

Class 14: Recursion with Natural Numbers (1)

Held: Monday, 18 September 2006

Summary: Today we consider recursion over a different domain, that of the natural numbers.

Related Pages:

- EBoard.
- Lab: Numeric Recursion.
- Reading: Numeric Recursion.

Notes:

- Reminder: CS Extra Tomorrow: Reports from the Field.
- Homework 5 returned. Notes on the homework emailed.
- I'll leave time for questions on homework 6.

Overview:

- Writing Recursive Procedures.
- Short Introduction to Numeric Recursion.
- Lab.

Writing Recursive Procedures

- There seems to be some confusion on how you write recursive procedures yourself.
- We'll discuss these issues.
- The structure is not in the lab because I'm working on a reading.

Recursion with Numbers

- While most of the recursion we've been doing has used lists as the structure to recurse over, you can recurse with many different kinds of values.
- It is fairly common to recurse using numbers.
- The natural base cases for integers are when you hit 0 or when you hit 1.
- The natural simplification step for recursive procedure using numbers calls typically involves subtracting 1 from the argument.
 - Other simplifications, such as dividing in half, are also possible.

Lab

- Do the lab.

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