

Re: Lisp's QUOTE and Mathematica's "Hold"

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Lisp/comp.lang.lisp/2005-08/msg01764.html>

- *From:* Jon Harrop <usenet@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 21 Aug 2005 23:22:16 +0100
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Richard Fateman wrote:

- > All of
- > JH's maunderings about macros and how that is what
- > mathematica does, and therefore that is how lisp does
- > something,

You are misrepresenting me. I was not trying to infer how Lisp evaluates code, I was trying to find out if quote and eval could be useful for writing an embedded Mathematica-like DSL in Lisp. It seems that they are not, and the next most obvious Lisp implementation is essentially the same as other languages. So macros are the only remaining point of interest.

- > is basically wrong. Mathematica doesn't need
- > or use macros, and neither does a computer algebra system
- > written in Lisp, simulating Mathematica.

Not macros, functions mapping ASTs to ASTs. They are the core of Mathematica and a language that provided this functionality clearly and efficiently would be of great use in this kind of work.

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- *Follow-Ups:*
 - ◆ ***Re: Lisp's QUOTE and Mathematica's "Hold"***
◇ *From:* Peter Seibel
- *References:*
 - ◆ ***Very poor Li***