CS405 Introduction to Empirical Modelling
Lab 8: drawSlide – an drag-drop aid for the creation of Scout windows

This lab session with introduce you to drawSlide, a tool which can aid in the creation of Scout windows. Find the material for this lab session in `/dcs/emp/empublic/teaching/cs405/lab8/`.

For this lab sheet, you should have studied the handout "drawSlide - a drag-and-drop tool for Scout window creation and manipulation" which explains the operation and limitations of the drawSlide tool.

1 Learning how to build new models

In the coursework you will be required to construct your own model using the tkeden tool. This exercise is designed to give you some experience in constructing your own model from the very beginning. The details of the executing this task are deliberately vague to ensure you have the necessary knowledge to successfully develop models using tkeden. **Please ask the tutors for any advice on any details of the tools and notations that you are unsure about**.

Task 1

Recall the calculator notation in the agent-oriented parser (AOP) from lab 6. Including the file `calc.aop` will introduce the %calc notation.

Construct, using the drawSlide tool, an interface to the calculator notation capable of performing integer addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. You may need to modify the original %calc notation.

The interface should consist of at least a button for each of the digits, the four arithmetic operations and equals. A display showing the current calculation should also be given.

Things to consider and discuss with the tutors as you build your model:

- Do you construct the interface to the model first, followed by the underlying mechanism? Or vice-versa?
- Do you build your model interactively or by saving definitions into a text file?
- drawSlide has limitations with regard to saving the models that you build – how can you record the definitions as they are created for future use? *Hint: all drawSlide observables being 'DS_'.*

2 Revision history

This lab sheet was originally written for CS405 in November 2005.