

335 Let a and b be rational variables. Define procedure P as

$P = \langle x, y: \text{rat} \cdot \mathbf{if} \ x=0 \ \mathbf{then} \ a:=x \ \mathbf{else} \ a:=x \times y. \ a:=a \times y \ \mathbf{fi} \rangle$

(a) What is the exact precondition for $a'=b'$ to be refined by $P \ a \ (1/b)$?

(b) Discuss the difference between “eager” and “lazy” evaluation of arguments as they affect both the theory of programming and programming language implementation.

§ see “[a Theory of Lazy Imperative Timing](#)”