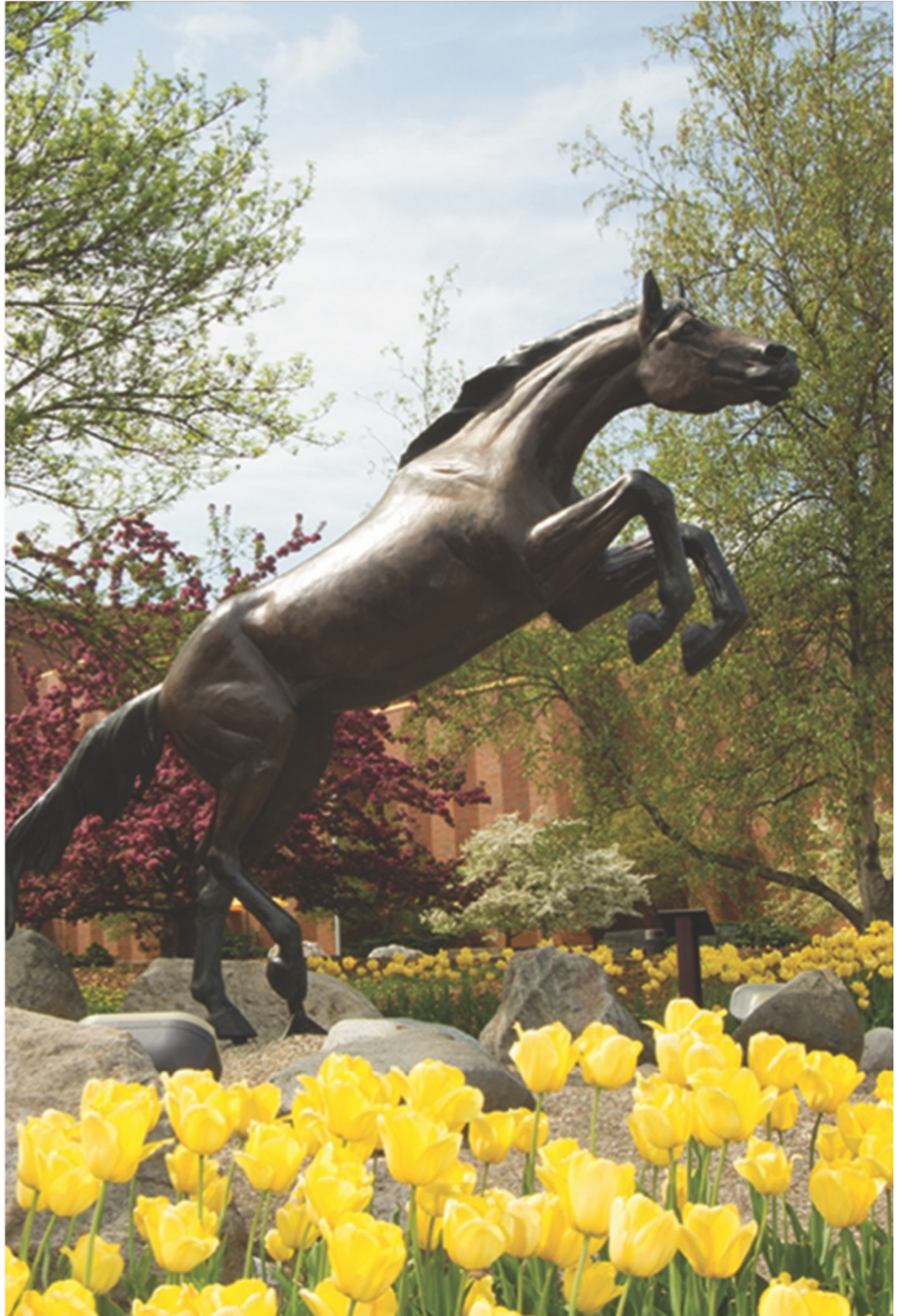
WESTERN MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY

CS 5541 – Computer Systems

"Based on lecture notes developed by Randal E. Bryant and David R. O'Hallaron in conjunction with their textbook "Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective"

Modules

- 0: Introduction
- 1: Representing Numbers
- 2: Machine Code
- 3: Main Memory
- 4: Memory Management
- 5: Virtual Memory
- 6: Processes and Threads
- 7: Process Synchronization
- 8: Scheduling
- 9: Input-Output and Disk Scheduling
- 10: Virtual Machines
- 11: Security
- 12: Cloud Computing
- 13: Client-Server and Clusters
- 14: Embedded OSs



Module 0

Course Introduction

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Overview

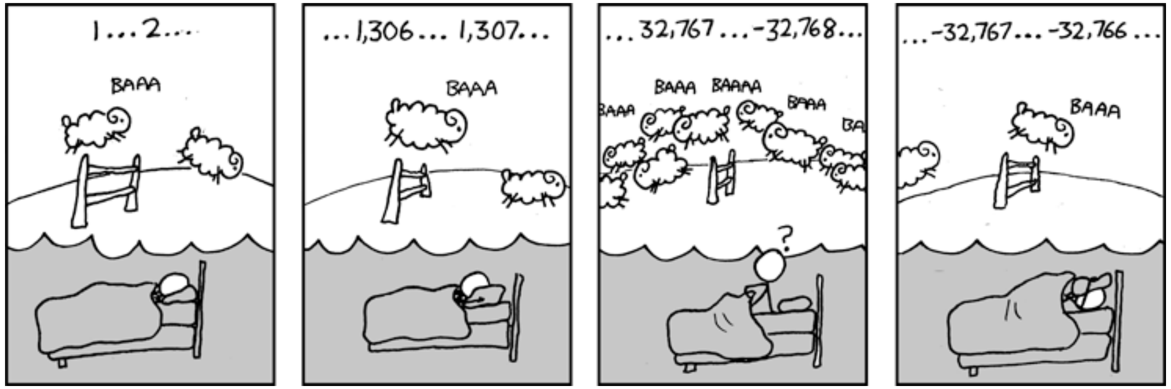
- **Getting organized…**
- **Course theme**
- **Five realities**

Abstraction Is Good But Don't Forget Reality

- **Most CS courses emphasize abstraction**
  - Abstract data types
  - Asymptotic analysis
- **These abstractions have limits**
  - Especially in the presence of bugs
  - Need to understand details of underlying implementations
- **Useful outcomes from taking CS 5541**
  - Become more effective programmers
    - Able to find and eliminate bugs efficiently
    - Able to understand and tune for program performance
  - Prepare for later "systems" concepts in CS
    - Compilers, Operating Systems, Networks, Computer Architecture, Embedded Systems, Storage Systems, etc.

1) Ints ≠ Integers, Floats ≠ Reals

- **Example 1: Is $x^2 \geq 0$?**
  - Float's: Yes!



  - Int's:
    - 40000 * 40000 → 1600000000
    - 50000 * 50000 → ??
- **Example 2: Is (x + y) + z = x + (y + z)?**
  - Unsigned & Signed Int's: Yes!
  - Float's:
    - (1e20 + -1e20) + 3.14 --> 3.14
    - 1e20 + (-1e20 + 3.14) --> ??

1) Ints ≠ Integers, Floats ≠ Reals

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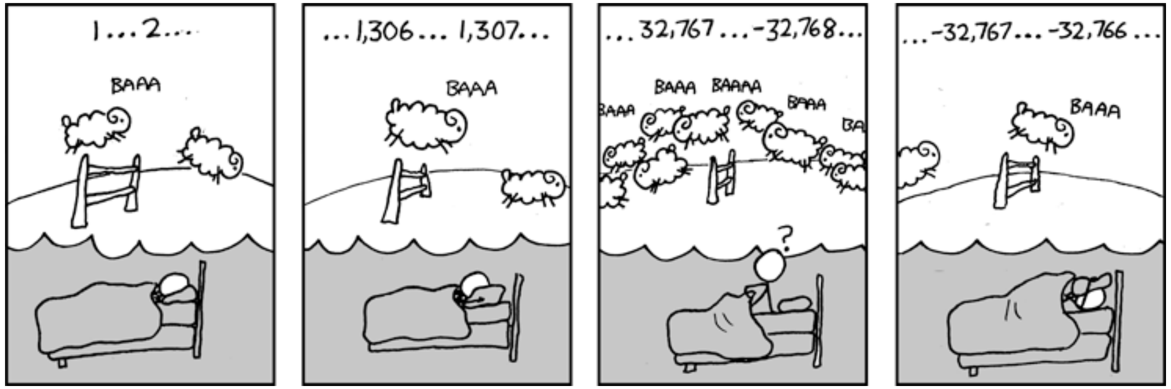

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Let's try this out in C…

Computer Arithmetic

- **Does not generate random values**
  - Arithmetic operations have important mathematical properties
- **Cannot assume all "usual" mathematical properties**
  - Due to finiteness of representations
  - Integer operations satisfy "ring" properties
    - Commutativity, associativity, distributivity
  - Floating point operations satisfy "ordering" properties
    - Monotonicity, values of signs
- **Observation**
  - Need to understand which abstractions apply in which contexts
  - Important issues for compiler writers and serious application programmers

2) You’ve Got to Know Assembly

- **Chances are, you’ll never write programs in assembly**
  - Compilers are much better & more patient than you are
- **But: Understanding assembly is key to machine-level execution model**
  - Behavior of programs in presence of bugs
    - High-level language models break down
  - Tuning program performance
    - Understand optimizations done / not done by the compiler
    - Understanding sources of program inefficiency
  - Implementing system software
    - Compiler has machine code as target
    - Operating systems must manage process state
  - Creating / fighting malware
    - x86 assembly is the language of choice!

3) Memory Matters

- **Memory is not unbounded**
  - It must be allocated and managed
  - Many applications are memory dominated
- **Memory referencing bugs especially pernicious**
  - Effects are distant in both time and space
- **Memory performance is not uniform**
  - Cache and virtual memory effects can greatly affect program performance
  - Adapting program to characteristics of memory system can lead to major speed improvements

Memory Referencing Bug Example

```
typedef struct {
  int a[2];
  double d;
} struct_t;

double fun(int i) {
  volatile struct_t s;
  s.d = 3.14;
  s.a[i] = 1073741824; /* Possibly out of bounds */
  return s.d;
}
```

```
fun(0)   →    3.14
fun(1)   →    3.14
fun(2)   →    3.1399998664856
fun(3)   →    2.00000061035156
fun(4)   →    3.14
fun(6)   →    Segmentation fault
```

- Result is system specific

Memory Referencing Bug Example

```
typedef struct {
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  double d;
} struct_t;
```
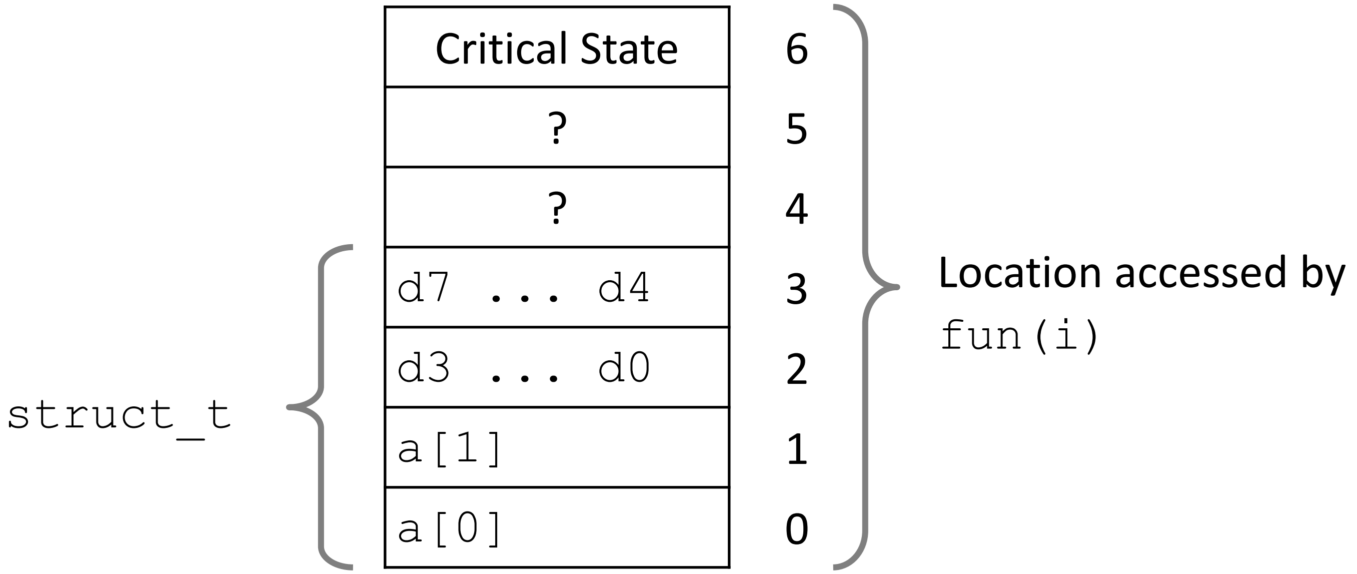

```
fun(0)  →    3.14
fun(1)  →    3.14
fun(2)  →    3.1399998664856
fun(3)  →    2.00000061035156
fun(4)  →    3.14
fun(6)  →    Segmentation fault
```

Explanation:



Critical State	6
?	5
?	4
d7 ... d4	3
d3 ... d0	2
a[1]	1
a[0]	0

struct_t

Location accessed by fun(i)

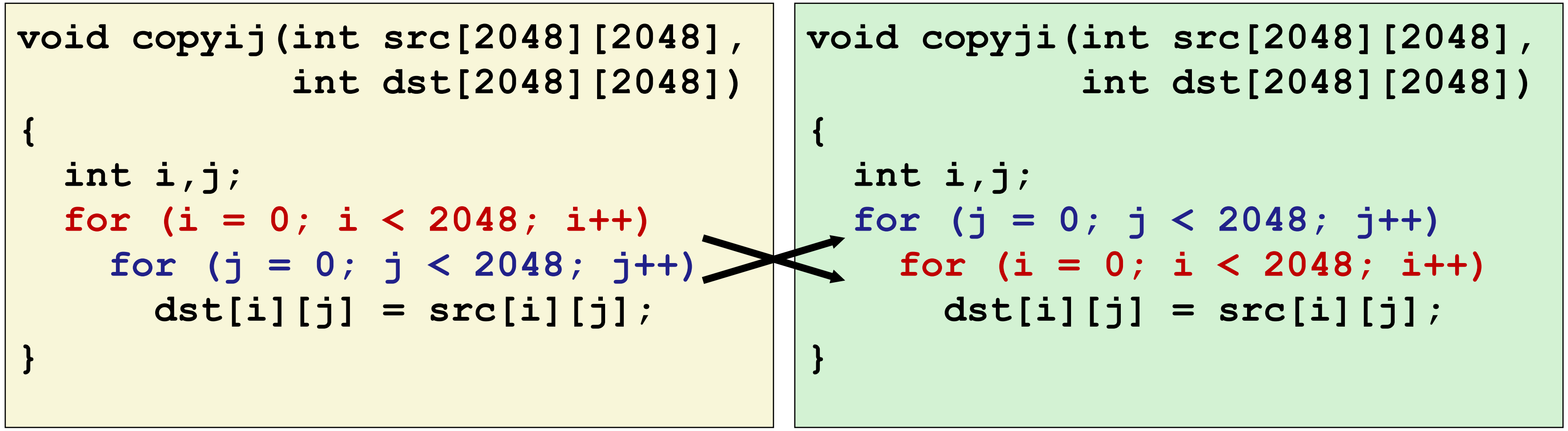
Memory Referencing Errors

- **C and C++ do not provide any memory protection**
  - Out of bounds array references
  - Invalid pointer values
  - Abuses of malloc/free
- **Can lead to nasty bugs**
  - Whether or not bug has any effect depends on system and compiler
  - Action at a distance
    - Corrupted object logically unrelated to one being accessed
    - Effect of bug may be first observed long after it is generated
- **How can I deal with this?**
  - Program in Java, Ruby, Python, ML, …
  - Understand what possible interactions may occur
  - Use or develop tools to detect referencing errors (e.g. Valgrind)

4) It’s not just asymptotic complexity

- **Constant factors matter too!**
- **And even exact op count does not predict performance**
  - Easily see 10:1 performance range depending on how code written
  - Must optimize at multiple levels: algorithm, data representations, procedures, and loops
- **Must understand system to optimize performance**
  - How programs compiled and executed
  - How to measure program performance and identify bottlenecks
  - How to improve performance without destroying code modularity and generality

Memory System Performance Example



```
void copyij(int src[2048][2048],
            int dst[2048][2048])
{
  int i,j;
  for (i = 0; i < 2048; i++)
    for (j = 0; j < 2048; j++)
      dst[i][j] = src[i][j];
}
```

```
void copyji(int src[2048][2048],
            int dst[2048][2048])
{
  int i,j;
  for (j = 0; j < 2048; j++)
    for (i = 0; i < 2048; i++)
      dst[i][j] = src[i][j];
}
```

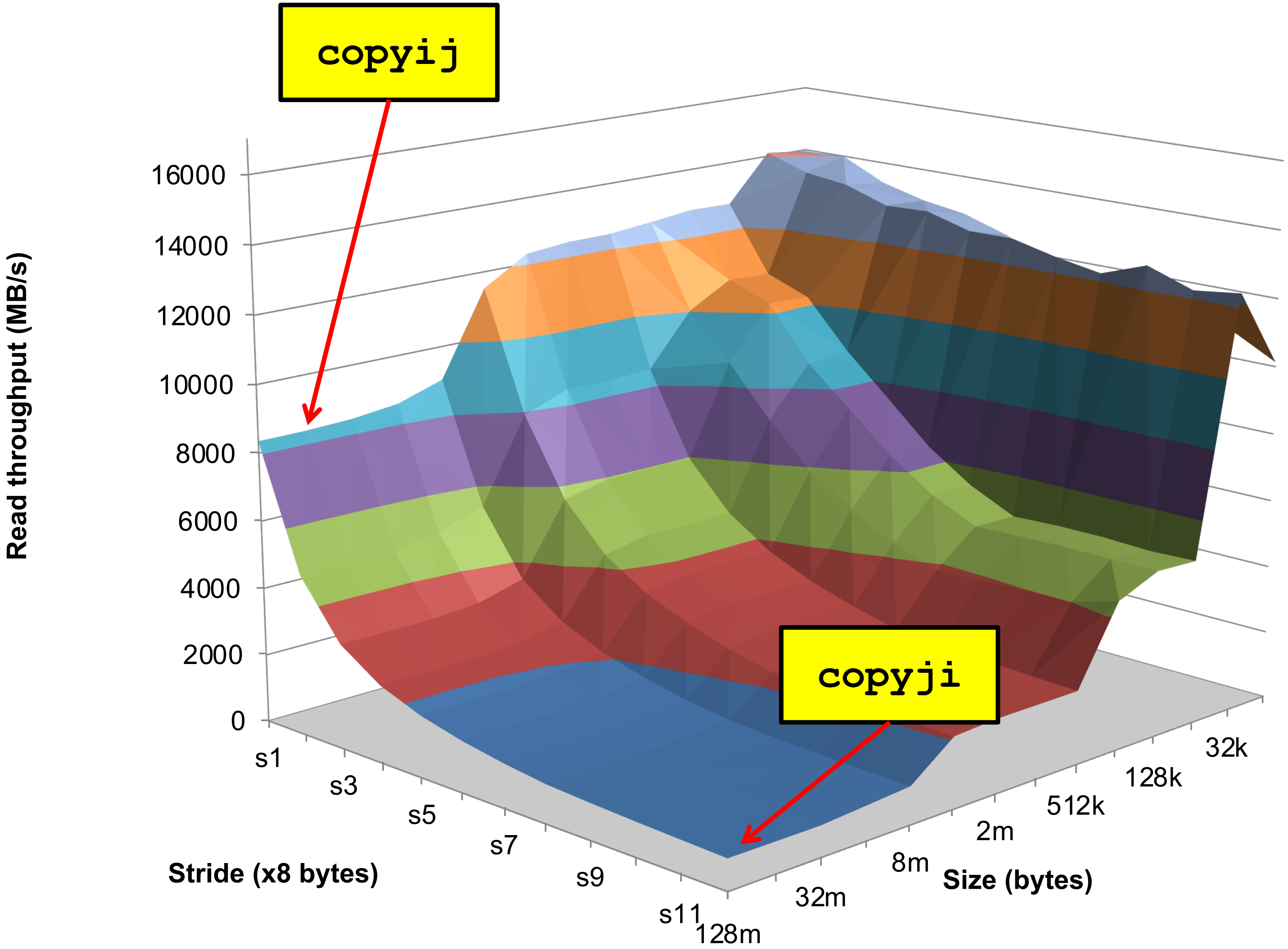
4.3ms

81.8ms

2.0 GHz Intel Core i7 Haswell

- **Hierarchical memory organization**
- **Performance depends on access patterns**
  - Including how we step through multi-dimensional arrays

Why Performance Differs



copyij

copyji

5) Computers do more than execute programs

- **They need to get data in and out**
  - I/O system critical to program reliability and performance

- **They communicate with each other over networks**
  - Many system-level issues arise in presence of network
    - Concurrent operations by autonomous processes
    - Coping with unreliable media
    - Cross platform compatibility
    - Complex performance issues

Module 0

Course Introduction

- If you’re taking CS 5541 at WMU…
  - Use Elearning for course management
  - Be sure to contact your instructor with any questions or concerns you have
  - Sooner is better! Get in touch with your instructor before due dates have passed!