

# Oneliner-izer

## Lambda Calculus and Python

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- *Wolfram's Rule 110 cellular automaton* is Turing-complete

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**No formalism for computation is strictly more powerful than Turing machines!**

For example, *Python* and *Turing machines* can compute the same functions.

This is because you can simulate a Turing machine using Python, and vice versa.

In this talk, I'll show how lambda calculus can simulate every feature of Python.

# Writing one-liners

**Python Bee.**



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f = lambda s: False not in [char in 'Aa' for char in s]
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```
f = lambda s: False not in [char in 'Aa' for char in s]  
f = lambda s: all([char in 'Aa' for char in s])
```

# Writing one-liners

## Python Bee (2).

Estimate  $\pi$  by sampling 100000 random points in the square  $[0,1] \times [0,1]$  and determining whether they lie in the unit circle centered at  $(0, 0)$ .

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```
def pi():  
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```
def pi():  
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```

...or...

```
pi = lambda: sum(1 for t in xrange(100000) if  
    math.sqrt(random.random()*2 + random.random()*2)  
    <= 1) * 4.0 / 100000
```



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Technically, yes.

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x = MyClass(47)
result = x.method()
print result
[...]
```

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```
exec "x = MyClass(47)\nresult = x.method()\n[...]"
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exec "x = MyClass(47)\nresult = x.method()\n[...]"
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```
x = MyClass(47); result = x.method(); print result [...]
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exec "x = MyClass(47)\nresult = x.method()\n[...]"
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```
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But that's no fun!

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## List comprehension.

```
>>> lst = [-2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4]
>>> [i * 10 for i in lst if i > 0]
[10, 20, 30, 40]
```

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More fun: computing with Python expressions. Some tools:

## List comprehension.

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## Lambda expression.

```
>>> f = lambda x: x * 10
>>> f(10)
4
```



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## Takeaways:

- This challenge is solvable.
- Lambda calculus! Obscure Python features!
- *Oneliner-izer* is a compiler that implements these.
- Not for use as a software engineering paradigm.

# Overview

- 1 Lambda Calculus
- 2 The Challenge
- 3 Simple Code Blocks
- 4 Control Flow
- 5 Beyond
- 6 Building the Compiler

# Simple Code Blocks

Convert this into a single line?

```
x = 1
```

```
y = x + x
```

```
z = y + y
```

```
print z + z
```

# Simple Code Blocks

Convert this into a single line?

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x = 1
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**Won't work:** (exponential blowup)

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print (1 + 1) + (1 + 1) + (1 + 1) + (1 + 1)
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**Answer.**

```
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                                     (z + z)
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**Alternate method.** `[z + z for z in [y + y]][0]`



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```

**Answer.**

```
print (lambda y:
      (lambda z: (z + z))(y + y)
    )(x + x)
```

**Alternate method.** `[z + z for z in [y + y]][0]`

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**Answer.**

```
print (lambda x: (lambda y:
                  (lambda z: (z + z))(y + y)
                  )(x + x))(1)
```

**Alternate method.** `[z + z for z in [y + y]][0]`

# What about functions?

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def f(x):  
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**Answer.**

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```

Note that this works as-is with `*args` and `**kwargs`!

```
lambda x, y, *args, **kwargs: ...
```

# What about operations that don't assign to a variable?

Suppose `do_something()` has side effects.

Convert this into a single line?

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do_something()
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print 42
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Or:

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print (do_something(), 42)[1]
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print (lambda _: 42)(do_something())
```

Or:

```
print (do_something(), 42)[1]
```

Now we don't have to have one `print`: we can define our own `__print()` function and use it just like `do_something()`.

# A note on print

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print 1  
return 2
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**Python 3.** `print` is already a function.  
(`lambda _: 2`)(`print(1)`) works just fine.

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**Won't work:** In Python 2, we could use `from __future__ import print_function`. However, that's not a real import statement, it's a *compiler directive*.

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**Won't work:** In Python 2, we could use `from __future__ import print_function`. However, that's not a real import statement, it's a *compiler directive*.

**Instead:**

```
__print = __builtins__.__dict__['print']
```



# What about classes?

```
class Person(object):  
    def __init__(self):  
        . . .
```



# What about classes?

```
class Person(object):  
    def __init__(self):  
        ...
```

→

```
Person = type('Person', (object,),  
              {'__init__': lambda self: ...})
```

# Putting it all together

```
x = 2 + 2
def f(x):
    return x * 5
print x
y = f(x)
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`(lambda y: None)(f(x))`

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def f(x):
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```
(lambda _:
    (lambda y: None)(f(x))
)(__print(x))
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```
x = 2 + 2
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(lambda f:
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    (lambda f:
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        )(__print(x))
    )(lambda x: x * 5)
)(2 + 2)
```

Preserves evaluation order.



# if/else Statements

Convert this into a single line?

```
if boolean:
    x = 5
else:
    x = 10
print x * 100
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**Answer.** Conditional expressions  
(`_ if _ else _`), plus  
continuation passing.

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```
(code_block_1 if boolean
 else code_block_2)
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(code_block_1 if boolean
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Code blocks:

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if boolean:
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Problem: code duplication.

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To de-duplicate, all code after  
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To de-duplicate, all code after  
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*continuation*:

```
def continuation(x):
    print x * 100
if boolean:
    x = 5
    return continuation(x)
else:
    x = 10
    return continuation(x)
```

# if/else Statements

Convert this into a single line?

```
if boolean:
    x = 5
else:
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print x * 100
```

Final result:

**Answer.** Conditional expressions  
(`_ if _ else _`), plus  
continuation passing.



# if/else Statements

Convert this into a single line?

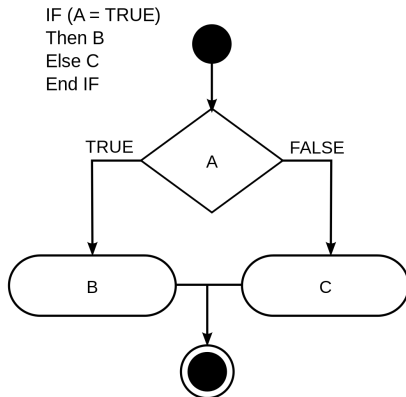
```
if boolean:
    x = 5
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**Answer.** Conditional expressions  
(`_ if _ else _`), plus  
continuation passing.

Final result:

```
(lambda continuation:
    (lambda x:
        continuation(x)
    )(5)
if boolean else
    (lambda x:
        continuation(x)
    )(10)
)(lambda x: __print(x * 100))
```

# if/else Statements



Final result:

```
(lambda continuation:
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    continuation(x)
  )(5)
if boolean else
(lambda x:
  continuation(x)
)(10)
)(lambda x: __print(x * 100))
```

# while Loops

Convert this into a single line?

```
x = 5
while x < 20:
    x = x + 4
print x
```

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**Answer.** Conditional expressions  
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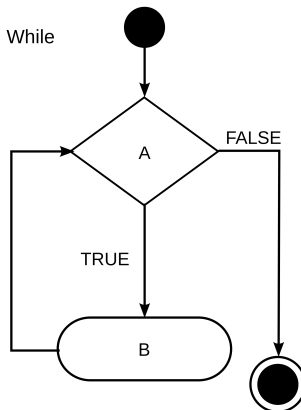
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**Answer.** Conditional expressions  
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While (A = TRUE) Do  
B  
End While



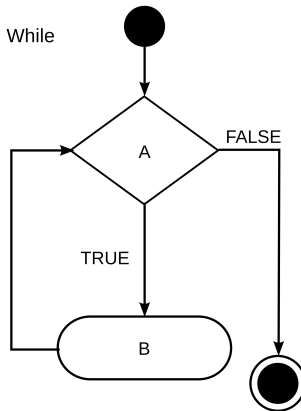
# while Loops

```
x = 5
while x < 20:
    x = x + 4
print x
```

→

```
x = 5
def while_loop(x):
    if x < 20:
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        while_loop(x)
    else:
        print x
while_loop(x)
```

While (A = TRUE) Do  
B  
End While



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Not an anonymous function!

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```

Worked example here:

Wikipedia:Fixed-point\_combinator#The\_factorial\_function

# Storing state

**Old way:**

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Initialize some\_dict with locals().



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[return_value for some_dict['x'] in [42]][0]
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More concise continuations:

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continuation = (lambda some_dict: ...)
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Initialize some\_dict with locals().

Bonus: now we can import x from one-lined programs!

# for Loops

Convert this into a single line?

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total = 0
for item in iterable:
    total += item
print total
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>>> iterable = {10, 20, 30}
>>> for item in iterable:
...     print item
...
10
20
30
```

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>>> iterable = {10, 20, 30}
>>> for item in iterable:
...     print item
...
10
20
30

>>> iterable[2]
TypeError: 'set' object
does not support indexing
```

# for Loops

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```
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```

**Answer.**

# for Loops

Convert this into a single line?

```
total = 0
for item in iterable:
    total += item
    print total
```

**Answer.**

Convert to a while loop that consumes the iterable using next.

```
total = 0
items = iter(iterable)
sentinel = []
while True:
    item = next(items, sentinel)
    if item is sentinel:
        break
    total += item
    print total
```

# Imports

```
import random as rnd
print rnd.choice([1, 2, 3, 10])
```



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```

**Answer.** This is equivalent to:

```
rnd = __import__('random')
print rnd.choice([1, 2, 3, 10])
```

Fortunately, `__import__` itself doesn't need to be imported.

# Raising Errors

■ `raise Bad()`

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■ `raise Bad()`

→

```
([] for [] in []).throw(Bad())
```

■ `assert good`

`carry_on()`

→

```
carry_on() if good else  
    ([] for [] in []).throw(AssertionError())
```

# try/except

Problem:

```
try:
    foo()
except Bad as ev:
    bar(ev)
```

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```

Solution: abuse the context manager protocol!

# try/except

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```
class Handler:
    def __enter__(self): pass
    def __exit__(self, et, ev, tb):
        if et is not None and issubclass(et, Bad):
            bar(ev); return True
        return False
with Handler():
    foo()
```



# try/except

```
class Body:
    def __enter__(self): pass
    def __exit__(self, et, ev, tb):
        foo()

class Handler:
    def __enter__(self): pass
    def __exit__(self, et, ev, tb):
        if et is not None and isinstance(et, Bad):
            bar(ev); return True
        return False

with Handler(), Body():
    pass
```

# try/except

```
class Body:
    def __enter__(self): pass
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        foo()

class Handler:
    def __enter__(self): pass
    def __exit__(self, et, ev, tb):
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        return False

with contextlib.nested(Handler(), Body()):
    pass
```

# try/except

```
class Body:
    def __enter__(self): pass
    def __exit__(self, et, ev, tb):
        foo() # Why __exit__? Python issue 5251.
class Handler:
    def __enter__(self): pass
    def __exit__(self, et, ev, tb):
        if et is not None and issubclass(et, Bad):
            bar(ev); return True
        return False
with contextlib.nested(Handler(), Body()):
    pass
```

# try/except

```
class Body:
    def __enter__(self): pass
    def __exit__(self, et, ev, tb):
        foo() # Why __exit__? Python issue 5251.
class Handler:
    def __enter__(self): pass
    def __exit__(self, et, ev, tb):
        if et is not None and isinstance(et, Bad):
            bar(ev); return True
        return False
ctx = contextlib.nested(Handler(), Body())
ctx.__enter__()
ctx.__exit__(None, None, None)
```

# try/except

```
Body = type('Body', (),
    '__enter__': lambda self: None,
    '__exit__': lambda self, et, ev, tb: foo()
)
Handler = type('Handler', (),
    '__enter__': lambda self: None,
    '__exit__': lambda self, et, ev, tb:
        et is not None and isinstance(et, Bad) and
        (bar(ev), True)[1]
)
ctx = contextlib.nested(Handler(), Body())
ctx.__enter__()
ctx.__exit__(None, None, None)
```

# try/except

```
(lambda ctx:
  (ctx.__enter__(), ctx.__exit__(None, None, None))
)(contextlib.nested(
  type('Handler', (), {
    '__enter__': lambda self: None,
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      et is not None and isinstance(et, Bad) and
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  })(), type('Body', (), {
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  })(), type('Body', (), {
    '__enter__': lambda self: None,
    '__exit__': lambda self, et, ev, tb: foo()
  })()))
```

Also implemented: else and finally.

# What's Left

- `from module import *`
- `yield` and generators
- `with`



# Building the Compiler

- `ast` - for parsing Python files into syntax trees
- `symtable` - for elucidating the scope of variables
- `argparse` - for parsing command-line arguments
- `unittest` - test suite

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<https://github.com/csvoss/onelinerizer>

# Some caveats

Constant upper limit to Python parser.

```
$ python onelinerized.py  
s_push: parser stack overflow  
MemoryError
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Long loops: Maximum recursion depth exceeded.

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```

Long loops: Maximum recursion depth exceeded.

```
import sys  
sys.setrecursionlimit(new_limit)
```

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# Contributors

Many thanks to:

- **andersk** for contributing many features and some slides
- **asottile** and **shulinye** for contributing code



# Links!

## Try it

This script will rewrite your Python code as a single line.

```
(lambda __print, __g: [((__print(y), None)[1] for __g['y'] in [(__g(5))][0] for __g['f'], f.__name__  
_ in [(lambda x: (lambda __l: [(__l['x'] * 4) for __l['x'] in [(x)][0])({}), 'f')][0])(__import_  
_('__builtin__').__dict__['print'], globals())
```

```
1 ## YOUR CODE HERE  
2- def f(x):  
3     return x * 4  
4 y = f(5)  
5 print y
```

*(Spoiler warning! You may wish to look at the puzzles below, first.)*

Submit

- Demo: <http://onelinepy.herokuapp.com/>
- Code: <https://github.com/csvoss/onelinerizer>

# Links!

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## Further Reading

- *To Mock a Mockingbird* for logic and combinator puzzles
- *Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs* for  $\lambda$
- *Theory of Computation* for Turing-completeness and more

Ask me questions! [csvoss@mit.edu](mailto:csvoss@mit.edu), [chelsea@wave.com](mailto:chelsea@wave.com)

I work for a startup called Wave ([wave.com](http://wave.com))!