Predicting coding question quality using Stack Overflow ratings

IMT4904 Master thesis – Spring 2016 Master Applied Computer Science – Web, Mobile, Games 130533 – Knut Lucas Andersen

Overview

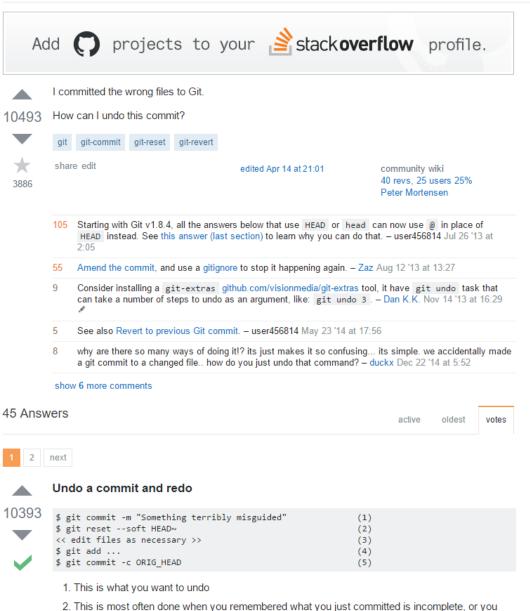
- Stack Overflow (SO)
- What is a question?
- Support Vector Machine (SVM)
- Methodology
- Experiments and Results
- Summary
- Demo
- References

Stack Overflow (SO)

- Released late 2008
- A Question-Answering (QnA) community for programmers
- Model which Stack Exchange is built on
- Uses gamification to reward users for participation
 - Reputation
 - Votes
 - Badges
 - Accepted answer
 - Bounty
- Who are the experts?
- Cost of rating answers (0.15\$ for rating on Amazon mTurk)
- What defines a good Question and Answer on SO?



How do you undo the last commit?



misspelled your commit message¹, or both. Leaves working tree as it was before git commit.

asked 7 years ago

viewed 3304185 times

active today

HOT META POSTS

- 228 Should Stack Overflow be more restrictive about new user registrations?
- 6 Merge the [gestures] into [gesture]?
- 12 Funky way to deal with a duplicate question?
- 95 The life of answering questions on Stack Overflow



Linked

Is there a way to rollback my last push to Git?

Work on work you love. From home.







How can I create a loop that goes back to the beginning stage? My issue is here:

-154



```
int main(void)
    midi_start();
    program_change(1, 1);
    program_change(2, 1);
    printf("Choose a scale and write the code of it:\n ");
    printf("C:0\n ");
    printf("C#:1\n ");
    printf("D:2\n ");
    printf("D#:3\n ");
    printf("E:4\n ");
    printf("F:5\n ");
    printf("F#:6\n ");
    printf("G:7\n ");
    printf("G#:8\n ");
    printf("A:9\n ");
    printf("A#:10\n ");
    printf("B:11\n ");
    printf("The chosen key is:\n");
    scanf("%d",&kk);
    k = kk + 60;
    if (kk >= 12)
        printf("Go back to the start.");
        return main;
```

I want to make it return to the "Please, choose a key" command so that the person using this can correct the mistake.



share edit





locked by Brad Larson • May 16 at 14:30

This post has been locked while disputes about its content are being resolved. For more info visit meta,

closed as off-topic by πάντα ῥεῖ, rene, Martin James, Bjørn-Roger Kringsjå, Tunaki May 14 at 17:06

This question appears to be off-topic. The users who voted to close gave this specific reason:

"This question was caused by a problem that can no longer be reproduced or a simple typographical
error. While similar questions may be on-topic here, this one was resolved in a manner unlikely to help future
readers. This can often be avoided by identifying and closely inspecting the shortest program necessary to
reproduce the problem before posting." – πάντα μα, makin James, Bjørn-Roger Kringsjå, Tunaki

If this question can be reworded to fit the rules in the help center, please edit the question.

Question Badges

• Altruist	First bounty you manually award on another person's question	6.3k awarded
Benefactor	First bounty you manually award on your own question	30.3k awarded
• Curious	Ask a well-received question on 5 separate days, and maintain a positive question record	213.8k awarded
• Inquisitive	Ask a well-received question on 30 separate days, and maintain a positive question record	21.4k awarded
Socratic	Ask a well-received question on 100 separate days, and maintain a positive question record	2.4k awarded
• Favorite Question	Question favorited by 25 users	28.2k awarded
Stellar Question	Question favorited by 100 users	3.9k awarded
Investor	First bounty you offer on another person's question	12.5k awarded
Nice Question	Question score of 10 or more	338.2k awarded
Good Question	Question score of 25 or more	100.7k awarded
Great Question	Question score of 100 or more	15.1k awarded
Popular Question	Question with 1,000 views	2.6m awarded
Notable Question	Question with 2,500 views	1.3m awarded
• Famous Question	Question with 10,000 views	325.8k awarded
Promoter	First bounty you offer on your own question	53.4k awarded
Scholar	Ask a question and accept an answer	1.2m awarded
• Student	First question with score of 1 or more	1.4m awarded
Tumbleweed	Asked a question with zero score, no answers, no comments, and low views for a week	698.4k awarded

What is a question?

- Factoid vs. Broad questions
- In education: Learn something new, or evaluate knowledge
- Could be the goal of your research
- The quality of a question can be equal to the quality of the answer
- Question classification: Categorizing questions
 - WH-words
 - Bag-of-Words and N-grams
 - Word mapping and processing

Support Vector Machine (SVM)

- Good for regression and classification problems
- Main focus is binary classification
- Often used for text classification
- Separates classes by using a hyperplane
- Four kernels:
 - Linear
 - Radial Basis Function (RBF)
 - Polynomial
 - Sigmoid



Methodology

- Data set based on data dump from Stack Exchange Archive
 - Contains XML files based on table content
 - Imported data into MySQL database
 - Imported data from MySQL database into Pandas.DataFrame
- Development: Python 3.5 and Scikit-learn (0.18.dev0)
- Question processing
- Selecting questions and features
- Selecting estimator and parameters for classification

wordwrap a very long string

Work on work you love. From home.







How can you display a long string, website address, word or set of symbols with automatic line breaks to keep a div width? I guess a wordwrap of sorts. Usually adding a space works but is there a CSS solution such as word-wrap?



66

For example it (very nastily) overlaps divs, forces horizontal scrolling etc.



22

What can I add to the above string to fit it neatly within a few lines in a div or within the browser window?

string long-integer word-wrap

share edit

edited May 13 '09 at 8:57



asked May 13 '09 at 6:05



- Even Stack Overflow doesn't word wrap : / AlbertoPL May 13 '09 at 6:10
- 14 Well.... 10 months on and it looks like stackoverflow now has a fix for the original messy post they've added the style word-wrap: break-word; which does the trick in Chrome. - Peter Craig Apr 2 '10 at 9:07

add a comment

Experiments and Results

- 6 different features
 - Code samples
 - Hexadecimal
 - Homework (synonyms for homework)
 - Links
 - Numerical
 - Tags
 - All features
- 4 different experiments
 - Unprocessed data set vs. all singular feature, and all questions
 - Unprocessed data set vs. all singular features, and question occurence only
 - Unprocessed data set vs. selected set of features only
 - Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD) as classifier



Summary

- Stack overflow as a question quality metric
- Limitations and issues
- Further work
 - Code blocks, Links and Numerical as a feature set
 - Code analysis
 - Sentiment analysis
 - Version numbering

Demo

Thanks for listening

References

- [1] http://stackoverflow.com/questions/927358/how-do-you-undo-the-last-commit
- [2] http://stackoverflow.com/questions/21068763/forcing-a-function-to-return-if-false
- [3] http://stackoverflow.com/help/badges
- [4] http://stackoverflow.com/questions/856307/wordwrap-a-very-long-string
- Amazon mTurk: https://www.mturk.com/mturk/welcome