

CS 1371 Homework Guide Fall 2018

Introduction

Welcome to CS 1371! This guide will explain many of the details relevant to completing weekly homework so be sure to read it carefully and ask questions to your TAs if you have them.

Homework Schedule and Grace Period

Unless otherwise noted on Canvas, there will be a weekly homework due on Tuesdays at 8:00pm, with a grace period until 11:59pm that same night. Be sure to check announcements on Canvas daily to stay updated. No points will be deducted for submitting late during the grace period. These few hours are provided to help you account for any technical issues you may have when submitting your assignment. Since there is an almost four hour grace period to submit late homework, homework files will not be accepted after 11:59pm on the due date.

Completing an Assignment

We recommend making a CS 1371 folder on your computer to hold the homework assignments. (<##> refers to the current homework number)

- Download the Homework<##>.zip file either from the Assignment Page under *Assignments* on Canvas and place this folder inside of your CS1371 folder
- Open the hw<##>.m file and fill out the information section at the top of the file.
- If you choose to, complete the optional ABCs file to help you get started. Instructions for doing so will be in each of those files.
- Consult the Homework ## Drill Problems.pdf file to see the problem statement for each of the drill problems you will need to complete. You will need to create files for each of these functions, and that is where you will write your code. Suppress your outputs by using a semicolon at the end of each line of code.
- Test the outputs of your code against the outputs of the solution files using the function `isEqual()`. Your code is also expected to finish running in under 30 seconds.
- Once you have completed everything, do a final check to make sure everything is working properly before submitting

Submitting the Assignment

For this class, all homework assignments will be submitted through Canvas. It is extremely important to follow the guidelines for submission to ensure you get full credit for the work that you have done!

- For each assignment, you will need to submit the hw<##>.m file (in which you fill out your name and section info) in addition to all of the problems described in the Homework ## Drill Problems.pdf file. Remember that spelling and capitalization matter!
- Submit the assignment on Canvas by uploading all required files to the assignment page under File Upload and clicking Submit Assignment
- Please check to see if the submission was successful in submitting. Look for the check mark next to "Turned in!" in the top right corner.

- To be thorough, it is a good idea to re-download your submitted files and check that 1) they are the correct files and 2) that they are running properly.
- Please note that Canvas renames the files you submit appending a number afterwards. We take this into account when finding your files, so do not worry if the name is different for this reason. Just make sure that the files you submit are exactly the correct name.

Resubmitting the Assignment

For most homework assignments in CS 1371, there is a corresponding optional resubmission assignment. The resubmission assignment is due at 8:00 pm on the Friday following the original Tuesday due date, and it has the same grace period until 11:59 that the original submission has. When you resubmit an assignment, your overall homework grade will be the average of the grade on the original and resubmission assignments. If you choose to do a resubmission, please remember to resubmit all files (and not just the files that you have changed or rewritten). The averaging process for the resubmission will never hurt your grade. For some weeks, it is possible that the homework grade will be the maximum of the original and the resubmission scores. Please refer to the Canvas announcements and the homework Assignment Pages for this information each week.

Commenting

Whenever you program, it is good coding practice to comment your code. In MATLAB, use a % at the beginning of the line to turn everything following on that line into a comment. This helps you keep track of what you are doing and helps other humans reading your code know what is going on. There will be a small percentage of extra credit awarded for well commented code. This will likely give you an opportunity to add a few points to your homework average, though it is ultimately up to the professor in how they would like to implement this extra credit in the final course grade at the end of the semester.

Collaboration Policy

Collaboration with fellow classmates is both allowed and encouraged on homework assignments. Collaboration means working together to find methods for solving problems, NOT sharing or copying of code. If you share or copy code, you will have violated Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code and there will be consequences. Make sure to reference who you have collaborated with in the collaboration section of the hw<##>.m file. If you need clarification on what constitutes legal collaboration vs. sharing of code, your TAs and professors can explain in more depth. Remember, ***copying, sharing (whether sending your own or receiving someone else's code) of code is a violation of Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code and therefore a very serious offense. It has a much larger impact on the rest of your life than receiving a 0 on a homework assignment in an entry-level college course.***

Issues on a Homework Assignment

Part of the entire TA team for CS 1371 is a Homework Team, which is the team of teaching assistants who plan, write, and compile the homework assignments for the

semester, which is done in real time during the semesters. There is a lot of work that goes into this, and we try our best, but there may still be a chance for a mistake in a homework problem solution file or the PDF. If this happens, we will release announcements on Canvas as well as upload updated files to Canvas if necessary. As a student in this class, you are responsible for checking announcements to stay up to date for any changes throughout the week.

If you think you have found an issue in the homework, please check Canvas for any announcements. Then, you can check the class Piazza for any students who have already asked about it and if they have received an answer. If you do not see anything correcting the issue anywhere, then please post about the issue on Piazza and/or contact your TAs.

Grades

For each assignment, you will be graded on whether your code passes test cases. These test cases will differ from those provided to you for testing and they will also differ between original and resubmission. If there are five drill problems, then each one accounts for about 20% of your grade on that homework. If there are any drill problems listed as extra credit, then they will usually be worth about an extra 15-20% for your homework grade on that problem.

As mentioned in the commenting section, homework commenting is also for extra credit. There is no explicit rule for how much extra credit each homework commenting is worth. This is up to the professor at the end of the semester how exactly these extra credit points will impact the final course grade.

Regrade Requests

An Autograder is used to grade each homework assignment, and the grading policies must be strict. Your grade will be determined based on whether your code passes the given test cases, though there will be no partial credit given for an individual test case. You do have an opportunity to request a grade appeal, or regrade, on any homework assignment. However, there are important guidelines to follow on how to submit this regrade that you must follow. It is never guaranteed that submitting a regrade will improve your grade, and most of the time your grade will stay the same. Once the homework grades have been posted, you have **one week** to request a regrade. The steps to submitting a homework regrade are as follows:

- Download the files you submitted for the homework in question, rather than using the ones that are on your computer so you can test exactly what the Autograder tested. You are responsible for differences between the files you submitted and the files on your computer.
- Check to see if you followed the naming conventions. Remember that spelling and case do matter for the names of homework assignments. Typos are not a valid regrade request.
- See the feedback file to explain the grade breakdown for each problem in the homework assignment.
- In MATLAB, run the test cases in the feedback file. You can download supplemental files from Canvas under Files (look in the Homework Resources

section). If there is an error produced or noticeable inaccuracy, then no consideration will be given towards the regrade.

- Use `isEqual()` to compare the output variables of your function with the output variables of the solution function for the test cases in the feedback file.
- If you still believe that your code is correct and there was a mistake in grading, then you may submit your regrade at <http://cs1371.gatech.edu/regrades/> to submit a regrade.
- If one of your section TAs does not approve or deny your regrade request within a week of the day you sent your email, then forward the email to the Homework Team email at http://cs1371homeworkteam@gmail.com. If you still do not get a reply, then contact the current homework team STA Amanda Schmitt at aschmitt8@gatech.edu.

Good Luck and Welcome to CS 1371!