“Challenge problems” are designed to have little (but some) impact on your grade whether you do them or not.

Challenge problems provide an opportunity to work on something interesting and optional.

Challenge problems will typically allow you to get no more than 5% of additional credit on an assignment, yet they will typically be much more difficult than this credit amount suggests.

You should only attempt a challenge problem after finishing the rest of an assignment.

Challenge problems may be less carefully specified and less carefully calibrated for how difficult/time-consuming they are.