

HW 00 CMSC 250
Morally Due Feb 3, 2026, 9:30AM
Dead Cat Due Feb 5, 2026, 9:30AM

This is the LAST HW where I will
Put the Dead Cat Reminder.
In the future “Morally Due” will imply Dead Cat.

Course Website

<https://www.cs.umd.edu/~gasarch/COURSES/250/S26/index.html>

1. (24 points- 3 points each) READ the Syllabus before doing this problem. You may also need to look at the slides from Jan 27.
 - (a) When is the Midterm?
 - (b) What is *the dead-cat policy*?
 - (c) Why is it called *the dead-cat policy*?
 - (d) If I write that a HW is *Morally Due Feb 25, 2026* what does that mean?
 - (e) When are Leo’s Office Hours?
 - (f) When are Bill’s Office Hours?
 - (g) Name all of the ways you can communicate with Leo and Bill.
 - (h) Describe the In-Class assignments. How many can you miss without penalty.

2. (36 points-12 each) Learn Python 3 and write a simple program in it before doing this problem.
 - (a) Name a PRO of Python.
 - (b) Name a CON of Python.
 - (c) What did your program do?

3. (0 points but do it anyway. This is the most important problem on this HW!)
 - (a) Learn LaTeX and write some simple documents in it.
 - (b) Write a LaTeX document that summarizes the lecture on Propositional Logic. The document should include a truth table (so you get practice doing LaTeX tables) and some formulas on the variables x, y, z (so you get practice typesetting mathematics).

4. (40 points) Read Vannevar Bush's paper from July 1945:

<http://web.mit.edu/STS.035/www/PDFs/think.pdf>

Write down two predictions he made that came true.

(Note- this is not a paper in Discrete Math but it is such a good paper that every undergraduate should read it!)