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SLIME User Manual

version 3.0-alpha



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Written by Luke Gorrie.

Additional contributions: Jeff Cunningham,

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Table of Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Getting started	2
2.1	Supported Platforms	2
2.2	Downloading SLIME	2
2.2.1	Downloading from CVS	2
2.2.2	CVS incantations	3
2.3	Installation	3
2.4	Running SLIME	3
2.5	Setup Tuning	3
2.5.1	Autoloading	4
2.5.2	Multiple Lisps	4
2.5.3	Loading Swank faster	4
2.5.4	Loading Contribs	5
3	Using slime-mode	6
3.1	User-interface conventions	6
3.1.1	Temporary buffers	6
3.1.2	*inferior-lisp* buffer	6
3.1.3	Multithreading	6
3.2	Key bindings	7
3.3	Commands	8
3.3.1	Programming commands	8
3.3.1.1	Completion commands	8
3.3.1.2	Closure commands	9
3.3.1.3	Indentation commands	9
3.3.1.4	Documentation commands	10
3.3.1.5	Cross-reference commands	11
3.3.1.6	Finding definitions (“Meta-Point” commands)	11
3.3.1.7	Macro-expansion commands	12
3.3.1.8	Disassembly commands	12
3.3.2	Compilation commands	13
3.3.3	Evaluation commands	14
3.3.4	Abort/Recovery commands	14
3.3.5	Inspector commands	15
3.3.6	Profiling commands	15
3.3.7	Shadowed Commands	16
3.4	Semantic indentation	16
3.5	Reader conditional fontification	17

4	REPL: the “top level”	18
4.1	REPL commands	18
4.2	Input navigation	18
4.3	Shortcuts	19
5	SLDB: the SLIME debugger	21
5.1	Examining frames	21
5.2	Invoking restarts	21
5.3	Navigating between frames	22
5.4	Miscellaneous Commands	22
6	Extras	23
6.1	<code>slime-selector</code>	23
6.2	<code>slime-autodoc-mode</code>	23
6.3	<code>slime-macroexpansion-minor-mode</code>	23
6.4	Multiple connections	24
6.5	Typeout frames	25
7	Customization	26
7.1	Emacs-side	26
7.1.1	Hooks	27
7.2	Lisp-side (Swank)	27
7.2.1	Communication style	27
7.2.2	Other configurables	28
8	Tips and Tricks	30
8.1	Connecting to a remote lisp	30
8.1.1	Setting up the lisp image	30
8.1.2	Setting up Emacs	31
8.1.3	Setting up pathname translations	31
8.2	Globally redirecting all IO to the REPL	31
8.3	Connecting to SLIME automatically	32
9	Credits	33
	Hackers of the good hack	33
	Thanks!	34
	Key (Character) Index	35
	Command and Function Index	37
	Variable Index	39

1 Introduction

SLIME is the “Superior Lisp Interaction Mode for Emacs.”

SLIME extends Emacs with support for interactive programming in Common Lisp. The features are centered around `slime-mode`, an Emacs minor-mode that complements the standard `lisp-mode`. While `lisp-mode` supports editing Lisp source files, `slime-mode` adds support for interacting with a running Common Lisp process for compilation, debugging, documentation lookup, and so on.

The `slime-mode` programming environment follows the example of Emacs’s native Emacs Lisp environment. We have also included good ideas from similar systems (such as ILISP) and some new ideas of our own.

SLIME is constructed from two parts: a user-interface written in Emacs Lisp, and a supporting server program written in Common Lisp. The two sides are connected together with a socket and communicate using an RPC-like protocol.

The Lisp server is primarily written in portable Common Lisp. The required implementation-specific functionality is specified by a well-defined interface and implemented separately for each Lisp implementation. This makes SLIME readily portable.

2 Getting started

This chapter tells you how to get SLIME up and running.

2.1 Supported Platforms

SLIME supports a wide range of operating systems and Lisp implementations. SLIME runs on Unix systems, Mac OSX, and Microsoft Windows. GNU Emacs versions 20, 21 and 22 and XEmacs version 21 are supported.

The supported Lisp implementations, roughly ordered from the best-supported, are:

- CMU Common Lisp (CMUCL), 19d or newer
- Steel Bank Common Lisp (SBCL), 1.0 or newer
- OpenMCL, version 0.14.3 or newer
- LispWorks, version 4.3 or newer
- Allegro Common Lisp (ACL), version 6 or newer
- CLISP, version 2.35 or newer
- Armed Bear Common Lisp (ABCL)
- Corman Common Lisp (CCL), version 2.51 or newer with the patches from <http://www.grumblesmurf.org/lisp/corman-patches>
- Sciener Common Lisp (SCL), version 1.2.7 or newer

Most features work uniformly across implementations, but some are prone to variation. These include the precision of placing compiler-note annotations, XREF support, and fancy debugger commands (like “restart frame”).

2.2 Downloading SLIME

You can choose between using a released version of SLIME or accessing our CVS repository directly. You can download the latest released version from our website:

<http://www.common-lisp.net/project/slime/>

We recommend that users who participate in the `slime-devel` mailing list use the CVS version of the code.

2.2.1 Downloading from CVS

SLIME is available from the CVS repository on ‘`common-lisp.net`’. You have the option to use either the very latest code or the tagged `FAIRLY-STABLE` snapshot.

The latest version tends to have more features and fewer bugs than the `FAIRLY-STABLE` version, but it can be unstable during times of major surgery. As a rule-of-thumb recommendation we suggest that if you follow the `slime-devel` mailing list then you’re better off with the latest version (we’ll send a note when it’s undergoing major hacking). If you don’t follow the mailing list you won’t know the status of the latest code, so tracking `FAIRLY-STABLE` or using a released version is the safe option.

If you checkout from CVS then remember to `cvs update` occasionally. Improvements are continually being committed, and the `FAIRLY-STABLE` tag is moved forward from time to time.

2.2.2 CVS incantations

To download SLIME you first configure your CVSR00T and login to the repository.

```
export CVSR00T=:pserver:anonymous@common-lisp.net:/project/slime/cvsroot
cvs login
```

(The password is anonymous)

The latest version can then be checked out with:

```
cvs checkout slime
```

Or the FAIRLY-STABLE version can be checked out with:

```
cvs checkout -rFAIRLY-STABLE slime
```

If you want to find out what's new since the version you're currently running, you can diff the local 'ChangeLog' against the repository version:

```
cvs diff -rHEAD ChangeLog      # or: -rFAIRLY-STABLE
```

2.3 Installation

With a Lisp implementation that can be started from the command-line, installation just requires a few lines in your '~/.emacs':

```
(setq inferior-lisp-program "the path to your Lisp system")
(add-to-list 'load-path "the path of your 'slime' directory")
(require 'slime)
(slime-setup)
```

The snippet above also appears in the 'README' file. You can copy&paste it from there, but remember to fill in the appropriate paths.

We recommend not loading the ILISP package into Emacs if you intend to use SLIME. Doing so will add a lot of extra bindings to the keymap for Lisp source files that may be confusing and may not work correctly for a Lisp process started by SLIME.

2.4 Running SLIME

SLIME is started with the Emacs command *M-x slime*. This uses the *inferior-lisp* package to start a Lisp process, loads and starts the Lisp-side server (known as "Swank"), and establishes a socket connection between Emacs and Lisp. Finally a REPL buffer is created where you can enter Lisp expressions for evaluation.

At this point SLIME is up and running and you can start exploring.

You can restart the *inferior-lisp* process using the function:

```
M-x slime-restart-inferior-lisp
```

2.5 Setup Tuning

This section explains ways to reduce SLIME's startup time and how to configure SLIME for multiple Lisp systems.

Please proceed with this section only if your basic setup works. If you are happy with the basic setup, skip this section.

2.5.1 Autoloading

The basic setup loads SLIME always, even if you don't use SLIME. Emacs will start up a little faster if we load SLIME only on demand. To achieve that, you have to change your `~/.emacs` slightly:

```
(setq inferior-lisp-program "the path to your Lisp system")
(add-to-list 'load-path "the path of your 'slime' directory")
(require 'slime-autoloads)
(slime-setup)
```

The only difference compared to the basic setup is the line `(require 'slime-autoloads)`. It tells Emacs that the rest of SLIME should be loaded when one of the commands `M-x slime` or `M-x slime-connect` is executed the first time.

2.5.2 Multiple Lisps

By default, the command `M-x slime` starts the program specified with `inferior-lisp-program`. If you invoke `M-x slime` with a prefix argument, Emacs prompts for the program which should be started instead. If you need that frequently or if the command involves long filenames it's more convenient to set the `slime-lisp-implementations` variable in your `~/.emacs`. For example here we define two programs:

```
(setq slime-lisp-implementations
      '((cmucl ("cmucl" "-quiet"))
        (sbcl ("/opt/sbcl/bin/sbcl") :coding-system utf-8-unix)))
```

This variable holds a list of programs and if you invoke SLIME with a negative prefix argument, `M-- M-x slime`, you can select a program from that list. The elements of the list should look like

```
(NAME (PROGRAM PROGRAM-ARGS...) &key CODING-SYSTEM INIT INIT-FUNCTION)
```

NAME is a symbol and is used to identify the program.

PROGRAM is the filename of the program. Note that the filename can contain spaces.

PROGRAM-ARGS
is a list of command line arguments.

CODING-SYSTEM
the coding system for the connection.

INIT

INIT-FUNCTION

... to be written ...

2.5.3 Loading Swank faster

For SBCL, we recommend that you create a custom core file with socket support and POSIX bindings included because those modules take the most time to load. To create such a core, execute the following steps:

```
shell$ sbcl
* (mapc 'require '(sb-bsd-sockets sb-posix sb-introspect sb-cltl2 asdf))
* (save-lisp-and-die "sbcl.core-for-slime")
```

After that, add something like this to your `~/.emacs`:


```
(setq slime-lisp-implementations
      '((sbcl ("sbcl" "--core" "sbcl.core-for-slime"))))
```

For maximum startup speed you can include the Swank server directly in a core file. The disadvantage of this approach is that the setup is a bit more involved and that you need to create a new core file when you want to update SLIME or SBCL. The steps to execute are:

```
shell$ sbcl
* (load ".../slime/swank-loader.lisp")
* (save-lisp-and-die "sbcl.core-with-slime")
```

Then add this to your `.emacs`:

```
(setq slime-lisp-implementations
      '((sbcl ("sbcl" "--core" "sbcl.core-with-slime")
            :init (lambda (port-file _)
                    (format "(swank:start-server %S)\n" port-file)))))
```

Similar setups should also work for other Lisp implementations.

2.5.4 Loading Contribs

... to be written ...

3 Using slime-mode

SLIME’s commands are provided via `slime-mode`, a minor-mode used in conjunction with Emacs’s `lisp-mode`. This chapter describes the `slime-mode` and its relatives.

3.1 User-interface conventions

To use SLIME comfortably it is important to understand a few “global” user-interface characteristics. The most important principles are described in this section.

3.1.1 Temporary buffers

Some SLIME commands create temporary buffers to display their results. Although these buffers usually have their own special-purpose major-modes, certain conventions are observed throughout.

Temporary buffers can be dismissed by pressing `q`. This kills the buffer and restores the window configuration as it was before the buffer was displayed. Temporary buffers can also be killed with the usual commands like `kill-buffer`, in which case the previous window configuration won’t be restored.

Pressing `RET` is supposed to “do the most obvious useful thing.” For instance, in an apropos buffer this prints a full description of the symbol at point, and in an XREF buffer it displays the source code for the reference at point. This convention is inherited from Emacs’s own buffers for apropos listings, compilation results, etc.

Temporary buffers containing Lisp symbols use `slime-mode` in addition to any special mode of their own. This makes the usual SLIME commands available for describing symbols, looking up function definitions, and so on.

3.1.2 `*inferior-lisp*` buffer

SLIME internally uses the `comint` package to start Lisp processes. This has a few user-visible consequences, some good and some not-so-terribly. To avoid confusion it is useful to understand the interactions.

The buffer `*inferior-lisp*` contains the Lisp process’s own top-level. This direct access to Lisp is useful for troubleshooting, and some degree of SLIME integration is available using the `inferior-slime-mode`. However, in normal use we recommend using the fully-integrated SLIME REPL and ignoring the `*inferior-lisp*` buffer.

3.1.3 Multithreading

If the Lisp system supports multithreading, SLIME spawns a new thread for each request, e.g., `C-x C-e` creates a new thread to evaluate the expression. An exception to this rule are requests from the REPL: all commands entered in the REPL buffer are evaluated in a dedicated REPL thread.

Some complications arise with multithreading and special variables. Non-global special bindings are thread-local, e.g., changing the value of a let bound special variable in one thread has no effect on the binding of the variables with the same name in other threads. This makes it sometimes difficult to change the printer or reader behaviour for new threads. The variable `swank:*default-worker-thread-bindings*` was introduced for such situations: instead of modifying the global value of a variable, add a binding the

`swank:*default-worker-thread-bindings*`. E.g., with the following code, new threads will read floating point values as doubles by default:

```
(push '(*read-default-float-format* . double-float)
      swank:*default-worker-thread-bindings*).
```

3.2 Key bindings

“Are you deliberately spiting Emacs’s brilliant online help facilities? The gods will be angry!”

This is a brilliant piece of advice. The Emacs online help facilities are your most immediate, up-to-date and complete resource for keybinding information. They are your friends:

- C-h k** `<key>` **describe-key** *“What does this key do?”*
Describes current function bound to `<key>` for focus buffer.
- C-h b** **describe-bindings** *“Exactly what bindings are available?”*
Lists the current key-bindings for the focus buffer.
- C-h m** **describe-mode** *“Tell me all about this mode”*
Shows all the available major mode keys, then the minor mode keys, for the modes of the focus buffer.
- C-h l** **view-lossage** *“Woah, what key chord did I just do?”*
Shows you the literal sequence of keys you’ve pressed in order.

Note: In this documentation the designation **C-h** is a *cannonical key* which might actually mean Ctrl-h, or F1, or whatever you have `help-command` bound to in your `.emacs`. Here is a common situation:

```
(global-set-key [f1] 'help-command)
(global-set-key "\C-h" 'delete-backward-char)
```

In this situation everywhere you see **C-h** in the documentation you would substitute **F1**.

In general we try to make our key bindings fit with the overall Emacs style. We also have the following somewhat unusual convention of our own: when entering a three-key sequence, the final key can be pressed either with control or unmodified. For example, the `slime-describe-symbol` command is bound to **C-c C-d d**, but it also works to type **C-c C-d C-d**. We’re simply binding both key sequences because some people like to hold control for all three keys and others don’t, and with the two-key prefix we’re not afraid of running out of keys.

There is one exception to this rule, just to trip you up. We never bind **C-h** anywhere in a key sequence, so **C-c C-d C-h** doesn’t do the same thing as **C-c C-d h**. This is because Emacs has a built-in default so that typing a prefix followed by **C-h** will display all bindings starting with that prefix, so **C-c C-d C-h** will actually list the bindings for all documentation commands. This feature is just a bit too useful to clobber!

You can assign or change default key bindings globally using the `global-set-key` function in your `~/.emacs` file like this:

```
(global-set-key "\C-c s" 'slime-selector)
```

which binds **C-c s** to the function `slime-selector`.

Alternatively, if you want to assign or change a key binding in just a particular slime mode, you can use the `global-set-key` function in your `'~/.emacs` file like this:

```
(define-key slime-repl-mode-map (kbd "C-c ;")
  'slime-insert-balanced-comments)
```

which binds `C-c ;` to the function `slime-insert-balanced-comments` in the REPL buffer.

3.3 Commands

SLIME commands are divided into the following general categories: **Programming, Compilation, Evaluation, Recovery, Inspector, and Profiling**, discussed in separate sections below. There are also comprehensive indices to commands by function (see [\[Command Index\]](#), [page 37](#)).

3.3.1 Programming commands

Programming commands are divided into the following categories: **Completion, Documentation, Cross-reference, Finding definitions, Macro-expansion, and Disassembly**, discussed in separate sections below.

3.3.1.1 Completion commands

Completion commands are used to complete a symbol or form based on what is already present at point. Classical completion assumes an exact prefix and gives choices only where branches may occur. Fuzzy completion tries harder.

M-TAB

M-x slime-complete-symbol

ESC TAB

C-c C-i

C-M-i Complete the symbol at point. Note that three styles of completion are available in SLIME, and the default differs from normal Emacs completion (see [\[slime-complete-symbol-function\]](#), [page 26](#)).

C-c C-s

M-x slime-complete-form

Looks up and inserts into the current buffer the argument list for the function at point, if there is one. More generally, the command completes an incomplete form with a template for the missing arguments. There is special code for discovering extra keywords of generic functions and for handling `make-instance` and `defmethod`. Examples:

```
(subseq "abc" <C-c C-s>
--inserts--> start [end])
(find 17 <C-c C-s>
--inserts--> sequence :from-end from-end :test test
                  :test-not test-not :start start :end end
                  :key key)
(find 17 '(17 18 19) :test #'= <C-c C-s>
--inserts--> :from-end from-end
                  :test-not test-not :start start :end end
```

```

                                :key key)
(defclass foo () ((bar :initarg :bar)))
(defmethod print-object <C-c C-s>
  --inserts--> (object stream)
              body...)
(defmethod initialize-instance :after ((object foo) &key blub))■
(make-instance 'foo <C-c C-s>
  --inserts--> :bar bar :blub blub initargs...)

```

C-c M-i

M-x slime-fuzzy-complete-symbol

Presents a list of likely completions to choose from for an abbreviation at point. This is a third completion method and it is very different from the more traditional completion to which `slime-complete-symbol` defaults. It attempts to complete a symbol all at once, instead of in pieces. For example, “mnb” will find “multiple-value-bind” and “norm-df” will find “least-positive-normalized-double-float”. This can also be selected as the method of completion used for `slime-complete-symbol`.

M-x slime-fuzzy-completions-mode

M-x slime-fuzzy-abort

3.3.1.2 Closure commands

Closure commands are used to fill in missing parenthesis.

C-c C-q

M-x slime-close-parens-at-point

Closes parentheses at point to complete the top-level-form by inserting ‘)’ characters at until `beginning-of-defun` and `end-of-defun` execute without errors, or `slime-close-parens-limit` is exceeded.

C-]

M-x slime-close-all-sexp

Balance parentheses of open s-expressions at point. Insert enough right-parentheses to balance unmatched left-parentheses. Delete extra left-parentheses. Reformat trailing parentheses Lisp-stylishly.

If `REGION` is true, operate on the region. Otherwise operate on the top-level sexp before point.

3.3.1.3 Indentation commands

C-c M-q

M-x slime-reindent-defun

Re-indents the current defun, or refills the current paragraph. If point is inside a comment block, the text around point will be treated as a paragraph and will be filled with `fill-paragraph`. Otherwise, it will be treated as Lisp code, and the current defun will be reindented. If the current defun has unbalanced parens, an attempt will be made to fix it before reindenting.

C-M-q

M-x indent-sexp

Indents the list immediately following point to match the level at point.

When given a prefix argument, the text around point will always be treated as a paragraph. This is useful for filling docstrings."

3.3.1.4 Documentation commands

SLIME's online documentation commands follow the example of Emacs Lisp. The commands all share the common prefix **C-c C-d** and allow the final key to be modified or unmodified (see [Section 3.2 \[Key bindings\], page 7.](#))

SPC

M-x slime-space

The space key inserts a space, but also looks up and displays the argument list for the function at point, if there is one.

C-c C-d d

M-x slime-describe-symbol

Describe the symbol at point.

C-c C-f

M-x slime-describe-function

Describe the function at point.

C-c C-d a

M-x slime-apropos

Perform an apropos search on Lisp symbol names for a regular expression match and display their documentation strings. By default the external symbols of all packages are searched. With a prefix argument you can choose a specific package and whether to include unexported symbols.

C-c C-d z

M-x slime-apropos-all

Like **slime-apropos** but also includes internal symbols by default.

C-c C-d p

M-x slime-apropos-package

Show apropos results of all symbols in a package. This command is for browsing a package at a high-level. With package-name completion it also serves as a rudimentary Smalltalk-ish image-browser.

C-c C-d h

M-x slime-hyperspec-lookup

Lookup the symbol at point in the *Common Lisp Hyperspec*. This uses the familiar `'hyperspec.el'` to show the appropriate section in a web browser. The Hyperspec is found either on the Web or in `common-lisp-hyperspec-root`, and the browser is selected by `browse-url-browser-function`.

Note: this is one case where **C-c C-d h** is *not* the same as **C-c C-d C-h**.

C-c C-d ~

M-x common-lisp-hyperspec-format

Lookup a *format character* in the *Common Lisp Hyperspec*.

3.3.1.5 Cross-reference commands

SLIME’s cross-reference commands are based on the support provided by the Lisp system, which varies widely between Lisps. For systems with no built-in XREF support SLIME queries a portable XREF package, which is taken from the *CMU AI Repository* and bundled with SLIME.

Each command operates on the symbol at point, or prompts if there is none. With a prefix argument they always prompt. You can either enter the key bindings as shown here or with the control modified on the last key, See [Section 3.2 \[Key bindings\]](#), page 7.

C-c C-w c

M-x slime-who-calls

Show function callers.

C-c C-w w

M-x slime-calls-who

Show all known callees.

C-c C-w r

M-x slime-who-references

Show references to global variable.

C-c C-w b

M-x slime-who-binds

Show bindings of a global variable.

C-c C-w s

M-x slime-who-sets

Show assignments to a global variable.

C-c C-w m

M-x slime-who-macroexpands

Show expansions of a macro.

M-x slime-who-specializes

Show all known methods specialized on a class.

There are also “List callers/callees” commands. These operate by rummaging through function objects on the heap at a low-level to discover the call graph. They are only available with some Lisp systems, and are most useful as a fallback when precise XREF information is unavailable.

C-c <

M-x slime-list-callers

List callers of a function.

C-c >

M-x slime-list-callees

List callees of a function.

3.3.1.6 Finding definitions (“Meta-Point” commands).

The familiar *M-.* command is provided. For generic functions this command finds all methods, and with some systems it does other fancy things (like tracing structure accessors to their DEFSTRUCT definition).

M-.

M-x slime-edit-definition

Go to the definition of the symbol at point.

M-,

*M-**

M-x slime-pop-find-definition-stack

Go back to the point where *M-.* was invoked. This gives multi-level backtracking when *M-.* has been used several times.

C-x 4 .

M-x slime-edit-definition-other-window

Like *slime-edit-definition* but switches to the other window to edit the definition in.

C-x 5 .

M-x slime-edit-definition-other-frame

Like *slime-edit-definition* but opens another frame to edit the definition in.

M-x slime-edit-definition-with-etags

Use an ETAGS table to find definition at point.

3.3.1.7 Macro-expansion commands

C-c C-m

M-x slime-macroexpand-1

Macroexpand the expression at point once. If invoked with a prefix argument, use *macroexpand* instead of *macroexpand-1*.

C-c M-m

M-x slime-macroexpand-all

Fully macroexpand the expression at point.

M-x slime-compiler-macroexpand-1

Display the compiler-macro expansion of *sexp* at point.

M-x slime-compiler-macroexpand

Repeatedly expand compiler macros of *sexp* at point.

For additional minor-mode commands and discussion, see [Section 6.3 \[slime-macroexpansion-minor-mode\]](#), page 23.

3.3.1.8 Disassembly commands

C-c M-d

M-x slime-disassemble-symbol

Disassemble the function definition of the symbol at point.

C-c C-t

M-x slime-toggle-trace-fdefinition

Toggle tracing of the function at point. If invoked with a prefix argument, read additional information, like which particular method should be traced.

M-x slime-untrace-all
 Untrace all functions.

3.3.2 Compilation commands

SLIME has fancy commands for compiling functions, files, and packages. The fancy part is that notes and warnings offered by the Lisp compiler are intercepted and annotated directly onto the corresponding expressions in the Lisp source buffer. (Give it a try to see what this means.)

C-c C-c
M-x slime-compile-defun
 Compile the top-level form at point.

C-c C-y
M-x slime-call-defun
 Insert a call to the function defined around point into the REPL.

C-c C-k
M-x slime-compile-and-load-file
 Compile and load the current buffer's source file.

C-c M-k
M-x slime-compile-file
 Compile (but don't load) the current buffer's source file.

C-c C-l
M-x slime-load-file
 Load a source file and compile if necessary, without loading into a buffer..

C-c C-z
M-x slime-switch-to-output-buffer
 Select the output buffer, preferably in a different window.

M-x slime-compile-region
 Compile region at point.

The annotations are indicated as underlining on source forms. The compiler message associated with an annotation can be read either by placing the mouse over the text or with the selection commands below.

M-n
M-x slime-next-note
 Move the point to the next compiler note and displays the note.

M-p
M-x slime-previous-note
 Move the point to the previous compiler note and displays the note.

C-c M-c
M-x slime-remove-notes
 Remove all annotations from the buffer.

3.3.3 Evaluation commands

These commands each evaluate a Lisp expression in a different way. By default they show their results in a message, but a prefix argument causes the results to be printed in the REPL instead.

C-M-x

M-x slime-eval-defun

Evaluate the current toplevel form. Use *slime-re-evaluate-defvar* if the form starts with *(defvar*.

C-x C-e

M-x slime-eval-last-expression

Evaluate the expression before point.

If *C-M-x* or *C-x C-e* is given a numeric argument, it inserts the value into the current buffer at point, rather than displaying it in the echo area.

C-c C-p

M-x slime-pprint-eval-last-expression

Evaluate the expression before point and pretty-print the result.

C-c C-r

M-x slime-eval-region

Evaluate the region.

C-x M-e

M-x slime-eval-last-expression-display-output

Display output buffer and evaluate the expression preceding point.

C-c :

M-x slime-interactive-eval

Evaluate an expression read from the minibuffer.

M-x slime-scratch

Create a ‘*slime-scratch*’ buffer. In this buffer you can enter Lisp expressions and evaluate them with *C-j*, like in Emacs’s ‘*scratch*’ buffer.

C-c E

M-x slime-edit-value

Edit the value of a setf-able form in a new buffer ‘*Edit <form>*’. The value is inserted into a temporary buffer for editing and then set in Lisp when committed with *slime-edit-value-commit*.

C-c C-u

M-x slime-undefine-function

Unbind symbol for function at point.

3.3.4 Abort/Recovery commands

C-c C-b

M-x slime-interrupt

Interrupt Lisp (send SIGINT).

C-c ~

M-x slime-sync-package-and-default-directory

Synchronize the current package and working directory from Emacs to Lisp.

C-c M-p

M-x slime-repl-set-package

Set the current package of the REPL.

3.3.5 Inspector commands

The SLIME inspector is a very fancy Emacs-based alternative to the standard `INSPECT` function. The inspector presents objects in Emacs buffers using a combination of plain text, hyperlinks to related objects, and “actions” that can be selected to invoke Lisp code on the inspected object. For example, to present a generic function the inspector shows the documentation in plain text and presents each method with both a hyperlink to inspect the method object and a “remove method” action that you can invoke interactively.

The inspector can easily be specialized for the objects in your own programs. For details see the the `inspect-for-emacs` generic function in ‘`swank-backend.lisp`’.

C-c I

M-x slime-inspect

Inspect the value of an expression entered in the minibuffer.

The standard commands available in the inspector are:

RET

M-x slime-inspector-operate-on-point

If point is on a value then recursively call the inspcetor on that value. If point is on an action then call that action.

d

M-x slime-inspector-describe

Describe the slot at point.

l

M-x slime-inspector-pop

Go back to the previous object (return from *RET*).

n

M-x slime-inspector-next

The inverse of *l*. Also bound to *SPC*.

q

M-x slime-inspector-quit

Dismiss the inspector buffer.

M-RET

M-x slime-inspector-copy-down

Evaluate the value under point via the REPL (to set ‘*’).

3.3.6 Profiling commands

M-x slime-toggle-profile-fdefinition

Toggle profiling of a function.

M-x slime-profile-package
 Profile all functions in a package.

M-x slime-unprofile-all
 Unprofile all functions.

M-x slime-profile-report
 Report profiler data.

M-x slime-profile-reset
 Reset profiler data.

M-x slime-profiled-functions
 Show list of currently profiled functions.

3.3.7 Shadowed Commands

C-c C-a, M-x slime-nop
C-c C-v, M-x slime-nop
 This key-binding is shadowed from inf-lisp.

3.4 Semantic indentation

SLIME automatically discovers how to indent the macros in your Lisp system. To do this the Lisp side scans all the macros in the system and reports to Emacs all the ones with `&body` arguments. Emacs then indents these specially, putting the first arguments four spaces in and the “body” arguments just two spaces, as usual.

This should “just work.” If you are a lucky sort of person you needn’t read the rest of this section.

To simplify the implementation, SLIME doesn’t distinguish between macros with the same symbol-name but different packages. This makes it fit nicely with Emacs’s indentation code. However, if you do have several macros with the same symbol-name then they will all be indented the same way, arbitrarily using the style from one of their arglists. You can find out which symbols are involved in collisions with:

```
(swank:print-indentation-lossage)
```

If a collision causes you irritation, don’t have a nervous breakdown, just override the Elisp symbol’s `common-lisp-indent-function` property to your taste. SLIME won’t override your custom settings, it just tries to give you good defaults.

A more subtle issue is that imperfect caching is used for the sake of performance.¹

In an ideal world, Lisp would automatically scan every symbol for indentation changes after each command from Emacs. However, this is too expensive to do every time. Instead Lisp usually just scans the symbols whose home package matches the one used by the Emacs buffer where the request comes from. That is sufficient to pick up the indentation of most interactively-defined macros. To catch the rest we make a full scan of every symbol each time a new Lisp package is created between commands – that takes care of things like new systems being loaded.

You can use *M-x slime-update-indentation* to force all symbols to be scanned for indentation information.

¹ *Of course* we made sure it was actually too slow before making the ugly optimization.

3.5 Reader conditional fontification

SLIME automatically evaluates reader-conditional expressions in source buffers and “grays out” code that will be skipped for the current Lisp connection.

4 REPL: the “top level”

SLIME uses a custom Read-Eval-Print Loop (REPL, also known as a “top level”). The REPL user-interface is written in Emacs Lisp, which gives more Emacs-integration than the traditional `comint`-based Lisp interaction:

- Conditions signalled in REPL expressions are debugged with SLDB.
- Return values are distinguished from printed output by separate Emacs faces (colours).
- Emacs manages the REPL prompt with markers. This ensures that Lisp output is inserted in the right place, and doesn’t get mixed up with user input.

4.1 REPL commands

RET

M-x slime-repl-return

Evaluate the current input in Lisp if it is complete. If incomplete, open a new line and indent. If a prefix argument is given then the input is evaluated without checking for completeness.

C-RET

M-x slime-repl-closing-return

Close any unmatched parenthesis and then evaluate the current input in Lisp. Also bound to *M-RET*.

C-j

M-x slime-repl-newline-and-indent

Open and indent a new line.

C-c C-c

M-x slime-interrupt

Interrupt the Lisp process with SIGINT.

C-c M-g

M-x slime-quit

Quit slime.

C-c C-o

M-x slime-repl-clear-output

Remove the output and result of the previous expression from the buffer.

C-c C-t

M-x slime-repl-clear-buffer

Clear the entire buffer, leaving only a prompt.

4.2 Input navigation

C-a

M-x slime-repl-bol

Go to the beginning of the line, but stop at the REPL prompt.

M-n, M-x slime-repl-next-input

M-p, M-x slime-repl-previous-input

Go to next/previous in command history.

M-s, M-x slime-repl-next-matching-input

M-r, M-x slime-repl-previous-matching-input

Search forward/reverse through command history with regex

C-c C-n, M-x slime-repl-next-prompt

C-c C-p, M-x slime-repl-previous-prompt

Move between the current and previous prompts in the REPL buffer.

C-M-a, M-x slime-repl-beginning-of-defun

C-M-e, M-x slime-repl-end-of-defun

These commands are like `beginning-of-defun` and `end-of-defun`, but when used inside the REPL input area they instead go directly to the beginning or the end, respectively.

4.3 Shortcuts

“Shortcuts” are a special set of REPL commands that are invoked by name. To invoke a shortcut you first press `,` (comma) at the REPL prompt and then enter the shortcut’s name when prompted.

Shortcuts deal with things like switching between directories and compiling and loading Lisp systems. The set of shortcuts is listed below, and you can also use the `help` shortcut to list them interactively.

change-directory (aka !d, cd)

Change the current directory.

change-package (aka !p)

Change the current package.

compile-and-load (aka cl)

Compile (if neccessary) and load a lisp file.

compile-system

Compile (but not load) an ASDF system.

defparameter (aka !)

Define a new global, special, variable.

force-compile-system

Recompile (but not load) an ASDF system.

force-load-system

Recompile and load an ASDF system.

help (aka ?)

Display the help.

load-system

Compile (as needed) and load an ASDF system.

pop-directory (aka -d)

Pop the current directory.

pop-package (aka -p)

Pop the top of the package stack.

push-directory (*aka +d, pushd*)
Push a new directory onto the directory stack.

push-package (*aka +p*)
Push a package onto the package stack.

pwd
Show the current directory.

quit
Quit the current Lisp.

resend-form
Resend the last form.

restart-inferior-lisp
Restart **inferior-lisp** and reconnect SLIME.

sayoonara
Quit all Lisps and close all SLIME buffers.

5 SLDB: the SLIME debugger

SLIME has a custom Emacs-based debugger called SLDB. Conditions signalled in the Lisp system invoke SLDB in Emacs by way of the Lisp `*DEBUGGER-HOOK*`.

SLDB pops up a buffer when a condition is signalled. The buffer displays a description of the condition, a list of restarts, and a backtrace. Commands are offered for invoking restarts, examining the backtrace, and poking around in stack frames.

5.1 Examining frames

Commands for examining the stack frame at point.

t

M-x sldb-toggle-details

Toggle display of local variables and `CATCH` tags.

v

M-x sldb-show-source

View the frame's current source expression. The expression is presented in the Lisp source file's buffer.

e

M-x sldb-eval-in-frame

Evaluate an expression in the frame. The expression can refer to the available local variables in the frame.

d

M-x sldb-pprint-eval-in-frame

Evaluate an expression in the frame and pretty-print the result in a temporary buffer.

D

M-x sldb-disassemble

Disassemble the frame's function. Includes information such as the instruction pointer within the frame.

i

M-x sldb-inspect-in-frame

Inspect the result of evaluating an expression in the frame.

5.2 Invoking restarts

a

M-x sldb-abort

Invoke the `ABORT` restart.

q

M-x sldb-quit

“Quit” – `THROW` to a tag that the top-level SLIME request-loop catches.

c

M-x sldb-continue

Invoke the `CONTINUE` restart.

0 ... 9 Invoke a restart by number.

Restarts can also be invoked by pressing *RET* or *Mouse-2* on them in the buffer.

5.3 Navigating between frames

n, M-x sldb-down

p, M-x sldb-up

Move between frames.

M-n, M-x sldb-details-down

M-p, M-x sldb-details-up

Move between frames “with sugar”: hide the details of the original frame and display the details and source code of the next. Sugared motion makes you see the details and source code for the current frame only.

5.4 Miscellaneous Commands

r

M-x sldb-restart-frame

Restart execution of the frame with the same arguments it was originally called with. (This command is not available in all implementations.)

R

M-x sldb-return-from-frame

Return from the frame with a value entered in the minibuffer. (This command is not available in all implementations.)

s

M-x sldb-step

Step to the next expression in the frame. (This command is not available in all implementations.)

B

M-x sldb-break-with-default-debugger

Exit SLDB and debug the condition using the Lisp system’s default debugger.

C-c :

M-x slime-interactive-eval

Evaluate an expression entered in the minibuffer.

6 Extras

6.1 slime-selector

The `slime-selector` command is for quickly switching to important buffers: the REPL, SLDB, the Lisp source you were just hacking, etc. Once invoked the command prompts for a single letter to specify which buffer it should display. Here are some of the options:

- ? A help buffer listing all `slime-selectors`'s available buffers.
- r The REPL buffer for the current SLIME connection.
- d The most recently activated SLDB buffer for the current connection.
- l The most recently visited `lisp-mode` source buffer.
- s The `*slime-scratch*` buffer (see [\[slime-scratch\]](#), page 14).

`slime-selector` doesn't have a key binding by default but we suggest that you assign it a global one. You can bind it to `C-c s` like this:

```
(global-set-key "\C-cs" 'slime-selector)
```

And then you can switch to the REPL from anywhere with `C-c s r`.

The macro `def-slime-selector-method` can be used to define new buffers for `slime-selector` to find.

6.2 slime-autodoc-mode

M-x slime-autodoc-mode

Autodoc mode is an additional minor-mode for automatically showing information about symbols near the point. For function names the argument list is displayed, and for global variables, the value. This is a clone of `eldoc-mode` for Emacs Lisp.

The mode can be enabled by default in the `slime-setup` call of your `~/.emacs`:

```
(slime-setup '(slime-autodoc))
```

6.3 slime-macroexpansion-minor-mode

Within a slime macroexpansion buffer some extra commands are provided (these commands are always available but are only bound to keys in a macroexpansion buffer).

C-c C-m

M-x slime-macroexpand-1-inplace

Just like `slime-macroexpand-1` but the original form is replaced with the expansion.

g

M-x slime-macroexpand-1-inplace

The last macroexpansion is performed again, the current contents of the macroexpansion buffer are replaced with the new expansion.

q

M-x slime-temp-buffer-quit

Close the expansion buffer.

6.4 Multiple connections

SLIME is able to connect to multiple Lisp processes at the same time. The *M-x slime* command, when invoked with a prefix argument, will offer to create an additional Lisp process if one is already running. This is often convenient, but it requires some understanding to make sure that your SLIME commands execute in the Lisp that you expect them to.

Some buffers are tied to specific Lisp processes. Each Lisp connection has its own REPL buffer, and all expressions entered or SLIME commands invoked in that buffer are sent to the associated connection. Other buffers created by SLIME are similarly tied to the connections they originate from, including SLDB buffers, apropos result listings, and so on. These buffers are the result of some interaction with a Lisp process, so commands in them always go back to that same process.

Commands executed in other places, such as *slime-mode* source buffers, always use the “default” connection. Usually this is the most recently established connection, but this can be reassigned via the “connection list” buffer:

C-c C-x c

M-x slime-list-connections

Pop up a buffer listing the established connections.

C-c C-x t

M-x slime-list-threads

Pop up a buffer listing the current threads.

The buffer displayed by *slime-list-connections* gives a one-line summary of each connection. The summary shows the connection’s serial number, the name of the Lisp implementation, and other details of the Lisp process. The current “default” connection is indicated with an asterisk.

The commands available in the connection-list buffer are:

RET

M-x slime-goto-connection

Pop to the REPL buffer of the connection at point.

d

M-x slime-connection-list-make-default

Make the connection at point the “default” connection. It will then be used for commands in *slime-mode* source buffers.

g

M-x slime-update-connection-list

Update the connection list in the buffer.

q

M-x slime-temp-buffer-quit

Quit the connection list (kill buffer, restore window configuration).

R

M-x slime-restart-connection-at-point

Restart the Lisp process for the connection at point.

M-x slime-connect

Connect to a running Swank server.

M-x slime-disconnect

Disconnect all connections.

M-x slime-abort-connection

Abort the current attempt to connect.

6.5 Typeout frames

A “typeout frame” is a special Emacs frame which is used instead of the echo area (minibuffer) to display messages from SLIME commands. This is an optional feature. The advantage of a typeout frame over the echo area is that it can hold more text, it can be scrolled, and its contents don’t disappear when you press a key. All potentially long messages are sent to the typeout frame, such as argument lists, macro expansions, and so on.

M-x slime-ensure-typeout-frame

Ensure that a typeout frame exists, creating one if necessary.

If the typeout frame is closed then the echo area will be used again as usual.

To have a typeout frame created automatically at startup you can add the `slime-connected-hook` to your ‘`~/.emacs`’ file:

```
(add-hook 'slime-connected-hook 'slime-ensure-typeout-frame)
```

7 Customization

7.1 Emacs-side

The Emacs part of SLIME can be configured with the Emacs `customize` system, just use *M-x customize-group slime RET*. Because the customize system is self-describing, we only cover a few important or obscure configuration options here in the manual.

`slime-truncate-lines`

The value to use for `truncate-lines` in line-by-line summary buffers popped up by SLIME. This is `t` by default, which ensures that lines do not wrap in backtraces, apropos listings, and so on. It can however cause information to spill off the screen.

`slime-complete-symbol-function`

The function to use for completion of Lisp symbols. Three completion styles are available. The default `slime-complete-symbol*` performs completion “in parallel” over the hyphen-delimited sub-words of a symbol name.¹ Formally this means that “a-b-c” can complete to any symbol matching the regular expression “^a.*-b.*-c.*” (where “dot” matches anything but a hyphen). Examples give a more intuitive feeling:

- `m-v-b` completes to `multiple-value-bind`.
- `w-open` is ambiguous: it completes to either `with-open-file` or `with-open-stream`. The symbol is expanded to the longest common completion (`with-open-`) and the point is placed at the first point of ambiguity, which in this case is the end.
- `w--stream` completes to `with-open-stream`.

An alternative is `slime-simple-complete-symbol`, which completes in the usual Emacs way. Finally, there is `slime-fuzzy-complete-symbol`, which is quite different from both of the above and tries to find best matches to an abbreviated symbol. It also has its own key binding, defaulting to *C-c M-i*. See [\[slime-fuzzy-complete-symbol\]](#), page 9, for more information.

`slime-filename-translations`

This variable controls filename translation between Emacs and the Lisp system. It is useful if you run Emacs and Lisp on separate machines which don’t share a common file system or if they share the filesystem but have different layouts, as is the case with SMB-based file sharing.

`slime-net-coding-system`

If you want to transmit Unicode characters between Emacs and the Lisp system, you should customize this variable. E.g., if you use SBCL, you can set:

```
(setq slime-net-coding-system 'utf-8-unix)
```

To actually display Unicode characters you also need appropriate fonts, otherwise the characters will be rendered as hollow boxes. If you are using Allegro

¹ This style of completion is modelled on ‘`completer.el`’ by Chris McConnell. That package is bundled with ILISP.

CL and GNU Emacs, you can also use `emacs-mule-unix` as coding system. GNU Emacs has often nicer fonts for the latter encoding.

7.1.1 Hooks

`slime-mode-hook`

This hook is run each time a buffer enters `slime-mode`. It is most useful for setting buffer-local configuration in your Lisp source buffers. An example use is to enable `slime-autodoc-mode` (see [Section 6.2 \[slime-autodoc-mode\]](#), page 23).

`slime-connected-hook`

This hook is run when SLIME establishes a connection to a Lisp server. An example use is to create a Typeout frame (See [Section 6.5 \[Typeout frames\]](#), page 25.)

`sldb-hook`

This hook is run after SLDB is invoked. The hook functions are called from the SLDB buffer after it is initialized. An example use is to add `sldb-print-condition` to this hook, which makes all conditions debugged with SLDB be recorded in the REPL buffer.

7.2 Lisp-side (Swank)

The Lisp server side of SLIME (known as “Swank”) offers several variables to configure. The initialization file `~/swank.lisp` is automatically evaluated at startup and can be used to set these variables.

7.2.1 Communication style

The most important configurable is `SWANK:*COMMUNICATION-STYLE*`, which specifies the mechanism by which Lisp reads and processes protocol messages from Emacs. The choice of communication style has a global influence on SLIME’s operation.

The available communication styles are:

NIL This style simply loops reading input from the communication socket and serves SLIME protocol events as they arise. The simplicity means that the Lisp cannot do any other processing while under SLIME’s control.

`:FD-HANDLER`

This style uses the classical Unix-style “`select()`-loop.” Swank registers the communication socket with an event-dispatching framework (such as `SERVE-EVENT` in CMUCL and SBCL) and receives a callback when data is available. In this style requests from Emacs are only detected and processed when Lisp enters the event-loop. This style is simple and predictable.

`:SIGIO`

This style uses *signal-driven I/O* with a `SIGIO` signal handler. Lisp receives requests from Emacs along with a signal, causing it to interrupt whatever it is doing to serve the request. This style has the advantage of responsiveness, since Emacs can perform operations in Lisp even while it is busy doing other things. It also allows Emacs to issue requests concurrently, e.g. to send one long-running request (like compilation) and then interrupt that with several

short requests before it completes. The disadvantages are that it may conflict with other uses of `SIGIO` by Lisp code, and it may cause untold havoc by interrupting Lisp at an awkward moment.

:SPAWN This style uses multiprocessing support in the Lisp system to execute each request in a separate thread. This style has similar properties to `:SIGIO`, but it does not use signals and all requests issued by Emacs can be executed in parallel.

The default request handling style is chosen according to the capabilities of your Lisp system. The general order of preference is `:SPAWN`, then `:SIGIO`, then `:FD-HANDLER`, with `NIL` as a last resort. You can check the default style by calling `SWANK-BACKEND:PREFERRED-COMMUNICATION-STYLE`. You can also override the default by setting `SWANK:*COMMUNICATION-STYLE*` in your Swank init file.

7.2.2 Other configurables

These Lisp variables can be configured via your `~/swank.lisp` file:

SWANK:*CONFIGURE-EMACS-INDENTATION*

This variable controls whether indentation styles for `&body`-arguments in macros are discovered and sent to Emacs. It is enabled by default.

SWANK:*GLOBALLY-REDIRECT-IO*

When true this causes the standard streams (`*standard-output*`, etc) to be globally redirected to the REPL in Emacs. When `NIL` (the default) these streams are only temporarily redirected to Emacs using dynamic bindings while handling requests. Note that `*standard-input*` is currently never globally redirected into Emacs, because it can interact badly with the Lisp's native REPL by having it try to read from the Emacs one.

SWANK:*GLOBAL-DEBUGGER*

When true (the default) this causes `*DEBUGGER-HOOK*` to be globally set to `SWANK:SWANK-DEBUGGER-HOOK` and thus for SLIME to handle all debugging in the Lisp image. This is for debugging multithreaded and callback-driven applications.

SWANK:*SLDB-PRINTER-BINDINGS*

SWANK:*MACROEXPAND-PRINTER-BINDINGS*

SWANK:*SWANK-PPRINT-BINDINGS*

These variables can be used to customize the printer in various situations. The values of the variables are association lists of printer variable names with the corresponding value. E.g., to enable the pretty printer for formatting backtraces in SLDB, you can use:

```
(push '(*print-pretty* . t) swank:*sldb-printer-bindings*).
```

SWANK:*USE-DEDICATED-OUTPUT-STREAM*

This variable controls whether to use an unsafe efficiency hack for sending printed output from Lisp to Emacs. The default is `nil`, don't use it, and is strongly recommended to keep.

When `t`, a separate socket is established solely for Lisp to send printed output to Emacs through, which is faster than sending the output in protocol-messages

to Emacs. However, as nothing can be guaranteed about the timing between the dedicated output stream and the stream of protocol messages, the output of a Lisp command can arrive before or after the corresponding REPL results. Thus output and REPL results can end up in the wrong order, or even interleaved, in the REPL buffer. Using a dedicated output stream also makes it more difficult to communicate to a Lisp running on a remote host via SSH (see [Section 8.1 \[Connecting to a remote lisp\]](#), page 30).

SWANK:***DEDICATED-OUTPUT-STREAM-PORT***

When ***USE-DEDICATED-OUTPUT-STREAM*** is **t** the stream will be opened on this port. The default value, 0, means that the stream will be opened on some random port.

SWANK:***LOG-EVENTS***

Setting this variable to **t** causes all protocol messages exchanged with Emacs to be printed to ***TERMINAL-IO***. This is useful for low-level debugging and for observing how SLIME works “on the wire.” The output of ***TERMINAL-IO*** can be found in your Lisp system’s own listener, usually in the buffer ***inferior-lisp***.

8 Tips and Tricks

8.1 Connecting to a remote lisp

One of the advantages of the way SLIME is implemented is that we can easily run the Emacs side (`slime.el`) on one machine and the lisp backend (`swank`) on another. The basic idea is to start up lisp on the remote machine, load `swank` and wait for incoming slime connections. On the local machine we start up emacs and tell slime to connect to the remote machine. The details are a bit messier but the underlying idea is that simple.

8.1.1 Setting up the lisp image

When you want to load `swank` without going through the normal, Emacs based, process just load the `'swank-loader.lisp'` file. Just execute

```
(load "/path/to/swank-loader.lisp")
```

inside a running lisp image¹. Now all we need to do is startup our swank server. The first example assumes we're using the default settings.

```
(swank:create-server)
```

Since we're going to be tunneling our connection via `ssh`² and we'll only have one port open we want to tell `swank` to not use an extra connection for output (this is actually the default in current SLIME):

```
(setf swank:*use-dedicated-output-stream* nil)
```

If you need to do anything particular (like be able to reconnect to `swank` after you're done), look into `swank:create-server`'s other arguments. Some of these arguments are

`:PORT` Port number for the server to listen on (default: 4005).

`:STYLE` See See [Section 7.2.1 \[Communication style\]](#), page 27.

`:DONT-CLOSE`

Boolean indicating if the server will continue to accept connections after the first one (default: `NIL`). For “long-running” lisp processes to which you want to be able to connect from time to time, specify `:dont-close t`

`:CODING-SYSTEM`

String designating the encoding to be used to communicate between the Emacs and Lisp.

So the more complete example will be

```
(swank:create-server :port 4005 :dont-close t :coding-system "utf-8-unix")■
```

On the emacs side you will use something like

```
(setq slime-net-coding-system 'utf-8-unix)
(slime-connect "127.0.0.1" 4005))
```

to connect to this lisp image from the same machine.

¹ SLIME also provides an ASDF system definition which does the same thing

² there is a way to connect without an `ssh` tunnel, but it has the side-effect of giving the entire world access to your lisp image, so we're not going to talk about it

8.1.2 Setting up Emacs

Now we need to create the tunnel between the local machine and the remote machine.

```
ssh -L4005:127.0.0.1:4005 username@remote.example.com
```

That ssh invocation creates an ssh tunnel between the port 4005 on our local machine and the port 4005 on the remote machine³.

Finally we can start SLIME:

```
M-x slime-connect RET RET
```

The *RET RET* sequence just means that we want to use the default host (127.0.0.1) and the default port (4005). Even though we're connecting to a remote machine the ssh tunnel fools Emacs into thinking it's actually 127.0.0.1.

8.1.3 Setting up pathname translations

One of the main problems with running swank remotely is that Emacs assumes the files can be found using normal filenames. If we want things like *slime-compile-and-load-file* (*C-c C-k*) and *slime-edit-definition* (*M-.*) to work correctly we need to find a way to let our local Emacs refer to remote files.

There are, mainly, two ways to do this. The first is to mount, using NFS or similar, the remote machine's hard disk on the local machine's file system in such a fashion that a filename like `/opt/project/source.lisp` refers to the same file on both machines. Unfortunately NFS is usually slow, often buggy, and not always feasible, fortunately we have an ssh connection and Emacs' *tramp-mode* can do the rest.

What we do is teach Emacs how to take a filename on the remote machine and translate it into something that tramp can understand and access (and vice-versa). Assuming the remote machine's host name is `remote.example.com`, `cl:machine-instance` returns "remote" and we login as the user "user" we can use SLIME's built-in mechanism to setup the proper translations by simply doing:

```
(push (slime-create-filename-translator :machine-instance "remote.example.com"
                                         :remote-host "remote"
                                         :username "user")
      slime-filename-translations)
```

8.2 Globally redirecting all IO to the REPL

By default SLIME does not change **standard-output** and friends outside of the REPL. If you have any other threads which call *format*, *write-string*, etc. that output will be seen only in the **inferior-lisp** buffer or on the terminal, more often than not this is inconvenient. So, if you want code such as this:

```
(run-in-new-thread
  (lambda ()
    (write-line "In some random thread.~%" *standard-output*)))
```

to send its output to SLIME's repl buffer, as opposed to **inferior-lisp**, set *swank:*globally-redirect-io** to T.

³ By default swank listens for incoming connections on port 4005, had we passed a `:port` parameter to *swank:create-server* we'd be using that port number instead

Note that the value of this variable is only checked when swank accepts the connection so you should set it via `'~/swank.lisp'`. Otherwise you will need to call `swank::globally-redirect-io-to-connection` yourself, but you shouldn't do that unless you know what you're doing.

8.3 Connecting to SLIME automatically

To make SLIME connect to your lisp whenever you open a lisp file just add this to your `.emacs`:

```
(add-hook 'slime-mode-hook
  (lambda ()
    (unless (slime-connected-p)
      (save-excursion (slime))))))
```

9 Credits

The soppy ending...

Hackers of the good hack

SLIME is an Extension of SLIM by Eric Marsden. At the time of writing, the authors and code-contributors of SLIME are:

Helmut Eller
 Marco Baringer
 Edi Weitz
 Christophe Rhodes
 Martin Simmons
 Douglas Crosher
 Bill Clementson
 Espen Wiborg
 Thomas Schilling
 Matthew Danish
 Harald Hanche-Olsen
 Lars Magne Ingebrigtsen
 Bryan O'Connor
 Tobias Rittweiler
 Sean O'Rourke
 Raymond Toy
 Ivan Toshkov
 Eduardo Muñoz
 Bjørn Nordbø
 Wolfgang Mederle
 Willem Broekema
 Tim Daly Jr.
 Taylor Campbell
 Russell McManus
 Reini Urban
 Neil Van Dyke
 Mikel Bancroft
 Mark Wooding
 Lynn Quam
 Kai Kaminski
 Jon Allen Boone
 James McIlree
 Hannu Koivisto
 Frederic Brunel
 Daniel Koning
 Brian Mastenbrook
 Barry Fishman

Luke Gorrie
 Tobias C. Rittweiler
 Juho Snellman
 Attila Lendvai
 Daniel Barlow
 Lawrence Mitchell
 Andras Simon
 Antonio Menezes Leitaó
 Thomas F. Burdick
 Luís Oliveira
 Gábor Melis
 John Paul Wallington
 Andreas Fuchs
 Tiago Maduro-Dias
 Robert Lehr
 Nathan Bird
 Ian Eslick
 Christian Lynbech
 Alexey Dejneka
 Wojciech Kaczmarek
 Travis Cross
 Taylor R. Campbell
 Svein Ove Aas
 Rui Patrocínio
 Pawel Ostrowski
 NIIMI Satoshi
 Matthew D. Swank
 Mark Evenson
 Levente Mészáros
 Julian Stecklina
 Johan Bockgrd
 Ivan Boldyrev
 Gerd Flaig
 Dustin Long
 Dan Weinreb
 Brandon Bergren
 Aleksandar Bakic

Matthias Koeppe
 Alan Ruttenberg
 Peter Seibel
 Nikodemus Siivola
 Wolfgang Jenkner
 Brian Downing
 Michael Weber
 Utz-Uwe Haus
 Takehiko Abe
 James Bielman
 Zach Beane
 Joerg Hoehle
 Alan Shutko
 Stefan Kamphausen
 Robert E. Brown
 Jouni K Seppanen
 Eric Blood
 Chris Capel
 Yaroslav Kavenchuk
 William Bland
 Tom Pierce
 Taylor R Campbell
 Stelian Ionescu
 Robert Macomber
 Paul Collins
 Mészáros Levente
 Matt Pillsbury
 Marco Monteiro
 Lasse Rasinen
 Juergen Gmeiner
 Jan Rychter
 Ignas Mikalajunas
 Gary King
 Didier Verna
 Dan Pierson
 Bob Halley
 Alan Caulkins

... not counting the bundled code from ‘`hyperspec.el`’, *CLOCC*, and the *CMU AI Repository*.

Many people on the `slime-devel` mailing list have made non-code contributions to SLIME. Life is hard though: you gotta send code to get your name in the manual. :-)

Thanks!

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Key (Character) Index

A

a 21

B

B 22

C

c 21

C-] 9

C-a 18

C-c : 14

C-c : 22

C-c < 11

C-c > 11

C-c ~ 15

C-c C-a 16

C-c C-b 14

C-c C-c 13

C-c C-c 18

C-c C-d ~ 10

C-c C-d a 10

C-c C-d d 10

C-c C-d h 10

C-c C-d p 10

C-c C-d z 10

C-c C-f 10

C-c C-k 13

C-c C-l 13

C-c C-m 12, 23

C-c C-n 19

C-c C-o 18

C-c C-p 14

C-c C-p 19

C-c C-q 9

C-c C-r 14

C-c C-s 8

C-c C-t 12

C-c C-t 18

C-c C-u 14

C-c C-v 16

C-c C-w b 11

C-c C-w c 11

C-c C-w m 11

C-c C-w r 11

C-c C-w s 11

C-c C-w w 11

C-c C-x c 24

C-c C-x t 24

C-c C-y 13

C-c C-z 13

C-c E 14

C-c I 15

C-c M-c 13

C-c M-d 12

C-c M-g 18

C-c M-i 9

C-c M-k 13

C-c M-m 12

C-c M-p 15

C-c M-q 9

C-j 18

C-M-a 19

C-M-e 19

C-M-q 10

C-M-x 14

C-RET 18

C-x 4 12

C-x 5 12

C-x C-e 14

C-x M-e 14

D

d 15

d 21

d 24

D 21

E

e 21

G

g 23

g 24

I

i 21

L

l 15

M

M-, 12

M- 12

M-n 13

M-n 18

M-n 22

M-p 13

M-p 18

M-p 22

M-r 19

M-RET 15
M-s 19
M-TAB 8

N

n 15
n 22

P

p 22

Q

q 15
q 21, 23
q 24

R

r 22
R 22
R 24
RET 15, 18, 24

S

s 22
SPC 10

T

t 21

V

v 21

Command and Function Index

C

common-lisp-hyperspec-format 10

I

indent-sexp 10

S

sldb-abort 21
 sldb-break-with-default-debugger 22
 sldb-continue 21
 sldb-details-down 22
 sldb-details-up 22
 sldb-disassemble 21
 sldb-down 22
 sldb-eval-in-frame 21
 sldb-inspect-in-frame 21
 sldb-pprint-eval-in-frame 21
 sldb-quit 21
 sldb-restart-frame 22
 sldb-return-from-frame 22
 sldb-show-source 21
 sldb-step 22
 sldb-toggle-details 21
 sldb-up 22
 slime-abort-connection 25
 slime-apropos 10
 slime-apropos-all 10
 slime-apropos-package 10
 slime-autodoc-mode 23
 slime-call-defun 13
 slime-calls-who 11
 slime-close-all-sexp 9
 slime-close-parens-at-point 9
 slime-compile-and-load-file 13
 slime-compile-defun 13
 slime-compile-file 13
 slime-compile-region 13
 slime-compiler-macroexpand 12
 slime-compiler-macroexpand-1 12
 slime-complete-form 8
 slime-complete-symbol 8
 slime-connect 25
 slime-connection-list-make-default 24
 slime-describe-function 10
 slime-describe-symbol 10
 slime-disassemble-symbol 12
 slime-disconnect 25
 slime-edit-definition 12
 slime-edit-definition-other-frame 12
 slime-edit-definition-other-window 12
 slime-edit-definition-with-etags 12
 slime-edit-value 14

slime-ensure-typeout-frame 25
 slime-eval-defun 14
 slime-eval-last-expression 14
 slime-eval-last-expression-display-output
 14
 slime-eval-region 14
 slime-fuzzy-abort 9
 slime-fuzzy-complete-symbol 9
 slime-fuzzy-completions-mode 9
 slime-goto-connection 24
 slime-hyperspec-lookup 10
 slime-inspect 15
 slime-inspector-copy-down 15
 slime-inspector-describe 15
 slime-inspector-next 15
 slime-inspector-operate-on-point 15
 slime-inspector-pop 15
 slime-inspector-quit 15
 slime-interactive-eval 14
 slime-interactive-eval 22
 slime-interrupt 14, 18
 slime-list-callees 11
 slime-list-callers 11
 slime-list-connections 24
 slime-list-threads 24
 slime-load-file 13
 slime-macroexpand-1 12
 slime-macroexpand-1-inplace 23
 slime-macroexpand-all 12
 slime-next-note 13
 slime-nop 16
 slime-pop-find-definition-stack 12
 slime-pprint-eval-last-expression 14
 slime-previous-note 13
 slime-profile-package 16
 slime-profile-report 16
 slime-profile-reset 16
 slime-profiled-functions 16
 slime-quit 18
 slime-reindent-defun 9
 slime-remove-notes 13
 slime-repl-beginning-of-defun 19
 slime-repl-bol 18
 slime-repl-clear-buffer 18
 slime-repl-clear-output 18
 slime-repl-closing-return 18
 slime-repl-end-of-defun 19
 slime-repl-newline-and-indent 18
 slime-repl-next-input 18
 slime-repl-next-matching-input 19
 slime-repl-next-prompt 19
 slime-repl-previous-input 18
 slime-repl-previous-matching-input 19
 slime-repl-previous-prompt 19
 slime-repl-return 18

slime-repl-set-package	15	slime-toggle-trace-fdefinition	12
slime-restart-connection-at-point	24	slime-undefine-function	14
slime-restart-inferior-lisp	3	slime-unprofile-all	16
slime-scratch	14	slime-untrace-all	13
slime-space	10	slime-update-connection-list	24
slime-switch-to-output-buffer	13	slime-who-binds	11
slime-sync-package-and-default-directory	15	slime-who-calls	11
slime-temp-buffer-quit	23	slime-who-macroexpands	11
slime-temp-buffer-quit	24	slime-who-references	11
slime-toggle-profile-fdefinition	15	slime-who-sets	11
		slime-who-specializes	11

Variable Index

I

inferior-lisp-program..... 3

L

load-path..... 3

S

sldb-hook 27

slime-complete-symbol-function..... 26

slime-connected-hook..... 27

slime-filename-translations..... 26

slime-lisp-implementations..... 4

slime-mode-hook..... 27

slime-net-coding-system..... 26

SWANK:*COMMUNICATION-STYLE*..... 27

SWANK:*CONFIGURE-EMACS-INDENTATION*..... 28

SWANK:*DEDICATED-OUTPUT-STREAM-PORT*..... 29

SWANK:*GLOBAL-DEBUGGER*..... 28

SWANK:*GLOBALLY-REDIRECT-IO*..... 28

SWANK:*LOG-EVENTS*..... 29

SWANK:*MACROEXPAND-PRINTER-BINDINGS*..... 28

SWANK:*SLDB-PRINTER-BINDINGS*..... 28

SWANK:*SWANK-PPRINT-BINDINGS*..... 28

SWANK:*USE-DEDICATED-OUTPUT-STREAM*..... 28