Why does the following code evaluate to #f

(eq? - (car '(-)))

One evaluates to - and the other evaluates to <builtin -(@>). Why?

Because - is defined as a function, while the (car '(-)) is a symbol.

If you want to check if they're equal I think the correct call would be (eq? '- (car '(-))) which should evaluate to true.

Ah. However, I don't that that's technically the semantically correct way to do it. I guess I didn't fully understand what the apostrophe did. It looks like (eq? - (car (list -))) seems to work. Thanks!

tsccrompton wrote on Sat, 20 February 2016 20:31

Ah. However, I don't that that's technically the semantically correct way to do it. I guess I didn't fully understand what the apostrophe did. It looks like (eq? ' - (car '(-))) seems to work. Thanks!

tsccrompton wrote on Sat, 20 February 2016 20:31

I don't follow. What's semantically incorrect about (eq? ' - (car '(-)))? The expression is asking, "does the symbol - start this list?".

If I do (define minus -), the following would evaluate to #f:
(eq? '- (car '(minus)))

Whereas, the following would evaluate to #t.

(eq? - (car (list minus)))


Subject: Re: Functional Equality
Posted by jarobinson3 on Mon, 22 Feb 2016 22:03:34 GMT

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Lets take a look at each separately,

Here is your first piece of code:

(eq? '- (car '(minus)))

This is a symbol (use symbol? to check)

'\-

This is a list (use list? to check) which contains a function called minus.

'(minus)

Does the symbol minus equal the function minus? I would say not.

Let's look at the second piece of code:

(eq? - (car (list minus)))

This is a function (builtin)

-\-

This is a list containing the function minus:

(list minus)

Since you defined minus to be - they are the same. So you should get true.


Subject: Re: Functional Equality
Posted by luslth on Mon, 22 Feb 2016 23:21:48 GMT

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(define minus -)
(eq? - (car (list minus)))

is the same as:
(define a 3)
(= 3 (car (list a)))

On the other hand:

(eq? '· (car '(minus)))

is the same as:

(eq? '· (car (list 'minus)))

The symbol - is not the same symbol as the symbol minus.