashion, it indents each form proportionally to its level of recursion.

After the stepper prints any of these things, it waits for a command from the user. There are several commands to tell the stepper how to proceed, or to look at what is happening. The commands are:

- Control-N (Next)
  - Step to the Next thing. The stepper continues until the next thing to print out, and it accepts another command.

- Space
  - Go to the next thing at this level. In other words, continue to evaluate at this level, but don't step anything at lower levels. This is a good way to skip over parts of the evaluation that don't interest you.

- Control-U (Up)
  - Continue evaluating until we go up one level. This is like the space command, only more so; it skips over anything on the current level as well as lower levels.

- Control-X (eXit)
  - Exit; finish evaluating without any more stepping.

- Control-T (Type)
  - Retype the current form in full (without truncation).

- Control-G (Grind)
  - Grind (i.e. prettyprint) the current form.

- Control-E (Editor)
  - Editor escape (enter the editor).

- Control-B (Breakpoint)
  - Breakpoint. This command puts you into a breakpoint (i.e. a read-eval-print loop) from which you can examine the values of variables and other aspects of the current environment. From within this loop, the following variables are available:

    - step-form which is the current form.
    - step-values which is the list of returned values.
    - step-value which is the first returned value.

    If you change the values of these variables, it will work.

- Control-L
  - Clear the screen and redisplay the last 10. pending forms (forms which are being evaluated).
Meta-L
   Like Control-L, but doesn't clear the screen.

Control-Meta-L
   Like Control-L, but redisplays all pending forms.

? or Help
   Prints documentation on these commands.

It is strongly suggested that you write some little function and try the stepper on it. If you get a feel for what the stepper does and how it works, you will be able to tell when it is the right thing to use to find bugs.

26.6 Evalhook

The evalhook facility provides a "hook" into the evaluator; it is a way you can get a Lisp form of your choice to be executed whenever the evaluator is called. The stepper uses evalhook, and usually it is the only thing that ever needs to. However, if you want to write your own stepper or something similar, this is the primitive facility that you can use to do so. The way this works is a bit hairy, but unless you need to write your own stepper you don't have to worry about it.

evalhook Variable
   If the value of evalhook is non-nil, then special things happen in the evaluator. When a form (any form, even a number or a symbol) is to be evaluated, evalhook is bound to nil and the function which was evalhook's value is applied to one argument—the form that was trying to be evaluated. The value it returns is then returned from the evaluator.

   evalhook is bound to nil by break and by the error handler, andsetq'ed to nil when errors are dismissed by throwing to the Lisp top level loop. This provides the ability to escape from this mode if something bad happens.

   In order not to impair the efficiency of the Lisp interpreter, several restrictions are imposed on evalhook. It only applies to evaluation—whether in a read-eval-print loop, internally in evaluating arguments in forms, or by explicit use of the function eval. It does not have any effect on compiled function references, on use of the function apply, or on the "mapping" functions. (On the Lisp Machine, as opposed to Maclisp, it is not necessary to do (*rset t) nor (sstatus evalhook t).) (Also, Maclisp's special-case check for store is not implemented.)

   evalhook form hook
   evalhook is a function which helps exploit the evalhook feature. The form is evaluated with evalhook lambda-bound to the function hook. The checking of evalhook is bypassed in the evaluation of form itself, but not in any subsidiary evaluations, for instance of arguments in the form. This is like a "one-instruction proceed" in a machine-language debugger.
Example:
:: This function evaluates a form while printing debugging information.
(defun hook (x)
  (terpri)
  (evalhook x 'hook-function))

;; Notice how this function calls evalhook to evaluate the form f,
;; so as to hook the sub-forms.
(defun hook-function (f)
  (let ((v (evalhook f 'hook-function)))
    (format t "form: ~s~%value: ~s~% " f v))
)

;; This isn't a very good program, since if uses multiple
;; values, it will not work.

The following output might be seen from (hook '(cons (car '(a . b)) 'c)):
form: (quote (a . b))
value: (a . b)
form: (car (quote (a . b)))
value: a
form: (quote c)
value: c
  (a . c)

26.7 The MAR

The MAR facility allows any word or contiguous set of words to be monitored constantly,
and can cause an error if the words are referenced in a specified manner. The name MAR is
from the similar device on the ITS PDP-10's; it is an acronym for "Memory Address Register".
The MAR checking is done by the Lisp Machine's memory management hardware, and so the
speed of general execution when the MAR is enabled is not significantly slowed down. However,
the speed of accessing pages of memory containing the locations being checked is slowed down
somewhat, since every reference involves a microcode trap.

These are the functions that control the MAR:

(set-mar location cycle-type &optional n-words)
The set-mar function clears any previous setting of the MAR, and sets the MAR on n-
words words, starting at location. location may be any object. Often it will be a locative
pointer to a cell, probably created with the locf special form. n-words currently defaults
to 1, but eventually it may default to the size of the object. cycle-type says under what
conditions to trap. :read means that only reading the location should cause an error,
:write means that only writing the location should, t means that both should. To set the
MAR to detect setq (and binding) of the variable foo, use
  (set-mar (value-cell-location 'foo) ':write)
**clear-mar**
This turns off the MAR. Warm-booting the machine disables the MAR but does not turn it off, i.e. references to the MARed pages are still slowed down. clear-mar does not currently speed things back up until the next time the pages are swapped out; this may be fixed some day.

**mar-mode**

(mar-mode) returns a symbol indicating the current state of the MAR. It returns one of:
- nil: The MAR is not set.
- :read: The MAR will cause an error if there is a read.
- :write: The MAR will cause an error if there is a write.
- t: The MAR will cause an error if there is any reference.

Note that using the MAR makes the pages on which it is set somewhat slower to access, until the next time they are swapped out and back in again after the MAR is shut off. Also, use of the MAR currently breaks the read-only feature if those pages were read-only.

Proceeding from a MAR break allows the memory reference that got an error to take place, and continues the program with the MAR still effective. When proceeding from a write, the error handler asks you whether to allow the write to take place or to inhibit it, leaving the location with its old contents.

Most—but not all—write operations first do a read. setq and rplaca are examples. This means that if the MAR is in :read mode it will catch writes as well as reads, however they will trap during the reading phase, and consequently the data to be written will not be displayed. This also means that setting the MAR to t mode causes most writes to trap twice, first for a read and then again for a write. So when the MAR says that it trapped because of a read, this means a read at the hardware level, which may not look like a read in your program.

### 26.8 Variable Monitoring

**monitor-variable** var &optional current-value-cell-only-p monitor-function

Calls a given function just after a given special variable is setq'ed (by compiled code or otherwise). Does not trigger on binding of the variable. The function is given both the old and new values as arguments. It does not get the name of the variable as an argument, so it is usually necessary to use a closure as monitor-function in order to remember this. The old value will be nil if the variable had been unbound.

The default monitoring function just prints the symbol and the old and new values. This behavior can be changed by specifying the monitor-function argument.

Normally this feature applies to all setq's, but if current-value-cell-only-p is specified non-nil, it applies only to those setq's which would alter the variable's currently active value cell. This is only relevant when var is subject to a closure.

Don’t try to use this with variables that are forwarded to a memory (e.g. inhibit-scheduling-flag).
unmonitor-variable &optional var

If var is being monitored, it is restored to normal. If no var is specified, all variables that have been monitored are unmonitored.
27. How to Read Assembly Language

Sometimes it is useful to study the machine language code produced by the Lisp Machine's compiler, usually in order to analyze an error, or sometimes to check for a suspected compiler problem. This chapter explains how the Lisp Machine's instruction set works, and how to understand what code written in that instruction set is doing. Fortunately, the translation between Lisp and this instruction set is very simple; after you get the hang of it, you can move back and forth between the two representations without much trouble. The following text does not assume any special knowledge about the Lisp Machine, although it sometimes assumes some general computer science background knowledge.

27.1 Introduction

Nobody looks at machine language code by trying to interpret octal numbers by hand. Instead, there is a program called the Disassembler which converts the numeric representation of the instruction set into a more readable textual representation. It is called the Disassembler because it does the opposite of what an Assembler would do; however, there isn't actually any assembler that accepts this input format, since there is never any need to manually write assembly language for the Lisp Machine.

The simplest way to invoke the Disassembler is with the Lisp function disassemble. Here is a simple example. Suppose we type:

```
(defun foo (x)
  (assq 'key (get x 'propname)))

(compile 'foo)

(disassemble 'foo)
```

This defines the function foo, compiles it, and invokes the Disassembler to print out the textual representation of the result of the compilation. Here is what it looks like:

```
22  MOVE D-PDL FEF|6 ; 'KEY
23  MOVE D-PDL ARG|0 ; X
24  MOVE D-PDL FEF|7 ; 'PROPNAME
25  (MISC) GET D-PDL
26  (MISC) ASSQ D-RETURN
```

The Disassembler is also used by the Error Handler and the Inspector. When you see stuff like the above while using one of these programs, it is disassembled code, in the same format as the disassemble function uses. Inspecting a compiled code object shows the disassembled code.

Now, what does this mean? Before we get started, there is just a little bit of jargon to learn.

The acronym PDL stands for Push Down List, and means the same thing as Stack: a last-in first-out memory. The terms PDL and stack will be used interchangeably. The Lisp Machine's architecture is rather typical of "stack machines": there is a stack that most instructions deal with, and it is used to hold values being computed, arguments, and local variables, as well as flow-of-
control information. An important use of the stack is to pass arguments to instructions, though not all instructions take their arguments from the stack.

The acronym "FEF" stands for Function Entry Frame. A FEF is a compiled code object produced by the compiler. After the defun form above was evaluated, the function cell of the symbol foo contained a lambda expression. Then, we compiled the function foo, and the contents of the function cell were replaced by a "FEF" object. The printed representation of the "FEF" object for foo looks like this:

```lisp
#<DTP-FEF-POINTER 11464337 FOO>
```

The FEF has three parts (this is a simplified explanation): a header with various fixed-format fields, a part holding constants and invisible pointers, and the main body holding the machine language instructions. The first part of the FEF, the header, is not very interesting and is not documented here (you can look at it with describe but it won’t be easy to understand what it all means). The second part of the FEF holds various constants referred to by the function; for example, our function foo references two constants (the symbols key and proppname), and so (pointers to) those symbols are stored in the FEF. This part of the FEF also holds invisible pointers to the value cells of all symbols that the function uses as variables, and invisible pointers to the function cells of all symbols that the function calls as functions. The third part of the FEF holds the machine language code itself.

Now we can read the disassembled code. The first instruction looked like this:

```
22 MOVE D-PDL FEF|6 ; 'KEY
```

This instruction has several parts. The 22 is the address of this instruction. The Disassembler prints out the address of each instruction before it prints out the instruction, so that you can interpret branching instructions when you see them (we haven’t seen one of these yet, but we will later). The MOVE is an opcode: this is a MOVE instruction, which moves a datum from one place to another. The D-PDL is a destination specification. The D stands for "Destination", and so D-PDL means "Destination-PDL": the destination of the datum being moved is the PDL. This means that the result will be pushed onto the PDL, rather than just moved to the top; this instruction is pushing a datum onto the stack. The next field of the instruction is FEF|6. This is an address, and it specifies where the datum is coming from. The vertical bar serves to separate the two parts of the address. The part before the vertical bar can be thought of as a base register, and the part after the bar can be thought of as being an offset from that register. FEF as a base register means the address of the FEF that we are disassembling, and so this address means the location six words into the FEF. So what this instruction does is to take the datum located six words into the FEF, and push it onto the PDL. The instruction is followed by a "comment" field, which looks like ; 'KEY. This is not a comment that any person wrote; the disassembler produces these to explain what is going on. The semicolon just serves to start the comment, the way semicolons in Lisp code do. In this case, the body of the comment, 'KEY, is telling us that the address field (FEF|6) is addressing a constant (that is what the single-quote in 'KEY means), and that the printed representation of that constant is KEY. With the help of this "comment" we finally get the real story about what this instruction is doing: it is pushing (a pointer to) the symbol key onto the stack.

The next instruction looks like this:
23 MOVE D-PDL ARG10 ; X

This is a lot like the previous instruction; the only difference is that a different "base register" is being used in the address. The ARG "base register" is used for addressing your arguments: ARG10 means that the datum being addressed is the zeroth argument. Again, the "comment" field explains what that means: the value of X (which was the zeroth argument) is being pushed onto the stack.

The third instruction is just like the first one; it pushes the symbol proppname onto the stack.

The fourth instruction is something new:

25 (MISC) GET D-PDL

The first thing we see here is (MISC). This means that this is one of the so-called miscellaneous instructions. There are quite a few of these instructions. With some exceptions, each miscellaneous instruction corresponds to a Lisp function and has the same name as that Lisp function. If a Lisp function has a corresponding miscellaneous instruction, then that function is hand-coded in Lisp Machine microcode.

Miscellaneous instructions only have a destination field; they don't have any address field. The inputs to the instruction come from the stack: the top $n$ elements on the stack are used as inputs to the instruction and popped off the stack, where $n$ is the number of arguments taken by the function. The result of the function is stored wherever the destination field says. In our case, the function being executed is get, a Lisp function of two arguments. The top two values will be popped off the stack and used as the arguments to get (the value pushed first is the first argument, the value pushed second is the second argument, and so on). The result of the call to get will be sent to the destination D-PDL; that is, it will be pushed onto the stack. (In case you were wondering about how we handle optional arguments and multiple-value returns, the answer is very simple: functions that use either of those features cannot be miscellaneous instructions!) (If you are curious as to what functions are hand-microcoded and thus available as miscellaneous instructions, you can look at the defmic forms in the file "AI: LISP; DEFMIC >").

The fifth and last instruction is similar to the fourth:

26 (MISC) ASSQ D-RETURN

What is new here is the new value of the destination field. This one is called D-RETURN, and it can be used anywhere destination fields in general can be used (like in MOVE instructions). Sending something to "Destination-Return" means that this value should be the returned value of the function, and that we should return from this function. This is a bit unusual in instruction sets; rather than having a "return" instruction, we have a destination which, when stored into, returns from the function. What this instruction does, then, is to invoke the Lisp function assq on the top two elements of the stack, and return the result of assq as the result of this function.

Now, let's look at the program as a whole and see what it did:
A More Advanced Example

First it pushes the symbol key. Then it pushes the value of x. Then it pushes the symbol propname. Then it invokes get, which pops the value of x and the symbol propname off the stack and uses them as arguments, thus doing the equivalent of evaluating the form (get x 'propname). The result is left on the stack; the stack now contains the result of the get on top, and the symbol key underneath that. Next, it invokes assq on these two values, thus doing the equivalent of evaluating (assq 'key (get x 'propname)). Finally, it returns the value produced by assq. Now, the original Lisp program we compiled was:

\[
\text{\texttt{(defun foo (x) \textbf{(assq 'key (get x 'propname))})}}
\]

We can see that the code produced by the compiler is correct: it will do the same thing as the function we defined will do.

In summary, we have seen two kinds of instructions so far: the MOVE instruction, which takes a destination and an address, and two of the large set of miscellaneous instructions, which take only a destination, and implicitly get their inputs from the stack. We have seen two destinations (D-PDL and D-RETURN), and two forms of address (FEF addressing and ARG addressing).

27.2 A More Advanced Example

Here is a more complex Lisp function, demonstrating local variables, function calling, conditional branching, and some other new instructions.

\[
\text{\texttt{(defun bar (y) \textbf{(let ((z (car y)) \textbf{(cond ((atom z) (setq z (cdr y)) (foo y)) (t nil))}}}}}
\]

The disassembled code looks like this:
The first instruction here is a CAR instruction. It has the same format as MOVE: there is a destination and an address. The CAR instruction reads the datum addressed by the address, takes the car of it, and stores the result into the destination. In our example, the first instruction addresses the zeroth argument, and so it computes (car y); then it pushes the result onto the stack.

The next instruction is something new: the POP instruction. It has an address field, but it uses it as a destination rather than as a source. The POP instruction pops the top value off the stack, and stores that value into the address specified by the address field. In our example, the value on the top of the stack is popped off and stored into address LOCAL10. This is a new order of address; it means the zeroth local variable. The ordering of the local variables is chosen by the compiler, and so it is not fully predictable, although it tends to be by order of appearance in the code; fortunately you never have to look at these numbers, because the "comment" field explains what is going on. In this case, the variable being addressed is z. So this instruction pops the top value on the stack into the variable z. The first two instructions work together to take the car of y and store it into z, which is indeed the first thing the function bar ought to do. (If you have two local variables with the same name, then the "comment" field won't tell you which of the two you're talking about; you'll have to figure that out yourself. You can tell two local variables with the same name apart by looking at the number in the address.)

The next instruction is a conditional branch; it changes the flow of control, based on the values in the "indicator" bits. The instruction is BR-NOT-ATOM 30, which means "Branch, if the quantity was not an atom, to location 30; otherwise proceed with execution". If z was an atom, the Lisp Machine branches to location 30, and execution proceeds there. (As you can see by skipping ahead, location 30 just contains a MOVE instruction, which will cause the function to return nil.)
If z is not an atom, the program keeps going, and the CDR instruction is next. This is just like the CAR instruction except that it takes the cdr; this instruction pushes the value of \((\text{cdr } y)\) onto the stack. The next one pops that value off into the variable z.

There are just two more instructions left. These two instructions will be our first example of how function calling is compiled. It is the only really tricky thing in the instruction set. Here is how it works in our example:

```
26 CALL D-RETURN FEF|6 ;# 'FOO
27 MOVE D-LAST ARG|0 ;Y
```

The form being compiled here is \((\text{foo } y)\). This means we are applying the function which is in the function cell of the symbol foo, and passing it one argument, the value of y. The way function calling works is in the following three steps. First of all, there is a CALL instruction that specifies the function object being applied to arguments. This creates a new stack frame on the stack, and stores the function object there. Secondly, all the arguments being passed except the last one are pushed onto the stack. Thirdly and lastly, the last argument is sent to a special destination, called D-LAST, meaning "this is the last argument". Storing to this destination is what actually calls the function, not the CALL instruction itself.

There are two things you might wonder about this. First of all, when the function returns, what happens to the returned value? Well, this is what we use the destination field of the CALL instruction for. The destination of the CALL is not stored into at the time the CALL instruction is executed; instead, it is saved on the stack (into the stack frame created by the CALL instruction, along with the function object). Then, when the function actually returns, its result is stored into that destination.

The other question is what happens when there isn't any last argument; that is, when there is a call with no arguments at all? This is handled by a special instruction called CALLO. The address of CALLO addresses the function object to be called; the call takes place immediately, and the result is stored into the destination specified by the destination field of the CALLO instruction.

So, let's look at the two-instruction sequence above. The first instruction is a CALL; the function object it specifies is at FEF|6, which the comment tells us is the contents of the function cell of foo (the FEF contains an invisible pointer to that function cell). The destination field of the CALL is D-RETURN, but we aren't going to store it into it yet; we will save it away in the stack frame and use it later. So the function doesn't return at this point, even though it says D-RETURN in the instruction; this is the tricky part.

Next we have to push all the arguments except the last one. Well, there's only one argument, so nothing needs to be done here. Finally, we move the last argument (that is, the only argument: the value of y) to D-LAST, using the MOVE instruction. Moving to D-LAST is what actually invokes the function, so at this point the function foo is invoked. When it returns, its result is sent to the destination stored in the stack frame: D-RETURN. Therefore, the value returned by the call to foo will be returned as the value of the function bar. Sure enough, this is what the original Lisp code says to do.

When the compiler pushes arguments to a function call, it sometimes does it by sending the values to a destination called D-NEXT (meaning the "next" argument). This is exactly the same as D-PDL; the only reasons for the difference are very historical. They mean the same thing.
Here is another example to illustrate function calling. This Lisp function calls one function on the results of another function.

\[
\text{(defun a (x y) (b (c x y) y))}
\]

The disassembled code looks like this:

22 CALL D-RETURN FEF16 ; #'B
23 CALL D-PDL FEF17 ; #C
24 MOVE D-PDL ARG10 ; X
25 MOVE D-LAST ARG11 ; Y
26 MOVE D-LAST ARG11 ; Y

The first instruction starts off the call to the function b. The destination field is saved for later: when this function returns, we will return its result as a's result. Next, the call to c is started. Its destination field, too, is saved for later; when c returns, its result should be pushed onto the stack, so that it will be the next argument to b. Next, the first and second arguments to c are passed; the second one is sent to D-LAST and so the function c is called. Its result, as we said, will be pushed onto the stack, and thus become the first argument to b. Finally, the second argument to b is passed, by storing in D-LAST; b gets called, and its result is sent to D-RETURN and is returned from a.

27.3 The Rest of the Instructions

Now that we've gotten some of the feel for what is going on, I will start enumerating the instructions in the instruction set. The instructions fall into four classes. Class I instructions have both a destination and an address. Class II instructions have an address, but no destination. Class III instructions are the branch instructions, which contain a branch address rather than a general base-and-offset address. Class IV instructions have a destination, but no address; these are the miscellaneous instructions.

We have already seen just about all the Class I instructions. There are nine of them in all: MOVE, CALL, CALL0, CAR, CDR, CAAR, CADR, CDAR, and CDDR. MOVE just moves a datum from an address to a destination; the CxR and CxxR instructions are the same but perform the function on the value before sending it to the destination; CALL starts off a call to a function with some arguments; CALL0 performs a call to a function with no arguments.

We've seen most of the possible forms of address. So far we have seen the FEF, ARG, and LOCAL base registers. There are two other kinds of addresses. One uses a "constant" base register, which addresses a set of standard constants: NIL, T, 0, 1, and 2. The disassembler doesn't even bother to print out CONSTANT\[n\], since the number \( n \) would not be even slightly interesting; it just prints out 'NIL or '1 or whatever. The other kind of address is a special one printed as PDL-POP, which means that to read the value at this address, an object should be popped off the top of the stack.

There is a higher number of Class II instructions. The only one we've seen so far is POP, which pops a value off the stack and stores it into the specified address. There is another instruction called MOVEM (from the PDP-10 opcode name, meaning MOVE to Memory), which stores the top element of the stack into the specified address, but doesn't pop it off the stack.
Then there are seven Class II instructions to implement heavily-used two-argument functions: +, -, *, /, LOGAND, LOGXOR, and LOGIOR. These instructions take their first argument from the top of the stack (popping them off) and their second argument from the specified address, and they push their result on the stack. Thus the stack level does not change due to these instructions.

Here is a small function that shows some of these new things:

\[
\begin{align*}
(\text{defun} & \text{foo} \ (x \ y) \\
& (\text{setq} \ x \ (\text{logxor} \ y \ (- \ x \ 2)))
\end{align*}
\]

The disassembled code looks like this:

\[
\begin{align*}
16 & \ \text{MOVE} \ \text{D-PDL} \ \text{ARG1} \ \ ;Y \\
17 & \ \text{MOVE} \ \text{D-PDL} \ \text{ARG0} \ \ ;X \\
20 & \ - \ '2 \\
21 & \ \text{LOGXOR} \ \text{PDL-POP} \\
22 & \ \text{MOVEM} \ \text{ARG0} \ \ ;X \\
23 & \ \text{MOVE} \ \text{D-RETURN} \ \text{PDL-POP}
\end{align*}
\]

Instructions 20 and 21 use two of the new Class II instructions: the - and LOGXOR instructions. Instructions 21 and 23 use the PDL-POP address type, and instruction 20 uses the "constant" base register to get to a fixnum 2. Finally, instruction 22 uses the MOVEM instruction: the compiler wants to use the top value of the stack to store it into the value of x, but it doesn't want to pop it off the stack because it has another use for it: to return it from the function.

Another four Class II instructions implement some commonly used predicates: =, >, <, and EQ. The two arguments come from the top of the stack and the specified address; the stack is popped, the predicate is applied to the two objects, and the result is left in the "indicators" so that a branch instruction can test it and branch based on the result of the comparison. These instructions remove the top item on the stack and don't put anything back, unlike the previous set which put their results back on the stack.

Next, there are four Class II instructions to read, modify, and write a quantity in ways that are common in Lisp code. These instructions are called SETE-CDR, SETE-CDDR, SETE-1+, and SETE-1-: The SETE- means to set the addressed value to the result of applying the specified one-argument function to the present value. For example, SETE-CDR means to read the value addressed, apply cdr to it, and store the result back in the specified address. This is used when compiling (setq x (cdr x)), which commonly occurs in loops; the other functions are used frequently in loops, too.

There are two instructions used to bind special variables. The first is BIND-NIL, which binds the cell addressed by the address field to nil; the second is BIND-POP, which binds the cell to an object popped off the stack rather than nil. The latter instruction pops a value off the stack; the former does not use the stack at all.

There are two instructions to store common values into addressed cells. SET-NIL stores nil into the cell specified by the address field; SET-ZERO stores 0. Neither instruction uses the stack at all.
Finally, the **PUSH-E** instruction creates a locative pointer to the cell addressed by the specified address, and pushes it onto the stack. This is used in compiling `(value-cell-location 'z)` where z is an argument or a local variable, rather than a symbol (special variable).

Those are all of the Class II instructions. Here is a contrived example that uses some of the ones we haven’t seen, just to show you what they look like:

```lisp
(defun weird (x y)
  (cond (= x y)
    (let ((*foo* nil) (*bar* 5))
      (setq x (cdr x))
      (t
       (setq x nil)
       (caar (value-cell-location 'y))))))
```

The disassembled code looks like this:

```
24 MOVE D-PDL ARG10 ;X
25 = ARG1 ;Y
26 BR-NIL 36
27 BIND-NIL FEF6 ;*FOO*
30 MOVE D-PDL FEF8 ;'5
31 BIND-POP FEF7 ;*BAR*
32 SETE-CDR ARG0 ;X
33 (MISC) UNBIND 2 bindings
34 MOVE D-RETURN 'NIL
35 SET-NIL ARG0 ;X
36 PUSH-E ARG1 ;Y
37 CAAR D-RETURN PDL-POP
```

Instruction 25 is an `=` instruction; it numerically compares the top of the stack, x, with the addressed quantity, y. The x is popped off the stack, and the indicators are set to the result of the equality test. Instruction 26 checks the indicators, branching to 35 if the result of the call to `=` was NIL; that is, the machine will branch to 35 if the two values were not equal. Instruction 27 binds `*foo*` to nil; instructions 30 and 31 bind `*bar*` to 5. Instruction 32 demonstrates the use of SETE-CDR to compile (setq x (cdr x)), and instruction 35 demonstrates the use of SET-NIL to compile (setq x nil). Instruction 36 demonstrates the use of PUSH-E to compile `(value-cell-location 'y)`.

The next class of instructions, Class III, are the branching instructions. These have neither addresses nor destinations of the usual sort; instead, they have branch-addresses: they say where to branch, if the branch is going to happen. There are several instructions, differing in the conditions under which they will branch, and whether they pop the stack. Branch-addresses are stored internally as self-relative addresses, to make Lisp Machine code relocatable, but the disassembler does the addition for you and prints out FEF-relative addresses so that you can easily see where the branch is going to.
The branch instructions we have seen so far decide whether to branch on the basis of the "nil indicator"; that is, whether the last value dealt with was nil or non-nil. BR-NIL branches if it was nil, and BR-NOT-NIL branches if it was not nil. There are two more instructions that test the result of the atom predicate on the last value dealt with. BR-ATOM branches if the value was an atom (that is, if it was anything besides a cons), and BR-NOT-ATOM branches if the value was not an atom (that is, if it was a cons). The BR instruction is an unconditional branch (it always branches).

None of the above branching instructions deal with the stack. There are two more instructions called BR-NIL-POP and BR-NOT-NIL-POP, which are the same as BR-NIL and BR-NOT-NIL except that if the branch is not done, the top value on the stack is popped off the stack. These are used for compiling and and or special forms.

Finally, there are the Class IV instructions, most of which are miscellaneous hand-microcoded Lisp functions. The file "AI: LISP; DEFMIC" has a list of all the miscellaneous instructions. Most correspond to Lisp functions, including the subprimitives, although some of these functions are very low level internals that may not be documented anywhere (don't be disappointed if you don't understand all of them). Please do not look at this file in hopes of finding obscure functions that you think you can use to speed up your programs; in fact, the compiler automatically uses these things when it can, and directly calling weird internal functions will only serve to make your code hard to read, without making it any faster. In fact, we don't guarantee that calling undocumented functions will continue to work in the future.

The DEFMIC file can be useful for determining if a given function is in microcode, although the only definitive way to tell is to compile some code that uses it and look at the results, since sometimes the compiler converts a documented function with one name into an undocumented one with another name.

27.4 Function Entry

When a function is first entered in Lisp Machine Lisp, interesting things can happen because of the features that are invoked by use of the various "&" keywords. The microcode performs various services when a function is entered, even before the first instruction of the function is executed. These services are called for by various fields of the header portion of the FEF, including a list called the Argument Descriptor List, or ADL. We won't go into the detailed format of any of this, as it is complex and the details are not too interesting. The describe function will disassemble it, but not necessarily into a readily-comprehensible form.

The function-entry services include the initialization of unsupplied optional arguments and of &AUX variables. The ADL has a little instruction set of its own, and if the form that computes the initial value is something simple, such as a constant, or just a variable, then the ADL can handle things itself. However, if things get too complicated, instructions are needed, and the compiler generates some instructions at the front of the function to initialize the unsupplied variables. In this case, the ADL specifies several different starting addresses for the function, depending on which optional arguments have been supplied and which have been omitted. If all the optional arguments are supplied, then the ADL starts the function off after all the instructions that would have initialized the optional arguments; since the arguments were supplied, their values should not be set, and so all these instructions are skipped over. Here's an example:
(declare (special *y*))

(defun foo (&optional (x (car *y*)) (z (* x 3)) (cons x z))

The disassembled code looks like this:

32 CAR D-PDL FEF|6 ;*Y*
33 POP ARG|0 ;X
34 MOVE D-PDL ARG|0 ;X
35 * FEF|11 ;3
36 POP ARG|1 ;Z
37 MOVE D-PDL ARG|0 ;X
40 MOVE D-PDL ARG|1 ;Z
41 (MISC) CONS D-RETURN

If no arguments are supplied, the function will be started at instruction 32; if only one argument is supplied, it will be started at instruction 34; if both arguments are supplied, it will be started at instruction 37. (If you do (describe 'foo) and look at the incomprehensible stuff that gets printed out, you can see the numbers 34 and 37 in lines that correspond to elements of the ADL.)

The thing to keep in mind here is that when there is initialization of variables, you may see it as code at the beginning of the function, or you may not, depending upon whether it is too complex for the ADL to handle. This is true of &aux variables as well as unsupplied &optional arguments.

When there is an &rest argument, it is passed to the function as the zeroth local variable, rather than as any of the arguments. This is not really so confusing as it might seem, since an &rest argument is not an argument passed by the caller, rather it is a list of some of the arguments, created by the function-entry microcode services. In any case the "comment" tells you what is going on. In fact, one hardly ever looks much at the address fields in disassembled code, since the "comment" tells you the right thing anyway. Here is a silly example of the use of an &rest argument:

(defun prod (&rest values)
  (apply #'* values))

The disassembled code looks like this:

20 MOVE D-PDL FEF|6 ;#*  
21 MOVE D-PDL LOCAL|0 ;VALUES
22 (MISC) APPLY D-RETURN

As can be seen, values is referred to as LOCAL|0.

Another thing the microcode does at function entry is to bind the values of any arguments or &aux variables that are special. Thus, you won’t see BIND instructions doing this, but it is still being done.
27.5 Special Class IV Instructions

We said earlier that most of the Class IV instructions are miscellaneous hand-microcoded Lisp functions. However, a few of them are not Lisp functions at all. There are two instructions that are printed as UNBIND bindings or POP values (except that the number can be anything up to 16 (these numbers are printed in decimal)). These instructions just do what they say, unbinding the last n values that were bound, or popping the top n values off the stack.

There are also special instructions to implement the Lisp list function, which is special because it is a primitive which takes a variable number of arguments. Let's take a look at how the compiler handles list.

```
(defun test-list (x y)
  (list 2 x y x))
```

The disassembled code looks like this:

```
16 (MISC) LIST 4 long D-RETURN
17 MOVE D-NEXT-LIST '2
20 MOVE D-NEXT-LIST ARG[0] ;X
21 MOVE D-NEXT-LIST ARG[1] ;Y
22 MOVE D-NEXT-LIST ARG[0] ;X
```

The instruction LIST 4 long prepares for the creation of a list of four elements; it allocates the storage, but doesn't put anything into it. The destination is not used immediately, but is saved for later, just as it is with CALL. Then the objects to be passed as arguments are successively generated and sent to a special destination, D-NEXT-LIST. This causes them to be put into the storage allocated by the LIST instruction. Once the fourth such sending is done, all the elements of the list are filled in, and the result (i.e. the list itself) is sent to whatever destination was specified in the LIST instruction.

By the way, that is the last of the destination codes; now you have seen all of them. In summary, they are D-IGNORE, D-PDL (and D-NEXT, which is the same thing), D-LAST, D-RETURN, and D-NEXT-LIST.

The array referencing functions—aref, aset, and aloc—also take a variable number of arguments, but they are handled differently. For one, two, and three dimensional arrays, these functions are turned into internal functions with names ar-1, as-1, and ap-1 (with the number of dimensions substituted for 1). Again, there is no point in using these functions yourself; it would only make your code harder to understand but not any faster at all. When there are more than three dimensions, the old Maclisp way is used: arrays are referenced by applying them as functions, using their dimensions as arguments, and they are stored into using xstore, which is like the Maclisp store but with its arguments in the other order. You can try compiling and disassembling some simple functions yourself if you want to see this in action.

When you call a function and expect to get more than one value back, a slightly different kind of function calling is used. Here is an example that uses multiple-value to get two values back from a function call:
(defun faa (x)
  (let (y z)
    (multiple-value (y z)
      (bar 3))
    (+ x y z)))

The disassembled code looks like this:

22 MOVE D-PDL FEF|6 ;'BAR
23 MOVE D-PDL '2
24 (MISC) %CALL-MULT-VALUE D-IGNORE
25 MOVE D-LAST FEF|7 ;'3
26 POP LOCAL|1 ;Z
27 POP LOCAL|0 ;Y
30 MOVE D-PDL ARG|0 ;X
31 + LOCAL|0 ;Y
32 + LOCAL|1 ;Z
33 MOVE D-RETURN PDL-POP

A %CALL-MULT-VALUE instruction is used instead of a CALL instruction. The destination field of %CALL-MULT-VALUE is unused and will always be D-IGNORE. %CALL-MULT-VALUE takes two "arguments", which it finds on the stack; it pops both of them. The first one is the function object to be applied; the second is the number of return values that are expected. The rest of the call proceeds as usual, but when the call returns, the returned values are left on the stack. The number of objects left on the stack is always the same as the second "argument" to %CALL-MULT-VALUE. In our example, the two values returned are left on the stack, and they are immediately popped off into z and y. There is also a %CALL0-MULT-VALUE instruction, for the same reason CALL0 exists.

The multiple-value-bind form works similarly; here is an example:

(defun foo (x)
  (multiple-value-bind (y *foo* z)
      (bar 3)
      (+ x y z)))

The disassembled code looks like this:

24 MOVE D-PDL FEF|8 ;'BAR
25 MOVE D-PDL FEF|7 ;'3
26 (MISC) %CALL-MULT-VALUE D-IGNORE
27 MOVE D-LAST FEF|7 ;'3
30 POP LOCAL|1 ;Z
31 BIND-POP FEF|6 ;*FOO*
32 POP LOCAL|0 ;Y
33 MOVE D-PDL ARG|0 ;X
34 + LOCAL|0 ;Y
35 + LOCAL|1 ;Z
36 MOVE D-RETURN PDL-POP
The `%CALL-MULT-VALUE` instruction is still used, leaving the results on the stack; these results are used to bind the variables.

Calls done with `multiple-value-list` work with the `%CALL-MULT-VALUE-LIST` instruction. It takes one "argument" on the stack: the function object to apply. When the function returns, the list of values is left on the top of the stack. Here is an example:

```
(defun foo (x y)
  (multiple-value-list (foo 3 y x)))
```

The disassembled code looks like this:

```
22 MOVE D-PDL FEF|6 ; #'FOO
23 (MISC) %CALL-MULT-VALUE-LIST D-IGNORE
24 MOVE D-PDL FEF|7 ; '3
25 MOVE D-PDL ARG|1 ; Y
26 MOVE D-LAST ARG|0 ; X
27 MOVE D-RETURN PDL-POP
```

Returning of more than one value from a function is handled by special miscellaneous instructions. `%RETURN-2` and `%RETURN-3` are used to return two or three values; these instructions take two and three arguments, respectively, on the stack, and return from the current function just as storing to D-RETURN would. If there are more than three return values, they are all pushed, then the number that there were is pushed, and then the `%RETURN-N` instruction is executed. None of these instructions use their destination field. Note: the return-list function is just an ordinary miscellaneous instruction; it takes the list of values to return as an argument on the stack, and it returns those values from the current function.

The function `lexpr-funcall` is compiled using a special instruction called `%SPREAD` to iterate over the elements of its last argument, which should be a list. `%SPREAD` takes one argument (on the stack), which is a list of values to be passed as arguments (pushed on the stack). If the destination of `%SPREAD` is D-PDL (or D-NEXT), then the values are just pushed; if it is D-LAST, then after the values are pushed, the function is invoked. `lexpr-funcall` will always compile using a `%SPREAD` whose destination is D-LAST. Here is an example:

```
(defun foo (a b &rest c)
  (lexpr-funcall #'format t a c)
  b)
```

The disassembled code looks like this:

```
20 CALL D-IGNORE FEF|6 ; #'FORMAT
21 MOVE D-PDL 'T
22 MOVE D-PDL ARG|0 ; A
23 MOVE D-PDL LOCAL|0 ; C
24 (MISC) %SPREAD D-LAST
25 MOVE D-RETURN ARG|1 ; B
```

Note that in instruction 23, the address LOCAL|0 is used to access the &rest argument.

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The *catch special form is also handled specially by the compiler. Here is a simple example of *catch:

```lisp
(defun a ()
   (*catch 'foo (bar)))
```

The disassembled code looks like this:

```
22 MOVE D-PDL FEF16 ; '26
23 (MISC) %CATCH-OPEN D-PDL
24 MOVE D-PDL FEF17 ; 'FOO
25 CALLO D-LAST FEF18 ; '#BAR
26 MOVE D-RETURN PDL-POP
```

The %CATCH-OPEN instruction is like the CALL instruction; it starts a call to the *catch function. It takes one "argument" on the stack, which is the location in the program that should be branched to if this *catch is *thrown to. In addition to saving that program location, the instruction saves the state of the stack and of special-variable binding so that they can be restored in the event of a *throw. So instructions 22 and 23 start a *catch block, and the rest of the function passes its two arguments. The *catch function itself simply returns its second argument; but if a *throw happens during the evaluation of the (bar) form, then the stack will be unwound and execution will resume at instruction 26. The destination field of %CATCH-OPEN is like that of CALL; it is saved on the stack, and controls what will be done with the result of the call to the *catch. Note that even though *catch is really a Lisp special form, it is compiled more or less as if it were a function of two arguments.

To allow compilation of (multiple-value (... (*catch ...)), there is a special instruction called %CATCH-OPEN-MULT-VALUE, which is a cross between %CATCH-OPEN and %CALL-MULT-VALUE. multiple-value-list with *catch is not supported.

### 27.6 Estimating Run Time

You may sometimes want to estimate the speed at which a function will execute by examination of the compiled code. This section gives some rough guidelines to the relative cost of various instructions; the actual speed may vary from these estimates by as much as a factor of two. Some of these speeds vary with time; they speed up as work is done to improve system efficiency and slow down sometimes when sweeping changes are made (for instance, when garbage collection was introduced it slowed down some operations even when garbage collection is not turned on.) However these changes are usually much less than a factor of two.

It is also important to realize that in many programs the execution time is determined by paging rather than by CPU run time. The cost of paging is unfortunately harder to estimate than run time, because it depends on dynamic program behavior and locality of data structure.

On a conventional computer such as the pdp-10, rough estimates of the run time of compiled code are fairly easy to make. It is a reasonable approximation to assume that all machine instructions take about the same amount of time to execute. When the compiler generates a call to a runtime support routine, the user can estimate the speed of that routine since it is implemented in the same instructions as the user's compiled program. Actual speeds can vary widely because of data dependencies; for example, when using the plus function the operation
will be much slower if an argument is a bignum than if the arguments are all fixnums. However, in Maclisp most performance-critical functions use declarations to remove such data dependencies, because generic, data-dependent operations are so much slower than type-specific operations.

Things are different in the Lisp machine. The instruction set we have just seen is a high-level instruction set. Rather than specifying each individual machine operation, the compiler calls for higher-level Lisp operations such as cdr or memq. This means that some instructions take many times longer to execute than others. Furthermore, in the Lisp machine we do not use data-type declarations. Instead the machine is designed so that all instructions can be generic: that is, they determine the types of their operands at run time. This means that there are data dependencies that can have major effects on the speed of execution of an instruction. For instance, the + instruction is quite fast if both operands turn out to be fixnums, but much slower if they are bignums.

The Lisp machine also has a large amount of microcode, both to implement certain Lisp functions and to assist with common operations such as function calling. It is not as easy for a user to read microcode and estimate its speed as with compiled code, although it is a much more readable microcode than on most computers.

In this section we give some estimates of the speed of various operations. There are also facilities for measuring the actual achieved speed of a program. These will not be documented here as they are currently being changed.

We will express all times in terms of the time to execute the simplest instruction, MOVE D-PDL ARG[0]. This time is about two microseconds and will be called a "unit".

MOVE takes the same amount of time if the destination is D-IGNORE or D-NEXT, or if the address is a LOCAL or PDL-POP rather than an ARG. A MOVE that references a constant, via either the FEF base register or the CONSTANT base register, takes about two units. A MOVE that references a special variable by means of the FEF base register and an invisible pointer takes closer to three units.

Use of a complex destination (D-LAST, D-RETURN, or D-NEXT-LIST) takes extra time because of the extra work it has to do; calling a function, returning from a function, or the bookkeeping associated with forming a list. These costs will be discussed a bit later.

The other Class I instructions take longer than MOVE. Each memory reference required by car/cdr operations costs about one unit. Note that cdr requires one memory cycle if the list is compactly cdr-coded and two cycles if it is not. The CALL instruction takes three units. The CALLO instruction takes more, of course, since it actually calls the function.

The Class II (no destination) instructions vary. The MOVEM and POP operations take about one unit. (Of course they take more if FEF or CONSTANT addressing is used.) The arithmetic and logical operations and the predicates take two units when applied to fixnums, except for multiplication and division which take five. The SETE=1+ and SETE=1− instructions take two units, the same time as a push followed by a pop; i.e. (setq x (1 + x)) takes the same amount of time as (setq x y). The SET-NIL and SET-ZERO instructions take one unit. The special-variable binding instructions take several units.
A branch takes between one and two units.

The cost of calling a function with no arguments and no local variables that doesn't do anything but return nil is about 15 units (7 cdrs or additions). This is the cost of a CALL FEFln instruction, a MOVE to D-LAST, the simplest form of function-entry services, and a MOVE to D-RETURN. If the function takes arguments the cost of calling the function includes the cost of the instructions in the caller that compute the arguments. If the function has local variables initialized to nil or optional arguments defaulted to nil there is a negligible additional cost. The cost of having an &rest argument is less than one additional unit. But if the function binds special variables there is an additional cost of 8 units per variable (this includes both binding the variables on entry and unbinding them on return).

If the function needs an ADL, typically because of complex optional-argument initializations, the cost goes up substantially. It's hard to characterize just how much it goes up by, since this depends on what you do. Also calling for multiple values is more expensive than simple calling.

We consider the cost of calling functions to be somewhat higher than it should be, and would like to improve it. But this might require incompatible system architecture changes and probably will not happen, at least not soon.

Flonum and bignum arithmetic are naturally slower than fixnum arithmetic. For instance, flonum addition takes 8 units more than fixnum addition, and addition of 60-bit bignums takes 15 units more. Note that these times include some garbage-collection overhead for the intermediate results which have to be created in memory. Fixnums and small flonums do not take up any memory and avoid this overhead. Thus small-flonum addition takes only about 2 units more than fixnum addition. This garbage-collection overhead is of the "extra-pdl-area" sort rather than the full Baker garbage collector sort; if you don't understand this don't worry about it for now.

Floating-point subtraction, multiplication, and division take just about the same time as floating-point addition. Floating-point execution times can be as many as 3 units longer depending on the arguments.

The run time of a Class IV (or miscellaneous) instruction depends on the instruction and its arguments. The simplest instructions, predicates such as atom and numberp, take 2 units. This is basically the overhead for doing a Class IV instruction. The cost of a more complex instruction can be estimated by looking at what it has to do. You can get a reasonable estimate by charging one unit per memory reference, car operation, or cdr-coded cdr operation. A non-cdr-coded cdr operation takes two units. For instance, (memq 'nil '(a b c)) takes 13 units, of which 4 are pushing the arguments on the stack, 2 are Class IV instruction overhead, 6 are accounted for by cars and cdrs, and 1 is "left over".

The cost of array accessing depends on the type of array and the number of dimensions. aref of a 1-dimensional non-indirect art-q array takes 6 units and aset takes 5 units, not counting pushing the arguments onto the stack. (These are the costs of the AR-1 and AS-1 instructions.) A 2-dimensional array takes 6 units more. aref of a numeric array takes the same amount of time as aref of an art-q array. aset takes 1 unit longer. aref of an art-float array takes 5 units longer than aref of an art-q array. aset takes 3 units longer.

The functions copy-array-contents and copy-array-portion optimize their array accessing to remove overhead from the inner loop. copy-array-contents of an art-q array has a startup overhead of 8 units, not including pushing the arguments, then costs just over 2 units per array
element.

The cons function takes 7 units if garbage collection is turned off. (list a b c d) takes 24 units, which includes 4 units for getting the local variables a, b, c, and d.
28. Querying the User

The following functions provide a convenient and consistent interface for asking questions of
the user. Questions are printed and the answers are read on the stream `query-io`, which
normally is synonymous with `terminal-io` but can be rebound to another stream for special
applications.

We will first describe two simple functions for yes-or-no questions, then the more general
function on which all querying is built.

```lisp
y-or-n-p &optional message stream
This is used for asking the user a question whose answer is either "yes" or "no". It types
out message (if any), reads a one-character answer, echoes it as "Yes" or "No", and
returns t if the answer is "yes" or nil if the answer is "no". The characters which mean
"yes" are Y, T, space, and hand-up. The characters which mean "no" are N, rubout,
and hand-down. If any other character is typed, the function will beep and demand a "Y
or N" answer.

If the message argument is supplied, it will be printed on a fresh line (using the :fresh-
line stream operation). Otherwise the caller is assumed to have printed the message
already. If you want a question mark and/or a space at the end of the message, you
must put it there yourself; `y-or-n-p` will not add it. `stream` defaults to the value of
`query-io`.

`y-or-n-p` should only be used for questions which the user knows are coming. If the
user is not going to be anticipating the question (e.g. if the question is "Do you really
want to delete all of your files?" out of the blue) then `y-or-n-p` should not be used,
because the user might type ahead a T, Y, N, space, or rubout, and therefore
accidentally answer the question. In such cases, use `yes-or-no-p`.

```lisp
yes-or-no-p &optional message stream
This is used for asking the user a question whose answer is either "Yes" or "No". It
types out message (if any), beeps, and reads in a line from the keyboard. If the line is
the string "Yes", it returns t. If the line is "No", it returns nil. (Case is ignored, as are
leading and trailing spaces and tabs.) If the input line is anything else, `yes-or-no-p`
beeps and demands a "yes" or "no" answer.

If the message argument is supplied, it will be printed on a fresh line (using the :fresh-
line stream operation). Otherwise the caller is assumed to have printed the message
already. If you want a question mark and/or a space at the end of the message, you
must put it there yourself; `yes-or-no-p` will not add it. `stream` defaults to the value of
`query-io`.

To allow the user to answer a yes-or-no question with a single character, use `y-or-n-p`.
`yes-or-no-p` should be used for unanticipated or momentous questions; this is why it
beeps and why it requires several keystrokes to answer it.
**query** options format-string &rest format-args
Asks a question, printed by (format query-io format-string format-args...), and returns the answer. *query* takes care of checking for valid answers, reprinting the question when the user clears the screen, giving help, and so forth.

*options* is a list of alternating keywords and values, used to select among a variety of features. Most callers will have a constant list which they pass as *options* (rather than consing up a list whose contents varies). The keywords allowed are:

- **:type** What type of answer is expected. The currently-defined types are :tyi (a single character) and :readline (a line terminated by a carriage return). :tyi is the default.
- **:choices** Defines the allowed answers. The allowed forms of choices are complicated and explained below. The default is the same set of choices as the y-or-n-p function (see above). Note that the :type and :choices options should be consistent with each other.
- **:list-choices** If t, the allowed choices are listed (in parentheses) after the question. The default is t; supplying nil causes the choices not to be listed unless the user tries to give an answer which is not one of the allowed choices.
- **:help-function** Specifies a function to be called if the user hits the HELP key. The default help-function simply lists the available choices. Specifying nil disables special treatment of HELP. Specifying a function of three arguments—the stream, the list of choices, and the type—allows smarter help processing. The type-function is the internal form of the :type option and can usually be ignored.
- **:condition** If non-nil, a condition to be signalled before asking the question. The handler of this condition may supply an answer, in which case the user is not asked. The details are given below. The default condition is *query*.
- **:fresh-line** If t, query-io is advanced to a fresh line before asking the question. If nil, the question is printed wherever the cursor was left by previous typeout. The default is t.
- **:beep** If t, *query* beeps to attract the user’s attention to the question. The default is nil, which means not to beep unless the user tries to give an answer which is not one of the allowed choices.
- **:clear-input** If t, *query* throws away type-ahead before reading the user’s response to the question. Use this for unexpected questions. The default is nil, which means not to throw away typeahead unless the user tries to give an answer which is not one of the allowed choices. In that case, typeahead is discarded since the user probably wasn’t expecting the question.
- **:select** If t and query-io is a visible window, that window is temporarily selected while the question is being asked. The default is nil.
- **:make-complete** If t and query-io is a typeout-window, the window is "made complete" after the question has been answered. This tells the system that the contents of the window are no longer useful. Refer to the window system documentation for further explanation. The default is t.
The argument to the :choices option is a list each of whose elements is a choice. The cdr of a choice is a list of the user inputs which correspond to that choice. These should be characters for :type :tyi or strings for :type :readline. The car of a choice is either a symbol which fquery should return if the user answers with that choice, or a list whose first element is such a symbol and whose second element is the string to be echoed when the user selects the choice. In the former case nothing is echoed. In most cases :type :readline would use the first format, since the user's input has already been echoed, and :type :tyi would use the second format, since the input has not been echoed and furthermore is a single character, which would not be mnemonic to see on the display.

Perhaps this can be clarified by example. The yes-or-no-p function uses this list of choices:

```
((t "Yes") (nil "No"))
```

and the y-or-n-p function uses this list:

```
((t "Yes.") #/y #/t #/sp #/hand-up)
((nil "No.") #/n #/rubout #/hand-down))
```

If a condition is specified (or allowed to default to :fquery), before asking the question fquery will signal the condition. (See section 26.1.1, page 389 for information about conditions.) The handler will receive four arguments: the condition name, the options argument to fquery, the format-string argument to fquery, and the list of format-args arguments to fquery. As usual with conditions, if the handler returns nil the operation proceeds as if there had been no handler. If the handler returns two values, t and ans, fquery will immediately return ans. No conventions have yet been defined for standard condition names for use with fquery.

If you want to use the formatted output functions instead of format to produce the prompting message, write

```
(fquery options (format:outfmt exp-or-string exp-or-string ...))
```

format:outfmt puts the output into a list of a string, which makes format print it exactly as is. There is no need to supply additional arguments to the fquery unless it signals a condition. In that case the arguments might be passed so that the condition handler can see them. The condition handler will receive a list containing one string, the message, as its third argument instead of just a string. If this argument is passed along to format, all the right things happen.
29. Initializations

There are a number of programs and facilities in the Lisp Machine which require that "initialization routines" be run either when the facility is first loaded, or when the system is booted, or both. These initialization routines may set up data structures, start processes running, open network connections, and so on.

An initialization that needs to be done once, when a file is loaded, can be done simply by putting the Lisp forms to do it in that file; when the file is loaded the forms will be evaluated. However, some initializations need to be done each time the system is booted, and some initializations depend on several files having been loaded before they can work.

The system provides a consistent scheme for managing these initializations. Rather than having a magic function which runs when the system is started and knows everything that needs to be initialized, each thing that needs initialization contains its own initialization routine. The system keeps track of all the initializations through a set of functions and conventions, and executes all the initialization routines when necessary. The system also avoids re-executing initializations if a program file is loaded again after it has already been loaded and initialized.

There is something called an initialization list. This is an ordered list of initializations. Each initialization has a name, a form to be evaluated, and a flag saying whether the form has yet been evaluated or not. When the time comes, initializations are evaluated in the order that they were added to the list. The name is a string and lies in the car of an initialization; thus assoc may be used on initialization lists.

```
add-initialization name form &optional list-of-keywords initialization-list-name
```

Adds an initialization called name with the form form to the initialization list specified either by initialization-list-name or by keyword. If the initialization list already contains an initialization called name, change its form to form.

*initialization-list-name*, if specified, is a symbol that has as its value the initialization list. If it is unbound, it is initialized (!) to nil. If a keyword specifies an initialization list, *initialization-list-name* is ignored and should not be specified.

The keywords allowed in *list-of-keywords* are of two kinds. These specify what initialization list to use:

- :cold Use the standard cold-boot list (see below).
- :warm Use the standard warm-boot list (see below). This is the default.
- :before-cold Use the standard before-disk-save list (see below).
- :once Use the once-only list (see below).
- :system Use the system list (see below).

These specify when to evaluate *form*:

- :normal Only place the form on the list. Do not evaluate it until the time comes to do this kind of initialization. This is the default unless :system or :once is specified.
:now Evaluate the form now as well as adding it to the list.

:first Evaluate the form now if it is not flagged as having been evaluated before. This is the default if :system or :once is specified.

:redo Do not evaluate the form now, but set the flag to nil even if the initialization is already in the list and flagged t.

Actually, the keywords are compared with string-equal and may be in any package. If both kinds of keywords are used, the list keyword should come before the when keyword in list-of-keywords; otherwise the list keyword may override the when keyword.

The add-initialization function keeps each list ordered so that initializations added first are at the front of the list. Therefore, by controlling the order of execution of the additions, explicit dependencies on order of initialization can be controlled. Typically, the order of additions is controlled by the loading order of files. The system list (see below) is the most critically ordered of the pre-defined lists.

delete-initialization name &optional keywords initialization-list-name
Removes the specified initialization from the specified initialization list. Keywords may be any of the list options allowed by add-initialization.

initializations initialization-list-name &optional redo-flag flag-value
Perform the initializations in the specified list. redo-flag controls whether initializations that have already been performed are re-performed: nil means no, non-nil is yes, and the default is nil. flag-value is the value to be flushed into the flag slot of an entry. If it is unspecified, it defaults to t, meaning that the system should remember that the initialization has been done. The reason that there is no convenient way for you to specify one of the specially-known-about lists is that you shouldn't be calling initializations on them.

reset-initializations initialization-list-name
Bashes the flag of all entries in the specified list to nil, thereby causing them to get rerun the next time the function initializations is called on the initialization list.

29.1 System Initialization Lists

The five initialization lists that are known about by the above functions allow you to have your subsystems initialized at various critical times without modifying any system code to know about your particular subsystems. This also allows only a subset of all possible subsystems to be loaded without necessitating either modifying system code (such as lisp-reinitialize) or such kludgy methods as using fboundp to check whether or not something is loaded.

The :once initialization list is used for initializations that need to be done only once when the subsystem is loaded and must never be done again. For example, there are some databases that need to be initialized the first time the subsystem is loaded, but should not be reinitialized every time a new version of the software is loaded into a currently running system. This list is for that purpose. The initializations function is never run over it; its "when" keyword defaults to :first and so the form is normally only evaluated at load-time, and only if it has not been evaluated before. The :once initialization list serves a similar purpose to the defvar special form (see page 17), which sets a variable only if it is unbound.
The :system initialization list is for things that need to be done before other initializations stand any chance of working. Initializing the process and window systems, the file system, and the ChaosNet NCP falls in this category. The initializations on this list are run every time the machine is cold or warm booted, as well as when the subsystem is loaded unless explicitly overridden by a :normal option in the keywords list. In general, the system list should not be touched by user subsystems, though there may be cases when it is necessary to do so.

The :cold initialization list is used for things which must be run once at cold-boot time. The initializations on this list are run after the ones on :system but before the ones on the :warm list. They are run only once, but are reset by disk-save thus giving the appearance of being run only at cold-boot time.

The :warm initialization list is used for things which must be run every time the machine is booted, including warm boots. The function that prints the greeting, for example, is on this list. Unlike the :cold list, the :warm list initializations are run regardless of their flags.

The :before-cold initialization list is a variant of the :cold list. These initializations are run before the world is saved out by disk-save. Thus they happen essentially at cold boot time, but only once when the world is saved, not each time it is started up.

User programs are free to create their own initialization lists to be run at their own times. Some system programs, such as the editor, have their own initialization list for their own purposes.
30. Dates and Times

The time: package contains a set of functions for manipulating dates and times: finding the current time, reading and printing dates and times, converting between formats, and other miscellany regarding peculiarities of the calendar system. It also includes functions for accessing the Lisp Machine's microsecond timer.

Times are represented in two different formats by the functions in the time package. One way is to represent a time by many numbers, indicating a year, a month, a date, an hour, a minute, and a second (plus, sometimes, a day of the week and timezone). The year is relative to 1900 (that is, if it is 1981, the year value would be 81); however, the functions that take a year as an argument will accept either form. The month is 1 for January, 2 for February, etc. The date is 1 for the first day of a month. The hour is a number from 0 to 23. The minute and second are numbers from 0 to 59. Days of the week are fixnums, where 0 means Monday, 1 means Tuesday, and so on. A timezone is specified as the number of hours west of GMT; thus in Massachusetts the timezone is 5. Any adjustment for daylight savings time is separate from this.

This "decoded" format is convenient for printing out times into a readable notation, but it is inconvenient for programs to make sense of these numbers, and pass them around as arguments (since there are so many of them). So there is a second representation, called Universal Time, which measures a time as the number of seconds since January 1, 1900, at midnight GMT. This "encoded" format is easy to deal with inside programs, although it doesn't make much sense to look at (it looks like a huge integer). So both formats are provided; there are functions to convert between the two formats: and many functions exist in two forms, one for each format.

The Lisp Machine hardware includes a timer that counts once every microsecond. It is controlled by a crystal and so is fairly accurate. The absolute value of this timer doesn't mean anything useful, since it is initialized randomly; what you do with the timer is to read it at the beginning and end of an interval, and subtract the two values to get the length of the interval in microseconds. These relative times allow you to time intervals of up to an hour (32 bits) with microsecond accuracy.

The Lisp Machine keeps track of the time of day by maintaining a "timebase", using the microsecond clock to count off the seconds. When the machine first comes up, the timebase is initialized by querying hosts on the Chaos net to find out the current time.

There is a similar timer which counts in 60ths of a second rather than microseconds; it is useful for measuring intervals of a few seconds or minutes with less accuracy. Periodic housekeeping functions of the system are scheduled based on this timer.
30.1 Getting the Time

**time:get-time**
Get the current time, in decoded form. Return seconds, minutes, hours, date, month, year, day-of-the-week, and daylight-savings-time-p, with the same meanings as time:decode-universal-time (see page 444).

**time:get-universal-time**
Returns the current time, in Universal Time form.

30.1.1 Elapsed Time in 60ths of a Second

The following functions deal with a different kind of time. These are not calendrical date/times, but simply elapsed time in 60ths of a second. These times are used for many internal purposes where the idea is to measure a small interval accurately, not to depend on the time of day or day of month.

**time**
Returns a number which increases by 1 every 1/60 of a second, and wraps around roughly once a day. Use the time-lessp and time-difference functions to avoid getting in trouble due to the wrap-around. time is completely incompatible with the Maclisp function of the same name.

**time-lessp time1 time2**
t if time1 is earlier than time2, compensating for wrap-around, otherwise nil.

**time-difference time1 time2**
Assuming time1 is later than time2, returns the number of 60ths of a second difference between them, compensating for wrap-around.

30.1.2 Elapsed Time in Microseconds

**time:microsecond-time**
Return the value of the microsecond timer, as a bignum.

**time:fixnum-microsecond-time**
Return the value of the low 23 bits of the microsecond timer, as a fixnum. This is like time:microsecond-time, with the advantage that it returns a value in the same format as the time function, except in microseconds rather than 60ths of a second. This means that you can compare fixnum-microsecond-times with time-lessp and time-difference. time:fixnum-microsecond-time is also a bit faster, but has the disadvantage that since you only see the low bits of the clock, the value can "wrap around" more quickly (every few seconds). Note that the Lisp Machine garbage collector is so designed that the bignums produced by time:microsecond-time are garbage-collected quickly and efficiently, so the overhead for creating the bignums is really not high.
30.2 Printing Dates and Times

-time:print-current-time &optional (stream standard-output)
   Print the current time, formatted as in 11/25/80 14:50:02, to the specified stream.

-time:print-time seconds minutes hours date month year &optional (stream standard-output)
   Print the specified time, formatted as in 11/25/80 14:50:02, to the specified stream.

-time:print-universal-time universal-time &optional (stream standard-output)
   (timezone time:*timezone*)
   Print the specified time, formatted as in 11/25/80 14:50:02, to the specified stream.

-time:print-current-date &optional (stream standard-output)
   Print the current time, formatted as in Tuesday the twenty-fifth of November, 1980;
   3:50:41 pm, to the specified stream.

-time:print-date seconds minutes hours date month year day-of-the-week &optional
   (stream standard-output)
   Print the specified time, formatted as in Tuesday the twenty-fifth of November, 1980;
   3:50:41 pm, to the specified stream.

-time:print-universal-date universal-time &optional (stream standard-output)
   (timezone time:*timezone*)
   Print the specified time, formatted as in Tuesday the twenty-fifth of November, 1980;
   3:50:41 pm, to the specified stream.

-time:print-brief-universal-time universal-time &optional (stream standard-output)
   reference-time
   This is like time:print-universal-time except that it omits seconds and only prints those
   parts of universal-time that differ from reference-time, a universal time that defaults to the
   current time. Thus the output will be in one of the following three forms:
   02:59 ; the same day
   3/4 14:01 ; a different day in the same year
   8/17/74 15:30 ; a different year

30.3 Reading Dates and Times

These functions will accept most reasonable printed representations of date and time and
convert them to the standard internal forms. The following are representative formats that are
accepted by the parser.
Time Conversions

"March 15, 1960" "15 March 1960" "3//15//60"
"15//3//60" "3//15//1960" "3-15-60" "15-3-1960"
"3-15" "15-March-60" "15-Mar-60" "March-15-60"
"1130." "11:30" "11:30:17" "11:30 AM" "1130" "113000"
"11.30" "11.30.00" "11.3" "11 pm" "12 noon"
"midnight" "m" "Friday, March 15, 1980" "6:00 gmt" "3:00 pdt"
"15 March 60" "15 march 60 seconds"
"Fifteen March 60" "The Fifteenth of March, 1960;"
"One minute after March 3, 1960"
"Two days after March 3, 1960"
"Three minutes after 23:59:59 Dec 31, 1959"
"Now" "Today" "Yesterday" "two days after tomorrow"
"one day before yesterday" "the day after tomorrow"
"five days ago"

time:parse string &optional (start 0) (end nil) (futurep t) base-time must-have-time
date-must-have-year time-must-have-second (day-must-be-valid t)
Interpret string as a date and/or time, and return seconds, minutes, hours, date, month, and year. start and end delimit a substring of the string; if end is nil, the end of the string is used. must-have-time means that string must not be empty. date-must-have-year means that a year must be explicitly specified. time-must-have-second means that the second must be specified. day-must-be-valid means that if a day of the week is given, then it must actually be the day that corresponds to the date. base-time provides the defaults for unspecified components: if it is nil, the current time is used. futurep means that the time should be interpreted as being in the future: for example, if the base time is 5:00 and the string refers to the time 3:00, that means the next day if futurep is non-nil, but it means two hours ago if futurep is nil.

time:parse-universal-time string &optional (start 0) (end nil) (futurep t) base-time
must-have-time date-must-have-year time-must-have-second (day-must-be-valid t)
This is the same as time:parse except that it returns one integer, representing the time in Universal Time.

30.4 Time Conversions

time:decode-universal-time universal-time &optional (timezone time:*timezone*)
Convert universal-time into its decoded representation. The following values are returned: seconds, minutes, hours, date, month, year, day-of-the-week, daylight-savings-time-p. daylight-savings-time-p tells you whether or not daylight savings time is in effect; if so, the value of hour has been adjusted accordingly. You can specify timezone explicitly if you want to know the equivalent representation for this time in other parts of the world.

time:encode-universal-time seconds minutes hours date month year &optional timezone
Convert the decoded time into Universal Time format, and return the Universal Time as an integer. If you don't specify timezone, it defaults to the current timezone adjusted for daylight savings time; if you provide it explicitly, it is not adjusted for daylight savings time. year may be absolute, or relative to 1900 (that is, 81 and 1981 both work).
**time:*timezone* Variable**

The value of time:*timezone* is the time zone in which this Lisp Machine resides, expressed in terms of the number of hours west of GMT this time zone is. This value does not change to reflect daylight saving time; it tells you about standard time in your part of the world.

### 30.5 Internal Functions

These functions provide support for those listed above. Some user programs may need to call them directly, so they are documented here.

- **time:initialize-timebase**
  
  Initialize the timebase by querying Chaos net hosts to find out the current time. This is called automatically during system initialization. You may want to call it yourself to correct the time if it appears to be inaccurate or downright wrong.

- **time:daylight-savings-time-p hours date month year**
  
  Return t if daylight savings time is in effect for the specified hour; otherwise, return nil. `year` may be absolute, or relative to 1900 (that is, 81 and 1981 both work).

- **time:daylight-savings-p**
  
  Return t if daylight savings time is currently in effect; otherwise, return nil.

- **time:month-length month year**
  
  Return the number of days in the specified `month`; you must supply a `year` in case the month is February (which has a different length during leap years). `year` may be absolute, or relative to 1900 (that is, 81 and 1981 both work).

- **time:leap-year-p year**
  
  Return t if `year` is a leap year; otherwise return nil. `year` may be absolute, or relative to 1900 (that is, 81 and 1981 both work).

- **time:verify-date date month year day-of-the-week**
  
  If the day of the week of the date specified by `date`, `month`, and `year` is the same as day-of-the-week, return nil; otherwise, return a string which contains a suitable error message. `year` may be absolute, or relative to 1900 (that is, 81 and 1981 both work).

- **time:day-of-the-week-string day-of-the-week &optional (mode':long)**
  
  Return a string representing the day of the week. As usual, 0 means Monday, 1 means Tuesday, and so on. Possible values of `mode` are:

  - `:long` Return the full English name, such as "Monday", "Tuesday", etc. This is the default.
  - `:short` Return a three-letter abbreviation, such as "Mon", "Tue", etc.
  - `:medium` Same as `:short`, but use "Tues" and "Thurs".
  - `:french` Return the French name, such as "Lundi", "Mardi", etc.
  - `:german` Return the German name, such as "Montag", "Dienstag", etc.
**time:month-string**  
`month &optional (mode :long)`  
Return a string representing the month of the year. As usual, 1 means January, 2 means February, etc. Possible values of `mode` are:

- **:long** Return the full English name, such as "January", "February", etc. This is the default.
- **:short** Return a three-letter abbreviation, such as "Jan", "Feb", etc.
- **:medium** Same as :short, but use "Sept", "Novem", and "Decem".
- **:roman** Return the Roman numeral for `month` (this convention is used in Europe).
- **:french** Return the French name, such as "Janvier", "Fevrier", etc.
- **:german** Return the German name, such as "Januar", "Februar", etc.

**time:timezone-string** &optional (`timezone` time:*timezone*)  
`(daylight-savings-p (time:daylight-savings-p))`

Return the three-letter abbreviation for this time zone. For example, if `timezone` is 5, then either "EST" (Eastern Standard Time) or "CDT" (Central Daylight Time) will be used, depending on `daylight-savings-p`. 
31. Miscellaneous Useful Functions

This chapter describes a number of functions which don't logically fit in anywhere else. Most of these functions are not normally used in programs, but are "commands", i.e. things that you type directly at Lisp.

31.1 Poking Around in the Lisp World

who-calls x &optional package
who-uses x &optional package

x must be a symbol or a list of symbols. who-calls tries to find all of the functions in the Lisp world which call x as a function, use x as a variable, or use x as a constant. (It won't find things that use constants which contain x, such as a list one of whose elements is x; it will only find it if x itself is used as a constant.) It tries to find all of the functions by searching all of the function cells of all of the symbols on package and package's descendants. package defaults to the global package, and so normally all packages are checked.

If who-calls encounters an interpreted function definition, it simply tells you if x appears anywhere in the interpreted code. who-calls is smarter about compiled code, since it has been nicely predigested by the compiler.

If x is a list of symbols, who-calls does them all simultaneously, which is faster than doing them one at a time.

who-uses is an obsolete name for who-calls.

The editor has a command, m-X List Callers, which is similar to who-calls.

The symbol unbound-function is treated specially by who-calls. who-calls 'unbound-function) will search the compiled code for any calls through a symbol which is not currently defined as a function. This is useful for finding errors such as functions you misspelled the names of or forgot to write.

who-calls prints one line of information for each caller it finds. It also returns a list of the names of all the callers.

what-files-call x &optional package

Similar to who-calls but returns a list of the pathnames of all the files which contain functions that who-calls would have printed out. This is useful if you need to recompile and/or edit all of those files.

apropos string &optional package

(apropos string) tries to find all symbols whose print-names contain string as a substring. Whenever it finds a symbol, it prints out the symbol's name; if the symbol is defined as a function and/or bound to a value, it tells you so, and prints the names of the arguments (if any) to the function. It finds the symbols on package and package's descendants. package defaults to the global package, so normally all packages are searched. apropos returns a list of all the symbols it finds.
where-is p-name &optional package
Prints the names of all packages which contain a symbol with the print-name p-name. If p-name is a string it gets upper-cased. The package package and all its sub-packages are searched; package defaults to the global package, which causes all packages to be searched. where-is returns a list of all the symbols it finds.

describe x
describe tries to tell you all of the interesting information about any object x (except for array contents). describe knows about arrays, symbols, flonums, packages, stack groups, closures, and FFFs, and prints out the attributes of each in human-readable form. Sometimes it will describe something which it finds inside something else; such recursive descriptions are indented appropriately. For instance, describe of a symbol will tell you about the symbol's value, its definition, and each of its properties. describe of a flonum (regular or small) will show you its internal representation in a way which is useful for tracking down roundoff errors and the like.

If x is a named-structure, describe handles it specially. To understand this, you should read the section on named structures (see page 239). First it gets the named-structure symbol, and sees whether its function knows about the :describe operation. If the operation is known, it applies the function to two arguments: the symbol :describe, and the named-structure itself. Otherwise, it looks on the named-structure symbol for information which might have been left by defstruct: this information would tell it what the symbolic names for the entries in the structure are, and describe knows how to use the names to print out what each field's name and contents is.

describe always returns its argument, in case you want to do something else to it.

inspect x
A window-oriented version of describe. See the window system documentation for details, or try it.

disassemble function
function should be a FEF, or a symbol which is defined as a FEF. This prints out a human-readable version of the macro-instructions in function. The macro-code instruction set is explained in chapter 27, page 417.

The grinddef function (see page 318) may be used to display the definition of a non-compiled function.

room &rest areas
room tells you the amount of physical memory on the machine, the amount of available virtual memory not yet filled with data, and the amount of "wired" physical memory (i.e. memory not available for paging). Then it tells you how much room is left in some areas. For each area it tells you about, it prints out the name of the area, the number of regions which currently make up the area, the current size of the area in kilowords, and the amount of the area which has been allocated, also in kilowords. If the area cannot grow, the percentage which is free is displayed.

(room) tells you about those areas which are in the list which is the value of the variable room. These are the most interesting ones.
(room areal area2...) tells you about those areas, which can be either the names or the numbers.

(room t) tells you about all the areas.

(room nil) does not tell you about any areas; it only prints the header. This is useful if you just want to know how much memory is on the machine or how much virtual memory is available.

room Variable
The value of room is a list of area names and/or area numbers, denoting the areas which the function room will describe if given no arguments. Its initial value is:

(working-storage-area macro-compilated-program)

set-memory-size n-words
set-memory-size tells the virtual memory system to use only n-words words of main memory for paging. Of course, n-words may not exceed the amount of main memory on the machine.

31.2 Utility Programs

ed &optional x
ed is the main function for getting into the editor, Zwei. Zwei is not yet documented in this manual, but the commands are very similar to Emacs.

(ed) or (ed nil) simply enters the editor, leaving you in the same buffer as the last time you were in the editor.

(ed t) puts you in a fresh buffer with a generated name (like BUFFER-4).

(ed pathname) edits that file. pathname may be an actual pathname or a string.

(ed 'foo) tries hard to edit the definition of the foo function. It will find a buffer or file containing the source code for foo and position the cursor at the beginning of the code. In general, foo can be any function-spec (see section 10.2, page 124).

(ed 'zwei:reload) reinitializes the editor. It will forget about all existing buffers, so use this only as a last resort.

dired &optional pathname
Puts up a window and edits the directory named by pathname, which defaults to the last file opened. While editing a directory you may view, edit, compare, hardcopy, and delete the files it contains. While in the directory editor type the HELP key for further information.

mail &optional who what
Sends mail by putting up a window in which you may compose the mail. who is a symbol or a string which is who to send it to. what is a string which is the initial contents of the mail. If these are unspecified they can be typed in during composition of the mail. Type the END key to send the mail and return from the mail function.
Utility Programs

bug &optional who what
Reports a bug. who is the name of the faulty program (a symbol or a string). It defaults to lispm (the Lisp machine system itself). what is a string which is the initial contents of the mail. bug is like mail but includes information about the system version and what machine you are on in the text of the message. This information is important to the maintainers of the faulty program; it aids them in reproducing the bug and in determining whether it is one which is already being worked on or has already been fixed.

qsend who &optional what
Sends a message to another user. qsend is different from mail because it sends the message immediately; it will appear within seconds on the other user's screen, rather than being saved in her mail file.

who is a string of the form "user@host"; host is the name of the Lisp machine or timesharing system the user is currently logged-in to. what is a string which is the message. If what is not specified, you will be prompted to type in a message. Unlike mail and bug, qsend does not put up a window to allow you to edit the message; it just sends it.

[qsend currently does not evaluate its arguments, and is implemented as a macro, but this should probably be changed.]

print-sends
Reprints any messages that have been received. This is useful if you want to see a message again.

tv:print-notifications
Reprints any notifications that have been received. The difference between notifications and sends is that sends come from other users, while notifications are asynchronous messages from the Lisp Machine system itself.

si:print-disk-error-log
Prints information about the half dozen most recent disk errors (since the last cold boot).

peek &optional character
peek is similar to the ITS program of the same name. It displays various information about the system, periodically updating it. Like ITS PEEK, it has several modes, which are entered by typing a single key which is the name of the mode. The initial mode is selected by the argument, character. If no argument is given, peek starts out by explaining what its modes are.

hostat &rest hosts
Asks each of the hosts for its status, and prints the results. If no hosts are specified, all hosts on the Chaosnet are asked. Hosts can be specified either by name or by number.

For each host, a line is output which either says that the host is not responding or gives metering information for the host's network attachments. If a host is not responding, that usually means that it is down or there is no such host at that address. A Lisp machine can fail to respond if it is looping inside without-interrupts or paging extremely heavily, such that it is simply unable to respond within a reasonable amount of time.
**supdup** &optional \( host \)

\( host \) may be a string or symbol, which will be taken as a host name, or a number, which will be taken as a host number. If no \( host \) is given, the machine you are logged-in to is assumed. This function opens a connection to the host over the Chaosnet using the Supdup protocol, and allows the Lisp Machine to be used as a terminal for any ITS or TOPS-20 system.

To give commands to supdup, type the NETWORK key followed by one character. Type NETWORK followed by HELP for documentation.

**telnet** &optional \( host \) \( simulate-imlac \)

telnet is similar to supdup but uses the Arpanet-standard Telnet protocol, simulating a printing terminal rather than a display terminal.

### 31.3 The Lisp Top Level

These functions constitute the Lisp top level, and its associated functions.

**si:lisp-top-level**

This is the first function called in the initial Lisp environment. It calls lisp-reinitialize, clears the screen, and calls si:lisp-top-level1.

**lisp-reinitialize**

This function does a wide variety of things, such as resetting the values of various global constants and initializing the error system.

**si:lisp-top-level1**

This is the actual top level loop. It reads a form from standard-input, evaluates it, prints the result (with slashification) to standard-output, and repeats indefinitely. If several values are returned by the form all of them will be printed. Also the values of *, +, -, //, ++, **, +++, and +++ are maintained (see below).

**break** *Special Form*

`break` is used to enter a breakpoint loop, which is similar to a Lisp top level loop. `(break tag)` will always enter the loop; `(break tag conditional-form)` will evaluate `conditional-form` and only enter the break loop if it returns non-nil. If the break loop is entered, break prints out

```
;Breakpoint tag; Resume to continue, Abort to quit.
```

and then enters a loop reading, evaluating, and printing forms. A difference between a break loop and the top level loop is that when reading a form, break checks for the following special cases: If the Abort key is typed, control is returned to the previous break or error-handler, or to top-level if there is none. If the Resume key is typed, break returns nil. If the symbol *p is typed, break returns nil. If the list (return form) is typed, break evaluates `form` and returns the result.
prin1 Variable
The value of this variable is normally nil. If it is non-nil, then the read-eval-print loop will use its value instead of the definition of prin1 to print the values returned by functions. This hook lets you control how things are printed by all read-eval-print loops—the Lisp top level, the break function, and any utility programs that include a read-eval-print loop. It does not affect output from programs that call the prin1 function or any of its relatives such as print and format. If you set prin1 to a new function, remember that the read-eval-print loop expects the function to print the value but not to output a return character or any other delimiters.

- Variable
While a form is being evaluated by a read-eval-print loop, - is bound to the form itself.

+ Variable
While a form is being evaluated by a read-eval-print loop, + is bound to the previous form that was read by the loop.

* Variable
While a form is being evaluated by a read-eval-print loop, * is bound to the result printed the last time through the loop. If there were several values printed (because of a multiple-value return), * is bound to the first value.

// Variable
While a form is being evaluated by a read-eval-print loop, // is bound to a list of the results printed the last time through the loop.

++ Variable
++ holds the previous value of +, that is, the form evaluated two interactions ago.

+++ Variable
+++ holds the previous value of ++.

** Variable
** holds the previous value of *, that is, the result of the form evaluated two interactions ago.

*** Variable
*** holds the previous value of **.

sys:*break-bindings* Variable
When break is called, it binds some special variables under control of the list which is the value of sys:*break-bindings*. Each element of the list is a list of two elements: a variable and a form which is evaluated to produce the value to bind it to. The bindings happen sequentially. Users may push things on this list (adding to the front of it), but should not replace the list wholesale since several of the variable bindings on this list are essential to the operation of break.
The value of lisp-crash-list is a list of forms. lisp-reinitialize sequentially evaluates these forms, and then sets lisp-crash-list to nil. In most cases, the initialization facility should be used rather than lisp-crash-list. Refer to chapter 29, page 438.

31.4 The Garbage Collector

gc-on
Turns garbage collection on. It is off by default, currently.

gc-off
Turns garbage collection off.

number-gc-on &optional (on-p t)
Turns the special bignum/flonum garbage collector on, or off if on-p is nil. This garbage collector is on by default, since it has negligible overhead and significantly improves the performance of computational programs.

31.5 Logging In

Logging in tells the Lisp Machine who you are, so that other users can see who is logged in, you can receive messages, and your INIT file can be run. An INIT file is a Lisp program which gets loaded when you log in; it can be used to set up a personalized environment.

When you log out, it should be possible to undo any personalizations you have made so that they do not affect the next user of the machine. Therefore, anything done by an INIT file should be undoable. In order to do this, for every form in the INIT file, a Lisp form to undo its effects should be added to the list which is the value of logout-list. The functions login-setq and login-eval help make this easy; see below.

user-id Variable
The value of user-id is either the name of the logged in user, as a string, or else an empty string if there is no user logged in. It appears in the who-line.

logout-list Variable
The value of logout-list is a list of forms which are evaluated when a user logs out.

login name &optional host load-init-file
Sets your name (the variable user-id) to name and logs in to a file server on host, which defaults to AI. host also becomes your default file host. If host requires passwords for logging in, you will be asked for a password. When logging in to a TOPS-20 host, typing an asterisk before your password will enable any special capabilities you may be authorized to use.

Unless load-init-file is specified as nil, login will load your init file if it exists. On ITS, your init file is name LISPM on your home directory. On TOPS-20 your init file is LISPM.INIT on your directory.

DSK:LMMAN;FD.HAC 76 16-MAR-81
If anyone is logged into the machine already, login logs him out before logging in name. (See logout.) Init files should be written using the login-setq and login-eval functions below so that logout can undo them. Usually, however, you cold-boot the machine before logging in, to remove any traces of the previous user. login returns t.

logout
First, logout evaluates the forms on logout-list. Then it sets user-id to an empty string and logout-list to nil, and returns t.

login-setq Special Form
login-setq is like setq except that it puts a setq form on logout-list to set the variables to their previous values.

login-eval x
login-eval is used for functions which are "meant to be called" from INIT files, such as zwei:set-comtab-return-undo, which conveniently return a form to undo what they did. login-eval adds the result of the form x to the logout-list.

31.6 Dribble Files
dribble-start filename
dribble-start opens filename as a "dribble file" (also known as a "wallpaper file"). It rebinds standard-input and standard-output so that all of the terminal interaction is directed to the file as well as the terminal.

dribble-end
This closes the file opened by dribble-start and resets the I/O streams.

31.7 Status and SSStatus
The status and sstatus special forms exist for compatibility with Maclisp. Programs that wish to run in both Maclisp and Lisp Machine Lisp can use status to determine which of these they are running in. Also, (sstatus feature ...) can be used as it is in Maclisp.

status Special Form
(status features) returns a list of symbols indicating features of the Lisp environment. The complete list of all symbols which may appear on this list, and their meanings, is given in the Maclisp manual. The default list for the Lisp Machine is:

(loop defstruct site sort fasload string
  newio roman trace grinddef grind lispm)
The value of this list will be kept up to date as features are added or removed from the Lisp Machine system. Most important is the symbol lispm, which is the last element of the list; this indicates that the program is executing on the Lisp Machine. site is a symbol indicating where the machine is located, such as :mit or :xerox. The order of this list should not be depended on, and may not be the same as shown above.

This features list is used by the # + read-time conditionalization syntax. See page 287.
(status feature symbol) returns t if symbol is on the (status features) list, otherwise nil.

(status nofeature symbol) returns t if symbol is not on the (status features) list, otherwise nil.

(status status) returns a list of all status operations.

(status sstatus) returns a list of all sstatus operations.

sstatus Special Form
(sstatus feature symbol) adds symbol to the list of features.

(sstatus nofeature symbol) removes symbol from the list of features.
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