

Why Programming is a Good Medium for Expressing Poorly Understood and Sloppily Formulated Ideas

by
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Expressing methodology in a computer language forces it to be unambiguous and computationally effective. The task of formulating a method as a computer-executable program and debugging that program is a powerful exercise in the learning process. The programmer expresses his/her poorly understood or sloppily formulated idea in a precise way, so that it becomes clear what is poorly understood or sloppily formulated. Also, once formalized procedurally, a mathematical idea becomes a tool that can be used directly to compute results.

I will defend this viewpoint with examples and demonstrations from electrical engineering and from classical mechanics.

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All are welcome.

