

Re: Response to Karen and to Willem on recursive proofs

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/General/comp.programming/2004-01/2439.html>

From: Willem (willem_at_stack.nl)

Date: 01/24/04

Date: Fri, 23 Jan 2004 23:05:05 +0000 (UTC)

)> I think you meant 'while (program_terminates()) { }',

Richard wrote:

) Nope. Sorry for not being clear; I thought it would be self-evident that I
) was describing the Halting Problem:

It was self-evident. But check out the word I underlined in the following
line (my previous reply).

)> otherwise I can simply prove that the loop doesn't terminate.

) ^^^^

) ...

)

) I think you actually said it correctly the first time – after all, you
) included the weasel-word "usually", which made it all okay. I was just
) shooting the moon.

There are real-world programs where it's actually quite difficult to prove
that they terminate. Sometimes you need to prove one or more difficult
mathematical theorems, involving advanced set-theory or something like
that.

SaSW, Willem

--

Disclaimer: I am in no way responsible for any of the statements
made in the above text. For all I know I might be
drugged or something..

No I'm not paranoid. You all think I'm paranoid, don't you !

#EOT