**Chapter 2 Quiz Solutions**

MTH 135

Fall 2013

1. **Make an educated guess as to the most common syntax error in LISP programs.**

Because of the simple syntax of LISP, few syntax errors occur in LISP programs. Unmatched parentheses is the most common mistake.

1. **Why do you think COBOL allows long identifiers when Fortran and ALGOL did not?**

COBOL allowed long identifier names because the designers of COBOL wanted the programs to be readable and understandable by managers and others without a background in computer programming.

1. **What would it mean to have a typeless language? What are the arguments both for and against the idea of a typeless language?**

A typeless language is one in which identifers do not have to be declared as any one data type. The argument for typeless languages is their great flexibility for the programmer. Literally any storage location can be used to store any type value. This is useful for very low-level languages used for systems programming. The drawback is that type checking is impossible, so that it is entirely the programmer's responsibility to insure that expressions and assignments are correct, thus it would not be a very reliable language.