

Guidelines for Collaboration

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Abstract

This is a set of guidelines for conduct while collaborating on open source projects. It also includes guidelines for creating a shared BibTeX database.

Revision History

Revision history:

1. Version 1, October 2, 2014. Initial version of the guideline (for another project).
2. Version 1.1, December 23, 2014. Version ported for this boilerplate code project.
3. Version 2, October 20, 2015. Added guidelines for Doxygen-supported, Javadoc-based coding standard. This coding standard is also known as coding style, coding style guide, coding guideline, coding scheme, code convention, code documentation guideline, programming guideline, or programming style.
4. Version 2.1, October 21, 2015. Finished guidelines for Doxygen-supported, Javadoc-based coding standard for C++.

1 Guidelines for Conduct

Members of the open source software and/or hardware projects should follow the *Code of Conduct* of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) [1, 5–7]. Also, actions of discrimination are not acceptable [8]. An additional guideline is “Dave Packard’s 11 simple rules” [2].

In addition, when there is a dispute about which technology, algorithm, design paradigm/style/pattern, process, or methodology to use, follow the “Code Wins Arguments” philosophy [10, 14]. Also, when considerable effort has been invested in an automated regression testing/verification infrastructure, do not be afraid to “move fast and break things” [3, 4].

2 Guidelines for Creating a Shared BibTeX Database

Guidelines for creating BibTeX entries and the BibTeX database, which is used for writing the paper, are given as follows:

1. Each BibTeX key should be unique:

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- (a) Check if your desired B_IB_TE_X key already exists in the B_IB_TE_X database.
 - (b) Use the following format for creating B_IB_TE_X keys: [first] author’s last name, appended by the year of publication. E.g., my first conference paper would have the B_IB_TE_X key Ong2014. If the year of publication is not known, use an approximate year, with XY for the last 2 digits in the year (e.g., 20XY). Alternatively, if you cannot determine if it was published this millennium or the previous millennium, use UNKNOWN. For example, use Smith20XY, or KleinbergUNKNOWN.
 - (c) Remove duplicate entries in the B_IB_TE_X database. **WARNING! Before doing this, perform a union operation on the fields of the B_IB_TE_X entries. For example, if a B_IB_TE_X entry has information that the other B_IB_TE_X entry does not have, and vice versa, merge the information to a B_IB_TE_X entry.**
 - (d) **Rational: Duplicate B_IB_TE_X entries will cause problems in typesetting.**
 - (e) Regarding hash collision of B_IB_TE_X keys, such as multiple instances of Gratz2014, distinguish them by appending a letter to them. E.g., use Gratz2014a, Gratz2014b, Gratz2014c, and so on. If we run out of letters, append it with “a” followed by a number. The use of the letter “a” separates the year from the instance of B_IB_TE_X key. That is, Gratz2014a1 tells me that it is the 28th instance of Gratz2014, as opposed to Gratz201428.
2. For terms that should be typeset as is, place them in between braces (i.e., curly brackets). That is, put curly braces around acronyms and mixed-case names.
 - (a) For example, terms in upper or mixed cases (upper and lower cases), such as names (e.g., McMullen) and acronyms (e.g., SIGDA), place them in between braces (i.e., {McMullen} and {SIGDA}). This prevents the titles (or another B_IB_TE_X field) from changing the term into lower case, with exception for the first term/word. E.g., “ICCAD Update: A Report from SIGDA” may typeset into “ICCAD Update: A report from sigda”.
 3. For special symbols that are typeset with L^AT_EX in the **math mode**, such as α , place them in between a pair of dollar signs (i.e., α).
 4. For each B_IB_TE_X entry, check if all required fields are complete. See pages 8 and 9 in §3.1 of [12] for a list of B_IB_TE_X entry types; alternatively, refer to the *Wikipedia* entry for , or [9, §12.2.1, pp. 230–231]. In this/these list(s), the required fields are listed for each B_IB_TE_X entry.
 5. For the **pages** field, ensure that all page ranges are indicated with double hyphens. E.g., “page = {11–34},”. This makes the page range looks more pretty.
 6. For the **pages** field, ensure that multiple pages and/or page ranges are separated by commas. E.g., “page = {11–34, 57, 88, 109–187},”.
 7. For books and journal articles that have an associated digital object identifier (DOI), ensure that the **doi** field is included in the B_IB_TE_X entry with the DOI of the publication. This makes it easier for people to access the web page for the book or journal/conference paper.
 8. Stylistic validation of the references can be carried out as follows:
 - (a) Include all B_IB_TE_X keys in one citation in your L^AT_EX document.
 - (b) Typeset the L^AT_EX document.
 - (c) Check that the font and style of the reference list is correct.
 - (d) If there are errors, correct the errors as appropriate.
 - (e) Finally, the B_IB_TE_X database should be correct.
 9. Information that I would include when citing common sources of information, such as *Wikipedia*, using the Harvard Referencing Style:
 - (a) Wikipedia contributors, “TITLE_OF_THE_ARTICLE,” in {\it Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia: CATEGORY}, Wikimedia Foundation, San Francisco, CA, MONTH DATE, YEAR. Available online at: \url{URL}; last accessed on August 26, 2014.

- (b) Wikibooks contributors, “CHAPTER_NAME,” in {\it TITLE_OF_THE_BOOK}, Wikibooks: Open books for an open world, Wikimedia Foundation, San Francisco, CA, MONTH DATE, YEAR. Available online at: \url{URL}; last accessed on August 26, 2014.
 - (c) Wikibooks contributors, “TITLE_OF_THE_BOOK,” Wikibooks: Open books for an open world, Wikimedia Foundation, San Francisco, CA, MONTH DATE, YEAR. Available online at: \url{URL}; last accessed on August 26, 2014.
 - (d) Wiktionary contributors, “TITLE,” Wiktionary, Wikimedia Foundation, San Francisco, CA, MONTH DATE, YEAR. Available online at: \url{URL}; last accessed on August 26, 2014.
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 - (g) When BIB_TE_X entries are created for the aforementioned sources of information, populate the appropriate fields so that each information in the aforementioned sources are included in the BIB_TE_X entries.
10. Refer to the file “bibtex-template.txt” for templates for selected BIB_TE_X entry types. The more information that you can put in, the easier you can protect yourself from accusations of plagiarism and to make it easier for people (including yourself) to find the reference again. This is especially true for web-based references/resources.

3 Recommended Fields for BIB_TE_X Entries

The recommended fields for BIB_TE_X entries are:

- 1. techreport:
 - (a) Address
 - (b) Author
 - (c) Howpublished
 - (d) Institution
 - (e) Keywords
 - (f) Month
 - (g) Number
 - (h) Title
 - (i) Url
 - (j) Year
- 2. proceedings:
 - (a) Address
 - (b) Doi
 - (c) Editor
 - (d) Keywords
 - (e) Month
 - (f) Organization
 - (g) Publisher
 - (h) Series
 - (i) Title
 - (j) Volume

(k) Year

3. manual:

- (a) Address
- (b) Author
- (c) Howpublished
- (d) Keywords
- (e) Month
- (f) Organization
- (g) Title
- (h) Url
- (i) Year

4. incollection:

- (a) Address
- (b) Author
- (c) Booktitle
- (d) Chapter
- (e) Doi
- (f) Edition
- (g) Howpublished
- (h) Keywords
- (i) Pages
- (j) Publisher
- (k) Series
- (l) Title
- (m) Url
- (n) Volume
- (o) Year

5. inproceedings:

- (a) Address
- (b) Author
- (c) Booktitle
- (d) Doi
- (e) Keywords
- (f) Month
- (g) Organization
- (h) Pages
- (i) Publisher
- (j) Series
- (k) Title
- (l) Volume
- (m) Year

6. article:

- (a) Address
- (b) Author
- (c) Doi

- (d) Journal
- (e) Keywords
- (f) Month
- (g) Number
- (h) Pages
- (i) Publisher
- (j) Title
- (k) Volume
- (l) Year

7. phdthesis (or mastersthesis):

- (a) Address
- (b) Author
- (c) Howpublished
- (d) Keywords
- (e) Month
- (f) Number
- (g) School
- (h) Title
- (i) Url
- (j) Year

8. misc:

- (a) Address
- (b) Author
- (c) Howpublished
- (d) Keywords
- (e) Month
- (f) Publisher or School
- (g) Title
- (h) Url
- (i) Year

9. book:

- (a) Address
- (b) Author
- (c) Doi
- (d) Edition
- (e) Keywords
- (f) Month
- (g) Pages
- (h) Publisher
- (i) Series
- (j) Title
- (k) Volume
- (l) Year

4 Coding Standard

This is a guideline for *Doxygen*-supported, *Javadoc*-based coding standard that shall be used for this boilerplate code project. This coding standard is also known as the coding style, coding style guide, coding guideline, coding scheme, code convention, code documentation guideline, programming guideline, or programming style. The documentation generator that shall be supported is: *Doxygen*. Since I am using *Doxygen* for generating documentation, I can use \LaTeX to provide richer markup.

Document the known bugs for each function/method.

My indent style would be the *1TBS* variant of the *K&R* style, which is an abbreviation of “*The One True Brace Style*”. It is also equivalent to the *Kernel Normal Form style* (or *BSD KNF style*).

Classes, functions/methods, constants, macros, and static and instance variables shall be named using complete words or well-known abbreviations that are concatenated with an underscore in *C++*; this is a deviation from the *Hungarian notation* that uses an upper case letter to distinguish words/abbreviations in the name (i.e., the Start case style of writing; see letter case).

For *C++* programs, the following tags shall be used in the comments:

1. @author *Author's_Name*: indicate the author (*Author's_Name*) of the file/function
2. @version *X.Y*: indicate the version (*X.Y*) of the file
3. @section *SECTION_NAME*: indicate the section (*SECTION_NAME*) of the file, which can be: *LICENSE* or *DESCRIPTION*
4. @param *x*: indicate the parameter (*x*) of the constructor or function
5. @exception *Exception_Name*, or @throws *Exception_Name*: an exception that a function/method can throw
6. @return *Return_Statement*: indicate the return (type and) action of the function
7. @see *reference*: a link to another element in the documentation; e.g., @see *Class_Name*, or @see *Class_Name#member_function_name*
8. @since *X.Y: Month-Day-Year*: This functionality has been added since version *X.Y* (and on the date *Month-Day-Year*)
9. @deprecated *description*: Describe an outdated function/method, and indicate when the function/method has deprecated
10. “@link ... *URL*... @endlink” is used to include hyperlinks in the generated documentation for Doxygen
11. ##### IMPORTANT NOTES: Notes that are critical for helping the reader understanding assumptions and decisions made while developing the software
12. @todo(<message>, <version>) (or ##### TO BE COMPLETED): Task to be finished at a later time
13. ##### TO BE FIXED: Task to be debugged at a later time
14. @migration(<message>, <version>): Code is being migrated to another function/method, or class.
15. See <http://www.stack.nl/~dimitri/doxygen/commands.html> for more information of tags that are recognized by Doxygen.
16. @pre (or @precondition): Precondition(s) of the function.
17. @assert (or @assertion): Assertion(s) of the function.
18. @post (or @postcondition): Postcondition(s) of the function.

The order of tags in different sections of the *C++* code is given as follows:

1. Headers/Interfaces and Classes: @version, @author, @since, @link, @todo, @deprecated, @migration, and @see
2. Constructors: @param, @throws, @since, @link, @todo, @deprecated, @migration, and @see. For collaborators modifying or extending my code, they should include the @version and @author tags before the @param tag(s).
3. Functions/Methods: @param, @pre, @assert, @post, @return, @throws, @since, @link, @todo, @deprecated, @migration, and @see. For collaborators modifying or extending my code, they should include the @version and @author tags before the @param tag(s).
4. Variables can use the @see tags.
5. The @deprecated tag can be used for headers/interfaces, classes, constructors, functions/methods, and variables.

For a suggested coding style for *Python* and *Ruby* scripts, see [13] and [11], respectively.

5 Additional Guidelines

Please kindly use the Markdown language for writing text documents. This is because Bitbucket will treat my text file as a file written in the Markdown syntax. That said, the raw file looks a lot better than the represented Markdown files. Their (Bitbucket) formatting for Markdown is messed up.

References

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