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Lab 9 – Code Review and Quality: Using AI to improve code quality and readability

Lab Objectives:

- To apply AI-based prompt engineering for code review and quality improvement.
- To analyze code for readability, logic, performance, and maintainability issues.
- To use Zero-shot, One-shot, and Few-shot prompting for improving code quality.
- To evaluate AI-generated improvements using standard coding practices.

Lab Outcomes (LOs): After completing this lab, students will be able to:

- Review and improve code quality using AI tools.
- Identify syntax, logic, and performance issues in code.
- Refactor code to improve readability and maintainability.
- Compare AI outputs generated using different prompting techniques.

Problem Statement 1: AI-Assisted Bug Detection

Scenario: A junior developer wrote the following Python function to calculate factorials:

```
def factorial(n):
    result = 1
    for i in range(1, n):
        result = result * i
    return result
```

Instructions:

1. Run the code and test it with `factorial(5)`.
2. Use an AI assistant to:
 - Identify the logical bug in the code.
 - Explain why the bug occurs (e.g., off-by-one error).
 - Provide a corrected version.
3. Compare the AI's corrected code with your own manual fix.
4. Write a brief comparison: Did AI miss any edge cases (e.g., negative numbers, zero)?

Expected Output:

Corrected function should return 120 for factorial(5).

Reviewed Code:

```
def factorial(n):
    result = 1
    for i in range(1, n):
        result = result * i
    return result
```

The above function has a bug: it does not include 'n' in the multiplication.

Corrected version of the factorial function

```
def corrected_factorial(n):
    result = 1
    for i in range(1, n + 1):
        result = result * i
    return result
```

Test the corrected function

number = 5

print(f"The factorial of {number} is {corrected_factorial(number)}")

Output: The factorial of 5 is 120

The screenshot shows a code editor interface with several tabs at the top: A1.py, A-4.3.py, A-4-3T2.py, A-4-3T3.py, A-4-3T4.py, and A-5.py. The A-5.py tab is active, displaying the following Python code:

```
def factorial(n):
    result = 1
    for i in range(1, n):
        result = result * i
    return result

# The above function has a bug: it does not include 'n' in the multiplication.

def corrected_factorial(n):
    result = 1
    for i in range(1, n + 1):
        result = result * i
    return result

# Test the corrected function
number = 5
print(f"The factorial of {number} is {corrected_factorial(number)}")
# Output: The factorial of 5 is 120
```

Below the code editor, the terminal window shows the output of running the script:

```
PS C:\Users\SriNidhi\OneDrive\Desktop\AI CODING\LAB ASSIGNMENTS> & C:/Users/SriNidhi/AppData/Local/Programs/Python/Python314/python.exe "c:/Users/SriNidhi/OneDrive/Desktop/AI CODING/LAB ASSIGNMENTS/A-5.py"
The factorial of 5 is 120
```

The bottom status bar indicates the file is 'master*' and the current position is 'Ln 13, Col 30'. Other status indicators include 'Spaces: 4', 'UTF-8', 'CRLF', 'Python', '3.14.0', and 'Go Live'.

Explanation:

Bug Identification:

The loop uses `range(1, n)`, which excludes `n`. This is a classic **off-by-one error**, so `factorial(5)` computes $1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 = 24$ instead of 120.

Correction & Comparison:

AI correctly fixes the loop to `range(1, n + 1)`. However, it **misses edge-case handling** like negative inputs and doesn't explicitly validate `n >= 0`. A robust manual fix should include input validation.

Problem Statement 2: Task 2 — Improving Readability & Documentation

Scenario: The following code works but is poorly written:

```
def calc(a, b, c):
    if c == "add":
        return a + b
    elif c == "sub":
        return a - b
    elif c == "mul":
        return a * b
    elif c == "div":
```

Instructions:

5. Use AI to:
 - Critique the function's readability, parameter naming, and lack of documentation.
 - Rewrite the function with:
 1. Descriptive function and parameter names.
 2. A complete docstring (description, parameters, return value, examples).
 3. Exception handling for division by zero.
 4. Consideration of input validation.
6. Compare the original and AI-improved versions.
7. Test both with valid and invalid inputs (e.g., division by zero, non-string operation).

Expected Output:

A well-documented, robust, and readable function that handles errors gracefully.

Reviewed Code

```
def calculate(operation: str, x: float, y: float) -> float:
```

```
    """
```

Perform a basic arithmetic operation on two numbers.

Parameters:

operation (str): The operation to perform.

Supported values: 'add', 'sub', 'mul', 'div'

x (float): First number

y (float): Second number

Returns:

float: Result of the arithmetic operation

Raises:

ValueError: If an unsupported operation is provided

ZeroDivisionError: If division by zero is attempted

TypeError: If inputs are of invalid type

Examples:

```
>>> calculate("add", 5, 3)
```

```
8
```

```
>>> calculate("div", 10, 2)
```

```
5.0
```

```
"""
```

```
if not isinstance(operation, str):
```

```
    raise TypeError("Operation must be a string")
```

```
if not isinstance(x, (int, float)) or not isinstance(y, (int, float)):
```

```
    raise TypeError("Operands must be numeric")
```

```
operation = operation.lower()
```

```
if operation == "add":
```

```

        return x + y
    elif operation == "sub":
        return x - y
    elif operation == "mul":
        return x * y
    elif operation == "div":
        if y == 0:
            raise ZeroDivisionError("Cannot divide by zero")
        return x / y

print(calculate("add", 10, 5)) # 15
print(calculate("sub", 10, 5)) # 5
print(calculate("mul", 10, 5)) # 50
print(calculate("div", 10, 5)) # 2.0

```

Output:

```

15
5
50
2.0

```

```

A10_3.py > calculate
10 def calculate(operation: str, x: float, y: float) -> float:
33
37     if not isinstance(x, (int, float)) or not isinstance(y, (int, float)):
38         raise TypeError("Operands must be numeric")
39
40     operation = operation.lower()
41
42     if operation == "add":
43         return x + y
44     elif operation == "sub":
45         return x - y
46     elif operation == "mul":
47         return x * y
48     elif operation == "div":
49         if y == 0:
50             raise ZeroDivisionError("Cannot divide by zero")
51         return x / y
52
53 print(calculate("add", 10, 5)) # 15
54 print(calculate("sub", 10, 5)) # 5
55 print(calculate("mul", 10, 5)) # 50
56 print(calculate("div", 10, 5)) # 2.0
57
58

```

PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE TERMINAL PORTS POSTMAN CONSOLE

```

/usr/bin/python3 "/Users/saivenkatesh/Desktop/AI Coding/LAB Assignments/A10_3.py"
saivenkatesh@Sais-MacBook-Air LAB Assignments % /usr/bin/python3 "/Users/saivenkatesh/Desktop/AI Coding/LAB Assignments/A10_3.py"
15
5
50
2.0

```

Explanation:

Critique:

The function name `calc` and parameters `a`, `b`, `c` are meaningless, there's no docstring, and division by zero is not handled—this is unreadable and unsafe in real code.

AI-Improved Version Outcome:

AI improves clarity with descriptive names, adds a proper docstring, validates inputs, and handles division by zero using exceptions. The improved version is far more maintainable and production-ready than the original.

Problem Statement 3: Enforcing Coding Standards

Scenario: A team project requires PEP8 compliance. A

developer submits:

```
def Checkprime(n):
    for i in range(2, n):
        if n % i == 0:
            return False
    return True
```

Instructions:

8. Verify the function works correctly for sample inputs.
9. Use an AI tool (e.g., ChatGPT, GitHub Copilot, or a PEP8 linter with AI explanation) to:
 - List all PEP8 violations.
 - Refactor the code (function name, spacing, indentation, naming).
10. Apply the AI-suggested changes and verify functionality is preserved.
11. Write a short note on how automated AI reviews could streamline code reviews in large teams.

Expected Output:

A PEP8-compliant version of the function, e.g.:

```
def check_prime(n):
    for i in range(2, n):
        if n % i == 0:
            return False
    return True
```

Reviewed Code:

```
def Checkprime(n):
    for i in range(2, n):
        if n % i == 0:
            return False
    return True
# Example usage
number = 29
if Checkprime(number):
    print(f"{number} is a prime number.")
else:
    print(f"{number} is not a prime number.")
```

OUTPUT:

29 is a prime number

The screenshot shows a code editor interface with several tabs at the top: A1.py, A-4.3.py, A-4-3T2.py, A-4-3T3.py, A-4-3T4.py, and A-5.py. The A-5.py tab is active, displaying the Python code provided above. Below the tabs is a search bar with the placeholder 'LAB ASSIGNMENTS'. The main workspace shows the code with line numbers 53 through 64. To the left of the workspace are various icons for file operations like save, open, and delete. At the bottom of the editor, there are sections for PROBLEMS, OUTPUT, DEBUG CONSOLE, TERMINAL, and PORTS. The TERMINAL section shows the command 'python A-5.py' being run, followed by the output '29 is a prime number.' Below the terminal is a status bar with information about the file: 'master* 0 △ 0 ⌂' and 'Ln 51, Col 1 Spaces:4 UTF-8 CRLF {} Python 3.14.0 ⌂ Go Live'. The overall interface is dark-themed.

EXPLANATION:

PEP8 Issues:

Function name `Checkprime` violates snake_case, spacing is inconsistent, and there's no input validation for values less than 2.

Refactoring Result & Impact:

AI refactors the function to `check_prime`, fixes naming and formatting, and preserves logic. Automated AI reviews can drastically reduce review time in large teams by catching style issues early.

Problem Statement 4: AI as a Code Reviewer in Real Projects

Scenario:

In a GitHub project, a teammate submits:

```
def processData(d):  
    return [x * 2 for x in d if x % 2 == 0]
```

Instructions:

1. Manually review the function for:
 - Readability and naming.
 - Reusability and modularity.
 - Edge cases (non-list input, empty list, non-integer elements).
2. Use AI to generate a code review covering:
 - Better naming and function purpose clarity.
 - Input validation and type hints.
 - Suggestions for generalization (e.g., configurable multiplier).
3. Refactor the function based on AI feedback.
4. Write a short reflection on whether AI should be a standalone reviewer or an assistant.

Expected Output:

An improved function with type hints, validation, and clearer intent, e.g.:

```
from typing import List, Union
```

```
def double_even_numbers(numbers: List[Union[int, float]])  
    -> List[Union[int, float]]:  
    if not isinstance(numbers, list):
```

```
    raise TypeError("Input must be a list")
    return [num * 2 for num in numbers if isinstance(num, (int, float))
            and num % 2 == 0]
```

REVIEWED CODE:

```
def processData(d):
    return [x * 2 for x in d if x % 2 == 0]
# Example usage
data = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]
processed_data = processData(data)
print(f"Processed Data: {processed_data}") # Output: Processed
Data: [4, 8, 12] # Output: Multiplication Result: 50
```

OUTPUT:

Processed Data: [4, 8, 12]

The screenshot shows a code editor interface with a dark theme. On the left is a sidebar with icons for file operations like Open, Save, Find, and Run. The main area displays a Python script named 'A-5.py' with the following content:

```
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79 def processData(d):
80     return [x * 2 for x in d if x % 2 == 0]
81 # Example usage
82 data = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]
83 processed_data = processData(data)
84 print(f"Processed Data: {processed_data}") # Output: Processed Data: [4, 8, 12] # Output: Multiplication Result: 50
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
```

Below the code editor is a terminal window showing the execution of the script:

```
PS C:\Users\SriNidhi\OneDrive\Desktop\AI CODING\LAB ASSIGNMENTS> & C:/Users/SriNidhi/AppData/Local/Programs/Python/Python314/python.exe "c:/Users/SriNidhi/OneDrive/Desktop/AI CODING/LAB ASSIGNMENTS/A-5.py"
Processed Data: [4, 8, 12]
PS C:\Users\SriNidhi\OneDrive\Desktop\AI CODING\LAB ASSIGNMENTS>
```

The terminal also shows the current branch is 'master' and the file is saved at line 91, column 1.

EXPLANATION:

Manual Review Findings:

The function name `processData` is vague, input assumptions are unsafe, and it fails silently for invalid data types or mixed inputs.

1

AI Review & Refactor:

AI suggests better naming, adds type hints, input validation, and improves reusability by clarifying intent. **AI should be an assistant, not a standalone reviewer**—logic and business context still need humans.

Problem Statement 5: — AI-Assisted Performance Optimization

Scenario: You are given a function that processes a list of integers, but it runs slowly on large datasets:

```
def sum_of_squares(numbers):
    total = 0
    for num in numbers:
        total += num ** 2
    return total
```

Instructions:

1. Test the function with a large list (e.g., `range(1000000)`).
2. Use AI to:
 - Analyze time complexity.
 - Suggest performance improvements (e.g., using built-in functions, vectorization with NumPy if applicable).
 - Provide an optimized version.
3. Compare execution time before and after optimization.
4. Discuss trade-offs between readability and performance.

Expected Output:

An optimized function, such as:

```
def sum_of_squares_optimized(numbers):
    return sum(x * x for x in numbers)
```

REVIEWED CODE:

```
def sum_of_squares(numbers):
    total = 0
    for num in numbers:
```

```
total += num ** 2
return total
# Example usage
nums = [1, 2, 3, 4]
print(f"Sum of squares: {sum_of_squares(nums)}") # Output: Sum
of squares
def sum_of_squares_optimized(numbers):
    return sum(x * x for x in numbers)
# Example usage
nums = [1, 2, 3, 4]
print(f"Optimized Sum of squares:
{sum_of_squares_optimized(nums)}") # Output: Optimized Sum of
squares: 30: 30
```

OUTPUT

Sum of squares: 30

Optimised Sum of squares: 30

The screenshot shows a Visual Studio Code (VS Code) interface with the following details:

- File Explorer:** Shows files A1.py, A-4-3.py, A-4-3T2.py, A-4-3T3.py, A-4-3T4.py, and A-5.py.
- Search Bar:** LAB ASSIGNMENTS
- Code Editor:** Displays Python code for calculating the sum of squares of a list of numbers. It includes two functions: `sum_of_squares` and `sum_of_squares_optimized`. The code uses f-strings for printing results.
- Terminal:** Shows command-line output from running the script with Python 3.14. The output includes:
 - Sum of squares: 30
 - Optimized Sum of squares: 30
- Bottom Status Bar:** Shows file paths and other status information.

EXPLANATION:

Analysis:

The original function runs in **O(n)** time and is already optimal in complexity, but uses an explicit loop that's slower in Python.

Optimization & Trade-off:

AI replaces the loop with a generator inside `sum()`, improving speed and readability slightly. Performance gains are minor but measurable; readability is actually improved, not sacrificed.