CSCI1410 Grading Policy

Fall 2017

1 Coding

1.1 Scoring a Submission

The coding portions of the assignments will be autograded: as soon as the assignment due date passes, we will automatically run all submissions against our test suite. Your score will be computed according to a rubric that we will distribute to you with each assignment. Below is an excerpt from an example rubric:

\[
\text{bfs [20]} \\
\quad \text{----produces correct outputs [10]} \\
\quad \text{--------produces correct solution paths [5]} \\
\quad \text{--------produces shortest-length solution paths [5]} \\
\quad \text{----states are expanded in a breadth-first order [10]}
\]

Each rubric contains categories (e.g., “bfs” and “produces correct outputs”) and atomic items (e.g., “produces correct solution paths” and “states are expanded in a breadth-first order”). You can recognize an item as having no subcategories and its score total aligned with the score totals of other items.

For each item, a submission will earn either full points, if it passes all of the tests associated with that item, or no points, if it fails any of the tests. Its total score is the sum of its scores on the items.

1.2 Resubmission Policy

To compensate for the black-and-white nature of autograding, we offer a generous resubmission policy. Each assignment is due on a Monday, and you have 3 full days, until the following Thursday under normal circumstances, to resubmit your assignment. Just after 11:59pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, we will automatically grade your most recent resubmission. Your final score will be determined according to the following equation:

\[
0.2 \cdot \text{original} + \text{WEIGHT} \cdot \text{best} \tag{1}
\]
where original is the score of your original submission, best is the score of your best submission that we have graded, and WEIGHT depends on the number of resubmissions we have graded for you. If we have graded 0 or 1 resubmissions, \( WEIGHT = 0.8 \); if we have graded 2 resubmissions, \( WEIGHT = 0.7 \); and if we have graded 3 resubmissions, \( WEIGHT = 0.6 \). In addition, we guarantee that your final score will never decrease between submissions.

### 1.2.1 Examples

- You submit 2 times (1 resubmission) and earn 50 and 100, respectively. Your final score is \( 0.2 \cdot 50 + 0.8 \cdot 100 = 90 \).

- You submit 4 times (3 resubmissions) and earn 70, 40, 90, and 100, respectively.
  - After your second submission, your score is \( 0.2 \cdot 70 + 0.8 \cdot 70 = 70 \).
  - After your third submission, you score is \( 0.2 \cdot 70 + 0.7 \cdot 90 = 77 \).
  - After your fourth submission, your score would be \( 0.2 \cdot 70 + 0.6 \cdot 100 = 74 \), but since we guarantee that your final score will not decrease between submissions, your final score is 77.

### 1.2.2 Advice

- Be certain that you understand exactly what the code you write is supposed to do. The course staff is happy to answer clarification questions on Piazza or at TA hours.

- Be certain that your code works as you expect it to. Maintain a suite of tests that you run before each submission you make.

- Note that due to the grading policy, your second resubmission will never increase your final score if your best submission so far earned at least \( \frac{7}{8} \) of the points, and your third resubmission will never increase your final score if your best submission so far earned at least \( \frac{6}{7} \) of the points (see the second example above for an illustration of this).

### 1.2.3 Lateness

The resubmission policy works as a built-in late policy; if you don’t submit on time, you will simply earn a 0 on your original submission and have a chance to “re”-submit.

If you are seriously ill, experience a tragedy, or have another good reason for which you will not be able to complete your work on time, email Professor Konidaris and request an extension. An extension will move your original deadline, so you will not be penalized for handing in the assignment late, and you will still have a window of 3 days after your new deadline to resubmit.
1.3 Coding Grade Complaints

If you are suspicious that the autograder has not graded your code properly, follow this procedure:

1. Verify with a TA, either at hours or over Piazza, that you understand both the ostensible reason for which you lost points and the specifications of that part of the assignment.

2. Document the inputs and outputs of tests of your code that show that it achieves the desired functionality. Use Python’s \texttt{assert} to write your tests. Here is an example, with a test for a function “plus”:

   ```python
   assert plus(1, 2) == 3
   ```

3. In an email to \texttt{cs1410tas@lists.brown.edu}, indicate the TA with whom you completed step 1, and include Python files with only the code in question and its tests.

We will only acknowledge grade complaints by students who have followed this process. The process exists because we only have time to look into code-related grade complaints that are caused by legitimate bugs in our system, not by misunderstandings or sloppy testing.

2 Written Work

The written work that you submit will be graded by hand. Often, it will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- \textbf{accuracy} — Are the things that you have written \textit{true}? Have you demonstrated an understanding of the relevant concepts?

- \textbf{precision} — Are the things that you have written \textit{unambiguous}? Is the reader always certain what you mean? Do you address the exact prompt, or do you effectively address a slightly different prompt?

- \textbf{completeness} — Did you address all points of the prompt? If you are describing a method, does the reader have no unanswered questions about what you did? Could they replicate what you did?

- \textbf{persuasiveness} — Does the reader feel convinced by your arguments? If you are describing a method, does the reader feel confident that your method works, without actually trying it? Is your method well-tested?

It is possible to earn partial credit for partially meeting the criteria.
2.1 Written Work Anonymity

We grade anonymously for the purpose of fairness. To that end, please do not put your name or CS login on your written work. Instead, please use your Banner ID as an identifier.

2.2 Written Work Resubmission and Lateness

Only the first submission of your written work will be scored. You may not re-submit written work. However, you may submit the written work until Thursday at 11:59pm following the due date of the assignment with no penalty. Submissions of written work after Thursday at 11:59pm will not be accepted in the absence of an extension.

2.3 Written Work Grade Complaints

To contest a grade, attend the TA hours of the TA who graded you. If you cannot attend their hours, attend the TA hours of the head TA (Vince).

No other TA has the authority to change or even comment on your grade.