Course-Materials Bug-Bounty Program (CMBBP)

Although the course materials were prepared with great care, some errors in these materials are inevitable. The Course-Materials Bug-Bounty Program (CMBBP) is designed to encourage students to find and report any errors in the course materials and reward those students who take the time to do so. The CMBBP applies to most course materials prepared by the instructor (e.g., textbook, lecture slides, assignment solution sets, textbook solutions manual, and handouts). The CMBBP also applies to any software developed by the instructor for the course (including documentation for the software).

Generally, the above program works as follows. For each error reported by a student, the student is awarded one CMBBP point, subject to the following conditions:

1. The error must be reported to the instructor in writing via email. The bug report must clearly identify the error, including its location in a document (e.g., page number, paragraph number, line number) or source code (e.g., file name, line number).
2. The error must be present in the most recent version of the document or software.
3. The error must have been previously unreported.
4. In the event that multiple students submit reports for the same error, the student whose bug-report email is received first will be credited with the bug report.
5. The decision of what constitutes a single error is solely at the discretion of the instructor. For example, if a student finds a particular error that is repeated N times, this would most likely be considered as a single error (and not as N errors) for the purposes of awarding CMBBP points (i.e., only one point would probably be awarded in such a case).
6. The error must be reported prior to the cutoff for bug reporting. This cutoff is at the start of the final exam in the case of a course with a final exam and at the end of the day (i.e., 23:59:59) on the last day of lectures otherwise.

An error may take one of many forms, including but not limited to: a spelling error, grammatical error, typographical error, technical error/inaccuracy, or software bug.

The total number of CMBBP points awarded to a student is referred to as their CMBBP score. Each student is awarded a certain fraction of the CMBBP bonus (described on the course outline handout[1]) based on their CMBBP score at the time of the final exam. In particular, a student with the CMBBP score s is awarded the fraction f of the CMBBP bonus according to the formula:

$$f = \begin{cases} s/s_{\max} & \text{if } s_{\max} > 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

where $s_{\max}$ denotes the maximum CMBBP score obtained by the students in the course. For example, in the case that the highest CMBBP score is greater than zero, a student who obtains the highest CMBBP score would be awarded 100% of the CMBBP bonus.

---

[1]**Note:** In the event that the course outline handout does not describe the CMBBP bonus, the following situation will apply. The CMBBP bonus will carry a weight of 1% of the course mark. A student's course mark is first calculated as if the CMBBP bonus did not exist; then, the CMBBP bonus is added on top of this mark. For example, if a student obtains a course mark of 79% without the CMBBP bonus and is awarded 100% of the CMBBP bonus, the student would receive a final course mark of 79% + 1% = 80%.