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Creative Coding

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Midterm Assessment

Through nearly two months studies of the course Creative Coding, I learned a lot, and harvested a lot. I especially like the creative shapes and patterns professor taught us every class, and the critique session of classmates' midterm projects. Those activities not only reveal where my classmates are but also broaden my horizons on reviewing, commenting others work, and to gain something from their works. Although this class really has a lot of fun, it also contains many difficulties that should be overcame by self.

About the difficulties I encountered. I didn't have a firm base of programming before, so in the middle part of the course I found that it's hard for me to catch up with the ideas related to Java or Javascript. Initially, simply drawing shapes and filling shapes with color seem not a big deal for me; however, with the gradual deepening of the course, sometimes some basic ideas will struck me, for example, I know how it should be executed, how I should write it, how to organize the code in what orders… but just don't know why I should do it in this way. I guess it's due to the unfamiliarity of coding. Compared to my other CS class, this one is more colorful, and at the same time, more challenging. I didn't spend much time on the programming concepts, (sometimes is because they are abstract and hard to understand), and actually, I spared efforts on

actual coding with the homework and project. I will look at the Language Reference provided by Processing or P5.js, and try to apply some interesting orders in my work. Virtually, practically playing with the code do help me getting more familiar with the softwares, and also help me getting more creative ideas with the wild scope it offered. In my midterm project, I tried to use something a little ahead of the course content, which I discovered some artists used in the generative design, the PVector, so I looked at some videos talking about it on Youtube, and combine with the textbook to finish my project. I guess that's an aspect of benefit of actual coding.

I should spend more time reading the textbook, that's the thing I've always been thinking after my midterm project. Although the textbooks are full of words that sometimes cause me mind distracting, the basic programming formula and background knowledge are important for the future studies.

My success. I would regard my every successful attempt at making what I want as success. For instance, finishing the homework, drawing out an awkward shape. The frustrations came with the errors while running. Processing and P5.js are wonderful tools for sketching out our ideas, and the best thing is that we can immediately receive results. I really love the softwares and I will keep working hard on refining my skill. And try to dive in to the textbook to solve the confusion I had before.