Lisp Supplemental: Learning Lisp with the Adaptive Remote Agent (II)

This document is the continuation of the previous Lisp Supplemental. The goal is that you learn Lisp by experimenting with the Adaptive Remote Agent available on the Web, courtesy of Professor Dr. Gerhard Weber:

http://art2.ph-freiburg.de/Lisp-Course

1 Exercises

1. Complete exercises 5 and 6 on the Adaptive Remote Agent

2. Describe what results from the following function:

   (defun foo(s)
     (cond ((null s) 1)
           ((atom s) 0)
           (t (max (+ (foo (first s)) 1)
                (foo (rest s))))))

2 Programming

1. Exponentiate
   Write the function (power n m) that raises and number n to an integer power m. For example, (power 3 2) should return 9.

2. Even numbers
   Common Lisp has built-in functions that can be used to test whether a value is even or odd. These functions are called evenp and oddp. Both function take a single integer argument. Experiment with them to see what they do. Write a function (all-even list) that will take a list of integers and return a list containing only the even integers. For example

   (all-evenp ’(1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10))

   should return (2 4 6 8 10). This can easily be done by using a loop to iterate across the list and using the evenp function to decide whether or not to save the current element.
3. **The cond conditional**  
Review the syntax of the `cond` conditional operator. You will use it in this problem to handle a three case situation. Write a function `(what-is n)` that will return `ATOM` if the argument is an atom, `LIST` if the argument is a list, or `NUMBER` if the argument is a number. For example, `(what-is -91)` will return `NUMBER` and `(whatis '(1 2 3))` will return `LIST`. Use `cond` to test for which value to return.

4. **Learn to use reduce**  
Find an on-line manual of Lisp, such as:
http://www-2.cs.cmu.edu/afs/cs.cmu.edu/project/ai-repository/ai/html/cltl/cltl1/cltl2.html  
http://www.franz.com/support/documentation/6.2/ansicl/ansicl.htm  
and study the definition and use of the function `reduce`. This is a particularly elegant and powerful construct (instructor’s favorite). Using `reduce`, write a very short function that takes a list of numbers and returns the value of their average.

5. **Member**  
Common Lisp has a built-in function called `member`, which is called with the syntax  

```
(member element list)
```

and will return `nil` if the `element` is not found in the `list`. If, on the other hand, the element is found in the list, the function will return a portion of the list, starting with the first occurrence of the element. For example, `(member 'b '(a b c d))` will return `(B C D)`. Also, observe that `(member 'b '(a b c a b c))` returns `(B C A B C)`. Experiment with the function, to be certain that you understand what it does.

(a) Write a function `(my-member-cond element list)` that duplicates the functionality of the built-in `member` function. Implement the function using `cond` and a recursive call.

(b) Write a function `(my-member-do element list)` that duplicates the functionality of the built-in `member` function. Implement the function iteratively, using the `do` primitive (see page 117 in your Lisp textbook).