Review of: "[Commentary] Programming and Kant"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Review:

The exposition skillfully navigates the intersection of Immanuel Kant's philosophical principles and contemporary programming paradigms, drawing insightful parallels between Kant's Critique of Pure Reason, Critique of Practical Reason, and Critique of Judgment and the layers of data, intuition, and coding conventions in programming. The narrative effectively presents a layered analysis, starting with the abstraction of data in programming mirrored in Kant's discourse on intuition and enlightenment.

The comparison of the data-model layer dichotomy to Kantian notions of intuition and formalism is intriguing, providing a fresh perspective on the abstract nature of data. The exploration of the Critique of Practical Reason introduces a compelling analogy between Kant's moral law and the potential universality of coding conventions within the programming community. The suggestion of an ethical coding practice as a collective obligation adds depth to the discussion, connecting philosophical principles to practical programming ethics.

However, the review notes a potential misunderstanding in the postulation of universals from Kant's categorical imperatives in programming. It rightly argues that the imperative to code universally aligns more with the linguistic or game-like nature of programming than with moral action. This critique adds nuance to the discussion, emphasizing that programming conventions, while important, should not be strictly equated with moral imperatives.

The narrative concludes by aligning the Critique of Judgment with the aesthetic attributes of code, proposing a philosophical quest for the 'ultimate good code.' This connection between Kant's exploration of beauty and the organic attributes of code contributes to a whimsical yet profound reflection within the digital realm.

The review offers valuable insights by referencing the ontological developments of Nicolai Hartmann and their application to the ontology of programming, providing a broader philosophical context. However, it suggests a potential misinterpretation of Kant's imperatives in the context of programming, urging a more nuanced understanding of universals and coding conventions.

In summary, the exposition effectively bridges the realms of philosophy and programming, offering a thought-provoking exploration of the parallels between Kant's critiques and the intricacies of code. The integration of ontological perspectives enriches the analysis, and the critical commentary adds a layer of depth to the overall discussion.