Assignment 0 - Getting Started

CS234

due January 24, 11:59pm

0 Introduction

This first assignment comes in three parts. The first part involves some introductory information. The second part involves the syllabus. And the third part involves looking into why it is worth proving software correct.

This assignment is to be completed individually, but feel free to collaborate according to the course's external collaboration policy (which can be found in the syllabus).

The deliverables consist of one `.pdf` file. The deliverables should be submitted electronically by the deadline. Make sure every file you submit contains your full name written somewhere clearly inside it. Put any attribution text in the `.pdf` file. You may also consider adding an experience report to the `.pdf` describing your experience with the assignment: how long did it take, how hard/fulfilling was it, etc.

Every file should be named like `FLast_cs234_aX.ext` where `F` is your first initial, `Last` is your last name, `X` is the assignment number, and `ext` is the appropriate file extension. For example, Katherine Johnson's `.pdf` file should be given the name `KJohnson_cs234_a0.pdf`. (Katherine Johnson got NASA to trust digital computers for flight calculations, among other accomplishments.)

Note: This assignment is worth less than other assignments (20 points rather than 100). To avoid unexpected interactions with the course's grading policies, the dropped lowest assignments will only come out of the 100-point assignments, lower-point value assignments like this one.

1 Some Questions

Please complete the following tasks in your `.pdf` submission. Clearly label your responses with the part and task number.

1. What do you hope to get out of this course?
2. What might worry you about this course?
3. What do you think the relationship is between math and machines, if any?
4. Is there anything else you would like me to know?

This part is worth **(4pts)**.

2 The Syllabus

Please complete the following tasks in your `.pdf` submission. Clearly label your responses with the part and task number.

Looking at the syllabus will help you to answer these questions.

1. When are the professor's office hours?
2. When are prep works due?
3. How many assignments are dropped?
4. How late can prep work be turned in past due and still recieve any points?
5. How late can an assignment be turned in past due and still recieve any points?
6. If you work on an assignment with a friend, what must you do?
7. What penalty may be sought for academic integrity violations?
8. How will attendance be taken?
9. What are the requirements for a "cheat sheet" that you can bring to an exam?
10. Do you have any planned absences on the midterm exam days listed in the syllabus? (You can also let me know later as well. This question is just to get the information early if possible.)

This part is worth **(10pts)**.

3 Software Disasters

Every day, people trust software with their privacy, property, and lives. However, that trust has sometimes been misplaced.

Write about a software disaster of your choosing in your `.pdf` submission. Clearly label your response with the part letter. You can find some examples of software disasters (which you may choose as your topic if you so wish) linked in the FAQ section of the course syllabus. Be sure to address the following points *in your own words* with roughly a paragraph *each*.

1. What was the cost of the software problem? For example: How much money was lost? How many people died?
2. What was the nature of the software problem? For example: Was there an identifiable bug? Was the software being used outside of its specifications?
3. Is it known why the problem was not caught? For example: Was the software tested or verified? Were users properly informed about how to use the software and of any known issues?

Remember to cite any sources you use! A link is sufficient to cite an online source.

This part is worth **(6pts)**.