

Assignment 7.4

Name: Zobiya Fatima

Hall TIcket: 2303A51879

Batch No: 14

Lab 7: Error Debugging with AI – Systematic Approaches to Finding and Fixing Bugs

Task 1: Debugging a Recursive Calculation Module Scenario

You are maintaining a utility module in a software project that performs mathematical computations. One function is meant to calculate the factorial of a number, but users are reporting crashes or incorrect outputs.

Task Description

You are given a Python function intended to calculate the factorial of a number using recursion, but it contains logical or syntactical errors (such as a missing base condition or incorrect recursive call).

Use GitHub Copilot or Cursor AI to:

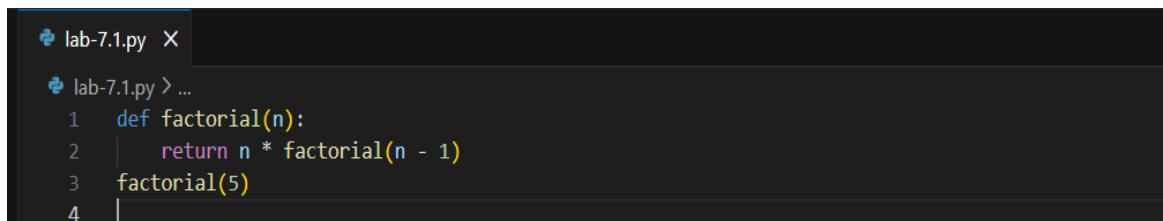
- Analyze the faulty code
- Identify the exact cause of the error
- Suggest and apply corrections to make the function work correctly

Document how the AI detected the issue and what changes were made.

Expected Outcome

- A corrected recursive factorial function
- AI-generated explanation identifying:
 - The missing or incorrect base case
 - The corrected recursive logic
- Sample input/output demonstrating correct execution

A Faulty Code:



The screenshot shows a code editor window with a dark theme. The title bar says "lab-7.1.py X". The code area contains the following Python code:

```
lab-7.1.py > ...
1 def factorial(n):
2     return n * factorial(n - 1)
3 factorial(5)
4 |
```

```

File "D:\ai-assisted\lab-7.1.py", line 2, in factorial
    return n * factorial(n - 1)
               ^^^^^^^^^^
File "D:\ai-assisted\lab-7.1.py", line 2, in factorial
    return n * factorial(n - 1)
               ^^^^^^^^^^
File "D:\ai-assisted\lab-7.1.py", line 2, in factorial
    return n * factorial(n - 1)
               ^^^^^^^^^^
[Previous line repeated 980 more times]
File "D:\ai-assisted\lab-7.1.py", line 3, in <module>

```

Prompt: Rectify the code and give a proper working code.

```

1. def factorial(n):
2.     """Return the factorial of n."""
3.     if n < 0:
4.         raise ValueError("Factorial is not defined for negative numbers")
5.     if n == 0 or n == 1:
6.         return 1
7.     return n * factorial(n - 1)
8.
9. print(factorial(5))
10.

```

Summary:

- The faulty code was missing a base case, causing infinite recursive calls and a Recursion Error.
- The corrected code adds proper base conditions ($n == 0$ or $n == 1$) to stop recursion safely.
- An additional validation was included to handle negative inputs by raising a clear error.

Task 2: Fixing Data Type Errors in a Sorting Utility

Scenario

You are developing a data processing script that sorts user input values. The program crashes when users enter mixed data types.

Task Description

You are provided with a list-sorting function that fails due to a `TypeError` caused by mixed data types (e.g., integers and strings).

Use GitHub Copilot or Cursor AI to:

- Detect the root cause of the runtime error
- Modify the code to ensure consistent sorting (by filtering or type conversion)
- Prevent the program from crashing

Explain the debugging steps followed by the AI.

Expected Outcome

- A corrected sorting function
- AI-generated solution handling type inconsistencies
- Successful sorting without runtime errors
- Explanation of how the fix improves robustness

Incorrect Code:

```
#Task 2
def sort_numbers(data):
    return sorted(data)

items = [10, "5", 3, "20", 7]
print(sort_numbers(items))
```

```
0, '5', 3,...    6 |     return n * factorial(n - 1)
                  7 |
                  8 |     print(factorial(5))"""
                  9 | #Task 2
                 10| def sort_numbers(data):
11 →|     return sorted(data) data = [10, '5', 3, '20', 7]

Exception has occurred: TypeError ×
'<' not supported between instances of 'str' and 'int'
  File "D:\ai-assisted\lab-7.1.py", line 11, in sort_numbers
    return sorted(data)
  File "D:\ai-assisted\lab-7.1.py", line 14, in <module>
    print(sort_numbers(items))
    ~~~~~^~~~~~
TypeError: '<' not supported between instances of 'str' and 'int'

12
13 items = [10, "5", 3, "20", 7]
14 print(sort_numbers(items))
15

PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE PORTS
▼ TERMINAL
120
PS D:\ai-assisted> ^C
PS D:\ai-assisted>
PS D:\ai-assisted> d:; cd 'd:\ai-assisted'; & 'c:\Users\TAMANNA\AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python314\python.exe' 'c:\Users\TAMANNA\.vscode\extensions\ms-python.debugpy-2025.18.0-win32-x64\bu
ndled\libs\debugpy\launcher' '63589' '--' 'D:\ai-assisted\lab-7.1.py'

```

Prompt: Rectify the faulty code and give a correct one with user input

```
lab-7.1.py X
lab-7.1.py > sort_numbers
  9 | #Task 2
 10| def sort_numbers(data):
 11|     return sorted(int(x) for x in data)
● 12
 13| items = input("Enter numbers separated by spaces: ").split()
 14| print(sort_numbers(items))
 15

PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE PORTS
▼ TERMINAL
PS D:\ai-assisted> ^C
PS D:\ai-assisted>
PS D:\ai-assisted> d:; cd 'd:\ai-assisted'; & 'c:\Users\TAMANNA\AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python314\python.exe' 'c:\Users\TAMANNA\.vscode\extensions\ms-python.debugpy-2025.18.0-win32-x64\bu
ndled\libs\debugpy\launcher' '53947' '--' 'D:\ai-assisted\lab-7.1.py'
Enter numbers separated by spaces: 1 4 6 2 1
[1, 1, 2, 4, 6]
PS D:\ai-assisted>
```

Error Explanation:

The screenshot shows a VS Code interface with the following components:

- Editor:** Displays the Python file `lab-7.1.py` containing the following code:

```
#task 2
def sort_numbers(data):
    return sorted(int(x) for x in data)

items = input("Enter numbers separated by spaces: ").split()
print(sort_numbers(items))
```
- Terminal:** Shows the output of running the script:

```
PS D:\ai-assisted> ^C
PS D:\ai-assisted>
PS D:\ai-assisted> d; cd 'd:\ai-assisted'; & 'c:\Users\TAMANNA\AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python311\python.exe' 'c:\Users\TAMANNA\vscode\extensions\ms-python.debugpy-2025.18.0-win32-x64\bundle\libs\debugpy\launcher' '53947' '--' 'D:\ai-assisted\lab-7.1.py'
Enter numbers separated by spaces: 1 4 6 2 1
[1, 1, 2, 4, 6]
PS D:\ai-assisted>
```
- PROBLEMS:** Shows "No problems have been detected in the workspace."
- Python Debug Console:** Shows the command `sort_numbers([1, 1, 2, 4, 6])` and its output `[1, 1, 2, 4, 6]`.
- CHAT:** Shows a message from GitHub Copilot: "explain the task 2 code".
- CODE ERROR SUMMARY AND CORRECT...**: A tooltip explaining the code's behavior.
- Task 2 Code Explanation:** A detailed explanation of the code's logic.

Summary:

- The faulty code failed because it attempted to sort a list containing both strings and integers, which caused a **Type Error** during comparison.
- The corrected code converts every input value to an integer before sorting, ensuring all elements are of the same data type.
- This change prevents runtime crashes and guarantees consistent, correct numerical sorting.

Task 3: Improving File Handling Reliability

Scenario

A backend script reads data from files regularly. Over time, the system shows performance issues due to improper resource management.

Task Description

You are given a Python file-handling snippet that opens a file but does not explicitly close it. Use GitHub Copilot or Cursor AI to:

- Identify the potential problem in the code
- Refactor it using best practices (such as a context manager)
- Ensure safe and reliable file handling

Briefly describe why the revised approach is better.

Expected Outcome

- Refactored code using the with open() statement
- AI explanation highlighting prevention of resource leaks
- Clean execution without warnings or errors

Faulty Code:

```
#Task 3
def read_file(filename):
    file = open(filename, "r")
    data = file.read()
    return data

content = read_file("example.txt")
print(content)
```

The screenshot shows a VS Code interface with a Python file named `task_3.py` open. The code attempts to read a file named `example.txt` but fails with a `FileNotFoundException`. The error message indicates that no such file or directory exists at the specified path. The stack trace shows the call from the `read_file` function to the `open` function, and finally to the main script's `print` statement. The terminal below shows the command-line environment where the script was run.

```
filename = "example.txt"
#Task 3
def read_file(filename):
    file = open(filename, "r")
    data = file.read()
    return data

content = read_file("example.txt")
print(content)
```

```
Exception has occurred: FileNotFoundError
[Errno 2] No such file or directory: 'example.txt'
  File "D:\ai-assisted\lab-7.1.py", line 19, in read_file
    file = open(filename, "r")
  File "D:\ai-assisted\lab-7.1.py", line 23, in <module>
    content = read_file("example.txt")
FileNotFoundException: [Errno 2] No such file or directory: 'example.txt'
```

```
20     data = file.read()
21     return data
22
23 content = read_file("example.txt")
24 print(content)
25
26
```

PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE PORTS

TERMINAL

```
PS D:\ai-assisted> ^C
PS D:\ai-assisted>
PS D:\ai-assisted> d;; cd 'd:\ai-assisted'; & 'c:\Users\TAMANNA\AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python314\python.exe' 'c:\Users\TAMANNA\.vscode\extensions\ms-python.debugpy-2025.18.0-win32-x64\bundle\libs\debugpy\launcher' '63199' '--' 'D:\ai-assisted\lab-7.1.py'
```

Prompt: Identify the potential problem in the code and refactor it ensuring safe and reliable file handling.

```

17 #Task 3
18 def read_file(filename):
19     with open(filename, "r") as file:
20         data = file.read()
21     return data
22
23 content = read_file("filename.txt")
24 print(content)
25

```

The terminal output is:

```

PS D:\ai-assisted> ^C
PS D:\ai-assisted>
PS D:\ai-assisted> d;; cd 'd:\ai-assisted'; & 'c:\Users\TAMANNA\AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python314\python.exe' 'c:\Users\TAMANNA\.vscode\extensions\ms-python.debugpy-2025.18.0-win32-x64\bundle\libs\debugpy\launcher' '51644' '--' 'D:\ai-assisted\lab-7.1.py'
Hi my name is Zobiya
PS D:\ai-assisted> []

```

Error Explanation:

The terminal output is identical to the previous screenshot.

The 'PROBLEMS' pane shows:

- Output: [1, 2, 5, 8, 9]

The 'CODE ERROR SUMMARY AND CORRECTIONS' pane shows:

- Used 2 references

The 'Task 3 Code Explanation' pane contains:

Task 3 Code Explanation

The `read_file` function opens a file, reads its entire contents, and returns the data as a string.

How it works:

1. `with open(filename, "r") as file:` - Opens the file in read mode ("r"). The `with` statement ensures the file is automatically closed after the block completes, even if an error occurs.
2. `data = file.read()` - Reads the entire contents of the file as a single string and stores it in the `data` variable.
3. `return data` - Returns the file contents.
4. `content = read_file("filename.txt")` - Calls the function to read `filename.txt`.
5. `print(content)` - Displays the file contents in the output pane.

Note: This code assumes `filename.txt` exists in your workspace directory (D:\ai-assisted). If the file doesn't exist, it will raise a `FileNotFoundException`. Consider adding error handling if needed.

Summary:

- The faulty code opened a file using `open()` but did not close it, which could cause resource leaks if the program runs for a long time or crashes.
- The corrected code uses a **With** context manager to ensure the file is automatically closed after reading.
- This change guarantees safe, reliable file handling even if an error occurs during file operations.

Task 4: Handling Runtime Errors Gracefully in Loops

Scenario

You are working on a data analysis script that processes a list of values. Some values cause runtime errors, but the program should continue processing remaining data.

Task Description

You are provided with a code snippet containing a `ZeroDivisionError` inside a loop.

Use GitHub Copilot or Cursor AI to:

- Detect the exact location of the error
- Add appropriate exception handling using `try-except`
- Ensure the loop continues executing safely

Document how AI improved the fault tolerance of the program.

Expected Outcome

- Updated code with proper exception handling
- Meaningful error messages instead of program crashes
- Successful execution for all valid inputs

Faulty Code:

```
26 #Task 4
27 numbers = [10, 5, 0, 2, 0]
28
29 for num in numbers:
30     result = 100 / num
31     print(result)
```

The screenshot shows a code editor with Python code and its execution output in a terminal.

Faulty Code:

```
26 #Task 4
27 numbers = [10, 5, 0, 2, 0]
28
29 for num in numbers:
30     result = 100 / num
31     print(result)
```

Execution Output (Terminal):

```
26 #Task 4
27 numbers = [10, 5, 0, 2, 0]
28
29 for num in numbers: numbers = [10, 5, 0, 2, 0]
30     result = 100 / num result = 20.0, num = 0
Exception has occurred: ZeroDivisionError
division by zero
File "D:\ai-assisted\lab-7.1.py", line 30, in <module>
    result = 100 / num
            ^
ZeroDivisionError: division by zero
31 |     print(result)
32 |
PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE PORTS
TERMINAL
PS D:\ai-assisted> ^C
PS D:\ai-assisted>
PS D:\ai-assisted> d:; cd 'd:\ai-assisted'; & 'c:\Users\TAMANNA\AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python314\python.exe' 'c:\Users\TAMANNA\.vscode\extensions\ms-python.debugpy-2025.18.0-win32-x64\bundled\libs\debugpy\launcher' '51644' '' 'D:\ai-assisted\lab-7.1.py'
Hi my name is Zobiya
PS D:\ai-assisted> ^C
PS D:\ai-assisted>
PS D:\ai-assisted> d:; cd 'd:\ai-assisted'; & 'c:\Users\TAMANNA\AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python314\python.exe' 'c:\Users\TAMANNA\.vscode\extensions\ms-python.debugpy-2025.18.0-win32-x64\bundled\libs\debugpy\launcher' '57337' '' 'D:\ai-assisted\lab-7.1.py'
10.0
20.0
```

Prompt: Rectify this code and give a correct version of it.

```
25
26 #Task 4
27 numbers = [10, 5, 0, 2, 0]
28
29 for num in numbers:
30     try:
31         result = 100 / num
32         print(result)
33     except ZeroDivisionError:
34         print(f"Error: Cannot divide by zero (num={num})")
35     except TypeError:
36         print(f"Error: Invalid number type (num={num})")
```

PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE PORTS

TERMINAL

```
PS D:\ai-assisted> ^C
PS D:\ai-assisted>
PS D:\ai-assisted> d; cd 'd:\ai-assisted'; & 'c:\Users\TAMANNA\AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python314\python.exe' 'c:\Users\TAMANNA\.vscode\extensions\ms-python.debugpy-2025.18.0-win32-x64\bundled\libs\debugpy\launcher' '53284' '--' 'D:\ai-assisted\lab-7.1.py'
10.0
20.0
Error: Cannot divide by zero (num=0)
50.0
Error: Cannot divide by zero (num=0)
PS D:\ai-assisted>
```

Error Explanation:

RUN AND DEBUG

RUN

Run and Debug

To customize Run and Debug create a launch.json file.

Debug using a terminal command or in an interactive chat.

Show automatic Python configurations

lab-7.1.py

```
25
26 #Task 4
27 numbers = [10, 5, 0, 2, 0]
28
29 for num in numbers:
30     try:
31         result = 100 / num
32         print(result)
33     except ZeroDivisionError:
34         print(f"Error: Cannot divide by zero (num={num})")
35     except TypeError:
36         print(f"Error: Invalid number type (num={num})")
```

PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE PORTS

TERMINAL

```
PS D:\ai-assisted> ^C
PS D:\ai-assisted>
PS D:\ai-assisted> d; cd 'd:\ai-assisted'; & 'c:\Users\TAMANNA\AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python314\python.exe' 'c:\Users\TAMANNA\.vscode\extensions\ms-python.debugpy-2025.18.0-win32-x64\bundled\libs\debugpy\launcher' '53284' '--' 'D:\ai-assisted\lab-7.1.py'
10.0
20.0
Error: Cannot divide by zero (num=0)
50.0
Error: Cannot divide by zero (num=0)
PS D:\ai-assisted>
```

CHAT

CODE ERROR SUMMARY AND CORRECTIONS

Explain task 4 code

lab-7.1.py

Used 2 references

Task 4 Code Explanation

The code demonstrates exception handling by attempting to divide 100 by each number in a list and catching errors when they occur.

How it works:

- numbers = [10, 5, 0, 2, 0] - Creates a list of numbers, including zeros which will cause division errors.
- for num in numbers: - Iterates through each number in the list.
- result = 100 / num - Attempts to divide 100 by the current number.
- except ZeroDivisionError: - Catches errors when dividing by zero (when num = 0) and prints a descriptive error message with the problematic number.
- except TypeError: - Catches errors if num is not a valid numeric type (though this won't occur in this example since all list items are integers).
- print(result) - If no exception occurs, prints the division result.

Output:

```
10.0
20.0
Error: Cannot divide by zero (num=0)
50.0
Error: Cannot divide by zero (num=0)
```

This demonstrates defensive programming—gracefully handling errors instead of crashing when unexpected values are encountered.

Summary:

- The original issue occurred when the loop attempted to divide by zero, causing a **ZeroDivisionError** and stopping execution.
- The updated code uses **try-except** blocks to catch division-by-zero and type-related errors at the exact failure point.
- This ensures the loop continues running safely while reporting errors instead of crashing.

Task 5: Debugging Class Initialization Errors

Scenario

A class written by a junior developer is throwing unexpected errors when objects are created or attributes are accessed.

Task Description

You are given a Python class with:

- Incorrect `__init__` parameters
- Missing or incorrect attribute references (e.g., missing `self`)

Use GitHub Copilot or Cursor AI to:

- Analyze the class definition
- Identify constructor and attribute issues
- Correct the class so objects initialize and behave correctly

Explain the corrections suggested by the AI.

Expected Outcome

- A corrected class definition
- Proper use of `self` and constructor parameters
- AI-assisted explanation of the original errors and fixes
- Sample object creation and method usage

Faulty Code:

```
● 38  #Task 5
39  class Student:
40  |  def __init__(name, age):
41  |  |  name = name
42  |  |  age = age
43
44  |  def display_info():
45  |  |  print("Name:", name)
46  |  |  print["Age:", age]
47
48  s1 = Student("Aisha", 20)
49  s1.display_info()
```

```
37
38 #Task 5
39 class Student:
40     def __init__(name, age):
41         name = name
42         age = age
43
44     def display_info():
45         print("Name:", name)
46         print("Age:", age)
47
48 s1 = Student("Aisha", 20)

Exception has occurred: TypeError
Student.__init__() takes 2 positional arguments but 3 were given
File "D:\ai-assisted\lab-7.1.py", line 48, in <module>
    s1 = Student("Aisha", 20)
TypeError: Student.__init__() takes 2 positional arguments but 3 were given
49 s1.display_info()
50
```

Prompt: Identify constructor and attribute issues and give a correct class definition with user input.

The screenshot shows the VS Code interface with the following details:

- Editor:** The code editor displays a Python script named `lab-7.1.py`. The code defines a `Student` class with an `__init__` method that takes `name` and `age` as parameters. It also includes a `display_info` method and an instantiation of `s1` with arguments `"Aisha", 20`.
- Terminal:** The terminal window shows the execution of the script. It starts with the command `PS D:\ai-assisted> ^C`, followed by the command to run the Python debugger (`python -m pdb`). Then, it prompts for student information: `Enter student name: Zobiya` and `Enter student age: 20`. Finally, it prints the output: `Name: Zobiya` and `Age: 20`.

Error Explanation:

The screenshot shows a VS Code workspace for a Python file named 'lab-7.1.py'. The code defines a class 'Student' with an __init__ method to initialize name and age, and a display_info method to print them. It then creates a student object 's1' and calls its display_info method. The terminal shows the execution of the script and its output. The code error summary on the right side provides a detailed explanation of each step.

```
37
38 #Task 5
39 class Student:
40     def __init__(self, name, age):
41         self.name = name
42         self.age = age
43     def display_info(self):
44         print("Name:", self.name)
45         print("Age:", self.age)
46 name = input("Enter student name: ")
47 age = input("Enter student age: ")
48 s1 = Student(name, int(age))
49 s1.display_info()
```

PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE PORTS

TERMINAL

```
PS D:\ai-assisted> ^C
PS D:\ai-assisted>
PS D:\ai-assisted> d; cd 'd:\ai-assisted'; & 'c:\Users\TAWANINA\ppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python314\python.exe' 'c:\Users\TAWANINA\vscode\extensions\ms-python.debugpy-2025.18.0-win32-x64\bundle\d\libs\debugpy\launcher' '62905' '--' 'D:\ai-assisted\lab-7.1.py'
Enter student name: Zobiya
Enter student age: 20
Name: Zobiya
Age: 20
PS D:\ai-assisted> 
```

PROBLEMS

No problems have been detected in the workspace.

CODE ERROR SUMMARY AND CORRECTIONS

Used 2 references

Task 5 Code Explanation

Task 5 demonstrates **object-oriented programming (OOP)** by creating a `Student` class to store and display student information.

How it works:

1. `class Student:` - Defines a class named `Student` to represent a student object.
2. `def __init__(self, name, age):` - The constructor method that initializes a new `Student` object with two attributes:
 - o `self.name` - Stores the student's name
 - o `self.age` - Stores the student's age
3. `def display_info(self):` - A method that prints the student's name and age in a formatted way.
4. `name = input("Enter student name: ")` - Prompts the user to enter the student's name.
5. `age = input("Enter student age: ")` - Prompts the user to enter the student's age.
6. `s1 = Student(name, int(age))` - Creates a new `Student` object named `s1`, passing the name and age (converted to an integer).
7. `s1.display_info()` - Calls the `display_info()` method to display the student's information.

Example Output:

```
Enter student name: John
Enter student age: 20
Name: John
Age: 20
```

Summary:

- The class correctly defines the constructor using `self` to initialize object attributes `name` and `age`.
- User input is taken and the age is converted to an integer before creating the `student` object.
- The `display_info` method accesses instance attributes via `self`, ensuring the object behaves as expected.