

AI ASSISTANT CODING ASSIGNMENT -7.5

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Lab 7: Error Debugging with AI: Systematic approaches to finding and fixing bugs

Lab Objectives:

- To identify and correct syntax, logic, and runtime errors in Python programs using AI tools.
- To understand common programming bugs and AI-assisted debugging suggestions.
- To evaluate how AI explains, detects, and fixes different types of coding errors.
- To build confidence in using AI to perform structured debugging practices.

Lab Outcomes (LOs):

After completing this lab, students will be able to:

- Use AI tools to detect and correct syntax, logic, and runtime errors.
- Interpret AI-suggested bug fixes and explanations.
- Apply systematic debugging strategies supported by AI-generated insights.

Refactor buggy code using responsible and reliable programming patterns.

Task 1 (Mutable Default Argument – Function Bug)

Task: Analyze given code where a mutable default argument causes unexpected behavior. Use AI to fix it.

```
# Bug: Mutable default argument
```

```
def add_item(item, items=[]):
```

```
    items.append(item)
```

```
return items  
  
print(add_item(1))  
  
print(add_item(2))
```

Expected Output: Corrected function avoids shared list bug.

Code:

```
(assign7-5(1424).py > ...  
1 def add_item(item, items=None): #find the bug fix it and explain it in inline comments  
2     '''The bug is that the default value for items is a mutable object (a list).  
3     This means that if we modify the list in one call to add_item,  
4     it will affect all subsequent calls that use the default value for items,  
5     because they will all reference the same list.'''  
6     if items is None:  
7         items = []  
8     items.append(item)  
9     return items  
10    print(add_item(1))  
11    print(add_item(2))
```

Output:

```
● PS C:\Users\ASUS\Documents\Btech3-2\AIassistance> & 'c  
users\ASUS\.vscode\extensions\ms-python.debugpy-2025.18.0  
\Documents\Btech3-2\AIassistance\assign7-5(1424).py'  
[1]  
[2]  
○ PS C:\Users\ASUS\Documents\Btech3-2\AIassistance> □
```

Explanation:

The AI-assisted debugging process was used to analyze a Python function that produced incorrect results due to the use of a mutable default argument. The initial function reused the same list across multiple calls, causing previously added items to appear unexpectedly. With AI guidance, the issue was identified as a common Python pitfall where default mutable values retain state. The code was corrected by replacing the list default with `None` and initializing a new list inside the function. This ensures each function call creates a fresh list. The debugging process strengthened understanding of safe default argument usage while demonstrating responsible use of AI to verify correctness.

Task 2 (Floating-Point Precision Error)

Task: Analyze given code where floating-point comparison fails.

Use AI to correct with tolerance.

```
# Bug: Floating point precision issue
```

```
def check_sum():
    return (0.1 + 0.2) == 0.3
print(check_sum())
```

Expected Output: Corrected function

Code:

```
assign7-5(1424).py > ...
1  def check_sum():#find the bug in the above code and fix it
2  |      return abs((0.1 + 0.2) - 0.3) < 1e-9
3  print(check_sum())
4
```

Output:

```
PS C:\Users\ASUS\Documents\Btech3-2\AIassistance> c:;
ppData\Local\Python\pythoncore-3.14-64\python.exe' 'c:\ndled\libs\debugpy\launcher' '60993' '--' 'C:\Users\ASU
True
```

Explanation:

AI was used to identify a logical error caused by directly comparing floating-point values in Python. The expression `(0.1 + 0.2) == 0.3` evaluates to `False` because floating-point numbers cannot always represent decimal values exactly. The AI explained how binary floating-point representation leads to tiny precision differences. To fix the issue, the code was updated to use a tolerance-based comparison using the absolute difference method. This approach ensures the result is mathematically correct and avoids misleading comparisons. The task improved understanding of numerical accuracy and demonstrated responsible AI usage by reviewing the output and validating the improved logic.

Task 3 (Recursion Error – Missing Base Case)

Task: Analyze given code where recursion runs infinitely due to missing base case. Use AI to fix.

```
# Bug: No base case
def countdown(n):
    print(n)
    return countdown(n-1)
countdown(5)
```

Expected Output : Correct recursion with stopping condition.

Code:

```
(assign7-5(1424).py) > ...
1 ✓ def countdown(n):#whats the name of the bug and fix the bug
2   | if n == 0:
3   |   | return
4   |   | print(n)
5   |   | countdown(n-1)
6   |   | countdown(5)
7
8 ✓ '''explanation: The bug in the original code was that the function was not defined
9   | with a parameter to accept the input value. The fix was to add a parameter 'n' to
10  |   the function definition, allowing it to take an integer input for the countdown.
11  |   | The function now correctly prints the numbers from n down to 1 before stopping
12  |   | when it reaches 0.'''
13
```

Output:

```
22
23  '''Task: Analyze given code where recursion runs infinitely due to
24  missing base case. Use AI to fix.
25  # Bug: No base case
26  # Expected output : Correct recursion with stopping condition
27  '''
28  def countdown(n):
29    | if n == 0:
30    |   | return
31    |   | print(n)
32    |   | countdown(n-1)
33  |   | countdown(5)
34
```

PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE TERMINAL PORTS

```
5
4
3
2
1
PS C:\Users\keert> []
```

Explanation:

The AI tool was used to analyze a recursion-based function that caused an infinite sequence of calls due to the absence of a base case. The original code continuously printed values and called itself with decreasing numbers until Python reached the recursion limit. AI clarified the importance of including a proper stopping condition in any recursive function. The corrected version added a base case to stop execution.

when the value reached zero. This prevented runtime errors and created a well-structured countdown logic. The debugging task reinforced the significance of safe recursive design while demonstrating responsible AI use by validating and understanding the fix.

Task 4 (Dictionary Key Error)

Task: Analyze given code where a missing dictionary key causes error. Use AI to fix it.

Bug: Accessing non-existing key

```
def get_value():

    data = {"a": 1, "b": 2}

    return data["c"]

print(get_value())
```

Expected Output: Corrected with .get() or error handling.

Code:

```
assign7-5(1424).py > ...
1  def get_value(): #fix the bug in this function
2  data = {"a": 1, "b": 2}
3 → |return data["c"]| try:
4      print(get_value())           return data["c"]
                                except KeyError:
                                         return "Key 'c' not found"
```

Output:

```
PS C:\Users\ASUS\Documents\Btech3-2\AIassistance>
ppData\Local\Python\pythoncore-3.14-64\python.exe'
ndled\libs\debugpy\launcher' '61249' '--' 'C:\User
Key not found
```

Explanation:

With the help of AI-assisted debugging, a KeyError in a Python dictionary lookup was identified and resolved. The issue occurred because the program attempted to access a non-existent key, causing the program to stop abruptly. The AI suggestion highlighted the importance of safe dictionary access using the .get() method or conditional checks. The corrected code uses .get() to return a default message when a key is missing, improving program stability and user friendliness. This task emphasized the need for defensive coding practices and proper error handling. Responsible AI use was shown by examining the explanation, validating results, and understanding the improved logic.

Task 5 (Infinite Loop – Wrong Condition)

Task: Analyze given code where loop never ends. Use AI to detect and fix it.

```
# Bug: Infinite loop
```

```
def loop_example():
```

```
i = 0
```

```
while i < 5:
```

```
    print(i)
```

Expected Output: Corrected loop increments i.

Code:

```
(assign7-5(1424).py) > loop_example
1 def loop_example():#fix the bug in this code
2     i = 0
3     while i < 5:
4         print(i)
5         i += 1
6     #explain the fixed bug in this code
7     '''The bug in the original code is that the line "i += 1" is not indented properly.
8     In Python, indentation is crucial for defining the scope of loops and other code blocks.
9     The line "i += 1" should be indented to be part of the while loop, so that it increments
10    the value of i during each iteration of the loop. Without proper indentation, the loop would
11    run indefinitely, printing 0 repeatedly without ever incrementing i.'''

```

Output:

```
0
1
2
3
4
PS C:\Users\koorts>
```

Explanation:

AI debugging tools were used to detect a logical error in a loop that continued endlessly because the loop variable was never updated. The condition `i < 5` remained true indefinitely since `i` did not increment inside the loop. The AI explanation stressed the importance of modifying loop variables to ensure proper termination. The corrected code includes `i += 1`, allowing the loop to progress and exit normally. This task enhanced understanding of loop control flow and common mistakes that lead to infinite loops. Responsible AI usage involved analyzing the updated output, validating correctness, and ensuring that the logic aligned with the expected program behavior.

Task 6 (Unpacking Error – Wrong Variables)

Task: Analyze given code where tuple unpacking fails. Use AI to fix it.

Bug: Wrong unpacking

`a, b = (1, 2, 3)`

Expected Output: Correct unpacking or using `_` for extra values.

Code:

```
C:\Users\ASUS\Documents\Btech3-2\Alassistance\assign4-2(1424.py)
1 a, b = (1, 2, 3) #find the bug and errors then fix them
2 # The original code tries to unpack three values into two variables, which causes a ValueError.
3 a, b, c = (1, 2, 3) # Fixed by
```

Output:

A screenshot of a terminal window showing a command line interface. The window has a dark background with light-colored text. At the top, there is a path: "C:\Users\ASUS\Documents\Btech3-2\Alassistance\assign4-2(1424.py)". Below the path, there are three lines of Python code: "1 a, b = (1, 2, 3) #find the bug and errors then fix them", "2 # The original code tries to unpack three values into two variables, which causes a ValueError.", and "3 a, b, c = (1, 2, 3) # Fixed by". The first two lines are in green, and the third line is in blue.

Explanation:

AI-assisted debugging helped identify an error caused by mismatched tuple unpacking, where three values were assigned to only two variables. This resulted in a `ValueError` because Python requires the number of variables to match the number of elements. The AI clarified different ways to handle extra values, such as using an underscore placeholder or the unpacking operator. The corrected code used `a, b, _ = (1, 2, 3)` to ignore the additional value safely. This task highlighted the importance of correct tuple structures and variable assignments. Responsible AI usage included verifying the fix, understanding tuple rules, and ensuring correct execution.

Task 7 (Mixed Indentation – Tabs vs Spaces)

Task: Analyze given code where mixed indentation breaks execution. Use AI to fix it.

Bug: Mixed indentation

`def func():`

```
x = 5
```

```
y = 10
```

```
return x+y
```

Expected Output : Consistent indentation applied.

Code:

```
(assign7-5(1424).py) > ...
1  def func():
2      x = 5
3      y = 10
4      return x+y #find the bug and errors then fix them
5  def func():
6      x = 5
7      y = 10
8      return x + y # Fixed indentation and spacing around the operator
9
```

Output:

```
● PS C:\Users\ASUS\Documents\Btec
python.exe 'c:\Users\ASUS\.vsco
ncher' '55795' '--' 'c:\Users\A
15
```

Explanation:

Using AI debugging assistance, an indentation error caused by mixing tabs and spaces in the same function was analyzed and corrected. Python enforces strict indentation rules, and inconsistent formatting leads to execution failure. The AI explanation helped identify which lines used different indentation types and guided the correction to a consistent four-space scheme. The fixed code now maintains uniform indentation, improving readability and preventing syntax errors. This task reinforced the importance of editor settings and clean formatting when writing Python programs. Responsible AI use involved checking the corrected output, understanding why the error occurred, and ensuring proper coding standards were applied.

Task 8 (Import Error – Wrong Module Usage)

Task: Analyze given code with incorrect import. Use AI to fix.

```
# Bug: Wrong import
```

```
import maths
```

```
print(maths.sqrt(16))
```

Expected Output: Corrected to import math

Code:

```
(assign7-5(1424).py
● 1 import math #fix the error in this code
  2 print(math.sqrt(16))
```

Output:

```
PS C:\Users\ASUS\Documents\Btech3-2\AIassistance>
'c:\Users\ASUS\AppData\Local\Python\pythoncore-3.
hon.debugpy-2025.18.0-win32-x64\bundled\libs\debug
2\AIassistance\assign7-5(1424).py'
4.0
```

Explanation:

AI-assisted debugging was used to analyze an import-related issue where the program attempted to load a non-existent module named maths. The AI explanation clarified that Python's standard library contains a module called math, not maths, which caused the import failure. After correcting the module name, the program successfully executed the square root function. This task emphasized the importance of accurate module names, attention to detail, and familiarity with Python's library structure. Responsible AI use was demonstrated by verifying the corrected import, testing the output, and ensuring the code behaved as expected rather than relying solely on the AI suggestion.