How to use the autograder: for dummies.

First Time Only:

1. Make an autograder folder (probably in your TA folder)
2. Inside that folder, make a copies folder
3. Track down the grader files (MINOS, grade\_report, etc) (there are like 20 of them) and keep them somewhere safe, you’ll need them.

Initial t-square stuff:

1. Go to t-square
2. Go to cs-1371
3. Go to assignments
4. Click on the #/# link of the assignment you want to grade
5. Click download all
6. Select all
7. It should automatically download… but you might need to click the link that says you want to download all
8. Extract it to your autograder folder

While that’s happening….

1. Find the rubric/solutions/extra files (file i/o, images, etc)
2. Look at the rubric. Really, look at it.
3. Make sure that, for each problem, it looks like ‘blank rubric\_normalHW’
   1. This is important. The autograder uses LL file i/o. Extra lines/ spaces kill it.
4. Things to look for
   1. Exactly one line in between ======= lines
   2. Test Case 1: X points (cap/plural important)
   3. Extra spaces at end of line
   4. Each test case is run individually, this means that variables used in each test case need to be there. You can’t have an array just written once at the top and expect to use it in each test case.
5. \*\*Important for cell or file i/o weeks\*\*
   1. Look at their respective blank rubrics. You tell the autograder if you’re grading cells or files because it handles those differently.

Okay. So the rubric should be good now.

1. Save the rubric in the Homework X folder you extracted to the autograder folder
2. In the Homework X folder, make a ‘Copy Files’ folder and a ‘Solutions’ folder. (keep caps/plural same)
3. In Solutions: Throw all of the solutions in there. Don’t forget about the ABCs
4. In Copy Files: Throw in any files that the rubric needs. This is really only important for file i/o or images… Everything in this file gets copied to each student’s directory. So, uh, don’t put the solutions in there. You’d think that would be self-explanatory… some people.
5. Copy all of the grader files into the Homework X folder.

You’re ready to start grading!

1. Navigate to the Homework X folder in MATLAB
2. In the command window type: MINOS(‘rubricName.txt’, true, true, false)
   1. 1st input: Parses the file and throws in an infinite loop checker. Doesn’t really matter until the iteration week, but just get in the habit…
   2. 2nd input: Copies all the copy files into the student directories
   3. 3rd input: Deletes everything. Don’t do that. This should always be false. I don’t know why this exists. We have a separate function that does deleting later.
3. Chances are, it’s going to error. (Maybe not if you followed my steps really well)
   1. It writes this really nice solnerrors.txt file in the Solutions folder. Generally, it’s just syntax stuff.
   2. \*\*If a student’s code breaks the autograder, go to their code, and write “error(‘something here like “you suck, you broke the autograder” …not really. But something’)” so that the autograder can continue. This doesn’t happen often, but it does happen.\*\*
4. Run MINOS(‘rubricname.txt’, false, false, false) and check until it works. (false, false, false because you don’t need to parse/copy more than once).
5. Once it’s done writing the grade file, you can call grade\_report(‘rubricname.txt’) and it will plot averages. This is the fun part
   1. Generally, if the average is less than 50% it’s the autograder’s fault… except spring 2013. Those grades just sucked.
   2. Here’s what I do:
      1. Open the GradeReport.xls file (this shows you each student and their scores broken up by question)
      2. If there is a question without a single 100, it’s definitely the autograder’s fault (or a shoddy test case)
      3. I look for someone who has all 100’s except for the problem in question. And open their grade.txt file.
         1. In MATLAB, go to the student>feedback attachments>grade.txt
      4. Hopefully you can figure out what’s going on.
6. Once the grades are good, make a copy of the whole Homework X file into the Copies folder you made in your autograder folder. This is in case of the event you have to do a mass regrade or something.
7. Run delete\_files(). Hit y. This deletes all the submissions of the students.
8. Delete all the grader files except grades.csv

We’re done with MATLAB. Yay.

1. Zip your Homework X file.
2. Go to t-square> CS 1371> Assignments> #/# for homework X> upload all
3. Browse for the .zip file you just made.
4. Select grade file and feedback attachments.
5. Select release information.
6. Upload! And we’re done. Now you just get to wait until t-square processes. If you have more than 1 t-square tab open, it could cause issues, so maybe don’t do that.

We’re done! Yay! Good job. High five.