

We will be using Java for the strategy design assignments. If you're unfamiliar with Java, you may find it helpful to go through some basic syntax tutorials¹. However, you should not need much language specific knowledge for your implementations. The actual programming involved will be very minor, as the focus will be on creating good strategies.

We recommend running Java from the command line, as we provide Makefiles to easily test your solutions. The assignment specs will detail which methods to implement, as well as any relevant pre-/post-conditions. The following are very quick set-up instructions to be able to test your code before submission.

1. Install the latest version of the Java SDK, found here:
<https://www.oracle.com/technetwork/java/javase/downloads/index.html>.
2. Make sure you can access Java with your favorite command-line interface (I use git-bash on Windows). On Windows, you'll need to set your PATH variable to include the jdk's bin directory.
3. Download and unzip the strategy design files.
4. Use your favorite editor to implement the methods in the spec.
5. To test your code, modify the relevant text file to include the names of the strategies you'd like to run. Then, in your command-line interface, navigate to the directory containing your strategy design files and type ``make test``, which will output scores for each strategy.

Notes about the testing: the tests are often not deterministic, so you should expect the scores to vary each time you test (we control for this with a very large sample size). We will run your code in many different parameter settings, so getting a good score on the provided tests does not guarantee that your code will perform well in general. The written questions should get you thinking about how your strategy should adapt to various settings.

¹ One good basic tutorial: https://www.tutorialspoint.com/java/java_basic_syntax.htm