

CS 61A: Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs

Exit Information

Final Exam

The final exam will not include questions about the *implementation details* of the analyzing evaluator, the lazy evaluator, or the nondeterministic evaluator. You *are* expected to understand the behavior of these evaluators as seen by the user, e.g., to write short programs using them, or to be able to work out the result of a computation using them.

The same is true about the query evaluator, except that we do want you to understand the idea of unification. For example, you should be able to unify two simple patterns by hand and show the results. You shouldn't memorize the details of our particular implementation of unification.

On the other hand, you *should* be familiar with the implementation of the plain metacircular evaluator, and of the Logo interpreter you wrote in Project 4. That doesn't mean you have to memorize every detail of the code, but it means that if shown part of the code you should be able to read it and understand what it does. Past exam questions have asked students to add a new feature to one of these evaluators.

We are required by university policy to keep your final exam paper. You may examine your paper; it will be on file in 385 Soda Hall after the grades are online. We may not, by university policy, change your final exam score after the grades have been filed. (The only exception is that we can correct an arithmetic error in adding up your points.)

Be a Lab Assistant!

If you enjoyed 61A and did well in it, please consider helping the next generation of students by serving as a lab assistant. Jenny Jones, in 339 Soda, maintains the lab assisting schedule; see her to sign up. But please come as much as you can during the first week, which is particularly in need of help, with people struggling with the details of logging in, using Emacs, and so on. You can, if you want, get academic credit in CS 300, Teaching Practice, for this work at the rate of one unit per three hours per week.

If you are a woman or minority student, you're particularly invited to be a lab assistant in order to provide a role model for next year's students to help improve our retention rate for women and minorities in EECS.

You can also apply to be a reader—someone who is paid to grade homework and projects. Since these are paid positions, we ordinarily get more applicants than we can hire, and priority goes to people who have previously been lab assistants in the course. You apply online, using the form at

<http://www.eecs.berkeley.edu/forms>

We do also hire undergraduate TAs for this course, but there is essentially no chance that you'll be hired without prior experience as a lab assistant and/or as a reader. We are required to hire all the EECS graduate student candidates before we can hire any undergraduates as TAs.

Letters of Recommendation

This will not be an immediate issue for most of you, but eventually you will be looking for letters of recommendation for jobs, graduate school, etc. I'm willing to write such letters, but unless I know you particularly well, you'd do better to choose a professor from a smaller class that you take later. That's because (1) all I really know about you is your grade, and that's already on your transcript; (2) people will expect letters about more advanced courses, not lower division ones; (3) I'm a lecturer, the lowest of academic ranks; and (4) probably they get tired of seeing a lot of similar-looking letters from me for so many students!

Best of all is if you get letters from professors for whom you've done research projects, so you should be looking for such opportunities as soon as you finish the 61ABC sequence.

The exception is if I or a TA gets to know you individually over a period of time, because you work as a lab assistant, or you've done something particularly remarkable in the course. In that case, a letter from me is sensible. (It doesn't help, by the way, for you to give me your resume; I can only write about the things I know about you directly.) If it's a TA who knows you well, ask the TA to write the letter and give it to me to co-sign. In this case, get the letter *now*, before the TA graduates, and while s/he still remembers you!