Miranda Xu

Creative Coding Midterm Self-Assessment

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Before each class I read the corresponding chapters in *Learning Processing*. When I read it, I first look at demos in the book, and when I see a line that I don’t understand, I go back to previous pages to look up the explanation for that syntax or structure. The reason why I do the reading in this way is that if I merely look at the definitions and concepts, they are too abstract for me to understand, whereas if I see them in a program I can get a better sense of when and how to use them in practice. I found this strategy very works very efficient for me, although there’s one weakness that I noticed recently: because I don’t read the pages in order, the knowledge comes as bullet points, and it’s hard for me to build a system of what I learned.

After each class, I study the demo in class before doing my homework. I think the codes from each class are the most helpful resources for me to refresh my mind about what I just learned. Sometime new questions come to me when I look again at these codes. When I know where my weakness is, I go on YouTube and watch tutorials on corresponding topics. For example, some of the codes that demonstrate inheritance and polymorphism also use arrays, and when I looked at them I realized I already forgot some details about arrays since we only used one class period to go over this topic. After watching several array tutorials, I felt more solid about this topic.

We started this semester learning Processing, so when we first switched to P5 I felt reluctant. However, because now we use P5 more than Processing, I feel more comfortable with the former.

When actually programming, I think I did a good job keeping my codes neat and writing comments as annotations. I usually start with a simple goal, demonstrating the most basic use of syntax and structure. After running it and making sure it works correctly, I ask myself how to make it fancier and more creative. I think so far I did a pretty good job on demonstrating my understanding of concepts, syntax and structure. When it comes to improvement, I think I can be braver to experiment on different things. Now when I have a program that works well, I feel afraid to make changes and eventually break it. I will try to challenge myself more in the future.