End of course reflection

Woohyuk Yang

yangwo@oregonstate.edu

I used to write a program using C language before taking CS161. As C language has its own feature which is good for procedural programming, I had only experienced in procedural way of programming. I have ever heard on the concepts of Object Oriented Programming but have never known the concepts of that way of software engineering.

At First, writing a program in a way of OOP was really confusing at first but I can tell I am getting used to know about the concept more concretely as I take this class. The most important concept I have learnt from the class must be this OOP related programming knowledges and skills. Even though people can write the programs using different languages in different style. OOP allows people co-operate more easily when the project should be done by team. That’s why many tech companies hire people who know at least one language for OOP. I also think I need to be prepared to work with other programmers. Individuals are also able to make good programs but co-working with other people, human beings have made better achievements. I agree with that too so that’s why I think having learnt on OOP programming is the most valuable achievements I had for this quarter.

Starting to learn on C++ this quarter for the first time, adopting the concept of classes and objects sometimes make me loose the flow of my logic but keeping writing a code with several classes and objects, I am trying to get used to the concepts clearly. Practicing makes people perfect, as I learned on basic notions and concepts on specific C++ language features, I have to write a code and compile it to run it. Not to be isolated and stick to the bad coding habits, I referenced many codes which are already written by other good programmers from Bjarne Stroustrup to some bloggers wandering “stackoverflow.com”.

At first, I doubted on taking classes online. In my country, it is still rare to take some classes from the universities which physically exist. I have never studied online before like any other people around me. I could not get any advice from anybody. I was so eager to learn on computer science so I started to commence the course. Having worried about lot of things at first and concerned on so many other administrative aspects at first, I could adapt to the environment of learning something online quite easily than I had ever thought before. I could talk to other people having other thoughts and willing to teach me on so many various things using state of the art IT technology. I had quite communications with other students who are in same shoes with mine. I could spend my time on studying instead of just killing time on my way to the school. Doing service in the military full time, I could discipline myself and adjust my time to maximize the efficiency of study too. I could study early in the morning and late at night whenever I wanted to and could.

Being satisfied with my first online class, I can adopt some lessons and tips I got from my own experiences to next classes I would take in the future. At first I did only read textbook but I wanted to learn more and read other various codes written by various programmers. Of course, the text book is the most important material to study first but when textbook is done with reading then trying to get used to the other codes is good way and will help me a lot when I need to maintain codes written by other people. Some clumsy codes could be found but reading it is helpful when it comes to raising abilities to debug the codes made by other coders. Submitting assignments by deadline each week made me more disciplined in my study. I could go little bit slowly but could not stop studying at all. My mind was all obsessed with codes which I had written but do not work well. I had fun solving problems and reducing errors. The abilities I can focus on something like writing, analyzing, and debugging codes will help me a lot for studying future classes further.

I had to talk to other students from time to time to solve my problem. Mostly other people had similar problems like I do. I loved talking and discussing to solve problems related to technological issues with other people. I could not go to bed till late because of my assignment but it was really fun. I willingly gave up going to bed to finish the assignment and see my code works well. Careers involving programming must be like that. I have to work on some tech issues but I am not alone not only having my compiler which is always ready to print out some statements for me but also other people working with me. I should not give up on problems tackling the quality of my system, service, or product. Tech team itself is worth as it makes something which looks impossible possible. Arguing to get the best way to help other people with technology itself is really valuable. Computer programming is the best tool to make that changes happen more easily. So learning it itself is truly meaningful.

As finishing the first quarter, what I felt was there are lot more subjects and concepts I have to learn, and I want to learn all of them. I want to learn on more computer related subjects provided by the post-bacc CS degree.