

# Hemlock

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# Hemlock

Emacs-style editor implemented in Common Lisp

## Lowering expectations

- ▶ Full replacement for GNU/X Emacs?  
No, and isn't going to be:  
Hemlock: 73 k lines of Common Lisp  
GNU Emacs: 320 k lines of C plus 332 k lines of Elisp
- ▶ Full replacement for SLIME?  
Not yet.
- ▶ "Self hosting"?  
Yes, I'm already using it to develop itself.

So how is this related to SBCL?

- ▶ Part of CMUCL, discarded when SBCL was forked.
- ▶ Now it's back.

# History

- ▶ Hemlock in 1992 probably better than ILISP in 2000.
- ▶ Apparently dead for most of the 90s.
- ▶ The resurrection by Gilbert Baumann:  
Portable Hemlock CVS starts in 2004  
also Robert Strandh, Daniel Barlow, Christophe Rhodes,  
Aleksandar Bakic

# Portable Hemlock

- ▶ Mostly portable
- ▶ Some features still CMUCL-specific.
- ▶ SLIME-like Lisp interaction mostly broken

## Since then

- ▶ SERVE-EVENT replaced with IOLIB
- ▶ Dired and file name completion ported to IOLIB
- ▶ Added a "connection" API for sockets and shell processes
- ▶ Repaired the TTY backend, porting it from termcap to terminfo
- ▶ CLX no longer needed to compile for TTY
- ▶ Experimental Qt backend
- ▶ M-x Start Slave Thread

## GUI feeling

- ▶ Pick the "best" design choices from Hemlock, ELI, SLIME
- ▶ Want a "traditional" REPL, more like Allegro/ELI than SLIME
- ▶ But pop up SLIME-like buffers on user request, e.g. stacktraces
- ▶ Keybindings: Improve finger memory.  
Break with Hemlock tradition and use GNU Emacs bindings where it makes sense.



# Goals

- ▶ More SLIME-like features.
- ▶ Improve Qt backend.