basic versions of Lisp tend to deviate significantly from Franz Lisp.

A useful feature pervading the 22 chapters of the tutorial is the learning of Lisp through hands-on, interactive sessions with the Lisp interpreter, with possible support from The Franz LISP Manual by J.K. Foderaro and K.L. Sklower. The book covers a broad range of topics: symbolic computation; predicates, conditionals, and logical operators; recursion; iteration; property lists; debugging; macros; error handling and nonstandard control flow; systems functions; compilation; and Lisp applications. Exercises are included for all chapters except Chapter 19; solutions are not given. The exercises include such requests as (1) find the largest floating-point number your Lisp can handle, (2) define functions head and tail that behave exactly like car and cdr, and (3) write a Lisp function that computes perfect numbers.

No particular emphasis is given to artificial intelligence applications of Lisp. Indeed, the applications are mostly directed at avoiding inefficient Lisp code that is too stylized on Pascal or Fortran programming techniques and at discussions of associative database management. Specifically, there is no application of Lisp to interesting nonlinear reasoning processes. Two quickly growing areas of Lisp programming ignored by the author are "packages" per se and "streams."

Overall, the book provides a well-written, fairly complete and pragmatic approach to Lisp. One need no longer fear that Lisp is really an acronym for "Lots of Irritating Single Parentheses."

Today, the Lisp-less programmer cannot be considered computer fluent.

Albert A. Mullin
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Practical Project Management: Restoring Quality to DP Projects and Systems

Meilir Page-Jones (Dorset House Publishing, New York, 1985, 230 pp., $28.00)

This book is a non-technical treatment of project management for professionals, based on the author's experiences and observations. It is easy to read and contains many insights. A few of the chapter titles reveal topics that are rarely discussed formally: "Integrating Data Processing Applications with Business Strategy," "Holding Successful Meetings," "Hiring and Firing," and "Working in a Mediocrity." The book should be of particular value as an introduction for people new to project management. However, to be operationally useful, it must be supplemented by more formal books that deal with techniques.

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