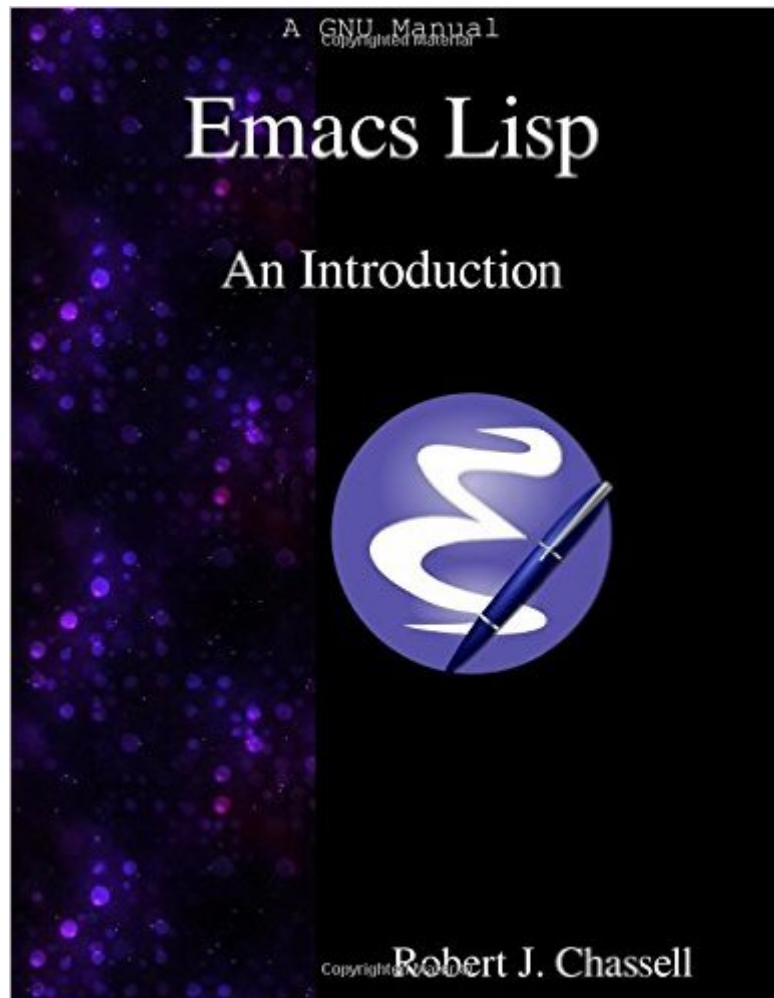


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Emacs Lisp - An Introduction



Synopsis

Most of the GNU Emacs integrated environment is written in the programming language called Emacs Lisp. The code written in this programming language is the softwareâthe sets of instructionsâthat tell the computer what to do when you give it commands. Emacs is designed so that you can write new code in Emacs Lisp and easily install it as an extension to the editor. (GNU Emacs is sometimes called an âextensible editorâ, but it does much more than provide editing capabilities. It is better to refer to Emacs as an âextensible computing environmentâ. However, that phrase is quite a mouthful. It is easier to refer to Emacs simply as an editor. Moreover, everything you do in Emacsâfind the Mayan date and phases of the moon, simplify polynomials, debug code, manage files, read letters, write booksâall these activities are kinds of editing in the most general sense of the word.) Although Emacs Lisp is usually thought of in association only with Emacs, it is a full computer programming language. You can use Emacs Lisp as you would any other programming language. Perhaps you want to understand programming; perhaps you want to extend Emacs; or perhaps you want to become a programmer. This introduction to Emacs Lisp is designed to get you started: to guide you in learning the fundamentals of programming, and more importantly, to show you how you can teach yourself to go further.

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