Class: CS2040
Professor: Dr. Hasker
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Lab 1 – Report

What did you learn from doing this lab?

I learned first and foremost how to work with ruby and the general syntax of ruby. I also learned how to interface with the command prompt and a couple useful command prompt tricks. Specifically, I learned how to write loops, conditionals, functions as well as other various syntactical challenges in Ruby. Another thing I learned is that the syntax of Ruby is quite similar to the syntax in python. I found familiarity between the two when formatting Strings as well as when I would have to self-assign numbers. Finally, one thing that was interesting to me was putting the keyword 'end' at the end of conditionals. I haven't seen any other language where a keyword is needed to end a conditional.

What did you find challenging about the lab?

The hardest part by far was the formatting of the numbers. Getting the numbers to match the output given in esubmit was challenging and took the most time. Another challenging part for me was to figure out the syntax of the language. The latter was not so bad, because of websites like stackoverflow and ruby documentation. Lastly, one point of difficulty for me was the division by 0. This was however also easily fixed with a conditional.

What would you recommend changing if this lab is reused in future years?

One thing I would recommend if this lab were reused in future years is to expand the test cases to include invalid numbers as well. This would make the conditional logic a little bit more challenging and would force people to group together conditions. In the way the test cases are set up now, you do not have to worry about invalid numbers. Another thing I would recommend is even though indentation is not required to push students in the direction of readability and the use of indentation and good coding style.