

## Chapter 2

### *Problem Set:*

6. Because of the simple syntax of LISP, few syntax errors occur in LISP programs. Unmatched parentheses is the most common mistake.
7. The main reason why imperative features were put in LISP was to increase its execution efficiency.
10. The main motivation for the development of PL/I was to provide a single tool for computer centers that must support both scientific and commercial applications. IBM believed that the needs of the two classes of applications were merging, at least to some degree. They felt that the simplest solution for a provider of systems, both hardware and software, was to furnish a single hardware system running a single programming language that served both scientific and commercial applications.
11. IBM was, for the most part, incorrect in its view of the future of the uses of computers, at least as far as languages are concerned. Commercial applications are nearly all done in languages that are specifically designed for them. Likewise for scientific applications. On the other hand, the IBM design of the 360 line of computers was a great success--it still dominates the area of computers between supercomputers and minicomputers. Furthermore, 360 series computers and their descendants have been widely used for both scientific and commercial applications. These applications have been done, in large part, in Fortran and COBOL.
14. The argument for typeless languages is their great flexibility for the programmer. Literally any storage location can be used to store any type value. This is useful for very low-level languages used for systems programming. The drawback is that type checking is impossible, so that it is entirely the programmer's responsibility to insure that expressions and assignments are correct.
18. A good deal of restraint must be used in revising programming languages. The greatest danger is that the revision process will continually add new features, so that the language grows more and more complex. Compounding the problem is the reluctance, because of existing software, to remove obsolete features.
22. One situation in which pure interpretation is acceptable for scripting languages is when the amount of computation is small, for which the processing time will be negligible. Another situation is when the amount of computation is relatively small and it is done in an interactive environment, where the processor is often idle because of the slow speed of human interactions.
23. New scripting languages may appear more frequently than new compiled languages because they are often smaller and simpler and focused on more narrow applications, which means their libraries need not be nearly as large.