

**To:** Professor Matthias Felleisen

**From:** Kaylyn Goh, Wanning Zhou

**Subject:** Experiences with exploratory programming tasks

**Date:** September 24, 2020

Our experiences with the exploratory programming tasks have been rather inconsistent depending on the assignment. Most of the time, we have had a great time working on the assignments while exploring the capabilities of our chosen language. Both B and D were rather intuitive and we were able to complete them without much complications. We also had a valuable experience in exploring different libraries (JSON, GUI, TCP) as one should since it is the primary goal of the assignment. We also learned a lot about dependency management tools, in our case Maven and have also learned other technical skills such as becoming familiar with using the command-line. We were never really exposed to Maven nor command-lines in our previous classes and have learned many tools that will definitely be useful in the future, especially so for both of us as we are rather new to coding when compared to our other fellow classmates.

However, we occasionally run into confusing situations especially when deciphering the meaning of certain instructions for our assignments. It is indeed our mistake as we were most likely overcomplicating the assignment instructions and were giving more meaning to certain sentences than we should. Comments and suggestions on Piazza definitely also served as a catalyst to us overthinking and overcomplicating the assignment. Even so, it is rather natural for us to worry and to try our best in getting our program to satisfy all the requirements. Most of the time these confusions can be answered by TAs but assignment C was a rather difficult one for

both of us since a lot of our confusions were questions TAs were not able to answer. Now that the assignments are completed and we reflect upon them, there were definitely instances where we understood what we needed to deliver but due to external feedback and opinions, we found ourselves once again overcomplicating the assignment. Once we had finished assignment C, we made sure to clear up our understanding with TAs before diving into assignment E which made our experience much better as we had a better understanding of what was expected of the assignment.