

335 Homework 1 by Suhyr Hasan

Due February 3rd

1. Give a) an example of a valid instance of the summation problem that is not a valid instance of the minimum problem, and b) vice-versa.

a) input : empty list ([])

output : 0 for summation, error due to invalid instance for minimum.

explanation: In summation, any empty list of numbers is valid, but for minimum, it requires a non-empty list instead, and so an error would occur as there are no numbers to compare each other with.

b) input: a list of chars (['a', 'b', 'c', 'd'])

output: 'a' for minimum, error due to invalid instance for summation only accepts numbers

explanation: In a minimum problem, a list of strings ['a', 'b', 'c', 'd'] is valid, but for summation, it requires a list of numbers instead, and so an error would occur since the input can't be summed up.

2. Each of the following snippets of pseudocode fails to live up to all of the clarity, correctness, and termination requirements of algorithms. In each case, describe the failing, and then rewrite the pseudocode as a proper algorithm. Hint: consult the checklist in section 2.3.

a) **for list:**

total = total + i

describe the failing: The function is missing inputs and outputs, it doesn't return anything, it uses undefined variables (i, total), and the function definition and name are missing

def sumItemsInList(list):

total = 0

for i in list

total = total + i

return total

b) **def long_division (numerator, denominator):**

quotient = numerator / denominator

remainder = numerator % denominator

describe the failing: The function doesn't return anything, it's using undefined variables (quotient, remainder) and the bases cases are not covered.

def long_division (numerator, denominator):

quotient = 0

remainder = 0

if(numerator == 0) **return** (0,0)

if(denominator == 0) **return** none

quotient = numerator / denominator

remainder = numerator % denominator

return (quotient,remainder)

3. Write a problem definition for each of the following problems.

a) Determining whether every element in a sequence is identical

all elements identical in sequence problem

input: a non-empty list L of n comparable objects, $n \geq 2$

outputs: if two or more elements are not identical or $n < 2$ return false, else return true

b) Determining whether two strings are identical

identical string problem

input: two strings str1 and str2

output: if str1 is identical to str2 return true, else return false