Meeting 9: Operational Semantics

Today

- Preview Lab 3

- What to watch out for?
Announcements

- Lab 3 out and due Fri 10/2 to Sat 10/3.
- Prof. Chang is traveling on Thu 10/1.
- Lab 3 in-class exercise, Tue 10/6
- Midterm, Thu 10/8
  - No interviews or labs out during midterm week.
  - Lab 3 interviews following week of 10/12

Lab 2

Hours spent: 10.5 mean, 4.3 stdev, 10 median Difficulty (1-6): 4.5 mean, 0.86 stdev, 5 median

- Many are saying they’re having a good time (hard but learning a lot): "challenging to get going" but "once got the hang of it then not bad."

"I thought the hardest part was doing enough work before the assignment to have enough knowledge to approach the assignment. After that was done, the assignment itself wasn't too bad."

If you are thinking right now after lab, "I am still having a hard time understanding what the questions are asking," then you need to come talk to me. [Are you able to follow the course notes?]

Difficulties

- "grammar stuff" or "written part" -- what’s this for?
- eval recursion

Questions

- "This lab was a little tedious, trying to figure out how and when Javascript does type coercions and writing the corresponding tests, but I can see how it could be good practice." - no more after we learn about operational semantics!
- It is hard to "not only learn about the subject of the course but also to learn how to learn about this subject"
- How to create .ans -- jsy.sh

Suggestions

- "would have helped a lot with a quick overview of unit testing" -- good idea and ask!
- how to write up -- ask questions + interview grading
- "nice to have some guidance to the questions [to ask]"
Fun Comments

- "It was fairly smooth sailing up until we hit a score of 40, then troubleshooting and fixing bugs for those last few test cases took us about two extra days"
- "NaN is evil!"
- "the discussions in class make a good environment to learn but I somehow hope this course is a 2-hour course on Tuesday and Thursday"
- "Return types are so helpful! I would have never figured this out if it was Python"

```java
Debugging
this.debug = true
if (debug) println("...")
```