Review of: "[Commentary] Programming and Kant"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The exhibition presents a fascinating exploration of the relationship between Immanuel Kant's philosophical concepts and the contemporary field of programming. The author draws a compelling analogy between Kant's seminal works, such as the Critique of Pure Reason, the Critique of Practical Reason, and the Critique of Judgment, and various aspects of programming, such as data abstraction, intuition, and coding conventions.

The discourse begins by highlighting the similarities between the dichotomy of data and model layers in programming and the Kantian exploration of intuition and enlightenment. This initial comparison sets the stage for a nuanced analysis that highlights the abstract nature of data, mirroring Kant's principles. The author deftly weaves an episodic narrative that advances through Kant's philosophical framework, effectively linking it to the layers and processes within the programming.

The inclusion of Nicolai Hartmann's ontological developments adds a layer of depth to the discussion, providing a broader philosophical context for understanding the ontological foundations of programming. This connection enhances the overall coherence of the text and demonstrates a laudable effort to ground the exploration in established philosophical thought.

The text successfully extends the analogy to the Critique of Practical Reason, introducing a reflexive comparison between Kant's moral law and the possible universality of coding conventions. This connection elevates the discourse, emphasizing the ethical dimensions of programming practices and suggesting a collective obligation within the programming community. The text effectively interweaves Kantian moral imperatives with coding conventions, instigating a reflection on the broader ethical implications of programming.

However, I want to critically point out a possible misinterpretation of the postulation of universals from Kant's categorical imperatives in the realm of programming. My argument is that the universality of coding aligns more with linguistic or game structures than with moral imperatives. I believe this brings valuable nuance to the discussion, encouraging a reconsideration of the strict equivalence between programming conventions and moral principles.

The text concludes by aligning the Critique of Judgment with the aesthetic attributes of code, suggesting a philosophical search for the 'ultimate good code'. This connection between the Kantian exploration of beauty and the organic attributes of code adds a whimsical yet profound dimension to the discourse, encouraging a contemplation of the aesthetic elements inherent in the act of coding.

In sum, the text presents a captivating exploration of the intersection between Kantian philosophy and programming,

weaving a narrative that deftly connects the abstract concepts of data, intuition, and coding conventions. The inclusion of ontological perspectives and critical commentary enhances the depth of the text and makes it an outstanding contribution to the philosophical discourse on programming.