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## What is Lisp



- **Lisp** (or **LISP**) is a family of computer programming languages with a long history and a distinctive, fully parenthesized syntax.
- Invented in 1958 by **John McCarthy**
- **Second-oldest high-level programming language** in widespread use today; only Fortran is older (by one year).
- Generally regarded as being the first functional programming language.
- Not a pure functional language as supports variable assignment.
- The name Lisp (historically LISP) derives from **LISt Processor**
- Multi paradigm – *functional*, procedural, reflective, meta
- First programming language that showed concepts and constructs of functional programming
- Not an imperative programming language like C, C++, Java, C#
- Has many dialects, two of the following being most popular
  - Common Lisp
  - Scheme

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**%5B1979%5D McCarthy History Of Lisp**