

CSC151.02 2014S, Class 30: Preconditions, Revisited

Overview

- Preliminaries.
 - Admin.
 - Questions.
- Topics.
 - Verifying preconditions.
 - The `error` procedure.
 - Husk and Kernel programming.
- Lab.

Preliminaries

Admin

- Pick new partners. Work with someone you have not worked with before.
- Extra review session tonight at 9 pm in tragic CS commons
- Extra credit:
 - ?

Upcoming Work

- Reading for tomorrow: Naming Local Procedures
- NO LAB WRITEUP TODAY
 - Was CSC 151 Writeup 20: Local Procedure Bindings
- Exam due THURSDAY night/Friday class.

Exam Questions

Verifying preconditions

- When we design procedures, we make assumptions about the inputs (and, maybe the state of the world).
 - (+ val0 val1 ... valn)
 - parameters must be real numbers
 - Error message when the precondition is not met
 - (largest values)
 - parameter must be a nonemptylist of real numbers

- (hshift-drawing amt drawing)
 - first parameter must be a real number
 - second parameter must be a drawing
- (image-fill! image)
 - parameter must be an image
 - potentially: must have something selected in the image
- What should happen if the assumptions (preconditions) don't hold?
 - If the preconditions are not met, the procedure must report an error
 - If the preconditions are not met, the procedure can do whatever it wants
 - "It's the user's fault." It must be a design by lawyers from Micro...
 - "You might get something cool."
 - It's expensive to check preconditions.

(define square (lambda (x) (* x x)))

(define square (lambda (x) (if (not (number? x)) (report-an-error "Excuse me, sir/maam/sam, but you seem to be confused about the appropriate input to this procedure.") (* x x))))

- Sam's conclusion: It doesn't matter which you do, as long as you document it.

The error procedure

(error "Message" additional values)

Husk and Kernel programming

- When you're iterating a list, you probably don't want to check the same preconditions at every step.
- Protect the part that does the work (the kernel) with one outer precondition check (the husk)

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