

Bug in provided Var test for HW7? Should Var respond to preprocess_prog ?

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This Ruby test is provided

```
v = Var.new("a")
v1 = v.eval_prog([[ "a", Point.new(THREE,FIVE) ]])
if not (v1.preprocess_prog == v1)
  puts "Var preprocess_prog should return self"
end
```

The test message doesn't seem to match the test code, as v1 is a Point, not a Var. It seems to be testing that Points are correctly preprocessed.

Should we really test this instead?

```
v.preprocess_prog == v
```

In other words, doesn't every expression and value, including each Var, have to be preprocessed *before* it is evaluated?

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[Peter Eriksen](#) COMMUNITY TA · 14 days ago 

> In other words, doesn't every expression and value, including each Var, have to be preprocessed *before* it is evaluated?

Yes, it's on page 4 in the assignment: Analogous to SML, an overall program `e` would be evaluated via `e.preprocess_prog.eval_prog []`.

The comment `"Var preprocess_prog should return self"` seems to suggest that it's supposed to test aliasing of the value returned by `preprocess_prog`. In that sense, `v.preprocess_prog == v` makes more sense (and removing the `v1` line completely).

I'll ask about it.

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David Corking · 13 days ago 🔗

The assignment of `v1` belongs to a different (and, I think, valid) test which I elided from my snippet.

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Dan Grossman STAFF · 14 days ago 🔗

I agree but won't be able to fix this for a couple days. As it is it's just not testing what it intended to.

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David Corking · 13 days ago 🔗

Thanks for clarifying. In the meantime, we students can add the correct test code to our personal test scripts.

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Dan Grossman STAFF · 13 days ago 🔗

I have now posted a corrected version, where both occurrences of `v1` in that line are now `v`. Note again the test as previously provided is "correct" but not "interesting" nor is the error message correct. The correction fixes all that. Always surprised when these things come up after so many people have done the assignment before without noticing. Thanks for letting us know!!

↑ 4 ↓ · flag



David Corking · 11 days ago 🔗

Thanks! Not too surprising. I guess I was doing TDD, and so I wanted code that tested each method individually. I tended to run the tests one-by-one in `irb`.

If, instead, you write the obvious code first, and get it right first time, as so many students

must have done, you won't see the error.

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