

Artificial Intelligence Project--RLE and MIT Computation Center
Memo 26--Errorset

by

Michael Levin

Errorset is a function available to the interpreter and compiler for making a graceful retreat from an error condition encountered during a subroutine.

errorset[e;n;m] is a function of three arguments. e is a form to be evaluated. n is the number of conses to be permitted before an error should be indicated. m is the mode of operation; T if error diagnostics are to be printed, F if they are to be suppressed.

Errorset computes eval[e;NIL]. Since e is evaluated once before errorset sees it, it may need to be quoted. The value of errorset is a list of the value of e, that is, [eval[e;NIL];NIL].

If an error condition occurs during the errorset evaluation of e, errorset will return the value NIL. Too many conses will be treated as an error.

During an errorset, the cons counter will be decremented whether it is turned on or off. An error condition will result when either the original value of the cons counter is reduced to zero, or the number specified in the errorset has been reduced to zero. Whether an error was encountered or not, the cons counter will be left at its original value minus the number of conses actually used, when errorset is completed. The on-off status of the cons counter will be as it was before entering the errorset.

Errorset may be used recursively.

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